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*From The Books
And Papers Of
A. C. Chadwick*

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6/3/1937

Momentous Event In American History To Be Celebrated This Year

People, in All Sorts of Professions, of All Political Beliefs, and From All Walks of Life Being Called Upon to Arouse Great Wave of Patriotic Interest

On the 17th of September, 1787, one hundred and fifty years ago, a group of patriotic Americans gathered around a table in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, and signed their names to an immortal document—the Constitution of the United States. They had labored incessantly and faithfully from the preceding 25th of May, during a long and hot summer, in order to construct the frame-work of a national government and to overcome the dangers and shortcomings of the existing Confederation. The experiment of the Confederation had proven a distinct failure. The American colonies were like a bundle of sticks unbound. They lacked cohesiveness and power. Out of the mire of uncertainty and possible dissolution arose our present Constitution.

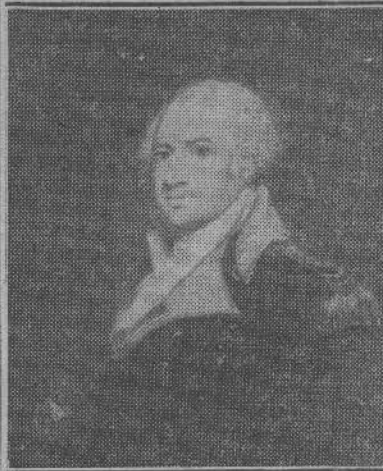
The importance of commemorating this momentous event in American history appealed to Congress and an act was passed creating the Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission, with the President of the United States as its chairman and the Vice President and Speaker of the House of Representatives as other members. Besides these ex-officio members, the Commission is composed of five Senators, five Representatives, and five Presidential Commissioners. This Commission is already thoroughly organized with Representative Sol Bloom of New York as Director General and with a competent staff of historical and other experts. An elaborate program has been outlined and will be executed with careful attention to every detail.

The policy of the Commission will be to conduct an educational and informative campaign. It must be, and will be, thoroughly non-partisan; it must be nation-wide in its scope. The Commission proposes to extend its influence into the smallest hamlet and cross-roads, stimulating the interest in, and the knowledge of, our charter and liberty.

While the initial event of the Sesquicentennial Celebration will be held in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on September 17, 1937, marking the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, this memorable date should be observed in every city and town in the United States. In the preparations of the programs for appropriate ceremonies the Commission will afford the largest degree of helpfulness. In each locality there should be a leading spirit to take the initiative and instil into each citizen the genuine enthusiasm necessary to make the celebration

a success. The fact that the nation is already responding heartily to the patriotic sentiment which prompted the creation of the Sesquicentennial Commission is demonstrated by the fact that 39 Governors have appointed State Commissions or Committees and the remaining nine States will undoubtedly soon fall in line. In appointing this personnel the respective Governors

Signed Constitution



THOMAS MIFFLIN

Who resided at the Falls of Schuylkill, in September 1787, when, with seven other Pennsylvanians, he signed the Constitution of the United States. The others were Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris (who after the Revolution established a glass factory at "the Falls"), George Clymer, Thomas Fitzsimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris.

The 150th Anniversary of the signing of the great document will be celebrated this year.

have chosen representative men whose keen interest in celebrating the formation of the Constitution has already been manifested in many ways. It is proposed to hold commemorative exercises in the 13 original States on the anniversary dates of the ratification of the Constitution by those States and in these exercises the State commission or committee will personally function. In other States they will be essential to the success of the State celebration. Besides the celebration on September 17, two other great national commemorations are planned: One on June 21, 1938 to mark the 150th anniversary of the ratification by New Hampshire, which, as the ninth State assured the establishment of the new government. The other commemorations will recall the inauguration of Washington and the final establishment of the new government. This will come on April 30, 1939.

The Commission confidently expects that during the next few months a wave of popular interest in the formation of the Constitution will sweep across the country. All legitimate means to increase this interest will be employed—the publication of an inexpensive book presenting important historical facts, newspaper articles, moving pictures illustrating dramatic events in connection with the framing of the Constitution, and impressive pageants with picturesque features. Contacts have already been made with the heads of educational institutions, both large and small, and their cooperation has been secured. Bar associations and kindred organizations have also promised their valuable aid in furthering the objectives of the Commission.

The original manuscript of the Constitution is encased in a shrine in the Library of Congress and is

the Mecca of thousands of American citizens. Realizing, however, that while many visit this shrine there are millions to whom a trip to Washington is impossible, the Commission will furnish plans for standards to contain facsimiles of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence and will furnish the facsimiles to schools and libraries that construct the standards. It is believed that when sections remote from the national capital can offer the presence of facsimiles of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, the feeling of reverence for these foundations of our liberties will be greatly increased.

The Commission stands ready at all times to furnish information which will be of assistance in preparing programs for State and local celebrations. It believes that the commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the framing and formation of the Constitution appeals to every patriotic heart and that the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution on the 17th of next September will mark the beginning of a series of events of great significance and lasting value.

The Commission has not, and will not at any time, introduce controversial subjects. It aims merely to inform the American people of the way in which the Constitution was originally framed and finally established. It will emphasize the vital importance of the Constitution as the foundation upon which our Government rests. It will endeavor to overcome indifference to the Constitution and stimulate everywhere a vital regard for the spirit which animates that document. The patriotic value of its work will be inestimable.

10/7/1937

Thomas Drennan Recalled In Discussion Of Laurel Hill

First Superintendent of Cemetery Had an Interesting Career. — Names of Early Workmen Brought Back in Conversations Concerning Grave-Re-opening Case

Recent discussions concerning the re-opening of the grave of Mrs. Henrietta Garrett, in North Laurel Hill Cemetery, brought back to the minds of several Falls of Schuylkill residents memories of Thomas Drennan, who was the first superintendent of the famed burial place which lies between Ridge avenue and the Schuylkill river, from Huntingdon street northwest to the Reading railroad tracks just above Allegheny avenue.

Thomas Drennan was born in Queens County, Ireland, in 1793. He came to the United States while still a young man and eventually settled at the Falls of Schuylkill, being employed for a number of years by members of the Scott family. He was twice married; his first wife being Ellen Farren, to whom he was wed about 1834, and by whom he has the father of four children, one daughter and three sons.

While employed by Hugh Scott (an early one by that name) Mr. Drennan resided in a cottage which was on what is now familiar as Ferry road, at a point about where the most eastern abutment of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bridge is located.

Upon securing the charter for Laurel Hill Cemetery, which was in 1835, the first man to be hired was Thomas Drennan. His duties were multiple. He was not only the superintendent, but he was also the chief grave digger. He served, in addition, as clerk and paymaster, and the ledger in which he made the first entries when the initial interment was made is still in a fair state of preservation.

The first body interred by Drennan was that of Mercy Carlisle, whose mortal remains were laid to rest on October 19th, 1836.

Shortly after becoming superintendent Mr. Drennan moved with his family, which at that time consisted of himself, his wife, and one son, Joseph, into the dwelling at the left of the entrance to Laurel Hill (opposite the present-day Delahunty Marble Yard) where he resided for some time, afterward occupying what was once known as "the Seminary building." This structure received the name from the fact that at one time, in early days, priests of the Roman Catholic faith conducted a school for boys in the building, in which also were held the first holy masses in the Falls of Schuylkill, prior to establishment of St. Bridget's Parish. The Seminary was near the rise of the hill, not far from Clearfield street. The building and the chapel, there, were torn down about 1885.

When Mr. Drennan first assumed

charge of the cemetery, the burials, for a time, were few and far between, and help was only hired when an interment occurred, with the exception of young boys, who, it is said, were employed at a small stipend to chase the goats which climbed up Hugh Scott's quarry from running over that portion of the burial place which is centred about the grave of Mrs. Garrett today.

In a few years, however, the fame of Laurel Hill spread, and it became one of the sights of the city, where visitors from out of town were brought to see "the finest cemetery in the world." Then, of course, the working force was gradually increased.

Among the first to be employed by Mr. Drennan were: Thomas L. Thompson, John Murphy, Thomas Drennan, John Curtis, John Conway, Patrick Farren, Daniel Drennan, James Dollard, Robert Gaston, John Dougherty, James Martin, and Mary S. Collins, the duty of the latter being to notify the superintendent of the approach of a funeral cortege, by tolling a bell. She resided at the home of the superintendent.

In the year 1848, the Harleigh property, with its famous old yellow mansion, was acquired by the company and the new section was named South Laurel Hill. The old house was left standing for some years, but was finally torn down to make room for additional graves.

Superintendent Drennan was given charge of the new ground and other men were employed to do the work which it required. Among these were Jeremiah Whalen, Edward Delaney, Michael Nolan, and Michael Dollard, over whom John Dunn was made foreman.

Mr. Drennan's second wife, Margaret Whalen, bore him five sons and one daughter. These were Catherine, Thomas, Jerome, Edward, Michael and William.

This early superintendent of Laurel Hill continued at his duties until his death, on July 16th, 1857, at which time he was 64 years of age.

Upon his death, his eldest son, Joseph, who had long assisted his father, was appointed superintendent of North Laurel Hill, and John Dunn was delegated as superintendent of South Laurel Hill.

It was not until 1863 that the cemetery company acquired the Pepper property, and named it Central Laurel Hill, over which John Hart became superintendent. Mr. Hart, however, held the job only about one year, when he was succeeded by James Carroll, of Ger-

mantown.

John Dunn, the superintendent of South Laurel Hill, always retained the confidence and esteem of his employers and the men who labored under his direction. He resided in the old mansion in the portion of the graveyard under his supervision, until his death in 1872, in which his son and two daughters remained until 1876, when it was torn down. One of Mr. Dunn's daughters, Maggie, married a man named Fitzpatrick, of West Manayunk. John Dunn, Jr., succeeded his father as superintendent of South Laurel Hill.

SCCAFF

11/4/1937

Baptists First To Organize A Church In Falls Village

Held Prayer Meetings, as Early as 1821, in Homes of Neighborhood

CONSTITUTED IN 1838

Other Groups of Different Religious Tenets Followed in Rapid Order

Doubts seem to have arisen in the minds of some residents of the Falls of Schuylkill regarding which is the oldest religious organization in the community.

The honor, according to all available facts must go to the Baptists.

Dr. William Smith, an Episcopalian divine, who was the initial provost of the University of Pennsylvania was probably the first churchman to reside in the vicinity, but it was Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, of the Roxborough Baptist Church, who in 1810, did the first evangelic work at "the Falls". After Mr. Jones came Rev. Robert Crompton, who continued his labors until about one year after the Baptist Church was constituted in 1838. So this church will observe its centennial next year, being the first to reach the 100-year mark.

Baptist prayer meetings were held during 1821 in the home of Mrs. Margaret Roberts, in an old row of stone dwellings which formerly stood beside the West River Road, near the Stone Railroad Bridge. This particular home was demolished at the time the railroad bridge was erected, but regular services were held in the afternoon and evening in another dwelling where Mrs. Roberts moved.

Among the early attendants at these meetings were Sarah McClellan and Ann Hansell, who had been members of Blockley Baptist Church. What is now West Fairmount Park, including the area around Chamounix, was then in Blockley Township. William Ash-

ton and Joseph Kennard are listed among the Baptist preachers at Blockley during that period.

About the same time a young man of Irish birth, Hugh Gilmore, live with his parents near the Third Milestone on Ridge road, which was about Lehigh avenue. He had a medical education and attended the Blockley Church. He took a warm interest in the prayer meetings at the Falls and also an active part in them.

Meetings were also held in the home of a Mrs. Rice, on Scott's lane, and still other gatherings took place at the home of Mrs. Sarah McAdams, on the Old Ford Road, in West Falls, and in that of Mrs. Susan Garrett, near the Schuylkill river, on the same road.

In 1835 William Simpson, the proprietor of the Washington Print Works, a silk and calico printing plant which once occupied practically all of the ground between the Falls and the Stone Bridges, and back to the heights of Chamounix, who was a faithful Baptist, came to the Falls to dwell.

Simpson soon became active in the Baptist meetings and spent a great deal of time visiting and encouraging the few scattered Baptist families then to be found in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, meetings had taken on a more public form, and were held in the Old Academy on Indian Queen lane, a structure which had been erected by public funds after the land had been donated by the son and daughter-in-law of Dr. William Smith. The Old Academy is still standing.

Among the pioneers preachers at the Old Academy were Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, Robert Crompton, Lansing Burrows, Thomas Winters, D. D. of Roxborough, Charles Tucker, and a Mr. Gleddel.

Hugh Gilmore's zeal for the cause continued and in 1838 he, with Mr. Simpson, began to plan for the establishment of a regular Baptist Church at the Falls of Schuylkill.

And then, on June 7th, 1838, the people of the congregation met in the Old Academy, and constituted as a church, having a charter membership of 17 persons.

The congregation continued to worship, in the Old Academy until March 21st 1852, when what is known as Fellowship Hall of the present church, on Indian Queen lane above Ridge avenue, was first occupied.

Other congregations of other tenets, followed rapidly.

St. James the Less F. E. Church dates back to 1846; the Falls M. E. Church, which began with home meetings similar to the Baptists, in 1837, became a regular constituted church, in 1851; St. Bridget's

Church following shortly afterward; then the Presbyterian, Grace Reformed; Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd following in after years. The Park Congregational Church, at Midvale avenue and McMichael street, was first occupied by the Church of Good Shepherd, which afterward moved to a new structure on Oak road, that had been built as a memorial to members of the Brown family.

1796 Letter Reveals Fulton As 'Speed Demon' on Canal

Phila Record 5/19/1935 Steamboat Inventor Wrote Pennsylvania Governor He Was Confident of Making 6 M. P. H. in Trans-continental Navigation System.

A letter written in 1796 by Robert Fulton, famed steamboat inventor, has been discovered in Philadelphia.

It reveals that Fulton—before his Clermont sailed up the Hudson river—was interested in canal navigation. He claimed to have invented a "system" for navigation of small canal boats in mountainous country without locks.

His letter, roughly outlining the system, was written from London to Thomas Mifflin, then Governor of Pennsylvania. It asks Mifflin to help him obtain "exclusive rights of vending and applying" his "system" in the "American States."

Found in Vaults.

Fulton's letter was discovered by J. V. Hare, secretary of the Reading Company, in the vaults of the company. Apparently it has lain there since the Reading acquired the old Schuylkill and Susquehanna Navigation Company in 1890.

Hare found, with the Fulton letter, another missive written by Benjamin West, the artist, who was in London with Fulton. His letter also was addressed to Governor Mifflin as an introduction of Fulton. Fulton wrote enthusiastically of

his canal invention, and told Governor Mifflin it would make possible trans-continental navigation by canal at a speed of six miles an hour.

Pictured Prosperity.

"I have also a plan for forming Canal to penetrate from the Marts of trade to the Interior Country," Fulton wrote. "On Such a Cheap and Systematic Principle, that one Ton of Grain or other Material May be Conveyed From Fort Pitt to any other point distant 3 or 400 miles to Phila. for 21 Shillings."

"This consequently will draw fourth the Produce of the Remote Countries, Give energy to the People, Encourage Population and Stamp a Value on every Acre of Ground."

*Suburban Press
5/27/37*

MIFFLIN SCHOOL OPENED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Residents of East Falls Take Advantage of Opportunity to Examine Recently Erected Building While Attending Home and School Association Meeting

Hundreds of residents of East Falls took full advantage of their first opportunity of going through the new Thomas Mifflin Public School, at Midvale avenue and Conrad street, when it was thrown open for inspection last Thursday night.

From 7.30 until 10.30 there were a constant stream of sight-seers promenading through the corridors and into the class rooms, meeting the teachers, and examining the up-to-the-minute provisions made by the Board of Education for the most efficient training of the children of the neighborhood, in this school which is said to be the finest elementary educational centre in the country.

Exercises were held in the auditorium, at 9 o'clock, at which time Harry B. Binkin presided. Dr. Israel Galter, principal of the Mifflin School, delivered a short address of welcome to the parents of school children, and their friends, in which he stressed the importance of a close liaison between the home and the school. A splendid vocal program was provided by the East Falls Mixed Chorus, under the direction of Joseph Smith, Donald

MacKenzie, baritone, was the soloist of the evening, and Mrs. Margaret Moon was at the piano.

The selections rendered by the Chorus, included, "Song of The Vikings"; "Little Old Lady"; "Oh, Italia"; "Granada"; "Good Night Beloved"; and "The Niades."

A friend of the school made the presentation of an old newspaper, dated January 21st, 1800, which reads "At about four o'clock yesterday morning, at Lancaster, after a short illness, in his 57th year, died THOMAS MIFFLIN, former governor of this state; a man who devoted a great part of his life to public service. In May 1776 he was chosen by Congress as Brigadier-General; and in October 1788, the citizens of Pennsylvania elected him governor of this state, which office he also held, through successive elections, until the expiration of the terms limited by the Constitution, and he was no longer eligible for re-election. (May God bless his ashes.)" With a picture of Governor Mifflin, and one of his home at the Falls of Schuylkill, the newspaper was suitably framed.

The formal dedication of school will take place next fall.

4/9/1931

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WAS IN COMMAND



W. KIRK WYATT
Chief Construction Engineer, of the Reading Railroad, who was in general charge of the erection of the Terminal Commerce Building, at Broad and Callowhill streets.

Had Charge Of Erecting Big Structure

W. Kirk Wyatt, Falls Boy,
Led Engineers on Termin-
al Commerce Building

PARENTS LIVE HERE

Attended Old "Forest" and
"Central Manual"
Schools

To have had general charge of erecting one of Philadelphia's largest commercial structures, is an honor and responsibility, which fell on the shoulders of one of East Falls' own sons.

W. Kirk Wyatt, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wyatt, of Ainslie street, who was born and reared in this locality, was the construction engineer in charge of the erection of the Reading Railroad Company's Terminal Commerce Building, which is now ready for occupancy, at Broad and Callowhill streets.

The striking features of the structure are not alone its size, 12 stories high and covering an area of 118,700 square feet, housing a freight terminal, warehouse floors and a large amount of office space, but also the fact that it is located in the heart of the city on the city's most prominent street.

Here shippers over the Reading may have their offices, warehouse areas, assembling plants, etc., all in the same building, in the main business district, with elevator connection to a modern freight station.

The new building, which is among the largest reinforced concrete buildings in the country, and which, at the same time, employs steel girders of unprecedented size in building construction at its second and third floor levels, is called the Terminal Commerce Building and fronts on N. Broad street, four blocks from the City Hall in the business center of Philadelphia. It occupies the entire block bounded by Broad street on the west, 13th street on the east, Callowhill street on the south and Noble street on the north, except for a portion along the north side of the block, occupied by two main tracks of the Reading at subway level.

Kirk Wyatt, as he is known to hundreds in this section, attended the old Forest School—now the Samuel Breck School—and afterward matriculated at the Central Manual Training School, then located at 17th and Wood streets. Later he entered the engineering department of the PRT, and finally the technical planning offices of the Reading Company, on October 17, 1909, as a rodman for the resident engineer of Philadelphia. He was promoted to chainman on Feb-

ruary 1st, 1910, and to levelman on May 19th, 1910.

During 1910 and 1911 Mr. Wyatt was placed in charge of field work in connection with the construction of the Port Reading Creosoting plant, at Port Reading, Pa.

The following year he was transferred to the architect's office, as an inspector and had varied experience in laying out new constructions and in making plans in the office. On August 1, 1914, Wyatt was promoted to transitman and worked on surveys and design for numerous bridge replacements on the Reading System, and on July 10th, 1916, he was transferred to the Valuation Department, doing inventory work on bridges.

On July 1st, 1917, Mr. Wyatt was transferred back to the Engineering Department to take charge of the field office during the construction of the Columbia Avenue Bridge over the Schuylkill river, in Fairmount Park.

He worked on the elimination of the grade crossings at Washington Lane, Jenkintown, Glenside, Bridgeport, Souderton, Sellersville, Pottstown, on the North Broad street station of the Reading road, formerly known as Huntingdon street; at the Camden Terminal, and on bridges at Thorofare, near Atlantic City.

On January 1st 1929, Mr. Wyatt was appointed Construction Engineer of the Reading Company. He, with his family, make their home at Lansdale, Pa.

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It was his firm that did the stonework on the new Wanamaker building at No. 1 Broad st. and the work of the Girard Trust Building. The firm now is working on the new Pennsylvania Railroad terminal.

Where the Kellys had to seek their own means of education, the Morleys were born with every facility at hand. Their father was Frank Morley, a college professor since 1887. The elder Morley was born in Suffolk England, and educated at Kings College, Cambridge.

Came Here in 1888.

He served as instructor at Bates College until 1888, when he left England to accept the chair of mathematics at Haverford. In 1900 he accepted the post as professor of mathematics at the Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. He is author of several works on mathematics.

Frank Vigor Morley, the eldest son was born at Haverford shortly after his parents arrived from England. He became a student at Haverford College, later entering Johns Hopkins where, in 1919, he won a Rhodes scholarship from Maryland, after interrupting his studies to serve in the war. In 1923 he received his Ph. D. at Oxford. He married and remained in England, later becoming director of Faber & Faber, Inc., publishers London.

He is author of "Travels in East Anglia," "Dora Wordsworth" and other works.

Born at Haverford.

Christopher Morley also was born in Haverford. He attended Haverford and won his Phi Beta Kappa key and later a Rhodes scholarship from Pennsylvania. On his return from Oxford he engaged in editorial work on magazines in New York and Philadelphia.

From there he shifted to newspaper work, producing in his spare time some of his best books. There was a legend later to the effect that he was dismissed from his job on a local newspaper for incompetence—a fate he is said to have welcomed with relief.

Among his better known works are "In the Sweet Dry and Dry," "Travels in Philadelphia," "Kathleen" and "The Haunted Bookshop." He was co-author of the stage hit "Three's a Crowd." A few years ago he scored success by reviving old melodramas in Hoboken.

Felix Muskett Morley, the youngest, was born at Haverford in 1894. Like his brothers, he received his education at Haverford and maintained family tradition by winning a Rhodes scholarship.

He started his practical career as a reporter on the Public Ledger, resigning to take a post as press correspondent at Washington. In 1922 he became member of the editorial staff of the Baltimore Sun. Later he went to the Far East as a newspaper correspondent.

Between times he was a lecturer on political science and 1929 saw him in Geneva as director of the Geneva office of the League of Nations Association in the United States. He now is in Washington as member of the Brookings Institution. He is author of

P. H. Kelly (on politics and characteristic, and political environment that made him celebrated builder. Brett George (center) came along with the Pulitzer Prize as a playwright. Walter Kelly (on right) scarcely needs introduction as "The Virginia Judge," international vaudeville celeb. Lower left is Christopher Morley, poet, essayist, playwright, columnist, son of a famous mathematician. And most noted of oarsmen, perhaps, is Jack Kelly (lower right), who ruled for years as undisputed champion of world.

and a basketball player of national renown. He was retiring by 1910 and remained close to home. As a business, Charles took bricklaying and soon became o

spurs the child to develop its heritage—the result oftentimes genius—and Thomas A. Edison said genius is 2 per cent. inspiration and 98 per cent. perspiration."

As for the Kellys and the Morleys, Dr. Kelsey said the two families might be almost identical from a sociological standpoint.

Sons of both families, he said, inherited valuable traits from their parents, racial or otherwise. And every son in the two families was fortunate enough to find environment favorable to development—the Kellys in toil and in strong, sensible and respected parents, and the Morleys in hard study and learned parents.

Debt to Heredity.

"All of us owe something to heredity," said Dr. Kelsey, "though there are two schools of thought on the subject—one stressing heredity and the other environment. But both agree that a large measure of responsibility for success or failure lies in the individual's training.

"The greatest artists are the men who work the hardest. Paderewski still practices five or six hours a day. All the great men practice unceasingly."

Behind the success of the Kellys and the Morleys lies ambition, which, according to Dr. Kelsey, is suggested by environment. But oftentimes, he admitted, things go awry.

"And," he observed, "there is a temptation among many of us to think we might have done better in some other calling."

Move to Philadelphia.

John H. Kelly, father of the Kelly boys, came to the United States as an Irish immigrant, with his wife, who was Mary A. Costello. Both were from Mayo.

They settled first in Vermont, moving some years later to Philadelphia. Kelly settled at Falls of Schuylkill and became an insurance agent. He was strict, but not harsh, with his children, and insisted that each of his sons learn a trade.

Patrick Henry—"P. H."—the eldest son, left school at the age of 11 and went to work in the old Dobson carpet mill as helper to a tapestry printer. After several years in the mill he left and was apprenticed to a bricklayer. As he grew older he became interested in the labor movement that was sweeping the country, and some years later he was touring the country as a national organizer.

In 1905 friends entered his name in a contest to select the "most popular man in Philadelphia." He was the winner and recipient of a \$5000 prize. With that he went into business.

Becomes Contractor.

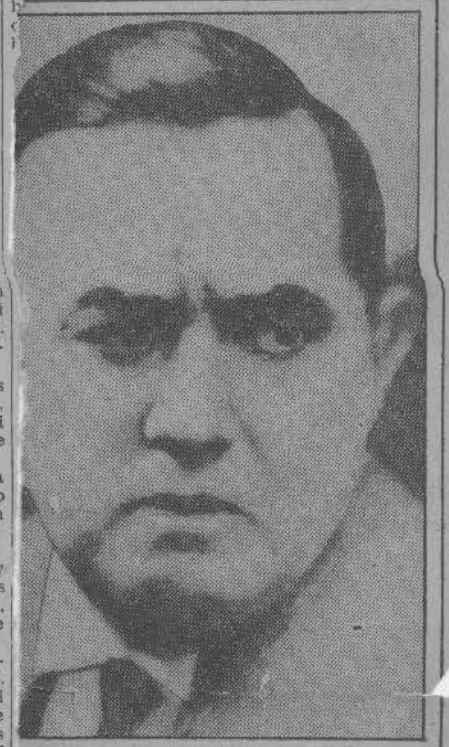
Soon, he became one of the foremost building contractors in the city. He built the new Public Library, the new Capitol at Harrisburg, the Elks' Building, Broad and Wood sts., and more than a score of public schools and churches. He is married and the father of eight children.

Walter Costello Kelly, the "Virginia Judge," started out as a boy in the carpet mills, where he learned the trade of machinist. In 1908 he left Philadelphia and went to Newport News, Va., to work at his trade. It was there he acquired the Virginia drawl that was to make his fortune. Within a few years he was one of the town's foremost citizens, and became so popular that he was induced to run for Congress. But his "Yankee blood" was used as a campaign issue against him. Southerners defeated him.

Meanwhile he had purchased the Mecca Hotel and was conducting a thriving business. The defeat killed his interest in the town, and in 1915 he sold out and went to New York. His talent at mimicry won recognition and before long he was in vaudeville. He had found his niche, and soon was a headliner. He toured the world and still is a headliner. He never married.

The next is George Kelly, who started out as a draughtsman's apprentice in the Pencoyd Iron Works. He was a wizard at mathematics, even

Morleys Proves to Net Success



Savant's Offspring, Rhodes Scholars, Carve Careers in Literary World.

the "best in the profession." Since then he has remained in his brother's concern. He is married and has two children.

The youngest is John Bernard Kelly—Jack of rowing fame—who obtained his start as a caddy at the Philadelphia Country Club and then as a bricklayer under the tutelage of his elder brothers. Eager for learning, he went to night school. Later he came to specialize in masonry.

Hard work gave him a powerful frame, but he still had plenty of energy for his favorite pastime of rowing on the Schuylkill. As member of the Vesper Boat Club he became one of the best-known athletes in the world. Today he holds more sculling and stroke-oared records than any oarsman in history.

For seven or eight years Kelly reigned as acknowledged champion oarsman of the world. In 1920 he won the Olympic championship at Antwerp, and during the same meet captured the doubles championship with his cousin, Paul Costello.

In 1924 Kelly and Costello won the Olympic doubles championship at Amsterdam. He won the national single sculls championship in 1919 and 1920, at both a quarter of a mile and a mile and one-quarter.

Drove an Ambulance.

During the war he drove an ambulance in France and was cited for a commission when the armistice intervened. Now and then he gets out on the Schuylkill, but Philadelphia has

with his friends to leave the company. His own plays in vaudeville. Audiences liked them, too, and brought him such popularity that he could afford to engage private tutors. For two years his work was interrupted while he served as a doughboy in France. On his return he advanced from playlets to plays, and, after several successes, came "Craig's Wife," which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 and fought him world fame. Another of his outstanding life was "The Show-off." He is now in Hollywood, a bachelor like the "Virginia Judge." Next comes Charles Vincent Kelly, "the worker of the family," the brother to whom the others attribute much of the helpfulness that urged them on to success. He, too, started out as a boy in the carpet mill, and in his youth was regarded as a champion runner, high jumper

Strange Parallel of Kellys and Morleys Heredity and Environment Combine



5 Sons of Immigrant Achieve Fame in Business, Theater, and Athletics.

By WILLIAM C. DRISCOLL

SOIOLOGY put the Kellys and the Morleys under the microscope yesterday—and found that "2 per cent. inspiration plus 98 per cent. perspiration" still equals genius.

All Philadelphia knows the Kellys—Jack, the champion oarsman; George, the playwright; "P. H.," the builder; Walter, "the Virginia Judge," and Charles, athlete and builder—five famous and successful brothers.

They are sons of an Irish immigrant, a hard-working father of limited means and little education, yet a man of strong character and inherent good sense.

The Morleys are three—Christopher, Felix and Frank V., all widely-known and successful authors and writers. All of them achieved Rhodes Scholarships.

They are sons of an erudite college professor, Frank Morley, former professor of mathematics at Swarthmore and Johns Hopkins, and one of the leading mathematicians in the United States.

And what does this prove? "Merely this," said Dr. Carl Kelsey, professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, "that heredity determines what a man MAY become, but environment determines what he WILL become."

Result Is Genius.

"Thus, a child may inherit priceless qualities from its parents or forebears, but if they are not developed the heredity is of no consequence



as a boy, and in connection with his work in the mill he attended Franklin Institute at night. He studied voraciously, specializing in English and foreign languages, and, after several years "at the board," he opened a school of elocution here.

From that he gravitated to the stage. While touring the country with a stock company he took to writing plays. They proved so pop-

The Kellys and the Morleys says science, are living proof what happens when heredity and environment meet to yield geni-



Young Women's Christian Association of Falls in Need of Funds

Canvas to Raise Money for Further Good Work

6A

This Sunday folders presenting interesting statistics of the Falls branch of the Young Women's Christian Association will be distributed in all the churches of the town.

