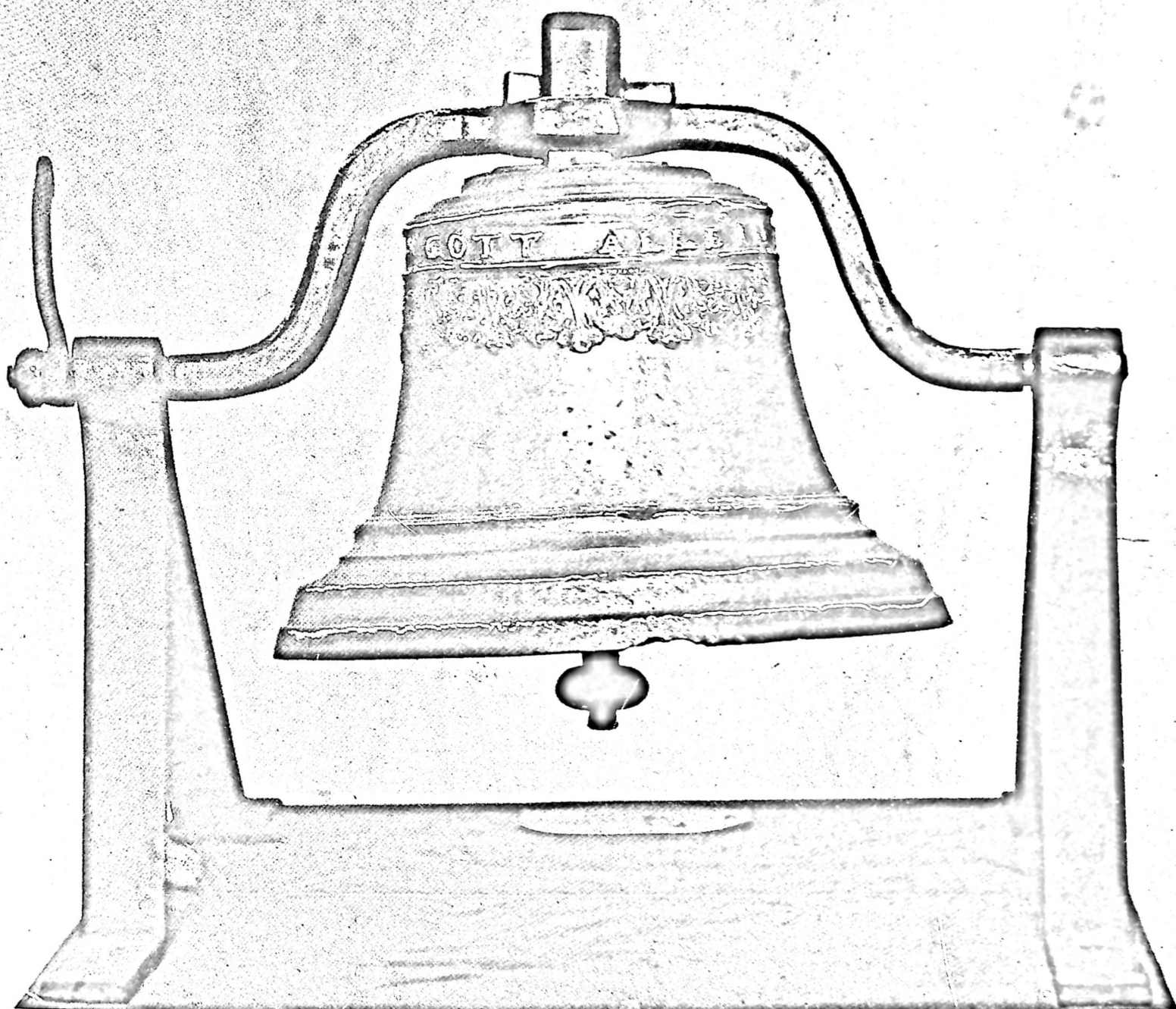


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The Bell in Market Square Church heard by Washington

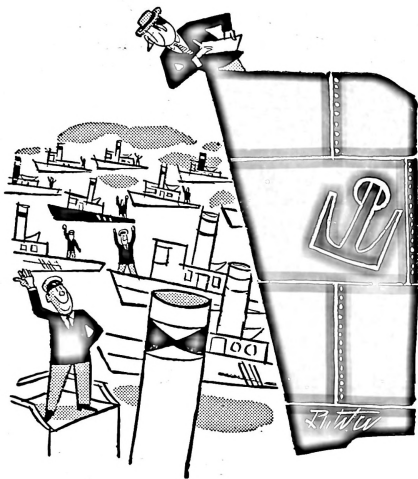
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Volume 2 . . . Number 2

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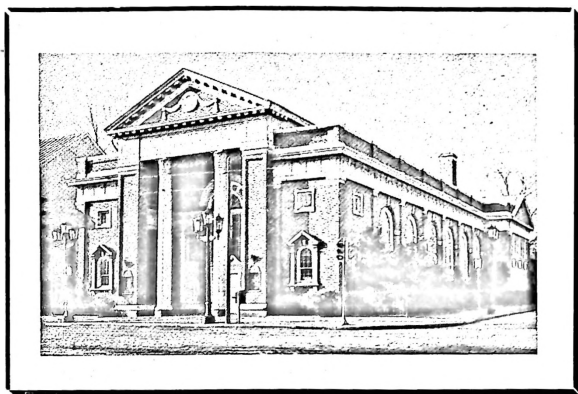
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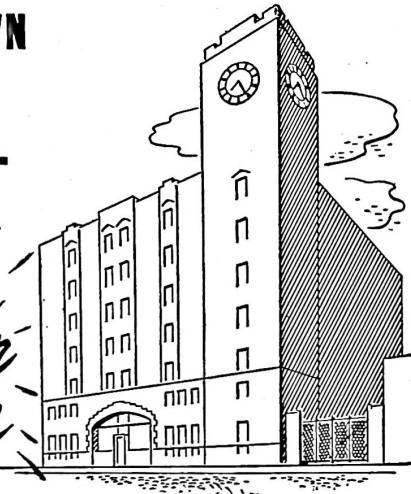
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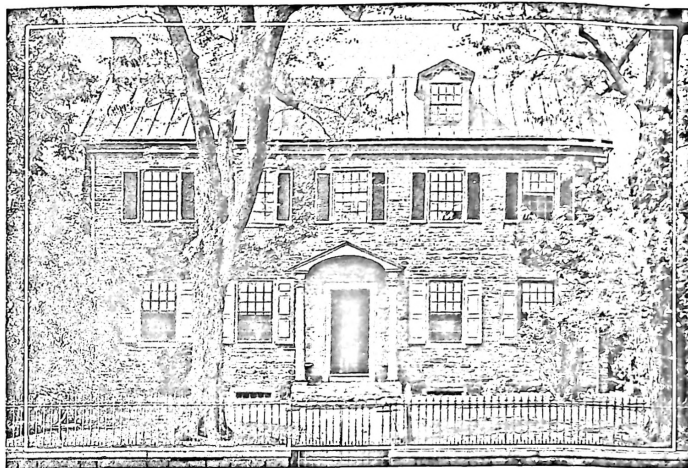
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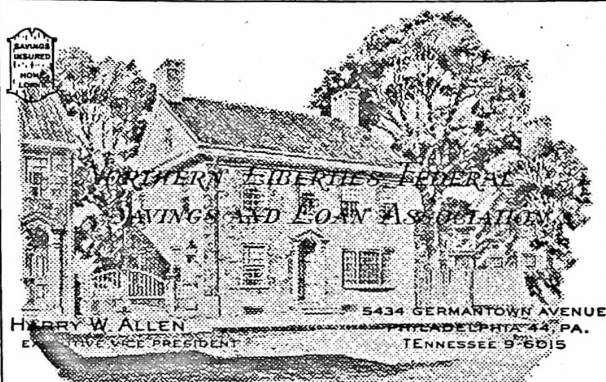
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Vol. 2

JUNE 1950

No. 2

PUBLISHER

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THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOOKS AHEAD

This year the Germantown Community Council can point to a membership of over 100 organizations, nearly 100 individuals. This continuing growth is matched by a continuing increase in its value to the community of Germantown. The Council's need for sustained and increased support from those in the community it serves is proportionate.

Early in the Spring of 1950 a special Planning Committee met, and after serious discussion agreed that the work the Community Council is doing and should be enabled to do warrants an annual budget increased to \$10,000.

Gordon W. Venable has succeeded Burton P. Fowler as Chairman of the Council. Under his direction, it will continue to play an ever more active and important part in the life of the community.

The celebration of Germantown Week each year, as a salute to the progress of the community in all walks of life, has become an outstanding and vital part of the Council's program. The complete program for Germantown Week is printed here, for the convenience of readers of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER.

PROGRAM FOR GERMANTOWN WEEK, 1950

Sunday, May 14

Special services in many Germantown Churches.

4:00 P.M.—FELLOWSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Sponsored by the Human Relations Committee of Germantown, this program will feature the combined choirs of 12 Churches, as well as the Germantown Jewish Center Chorus and the Choir of Janes Methodist Church. Directed by W. Lawrence Curry, S.M.D., Leon Davis, and Cantor Solomon Winter, the program will be presented in the First Methodist Church, Germantown Avenue and High Street.

Monday, May 15

Germantown Business Men's Association Luncheon at the Del Mar Morris.

Opening of **Vernon Art Exhibit** in Community Council headquarters at Vernon, Vernon Park, 8:00 P.M. The exhibition will remain open all week.

Tuesday, May 16

12:30 P. M. at Y. M. C. A. **Special Luncheon**, Lions Club of Germantown in cooperation with the Germantown Historical Society.

2:30 P.M.—MORRIS HOUSE PRESENTATION

Elliston P. Morris will make the presentation to a representative of the Federal Government.

8:00 P.M.—SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL

This annual concert is again under the very able direction of Grace Evans, and this year features the voices of eight high school choruses and glee clubs.

Wednesday, May 17

11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.—THE VERNON FAIR

Colorful booths, entertainment, educational displays, many opportunities for alert bargain hunters. The Fair has been the greatest single attraction of Germantown Week in the past. Luncheon served by church women's groups. (Rain date—May 18.) Clothesline Art Exhibit (continues May 18 and May 19).

Friday, May 19

Tour of Historic Houses for school children, 9:45 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

12:15 P.M.—PLEDGE TO THE FLAG CEREMONY

Henry H. Houston Post, outside the First Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham Avenue west of Germantown.

Saturday, May 20

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.—HISTORIC HOUSES OPEN

(Details on page 15)

Unity in the Community

GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 2

JUNE 1950

Number 2

An Account of

Germantown Day, August 18, 1794

*Re-printed from the fictitious files
of Ye "Germantowne Crier" for August 20, 1794*

R. BRUCE JONES

(Looking forward with keen anticipation to the Third Annual Germantown Week, to be held in this the year 1950 from May 14 through May 20, one wonders how our forebears of a century and a half ago might have planned and carried out a similar type of program.

