

GERMANTOWNE *CRIER*



the Zinc by J. Richards

ume 1

Number 1

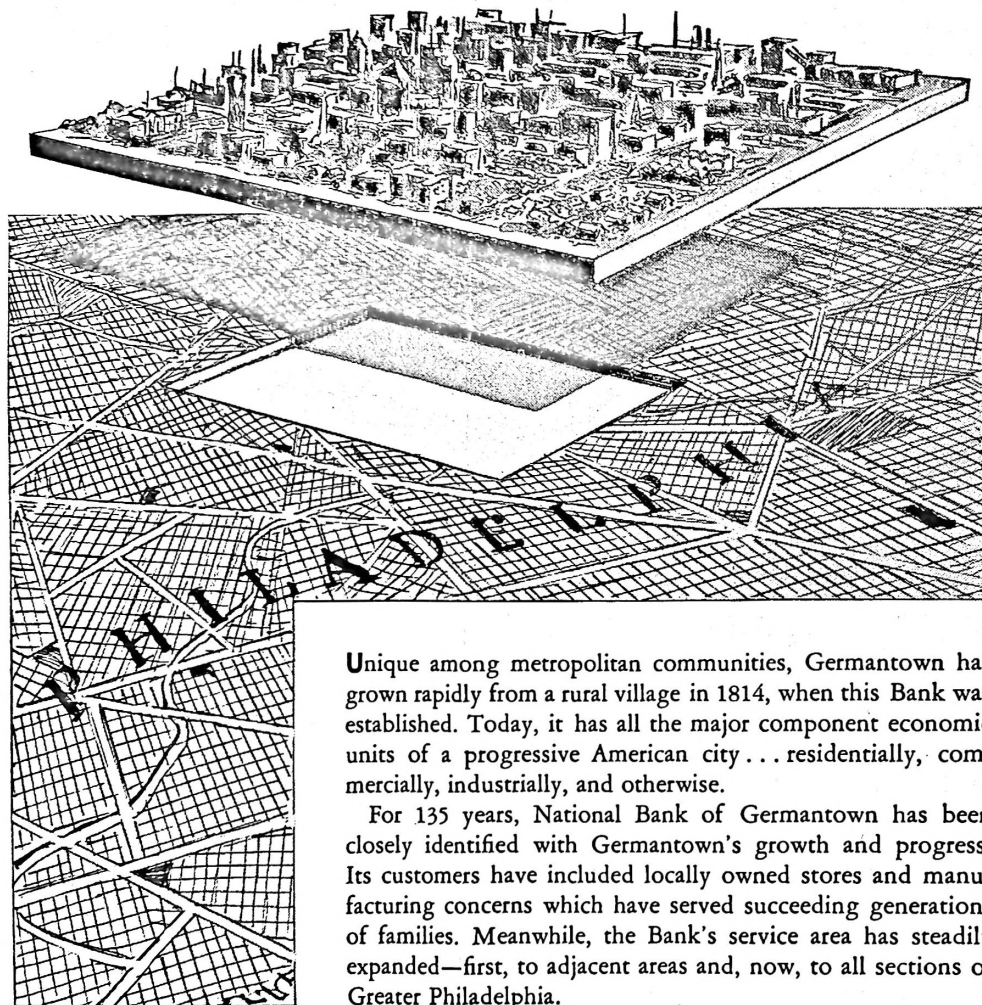
Published Quarterly

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

25 Cents per copy

GERMANTOWN

The "City" Within a City



Unique among metropolitan communities, Germantown has grown rapidly from a rural village in 1814, when this Bank was established. Today, it has all the major component economic units of a progressive American city . . . residentially, commercially, industrially, and otherwise.

For 135 years, National Bank of Germantown has been closely identified with Germantown's growth and progress. Its customers have included locally owned stores and manufacturing concerns which have served succeeding generations of families. Meanwhile, the Bank's service area has steadily expanded—first, to adjacent areas and, now, to all sections of Greater Philadelphia.

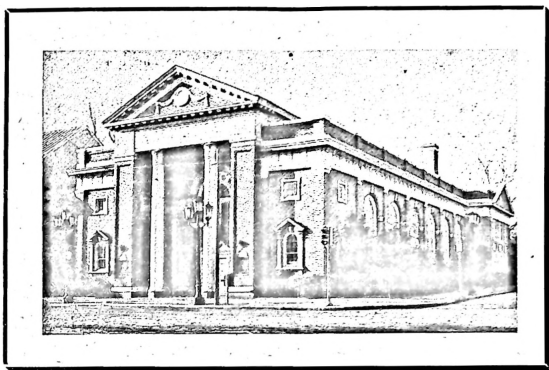
National Bank of Germantown

AND TRUST COMPANY

Germantown Avenue  at School House Lane

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

"THE COMMUNITY BANK THAT SERVES A GREAT METROPOLIS"



1854 - 1949

Ninety-five years . . .

75,582 Depositors . . .

\$83,327,767.32 Assets . . .



GERMANTOWN SAVING FUND

Germantown Ave. at School Lane—Cheltenham and Wister

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



COMPLETE CAR SERVICE

MECHANICAL

MAJOR BODY WORK

PAINTING

COMPLETE PARTS STOCK

GOODRICH TIRES

TUBES

ACCESSORIES

CONVENIENT GMAC BUDGET PLAN

A. A. MARTIN, INC.

5737 WAYNE AVENUE, GERMANTOWN

Authorized

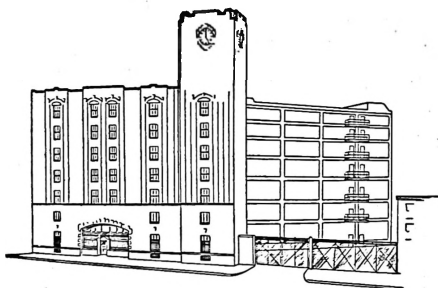
Everything Automotive

PONTIAC

Dealer

PHONE TE 9-7500

800 PRIVATE VAULTS



**GERMANTOWN
FIREPROOF STORAGE CO.**

237-53 Church Lane Philadelphia 44, Pa.

Victor 4-3400

BIOREN & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1865

18 W. Cheltenham Avenue

VI 4-5700

~

MEMBERS

New York Stock Exchange

Philadelphia Stock Exchange

New York Curb (Associate)

~

Main Office: 1508 Walnut St.

PE 5-9400

STUEMPFIG & CO.

REALTORS

45 Maplewood Ave., Germantown, Philadelphia 44, Pa.

GE 8-5925



Residential



Business



Income



Germantown Historical Society

Museum

5214 GERMANTOWN AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

President

LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY

Honorable President

CHARLES FRANCIS JENKINS

Vice Presidents

SAMUEL F. HUSTON

J. MITCHELL ELLIOT

GEORGE C. JOHNSON

Secretary

FRANK KIRK BJORNSGAARD

Assistant Secretary

PRUDENCE C. NEWLIN

Treasurer

OTTO W. BALIS

Board of Directors

EARLE BARBER

JOHN C. HENDERSON

MRS. HENRY F. WIREMAN

DR. JAMES W. WISTER

GEORGE A. LANDELL

PRUDENCE C. NEWLIN

FREDERICK BARDEN

DR. WILBER H. ODA

MRS. HENRY F. ERWIN, JR.

MRS. ALMON N. KIDDER

DR. RAYMOND S. LEOPOLD

MRS. JAMES B. RITTER

Historian

FRANCIS CAMPBELL

Librarian

EDWARD HOCKER

Solicitor

BEVAN A. PENNAPACKER

Curator

MRS. WALTER GRUBER

WHERE CUSTOMERS SEND THEIR FRIENDS

DAVIS BUICK

In Germantown
316 WEST CHELTEN AVENUE

In North Philadelphia
4726 NORTH BROAD STREET

Collision Department
4813 WAYNE AVENUE

SERVING PHILADELPHIA FOR OVER 32 YEARS

Oppenheim Collins
PHILADELPHIA AND GERMANTOWN

Congratulates

THE COMMUNITY OF

Germantown

ON 266 YEARS OF

HISTORICAL TRADITION

Germantown

—*Philadelphia*
at its best

in Germantown it's

EARLE N.

BARBER

REALTOR

6000 Germantown Ave.

GE 8-8600

Writing insurance — and history — since 1843

GERMANTOWN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

5521 Germantown Avenue

Philadelphia 44, Pa.

A. O. ROSENLUND, *President*

E. M. CUSHMORE, *General Manager*

GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Vol. 1

JANUARY 1949

No. 1

EDITOR

JOHN W. JACKSON

ART DIRECTOR

KATHERINE RICHARDSON WIREMAN

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE THE EDITORIAL BOARD

JOHN W. JACKSON, Chairman

KATHERINE R. WIREMAN

JAMES W. WISTER, M.D.

GEORGE E. NITZSCHE

CHARLES F. JENKINS

FRANCES A. WISTER

EDWARD W. HOCKER

LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY, ex-officio

CIRCULATION COMMITTEE

OTIS W. BALIS, Chairman

FRANK K. BJORNSGAARD

GEORGE DAY

PRUDENCE C. NEWLIN

MARY B. BOSTWICK

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT..... <i>Leighton P. Stradley</i>	7
MORRIS HOUSE..... <i>John W. Jackson</i>	9
HARKNESS HOUSE..... <i>Edward W. Hocker</i>	11
MEMORIES OF OLD GERMANTOWN..... <i>Elliston P. Morris</i>	13
THE GREAT ROAD TO GERMANTOWN..... <i>Frances Anne Wister</i>	15
WHY A COMMUNITY COUNCIL..... <i>Bruce Jones</i>	16-17
HEAR YE.....	18
A SKETCH OF GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY..... <i>Katherine Richardson Wireman</i>	19

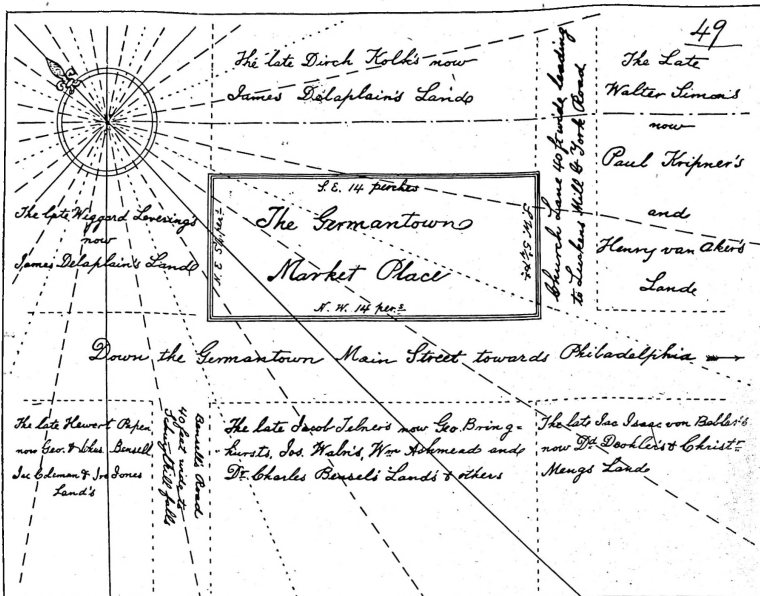
Published Quarterly—Germantown Historical Society—Subscription \$1.00 per year

Publication Office

203-05 S. Watts St., Philadelphia

PE 5-5525

JOSEPH MCGUCKIN, Business Manager



The above Draught within the Red & Green Lines is a Plan of the Germantown Market Place. containing half an acre of Land (Being Part of 50 acres which Dirck opden Kolck by deed of the 6th day of May A. S. 1691 acknowledged in County Court in Philad^a the same day of Year granted unto James Deleplaine, the Father in fee. Which 50 acres Francis Daniel Pastorius as agent of the Frankford Company by his deed dated August 18th 1689 (on which the above recited deed is endorsed and both recorded at Philad^a in Kells office Book F. Vol. 7 Page 143) he had granted unto the said Dirck opden Kolck in Fee) And the said James Deleplaine the Father by his Deed dated the 6th Day of the 11th month Jan^y A. D. 1702 acknowledged in open Court held at Germantown the 2nd Day of the 3rd Month 1704 Did grant this said half acre or Market place in Germantown by the Limits & Dimensions above described unto the Bailiff Burgess & Community in Germantown & their Successors forever. And the above limits agreeable to the above Draught were on the 14th day of September A. D. 1740 properly Surveyed, fixed & ascertained by Benjamin Eastburn, Surveyor General of the Province of Pennsylvania in the Presence of the Sundry Inhabitants To Wit

James Deleplaine Jun^r

Dirck Johnson

George Bensell

John Jones Sen^r

Blasius Dan^r Maeder

John Johnson

George Bringshue

Conradus A^x

Richard Johnson

Paul Engle

Mathias Adams Hogemoed

John Ackmead Jun^r

Christopher Meng

Dirck Keyser

Christian Harmer

And also in my Presence

Witness my hand

Christian Lehman

Town

copy from the Original

1723
by Joseph Lehman

GERMANTOWNE CRIER



VOLUME I

JANUARY 1949

NUMBER I

A Message from Our President

LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY

ONE of the founders of the Germantown Historical Society, Mr. Charles Francis Jenkins, addressed the members on November 30, 1900. This was the year of the organization of the Society.