A glance at the report of the money condition of the local branch will make apparent the sore need of funds for the Association to finance the operating expenditures. Two thousand dollars have been borrowed to meet the current expenses to November 1st, when the new fiscal year begins. This means that at the year's close the Association will have a deficit of \$2000, which must be carried into the new period. The estimated total expenditures for the coming year are \$6,215; the total receipts are \$921. A difference remains of \$5294, to which must be added the borrowed \$2000, the total being \$7294. This last amount must be raised if the work of the local branch is to continue.

For a more detailed study a reprint is made of the budget of the Falls branch for the year from November 1, 1915, to November 1, 1916:

THE FALLS BRANCH
Budget for Year from November 1, 1915, to November 1, 1916.

House: Light, heat, telephone and insurance	\$1420.00
Office	710.00
Educational work (includes executive salaries)	2,400.00
Extension Department	805.00
Social Department	100.00
Membership Committee	6.00
Devotional	25.00
Junior Department	10.00
Printing	125.00
Repairs	200.00
Summer work	50.00
Budget expense	125.00
National research and training work	239.00
Total expenditures	\$6,215.00
Total receipts	921.00
Budget difference	\$5,294.00
Borrowed current expenses to November 1, 1915	2,000.00
Sum to be raised	\$7,294.00

Now the work of the Young Women's Christian Association must continue for it is concerned with the welfare of human beings; girls who are trained physically, mentally and morally; preserved from evil influences; prepared for duties after maturity; taught their relations in society—all under a careful supervision. The report of the local branch lately issued states clearly what the Young Women's Christian Association is in the following language:

"The Association is the channel through which girls and women are working with other girls and women toward a common end—physical, intellectual, spiritual and social development. It recognizes the possibility of this in every girl and woman. It exists not for any particular group, but for the whole community, believing that the best results can be obtained by drawing with a common interest those engaged in different occupations. To the churches not equipped for that purpose it opens a door of opportunity for institutional work."

The Association privileges, says the pamphlet, are:

"All women and girls of this vicinity (which includes nearby sections) and parents of members, are cordially invited to make use of the reading and rest rooms of this Association, to attend the Mothers' Meetings, the Sun-

day Vesper Meetings, the Bible Classes, and certain entertainments to which a general invitation shall be given.

"Members of the Association are privileged, in addition to the above, to join the Association classes, to draw books from the library, to attend the social functions, and to use the rooms (by special appointment) for entertaining their friends."

Thus may be seen what the Association is and the purposes for its existence. The Association conducts a number of activities, some of those being religious, educational, including English, arithmetic, elocution and French; there is a domestic arts department, where are taught dress-making and millinery; a department for household science, for the art of cookery and a physical department, embracing gymnastics, swimming, basketball, first aid to injured and self-help.

That the Association has been of inestimable benefit to the daughters of numerous fathers and mothers can be attested. And the good effect has been so general that the Falls and vicinity can certainly feel convinced that past investments in promoting the interests of the girls have produced most extraordinary dividends of character. Could there be anything better than making such investments in girls? Such investments from which are gained a satisfaction of mind and soul that our daughters are being kept from stray paths? Such investments which support an enterprise having for its purpose the ennobling of our young womanhood? Will any one gainsay the statement that greater such investments in girls should be made? Can you not see that any amount in such investment is infinitesimal compared to the results obtained? Then what will you do?

Beginning next Monday, November 1st, and continuing for one week, a budget campaign will take place to meet the standing deficit and secure financial support for a year's work. A committee is already at work selecting teams of workers who will canvass the Falls, Manayunk, Roxborough, Wissahickon and Bala to raise the required amount. They will ask the support of "every business man and resident (of the communities) who recognizes the power of the Association and believes in the purposes and ideals which it aims to perpetuate."

Statistics of the Local Branch.

Total membership, Oct. 15, 1915..	742
Weekly classes (Senior)	24
Weekly classes (Junior)	14
Senior enrollment	304
Junior enrollment	145
Mothers' Meeting, club members.	127
Number of clubs	11
Number of club members	148

Cost to Maintain This Work.
For salaried officers, heat, light, telephones, repairs, equipment, office expenses, nearly \$500 per month, or \$6000 per year.

Membership dues and class fees bring in about \$1000 a year. The rest must be raised by subscriptions of interested friends. A large number of regular annual subscriptions, from \$1 to \$100 are needed.

Officers, Falls Branch.
Mrs William L. McLean, chairman.
Mrs. Richard Norris, vice chairman.
Mrs. M. A. Ferris, recording secretary.
Miss Mary E. Wilkinson, treasurer.



INDUSTRIAL GROUP

Young Women's Christian Association of Falls in Need of Funds

Canvas to Raise Money for Further Good Work

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7/19/1934

Ridge Avenue Has Had Long And Interesting History

Northwest Philadelphia's Great Highway Has Been Called
by Many Different Names on Old Maps.—Was Path
From City to Interior of Pennsylvania

By JAMES F. MAGEE, Jr.

Ridge avenue was the great Colonial highway, in the early days, that ran from Philadelphia, through the wilderness to Amity, which is now familiar as Berks County.

Over this road the products of the farm, mills, and iron forges were brought to Philadelphia, and over the highway went out the pioneers to settle and cultivate the unknown regions above the Wissahickon.

Before the coming of the English to Pennsylvania, in 1682, the Indians, Hollanders and Swedes had pathways through the forests and over the mountains and valleys.

One of these pathways, in its earliest days, began at 3rd street in Philadelphia and led northward for 43 miles, passing the Andrew Robeson Mills, on the Wissahickon, along the ridge overlooking the Schuylkill and Wissahickon Valleys, to Perkiomen Creek, then 22 miles north and westward through a wilderness of vacant land to "Mulberry", the house of Andrew Robeson 2nd, which was in Amity Township. This thoroughfare became what is now Ridge avenue.

It was not only the inhabitants near the Ridge that contributed to the traffic of the "Great Road to Philadelphia", but many cross roads from the east and seven fords, of ferries, over the Schuylkill, from the west, all connected with the Ridge.

In the course of our narrative we will see that three generations of the Robeson family: Andrew, Sr., uncle of Andrew, 2nd, and the latter's true sons, Andrew, 3rd, and Jonathan were among the first pioneers to lay out the Ridge and extend it into what is now Berks County.

The first authentic mention we have of what later became the Ridge, in the records of the Courts, on December 19th, 1693, when a petition was made, reading "Andrew Robeson, Sr., (he died in 1694) requests a confirmation of the road that is now from Merion Ford to Philadelphia, and that it come into 3rd street in that city". At the same time this request was made to the Court, "The inhabitants of Radnor petitioned for a road to be laid out from the upper part of said township to the Merion Ford."

In 1690-91 Andrew Robeson, Sr., and Charles Saunders purchased from Richard Townsend and others, a grist and saw mill on the Wissahickon, at Ridge road.

So it would appear that Ridge was first laid out by the Robesons

before 1693, so that they could send the products of their mills to Philadelphia.

In 1704 a road was petitioned for from Merion Meeting House, on old Lancaster road, to "the ford of the Schuylkill". (Falls of Schuylkill) Then over the ford and so along the old road that leads from the Wissahickon Mills to Philadelphia". (Ridge avenue).

Before the coming of William Penn to Pennsylvania, the Swedes, in 1677, had a settlement at the ford and Falls Creek, at the Falls of Schuylkill. About 1678 the falls were known as "Captain Moen's Falls". The record from the Swedish Court reads: "It being taken into consideration that it was very necessary that a mill should be built on the Schuylkill (at the present Falls of Schuylkill), there being no better place than the falls called 'Captain Hans Moen's Falls'. The Court decided that the Captain ought to build a mill there, as he says he will, or else suffer another to build there, for the common good of the parts." The above facts were gleaned from John Fanning Watson's Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, Vol. II, page 242.

If this mill was built it was the second oldest mill in Pennsylvania; the first being the grist mill built by the Dutch before 1643, at Cobbs Creek (74th & Woodland avenue). In 1646 Governor Printz, in the name of the Kingdom of Sweden, took over the Hollander settlements along the Delaware River, and changed the mill into a water-powered grist mill.

In 1677 the Court at Upland conveyed to John and Andrew Wheeler (who were Swedes) 300 acres of land on the west side of the River opposite the Falls, in Merion and Northern Liberties. In 1699 John Roberts, of Pencoyd, purchased 60 acres of this tract. The ford is mentioned in this deed: "With the permission of passing and re-passing on foot or on horseback and with cart or wagon to and from the said river Schuylkill."

John Roberts left his estate to his son Robert. In 1723 Robert Roberts started a ferry near the ford and in 1724 he is mentioned as owning a mill near the Falls of Schuylkill. This mill may have been on the site of the earlier Swedish mill. Garret Garretson also purchased a portion of the Wheeler 300 acres. Samuel Garrett, a direct descendant of the latter purchaser, resides today on a portion of this land, at Vaux and Ainslie streets. The family has made various

homes on this land continuously since the original purchase.

In 1705 a petition was presented, asking for a road from Plymouth by the way of the Wissahickon Mill to Philadelphia. Plymouth Township was north of White-marsh along the Schuylkill River.

In 1706 inhabitants of Plymouth requested a cartway, or road, fifty feet wide to extend from the Wissahickon Mills up to the Perkiomen Creek. In the same year Andrew Robeson, 2nd, petitioned the Court to widen and improve the road from his mills on the Wissahickon to Philadelphia. In 1706 the inhabitants of Merion, Radnor, Plymouth and Roxborough stated that the "road leading from the Wissahickon mills to Philadelphia, has not yet been confirmed, and that the said road ever since and now is the usual road from the several townships to Philadelphia."

In 1707 Thomas Fairman resurveyed "the road from Sassafras (Race) street, where 6th street in-

tersects to the Roxborough Mill runs through Northern Liberties."

In 1714 Andrew Robeson 2d, (1664-1719) purchased 1500 acres of iron ore land in Amity and Manatawny townships. (Berks County).

His daughter, Magdalena, married Thomas Potts, who with his father-in-law, and also the latter's sons, Andrew 3rd and Jonathan Robeson, were among the first to develop the iron industry there. There is today, in Berks County, a township named "Robeson".

It is said that Thomas Rutter built the first iron forge in the Manatawny region, 40 miles up the Schuylkill, in 1714. From this wilderness, interested with Indians, there was no way to transport his products to Philadelphia. In 1724 a road from Rutter's iron mines to Manatawny Road (Ridge Road) over seven miles long, was laid out. It is now known as the Vale Brook Dale Pike. In 1725, James Lewis, who owned iron works, built a new mill and stated that "the road built by Rutter's from his forge (Poole Furnace) to the 'Great Road that leads to Philadelphia' is a detriment to their improvement" and requested that certain changes be made in the road. The petitioners also requested that another road be laid out from their Colebrook Furnace to the new forge, called "Poole Furnace".

Jonathan Robeson, Edward Farmer, and Nicholas Scull (son-in-law of Farmer) were appointed to lay out the new road to connect with "the Great Road to Philadelphia". In 1728, the Rutter forge and iron mines were attacked by Indians, but they were repulsed with great loss, by the workmen.

In 1722 a road was asked for in Oletico, from Indiantown Ford to the King's Road (Ridge Road) leading to Philadelphia.

In 1723 the inhabitants, Dutch settlers and neighbors adjacent, petitioned for a road from Limerick "by Thomas Rutter's Iron Mills", then Oley.

In 1723 a petition for a road from the market place at Germantown, to Robert Robert's ferry at the Falls of Schuylkill was made. A memorandum in red ink reads

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"Palmer's Lane, now Indian Queen lane, to Scott's lane."

The road was to start at the Market Place, according to ancient records of Germantown, to the line of William Palmer's land, to his house, then to the road from Andrew Robeson's ferry. Later in 1723, the direction of the road was changed, and read "from the Mar-

ket Place to the new Ferry by way of the common road to Robeson's mill, and the Paper Mill." This is School House Lane, and the Paper Mill mentioned was the Rittenhouse mill, so the product of this plant, and the rags and other raw materials needed for the making of paper, was also hauled over Ridge road, as well as Germantown road.

In June of 1723 the people who lived west of the Schuylkill complained that "the old road leading to the ford (Falls of Schuylkill) is often made useless by the freshets and tides of flood" and requested a new road be laid to the new ferry so that they could safely reach the road from the Roxborough mills to Philadelphia.

In September of 1723 a petition was filed stating that the Great road from Roxborough to Manatawny "runs over a great hill and then a great hollow, and is rendered very inconvenient by reason of rains washing the same". This, they asked, to have rectified.

In December of 1723, in petition, it was asked that School House lane and Merion road, starting from the Market place and leading to Andrew Robeson's mill and ferry, then through Merion into the Great road leading from Conestogoe to Philadelphia, which had been laid out for thirty years, was not yet confirmed. "The Merion portion of this road is the one we recorded in 1693 as going to Merion Ford.

In Charles R. Barker's article, in Vol. 50 of the Pennsylvania Magazine, 1926, are these notes: "Earlier, perhaps, than any other ferry north of Fairmount, was that which Andrew Robeson operated across the Schuylkill from just above his mill, at the Wissahickon."

"In 1734, the Court was asked to confirm a road leading from the parting of the Plymouth and Norrington road, on Barren Hill, to John Roberts mill road, in Lower Merion, by way of Rees Ap Edward's Ford."

"This ford was a gateway, not only to the limekilns of Plymouth and Whitemarsh, but also to the Philadelphia markets, via Ridge road, connecting with that which was made at Barren Hill."

Before 1750 the Merion Ford was changed to a ferry, as Scull and Heaps map gives the position of the ferry house, several hundred feet west of the Robeson mills on the Schuylkill.

June 1724 found the inhabitants of Northern Liberties petitioning for "a road from Robert Roberts mill near the Falls of Schuylkill (near Ridge road) leading to Fair Hill."

In 1721 the people of Northern Liberties requested a cross road connecting three Great Roads laid out from Philadelphia, as follows: 1st: a road to the Upper Ferry on the Schuylkill, called Roach's Ferry. This was in 1750. "Scull's

Ferry", and was situated near Girard avenue, and on the west side of the stream connected with Haverford road. 2nd: a road to Wissahickon (Ridge) which is largely extended up the country. 3rd: a road to Germantown, out of which branches a road to the Delaware River above the Falls (Trenton Falls of the Delaware). The cross road asked for was to begin at Roach's Ferry, then to Wissahickon road, and then to Fairhill Meeting House, along Germantown road.

In 1723 the Court was petitioned to change Manatawny road to the Merion Ford, by the Andrew Robeson Mill, about 400 feet west, as a greater convenience.

After this date the population of Northern Liberties, Roxborough, Germantown and adjoining townships increased greatly, and many new roads were opened, old roads changed and several important additions made.

The Scull and Heap map of 1750 gives the position of Scull's Ferry, near Girard avenue; a ferry and ford at the Falls of Schuylkill; and the Ferry (old Merion ferry) west of Robeson's mills. These ferries and ford all led to the Ridge road. At the Falls, the saw mill is located on the Falls Creek, and just east of Ridge road, on the same creek, is shown a sickle mill or forge.

Just west of the Ridge (now numbered 4106) John Adams in 1768 had a snuff mill, which he sold in 1772 to Christopher Sauer, Jr., a printer, who here erected a paper mill. A saw mill is also mentioned. In 1778 his estate was confiscated by the authorities.

In the evolution of the old Indian pathway of the late 1600's to the present modern highway, Ridge avenue, had been called by many different names, as follows: 1693: Road from Merion Ford to Philadelphia; early 1700's: King's road; 1704: Road from Wissahickon Mills to Philadelphia; 1705: Road from Plymouth to Philadelphia; 1706: (upper portion) the road from Wissahickon Mills to Perkiomen Creek; early 1700's: the Manatawny Road, and later the Reading Turnpike. In 1718, the upper section was sometimes called "Andrew Robeson's Road". In 1729, it was "Rocksburrow", or "Andrew Robeson's Road leading up to Manatawny and the upper parts of this country". In 1750 it was referred to as the road "from Wissahickon to Whitemarsh" and "The Wissahickon Road". In 1761 people described it as "Roxborough or Wissahickon Great Road to Philadelphia", and in 1774, from 9th and Vine streets to the Falls of Schuylkill it was known as "The Wissahickon Road".

On the French map of Lafayette's encampment at Barren Hill, in 1778, it is described between the 9th and 11th milestones as "Rich Road", and above the 12th milestone as "the road to Sweeds Ford (Norrstown)".

In 1795 when the French traveler, Duke de la Rochefoucault visited this section, he proceeded out the ancient highway on horseback, passing the Robeson Mills, on his way to Norristown. He mentions the thoroughfare as "the Ridge road", and records "This road, like

8
all other roads in Pennsylvania, is very bad. The continual passing of wagons destroys the roads, especially near the town, when several of them meet, Ridge road is almost impassable."

The highway was not named Ridge road until the days of the Revolution, when it took its name from the great ridge it passes along between the Schuylkill and Wissahickon south of the Montgomery County line. Near the 9th milestone, and the Episcopal Cathedral of Christ, in Roxborough, Ridge avenue is 417 feet above tide-water.

After 1811 the highway became known as Ridge Turnpike and toll gates were established. In 1869 the road was opened free to the public.

A. C. Chadwick, Jr., editor of THE SUBURBAN PRESS, has written the following lines concerning the upper portion of Ridge avenue in Philadelphia County:

"RIDGE AVENUE

(In Upper Roxborough)

The Past lurks here; in quietness, alone
Door knockers stilled; and near each dampened stone
Grass peeps, untrod by lagging steps and slow,
As generations, changing, come and go
The Past lurks here; unseen, since years of yore,
Save by the most observant, who, through a half-closed door
Can see and hear the old days from afar—
The hum, the thrill, and sounds that were and are.
From some old vine, a bush, a breath blows sweet,
Across the smooth-paved, motor-traveled street—
To bring to mind the glories once known here—
And with the thought of change an inner fear
Comes to the thinker—Time in steady flow
Will alter things that we, today, now know,
The ancient inn; the modest church; each view;
Will all, in future days, be changed anew,
And children of our age will come to learn and see
That Time knows naught of faithful constancy.
A. C. C."

We have recently photographed the milestones placed on Ridge avenue in 1768, and in a future article will include the Revolutionary history of the much-storied highway, in addition to facts concerning the milestones.

Readers of The Suburban Press have doubtless enjoyed reading H. W. P.'s prose poem relating to Roxborough and the Wissahickon, as has this writer. And so we beg leave to quote a romantic paragraph of a recent article by H. W. P.

"You were culturally amiable too, one autumnal morning when Washington passed out the old Lenape trail, now Ridge avenue, through your town of five houses, his horse treading down the leaves crisp with frost. And as he passed an old

oak near Livezey lane, you will remember how it bent low to pay homage to his forehead with lips of frost! And how the General turned half in his saddle and remarked to Von Steuben—"See! even the trees know me". How a great man will leave his mark on minutiae! But that old trail, where Washington and Steuben and Tedyuscung and Poe once passed, is no longer a carpet of leaves over fine yellow dust. Perhaps you are glad, O Roxborough!"

Last winter the State Library, at Harrisburg, made an appropriation to copy certain historical records, heretofore not published.

Mrs. Anita L. Eyster, in this connection, completed the remarkable work of repairing, filing, marking and indexing more than 800 injured petitions for roads made before 1800 on southeastern Pennsylvania. The documents had been for years tied up in bundles, unclassified and inaccessible to the public. Now these are available as valuable records of the growth and development of the State.

8/7/1930

Coal Bunker Is on Site of Old Fort

City Owns Plot of Ground
Used During Civil
War

RESEMBLES MINE ADIT

Fortification Constructed for
Defense of State
in 1863

Persons journeying along Ridge avenue, near School House lane, have no doubt noticed a tunnel-like structure, much like a mine entrance, which sets in the side of the hill opposite the Queen Lane Pumping Station.

It is of reinforced concrete and has the appearance of an ancient Egyptian gateway. The building which was constructed in 1916, is 70 by 180 feet in dimensions and one story high, was erected for the city as a coal receiving station in con-

nection with the pumping station. It has a hopper or bunker of 500 tons capacity. This is fed from cars that run on a special siding from the Norristown branch of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway. Beneath the hopper or bunker is a tunnel, the mouth of which presents the Egyptian appearance to the gaze of the public. Through the gateway large auto trucks are driven into the tunnel, to be filled automatically. In these trucks the coal is conveyed to the pumping station, where the

coal is dumped into a large hole. At the station there is a contrivance to convey and distribute the coal to the boiler house.

At the time the pumping station was erected the plans included a tunnel under Ridge avenue and the building of a siding from the railroad. A tract of land was purchased from the estate of William Weightman, but it was later reconveyed to the estate by the city, and the coal used at the station was hauled in wagons from Wissahickon station. It had to be shoveled from the cars to the wagons and then hauled a full half mile.

To those who are familiar with the location of the Egyptian-like structure and know something of the history of the locality, the site chosen for the bunker building is very appropriate. The use of the property perpetuates an incident of the Civil War. At the time which

General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate army, was making his second raid into Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1863, Governor Andrew G. Curtin and Mayor Alexander Henry issued proclamations calling out the State and city militia to help repel the invasion. There was a general impression that the invading army would make its way through the State to this city. In order to check such an advance upon the cradle of national and political liberty, a series of fortifications were erected. Among these was Fort Dana, on practically the site of the new bunker.

The fort location was selected as being most favorable, as it would command the Schuylkill Valley, including Ridge avenue and the Norristown Railroads on the east, and the Reading Railway and River road on the west side of the river. Some people thought it was chosen to guard the Schuylkill, too, but as nothing but the slow-going canal barges plied on the river there was no danger of a Confederate naval force coming down the valley. Day and night through the latter part of June and the first four days of July a large force of men worked in constructing the fort. Then came the news of the victorious conclusion of the Battle of Gettysburg, in which Philadelphia's own General, George G. Meade, had put to rout the great Confederate leader, who, with his defeated army, had started on its masterful retreat back to "old Virginia." With the news of the victory of the Union army work on Fort Dana was suspended, never to be resumed, and the name, "Fort Humbug," was substituted for the name given it by the Government. The fortification, so far as it was completed, long ago disappeared, and most of the stony bluff on which it was built, was quarried away, but enough remains to give the coal bunker a resemblance to Fort Dana.

The pumping station occupies the site on which two well-known Pennsylvania regiments of volunteers were encamped in 1861-1862, while they were being recruited. One, the Eighty-eighth Regiment of Infantry, which in November, 1861, left Camp Stokley and marched down through the deep dust on the then Ridge avenue turnpike unarmed on its way to the front. In the following year the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cav-

ary was recruited on the same property, then known as Robeson's Meadows and forming part of a large farm. The Survivors' Association of the Eighty-eighth Regiment some years ago placed a bronze tablet, supported by two granite pillars, on the site of the encampment, to mark the place where the regiment was recruited.

An incident connected with the building of Fort Dana was long talked of by the people residing in the vicinity. The man who occupied a yellow frame dwelling which once stood on the east side of Ridge avenue just below the site chosen for the fort had in cultivation a small potato patch on the side of the hill back of the house. When the building of the fort was commenced the potato patch was buried in the construction work. The owner made application for compensation, and he nearly collapsed in amazement when given a draft for the sum of \$250. He, of course, accepted the

money, but often said he would have been satisfied had they offered him one tenth the amount.

SCCAFF.

11/14/1929

To Hold Union Services on T

Congregations to Meet in Falls
Baptist and Roxborough
On November Two

The Union Thanksgiving Day church services in East Falls this year will be held at the Falls Methodist Church, Indian Queen lane and Krall street, with Rev. Ulla E. Bauer, of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, being chosen to preach the sermon.

Rev. Charles Jarvis Harriman, rector of St. James the Less P. E. Church, will read President Hoover's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation and the Scripture lesson will be read by Rev. Howell S. Foster, of Grace Reformed Church.

The prayer will be asked by Rev. William B. Cooke, of the Falls Presbyterian Church, and the benediction will be pronounced by Dr. John S. Tomlinson, of the Methodist Church.

9

January 10, 1935

"Metopcum"

By JAMES F. MAGEE, JR.

From 1924 to 1926 the Pennsylvania (State) Historical Commission marked twenty-seven historical sites within the boundaries of the Commonwealth with rough stones and bronze tablets.

These markers located Indian towns, Indian trails, Indian walks, Colonial dwellings, the cave of Daniel Pastorius, the house of William Penn and his family, forts and similar places.

It was suggested, at the time, that one of the Indian town markers be placed along Ridge avenue, at the Falls of Schuylkill, to locate the former village "Metopcum," one of the early fishing settlements of the Red Men."

The stone was selected; probably one of those brown sandstone slabs, similar to the milestones along the Ridge road; and the inscription was composed for the bronze tablet, but for financial and other reasons the marker was not erected.

One of the most interesting of the 27 memorials, was placed on a continuation of Ridge avenue, at Monocacy, above Pottstown, near the 45th milestone from Front and Market streets, Philadelphia.

It is embellished with the seal of Pennsylvania—in relief—and reads: "William Penn, on his first visit to America, 1682-1684, came farthest north on the Schuylkill River, fifty miles up from the Falls of Schuylkill, to or near the mouth of Monocacy Creek (meaning the stream with several bends), three fourths of a mile southwest of this marker." Underneath this explanatory memorandum, are other letters reading, "Marked by The Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the Historical Society of Berks County, 1926." A huge weathered stone was erected and to this is attached the bronze tablet, which was designed by the eminent architect, Paul P. Cret. The marker was unveiled on November 13th, 1926.

It is located on the south side of the Franklin Highway, formerly the William Penn Highway, six miles above Pottstown and ten miles below Reading; on an elevation at the foot of the picturesque Monocacy Hill. At the unveiling ceremonies, an address was made by the Indian chief, Strong Wolf.

William Penn is supposed to have reached this place, traveling on horseback, with his surveyor, and others, passing through the forests and along the Indian trail that in 1718 was called "the Andrew Robeson road," which was a continuation of "Manatawny road," and later "the Ridge Road."

The plantation at Monocacy, Amity Township, was on the 1000-acre tract that Andrew Robeson, 3rd., purchased from Swan Boone, in 1714.

In 1676 William Penn, proprietor

of West Jersey, conveyed to Andrew Robeson, Sr., (the uncle of Andrew, 2nd.) one-tenth of the rights of West Jersey. In 1686 Andrew Robeson, Sr., surveyed the line that divided East and West Jersey. It started near Beach Haven and the Atlantic Ocean, passed northwest through the state, between Princeton and Trenton, to a point above the Delaware Water Gap.

In 1715 a petition was presented to the Court, requesting that a road be laid out from Perkiomen Creek, "passing through the wilderness of vacant land to the house of Andrew Robeson, 2nd., called 'Mulberry' at Monocacy."

Andrew Robeson, Sr., was the same person who purchased in 1690-91 the grist and saw mill along the Wissahickon Creek, at Ridge road. Andrew Robeson, 2nd., died in 1719, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Gabriel's Church, the Swedish church at Douglasville, on the Ridge road, three miles south of the William Penn marker.

Now let us return to the story of the Metopcum Indian town at the Falls of Schuylkill.

John Campanious, chaplain to Governor Printz, of the Swedish settlement on the Delaware River, visited the Indians; learned their language, customs and habits; translated the Lutheran catechism into the Indian tongue; and remained on the Delaware from 1641 to 1646.

What is particularly interesting to us, is the information recorded of the country about the Falls of Schuylkill, when the minister had been on a visit to the Indians. He tells of trees, wild plums, wild grapes, hemp and hops, everywhere. And of that wonderful gourd, "calabash," which when dried hard, was fashioned into dishes and cups, tipped with silver, some being so large they held a gallon. The above from "The Welsh Settlement," by C. H. Brown.

Campanious also relates, "With arrows pointed with sharp stones, the Indians killed deer and other creatures. They made axes of stone which they fastened to sticks to fell trees where they intended to plant. Both men and women smoked tobacco, which is found in great abundance. They wear headdresses of feathers and snake-skin and feed upon bear meat, venison, fish, birds and maize."

The present-day Chamounix Mansion—once Mount Prospect—and the Philadelphia Country Club golf and polo grounds, on the hills, are near the centre of the old 400-acre plantation called "Metopcum" before 1677. A trail started at City avenue, opposite the Wissahickon Creek, and ran south along the Schuylkill river to a short distance above Peters' Island, a distance of about a mile and a half. Peters' Island was a part of the estate of Judge Peters, at Belmont. When this was sold in 1838, the deed stated that seven and four-tenths bushels of wheat was to be paid

each year to the University of Pennsylvania.

The Indian settlement extended across the river to the present East Falls, and for nearly 200 years was known to the Indians and white settlers as the greatest fishing resort at the head of tidewater along the Schuylkill.

In August, 1683, William Penn wrote to the Free Society of Traders": "Their houses are mats or bark of trees, set on poles, in the fashion of the English barn; but out of the power of the winds; for they are hardly higher than a man. They lie on reeds or grass. In traveling they lodge in the woods about a great fire, with the mantle of duffels they wear by day wrapt around them; and a few boughs stuck around them."

Until a few years ago there were still standing three of the giant trees of the forest; a black walnut, chestnut and tulip poplar; the largest in Fairmount Park, near the Chamounix Mansion, that were there when Campanious visited the Indian settlement in the 1640's.

In a Park publication of 1865, the river from "Mount Prospect"—now Chamounix—is described: "The Schuylkill lies under its mountain-like side, here a lake and there a winding river. The Park, in its whole extent to Fairmount spreads map-like beneath it. The waters of the far Delaware show from it, mile after mile, on their long journey to the sea. Beyond, pine forests stretch along the horizon. From the mansion extends a grand panorama; for its background, rocky ranges, deep glens and dark woodlands, villages and farmlands, etc."

Indian Chief Wingbone, on the 25th of the 4th month, 1683, deeded his land to William Penn. "Of all his lands lying on the west side of the Schuylkill river from the Falls of the same name up the said river and backward so far as the rights goeth." This sale included the 400-acre tract of "Metopcum," that we are describing.

The historian, Miss Margaret B. Harvey, records William Penn's traveling along an Indian trail and crossing the Schuylkill river at what was later known as the Robin Hood Ford, descending the hills on the west side of the stream, over Ford road, which was, as it is today, through the Metopcum Indian tract and over City Line into Merion.

