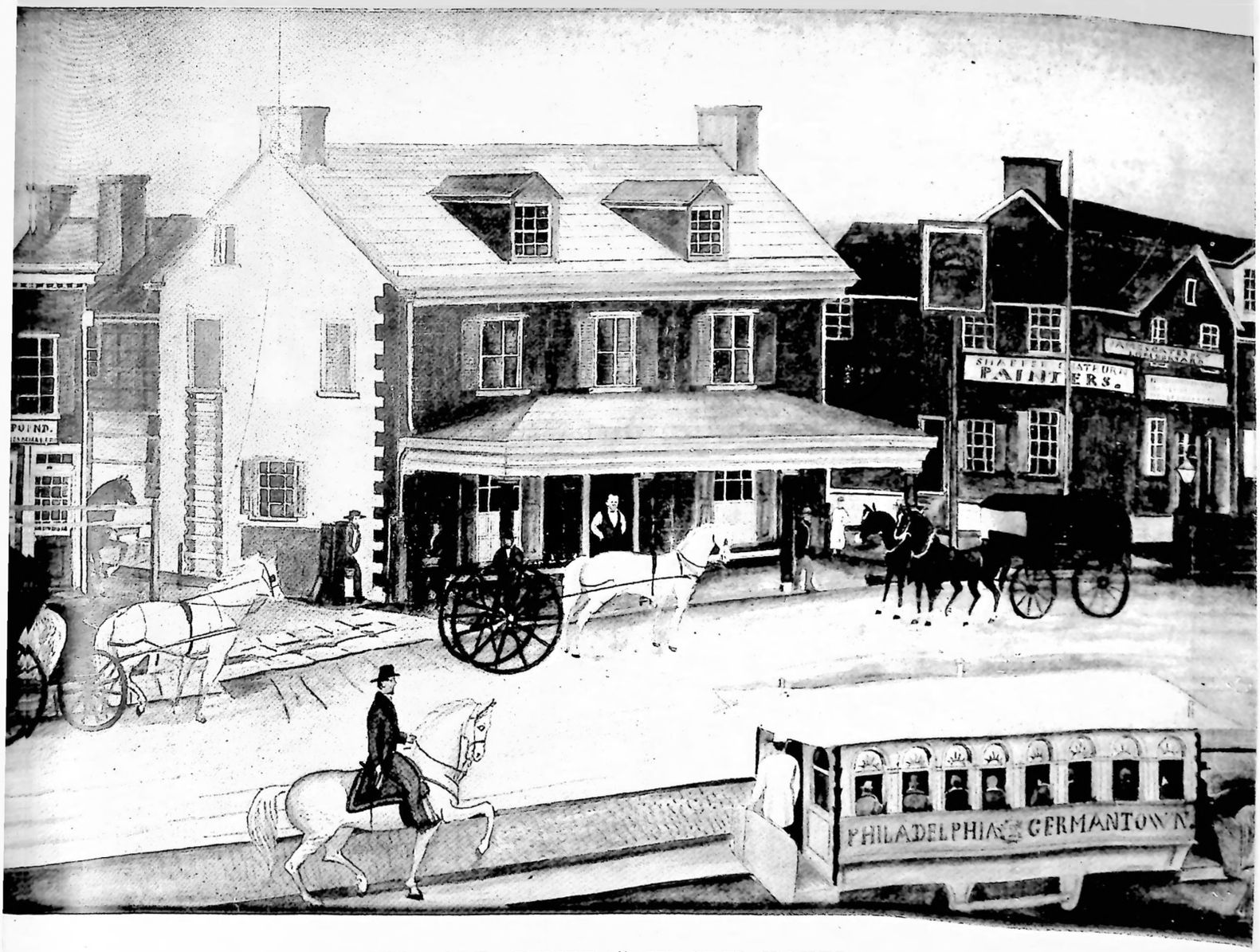
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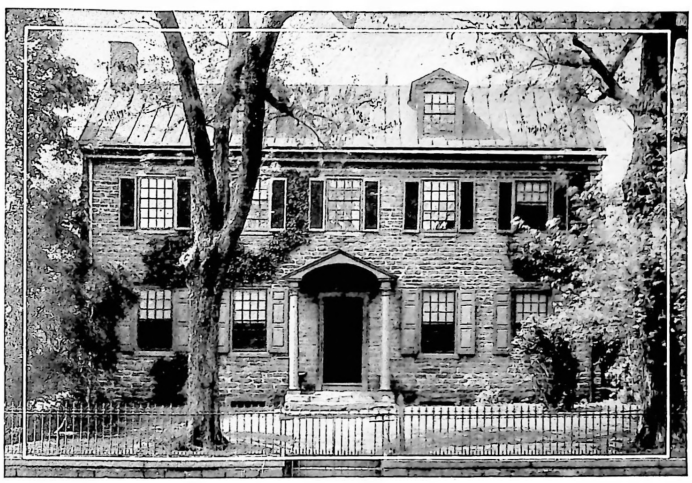
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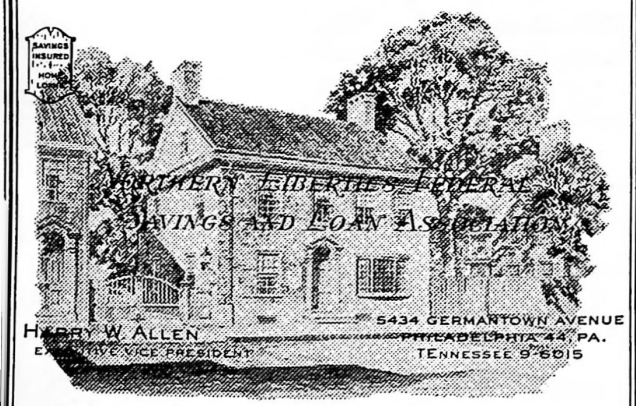
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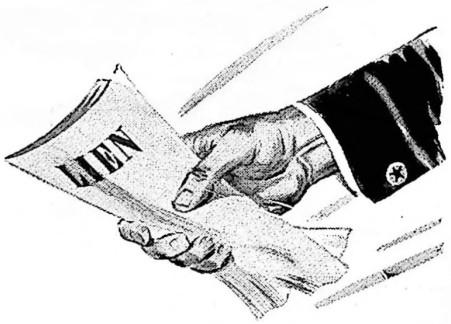
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Vol. 4 MARCH, 1952 No. 1

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Museum Happenings

Even a museum sometimes has a thrill! In the Spring of 1950 a young girl came to us for help. She had been appointed one of four in the U. S. to go to a Girl Scout Conference in Switzerland and had been asked to bring a costume characteristic of her community to wear at a particular meeting.

After considerable questioning she had decided to use a Quaker dress as having peculiar meaning in Pennsylvania history, and asked our aid. We found a charming little grey dress, crisp Quaker cap, mitts and reticule and sent her off quite happy and looking very lovely. Now comes the thrill—our little Quaker lady is Barbara Wallace, who this year was given the Gimbel award!

* * *

At the close of Dr. Pleasants' delightful talk on January 17th he most gracefully and graciously presented to the Society a framed engraving of the quaint picture of the Battle of Germantown in front of the Chew House. Mr. Clarence Johnson accepted the gift for the Society with grateful appreciation.

* * *

We love the Morris House garden and ardently wish to see it returned to its colonial beauty but don't, please, forget to remember the lovely little garden back of the Museum which has a quaint charm all its own and would like, when you are "thinning out," an occasional new shrub or a clump of old perennials.

* * *

Because in this number of the CRIER we have been thinking a little of the Civil War, it seems the opportunity to look for a moment at the room in the Museum holding a collection of local Civil War relics. There are interesting flags, swords, posters with the stirring call to arms, a pair of rusty shackles used in Libby prison. There is a quite extensive collection of medals given to the Society by Gen. Louis Wagner, and many possessions of the famous Germantown Blues. It is altogether rather a surprising little room.

* * *

Repeatedly through the Winter months classes from the local schools—public and private—visit, by appointment, the Society's Museum and spend a diverting hour gaining visual knowledge of their Germantown background.

Mrs. Gruber who, as we have said before, has a way, gives discriminating and enthusiastic guidance in pointing out the highlights. Usually she is later engulfed with polite and grateful little notes of which we print an enlightening example:

"Dear Mrs. Gruber:

We thank you for showing us the exhibits in the Germantown Historical Society. I liked all the things you showed us. I liked the colonial skates and the children's museum, the picture of Benjamin Franklin at old age, the stove, the table the Indians used at Market Square. I liked the sleigh. I enjoyed going in the backyard of the Historical Society. I liked standing on the rock George Washington was standing when he was seeing the battle of Germantown. I liked the colonial toys. I liked the wedding gowns.

You're lucky to live in the Historical Society of Germantown.

Sincerely

_____"

* * *

We are happy to note that the active and progressive Chestnut Hill Improvement Association is working with our Society and lending their vim and enthusiasm to the forwarding of the restoration project.

* * *

WILLIAMSBURG FILM TO BE SHOWN

Joining with the Germantown Historical Society on March 26, Old Christ Church and the Chestnut Hill development group will sponsor a showing of a documentary film on the restoration of historic Williamsburg, Virginia.

The film will be shown at the Germantown High School at 8:00 P. M. on March 26.

This joint sponsorship of the film showing marks an encouraging development in Philadelphia of cooperation among groups of different interests in the matter of historical restoration with which each of them is concerned.

* * *

The Society has learned with deep regret of the passing of Dr. William Henry Fox at the age of ninety-four.

Dr. Fox was born in Philadelphia, son of the late Daniel Fox, mayor of the city in 1869. He graduated from the University and had a long and distinguished career as art critic and authority, receiving decorations from Italy, France, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Austria.

Dr. Fox was for years Director of the Museum of the Institute of Arts and Science of Brooklyn.

During the last years of his life, when a member of the Germantown Historical Society, he gave generously the benefit of his wide knowledge and expert judgment. The Society is the richer for his friendship.

GERMANTOWNE CRIER

Volume 4 MARCH, 1952 Number 1

The Woman's Club of Germantown

By Katharine P. Willets

THE organization of the Woman's Club of Germantown came at the same time that one of Germantown's fine historic landmarks was threatened with destruction. Since the Site and Relic Society had come into existence, the value of these old landmarks had been increasingly appreciated. Germantown should always be grateful that the old Johnson house, 6301 Maine Street, was preserved and the Woman's Club should ever be proud of the part it was able to play to keep it intact.

The suggestion to form a Woman's Club in Germantown was made by Mrs. Thomas Raeburn White, then the President of the Mothers-in-Council. Someone has described Elizabeth Wilson White as "a woman of clear constructive mind, sympathetic understanding and practical efficiency combined with a most attractive personality." Her thought was that an organization of Germantown women "be formed, who would come together in a friendly way, regardless of social distinctions and would create a force that would tell in the social, civic and philanthropic life of Germantown." This aim has been kept in mind continuously during the thirty-five years of the Club's existence.

The organization took place in the assembly room of the Young Women's Christian Association, on the 14th of May, 1917.

At this meeting Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols presided. She had been president of The New Century Club of Philadelphia and was wise in club management. She always took a real pride in the Germantown Club and loved to call herself its godmother. Her fine mind and broad outlook on local and public interests made her advice of value to the new organization.

One of the first questions to come before the Club was the securing of a suitable Club House. Just at this time, it happened that the old Johnson house was offered for sale. It had come by inheritance to Mr. Samuel Johnson of Bordentown, New Jersey. He was a descendant of the original Johnson family by whom the house was built in 1765–68. Certain circumstances made it impossible for him to keep the house so he had decided that it must be sold.

Several members of the Historical Society (then The Site and Relic) were much concerned when they heard that an offer had been made for the property by a commercial firm that planned to tear down the old stone house and build, on the grounds, a modern business building.

One of these men, whose wife was a member of the newly formed Club, talked to Mrs. White of the possibility of using the Johnson property for the Club. She was interested at once. It almost seemed that, like Esther of old, the Club might have come into the Kingdom for such a time as this.

A meeting was held in the old garden, June 4th, 1917 and the purchase of the Johnson property was enthusiastically endorsed by a large majority.

Mr. Johnson was most cooperative and, in order that the house might be preserved, agreed to accept, from the Club, a price materially lower than that offered by the commercial firm.

The price agreed upon was $28,000. This was indeed moderate for the house faced on Main Street and extended West a full square. However, $28,000 looked very large to this group of women who had practically no material assets, but it was a group rich in a goodly number of intangibles—faith, courage and willingness to give both time and effort to bring to pass Mrs. White's vision of a worthy Woman's Club for Germantown.

Interest-bearing bonds were issued and bought by members, in order to make the first payment on the property. A few of these bonds were for $500.00 but the greater number were in much smaller denominations. In the course of years, a few bonds were given to the Club but nearly all were held until they were re-



Portrait of Mrs. Thomas Raeburn White, painted by and presented to the Club by Elsa Koenig Nitzsche

tired in 1938 and 1940. The interest was always promptly paid.

The only change made in the house was to remove one partition between the two first floor north rooms. This was done to make possible a space for Club meetings.

The old Johnson house, dating from 1765, is a typical Dutch Colonial farm house. It was built of native stone by Dirk Jansen, one of the original settlers of Germantown. The interior woodwork is very beautiful. Hinges are on the doors and wooden pegs in the closets. During the Revolutionary Battle of Germantown, serious fighting took place directly in front of the house. Bullet holes may still be seen in several places. A part of the old fence that was riddled with bullets is now in the Museum of the Germantown Historical Society.

The furnishing of the house was a labor of love. Several pieces of good old furniture were loaned by Club members and a number of others, equally lovely, were given outright. Among these latter are a very beautiful Duncan Phyfe table, some lovely old china and a complete antique maple bed room set for one of the second floor rooms.

