# GERMANTOWNE CRIER

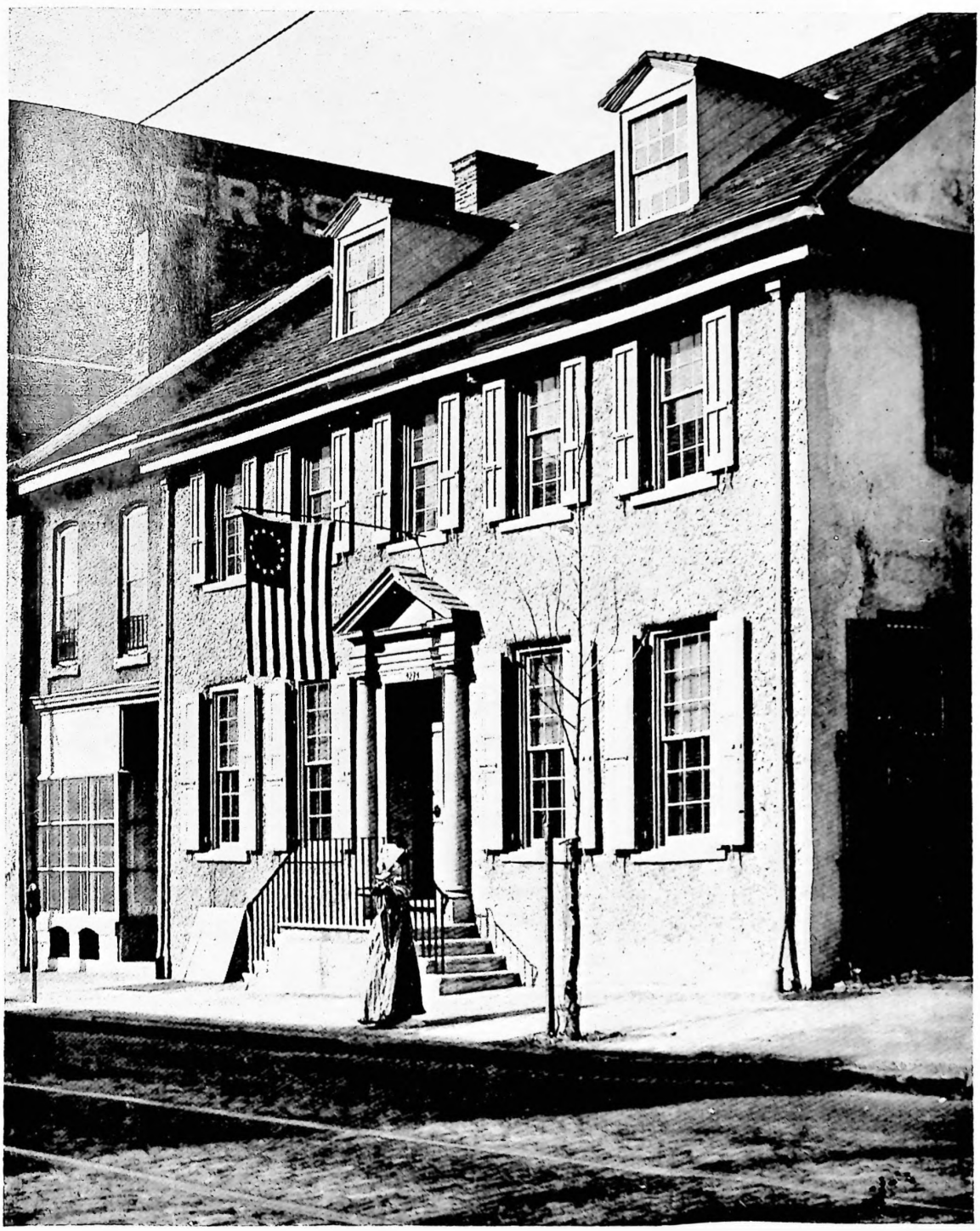


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CLARKSON-WATSON HOUSE (See page 64)

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# GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 23 | SPRING 1971 | Number 2


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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday, June 3

Meeting of the Historical Society will hear Dr. John L. Cotter, Archeologist for the National Park Service, speak on "The Friendly Underground." He is the Chief of Archeological Research for the Eastern Sea Coast of the National Park Service. Among many projects he has been identified with is the Independence National Park, here in Philadelphia.

Dr. Cotter's talk will be preceded by dessert and coffee, at 7:30 p.m., in the garden of the Germantown Historical Society, 5214 Germantown Avenue. At 8:30 p.m. the group will reassemble in the Parish House of Trinity Lutheran Church, Queen Lane, west of Germantown Avenue to hear Dr. Cotter's talk. In the event of inclement weather, the entire program will take place in the Parish House.



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5. Market Square Presbyterian Church
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6. Trinity Lutheran Church
   Queen Lane & Germantown Ave.

There will be some one in attendance at each church to talk about their respective windows.


## Publications of the Germantown Historical Society

**Magazine**

The GERMANTOWN CRIER, published in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, is available at the subscription rate of $2.00 annually.

Nearly all of the eighty-four past numbers of the CRIER are currently available. A complete assortment of available back issues may be had for $7.50, postage paid.

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# Highlights of American History in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State

*By* CLEMENT E. CONGER
*Curator of the State Department and White House*

OF THE twenty homes of the U. S. Department of State since its creation in 1781, six of these were in Philadelphia. The first was located at 13 South Sixth Street; a 3-story, 6-room brick house where Robert R. Livingston, who had been elected by Congress as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, set up the first American foreign office with a staff of four assistants.

Nearly two centuries later, in 1961, the twentieth home of the Department of State was completed in Washington, D. C. and the then Secretary of State Christian A. Herter moved into his newly finished quarters, covering eleven and a half acres, with approximately 7,000 employees. Now, after eleven moves in five different cities (including Annapolis, Trenton, New York) and eight in the Nation's Capital since 1800, there have been created, in keeping with the steadily growing need, a series of Diplomatic Reception Rooms for use by the Secretary of State for entertaining official visitors. These rooms, along the topmost (eighth) floor of the building, overlook the splendid panorama of the Lincoln Memorial and the Virginia hills beyond. With their recently assembled elegant and historic American furnishings they are often called "the most beautiful rooms in the country."

Not only do Kings, Presidents, and Prime Ministers visit the rooms but historians, art lovers, students and, by reservation the casual tourist, each for a different reason but all experiencing the same reactions: pleasure, surprise and great interest in the setting. The rooms evoke amazement in the foreign visitor, and in the hearts of Americans from all walks of life—a feeling of deep pride in American cultural accomplishments.

The fine historic and artistic 18th century furnishings of the rooms have been made possible through the generosity of the American people. When the huge granite and marble State Department building was finished in 1961, the rooms were there, but their appearance and suitability were very disappointing. So sparsely and inappropriately were they furnished that the hosts in the beginning were really embarrassed when they received State visitors. It was at this time that the Special Fine Arts Committee of the Department of State was formed. Inasmuch as there are no official appropriations for furnishing the rooms, Project Americana was initiated and is still progressing at a rapid pace. This program has great appeal to many Americans for tax-deductible financial contributions, and for gifts (also tax-deductible) and loans of rare historic furniture and art, representing the best that this country produced in its early days.

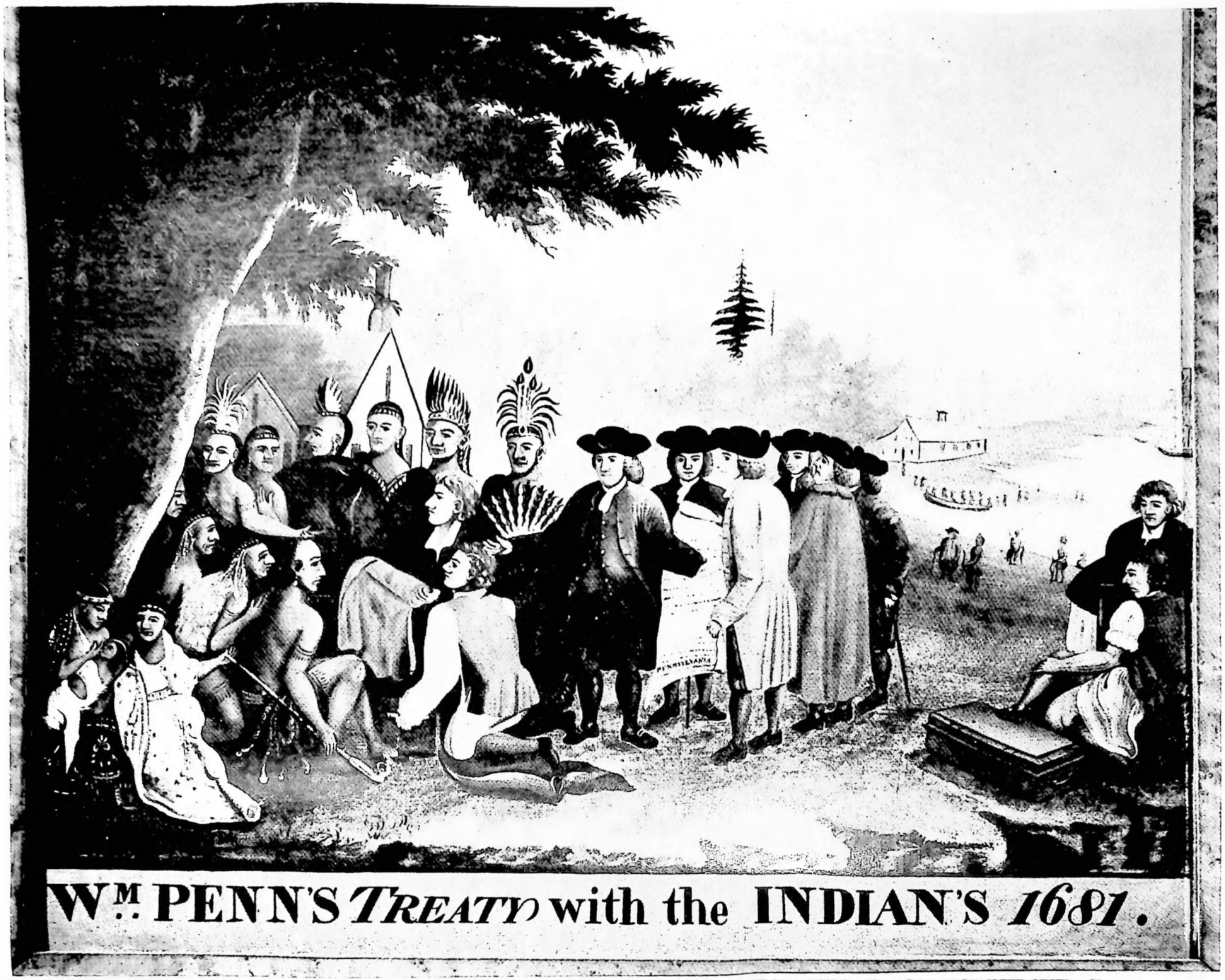
Historians and art lovers evidence great interest in the paintings of early America in the Entrance Hall which portray the early expansion of the country. One painting depicts the making of one of the earliest known treaties in this country, "Wm. Penn's Treaty with the Indian's 1681" (according to the artist's caption) by the American Edward Hicks (1780–1849). There are early western scenes with Indians and cowboys to suit the tastes of the most exigent foreign visitors:—by Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell, James Henry Beard, George Catlin, John Mix Stanley and other well known early American artists.

These paintings are hung midst earlier furnishings, mostly in the Chippendale style and made in America, including breakfronts containing collections of Chinese Export Porcelain, fine early Philadelphia and Wilmington silver and Oriental rugs in soft rich colors.

In The Gallery recent architectural improvements have been made, its late-eighteenth century woodwork being designed after Mount Pleasant, a house dated 1761 in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. The installation of this woodwork, with its Palladian style windows, beautifully carved doorways, and mahogany floors, has been made possible through contributions from patriotic individuals and organizations.