Miss Harvey's account reads: "At the conclusion of William Penn's memorable treaty with the Indians, under the elm tree at Kensington, these Indians volunteered to conduct Penn and his friends a day's journey toward the Susquehanna River. The company starting from the Treaty Elm crossed the intervening country to the Schuylkill, reaching it at the present Laurel Hill steam boat landing. (near the foot of Nicetown lane). A portion of this trail from the Delaware to the Schuylkill is still intact, in the road between North and South Laurel Hill. There was then ford; the march of improvem

had not then backed the water over the falls (at Fairmount) and the Schuylkill was a rapid stream. From the ford the road continued, as it still does—through Fairmount Park and to the present City Line, crossing it but a few rods distant from the new Bala station, and this was the point where Lower Merion was first entered by the white men."

P. M. Lindstrom, a Swedish explorer, in 1654-5 visited "New Sweden"; sailed up what is now the Delaware river, and a short distance up the "Menejackse" (Schuylkill) river; and made a survey and map of the "Swede's River in the West Indies."

On the east side of the Schuylkill river, below the Falls of the Schuylkill, he located an Indian settlement, "Nittabakonck" — the word meaning "the place of a warrior," so called from the fact that a great Indian chief lived there. Lindstrom wrote of the river (Schuylkill), "a very large and deep kill, and extends far up into the country. I have not found it so favorable for building mills, as some of the other localities."

In 1687 James Fox, in behalf of himself and others living in Plymouth, requested a cart road, which was granted, under proviso that there must be no disturbance of the Indians.

This road divided, near Barren Hill; one branch passing to Germantown; and the other connecting with what is now Ridge road, to Philadelphia.

As stated before the Upland Court, in 1678, the Falls of Schuylkill was at one time called "Captain Hans Moen's falls."

Lindstrom's map, of 1654-5 also locates an Indian town named "Aronimink," which was on the hills between the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers, and Crum Creek.

On September 11th, 1677, the Upland Court granted 300 acres of land at a place called "Wiessahitkonk" on the west side of the Schuylkill river to John Mattson, Swen Lum and Tace Dalboo, and on March 12, 1677-78 the same Court granted 300 acres called "Netopcum" (in another deed, "Metopcum") and a re-survey made it 400 acres, to John and Andrew Weeler.

An extract from the records of Gloria Dei Church, Philadelphia, 1697-98, reads: "Nitapkung (Netopcum) at Schuylkill, John Skute, September 4th, 1654, wife Ann and two children. His brother-in-law, Morton Garrett." The reference is to the members of the church.

In the Account Books of Penn's Agents, is the following notation: "8, 2m. 1715, Morton Garretson delivered to Andrew Robeson grist mill, five bushels of wheat, as a payment of quit rent to William Penn."

Charles V. Hagner, in his "Falls of Schuylkill," tells us that the village for over a hundred years was called "Fort St. David's."

Mr. Hagner remembered the falls of the Schuylkill as they were before they were covered when the dam at Fairmount

built. He described the falls as they must have been, as Nature made them, before the coming of the white settlers.

A part of Hagner's historical description of the Falls, is well worth repeating: "This long rock (on the east side of the river, near the present Reading Railroad Company's Stone Bridge) I well remember, and have often, when a boy, fished from it. It extended from the foot of the hill to about two-thirds the distance across the river, forming a complete natural dam, a part of it overhanging the lower edge. In high freshets the water flowed over it and made a beautiful cascade; at other times it forced the river into a narrow channel on the western side, through which it ran with great rapidity and much noise, falling some five or six feet in a distance of about one hundred and fifty yards, and could be heard at a distance of five miles, according to the state of the river, and the winds.

"There was a very singular and curious impression or indentation on a part of the rock that attracted many persons there to view it. It was apparently an impression of an immense human foot, over two feet long, and sunk some six inches in the rock. It showed the heel, hollow of the instep, ball of the foot and toes. It was called by the people of the neighborhood, 'the Devil's Foot.' There were some superstitions in reference to it. There were also many other holes, or pots, as they were called, in rocks, caused by ages of attrition from stones and gravel, which the water, when flowing over them, kept in agitation. Some of the pots are still to be seen on a part of the long rock remaining, and covered by the water. There was tradition that they were used by the Indians for pounding corn in; certainly they were well adapted for such purposes."

In the last six years the Pennsylvania Historical Commission has expended considerable of its energy and appropriations to "examine, or cause to be examined, or excavated, the sites and areas of former aboriginal or American Indian occupations within the Commonwealth." Drawings and plaster casts have been made of Indian markings upon boulders, mostly along the Susquehanna river, near Harrisburg.

Indian mounds have been excavated and archaeological collections purchased for the State Museum.

It is believed that the Indians did not catch fish with a hook and line, or net. When the fish came up the river, with the tide, and the water was about to recede, the Red Men made dams below where the fish were, and then speared, or shot the fish with bows and arrows.

Campanius, the missionary, describes a fish caught here, that must have been an eel: "There is here an abundance of a certain kind of fish. It has no head, is like a small viper; one quarter of a yard in length and four fingers thick."

The Falls of the Schuylkill must have been a great fishing ground, for the Indians and the white men who came after them. Charles V. Hagner, in his history, tells us of some of the great catches of fish in his boyhood days.

"The fishing company of Fort St. David's was originally established (1732) by a number of prominent and wealthy gentlemen of Philadelphia, among whom were many Welshmen, who gave the Society its name, St. David being their patron saint. For beautiful scenery, romantic beauty and fine fishing there was no place in the vicinity of Philadelphia that could in the least compare with St. David's.

Watson, in his Annals, mentions Godfrey Shronk, a widely known fisherman of the Falls, as follows: "He has told me he could often catch, with his dip-net, 3000 catfish in one night; and the perch and rock-fish were numerous and large. He used to catch fish for the Fishing Company of St. David's, which cooked forty dozen fish at one time."

Hagner also stated: "They anchored, or fastened to the rocks in the rapids, small boats from which they fished. The catfish was not the kind that are now found in the river. They were migratory fish and came from the sea annually in immense numbers, so numerous in some instances—I have seen myself—as to blacken the narrow passages of the river. They were perfectly black on the back, and white on the belly, and were remarkably fine eating. On one occasion I saw them, with one sweep of the seine, catch 430 fine shad, and saw besides, many escape from the seine."

The history of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill, in referring to the Fort St. David's Society, relates: "When the tide was out the roaring of the turbulent waters, precipitated over the continuous and rugged chain of rocks, extending from shore to shore, was heard on still evenings many miles over the surrounding country, and was often borne on the wings of the wind with distinctness to the city, a measured distance of five miles."

Here is another quotation from Mr. Hagner's book: "Tradition says, and I have no doubt of the fact, that the Falls of Schuylkill was the last place deserted by the Indians who inhabited this part of the country; it being the head of tidewater, and consequently such a fine fishing ground, had, of course, peculiar attractions for them. That it must have been a great resort of theirs is proved by the fact of the innumerable Indian relics that have been found in the vicinity. I have seen and found myself many stone axes, arrowheads, and other instruments made of stone, the use of which could not be conjectured, many of which were deposited in the old Philadelphia Museum."

Albert Cook Myers, of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, informs me that many years ago a member of the Hagner family gave him quite a collection of Indian

44 1821

relics collected at the Falls.

Charles R. Barker, the genealogist, in a letter, wrote to me: "One Indian tale was told me by my friend, Mr. Platt, of Roxborough, now deceased. It was that Indian arrowheads could be found at low water on Peters Island. As you recall this was an Indian method of fishing—to shoot them with a bow. An old resident of Ardmore told me that he recalled seeing Indians coming up the Inclined Plane (at Belmont) in Fairmount Park. As this was about 1850, this must have been one of the bands that used to come eastward on visits. However, my informant was a noted teller of tales."

Judge Thomas K. Finletter, an enthusiastic fisherman, informed me that just south of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, at Broad and Walnut streets, is a small plot of ground about 80 x 80 feet, that many years ago was deeded to the city forever, as a free camping place for Indians passing through the city. This plot may be reached through a small alley just south of the Hotel. The employees of the Ritz-Carlton always refer to the camping ground as "no man's land."

Let us end our story of Metopocum, Indian town, with the last verse of a poem written by Francis Hopkinson, dedicated to Dr. William Smith, first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who resided at the Falls, and whose Revolutionary period mansion has been recently renovated, by the trustees of the John and James Dobson Estate, who own the property:

"Rude, rough and rugged rocks
surrounding,
And clash of broken waves re-
sounding,
Where waters fall with louden-
ing roar,
Rebel lowing down the hilly
shore."

6/17/1937

12

Kelly Introduces "Grif" Boardman As His Successor

District Manager of Housing
Administration to Become
Secretary of Revenue

NAMED LAST WEEK

Change Is Reported to Take
Place at Harrisburg
Next Tuesday

J. Griffith Boardman, manager of the Federal Housing Administration in the Philadelphia District, who resides at 3407 Midvale avenue, East Falls has been introduced publicly by John B. Kelly as his successor as state Secretary of Revenue.

Kelly, Philadelphia Democratic leader, in that manner made known that Boardman is to head the Revenue Department, at a farewell party given the former last week. He is expected to resign from the Earle Cabinet next Tuesday.

The party was attended by about 3,000 State employees and Democrat city political workers. Gifts were presented to Kelly and to Raymond Evleth, a 29th ward political lieutenant, who also is resigning as Deputy Secretary of Revenue.

Boardman will be guest of honor at a luncheon in Philadelphia tomorrow of the various real estate boards of that city and Delaware county.

The prospective Secretary of Revenue was mentioned some months ago as a possible Democratic candidate for the City Treasuryship in the 1937 primary.

He is one of Chairman Kelly's personal friends. Both live in the Falls of Schuylkill, where Boardman is almost as famous a golfer as Kelly is an oarsman.

Boardman, who in his 30's, took up golf when he was big enough to carry a golf bag. He caddied at the Philadelphia Country Club, and learned the rudiments of the game. He showed unusual aptitude for it and as he grew up began to bring home cups and medals.

Later he went into the insurance business, in a few years launched his own firm, and divided his time between the office and the Ashbourne Country Club. He has held many championships, including the amateur championship of Philadelphia.

When the Federal Housing Administration for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania was organized Boardman became assistant to Edward P. Simon, director. Simon resigned two years ago and Boardman succeeded him.

Headed for State Job



J. GRIFFITH BOARDMAN

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Judge Thomas K. Finletter, an enthusiastic fisherman, informed me that just south of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, at Broad and Walnut streets, is a small plot of ground about 20 x 30 feet, that many years ago was deeded to the city forever, as a free camping place for Indians passing through the city. This plot may be reached through a small alley just south of the Hotel. The employees of the Ritz-Carlton always refer to the camping ground as "no man's land."

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1/17/1935

Illness And Disease Have Been Fought by Noble Array Of Physicians In East Falls

Manayunk Writer Gives General Review of Medical Profession Leaders Who Were Born, or Practiced in Upper End of Present 38th Ward

By John M. Sickinger

One of the earliest "pain-chasers" who resided at the Falls of Schuylkill, according to old records, was Joseph Sorber, who came to the town in 1804 and opened an office and drug store on Ridge avenue below Indian Queen lane.

Dr. Moses Smith, a Quaker, arrived later, and took up his residence in a Colonial dwelling, which in later years became well-known as "the Nuneviller Mansion", on Nicetown lane—now familiar as Hunting Park avenue. The house stood on line of the grade of Indiana avenue, on a hill on the old-time lane, a block or so northeast of Ridge road.

Dr. Runkle, of Manayunk, was accustomed to driving down to the Falls each day to treat patients. He used a high-wheeled sulky. Another Manayunk physician who had a great many Falls patients was Dr. John Conry, who also utilized a horse and buggy to reach those needing treatment.

From Hart lane, over in Nicetown, came Dr. William Geyer, who, although he had retired from active practice, continued to attend a few selected persons in the Falls. Dr. L. M. Service started practicing at the Falls in 1856, and Dr. J. K. Uhler arrived in the same year and built up a large clientele.

J. F. Wilson, M. D., came to the Falls from Pittsburgh, to assist Dr. Service, but soon afterward started out in the profession for himself, succeeding A. H. Service in a drug store on Ridge avenue near Queen lane.

Soon after the Civil War, Dr. J. V. Kelly, of Manayunk, started treating patients at the Falls and he was most successful. Dr. Charles K. Mills, world renowned neorologist, and local historian, was a native born son of the Falls, but did little practicing in that vicinity. Dr. Eli S. Beary held for many years the record of having been

the longest in service in the community. The honor now belongs to Dr. Otto A. Rath, of Indian Queen lane, whose name is of world-wide fame among skilled surgeons. No story of East Falls doctors will be complete without mentioning Dr. William Hall, who had a drug store at Indian Queen lane and 35th street.

Bernard Murray, another native son, was another of the old-time Falls "ache-eliminators", for many years before he removed to Germantown. The name of Dr. William Cahall is still recalled with many fond memories by men and women in East Falls, as is also that of Dr. Rowe. Dr. David Boone, of Queen Lane Manor, now an eye specialist, and president of the 21st Ward Medical Society, was once a general practitioner in the Falls, and boasts of a wide circle of patient-friends. David Reese, M. D. now deceased, will be readily remembered by hundreds of present-day Falls residents, and a sad note now creeps into the voice of the reminiscencer, as the name of Dr. Clayton R. Entwistle is brought into the conversation, for Dr. Entwistle was widely admired by everyone who knew him.

Dr. Charles Johnson, native son of the deceased nonagenarian, "old Joe Johnson", joined the staff of physicians connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad, and is now a resident of Camden, N. J. Dr. William Hudson Dailey, reared in East Falls, settled in Pittsburgh where he soon built up a large professional practice as a throat and ear specialist, but has since traveled to The Great Beyond.

G. E. Abbott, with the title of doctor, gained more prominence as a railroad executive in Virginia.

Of the present-day medicos the best known are Dr. Charles A. Coff of Midvale avenue, and Dr. Charles J. White, of Queen lane and Vaux street, both of whom number their friends in the thousands.

6/10/1937

(13)

Parks of the Past

In the current issue of "The Beehive," of Germantown, appeared the following interesting article, penned by Giles Stafford:

"When reading from time to time in the daily press items concerning Fairmount Park, my mind ruminates back to the closing days of the last century.

"Then the weak and weary toilers of Germantown who earned their daily bread by the forceful sweat of their brows, journeyed to the Falls of the Schuylkill on Sundays and holidays to ride the old stern-wheel steamboats, the "Undine" and the "Riverside." At that time the tide in the river came as far up as the Falls which were located near the present Falls bridge. The boats travelled back and forth to the Engle Farms, a pleasure place on the east side of the river above Girard avenue now known outside of Fairmount Park as "Brewerytown."

"There the pleasure seekers mingled, regaling themselves in joy and pleasure with the invigorating stimulants easily obtained in those happy days. Many continued on down the river to Fairmount Park on the east side of the stream. The Park extended around the Green street entrance, its extent only a big front yard in comparison with the vast area of picturesque beauty and magnificent grandeur of this modern age; the third largest park in the world.

"I have visited many parks in various cities of our glorious country, Canada and Europe, but have seen none to compare with it. The humble gatherings in those olden days restfully viewed the horse-drawn vehicles of the wealthy; vehicles known as buggies, Germantown wagons, barouches and sedans, and the noble saddle horses pacing and cavorting along the roads of the park and out on the dusty highways.

"Besides Fairmount there were many local parks scattered throughout the city and Germantown. On the south side of Queen Lane a short distance beyond Wissahickon avenue, was the old Scheutzen park under the management of various German societies. There was held the annual scheutzenfest, after the harvest in September, at which the center of attraction was a pole decorated with every known vegetable and fruit of the season in artistic designs and rising from a vegetable covered platform to a height of nearly one hundred feet. During the week's exhibit the cavalcade of vehicles and pedestrians traveled on roads kneedeep in dust. The same vast crowds gathered on Sundays and holidays.

"On the north side of Queen Lane several hundred feet beyond Scheutzen Park was an opposition park under the management of Mund and Albrecht; it was a beer garden with free admission to the public while at Scheutzen Park entrance

tickets were required. Mund and Albrecht's Park was a respectable place covering a large wooded acreage and order was successfully maintained. I wonder if the population then knew where they trod. That location was honored in the Revolutionary War days by the footsteps of General George Washington, the Father of our glorious country. In 1860 two regiments of the heroic boys in blue were formed and camped there previous to entering into the struggle to maintain the solidarity of our glorious country. Today that sacred spot is occupied by the Queen Lane reservoir and one of the most beautiful residential sections in our city, known as Queen Lane Manor.

"At the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek on the banks of the Schuylkill was Riverside Park, where the river boats made the starting point for their trips. It was (more or less) a respectable and orderly place where the pleasure seekers of Manayunk, Roxborough and Germantown gathered for their pleasure outings on the various days allotted for labor's meager rest, beyond the Sabbath.

"Along the Norristown branch of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad north of old Queen Lane station was Hohenadel's Park, so known in its declining years but under different management at various times. A respectable park, it was situated on the western bank of the railroad on a beautifully wooded piece of ground sloping toward the Schuylkill river. Above it the various clouds of nature's laws moving to and fro painting the glorious sunshine in magnificent hues; below the refuse of human invigorating tonics, good and bad, flowing down the hills to pass on to original formation.

"On the outskirts of Germantown were many other parks, the closest being Pastime Park on Nicetown Lane, now Hunting Park avenue, and the P. and R. railway; Rising Sun Park, Germantown avenue above Allegheny avenue and extending west to Broad street and Echo Park in the neighborhood of Fifth street and Wyoming avenue.

*Suburban Press
1/29/1937*

Death Of P. H. Kelly Shocks Wide Circle Of Friends

Falls of Schuylkill Builder Expired Suddenly on Monday Morning

COMMUNITY LOSS

Oldest Son of Couple Whose Family Gained International Prominence

Patrick H. Kelly, widely-known contractor, died suddenly of heart disease at 9:15 A. M. on Monday. He was 65.

Mr. Kelly was taken ill Saturday night at his home, 2803 Queen lane, Falls of Schuylkill. Although he remained in bed his condition was not regarded as serious.

He was the brother of John B. Kelly, Democratic leader of Philadelphia and State Secretary of Revenue; Walter C. Kelly, known on the stage, screen and radio as the "Virginia Judge"; George Kelly, playwright and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and Charles Kelly, connected with John B.'s contracting business.

As recently as last Thursday, Mr. Kelly attended a dinner for Dr. Ira Walton Drew, Congressman from the Roxborough, Germantown and Chestnut Hill district, given at the Penn. A. C. and at that time told several stories in the style that all his brothers possess.

Although, as a contractor, he built some of the city's most widely known buildings, recently he had been known for his WPA activities. Since last March he had been supervisor of city WPA projects and supervised the improvements which dressed up the city for the Democratic National Convention last June.

As city WPA supervisor, he had special authority as a representative of the Federal Government, assigned to act as co-ordinator between various Federal agencies in Philadelphia in a \$40,000,000 program.

At the time of his appointment by John H. Rankin, local WPA director, it was emphasized that the job was given to him because of his abilities and capacity for it, and had nothing to do with politics. Kelly himself asserted that his brother, Jack, did not even know the appointment was to be made.

Although Mr. Kelly opposed Mayor Wilson during the latter's campaign for office, Mr. Wilson concurred in his selection for the WPA place.

As head of the P. H. Kelly Construction Company, Mr. Kelly built the State office building at Harrisburg, the Elks Club, which later became the Broadwood Hotel, at Broad and Wood streets, and the Free Library Building on the Parkway.

Later he headed the Building Improvement Company, Inc., with offices at 3647 Filbert street. At one time he was president of the Master

Expired Suddenly



P. H. KELLY

Well-known building contractor and WPA supervisor who died suddenly on Monday morning from a heart attack. Mr. Kelly was one of the Falls of Schuylkill's family of famous Kellys who gained renown for themselves and their home community in various endeavors, including building, the stage, literature, athletics and political activities.

Builders Association, and was one of the leaders of the Builders Exchange. He also served as president of the Columbian Luncheon Club, whose purpose was to provide a downtown meeting place for third degree members of the Knights of Columbus.

In 1929 Mr. Kelly served as historian of a Knights of Columbus pilgrimage to Rome, and the battlefields of Europe, transcribing the events and impressions of the trip in which 20 Philadelphians, including the late James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight of the K. of C. participated. This appears in book form.

Surviving are his wife, the former Catherine Loughlin, two sons, George P. and John Raymond Kelly, six daughters, Mrs. Frank Jansen, and the Misses Anna, Marie, Catherine, Mildred and Gertrude Kelly, the four previously mentioned brothers, and two sisters, Mrs. Anne Frommeyer and Mrs. Joseph Cruice.

Solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Bridget's Church, at 10 a. m. tomorrow morning, and the interment will be made in Westminster Cemetery.

1/27/1935

Woman Who Lived Here Saved Betsy Ross House

Mrs. Mund, Wife of Amusement Park Owner, Preserved
National Shrine, Following Fire at Falls
of Schuylkill Home

An old man, on the corner of Chelton and Germantown avenues, one day last week, asked "Can I get a street car here, that will take me over Midvale avenue?" After he had been answered affirmatively, and while waiting for the car to arrive, and after boarding it, he told a local tale which is worth repeating.

"Over in what they call Queen Lane Manor," said the man, "near where the Queen Lane Filtration plant is now located, was once a pleasure resort known as 'Mund and Albrecht's Scheutzen Park.' I can well remember when it opened for it was the same date as the Centennial Exposition opened, the 10th of May 1876. A festival was held at Scheutzen Park by the C. T. A. U. of Philadelphia, in order to raise funds for the erection of the Catholic Temperance fountain, which now stands in West Fairmount Park.

"Sunday, September 3rd, of 1876, was set aside by the French residents of Philadelphia to hold a reception to some of their native workmen who had come to the Centennial, but on the day the big time was to be held, a fire broke out in the main building of Mund and Albrecht's park, and the reception was postponed for a week.

"Mr. Mund, with his family, lived in the building and lost all of his housefurnishings. The disaster forced the park owners to abandon all their plans for making money and they were compelled to dispose of various properties which they held in order to satisfy the creditors, which was done to the last penny.

"The only part of his holdings which Mr. Mund was able to save was the property at 239 Arch street, which is now known as the Betsy Ross House, and which had been owned by the Mund's for many years.

"After the destruction of their home in Scheutzen Park, at the Falls, the Mund family moved in the Flag House, on Arch street, and no one could have been selected who would have been more suitable for the preservation of that shrine of patriotism. The once-popular three by six window panes, the rugged pine boards, out of

"The very window panes, they tell me, are unchanged, and the twelve pieces of tiling over the fireplace in the famous sitting room have remained exactly where they were, after being taken from the good ship 'Welcome' and fitted into a row below the breast-high mantle piece. Perhaps the home-stead is a trifle more conspicuous now than it was when Betsy lived in it.

"Mrs. Mund was one of the neatest and tidiest of women. At the doorstep, up until the middle 90's, stood a four-foot wooden sign, projecting as far as the steps, bearing an accurate copy of the stripes and a circle of thirteen stars sanctioned by the Continental Congress and inscribed: 'The first flag was made in this house.'

"One day a solemn policeman came to Mrs. Mund and said with an air of authority: 'That sign is too big, you must take it in.' Mrs. Mund promptly hastened to comply with the order, but the lady had a niece—she whose young arms had made the bricks in the yard so red, and the tins and pails so bright—who laid down woman's ancient weapons and took up the modern woman's dagger—a pen. 'Sir,' she wrote to the superintendent of police, 'one of your men has made us take in the American flag, and they won't let us put it out again unless we saw it in half. Now, we want to display the flag, and we will never, never saw it in half. It is just big enough for us and for our country as it is.' A couple of days later back came the solemn policeman, more friendly, and almost cordial, with permission for Mrs. Mund to show the flag intact. It was then re-adjusted in a more prominent place.

"That the Betsy Ross flag house stands today as it did in Revolutionary times is due to the determination of Mrs. Mund's character, for it was only through her actions that the old house was saved from the march of improvements.

"Some idea of her patriotism and veneration for the house and its contents can be formed from the fact that on one occasion she was offered \$100 apiece for the 12 pieces of tiling over the fireplace, but the tiling, the last time I was down there, was still where Betsy left it.

Mr. Mund died in August of 1882

8/26/1937

(15)

Held Funeral Rites For P. J. Kelley Last Saturday

East Falls Florist Succumbed
in Lankenau Hospital
Earlier in Week

COMMUNITY - WORKER

Active in Serving His Fel-
lows During a Most
Useful Career

A large throng of mourners attended solemn church services in St. Bridget's Church, East Falls, last Saturday morning, when Patrick J. Kelley, of 3027 North 35th street, was taken away to his final earthly resting place. His death occurred in the Lankenau Hospital, on Wednesday of last week, following an illness of about five weeks.

Mr. Kelley, who resided in East Falls all of his life, had been engaged in the floral and landscaping business practically all of his working years. The business will be continued by members of his family.

He was prominent in Knights of Columbus circles; a marshal of St. Bridget's Holy Name Society; a former president of the East Falls Business Mens' Association; a trustee of the Young Mens' Literary Institute; a director of the Falls Schuylkill Building and Loan Association; and Democratic division leader of the 37th Division of the 38th Ward.

He is survived by his wife (nee Margaret J. Kennedy, a former resident of the 21st Ward, and six children. Following the Solemn Requiem Mass in St. Bridget's Church, the interment was made in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

which the house was built, the ornaments and time-worn pictures of Colonial scenes, of the modest dames and great Revolutionary generals hung liberally around the walls, had a peculiar interest for Mrs. Mund. Of everything about her she had stories to tell—and she could tell them well, for it was a hobby with her. The simple abode, spotlessly clean and well preserved, had, through her efforts remained in the very same condition as in the days of old, when Betsy's form cast its shadow there and when she smiled at the taunts of her Tory friends and her husband died over the cannon balls of the aspiring colonies.

his widow continuing to reside at 239 Arch street until her own death, which was in September of 1897. Her body was interred in Mount Vernon Cemetery. "Charles P. Mund, the son of the patriotic old lady, was her sole survivor, and came into possession of the Flag House, but now it belongs to the Betsy Ross Memorial Association, and will probably be preserved forever.

"It always pleases me to know that it was a Falls of Schuylkill resident who saved the place in which Old Glory first came into existence."

A. C.

11/30/1933

'Laurel Hill' Once Home of Rawle - Shoemaker Family

Francis Rawle, Who Erected Old Fairmount Park Mansion, Was Son-in-Law of Robert Turner, One of Roxborough's Original Patentees

"Laurel Hill" is a name which has long been familiar with the people of this vicinity, but there are few who know that it was originally applied to the old Randolph Mansion, below the Dauphin street entrance to Fairmount Park.

The structure is Colonial architecture, its interior being elaborate with the fittings of the pre-Revolutionary period. In its early days it was the home of the Rawle family.

Francis Rawle, the first inhabitant of "Laurel Hill" was a descendant of an ancient family in Cornwall, England.

His great-grandfather, also Francis Rawle, came to this country in 1686, emigrating from Plymouth, England and settling in Philadelphia.

The son, who came from England with him, married in 1689 to Martha Turner, whose father, Robert Turner, was one of the holders of original land grants, in Roxborough Township, from William Penn. Robert Turner through a commission from the Founder of Pennsylvania, was the Register General for the Probate of Wills, and he in turn made his son-in-law his deputy.

Francis Rawle, Jr., also became Judge of the County Courts of Philadelphia, and a justice of the Peace. He expired in 1727, being survived by six sons. The third was the father of Francis, 3rd.

Being of wealthy parentage, Francis 3rd, received a liberal education as the schools of the time and much travel afforded. Upon his return to Philadelphia, from a European tour, in 1755, he married Rebecca Warner, of this city.

With his brother-in-law, Joshua Howell, he purchased in 1760, the large tract of land on the east side of the Schuylkill River north of Fairmount. Rawle took a portion of 31 acres, on which stood the old dwelling, which he immediately called "Laurel Hill," while Mr.

Howell built a country home upon which he called "Edgeley."

Among the congenial neighbors,

this controversy came to a peaceful solution in 1784, when Major Parr, in consideration of 300 pounds conveyed all his interest in "Laurel Hill" to William Rawle.

In the two years that the French minister resided at "Laurel Hill" the place became conspicuous for its social activities.

Eventually the Rawle-Shoemaker family returned to "Laurel Hill," and while Mr. Shoemaker had lost much of his wealth and influence through his staunch Tory principles, he ended his days peacefully in the old mansion, on October 10th, 1810. Mrs. Shoemaker lingered 19 years longer, dying at her home on Sansom street, near Eighth, on December 21st 1819.

William Rawle sold "Laurel Hill" to Dr. Philip Syng Physick, who resided there but a short time, when it was again sold to the Randolphs, from whom it received the name which is now familiar to Philadelphians.

In 1869 it became the property of the Fairmount Park Commission, and under its care remains as a monument of the eventful occurrences in its immediate neighborhood during the Revolution.

12/7/1933

Now and Then

As has been mentioned in this column before, there were at one time two of the 21st Ward voting divisions in the Falls of Schuylkill. These were both on Ridge avenue, one at the Calumet street entrance to Fairmount Park and the other in the old Dove and Swan Tavern, which stood on the Ridge road this side of old Nicetown lane.

And the recent election when all nine of the Falls Division went Democratic, wasn't the first time that the voters of that section registered their approval of the candidates of the party symbolized by the Donkey.

Charley Whalley, in the old days of the post-Civil War period was well-known as a Democratic political leader. He held a position as an alderman. He once told the following tale. At the time there was rule that if the election officers did not get through counting the votes in time for the last train to the City, they were to carry the

ballot boxes to the nearest alderman, and leave it in his charge until the next morning. Whalley was the return judge. A late count at the old Dove and Swan made this necessary on one occasion. So with Joseph Smith, a Republican, Whalley carried the box up to the home of Alderman Albright. Placing the box down on the floor of Albright's parlor, the election officers said, "Mr. Alderman kindly keep your eye on this box till we call for it in the morning."

At 8 the next day, Whalley and Smith found Albright seated beside the box, where they had placed it the night before, leaning with his arms on a table, glaring wild-eyed at the ballot box. "I'm mighty glad you've come," he said, "I'm getting blamed sleepy and blamed tired watching that box."

