

"OLD MORTALITY" GROUP IS SPECIMEN OF THOM'S ART

Statues at Entrance to North Laurel Hill Cemetery Were Created by New Jersey Governor's Ancestor
Immortalizes Story Writer by Sir Walter Scott

A news article, in the United States Gazette, of September 27th, 1835—a century ago—recently republished, brought to mind an interesting local story.

The old item appeared in print as follows:

"We stated a few days ago that Mr. Thom, the successful sculptor, had arrived in this country with numerous samples of his skill, and we have since learned that he intends to make the United States his home. Business not connected with statuary has led us into the workshops of several marble masons of this city, and we have been astonished at the specimens of fancy work which they exhibit, some rising to the dignity of sculpture. The capitals of the pillars at the Girard College are worthy of admiration."

Thom, who it was recently learned, is an ancestor of the present Governor Hoffman, of New Jersey, produced some wonderful work around Philadelphia, in addition to that referred to in the fore-going article, among which are the Tam-o-Shanter group along the East River Drive at Boat-House Row, and "Old Mortality," which stands at the entrance to North Laurel Hill Cemetery, at the Falls of Schuylkill.

The "Old Mortality" group was carved from an incident that gave Sir Walter Scott the title for one of his novels, in which he immortalized Robert Pattieson, of Scotland, under the name of "Old Mortality."

The figures are companions to the Tam-o-Shanters, which were recently better protected from the elements, by workers in the Park. Both groups were first carved in Scotland, by Mr. Thom and brought to this country to be originally shown in New York City.

In 1837 "Old Mortality" was brought to Laurel Hill Cemetery.

In a description of the statues, a booklet in 1852, it was stated:

"The statues are well worth a visit, being exquisite specimens of art. That of Sir Walter Scott, the only one we believe extant, representing the great novelist in modern costume, is superb in design, execution and finish. Old Mortality and his pony, a study in themselves, are also rich in expression and pictorial effect.

"Of these figures, that only of the Old Pilgrim was cut in Scotland by Mr. Thom, the original pony having been broken to fragments in removing the group from the City of New York to Newark, while the statue of Sir Walter Scott exhibited in London, Edinburgh and New York was only a plaster cast. Subsequently, Mr. Thom having purchased a valuable quarry near the city of Newark, New Jersey, the stone of which was admirably adapted for monumental sculpture as well as for architectural purposes generally, offered to complete the entire group for the Laurel Hill Cemetery, a spot in which he most

ardently desired they should be permanently located; and to dispose of his rights to the cemetery company, which the corporation readily acceded to.

"Sir Walter Scott and the quarried are therefore the products of the artist's chisel from American stone. How truthful the sculpture has embodied the author's description can be seen when passages from Scott's historical tale of "Old Mortality" is read."

True to detail the figures of stone stand there today, with Old Mortality seated beside the grave of a Cameronian hero, his horse nearby, while Sir Walter Scott leans upon a gravestone, with his right hand resting on a cane, in a realistic conversational pose.

Dry rot has set in upon the wonderful work of art, for the legs of the pony are fast decaying, but the historical story that is depicted by the group will never be forgotten by those who delight in the works of Scott.

SCCAFF.

*Suburban Press
Oct 10, 1935*

Suburban Press 2/21/1929

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Comments Continue to Come in From Readers

Leaders in Community Thought and Progress Express Approval of New Newspaper

We are still receiving congratulatory letters upon the issuance of "The Suburban Press" and hope that we will be able to live up to all the good things said of us.

This week's letters follow:

Rev. John S. Tomlinson

THE SUBURBAN PRESS,

I wish to express my appreciation of your publication—"THE SUBURBAN PRESS."

A newspaper has a certain group to serve and a certain mission to perform. A city-wide sheet cannot serve in just the same way as a local publication. Each locality needs a newspaper that aims to cover its community life unpartially to build it together more compactly and to rally the various forces for civic righteousness and community advancement.

As I read your paper, "THE SUBURBAN PRESS," covering so many phases of the life of Northwest Philadelphia, in such a clear and progressive manner, I discern that your paper is built on high ideals. I want to congratulate you on your production and wish you great success in your undertaking.

John S. Tomlinson, Pastor
FALLS M. E. CHURCH

George J. Campbell

February 13, 1929.

Editor, Suburban Press,

Received your first copy of Suburban Press and you can count me in as one of your subscribers, and also with my best wishes for a rousing success in your new undertaking.