Of all the cities of the thirteen colonies, Philadelphia has bequeathed to us not only the most ornamentally developed architecture, but the richest furniture. It seems most appropriate, therefore, that the craftsmen of 18th century Philadelphia, the home of the first Department of State, should be well represented in its present day building.

In The Gallery is a splendid example of the work of Thomas Affleck of Philadelphia, a mahogany chest-on-chest made circa 1770 and acquired by the lender from a direct descendant of Thomas Shields (1741–1819), famous silversmith of Germantown who married Lydia Morris, kin to Robert Morris. They used the chest in their house in Germantown. This chest, together with a superior tall case clock with case also by Affleck, and on loan to the Department, was rescued from a Shields Germantown home which was shelled and burned by the British in the Revolution.




In the Entrance Hall is this oil painting "Penn's Treaty with the Indian's 1681" by Edward Hicks, American artist (1788–1849). It depicts one of the first recorded diplomatic acts in what is now the United States—William Penn's treaty with the Indians, June 23, 1683, [illegible] (Note the artist's liberty with punctuation and date.)

According to family tradition the two great pieces were carried to the nearby famous Chew home, Cliveden. It too was shelled and burned and the two pieces were safely removed a second time.

Many examples of the best in Philadelphia craftsmanship are to be found in the large John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room. This room might well be called "The American Chippendale Room". It also contains fine examples in this style from other cultural centers of the times, Boston, Newport, and New York.

A magnificent ornate Philadelphia Chippendale highboy and its matching lowboy in this room are being willed to the State Department. Two Philadelphia Chippendale tables are fine examples: the only known Marlboro foot fret-carved side table by Thomas Affleck of Philadelphia made 1760–1770; and a Philadelphia gaming table, known as the Valentine table, made originally for Governor John Penn, son of William Penn, residing in Pennsbury. It was sold in 1840 to Abram Valentine, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, and a family label underneath reads "To Rebecca Valentine from Aunt Mary". Pasted in the drawer is an old Philadelphia Times article describing William Penn's Manor House. A gift is a fine card table, attributed to Jonathan Shoemaker of Philadelphia, with unusually bold ball and claw feet.

Balancing the highboy on the window side of the room is a superior Philadelphia secretary-desk with glass doors made by Benjamin Randolph. It is known as the Poulson secretary and has also been identified as having been used by Commodore Decatur. It contains a partially spent bullet in one drawer. It is one of only 14 known American secretaries of this period in the world with a bust finial. This finely carved one is of John Locke, the English philosopher who was so admired in the American colonies. The breakfront contains among other works American silver by the Philadelphia silversmiths Joseph Richardson, Joseph Anthony, Jr. and John David, as well as Paul Revere Sr. and Jr.

The historian visiting the rooms will appreciate two desks in the John Quincy Adams Drawing Room, perhaps seeing not so much the beauty of their line or the perfection of their workmanship, but more particularly feeling the part they have played in America's history.

There is an architectural style American table-desk designed and used by Thomas Jefferson. It is said to have been designed by him when he was leaving Monticello for Philadelphia to attend the Continental Congress. He ordered furniture for his apartment at 7th and Market Streets, Philadelphia, from a Philadelphia cabinetmaker, sending along the design for this architectural style table-desk. Mr. Jefferson was said to prefer to draft standing due to arthritis. By elevating the lid of the desk, this could be accomplished.

So far as is known, this is the only American architectural table-desk of this period. It is presumed that because the Continental Congress was a noisy place, Mr. Jefferson may have drafted many important documents including parts of the Declaration of Independence on this desk in the quiet of his apartment. When Mr. Jefferson left Philadelphia, this desk was sold to John Dickenson of Delaware, "the penman of the Revolution." Upon Governor Dickinson's death the table-desk was sold at auction, about 1802, as the desk on which Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, and was bought by a Dr. Gallaher, ancestor of the present owner of the desk.

Another historic desk is in the center of the John Quincy Adams Drawing Room. It is an English Sheraton tambour writing desk on which the final Treaty of Paris was signed September 3, 1783, ending the American Revolution. The treaty, properly called The Definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship between His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, was signed in the apartments of David Hartley (1731–1813), British Commissioner, in the Hotel de York in Paris, by Hartley and American Commissioners John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay.

Over the fireplace near this desk hangs the painting of the American Commissioners "Signing the Treaty of Paris, 1782". It is the original sketch by Benjamin West (American artist 1738–1820) of the signing of the Preliminary Articles of Peace between the United States and Great Britain, showing the American Commissioners from left to right, John Jay, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, W. Temple Franklin (grandson of Benjamin Franklin and Secretary to the American Commission). It is an unfinished study for a larger painting (never executed). The heads are finished but with the exception of Jay, who is standing pointing to the Articles on the table, the lower parts of the figures are merely sketched in. It was supposedly West's intention to add the British Commissioner (Richard Oswald) and the British Secretary (Caleb Whitefoord) on the right, but they never appeared in West's London studio. Was a diplomatic illness their excuse, having signed away half of the North American continent?

This is the second version of this subject. The first version may be seen in the Henry Francis Du Pont Museum, Winterthur, Delaware. This painting is a gift to the Department.

The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room now is furnished with French furniture of the period when Jefferson was Minister to France 1784–1789. The Special Fine Arts Committee plans to refurnish this room with American furniture representing the period of Jefferson's tenures of office as Secretary of State and President. Some contributions have already been received toward that end. The famous Louis XVI style cylinder desk by David Roentgen on which the



Philadelphia Chippendale Scroll-top Highboy. This magnificent highboy was made in Philadelphia about 1765. It has applied naturalistic leaf carving, rosettes, elaborate cartouche and flame carved urn finials. This is a supreme example of American cabinet-work. Its matching lowboy is also in the John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room.



Oil painting "View of the Delaware near Philadelphia" (40" x 60") by Thomas Birch, American artist (1779–1851). English born Thomas Birch settled with his father in Philadelphia at the age of fifteen and lived there for the rest of his life. He turned to landscape painting after trips to the Delaware capes in the early 19th century. This view of the Delaware is a fine example not only of his ability as an artist but also of his familiarity with the environs of Philadelphia. It is signed l.l. (incised on rock): "Thos. Birch/1831". Lent by the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Louisiana Purchase Treaty is believed to have been signed, will, however, be retained by the Department. It belonged to Louis XVI and Napoleon.

The huge Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room (54 x 100 feet), with its impressive horseshoe table as pictured in the Guidebook, never fails to interest the casual visitor.

A smaller reception and dining room, named for James Monroe and James Madison, feature the later Federal period furnishings with their examples of Hepplewhite and Sheraton styles by American craftsmen. In these rooms the American eagle plays a dominant role. Gilded eagle ornaments on case pieces, versions of the Great Seal of the U. S. inlaid on chests and tall clocks, tables and chair splats, show how popular this design was from 1782 to 1825.

The American eagle is at home in the Department of State wherever the Department is located. The Great Seal of the United States as approved by Congress in 1782, has the eagle with outspread wings. It was first in the keeping of Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress. The earliest known document that bears the impression of the Great Seal is a commission to General Washington granting him the power and authority to arrange an exchange of prisoners with the British, dated September 16, 1782, and signed by John Hanson and countersigned by Charles Thompson. In 1789 the custodianship of the Seal was given to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and ever since that date has been in the various homes of the oldest Executive Department of the Federal Government. Secretary of State William P. Rogers is today the Custodian of the National Emblem. It is housed and used on the ground floor of the present building in Washington, D. C.

This great symbol is reflected on the topmost floor of the present home of the Department of State where various versions of the American eagle *displayed* ornament the collection of Federal furnishings as inspired by the patriotism of an earlier day.

# Germantown's First Sidewalks

IN the spring of 1834—about one hundred and thirty seven years ago—the citizens of Germantown were disturbed. Not that being disturbed was a novelty to the town, for only a few months before it had had quite an excitement over the question of borough incorporation, which had come to nothing, but had left some strained nerves which were the more easily excited when the Legislature passed a bill making it obligatory that all properties along the Main Street, from the "5th milestone to Tullinger's Lane", (5th milestone was located on Germantown Avenue above School House Lane. Tullinger's lane became Carpenter street which is west of Germantown Avenue and is 6900 north) should be improved with stone or brick sidewalks properly graded. For one hundred and fifty years Germantown had been content with simple paths, made by the many foot-passengers at any level that happened to be convenient. So the bill created an innovation, and like most innovations it found numerous objectors. It was a large-sized undertaking for the quiet village, made none the more bearable because the expense of construction was to be paid from a special taxation in the district named. The local paper of that day said "it must be acknowledged for every person who reads the bill with attention, that it is a very lame affair—unmeaning and indefinite—and contains within itself the seeds of confusion and litigation. As far as we are informed we believe that it meets with but little favor in any quarter."

The bill provided that the citizens were to elect commissioners whose duty it was to grade and otherwise prepare the side-walks, and who were immediately to proceed to levy a tax on the taxable inhabitants residing on, and the property fronting on the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike road, in the same ratio as the road tax of the year 1833, to be collected in the same manner and at the same time as the said road tax. The commissioners were to be elected for one year only, and their duties were to be completed within that time. The road tax, however, was usually not collected until the latter part of the year—where was money to come from in the meantime? Any person who neglected or refused to serve, if elected commissioner, was to pay a fine of $20, no matter what excuse he might have! One of the commissioners was to act as treasurer—without bond or other security—and at the end of his term was to pay over all balances remaining in his hands to the supervisor of the Lower Ward, to be appropriated by him to the repair of the sidewalks in following years. Would the commissioners be likely to allow any balance to remain? After the year's term had expired the cost of repairs was to be defrayed out of the yearly road tax, thus making the whole township liable for the upkeep of the Main Street sidewalks.

When all preparations were completed the owner of each property was—within two months thereafter—to "cause to be laid a pavement of flat stone, brick or other hard material, at least five feet wide from the wall or curb of said turnpike road," and in case of failure to so do, the commissioners could lay such pavement and charge the cost against said property.

The citizens of the outside districts of the township felt the injustice of the upkeep tax, while those of the districts named in the bill felt that, had they been granted borough incorporation, the entire matter could more satisfactorily have been handled by the borough officers. It was not the introduction of sidewalks that irritated so much as the methods. Moreover, no provision was made for sidewalks upon the side streets, and, without a borough organization, no grading could be done upon them, even had the individual owners desired it. Such owners, of course, did not pay the special tax, although they could enjoy the improvements on the Main Street (Germantown Avenue).

The opposition was great, but the law had been passed and its various directions had to be obeyed. By August the work was about finished and the pavements laid. Then arose a new question. "How" asks a citizen in a letter to *Telegraph*, "are we to possess the full benefit of our foot pavements, while we shall have to cross over the unpaved public crossing streets?" He then suggested that the large flat stones lately used as curb stones, which could be bought undressed for thirty cents a running foot, would if laid flat side up, make excellent crossings at a cost of nine dollars for a thirty foot street. He also suggested that the township—the outside districts of which had paid nothing toward the grading tax—should bear the expense of the crossing stones. There was a bad place at the Market Square, which had no private owner, and which as yet had not been graded or paved, which also might justly be done by the township or possibly by public subscription. All these additional improvements had to wait, however, and for quite a long time.

Soon it was seen that the new sidewalks were a very great aid to the comfort of pedestrians and to the appearance of the town. Complaints stopped and letters of commendation began to reach the *Telegraph* office. One writer, who convincingly signed himself "Nous le verrons," said "Every passing stranger may be heard commending our new sidewalks as beginning a new era for Germantown. This measure may stimulate us soon to another desirable change, the renewing and embellishing of the fronts of our antiquated sombre stone walls—many of which look more like the gloomy prison than the light, airy residence of free citizens! We hope that those who may not choose to plaster them, will give them a face of whitewash

colored with any light colored pigment. Such improvements will well repay the owners by an increase of value, or of revenue in the way of rents. Already there are more houses claimed for summer residents than we can provide, and next year there will be many more. The cheapness and convenience of the railroad is about to make the healthy heights of Germantown a place of special preference for Philadelphians.