The Village Green of earlier days would by that time have become known as Market Square. It would have been the natural center for any such community activity, for Vernon, present headquarters for our Community Council and many community activities, would not yet have come into existence.

Perhaps there would have been a Fair, similar to our coming Vernon Fair on May 17—but 18th century houses would scarcely have warranted an historic tour in the 18th century. The children might have entertained with songs and declamations—but only by stretching the imagination might one compare this with our School's Music Festival on May 16, in the auditorium of Germantown High School.

But enough of idle speculation. Let us turn to the pages of Ye "Germantowne Crier," published August 20, 1794, and read there an account of the memorable events of the Monday preceding.)

THE citizens of the village of German Town are this day still resting from the excitement of German Town Day which, from early in the forenoon until after curfew, occupied that community on Monday last to the exclusion of all else.

German Town Day was planned as an expression of Thanksgiving that the dread scourge of yellow fever which visited this city last summer did not again this year make its appearance, and also as evidence of love and respect for the President of the United States. President Washington, with his family, has been making his home in German Town for the three weeks past, and expects to remain in that locality for some weeks to come.

The entire proceedings were arranged through the interest of a committee led by Dr. George Bensell, who has always been among the most outspoken in regard to the delights of the German Town community, and the advantages, both spiritual and cultural as well as physical, available to its citizens. Other members of Dr. Bensell's Committee were Jacob Paul, William Bockius, Nicholas Waln, Jacob Knorr, and Elliston Perot.

The Committee agreed that all activities should center around Market Square, which lies on The Great Road from Philadelphia between Lukens' Mill Road and Ashmead Lane. The location was particularly felicitous inasmuch as President Washington is living in Colonel Isaac Frank's house, fronting the main street and opposite to Market Square.

No doubt William Bockius, landlord of the King of Prussia Tavern, made no objection to the close proximity of the Fair to his place of business!

Special services in the German Reformed Church, conducted by Pastor Frederick Herman, marked the beginning of this auspicious day. President Washington and his Lady, together with their two grandchildren, Eleanor and George Parke Custis, were in their accustomed places in the first pew.

Pastor Herman, or Master Frederick as he is more familiarly known to the boys who attend his classes at the Academy on Ashmead Lane, offered thanks to the Almighty that the citizenry of German Town and Philadelphia had been spared another yellow fever epidemic such as that which wrought such havoc in the city last year. He then spoke of the hope of the

honored founder of our community that life in German Town would prosper and men live as brothers in one family, free and unhindered in the practice of their faith and a good life. He extolled the courage of the brave men who fought and bled in the war against the British, who through their sacrifice have made this hope a practical possibility. The wise and temperate government of President Washington now opens the way; it rests with the men and women of German Town, and with the children who shall come after them, to bring Francis Daniel Pastorius's dream to reality.

During that part of the service shared by the congregation in the singing of hymns, it was noted by our observer that a number of the younger children appeared to gaze with wonder upon the two figures of trumpeting angels, placed on each side of the front of the organ case. Apparently the children believe that the music of the old Dutch organ really is made in some miraculous manner by the trumpeting angels themselves!

In his closing prayer, Pastor Herman also asked for relief for Matthias Sleaman from his troubles of the last twelve years. Some of our readers will remember that it was twelve years ago when Matthias Sleaman's son, apprenticed to a breeches maker, ran away. He has not been heard from since, and his aging father is most anxious to have some word of him.

At the close of the services, all present assembled on the Green in front of the church. Here were already gathered those in the community whose religious beliefs differed from the Reverend Herman's, and who, therefore, had not joined in worship with him.

A short period of anxious expectation ensued, until, amid scattered tittering from the more nervous of the mothers in the assembled gathering, Pastor Herman's scholars at the Academy appeared on the steps of the church. With faces scrubbed and shining, they scarce seemed the same wild lads who may be seen hooting about the Green on more normal occasions! Their recitations, however, were excellently rendered, and Pastor Herman is deserving of great credit for his part in their success.

Among the best received selections was the following, translated from the Latin of Pastorius by Elliston Perot, and declaimed for the occasion by George Washington Parke Custis and his friend, Jesse Waln:

*"Hail to posterity!
Hail future men of Germanopolis!
May young generations yet to be
Look fondly upon this.
Think how your fathers left their native land,—
Dear German land! O sacred hearths and homes!!
And where the savage roams
In patience planned
New forest homes beyond the mighty sea,
There, unified and free
To live as brothers, of one family."*

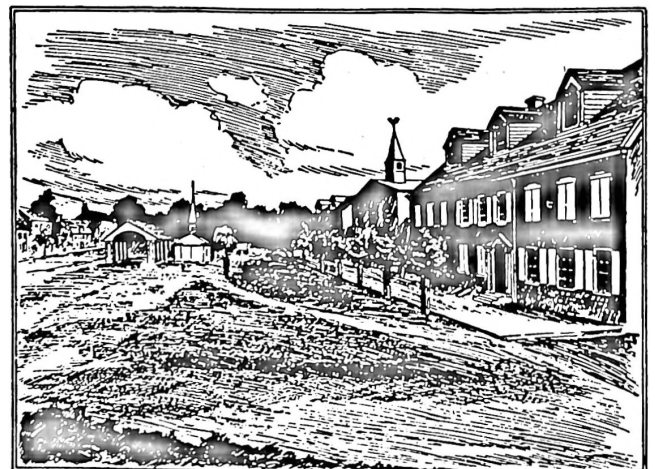
Then the boys retired, and the young ladies stepped forward to favor us with a selection of songs and hymns. This observer noted that her grandparents beamed with pride and gratification when Eleanor Parke Custis and her friends stepped down amid enthusiastic applause. Young "Nellie" has indeed a sweet and clear young voice.

An early and excellent lunch, made available (to all who wished to pay for it) by the host of the King of Prussia Inn, preceded the afternoon "Fair." For many, this was the most eagerly awaited portion of the day's program. Many farmers from outlying districts, as well as a not inconsiderable number of the gentry from Philadelphia itself, had been travelling toward German Town all morning. Now they and their families passed from table to table, admiring, comparing, at times purchasing the wares set out by the industrious tradesmen of the village.

Some of the more discerning visitors lingered in the section where the housewives had displayed their housewifely arts. Here were cakes and pies, jams and jellies, needlework, and growing plants. There was much admiration expressed for Martha Washington's hyacinths, grown in beautiful cut glass globes, and for the flower arrangement of her young friend, Catherine Deshler.

The German Town Blues paraded up and down the Great Road and around and around the Square, and the shrill cries of happy children were constantly sounding above the martial music of the fife and drums. Games for both children and their elders had been arranged. For the former, leap frog, hop scotch, and blind man's buff brought howls of laughter from watching friends and relatives. But the hoop race was really the high point of the day for these young people. The Bringhursts, the Ashmeads, and the Wisters all rolled well and bravely, but it was young Jesse Waln who received the palm from Dr. Bensell.

Over in the south-east corner of the Square the young men of German Town tested their physical prowess in bouts of wrestling—a familiar sight at any holiday gathering. They also put to the test their



Market Square

powers of calculation, with an old fashioned pig-weighing contest. (For our city readers, innocent of such time-honoured rural pastimes, we must explain that the pig is weighed by placing stones in the opposite scale until a balance is achieved. It is then simply a matter of guessing the weight of the stones.)

George and Sarah Bringhurst's younger son came closest to the true weight, and was awarded the pig.

Certainly the high point of the day for the youngest children must have been the demonstration of the "Shag-Rag" by the Middle Ward Fire Company. This wonderful old machine is the oldest fire engine in America, it having been secured from England by the German Town fire company thirty years ago. The citizenry are talking now about their need for a second engine, but "Shag-Rag," with its solid wooden wheels bound with iron hoops, and its "goose-neck" pipe which permits the nozzle to be turned in any direction, is still fit for many a fire.

Happily on Monday last there was no fire in German Town, and the "Shag-Rag" demonstration was for entertainment only. Squire Ferree (he who lives in the old De la Plaine house, famous in these parts because from its balcony Missionary Whitefield once preached to the people on the Green)—Squire Ferree, then, led his volunteers with such contagious enthusiasm that they pumped from "Shag-Rag" a stream of water over fifty feet high! (And soaked all the spectators within thirty).



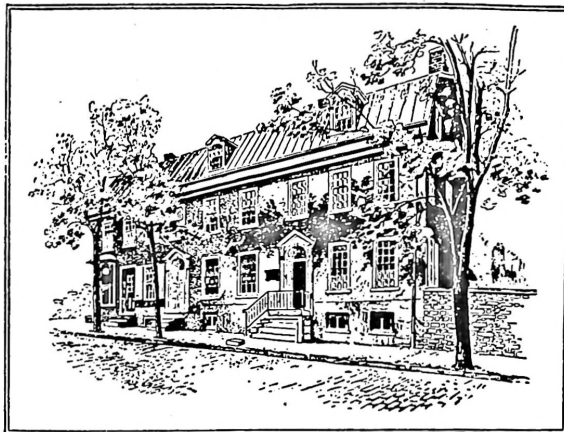
Bethlehem Coach

The unexpected shock of cold water on such a warm day was apparently too great for some of the ladies, for Dr. Bensell was required to attend to several members of the weaker sex who fainted away at the time.

Daniel and John Wister hastened to offer refuge in the spacious rooms and gardens of Grumblethorpe if any need arose, but the Doctor felt the spells were but temporary and nothing to cause alarm.

Among the older citizens gathered together in honor of German Town Day there was much discussion of the good Doctor's intent to pull down the old Jacob Tellner place, diagonally across from the De la Plaine house. Some felt that Tellner's low, brick-lined frame house should be preserved because of its historic association with Penn (who once had preached there). Others were glad to see the property come into the hands of an active and ambitious man such as Dr. Bensell, and felt the community would be the better for whatever structure he might have erected.

George Hesser and Jacob Knorr had heard of the proposed sale, on the fourth day of September next,



King of Prussia Inn

of the stone house opposite to John Leibett's (near the seven mile-stone). Many wondered whether Peter Detiere, whose land it adjoins, might not have plans in that direction.

But we are allowing ourselves undue liberty of digression in this account of German Town Day. At their usual hour—three o'clock—President Washington and his family retired to their residence for dinner. The great majority of the populace hastened to accomplish the same purpose. This unusual dinner hour for the entire village was occasioned because of the President's promise to Dr. Bensell to speak to the people of German Town immediately after dinner. Furthermore, it had been arranged that Governor Mifflin and Secretary Dallas would also be present, and none wanted to miss this opportunity to see and hear these dignitaries.

It was apparent that many a meal must have been consumed with undue haste, for well before four o'clock the throng before Colonel Frank's door was equal in numbers to those who earlier in the day had roamed the Fair. And as people will who have nothing else to do, while they waited they gossiped. Jacob Eckfelt asked William Bockius if any one had yet claimed the four dollar reward for returning his silver watch to Jacob Freese (apparently not; the watch is still advertised as missing). Henry Fraley and Jacob Knorr, "talking shop," could not agree on the best kind of wood to use in coffins. John Livezey, whose mill was burnt to the ground last October, seemed to this observer much recovered in spirit since last we saw him.