Mr. Jenkins said, "Germantown is unique and there is no town in the United States more interesting historically." He observed that the reason the outside world had not appreciated Germantown more was because the town slumbered through a century and a half of indifference to its own greatness, and did not understand or appreciate what wealth of historical interest it contained. He referred to the fact that visitors to Germantown bubble over with enthusiasm at the quaint, old houses, the beautiful and stately mansions and the long and crooked main street.

Germantown was the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, a great astronomer, clock maker and public servant in many important capacities. Gilbert Stuart, the painter of the great portraits of George Washington, had his studio here. Paper making as an industry had its inception on Paper Mill Creek.

In military history the Battle of Germantown is of prime importance and interest and there are many relics of this conflict still in existence. While Washington lost the battle, he added immensely to his military prestige by the skillful planning of this memorable battle.

In 1789, Germantown narrowly missed being selected as the permanent capital of the United States. In 1793, it was the ninth capital, when President Washington occupied the Herman House on School Lane, adjoining Germantown academy, and the Morris House on Germantown Avenue. At this time, important cabinet meetings were held here and various cabinet officers resided in Germantown. The

Morris House is one of a few houses now standing which served as a presidential home for any considerable length of time.

"And then, our old Main Street! Where is there one like it, with its solid, substantial houses, built of the native stone, dark and stained with age, as Silas Deane said, 'rough children of nature, and German nature, too.' Shall we go to New England to find its counterpart? If so, we shall just as likely find freshly painted clapboard, frame or lintel, looking as if they were built but yesterday. Go to the South? We have the same frame buildings, with more of brick among them. In none of our old historic cities—Philadelphia, Boston, Richmond, Charleston, New York, Newport—are there so many dwelling-houses to be found in the same condition as they were a hundred years ago, as there are in Germantown today. Does the architect know of better walls, or houses better suited to the climate?"

Mr. Jenkins at the time of the organization of the Society in 1900 called for support in caring for historic sites and relics. With the advance of time it might well be that we should enlarge the scope and work of the Society in other lines of endeavor, and we propose a three-point program for that purpose:

First: The issue of a quarterly magazine to publicize and preserve the early culture, history and traditions of Germantown, as well as to foster its historic sites and relics.

Second: To appeal for more members to enable the Society to maintain wider services and facilities at the Museum.

Third: To sponsor and further the restoration of Market Square as nearly as possible as it was in Colonial times.

A quarterly magazine should do much to further

interest in historic Germantown, and, particularly, to arouse public interest, not only among the residents of Germantown but throughout the country. We plan an informative, dignified magazine and we ask the support of our members and of the people of Germantown to furnish this worthwhile means of informing the public of Germantown's rich traditions and historic past.

The present membership of the Society is a scant 300 members. Since the Society is dependent almost entirely on dues for maintenance, a membership of at least 1000 is necessary to carry out its proper functions, including a full-time custodian at the Museum, and keeping the Museum and its library open to the general public at all times throughout the week.

It is hoped that the citizens of Germantown will respond to our request for memberships in the next few weeks.

The proposal to restore Market Square as it was in Colonial times is sponsored by the Society, and there now is considerable prospect of success.

The project includes the submission of a master plan by a competent architect and the cooperation of property owners abutting the square's four sides. The cooperation of city authorities having jurisdiction of the Square also is essential. Edmund C. Brumbaugh, a widely-known architect and one especially skilled in colonial restorations, has agreed to submit preliminary plans, which should be available within the next few weeks.

A canvass of abutting owners indicates the willingness of most of them. Looking at the property from the west, the present structure of the Saving Fund Society is entirely in keeping with colonial architecture and will require no revision. The two properties adjoining the Saving Fund to the south have been acquired by the Saving Fund, and it is said that these properties will be torn down to permit space for extension of the Saving Fund building to the south.

The razing of these buildings will actually improve the Square, owing to the fact that the Morris House, immediately adjoining, needs a better perspective and setting, which will be afforded by the removal of these buildings.

Further to the south on the west side is the beautiful Morris House, which has been donated to the United States Government by Elliston Morris, as a national shrine. This building is the keystone of the whole restoration structure and at this time is well assured as part of the plan.

Further to the south on the east side, 5434 Germantown Avenue, recently has been acquired by the Northern Liberties Savings and Loan Association and its officers have indicated their desire to help in the general restoration plan.

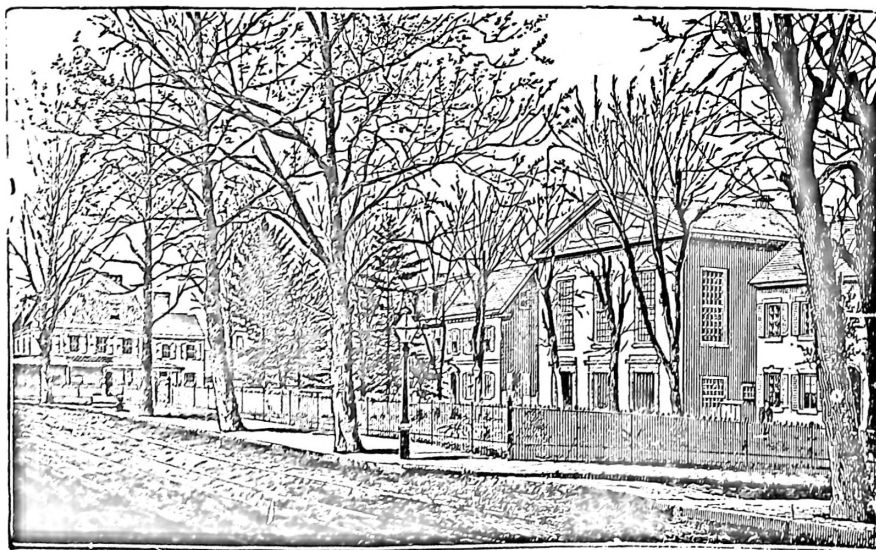
Further south, the old colonial residence has been acquired by Dr. James W. Wister, a member of the Society. It would need no restoration.

On the north side, the building of the Germantown Mutual Fire Insurance Company will be altered, renovated or rebuilt in accordance with the general plan, as indicated by conversations with officers of this company.

On the west side, the property of the Reliance Federal Savings and Loan Association also will be renovated in accordance with the master plan, and the Harkness House on the east side, also owned by the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Germantown, will be brought into conformity with the general plan.

At this time, cooperation at private expense seems assured, with exception of the properties of the Market Square Presbyterian Church, and the properties on the south side of the Square, the owners of which have not yet been approached.

This Society appeals to the patriotic citizens of Germantown to join with it in bringing Germantown to its due and well merited position as a leading historic shrine of the country.



Market Square Presbyterian Church

MORRIS HOUSE

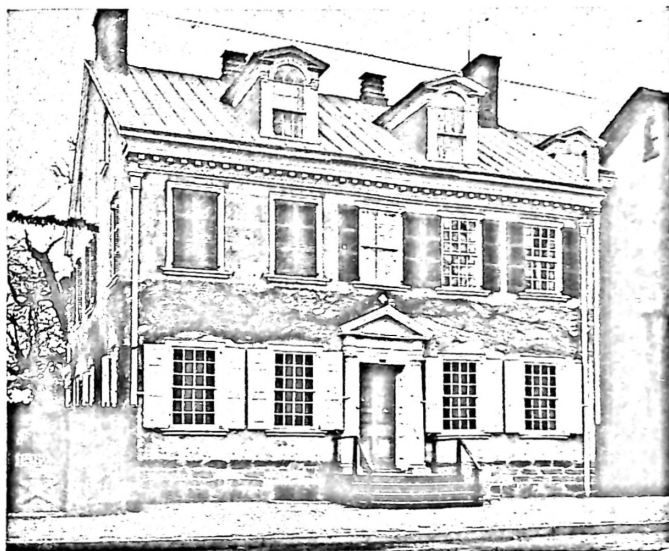
The Presidential Mansion in November, 1793

JOHN W. JACKSON

EACH day countless hundreds of Germantowners pass the imposing Colonial mansion at 5442 Germantown Avenue, unaware that it was once the official residence of the President of the United States. Many of these passersby glance with admiration at the architectural grace of the stately Georgian mansion, and then walk a few steps further to look through the aperture in the garden gate at the quaint Colonial garden. They little realize that this beautiful house with its quiet restful garden was the home of George and Martha Washington, in November 1793, and from July 30 to September 20, 1794.

The mansion, variously called the Deschler-Franks-Perot-Morris House, was built in 1772, by David Deschler, shipping merchant and amateur pharmacist. As this house is more frequently known as the home of the Morris family, in the interest of brevity it will be referred to as the "Morris House." Although it differs little from other Georgian mansions, being somewhat austere and elaborate, it is yet delightful and livable. The exterior arrangement includes gable roof, the usual two and a half stories with chimneys at each end, and beautiful dormers with round-topped windows. Through the recessed doorway, with its attractive paneled door of pairs of alternate small and large panels, passed the most distinguished patriots of the young nation; the resplendent scarlet uniforms of British military leaders, and, according to tradition, a future King of Great Britain. A distinctive feature of the house is its twenty-four paned windows, set in beautiful frames. However, the mansion's most outstanding detail is the excellence of its wood trim, both exterior and interior.

Passing through the handsome door you emerge into a spacious hall, with rooms opening on both sides. At the back of the hall is a majestic staircase, with a landing, ascending to the second floor. The principal rooms on both floors have superb paneled wainscoting. Each room has a beautiful fireplace with exquisite marble facings and ornamental panels. When Colonel Franks, a Revolutionary veteran, rented the house to Washington in 1793, he prepared an extensive inventory of the contents of the contents in the house and stable. The details of this interesting inventory are set forth room by room in Mr. Charles F. Jenkins' admirable study of "Washington in Germantown."



Morris House
5442 Germantown Avenue

Characteristic of many Colonial mansions, the Morris House fronts directly on the sidewalk. Entering the garden, through the Germantown Avenue gate, you walk in a few seconds from the twentieth into the eighteenth century. The noise of modern traffic is lost in a reverie of retrospection as you wander down the winding path through picturesque boxwood hedges and a garden of old-fashioned flowers. In Colonial days the estate apparently contained about two acres and included many fruit trees. Mr. Jenkins, in his study of Washington, printed a contemporary eighteenth century advertisement describing a delightful picture of the property:

"A house and Lot, situate on the west side of the main street in Germantown, an airy, high situation, commanding an agreeable prospect of the adjacent country. The house is 45 feet front, and forty feet deep, two stories high, four rooms on the floor, all furnished in the most elegant manner; there are also suitable back buildings, all in good order, and a pump of excellent water in the yard. The lot contains about two acres, on which is an orchard of the best grafted fruit of various kinds, and a large garden pailed in."