The necessary purchases were made by Mrs. Robert Mickle and Mrs. Fred Perry Powers, both well versed in what was appropriate. All the buying was done after careful thought and painstaking search.

The Junior members, a fine group of young women, later furnished attractively a room on the second floor, known as the Junior Room.

The most prized article in the Club House is a portrait of the founder. It hangs over the mantel in the parlors. It was beautifully painted by one of the Club members—Elsa Koenig Nitzsche—and by her, presented to the Club.

The old garden by the side of the house has been there, right on Germantown's Main Street, for nearly two hundred years. An old gnarled apple tree is a thing of beauty each spring. There are a few other fruit trees and a Chinese Paulownia tree. A fig tree, that bears real figs, is close to the house. It was quite small when the Club took over; now due to careful protection in the winter and proper cultivation, it is large and flourishing. The Wisteria vines covering the kitchen entrance of the house reminds one of a little verse Mrs. Norman Mellor used when she was acting as editor of the Club Bulletins:

> "I see them on my trellises and walls
> And think of distant waterfalls,
> But when to distant waterfalls, I roam
> I think of my wisteria, at home."

The usefulness of the house was proven at once. The Club office occupies the room to the left of the entrance. Other rooms are used for board and committee meetings—for classes and for many delightful social occasions.

It was known, of course, that the parlors would be too small for any large meetings. For a time the hospitality of neighboring Church Parish Houses was often accepted. Soon plans for the erection of an Assembly Building began to take definite form.

In May, 1922, the western end of the grounds was sold for about $16,000.00. By that time, this was enough to pay off the original mortgage and a margin left over toward starting the building fund. The Germantown Trust Company loaned the money needed to erect the Assembly Building.

On November 22, 1922, with appropriate ceremonies, the cornerstone was laid by Mrs. Frank R. Watson, chairman of the building committee. The undertaking caused grave misgivings from some of the members for it meant a club plant costing $75,000.00 or more. Mrs. William E. Buehler was then president. She had been a close friend of Mrs. White and shared her aims for the Club. Her faith that the undertaking was not too great a task was unfaltering. She, and the majority of the club members, felt that such a building would be an asset for Germantown and meet a real need. The considerable amounts that have come in each year from rentals have shown that this was true.

Interest on the mortgage has always been met on time and each year regular payments have been made to reduce the indebtedness materially.

The Assembly Building was opened for Club use with the Charter Luncheon held in May, 1923. These Charter Luncheons have been held each spring since.

(Please turn to page 24)

Germantown's Observance of General Lee's Surrender

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1865

From an old diary of Charles J. Wister, Jr., now in possession of his Great-nephew.
The entries were probably made on the night of the events recorded or immediately afterward.
Charles J. Wister, Jr., was the last occupant of "Grumblethorpe" and died there in 1910. He was one of the Founders of the Germantown Historical Society and its first President.

JAMES W. WISTER

THE news of Gen'l. Lee's surrender, which everyone felt would be the virtual end of the Rebellion, and toward which all hopes had been bent since the fall of Richmond on the Sunday previous, reached Philadelphia about 9½ o'clock this evening.

It is not my purpose to record the expressions of the general excitement throughout the City which the news produced, but merely to note what transpired in Germantown on that memorable occasion. Although the report which spread like lightning from town to town, and from hamlet to hamlet, reached Germantown at an earlier hour in the evening, I did not hear of it until about 11 o'clock.

We were assembled at my brother William's,[1] the family and its various offshoots,—as was usual on Sunday evening, when about 10½ o'clock, Mr. Rogers[2] rose to go home. In a few minutes he returned in an excited manner saying he could hear the City bells ringing and the minute guns firing. It at once occurred to us all that this was the precursor of great news. What it probably was, each felt, but no one dared to express his convictions.

I immediately arose and followed Mr. Rogers up the street, in order to ascertain the truth. We had proceeded but a few steps when we met Myers Hamilton, a policeman, and were assured by him that our suspicions were correct, and that a telegraph dispatch had reached the Town Hall to the effect that Lee and his whole army had surrendered, Just as he announced this, the bell of the Lutheran church opposite, rang out. It was soon followed by all the bells of the Town, great and small.

"They rang with joyful peal at dead of night
And every window blazed with sudden light,
Victorious salvos thundered in our ears,
Triumphant shouts were checked by thankful tears,
While in the silent spaces far above,
We heard the pinions of the eternal Dove,
Descending slow."

Not only did the Church bell, and the Old School bell,[3] and the fire bells of the Town ring out their notes of joy, but lesser ones caught up the sound. The old bell at the Bank window,[4] whose clapper the spiders might have woven fast to its sides, for all it had done to relieve itself by sounding one note of alarm or triumph during its long existence, if I except the time in Samuel Harvey's[5] day, when the custodian of the public treasure, was frightened almost into fits by the sudden clang produced at the hour of midnight by the antics of a restless cat practicing gymnastics on the alarm wire,—now exerted itself to the utmost of its capacity.

Mr. Rogers and I separated in haste to carry the news to our respective families. On our sidewalk, I met Owen[6] on his way to visit a patient. As we passed Mr. Corse's,[7] we saw him ringing his dinner bell out in the yard. I turned back Shoemaker's Lane to inform Mr. Cabeen, and as I passed Morton's, Charlie was ringing a tea bell out of his chamber window. Upon reaching Mr. Cabeen's, I found that he had already heard the news, and had proceeded to the Union League for further particulars. It was now nearly midnight and I continued to the Germantown Rail Road Depot,[8] where a large crowd was assembled, shouting and firing pistols. I walked back Price Street to the Misses Stevenson's, but the news had already reached them. They had received it direct from the train upon its reaching the depot.

I now turned my steps down the Main Street, and on my way home found that nearly every house above Joe King's[9] office, was illuminated, and the whole town astir. Below Joe King's the patriotism seemed to wane, and the people to be asleep. I hastened home, determined that one house at least should respond to the general rejoicing, and at 12 o'clock, all the family having retired long since, I threw open the windows and lighted everything in the shape of gas and candles that I could lay my hands on. I had scarcely done this when Owen followed suit.

The "little parlor" being occupied by Pa and Ma as a chamber, could not of course be opened. They were informed however of the great news. In a very few

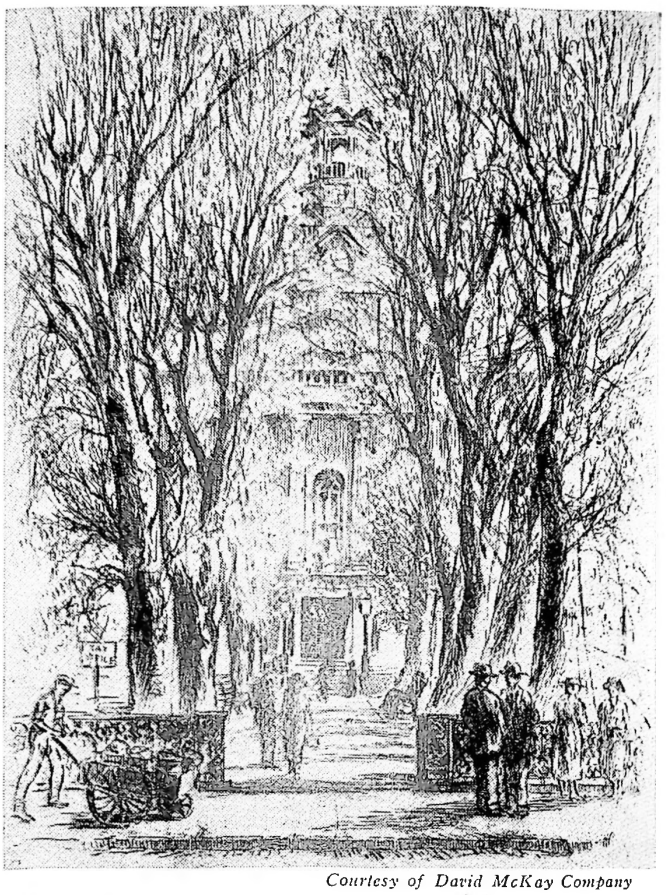
minutes after I had lighted up the house, a crowd of men passed along the street shouting at every door, "Illuminate! Illuminate!". Few, if any disobeyed the command and soon the whole village was ablaze. Some amusing scenes were witnessed through the eagerness of some to do honor to the occasion, together with the forgetfulness that when the shutters were open and the gas lighted, the inmates would become visible, whatever might be their state of deshabille.

Parson Albert[10] opposite was a ludicrous example of this sort of absent-mindedness. Having opened his shutters while in the dark, which was a perfectly safe procedure, he fell to lighting the gas just in the condition that he hopped from his bed, and then exposed himself to the gaze of all who chanced to cast their eyes in the direction of his windows. I having been one of the witnesses of this exhibition, highly amused, gazed upon the good Parson lighting the gas in his nightshirt and wondered what he would do next, when a sudden spasmodic start on his part, convinced me that he had just become alive to the situation. He beat a hasty retreat, but shortly appeared at the front door, to receive the congratulations of his friends on the very becoming pattern of his night attire. All was fun and frolic, all were intoxicated with joy, and not a few with drink, on this memorable occasion.

I now proceeded to Jabez Gates'[11] and tried to hammer them up. Jabez and his brother James however, were already abroad which accounted for the delay in opening the house. But they soon returned and bonfires and volleys of firearms became the order of the night. Mr. Corse made a most commendable display and in front of his house assembled a party of townspeople who engaged in the occupation of burning tar-barrels,—overcome with the joy which filled every heart.

Thus ended a night of celebration and wild excitement, ne'er to be forgotten.

1. Wm. Wynne Wister, 5140 Main Street. In 1793, residence of Gilbert Stuart, where he painted the Athenaeum portrait of Washington.
2. Wm. B. Rogers. Married Rachel Wister, daughter of Wm. Wynne Wister.
3. Germantown Academy. Founded 1760.
4. National Bank of Germantown. 5275 Main Street, 1825–1868, also home of John Fanning Watson, Annalist.
5. Samuel Harvey. First President of National Bank of Germantown.
6. Dr. Owen J. Wister. Office and house next to "Grumblethorpe", south side.
7. W. L. Corse, Accountant. 5273 Main Street, between Bank and "Grumblethorpe."
8. Reading Rail Road Depot. Main & Price Streets.
9. Joseph King, Alderman. Main Street below Church Lane.
10. Dr. Luther E. Albert. Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church. Parsonage, Main & Queen Streets.
11. Jabez Gates. Grocery store and residence, Main & Bringhurst Streets.



Courtesy of David McKay Company

Reproduction of an etching of Town Hall by Herbert Pullinger

THE OLD TOWN HALL

By Elizabeth M. Mellor

EVERY COMMUNITY, like every individual, remembers happenings in its past with much regret and among a good many losses which make Germantowners sad, the passing of the old Town Hall is not the least.

It was not an historic building, it was ponderous and rather ugly but its little park and row of trees, its iron fence and friendly clock tower cast a familiar mid-century charm, a link perhaps between the revered old and the garish new which true Germantowners will always miss.

When the measure for the consolidation of the county with the city of Philadelphia was finally passed it provided that the city should assume the indebtedness of all the municipalities to be combined. Germantown at the time was free of debt while many of the other townships and districts carried heavy debt burdens—here then was Germantown's opportunity to get a town hall!

Quickly the plans were matured and executed. Four acres from the estates of Samuel Harvey and Richard Engle were acquired at a cost of $17,250 and an issue of bonds authorized. Napoleon Le Brun, a well-known architect, prepared the plans and when the consolidation act was passed in February, 1854 the Germantown Council had increased the bond issue

(*Please turn to page 23*)

HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Address Before the Germantown Historical Society

Dr. Henry Pleasants

FOR AN AMATEUR historian to attempt to present such a profound subject as that of History on Your Doorstep before such a distinguished group as yours is presumptuous in the extreme. The age-old simile of "carrying coals to Newcastle" is too appropriate to be disregarded. The best that your speaker can hope to accomplish on such an occasion is to attempt to assist you to accomplish the objective so aptly suggested in Robert Burns' immortal poem, "Advice to a Young Man," when he says: "Oh wou'd the Powers th' giftie gie us Tae see oorsels as ithers see us."

Those of us who see Germantown and its people today in the light of history indeed see clearly the epic of Early America in its struggles to establish the roots of a new nation in which religious freedom, personal integrity and unceasing perseverance have borne splendid fruit in cultural advancement, industrial development, governmental stability and international importance. This statement is not a mere platitude. Your speaker hopes that he may be able to prove the actual truth of it as briefly as possible this evening.

It is especially significant as well as interesting to realize that Germantown began to develop into an important center of industrial activity almost as early as Philadelphia, for its founder, Daniel Pastorius settled here in the year 1683, the same year that William Penn signed his treaty with the Indians. We find that in those early days the paper and linen industries had been started. The former may have distinct bearing upon Germantown's intellectual, cultural and religious development, for in the year 1739 Christopher Sower not only published a quarterly Germantown newspaper, but also the first quarto Bible in German ever printed in America.

With such an auspicious beginning, it is understandable why Germantown became increasingly important. Its early settlers were, of course, German people chiefly from the Palatinate of Cresheim. They were deeply religious as well as industrious; and it was quite natural that their relations with the peace-loving disciples of William Penn in Philadelphia would be absolutely harmonious. This fact becomes more and more apparent later on in the history of this settlement, as will be pointed out.



S.E. Cor. Germantown Ave. and High St., on this site a Botanical Garden was planted by Dr. Christopher Witt

With the rapid growth of this area in population as well as industry, it immediately became necessary to develop a suitable road to Philadelphia. While there were, no doubt, trails or "traces" worn by the Indian tribes in their migration, these were utterly inadequate and informal as to location. Your speaker was interested in discovering in this connection that one of his ancestors, Thomas Sisom, in the year 1701, was directly responsible for a petition being drawn up by indignant Germantown citizens and presented to the Colonial authorities for the construction of a public highway. These alleged, "That they have lately been obliged to go round new fences from time time to time set up by Daniel Pegg and Thomas Sisom."