But to the vast majority, matters farther from home were the subject of discussion while they waited for President Washington. The President's Proclamation, as well as that of Governor Mifflin, concerning the situation in reference to the serious uprising in western Pennsylvania, is still recent enough that all are deeply interested. There is now less than two weeks before the enforced dispersal date, and the special session of the General Assembly, so that it is little wonder the matter is considered of such moment.



Upsala, 6430 Germantown Ave.

(For those of our readers who may have been traveling when these Proclamations were published last week, we will reprint them in part here. From President Washington's Proclamation, signed in Philadelphia August 7, 1794: "I, George Washington, President of the United States, do hereby command all persons, being insurgents as aforesaid, and all others whom it may concern, on or before the first day of September next, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes. And I do moreover warn all persons whomsoever against aiding, abetting or comforting the perpetrators of the aforesaid treasonable acts; and do require all officers and other citizens, according to their respective duties and the laws of the land, to exert their utmost endeavours to prevent and suppress such dangerous proceedings." In a separate Proclamation on the same day, Governor Mifflin declared his intention to support the President and "whatever duty he shall impose in pursuance of his constitutional and legal powers for the purpose of maintaining the authority, and executing the laws of the United States, will on my part be promptly undertaken and faithfully discharged." Then, since there is now very real probability of the necessity for calling out the militia, perhaps for strengthening it, the Governor also announced a Proclamation to convene the General Assembly of Pennsylvania on September first next.)

President Washington and Governor Mifflin made their appearance at exactly 15 minutes after four, amid loud "huzzas" and cries of "Lang lebe George Washington" from the many German-speaking citizens.

In his introductory remarks, Governor Mifflin assured the President that Pennsylvania would support strongly any stand he might take, and advised his auditors not to be unduly alarmed at the rumors floating in from the west, but to hold themselves in readiness for any eventuality which might yet develop.

President Washington's remarks were met with seriousness and enthusiasm, and we feel privileged to report them in part to our readers.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Nation opened his address by expatiating on the joy he and his family found in the neighborliness and friendliness of the people among whom they now temporarily found themselves. He spoke also of the yellow fever epidemic of last year, his sorrow over the death at that time of so many good citizens and good friends, and his thankfulness that this trial has not been visited on us again.

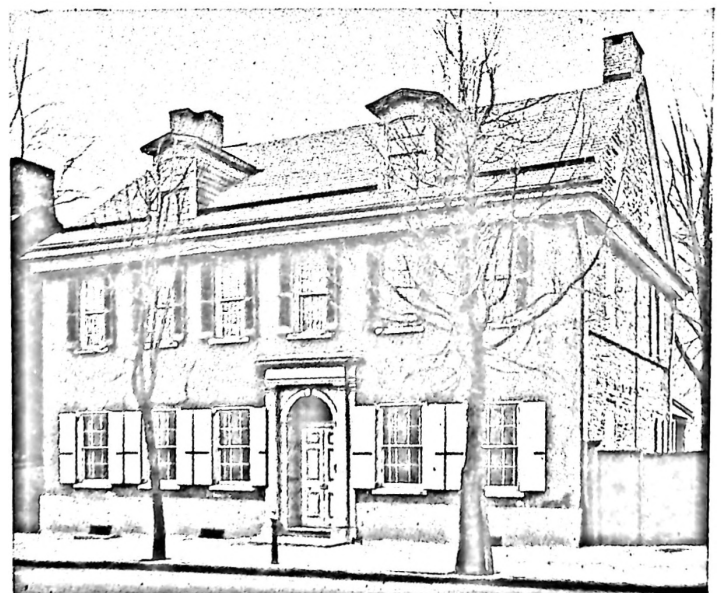
He then said: "As I look around me today, I am reminded of that battle in our successful struggle for Independence which took place in and around this community. I see men who fought in that battle, women who grieved because of it. The Battle of German Town has given this village a share in the history of our country which will not be dimmed with the passing of the years.

"It is well for a young and vigorous country, for the citizens of that country, to look ahead. I am convinced that our United States will have a glorious future, and that in days to come our citizens will look back with pride and with deepest reverence to the scenes that cradled our Republic in these the moments of her relative infancy.

"Therefore, you men and women of German Town, and you the children who shall follow them, look well to your responsibilities to the future of America. In this village are many fine old homes, with associations that will become ever more memorable as the years pass by. Here are sites already become historic, hallowed by the blood of our countrymen. Treasure these buildings, guard well these sites. The day will surely come when your descendants will render thanks to you for it.

"The historic landmarks of our country must be preserved for posterity. Fellow citizens, my friends

(Continued on page 31)



Grumbleblethorpe, 5261 Germantown Ave.

"Vernon," headquarters of the Germantown Community Council, was given its present name by the old Quaker whose bronze statue now stands in front of the door. John Wister bought the house from James Matthews in 1812, and called it Vernon after "DiVernon," the heroine of *Waverly*.

"I was surprised to find how early ladies in Philadelphia can rise in the morning, and to see them at breakfast at half after five when in Boston they can hardly see a breakfast table at nine without falling into hysterics."—(Dr. Manasseh Cutler's reactions to Philadelphia in 1787.)

Among Colonial games which are still part of our childhood pleasures halfway through the twentieth century are tag, marbles, leapfrog, hopscotch, blind man's buff, and hop, skip, and jump. Our Revolutionary ancestors rolled hoops and spun tops—whittled at home by the light of the fire. And the girls' doll furniture was whittled too, or fashioned carefully from birch bark.

Loudoun, standing on the crest of the hill on the northwest corner of Germantown Avenue and Apsley Street, received its name from the fact that Loudoun County, Virginia, was the first home of Thomas Armat, who built "*Loudoun*" for his son in 1801.

Owen Wister, remembered for his *The Virginian*, was born in Germantown 90 years ago—July 14, 1860.

The community is the seedbed of democracy in the nation. As unity in our community grows, as democracy really begins to work within our borders, so shall we be better able to help bring about true democracy and true unity in our city, our state, and our nation.

This is one of the prime objectives of the Germantown Community Council.



The founder of the Cunard Steamship Line, Sir Samuel Cunard, was descended from Thones Kunder, one of the original thirteen settlers who came to Germantown from Germany in the Fall of 1683. Sir Samuel's forebears removed to Nova Scotia about the time of the Revolutionary War, having chosen the Royalist side.

The first book in America on the subject of education was printed in Germantown by Christopher Sauer, 2nd—in 1770. And a very few years later, the Sauers cast the first type made in America.

"As Printing Types are now made to a considerable degree of perfection by an Ingenious Artist in Germantown, it is recommended to the Printers to use such Types in preference to any which may be hereafter imported."—*Pennsylvania Gazette*, Feb. 1, 1775.

Morris House Presentation

MAY 16, 1950

The Morris House will become officially one of the national shrines of our Nation's history when it is turned over to a representative of the United States Government on Tuesday, May 16, 1950. The ceremonies will take place in front of the Morris House, 5442 Germantown Avenue, at two thirty o'clock.

Elliston P. Morris will represent the Morris family on this occasion, and Gordon W. Venable, as Chairman of the Morris House Committee, will represent the Germantown Historical Society. The presentation will follow a special luncheon at the Germantown Y.M.C.A. arranged by the Lions Club of Germantown in cooperation with the Germantown Historical Society.

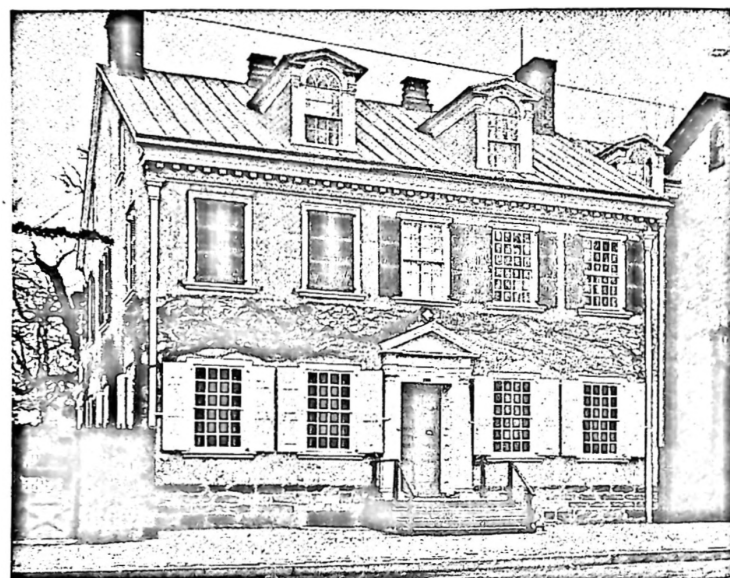
A reception in the garden of the Morris House will follow the presentation ceremonies.

For an occasion of such moment in the history of our community, it does not seem amiss to recall some of the historical associations of this gracious Colonial home. With the exception of Mount Vernon, the Morris House is the only house still existing in which our first President lived. Washington rented it for a few days only during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, but returned for a six week's tenancy in the late summer of 1794.

The house was built in 1772 by David Deschler, a successful shipping merchant in the West Indies trade whose prosperity was evidenced not only in the house itself, but also in the large and excellently-cultivated garden beside and behind it. The flower borders, the flower beds edged with boxwood, most of all the fact that he limited the width of his house rather than destroy a thriving plum tree, are eloquent testimonials to Deschler's keen love of nature and the means he had to express it.

After the retreat of the American Army during the Battle of Germantown, Sir William Howe moved his headquarters from Stenton to the Morris House. It is said that a young midshipman in the Royal Navy visited him there. Later, the young man became King William IV of England.

Colonel Isaac Franks bought the property after Deschler's death in 1792, and thereby insured himself



MORRIS HOUSE
5442 Germantown Avenue

immortality in American history as Washington's landlord, and, as the loser of a one shilling flatiron! While Washington was in residence, the Presidential Cabinet met in this House, which was thus for a time the very heart of the national government.

Elliston and John Perot bought the property in 1804. Thirty years later the former's son-in-law, Samuel B. Morris, acquired it, and it has remained in the Morris family down to the present time. The interior of the house is as it was in Colonial days, and many relics of china, silverware, and furniture used by Colonel Franks and Washington, have been safeguarded for our enjoyment.

Samuel Mason, one of the founders and first trustees of the Friends Meeting on School House Lane, kept a menagerie for the entertainment of the patients at his sanatorium at Spring Bank. Edgar Allan Poe's chance encounter with one of these tame animals is amusingly mentioned in *Morning on the Wissahickon*, which Poe published in 1844.

"Toleration," the heroic statue of William Penn, stands on Mom Rinker's Rock which was originally part of the Spring Bank property.

THE VERNON FAIR - May 17

Again this year the Vernon Fair will be the single biggest attraction of Germantown Week. Over 50 organizations are cooperating in this unique demonstration of working together toward a common end.

The Community Council needs the support of Germantown citizens. One of the most pleasant ways

to give that support is to patronize the Vernon Fair—and at the same time you'll find you're having a wonderful time yourself!