It appears that Albright, with a conscientiousness which is little to be seen in these times, had sat there through the long night, keeping his eyes glued on the ballot box.

Mention of the old Schuylkill line at the Falls in a recent article in this column brought forth a reminiscence from an old resident of the 21st Ward, as follows:

"Every once in a while, when I was a lad, we used to hear of controversies between the authorities and the property owners along the river and canal in Manayunk, about encroachments on the river bed. Prior to the construction of the canal, in 1819-1821, and the building of the Fairmount Dam, the tide ebbed and flowed to within a short distance of Norristown. The building of the dam breasts prevented the tide from going up the stream, except in times of freshets. The properties along the river, according to their deeds, extend to what was known as the low water mark.

"It was to this mark, or line, that many of the Manayunk properties extended. Many of the present-

day factories in Manayunk stand on what was formerly the river bed. In Montgomery County, on the west side of the stream, at and below Manayunk, the same conditions prevail. Some of the largest of the American Bridge Company's buildings stand on what were once coves. These were straightened out, a new channel was dredged for the canal boats, and the towpath made straight. The only objection to the filling in of the river to the low water mark was based on the narrowing of the river bed, which it was claimed, would make high freshets in the Schuylkill more destructive to the properties along the river. To this fact, in my mind, can be traced the reason for the mud and cinder flats near Boat House Row. The swift current in the narrow portions of the stream carry the refuse down to the more turgid stretches of the Schuylkill nearer Fairmount.

"Recently I understand the State and Governmental officials have made rulings on the property lines, which has done away with con-

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troversies which used to arise."

A Manayunk school teacher who is not exactly deliriously happy over the historical significance of last Tuesday, was greatly shocked a few weeks ago.

One of her pupils, a lad who came to this section several years ago from Poland, was asked to write a composition telling of his experiences while on shipboard. The little fellow gave a complete account of the trip from the day he entered the stowage of the vessel until it docked at New York. He told of the amusements he had taken part in, of the days he was so sick he thought he would never see land again, and of there being a smaller number of immigrants than usual on the ship.

Then came the statement which startled the teacher, almost as much as her recent pay cut. "We had plenty of rum on deck, and so had lots of fun," wrote the youngster. The boy was plied with plenty of questions concerning the statement. He replied, "That's all right, teacher, there was plenty of rum on deck for us to play." He was then asked to spell the word "Room," and spelled it "r-u-m." This relieved the teacher, who after a good laugh, showed the lad how both words are spelled.

SCCAFF

9/28/33

Now and Then

To the older residents of this section the name of Wimpenny is a familiar one. It was recalled by a recent visit to North Laurel Hill Cemetery, where the name was seen upon a gravestone, bringing back to mind, Mrs. Mary W. Wimpenny, the widow of William Wimpenny.

This lady was the daughter of Frederick and Mary Witt, and was born April 19th 1833, in Malvern, Chester County, Pennsylvania. In her early womanhood she was married to William Wimpenny, the only son of Samuel and Elizabeth Wimpenny. The couple subsequently moved to Manayunk, where Mrs. Wimpenny became a member of the First Baptist Church. Afterward the family removed to the Falls of Schuylkill. Two children, Elizabeth, who married Dr. F. N. Pampanilla, and Samuel, who married Eliza Shronk, were born to the Wimpennys.

The son, Samuel, followed his father in a sea life and became chief engineer in the employ of the United States, in the Gulf of Mexico. He died at the height of his manhood.

The mother, Mrs. Wimpenny, succumbed on September 20th, 1915 and was buried in North Laurel Hill Cemetery.

* * * * *

Over in the quaint little St. James the Less burial ground is the last resting place of one of East Falls' greatest characters, Michael Jolley, who died on Mon-

day, September 25th, 1916, after an illness of six months.

Born at Newtown Park, County Dublin, Ireland, Michael Jolley worked on his father's dairy farm as a lad, and remained at the old homestead until misfortune swept away the family's finances, making it necessary for the male members of the clan to shift for themselves. "Mike," as he was familiarly called, came to America, where he met friends who owned a dairy farm in Chestnut Hill. But he didn't stay long, going from there to New York, and then back to St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, finally removing to the Falls, in 1857, where he found employment in the Powers & Weightman laboratory.

Later he became interested in the dairy business, and was the first to erect a home on what is now Calumet street. About 1896 he went into the contracting business and prospered in it, continuing this sort of work until his final illness. His last wish was that his horses be disposed of, which was done.

When still young, he married Miss Dorcas Mahon, and made four trips back to the old country before his death.

* * * * *

The first sermon delivered by a Methodist minister in this part of the city, was preached in Manayunk, in August of 1821, by Andrew McCaskey, a local preacher from Philadelphia, in a frame house which formerly stood on the ground in the vicinity of Main street and Green lane.

In 1822 or 1823, Rev. Jacob Gruber, then preacher in charge of Bristol Court, finding a few Methodists in Manayunk, organized a class, and thus Manayunk became a part of Bristol Court.

This class met in the house of John Porter, at Wissahickon, and was led by John Ross.

In 1827, circuit preachers from Bristol commenced to hold regular meetings in Manayunk, at the house of William Batchelor, near the Locks. This was really the first formation of Mount Zion Church.

They afterward met in a yellow schoolhouse, which stood on the west side of Main street, below Rector street.

In 1828 the first Sunday School was formed, with John Mallison as superintendent. In 1831 the first M. E. Church in Manayunk was built on Levering street, on the ground now occupied by the Dixie-Rose theatre. In 1834 this church was made a separate station and had Chestnut Hill under its charge. In 1836 another change was made and Mount Zion became a part of a circuit known as the Manayunk and Norristown Circuit, but in the same year, or early in 1837 Mount Zion again became a separate station.

In 1841 the building on Green lane (now St. Lucy's Church) was commenced and on February 5th, 1842, was dedicated. In 1871 the interior of this building was thoroughly remodeled and re-furnished; among the improvements being a large pipe organ.

The remodeled structure was opened for worship on Sunday, December 17th, 1871. In 1872 the outside of the building was changed and improved. Mt. Zion, since merged with the First M. E. of Roxborough, is thus the mother of the following Methodist Episcopal Churches: Ebenezer, First M. E., Falls M. E., Conshohocken and the Wissahickon, all of these having been offsprings of the old Manayunk church. There was also a mission at Pencoyd, which had an attendance of 80 scholars.

One of the Indian names for the Schuylkill river was "Ganshewehanna" or "Noisy Water," so called because, before the building of the Fairmount dam, the river was subject to the rise and fall of the tide; which made, at places where its bed was irregular or rocky, falls and descents, where, at the going out of the tide, the water ran or fell with some violence or shock.

"Manaiunk," another of the stream's names, means "our place of drinking." According to tradition, the Indians called the river "Mother," and "Maiden Creek," a branch of the Schuylkill above Reading, was called "Onteelaunee," meaning the little daughter of a great mother. The name "Schuylkill" it will be recalled, was given by the Dutch, and means "Hidden River," on account of the strange formation at the confluence with the Delaware, which made the smaller stream difficult for those unaccustomed to the neighborhood, to locate.

SCCAFF

11/5/1931

18

Falls Presbyterian Church Organized 75 Years Ago

Congregation Was Mothered By Manayunk Presbyterian and Fourth Reformed Churches.—Dr. Joseph Beggs Was Its First Clergyman.—Rev. Aaron T. Muyskens Receives Unanimous Call as New Pastor.

At a congregational meeting held at the Falls Presbyterian Church, 4510 Ridge avenue, last week, Rev. Aaron T. Muyskens received a unanimous call to accept the pastorate of that church.

Mr. Muyskens, formerly served in New Jersey, and will on November 10th, next, present his credentials to the Philadelphia Presbytery, so that he may assume charge of the local church as soon as possible.

Beginning next Sunday, the Falls Presbyterian congregation will hold a series of services in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the church.

In the fall of 1855, prayer meetings were held in private homes at the Falls of Schuylkill, by Rev. Andrew Culver, of the Manayunk Presbyterian Church and Rev. William Fulton of the Fourth Reformed Church.

In November of the same year, the upper room of the Old Academy building on Indian Queen lane, southwest of the Norristown branch of the Reading railroad, was fitted up for services at a cost of \$70, and in January of 1856, the

first preaching service was conducted by Rev. J. H. M. Knox, of Germantown. The following month, on February 12th, 1856, the Sabbath School was organized with John Kinnier, as superintendent.

On February 19th, 1856, Rev. Joseph Beggs, of Roxborough, began to preach in the afternoons as stated supply. And in October of 1856, a petition was presented to the Presbytery, at a meeting in Bridesburg, asking for an organization.

The congregation was therefore, regularly organized on November 7th 1856, by Revs. Job F. Halsey, Joseph Nesbitt, and Joseph Beggs, with Elders Robert Moge and Francis H. Latch. The sermon was delivered by Dr. Halsey, from Mark 5:19. The following twenty-one members composed the church: By Certificate: John Kinnier, Mrs. Mary A. Kinnier, John Hope, Mrs. Janet Hope, Robinson McKinley, Mrs. Jane McKinley, John Morrow, Mrs. Jane Morrow, John Bailey, Mary A. Harper. By Profession: Robert Stewart, Elizabeth Scott, Alexander Thompson, Margaret

Thompson, John Chadwick, John McClay, Agnes McClay, John Bell, John Maxwell, William Cowan, Samuel McKinley, and John Buchanan.

John Kinnier, and John Hope were ordained ruling elders and composed the first session. Rev. Joseph Beggs was continued as supply.

The Lord's Supper was dispensed for the first time in December of 1856, with four new members being added, by profession.

Mrs. Mary Jane Cowan, who later became Mrs. Porter, and who lived until but a few years ago, joined the church on March 13th, 1857.

The present site of the church was purchased from Andrew Robeson on November 30th, 1866, at which time the property ran down to the water-line of the Schuylkill river.

September 7th, 1867, saw the cornerstone of the church laid, and the building was enclosed before winter. On April 22nd, 1868, Rev.

Joseph Beggs, resigned his pastorate at Roxborough, and devoted his entire time to the Falls congregation. The church was dedicated on October 11th, 1868. The late James Dobson, always a benefactor of the church, presented a pipe organ to the congregation and it was played for the first time on November 27th, 1870.

On November 17th, 1872, James McMurtie and Samuel McKinney were ordained elders. John Maxwell was ordained an elder on November 15th, of 1874.

The Sunday School building came into being in 1890, the cornerstone being laid, on May 11th of that year. Addresses were made by the late John Wanamaker, Messrs. George S. Graham, W. H. Scott, Robert Ogden, and Revs. Thomas Murphy, and W. C. Cattell. The structure cost approximately \$10,000.

On March 3rd, 1891, Josiah Linton, George B. Gallagher and James Starrett were installed as ruling elders. And the latter serves in the same capacity today, having served 40 years in the position of trust, a record which is one to be proud of.

The present Session is composed of James and Alexander Starrett,

Walter MacIndoe, William Halstead, David Borland and William Fitzpatrick.

Joseph Beggs, D. D., L. L. D., was released from charge of the church and made pastor emeritus on April 17th, 1894, being succeeded, on January 10th, of 1895, by Rev. Sherman H. Doyle, of Moundsville, West Virginia. Samuel H. Mayberry was ordained an elder on September 1st, 1895.

Dr. Doyle served the Falls congregation from 1895 until 1900, when he was succeeded by John Milton Thompson, D. D., who was pastor until 1904, when he resigned. His place was taken by the late William Melancthon Glasgow, who was followed in succession by the Revs. Benjamin B. Royer, Samuel W. Steckel, and William B. Cooke, who served the church up until October 12th, of last year, when he resigned. Since that time, the church has been without the services of a regular pastor, and the coming of Mr. Muyskens will be a welcome one.

The opening service of the diamond celebration which will be held next Sunday morning, will find Rev. Richard Montgomery, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Philadelphia

North, in the pulpit, prepared to deliver an historical sermon. This old-time friend of the Falls Presbyterian Church was for many years associated with Rev. Dr. Beggs, the first pastor, and his address will undoubtedly be listened to with great interest.

The following Wednesday evening has been designated Young Peoples' Night, and on Friday evening, October 12th there will be a Congregational Banquet, at which time several former pastors are expected to be present, as well as clergymen from the sister churches in the Falls.

The closing service of the series will be held on Sunday, November 15th, when the sermons will be preached by Rev. Dr. John Milton Thompson, of Far Rockaway, N. Y., who formerly served the local church as its pastor.

10/14/1937

19

Falls Methodists Are Observing An 100th Anniversary

Holding Services to Mark
Coming of "Methodism
to East Falls"

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

First Meetings Were Held in
Home of Religious
Local Residents

Next Sunday has been designated "Praise Sunday," at the Falls Methodist Episcopal Church, Indian Queen lane and Krail street, East Falls. Rev. B. Smith Stull, pastor of the church, announces that a noted preacher, Lieutenant Colonel James A. Harvey, Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army, will speak at the 11:10 A. M. service.

These current services are in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of "Methodism in East Falls."

For next Sunday night, beginning at 7:30 o'clock, a splendid musical treat has been arranged by Joseph Smith, chorister, who is also the leader of the Falls Male Chorus. In the church service, renditions will be given by the Falls Mixed Chorus and the Philco Male Chorus.

Methodism came to the Falls of Schuylkill first, in 1837, when a class meeting was held on Sunday afternoon in the home of Andrew Gilmore, on Ridge avenue, in charge of Abraham Asev. Prayer meetings were held on Wednesday evenings, in a stone house on Ridge avenue, in which lived Daniel Glacking and John Jackson, and still later public services were held in the Old Academy on Indian Queen lane. The pulpit was supplied by men from the Philadelphia Local Preachers' Association.

In 1839 the Falls organization was added to the circuit with Manayunk and Fairmount; Rev. John Henry being the preacher in charge and Rev. B. Smith the junior preacher.

At the house of Hugh DeHaven the Sunday School was started, Mr. DeHaven providing the books and other requisites, while he, his wife and daughter, were the teachers and officers.

The Methodist Conference of 1840 appointed Rev. Robert A. McNamee as pastor at Manayunk and the Falls, Fairmount now being a station. In 1845 the Falls group consisted of 45 members, which still held its meetings in the Old Academy, and was supplied by local preachers from Mt. Zion Church, Manayunk.

The male members of the Falls organization consulted with the

trustees of Mount Zion Church and its pastor, on May 26th, 1851, and considered the advisability of building a church structure at the Falls, in order that members might have preaching every Sunday. The outcome of the meeting was a decision to build the place of worship. The first step taken was to elect a board of nine trustees. Having only seven male members residing at the Falls, who could serve as trustees, according to the discipline of the Methodist Episcopal rulings, Edward Preston and Charles M. Sutton, of Manayunk, were elected members of the Board, and to the counsel and financial assistance of these two men the forwarding of the enterprise owed much of its success.

The first Board of Trustees consisted of Israel Foster, Joseph Clegg, Albert G. Marley, Thomas G. Wyatt, Andrew McGaw, James Dykes, James Mills, Sr., Edward Preston and Charles H. Sutton.

James Mills, Sr., was elected president; Israel Foster, treasurer; and James Dykes, secretary. A building committee was named, which consisted of Mr. Foster, Mr. Mills and Mr. Clegg. The next day the committee purchased a lot, 53 feet x 100 feet, with a building on the lot, at the corner of Frederick and Stanton streets. The front of the structure was removed and 15 feet of new structure added to the building, until it was 30 x 45 feet in extent, with a seating capacity of 216 persons. The entire cost amounted to \$2,258.65 which included the amount paid for the lot.

The first Board of Stewards was appointed on October 29th, 1855, by the presiding elder, Rev. James H. Alday, and consisted of Albert G.

Marley, Edward R. Freas, William Shronk, Charles Wonderly, and James Mills. The organization was effected by Rev. James Cunningham, presiding elder, on March 29th 1855, and Rev. Joseph Elree was the first regularly appointed pastor of the church as an individual unit.

Other pastors who have served the congregation include Revs. W. C. Best, William Smith, Silas B. Best, J. R. Bailey, J. S. J. McConnell, Stephen Townsend, Jacob H. Hughes, Thomas B. Neely, Maris Graves, George A. Wolfe, J. C. Wood, Wilmer Coffman, P. J. Cox, Eli Pickersgill, Nathaniel Turner, T. T. Mutchler, J. W. Rudolph, Robert A. McIlvain, J. J. Timanus, S. K. McConnell, Richard Turner, A. Percival Hodgson, F. A. Gacks, Joseph Gallagher, Francis H. Tees, John S. Tomlinson, Harold St. Clair Carter and the present pastor, Rev. B. Smith Stull.

In 1871 it was thought desirable to seek a new site for the church home. The committee appointed to view building lots on Indian Queen lane, which were then offered for sale, included, John M. Shronk, John Schofield and James Mills. These men reported back on March 18th, 1871, advising purchase of the present church site. Upon favorable action on the report the lots were

procured from Alexander Krail for the sum of \$1875.

In 1872 a building committee was named, with the following men serving on it: Rev. Maris Graves, James Mills, Edward Foster, Francis Ferguson and John M. Shronk. Work was pushed on the project and after the cornerstone had been laid on August 3rd, 1872, the lecture room was opened for public service on February 2nd, of 1873. Rev. George A. Wolfe was then the pas-

tor. Formal dedication at the end of construction of the building was made on October 31st, 1873.

Feats Of Russian Flyers Recall The Exploring Of Kane

Philadelphia Physician Took Sailing Ship Into Far Northern Wastes

EARLY SCIENTIST

Tomb in Laurel Hill Cemetery Overlooks Schuylkill River and Park

Men and women throughout the world marvel at the feats of the two Russian airplane crews which recently flew over the North Pole on their way from Moscow to the United States. And camped on the frozen fields of the North there is still an expedition of scientists, also from Russia, who are making surveys of the region which was for so many years a mystery to mankind.

The local resident who motors cityward along the East River Drive can see, just below the two railroad bridges at the Falls of Schuylkill, the burial place of one of Philadelphia's great explorers of an earlier day—Elisha Kent Kane, who has co-lateral descendants residing in Roxborough, in the Harlan family.

If the motorist is curious and gazes of the steep embankment at the extreme northern limit of Laurel Hill Cemetery, he will see stretched up and down the hillside, a series of low stone posts, with a heavy chain connecting them. These posts and chain surround the tomb of Kane, the Arctic explorer and intrepid adventurer of the period prior to the Civil War.

The year 1853 saw Philadelphia send Poleward this man who blazed the trail to the farthest North for Admiral Robert E. Peary in his sailing ship, and Admiral Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett in their giant Fokker, the "Josephine Ford", who followed after Kane, to overcome the icy wastes.

Elisha Kent Kane left the Spruce street home of the Wistar's where he had attended a party, and proceeded to Washington, D. C., where

he enlisted for military service in the Mexican War. Returning from this adventure he immediately started to lay his plans for reaching the Pole. Kane Basin, in North-western Greenland perpetuates his name. In his writings it is revealed that he was a man of courage, dogged persistence and steadfast humour, and well deserved the admiration of these who have since followed his trail into the North.

Kane's thoughts, while in the Arctic, continually brought him back to his home, which was in Fern Rock. He seldom saw a glacier without comparing it in size to the main building of Girard College, which he apparently used as a unit of measurement. Fissures in the ice he compared to the Schuylkill river, at Grays Ferry; or to the Wissahickon Creek, whose ever-green glade he was particularly fond of, though he saw too little of it, because the entire span of his life only extended about 35 years.

Upon his return from the war with Mexico, the prominent citizens of Philadelphia presented him with a sword. In 1850 he started, upon two days' notice, to the North, with Dehaven, as surgeon, on an expedition to solve the disappearance of Sir John Franklin. Again, in 1853 he returned to the Polar region with his own expedition, and took a sailing vessel nearer to the Pole than any other such ship had been pushed before. While on this trip he took a sledge ride and discovered the Humboldt glacier, on the west coast of Greenland, one of the chief sources of icebergs which afflict the steamer lanes of the North Atlantic.

Kane served his internship as a doctor in the Pennsylvania Hospital before he was 21 years of age. In a few months he was senior resident physician. He never ceased to apply himself to his books, as well as the patients of the wards, and wrote several theses on little known secretions, which commanded the respectful attention of the medical profession.

A doctor himself, he was unable to cure his own ailments. All through his life he had to assert his strong will against illness. He was a sufferer from rheumatism and also from the coast fever which

he brought back from a trip to Africa. Neither in Greenland, or in the torrid zones did he have any fears of his condition. Yet he is described as having a nervous temperament, possessing irrepressible energy which rivaled the action that was attributed to "he of the Big Stick".

In 1845 he made up his mind to become a practitioner in Philadelphia, and had even rented an office with that purpose in mind, but the call of the wild was too strong for him and he obeyed it.

However, he must not be classed with the ordinary globe-trotter seeking thrills, whose sentimental journeys only serve to gratify a passion for change and excitement. Wherever he went he carried science with him, and Sir William Osler was not more versatile in observation and research. If an ill man could accomplish as much as Kane did, what might he not have done if his body had always followed his commands?

One of Kane's comrades, a Philadelphian, who was the last survivor of the final expedition, carried Kane on his back when the latter was too feeble to move. It was a labor of love and not of command, for the stalwart comrade to serve his leader, and all of his men had a similar feeling of devotion for their chief. Kane was not only a man of science and a brave explorer, but he was also a born leader of men.

11/2/1933

Local Residents Possess Historic American Drums

William E. Marley Owns One That Was Carried in Battle of Germantown.—Stanley Hart Cauffman's Tambor Saw Service in War of 1812

One of the earliest musical instruments; one which was known to most of the aboriginal tribes in all parts of the world, is the drum. Drums have kept time with men's march of progress during his entire development.

With this opening paragraph, the reader will surmise that this is, therefore, a story of drums. The subject was brought up in a recent conversation about these instruments, with William E. Marley, Sr., of 4127 Ridge avenue, East Falls.

Mr. Marley possesses one of the Nation's most historical drums. Made prior to the American Revolution, in Germantown, it was carried by Joseph Sorber, a resident of that neighboring village, in the Battle of Germantown, on October 4th, 1777.

Somewhat deeper than the present-day drum, its head held in position by wooden rims that are

tightened by ropes, with leather hasps, it differs from the modern instrument which is tightened and tuned with rods and thumbscrews.

Mr. Marley's drum was also used at Camp Stokley, on the site of the Queen Lane Pumping Station, near School House lane, when the soldiers of this locality were being recruited for service in the Civil War.

A small label, pasted inside the drum, tells that it was given to "Squire William Sorber, who gave it to his grand-nephew, Theodore Marley, in 1885;" who in turn presented it to Albert A. Marley, in 1867. The latter turned it over to his brother, William E. Marley, Sr., the present owner, in 1929. The inscription states that the drum was brought to the Falls of Schuylkill in 1803. This ancient instrument is in the best of repair and has been carried in many loca-

parades, including the Fourth of July celebrations in Roxborough and Manayunk.

Mr. Marley, its owner, is a well known musician of many years' activity. He has instructed scores of men and boys to play the drum, including his own sons and grandson. His first effort as a band instructor was with the old Riverside Section of the Cadets of Temperance, whose fife and drum corps was the pioneer organization of its kind in the Falls. His most recent endeavor was an instructor of the Sons of Veterans Bugle and Drum Corps of Roxborough.

Another historic drum, which is owned by a local resident, is the property of Stanley Hart Cauffman, conductor of the Roxborough Symphony Orchestra, who resides at 127 Rochelle avenue, Wissahickon.

Mr. Cauffman's drum is known technically as a "tambor," and in size is between the present-day trap and bass drums. It is not as flat as the former, and is as deep as it is round. Ropes and leather make up its tightening apparatus. It has a double head.

The "tambor" was made in Germantown, for the Lafayette Guards of Philadelphia and carried in the War of 1812.

In addition to this musical relic, Mr. Cauffman possesses a collection of war helmets, including those worn by American soldiers in all of this country's wars. Among the "head protectors" are helmets of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, Mexican War, Spanish American War, and the World conflict. There is also a headpiece

that was used in the Franco-Prussian War and one used by a French soldier in Napoleon's Waterloo campaign. This collection is augmented by suits of early German and Persian armor and other interesting American military relics.

Passed Away



PATRICK J. KELLEY

East Falls florist, who expired after weeks illness, in the Lanckenau pital. Solemn services, attended by the following of his friends, were held in St. Bridget's Church, last Saturday morning.

9/4/1933

22

Judge Michael Arnold Told Of Days Spent At Falls

Distinguished Barrister Resided in Old Hotel on Ridge Avenue, Below Indian Queen Lane

To Judge Albert S. C. Millar, of Queen Lane Manor, goes the honor of having been the first person from the 38th Ward to serve on the bench of the Common Pleas Courts of Philadelphia.

In making this statement there will probably be a good many old time residents of this section who will arise and say "You're all wrong! How about the late Michael Arnold?"

Whereupon we must come back with the answer that when Judge Arnold was appointed to the Common Pleas bench, there was no 38th Ward. That political division was then, either the 28th Ward, or the 21st Ward. We haven't been able to trace the dates positively enough to definitely state which one the former judge lived in at that time. But it's a fact nevertheless.

And if Judge Millar gets re-elected to that position again, it is hoped that he'll create a record as commendable as that of his predecessor from the Falls of Schuylkill.

Michael Arnold as a lad, resided in what is familiar today as the Falls Hotel, which was conducted by Mrs. Matilda Whelen, who expired a week ago. At the time Judge Arnold lived there, the place was in charge of his father.

Fred Perry Powers, in a booklet entitled "Early Schuylkill Bridges," published by the City Historical Society in October of 1910, has this to say concerning the old Falls Hotel, quoting an old Philadelphia guide book: "Having crossed the Schuylkill bridge (High, or Market street) take the first right hand road, this will conduct you along the River Schuylkill . . . Having proceeded on this road about four miles, you may either stop at Mendenhalls inn (opposite Nicetown lane) or cross the river on a chain bridge of modern construction, a short distance above, and in sight of the falls, to a house of public entertainment, called the 'Falls Tavern, on the eastern side of the Schuylkill."

Judge Arnold established procedures in the courts of Philadelphia, which are still recognized and followed by attorneys of today. In

the Falls Star—an old newspaper—of May 10th, 1884, there appeared an article entitled "Recollections of Michael Arnold," which was exceedingly interesting. It reads as follows:

"My residence at the Falls commenced in 1853, although I was familiar with the place during five or six years before that time. The houses were built of stone, wood or brick, roughcast. I think the first pressed brick home was that occupied by Louis Naher, on Ridge road above the lane leading to the Reading Railroad bridge.

"Spencer street—now Calumet—and all the streets on the hill, near the Norristown railroad, were not yet laid out. James street—now Stanton—was built up slowly, as improvements did not come fast during the time prior to 1860. Ridge road was a turnpike.

"There was no street railway, brick pavements or boardwalks, consequently muddy walking was quite frequent.

"The mode of travel to the city was by stage, and in the summer by steamboats on the river; even the daily papers were brought out by steamer. The daily mail was about a dozen letters.

"Dobsons' mills were called Shaw's Mill, and consisted of the old square building on Scott's lane. I have seen it burned out two or three times.

"Fire companies came out from the city and made their visit a duty and a pleasure trip also. Water was pumped into the engines, as there were no fire plugs, and in a short time the pumps got choked up with gravel stones.

"There was an old mill and dye house on the Ridge road near the entrance to the public school house, which was called Nugent's Mill. It was burned out several times.

"That part of Laurel Hill, above Clearfield street, was called Kelly's Hill. There was a tavern on it, which was a great resort on the Fourth of July.

"There were no houses on that side of Ridge road, below the old hotel - - - near the road leading

to the Reading Railroad bridge. At the upper corner of that road - - - its junction with Ridge road - - - was an old stone wall and a blacksmith shop. The corner was called "Hard Corner," on account of the bad walking in wet weather and the fact that the wall was generally occupied by men whose feet protruding made the narrow sidewalk more difficult of getting over.

"The Baptist Church had been built; so had several small houses between it and Ridge road; but there were none above the church. In fact, all that ground now skirted by the houses of Queen lane was wild grown, blackberry bushes and chestnut trees flourished and possessed great attractions for the birds. Rabbits and squirrels came that far down, and I have been told that woodcock also ventured there.

"The old school house was sometimes used for school on weekdays and church on Sundays. It was dedicated by William Moore Smith to Robert Watkins, Godfrey Shronk, William Deal, Robert Ralston, and Charles Hagner in the year 1816, or trust as a church and school for all denominations. Public exhibitions, concerts, etc., were also given there; Indians - - - mock and real - - - came there. Now you go to the circus to see them.

"Samuel Garrett lived farther up in the woods. The country around him was wild indeed. It has been said that his house was occupied by Count Von Donop, one of the commanders of the Hessian contingent to the British Army, during their occupancy of Philadelphia prior to the Battle of Germantown.

"Down in the valley below his house, the ground was in hollows. Round like old cellars, and it was said that the Hessians troops dug it out that way for their winter quarters.

"Mr. Garrett was an agreeable old gentleman, who liked to have people call and talk with him. On a Sunday morning his house was a favorite resort for his acquaintances. It was built of logs, had one big room and a fireplace large enough for people to sit in.

"The land he occupied had been in the Garrett family since before the time of Penn, and had passed by descendance down to him. It is said that some of his ancestors were murdered there by robbers.

"The old residents of the Falls whom I remember, were Richard Penn Smith, Emmanuel Krail, William Sorber, Samuel Winpenny, and Elizabeth Morison, all of whom are now dead. They were agreeable and intelligent talkers, with whom I frequently conversed and learned many of the traditions of the place - - - that do not get into books, but are carried down in memory from one generation to another."

SCCAFF

Falls of Schuylkill Adds Chapter to City History

Section Took Name From Rocks Now Submerged by Dam in Fairmount Park

(Illustrated on Picture Page)

With an interesting and romantic background comparable to any other old section of this city, Falls of Schuylkill has made its contribution to the annals of Philadelphia County, the history and development of which will always be a source of interest to lovers of Old Philadelphia.

This community is in the upper end of the Thirty-eighth Ward, along the east bank of the Schuylkill.