Very truly yours,

George J. Campbell,
President; United Business Men's Ass'n. of Phila.

Rev. Charles Jarvis Harriman

February 16, 1929

Dear Mr. Chadwick:

Congratulations on the new paper. It is a thoroughly creditable production, and should be a success from the start. We need such a voice for the community and business interests of the city, and it is a great advantage that the new publication bears names that are a guarantee to all who know them. Assuring you of any cooperation in my power, and enclosing check for a year's subscription, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Charles Jarvis Harriman,
Church of St. James the Less
33rd and Clearfield Streets.

Especially pleasing are items which appeared in contemporary newspapers.

The Manayunk Review

February 13th, 1929.

Starting last week a new weekly paper published under the name of The Suburban Press was distributed on Thursday.

The paper is conducted by Joseph H. Ewing, and A. C. Chadwick, Jr., and looked quite attractive and presented its readers with many new news features.

The Germantown Telegraph

February 15th, 1929.

The first issue of the "Suburban Press," a new paper, made its appearance in Roxborough last Thursday, and was a distinct credit to its editor, A. C. Chadwick, a writer of note and Joseph H. Ewing, its publicity director, long affiliated with newspaper work in this city. It is a bright newsy sheet and its promoters are to be congratulated on the typographical makeup of the initial number, which is a credit to suburban journalism.

The editor is also in receipt of a copy of the Northeast News, Edward J. Doyle, Publisher, in which the following article appears.

Good Luck Chadwick

We are in receipt of Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Suburban Press, of which A. C. Chadwick, Jr. is editor, and Joseph H. Ewing, president. The sheet should meet with a hearty reception in Roxborough and other points it covers, as it is brimful of newsy happenings and carries a large quota of advertising. Let us repeat the caption appearing on this brief article: Good luck, Chadwick!

Suburban Press
1/19/1933

Park Provides Feasts For Art Lovers

Wealth of Statuary to Be
Found Throughout
Great Playground

SEVERAL BY RHIND

Smith Memorial on West
Side of River Is One
of Greatest

24 PT.—PARK PROVIDES V

Entering Fairmount Park at the Spring Garden street entrance, the visitor is greeted by a bronze group on the right, called "Sienne and the Infant Bacchus." It is thought to be the work of Praxiteles and is reproduced from the original in the Louvre, Paris, by the Barbedienne Foundry.

At the top of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, leading down to the Wheatstheaf Fountain to the north, are two "Recumbent Lions." At the first intersection of the avenues there is a bronze seated figure of Abraham Lincoln by Randolph Rogers (1871) which portrays Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation. On the left, as one goes up Lemon Hill he sees the bronze group of a "Lioness Carrying to Her Young a Wild Boar," the work of August Cain, placed there in 1883. A short distance away is "Seaweed Fountain," by Beatrice Fenton, which depicts the figure of a little girl. At the left of the fork, just beyond the hill is "The Wrestlers," cast from the original antique in the Royal Gallery, Florence, Italy, and presented to Fairmount Park by Anthony J. Drexel.

At the top of the hill is the seated figure of Morton Michael, at one time Mayor of Philadelphia and president of the Fairmount Park Commission. On the right, is a standing figure of Alexander Von Humboldt, erected in 1876 by the German citizens of Philadelphia.

The equestrian statue of Jeanne d'Arc by the French sculptor, Fremitt, is near the east side of the Girard Avenue Bridge. At the entrance to the Zoological Gardens is the "Dying Lioness" by Professor Wilhelm Wolff, of Berlin. It was accepted by the Commissioners in 1876. At the entrance to the Bird House are the two bronze "Penguins," by Albert Laessle, purchased by the Association as recently as 1918.

To the right, beyond the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge is seen the "Hudson Bay Wolves," by Edward Kemeys, the first of America's animal sculptors. "The Stone Age in America," by John J. Boyle, is near

Sweet Briar Mansion. It depicts the primitive mother holding her stone hatchet and guarding her two children from the bear.

The two slender shafts rising above the trees, each surmounted by a bronze figure are part of the memorial to Pennsylvania's naval and military figures in the Civil War. It was erected under the bequest of Richard Smith, of Philadelphia, who provided half a million dollar fund for the purpose. One of the colossal figures is that of Major General Meade by Daniel Chester French, and the other, Major General Reynolds, by Charles Grafly. At the base of the Reynolds column is the figure of Richard Smith, the donor, modeled by Herbert Adams.