Among the many member organizations participating in the Fair (as of April 1, 1950) are:

Organizations Participating in the Fair

Selling for Own Organization:

Art League of Philadelphia.....Clothesline Exhibit
Emlen Neighborhood Council.....Baked Goods
Community Mothers Aid Club.....Baked Goods
Friday Current Events Club.....White Elephants
Fidler Home and School Association.....Hot Dogs
Fulton Home and School Assoc.....Candy and Apple Taffys
Germantown Cooperative Association.....Juices
Houston School Association.....Cakes and Candy
Janet Methodist Church—Women's Society
Baked Goods (pies, cakes and rolls)
Monday Luncheon Club..Flowers (cut and flower arrangements)
Queen Lane Manor Woman's Club.....Lemonade and Cookies
Rubicam Club.....Aprons and Jewelry
YWCA of Germantown.....Ice Cream and Cokes—Popsicles
Wister Neighborhood Council
Chocolate Milk, Donuts and Balloons
Woman's Club of Germantown.....Cakes

Selling for Community Council:

Emlen Home and School Association.....Ponies
Florence Crittenton Home.....Fortune Teller
Germantown Academy PTA.....
Stevens School Mothers Association.....White Elephants
Germantown High School Mothers Association.....Aprons
Girl Scouts.....Fish Pond

Henry Home and School Association.....Help at gates
Lions Club.....Fire Engines (Rides for the kids!)
Mothers in Council.....Surprise Packages
Schools Community Council.....Pie Auction (a new feature!)
Woman's Triangle Club.....

Educational Booths (Organizations showing their work):

American Red Cross
Boy Scouts
Family Service
Friends Free Library
Germantown Boys Club
Germantown Realty Board
Germantown Settlement
Green Street Monthly Meeting
Germantown Monthly Meeting
Optimist Club
Planned Parenthood Association
Rittenhouse YMCA
Vernon Park War Memorial Committee
Wissahickon Boys Club
Womans Medical College
WCTU
YMCA
YWCA
22nd Ward Planning Committee
Germantown Community Council

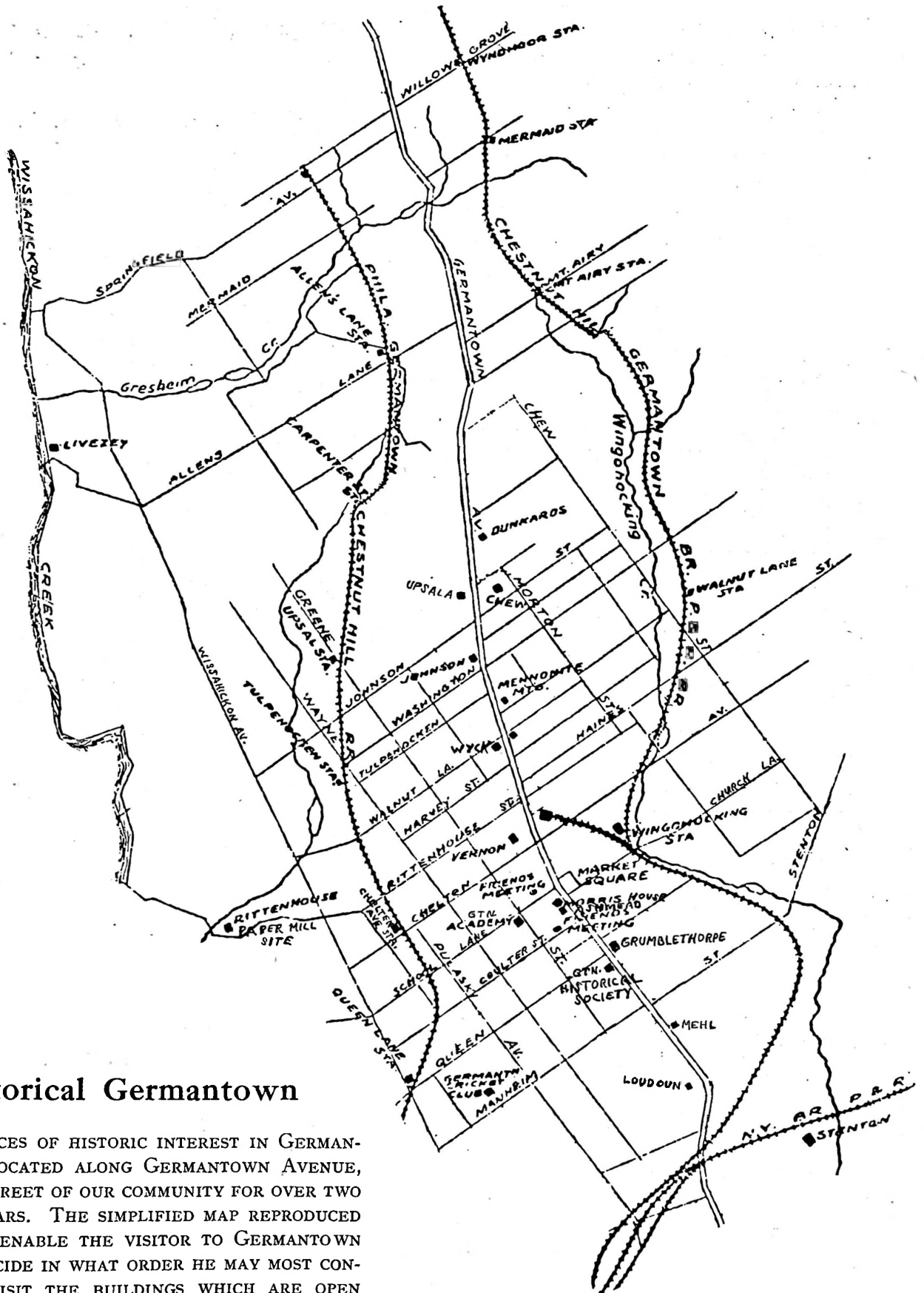
Luncheon will be served between 11:30 and 2:00 by the Church women's groups

SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL - May 16

Eight community schools are again joining together to present a varied and highly entertaining concert in the Auditorium of Germantown High School on Tuesday evening, May 16. The program will begin promptly at 8:00 P. M.

The participating schools, each of which will be presented under the leadership of their regular conductor are: Cecilian Academy; Central High School; Germantown High School; Germantown Friends School; Lankenau School; Ravenhill Academy; Spring-side School; Stevens School.





Historical Germantown

[MANY PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST IN GERMAN-
 TOWN ARE LOCATED ALONG GERMANTOWN AVENUE,
 THE MAIN STREET OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER TWO
 HUNDRED YEARS. THE SIMPLIFIED MAP REPRODUCED
 ABOVE WILL ENABLE THE VISITOR TO GERMANTOWN
 WEEK TO DECIDE IN WHAT ORDER HE MAY MOST CON-
 VENIENTLY VISIT THE BUILDINGS WHICH ARE OPEN
 DURING GERMANTOWN WEEK, AND WILL ALSO LOCATE
 OTHER POINTS OF HISTORIC INTEREST FOR FUTURE
 REFERENCE.

Visiting Day in Germantown

May 20, 1950

Many old historic buildings will be open on Saturday afternoon, May 20, as part of the third annual celebration of Germantown Week. From one o'clock until five the visitor may in imagination turn back the pages

of history to the days when America was young.

In addition to the Morris House, described in detail on page 12 preceding the following houses and historic landmarks will be open:

Stenton—18th and Courtland Streets

Built in 1728 by James Logan as his country seat, the estate originally included 500 acres, and the Wingohocking Creek ran through the grounds. The library, extending across the whole front of the house, once held the finest collection of books in any private library in Colonial America.

Loudoun—4600 Germantown Avenue

Built in 1801, it is one of the few fine homes still in almost its original condition. Considerable of the original furniture is still in the house.

Upsala—6430 Germantown Avenue

Built 1795-98, the tract having been purchased by John Johnson in 1766. Called Upsala in honor of the Swedish town of the same name, home of one of Sweden's two leading universities, because of Mrs. John Johnson, 3rd's affection and admiration for Frederika Bremer, Swedish authoress and feminist. The building is an outstanding example of late 18th century Georgian architecture.

Grumblethorpe—5216 Germantown Avenue

Built in 1744 by John Wister as a summer residence, and still owned by his descendants. The garden was one of the finest in the city, and some of its charms still remain. When the British entered Germantown the house was requisitioned by General James Agnew for his headquarters.

Wyck—6030 Germantown Avenue

The most picturesque and probably the oldest building in Germantown, the original part was built in 1690 by Hans

Millan and has never passed out of the hands of his descendants. Visited by Lafayette in 1825.

Ashmead House—5435 Germantown Avenue

One of the oldest houses, was built about 1740 by William Ashmead. During the Battle of Germantown his daughter Polly silently watched a British officer warming his coat tails before the fire—until they started to burn. Later, the two were married! Ashmead has been recently restored by the Northern Liberties Federal Savings and Loan Association. The furniture is all Colonial, while in the Board Room upstairs the original flooring and two old fireplaces have been preserved.

Trinity Lutheran Church—5300 Germantown Avenue

The Parsonage was originally one of the Saur properties, and there is a tradition that the type which was cast by the Saur in 1772-1773 (the first to be cast in America) was made in the cellar of this building.

Mehl House—4821 Germantown Avenue

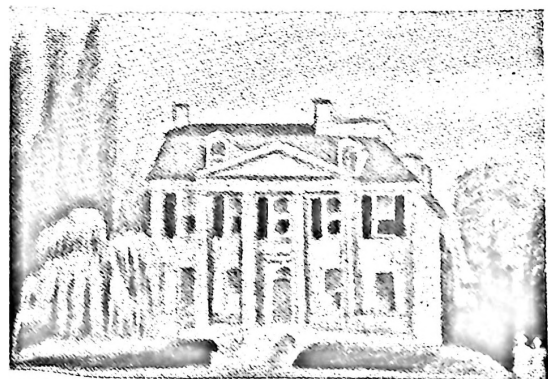
Over 165 years old, this house has two underground tunnels, one of which lead to the barn which is now the theatre of the Germantown Theatre Guild.

Hacker House—5214 Germantown Avenue

Built about 1772 by William Forbes, and served as both residence and boarding school. Is at present the home of the Germantown Historical Society, and offers the visitor many fascinating memorabilia of our community's past.



Mehl House 4821 Germantown Avenue



Loudoun 4600 Germantown Avenue

The Old Concord Schoolhouse

BY GEORGE CLARENCE JOHNSON

AS ONE travels up Main Street, now Germantown Avenue, just above Washington Lane, on the east side and back from the street, one sees a quaint little old building, the Old Concord Schoolhouse. Its outward appearance seems little changed from the time it was built in 1775. Suppositions for the name "Concord" exist but no facts, nor is there any explanation given in the interesting old Minute Book, which I shall closely follow for my facts in this sketch. The title page reads in bold chirography as follows: "Original as well as Subsequent Proceedings of the Order and Management of the School and Building the Concord Schoolhouse at the Upper End of Germantown, 1775."