The builder of the Morris House, David Deschler or Deshler, was a prosperous representative of the eighteenth century community centered about Mar-

ket Square. His dress, home and garden all gave evidence of the well-to-do citizen of a Colonial village. His name remains famous today, especially among citizens of German extraction, for the well known Deschler salve he compounded. Deschler continued to reside here until his death in 1792. During the Battle of Germantown in 1777, American forces advanced as far as Market Square, where they were forced to retreat because of a combination of unfortunate circumstances including an impenetrable fog, miscarried plans and British numerical superiority. Immediately following the battle, Sir William Howe, the British commander, made the house his headquarters. Local tradition claims that Prince William Henry, later King William IV, visited Howe here.

Following the death of Deschler in 1792, Colonel Isaac Franks bought the house and gardens. In the following year Germantown became a haven for refugees from the yellow fever epidemic raging in Philadelphia. Many of the dignitaries of the federal and state governments had hastened to Germantown, some having departed before September 1, dispatching themselves among the patriotic citizens of our community. On the morning of September 10 Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, where he arrived September 14.

The infant republic was beset with many perplexing problems, chief among them was the attempts by "Citizen Genet" to undermine the influence of President Washington, turn the sympathies of the American public toward the French republic, and force the American government to adopt a bellicose policy, if not an actual declaration of war, with Great Britain. It therefore became necessary to attend to matters of state, and Washington considered the establishment of a temporary capitol at Germantown; with a number of federal officials in or near Germantown this seemed a wise choice. On September 30, from Mount Vernon, Washington wrote to his Attorney General, Edmund Randolph, requesting that he "enquire whether a tolerably convenient lodging for myself, one Gentleman of my family, with three Servants and as many horses could be had in or near German Town. To prevent any misunderstanding of my meaning, I declare explicitly, that it is hired lodgings *only* (italics are Washington's) I will go into, for, unless such can be had, I would repair to one of the most decent Inns."—another illustration of the circumstance Washington's observance of executive decorum, as interpreted in his day. Randolph was unable to make satisfactory arrangements with Franks' agent, chiefly because the latter was unwilling to lease the house for less than six months. Under such conditions it was necessary for him to look elsewhere, and lodgings were secured for the President at the residence of the Reverend Frederick Herman, adjoining the Academy, on School House Lane. Washington resided here until his departure on November 11, into the interior of Pennsylvania.

It is claimed that before his departure for Reading and Lancaster, Washington penned a personal note to Franks, who was sojourning in Bethlehem to escape the yellow fever epidemic, requesting the use of his house for the presidential family. I have been unable to locate this note, and it is not included in Dr. John C. Fitzpatrick's definitive edition of "Washington's Writings." It is reasonable to assume, however, that Washington conveyed some personal message to Franks, because the latter gathered his family, hired a light carriage, and with alacrity repaired to Germantown to place the house in order for Washington's occupancy on November 16. Washington occupied the house until the end of the month, during which time his Cabinet of Jefferson, Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph held several meetings, in fact it was the federal capitol.

Colonel Franks' charges for use of his property included the cost of two trips to and from Bethlehem, rental of bedding and furniture, house rental, breakage of chair, \$2.50 for cleaning the house after the President vacated his bachelor quarters (Mrs. Washington did not accompany him on his return from Mount Vernon), all of which came to a total of \$131.56. Washington's customary scrupulous attention to personal expenditures made while conducting executive business placed this bill in dispute, and it was four months before a satisfactory settlement of \$75.56 was arranged with Franks.

Washington returned to Philadelphia about December 1. However, before leaving he arranged with Colonel Franks to again occupy the house the following summer for six or seven weeks. On July 30, 1794 the President, with Mrs. Washington, and her two grandchildren, who had been adopted by Washington Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Park Custis, moved out to Germantown. Local tradition has preserved many interesting incidents in the life of the Presidential family in Germantown. Most of these traditional treasures have been preserved in Mr. Jenkins' "Washington in Germantown." Among these anecdotes were his daily rides on horseback or in his carriage; the family attendance at worship in the German Reformed Church on Market Square; his visits with the local carpenter and blacksmith, who had served in several of his campaigns during the struggle for our independence. Washington accompanied Hamilton's grand army to Western Pennsylvania, on August 30, to suppress the insurrection of those malcontents who refused to pay the federal excise tax on whiskey. While a somewhat grandiose exhibition of might against the hapless and misguided frontier farmers, it represented the first serious test of the laws of our infant nation. The other members of the Presidential household vacated the Morris House and returned to Philadelphia on September 20.

The stately Georgian mansion has lived a rather uneventful existence historically, since the days

(Continued on page 23)

HARKNESS HOUSE

The "Brick Building" on Market Street

EDWARD W. HOCKER

FOLLOWING the Revolutionary War, and especially in the 1790's, Germantown ceased being predominantly a German community. A factor in this marked change was the succession of yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia, when many residents of the city adopted the practice of spending their summers in Germantown. Here the scourge rarely found a victim. The epidemic of 1793 wrought terrible devastation in the city—the territory between Vine and South streets and the two rivers. In following years numerous families and business houses removed to Germantown as soon as the fever appeared, remaining here until health conditions were favorable for a return. Most government offices were likewise removed. Philadelphia was then the capital both of the United States and of Pennsylvania.

Thus as Philadelphians became better acquainted with Germantown and realized disease rarely was as virulent here as in the city, some of them made their homes permanently in Germantown and the character of the populace underwent definite changes. Lessened use of the German language and more church services in English resulted. A new generation came along that abandoned most of the old German customs.

Germantown had township government at that time, the township comprising the territory now consisting of the Twenty-second Ward. By the census of 1790 the township's population was 2764.

It was in this period that John Fromberger made his home in Germantown. He was a German who had accumulated a considerable fortune as a baker in Philadelphia. In 1794 he bought from Joseph Ferree a tract of twelve acres on which were several houses. In the language of the deed, it fronted on the Market Place and the Main Street, from Mill Street, now Church Lane, northward to a point above School Lane, but extending around the rear of the German Reformed Church, now Market Square Presbyterian Church. It ran eastward about 1500 feet to Benjamin Shoemaker's milldam, on a branch of Wingohocking Creek. Fromberger made his home in the principal dwelling on the tract, the former house of the Delaplaine and Ferree families, at the present northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and School Lane, where the building of the Germantown Fire Insurance Company now stands. The church property at that time had a frontage of 40 feet and a depth of 136 feet. There was then no East School Lane.



Harkness House in 1900
Market Square and Church Lane

On the Market Square front, from Church Lane to the church, Fromberger erected three adjoining two-story brick dwellings, which he leased to tenants. It is likely that formerly there was an old house on this site. Use of brick for houses was a novelty in the Germantown of that day, since nearly all dwellings and barns were constructed of the stone so abundant hereabouts. Consequently for many years Fromberger's three adjoining dwellings were popularly known as "the brick building."

For those times the situation of the new dwellings must have been regarded as most favorable, being in the center of the town as it then existed, facing the Market Place, soon thereafter called Market Square. The latter space had been set apart in the early days of Germantown as a site for the community market, the prison, stocks and pound. These institutions no longer existed in the 1790's. But in Market Square were the house of the Middle Ward Fire Company and the public scales, used chiefly to weigh hay that farmers brought into town. The German Reformed Church, on the east side of the Square, had been founded by early settlers, and German services still were the rule. In 1858 it became Market Square Presbyterian Church. West of Market Square on the Main Street were the homes of some of the town's foremost residents. At the upper end of the Square School House Lane ran west to the Schuylkill. Mill Street, now Church Lane, was at the lower end of the Square, being the principal highway to the York Road region.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES A TENANT

As to the earliest tenants of the Fromberger dwellings, all that is now known is contained in an advertisement which the Bank of the United States inserted in the *Philadelphia Gazette*, September 22, 1798, as follows:

"Bank of the United States. Sept. 21, 1798. The public is hereby informed that an office of discount and deposit will be opened Monday next at the house lately occupied by Samuel Richardet, near the market house, in Germantown, where the business of the institution will be enacted during the continuance of the malignant fever now prevailing in Philadelphia.

HENRY KULP, *Assistant Cashier*"

The previous summer the Bank of the United States had removed from Carpenters' Hall, which had been its place of business since it was incorporated, in 1791, taking possession of a large building which it had erected on Third Street, below Chestnut.

The yellow fever outbreak of 1798 began in August, and soon there was a general exodus to rural communities on the part of business firms. The Bank of North America and the Bank of Pennsylvania took up temporary abode in Germantown Academy.

One account says a troop of cavalry escorted the wagons conveying the banks' treasure to Germantown.

In the cellar of the house at Market Square and Church Lane vaults were built for the use of the bank. Business was conducted on the first floor. The old vaults are still in the building.

By November 1 the Philadelphia epidemic had subsided, and soon thereafter the bank returned to its home on Third Street. The following summer yellow fever again smote the city, and the bank again transferred its business to the Fromberger house, in Germantown.

John Fromberger remained the owner of the "brick building" until 1805, when he sold the property to the President, Directors and Company of the Bank of the United States. The deed, dated March 15, 1805, opens with these words: "Whereas it is requisite for the immediate accommodation of the said President, Directors and Company of the Bank of the United States in relation to the convenient transaction of their business that certain real estate should be purchased and held by them in Germantown."

This might mean that the bank intended to establish a branch in Germantown, where there was no bank at that time. However, no record has been found of further occupancy of the house on Market Square by the bank.

The bank paid \$7000 for the property. On the site, in the language of the deed, were "three new two-story brick messuages." The lot had a frontage of 80 feet, 11 inches on Market Square and extended back 190 feet along Mill Street.

The bank's charter expired in 1811, and it failed to obtain a renewal, owing to prejudice existing against

banks. However, a second Bank of the United States came into existence later. As it was necessary for the bank to liquidate its assets, Thomas Willing, John Perot and James S. Cox were named by the stockholders, February 14, 1811, as trustees for all the bank's real estate, to convey it to another group serving as grantors in sales. This second group comprised men of prominence in financial affairs. They were: David Lenox, Robert Smith, James G. Fisher, Joseph Sims, Archibald McCall, Paul Siemen, Samuel Coates, Henry Pratt, George Fox, Paschall Hollingsworth, John Stille, Thomas Willing, Horace Binney, George Harrison, all of the city of Philadelphia; Elias Boudinot, of New Jersey; Abijah Hammond, William Bayard and Oliver Wolcott, of the City of New York.

SOLD TO JAMES STOKES

The Germantown property was offered at public auction at the Merchants' Coffee House, Philadelphia, May 1, 1811, and was sold to James Stokes, a Philadelphia merchant, at his bid of \$7000.

Stokes was a hardware merchant at Market and Front streets. John F. Watson, in his *Annals*, says Stokes conducted the "first fancy hardware store," attracting attention by displaying his goods and lighting his windows at night, in both of which details he disregarded the customs of the times. The result was that he prospered.

Stokes probably had become acquainted with Germantown at the time of the yellow fever outbreaks. When contributions were received in Germantown in 1797 to aid yellow fever victims in Philadelphia, James Stokes was listed as giving \$50. In September, 1798, he advertised that he was removing his business to Germantown, to remain there during the epidemic. A similar advertisement appeared in September, 1799.