Two equestrian works are General W. D. Hancock and his horse, by J. I. A. Ward, and the other, Major General McClellan, by Edward C. Potter. At the foot of these pedestals are two abutments of granite, each surmounted by eagles, the work of J. Massey Rhind. Eight colossal busts are on the niches flanking the archways between the main pedestals.

Facing Memorial Hall is a plaza with a central fountain and on each side is a bronze lion which

was cast at the Imperial Head Mechanical Works at Alexandorsky, Russia, in 1849. On the left of Lansdowne drive is the seated figure of Anthony J. Drexel, the work of Moses Ezekiel. In Horticultural Hall are several odd statues including one of Witherspoon by J. A. N. Bailly, and "Il Penseroso" by Joseph Mozler. In the garden is a bronze sun-dial supported by a marble pedestal of carved figures by Alexander Stirling Calder.

Returning to the city the visitor can see the Meade equestrian statue by Alexander Milne Calder in the rear of Memorial Hall. It was executed as a commission from the association, for which the United States Government supplied captured cannons for the metal and the Legislature of Pennsylvania a sum of money for the Pennsylvania granite base.

On the right, near the end of Boathouse Row, is a magnificent heroic bronze, "The Pilgrim," by Augustus St. Gaudens. Further on, but nearer the Girard Avenue Bridge, is the statue in bronze of Thorfinn Karlsefni, the Scandinavian explorer, who, as early as 1004, landed on the American continent. The statue was obtained through the generosity of J. Bradford Samuel, and the work is that of Einar Johnson.

About halfway between the Karlsefni statue and the Girard Avenue Bridge is a colossal equestrian group located on a projection of the natural rock to the right of the drive. It is called "The Lion Fighter," and is the work of Professor Albert Wolff, of Berlin.

Further on, also on the right, is the heroic bronze bust of James A. Garfield, by Augustus St. Gaudens. Beyond the arches of the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge, to the right, is the equestrian group of a "Cowboy and His Mount," executed by Frederick Remington (1908). At the intersection of the East River drive and Fountain Green drive stands the equestrian statue of General Ulysses S. Grant, execu-

ted by Daniel Chester French and Edward C. Potter. Near Strawberry Mansion is the equestrian bronze of an Indian Medicine Man, his naked form astride a horse. This famous work was done by Cyrus E. Dallin (1903).

In the Wissahickon branch of the park is a memorial statue to H. H. Houston, by J. Massey Rhind, placed where Harvey street comes into Lincoln Drive; the Penn statue "Toleration" and the massive Rhind Indian effigy at Valley Green.

Press 9/24/1931

Some Old Park Rules

Speed attained its highest point in 1931 when an airplane crossed the American continent in the United States, in eleven hours. With this fact in mind a laugh is in store for the reader of the rules governing Fairmount Park, in 1872.

Get this: "No person shall drive or ride in Fairmount Park at a rate exceeding seven miles an hour." What a hold-up of traffic that old regulation would cause along the East River Drive today!

And it has only been a few years since the driver of a motor car, which threw out clouds of smoky fumes behind it, was chased from the drives. Many car-owners had forgotten the reason that the rule had been made, was on account of the smoke scaring skittish horses, which in the old days predominated on the park roads.

Some other of the old rules which we, of today, are not apt to see enforced are:

12: No person shall go in to bathe in the Park.

13: No person shall turn cattle, goats, swine, horses, dogs, or other animals loose in the Park.

Licenses were—and we suppose still are—required for "any musical, theatrical, or other entertainment therein," as well as for "any military, or other parade, or procession, or funeral."

Here's another "old-timer" which there's not much chance of becoming necessary again.

"No person shall take ice from the Schuylkill, within the Park, without the license of the said Commissioners first had, upon such terms as they may think proper."

SCCAFF

Schuylkill Press 8/9/1934

(4)

Schuylkill Valley Naturalist Gained World-Wide Fame

John James Audubon Established Everlasting Renown
Through His Study of the Birds of America

"The catbird sings a crooked
song,
In minors that are flat,
And when he can't control his
voice,
He mews just like a cat,
Then nods his head and whisks
his tail
And lets it go at that."