Thus Germantown got its first sidewalks, and perhaps too its second impetus to real town growth—the first, of course, being the railroad. The wish to brighten up the "sombre prison walls by means of tinted whitewash, has fortunately long since ceased to be in evidence. The square-cut stone front walls, in their natural colors, of houses built in the eighteenth century, are the pride of Germantown today. So far as known like the "Green Tree," Keyer and Johnson were never whitewashed. Those that were plastered or colored were rarely of the "square-cut" order, although there have been a few examples.

# Maxwell Mansion Dinner

THE Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion Committee of the Germantown Historical Society will have the 2nd annual fund raising dinner at the Germantown Cricket Club on Sunday, May 2, 1971. Cocktails will be at 6. The dinner will be at 7. The program will start at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Richard Hubbard Howland, formerly president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and now of the Smithsonian Institution, will be the speaker. An extremely knowledgeable and charming speaker, Dr. Howland is also very handsome. Persons who have heard him before are delighted that so gifted a speaker will climax the evening.

Tickets at $20.00 per person include a roast beef dinner and a cocktail. Half the purchase price is tax deductible. To obtain tickets please write to Mrs. Edgar Walker Wilson, 439 West Price Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144.

THE BIJOU ICED CREME
PARLOURS AT GERMANTOWN AVE.
& MT. AIRY & TULPEHOCKEN ST.
THE CLEANEST STORES IN THE CITY
& HAVE THE BEST ICE CREAM

# A VISIT TO THE OLD CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE IN GERMANTOWN

*By* Doris F. Ritzinger, C.G.,
*Historian of the School House Trustees*

NOTE: The school house, which is located at 6309 Germantown Avenue, is visited by many children of all ages. Teachers with the classes come to see our little museum of "old time learning". Sometimes some of the mothers of the children accompany the group. Adults visit the school house too, many from "far away places", as can be seen by the register. Here, the adults may find a bit of Nostalgia, and the children a little romance of the past. They all seem to enjoy it.

This "visit" is written at the child's level, using words of the lower grades, including explanations where necessary, so that the children of all ages can easily understand the unfamiliar things in the school house of many years ago. The brief background history is written in a simple manner, and some additional information, for those who desire it, may be found in the footnotes.

* * * *

WELCOME to the old Concord School House. Look around the room, and then take seats at the old desks, and we'll take a trip into the past.

Did you notice as you came through the door way, the groove that has been worn in the step? In nearly two hundred years, the feet of many children have walked on these steps. There is also a groove worn in the back step, too. Did you see the old fashioned iron footscraper, at the right of the steps, where the children scraped the mud from their boots and shoes, before entering the school room? Who were the children here, many years ago? How did it all happen?

The year after William Penn came to Philadelphia, thirteen families came to America, under the leader ship of Francis Daniel Pastorius, in the year of 1683. They settled in the area that is now Germantown.[1] Other families soon followed.[2] They built their homes along the long main street, now called Germantown Avenue.[3]

As the village grew, the schooling of their children became important to the Germantown Families, so the Union School, (which later became Germantown Academy), was established in 1759 in Lower Germantown.[4]

The people who lived in Upper Germantown thought the Union School was too far from their homes for their children to attend. There were other reasons as well. In wet and snowy weather, the dirt roads became a sea of mud,[5] and patches of quicksand were not unknown. In dry weather, these same roads were covered with several inches of fine, dry dust.

A school was needed for Upper Germantown. On the 24th of March, 1775, the people of Upper Germantown met to talk about a school house for their neighborhood.[6] Interested people gave donations to help build the school,[7] and others gave donations of free work, such as stone work or carpentry. The school was to be called the Concord School House,[8] and it was to be built on a corner of the Upper Germantown Burying Ground.

The stone school house, one and one half stories high,[9] was finished by the fall of 1775, on the eve of the Revolutionary War. Classes began with John Grimes, the first Schoolmaster. The school was managed by a group of men, called Trustees, who also selected the Schoolmaster. The Trustees were elected by the people who had donated money or service to the school fund, who met every year on WhitMonday. (WhitMonday is the seventh Monday after Easter.) The Trustees held meetings, and records were kept of their meetings. These records were called "Minutes", and the Book of Concord School House Trustees' Minutes have been carefully preserved from 1775 until the present time. Although classes are no longer held in the school, the Trustees continue to meet on WhitMonday, as they have done for one hundred and ninety five years.

As the Revolutionary War progressed, classes were discontinued. There were battles nearby, and in 1777, the Battle of Germantown was fought up and down the main street, in front of the school house. After the war, in 1783, the school opened for classes.

A change had been made in the school building by the year of 1819. The "roof had been raised", to make the school house two and one half stories high, as it is today. The second floor provided a meeting place for community organizations, singing societies,[10] and for many years it was the home of The Charter Oak Library. The black chairs around the school room were used in the Library.

Now that we know a little about the early history of Germantown and the school house, let's look at some things that were used in olden times.

On the wall to your left, in the long frame, there are some notes taken from the first hundred years of the Trustees' Minutes. They tell us that the school house cost 239 pounds, 3 shillings and 3 pence, in English money. There were no American Dollars in those days, as the states had not yet gained their independence. At the rate of exchange, in 1775, the school

would have cost about $640.00, including some furnishings.

The notes also tell us about "Tuition". Parents of boys and girls paid a sum of money, which was called "Tuition," to the Schoolmaster, so that their children could go to school. The Tuition in 1797 was one and a half dollars for each scholar, for each quarter. A quarter was three months. In 1815 the Tuition was $2.00 per quarter, and a few pennies was charged for ink. There were no free schools as we have today.

The school room was heated by a fire place, until fifty years later, when in 1825 the Trustees "modernized" the school with the purchase of a stove and coal. Coal was just beginning to be used in America. There is some coal in the scuttle by the potbelly stove.[14] In some schools the families of the children supplied the wood for the fireplace. If a family did not supply wood, their child might not be permitted to sit close to the fire to keep warm. Fireplaces did not heat the whole room, and sometimes the Schoolmaster would put hot ashes in the little pan in the footwarmer, and put his feet on it, to keep them warm. A footwarmer is under the Schoolmaster's desk. Sometimes footwarmers were taken in a sleigh or carriage to church.

The Minutes tell that in the year of 1814, both black and white scholars attended Concord School.

In the smaller frame on the wall to your left, you can see a drawing of Germantown Road, which shows historic places. Concord School House is shown on it.

All classes were taught in this room. The usual subjects were Reading, Spelling, Cyphering, which we call Arithmetic, perhaps a little History and Geography, Writing or Penmanship, and sometimes Drawing.

In olden times, schoolbooks were scarce. The Bible was an important book in the schoolroom. Scholars used any book the family might have. Sometimes three or four different spelling books might be used by the children in the same grade. If a Schoolmaster did not have his own books, he might borrow one from one of the pupils to teach the class. Some Schoolmasters sold school books, too. Concord School has a fine collection of old schoolbooks. The oldest ones are on the little shelf to your left, but there are old ones on the desks too.

The Quakers and some other religions did not approve of music. They were very strict, and thought such things were "frivolous". The Germans were music lovers. There were singing societies for grown-ups, and the children sang too. Music could have been taught in Concord School House using the bells on the stand, which are on the cabinet to your right. Each bell when tapped with the little wooden mallet, is a note of the scale. In ancient times, this was called a Tintinnabulum.[12] There are some old music books nearby.

Small slates and slate pencils were used by scholars in the early 1800's, as paper was scarce. It was used with great care. Children made their own copy books, by folding a large piece of foolscap or paper several times, sewing it thru the middle, and cutting the folds at the ends. Sometimes a piece of material might be used as a cover. There are some on the desks.

Ink was often home made by soaking nuts and shells in water, adding a few pieces of rusty iron to deepen the color. Later, ink powder was sold. Every Schoolmaster learned to be an expert cutting quills into pens, with the sharp little knife he carried in his pocket. That is how the "Penknife" got its name. Ink was dried by shaking sand over the wet writing. The sand was kept in a container with holes in the top, called a sander. There is one on the Schoolmaster's desk. Pencils began to be advertised in the papers in the 1820's.

The original Schoolmaster's desk and chair are in the front of the school room. The desks were made to be used by Concord School scholars, many, many years ago.

The care of the school room was often the chore of the girls who "Swept Out" every day, with a hand made broom like the one on your left, hanging by the door. As much dust was raised, the girls often wore a "dust cap" and a large apron, like the ones hanging on the peg board, by the back door. The chore of the boys would be to cut the wood to fit the fireplace or stove. Some wood was always "kept dry inside", as wet wood was very hard to burn. The small pieces, and kindling, with perhaps a few pine cones, were kept in the old woodbox, by the fireplace, so that a fire could be easily started.

It was customary for the boys and girls to hang their coats, hats and shawls on the pegs in the long board, on the wall by the back door. In the winter, boys wore heavy woolen clothing to school, perhaps "cut down" from some that had belonged to an older brother. They may have worn leather trousers, and their shirts may have been made from linen woven in the home. Sometimes linen was combined with wool, which made a cloth called linsey-woolsey, which was used for many things. Girls often wore clothing that was handed down from an older sister. Capes were fashionable, and were easily cut down for the younger children. All children wore knitted stockings, caps or hats at some time. Leather shoes were made the same for both feet. In warm weather the children came barefoot to school. They "saved" their shoes for the cold winter months.

In the winter, a bucket of water for drinking was brought in from the pump, and placed on a bench, with a tin dipper nearby. Everyone drank from the same dipper, similar to the one hanging on the wall by the cellar door.

Frequent washing was not thought important in olden times, but if it really became necessary, the boys and girls would all wash in the same bucket of water, like the one under the rear window sill to your left, using the home made soap, and the linen towel hanging by the bucket.

*(Continued on page 66)*

# 1971 HOUSE TOUR

## conducted by

## GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

On Sunday, May 16, 1971 the Society will have a tour of the following buildings whose pictures are displayed on the following pages. Transportation will be furnished but not by this method.



Part of display of fire equipment in the museum.




### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Germantown Historical Society welcomes new members. Privileges of membership include attendance at all lectures, tours, and other functions sponsored by the Society. Members also receive current issues of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER without charge. Society dues are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Life (payable quarterly or at once) | $100.00 |
| Sustaining or Business | 10.00 |
| Annual | 7.50 |
| Junior (under 18), Teacher, or Librarian | 3.00 |

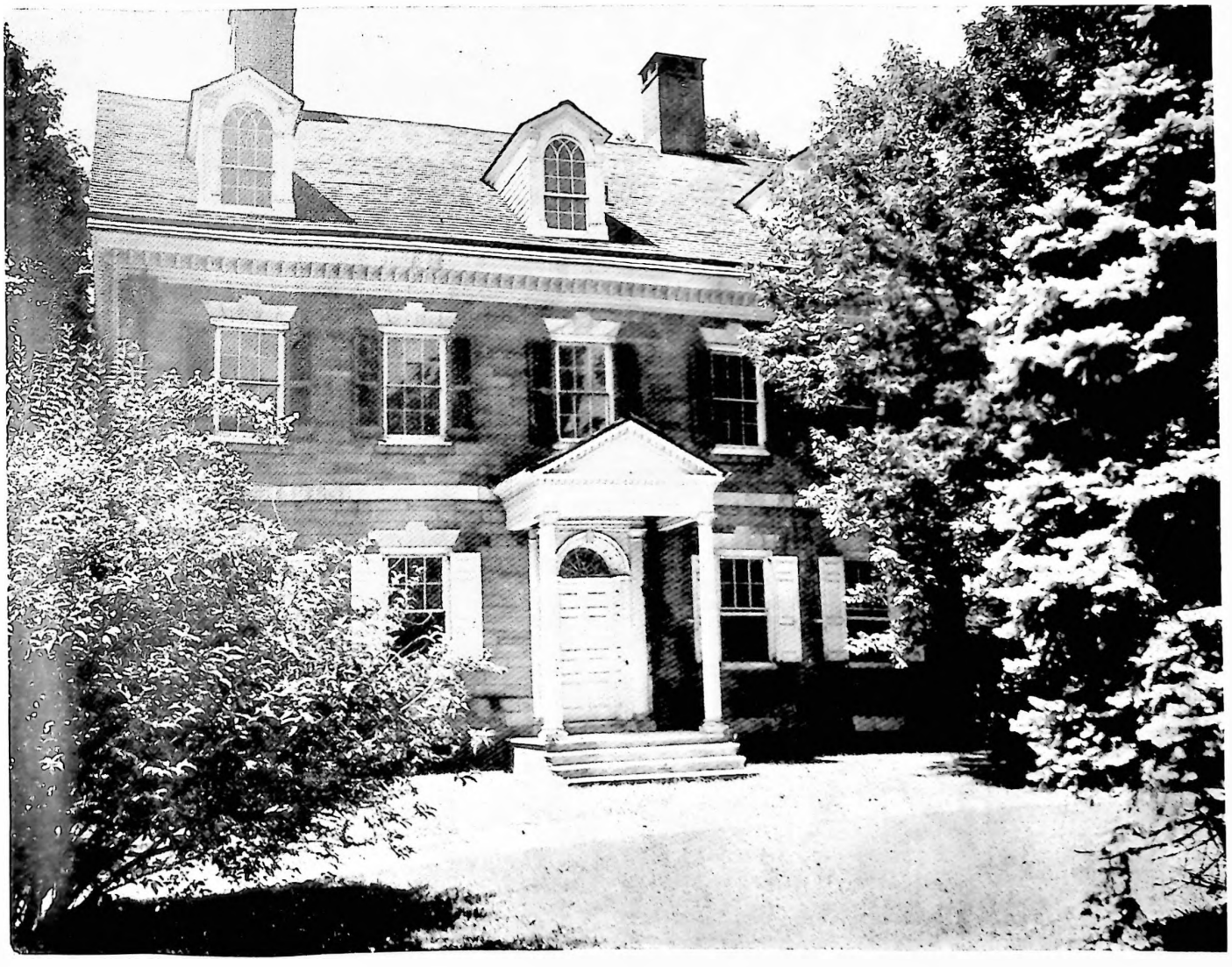
Interested persons are invited to obtain further information by contacting the chairman of the Membership Committee:

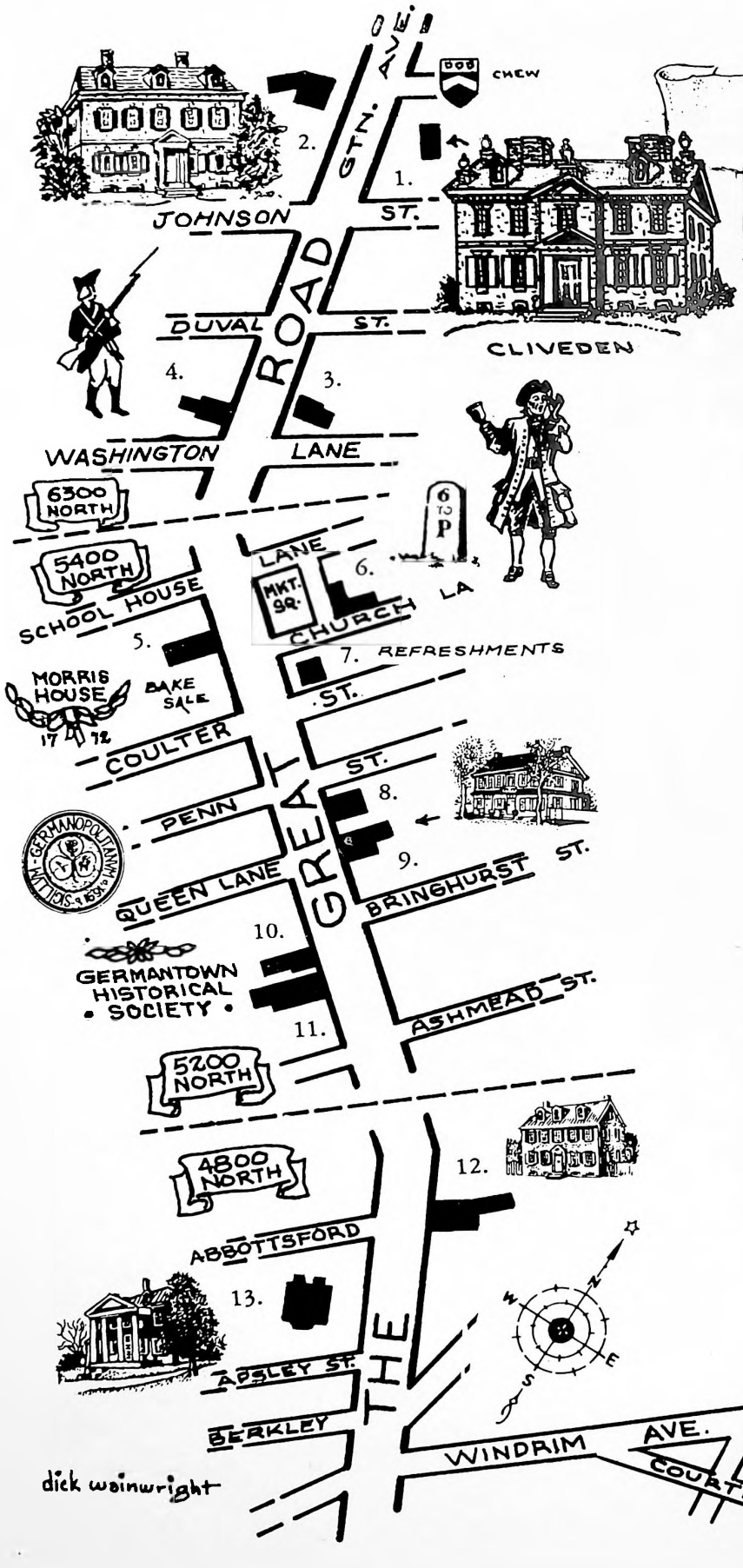
Mrs. Arthur E. Weil
3912 Netherfield Road
(Telephone: VIctor 3-6089)



**No. 1**—CLIVEDEN 6401 Germantown Avenue
In 1763 Benjamin Chew, Attorney General of the province and the last Supreme Court Justice under Governor Penn, built the country seat of "Cliveden". The heavy walls of the house defied the American attack during the battle in 1777. The house is presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Chew. It contains family treasures and many souvenirs of the romance between Peggy Chew and Major André.

**No. 2**—UPSALA 6430 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1798 by John Johnson, grandson of the John Johnson, builder of the older Johnson House. Today it is considered one of the finer examples of Georgian architecture. The Upsala Foundation was formed by some interested people to raise funds to buy the house in 1943. During the Battle of Germantown cannon, trained by the Americans on the Chew House opposite, were placed on the lawn.






HIS

FOUNDED 1691

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7. ST. LUKE'S Was the first (1811). First cemetery, mar ments will be s

8. CLARKSON- Home of John time by Thom Randolph, At National Ban tume museum

# RIC GERMANTOWN

Rain or Shine

Germantown Historic Tour
14 Colonial Homes and Gardens
*Sponsored by*
The Germantown Historical Society
Sunday, May 16, 1971
1 to 5 P.M.
Admission to all houses $3.00
Tickets may be purchased at each house
*No single House Admissions*

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During the battle in 1777, the
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9. "Grumblethorpe," 5267 Germantown Avenue
Wister homestead, built by John Wister, 1744. The British General Agnew died here after the Battle of Germantown. His bloodstains still remain on the floor. Birthplace of Sally Wister, author of "Sally Wister's Journal." House has been restored to its original appearance.

10. HOWELL HOUSE, 5218 Germantown Avenue
Built 1770 by William Forbes. Acquired by Historical Society in 1966 through generosity of Mr. Charles Woodward. Now used as a toy and quilt museum.

11. GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
5214 Germantown Avenue
Built 1772 by William Forbes. Part of the British Army encamped on the grounds. Museum exhibits relics of Old Germantown, from the founding of the town and later years.

12. MEHL HOUSE, 4817 Germantown Avenue
Now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lounsbery, was built in 1744 by the Mehl family. The house remained in the Mehl family until shortly before the Minehart family acquired it 55 years ago.
THE PLAYHOUSE, formerly the barn to the Mehl House. Presently the home of the Germantown Theatre Guild.

13. LOUDOUN, 4650 Germantown Avenue
Standing on the top of Neglee's Hill was built in 1801 by Thomas Armat for his son Thomas Wright Armat. Descendants of James Logan long lived here. In the fall of 1966 Mrs. John W. Farr headed a committee to clean up Loudoun. The committee has completed their job and today Loudoun is alive and gleaming again.

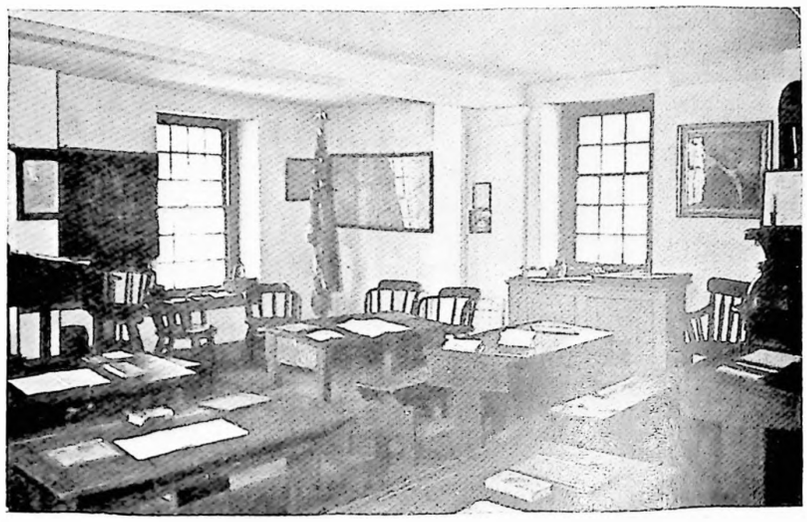
14. STENTON, 18th and Courtland Streets
Erected in 1727-34 by James Logan. It is owned by the city and is in the custody of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Pennsylvania. Historically and architecturally one of Philadelphia's most famous houses.



*Note:* FLAT HEEL SHOES ARE REQUESTED TO ELIMINATE DAMAGE TO OLD FLOORS.
*Thank You!*

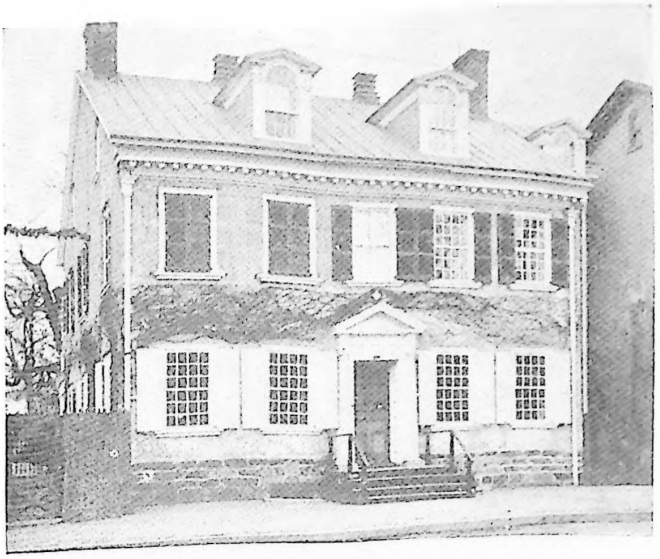


**No. 3**—CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE 6309 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1775 and used for many years as a school for the residents of Upper Germantown. First meeting was held here which led to organization of Junior Order of United American Mechanics. Shown below is the interior of the Upper School House after it was refurbished.