We do not know the date of the original call for the meeting of citizens to take action on the project of establishing a new school in Germantown, but the minutes contain the following notation, which I will insert at length and in the exact phraseology and grammar in which it was written, showing, perhaps, in more than one way the necessity of a school:

"Be it hereby Remembered that Whereas a number of the Inhabitants of the Upper End of Germantown Taking into Consideration the Distance and particular Inconvenience through the Winter Seasons of Sending their Children to the Lower School," (known as the Union School and later to become Germantown Academy) "and Seeing the number of Children Continually increasing and the Rooms Rented for the Schools in that neighborhood mostly too Small and inconvenient. When the Building of a Schoolhouse in that part of the Town was proposed by way of Subscription: In Consequence Whereof a Meeting was appointed in order to obtain the Voice of the people in that part of the Town for the purpose afforded. When agreeable to the appointment a Number of the Inhabitants Met on the Twenty fourth day of March 1775 in order to Promote the Building & Erecting a Convenient School house and Establishing an English School in that part of the Town. When the plan of the house and Spot of Ground was Unanimously agreed upon Being that part of the Burying Ground Lot at the upper End of Germantown formerly Intended for that purpose by one Paul Wolf the Original Grantor of the Said Burying Ground Lot, and in order therefor that the Said Building might be Carried on Expeditiously, Jacob Engle, Peter Keyser, Peter Leibert & Jacob Knorr Were unanimously Chosen to be Managers of the Said Building, By whom it was Carried on and nearly Completed by the Latter End of October the

same year fit for School Which was first opened and Kept by John Grimes Schoolmaster."

A list shows 114 contributors, among them the best-known people of the borough, some of their descendants still surviving and residing here. Two hundred forty-six pounds 16s 2p was the amount subscribed, but it was not until 1794 that the last contribution appears to have been collected. Credit for subscription was also given for work done or materials furnished.

From 1775, the date of the founding of the Concord School, to 1783, no minutes were kept by the trustees, and we are left in doubt as to whether the schoolhouse was open to scholars, but as this period was a time of storm and stress and great uncertainty and anxiety, there is a good reason for this silence.

A rule was adopted at the meeting of April 15, 1783, the first meeting, as stated, which occurred after the organization and erection of the schoolhouse, that the trustees shall be chosen annually by ballot on Whitsuntide Monday, between the hours of two and five o'clock in the afternoon by the contributors, those who have or may hereafter contribute to the value or sum of fifteen shillings or upwards. Another rule authorized the trustees, or the majority of them, to choose and agree with schoolmasters for the said school, and, on reasonable cause to dismiss and discharge them, to dismiss unruly scholars; also another rule required three of the trustees to visit and inspect the school once every quarter. The minutes usually give only the names of the trustees and officers elected at each annual meeting. At this meeting in 1783, Jacob Engle, John Johnson, Jr., Peter Keyser, Jacob Knorr, Peter Leibert and Winard Nice were duly chosen to be the trustees. Frequently the same men were re-elected or successors in the same family, it might appear to critics that the Concord Schoolhouse was a close corporation. I do not suppose, however, that a charge of restraint of trade has ever been made or even contemplated, because the trustees frequently were asked for loans, or voluntarily gave one, to help the school out of temporary financial difficulties and sometimes were a long time in being reimbursed. Incidentally, it may be remarked that the corporation has never been insolvent; has managed to keep afloat financially down to this present day.

It would seem obligatory for anyone who essayed an account or history of an institution of learning to state a few data regarding the manner in which it carried out its primary and essential purpose, what

it taught, the number of scholars, the schoolmasters, and the standard of education it accomplished. Unfortunately the records are eloquently silent about these matters. We know that it was established as an English school and that John Grimes was the first schoolmaster and that in 1785 he was credited with a subscription or donation of 10 shillings. Nothing further about John Grimes—what recompense he received—what charge, if any, was made to the scholars, or the number of the latter.

In the treasurer's account we find much more information, for instance, the cost of the building is itemized as follows:

Materials	118 pounds -12 -6
Carpenter work, including table and bench	45 pounds -12 -6
Painting and glazing	1 pound -13 -5
Mason and plastering	39 pounds -19 -1

Total Cost of School Building 205 pounds -17 -6

Subsequently every expenditure is itemized. "To cash paid for this book, 3 shillings," "A light of glass," "A step for the front door," "Posts and boards for fence." I think the boys must have been very mischievous in those days. This entry frequently occurs, "1 light of glass and putty, 1 shilling." On February 21, 1798, is this entry, "Total amount of subscription towards sinking the well and pump at the school-house handed to me by William Keyser, one of the Trustees and Collector, 58 pounds -16 -3." On the other side of the account is this entry, "Total amount of expenses for sinking well and pump of the school-house, exhibited by William Keyser, one of the managers of the business, 60 pounds -14 -½." And those who know the character of the rock there can understand why it cost so much.

How long John Grimes remained schoolmaster we do not know, but on December 9, 1797, Nathaniel Major is credited with 1 pound -13 -9 towards that part of the school salary allotted for defraying expenses, etc. One item occurs in the previous year on the other side of the ledger referring to a small sum paid Nathaniel Major for work done, and another item on October 25, 1799, for whitewashing.

August 26, 1797, it was agreed at a meeting of the board, that the salary for schooling from this time forward shall be fixed at \$1.50 per quarter for each scholar—one shilling and three pence of the said quarterly salary is to be paid to the trustees by the master, as he shall from time to time collect the same for the use of repairs, etc. We are left to infer that Nathaniel Major was in charge until April 13, 1806, when it is recorded, but entirely in disconnection with the minutes and separate from them, that Martin Hocker commenced keeping school at the Concord Schoolhouse at 12 pounds, 6 shillings per quarter for common tuition, and out of that he is to pay 1 pound, 3 shillings per scholar to the trustees for contingent expenses. For German scholars he is to be paid 15 pounds per quarter.

Martin Hocker continued in charge until 1810, when "Master" Young took his place, as appears in



Concord Schoolhouse

an item in the treasurer's account, when, on May 22, 1809, an auditing committee composed of Michael and Jacob Keyser, in examining the account of the treasurer, William Keyser, makes the following note, "We find a balance in his hands in favor of the school of 1£ 7s ½p kept back what I owe Hocker for schooling, including my black boy's tuition 2£ 12s." Another item the previous year refers to 2£ 12s as cash received of the Master, being money lent to buy wood.

We know of the following teachers from reference to the treasurer's accounts, but not from the minutes, which contain no reference to them: William Kulp, 1813; Jacob Kulp, 1817; again William Kulp, 1825. He was highly regarded as a teacher and disciplinarian; he died in 1835.

On February 28, 1825, it is noted that the school was modernized by the purchase from Samuel Johnson of a stove and coal for \$25.00. In 1835, the Treasurer acknowledged the receipt of \$42.70 from the committee appointed to collect funds for paving the front, and building a wall. Every little item of expense is given in detail and how little things cost in those days; refinishing the blackboard 50 cents, this entry, "December 1, 1840, paid James Murter, 37½ cents for leveling the school yard." We can hardly understand how these modest men could on January 11, 1841, pay P. R. Freas & Co., for advertising the proceedings of the Trustees, 50 cents.

The next teacher of which there is a record, was Kirby Spencer, 1838, who was noted as a penman and added painting lessons to the curriculum. Spencer was the originator of the Spencerian method of penmanship. Charles Hanford, 1840, appears to be the last teacher, for in that year the public school system was established, and on October 19, 1840, an item occurs, referring to the payment by Naaman Keyser, Director of the Public School, \$8.75, one quarter's rent of lower room. It was rented to them for several years.

Mention is made in advertisements of Robert H.

(Continued on page 30)

The Birds of Germantown

FLORENCE C. GRISCOM

IMPRESSIVE is the list of firms who have given long years of faithful service, as advertised in THE GERMANTOWNE CRIER, yet it will have to be admitted that the eldest of these are "mere infants in arms" compared to the varied branches of the "old-established firm" of feathered folk, who were here "in the beginning," and who have given of their honesty and integrity through all the years since Germantown was founded!

Back in those early days, Whittier's "Pennsylvania Pilgrim," Francis Daniel Pastorius, was

*"Glad even to tears" when "he heard the robin sing
His song of welcome to the Western Spring,—
And Bluebird, borrowing from the sky his wing."*

Those were the days when along streets where apple and peach trees bloomed,

*"Above each rustic porch the humming bird
Tried with light bill that scarce a petal stirred,
The Old World Flowers to virgin soil transferred."*

Even in the quiet of the Quaker Meeting,—

*"There, thro' the gathered stillness multiplied
And made intense, by sympathy, outside
The sparrow sang, and the gold-robin cried,
A-swing upon his elm."*

Pastorius, the eager, searching scholar, the conscientious, burdened statesman, the consistent, sorely-tried Quaker, the loyal friend and helper,—found strength to "carry on" steadfastly and true, through his devoted study of nature and of nature's ways.

Thus, in the midst of war, the plague, the demands of the growing colony, the criticisms of his fellows, even the misunderstandings of his friends,—

*"Still all attuned to Nature's melodies,
He loved the bird's song in his dooryard trees,
And the low hum of home-returning bees."*

And so was enabled to feel, through all the daily stress and strain, "the peace of Nature, And of God."

All down the years since those early days, the birds of Germantown have also "stood four-square" to their part in keeping the area a safe, comfortable, and withal, a beautiful place for human folk.

Now and again a lack of foresight on the part of Germantowners themselves has made it very difficult for the bird life to carry on their ever-needed services.

At times this human blindness to the natural beauty and charm and wealth of Germantown wild bird life has compelled some of the most useful members of the feathered firm to permanently leave the area!

Our own Bob-White Quail find little safe refuge within the limits of the town; no adequate acreage for feeding or nesting has been left them; no safe "avenue of approach" to even Carpenter's Woods, a natural haven!

And the old-time dense shelters edging the Wissahickon, once comparatively free of prowlers, are now constantly being intruded upon by both four- and two-footed enemies!

Whippoorwills, still "heard amid the Wissahickon hills," no longer fling their challenge from the arm of a rustic bench in some secluded, woodsy homeland in the "towne" itself.

Nor can the long-billed Woodcock, or his "first cousin" Wilson's Snipe, probe deep in the mud around patches of marsh within the limits of old-time "estates." To find their pencil-like diggings we must needs wander along the muddy banks of Wissahickon streams.

Even the "gold-robin"—the "hang-bird"—the flaming orange and black Baltimore Oriole, is hard put to find a suitable branch to which to attach that old-style "reticule" of a nest, where it may "sway with every wind that blows."

The Cardinal Grosbeak, that handsome "gentleman of the old school," who mates for life, being devoted to home and wife and children, delights in settling in some tangled corner near human folks. Too often he meets with cruel thoughtlessness on the part of these same folk, to the beauty and charm of whose home-surroundings he and his add color and grace and "continuous service" that no money can buy!