Today the stranger to the Falls is fascinated by the quaint appearance of the older section of this neighborhood, with its hilly cobblestone streets, old landmarks, picturesque scenery, and an air of natural beauty which still surrounds it, in spite of modern encroachments. While Queen Lane Manor, the newer part of the Falls, is more pretentious, the older section of the "town" has preserved much of its early simplicity.

It is interesting to know how the community derived its name. Strangers often wonder why it is called Falls of Schuylkill when there is no apparent drop in the river at this point. This is true, but the falls were in existence here in the early days, and the cascade among the rocks was famous throughout the countryside for its beauty. The noise made by the falls is said to have been heard for miles around.

Falls Still Exist

In 1821 when the Fairmount Dam was built, the falls were submerged, but they still are actually in existence below the surface of the water. An indication of this can be seen in a few of the rocks which still jut out from the river near the Ferry Street entrance to Fairmount Park, and the rough current of the river at this junction.

The history of Falls of Schuylkill goes back to 1877 when mention is made of it in a letter written by Governor Andross, of New Sweden. He writes of a tract of land purchased here from the Indians.

It is conceded that the first settler of the Falls was Garrett Garretson, a Swede, who is supposed to have lived in this neighborhood about 1680. The Garr-its—the name later having been shortened—for six generations have occupied the original estate. The present members of this early family still live in Falls of Schuylkill and oc-

cupy a house on the northwest corner of Vaux and Ainslie Streets, which is part of the original Garretson property. Samuel Garrett lives in this house. His son, Norman Garrett, a former resident of the Falls, now living in Germantown, is a former commander of Henry H. Houston Post No. 3, American Legion, and is active in legion affairs in Pennsylvania.

Other early settlers were Hans Moens and Jan Shoetan, who made a claim of land here around 1680, where the Falls Creek emptied into the Schuylkill River. They promised to build a mill at this point, and this was probably done, as mention of a saw and sickle is made later in a map of 1760.

That same map shows that the following families had farms in the Falls in that year:

Robeson, Morgan, Garretson, Palmer, Shute, Bond, Francis, Hood, Millin, Harrison, Evans, Roberts, Peters and George.

Originally Fort St. Davids

For many years the settlement was known as Fort St. Davids, because it was the home of a society of sportsmen who built a castle on the river in 1732. This social organization is still in existence, and now is known as the Fishing Com-



Ledger Photo

A. C. CHADWICK, JR.

Local historian, poet and writer of Falls of Schuylkill. He is the foremost authority on this section of the city. Mr. Chadwick is also active in civic affairs in this community

pany of the State in Schuylkill. Its present headquarters is on the Delaware at Eddington. It is said to be the oldest social organization in the world speaking the English language.

There were originally two fishing

clubs in the Falls. They were known as the Society of St. David's, and the Colony in the Schuylkill. The former later merged with the latter. Present members of the Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill are drawn from some of Philadelphia's oldest families, and early members of the old fishing club included some of the most colorful figures in American history.

Falls of Schuylkill is rich in historical landmarks. One of these is a building on the east side of Indian Queen Lane just above Ridge Avenue. This mansion, which was called "Smith's Folly," was built in 1732. It is of historical importance because in it lived the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. William Smith, who came to America in 1751 as a tutor. At one time this house was also the residence of Dr. Smith's grandson, Richard Penn Smith, a famous wit and dramatist. Several other structures once stood on the original Smith estate, now owned by the Dobson family.

In one of these lived Joseph Neef, a Swedish educator who introduced the Pestalossian system of instruction in this country. "Smith's Folly" was occupied by General Stephen, of Virginia, when Wash-

ington's army was encamped in this vicinity during the American Revolution. During the yellow fever epidemic in 1793 the house was occupied by General Knox, Secretary of War, and Oliver Wolcott, Jr., the Auditor of the United States Treasury. The building is now used as a dwelling.

Spring Is Perpetual

On Ridge Avenue just below Indian Queen Lane is another landmark. It is the old Falls Hotel, which is recorded as having had a liquor license as early as 1731. The building is now used as a residence and is the property of the Matilda Whelen estate. It is in good repair, and gives no indication of its great age. An interesting feature of this landmark is the compliance made with an old deed of the property. In the early days a spring terminated at the entrance to the hotel, and the deed provided that it should always be kept running. This has been done to the present day, but the spring has been piped and the outlet is inside the old building.

The Old Academy, on Indian Queen Lane, below the station of the Norristown branch of the Reading Company, is of special historical interest because in this building every church now in the Falls held its first services. It was erected in 1819 on ground donated in 1816 by William Moore Smith, a son of Provost Smith, and his wife, Anne, with a special clause in the gift that the building on the ground should always be used for educational, religious and cultural purposes. The building was made possible through public subscription and is maintained by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees of nine, composed of members of the old families of the community.

From 1909 to 1912 the Old Academy was used as a public library. It is now used by a talented dra-

matic organization, and a women's fraternal order, which help to keep the building in good condition. The present trustees of the Old Academy are William E. Marley, 4127 Ridge Avenue, president; Frank F. Hess, 223 West Gorgas Lane, secretary; Walter J. Binkin, 3592 Indian Queen Lane, treasurer; Samuel Garrett, Vaux and Ainslie Streets; Wayne F. Hawk, Haywood Street; William J. Campbell, 3421 Indiana Queen Lane; Harry Binkin, 3602 Haywood Street; Clifford Morison, Krail Street near Indian Queen Lane, and A. C. Chadwick, Jr., 3624 Fisk Avenue.

A stone building in the rear of a house on 4108 Ridge Avenue serves as a reminder that the first drug mill in America was located here. The structure which was erected prior to the American Revolution was established by Frederick Hagner in 1813. Frederick Hagner was the father of Charles V. Hagner.

the historian, to whom present-day residents of the Falls are indebted for much of the history of this community.

Paper Mill at First

The pioneer drug mill can be regarded as a forerunner of the great chemical works of Powers, Weightman & Rosengarten, the building of which was started at the Falls of Schuylkill about 1846 or 1847. This company is still in existence, but is now known as Merck & Co., Inc.

Prior to its use as a drug mill, the old building was used by Christopher Sowers, as a paper mill. It is said that the first Bibles published in this county in German were printed on paper manufactured at the Sowers Paper Mill.

The abandoned Stoever's Quarry, between Ridge Avenue and the East River Drive, at the upper end of what is now Laurel Hill Cemetery, is also of historical importance. Stone from this old quarry, which was abandoned about 1870, was used to build the walls of the Eastern Penitentiary at "Cherry Hill," and the foundations of both the Masonic Temple at Broad and Filbert, and City Hall.

During the War for Independence Washington's army encamped in Falls of Schuylkill on the site of what is now the Queen Lane Reservoir and Filtration Plant. The main part of the Continental Army occupied this and adjacent ground from August 1 to August 8, 1777, and September 12 and 13, 1777, before and immediately after the Battle of Brandywine. Washington's headquarters during the encampment was in an old farmhouse on the present site of the Carlton Mansion, Stokley Street and Midvale Avenue. It was at that time the residence of Henry Hill, who was a member of Carpenter's Hall Conference, the Committee of Safety, and the Constitutional Convention of 1776.

A monument was erected on the site of Washington's encampment in 1895 by the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution. It is said that Lafayette first reviewed the American Army here. At that time the young Frenchman made

his headquarters in a little house owned by a man named Morgan, the site of which is now McMichael and Coulter Streets. The site of the Queen Lane reservoir and filtration plant also was used during the Civil War by the 118th Pennsylvania Volunteers, also known as the Corn Exchange Regiment.

Tavern Is Landmark

Another landmark is the old Palmer Tavern, on the east side of Ridge Avenue below Indian Queen Lane, and opposite the Falls Hotel. This building which is now used as a dwelling, was erected prior to the Revolution. It was used for military court-martial during Washington's encampment at the Falls.

The Reading Company bridge across the Schuylkill near the Ferry Street entrance to Fairmount Park cannot be left out of the list of landmarks because of its connection with a new type of bridge construction. It has been known for many years as the "Stone Bridge," and was erected in 1853 by Christian Swartz.

A new principle in masonry bridge construction was embodied in the structure. It is known as a skew bridge, and the new theory has proved successful by the thousands of tons of coal and other materials which have been hauled across it.

Another fact which makes this bridge of historical importance is that on this same site in 1808 was erected the largest chain suspension bridge in the world at that time. This was built by James Finley, of

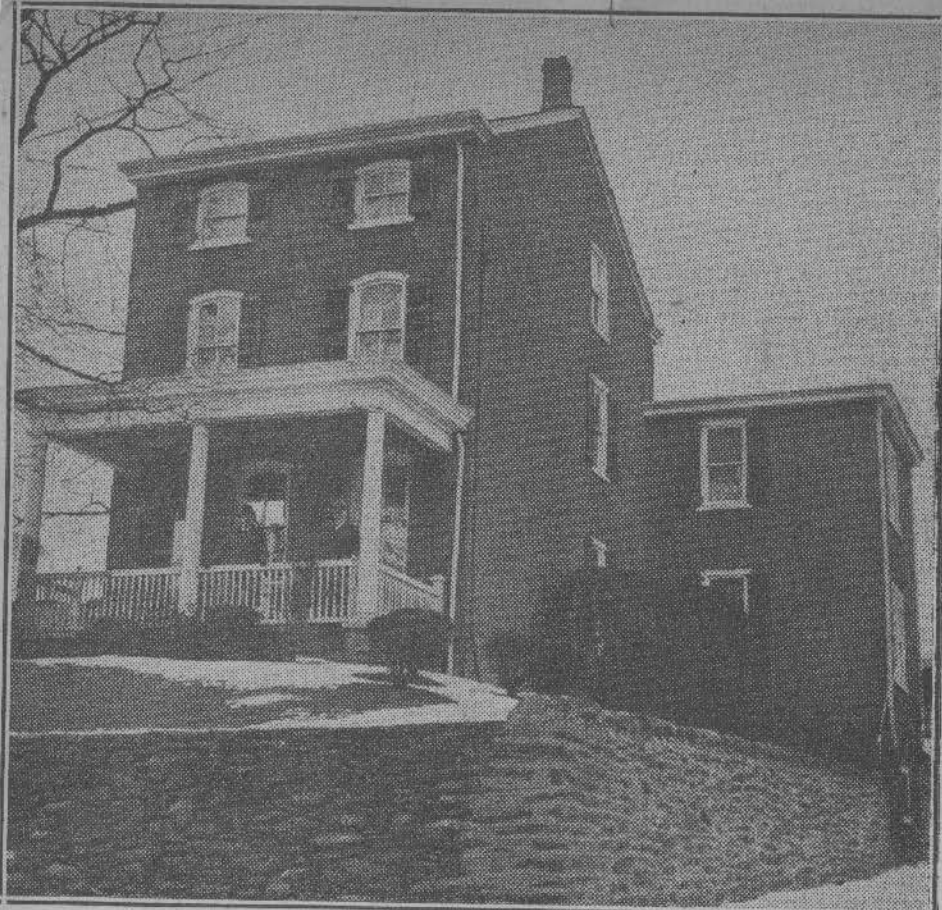
Fayette County. While it was not the first suspension bridge in the United States, it was the first of its size in the world. The modern suspension bridge idea originated with Finley, who introduced this type in the United States.

The chain for the bridge was fabricated at the Falls by Josiah White and Erskine Hazard, who established here a mill for rolling iron and making nails. It was in this mill that the first practical use of anthracite is said to have been discovered in this country. White and Hazard had heard of large deposit of anthracite at the head of the Schuylkill, and decided to experiment with it.

When the Fairmount Dam was erected above Spring Garden Street in 1821, it put an end to the water power, fisheries and mills at the Falls and the once bustling little community became a comparatively "deserted village." It was to remain this way until the coming of the Dobson Mills, when it again became an industrial center.



Ledger Photo
ONE OF ORIGINAL FAMILIES of Falls of Schuylkill is represented by Samuel Garrett, pictured on porch of his home on old estate



Ledger Photo
THE HOME OF SAMUEL GARRETT, corner of Vaux and Ainslie Streets, on the original estate of Garrett Garrettsen, first settler of Falls of Schuylkill. Six generations of the Garrett family have lived on the estate

Public Ledger 3/2/1934

EAST FALLS AIDED BY TEXTILE MILL

New Era in Development
Opened in 1855 With Building of Dobson Plant

(Illustrated on Picture Page)

When John and James Dobson established their textile mills at Falls of Schuylkill in 1855 it opened a new era in the development of that section of Philadelphia. The quiet village, within a few years, teemed with activity again, and the Dobson plant was destined to become one of the largest textile mills in the United States, shipping its products to the far corners of the earth.

The Dobson brothers, who came from England, originally settled at Mill Creek, Montgomery County, and worked at the mill of Seville Schofield. The brothers married the two daughters of Schofield, and later established a mill of their own along the Wissahickon. From there they moved to the Falls.

Dobson's mill was started with a capital of \$100. At the full tide of

prosperity the Dobson Mills operated about 1400 looms, employed 6000 hands and did about \$20,000,000 business in a year.

Originated Many Weaves

From 1855 to 1927 the Dobson Mills were virtually the life of Falls of Schuylkill. At the height of its capacity Dobson's manufactured carpets, plush, velvets, blankets, woolen and worsted yarns, cloth for women's gowns and men's clothing. At these mills a number of original weaves were manufactured.

The Dobsons were the first in this country to manufacture chinchilla cloth. They also introduced polo cloth.

John Dobson died in 1902. After his death the business was carried on by his brother James, who through the introduction of modern machinery carried the plant on to a still greater prosperity. Soon after the death of James Dobson the business gradually fell off.

Just as the erection of the Fairmount Dam struck at the vital life of Falls of Schuylkill, the closing of the Dobson plant in 1927 deprived the people of that section of one of their best means of livelihood. But residents of the Falls come from a good sturdy stock, and have carried on in spite of the closing of the Dobson plant.

Widow Still Lives at Falls

Mrs. James Dobson, the widow of the textile manufacturer, still is living in the Dobson Mansion, Thirty-

third Street and Abbotsford Avenue, with her daughter Mrs. Bessie Dobson Altemus. Mrs. Dobson, 95, is the oldest resident of the Falls. When the Dobson Mills closed, Mrs. Altemus and her mother did a great deal to relieve distress in the community.

In the center of the Dobson Mills is an old Colonial mansion which was used for many years as the office of the manufacturing plant. The structure was built prior to the American Revolution, and was known as the Hagner Mansion. It was occupied by several generations of the Hagner family.

No mention of outstanding achievement in Falls of Schuylkill can be made without including the five Kelly brothers. They are John B. Kelly, Coulter Street and Henry Avenue, champion oarsman and independent Democratic leader of Philadelphia; Patrick H. Kelly, 2803 Queen Lane, a building contractor who erected many large public structures in Philadelphia; Walter C. Kelly, "The Virginia Judge," who achieved fame on the vaudeville stage; George Kelly, playwright, author of the "Show Off" and other Broadway successes; and Charles V. Kelly, 3661 Midvale Avenue, associated with his brother in the building trade.

Important Part in Sports

The Falls has played an important part in sports. This no doubt is due in part to the traditions handed down from the days when the community had its beginning

through the establishment of sports clubs in the vicinity. Probably the outstanding sports leader in the Falls is John B. Kelly, whose fame as an oarsman was known long before he came into the political limelight. Two other oarsmen who share the sport limelight with Kelly are Paul Costello and Charles McIlvaine.

In the field of golf, the Falls boasts of J. Griffith Boardman, the Ashbourne star, Joe Brennan and Edward Cleary. In addition, there are a host of others including Jack Burke and Bill Leach, who formerly lived there.

Among the prominent boxers who came from the Falls were Skrim O'Donnell, Charles Turner and Crockey O'Boyle. Falls ballplayers who achieved fame were Bill Gray, Mike Drennan, former scout of the A's; Benny Beaumont and Victor Keen. The latter used to play on the old Dobson nine. This year Falls of Schuylkill boasts of a national pocket-billiard champion, George Kelly, son of Patrick H. Kelly.

Known as East Falls

Other local sport luminaries are Samuel Moorehead, rower and basketball player; the Cavanaugh brothers, Joe, Archie and Willie, who performed many deeds of valor on the basketball court, and the

**Population of Falls
Is About 15,000 Now**

According to A. C. Chadwick, Jr., 3624 Fisk Avenue, historian for the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, the modern boundaries of the Falls of the Schuylkill are Hunting Park Avenue on the south; School House Lane, in the neighborhood of the Wissahickon Creek, on the north; the Schuylkill on the west, and Wissahickon Avenue on the east.

The population of the Falls is about 15,000.

Lally brothers, outstanding independent football players.

Falls of Schuylkill often has been referred to in recent years as East Falls. It received this name because of the two stations which the Reading Company had in this district in 1876. One station was on the west side of the Schuylkill, the other on the east side. The station on the west side was called West Falls, and consequently the settlement on the other side of the river was called East Falls. West Falls Station no longer exists. Old timers prefer the old name of the place and never did like to have their community referred to as East Falls.

The Falls takes special pride in two old institutions which in recent years have transferred their main activities to the section. They are the Penn Charter School and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

The latter, which was the first college in the world regularly organized for the medical education of women, purchased a site of ap-



FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL ROLL OF HONOR. This community is proud of its record in World War. Mrs. Elsie MacKenzie Clayton is shown looking at list of those who served in war. Tablet is at Midvale Avenue and East River Drive.



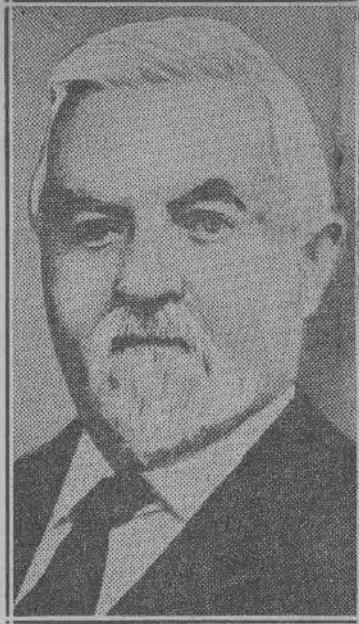
MRS. JAMES DOBSON

Ninety-five, the oldest resident of the Falls. When the Dobson Mills closed in 1927 she was very active in relief work in this community, which felt keenly the closing of the great textile plant



From the collection of A. C. Chadwick, Jr.
CAPTAIN JOHN DOBSON

Founder of the Dobson Mills with capital of \$100. This picture was taken during the Civil War, when he was with the Blue Reserves, Thirty-third Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He later became famous as a textile manufacturer



JAMES DOBSON

Who carried on the development of the Dobson Mills, after the death of his brother, and made it one of the finest textile factories in the world

proximately ten acres at Henry and Abbotsford Avenues in 1926. In October, 1929, the erection of the first building in the expansion program of this hospital was begun. On June 11, 1930, the auditorium of the new building was opened for the annual commencement exercises and the laying of the cornerstone took place on the same date.

Stands on Historic Site

This modern hospital, located on a hill and commanding an excellent view of the surrounding country, stands on an historic site. The ground was once known as Abbotsford, and a Colonial mansion built prior to the American Revolution once stood there. Charles Abbott, a member of the Board of Education, lived there. During the Revolution the estate was occupied by Lieutenant General Knyphausen, commander-in-chief of the Hessian troops in America. The barn which adjoined the old mansion still is standing and has been turned into a restaurant for the use of the students at the college.

Penn Charter School, many years at 8 South Twelfth Street, was moved on September, 1925, to Falls of Schuylkill on an estate known as Pinehurst, formerly the property of Clementine Pope, who died in 1903. The twenty-two-acre tract was presented to the overseers of Penn Charter School by Clementine Pope's will, which provided that the school should be transferred there at the first opportunity.

Academy for Girls

Another well-known institution in the Falls is the Raven Hill Academy for Girls. The building and ground for the school, which is conducted by the Sisters of Assump-

tion, a French order, was donated in 1919 by the late Mrs. Frederic Courtland Penfield, whose husband was once Ambassador to Austria-Hungary. The school is on the old Weightman estate, and was for many years the Summer home of William Weightman, father of Mrs. Penfield, who herself occupied the mansion now used as one of the school buildings.

Some of the community's civic organizations are the East Falls Business Men's Association, Falls Mothers Club, Queen Lane Manor Improvement Association, Young Men's Association, Young Men's Literary Institute, Independent Democratic Association, Breck Home and School Association, Old Academy Players and the Falls Male Chorus.

Some of the old family names still represented by residents of the Falls are Sorber, Harper, Morison, Mills, Marley, Garrett, Hess, Cos-

tello, Flynn, Fiedler, Campbell, Shronk, Hohenadel, Weightman, Feiz and Wagner.

Peltz

Falls of Schuylkill made its contribution to the World War, in which 500 men and women of the Falls saw service. Their names are on the town's honor roll at Midvale Avenue and East River Drive, among which is that of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Bonner, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools. The names on the honor roll indicate the English, Irish, Scotch and Italian origin of many of the residents of the Falls.

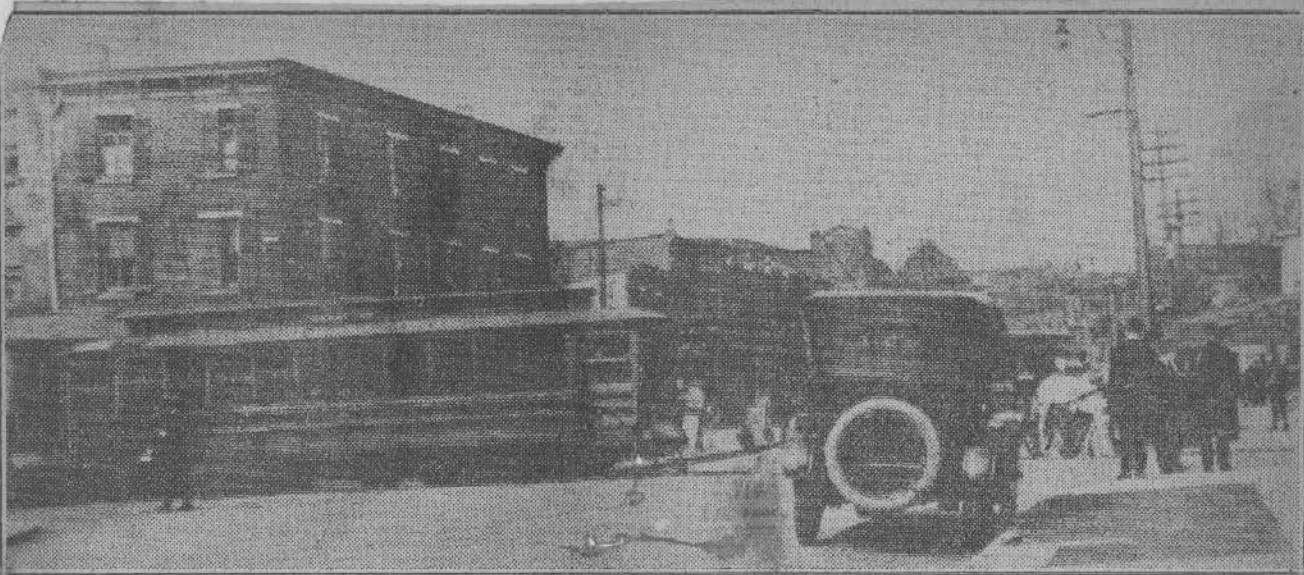
Other Civic Leaders

Some of the leaders in this community in addition to those already mentioned are:

Henry C. Firsching, 473 Harmon Road, secretary of the East Falls Business Men's Association; Eva C. Kling, 3515 Sunnyside Avenue, president of the Falls Mothers Club; Harry B. Binkin, 3603 Haywood Street, president of the Breck Home and School Association; Mrs. William Ferguson, 4127 Ridge Avenue, treasurer, and Mrs. Elizabeth Linton, 3344 Conrad Street, secretary; the Rev. William J. Hayes, 3625 Indian Queen Lane, pastor of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, and president of the Philadelphia Baptist Ministers Association; the

Rev. David C. Mumyon, 3669 Midvale Avenue, rector of St. Bridget's Catholic Church.

The Rev. Harold St. Clair Carter, 3582 Indian Queen Lane, pastor of the Falls Methodist Episcopal Church; the Rev. Ulla E. Bauers, 3527 Ainslie Street, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer; the Rev. Arien J. Muzzkens, 3413 Midvale Avenue, pastor of the Falls Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Howell S. Foster, 3360 Tilden Street, pastor of the Grace Reformed Episcopal Church; the Rev. Charles



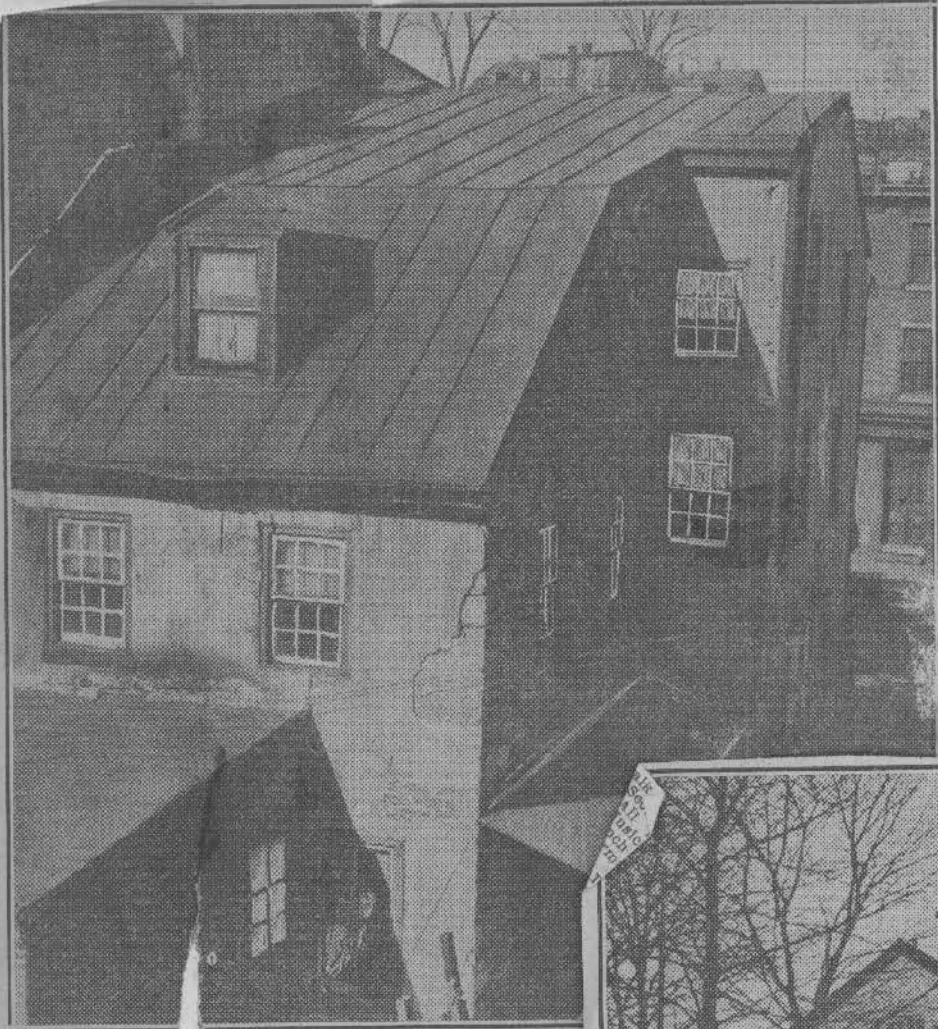
FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL BUSINESS CENTER TWENTY YEARS AGO. Looking east on Midvale Avenue as it appeared back in 1914. Ledges Photo



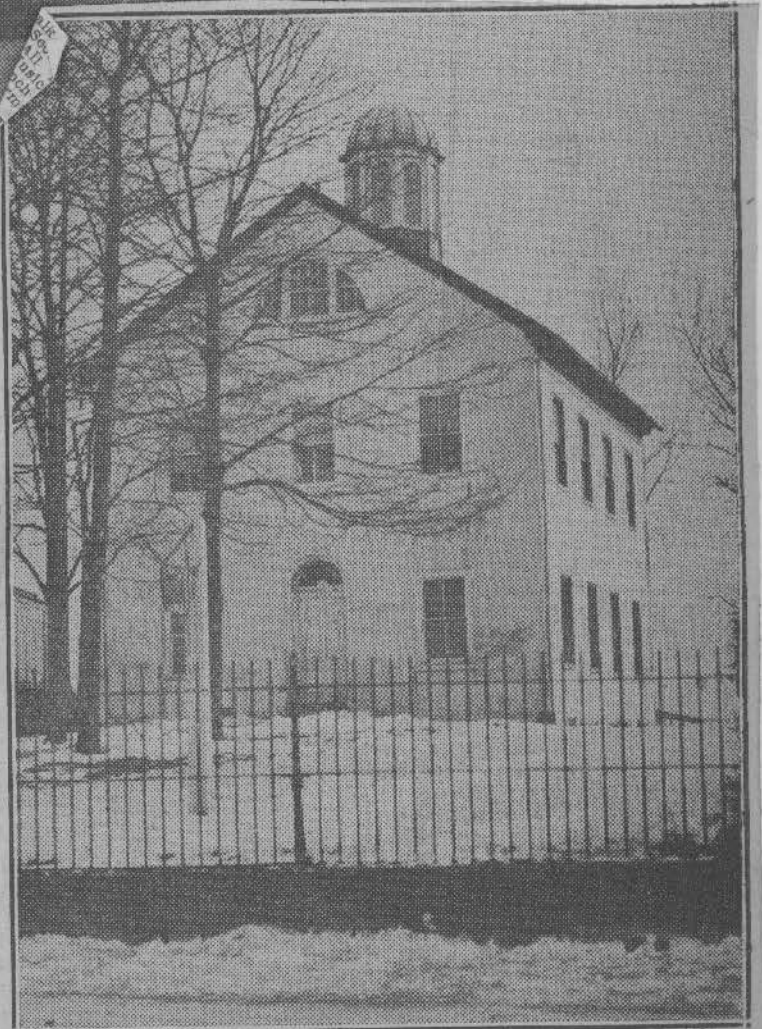
FEW CHANGES WROUGHT IN TWO DECADES. This photograph, taken yesterday from Midvale Avenue between East River Drive and Ridge Avenue, looking east, presents virtually the same scene as that in the upper picture made twenty years earlier. Ledges Photo

Jarvis Harriman, 3227 West Clearfield Street, rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. James the Less.