He bought the former Delaplaine-Ferree house, a the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and School Lane, from John Fromberger, and made his home there. When commissioners were appointed under an act of the Legislature, in 1798, to establish a company to build a turnpike on Germantown's Main Street and continue it through Montgomery County to Perkiomen Creek, James Stokes was one of them. Upon organization of the turnpike company at an election in Germantown Academy, June 1, 1801, among the managers chosen were James Stokes and John Fromberger. Furthermore, James Stokes helped to organize St. Luke's Episcopal Church, in 1811, and served as vestryman. Sometimes in the church's early days, when no clergyman was available, James Stokes would read the service.

HOME OF TWO CHURCHES

James Stokes and his heirs remained the owners

(Continued on page 27)

Memories of Old Germantown, Particularly of Market Square

Read at a Meeting of the Site and Relic Society, April 18th, 1902

ELLISTON P. MORRIS

AS A RESIDENT of Germantown for nearly seventy years, I have much to remind me of the past, and of the changes which have come over the Green Country Town in my day. I remember well when it was made a Borough; our first Burgess was Samuel Harvey, who was, for so many years, President of the Bank of Germantown. He was one of the older school, and honored by all for his quiet Christian walk. He was the leading man of the old Methodist meeting, whose place of worship and congregation were as plain and unostentatious as that of the Friends. The other leading Elder was Father Harmer (familiarily called), whom, with his wife, I always met on their way to the Methodist gathering, as my father and myself were on our way to the old Friends' meeting-house, Main and Coulter Streets.

Their house stood where H. Righter's plumbing shop, No. 5424 Main Street, now is. Both the Methodist and Friends' meeting-houses of that day have disappeared, and new and more commodious ones now accommodate much larger congregations in each, the Methodists having erected the beautiful and ornate building at the corner of Main and High Streets.

I am old enough to think that those were the halcyon days of Germantown, when a horse-car twice a day on the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad was the only opportunity of going to the city, except the four-horse omnibus, which started about nine o'clock in the morning for the old Rotterdam Hotel, on Third Street, and returned in the evening, and the four-horse Troy coach, which carried the mail to Bethlehem and passed Market Square and my father's house about six o'clock A. M., at which hour I often tumbled out of bed to see it go by; the coach returning in the afternoon from Bethlehem, taking the mails to and from the city. Those were the days when everyone knew his neighbor, and tramps were unheard of; each enjoyed his own door-step and roof-tree, and in the security and freedom of honest living the open door of the comfortable, old-fashioned homes seemed to bid a welcome to the passing stranger.

One of my early recollections is that of Benjamin Chew, who lived at "Cliveden," the Chew Mansion, and every Sabbath drove past my father's on his way to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, in his old-fashioned



Delaplaine House prior to 1890
N.E. Cor. Germantown Ave. and School Lane

Washingtonian style coach, driven by a colored man, whilst on the rear stood another one grasping the straps.

Benjamin Chew was the last, I think, in our town to wear short clothes, with low shoes and buckles, and hair done up in a queue. Octogenarians were frequently met with, and the Ashmeads, Merediths, Masons, Lehmans and Emhardts all lived within a few doors of the hall we are now in. Old John Ashmead lived next to my father and nearer the city. By him I, as a boy, was shown the spot where he saw six British soldiers brought out from the Academy (which, during the War for Independence, was used as a hospital after the Battle of Germantown) and buried in one grave; he also told me that as the British forces, headed by Lord Howe, marched up from Stenton to reinforce those engaged at the Chew House, he had run to their cellar window to see them pass; afterward, when the fighting was all over, he and other boys saw the result of the battle and the wounded men. Around this neighborhood there is much of interest. How different is the old Market Square from what it was in the days of my boyhood, and its old trees, all but one, are gone! That one, the fine buttonwood, still stands; and it is about this tree and the other trees that I have been asked to speak.

My father, Samuel B. Morris, was one of the earlier



Lehman House
Now the site of the Colonial Avenue

citizens to find a quiet home in Germantown. He removed here in 1834, having purchased the property from the estate of his father-in-law, Elliston Perot. He had then retired from the active business life of a shipping merchant, the old firm name being Waln & Morris. He was the first, perhaps, who took any interest in the care and preservation of the old Market Square, the piece of ground fronting on Church Lane and Main Street, and conceived the idea of giving it some form and shape by the use of shovel and rake and generous sowing of grass seed, then planting posts at the corner to keep the huckster and other wagons to the side next the house, for in those days it was indeed a common, both in name and fact. At the end farthest from the city stood an old-fashioned, seldom-used brick pier open market house, which I think was far anterior in date to the Fellowship engine house, which stood by its side, further back from the Main Street and facing Church Lane. The latter building was rather attractive, with its little white spire. There was housed the old wooden-wheeled hand-engine, brought from England in 1764 (tradition dates its building thirty years prior thereto), which is now in charge of W. H. Emhardt, and can be seen in the office of the Germantown Mutual Fire Insurance Company. By its side stood a larger hand-engine of much later date, and a bucket wagon filled with leather buckets and a small reel of hose. On the front of the wagon was an artistic painting of a spread-eagle, with a ribbon in its mouth, bearing the inscription, "When duty calls it is ours to obey." To my boyish eyes this was a marvel, and of course I adopted the claim of being a Fellowship boy, and was as proud of its active service and prompt arrival at fires as any of its members.

But I must, as desired, give a history of the great buttonwood tree, still standing on Main Street. My father planted a row of trees, some eight or ten in number, along the curb, and protected them from

injury by horse or wheels by placing neatly-painted wooden tree-boxes around them, and waited for the time of leafy spring. But the old adage of "Boys will be boys" even then held true, and so a few nights after, whilst we were at the supper table, frantic yells of boys met our ears, and running to the front of the house, it was still light enough to discover the cause. With the idea of stirring the wrath of my father, the gang had upended all the tree boxes, much to the risk of the trees being broken, and then run away. Not knowing what better to do, my father replaced them next day, with the same result. Almost in despair of his cherished plan for the shade trees, my father concluded to try the use of the oiled feather, and so one evening, about the time of the usual onset, he secreted himself, unknown to the boys, behind one of the large brick pillars of the market-house, and just as the ball was about to open, he stepped out with the word, "Boys!" Of course all started to run; but, with his kind, persuasive manner, he succeeded in gathering them about him, assuring them that there was no impending harm. He then explained his having planted the trees and protected them by boxes and that he had done all he could for their life; that it was not for himself or his pleasure alone, but for the good of others and of the town; that he would soon pass away, but that they would live to see the trees grow and give shade; that now it was most important that some other should care for them, and he wished to put the trees under their care, as they and their children would be the ones to walk under the shade of their branches. With a "Good-night" he left the boys to cogitate. Suffice it to say, the trees were never disturbed afterwards; they grew to be noble specimens, and fully shaded the passers-by, until, in an evil day, the great convenience of telegraph and trolley-cars made their appearance, and limb after limb was cut, till death in one case after another ensued, and finally this one tree, being so near my own house, was left to tell its tale.

Not more than fifteen years ago I was walking on the main street, and was joined by a gentleman who was and still is one of the foremost mechanics of our town, and as we passed beneath this tree, he said: "I often think of your father as I walk here; you remember how much he was annoyed by the boys when he planted these trees? Well, I was one of those boys; and as I pass I remember him and his words."

Some of you well remember, in the effort for supposed improvement, the iron railing around the square was demolished, and this old tree was condemned to the woodman's axe, but it still stands on the curb in front of the square, the fight to preserve its life having been so nobly fought by the members and officers of the Site and Relic Society. There may its branches long wave in honor of the noble planter and its foster parent!

The Great Road to Germantown

Germantown Avenue

FRANCES ANNE WISTER

The Great Road to Germantown may be called the backbone of German Township, Pennsylvania, founded in 1683 by thirteen families, from Krefeld and Krisheim, and made known to the world by Francis Daniel Pastorius. As the Road has played so important a part in the history of the town, it is fitting that this brief account should appear in the first number of THE GERMANTOWNE CRIER.

* * *

THE GREAT ESTATES

THE Great Road to Germantown, originally an Indian trail, starts at Second and Laurel Streets, near Poplar, Philadelphia, and proceeds in a northwesterly direction to Chestnut Hill and beyond. It passed by or near country estates of important Philadelphians, before it entered German Township.

Among these may be mentioned Fairhill, the great plantation of Isaac Norris, which was in the general vicinity of the present Fairhill Street. Isaac Norris, father of Deborah Norris, who married Dr. George Logan, was an outstanding man of Philadelphia. The *American Weekly Mercury* of June 5th, 1755, records his death thus:

"Yesterday forenoon in the Meeting House of the people called Quakers at Germantown, died suddenly of an Apoplectic Fit, Isaac Norris of Fairhill, etc.; who for a long time and most worthily presided in the County Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas, Philadelphia, was a Member of Council upwards of 30 years and been often chosen one of the People's Representations in the Legislature of this Province, as he was in this Year for the County of Philadelphia. His great Abilities in the Discharge of his Duty in each of these Stations, made him to be justly esteemed one of the most considerable men in this Government."

Another great estate was Stenton, comprising five hundred acres, on which James Logan, Secretary to William Penn, built in 1728 a splendid mansion, now one of the most important and beautiful landmarks in the country. The British, during the winter of 1777, burned seventeen mansions on the Road. They were about to burn Stenton, but, through the wit of a maid servant, were sent chasing after deserters who were said to have passed by recently. It was at his beloved Stenton that James Logan spent the last years of his life, when he was a victim of rheumatism,

and was unable to pursue his activities any longer. Here in his library he read and studied the rare books that he had imported from England. He continued to conduct the affairs of his plantation and to oversee his employees, who were trained in farming, horticulture, and other outdoor pursuits. One of the features of the mansion is the spinning and weaving room where, no doubt, Mrs. Logan and the women members of the family trained the maids to do this work. The garden was a vision of beauty, where flowers imported from England grew in profusion. These lists are still extant. As time went on, the property was sold off due to increasing taxes. Fourteen acres, near the mansion, are all that remain of the grant from William Penn.*

Another mansion—Somerville, bounded by Broad and Cambria Streets, and the Road, was built in 1800. It was a part of Stenton and had descended to John Dickinson Logan, who had married Susan Lowry Wister, daughter of John Wister of Vernon. Their son, A. Sidney Logan, lived at Somerville, which was architecturally beautiful. It is still remembered as it existed until 1896.

* Stenton, 18 and Courtland Streets, was purchased by the City about 1900 and now, restored and furnished, is maintained and operated by the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America. Open to the public every day but Sunday and Thursday, free of charge.

After leaving these estates the Road entered German Township and passed through the four villages known as Germantown, (Wayne Junction to Abington Road, now Washington Lane); Krisheim (Abington Road to Mermaid Lane); Sommerhausen (to above Chestnut Hill); and Krefeldt (to the Wissahickon Creek below Chestnut Hill).

Let us wind our way up the Road, always uphill, and see what still remains of a once completely charming thoroughfare.

But it might be of interest to look back two hundred and fifty years before starting on our trip. A traveller mentioned German Town village as being "six English miles" from Philadelphia. He noticed the stone of which most of the houses were built, and was particularly interested to see branches of trees weighed down with roosting chickens in midwinter. If he had

(Continued on page 24)

WHY A COMMUNITY COUNCIL?



Vernon—Council Headquarters

THE early settlers of Germantown were cultured folk, deeply interested in the spiritual and educational, as well as material growth, of the community they were founding. This concern for the full life is still alive today in Germantown, evidenced by many active organizations, each pursuing its own particular interest, each serving the community in its own particular field.

Why, then, with so many public-spirited groups at work, is there need for a Community Council in Germantown? What can it add to the life of its citizens? Does it really serve any purpose in the community life?

The very diversity of the many separate organizations supplies the answer. Their interests and endeavors are individual, but they at times overlap. There is need in Germantown for a co-ordinating body, to help channel the civic and social mindedness of these individual groups to best serve the needs of the community. There is need for a planning body, to discover what may be lacking in the community life, and to recommend remedial action to already existing concerned groups. There is need for an executive body, able to recognize new opportunities for service in the community, and equipped to establish new organizations or committees to meet that challenge.