And the amateur naturalist who visits the Wissahickon woods knows that this is true, as well as many other interesting tales concerning the bird-life in this vicinity. For the Wissahickon, for some reason known alone to the feathered creatures themselves, has become a sort of an unofficial bird sanctuary. The woodland songsters seem to know that that few humans, if any, will hurt them in this region.

It is a curious fact that the authors of the two greatest works on ornithology produced in America, John James Audubon and Alexander Wilson, were both inspired by what they found along the Schuylkill river and its tributaries.

Not much wonder in that when one considers that birds, like civilized human beings and red Indians thrive best in the lowlands where food is most plentiful. When man visits the top of lofty mountains with woodlands in all directions, he is astonished to see and hear fewer birds than he encounters where people dwell.

Audubon's father, a former French naval officer came to reside in Philadelphia, and purchased the place known as the Audubon farm of 280 acres along the Perkiomen Creek, at its confluence with the Schuylkill. The future naturalist was then nineteen years of age, and it was the year that George Washington was first elected President. There were birds everywhere and the lad, having been educated abroad, at once started his search for feathered prizes that stretched out for a half century.

Very early after his start on the study, Audubon wrote "Pennsylvania, a Beautiful State." He found the same luck that other

authors of that period found; no publisher who wanted to produce the book. So it happens that the most celebrated work of its kind ever put into book form was printed in Great Britain. Each engraved plate was to reveal a bird, or a group of birds, dressed in their true colors. That stumped the Philadelphia publishers of that day. Never had such drawings been seen. Some were upon paper more than three feet long, since Audubon made each specimen life-size. Imagine a gigantic wild turkey, or an American eagle, and it can easily be understood why more space was required than would be needed to picture a wren.

When the first edition of "Birds of America" came out, in England, there were 180 copies which sold for \$800 each. Only six of the sets came to America.

For a time Audubon was engaged in business in Philadelphia. But he neither liked it nor prospered at it. The wild woods held his ambitions and more thrills than the teeming metropolis. For a generation he tramped the United States and Canada. He visited the frozen North under the Arctic Circle. He dwelt in the hot lands of the South, where natural ice was never seen. He studied birds in their homes, watched their migrations, petted and painted them, and then embalmed them in an unequalled and immortal book. He was the first to discover many things about birds which to the high school student of today seems commonplace.

The call of the Bob White is a fighting challenge for all other Pallid Roberts to just try and come into the caller's domain. The Whippoorwill gives a plaintive bleat to encourage his wife to stay at home and watch her children. Audubon knew this, and also that the most astonishing sound ever sent forth by any bird or fowl is the shrill and loud-sounding note of the ordinary rooster, who struts around crowing about what somebody else has done.

A few years ago the archives of the old Ridgeway Library, in Philadelphia yielded some new information about this naturalist of the Schuylkill Valley.

The facts were contained in a letter, written to Dr. S. G. Morton, who in 1851, was a noted Philadelphia physician and president of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

The letter was penned by Audubon's son, Victor, and saluted Dr. Morton as one of Audubon's oldest and staunchest friends. It is dated April 3rd, 1851, from New York, where the artist lived and completed his celebrated works, which brought him international renown and financial independence.

The letter reads: "I know you have seen the various notices of the death of my great and good father. I feel it due to you, however, from your friendship to him and us, to write you some particulars not in the papers.

"The first attack he had was apparently a slight apoplectic, and was followed by a partial paralysis. Fever supervened, and on Sunday erysipelas in the head had progressed so that he was in great pain. We had but little hope, but until half past 2 o'clock on Monday no decided change occurred. Soon after that hour he began to sink rapidly, and his face was somewhat contracted. Before he died he opened his eyes, which had been almost closed for some time, and gave my mother, John and myself, a wistful and clear look—turning his head slightly to gaze on us—this was his farewell glance upon those he loved so well. He expired at quarter past ten o'clock without a struggle or a groan, and my mother closed his eyes. She bore up very well, and we are now all more quiet and composed. You will, I know, sympathize with us. Give my respects to Mrs. Morton and believe me,

Yours, dear sir, truly,
V. G. Audubon"

And the birds of today along the Wissahickon, who instinctively know they fly about and dwell in a safe retreat, would have mourned, and sympathized in the death of Audubon, too, if they'd been here then, for the knowledge he gained of them has made their lives safer and fuller.