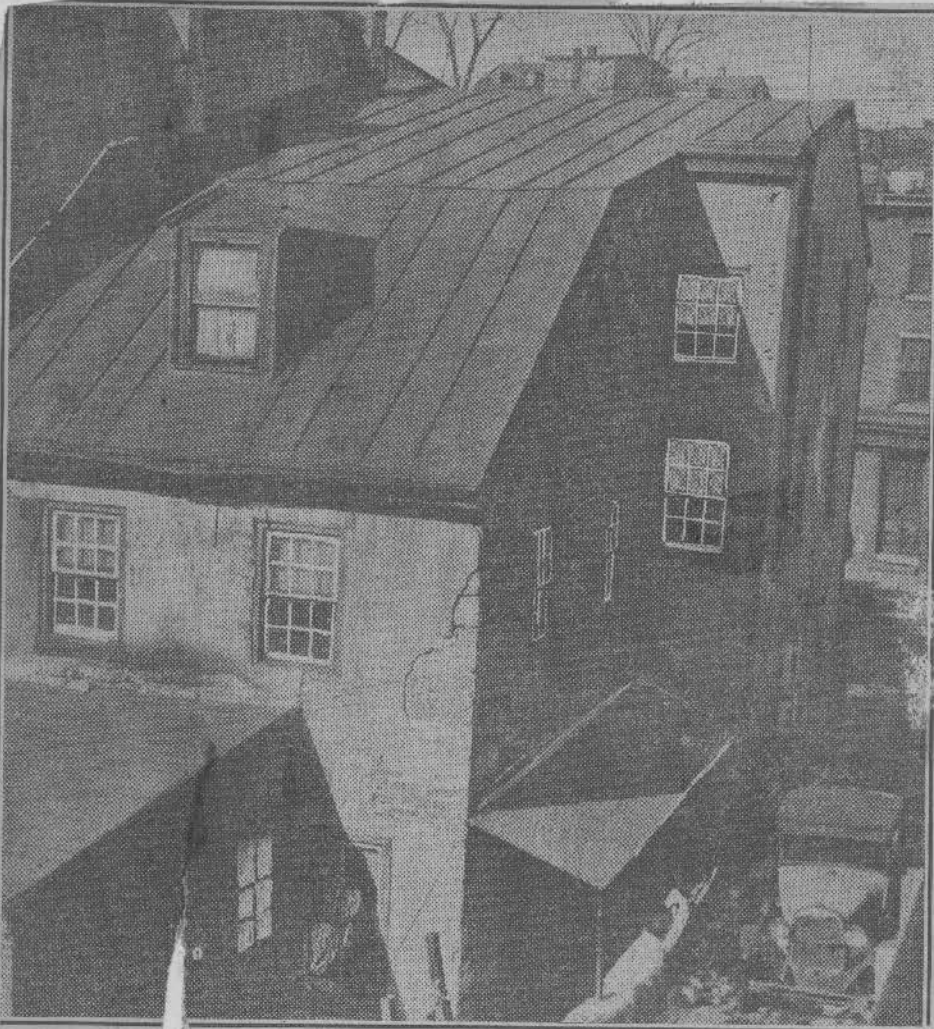
Joseph Smith, 3351 Ainslie Street, director of the Falls Male Chorus; Miss Nellie Groves, 3446 Ainslie Street, secretary of the Falls of Schuylkill Relief Committee; William J. Benham, 3200 Midvale Avenue, Republican leader of the Thirty-eighth Ward and secretary of the Board of Revision of Taxes, Clarence E. Blackburn, 3206 West Penn Street, Councilman from the Sixth District, and Thomas J. Gavaghan, 3535 Ainslie Street, a real estate assessor.



FIRST DRUG MILL IN AMERICA was in this building on Ridge Avenue, Falls of Schuylkill. It was erected prior to 1800 as a paper mill before it became a drug mill.



THE OLD ACADEMY, on Indian Queen Lane, in which every congregation now established in Falls of Schuylkill held its first services. The building was erected in 1819.



FIRST DRUG MILL IN AMERICA was in this building in rear of a house at 4106 Ridge Avenue, Schuylkill. It was erected prior to the Revolution, and it was a paper mill before it became a drug mill

Ledger Photo

WJZ-Devotions
 WFI-WEAF-Richard Le-
 bert, organist
 WCAU, WPG-The Amba-
 sadora; WABC at 8:04
 WPEN-Mystery Announcer
 WRAX-Morning Bible Mes-
 sage
 WABC-Resume
 WTEL-Stanley Templeton,
 organist
 WTNJ-Nonsectarian Period
 8:15-WJZ-Don Hall Trio
 WCAU, WPG, WABC-Sunny
 Melodies
 WFI-The Jolly Man
 WPEN-Jack Tar's School
 Days
 WOR-Al Woods, songs
 8:30-WJZ-Lew White,
 organist
 WFI-WEAF-Cherlio
 WPEN-Arithmetic Band
 WOR-Martha Manning
 WRAX-Religious Program
 WTEL-Thirty Club
 WJZ-Musical Alarm Clock
 8:45-WPEN-Chris Sel-
 ter, crooner
 WCAU, WPG, WABC-Sam
 Moore's Meeting
 WIP-Barly Risers Club
 WJZ-Talk
 WJZ-Gospel Messengers
 8:55-WPEN-Health Talk
 WCAU-Health Talk
 9 A. M.
 WFI-WEAF-Sam Her-
 man, xylophonist; Frank
 WJZ-Mystery Chef
 WCAU, WABC-Do Re Mi
 WIP-Editor of Sunshine
 WPEN-Foot Health
 WOR-Talk with Music
 WEAT-Breakfast Club
 WDAS-Musical Grab Bag
 WRAX-Nonsectarian Faber-
 nace Services
 WJZ-Shopping Talk

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Betsy Ross Flag House Preserved By Local Woman

Action of Atwater Kent Recalls Mrs. Mund's Residence in Historic Shrine

PROTECTED BUILDING

Prevented Any Changes Being Made to Old Structure While She Lived There

A Atwater Kent's recent offer to rehabilitate the Betsy Ross House, at 239 Arch street, as an American patriotic shrine, which is understood to have been accepted, adds another link to the history of the little downtown dwelling, which has a decided local angle.

Atwater Kent's real estate holdings along Wissahickon avenue and extending over to the lower side of the Queen Lane reservoir, and Mund & Albrecht's old park, that once flourished on the site of the huge water basins in the same area, are through Mr. Kent's proposition, brought right into the picture of the story of the famed old flag house.

About sixty years ago Mund & Albrecht operated what they called "Schuetzen Park," on the ground now occupied by the Queen Lane Filtration plant and reservoir. One old time resident of the neighborhood, who can remember the place, said on Monday, "I can very readily recall when it opened, for it was on the same date as the great Centennial Exposition in West Fairmount Park—the 10th of May, 1876. There was a festival at Schuetzen Park, conducted by the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Philadelphia, on the opening day, in order to raise funds for the Catholic Temperance Fountain, which now stands over along the western edge of Fairmount Park.

"Sunday, September 3rd, 1876, had been set aside by the French citizens of Philadelphia to hold a reception at Schuetzen Park, for some of their fellow-countrymen who had come here to erect displays at the huge exhibition, and others who had come to see the show, but on the day the big time was to be held, a fire broke out in the main building at Mund & Albrecht's park and the reception was postponed for a week.

"Mr. Mund, with his family, lived in the building and lost all of their housefurnishings. The disaster forced the park owners to abandon all of their plans for making money and they were compelled to dispose of various properties which they owned in order to satisfy the creditors, which was done to the last

penny. "The only part of his holdings which Mr. Mund was able to save was the property at 239 Arch street, which is now familiar as the Betsy Ross Flag House, and which was owned by the Mund family for many years.

"After the destruction of their home in Schuetzen Park, at the Falls of Schuylkill, the Munds moved into the dwelling at 239 Arch street, and no one could have been selected who would have been more suitable than Mrs. Mund for the preservation of that national show-place. The once-popular three by six window panes, the rough pine boards, out of which the house was built, the ornaments and the time-worn pictures of Colonial scenes, of the modest dames and great Revolutionary generals hung liberally around the walls, had a peculiar interest for this lady. Of everything about her she had stories to tell—and she could tell them well, for it was a hobby with her.

"The simple abode, spotlessly clean and well preserved, had, through her efforts, remained in the very same condition as in the days of old, when Betsy's form cast its shadows and when she smiled at the taunts of her Tory friends and her husband died over the cannon balls of the aspiring colonies. The very window panes, they have told me, are unchanged, and the twelve pieces of tiling over the fireplace in the famous sitting room have remained exactly as they were when taken from the good ship Welcome, and finally fitted into a row below the breast high mantelpiece. Perhaps the homestead is a trifle more conspicuous now than it was when Betsy resided there.

"Mrs. Mund was one of the neatest and tidiest of women. At the doorstep, up until the middle 90's stood a four-post wooden sign, projecting as far as the steps, bearing an accurate copy of the stripes and a circle of thirteen stars sanctioned by the Continental Congress and inscribed: 'The first flag was made in this house.'

"One day a policeman came to Mrs. Mund and said with an air of authority: 'That sign is too big. You must take it in.' Mrs. Mund promptly hastened to comply with the order, but the lady had a niece—she whose young arms and hands had made the bricks in the yard so red and the tins and kitchen utensils so bright—who laid down woman's ancient weapons, the brush and broom, and took up the modern woman's dagger—a pen. 'Sir,' she wrote to Superintendent of Police Linden, 'one of your men has made us take in the American flag and won't let us put it out again unless we saw it in half. Now, we want to display the flag, and we will never, never saw it in half. It is just big enough for us and for our country as it is.'

"A couple of days later back came the solemn policeman, now friendly and almost cordial, with permission for Mrs. Mund to show the flag intact. It was then re-set in a

more conspicuous place.

"That the Betsy Ross House stands as it was in Revolutionary times is due to the determination of Mrs. Mund, for it was only through her actions that the old house was saved from the march of modern improvements.

"Mrs. Mund once told the following tale herself: 'When my husband, now deceased, took it in his head that the entire building needed remodeling we had not long been living there. Everything is old-fashioned about here, he would say, and half a dozen times he threatened to make the necessary repairs. It was 5 o'clock one morning, when I was awakened by the sound of feet, and the thump, thump, thump of a workman's hammer. Going to the window I beheld two carpenters; one with a hammer and the other with a saw and a large tool box. They were making for the doorway. A moment's thought and I understood it all. Seizing two 32 calibre revolvers I hurried to the scene, leaving my husband apparently asleep. Both carpenters defied me. They were the most insolent men I ever met. I hadn't come down to be insulted, nor was I going to waste my time in parleying with them, so I cocked the weapons, pointed them at their heads, and chased them. Did they go? Well, rather!'

"Some idea of Mrs. Mund's patriotism and veneration for the house and its contents can be formed from the fact that on one occasion she was offered \$100 apiece for the 12 pieces of tiling over the fireplace, but the tiling never left the house.

"Mr. Mund died in August, 1882, and his widow continued to reside in the flag house until September, 1897, when she, too, passed to her Reward, from a stroke of apoplexy, in her 46th year. Her body is interred in Mount Vernon Cemetery."

Charles P. Mund, the son of the patriotic lady, was her sole survivor and came into possession of the flag house, but until recently it belonged to the Betsy Ross Memorial Association, from whom it is said the City of Philadelphia has taken title in order to carry out the wishes of Atwater Kent.

The Old Days

Of all the holidays of the year, the Glorious Fourth has always been the one looked forward to with the greatest of anticipation. Out here on the hilly land running up from the Schuylkill river, even prior to the awakening of peoples in other sections of the country, following the heavy toll of death and injuries from dangerous fireworks, the Fourth has always been the "day of days." But let us look at the old "Fourth," in the Pre-Gasoline Age; before the time of the Model T; when there was no airplanes buzzing through the air, and radio was a far-off dream.

The day came with a stirring at dawn, a smell of Chinese gunpowder, a roaring of brass cannon and a mutter of revolvers. Ridge avenue and other main streets were arrayed in a blaze and bloom of Red, White and Blue. As the sun waxed high and hot and the horse-drawn picnic busses and carriages came up the "Ridge" and the East River Drive, there were sundry squeakings and thumpings of fifes and drums of the Silver Cornet and other local musical groups.

In the fullness of time there would be our same old Sunday School picnics—for we folk out

here have had 'em for more than a century—with each having its own parade, until about 25 years ago, when the union parades came into being. Out we would go to the Park, along the Creek, or up in the woods atop of the hills. For drinking water the Park Commission and city authorities would loan us an old fashioned sprinkling cart, which held almost a day's supply of water for the big crowds. A little later, after a peanut scramble and a round of Dutch cake and lemonade, someone would stand up on an improvised platform and read the immortal—

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitled them—

And so so through the moving phrases, with the words caught here and there—"truths to be self-evident"—"all men are created equal"—"certain unalienable rights"—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—"the consent of the governed." Fine, strong, swelling words, that somehow never seemed to lose their resonance and power.

Then, for a little while, the sha-

dow of King George III, the shimmer of red coats and shining bayonets; the brave buff and blue of "The Continentals" and George Washington on his white horse; Marion in his swamp, the guns at Yorktown, and Valley Forge would come back. They did not seem so far away as they do now.

If one did not go to the church and Sunday School picnics, he might hear His Honor the Governor, the Mayor, or the Councilman give a patriotic address. They seemed different men in that day. Officials wore the halo of that State which had moved toward its place in the sun on the First Fourth of July. The Dead Past did not seem so far distant. It pulsed in the music, breathed in the banners and reached down to the Present.

To all outward seeming, everywhere but here where we still follow the custom of an hundred years and more, the day has changed. There is hardly any more romantic formality about the Fourth of July. Many of us celebrate it by speeding seventy miles an hour, racing along concrete roads, amid the smell of oil and gasoline, to the seashore and mountain.

There are flags, but they are mostly little things stuck in fluttering radiator caps. There are parades, in other places than our home neighborhood, but they are hurried things, done at a quick-step. The parade in Roxborough, thank goodness, still stretches out to something like two hours.

There are readings of the Declaration of Independence, but somehow the Great Words, if listened to and thought over at all, are interpreted to meet the personal opinions of each individual. One half only considers Property Rights and the remainder thinks of Human Rights. Both should have the just contemplation that is meant in the Declaration. Recollection of the wrongs suffered by those early Americans, the outrages endured, their mighty appeal to "the Supreme Judge of the World," and their soaring and yet solemn pledge of "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" fall upon the crowds as empty echoes fall.

And it is a strange thing that this is so. For these principles still glow and burn with a living fire. The words that Thomas Jefferson penned in the comfortable little house near Independence Hall, may eventually die, but their spirit will still be carrying on even if the great Nation that was summoned from the deeps of the Future vanishes into the dust and the shadows of the Past.

SCCAFF

8/17/1933

First Home Loan In Nation Made To East Falls Man

John P. Flannagan, of Indian Queen Lane, Is Successful Applicant, For Assistance From Uncle Sam

To John P. Flannagan, of 3571 Indian Queen lane, East Falls, who was faced with the loss of the home he bought twenty-nine years ago, will go the first loan in the United States under the National Home Loan Act.

Mr. Flannagan's domicile shelters a family of six. Mr. Flannagan is the eldest—his grandson, Francis, a husky little mite of five months, is the youngest. Into this home, where there has been no steady employment for more than two years, Uncle Sam is bringing a ray of hope and safety.

The Flannagan home, destined to feel the first concrete effects of the gigantic Federal machinery extending a helping hand to distressed home owners, is located on the left side of Indian Queen lane, which the Flannagan family proudly states was the old original Queen Lane.

According to the plans of the Philadelphia district of the Home

Owners Loan Corporation last Monday night, the first loan in the country—the office here was the first one organized and has been first in all features since the act went into effect—will be granted to the Flannagan family this week depending on the ability of Washington officials to get here with the mortgage forms and other documents.

Mr. Flannagan turned to the Federal Government for aid and asked for a loan.

Uncle Sam numbered the application 56-38A and then went to work.

Mr. Flannagan, in his application, gave the Falls of Schuylkill Building and Loan Association, holder of the mortgage, and Dr. Charles A. Coll, 3656 Midvale avenue, as references. Dr. Coll said he was glad to make the recommendation, finding Mr. Flannagan to be an upstanding square and good man.

1/9/1936

32

Darkness and Shadows were Cause of Tales of Ghosts

Many Wierd Stories Centred Around Old Mifflin Mansion at the Falls of Schuylkill.—Superstitions Dying Out

There are many people who hold that electric lighting has done more to abolish the old superstition that used to exist pretty generally about ghosts. They base their contention on the fact that illy-lighted highways and homes, with deep, dark shadows, gave the imagination too much rein, and that modern illumination is fast destroying the old beliefs. Maybe they're right. But in the old days every dilapidated house, every lonely lane, had its legends of ghosts.

One of the best known of these, in past times, was the old Mifflin Mansion at the Falls of Schuylkill, which stood on the hill above Ridge avenue, between Stanton street and Midvale avenue. It was a three-story stone building built in Colonial style. Although erected prior to the Revolutionary War, it was still substantial at the time it was torn down in the summer of 1893. It was built by and used as a residence by Thomas Mifflin, the first Governor of Pennsylvania (under the Constitution), who was born in Philadelphia in 1744.

On several occasions George Washington was a guest at the old house. Robert Morris, who financed the Revolution; Benjamin Franklin, scientist, philosopher and First Postmaster-General; Judge Peters, of Belmont Mansion, and other patriots of the period used to ride out from Penn's "greene countrie towne" to breakfast with Mifflin, and such men as Samuel Morris, Clement Biddle, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Meredith and Timothy Pickering attended historic dinners that were given there. But it was after these stirring times that the ghost stories began to circulate.

An old man, up in the eighties, when asked concerning the old place, one day last week, said "How your question takes me back to my youth! One winter night a party of us came through a thicket near the mansion from a "good time" we had up in Martin's little stone cottage in the woods. What a time we had getting home; how we scratched our hands and faces and tore our clothes scampering through the blackberry bushes after we had seen a ghost!

"We had walked along until we reached a little turtle pond, from where we could see the moon shining through an opening in the big trees. The moon was passing behind scattered clouds and looked like a boat sailing through immense white waves, when we felt something pass before us and blow a warm breath in our faces. We could feel the breath and hear a

crinkling noise that sounded like tissue paper when a large sheet of it is crumpled in the hands. We were so frightened that we could not stir, and I never experienced such a sensation before, or since, in my life.

"I stood there feeling my heart beat and thinking every breath would be my last. The perspiration, as cold as ice-water, came out on my forehead as large as pie-cherries. Just as I thought I would fall over I looked around and coming from above the trees was a bluish-white object that made my hair stand on end. The thing had a head like a lion, with long crooked teeth on either side of its mouth. It had long thick legs and feet like a turtle and from its back extended wings that were webbed like a bat's, while from the joints and tips of the wings were large claws like those of a lobster.

"The monster gradually descended and began to bark and whine like a whipped dog, and then set up the most fearful howling I have ever heard. The wings flapped through the branches of the trees and just as it was about to pounce on us, one of the boys yelled 'Murder! Bloody murder!' That put life into the rest of us and we took to our heels and cut up the hill through briars and everything else, with enough noise to frighten the thing that had frightened us.

"There was another night that also sticks in my memory. I was returning home from seeing my best girl who lived up on Indian Queen lane. I stayed till midnight but didn't know it was so late until an old English clock struck the hour of twelve. Then I got up made an apology for keeping the young lady up so late and left. It was in the summer and I hadn't gone for before a thunderstorm broke in great fury over the Falls. My, but it thundered and the lightning nearly blinded me, it was so vivid and frequent. I was wet to the skin before I had gone three hundred yards. While I was walking up the Ridge, with my head down and pressing forward against the beating rain, I reached about what is now the foot of Eveline street. I heard a noise that sounded like dragging a heavy iron chain over a barn floor. I soon reached the entrance to the old Mifflin mansion, and glancing towards the stone steps, I saw what I'll always believe was the devil himself.

"He was fully twelve feet tall and wore an old-fashioned red cloak. He had a head like a bull, with

a short horn cropping out on either side. His arms were long and bony; in one hand, which had paws like a grizzly bear, he held the end of his tail, that had been drawn over his shoulder, and with the other hand he carried a long piece of chain, about which the lightning flashed. Sticking through the girdle of his cloak was a long-handled, three-pronged pitch-fork. He came down the stone steps at a jump, and was soon brushing me on the face with the end of his tail. I don't know whether he said anything or not, for I did not wait. I was in a hurry to get home.

"How I got there I do not know. All I can remember is that the next morning when Mother came down stairs she found me lying on the floor, in front of the open door" which I had probably run against so hard that I broke it open, tearing the bolt straps clean out of the oak door frame. That was the first and last time that I ever stayed at a girl's house until midnight. But they tell me these young chaps today, don't go until after eleven and it's three or four in the morning when they leave!

"There was another time, just after the Civil War, when large crowds were attending revival meetings that were being held in the Baptist Church, that a young woman created a great sensation along Ridge road, in the neighborhood of the old mansion. She had

a narrow escape from being shot. If Tom Barker's gun hadn't snapped she would have suffered for her folly. It was a bold thing for a woman to do.

"The young woman had been to revival and hurrying on ahead of others she walked up the stone steps, raised her outer white skirt over her head and waited until the remainder of the party came along, when she gave vent to a hissing sound and ran out on the road.

"Some of the young men left their girls and fled down the pike like mad, while the girls screamed and some fainted. Barker was standing on the porch of his tavern across the road, and ran in and seized his double-barreled gun and tried to shoot what he thought was a spook, but the caps were damp and wouldn't go off.

"The girl, meanwhile, kept running from one side of the road to the other, with half a dozen frightened men chasing her. They took good care, however, not to get too close. She kept on until she got to Spencer street (now Calumet street) and after turning around suddenly walked back to the corner in proper attire. In a subdued voice one of the men said: 'Lady, did you see a ghost turn this corner?'

"Of course, she pretended to be very much surprised and said she had not seen the apparition. She joined the rest of the crowd, and with them, wondered what they had seen. But the damp gun caps were a lucky accident for her!"

9/24/1936

Midvale Avenue Was Once Known As Mifflin Street

Changes Being Made, East of Railroad, Brings to Mind Early History of "Dutch Hollow."—Many Changes Within Past History

Midvale avenue, east of the Norristown branch of the Reading Railroad, is taking on many changes. On the northwest side of the thoroughfare, almost up against the railroad embankment, three large holes have been sunk to accommodate gasoline tanks for an automobile service station. On the other side of the street, in conjunction with the erection of the new Mifflin School, steps have been built, leading up to Cresson street, and farther east the work of constructing the school and retaining walls for the ground surrounding it, is going ahead at a rapid pace.

Midvale avenue has an interesting history. It received its present name from the fact that it occupies the middle of a valley between two hills.

Long before the street was opened to its present length there was a dirt road passing up the hollow from Ridge avenue which was known as Mifflin street, because the mansion of Pennsylvania's first Governor, Thomas Mifflin stood just northwest of the hollow, on a hill overlooking Ridge road, with the Mifflin property skirting what is now Midvale avenue. Along the lower side of Mifflin street, about 100 years ago was a deer park, with a high picket fence enclosure, extending to Indian Queen lane.

A creek, known as Mifflin's Run, passed beneath a stone culvert at Ridge avenue. At the river end of the culvert were two wooden troughs which carried water to the two ponds, one on each side of the run. These ponds, at a later date, were used for keeping catfish alive for the Fountain Park Hotel (on the site adjoining the present fire house) and the Falls Hotel, which is now familiar as "Whelen's." The fish were brought to the ponds in large quantities and used daily to supply the once-famous catfish and waffle dinners that were served at both hotels.

At the confluence of Mifflin Run with the Schuylkill river, about the Civil War period, was an old-time steamboat landing, with a little bridge spanning the creek for the accommodation of customers going to the lower, or Falls Hotel. At this point along the river was a fine sand bar, which provided a splendid place for baptisms, being used by the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist congregation at the time it held services in the Old Academy prior to the erection of the present church.

On one of the baptism occasions Rev. John M. Richards was in charge. About twenty young men climbed a large willow tree and got

out on a limb extending over the water. At the conclusion of the service the youths, rising simultaneously caused such a strain on the branch, that it snapped and precipitated them all into the stream.

When the Norristown branch of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad (now the Reading Line) was built, in 1834, that part of Mifflin Hollow was filled in to secure a level roadbed.

The filling in caused the backing up of the waters of the run, and formed a deep dam, almost obliterating the smaller dam which had been erected by Governor Mifflin to supply his mansion and stables with water. These dams, with a cartway between them existed until the opening of Midvale avenue about forty years ago, when the Reading Company built a stone bridge to carry its tracks over the highway. The dams were used by the youth of the neighborhood for fishing, swimming and skating.

In 1853 there came to the Falls of Schuylkill an energetic German named Henry J. Becker. A stonemason by trade, he purchased ground in "the Hollow" and erected rows of dwellings and the large brewery which was afterward run by the Hohenadels. This caused the name "Dutch Hollow" to be given to that part of the valley.

At the railroad end of the Hollow Patrick Dougherty built his dwelling, a two and a half story stone structure. When it was almost completed the walls collapsed and at least one of the workmen was killed. Dougherty built a stable at the foot of the railroad embankment and cultivated the side of the hills for the growth of potatoes. The Dougherty property was eventually bought by the Warden estate, and later became the site of the present East Falls station.

As late as the '70's the valley now occupied by Midvale avenue was covered with a thick forest, principally of tall poplar trees, with an undergrowth almost impenetrable, which formed a fine place for rabbit hunting. A great deal of these trees remained until 15 or 20 years ago, when the Warden estate was opened up for development.

At what is now Conrad street, on the southeast side of Midvale avenue, in the old days, began Garrett's Woods, a chestnut grove with most of the ground covered with a peculiar sort of green moss, giving it the appearance of being carpeted. The woods, for many years, was used by Sunday schools for their picnics. Back a short distance, on a site now occupied by

the residence of James T. Buckley, at Queen lane and Vaux street, was Garrett's log cabin, one of the first dwellings erected in the Falls of Schuylkill. Samuel Garrett, of the seventh generation of this family to live on the original estate, still resides in a modern house, across the street from the residence of his ancestors.

On the other side of Midvale avenue stood the old Morton House, a strange looking Colonial structure, beside a run which was used on old maps as the boundary line

between North Penn and Roxborough Townships. To the people of today, the Morton House and the old run can be properly located in McMichael Park, at Midvale and Henry avenues.

Opposite McMichael Park, on the southeast side of Midvale avenue, during the Revolutionary War (prior to and after the Battle of Brandywine) General Washington had an encampment for his Continental Army. Here, too, at the time of the Civil War, the 118th, or Corn Exchange Regiment, of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, was recruited.

Midvale avenue, in 1865 had a very much different appearance between Ridge avenue and the Norristown branch of the Reading Railroad, than it has today. At that time on the lower corner of Ridge and Midvale avenue was John R. Johnson's store and dwelling, with its flower garden. The store was kept by Harmon Johnson and Christian Hess, under the name of Johnson & Hess. In the rear was a stable beyond which were the nicely-kept back yard gardens of the householders in lower Indian Queen lane. Then came a little frame dwelling in which lived Benjamin Boothroyd; then Benjamin R. Marley's carpenter shop; and next the Baptist church, with its sheds for horses and the three story stone dwelling in which lived Lewis Mettinger. Beyond was the row of dwellings erected by Henry Becker, which although remodeled, are still standing between Cresswell and Arnold streets. Becker's other row of houses face on the present Arnold street and across the thoroughfare can be seen the crumbling remains of the old brewery. On Midvale avenue, above Arnold street was a blackberry thicket and then Patrick Dougherty's house and stable.

On the northwest side of Midvale avenue, beginning at the railroad and going down toward Ridge avenue, were two dwellings, the first erected by Becker, standing on ground which is now occupied by the St. Bridget's Church buildings. One of the houses was occupied by Cornelius De Groot, the marble cutter and noted singer. At the lower side of Frederick street, where the motion picture theatre now stands, were James Morrison's two dwellings; he living in one and Elijah Schofield in the other. Then came Stein's brewery yard and on the corner a frame house owned by James Morrison.

So much for the history of Midvale avenue, or "Dutch Hollow" as it was once popularly known.

SCCAFF.

Old Trees Have Always Been Source of Pleasure

Woody Plants Along Midvale Avenue, and in Wissahickon Vale, of Great Interest to Botanists

"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree—
A tree whose hungry mouth is
pressed
Against the earth's sweet flow-
ing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair—
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with the
rain,
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree."

—Alfred Joyce Kilmer.

Whenever it has been possible, workmen erecting the new Thomas Mifflin School, along Midvale avenue, have been careful not to disturb or injure the trees that skirt the property.

These particular trees are not of such great antiquity, as far as such woody plants go, but to destroy them and replant young ones, would require another 25 or 30 years for replacement.

Years ago the area in which the school is located was a beautiful woods, extending from the Norristown branch of the Reading Railroad eastwardly toward Wissahickon avenue. Young people of the Falls of Schuylkill used to have delightful times tramping through this wooded tract. Shrubbery, underbrush, and wild flowers were to be found in profusion. Rabbits and squirrels were plentiful and thousands of birds made the woods ring with their songs.

In the autumn many a day was spent in chestnutting in the woods along Midvale avenue. The chestnut tree blight of some thirty

years ago, however, destroyed all of this fine species of wood, and the development of the Queen Lane Manor section made it necessary to remove most of the other varieties of timber.

Above Conrad street and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer may still be seen some old giants of trees, surrounded many years ago, when Midvale avenue was regraded, by stone wells for protection. An uncle of this writer, Alexander Cox, who was a well-known Falls of Schuylkill and Germantown gardener, and a grand-uncle, Alexander Mawhinney, aided in planting these old trees well over 60 years ago.

The woods around the Falls held an early charm for this scribe, and created an interest in trees which still lingers. The march of progress and the devastation of the elements have collected their tolls but several fine trees are left in our midst.

The beautiful estates along School

House lane have always been places of study for the botanist, and there is little doubt that tree lovers can still find many interesting specimens along that thoroughfare.

The maple-lined road which leads into Aldan Park Manor, at School House lane and Wissahickon avenue, although the trees are all stunted in appearance through the work of a horticulturist, is still one of the most striking which can be seen. This place about 32 years ago was the property of Frederic C. Strawbridge. Another interesting road was that which led up to the house of Samuel Welsh, on the same lane.