The success of this road building becomes apparent from a statement by a writer as quoted by Watson: "Germantown Road is most traveled—taking thereby much lime and meal from 3 mills, with much malt and a great deal of wood, timber, etc."

The average student of American History is apt to pass over such an apparently insignificant statement of fact without realizing in the slightest degree what lies behind it. All he absorbs from it, if he gives it a second thought, is that, for some reason or other, the entire area in and around what was known as Germantown prospered mightily. However, the real story is extremely interesting:

The Palatinate Germans had suffered untold hardships during the Thirty Years War which ended with the Treaty of Ryswick, in 1697. Their agricultural prosperity had vanished. The Holy Experiment of William Penn, as outlined by him in his teachings during his travels in Germany and in his pamphlets which had been published in English, Dutch and German appealed mightily to them. Almost instantly, there was a wave of immigration, the first period of which was between 1683 and 1710, headed by that famous leader to whom we have already referred, Francis Daniel Pastorius, a warm personal friend of Penn, who arrived October 6, 1683 in the "Good Ship Concord." Naturally enough, a group of this type, comprising some of the most successful farmers of the European continent, would turn their attention to agriculture—and make a huge success of it by supplying food products to the inhabitants of the infant

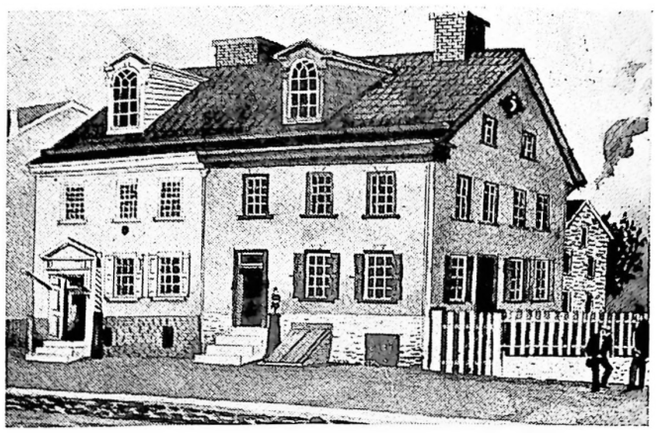
city, Philadelphia. However, it must be remembered that the first years in the new colony were far leaner than we have been led to believe; and it was not until almost 1690 that the success referred to was actually assured.

Naturally enough, the religious tolerance, the important feature of the Holy Experiment of William Penn, began to attract zealots of infinitely many religious groups, particularly those of the Dutch and German Palatinate Pietists. The first of these, the group of what have been called "mystics", arrived in 1694 under the leadership of Johann Kelpius, and settled along the Wissahickon. This group has long since been known as "The Wissahickon Community." Records seem to indicate rather clearly that this particular sect was more concerned with the occult than with the practical; and was more given to interpreting dreams than to attending to such mundane matters as raising crops or building grist or saw mills. It withered away in innocuous desuetude within a few years, only to be succeeded by a slightly more energetic group under the leadership of Conrad Beissel. This group stayed in the Germantown area but a short time before moving farther into the hinterland of Penn's colony to Ephrata, where it founded the famous Ephrata Cloister, the buildings of which are still standing, although the sect itself died a natural death by reason of its discouragement of racial propagation.

Space will not permit in this brief outline of Germantown's colorful past to enumerate all of the sects of a similar type which definitely established their footholds in America in this area before moving elsewhere for the development of more permanent communities. It is sufficient to say that the largest proportion emigrated into Lancaster County, although a considerable number settled in Bucks County, and a most important group, that of the Tulpehocken Community, settled eventually in Berks County. This last, however, had little if any connection with Germantown, as its band first endeavored to find a resting place in the Schoharie and Mohawk valleys of New York State, but had too much difficulty with the colonial authorities in obtaining titles to their properties. They then moved down the water routes via what is now Binghamton to the Swatara, and thence up that stream to the section now known as Tulpehocken. The date of this movement is generally given as about the year 1723.

Your speaker craves your indulgence for having apparently given undue attention to the movements of these religious sects in relation to the history of Germantown. The reason for this will now be explained:

Commercially advantageous from the standpoint of foreign trade as the city of Philadelphia undoubtedly was, its physical location was definitely unhealthful. On all sides it was almost completely surrounded either by water or swampy land. Its sanitary disposal systems were universally inadequate. The dank



Thones Kunder House, on the left, 5109 Germantown Ave.

fogs hanging over the lower portions of the city were even up to fifty years ago described as "miasmatic", and the direct cause of outbreaks of "fever-and-ague", which we now know as malaria. The connection between the anopheles mosquito and actual malaria was, of course, entirely unknown in those early days. Mosquitoes were considered merely an aggravation rather than a health menace as carriers of disease. Of course, we realize that in those early days almost every severe illness was likely to be ushered in with chills and fever, whether its true nature were pneumonia, typhoid, malignant typhus, cholera or actual malaria. The point is that the fogs of the low-lying areas were held responsible.

Since it was not until the year 1751 that an organized effort was made by the most intelligent physicians and public spirited philanthropists to build an up-to-date hospital, The Pennsylvania Hospital, the lack of efficient medical care and nursing during the recurrent epidemics of all sorts of diseases was nothing short of appalling. Those who were able to leave the city, did so as early in the summer months as possible, and seldom returned before frost had "killed the miasma." The remainder of the less fortunate citizens worried along as best they could, trusting to rugged constitutions and the law of the survival of the fittest coupled with a religious philosphy somewhat at variance with the race suicide teachings of the followers of Conrad Beissel of the Ephrata Cloisters. The Biblical edict, "Be fruitful and multiply," was taken seriously. Families of 14–18 children were not unusual.

This annual exodus of the more opulent Philadelphians very obviously followed the only road leading to the nearest high ground—The Germantown Road. It is true that other roads led out of Philadelphia in the early part of the 18th Century to perhaps equally high elevations in Bucks County and Chester County (which then included what is now Delaware County), but those routes were somewhat difficult to follow because of the necessity of fording large bodies of water, such as the Schuylkill River, Frankford Creek, Pennypack Creek, Poquessing Creek and the

(*Please turn to page 26*)

SOURCE OF A FAMILY

By Bevan A. Pennypacker

THE NAME PANNEBAKKER originated in Holland, meaning "a maker of tiles". Heinrich Pannebecker was the first of the name in Pennsylvania. He was living in Germantown in 1699. How he arrived there has not been ascertained but one theory is that he came first to New York. The earliest known map of Manhattan dated 1639 shows the location there of persons of that name.

He married Eva Umstat, a daughter of Hans Peter Umstat, who came to this country in the "Francis & Dorothy" arriving in Philadelphia in 1685. The Bible published in 1568 which belonged to Hans Peter and later to Heinrich is in the writer's possession, having been with the family for nine generations. Later, in 1702, Heinrich moved to land in what was then known as "Van Bibber Township" on the Skippack Creek where he spent the greater part of his life. *He died April 4, 1754 at the age of eighty and presumably was buried in the Mennonite graveyard on the Skippack but there is no stone to mark his resting place.

Why did these people come from Holland and Germany to Pennsylvania?

The answer appears in an address of welcome presented by the leading German Protestants of Pennsylvania to Governor Robert Hunter Morris upon his arrival in 1754, which begins

"The mild Government, the incomparable Privileges, the inestimable Liberty of Conscience and the just Administration of the excellent Laws so happily established, particularly in this Province by our worthy Proprietor, William Penn Esqr. a lover and zealous friend of liberty, of immortal Memory, and Continued in his Successors, and so loudly proclaimed over the best part of Germany, hath drawn the affection of a considerable number of Germans oppressed by arbitrary Powers and Slavery to transport themselves hither with the promising hopes to embrace and be made Partakers of the enjoyment of the famous Privileges aforesaid . . ."

One of the signers of this document was "Peter Penebacker", the second son of Heinrich, mentioned later in this article.

These were the days of large families, Heinrich being the father of eight children.

A daughter, Martha, married Anthony Van der Sluys.

*Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker's biography of Heinrich Pannebecker gives a picture of his life.



"Pennepacker's Mills"
The original house built by Hans Joest Heijt between 1718 and 1730

A son, Adolph, lived in Limerick Township.

Peter, the second son, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter Dirck Keyser, of Germantown. In 1747 he acquired land on the Perkiomen Creek with a grist mill. In Sower's German Newspaper of October 1, 1755 Peter advertised that he had built a fulling mill where "whoever needs to have anything dyed or fulled can be served". From the existence of these two mills Peter's place of residence became known as "Pennypacker's Mills"—so designated from the year 1759 on the early maps. When Peter died, June 26, 1770, he gave his "Plantation where I now dwell on with all the Buildings and Improvements thereunto Belonging Lying and Being on the East Side of Perkyomen Creek" to his son, Samuel.

However it was not all "enjoyment of the famous privileges" of "Liberty of Conscience" and "Excellent Laws" as suggested in the address of welcome to Governor Morris.

Five years after Samuel received his inheritance the Revolutionary War commenced and this peaceful countryside, in 1777, was taken over by Washington and his army, evidenced by contemporary writings including nine documents bearing Washington's signature, from Pennypacker's Mills. In the old Bible which may still be seen there, in which his father Peter had written of events important to him, Samuel tells us in German:

"On the 26 day of September 1777 an army of 30000 men encamped in Skippack Township, burnt all the fences, carried away all the fodder, hay, oats and wheat and took their departure the 8 day of October 1777".

Washington occupied Pennypacker's Mills as his headquarters. Two days after his arrival, which made such an impression on Samuel, a council of war was held in his house attended by five major Generals and ten Brigadier Generals—leading to the Battle of Germantown. After the battle on October 4, 1777 Washington returned to Pennypacker's Mills, where he and the other generals wrote their reports of that conflict with the British.

John Pennebacker, the third son of Heinrich, was a Yeoman of Providence living on 204 acres of land given to him by his father in 1741 at the upper end of the Trappe. He married Anneke, another daughter of Peter Dirck Keyser. His son Dirck, whose last

(*Please turn to page 30*)

The Rittenhouse Paper Mill and Its Founders

By George Allen

ALTHOUGH the first printing press established in the English colonies was that of Stephen Daye, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, towards the end of 1638 or the beginning of 1639, it was not until fifty years later, in 1690, that the first mill for the manufacture of paper was erected in the colonies.

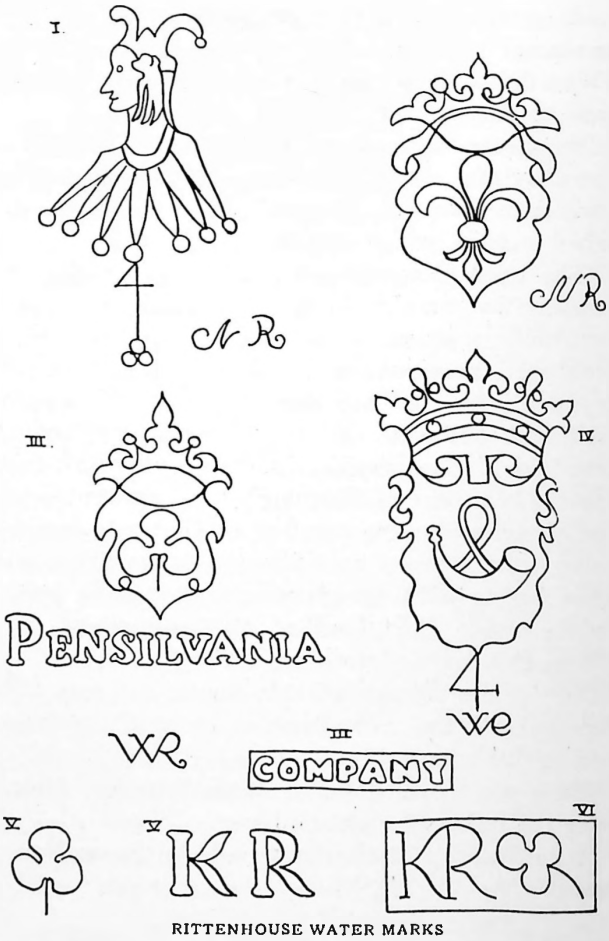
While it is true that several persons were concerned with financing, building, and operating the first American paper mill, the most important roles in the venture belong to William (or Willem, or Wilhelm) Rittenhouse (or Rittinghuysen, or Rittershausen, or Ryttinghuisen, etc.) and his son, Nicholas (or Klaus, in German, Klaas, in Dutch, and Claus, in English), born Germans but naturalized in the Netherlands.

A rather enthusiastic descendant of William Rittenhouse once claimed that he was of Hapsburg descent, and likewise of the lineage of Emperor Maximilian I. More accurate research, however, has shown that all his ancestors were of quite middle-class origin. He was born in the year 1644, the son of George and Maria (Hagerhoff) Rittenhouse, in the Principality of Broich, near the city of Mülheim on the Ruhr, Germany, where his mother and brother, Heinrich Nicholaus, and a sister, were living as late as 1678. At this time and for years later the family spelled their name "Rittinghuysen." Persons of the same name still live in the province of Westfalen, in the neighborhood of Lüdenscheid.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century the Rittenhouse family may have belonged to the Reformed faith, then predominant in their region in Germany. However towards the middle of the century there was a great religious upheaval. The minister in those parts, Theodore Undereyck, introduced the teaching of Jean de Labadie into the region and opposed the Lutheran Count Wilhelm Wirich von Broich. As a result of the unpleasantness caused by their disagreement in things religious, many of the followers of the new faith left the district, William Rittenhouse and his family possibly being among them.