SCCAFF

ADVERTISE IN THE PRESS

Beer Made, Industrially, at East Falls Ever Since 1858

Joseph Steppacher, Jacob Hohenadel and Philip Guckes
Were Early Brewers.—Nearby Springs Sup-
plied Water and Ice For Product

Thirty-five years ago the section where winding Warden Drive makes its graceful curves on the way from Midvale avenue to School House lane, was entirely different. The roadbed of the present thoroughfare follows what was once a natural valley through a thick stand of trees, mostly chestnut and beech. The little vale skirted the rear of several splendid School House lane properties.

Halfway up the Drive, about what is now the end of the golf course of a rest sanatorium, was Philip Guckes' brewery. This old industrial plant, which was devoted entirely to the brewing of lager beer, was built in 1873, but ended its days about 40 years ago, when a disastrous fire wiped it out. For years afterward, however, the gaunt walls of the main structure sans roof, window casings and practically all timber stood there, to the great delight of the boys of the neighborhood. In its basement, which was always flooded with water, grew large splatter-decks and pond lilies, and great numbers of frogs were to be seen at all times, inviting the stone-throwing marksmanship of the lads who frequented the place. Nearby was the brewery dam, quite a large body of clear, sparkling water, in which the boys were wont to spend the summer days in swimming.

Philip Guckes was born in 1821, in Hesse, Darmsatadt, Germany. He learned the trade of brewer in the old country and in 1842 came to America. He was employed in various breweries in New York and Philadelphia, among which he served for seven years William C. Rudman, until 1850 when he started in the brewing business on his own account.

Just when he bought the old hotel property along Ridge avenue at the foot of School House lane (the site now occupied by a gaso-

Richard Penn Smith, descendant of the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. William Smith. The ruins of this old brewery may still be seen on Arnold street, in the rear of the Reading Railroad Company's East Falls

The buildings were completed by Joseph Steppacher, in 1858, and he operated the place until 1870, when Jacob Hohenadel purchased it from Peter Schemm. The property included about six acres, with a beautifully shaded park for the accommodation of picnics and private parties. On one side of the grove stood the brewery, a building about 160 feet by 65 feet; and being built on the side of a bank, with four vaults hewn in the solid rock, each 30 by 152 feet, it varied from three to five stories in height.

Within the brewery were ever-flowing springs of water, furnishing an abundant supply, while upon the premises were other fine springs, one of which was piped down to the old Falls Hotel, on Ridge avenue.

It was provided with the best appliances of the times for brewing a superior article of beer.

Like Philip Guckes, Jacob Hohenadel was born in Hesse, Darmstadt, Germany, on August 19, 1838. He came to the United States with his father in 1852 and worked a farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, until 1858, when he entered the brewery business of Bergdoll & Psotta, at Fairmount. In 1864 he started business for himself at Broad and Cumberland streets, when he operated a brewery until he purchased the building and grounds at the Falls of Schuylkill. Jacob Hohenadel was known as a man of indomitable energy and untiring industry.

SCCAFF

1/15/1933

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Viewing The City From The Queen Lane Reservoir

Reminiscences of a New Year's Night Twenty-One Years Ago. — Neighborhood Has Changed But Little Since 1912

Twenty-one years ago, on New Year's night, 1912, the writer dwelt in the old Hubbard house, which stood southeast of the Queen lane reservoir, along what is now Abbottsford avenue.

In those days there were not many dwellings, or other buildings, in the vicinity. Just west of the "big basin" was the ancient Abbottsford mansion, tumbling in its ruin, which has been replaced with the college and hospital buildings and the campus of the Greater Woman's Medical College; then, too, Bella Vista, the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Dobson, stood around the corner on Abbottsford road. Next to the late carpet manufacturer's home, which still stands, was the Richards place, since destroyed by fire, and then Edgewood, the Hubbard home, which has also been removed by the Fire Demon. A few years before the time referred to, there stood on the corner of Fox street and Abbottsford avenue, the Griffith Evans house, which was intimately connected with the Revolutionary days of America. "And that's all there was, there wasn't anymore," to paraphrase a one-time famed lady of the stage.