Outstanding examples of white pines, which are in many respects our most impressive trees, can be seen at "Carlton," at Stokley street, and on almost every School House lane estate from the Homewood School, at Wissahickon avenue to Raven Hill Academy.

A tulip poplar used to stand on the land of Edward Steel, which was four feet in diameter and 100 feet high, and John Wagner boasted of one which was five feet across and sixty feet high.

On the Moses Brown estate stood a magnificent specimen of the Japanese ginkgo tree, almost ten feet in circumference and reaching eighty feet into the heavens; a rare Japanese cedar and an even rarer "varnish tree." Giant chestnuts were liberally scattered about these grounds.

John Tucker, a late Pennsylvania Railroad Company official, had a "plantation" on Wissahickon avenue. Tucker's estate extended along Wissahickon avenue (or Old Township Line as it was formerly called) from McKean's Hill south as far as the Port Richmond branch of the Reading Lines. Afterward this place became Old Oaks Cemetery, and is now the site of much of the Atwater Kent Radio plant. On this tract were three of the largest oak trees that we have ever seen and several large chestnuts, from which we picked many a cap-full of meaty nuts.

On part of the original "Carlton" estate, at Midvale avenue and Stokley street, in the days long gone, there once stood a dogwood. It was located between the Queen Lane reservoir and Midvale avenue, near Fox street. The great plant was a notable one of its kind, being about five feet in circumference and 20 feet high. Close by were two sassafras trees, each of which were two feet in diameter and forty feet high.

Andrew Garrett, whose descendants still reside at the Falls of Schuylkill, was a tree lover and often planted seedlings in various parts of Philadelphia, and some-

times transplanted trees of several years' growth.

Cedars of Lebanon, which are considered to be the oldest of living things, were to be found in North Laurel Hill Cemetery, (strangely enough in the City of the Dead), some forty years ago.

Over on the top of Chamounix hill, until only a few years ago, stood three giant specimens of the chestnut, whose great size surpassed any of their fellows in the immediate vicinity.

Roxborough's most famous tree today, is the great oak outside of Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at Pechin street and Lyceum avenue, which from its immense size must be the oldest of growths in the entire 21st Ward. And through tree surgery and thoughtful care that has been given by the former service men the huge plant should endure for many, many more years.

For genuine pensiveness those lonesome pines, along the main driveway of Leverington Cemetery, would suit the mood of even the saddest Edgar Allen Poe of today. On a wintry day, when the winds are sweeping down the Wissahickon Valley, one can almost see "The Raven" croaking in complaint as he flits from one tree to another seeking refuge from the icy blasts.

In front of what is now the Ether House, of the Merck Chemical Company, but which was for many years a dwelling occupied by the Pinyard family, was a butter-nut tree that in proper season attracted all of the boys of the neighborhood to the house, which stood along Ridge avenue, adjoining a giant laboratory building.

In the olden days, as now, however, the Wissahickon valley was the location of the finest natural growths of wood. It may be interesting to note, that Peter Kieffer,

at his nursery on old Livesey's lane, (now Shawmont avenue) in Roxborough, developed the famous Kieffer pear tree. This old time nurseryman was also the proud owner of a Japanese cedar.

Close to the Rittenhouse buildings, along Lincoln Drive, and up at the Livesey Mills, were two persimmon trees.

Our finest hemlocks are to be found along the Wissahickon creek, where almost the entire bank of this romantic old stream is fringed with these hardy trees. They can be found in the gorge at Kitchen's, Allen's and Livesey lanes, and at the Devil's Pool; beside Mergaree's Dam; and near Summitt avenue, with trunks one and one half to two feet thick and from 60 to 80 feet in height.

The erection of houses and other buildings may cut a wide swath in the woods outside of the park domains, but nothing aside from nature can now disturb the forest giants of the Wissahickon. For which we are duly grateful.

SCCAFF

9/23/1937

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Death of Caretaker Recalls History of Old Fishing Clubs

"Colony in Schuylkill" and "Fort St. David's" Merged to Form "State" Organization as Philadelphia's Oldest Social Group

"Thomas Cronin, for twenty-seven years the caretaker of the State in Schuylkill, familiarly known as the Fishhouse, Eddington, died of heart disease in Lankenau Hospital yesterday after a brief illness. He was about 66. Born in Ireland, Cronin came here as a boy. In 1910 he succeeded Lewis V. Jackson, who, in turn, had been caretaker twenty-three years. His wife, Sarah, survives him."

The above news item, in one of last Saturday's evening newspapers brought to mind some of the history of the old fishing club of which the late Mr. Cronin served as caretaker in recent years.

The Fishing Company of the Colony in Schuylkill, as it was first styled, was formed in May of 1732, by some of Philadelphia's most highly regarded citizens, and is said to be the oldest social club in the world.

Its first headquarters, or "castle" as people called it, was at Eaglesfield, by the side of the Schuylkill river, about one mile above the Fairmount Dam, which at that time was not even thought of, much less built.

The club house was on ground owned by one, William Warner, to whom the club members gave the name of "Baron" Warner. They agreed to pay him a small yearly sum for the use of his land.

The first company consisted of twenty-five members, a governor, three counsellors, a secretary, a treasurer, a sheriff and a coroner, with the remaining members being known as "citizens."

Each member, from the governor down, took turns at being caterer

at the regular meetings and feasts. It is said that twenty-five has remained the total number of members allowed under the organization's constitution, and the names on a small waiting list are "apprentices." They are the only servants in the club, and serve the food which has been prepared by the members. Only on rare occasions have non-members been eligible to partake of the fare on the old boards of the "castle" unless they were of such national importance as to warrant their election as honorary members, as were George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette.

It is said that the ritual of preparing the fish, which were caught in the nearby river, and presumably the club's punch, which is made to a privately-known recipe, has not varied during the club's existence. Today, the same long-handled frying skillets are used for the cooking.

Apart from its historic associations, it has, in a large way, helped to preserve the ancient Philadelphia traditions of good cooking. Every member of the club, although mostly socially prominent, must take turn as caterer for a day, and cook the meal for the other members.

When the club was founded it was housed in a larger quarters than at present. In 1811 a committee "reported to the governor" that the condition of the building was such that immediate alterations should be made, or a new castle erected.

Richard Rundle was now the owner of Eaglesfield. Like his predecessor he bore the title of "Bar-

on." The committee stated that Baron Rundle had agreed to give the club a seven year lease for which he was to receive in return one white perch some time during the month of June.

After the Revolution the club became known as the State in Schuylkill. At that time the members of Fort St. David's, a similar club which had been established at what is now the eastern end of the Reading Railroad Company's stone bridge, over the Schuylkill river, which has decreased in membership, merged with the State in Schuylkill. It was around the Fort St. David's Fishing House, that the accumulation of houses became known as "Fort St. David's and afterward the Falls of Schuylkill.

The State in Schuylkill had two other home-sites before moving to its present location at Eddington, along the Delaware. These were in what is known as "Colony Castle," at the confluence of the Wissahickon Creek and Schuylkill river, and also down at Rambo's Rock, near Gray's Ferry. It was while the club met at the latter place, that General Lafayette, on his return visit to the United States in 1828, expressed his delight "in having visited every State in the Union."

So, the news item in last Saturday's paper brought to mind recollections of the Club's connection with the Falls of Schuylkill and the Wissahickon Creek.

1/22/1931

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Laurel Hill

Every frequenter of Fairmount Park, knows the Randolph Mansion, situated on the hills above, the Schuylkill, near Susquehanna avenue. It is a Colonial homestead, originally known as "Laurel Hill", the home of Francis Rawle, who built it.

The old stone building is picturesque and quaint in its architecture while the interior is elaborate in colonial fittings and decorations.

Francis Rawle, the first inhabitant of "Laurel Hill", was a descendant of an ancient family in Cornwall, England.

His great-grandfather, also Francis Rawle, came to America in 1686, emigrating from Plymouth England, and settling in Philadelphia.

The son of this first Francis Rawle, who came from England with his father, married in 1689, to Martha Turner, whose father Robert Turner, was one of the original owners of ground that now constitutes Roxborough, and through a commission from William Penn became Register General for the Probate of Wills, and he in turn made his son-in-law his deputy.

Francis Rawle Jr., also became Judge of the Country Courts of Philadelphia, and Justice of the Peace. He died in 1727, leaving six sons. The third was the father of Francis, who was born on July 10th 1729.

Being of wealthy parentage, he received as liberal an education as schools and much travel afforded.

On his return from a European tour, in 1775, he married Rebecca Warner, of a family which is also often cited in the history of that part of Philadelphia now known as the 21st Ward.

With his brother-in-law, Joshua Howell, he purchased in 1760, the large tract of land on the east bank of the Schuylkill river, just north of Fairmount. Rawle took the lower portion, of 31 acres, and named his home "Laurel Hill", while Mr. Howell built a fine country home upon his portion of the land, to which he gave the name "Edgely".

Among the congenial neighbors which surrounded the Rawles were the Swifts, the Galloways, the Francises, and the Mifflins. On the west bank of the river, was the country seat of the Penns, "Lansdowne", and Judge Peters home, "Belmont", while farther down the river were the "Woodlands", the summer home of the Hamiltons.

In its early days "Laurel Hill" was the scene of the greatest social events of that time in the vicinity of the Quaker City.

In June 1761, Mr. Rawle was brought home in a wounded con-

dition, having been shot by his own fowling piece while hunting on another country place belonging to him. He died a few days later at his home in Philadelphia.

His widow, with her three children-Amos, William and Margaret-spent several months each year at "Laurel Hill." William was given a liberal education and showed an inclination at an early age, to follow the profession of law, at which he afterward became so famous.

Mrs. Rawle married again, in 1767, her second husband being Samuel Shoemaker, of Philadelphia, a famous Tory. He afterward became a very conspicuous and popular character in political circles, and still later suffered much from the Whigs for his loyalty to the King of England.

In the early years of the American Revolution the Rawle-Shoemaker family resided peacefully at "Laurel Hill," but in 1778, the Legislature then in session at Lancaster, declared all of Mr. Shoemaker's property forfeited to the

State, and he was forced to sail on June 17th, for New York.

Joseph Reed, then president of the State, was allowed to reside at "Laurel Hill," by the State agents, apparently as lessee, but on February 20th, the place was sold for five thousand pounds to Major James Parr, who leased the estate for five years to Chevalier de Luzerne, Minister of France, to the United States.

The Rawles, however, were having the ownership of the property disputed in Court, which in 1784, came to a satisfactory termination and arranged that Major Parr, in consideration of three hundred pounds should convey all his interest in "Laurel Hill" to William Rawle.

In two years of the French Minister's occupancy of "Laurel Hill," once more became conspicuous in social circles.

The Rawles returned again to the home of so many pleasant recollections to them - - but under changed circumstances. Mr. Shoemaker lost much of his wealth through his staunch Tory principles and his loyalty to the King.

But he ended his days peacefully here, and died October 19th 1800. Mrs. Shoemaker lingered nineteen years longer, dying at her home on Sansom street, below Eighth, on December 21st 1819.

William Rawle sold the homestead in 1828 to Dr. Physick, who resided there but a short time, and it was subsequently sold to the Randolphs, whence it received its present name, "Randolph Mansion."

In 1869, it became the property of the Fairmount Park Commission, and under its care has been retained as a monument of the eventful occurrences in its immediate neighborhood during the Revolution.

SCCAFF

James S. Swartz Expired From Infirmities of Age At His New York Home

**Benefactor of Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church Passed
Away on Tuesday Afternoon.—Won High Position in
Rail and Steamship Circles.—Erected Memor-
ial Building in Honor of His Parents
For Religious Instruction**

Word was received here on Tuesday evening that the death of James Simmons Swartz, LL. D., of 12 West 44th street, New York City, occurred a few hours earlier in the day.

Mr. Swartz, a former resident of this section, and for many years an active member and officer of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church and Sunday School, was 91 years old, and expired from the natural causes of age.

He was the greatest benefactor of the Falls Baptist congregation, which he joined as a young man, and but two years ago provided the funds to erect and furnish the Christian and Eliza Swartz Memorial Church School, on Midvale avenue, in honor of his father and mother.

James Simmons Swartz was born March 21st, 1840, at Black Rock, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

When about two years of age his family removed to Lawrenceville, which is now known as Parkersford, in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

He attended the village school, until about eleven years old, when he was sent to the military school of Colonel J. B. Bachelder, at Reading, Pa.

In 1854, his family moved to the Falls of Schuylkill, and James, then fourteen, was put to work at \$30 per month, to earn his own living. At the end of two years he was sent to the public schools of this

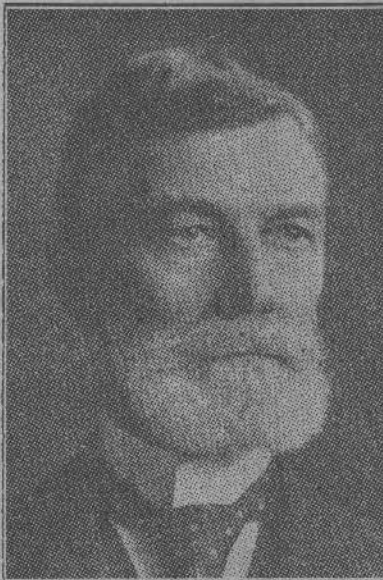
city, and then to the Central High School, which he left early in 1858 to take a position as clerk and telegraph operator in the Reading Railroad Company's Pottstown office.

In 1859 he returned to Philadelphia and entered a merchantile house as a bookkeeper. On August 26th, 1859, his father's life was ended by a fatal accident on the Reading Railroad.

One of his most eventful years was in 1862, when about the middle of the year he responded to the call of Governor Curtin for volunteers to protect Pennsylvania from rebel invasion, as a member of Captain John Dobson's Company "T" of the Blue Reserves.

Sometime in the same year, after returning from the brief military campaign, as he was taking a street car to go into the city to accept an offer of storekeeper and clerk at a coal mine in Pennsylvania, the accidental and seemingly trivial in-

JOURNEYS ON



JAMES S. SWARTZ, LL. D.

Whose death occurred on Tuesday afternoon, at his home in New York. Mr. Swartz, a former resident of East Falls, served for more than 25 years as superintendent of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday School.

cident of meeting a friend changed the whole course of his life and led to the following occupations: Clerkship with Leech & Company, Eastern Agents of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Cashier of the Star Union & National Union Fast Freight Lines of the same road; Treasurer of the Empire Transportation Company, and its subsidiary, the Empire Pipe Line. For the latter the Standard Oil Company subsequently paid some millions of dollars.

He was afterward President and Treasurer of the Erie and Western Transportation Company, a lake and rail line. This company owned a large fleet of steamers on the Great Lakes. Later Mr. Swartz held the position of treasurer of the Connecting Terminal R. R. Company, and also of the Western Warehousing Company.

In October 1877, he was selected treasurer of the International Navi-

gating Company of Pennsylvania, and a few years later of its successor, the International Navigating Company of New Jersey, which with greatly increased capital became the International Merchantile Marine Company in 1902 and the owner of several other large trans-Atlantic companies, such as the White Star, the Atlantic Transport, the Dominion and Leyland Line. He continued his connection with this company until October 1st, 1907, when he resigned.

Mr. Swartz was one of the organizers of the Baptist Social Union, of Philadelphia on March 5th, 1874, and for two years, in 1883 and 1884, was President of the organization. He was a member of the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Publication Society for a number of years and treasurer of various Baptist organizations in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. He served from 1868, for twenty-five years, as the superintendent of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday School.

On October 25th, 1888, he was elected a member of the Board of Managers of the Y. M. C. A. in Philadelphia. On January 10th, 1884, he was elected to membership on the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University, and was made president of the Board in January, 1917.

In 1903 he received from Bucknell University the honorary degree of A. M., and in 1923, the degree of LL. D.

On May 5th, 1913, he was made a member of George G. Meade Post, No. 1, of the G. A. R.

Mr. Swartz was a member of the City Club of New York and had been a member of the Union League of Philadelphia for 23 years.

He was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University since his election thereto in 1917.

The deceased will be on view his evening (Thursday) in the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, on Indian Queen lane above Ridge avenue, and the funeral services will be held in the same church, tomorrow afternoon at 2 P. M. The interment will be made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Throng Attends Birthday Banquet at Falls Church

James Starrett Presides at Huge Dinner Marking 75th Anniversary of Falls Presbyterian Church.—Neighboring Pastors Present.—History of Congregation, and Its Time, Reviewed

Close to two hundred men, women and children were present at the Anniversary Banquet, held as a part of the exercises commemorating the seventy-five years of existence of the Falls Presbyterian Church, which was held in the Sunday School room of that church, Ridge avenue below School House lane, on Friday evening of last week.

James Starrett, who has served the church as an elder, for more than forty years, presided at the dinner, which was attended by the clergymen of the neighboring churches, and their wives, in addition to a vast host of present and past members of the congregation and their friends.

Following the singing of the Doxology, the invocation was asked by Rev. William J. Hayes, pastor of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church.

Mr. Starrett, in introducing Walter MacIndoe, the first speaker of the evening, praised that gentleman for his untiring efforts to forward the work of the Falls Presbyterian Church and Sunday School, since he became affiliated with the group forty years ago, and cited the following facts concerning this indefatigable worker:

"Walter MacIndoe joined the church on March 6th of 1891. He served in the Sunday School, as librarian from 1891 until 1897; treasurer of the Sunday School from 1911 to 1920; Sunday School teacher, from 1905 until 1930; Assistant superintendent of the school from 1911 until 1920; Superintendent, from 1920 to 1921; Associate superintendent from 1923 until 1928; and Superintendent, once more, since 1928, and is still serving as such. He also served one term as a church trustee, in 1896. Was elected a ruling elder on February 5th of 1911; elected Clerk of the Session on March 31st 1914, and has worked in this capacity for 17 years and 7 months.

Mr. MacIndoe, delivered an interesting address, concerning the history of the Falls Presbyterian Church, which is well-worth preserving, in which he mentioned many men and women, whose names will ever be illustrious in the records of the congregation. The speaker particularly stressed the important parts played in the life of the church, by Rev. Dr. Joseph

Beggs; the late Josiah Linton, and his son W. Horace Linton; Mr. and Mrs. James Dobson; David Furman, Sr., and James and Alexander Starrett.

At this juncture Katherine Hohlfeld and Margaret Starrett Moon, enlivened the occasion by playing a piano duet.

Rev. William J. Hayes was then introduced as a speaker, and after telling of the amiable feeling existing between himself, and the members of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, for their Presbyterian friends, paid a fine eulogy to the devotion of James Starrett, who as presiding elder of the Presbyterian congregation has attended meetings of the local clergymen, during the period that its church had been without the guidance of a pastor.

Rev. Arien T. Muyskens, the pastor-elect of the Falls Presbyterian church, who will take up his duties on November 22nd, was present and formally introduced to the men, women and children who will form his congregation, and made a brief address expressing his pleasurable anticipation of serving their religious needs. Immediately following Miss Martha Furman read an original poem, entitle "The Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church," which came from the pen of Mr. Muyskens; a composition which disclosed the incoming clergyman's appreciation of the church and its work, the locality, the music of words, and the sentiments he holds for the tasks which lie before him; far clearer than anything he may have uttered vocally.

Greetings from other East Falls churches were brought by Revs. Dr. John S. Tomlinson, of the Methodist Church; Howell S. Foster, of the Grace Reformed Church; Charles Jarvis Harriman, of St. James the Less P. E. Church; and Ulla E. Bauer, of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, all of whom delivered fine addresses of congratulation and encouragement. Mr. Bauer reviewed the changes which have taken place in nations and living conditions since the Falls Presbyterian Church was founded, and called the attention of his listeners to the fact that God and His work is unchanging, and will endure until the end of time.

Rev. Frank H. Rose, pastor of the Manayunk Presbyterian Church,

which with the Fourth Reformed Church of Roxborough holds the honor of being the "mother" churches to the Falls Presbyterians, was next called up to speak. Mr. Rose was lauded for his earnest support as moderator during the interim when the Falls church was without the services of a spiritual leader. At the end of a discourse, in which he expressed his pleasure in having been able to serve his listeners, Mr. Rose was presented with a huge bouquet of flowers, as a token of the appreciation of the Falls Presbyterian Church people.

Rev. J. Marshall Linton a son of the church, told of some of his early experiences in the Falls Presbyterian Sunday School and church, and stated his extreme delight in once more being able to be "among his own people."

Rev. Dr. J. Milton Thompson, a former pastor of the Falls Presbyterian Church, who served here thirty years ago, and who now labors at the Russell Sage Memorial Presbyterian Church, in Far Rockaway,

Long Island, was present and added his congratulations to those of the other orators, but shortened his talk on account of his intention to speak at the regular Sabbath services, which were held on Sunday morning and evening. Mrs. Thompson, who accompanied her husband brought greetings from Mrs. James Dobson, who shares the distinction of being the oldest member of the church, with David Furman, Sr., as a tribute to Mrs. Dobson, all of the diners arose and gave a standing testimonial of their affection from this ever-charitable benefactress of the Falls Presbyterian Church.

A. C. Chadwick, Jr., of the Suburban Press, portrayed the Falls Village, as it existed at the time the Presbyterian Church was founded, and former City Councilman John E. Smithies gave a layman's view of the work of the church, and urged a continuance of the splendid accomplishments of the congregation, so that its future might bring forth even finer fruit than that produced during the past three-quarters of a century.

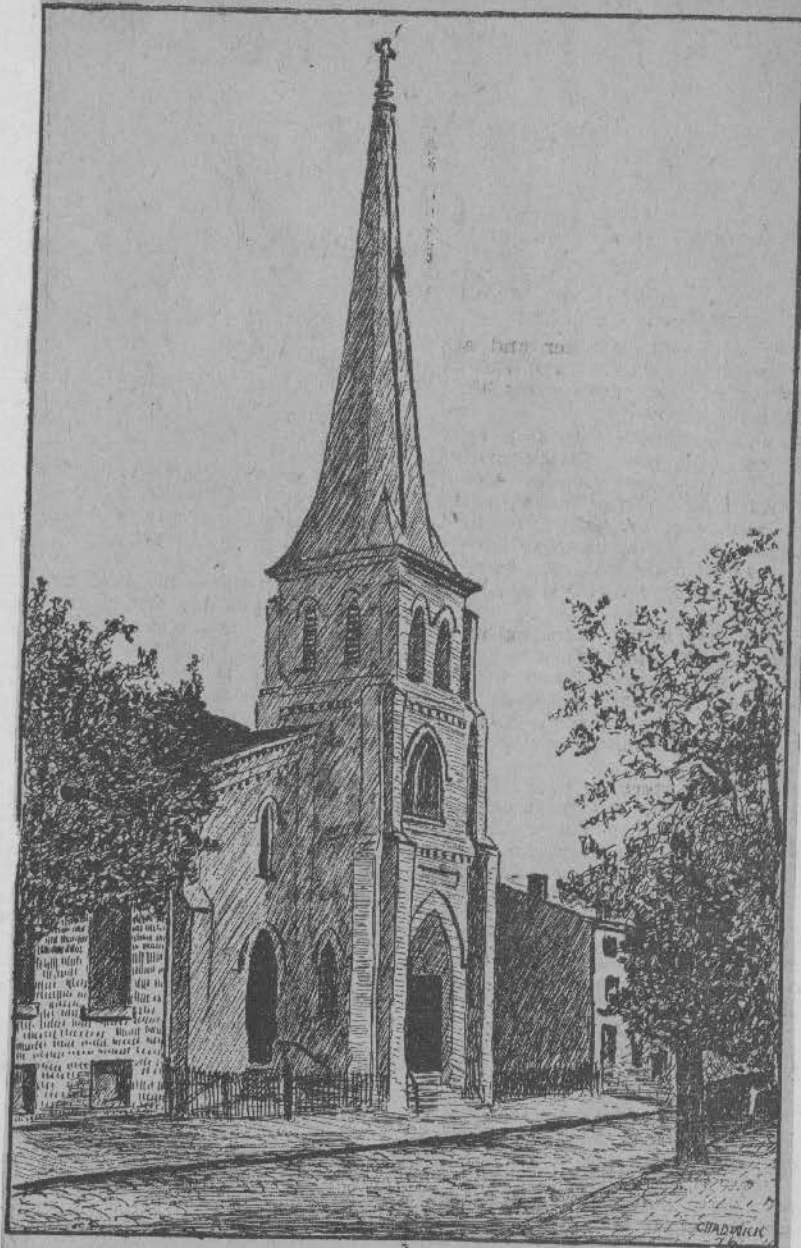
The food, at the banquet, was catered and served by a committee of women of the church, headed by Miss Nellie Groves.

The Doxology was sung again, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Arien T. Muyskens, and the banquet became a part of the history of the Church.

4/16/1931

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ORIGINAL ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH



On Monday evening of this week the Holy Name Society of St. Bridget's Church, East Falls, held its Silver Jubilee Banquet in this old church, which is now used as a Parish Hall. The Society was founded in the above pictured building 25 years ago. The spire, as shown in the sketch, was removed many years ago, and the beautiful new church on Midvale avenue, has supplanted the structure as a place of worship for the parishioners.

3/5/1931

Church Will Observe 60th Anniversary

Grace Reformed Church, in
East Falls Organized
in 1871

AIDED BY POWERS

First Meetings Were Held
In Old Academy on
Queen Lane

Grace Reformed, Episcopal Church which stands on the west side of Ridge avenue, above Calumet street, in East Falls, is the child of a small handful of energetic men who met at the home of Andrew Harbison, on Ridge avenue, above Spencer (now Calumet) street, one evening sixty years ago.

These pioneers in the cause of a new church had been, with their families, for many years communicants in the Episcopal Church of St. James the Less, on Hunting Park avenue. At this time Clearfield street was not paved as it is today nor was there any paved street approaching it. The streets in that section caused considerable annoyance and inconvenience to those attending services at St. James the Less, especially in winter time. To the people of the Falls Nicetown lane at that time was looked upon as quite a distance, and as a result the communicants at the church from the upper end of the town anxiously awaited the time when similar religious privileges would be located more conveniently.

In February 1871 the members from the Falls had reached such numbers that the few worthy men as above mentioned considered themselves justified in making an effort to bring about the consummation of their cherished desire, and met as stated. The names of the men who were present at this meeting were: Robert Crawford, William Harbison, Robert Adams, Sr., Andrew Harbison, William Crawford and Christopher Haggerty.

The encouragement and support promised by these worthy men resulted in a committee of two being appointed to canvass the Falls to see how much support could be depended on and to report back at a meeting during the following week. The committee consisted of Christopher Haggerty and Andrew Harbison, who met with such success on their mission that at the next meeting twenty-five new

names were handed in.

With this assurance of success the little band pushed on and decided to ask permission to start an Episcopal congregation in the Old Academy Building, on Queen lane. This request was granted, and on the following Sunday, or only two weeks after the movement was first launched forth, the first service was held in this building, the "cradle of churches." An application was at once made to the Episcopal Mission of Philadelphia to furnish them with a minister which was answered by the sending of the Rev. Mr. Fugette to attend to their spiritual wants. This was in March, 1871, and after serving them for a few Sundays, the congregation extended to him a call to become their pastor, which he at once accepted. In the meantime the congregation had elected vestrymen and selected the name by which the new church would be known. The name decided on was Trinity.

Trinity Church had been established, vestrymen elected and pastor installed all in the space of a little over a month, through the energy and earnestness of but a few men. The first vestrymen were Andrew Harbison, William Harbison, Robert Crawford, Charles Boothroyd, John Ferris, Mr. Littlewood, Mr. Moore, Christopher Haggerty, Henry Benham, Sr., William Jamison, William Gallagher and a Mr. Johnson. The first superintendent was Thomas Burnley, whose sister was the late Mrs. Joseph Dolphin, of New Queen street.

The services were held on the second floor of the Old Academy, the first floor being occupied by Jerome Anderson and his family, who cared for the building. The Sunday school connected with the new congregation was also held in the same room as the services.

Trinity Congregation progressed and prospered to such an extent that in the course of a year it had outgrown its quarters to such an extent that Palestine Hall had to be secured to hold services in; Sunday school being still continued at the old academy. In this same year Pastor Fugette was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Windeyer. It was at this time also that Thomas Powers, of the firm of Powers and Weightman, first became interested in this congregation. He previously been a communicant at a Germantown church, but one Sunday morning in company with Thomas Moore, superintendent of his laboratory, he attended the services of Trinity Church. He at once became interested in the efforts of the infant congregation and noticing the absence of such articles as were necessary to worthily honor such sacred services he at his own expense had the center chandelier placed in the Auditorium of the Hall. He also had curtains placed on the windows and matting laid on the floor.

This liberality on the part of Mr. Powers was but infinitesimal when compared with what he afterwards did for the church.

About this time a controversy arose between the firms of Powers and Weightman and Joseph Shantz, whose properties adjoined, over the polluting of a spring belonging to Mr. Shantz by chemicals from the laboratory. A lawsuit was imminent, but Mr. Powers who was opposed

to law, and in order to settle the matter amicably, bought the entire piece of property belonging to Mr. Shantz at that place.

The Park Commission shortly afterwards took that portion near the river for the East Park drive, and it is supposed that the price paid pretty well compensated Mr. Powers for the entire purchase from Mr. Shantz. However, Mr. Powers had for sometime been anxious to see his Trinity Church in a building of its own, and upon his securing of the new piece of ground he was not long in deciding that it was upon that spot that a building for the purpose of worshipping God would be built. He quietly had plans prepared and in the latter part of 1872 preparations were begun for at once starting the new building, so that in the early spring of the following year the work was pushed with such vigor that the first service was held in the basement of the new church in May, 1873.

The entire work of the building was superintended by Mr. Moore, of the laboratory and the building was finished before the end of that year. It was then almost as it is now, very few alterations having taken place. The first story is of stone, while the upper portion is of frame, with a belfreytower in one corner, in which is ensconced a mellowtoned bell. The seating capacity of the church is about 400, while in the basement are class rooms which can be thrown into one large lecture room when so desired.