Very little is known of the activities of William Rittenhouse at this time. It is possible that he learned the trade of paper-maker in the third oldest mill of the Rhineland, that of Adolph Vorster, in Broich, opposite Mülheim. About the year 1670, however, he left this region, presumably in order to engage in the manufacture of paper at Arnheim, Holland, and perhaps spurred on by the religious differences of his sect. William Barton, the biographer of David Rittenhouse, was told in 1778 by Adrian Rittinghuysen, an old man at the time, that his father, Heinrich Nicholaus, who was also the brother of William, had practiced the paper-making trade in Arnheim, as had others in his family.

The first precise information we have concerning William Rittenhouse is from a German document, dated July 25, 1678, in Broich, in answer to a request made by William, now a resident of Amsterdam, for a certificate telling the date of his birth, in order to use it "at the proper place". His brother, Heinrich Nicholaus Rittenhouse, as well as his sister and mother, here state that he was born in 1644. This request was made so that William might become a citizen of Amsterdam. A Dutch document of June 23, 1679, shows that he took the oath of



RITTENHOUSE WATER MARKS

I. 1692; II. 1694; III. 1696; IV. 1698-1700; V. 1716; VI. 1719.

citizenship on that day, subscribing himself as "Willem Ruddinghuysen, of Mülheim, papermaker." The words "of Mülheim," of course, refer to his birthplace, not his most recent place of residence.

According to family tradition, William Rittenhouse, with his family, moved to New York while the Dutch were still in power. But as England took permanent control of that region in 1674, and, as we have just seen, Rittenhouse was still in Amsterdam in 1679, this statement cannot be true. It seems more probable that Rittenhouse, with his wife, his sons, Gerhard and Nicholas (or Klaus, etc.), and his daughter, Elizabeth, emigrated to New York in 1688 or the early part of 1689. A genealogical record of about 1800 in the possession of William Barton said that they arrived there in 1690, and that, while they were there, Nicholas married Wilhelmina De Wees, sister of William De Wees, both families having arrived at about the same time, and that later they moved to the neighborhood of Philadelphia. However, a New York church record says that Nicholas Rittenhouse, "a young man of Arnheim, living on the Delaware River," married Wilhelmina De Wees in the local Reformed church in 1689, so that they must have known each other in Holland or met on the passage over. Perhaps William De Wees obtained a temporary position in New York, while living with his sister and the rest of his family, and Nicholas came to Philadelphia with his father and their family, in order to prepare a home for the bride-to-be, later going back to New York to marry her and then bring her with him to Germantown. As early as 1689 we also find William Rittenhouse and his son owning lots in Germantown.

Whatever the exact date of their arrival, it is certain that the Rittenhouse family did not remain in New York for a long time. For although there were persons there who spoke their language, the Rittenhouses could have found no steady market for the trade which they surely meant to establish, once they had the necessary backing; for there was, as yet, no printing establishment nearer than Philadelphia.

It is interesting to speculate how much the Rittenhouses knew of the newly established city on the Delaware and its founder, William Penn. The latter had sent many tracts into Holland, among other places, detailing the advantages of his recently acquired land in America, and it is probable that New York was a mere stopping-place for the family, until it could find transportation to the province which was described in the most flattering words by any number of pamphlets circulated in Holland.

Once in Philadelphia, the Rittenhouses seem to have lost little time in finding capital and a market for their trade. It is too much to suppose, without any confirmatory evidence, that William Bradford, the printer, encouraged them to come over to the New World with an offer of financial help. However after they found backers for their enterprise, among them Bradford, they began to build a mill, towards the end of 1690. The first notice of the establishment of the mill in the neighborhood of Philadelphia is found in one of the countless tracts printed for the encouragement of colonization in Pennsylvania, entitled *Some Letters and an Abstract of Letters from Pennsylvania* (London, 1691), in which letters were printed telling of the progress made in the colony and the advantages and benefits which were to be had from migrating. Among the abstracts is a sentence from a letter, written by Bradford, the printer, to a friend in London, on November 18, 1690, stating that "Samuel Carpenter and I are Building a Paper-Mill about a Mile from thy Mills at Skulkill, and hope we shall have Paper within less than four months." From this letter it can be seen that, though the mill was begun in 1690, no paper could possibly have been produced before 1691.

The next writer to mention the new mill is Richard Frame, an early settler of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's first poet, in a poem entitled *A Short Description of Pennsylvania, Or, A Relation What things are known, enjoyed, and like to be discovered in in* [sic] *the said Province.* This poetic curiosity was printed at Philadelphia in 1692 by William Bradford. However little we may like doggerel verse, we may pardon Frame this once because of the wealth of information which he gives on the mill. After discussing other important sections of Pennsylvania, he turns to the village of Germantown and says:

> The German-Town, of which I spoke before,
> Which is, at least in length one Mile or more,
> Where lives High-German People, and Low-Dutch,
> Whose Trade in weaving Linen Cloth is much.
> There grows the Flax, as also you may know,
> That from the same they do derive the Tow;
> Their trade fits well within this Habitation,
> We find Convenience for their Occasion.
> One Trade brings in imployment for another,
> So that we may suppose each Trade a Brother;
> From Linen Rags good Paper doth derive,
> The first Trade keeps the second Trade alive;
> Without the first, the second cannot be,
> Therefore since these two can so well agree,
> Convenience doth appear to place them nigh
> One in *German-Town*, t'other hard by
> A *Paper-Mill* near *German-Town* doth stand,
> So that the Flax, which first springs from the Land,
> First Flax, then Yarn, and then they must begin
> To weave the same, which they took pains to spin.
> Also, when on our backs it is well worn,
> Some of the same remains Ragged and Torn;
> Then of the Rags our Paper it is made,
> Which in process of time dost waste and fade:
> So, what comes from the Earth, appeareth plain,
> The same in Time, returns to Earth again.

In 1696 another writer, Judge John Holme, wrote a poem, equally curious, in which he gives a description of every item in the country he could possibly squeeze into couplets. The poem, entitled "A True Relation of the Flourishing State of Pensilvania," refers to the paper mill in the following words:

(*Please turn to page 23*)

The Germantown Historical Survey

Prepared by HARRY M. TINKCOM

EVER SINCE its founding in 1682 the City of Philadelphia, ideally located for commercial and industrial activities, has had a steady and seemingly inexorable growth. Within the past hundred years the city's expansion has been astonishing, and as it spread westward from the Delaware, fertile farmland was covered with houses and asphalt and once-independent communities were surrounded and engulfed.

Among these communities, Germantown, originally an independent borough far from Philadelphia's center, was no exception. It, too, was gradually absorbed and in 1854 it became another section of the burgeoning metropolis. But incorporation into the city in no sense deprived Germantown of its special character or distinctiveness. It was too old and well developed for that. In point of age it was within a year of being as venerable as Philadelphia itself. Historically it had contributed much to state and nation, and it still retained unmistakable characteristics of the solidly-built eighteenth-century town Washington and Jefferson had known.

For years Germantown the borough and the beautiful suburb maintained its character, primarily because of its architectural and historical links with the past. With the Germantown Road lined by buildings dating from the eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries, the area was an architectural gem. And this in a city noted for its early architecture and for its historical significance. But with the recent and overpowering urban expansion and development in this area, it has become clear to many Germantown citizens that the section is in serious danger of losing its distinction. No one who participated in the discussions of the problem of preserving Germantown's entity seriously suggested turning back the calendar to the eighteenth century. Residents are proud of the section's commercial and industrial achievements, but they are equally proud of its past and they are concerned and disturbed at the prospect of seeing its architectural remains destroyed. The past and the present in Germantown are not incompatible, but unless something is done the visible reminders of the past will soon be obliterated.

One of the many citizens of Germantown seriously concerned about the situation is Mr. Leighton P. Stradley, senior partner in the law firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens and Young, and president of the Germantown Historical Society. After considerable thought, he decided to take some positive action. Realizing that the problem had of necessity to be approached through history and architecture, he enlisted the aid of three experts in these fields, Professor Roy F. Nichols, Dr. Edward Riley and Mr. Grant M. Simon, F.A.I.A. Dr. Nichols is Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania and author of several important volumes on American political history. His latest is the significant *Disruption of American Democracy*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1949. Dr. Riley is Park Historian, Independence National Park Project. Mr. Simon is a leading Philadelphia architect who has devoted much time to the study of local buildings. He is Executive Architect for the Plan of Development of the University of Pennsylvania and has acted as Advisory Architect to the Federal Commission for the Independence National Historic Park. The planners also had the invaluable assistance of Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, Chief, Historical Research, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings.

After numerous discussions, these men decided that an architectural and historical survey of Germantown should be made with a view to ascertaining the number of buildings worthy of preservation or of restoration within the limits of the old Germantownship; and that the results of this survey should be embodied in a report. Dr. Harry M. Tinkcom, Assistant Professor of History at Temple University, and Dr. Margaret Bailey Tinkcom, formerly Associate Editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* and of the *William and Mary Quarterly*, were asked to prepare the historical text of the report. They will make a survey of the historical and archival materials relating to Germantown and write a history in brief of the various sections of the township and of the structures which have added to the historical importance of the area. They will also draw up a critical bibliography and an accurate list of accepted buildings and sites, and assist Mr. Simon in gathering the materials to be used as legends on the maps.

All architectural matters are under the direction of Mr. Simon and the work of preparing a Plan of Preservation is being done in his office. This will include the making of maps and the collection and presentation of data pertinent to the graphic presentation of the Plan. Mr. Simon is chairman of a board of architects of which the other members are G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A., George C. Johnson, Sydney E. Martin, F.A.I.A., Charles E. Peterson and Joseph P. Sims, F.A.I.A. These men are eminent in the field of early colonial architecture.

(*Please turn to page 29*)

The Morris House Garden Flower Mart

HENRY F. RIEBE, F.R.H.S.

Event to take place in May to raise funds for the restoration of famous old garden

THE MORRIS HOUSE on the Square is, as we all know, one of the jewels in a crown of historical treasures so abundant in Germantown. After this famous old landmark became a National Shrine in the custody of the U. S. Government, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the best of intentions to appropriate funds for restoring the garden were in evidence. A local firm—Henkels & McCoy—was invited to submit estimates for the execution of this important assignment. This request was compiled with in 1950. However, at the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, Washington withdrew all financial help.

Fortunately, enough funds had been provided to take care of the House itself, which is in comparatively safe and good condition. But, shade trees, lawns and gardens are as important a part of the whole today as was the case in colonial times.

Realizing the importance of this, the Germantown Historical Society sprang into action. The urge to do something about it and do it soon became so strong that it was decided to ask the Germantown Horticultural Society (one of the oldest in the country) for help. At a subsequent Board Meeting of this Society, it was unanimously voted to extend the helping hand, and a "Morris House Garden Committee" was formed immediately, including the following members: H. F. Riebe, F.R.H.S., Chairman; Mr. and Mrs. George E. Lippincott, Mr. Leighton P. Stradley, Mrs. Caroline O. Timanus, Mrs. Elmer M. Buckey and Mr. Richard B. Chillas.

The Chairman, through correspondence and personal contacts with the Government authorities at their headquarters in the old Custom House, received the "green light" to proceed with revival of the garden, strictly, or as nearly as possible, in conformity with the atmosphere of bygone days.

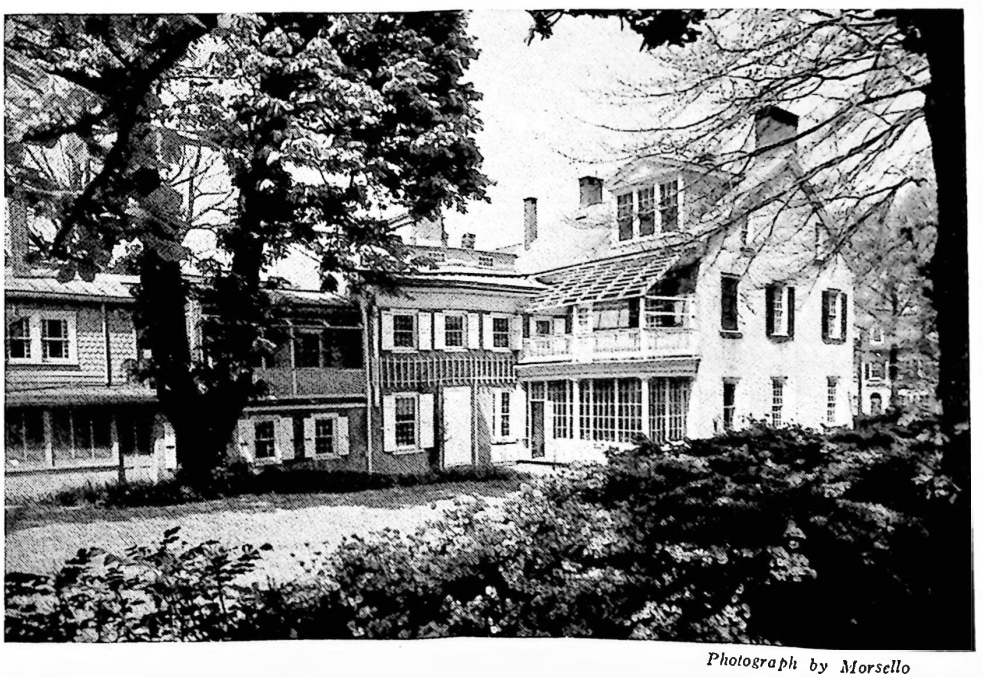
At this point arose the question of financing. During a meeting in November, the idea was born and adopted to hold a Flower Mart in early May for the purpose of raising funds. The same Committee, as mentioned above, is to serve as a Flower Mart Committee, with the following additional members: Miss Gertrude S. Butler, Miss Elizabeth Morris Wistar and Mrs. Owen Lewis (Frances Washington Lewis), a direct descendant of the George Washington family. This live-wire working Committee of enthusiasts includes members of both the Historical and Horticultural Societies. Mrs. Timanus is Co-Chairman, representing both societies.