It is New Year's night, and I wait for a group of young people from the Falls Methodist Church who are coming up to visit us. I climb the steep bank of the reservoir and walk around the bricked driveway which skirts the top of the city's great water receptacle. It was a cold and blowy night, exactly like that of last Saturday. The skies were black save for the stars which twinkled and gleamed from a thousand port-holes in the heavens. I turn to look toward the city. I find there are conditions of atmosphere which magnify the huge town and distort some of its elements; a sunset on a clear day will sometimes do this. Under the lights of a full moon the crowded municipality seems greater than ever, because the edges and outskirts, silvered by the fairy light go shimmering off interminably, intriguing one's imagination with the belief that the city flows on forever, melting into heavenly fields far beyond.

Against the black curtain that canopied western New Jersey, the beautiful skyline, now and then broken by great masses, formless

and shadowy, heaped against it. Little could be identified. The statue of William Penn, on City Hall, was marked by a little coronet of lights, near the great Quaker effigy's feet, high above everything else. Since then other great buildings have arisen in Philadelphia sky, and additional electric and gas-electric illumination makes the structures more brilliant and familiar.

On that far away evening the cold black "mask of night" had fallen upon the plain covered with a confusion of tumbled dark masses, generally rectangular. The effect of one brilliantly lighted building was striking, the color was like that of the moonlight upon a warm colored stretch of sand. Here and there were myriads of twinkling lights sparkling blue, but the blackness about them contracted their effulgence.

The lines of the nearby streets and bridges were marked by long rows of many pin-pointed lights, some of them curving. Since 1912 there has been added to these the distant Delaware River bridge, and the more recent Henry avenue bridge over the Reading track near Allegheny avenue. But to go back again. The cornices of downtown buildings, too, were discerned by rows of electric light. The end windows of a house just across the field below me—on Crawford street—reflected tinsel and Christmas tree ornaments.

Huge electric signs were everywhere, offsetting feelings and the glamour of romance that hovered about the great abyss-like shadows of streets that were filled, by day, with happy, busy folk, exulting in the sunshine, with duties to perform and pleasures to pursue.

A note of warm color is to be seen on the illuminated facades of the houses along the east side of "the Basin". This faint, rose-colored flush fluctuated now and then as passing lights fell upon the dwellings. These came from the sudden release of long lines of automobiles filled with merry holiday seekers freed by some alert traffic policeman. The rising glow was caused by the headlights of the motor cars.

At these moments I stood there, three elements contributed to my enjoyment of the scene. The hu-

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Viewing the City From The Queen Lane Reservoir

(Continued From Page One)

man element in the view was the most dominant one; there was ever the feeling that beneath the multitude of flat-topped houses and in the street, thousands of people were thinking, acting, dancing and perhaps weeping. Then, an illusive element—in this particular instance it might have been called the spectral element—playing a part. The mysterious shadows, the long lines of pin-point lights leading out into the country, the flushed side of a building with no perspective to aid in discerning its shape and size, contributed a great deal to the intellectual pleasure of the view. Suggestion, too, played a role in the drama; just as it does in art; it is akin to the mysterious. The unreality of shadows, the weirdness of the curving lights along the river front, the possibility that any kind of human action may have been being acted—and it probably was—just beneath my gaze, of crime or suffering in some dark foul alley of the underworld, of a dance in a theatrical performance; of people kneeling in prayer. The semaphores of the nearby railroads and those farther away, as if on ships in the Delaware, of rising and falling flashings; the sudden appearance of a train of brightly lit railroad cars, rushing out of the dark with a roar and departing into an unknowable black just as suddenly; all gave to that memorable night-scene of the city. I fancied long streets of merry holiday makers, happy at various entertainments, of theatres and cafes alluringly and gaily decked with many lights, of the sparkling and numberless Christmas lights still showing in many windows; of the cheerless dark homes of the poor; of shivering little children under thin coverlets, hopeless of seeing anything on the morrow which might mean a happy new year. Humanity in all its nobleness and degradation was abroad in the street on every side and in every crevice of the vast plain before me.

There was a solemn roar above the city; low and subdued; through the chill, windy air, the music of a great hymn.

A snail-like motioned freight train, passing for a time along a curve in the railroad track, added a note of ruddy color to the black when the fireman opened the furnace door, and the long trailing smoke reflected the cheerful glow from the firebox. There was, in

7/14/1929

Graduations Recall Tales Of Family of John Conway

When the recent graduations took place at the local schools, they brought to mind some of the old teachers and their families.

One of these old teachers was Miss Annie Conway, who served for many years under Principals Eldridge and Mackie, at the old Forest school, now known as the Samuel Breck School in East Falls.