These things the Germantown Community Council does. Working so quietly that the majority of citizens are actually unaware of its existence or purpose, it has been signally successful in the projects it has undertaken, in the results of its recommendations to its member organizations.

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The Council was instituted in 1934 by civic-minded citizens for the purpose of improving community

living in Germantown. It worked and still works in cooperation with existing social, civic, business, educational, cultural and religious organizations, and its present membership includes approximately 100 such groups, as well as a number of interested individuals.

The historic heritage of Germantown is vital to the thinking of the Council, and the Germantown Historical Society is one of its member organizations. The Council's headquarters in colonial "Vernon," build in 1803 by James Matthews, has become an active civic center, and the home for regular weekly and monthly meetings for certain member organizations. The Council seal, designed in the Spring of 1948 by artist John Hathaway, incorporates the old historic seal of Germantown and the architectural symmetry of the doorway of "Vernon" with the six major aspects of modern Germantown—Tradition, Education, Welfare, Culture, Religion, and Business. The Council slogan, "Unity in the Community," is an integral part of the design.

Miss Helen Church, at that time Principal of Stevens School, was the first leader of the Germantown Community Council. She has been succeeded by active and community-concerned citizens, including the present chairman, Headmaster of Germantown Friends School, Burton P. Fowler. In addition to the Chairman there are seven other officers, an Executive Committee of thirteen members, an Executive Director, and two part-time secretarial assistants.

Miss Marguerite L. Riegel is the Executive Director. In addition to Mr. Fowler, the officers are: Associate Chairman, Mrs. David Dickson; Vice Chairmen, Glenn K. Morris, Miss Eleanor Potter, William T. Hord; Treasurer, W. Russel Studenmund; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Robert B. Pratt, Jr.; Recording Secretary, Miss A. Reaga Mullen.

The Council is a self-governing body open to

non-profit organization or group, as well as to any individual who is in sympathy with the objectives of the Council. Organizational memberships are \$10.00 per annum, individual memberships (in two classifications) \$2.00 and \$5.00.

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Both Civic and Social Planning are included in the Council's current program. The 22nd Ward Planning Committee, under the Chairmanship of William T. Hord, is at work on long term plans for Land and Building use, Housing, Recreation and other forms of civic improvement. The Citizen's Council on City Planning is cooperating closely in this.

The Health and Welfare Committee of the Council recognizes three major unmet community needs, and is searching for the means to implement these concerns. They are 1) Extended care for long term illness and aging citizens, 2) Vocational guidance service for high school pupils, and 3) parent education.

The Council is quick to admit that some of the problems and tensions it uncovers cannot be solved immediately. But its attitude and approach to such difficulties are both honest and healthy. It recognizes that discussion of a problem works for a better understanding of that problem, and leads to a more intelligent and generally more successful solution. Thoughtful discussion, followed by planned action, is the Council's method of work.

But its attitude and approach to such difficulties are both honest and healthy. It recognizes that discussion of a problem works for a better understanding of that problem, and leads to a more intelligent and generally more successful solution. Thoughtful discussion, followed by planned action, is the Council's method of work.

The participation of young people in the work of the Germantown Community Council, particularly in the high school group, is especially noteworthy. The Schools Community Council is represented on a number of the adult committees, and active in its own right in the fields of housing, recreation for the aged, and under-privileged youth groups.



"Unity in the Community" is the watch word of the Germantown Community Council. Toward this end it planned and staged the first Germantown Week last June, and obtained the cooperation of business, cultural, educational and religious groups. One of the most successful occasions of the week was the informal tour of a number of Germantown's historic Colonial homes, available to visitors as part of the week-long activities. Profiting by the experience gained, another "Germantown Week" has been planned for this Spring, again under the general chairmanship of Gordon W. Venable.

In another field entirely, Harold D. Saylor's Committee is at Work on the Citizens' War Memorial—planned as a living Memorial to those who "gave the last full measure" for their country. Vernon Park is to be transformed from its present discreditable state into a veritable oasis in the heart of Germantown. It will become a beautifully planted and verdant park, and having cast off its present somewhat forbidding visage, it will welcome its citizens by its very appearance to relax, to commune, to enjoy.

The Council is striving to bring about a better Germantown—in which to work, to play, and to live one's life more fully. People in Germantown are increasingly recognizing that self-interest must be subject to public interest, that civic betterment in all its aspects may best be obtained through working together. The Council is the tool with which to build a better community, where "community living" is no longer an ideal but a reality.

Unity in the Community



Perfection in every detail

dorothy r. bullitt, inc.

ARDMORE

CHESTNUT HILL

DISTRIBUTOR OF



OIL-FIRED FURNACES

NEWTON-WINKLER
OIL BURNERS

THE HEIGHT OF PERFECTION
IN LOW PRESSURE OIL BURNING

Hotpoint

HOME APPLIANCES

"TAYCO" ALUMINUM
OVERHEAD GARAGE DOORS

COAL • FUEL OIL

COKE and BRIQUETS
DOMESTIC and INDUSTRIAL

Phones:
GE 8-3412
AL 4-8400



GEO. B. NEWTON COAL CO.

SERVING PHILADELPHIA & SUBURBS



Peter Kalm, a member of the Swedish Academy of Sciences, visited Colonial America in 1748. His diary furnishes us with a detailed description of all phases of colonial life, and a comprehensive sketch of the natural history of the colonies. His peregrinations carried him to Germantown on September 21 and 22, 1748:

"After a ride of six English miles we came to Germantown; this settlement has only one street but is nearly two English miles long. It is for the greatest part inhabited by Germans, who come from their country to North America and settle here because they enjoy such privileges as they are not possessed of anywhere else. Most of the inhabitants are tradesmen and make almost everything in such quantity and perfection that in a short time this province will want very little from England, its mother country. Most of the houses are built of stone, which is mixed with glimmer and found everywhere around Philadelphia, but is scarce farther on. Several houses, however, are made of brick. They are commonly two stories high and sometimes higher. The roofs consist of shingles of white cedar wood. Their shape resembles that of the roofs in Sweden, but the angles they form at the top may be either obtuse, right-angled, or acute, according as the slopes are steep or gentle. They sometimes form either half an octagon or half a dodecagon.

"Many of the roofs were made in such a manner that they could be walked upon, having a balustrade round them. Many of the upper stories had balconies before them from whence the people had a prospect into the street. The windows, even those in the third story, had shutters. Each house had a fine garden. The town had three churches, one for the Lutherans, another for the Reformed Protestants, and a third for the Quakers. The inhabitants were so numerous that the street was always full. The Mennonites have likewise a meetinghouse."

The January meeting of the Germantown Society will be held at "Vernon" on the 20th of January. Dr. Merle M. Odgers, President of Girard College, will speak on "Franklin and Girard."

Germantown Week celebration to be held in May of this year. The GERMANTOWNE CRIER will be the official organ for announcing the programs of the Germantown Community Council.

The Germantown Historical Society

KATHERINE RICHARDSON WIREMAN

When the Rev. Dr. C. P. H. Nason came to live in Germantown and took up his ministry at the Second Presbyterian Church, he was charmed with the old houses here and soon discovered that many of them possessed the distinction of having been associated with the great men of the past and had played a part in history of local and national importance. Some of these houses were about to be torn down, while others, unoccupied, were in a state of dilapidation.

In his own home town in New England the people had been more aware of their inheritance from the past and had taken a civic pride in its preservation. Perhaps if the people here could be made conscious of the value of their possessions they too would do the same.

He had the idea that tablets marking the sites of historic events and telling something of the history of the houses might awaken popular interest, and expressing this thought, he found two young men anxious to help him, Charles F. Jenkins and William E. Chapman. Charles F. Jenkins had the ability to express himself on paper and he soon produced a small book entitled, "A Plea for Germantown's Historic Sites," which was distributed throughout the community. As a result Hannah Ann Zell, who had been instrumental, in 1869, in founding "The Germantown Library Association and Historical Society" and was still its president, offered the rooms of her organization as a meeting place. The rooms were on the second floor of the "Germantown Mutual Fire Insurance Company's" building on Market Square and could be reached by a side entrance on East School Lane. Here on November 30, 1900, a large assembly gathered and the "Site and Relic Society" was born. Charles J. Wister was elected president and Charles F. Jenkins, secretary. Mrs. Chew became a member of the board and others hastened to join the number. The society had a propitious start.

As the name of the society implied, part of the plan was to preserve articles of historic interest, especially those having to do with the early life of Germantown, and a museum was opened at the Concord School House in 1903. The museum soon outgrew these quarters and in 1907 when the German-

town branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia left the Wister house in Vernon Park, which had been remodeled for its use, and moved to the new library building, erected in the same park through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, the museum occupied the former house. This house owes its survival largely to the efforts of the "Site and Relic Society" who fought to retain the old mansion when the city wished to tear it down. Here the museum expanded in the gracious rooms now occupied by the Community Council. This was to be their last headquarters under the name of the "Site and Relic Society."

The "Germantown Library Association and Historical Society" disbanded in 1913 but before that time the newer organization had absorbed many of its functions and now took over the rest, changing its name to that of the Germantown Historical Society in 1927 on moving into the Conyngham-Hacker House. This house was generously offered to the society by Edward I. H. Howell and his cousin Mrs. Susan Hacker Bodine, who gave it to them as long as they chose to occupy it, with the provision that a sum of money be raised and put in trust to insure its upkeep. A campaign for this purpose in 1927 was a success. The Conyngham-Hacker House was built of native stone by William Forbes in 1772. It stands just below Queen Lane set back a little from Germantown Road. Five years later it was to see this highway intersected at the center of the village and the town divided in two by the presence of nine thousand British Redcoats. They had come to occupy a defensive position along the old Indian trail.



IN GERMANTOWN
it's the

DELMAR-MORRIS

RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE

CHELTEN AVE. & MORRIS ST.

Open 7 days a week

Facilities for Banquets, Weddings and Private Parties

TE 9-1862

The Hoffmans



Dairy Maid

CANDIES

ICE CREAM

LUNCHEONS

DINNERS

16 W. Cheltenham Avenue
Germantown, Penna.

JAMES S. JONES & CO.

HAS BEEN SERVING THE
PEOPLE IN GERMANTOWN
FOR OVER 105 YEARS
AT GERMANTOWN AVENUE
AND COULTER STREET.

KOELLE-GREENWOOD CO.

AUTHORIZED DEALERS ESTABLISHED 1916

SALES



SERVICE

161 WEST CHELTEN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

TELEPHONE, GERMANTOWN 8-1025

The trail crossed Germantown Road diagonally at Market Square and followed roughly the lines of School House Lane and Church Lane or Mill Road as it was then called. The soldiers were posted along this line from the beginning of the deep gorge of the Wissahickon Creek at Ridge Road to the Eastern branch of Wingohocking Creek at Lukens Mill. The bulk of General Howe's army was in Germantown.

If the house took any part in the battle which raged the length and breadth of the township that foggy morning of October 4, 1777, no record of it has been kept. John Fanning Watson makes slight mention of it in writing of the position of Howe's troops. He says, "the second line formed a parallel at about one-fourth mile in the rear, and flanking the road near the six-mile stone, before the door of H. Conyngham, Esq."

One hundred and fifty years later during a celebration of this Battle, from the first to fourth of October 1927, the house was to open its doors for the first time to the community, and leaving its private life behind was to enter upon a life of public service.