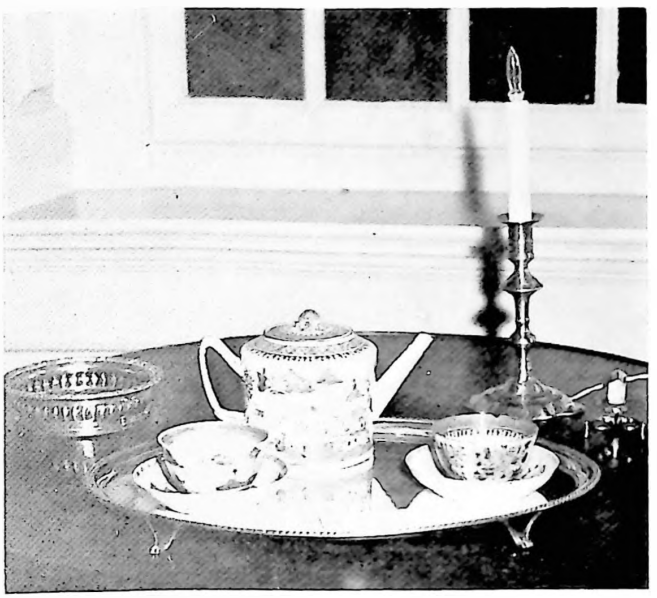


**No. 4**—JOHNSON HOUSE 6306 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1768, this house stood in the thick of the fight at the time of the Battle of Germantown. It still contains bullet holes, and the cannon chipped north corner of the house. It is presently the Women's Club of Germantown.





**No. 5**—MORRIS HOUSE 5442 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1772 by David Deshler. During the Battle of Germantown the British General Howe moved from Stenton and made his headquarters here. When in 1793 and 1794 a plague of yellow fever came to Philadelphia this beautiful country house was rented by President Washington. The care of buildings is under United States National Park Service, and management by the Germantown Historical Society.

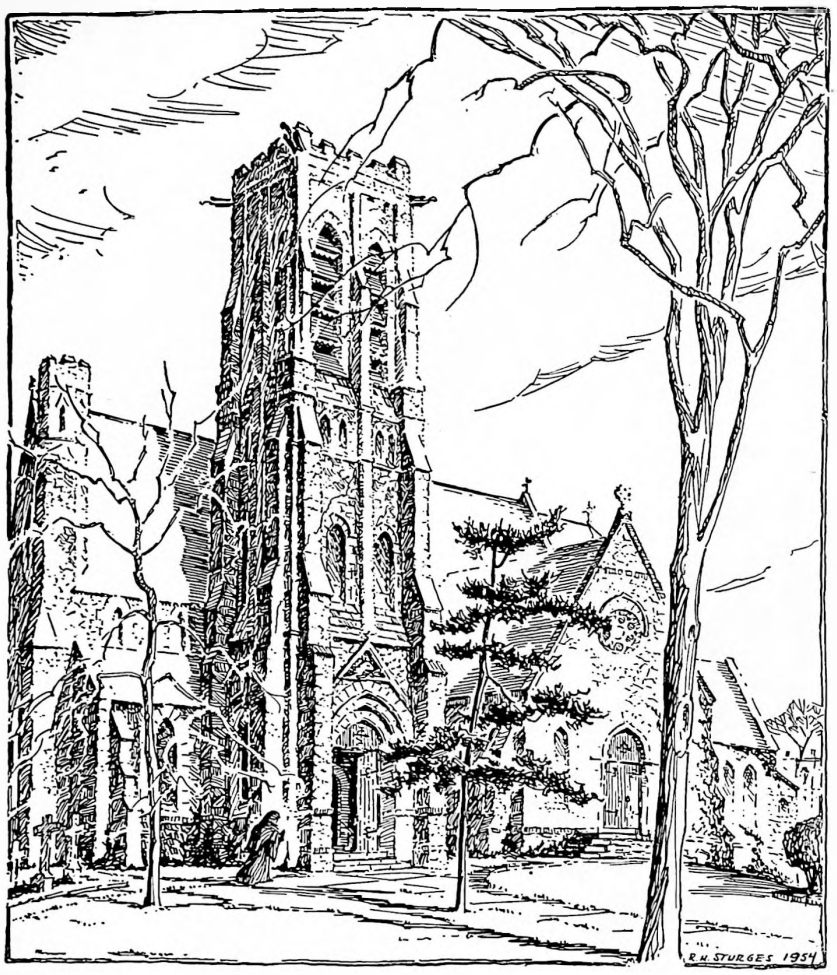


Morris House Tea Set.

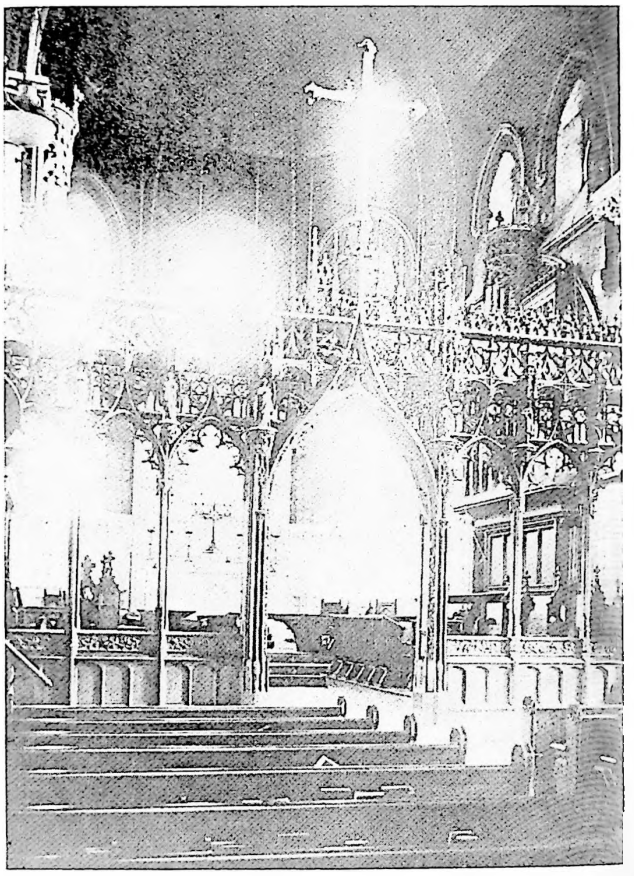


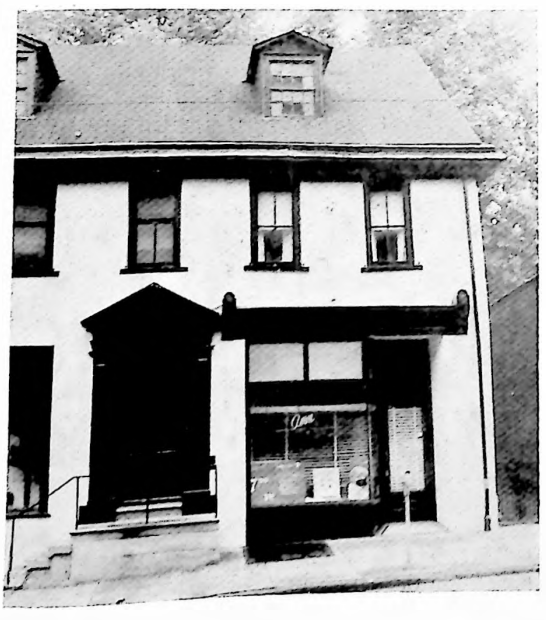
Germantown Insurance Company, on historic Germantown Market Square, started business in 1843. Erected in 1794, the home office building was owned by the First Bank of the United States from 1805 to 1811 and is still in excellent condition. The beauty of its early architecture plus the added charm of antique furnishings make it an outstanding attraction in the community.

**No. 6**—GERMANTOWN INSURANCE COMPANY Market Square
Built 1794, first brick house built in Germantown. From 1805 to 1811, The First Bank of the United States owned and occupied the building. Storage vaults are still in the basement.




**No. 7**—ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
5421 Germantown Avenue
The First Episcopal congregation organized in Germantown in 1811. The first building was erected on this site in 1818. Visit the cemetery. Many prominent citizens are buried here. Pictured is the interior of the church. Refreshments will be served at the church.





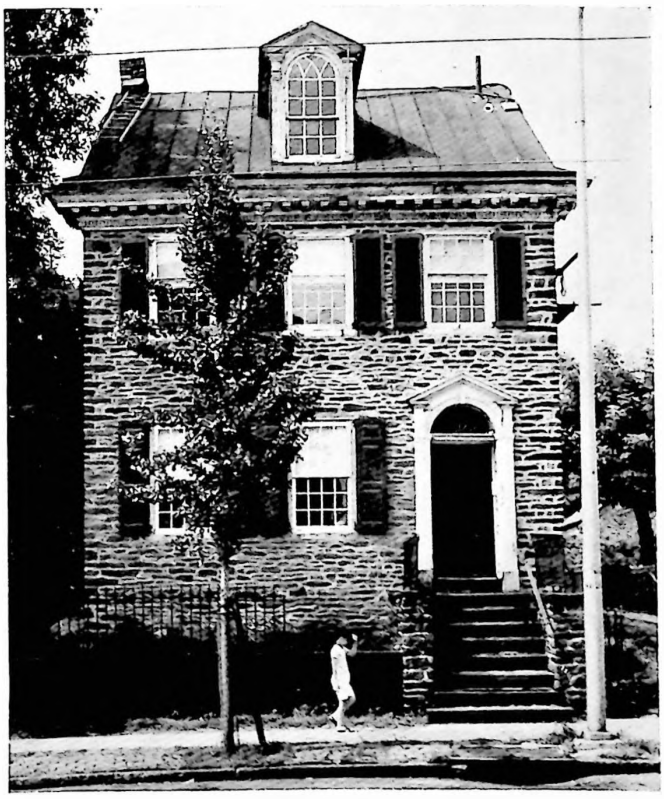
**No. 8**—See front cover for picture.
CLARKSON-WATSON HOUSE 5275 Germantown Avenue
Home of John Fanning Watson, Historian. At one time occupied by Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State and Edward Randolph, Attorney General of the United States. It was the home of the National Bank of Germantown from 1825 to 1869. It is now the Costume Museum.

At left is the house before restoration.