But if Miss Conway had an interesting history, the story of her father is more so.

John Conway, who for over forty years was known as the gate-keeper at North Laurel Hill Cemetery, and who resided in the South Lodge at the cemetery entrance, was born in the County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1800.

When he was eighteen years of age he came to America and after being engaged in varied occupations finally secured employment at the DuPont Powder Mills, on the Brandywine, where he remained for several years.

It was while he was employed at Wilmington that he met the helpmate who was to be the sharer of his joys and sorrows through life, Miss Hannah Traverse, to whom he was married when she was but fifteen years old.

Shortly after their marriage, Conway and his young bride, took up farming at a place which is now traversed by South Third street in Philadelphia. Sometime later they drifted to the West, being located at Leechburg, beyond the Alleghenies, which in those days was

"the West" indeed. Afterward they returned to this city, where Conway obtained a position as town crier, which position he filled for some time, before he received an appointment in the Custom House, but being a Whig, he lost out when a change of administration took effect.

Conway subsequently worked for Hugh Scott, another grand old man of East Falls, and helped Scott clear his twenty-two acre plot of ground on Indian Queen lane. At the time of the coming of the Reading railroad to this section, Conway worked as a driller on the Flat Rock Tunnel. It was about that time that he became acquainted with Thomas Dolan, who was a manufacturer, afterward became a millionaire. Dolan's mother, at the time of the building of the Columbia or Inclined Railway in the vicinity of the old Centennial Exposition Grounds, kept a boarding house for railroad laborers.

John Conway's connection with Laurel Hill date back to the beginning of the forties. His duties, at first and for many years, being the attendance of the gate, which at that time was a huge wooden one.

His presence at the gate gave him an intimate acquaintance with many of the leading people of Philadelphia, a personal friendship existing until his death, between he and Richard M. Vaux, late Mayor of Philadelphia; the late William McMullin and William M. Singerly, publisher of the Philadelphia Record. From all these he received proffers of elevation to political honors, but he modestly declined, having advanced in years and being greatly attached to the duties which had attracted his attention for so many years.

He was the father of seven daughters and four sons. Imagine if you can, a modern apartment to house that man's size family. And it is not to the benefit of America that families of that size are not now possible.

Of the daughters, Miss Annie, whom he had already mentioned, was the eldest. She lost her position on account of the fact that her father was a Democrat, and when the opposition party came in power, her place was assigned to another, as a part of the spoils of the victor.

She was beloved by all who knew her, and her many beautiful traits had so endeared her that her memory has lived to this day, to bring this story to light.

Her death occurred in September 1879. She and her mother died on the same day, and one month later Josephine, the youngest daughter of John Conway, joined her mother and sister.

Of the other girls, Kate was married to James Tourish, a carriage-maker. She died in 1880. Margaret

married Mark Prim, a foreman in the Reading Railroad, and who was one of the regiment raised in Ireland, during an early Papal uprising; Hannah, who died in 1896, married William McManus, a musician; Louisa M. was the wife of John Denby, who with the exception of a few years spent in Kansas farming, was the foreman of the spinning department of Dobson's mill for most of his married life. Mary Conway never married, but spent the most of her time between her sister, Mrs. Denby and an uncle, John Pagny, at Corez, Delaware.

Of the boys, Hugh died when quite a child; William made his residence in St. Louis and Arthur became a widely noted accountant and was engaged in lead mines near Joplin, Missouri.

Of the son John Jr., his death was the final scene in a series of adventures: as a youth he learned the trade of iron railing maker, and at the breaking out of the Rebellion, he was employed by Robert Wood, on Ridge avenue.

When the split came between the North and South, he was engaged in erecting a railing in New Orleans and in order to reach home he took passage on a blockade runner bound from New Orleans to a Northern port. The vessel was captured and young Conway, along with the crew was imprisoned at Fort Delaware. After a short imprisonment, he, with two others, succeeded in eluding the inner guards and attempted to make their escape, the only means being the swimming of the Delaware. Into it they plunged and of Conway's companions nothing was afterwards heard, and his remarkable escape seems almost like fiction. The waters were patrolled by guards in boats, and as refugees

arose to the surface these guards would knock them on the head, and it is supposed that the others, soon or before reaching land, succumbed to this treatment. However, Conway, who was an expert swimmer, remained under water almost the entire distance, only coming to the surface once or twice for his breath.