This service includes the museum open to visitors every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5 o'clock. Other times can be arranged for special visitors or groups by telephoning to the custodian who lives in the building. Two of these groups have been wounded veterans and business and industrial girls from all over the United States. One young man from the Hawaiian Islands on a ninety-day tour of the country took time to visit our museum. Others who have registered in our guest book have come from forty of the forty-eight states and from Canada, South America, Great Britain, and Peking, China. Besides antique furniture, china, and ancient household utensils, the museum houses a large collection of costumes and accessories of an educational value; these at times have been loaned to schools and shops, their display adding to the reality of the past they commemorated.

The library, open every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 5 o'clock under the direction of our able historian, contains probably the largest and most comprehensive collection of books and pamphlets about Germantown. Many are first editions and rare volumes published by local printers. The genealogical records are constantly in demand, many coming from a distance to examine them. Valuable in confirming dates are old deeds and legal papers and maps. Several hundred views of old Germantown add to this information. Other old views are in the form of photographs and lantern slides. There is a large file of negatives which are available for prints at a small charge.

The Guide Book of Historic Germantown written by Charles F. Jenkins is for sale as well as all the publications issued by the society. These are on historic subjects, of interest to those who make their homes in Germantown. A list of these can be seen at the society or can be learned by telephoning to the custodian. These publications are mailed to members free of charge as they are issued.

140 YEARS SERVICE TO GERMANTOWN

Yes, for 140 years at this same address on Germantown Avenue, Cherry's has stood four-square . . . symbol of sensible service to a long line of satisfied Germantown customers. In a town rich in historical background, we look with pride at our record, and will endeavor thru the years ahead to offer outstanding merchandise at minimum cost.

Cherry's
ESTABLISHED 1809

5541-5547 Germantown Avenue
Germantown, Penna.

Hello

To you our friends and good neighbors of The Germantown Historical Society we send this friendly greeting. Why not pay us a visit soon so that we may become better acquainted?

Our systematic savings plan is especially adapted to your own particular needs. May we discuss it with you now?

Germantown's oldest insured savings and loan association

**NORTHERN LIBERTIES FEDERAL
SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION**

5435 Germantown Avenue

OVER 75 YEARS CONTINUOUS SERVICE

CHARTERED 1942
RELIANCE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED 1869

INCORPORATED 1879

**SAVE GENEROUSLY
FOR FUTURE
PLEASURE, COMFORT
AND SECURITY**



5519 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

VICTOR 4-7676

**HELP DEFEAT
INFLATION
SPEND LESS . . .
SAVE MORE**

Open a Savings Account with us now. All accounts INSURED up to \$5,000. Current Dividend Rate $2\frac{1}{2}\%$



TITLES INSURED

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH

TITLE COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

MAIN OFFICE: 1510 Walnut Street, Philadelphia

**CAPITAL, SURPLUS and RESERVE
OVER \$5,000,000**

WILLIAM M. WEST, President

LARGEST AND STRONGEST COMPANY IN PENNSYLVANIA
DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INSURANCE OF TITLES

Fashions

for

suburban living

GERMANTOWN

germantown and cheltenham avenues

telephone TENnessee 9-2200

CHARLES W. CARRIGAN
OTIS W. BALIS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
INSURANCE—MORTGAGES

Carrigan, Balis & Co.

REAL ESTATE BROKERS

ESTABLISHED 1928

Residential Specialists in Germantown, Mt. Airy & Chestnut Hill

Victor 4-2100

5823 GREENE STREET, GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA 44

Each year a series of lectures and entertainments of historical significance is sponsored. In the Spring a party is held in the old garden and in the Fall a tour is conducted through some interesting and historic section not too distant.

In spite of what has been done to encourage a civic pride in our unusual inheritance our houses continue to be torn down. Nothing could have brought this more forcibly to our minds than the series of photographs appearing in the *Germantown Courier* showing some of these houses and the buildings which have replaced them. In every instance the change has not improved our Main Street, which has lost its atmosphere. We could have become a second Williamsburg. The greatest damage Germantown ever sustained was the loss of our beautiful old town hall, etched by the celebrated Joseph Pennell. Two recent losses are that of "Carlton," one of the most historic houses in the East, and less historic but full of charm, the row of small houses on West School House Lane just off of Germantown Avenue. Where will this destruction stop?

Even as late as forty years ago our Main Street still bore a semblance to the charming Colonial town which has entirely disappeared.

If every one erecting a new building or altering an old one had had the vision of the Germantown Saving Fund Society at School House Lane and Germantown Avenue, or of Mr. Earl N. Barber in his beautiful restoration at the Harvey Street corner of Germantown Avenue, what a magnet our town would have become. Visitors could not have been kept away; they would have traveled from all parts of the world to our doors.

MORRIS HOUSE

(Continued from page 10)

Washington's removal; but has had the honor of being owned and occupied by distinguished members of our local society until the last twelvemonth. In 1804 Elliston and John Perot purchased the property. When Elliston Perot died in 1834, the house was sold to his son-in-law, Samuel B. Morris. It has remained in possession of the Morris family until recently. The Morris family has bequeathed the house and a portion of the garden to the United States Government, and according to recent information it will be accepted and made a national shrine.

How many mansions in America can boast of the many honors and distinctions enjoyed by Germantown's own Morris House? The preservation of the Morris House as a national shrine will permit countless thousands of Germantowners and visitors to our community to cross the threshold of a house which was the scene of many dramatic decisions when our country was struggling to establish itself among the nations of the world.

Elva R. Smith, Inc.

Misses and Women's Apparel

5437 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Cooperation

Unlike most qualities in daily life, cooperation must be granted before it is received. As the motive power in collective accomplishment it logically becomes the most potent single factor in business.

We are sincerely proud that J. Branch Briggs clients have commented upon the *plus* cooperation accorded by our organization. That in itself has been indicative of a satisfaction in our service.

JB

J. BRANCH BRIGGS

Advertising—Merchandising—Publicity

18 W. CHELTEN AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA 44

Victor 4-7300

Dependable Electricians

Since 1919

**SCHUCK
ELECTRIC**

5946 Germantown Avenue

Kelly Victor

Victor
4-4921

DISTINCTIVE DRESSES
Juniors'—Misses'—Women's
NURSES' and MAIDS' UNIFORMS

5441 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

GErmantown 8-3901

COLD STORAGE

ANNUAL REDUCTIONS

Vant

"FURRIERS SINCE 1911"

5535 GERMANTOWN AVE., PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

WAGNER'S

- HABERDASHERY
- CLOTHING
- HATS

5618 Germantown Avenue

H. A. SPANGLER

APOTHECARY

A COMPLETE
PRESCRIPTION
DEPARTMENT

*Dispensing Drugs and Service
Since 1876*

6102 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Phone: GE 8-0483

stayed there a few days he would have discovered that it was a self-sufficient, self-sustaining, and aloof community, not in any way beholden to Philadelphia. Even though the Road existed, its condition was such, with ruts, dust, and quagmires at the foot of Negley's Hill (now Wayne Junction), that trips to Philadelphia were difficult and unpleasant. German Town had an excellent set of laws, based on the greatest good to the greatest number. The chief menace was fire, so it was decreed that ladders and buckets must be installed at frequent intervals. It was forbidden to dry flax near a fire; also to keep ducks, which were destructive. There was also danger from wild animals, and a reward was offered for every wolf killed.

The town soon became famous for its weavers, and for its woolen industries, notably Germantown yarn.

We can look back at certain scenes of interest, such as Washington in his daily walks, and the visit of Lafayette in 1825. He was met at the foot of Negley's Hill and driven up the Road in a barouche drawn by four white horses. He was escorted by Reuben Haines, of Wyck, and Charles J. Wister, of Grumblethorpe. A reception for the ladies of Germantown, at Wyck, and a breakfast at Chief Justice Chew's, at Cliveden, followed. We could name many more events if space permitted.

THE NEXT TWO MILES

On the Road above Wayne Junction is Loudoun, high on Negley's Hill, built by Thomas Armat about 1801. It was long occupied by his descendants—Mrs. Gustavus George Logan and her children. It was bequeathed to the City, with an endowment, by Miss Maria Dickinson Logan, and is now a public park.

A few paces above, on the right, are the buildings of the Germantown Theatre Guild. The Mehl house (4821) and the Ottinger house (4825) are typical Germantown houses of the Revolutionary period. The theatre is a charming little spot in a converted barn, and the group is a great asset to the Road.

The Lower Burying Ground is passed at Fisher's Lane, now Logan Street. The oldest stone is dated 1707-08.

Above Wister Street, originally known as Duy's Lane, at 5109 stands the house, or at least a portion of it, where the first protest against human slavery in this country was registered, at a Friends' Meeting in 1688.

The disappearing act of old Germantown houses is familiar to all of us. The Corvy, at 5140, occupied for one hundred years by the William Wynne Wister family, was at one time the residence of Gilbert Stuart. The small studio at the rear was the scene of his painting of Washington. That house is gone; dozens of others that have also vanished, might be named.

The Germantown Historical Society occupies the Conyngham House at 5214, and next to it still stands the house of Isaiah Hacker, until recently occupied by his granddaughter, Miss Anna Howell.

Opposite Queen Lane stands Grumblethorpe, built in 1744 by John Wister, of Philadelphia, for a summer residence. The house is known as the spot where General James T. Agnew died during the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. Also because Sally Wister, writer of the *Journal*, lived there. After one hundred and ninety-nine years of ownership, the Wister family sold it to the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, and the Grumblethorpe Committee has been restoring and maintaining it since September 1940.* It has been, through the centuries, noted for the hospitality of its owners, and the Committee carries on the tradition with gatherings of various kinds.

The Morris house, famous because Washington lived there during the yellow fever epidemic in 1793, stands opposite Market Square. It has recently been presented by Elliston P. Morris to the United States Government. The Market Square, according to old prints, was equipped with scales, stocks, and a jail. Here came farmers with their produce on market days, and here the good citizens of Germantown flocked to make their purchases.

Proceeding farther along the Road we come to Vernon (1803), the mansion of John Wister in Vernon Park, above Chelton Avenue. Originally this property belonged to Melchior Meng. John Wister, a grandson of John Wister of Grumblethorpe, was a figure in his day. The grounds contained a box-bordered garden, ice house, fascinating old barn, and other features of interest. All of these were destroyed when the City, after the death of the last owner, Miss Anne Wister, purchased it for a public park. The mansion became the first home of the Site and Relic Society, now the Germantown Historical Society, after which it became a Public Library. Now, happily, it is the headquarters of the Germantown Community Council, and is one of the town's great assets.

The Engel house, moved back, but still possessing its pent roof, stands above the Town Hall.

At Walnut Lane stands Wyck, dated from 1690, home of the Haines family for nine generations. It is celebrated for its rose garden and for its quaint aspect both outside and in, and is one of the town's most charming features.

Opposite stands the Green Tree Tavern (6019), dating from 1748. Daniel Pastorius kept the tavern under the name of the Sadlers Arms. It is now owned by the First Methodist Church.

UPPER GERMANTOWN

Dirck Keyser's house, built 1738, still stands at 6205, corner of Tulpehocken Street, for how long we cannot tell.

At Washington Lane stands the ancient Johnson house, now in the possession of the Woman's Club of Germantown, which was the first organization to recognize the importance of preserving landmarks.

* Grumblethorpe is open to the public weekdays from 1:00 to 5:00 o'clock.