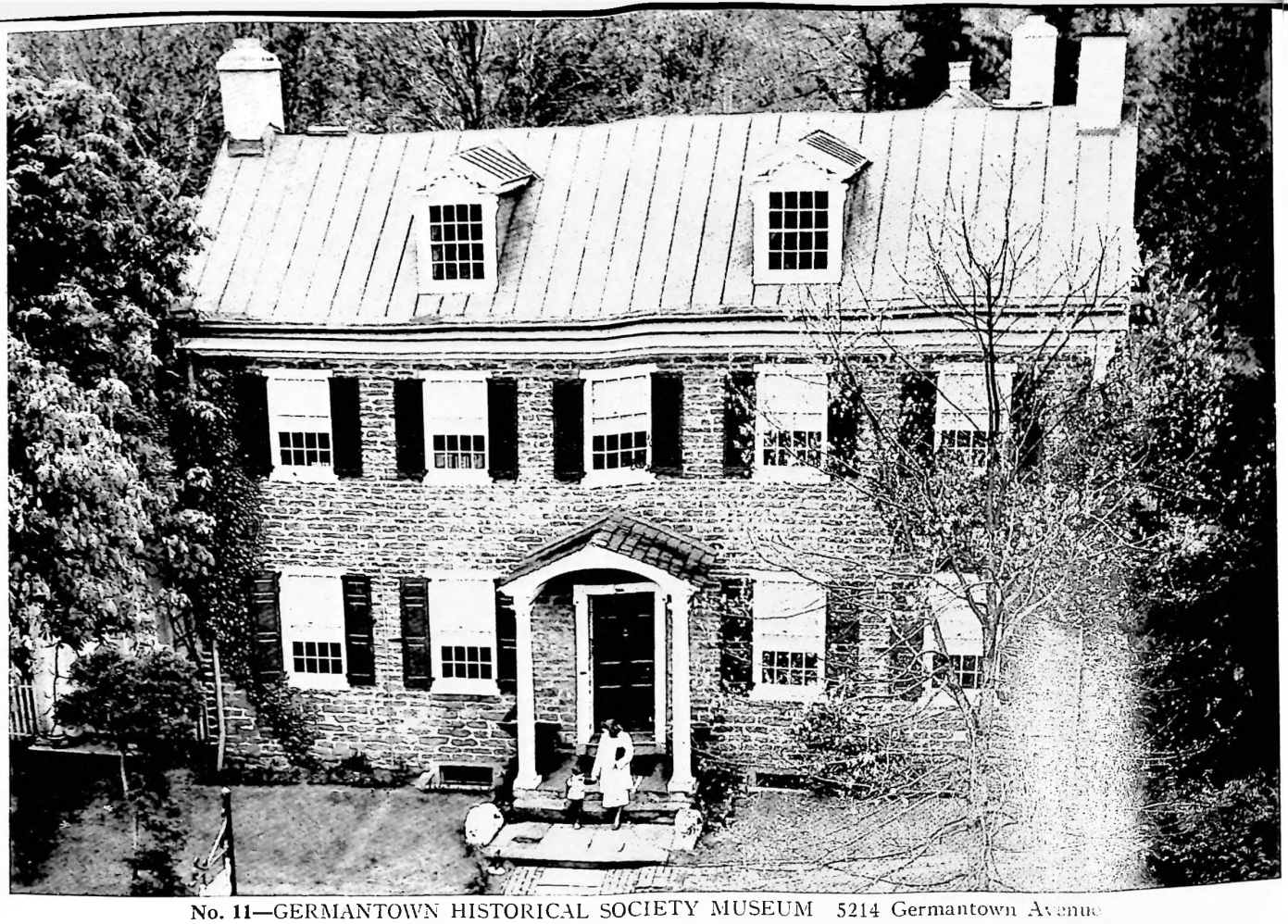


**No. 9**—GRUMBLETHORPE 5267 Germantown Avenue
The Wister homestead, built by John Wister in 1744. The British General Agnew died here after the Battle of Germantown. His bloodstains still remain on the floor. It was the birthplace of Sally Wister, author of "Sally Wister's Journal." The house has been restored to its original appearance.

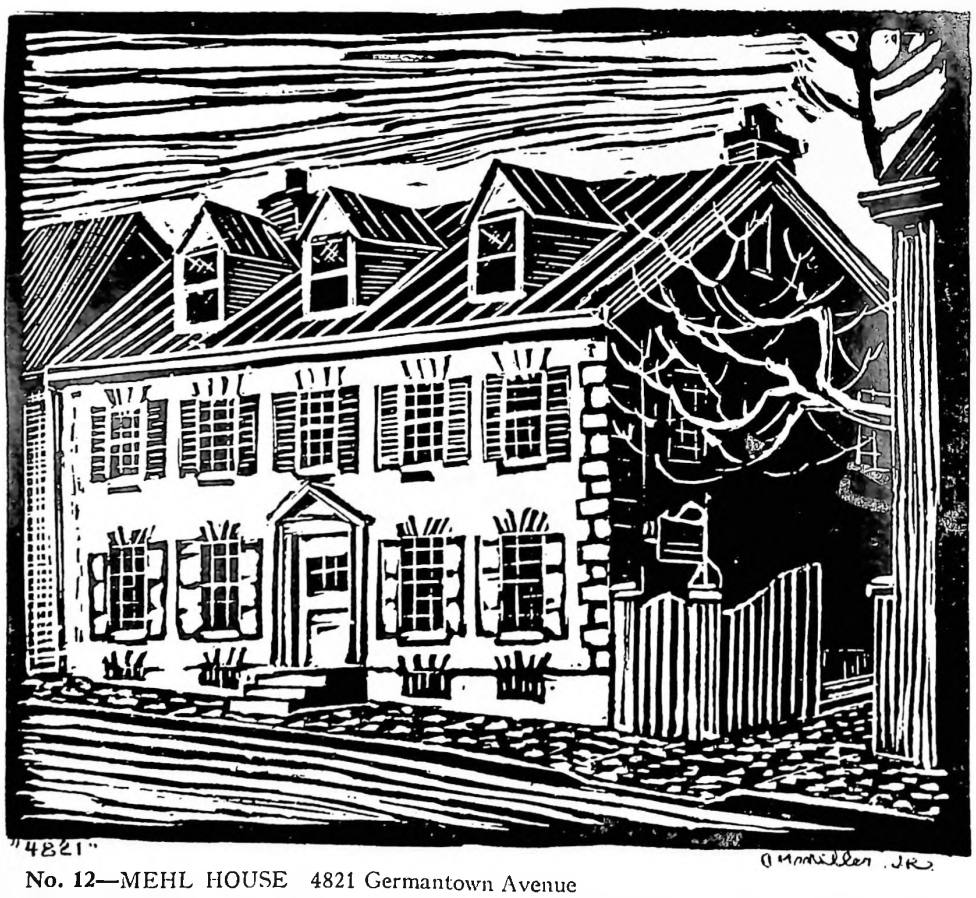




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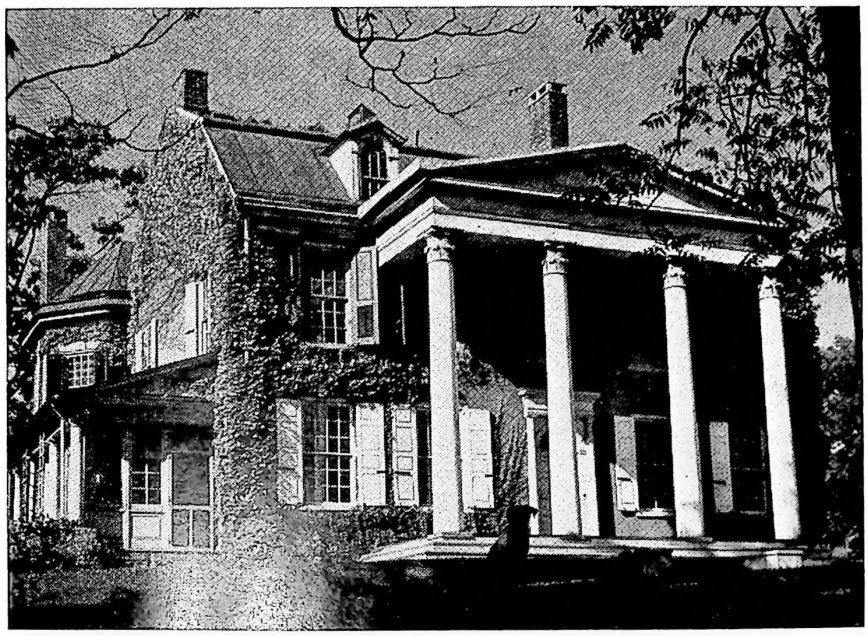


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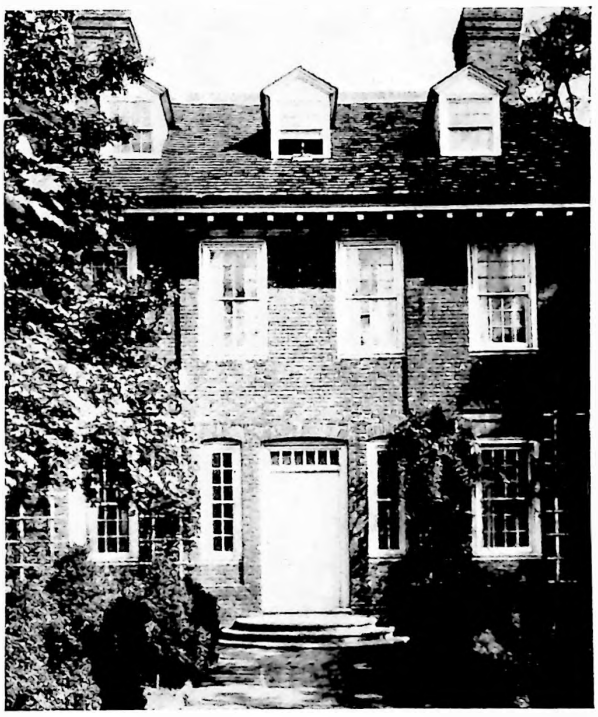



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**No. 14**—STENTON 18th & Courtland Streets
Erected in 1727–34 by James Logan. It is owned by the City of Philadelphia and is in the custody of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Pa. It is historically and architecturally one of Philadelphia's most famous houses.



You will see the First City Troop on guard at Cliveden.

Transportation from house to house will be provided—not by coach but by bus.

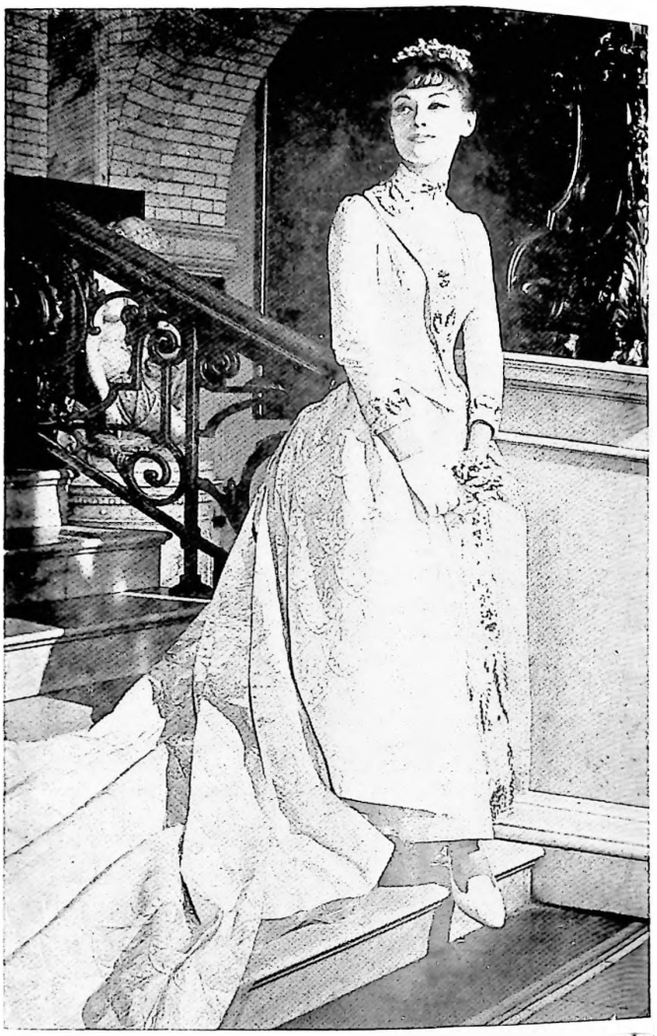
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## Concord School

(*Continued from page 53*)

Discipline was strict, and if a scholar misbehaved, the Schoolmaster might punish him by making him sit on the Dunce Stool, with the Dunce Cap on his head. The Dunce Stool is in the front left corner of the room. Sometimes a disorderly scholar was switched across the legs with a thin green sapling. These were minor punishments, and if a child continued to disobey the master, he was dismissed from school. Education was a privilege. Unruly scholars were not permitted to attend Concord School, by order of the Trustees.