The Historical Society has taken upon itself the work of providing publicity and advertising, display tables, hostesses, sales people and other needed accessories, while the Horticultural Society will solicit and obtain donations of plant material—both bedding and vegetable plants—cut flowers, hardy garden plants, such as evergreens and flowering shrubs, peat, fertilizer, spray material, etc.

The date for the Flower Mart has been set for Thursday, May 8th or alternate date in case of an all-day downpour, Friday, May 9th; light May showers of warm rain will not interfere.

Your writer and Chairman of the Garden Com-

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View of the back of the Morris House from the garden

Photograph by Morsello

"HISTORIC WALK" IN A GERMANTOWN GARDEN

By George E. Nitzsche

THERE is so much of interest at "Far Country", the Jenkins' Estate in Germantown, on Kitchen Lane, that I trust every phase of its natural beauty and landscape charms, its ideal setting in the Wissahickon Valley, and its historic and scientific importance will be covered in these pages in the near future; and more especially Mr. Jenkins' "Hemlock Arboretum", which I have been informed is the largest and most complete collection of its kind in America and probably in the world.

In the last number of the Crier I had an article on the "Signers' Walk". In this issue I shall endeavor to contribute something about another stepping stone walk at "Far Country", known as the "Historic Walk" which the late Mr. Charles F. Jenkins completed several years before he started his "Signers' Walk". After many years of collecting by Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, in various places throughout the world, the "Historic Walk" was completed about 1923. It will be recalled that the "Signers' Walk" starts from the Western Terrace of the Jenkins' dwelling and runs north. The "Historic Walk" runs east from the Southeastern end of the home. It begins with a spacious antique stone bench which formerly adorned a characteristic old English garden on the outskirts of Bath, England. From this artistic stone bench, which is an English mason's masterpiece, the walk proceeds eastward to an historic Sundial, which came from the ancestral home of the late Charles F. Jenkins. The first stepping stone, which was placed in front of the English stone bench, is from the historic house, 6347 Germantown Avenue, built by John Keyser and later occupied by Rev. John Rodney. Until only a few months ago, an older Keyser House stood at 6205 Germantown Avenue, at the Northeast corner of Tulpehocken Street. Notwithstanding the stormy protests by many prominent residents of Germantown, the patriotic pleas of the Germantown Historical Society, and the efforts of its President, Mr. Leighton P. Stradley, this ancient historic landmark was ruthlessly demolished to make room for a new chain story grocery. The destruction of this typical early Germantown dwelling of 1738 seemed quite unnecessary, since, as was pointed out to the new owners, it could have been preserved and made an attractive and valuable asset to the new store had they seen fit to convert it, or at least the first floor, into a comfortable lounging quarters for customers—an innovation which, I feel reasonably sure, would have been welcomed by some of our modern super stores and their patrons. The rest of the building might have been utilized as storage space. The building also had value in that it was said to have been the first two-story stone house in Germantown, with the typical overhanging "Germantown Roof," on the front facade between the first and second stories, and with the two characteristic slanting cellar doors on either side of the front entrance, and extending into the pavement or side walk about seven feet. According to one authority, the building had been preceded by a very modest one which was said to date back to 1688. Returning to the Rodney House as it came to be called, a number of interesting stories and legends were associated with it. One of these was that, during the battle of Germantown the Keyser family, then living there, took refuge in the spacious cellar. Curiosity proved too much for one of them, who propped up a cellar door with an apple and watched the fighting through the crack. A British officer was shot and killed just outside this opening, and the enterprising young man put out a cautious hand and removed the silver buckles from the officer's shoes. After the Battle, the officer was decently buried in the garden connected with the house. Some years afterward, a brother of the officer, trying to get information about him, was directed to the Keysers, was shown the grave and given the silver buckles.

The second stone in the "Historic Walk" is from the "Wister's Big House" as it was then known shortly after it was built in 1744. It has also been nicknamed and known as "Grumblethorpe" for more than a century and a half. During the occupation of Germantown by the British in 1777, it was commandeered by General James Agnew. During the Battle of Germantown, Agnew was mortally wounded, and died on the first floor of the house. Unlike the Keyser House, "Grumblethorpe" has been preserved as an historic shrine, and the house and gardens have undergone but few changes since the Revolutionary War.

The third stone in the "Historic Walk" is from Battle Abbey, built by William the Conqueror after the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

The fourth stone is from Domremy, France, where Jeanne D'Arc was born in 1412. Around Domremy is a low stone wall, and the house was heavily shaded

by a number of European Larch trees. When Mr. Jenkins placed the Domremy stone into the Walk, he planted a European Larch nearby, and this has grown to be a good sized tree. When the Domremy stone was acquired it was wrapped up in burlap and marked to be shipped on the steamer on which Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins were returning to America. Arriving in New York, and ready to declare their various pieces of baggage, the U. S. Custom's officer pointed to the burlap package and inquired what was in it; then he followed up his question by "Didn't you come into this port last September and declare a similar stone?" Meekly, and somewhat timidly, the Jenkins' reply was, "Yes, we did." To their astonishment, the rest of their baggage was not inspected, and they were free to move on. When they expressed surprise at this rather unprecedented action on the part of an American Customs Officer, the inspector simply remarked, "What do you do with such stones?" The presumption evidently was that baggage of people who were accustomed to bringing in nothing better or more valuable than large stones was not worth looking at. When escorting guests over his "Historic Walk" Mr. Jenkins, occasionally, would pause at this stone and recite a poem which he had written, inspired by the Birthplace of Jeanne D'Arc:

This mossy stone, for it forever past
Are those rich days beneath the warm French sky,
It felt the shade the sighing larches cast,
It heard the murmur of the brook nearby.
Perhaps it caught the tears which dropped from eyes
That wept for her who left that simple place.
To raise her snow-white banner to the skies,
Triumphantly by the strength of inward grace.

It also serves, here in this distant land,
Recalling visions of the Mystic Maid,
And as we pause, Oh help us understand
The faith which kept her faithful, unafraid!
Then gently tread on far Domremy's stone
By loving care our ruthlessness atone.

The fifth stone in the "Historic Walk" was brought from the Cathedral of Rheims, France, which, during the First World War, was nearly destroyed. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, while traveling in France shortly after the close of World War I, visited the famous Cathedral. They had no difficulty in securing a representative stone from this ancient shrine, since hundreds of stones were lying nearby in the street, where they had fallen, from time to time, after various bombardments. The policeman on guard and who had charge of the ruins seemed rather surprised that anyone should want such a huge souvenir, and he gladly permitted them to take their choice.

The sixth stone in the walk came from Swarthmore Hall, England, the home of Judge Fell, who was Cromwell's Chancellor of Lancaster, and also a staunch friend of George Fox.

The seventh stone came from Fenny Drayton, in Lancashire, England, where in 1624 was born George Fox, the founder of the religious sect known as "The Quakers".

The eighth stone came from "Pennsbury", the country home of William Penn near Tullytown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which had fallen into ruin even before the Revolutionary War. Its restoration was started in 1932, on the occasion of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the birth of William Penn. Sufficient material remained among the debris, and accurate and authentic original documents and architectural details and data were available to render an exact reproduction of Penn's country home and the buildings associated with it. The place is now a State Park.

The ninth stepping stone came from Bethel, in Palestine, where Jacob saw the angels ascending the ladder.

The tenth stone is of "Conquina," the fragile light rock of Florida. This stepping stone came from St. Augustine, the first European settlement in North America, 1565.

The eleventh stone in the "Historic Walk" was brought from Santa Fe, Spain, the place where Christopher Columbus signed the contract with Queen Isabella, April 17, 1492.

The twelfth stone is from King Arthur's Castle on the Cornish coast of England, from Merlin's Cave.

The thirteenth stone is from Santa Domingo, West Indies, and was obtained by a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins who was visiting there. It was one of the foundation stones of the fort built by Christopher Columbus, where later he was imprisoned. The fort overlooks the mouth of the river which forms the harbor of the City of Santa Domingo, which Columbus designated as the Capital of Hispaniola. This particular stone was taken from that part of the fort which had never been reconstructed or restored, and therefore it certainly was part of the original structure. This was also one of the stepping stones over which Mr. Jenkins occasionally lingered when showing his guests the "Historic Walk", and sometimes he would recite the following sonnet to Santa Domingo; which he had written shortly after the stone took its place in the walk:

Columbus gave a new world to the old;
Three times his crested prows the sunsets sailed,
Steered by romance, through clear mirage of gold,
Dream voyages, his flag of hope high nailed.
The winds were kind, the galleons overbold;
Eight years of glory his, with fame entailed,
But now with ridicule and glances cold,
Man mocked him for the treasure he had failed.

Two months he lay in San Domingo's keep,
Where he had builded first, on sun-scorched plain;
Across a darkened, weeping, storm-swept deep,
In felon's chains they sent him back to Spain.
From out his gaol this stone, so rough and rude,
Is symbol of a king's ingratitude.

The fourteenth stone came from Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge, where Washington lived in the farm house of Isaac Potts during the winter of 1777 until June, 1778. This stone is on the left, and the fifteenth stone on the right of the path; the two forming one stepping stone. The fifteenth stone came from the steep path or trail, discovered by General James Wolfe, leading to the "Heights of Abraham" at Quebec, Canada, which he climbed and defeated the French General Montcalm, in a battle where both Generals lost their lives.

The sixteenth stone came from Washington's Headquarters near the Neshaminy Creek, on Old York Road, what is now Hartsville, Pa. The old farm house was occupied by Washington in August, 1777, and it was here where he first met Lafayette, who was then only nineteen years old; and it was at these headquarters where it is said he was commissioned a Major General in the American Army. This also was the house from which the first American Flag was flown for the first time in history. The house is still standing. The next month, on September 11, 1777, in the Battle of the Brandywine, the American Flag was under fire for the first time, although this honor is also claimed for Couche's Bridge or Iron Hill, where there was a preliminary skirmish on September 3rd. However, the flag was undoubtedly carried in both engagements, the main Battle being fought just a few days later.

The seventeenth stone is from the Roman wall across the north of England, built by Emperor Hadrian, in A. D. 120.

The eighteenth stone came from Fort Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain, New York, which was captured from the British in 1775 by Ethan Allen.

The nineteenth stone is from the Johnson House, at Washington Lane and Germantown Avenue, now owned, occupied and preserved by the Women's Club of Germantown. This house was in the midst of the Battle on October 4, 1777, and was used as a Military Emergency Hospital during the Battle and for some time after. It still bears a number of scars of bullets.

The twentieth stone consists of three pieces of stone from the Great Wall of China. These pieces were set into a block of concrete so as to preserve them. There is an amusing anecdote about this stone, which was obtained by Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins through their friends, Nora Waln and her husband in 1923. The Walns were living in Pekin at the time. A man servant was dispatched by rail on a two-days' jour- to the Great Wall of China, where he was to find a stone, be photographed with it, and get the Station master's affidavit that the stone was from the Great Wall. All this accomplished, the servant boarded the train to return, but the conductor demanded the equivalent of $1.27 excess baggage for the stone. The servant refused to pay it and dumped it off the platform, and returned to the Waln home without it. He explained the episode, and added that he had never seen any stone worth that much money. He was reprimanded and sent back at once—two days there and two days back. The stone was found where he had dumped it, and this time he brought it back safely. It was then packed in a bamboo basket, and reached "Far Country" in Germantown in fair condition. Some years later the frosts began to disintegrate it, so the pieces were set in cement. This slab now forms the last of the stepping stones in "Historic Walk," just as it reaches the famous Ancestral Sundial.

The Sundial, which forms a fitting terminus of the "Historic Walk," originally stood in the garden of Nathan Spencer, who was the great-great-grandfather of the late Charles Francis Jenkins. The Spencer Sundial is dated 1789, and bears the motto, "TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN." During the summer of of 1793, President Washington was living in Germantown in a house recently acquired by the United States government as a "National Monument." and is now under the care of the Germantown Historical Society.

Edmund Randolph, Washington's Attorney General, was quartered at Nathan Spencer's house. The following poem, composed by Mr. Jenkins, tells an interesting episode which occurred when George and Martha Washington called on Mr. Randolph at the Spencer Homestead.

QUESTIONING THE SUNDIAL

Did Godfrey, he of quadrant fame,
Etch deep those lines and hours?
Did shadows race across your face
Mid pinks and gilly flowers?
Perhaps you heard the muskets roll
The year that you were made?
Did Germantown all up and down
Echo with cannonade?

In later years when peace had come
Was there a stately call?
With grand approach in swaying coach
Pray, did you note it all?
The President and his good wife
Roll up unto the door,
Both ushered in, to parlor prim?
And was it after four?

Did Washington go mark the time
By your white marble dial?
And did he stand with watch in hand,
And did he really smile
To note the pun your motto hides
On gnomon, where it states
The saying old, so often told
That "Time for no man waites."

Did Martha, too, betray a smile
She tried to hide in vain,
Four faces there, with touseled hair
All peeping through the pane?
And did she note small Hephziba
Contemptuous turn away,
"She's but a woman after all"
Heard you the maiden say?

(Please turn to page 28)

Broad Street a Half-Century Ago

By Ed. Wheelock

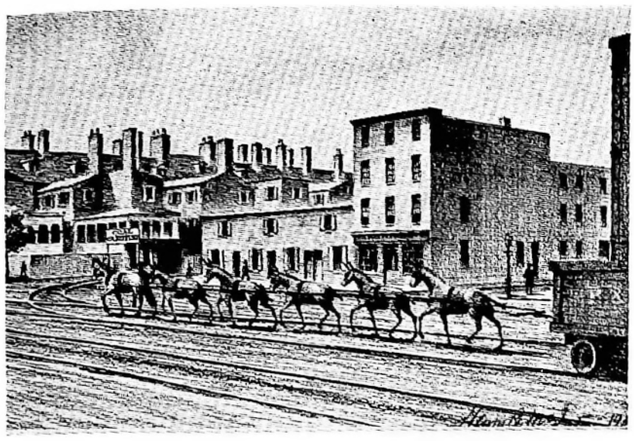
NORTH BROAD STREET—the city's first boulevard—once the magnet which drew the rich business men as a site for their homes—how did it look a half-century ago? What changes have taken place since the Centennial? One who tramped the avenue many times in those near-ancient days is able to recall scenes and buildings that will perhaps revive memories in the subconsciousness of old-timers.