And the Bluebird, so courteous to his little wife, telling her how beautifully she is fashioning the precious home, with his clear "excellent! excellent!" as he examines her work. Where are they? Are there still old apple and peach and plum trees where a hollow branch might prove to be the ideal location for a cosy home for what Louis Untermeyer calls, "those bits of sky let loose"—"those harbingers of Spring" with "bodies lightly blueberry-dusted?" The soft, clear "purity, purity" of their ever-lovely song would help to lessen the grating sounds of constant traffic along the streets of Germantown!

There are many Germantown homes where thought is given to the needs of the wild birds. Food, to eke out the ever-dwindling natural cafeterias in field and

(Continued on page 24)

Gardens on an Indian Trail

FRANCES M. CAMPBELL

ALMOST from the beginning of its settlement, Germantown has been noted for its beautiful gardens. Books have been written on the subject; but like so many treasures of the past, the gardens have been disappearing before the relentless growth of the city, and as the high cost of maintenance and manpower. Today, while there are still some notable examples, they are not nearly so numerous as they once were.

One of the original cross roads of the village, School House Lane, was an Indian trail leading from the Wingohocking to the Wissahickon, its eastern end being Church Lane with a S.E. to N.W. direction carrying it across what later became Market Square. It is therefore natural that this was one of the first areas to be developed after the Great Road itself. In 1760 the Union School (Germantown Academy) was built here, and the Dove house, west of it, was built in 1766.

When the British occupied Germantown in the fall of 1777 the Hessian soldiers were encamped along its length, and one of the harvests reaped in later years was a crop of English coins of that date, fallen no doubt from the soldiers' pockets as they lay asleep on the ground, or dropped as they hurriedly answered the call to arms that foggy morning of October 4, 1777.

The fact that Germantown had proven a healthful haven for the hordes of Philadelphians fleeing the Yellow Fever, drew many here in succeeding years for the summer months, and later to build their permanent homes. It is no wonder that this lovely lane, with its proximity to the Wissahickon, was a favorite spot. The ground was high, and from the western end of School House Lane, before it plunges down towards the river, one could look from this eminence, as one can today, across the six intervening miles to the city. Nearly every plot of ground was beautifully planted with trees and shrubs, and almost always a vegetable patch, under a gardener's constant care.

Now, many of the larger places have been taken over by schools and institutions, or torn apart to make way for bridges, apartment houses, or building lots, but magnificent trees still standing here and there give mute testimony to the glorious past.

Dwelling "back the lane" in 1816 was the eminent physician and savant, Dr. Caspar Wistar, for whom *Wisteria* was named.

The Chancellor pear was developed on School House Lane. At that time, Mr. William Chancellor had bought or leased the Dove house, where he had a fine garden and orchard, and it was here that his

experiments produced the pear that bears his name. The grounds were further enhanced by a large chestnut tree, said to have been planted by George Washington.

The botanist can still find much to delight him along this former Indian trail. Worthy of note among the many fine specimens is the row of ginkgo trees which border the curb line the length of Cloverly Park, and a fine specimen of the rare *Sophora* or Japanese Pagoda tree adorns the front lawn of Mr. and Mrs. E. Clifford Cutler's residence, bursting into bloom with sprays of fragrant white flowers in midsummer. Another of these rare trees may be seen at the fenceline dividing the Haines and Germantown Academy properties. It is said that there are only these and one other in Germantown.

One old garden is that of "Camelot," and of this I have been asked to write particularly. Planted for the most part in the latter half of the nineteenth century by the late Miss Mary A. Campbell, an artist and botanist, and her brother, the late Dr. William J. Campbell, it is not the garden it once was. Gone now are the fruit trees, the strawberry and asparagus beds, the blackberry, raspberry and currant bushes, the Cedar of Lebanon, and the towering row of hundred-year-old wild black cherry trees that lined the eastern boundry of the property, the last of these sentinels being felled a year ago. The rose garden is but a memory, severe winters and dense shade from surrounding trees having taken their toll. But it still contains some interesting trees and shrubs.

Thirteen different varieties of magnolia trees, including the yellow Frazier, make this garden gay with bloom in spring.

There are two white English hawthorne trees. There is a *halesia* tree with its white bell-like flowers, an *exechorda grandiflora* (sometimes called pearl bush), and the *nevausa Alabamaensis*.

There is a *styrax obaia*, whose white, olive-scented star-like blossoms hang downward, so that one must stand beneath the tree and look upwards at the white canopy, to enjoy its full glory. The large one died three years ago, but a smaller one carries on.

A tall ginkgo tree, a large coffee bean tree, a persimmon of great height; sassafras, mulberry, and various other of the more usual trees are scattered about.

The king of the garden for size and age is a giant buttonwood tree, celebrating this year the hundredth anniversary of its planting. Its spreading branches make an outdoor living room in the summer months.

Two potted and ancient night blooming cereus (*phillacactus latifrons*) are not much to look at most of the year, but they are transformed when their exquisite flowers burst into bloom in late summer.

The *tibouchina*, a native of Mexico, puts forth a succession of deep blue-purple waxy blossoms until late fall, and continues to bloom when taken indoors.

An interesting tree is the *Gordonia pubescens* or Franklin tree. It is in this garden that the first

1914

A GERMANTOWN MANUFACTURER

1950

Safetee Glass
“SEALED BRILLIANCE”
Mirror

SAFETEE GLASS CO., 4717 STENTON AVENUE

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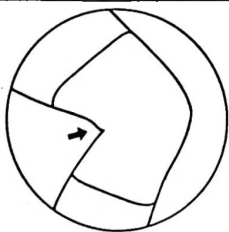
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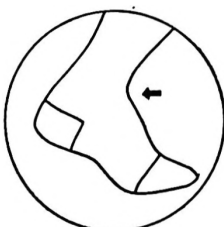


**RELIANCE FEDERAL
 SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION**

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 "MARKET SQUARE"
 PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.
 Victor 4-7676



Kenlastic Seamless Surgical Elastic Hosiery. Arrows indicate patented Accordion Stitch at instep and back of knee. Covered by Patent No. 1887927 and other Patents Pending.

**FAMOUS FOR COMFORT**

Accordion Stitch Seamless Surgical Elastic Hosiery—exclusive with Kendrick—is outstanding for comfort, perfect fit and customer satisfaction.

The Accordion Stitch at instep and back of knee prevents pinching and chafing. Responds instantly and naturally to every movement of the leg. Wrinkle-free, the Kendrick patented Accordion Stitch fits the contour of the leg perfectly—at all points; at all times.

In Ankle, Knee Cap, Knee-length, or Garter-length Stockings.

KENDRICK

JAMES R. KENDRICK COMPANY, INC.

6139 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia 44

76 Madison Ave., New York 16

Franklinia in Germantown was planted. There were three of these trees in the garden at "Camelot," two of which remain; this first and largest, of a lovely symmetry, falling victim to the same storm that swept across New England a few years ago with such devastating effect.

The Gordonia has an interesting history. In the fall of 1765 John Bartram went on a trip of exploration to the Altamaha River in Georgia and it was there he discovered a specimen of tree with smooth snake-like bark bearing pure wax white blossoms with gold stamens, and a faint fragrance of tea. Amazingly, it is a member of the tea family. He brought it home and planted it in his garden along the Schuylkill River. Later, he went back to collect more specimens, but could find no trace of the tree, and subsequent expeditions through succeeding years have never found a trace of it; therefore, every tree in existence today is a descendant of the one Bartram found on his first trip. He called it the Franklinia or Franklin tree, after his friend Benjamin Franklin.

In Bartram's garden today, there is a comparatively small one, its ancestor having long since died.

For many years the Gordonia was a very rare tree, the only known method of propagation being the layering process, which takes several years to accomplish. This was done successfully a number of times by Dr. Campbell and his sister. However, within the last ten or fifteen years it has been discovered that the trees can be propagated from the two-year-old seed pods, and specimens can now be secured from nearly any Nursery. This lovely tree starts blooming in August and continues until frost.

Audubon has chosen to paint the Gordonia pubescens in bloom, with his Bachman's Warbler.

Audubon also chose a much rarer bush on which to portray his "Carolina pigeon or Turtle Dove"—the Stewartia Malachodendron.

There is a Stewartia Malachodendron in the garden at "Camelot." This is so rare that one of the horticulturists of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, who was brought to see the bush, was frankly skeptical that it was a Malachodendron until he saw for himself, for, said he, he had never seen one, nor had he ever known anyone who had seen one. It was a bush well known in the early days of America, as can be attested by Audubon's drawing.

In 1945 Mr. Moncure Biddle published a Christmas Letter, "Some Flower Books and Their Makers," and I quote from this, page 26. "In France, as in England interest in the botanical discoveries of the New World led to the production of fine books. With assistance and encouragement from some of the great men of his day, Mark Catesby published at London in 1731 the first volume of *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*. Particular attention was given to forest-trees, shrubs and plants that had not been previously described; and the text was in French and English. In the second volume, which

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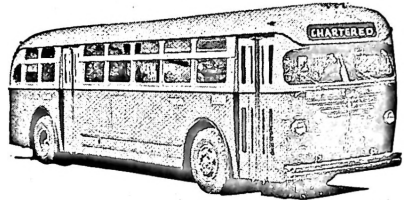
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appeared in 1743, will be found a description of *Stewartia Malachodendron*, a beautiful bush, the flowers of which are like none other, although in general appearance both bush and flowers remind one of our garden syringa,—*Philadelphus Grandiflorus*. Characteristic are the petals,—since four of these are composed of bridal satin, whereas the fifth is ever stained with green—the colour of the stamens, which form an inner crown of glory, arrests attention; for here, on slender filaments of claret are borne anthers of powder blue. In such livery did Mark Catesby delineate a flowering branch of this shrub, which bloomed in his garden in Fulham in 1742, three months after its arrival from Virginia; and in such livery did I once see it in full blossom at midsummer* in a garden in Germantown. ("Camelot"),—an uncommon sight, for today the *Stewartia* is one of the rarest shrubs in America."

The owners have presented two of these plants to the Morris Arboretum, where it may be seen, and a number of cuttings to Mr. Fairman Furness. It is quite appropriate that this shrub that was undoubtedly well known to the Indians, should survive on the Indian trail.

* This blooms in late May and early June.

"TEKONEY"

IN THE 5th. month, 1683, William Penn issued an order for the establishment of a Post Office, and granted to Henry Waldy, of Tekoney, authority to hold one, and to "supply passengers with horses from Philadelphia to Newcastle, or to the Falls."

The rates of postage of letters were, from the Falls to Philadelphia, three pence;—to Chester, five pence; to Newcastle, seven pence; and to Maryland, nine pence. From Philadelphia to Chester, two pence;—to Newcastle, four pence; and to Maryland, six pence.

This post went only once a week, and the Governor requested Phineas Pemberton "carefully to publish" this information, "on the meeting house door, and other public places." By the "meeting house door" must be understood the door of the private house in which the Society of Friends was then accustomed to meet; for the meeting house at the Falls was not erected until 1690, nor at Burlington till 1696; nor at Bristol, until 1710. It was usual for Friends settled about the Falls, to assemble for worship at the houses of William Yardley, James Harrison, Phineas Pemberton, William Biles, William Dark, Lyonel Britain, and William Beaks.