VIctor 4-9996

The Boswell House

LUNCHEONS

DINNERS

SUNDAY DINNERS

CLOSED MONDAYS

5920 GREENE STREET, PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

Remodeled—

*for beauty and efficiency
of Banking Services*

BROAD STREET TRUST COMPANY

CHESTNUT HILL OFFICE
GERMANTOWN AVENUE & GRAVERS LANE

HUBERT J. HORAN, JR., President

Member of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

famous for

- **PRESTIGE FASHIONS**
- **GENUINE VALUES**

duval
Style Center of Germantown

5533 GERMANTOWN AVE.

THE

JOY KIDDIE SHOP

5131 Germantown Avenue

Philadelphia

Historically the first private
TRAVEL BUREAU
in Germantown in over 25 years

DURKIN WORLD TRAVELS
 50 W. Chelton Avenue TE 9-1500

RESERVATIONS
 TOURS—CRUISES
 AIR . . . STEAMSHIP . . . HOTELS

GE 8-1750

JOHNSON'S
Flower Shop

5439 Germantown Avenue
 Germantown, Philadelphia

THE ELDON PRESS
 8139 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia 18, Pa.
 CH 7-0324—0325

●

LETTERPRESS
 AND
 OFFSET **PRINTERS**

**GERMANTOWN ROOFING AND
 INSULATION COMPANY, INC.**

- Roofing
- Home Insulation
- Heating
- Storm Windows

7070 LINCOLN DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA 19, PA.
 WI 7-4331 and WI 7-4332

Much gratitude is due to this pioneering group of women for this public service.

A few feet farther on stands the Concord Schoolhouse—first schoolhouse in Germantown—and adjoining it, the Upper Burying Ground, where the oldest stone dates from 1716. The origin of the name Concord is unknown. Some historians think it was named for the ship *Concord*, which brought the original settlers to this country.

Two ancient houses of worship must not be forgotten, the Mennonite Meeting House above Herman Street, dating from 1770; and the Church of the Brethren or Dunkers, at 6613, Mother Church of that sect in America.

At Johnson Street stands the great mansion of Chief Justice Chew, Cliveden, scene of the Battle October 4, 1777—an historical spot for all Americans. The British had ensconced themselves in the mansion, while opposite, on the grounds of the Johnson family, where Upsala now stands, were placed the American cannon. While the battle was not a large one, it was vastly important because the defeat of the Americans ensured the permanent occupation, by the British, of Philadelphia in 1777-78; and forced the retreat of Washington and his army to Valley Forge.

Cliveden is an architectural treasure, and is still occupied by the family of Chief Justice Chew. The grounds, like other large estates, have been much curtailed, but they are beautifully kept, and the house retains the ancient furnishings of previous generations.

Upsala (6430), now celebrating its 150th anniversary, great mansion of the Johnson family, has been purchased and is being restored by the Upsala Foundation.

There have been many changes, in the name of progress. Architectural incongruities have appeared; still it is no exaggeration to say that the Great Road is one of the most interesting streets in America. For if we start at Stenton and finish with the Battle at Cliveden, there is a wealth of history and anecdote that is difficult to match.

Critics may say that Germantown never had a Paul Revere, or that nobody in Germantown ever stood on a bridge that arched a flood and fired a shot that was heard round the world.

Do you not think that the first protest against human slavery was a pretty good shot one hundred years before?

Do you not like to ponder over the many prominent people who have travelled the Road, and the events that took place there?

Do you not think that the houses of the early settlers, and the great mansions that followed them, are priceless treasures?

Do you know of any road anywhere that includes more historic and human interest, and quaint episodes than the Great Road to Germantown?

If you are in accord with me, stand firm for our town and help to preserve its landmarks.

HARKNESS HOUSE

(Continued from page 12)

the "brick building" until 1865. Most of the time it was leased to tenants. In 1813, when the lower of the three dwellings was unoccupied, Mr. Stokes offered it to St. Luke's Church for use as a place of worship. During the two years after organization, on June 8, 1811, the membership was small and services were held in the home of Mr. Stokes, though at times the Reformed Church permitted the Episcopalians to use the church on a Sunday afternoon. Now the lower floor of the "brick building" was fitted up for the congregation, two rooms being united so that 200 persons could be seated.

Here Bishop William White, first Episcopal bishop of Pennsylvania, conducted the first Episcopal confirmation in Germantown, on November 13, 1817, the class numbering eighteen.

This arrangement was continued until Thomas Armat gave the church a lot on the east side of Germantown Avenue, above Coulter Street, where a church was built in 1818. The same year James Stokes and Thomas Armat were elected the first delegates of St. Luke's Church to the Episcopal Convention.

Meanwhile, in 1814, the Bank of Germantown was founded, and it began business in a house on the west side of Germantown Avenue, above School House Lane. To equip its vaults the bank bought from James Stokes the iron doors of the vaults that the Bank of the United States had built when it occupied the house on Market Square. The same doors were subsequently sold to the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Germantown, in 1854, when that company erected its building at the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and Armat Street. Upon removing, in 1885, to its present building, at Germantown Avenue and East School Lane, the doors were transferred to that place.

The "brick building" on Market Square again gained a place in Germantown's religious history in 1836, when the English Lutheran Church of Germantown, now Trinity Church, was organized following a secession of members of old St. Michael's Lutheran Church who were dissatisfied with the predominance of German services there. The new congregation held services here from February, 1836, until its church at Germantown Avenue and Queen Lane was dedicated, late in 1837.

In the interval between the occupancy of the house by the two churches, it is said the building served as a hotel for some time. Subsequent to the removal of the Lutherans there was a private school here. Anna Mapother advertised in April, 1838, that she had opened a boarding school in the "large brick building at Market Square," the branches of instruction comprising English, French, Spanish, sewing and needlework. In 1842 the Misses E. Latimer and

Rug Cleaners

53 YEARS OF QUALITY

ORIENTAL and DOMESTIC

BINDING—FRINGING—REPAIRING—DEMOTHING
STORAGE

SHAMPOOING

ACE-DIAMOND

Germantown Below Logan
Michigan 4-9600
Geo. W. Lentz & Son

Interior

Est. 1870

Exterior

GEO. YOUNG & SON

PAINTERS

4665 Germantown Avenue

GL 5-1002



Germantown 8-6328

KIRK & NICE

UNDERTAKERS

SINCE 1776

6301 GERMANTOWN AVENUE PHILADELPHIA

IN THE CENTER OF METROPOLITAN PHILA.

Holiday and Night Phones:
GE 8-0209 DA 4-9350 TE 9-8375

KINKAID BURNER CORP.

OIL BURNER AND STOKER
INSTALLATION AND SERVICE

5228 KNOX ST. GERMANTOWN 44, PA.
Day Phone: GE 8-0209

BUSINESS
VI 4-5251

EMERGENCY
GE 8-1233
LI 8-0770

J. & R. SMITH, Inc.

PLUMBING—HEATING

...

5201 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
YOU PAY FOR NO LOST TIME

GE 8-6060

TE 9-0717

HARRIS GRAMM INC.

Concrete and Cement Work
Private and Industrial Roads
Landscaping
Steps, Floors, Sidewalks, Curbs
Swimming Pools

176 E. TULPEHOCKEN STREET PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

"When You Pave—Pave Well"

WM. L. HARTY

WM. J. GOULDEY

WM. L. HARTY CO.

Real Estate

Germantown, Chestnut Hill and Vicinity

18 W. CHELTEN AVENUE

Tennessee 9-9500

J. A. Parker were conducting the Germantown High School for Young Ladies at Market Square. An advertisement in September, 1870, announced that the school of the Misses Mansfield had been reopened at 4783 Main Street, which, according to the house numbering of that time, was the second house above Church Lane on the east side.

OWNERSHIP UNDER THE STOKES HEIRS

For brief intervals, usually in summer, members of the families of two of James Stokes' daughters lived in the house. These daughters were Maria, who married Godfrey Twells, and Ann, who became the wife of Charles Biddle. The two daughters acquired ownership of the property.

By a deed of trust and settlement, June 14, 1825, James Stokes appointed his son, Charles M. Stokes, and William S. Biddle trustees to hold title to certain Philadelphia real estate and also part of the "brick building" on Market Square. The latter property included in this deed extended along Market Square for 46 feet southward from the Reformed Church line, this being approximately the northern half of the "brick building." The trustees were to pay the profits from the property to James Stokes' daughter Ann, wife of Charles Biddle.

Charles Biddle was one of the less prominent members of the family of that name so long conspicuous in public and social affairs. He was a brother of Nicholas Biddle, president of the second Bank of the United States. Charles Biddle had first come to Germantown as a yellow fever refugee. In 1798 he was one of a committee to collect subscriptions in Germantown for Philadelphia's yellow fever victims. For some years he was a vestryman of St. Luke's Church. His later life was spent in Nashville, Tenn.

By the will of James Stokes, dated August 5, 1828, and probated March 22, 1831, he gave his daughter Maria, wife of Godfrey Twells, "my brick message" and lot at the northeast corner of Church Lane and Market Square, bounded on the northwest by the house and lot which he had designated for Mrs. Biddle, and also a house in Philadelphia where the Twells family then lived.

James Stokes' will bequeathed to his son, Charles M., the house where the father lived, at the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and School Lane.

The two sons of James Stokes were long active in Germantown affairs. Charles M. Stokes was burgess of Germantown, 1847-1850, under the borough government. He and his brother, Wyndham H. Stokes, helped to organize the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Germantown in 1843. The company's first office was in the home of Wyndham H. Stokes, on the west side of Germantown avenue, above Maplewood Avenue, he being the first secretary, serving until 1870. Charles M. Stokes was secretary in

1870. Wyndham H. Stokes erected a business building, called Stokes' Block, on the west side of Germantown Avenue, extending north from Maplewood Avenue.

Besides the two sons and two daughters named, James Stokes also alluded in his will to two daughters then no longer living—Mary, wife of Caleb P. Wayne, and Sarah Dunn. Caleb P. Wayne and Charles Biddle succeeded to the Philadelphia hardware business of their father-in-law.

The south half of the Market Square property passed out of the possession of the Stokes heirs in 1865, when Wyndham H. Stokes, executor and trustee under the will of Maria Shoemaker, sold it, on February 14, to Thomas C. Garrett, of Philadelphia. Maria Shoemaker was the daughter of James Stokes who first married Godfrey Twells and who had inherited the property by her father's will. After the death of Godfrey Twells, she married Francis Shoemaker, of Philadelphia, a conveyancer who also was an alderman. He died in 1864. His wife had died in 1852, and by her will she appointed her brother, Wyndham H. Stokes, to hold the Germantown real estate for the benefit of her husband and after his death to sell it. The price obtained was \$5100.

The lot at the time of the sale of 1865 had a frontage of 33 feet, 6 inches on Market Square and a depth of 150 feet. A curiously irregular line divided this from the property to the north, adjacent to the church. The measurements running east from Market Square are thus given in the deed: Northeast, 23 feet; northwest, 14 feet; northeast, 18 feet, 1 inch; northeast, 83 feet; east, 25 feet, 6 inches; southeast, 5 feet, through an outhouse; northeast, 8 feet; southeast, 5 feet; southwest, 1 foot, 5 inches; southeast, 27 feet, 11 inches, to Mill Street.

Y. W. C. A. OCCUPANCY BEGAN IN 1873

Thomas C. Garrett held the property until December 20, 1873, when he sold it to a group of Germantown men acting as trustees for the Women's Christian Association of Germantown, organized three years before. June 29, 1875, the trustees transferred the property to the association. The price was \$8000. It has been owned by the Association until the present year, though the organization is now the Young Women's Christian Association.

When founded, in 1870, the Women's Christian Association, pioneer organization of that kind in Philadelphia, occupied Pine Cottage, birthplace of Louisa M. Alcott, where the Masonic Temple now stands, on the east side of Germantown Avenue, below Church Lane. Miss E. P. Smith was president. This building had to be vacated when preparations were made to demolish it. The association then had quarters in a house farther south, where the rectory of St. Luke's Church now stands, and finally, in 1873, it was able to establish itself in the Market Square building.

McKEANEY BROTHERS

Stationers

5602 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
3145 KENSINGTON AVENUE

AMERICAN STAINLESS KITCHEN CO.

INCORPORATED

THERMALLOY STAINLESS STEEL
COOKING WARE

18 WEST CHELTEN AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA.

CONTINENTAL MILLS, Inc.