Coming in from the north, the thoroughfare proper really began at Diamond Street. Beyond that was little more than a country road, smooth and compact enough in good weather to attract the speeders of those days—the horse-owners—to exciting "brushes". On the northwest corner of Broad and Diamond was the antique "Punch Bowl", popular road-house, which at that time stood on a bluff of clay left by the gradual lowering of the street levels as the city prepared for the next generation's onsweep of dwellings which were coming. The "Punch Bowl" marked the entrance to a diagonal road leading to "Old Lamp Tavern", a half-mile to the northwest, whose little track was a lure to the gentlemen horse-owners aforementioned. At that time Broad Street was bordered with open lots as far down as Columbia Avenue. On the west side opposite Berks Street was the gate house of Monument Cemetery with its quaint little pointed Tudor tower, so reminiscent of rural England. Not far below this at the cemetery line open lots reappear, and one could look east over bare country and far as Park Avenue and even to Thirteenth Street. This space is now well occupied by the realization of Dr. Russell H. Conwell's dreams—the beauful buildings of Grace Baptist Temple and Temple College. Opposite this, again on the west side was a broad level tract that for many years was the site of the circus, and appropriately enough, one corner of this space was subsequently picked by James A. Bailey, partner of Barnum, for his handsome brownstone dwelling. On the southeast corner of Montgomery Avenue was an old-time row of dwellings which within a few years gave way to Dr. Krauskopf's Keneseth Israel Tabernacle, the finest example of pure Oriental architecture in Philadelphia. Opposite this, on the west side, a florist had for many years an extensive greenhouse plant which in time gave way to the Grand Opera House, which, later, under the wise musical management of Gustav Henrichs, filled a fine popular educational niche. Adjoining this on the south was Lauber's Garden, an attraction to the thirsty of a wide neighborhood and forerunner of the dizzy "night clubs" of today. At the Columbia Avenue corner was a long-popular market with the usual dance-hall above. With the advance of business that struck Columbia Avenue late in the gay 90's, this building was cut up into stores. Continuing down, the west side of Broad Street was like a sudden change into some mellow little southern city with plenty of trees and garden plots before old-time dwellings that looked to be as old as the Civil War, and probably were. Very little change was noted for years along the stretch between Columbia Avenue and Girard Avenue until some years after the highway paving was improved and cobbles gave way to grouted Belgian blocks. Just above Master Street was one of the beauty spots of the "boulevard"—an exquisite garden alongside of the solid brownstone Smith mansion, home of a wealthy member of a noted type-foundry firm. People came from all over the city to delight in the rare floral display, the climax to which was a double row of trees forming a novel arbor. This site has now, for many years, been occupied by the handsome quarters of the Mercantile Club, a wealthy Jewish set, built late in the fading century. At the southwest corner of Master Street stood the home of Philadelphia's own native actor—Edwin Forrest—one time scene of a threatening fire which endangered and partially scorched the tragedian's collection of stage literature that included some rare Shakespeariana. This building later became the home of the Women's School of Design, one of many enterprises driven to other quarters when the Pennsylvania Railroad came to Broad Street at Filbert.

At Girard Avenue two notable citizens helped to change the street's tendency, after the Centennial, to become more beautiful. The residences of Widener and Elkins, traction magnates, on the northwest cor-



Broad and Poplar
From a painting by Henry B. McIntire



Broad and Sansom Streets site of the Union League
From a painting by Henry B. McIntire

ner, were an innovation in architecture and structural appeal. The Widener home afterwards was turned over to the city as a branch of the Free Library and as such still stands here as one of the most luxurious public libraries in the country. Across Girard Avenue was the more modest residence of John F. Betz, millionaire brewer, and subsequent builder of the Grand Opera House uptown. The house was modest only in the sense of being older—really of the Civil War type, but the Betz family piled luxury enough upon it to satisfy anyone.

Oue next halt is at Poplar Street where, on the southwest corner was the white Renaissance palace of Charles J. Harrah, steel man, known for many years for its broad, green lawns and its beds of rare flowers. In later years this was wiped out by Oscar Hammerstein with his vast Manhattan Opera House that was to annihilate the old Academy—but didn't. A step or two further down the old street, where it is crossed by Ridge Road at Fairmount Avenue, which had not long ago dropped its old name of Coates Street, was an old landmark—the Lincoln market, one of the characteristic community structures that about Centennial-time were planted in nearly every section of the city, with a public mart on the ground floor, lodge rooms and other such Victorian whim-whams. Before that century was out, this gave way to the Lorraine Hotel, a somewhat more ornamental structure.

On the opposite corner of Fairmount Avenue was an old-time saloon, much frequented by the sporting element, which had all the appearance of having been a road-house long before Broad Street started its growth. This was supplemented in the early 90's by a neat little theatre, the builder of which, looking about for a name, one day glanced at Fairmount Avenue and promptly named his playhouse the Park. Across Broad Street was a solid, rectangular building housing George Eastburn's academy, long a high-class "prep" school, on Yale principles, for the University of Penn, giving place finally to a handsome bank building. Again turning down Broad Street one could see in the fore-distance an old-time brick building with a curious white knob on its squat tower, which knob, as you drew nearer developed into a representation of the terrestrial globe and was a mark to generations of Philadelphians of the Boys' Central High School. This was subsequently moved across the street to a modern building that added another ornament to the "boulevard", at Green Street.

At this point all "boulevard" characteristics came to an abrupt end and from Spring Garden to Callowhill Streets there was not only a rough pavement to be years later a dread to drivers of all vehicles, but to riders on the three-horse team buses that took the place of the ostracized horse cars, as well as the lighter Diamond Street coaches subsequently added. Until the asphalt came this far down in the early 90's these vehicles were bone-shakers for fair. Added to this was the continuous racket from the always busy shops of the Baldwin Locomotive Works on the west side of the street. Then followed a life and death tussle with the maze of grade crossings that marked the entrance to the old Reading train-shed at Callowhill Street and the freight yards in the rear. This terrible spot with its intricate system of signal lights and safety gates made tragic pages in the city's history till the Reading concentrated at the modern station, 12th and Market Streets. At this time Callowhill Street at this point, with the exception of the 2nd Regiment Armory, was given over to small manufacturing concerns, and not until the new century was the stately Inquirer Building with its far-reading town-clock to set distinction upon all this section of the city.

In the period we are considering—half a century ago—a block at Cherry Street that had long been a center of the horse-and-buggy traffic was later wiped out for two of the finest theatres the city has ever known, the Lyric and Adelphi, which went to their Valhalla only the other day, leaving behind them many beautiful stage memories.

Nothing could better conclude this rapid survey of our old-time "Boulevard" than a view of the beginning of the new one. In our progress down Broad Street, about as far north as Girard Avenue, our vista has been closed by a high board fence with a few layers of white marble overtopping it. This white marble stratum, watched with interest by all Penn's city, was at the time of the Centennial not much of a sight to our millions of Exposition visitors, but by the early 80's the progress had been such that the concealing fence was being torn down, revealing the French architecture of the then-called Public Building, that within a decade was to see the uprising of the tower on which Penn now stands with hand outstretched to the northeast to the point where he made his pact with the Indians.



RITTENHOUSE PAPER MILL

(*Continued from page 15*)

Here dwelt a printer and I find
That he can both print books and bind;
He wants not paper, ink nor skill
He's owner of a paper mill.
The paper mill is here hard by
And makes good paper frequently,
But the printer, as I do here tell,
Is gone into New York to dwell.
No doubt but he will lay up bags
If he can get good store of rags.
Kind friend, when thy old shirt is rent
Let it to th' paper mill be sent.

- To be continued in our next issue -

A BALLAD OF THE MILLS OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE

Though still within his little valley crumbling
The mills of David Rittenhouse are down,
Snow falls as ever where the silent lumbering
Oxen trudged the Ridge Road into town.

The trees now wrenched and stiffened near the Mill Creek
(The mills of David Rittenhouse are down)
Sheathe, like him, in a brittle fit of sudden quick-
Silver that is whitening on the town.

The miller David Rittenhouse was chary; now
He wears a gown more plain than any gown:
He changes with the seasons, who was wary
(The mills, the mills of Rittenhouse are down!)

His ruin weighs like winter on our town.

CLAUDE F. KOCH

THE OLD TOWN HALL

(*Continued from page 10*)

to $85,000—part for street improvement, part for the Town Hall.

Of course all this brought criticism from the city and the city papers asked why Germantown needed a Town Hall anyway? The answer was self-evident. Why, indeed, should Germantown alone reap no benefit from the merger?

In March, 1854 the contract was awarded, in June the Town Council ceased to function and the City of Philadelphia added a further $22,000 to complete the structure which was finished in August, 1855.

One of the first benefits of the new consolidation was the appointment of a police force. Twelve policemen were apportioned to the new 22nd Ward with headquarters in the Town Hall and cells in the basement. Uniforms were considered undemocratic and met with considerable opposition when adopted in 1858.

In October, 1859 regular street car service to Germantown from Philadelphia was established—the run from 8th Street to Phil-Ellena. In December, 1859 the average number of passengers daily was 2,500.

On April 15, 1861 President Lincoln issued the first call for 75,000 volunteers. The day before had seen the surrender of Fort Sumter.

A meeting in the Town Hall was held four days later where resolutions were passed promising care for the families of men who enlisted. Then came a meeting of women in the Town Hall to organize for relief work.

From then on Germantown was a hive of activity, egiments were formed and drilled, work for soldier comfort and dependent relief increased each month. It is a thrilling story in which the names of old Germantown families occur again and again.

In June, 1862 the Town Hall was offered and accepted as a hospital. Captain Biddle's home guard, who had been drilling in the Town Hall, gave the funds in their treasury to equip the Hospital and later a wooden addition was built and then a guardhouse, kitchen and bath house. It was named the Cuyler Hospital and was in active service until the close of the War. When finally closed in May, 1865 the remaining patients were transferred to the Mower Hospital at Mermaid Lane.

The jubilation following the glorious news of Lee's surrender on April 9th was, as is the end of all Wars, mingled with sorrow—many, many of Germantown's finest did not come back, though through the Spring of '65 men in uniform were seen everywhere. By the Fall the tempo of life had returned almost to normal.

At the Town Hall in May, 1866 a group of survivors organized a unit of the "Boys in Blue." When the Grand Army of the Republic was formed this unit joined with the national organization becoming Post 6—later it was called Ellis Post in honor of the first man from Germantown killed in the War.

It is Germantown's most worthy habit to talk of Pastorius and the first thirteen, of Sower and his early Bible, of Washington and the famous Battle—perhaps it is Mr. Pulinger's charming picture, or Dr. Wister's human memoirs which have now turned our thoughts for a brief moment to the mid-19th century and a little nostalgic glance at the old Town Hall.

The facts of this sketch were largely drawn from Mr. Hocker's authoritive book on Germantown.

WOMAN'S CLUB OF GERMANTOWN

(Continued from page 8)

To quote from a Club history called "The First Ten Years," these luncheons "are always gala affairs, flowers, spring clothes and charming entertainment."

Club activities have naturally been varied—cultural, civic, patriotic and philanthropic.

The entrance of the United States into World War I came about the same time that the Club was organized. The members at once threw their energies into war work—Red Cross, etc. This was done again during World War II. Another piece of patriotic work was to help with a project begun by Dr. Woodward for the purpose of helping the foreign element in Germantown to become good American citizens. This developed into regular settlement work, sponsored by the Club and headed in turn by Mrs. Edward V. Kane, Mrs. Walter P. Miller and Mrs. Charles McKinley. Eventually this was merged with the Morton Street Day Nursery in the same neighborhood.

When the celebration of the Sesqui-Centennial was held in Philadelphia, the Woman's Club of Germantown was represented on the Woman's Committee that played a large part in the celebration.

A committee of the Woman's Club was formed to provide afternoon tea twice a week when bus trips were arranged to bring visitors to see places of historic interest in Germantown. These visitors were from every state in the union and from many foreign countries also. All seemed to appreciate the little time spent in the restful Club House and the refreshments served.

One visitor audibly expressed his amazement, when in answer to his question, he was told there was "no charge." He said, "This is the first free thing I've had in Philadelphia." This Club hospitality to strangers was a small thing but a gracious gesture.

From the beginning of the Club's organization there was always a Welfare Committee to take charge of whatever philanthropic work the Club has undertaken. Even in times of financial stress there has always been some money to help some that were underprivileged. The committee has kept in touch with the welfare work of the Germantown Hospital, and often has been able to supply needed braces, etc., for small patients. In other ways, too numerous to mention, fine work has been done.