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THE BIRDS OF GERMANTOWN

(Continued from page 18)

woodland; water for drinking and bathing in lieu of the pure streams that used to meander thro' the "towne"; bits of tangle in a shrubby corner, and a fair degree of needed protection from roaming cats and thoughtless boys with "B.B." guns!

These simple ways, multiplied throughout the length and breadth of Germantown would make possible the presence of a goodly number of the "feathered gardeners and orchardists" who also have been "loyally trying to serve"!

Those wild birds that are able to carry on in the artificial surroundings prevalent in so much of the Germantown of today, hint at the host of such "pioneers" that might still find "safe haven" he were real consideration given to their welfare.

Germantown citizens might well spend earnest thought and honest effort in order to make possible a "return of the Birds"!

Think of the "descendants of those original settlers" among "the feathered tribes" who might be induced to dwell nearby and ply their individual "trades" as faithfully as do the banks and the various stores in Germantown! (The wild birds never "close doors for a holiday"!)

One member of the Thrush family that is found "here, there and (almost) everywhere" seems to prefer to home near human homes,—using a nearby crotch, a shelf or some projection as the foundation for a nest. Robin Redbreast is able to hold his own against odds rather well.

Others of the Thrush tribe are often found along the edges of town,—in the remnants of tangled hedgerows, in woodsy undergrowth where nests can be reasonably safe and wild berries will be near.

Brown Thrasher, Catbird and Wren, representing the "mockers and scolders" branch of this "age-old firm" of wild life, rejoice in some thick cluster of bush and vine—especially if such tangle be set with briars and thorns; and no merchant appealing to an "exacting clientele" can compare with those songsters in advertising their "stock in trade."

Recent reports of the wide-spread sale in the open markets in Mexico, of Robins, Thrushes, Thrashers, Catbirds, etc.,—birds protected by the Migratory Bird Law—if allowed to continue, will inevitably result in a noticeable shortage there, and here, of these valuable allies of ours!

That their numbers are being thus thoughtlessly reduced in their southern winter haven, together with the obvious fact that they are finding it increasingly difficult to reproduce in adequate numbers in their northern nesting area, can have but one final ending!

We are told by those who know that in the past fifty years forty species of wild life, birds and mammals, have become extinct, due entirely to human carelessness!

The "destruction of habitat" is the biggest factor

in this costly reduction of our valuable natural resources.

The present rate of cutting trees, uprooting bushes, burning grass, in order to erect row after row of human dwellings, with scarce room for a Robin to build a home, and no place for even a Wren to find a knothole for a cosy nursery, all means less and less opportunity for this "old-established firm" to carry on! And all Germantown loses out through this lack of "building sites."

Awbury, once a happy haven where bird-lovers could be sure of seeing and hearing a wealth of wild bird life no longer provides an adequate number of safe nooks and corners and hiding-places;—too many humans are "here, there and everywhere"!

Some years ago, a thrill that tingled through the long hours of busy days came to Awbury folk and some friends, in catching a glimpse of a White-crowned Sparrow in the naturally tangled midst of what was then an enclosed bit of marshy pond near Washington Lane, and in hearing the clear, ringing song! There is no privacy for wild life there now.

Why do we not "Stop-Look-Listen," as we are ever urged to do at a dangerous crossing? We can scarce expect Nature and Nature's God to go on forever without our honest, active co-operation!

Already the northward surge of wild birds has brought to the Germantown area a number of "lineal descendants of the original settlers of Germantowne." Fox Sparrow, with ruddy tail, brown spotted vest, and characteristic of scratching simultaneously with both feet, in order to toss away the leaves under which may be hiding the silent enemy of some rare plant, prized as highly by today's garden lover as was the "century-blooming aloe" of Anna Pastorius' day!

While this, the largest of the Sparrow tribe, rarely nests here, we owe him a debt of gratitude for his industry and the "vim and vigor" of his food-habits, as well as for the warmth of his costume, and the clear, loud, melodious whistle!

Another fair-sized migrant which Dr. Frank Chapman said wears "a black swallow-tail coat, a Robin's red vest with a white shirt-front, has ruby eyes, scratches with both feet as does the Fox Sparrow, without holding on to anything, calls his own name, 'Chewink, Towhee' and often tells the listener to 'drink your tea!'" He and his demure mate, wearing a tan jacket, like to make their home rather low in a tangle of bushes where they can feel reasonably safe from marauders.

To some people the Quaker-dressed Mourning Dove is not a desirable near-neighbor,—the oft-repeated "cooing" becoming annoying to some ears. Almost any sound, continuously repeated, can become distasteful! But when we disabuse our minds of a bit of biased prejudice, which we may have heard so often it seems real, and do a little looking and thinking for ourselves, the fact becomes evident that the cooing is simply his way of telling the coy little lady that

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he loves her, and that the only indication of "mourning" is in the spelling of the name!

The fact that doves are inveterate weed-seed eaters, even feeding their babies on a pre-digested weed-seed diet, ought to open our eyes to the quiet beauty of the costume—the quaint similarity of their walk and ours—the faithfulness of the one to the other—and the united devotion to the welfare of the "twins" in the shallow nest. They often find too few protected branches on which to crisscross the few twigs, and they use the rain-spouting, with tragic results!

Cresheim Valley's "Lake Surprise," at the foot of Emlen Street—once a bit of great charm and opportunity for both wild life and humans, has been allowed to degenerate into an eyesore and a health-menace. No wild life can be blamed for this! Nor can wild life restore this spot to its original beauty—a worthwhile "restoration" that could be wrought with but comparatively little outlay.

Careless hands, governed by thoughtless heads, work considerable wreckage here and in other sections in and around Germantown where Nature is trying to hold on!

The feathered folk already mentioned are but a handful of those whose natural inclination would be to linger in Germantown and "ply their trade" of holding in check the vast hordes of insect pests with which gardeners and orchardists everywhere have to contend.

One of the most efficient conservationists among birds is the widely known Song Sparrow, who besides destroying countless bugs and beetles, spiders and slugs, leaves a trail of cheer and sweetness everywhere he goes! The low barberry hedge close by the back door, can conceal the beautifully-fashioned nest wherein takes place the never-ending mystery of the egg! But the ever-present menace of the cat, because of some human carelessness, so often makes "a reign of terror" where could so easily be "peace and plenty"!

The Warblers—pari-colored fluffs of animated feathers—seem utterly carefree as they flit lightly here and there. All the while they are gleaning the "wee beasties" that are often unseen by human eyes, that can readily wreck a garden in one season.

Many of these dainty, fluttering atoms are just passing through on the way to the Poconos and "places north." But quite a number of Black and White Creeping, Yellow, Myrtle, Redstart, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and others dwell near where there were building sites suitable for their stay.

The charm of the finest gardens in Germantown would be enhanced by the mere presence of these "winged blossoms"! and their destruction of aphids alone would more than compensate for any expense incurred in making them feel safe and at home!

Well may the people of Germantown be proud of the historical wealth of their community. And fine

spirit is shown in the preservation of the quaint landmarks of the early days! But where is the abundant wealth of natural resources with which the "old towne" was blessed?

*"The blossomed flax,—the tulip-trees in bloom
Down the long street, the beauty and perfume
Of apple-boughs, the mingling light and gloom
Of Sommerhausen's woodland, woven thro'
With sun-threads; and the music the wind drew,
Mournful and sweet, from leaves it overblew."*

Is it necessary to destroy natural beauty and charm in order to have material wealth?

A Germantown banking firm announces that it is "willing, as well as able" to serve whatever needs may arise. One tailoring establishment claims "perfection in every detail". Another climbs a bit higher, even to the "Height of Perfection" in its work. "Individuality" is the aim of several merchants. "Closely identified with Germantown's growth and progress for 135 years", is a fine record. Has "helped to serve succeeding generations of families", speaks well for any line of business!

All such public services, and many more far-reaching, could be honestly claimed and readily substantiated by the wild bird life in and about Germantown!

The sign "Free Parking" is one of the most attractive advertisements which can be exhibited to the public eye. It might be an interesting experiment to extend a similar courtesy to the descendants of the "first families" of Germantown, the feathered folk!

Would that more of us felt with Louis Untermeyer:

*"These are the happy ones!
Their breath is song—their element is faith.
Untouched by all the transient oddities
They do not traffic in commodities.
They neither kill for sport, nor wear
A wreath of insects in their hair.
Their flight does not pollute the air:
Their mornings have no yesterdays,
Who, in themselves, have infinite ways
Of turning petulance to praise—
Who never trick themselves with words!—
Gratefully I return to Birds!"*



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ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

MRS. FLORENCE C. GRISCOM is well known to the people of Germantown for her illustrated lectures on birds and for the "walks" she used to conduct each spring and fall for groups of bird lovers along the winding trails of the Wissahickon, under the auspices of "The Friends of the Wissahickon." Mrs. Griscom and her husband make their home at the "Brierbush Bird Sanctuary," Roslyn, Pennsylvania, spending their lives in the study and care of birds. To that end they build the correct types of bird houses and mix the right foods which can be purchased for individual use. Mrs. Griscom is a member of Abington Friends' Meeting and a charter member of the "Wyncote Bird Club" of which she was the first president. She is now its President Emeritus.

The "Florence Griscom Scholarship Fund" for the conservation and study of birds is awarded to students of State College and to those wishing to attend Audubon Camps in the summer. Those who win the awards are expected to return to their separate communities and instill into others what they have learned about the care and conservation of birds.

GEORGE CLARENCE JOHNSON is a direct descendant of one of Germantown's original settlers, a family which has figured prominently in the history of the community since the little band of pioneers drew lots for land in the new world. Indeed, Mr. Johnson has more than enough colonial forebears to make him eligible to the exclusive Colonial Society of Philadelphia.

He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects; and just now Germantown is particularly grateful to him for the delightful restoration of the building newly occupied by the Northern Liberties Federal Saving & Loan Association, of which he was the architect.

Mr. Johnson is a trustee of the Concord School House, a member of the Board of the Upsala Foundation and Vice-president of the Germantown Historical Society.

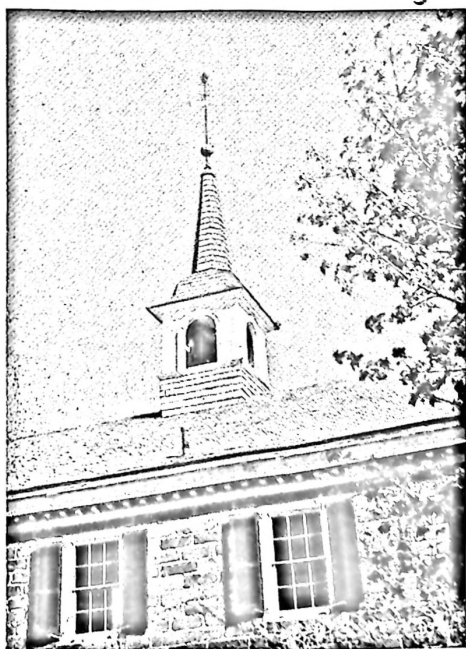
His interests are wide and varied, with the true collector's instinct, as the many friends who have been privileged to a glimpse into his collections of seals, of first editions, of edge painted books, and historical records can joyfully testify.