*Creators of
Fine Woolen Fabrics*

ARMAT & LENA STREETS

GERMANTOWN

THE WICAGO MACHINE CORP.

4801 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia 44, Pa.

MANUFACTURERS OF
MACHINE PARTS SINCE 1868

CHAS. W. LAWSE, JR., President and Treasurer

ALDEN PARK

Dining Room

Food approved by Duncan Hines known the world over

Famous for fine food and beverages in a charming old mansion house, open to the public. Luncheons, dinners and cocktails served daily. Sunday dinners from 12 noon to 8 P.M. Cocktail lounge open until 12 Midnight. Private dining rooms for weddings and parties.

Free Parking

Germantown 8-2337

SAMUEL PENNES DELICATESSEN

101 East Coulter Street

Germantown

BREDENBECK'S

Fancy Cakes, Pastries

6646 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

5443 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Bell Phone: GE 8-9880

Telephone VICTOR 4-7204

ZIMMERMAN'S MARKET

GOOD THINGS TO EAT

304-06 WEST CHELTEN AVENUE

JACK WEINSTOCK, Prop.

It had a struggle to maintain its activities, intended especially for girls employed in mills. There was a large mortgage on the property which could not be paid off for many years.

Part of the building was used as a boarding home for girls. There were classes in sewing, knitting, a library, baths, a literary society, a mothers' meeting and entertainments. About 1914 the name was changed to Young Women's Christian Association.

Through the munificence of Mrs. William L. McLean, the association was enabled, in 1915, to occupy its present building, on Germantown Avenue, adjoining Vernon Park. The old building on Market Square was continued as a boarding home for girls, being enlarged and improved in 1917 when Mrs. McLean bought the adjacent property on the north, this being added to the house already in use. The name Mary Warden Harkness House was adopted for the boarding home, as a tribute to Mrs. McLean's sister. The sisters were daughters of William G. Warden, of Germantown, who died in 1895 and who accumulated a large fortune as an oil operator. At the time of these improvements, 1915-1917, the Germantown association was the largest Y. W. C. A. in the United States, having more than 6000 members.

It now remains briefly to trace the history of the adjacent property which the Y. W. C. A. acquired in 1917. As already told, James Stokes by a deed in 1830 conveyed the upper part of his Market Square property to trustees who were to hold it in behalf of his daughter Ann, wife of Charles Biddle. After Mrs. Biddle's death her daughter Ann became the owner. She married Samuel Leonard, of Philadelphia. March 3, 1873, they sold the Market Square place to Dr. Benjamin Rohrer, who made his home there. Dr. Rohrer, a native of Lancaster County, had been a military surgeon in the Civil War, and after the war he came to Germantown and practiced medicine here. He had married Margaret F., daughter of Samuel R. Bockius. Dr. Rohrer died in 1875.

Dr. Rohrer's son, Samuel A., next became owner, and in 1894 he sold the house to Dr. Jacob R. Shellenberger, for \$10,250. From Dr. Shellenberger the property passed to the Y. W. C. A., through Mrs. McLean, June 1, 1917.

In the early morning of May 19, 1930, fire threatened the destruction of the Harkness House and imperiled the lives of the thirty-nine young women living there. The flames started on the lower floor, and smoke soon made it difficult for the occupants to find their way to a place of safety. Firemen worked four hours to subdue the blaze.

Operation of the Harkness House as a boarding home became difficult as the cost of living mounted and in 1941 the Y. W. C. A. decided to discontinue use of the house for this purpose. It was then leased

to the Woman's Medical College as a home for student nurses.

CHANGES IN 150 YEARS

Though the general outlines of the old "brick building" have been preserved, numerous changes have occurred, both on the exterior and the interior. From certain peculiarities of the interior, Townsend Ward, writing on "The Germantown Road and Its Associations," in 1881 and 1882, concluded that the two dwellings then included in the building had originally been one dwelling. In support of this theory he cited the fact that the upper story of the south house extended over the lower story of the north house. Virtually all succeeding writers who have described the house have followed Townsend Ward's description. However, the deeds quoted prove that originally the structure consisted of three dwellings. James Stokes' division of the property between two daughters shows it became two dwellings at an early date. But there is a possibility that if it served as a hotel at one time, as has been asserted, the entire building may have been used for that purpose and alterations made to connect rooms.

As for the exterior, pictures in the collection of the Germantown Historical Society afford some interesting evidence. The earliest is a water color of Market Square made early in the nineteenth century and showing the fire house and hay scales. This picture has often been reproduced. The houses at the side are only incidental. Whether there were three dwellings in the block from Church Lane to the church cannot be determined in the water color because of the foliage of trees. In the lower house the door is at the north end, and there are three windows on the first floor, while in the upper building the door is at the south end. The roof over the structure, sloping at an angle of forty-five degrees, has four dormer windows.

A curious old print whose age is not known shows a mansard roof on the south house, a door in the center on the first floor, with two windows on each side and two double windows on the second floor, while the north house has a door in the center of the first floor and one window on each side, four windows on the second floor, and the roof sloping as at present, with dormer windows.

A photograph of 1902 has the door of the south building at the north end and the door of the north building in the center, with two windows on each side. The roof over the entire structure is uniform, with four dormer windows. The arrangement is similar in another photograph taken in the 1880's prior to the erection of the present Market Square Church, in 1888, though in this instance the roof of the south building is of shingle and of the north building tin.

When the boarding home was enlarged, in 1917, by adding the adjacent building on the north, the front was altered by eliminating the upper doorway and substituting one entrance.

AMBLER 1247

The School Inn

LUNCHEONS
DINNERS

WINES & LIQUORS

BETHLEHEM PIKE ABOVE AMBLER, PA.

Germantown 8-8800

Deliveries made in
Phila. and Suburbs

THE *Lillian* SHOPPE

GERMANTOWN'S EXCLUSIVE GIFT SHOP

20 ARMAT STREET

GERMANTOWN, PA.
(Next to Band Box Theatre)

MUSIC—TELEVISION—RECORDS

SALES and SERVICE

FRANK F. TAYLOR

EST. 1922

5528 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Germantown 8-0922

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ASHER'S CANDY

tastes good!

Made in Germantown by Chester A. Asher, Confectioner,
at 29-31 Armat Street

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Ace Diamond Rug Cleaners	27
American Stainless Kitchen Co., Inc.	29
Asher, Chester A.	31
Bioren & Co.	2
Bredenbeck's.	30
Bringinghurst, Thomas.	32
Briggs, J. Branch.	23
Barber, Earle N.	4
Bullitt, Inc., Dorothy R.	18
Broad St. Trust Co.	25
Carrigan & Balis Co.	22
Cherry's.	21
Commonwealth Title Co of Philadelphia.	22
Continental Mills, Inc.	99
Dairy Maid.	20
Delmar Morris Dining Room.	20
Durkin World Tours.	26
Duval.	25
Eldon Press.	26
French Perfume Shop.	32
Germantown Fire Insurance Co.	4
Germantown Fire Proof Storage Co.	2
Germantown Roofing & Insulation Co., Inc.	26
Germantown Savings Fund.	1
Gramm, Inc., Harris.	28
Harty Co., William L.	28
Johnson Flower Shop.	26
Joy Kiddie Shop.	25
Kincade Burner Corp.	28
Koelle-Greenwood Co.	20
Kirk & Nice.	27
Leonardo.	32
McKeaney Bros.	29
National Bank of Germantown. 2th Cover	
Newton Coal Co.	18
Northern Liberties Federal Savings & Loan Asso.	21
Oppenheim & Collins.	4
Pennies, Samuel.	30
Pennsylvania Company. Back Cover	
Real Estate Trust Company. 3rd Cover	
Reliance Federal Savings & Loan Asso.	22
Rowell, C. A.	22
School Inn.	31
Schuck Electric Co.	23
Smith, J. & R., Inc.	28
Smith, Elva R., Inc.	23
Spangler, H. A.	24
Taylor, Frank F.	31
Vant.	24
Victor Nellie.	24
Wicaco Machinery Corp.	29
Wagner's.	24
Ward, H. M.	32
Winder, J. Russel.	27
Young & Son, George.	27
Alden Park Dining Room.	30
Zimmerman's Market.	30
Boswell House.	25
Martin, A. A., Inc.	2
Stuempfig & Co.	2
Davis Buick.	4
Jones & Co., James.	20
The Lillian Shoppe.	31


Thomas Bringinghurst
COACH MAKER

Near the Old Six Mile Stone
GERMANTOWN.



CH 7-1727

WI 7-6566

H. M. WARD

PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK

REALTOR

7201 Germantown Ave.

1 East Mt. Airy Ave.

Philadelphia 19, Pa.

Rittenhouse 6-0362

French Perfume Shop

*Objects of Art, Jewelry, Fine French Perfumes
 Gifts and Novelties*

WILLIAM LEE BRINTON, Prop.

1835 CHESTNUT STREET
 PHILADELPHIA, PA.

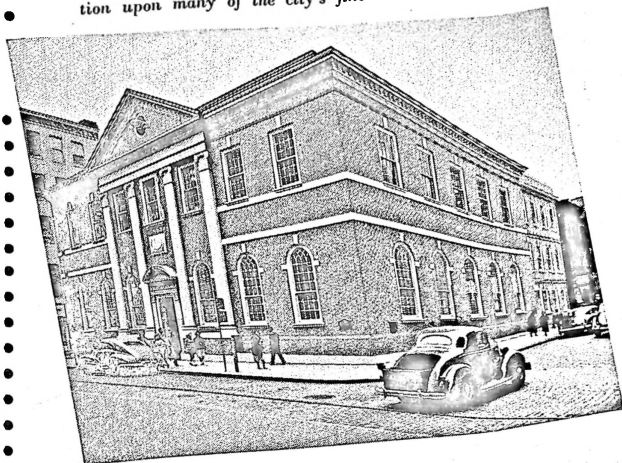
GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET

AVAILABLE
 TO YOU

Leonardo
ADVERTISERS' ART SERVICE

34 SOUTH 17TH STREET LO. 4-2311 • PHILA 3

Our new, modern, air-conditioned bank building is in the Philadelphia Colonial style, drawing for inspiration upon many of the city's fine old buildings.



Any estate needs professional estate planning

Whether an estate is large or small, it needs the benefit of professional group thinking and planning. It needs the experience by which an estate can be made to do economically for a man and his family exactly what he wants done. Come in and let our Trust Department tell you what you might expect from its handling of your estate. No obligation, naturally.

THE *Real Estate Trust* COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

Southwest Corner, 15th and Sansom Streets

Member: Federal Reserve System

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Our Next Issue

will include the Official Program of Events
scheduled for GERMANTOWN WEEK

GERMANTOWNE
CRIER



FOR ADVERTISING RATES, ETC., CALL, PHONE OR WRITE
Publication Office

Phone: PENnypacker 5-5525

203 S. Watts Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Francis Shunk Brown
1001 Gresham Road,
Phila. 19, Pa.



Philadelphia's most **CONVENIENT** Bank

No matter where you are in Philadelphia, there is a branch of The Pennsylvania Company nearby to serve you. This friendly bank, one of Philadelphia's largest and one of the nation's oldest and largest trust companies, offers businesses and individuals complete banking and trust services at 18 conveniently located offices.

15th and Chestnut Streets
15th and South Penn Square

511 Chestnut Street

7th Street and Girard Avenue
1006 West Lehigh Avenue

5th and Bainbridge Streets
4826 Baltimore Avenue

7th and Wolf Streets

45th and Walnut Streets

Cheltenham and Germantown Aves.

6740 Germantown Avenue

8527 Germantown Avenue

5001 North Broad Street

Girard and Frankford Avenues

6th Street and Erie Avenue

Green Lane and Ridge Avenue

7018 Garrett Road, Upper Darby

7 E. Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore

THE PENNSYLVANIA COMPANY

for Banking and Trusts

Founded 1812

**MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**