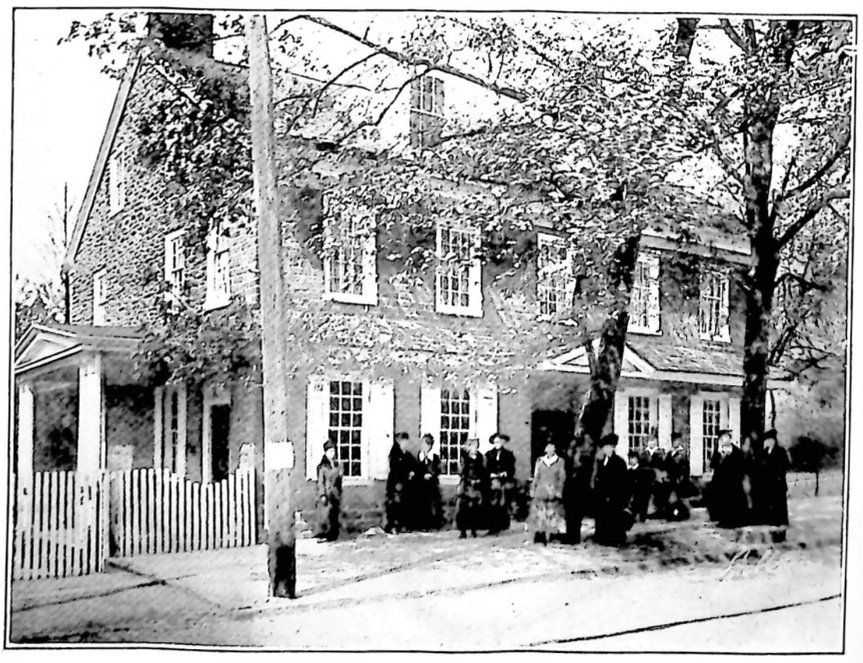
As for the civic and cultural activities, one hardly knows where to begin or where to stop. The members have been regularly kept in touch with world affairs, through bi-monthly lectures. Current literature has been presented by book reviews. For several years talks on new books by Mrs. George Emerson Barnes have been one of the most popular programs of the Club.

A Lending Library has been maintained through the Club office. This has conveniently provided the members with many recent publications. As the shelves have overflowed, great armfuls of the older books have been taken to nearby rural centers.

Many speakers of prominence have appeared before the Club and many interesting programs have been given by able Club members. Among the latter have been travel talks (some in costume), musical programs, visits to Art Galleries under delightful leaders, nature and garden walks, and several very fine flower shows. A Living Magazine has been issued at intervals and has been a novel and interesting part of the Club's program.

The beginning of the Little Theatre movement in Germantown was made at the Club under the leadership of Mrs. Frederick Shepperd. This developed into the organization known as the Stage-Crafters.

Nothing has been said of the different affairs undertaken by the Club to increase the financial resources needed for the building fund, etc. The most elaborate and worthwhile of these was "A Pageant of Old Germantown" given at Manheim in 1922, from ma-



Woman's Club of Germantown

terial prepared by a local historian, Dr. Naaman Keyser. About 200 took part. A large number of the costumes were made by a committee of Club members.

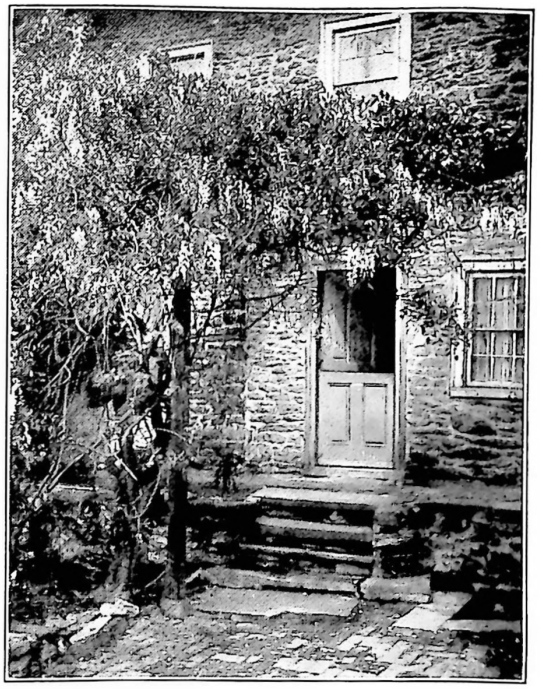
The old garden has been the scene of many club events—some purely social and some for the purpose of adding to the treasury. An outdoor fete called "All in a Garden Fair" was repeated several times. Of late years Antique Exhibits have been very interesting and profitable.

To make even a partial list of all the women who have made definite contributions to the Club would make a roll of honor long indeed. The Club was very fortunate to have had as executive secretary for many years, Mrs. Wayne Whipple. Her service was always over and far above the call of duty.

The following is a list of Club presidents:

Mrs. Thomas H. Carmichael.....1917–1918
Mrs. Walter G. Sibley.....1918–1921
Mrs. William E. Buehler.....1921–1923
Mrs. I. Pearson Willits.....1923–1926
Mrs. James McMullan.....1926–1929
Mrs. William H. Craven.....1929–1931
Mrs. Walter Lee Sheppard.....1931–1934
Mrs. William C. Otter.....1934–1937
Mrs. Carl W. Fenniger.....1937–1940
Mrs. Charles C. Heyl.....1940–1943
Mrs. William C. Otter.....1943–1945
Mrs. Horace M. Jones.....1945–1948
Mrs. James McK. Watt.....1948–1951
Mrs. Charles C. Heyl.....1951–

Of course, the planning and organization needed for the proper functioning of a Club falls necessarily on the president. But every president knows that nothing could be done without the faithful and efficient officers, board members, committee chairmen and just high privates. No small credit should also be given to the retiring but interested members who, just by their presence, help to create a certain inspiration and enthusiasm that numbers give. For all of these every president gives heartfelt gratitude and also has special thankfulness for those whom she will always remember for their ready help in an emergency.



Wistaria shaded back door of the Club

This cursory glance at the Germantown Woman's Club gives, of course, only a limited idea of what it has done or tried to do.

There is also much that cannot be tabulated in any way—the value of a broadening outlook and a sense of fellowship gained by the working-together, for a common purpose, of members with varied backgrounds and the pleasant personal contacts leading to warm and cherished friendships. These, and other things as well, can only be known by the individual members themselves.

No doubt much more might have been done through the years but at least, it must be apparent that an approach has been made to the ideal of its founder that the WOMAN'S CLUB might be a force that would tell in the social, educational and philanthropic life of Germantown!

MONDAY, MAY 14TH, 3 P. M., 1917

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

5820 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

You are invited to attend a meeting of representative women to discuss the advisability of organizing a Woman's Club. The object of the club will be to unite and promote all women's activities in Germantown, Chestnut Hill and vicinity.

Mrs. Frederick W. Abbott
Mrs. William E. Buehler
Mrs. Thos. H. Carmichael
Mrs. Frank Miles Day
Mrs. James Mapes Dodge
Mrs. John Gribbel
Mrs. Bayard H. Hodge
Mrs. Robert Hogue
Mrs. Joseph McFarland
Mrs. John D. McIlhenny
Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols
Mrs. Joshua Ash Pearson
Mrs. Walter Penn Shipley
Mrs. Walter G. Sibley
Mrs. Thos. Raeburn White
Mrs. George Wheeler

Copy of the Invitation issued in 1917

HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

(Continued from page 12)

Neshaminy Creek. Only the very wealthy, whose visits to the city were infrequent, could afford estates at such a distance; whereas those in active industrial occupations selected summer locations for their families more readily accessible by horseback or in light conveyances. Germantown was ideal for them.

Another important reason for the selection of the Germantown section for summer residences has probably escaped the notice of historians. This was the fact that long, long before Philadelphia came into its own as a center of the best medical teachings in America, one Christopher Witt came to Germantown in the year 1704. He is described as "a skillful physician, but a Rosicrucian disciple." Another, "Doctor Fraley, of Germantown" was skilled in witchcraft. Add to this fact that of all the groups arriving from Europe in Pennsylvania the Germans were most famous for their home remedies for just about every ailment and abnormal condition the human flesh is heir to, it seems not unnatural that summer abodes of families would be selected not too far distant from where medical attention, such as it was, could be readily available in emergencies.

This statement is far less fantastic than it sounds. Remember that every housewife was more or less forced to be her own physician. Second only to the family Bible in domestic importance was her precious copy of the Pharmacopoeia Londinensis, published in the year 1667 by John Streater in London, and prepared by one Nich. Culpepper, who classifies himself on the title pages as "Gent. Student in Physick and Astrology". Imagine what a comfort it must have been to the anxious mother who was distracted with the wailings of two or three teething infants to read:

> "The Brain of an Hare being roasted, helps trembling, it makes children breed teeth easily, their Gums being rubbed with it: it also helps scald Heads, and falling off of hair, the Head being anointed with it."

Or imagine the utter ecstasy of the long-suffering spouse of a ne'er-do-well who has long exhibited a tendency to loiter in the vicinity of the local taproom until the early hours of the morning on reading the following suggestion:

"Eels being put into Wine or Bees (sic) and suffered to die in it, he that drinks it, will never endure that sort of Liquor again." Do you wonder?

The mere mention of Nick Culpepper's name in medical circles was invariably followed by sudden severe attacks strikingly similar to homicidal mania, but the fact remains that it is next to impossible to discover a single copy existing today that had the faintest resemblance to what erudite collectors term "mint condition". Every copy your speaker has discovered bears mute testimony to considerable use. In extenuation of the distracted housewives for such heresy, one has only to read a few pages of some of the accepted medical textbooks of that era to reach the conclusion that the success of the treatment by accredited physicians was unquestionably due to the decision of the patient to either get well or die in self defense as quickly as possible! Even the "Pow-wow" artists gave sufferers more of a sporting chance.

Could there possibly be any more logical explanation of the popularity of early Germantown as a health resort than the availability of Christopher Witt or Doctor Fraley, or the experienced "Hex" doctors of the German school except the relative inaccessibility of the Indian Medicine Man of Chester County Lenni-Lenapes.

The full truth of the foregoing statements can scarcely be overemphasized for the history of the growth and development of Germantown during the first two hundred and fifty years is replete with incidents of national and international importance fully supporting them. One alone should be sufficient to clinch the matter: In the year 1793, during the terrible epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia, when, it is stated that "the grass grew in the main streets of the city" because of the exodus of the citizens, the State and United States officials applied to rent the buildings of Germantown Academy for the sum of $300.00 to accommodate the Congress of the U. S. Also, President George Washington in that same year occupied the Perot-Morris Mansion as his residence, and Thomas Jefferson occupied the house which later became the Bank of Germantown. In this connection, it is interesting to note that so large was the ingress of Philadelphia citizens to this Germantown area that the German individuality of the town was definitely lost as of the year 1793. The Philadelphians had taken over.

Your speaker has already addressed this distinguished organization on the military operations of the American and British armies in and around Germantown during the American Revolution. These are so well known to you that it would be almost effrontery, certainly tiresome to you to refer to them tonight, for your members are probably infinitely more qualified to discuss them than he. One item, however, seems so little known generally that it may be worth mentioning, namely, that the Perot-Morris

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Mansion during the period after the Battle of Ger-Germantown was the residence and headquarters of General Sir William Howe, of the British Army. What a priceless landmark in our American History!

Although your speaker this evening has dealt especially with the history of the development of Germantown in the earlier Colonial periods up to 1793 when its German individuality was most clear-cut, it must be understood that its actual historical importance in American History by no means faded out in the succeeding years. For example, the great portrait painter, Gilbert Stuart, lived in Germantown in 1794-95, and had his studio in the barn of David Styers. Those of us who are deeply interested in the development of Art in America realize well what this means to present-day Germantown citizens.

Let us also realize that as the "miasmatic" areas along the Delaware River above Philadelphia were supplanted by great industrial developments, and the old colonial roads became highways connecting these with the rapidly growing city, Germantown itself became a residential hub for the owners of these great plants. What these plants produced really became the backbone of Industry in the United States, and played a vitally important part in shaping the history of the United States successfully through the War of 1812, the War Between the States, the development of our great resources beyond the Appalachians and the Mississippi, the Indian Campaigns, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the two World Wars and now the Korean Campaign. The history of Germantown is truly American history

Journalism the world over never considers that its duty to its readers has been discharged unless the final pages of its publications are given over to sports. Your speaker feels that this same principle applies to the history of any town, city or country. Certainly, its applicability in relation to Germantown is apparent. In no section of Pennsylvania have outdoor sports of all kinds been a more important feature, certainly during the past century, than here.

The significance of this in relation to American History might seem difficult to understand. We shall perhaps make it more clear by pointing out first of all that almost from the moment of the change from German individuality to that of Anglo-Saxon in the community life of Germantown and its environs, there was a definite upward trend of interest in sports of almost all kinds, especially those most closely identified with English life. As cricket has for centuries been the national sport of England, what could be more natural than that Germantown should become the hub of this grand old game in America. With the establishment of the Germantown Cricket Club after a period of incubation in the 1840's on the lawn of Belfield, the estate of Wm. Rotch Wister, cricket in America sprang to life, and flourished until well after the first decade of the present century; limited almost exclusively to Philadelphia environs.

The truly remarkable fact is that in spite of this limited area in which cricket was popular as a sport the teams and individual players achieved international renown on many occasions. One has but to read *A Century of Philadelphia Cricket*, recently published under the editorship of that famous cricketer, Dr. John A. Lester, to realize what really phenomenal players Germantown produced. Of these the immortal Newhall brothers were the most famous.

The thought that your speaker has in mind in referring to such a sport as cricket in relation to our national history is that the influence of such a game in which honor and fair play has always been the sine qua non could not fail to be of infinite value in the moulding of character. This has been pointed out many times in literature; and you are no doubt familiar with the saying that "The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." All you of this audience need to do is to examine the roster of great names in the professional, industrial, financial, educational, military, naval and governmental fields whose youth was spent in this vicinity to discover how many of them were well-known cricketers. The famous order, "Charge—Germantown!" given by the young lieutenant, ..., a famous player, at Rappahanock, just before he was killed in action is merely one example.

Possibly some of us may be spared to see the day in American when there may be a re-awakening of appreciation of the value of sport for sport's sake, and the great game of cricket may again take its deserved place in popular esteem. Some of us are getting just a trifle disgusted with such scandals as the basketball "fixes"; the West Point "cribbing", the collegiate "Professionalization" of most sports and the nauseatingly low tone of spectator interest.