BRUCE JONES, a native of Germantown, was graduated from Haverford College in 1934 and received his masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1938. From there he went directly to N. W. Ayers and Son, Inc., advertising agency, where he is now business manager of the Art Department. He is also chairman of the publicity committee of the Germantown Community Council and chairman of the school committee of the Greene Street Friends' School at Greene Street and School House Lane, Germantown. He is married and has two children.

MISS FRANCES M. CAMPBELL, historian for the Germantown Historical Society, comes of a brilliantly intellectual family. Her father was Dr. William J. Campbell, M.A., M.D., Ph.D. After the Site and Relic Society was founded he became the Chairman of Publications and held that position until his death. To him our society owes the preservation of many valuable records of the past.

One might call Miss Campbell a second generation historian for her aunt Miss Jane Campbell held that position for many years, and her wit and humor was something that has long been a Germantown tradition. Of this Miss Frances Campbell has inherited her share.

Miss Campbell studied at the University of Pennsylvania and grew up in a house surrounded by the old garden where grew the famed Franklin Tree and the unique Stewartia Malachodendron.



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THE OLD CONCORD SCHOOLHOUSE

(Continued from page 17)

Thomas having kept a "selected seminary for both sexes" sometime in the forties; John Flynn, in 1847 and Charles M. Colliday, in 1852, having conducted a private school here. Others were Miss Cassin, for five or six years, on or about 1875; Miss Dorsey, between 1877 and 1880 and another after that, whose name I do not know; also Miss McMurtrie afterwards. In 1892, in the minutes appears a reference to a complaint made by the teacher, whose name is not given, occupying the school, as to its unsanitary condition; the committee investigating it, subsequently reporting they could find no cause for complaint. We do not know how long she taught there.

These private schools were desultory, and it seems to me, had nothing to do with nor any bearing on the original function of the school, whose trustees were empowered to employ schoolmasters, designate the tuition paid by the scholars and exercise general supervision over the school. We can, I think, truthfully state that the year 1840 marks the end of the career of the schoolhouse as an institution of learning in its strict technical sense and under its own auspices, for with the short and uncertain time of private schools, just mentioned, we can gather no further information about its primary purpose.

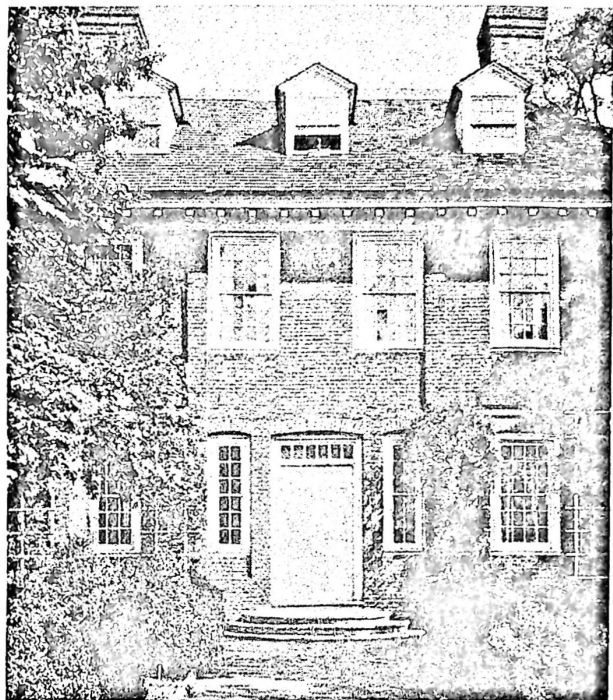
In 1875 it was decided to celebrate the centennial anniversary, and an appropriation of \$25 was made and an entertainment took place.

Other events of notable and public interest which occurred within the historic walls of the Concord School, I will briefly summarize. In 1821, the upper floor was rented to Hiram Lodge, No. 81, of the Masonic Order for \$25 a year, an arrangement which continued for 10 years. In 1839, the same floor was rented to the Harmonick Society, of which Robert Thomas was treasurer, for \$20 a year, for two years. In 1840, as already stated, the lower room was rented for public school purposes by Naaman Keyser, Director of Public Schools, for \$35 a year, until 1843. In 1847, the upper room was rented to The American Society at \$40 a year, and the lower room at the same price for a pay school, to be opened on August 16th, which must have been carried on by John Flynn. The American Society Reliance Council was identical with No. 40 Senior Order of United Mechanics.

The year 1853 witnessed the birth of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, known as Washington Council, No. 1, a powerful, thriving organization, having branches in nearly every state in the Union. In 1853, the Borough Council made application to the Board of Trustees to rent the schoolhouse for a police station, which was declined on account of a remonstrance from the neighbors. In 1855, the Charter Oak Library Association was organized and rented the upper room, which they occupied for many years.

GERMANTOWN DAY

(Continued from page 10)



Stenton 18th and Courtland Sts.

and my neighbors, this village of German Town is your trust for the future.

"If by these remarks, I have trespassed too long on your patience—I can only offer, as my apology, my zeal and love for the laws, my duty, and my reverence for a constitution and form of government, founded on the authority of a people of whom I esteem it my greatest happiness to be one."

The fife and drums joined in the great shout that followed this inspiring address by our honored President, and then led the throng in a parade north on the Great Road to Blair McClenachan's mansion, Cliveden. Here the younger children were permitted to examine the marks of battle that are still so plainly to be seen on this fine old mansion, built by Judge Benjamin Chew in 1761 and sold by him during the War of Independence (but after the battle) to its present owner.

By a gentleman lately arrived from a visit with Judge Chew, we are informed that it is in his mind to buy back this fine old estate. It is said that Squire McClenachan is asking near four times what he paid for it.

Gradually the citizenry withdrew to their own homes, but one last activity of the Day must be recorded before we close our account. Long into the night, at the King of Prussia Inn, at the Washington Tavern, as well as at other taverns and hostleries along the Great Road, might be heard the click of the dice as the gaming tables turned a neat profit.

And in more than one open doorway, well into the cool of the evening, a man smoked his pipe with deep satisfaction, and dreamed his dream of the future.

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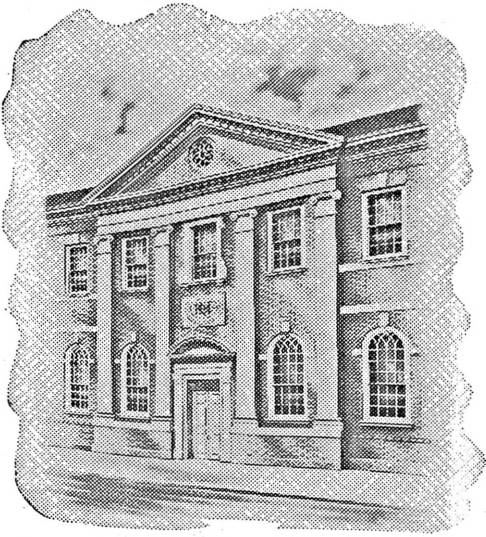
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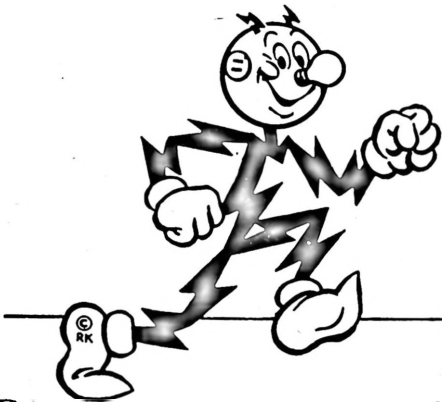
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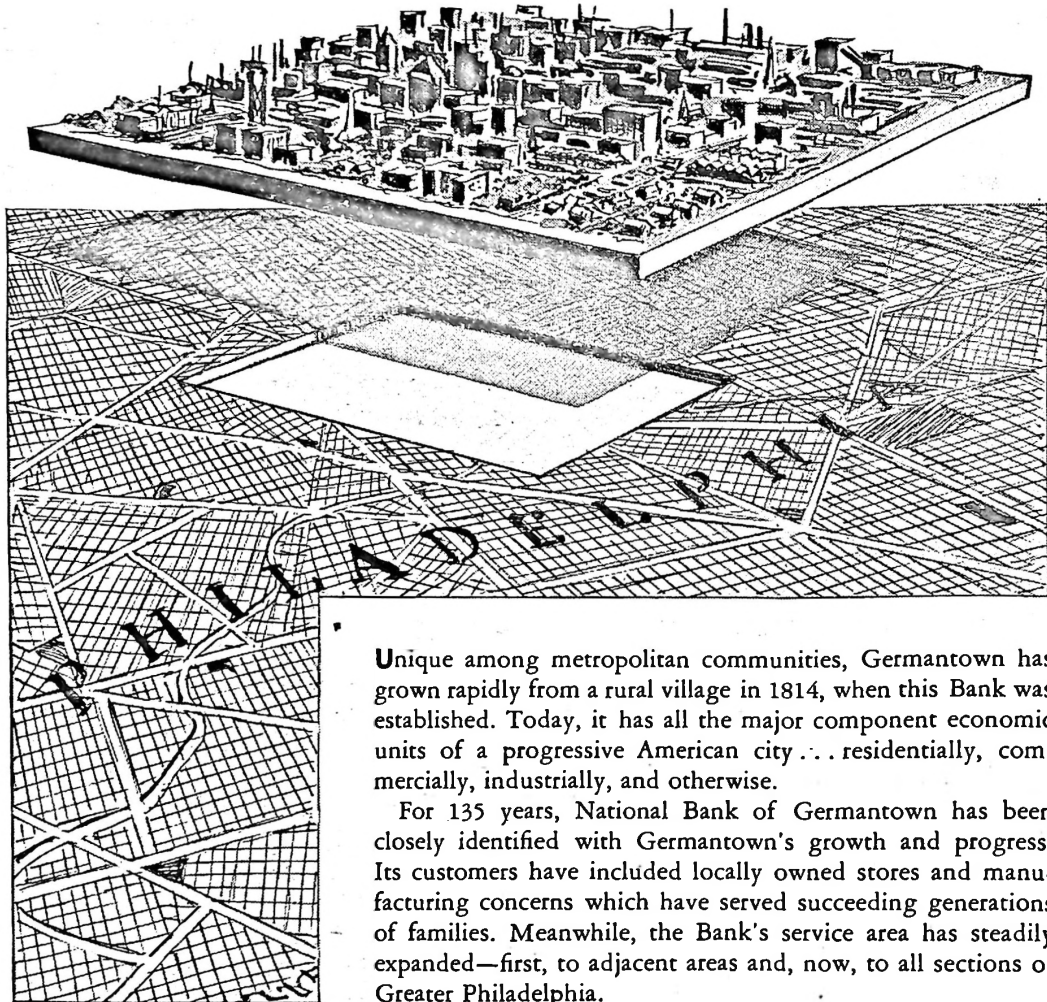
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