On Easter Sunday, which came in April in the year 1874, the congregation decided to change the title by which they had been known since their formation, and to become the First Reformed Episcopal Church. And so it was dropped and the name adopted as it is known at the present time. "Grace Church" First Reformed Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Mr. Windeyer was succeeded as pastor of Grace Church in 1876 by the Rev. Mr. Feltwell, who remained until January, 1879. In the preceding November Grace Church had lost its best friend Thomas Powers, who was called to his heavenly reward. From the time of the erection of the church the congregation had never been asked to pay one cent of rent. Mr. Powers had even gone farther. His purse strings were ever open to the necessities or wants of his favorite church and congregation. From the tone of his conversation, when speaking on the future of Grace Church, it was supposed that Mr. Powers would at his death make it a gift outright, but as fortune would have it, he was consummated. At his death it was found that deceased had made no provision in his will relative to the church than that which had been in vogue from the time of its erection, to wit: "That the congregation of Grace Church, First Reformed Episcopal Church, should have the use of the church edifice at a rental of one (\$1) dollar per year, should it be demanded." It was the intention of its benefactor that when the congregation of Grace Church should increase to such an extent as to demand an enlargement, the church should be extended out to the Park Drive, it being fully intended that finally

that would be the main entrance to the church.

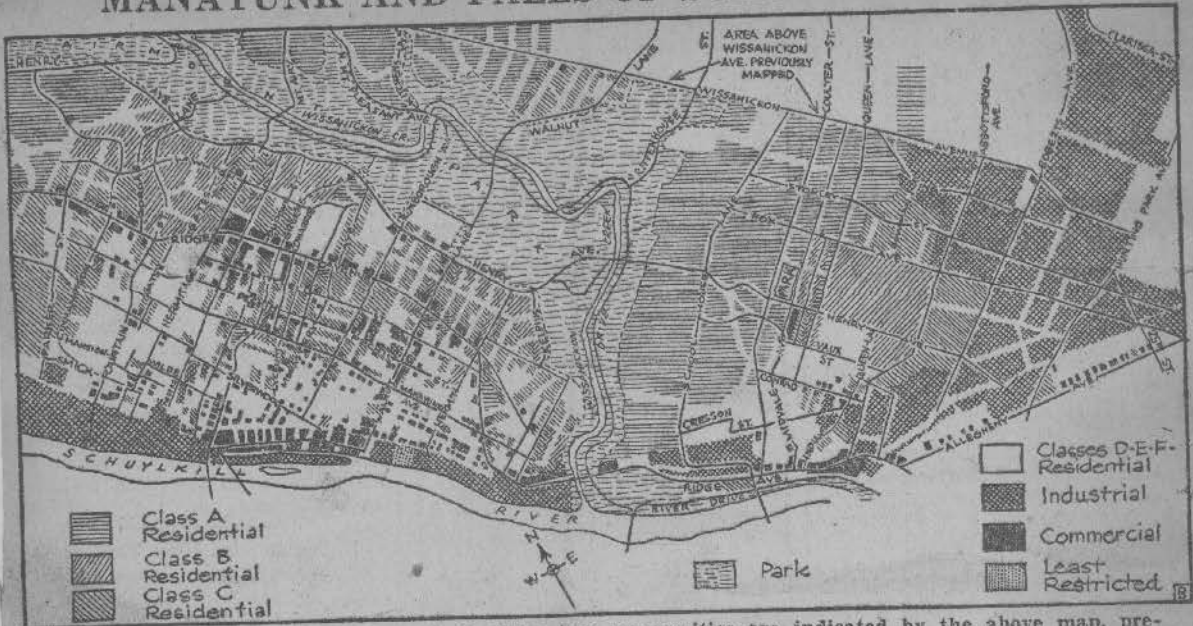
A few years ago the Church Board made an outright purchase of the church and its surrounding properties.

The next pastor of Grace Church was he who afterwards became such an ardent worker in the welfare of this congregation, Rev. Alexander Sloan, who assumed charge as pastor October, 1879. For twenty-two years he labored for the spiritual and mental welfare of his congregation, and it was unfeigned regret that his resignation was accepted, but a few months before, failing health and the sad loss of his beloved wife, whose death had occurred but a short time previous, causing him to take the step. He retired from active work, his years nearing that of the patriarch, and he retired confident in the love and esteem of those for whom he labored so long and so faithfully to spend the remainder of his days at the home of a son on Sunnyside avenue, where, after a long, lingering illness, on June 18, 1904,—he passed to the great beyond to meet his Maker.

After Rev. Mr. Sloan resigned the pastorate of the church, they were without a church head for a period of six months, during which time the pulpit was filled from Sunday to Sunday with several very able young men, students of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary, among whom was the Rev. Ralph G. Finley, who was assisting the venerable Dr. J. Howard Smith, of the Church of the Intercession, Philadelphia.

Following the resignation of Mr. Sloan, the following have served as pastors: Revs. Finley, Moffett, Oakford, Collins, Kilpatrick, MacKenzie, and the present minister, Rev. Howell S. Foster, who has labored here since September of 1927.

MANAYUNK AND FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL ZONED



Wide differences in types of property in these two communities are indicated by the above map, prepared from the Philadelphia Zoning Commission's official map, which will be discussed at a public hearing tonight in the Falls of Schuylkill Library

9/10/1933

Now and Then

A resident of Roxborough, on Friday sent us the following letter concerning Frederick R. Peterman, who once had charge of the stone work done on Reading Railroad projects, who was her grandfather.

"Dear Sir:
A few weeks ago there was an article in THE SUBURBAN PRESS about the Wissahickon bridge. In looking through a box of old newspaper clippings I found the enclosed, taken from the Manayunk Chronicle. You will notice that Frederick R. Peterman, (my grandfather) erected the abutments of the bridge. I have at the present time a large picture of the bridge taken just after it was finished. Your articles of historical interest are greatly enjoyed and usually kept for future reference.

Sincerely yours,
A Regular Reader"

The clipping which was enclosed in the envelope reads as follows:

"I received a letter last Friday from Mrs. James L. Marlin, of 4717 Fowler street, Manayunk, in which she informed me that her father, Frederick Peterman had erected the abutments of the Reading Railroad bridge on Ridge avenue, above Scotts lane, and that I had made a mistake in calling him Jacob Peterman in an article on the bridge, in a recent issue of the Chronicle. In the letter was this interesting data regarding the High Bridge which spans the Wissahickon Creek.

"My father built the first abutment and then it was given out on contract to Nolan Brothers. William Lorenz was

the chief engineer; C. W. Buckholtz assistant engineer. The dimensions are: Length, 540 feet; 5 arches with seventy feet span each; 4 arches with ten feet each. The height from the Park drive to subgrade is 80 feet; from the bottom of the foundation to rail, 103 feet. I remember one time saying to my father, I wished that he could have finished the bridge, as it would be a great monument to have, when he replied, "There is something more to be proud of than building the bridge, and that is the laying of the foundation, for if the foundation is poor the work will not be good." He was superintendent of masonry for the Reading railroad for 38 years."

R. R. S."

Stuart Hunt, of the Laurel Hill Cemetery Company, is another who sent a letter to this office on Friday, which says, in part: "I read with pleasure and interest your article in THE SUBURBAN PRESS, about the notables buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery.—Perhaps you would find interesting the fact that in this cemetery, that lacks but two years till it reaches the century mark, are buried thirty-five soldiers and patriots of the Revolution. Ten of Philadelphia's most outstanding mayors chose this spot as their final resting place.

"Several years ago a Mr. Joseph Jackson, wrote to the Public Ledger selecting a list of one hundred names of Philadelphians who had gained the greatest national repute. Of these twenty-four were buried in this cemetery. I am enclosing this list."

The enclosure contained the names of Charles Thomson, David Rittenhouse, Richard Rush, Sarah Josepha Hale, George Gordon Meade, Thomas Buchanan Read, George Henry Boker, George William Childs, Horace H. Furness,

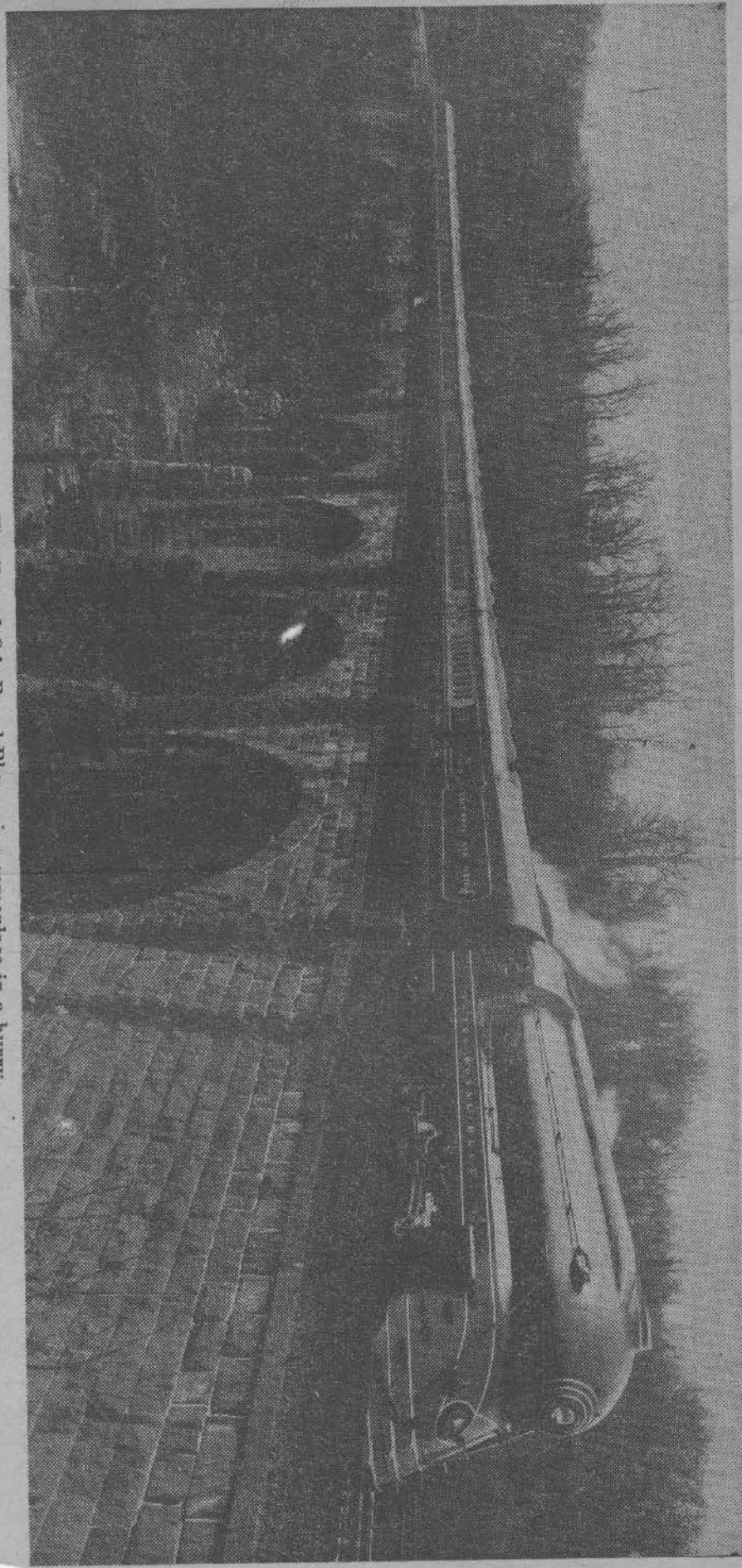
Edwin J. Houston, Richard Dale, William Duane, Thomas Sully, John Bouvier, Thomas Godfrey, Sr., Adam Seyfert, Robert M. Bird, Paul B. Goddard, Henry Beck Hirst, George Rex Graham, Wil-

liam Henry Fry, David Scull Bingham, Boies Penrose, and William Weightman.

In 1850 Cornelius De Groot, a marble cutter, came to the Falls and for a short while worked in the Reardon Brothers marble works at Laurel Hill before starting in business for himself. Mr. De Groot was a noted singer having a baritone voice of unusual volume. He organized and taught a singing class in the Falls Baptist Church, and formed and led the choir. In those days there was no accompanist so he took the key note from a steel tuning fork. He subsequently became a member of the church. He was a School Director and a Past Master of Roxborough Lodge No. 135, F. and A. M. It was he who erected the imposing entrance to Mount Vernon cemetery. Mrs. De Groot was also a singer and sang soprano. She, however, could never master the notes, singing by ear. He would softly whistle her parts and she would go through an anthem without an error. They had two sons, Cornelius, Jr., and Charles Abbot De Groot. The latter adopted his father's business, and at one time worked for Peter Bechtel in Roxborough.

SCCAFF

80 STREAMLINED MILES AN HOUR—BUT NO DOO-DADS



The B. and O.'s Royal Blue going someplace in a hurry.

Buick

B. & O. Just 'Gets Around' To Showing Off Streamliner

The railroad man got his first railroading experience chasing oxen off tracks across his father's farm in Vermont.

The designer got his first experience at the age of 10 drawing something that looked very like a streamlined train at his home in Germany. They got together—and you can see the result in streamlined blue roaring through Philadelphia any day of the week.

Put Together Train.

For the railroad man is Daniel Willard, veteran president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad—the designer is Otto Kuhler, artist and consulting engineer of design to the B. & O.—and what they put together is the Royal Blue, crack B. & O. train between New York and Washington.

It was a good many years ago that Willard, now 76, watched the trains go by on the farm. He later got a job as trackman on the old Connecticut and Jassumpsic Rivers Railroad, the first of his 59 years of railroading.

And it was about 35 years ago that Kuhler scrawled a streamlined train in Stuttgart. He later became a painter of murals, and during the war, while an officer in the German army, he took time off to sketch a cathedral in Belgium—and met the Belgian girl he later married. He came to this country after the war, and has been with the B. & O. since 1934, getting his first job as art director of the B. & O. magazine.

Running Since September.

Kuhler rode his Royal Blue yesterday to show the train to a group of railroad and newspaper men. It's been running on its regular schedule since September, but the B. & O. didn't get around to showing it off until yesterday.

The eight-car streamlined train shows the mark of an artist's hand from bullet nose of the engine to the rounded observation car. But underneath is something that would please any Yankee farmer's son.

For Willard, who still speaks with a Yankee twang, and Kuhler, who still has a trace of the German guttural, didn't start out by building a train from the ground up.

They started with one of the fa-

mous President series of locomotives built by Baldwin's 10 years ago, and with eight cars built by Pullman 15 years ago.

No Doodads.

The engine was reconditioned, its tractive force stepped up to 54,000 pounds, its working steam pressure to 240 pounds. Then the engine was streamlined, but not with any doodads.

That bullet nose that splits the wind as the 240,000-pound engine rolls along at 80 miles an hour is made of heavy cast iron. That's an added precaution in case it hits anything. The streamlining of the engine cost only \$9000, less than 10 percent of the original cost of the engine.

The regulation cars were streamlined, too, at the cost of \$25,000 for each car. They're connected with streamlined vestibule closures that make them appear all one piece.

Blue and Gray.

The whole outside of the train is painted blue and gray, recalling the colors of the earlier Royal Blue trains that were famous before the World War.

But it's inside the cars that Kuhler, who is noted for his book illustrations, let his artistic leanings have fullest play. The cars ride on trucks carefully insulated with rubber (that's Willard), but they are furnished with modernistic furniture and painted in soft colors (that's Kuhler).

In the observation cocktail lounge car, for instance, individual movable chairs, with chromium frames, stand against a red cocktail bar.

Color in Coaches.

Even the air-conditioned coaches, fitted with individual reclining chairs, are painted in varying colors, with the upholstery harmonizing. Light throughout the train is diffused without glare.

The former Royal Blue, by the way, which the present train replaces, is now running on the B. & O.-owned Chicago & Alton Railroad.

It's called the Ann Rutledge now, and its companion train is the Abraham Lincoln. In case you've forgotten, Ann was Lincoln's first sweetheart, who died before their

They started with one of the fa-contemplated marriage.

"SMITH'S FOLLY" Is It Wi

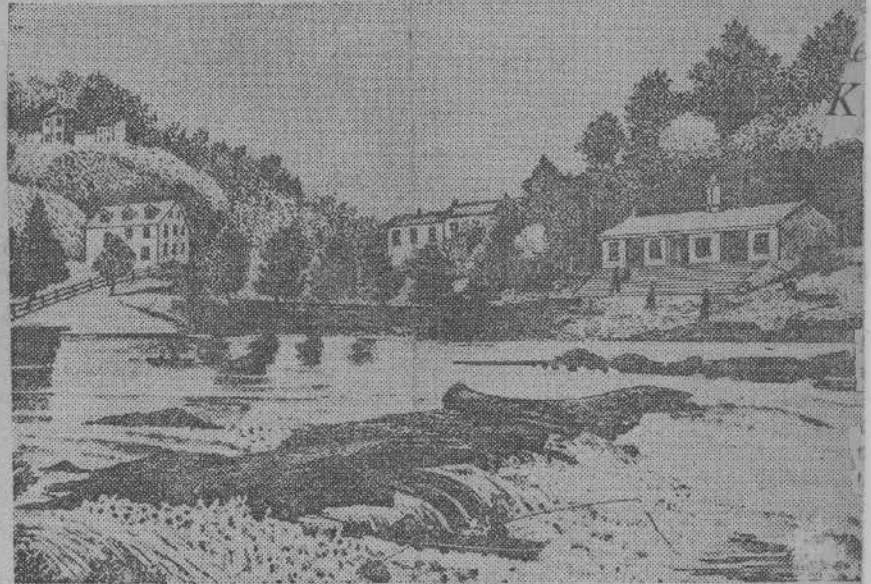
By H

WE HAVE a pleasant weakness here in Philadelphia for anything connected with our city's history, and in this weakness lies our greatest strength. Lacking ambition, courage and industry it is impossible to build anything very fine, so that we have been given a nice ideal by the first inhabitants in their unquestioned possession of these qualities.

Probably we feel a particular and personal pride in the University of Pennsylvania, which from its beginning, as "The Charity School of Philadelphia," became, through the vision and energy of those early settlers, the inspiration to learning that it is today. Back of it all is one man's thought, which proved so constructive and sound that it has formed the basis of most American colleges. On September 7, 1725, there was born in Scotland a child who was called William Smith. Come to think of it the very name of Smith denotes a man of action, and this one was no exception to the rule!

Educated for the church, he came, however, to America in 1751 as tutor to some young men, and during his two years of teaching he put upon paper some of his ideas on the subject of education. This pamphlet he sent to Dr. Franklin, and in consequence was offered a position in the Academy and Charity School in Philadelphia, and in 1755 became the first provost, after which he proposed certain charters which, among other things, planned for the erection of a new college. All higher education in the colonies up to this time had been primarily to prepare young men for the ministry, but Dr. Smith was among the first to realize that the youth of the day must be ready for any position in life which they might choose.

That he was most fearless in expressing any opinion which he cherished is very certain, and this was the cause, in 1758, of his being thrown into jail for several months, owing to his having assisted Judge Moore, of Chester county, in the preparation of a document which attacked the peace policy of the Quaker assembly. During his imprisonment his classes came to him daily, and he carried on his lectures as though still under the college roof. The good which came out of this evil was the furtherance of his friendship with Miss Rebecca Moore, who, through visiting her father, felt sympathy for his comrade in misfortune, as well, so that after the two men were released the marriage of the Provost to Miss Moore was celebrated.



Smith's Folly

It is to be seen on the high hill at the extreme left, where it overlooks the Falls of the Schuylkill and vicinity as the scene was at the time the house was erected. The engraving is a reproduction of a print in the collection of Thomas H. Shoemaker, of Germantown.

lozzi's methods that they not only paid the passage of Mr. Neef to America, but maintained him while he was learning to speak English.

In 1808 Neef published a book descriptive of the theories of his master, stress being laid on personal contact and observation in child training. Specially, we find that there were no books; slates and blackboards being the medium used, but an eye-witness of the school states that the extent to which whole classes of these boys would carry out mental arithmetic and solve mathematical problems without slate and pencil was truly wonderful and astonishing. Hence our progressive education of today is, in reality, merely a carrying out of those methods which prevailed in the small house at the Falls of Schuylkill in 1809!

The Octagon House itself is gone, but the open ground where it once stood lay vacant in the afternoon sunshine not long ago when I finally reached the Provost Smith House on the top of its steep hill. Next to it are the two buildings of the present Falls Public School,

while about the old house itself is a large open space which may be entered from several sides. It would seem to be a great opportunity to do something specially fine with this interesting place since as the only vacant interesting ground in a growing community, lying as it does beside the local scene it presents possibilities for preservation and tremendous usefulness.

The house is not greatly altered from its original lines and could, with little trouble and no great expense, be returned to the charm of an earlier era, so that I found myself thinking enthusiastically how perfect a combination would be if the University should upon itself the restoration and upkeep of the mansion, and the Fairmount Park Commission join with the Falls Grounds Association to make the surrounding land a recreation center connected with the school.

There is sufficient space for tennis courts and baseball or hockey fields while the few remaining tall trees and the original roadway, which leads to the land from Queen Lane. The site

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Until lately I had always thought of Dr. Smith as living all his useful life in what is called the Provost's house, at Fourth and Arch streets, before he retired to his son's house, on the site of the old Drexel Building, at Fifth and Chestnut streets, where he finally died. About 1773, however, he occupied for the first time an estate at the Falls of Schuylkill, which is still standing and which must necessarily be of the greatest interest to the City of Philadelphia.

"Smith's Folly," as it was most often called, is near Indian Queen Lane and the Ridge road. The house stands on the very summit of the hill, and from its grounds one may look up and down the shining silver river. Surrounded by tall trees, a few of which still exist, the house itself was one of three buildings on this particular piece of land, the other two, because of their peculiar shape, being known as the Hexagon House and the Octagon House.

The former, which is close to Queen Lane, was for some years the home of Horace W. Smith, while the latter was the birthplace of the Pestalozzian system of education in America. These now famous theories were first brought to this country by Joseph Neef, who came to Philadelphia with William McClure, founder of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Mr. McClure and a Mr. Cabell, brother of the Governor of Virginia, were so impressed with Pesta-

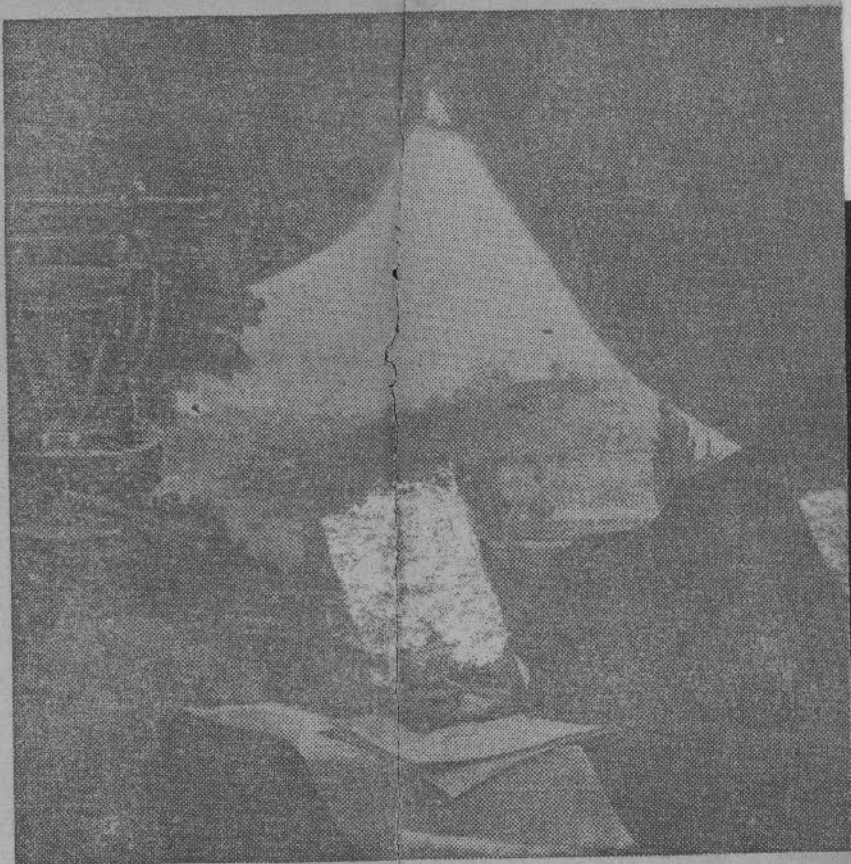
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There is sufficient space for tennis courts and baseball or hockey fields while the few remaining tall trees stand the original roadway, which leads to the land from Queen Lane. The site



Gilbert Stuart's Portrait of Dr.

For which the subject was posed at the open window of "Smith's Folly" overlooking the river and the soft green hills of Fairmount Park. The portrait is the property of Dr. Ward Brinton.

How to Preserve It?

Elen Hamilton Sims

Joseph Neef's school might be marked by a pool or fountain also, in memory of this first seat of Pestalozzian endeavor in America.

For some years Richard Penn Smith occupied "Smith's Folly," and undoubtedly drew inspiration for his plays, some of which were written for Forrest, from the lovely view which, because of its high situation, is still part of the charm of the place. During the occupancy of the Falls by Washington's army, in 1777, the house was the headquarters of General Stephens, of Virginia. Charles F. Jenkins mentions it in one of his books also as the mansion in which, during the yellow fever epidemic in 1793, General Knox, Secretary of War, and Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Auditor of the Treasury, administered their duties.

Since, in these days, we think nothing of transporting pleasing and historic houses, stone by stone, for many miles in order to preserve them, what a tremendous chance this is to keep intact a place of great interest without changing in anyway its locality or originality. And who can tell how soon the march of so-called "progress" will raze it to make way for a factory? Should there not be some truly personal memorial such as this to a man with the vision, balance and driving power of this first provost of our University?

Those who worked with him or for him seem to have had a clear understanding of him, and I've read somewhere a tale of his colored servant, who, finding Dr. Smith admiring the mausoleum which at one time stood on the place, inquired something about its future use.

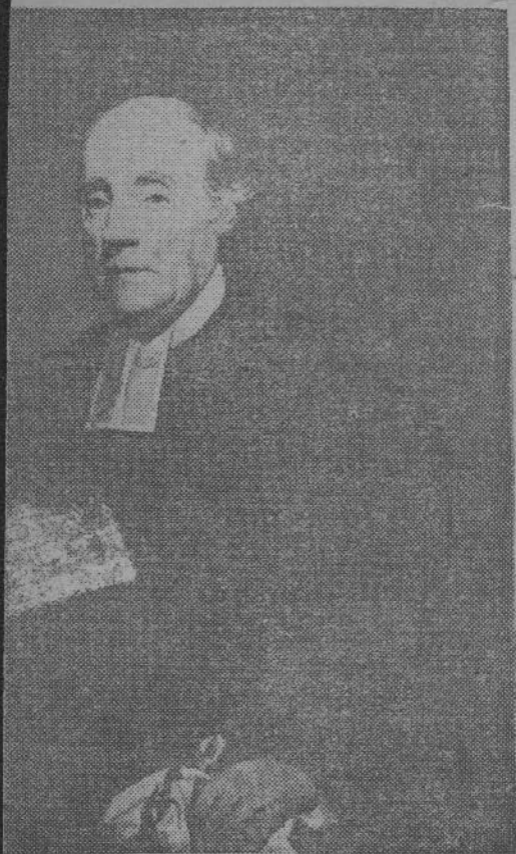
"That's for me, Pompey," the old gentleman said; "just for me!"

"Maybe that's right, doctor," the servant replied; "but I guess the debbil won't have no trouble finding you, no matter where you is laid."

John Adams speaks of him as "soft, polite, insinuating, adulating, sensible, learned, industrious and indefatigable," but as you look at the wise, kind face in Gilbert Stuart's beautiful portrait you are persistently struck with the humor and affection of his expression as he sits by the open window of "Smith's Folly," through which you may clearly see the soft green hills of Fairmount and the river as it drops softly over the falls.

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and affection of his expression as he sits by the open window of "Smith's Folly," through which you may clearly see the soft green hills of Fairmount and the river as it drops softly over the falls.



William Smith

*Smith's Folly," through which are visible
ait of which this is a reproduction is the*

Feb 24th 1936

The Young Mens Literary Institute celebrated their 50th anniversary on Thursday evening Feb 14th 1936.

The anniversary consisted of and entertainment, refreshments and a Dance.

The following is a brief history of the Institute.

It was organized on the 14th of Feb 1886

The meeting was held in the basement of the old St Budgets church.

The following were enrolled as members, at that meeting

Edward A. Drivell, James P. Byrne, John F. Reardon, Andrew B. Byrne,

Lawrence Grant, Sir Bernard J. Murray, Alfred Byrne, Wm Flynn,

Hugh Mc Geough, Bernard Dowdell, Thomas Perry, Edward Whalen,

Edward Mc Mahan, John White Sr.

Six of whom are still living and two of whom are still members

John White Sr and John F. Reardon,

also Thomas B. Burke Sr. is still a member but lacks 1 month 7

being a 50 year member.

For a short while they held meetings in the basement of the church then they rented a room on the 2nd floor of a dwelling on Ridge ave below Ferry Road.

The members were not long realizing they needed larger quarters

and they leased a 3 story building at 4137 Ridge ave,

where they located for a number of years

In August of 1904 they purchased the ground on which the building now stands at Middle ave & Frederick St.

On August 31st 1906 ground was broken and the erection of the building was started. The ground building and furnishings were completed at a cost of \$20,000.

In May 1907 a Fair was held in the building by our lady friends and fitted \$3992.79.

The institute built up a reputation in Base Ball, Basket Ball & Pool. Won the championship of Base Ball in the Catholic League.

Basket Ball in the Catholic League, and the championship in the

arena in Basket Ball League won 23-lost none.

They won the pool championship 3 years straight.

We are proud to state during the world war 29 of our members were

active in U. S. military and naval service

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They won the pool championship 3 years straight. We are proud to state during the world war 29 of our members were

active in U. S. military and naval service. The institute was founded for intellectual social and physical advancement of its members.

and this is true today and any young man who is desirous of joining will be received with a very hearty and sincere welcome.

The following are the officers at the present time.

Joseph Foster. Pres

Joseph Furlong Vice Pres

Nicholas H. Farahy Fin Secy.

John May. Treasurer.

Harry J. Andrews. Rec. Secy.

Thos. S. Burke. Ex. Trustee

Pat. J. Kelly. Trustee

John Walsh. Secretary

Wm Boyd. "

John Monahan "

John H. Reardon. "