In closing this somewhat sketchy outline of the story of Germantown, your speaker begs leave to interject a tiny philosophical thought, namely, that all of us who have been imbued with a desire to study the history of our great nation over the past centuries must never forget that history of the future is being made today—not merely in Korea or in the Pentagon but in our own communities and our own homes. Let us apply the lessons of the past to our actions in the future.

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YOU PAY FOR NO LOST TIME

HISTORIC WALK IN A GERMANTOWN GARDEN

(*Continued from page 20*)

You now have timed three centuries,
One full and parts of two,
The moments fly, the hours speed by,
Do they seem short to you?
Will this old noisy, hurried world,
Which has scant use for rhymes,
Ever again, and how and when,
Return to sundial times?

Perhaps it might have been appropriate for me to have mentioned heretofore that at the beginning of the "Historic Walk" there is a gorgeous specimen of English Hawthorne, directly behind the antique stone bench. Indeed, I think this famous Hawthorne might have been included as a part of the walk, since it is so closely associated with it. This Hawthorne tree, which is now quite large and throws a comforting shade in its immediate environment, is a descendant of the original one in the ground of Glastonbury Cathedral, Somersetshire, England. Legend has it that Joseph of Arimathea came to England bearing the Holy Grail, and that when he reached Glastonbury, he thrust his staff into the ground, where it took root, grew to be a large tree, and blossomed every Christmas. The tree at "Far Country" was obtained at the Abbey from the parent tree and planted in the former Jenkins home on Washington lane. Several years later it was moved and replanted on the present site at "Far Country." There its leaves withered and died, and to all appearances the tree was dead and the trunk was cut off near the ground. The following spring, to the great surprise of Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, a green shoot appeared, which grew and developed into a fine and shaply specimen. It is now a huge and most effective shade tree behind the English stone bench, and at the head of the "Historic Walk." However, this beautiful Hawthorne does not bloom at Christmas time, as legend had it for the parent tree; but it does bloom most profusely every spring.

The "Signers' Walk" will always be of sentimental and historic interest to Americans, and should ever be an inspiration to the youth of our Nation. The "Historic Walk" should likewise be an inspiration to many peoples throughout the world. Had Mr. Jenkins' long and useful life been extended for a few more years, I daresay he might have started another collection, or group of stepping stones, representing each of the sixty or more members of nations of the "United Nations." Indeed, he may have had some such project in mind when he named a path leading down one of the slopes of "Far Country" as "The Walk of the United Nations." Whether this new walk would have taken the form of stepping stones from the sixty or more nations, or of typical trees or shrubbery from such countries, or any other form, it might have become an inspiration to the peoples from "One World."

About Our Authors

GEORGE ALLEN was born near Reading, Pa., on April 15, 1919. He was educated in Philadelphia, and graduated from the Central High School of Philadelphia and Haverford College. After leaving college he was employed with William H. Allen, Bookseller at 2031 Walnut Street, and is now the manager. During World War No. 2, he served in the Military Intelligence Service overseas with the 101st Airborne Division. He is the author of a number of articles on the Pennsylvania Dutch, and the co-editor of "Hitler Directs His War," which was published in 1950 by Oxford University Press. Most of his article on the "Rittenhouse Paper Mill and its Founders" appeared in the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* of April, 1942. From the article in its new form as printed in this number of the CRIER, all references and notes have been omitted, the thought being that it would make it more interesting to our readers in this form.

BEVAN A. PENNYPACKER was born in Philadelphia and has lived most of his life in Germantown.

He is a graduate of the William Penn Charter School and the University of Pennsylvania, from which he holds the degrees of B.S. and LL.B.

He was formerly a member of the Board of the Germantown Historical Society and its counsel.

He is a lawyer and a member of the firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius with which he became associated in 1906.

DR. HENRY PLEASANTS, JR., of West Chester, the text of whose delightful talk before the Historical Society is published in this issue of the CRIER, was born in Radnor, attended Haverford School and Haverford College and acquired his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Pleasants is District Medical Director of the Department of Health of Pennsylvania, and Vice-President of the American Society of Sanitary Engineers, yet, apart from the engrossing duties of an active medical career, he ranks as an authority on local history and has received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Joint State Government Commission of Pennsylvania, "In recognition of exceptional and outstanding contributions in an advisory capacity regarding the study of Historical sites, buildings, and remains."

He is also the author of a number of books the latest, published by Lippincott in 1947—"A Doctor in the House."

CLAUDE F. KOCH, assistant professor of English at La Salle College, is writing a series of Ballads based on Germantown scenes and historic events which eventually will appear in book form. The CRIER is fortunate in having the privilege of, from time to time, publishing one of these ballads. The one on "David Rittenhouse Mills" appears in this issue.

Mr. Koch was the author of "Island Interlude," the Dodd-Mead Literary Fellowship Novel, 1951 and has published miscellaneous verse.

He is chairman of the Editorial Board of "Four Quarters," the La Salle faculty literary quarterly.

HENRY F. RIEBE, F.R.H.S., is a landscape engineer with the Philadelphia firm of Henkels and McCoy.

He is a graduate of Kew Gardens in London, England. At present he is active with the Rittenhouse Square Improvement Association, with whom he has a five-year contract.

KATHARINE PARMELEE WILLITS is the widow of D . I. Pearson Willets for many years a much beloved Germantown physician active in all moves for civic betterment and a president of the Site & Relic, later the Germantown Historical, Society.

Mrs. Willits was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, but her married life was spent in Germantown where she was a force in all she undertook. She was president of the Woman's Club 1923–1926 and did much toward shaping its policies.

For the past ten years she has made her home with her sister in Clearwater, Florida.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SURVEY

(Continued from page 16)

The survey is being financed by a grant obtained through the efforts of Mr. Stradley. Work was begun at the end of November, 1951, and it is the hope of all concerned that the preliminary survey will be completed by late spring or early summer of 1952. At present both the architects and the historians have made considerable progress in their respective fields.

The Germantown Historical Survey is running parallel to another being conducted in Chestnut Hill by the Chestnut Hill Development Group. Representatives of both groups recently met in Mr. Stradley's office at the Western Savings Fund Society and pledged mutual cooperation in their efforts.

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SOURCE OF A FAMILY

(Continued from page 13)

name became Pennybacker (a spelling in continuous use by the Southern branch of the family up to the present time) moved in 1778 to Maryland near Antietam when, facing financial ruin because of a sudden freshet which washed away his foundry, he again moved to the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and erected Redwill furnace, near Luray.

John's grandson, Isaac Samuels Pennybacker, became a Virginia Congressman, a Judge of the District Court and finally was elected to the United States Senate.

Heinrich's next son, Jacob Penebecker, a farmer and miller on the Skippack, married Margaret, a granddaughter of Cornelius Tyson and had six children. He died when about thirty-seven years of age. His first son, Matthias Pannebecker, the ancestor of Governor Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker, removed to the Pickering Creek, Charleston Township, Chester County, buying from Patrick Anderson, who was a Major in Anthony Wayne's militia and another ancestor of Governor Pennypacker, a farm and mill. When the British Army occupied that neighborhood in the fall of 1777, after carrying away all of the flour and grain from the mill they destroyed the straps and bolting cloths to prevent its subsequent use

Heinrich's fifth son, Henry, married Rebecca, a daughter of Hermanus Kuster. He was a member of the Mennonite church on the Skippack and a Yeoman of that region.

Barbara Pennebecker, a daughter of Heinrich, married in 1738 Cornelius Tyson, a son of Matthias and grandson of the original Cornelius. She was the mother of eight sons and two daughters.

No information is available concerning his remaining child, Susanna.

What characteristics had these early Germantown immigrants—Heinrich Pannebecker, Hans Peter Umstat and the others—which gave them the courage to leave the familiar and face the unknown, the force and adaptability to meet hardships and prosper? Governor Pennypacker entered a note in the old

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Umstat Bible giving his impression of them, reading in part as follows:

"It tells me of a people, crude & simple it may be, but who loved what they believed to be the truth—who were ready to be burned and beheaded rather than surrender their faith and who when they left the fatherland which, with all its tender associations, had grown to be cruel and came to dwell under strange skies in a wilderness with the wolf and the savage, brought with them their bibles."

Now, even in the last generation, life in America has changed beyond all possible anticipation. Now its citizens look to a beneficent Government for security. And what is happening to their liberty? A quotation from a recent editorial in the Journal of the American Bar Association may be appropriate:

"Security is not a goal to be bought, nor even to be sought as a primary end in itself. Like happiness, it is a by-product of courageous living. Better that we should keep the eagle as a symbol of America than the ostrich who seeks security with its head in the sand. Living involves the unknown future with all its mysteries, its fears, all those vague unknowns that a wild imagination can always conjure up. The only inevitability in future history lies in the hearts and minds of the men who will make it. That man who has faith in himself can meet the future with fearless confidence—if he has the courage in him to do it. So can a nation! Our pioneers did it. So can Americans today."

As the poet says:

"Ili fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

MORRIS HOUSE FLOWER MART

(Continued from page 17)

mittee is now preparing a working plan and list of plant material needed for future plantings in the Garden.

In the fall of last year it became obvious that a thorough clean-up job of the garden areas was needed before any restoration and planting could be attempted in early spring of 1952.

This clean-up job of years of accumulation of tall weeds, trash and debris and old wooden bins has been started and will continue during the winter months. Already the pattern of a section of the garden, where remnants of old-time rose bushes and boxwood are still in evidence, is noticeable. In this very area, we hope to re-create those old-fashioned beds, separated by grass walks and hedges of gooseberries and currant bushes and fragrant with moss roses, lavender, rosemary, and a variety of kitchen herbs, which provided the mint for the julep, and the spices for the colonial kitchen, when George and Martha Washington enjoyed the gracious living at the Morris House.

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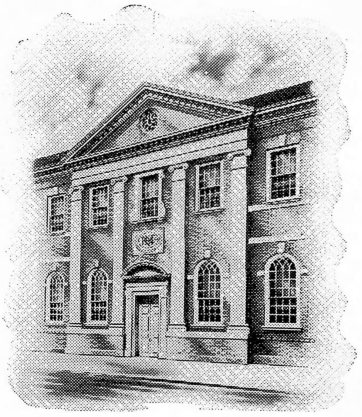
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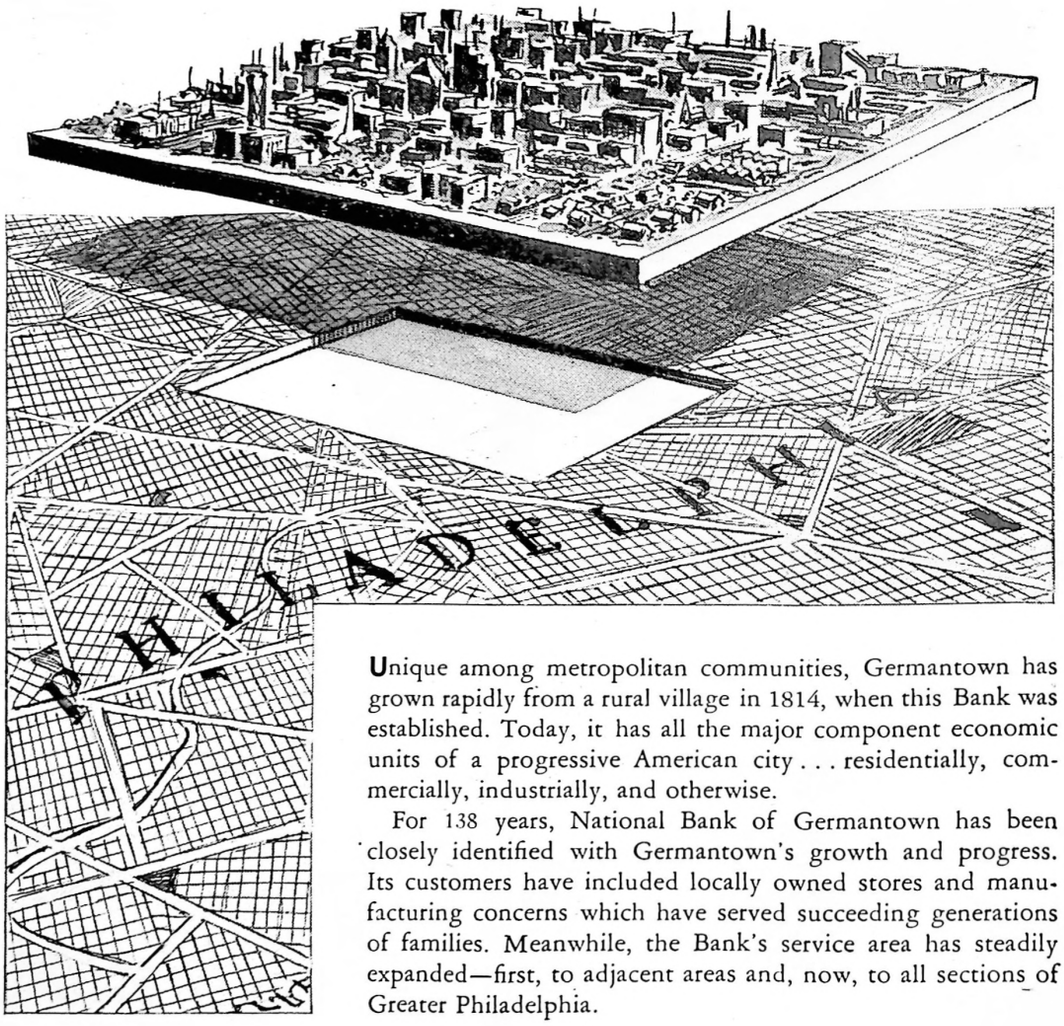
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