After the school day was over, the girls, then as now, thought it great fun to clean the day's lessons from the "Blackboards". In the days of early schooling, smooth pine boards were painted black, and were so called "Blackboards". Later slate was used, but the name "Blackboards" has continued to the present time.

The school day was long, especially in the winter, when there was little farm work for the children. Sometimes the Master kept school in the summer. The boys and girls stayed at school all day, and carried their lunch. It might be soup or a stew, or a piece of meat they could heat in the fireplace on a long fork or a pointed stick. Bread, cake or cookies might be wrapped in a piece of cloth, "to keep fresh". In those days, there were no plastic bags to keep bread or cake fresh and moist. An apple, a pear, or a piece of dried fruit might be brought to school too. Most families kept at least one cow, so there was always plenty of fresh milk to drink. Milk was carried in the tin kettles with the narrow tops. On the window sills you will see several kinds of lunch kettles and baskets. In olden times, money was not plentiful, and possessions were few. People liked things they could use for several purposes.

If the day was very dark, school might be dismissed, as candles were too precious to burn, if many were needed. Candles were made from melted animal fat, beeswax, or waxy berries like bayberries. The candles in the box under the clock, were made in an old tin candlemold, by first placing the wicks in the molds, and then pouring the melted wax over them. When the wax hardened, the candles could be removed from the mold. Several kinds of old fashioned candle sticks are on the window sills. Some had saucer like bases to catch the wax flowed as it melted, so it could be used again. Most candlesticks had "push ups", so that all of the candle could be burned. Candles were used very carefully.

In the flat wood case, with the glass top, on the cabinet to your right, there are some marbles of the kind Concord boys played with. They were made of clay and baked. Some of them were found buried in the school grounds. The jacks are old ones too. The old coin was found buried in the dirt floor of the cellar. The ice tongs on the right rear window sill were buried there also.

On the window sill back of the flat case, there is a folding candle lantern. This could be carried, folded, in one's pocket. There were no lighted roads in olden times, and especially in the country, the roads were very dark with deep ruts. A candle lantern could be quite a comfort on a dark, rainy night.

The World Globe, on the round table near the door, was important in the school room. This is a terrestrial, or earth globe. It dates from 1779. Some schools had two globes, a terrestrial or earth globe, and a celestial globe, or a sky globe.[13]

We are proud of our Concord School Flag. It is hand sewn, with thirty five stars. When a flag is hand made, the stars must be sewn on both sides of the blue field. It was made to fly at Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration, but as he was assassinated, it was first flown the day of his funeral.[14]

The small cannon near the flag is very old, and was probably used as a saluting cannon at celebrations, such as the Fourth of July, Independence Day, or Memorial Day, called also Decoration Day, as the graves of soldiers were decorated with flowers and flags.[15]

Near the fireplace is an old home made sled, which has been well used. As the family grew, the sled was made larger. Several kinds of hardware were used for repair. Such a sled might be used by an older child to pull his younger brother or sister to Concord School, in snowy weather.

The clock on the wall, near the back door, has ticked away the hours for over a hundred years.[16]

The Bootjack on the floor near the fireplace was very useful to pull off boots and heavy shoes. Ours is "automatic". It was patented in 1829.

It was customary to have a picture of a leading American in an old school. Concord School House has engravings of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin on the wall to your right.[17]

Above the fireplace is a picture of an old New England school room. It is interesting to compare it to the Concord School Room.

The bathroom was the "Necessary" in the back yard.[18] You will notice that there are accommodations for small and larger children.

Comforts and luxuries were few in the days of the one room school house.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No electric lights | — | only candles. |
| No automatic heat | — | only a fireplace, or a small stove. |
| No running water | — | water must be drawn from the pump. |
| No bathroom | — | only a "Necessary" in the back yard. |

In olden times children went to school to learn; there was no time for foolishness, and very little time for play. It was hard to get the necessities for everyday living, and the "learning" children obtained in the little school, no doubt, made their paths a little easier. Learning can be found anywhere, if it is really

wanted. Many prominent people have come out of a one room school house.

An earnest effort has been made by the Trustees of Concord School House to give you a picture of old time learning as it was in early Germantown. We hope you have enjoyed your reading visit to the Past, and that you will come to see us again.

DORIS F. RITZINGER, Historian
of The Concord School House

1. Most of the first settlers of Germantown were Dutch Quakers, who had migrated from their homeland some years earlier, to the area of Crefeld, Germany. However, Pastorius was a German, an accomplished linguist who spoke eight languages.
Reference: *A History of Pennsylvania*, by Wayland F. Dunaway, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of American History, Pa. State University, 2d edition, Page 66.
2. The few Dutch who made the initial settlement were submerged by the wave of German settlers who arrived later. This colonial village, under the guiding hand of Pastorius, who was both a scholar and a man of affairs, became the *real pioneer German settlement in America*. Ibid, Page 67.
3. In early times, the present Germantown Avenue was known by many names, such as: The Great Road, The Germantown Road, Main Street, The Skippack Road, The Philadelphia Road, The Plymluth Road, etc.
4. The Union School had two Masters, a German Master, and an English Master.
5. Reuben Haines, who lived at Wyck, (called the oldest house in Germantown), when he called on a neighbor on the opposite side of the Germantown Road, sometimes found it desirable to ride his horse to his neighbor's house, as the mud was too deep to permit crossing the highway on foot.
Reference: *History of Germantown*, by Edward W. Hocker, Page 137.
6. Minutes of the Concord School House Trustees. It is believed that previous planning meetings had been held, but we have no Minutes of the Meetings. The March 24, 1775 meeting is the first recorded in the Minutes.
7. The following list of contributors to the Concord School has been compiled from several records in the Minute Book of the Concord School House Trustees; lists in the Germantown Historical Society, which contributions extended over a period of several years. The first contributions were made in 1775, on the eve of the Revolutionary War, but due to the unrest, there was a period of several years before the subscriptions were continued. It is possible that the names of all the donors were not recorded, particularly those who made donations at a much later period.
8. The Concord School was to be established as an English School, and was called Concord School House in the Minutes recorded of the March 24th meeting. The Minutes do not state why the name Concord School was chosen. Through the years, historians and others have voiced their thoughts on this subject. Some of them were:
(a) The Ship "Concord" brought the thirteen families to America. *Germantown Telegraph*, Feb. 18, 1904.
(b) Battle of Concord. However, this battle took place April 19, 1775, twenty-six days *after* the meeting of the interested persons, the minutes of which recorded that *Concord School* would be built.
(c) Alex. Fried, in the *Independent Gazette*, February 2, 1912, said the names of three schools in the vicinity, Union, 1759, (now Germantown Academy), Concord, 1775, and Harmony, 1770, in Chestnut Hill, suggested that "Peace and Brotherhood prevailed among the German settlers."
9. There is no known sketch of the Concord School House as it was first built in 1775. The earliest photograph was made from a magic lantern slide in the Germantown Historical Society. Three windows are shown across the front of the school room. The center window was filled in before 1895.
10. Some of the organizations that held meetings in the Concord School were: Hiram Lodge No. 81 of the Masonic Order; The Harmonick Society; Reliance Council No. 40 of the Senior Order of United American Mechanics; The Wesleyan Society; Germantown Hose Company; Jefferson Assistance Society; Glee Club of the First Methodist Church; and a singing school for a short time. In 1853, it was the birthplace of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics in America. Washington Council No. 1 was organized here. It was the home of the Charter Oak Library for over fifty years. The museum of the Site and Relic Society occupied the lower room from 1903 to 1907. It was also the voting place for the community. It has often been said that the Concord School cost approximately $1200.00. This figure seems to be incorrect. The cost of the school, including some furnishings, on page 12 of the Trustees' Minutes, was given as 239 pounds, 3 shillings and 3 pence. According to authorities, listed below, the cost would have been about $640.00, including some furnishings, if the dollar had been established at that time.
11. The "potbelly" stove was not in common use until about 1855. No description of the stove purchased by the Trustees in 1825, seems to have been recorded, but a smaller plate stove was the kind usually found in the school room.
12. Tintinnabulum—an instrument or used to teach music. Each of the eight bells, when tapped, has a different note of the scale. The John Frederick Lewis Collection of European Illuminated Manuscripts, (Number 81 and 182) in the Rare Book Room of the Free Library of Philadelphia, shows David playing the Tintinnabulum, and a drawing of one suspended from the ceiling. (Psalterium, Flemish, ca. 1740.)
13. The globe in Concord School was in the Wright Family of Germantown, until a few years ago, when they very kindly placed it in the Concord School House.
14. The Concord School Flag was made by Mrs. Albert Christian Brand, whose descendants were residents of Mount Airy for many years.
15. Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, of the Germantown Historical Society, has further identified our "very old, small muzzle loading cannon, as having a smooth bore, approximately ¾ of an inch in size, with a very short barrel. It is not a military weapon, as it can not be trained or elevated, and has no sight. It appears to have no identifying marks. It is, no doubt, a saluting cannon, used at celebrations."
16. The clock was purchased by The Charter Oak Library and Literary Association before November, 1859. Since that time, it has remained in the school house.
17. The engravings of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were in the possession of The Charter Oak Library and Literary Association by 1856.
18. The early Trustees' Minutes refer to the sanitary facilities in the back yard as a "Necessary." The later Minutes call it a "Privy." It was also known as an "Outhouse." By whatever name it is called, the design of the one at the Concord School House is the same general design as the one at Wyck, although the interior has been modernized.

---

*Cordwainers.
**At Goodmans place.
(2) Contributions.

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Christian Benner
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Jacob Engle
Paul Engle
Charles Engle[2]
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Frederick Elpin[2]
Thomas Forrest
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Christian Green
Conrad Good
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John Grimes
Casper Heft
Jacob Hall
Christopher Hergesheimer
George Hoffman
Jacob Horter
George Hesser
Jesse Hesser
John Hesser[2]
Leonard Hesser
Peter Heisler
William Heisler
Deterick Hassinger
George Hass
William Houlgate
Christian Huber
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John Johnson Sr.
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Joseph Johnson
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George Keyser
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Mathias Knorr
Christian Kneritze
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Mathias Roop
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Martin Showacker
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IN the latter part of the year 1693–4, while the war was raging on the continent of Europe, William Penn published a plan in which he sought to show, in the discussion of ten sections, "the desirableness of peace and the truest means of it" at the time and for the future. It consisted of a scheme for a general alliance or compact among the different states of Europe, whereby they should agree to constitute a "General Diet" or Congress of nations wherein each should be represented by deputies, and all differences should be settled on equitable terms, and without recourse to arms.

## In a Country Churchyard

Upon an ancient tombstone
In words that seem to mock
I smiled to read this epitaph—
"Don't forget to wind the clock."
That lady in the long ago
Had been of doubtful mind
For fear her clock would be forgot
By those she left behind.
Now may her words of timely warning
Carved deeply in the rock
Say to future absent-minded—
"Don't forget to wind the clock."

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# BOOK REVIEW — North of Society Hill and Other Stories

*By* WILLIAM B. RICHTER

Published by Christopher Publishing House, North Quincy, Mass.

*Reviewed by* EDITH M. PROCTOR, B.S., M.A.

TO those who resided in Philadelphia during the period from 1900–1950, "North of Society Hill" will bring back memories. The book contains a number of articles and stories, twenty-four all told, describing people, places and conditions in the city during those years. Although it may appeal more parcitularly to the former, or even some of the present, inhabitants of the area which Mr. Richter designates as "Northern Liberty," that section north of Society Hill, bounded by Girard Avenue on the north, Third Street on the east, Vine Street on the south, and Eighth Street on the west, yet residents of other sections will also enjoy his reflections, identify with them, and feel a certain nostalgia as they read them.

The author, Mr. Richter, son of an Orthodox Jewish family, was born in Philadelphia, educated in its schools, and practiced dentistry in the city for more than forty years. Throughout his book he shows his keen interest in his neighbors and in his community.

In his opening article he very aptly characterizes his work as "a story of the 'plain people'—the wage earner, the small business man, and the salesgirl." It is not a story of the social elite, but of ordinary people such as he has met and had contact with from day to day. Mr. Richter wrote the book at the suggestion of a young editor of a suburban newspaper, who thought that he should tell his story of Philadelphia. The result is a group of articles and stories, written from a highly subjective point of view, and collected into book form. Often they are collections of random thoughts. Each article is complete in itself and may be read as a single unit. The book is dedicated:

> "to the Stars and Stripes
> and America, the land I love,
> I am thankful for a lifetime
> of unlimited opportunity,
> liberty and freedom."

In the early 1900's immigrants came to Philadelphia from many lands, and each group brought with it its own peculiar contribution to the civic and economic life of the city. Germans, escaping the militaristic clique in their homeland, brought their love of music and their skilled workmanship. Hungarians, fleeing after the Magyar Revolt, found work as shoemakers or workers in the foundaries and the textile mills in their new land. The Italians settled in the downtown area and became small shop owners or toiled side by side with their Jewish neighbors in the clothing factories. As time went on other immigrants came from Poland, Ireland, China, and other lands. Negroes came up from the South, and Jewish people, seeking freedom from persecution, made their homes in Philadelphia. Each group enhanced the cultural heritage of the city.

Mr. Richter devotes a number of his articles to describing the life of the Jewish people in the Northern Liberties, telling of the striving of the Jewish parent to bring up his sons and daughters in the tradition of his fathers, despite the pressure of outside influences. For this the parents worked hard and lived humbly. Though they did not always succeed, the author says, "For every bad Jew, there were a thousand good Jews in all phases of Philadelphia and American life." . . . "The future generation of Jews may look with pride on their humble Orthodox Philadelphia Jewish ancestors of the 1890's and early 1900',."

At this time there were a number of outstanding citizens who brought fame to their city in diverse fields of endeavor. To mention only a few of those whom Mr. Richter includes, there were Dr. John Deaver, Sr. the surgeon who was then operating at the old German (Lankenau) hospital; Jack Kelly, Sr. who was one of the most popular Olympic athletes ever in Philadelphia; Ellis Gimbel, a well-known merchant and philanthropist; Cyrus H. K. Curtis, founder and editor of the *Public Ledger;* and Gifford Pinchot, perhaps Pennsylvania's greatest governor in the early 1900's.

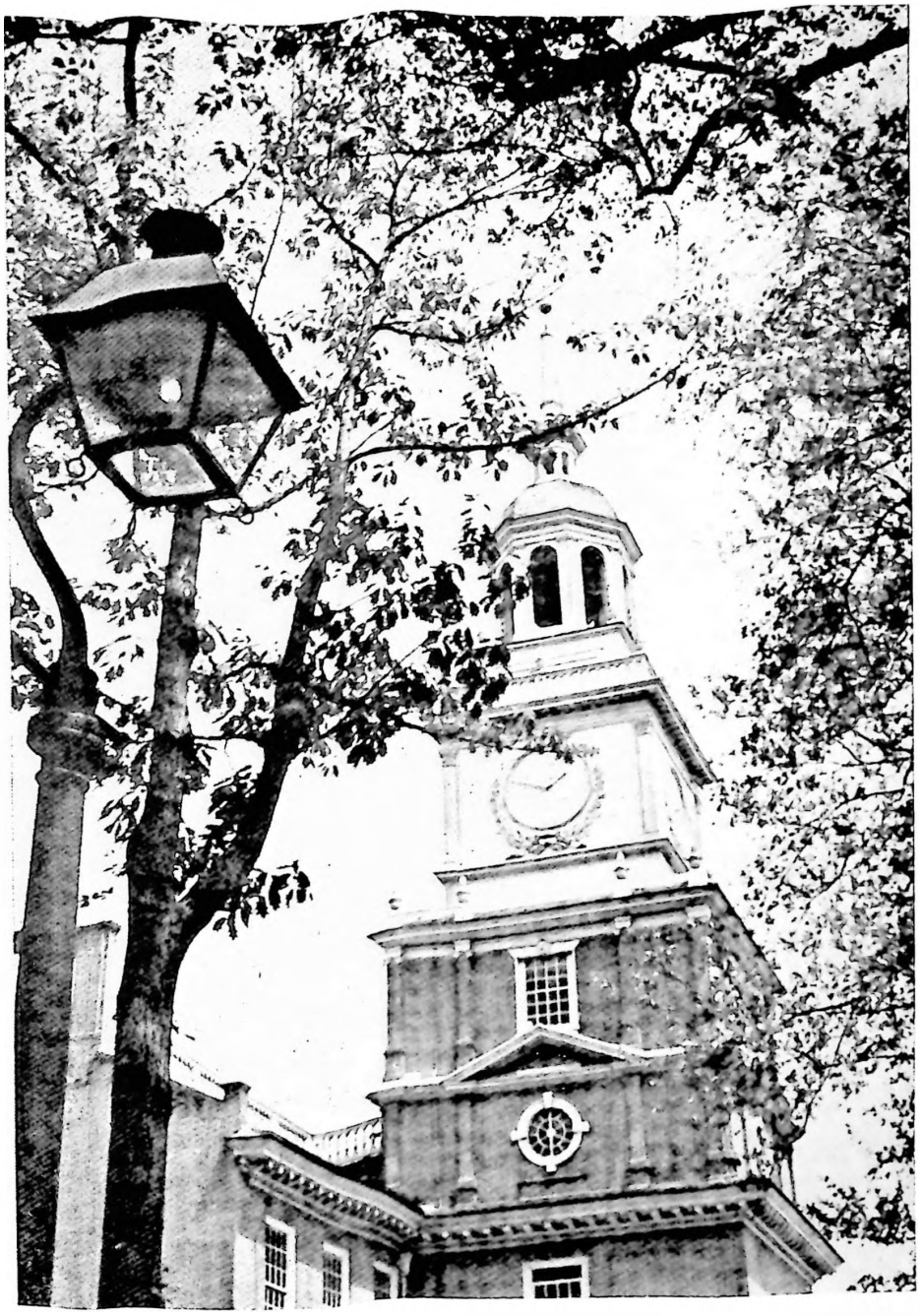
Everything considered, Philadelphia was a good place in which to live. The mummers paraded on New Year's Day. "Neighborhood block parties were held for the benefit of various organizations . . . or some good cause. Business men's organizations were formed. Their marches on City Hall prevented the corrupt politicians from raising excessive taxes or cheating the taxpayer."

The Forepaugh, Lubin, Majestic and Bijou theatres were between Race and Vine Streets. Old German saloons served potato salad, meats and cheese free with a five cent beer, while German Pretzel Bands, played outside and passed the hat for contributions. The G.A.R. and the Spanish American War veterans paraded on Memorial Day. People spent hours on the open trolleys, traveling to Willow Grove to hear the concerts given by Sousa, Creatore, Victor Herbert, Walter Damroch, etc., or enjoyed the amusements at

(*Continued on page 72*)

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**BOOK REVIEW:**

(*Continued from page 70*)

Woodside Park, or listened to the free concerts, given by bands at different places around the city, or rode the Fairmount Park trolley all around the park for five cents. Philadelphians enjoyed these and other pleasures.

Nevertheless, the city had its "tenderloin," and the crime rate steadily increased. There was a transit strike in 1911 and 1919. "Neither major political party reigned without political corruption."

With the end of World War I, the shipyards flourished in Chester and Philadelphia. In 1918, there was the horrible "flu" epidemic; Prohibition came at the end of the war and the *Roaring Twenties* brought bootleggers, gamblers and *rotten corruption* into Philadelphia, as elsewhere. Good men worked hard, and, at the time, unsuccessfully to oust the racketeers. Still, Philadelphia was a city of homes. Its people worked hard; they suffered greatly during the financial crash of 1929. With World War II the city was again on a war economy. Factories and shipyards opened and for several decades there was again prosperity.

Philadelphians adjusted themselves to the changing economic pattern. The Philadelphia Orchestra, Robinhood Dell, Art Culture, schools of learning and other cultural institutions still make Philadelphia a good place in which to live. It is a city of *Weak Politics* but *Good People.*

*North of Society Hill* offers a pleasant evening of light reading. The book is not long, one hundred and eighty pages. The details included therein are accurate, except in several minor instances. It is enlivened at times by a humorous incident such as in the anecdote about Mrs. Ginsburg's suing the Atlantic City hotel keeper for a roach in her soup—and winning her case, or the recounting of the headaches of a marriage broker. Throughout the book one cannot help but recognize Mr. Richter's deep, sincere and kindly feeling for the good people of his Philadelphia.

# KELLY'S DAM

IT was about the year 1869, that a house stood on Woodbine Avenue—now Woodlawn street—a single block connecting with a winding street on the south. This latter street—pushed from its straight course by factories, cottages and some larger residences—was Willow Avenue (Morton street), and served to connect Chelten avenue and Scotchard's mill with Church lane. On the west side of Woodbine avenue were then only two pairs of semidetached houses, while upon the other side was a single large frame house—the Gibson house—surrounded by grand old trees. Soon after three more pairs of houses were built to the north of us, making our side of the block complete. Back of us was Kelly's dam with its overflow of water coursing as the "Wingohocking" by a circuitous path beneath a row of sycamore trees. I remember how surprised I was one morning to find two large catfish, still alive upon the front porch. This occurred a second time, and then it was discovered that my own and my neighbors' cats had fished them from the dam and brought them home for future needs.

In the vicinity—near Stenton avenue—some elephants were in winter quarters. Upon sunny days in March these were sometimes taken to the dam for a bath, which they seemed to enjoy mightily. Though never more than two or three were brought at a time, they would make a great trumpeting, and on coming out of the water would fill their trunks with sand or mud and scatter it over themselves and everything within reach. There was one especially noticeable jumbo fellow that always had a hogshead of stones enveloping his leg as a slight retarder of motion.

One summer day a few years later I went with my little daughter to pay a visit in Penn Street, but prevented by a fearful storm from returning home that night. Early the next morning, upon reaching Church lane, everything bore the appearance of having been flooded, and just below the railroad bridge was lying a dead horse and a broken buggy. I hurried home in fear to find the storm had wrecked the embankments of the dam and that the water thus released had rushed furiously down the stream, tearing away the bridge at Armat street just as a gentleman with his son and coachman were about to cross on their way back from the station. In the darkness they had plunged unexpectedly into the unbridged creek and boy and coachman were lost.

The dam and the bridge were rebuilt for a few more years of usefulness, until the summer of 1892, brought an end to both. The dam was drained and a baseball club assembles now where once the boys used to swim and skate (1917). The little stream is a covered sewer, and the lovely avenue of sycamores has given place to a long row of yellow brick houses. So goes on the march of improvement. The quiet retreat of former days echoes to the bustle of trolley and truck. In the more retired Woodbine Avenue some of the stately old maples are left, but all the old inhabitants are gone. The storm mentioned above occurred August 8, 1875, Henry Steel and James Sherrard losing their lives.

*Signed* S. M.

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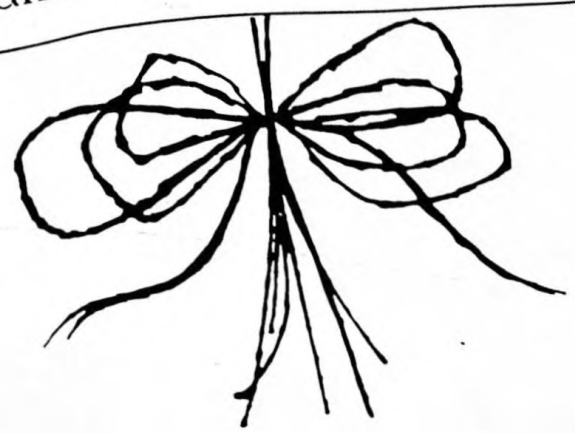
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