It was not long until intimation was received that the authorities knew of his presence in his father's house, a supposed friend desirous of securing the reward, having informed the officials. Through the efforts of his mother he was smuggled aboard a whaling vessel bound for Scotland, which he reached in safety, but the terrible ordeal through which he had passed had done its work; the water which he swallowed during his escape is supposed to have affected his lungs, and from the effects of it he shortly afterward died in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The elder Conway was one of the employes of the Laurel Hill Company, who were known to have been pensioned off, he retiring twelve years previous to his death.

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"Sir: Having devoted much time to the Improvement of Canal navigation. And Arrived at a System which totally explodes the old practice, and which has for its principle And leading advantage First that it may be Constructed for half the Sum Usually expended. Second that it may be formed through the Most Mountainous Country.

"Yet on Such Canal Boats may Pass if necessary at the Speed of Six miles per hour from one extremity of the Continent to the other, which Circumstance will draw Passengers and articles which Require Quick Transfer, on to the Channels of Water Conveyance And Thus they have a direct tendency to take in And Conduct the whole Carriage of a Country to and from the Various and most Remote districts, which will facilitate manual Labour and open an extensive home Market.

"And to which I have also added a plan for forming Canal to penetrate from the Marts of trade to the Interior Country. On Such a Cheap and Systematic principle, that one Ton of Grain or other Material May be Conveyed From Port Pitt to any other point distant 3 to 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.

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Native Country. And having observed your address to the House of Representatives in 95 In which your Ideas of the Importance of easy Communications through a Country are so Congenial to my own, And So earnestly Recommended the Consideration of the house. I Am induced to Write you on the Subject As I consider it a necessary precaution to have the exclusive Right of Vending and applying my Said Invention In the American States, Secured to me my heirs &c. by an act of Congress, Previous to exhibiting the System of proceeding.

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"What Mr. Fultons propositions to you on this subject are, I know not; But I am induced by motive of friendship to genius and science to inform you, that I have examined his Models, Plans, and Improvements in general on Canal Navigation, and find they are on unerring principles. For example, The moderate expense in making his canals compared with the old plans; the straight directions that are capable of being carried over Mountains, and Plaines, where feeding waters can be brought into them without the expence of erecting docks, Bridges, and Aqueducts; the expedition and cheapness by which property can be conveyed on them, and the great Utility to a Country by enabling the distant inhabitants to send their produce to the Capital for so moderate an expense as his System proves can be done to a demonstration not to be contradicted.

"Such are the great fetures of his improvement on Canal Navigation, that I have not the least doubt, but that it will be found to extend its advantages in conveying even Passengers with greater Dispatch, than that of Turnpike Roadse.

"For further recommendation, I have to add, that Mr. Fultons, Models, and Plans have been examined by engineers, Committees of Canals, and others professed in Hydraulicks, and the result of these

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The oldest accounts of ships are those of the Egyptians and their date is about 3000 B. C.; the most ancient type being propelled by oars; the largest of these being about 100 feet long, with room for forty oarsmen.

The first man to suggest the use of steam to propel a vessel was Saloman de Caus, who was confined by the French government as a madman because he repeatedly importuned it to carry out his ideas. This was in 1640 or earlier. Watt's successful development of the steam engine, and the general acceptance of its value and importance, gave great impetus to power propulsion of boats. Watt, himself, in 1770, suggested driving them by means of one of his engines operating a screw propeller.

In 1788 John Fitch, after several partial successes, built the first really successful steamboat. About the end of July 1788, she was propelled by steam from Philadelphia to Burlington, on the Delaware

and made the trip several times afterward. In 1789 Fitch built a new and faster boat, at Philadelphia, which in a public test, made eight miles per hour.

But to Robert Fulton goes a great deal of the credit for making the early steamboats practical. He had been studying the project for several years, and made his first model in 1802. He tried his first large boat on the Seine, in France, in 1804, but it lacked speed. Coming to America shortly afterward, he began the construction of the Clermont, which was launched in 1807, and which made her first trip on August 7th of that year. His success was due, not only to her capabilities, but because she was able to enter at once a remunerative trade.

To the average person the name of Fulton conjures up this once vision—that he was able to bring a successful culmination to his thoughts about steamboats.

Only a comparatively few historians, realize that one of Fulton's greatest subjects of study and invention was the improvement of canals and canal systems; an am-

examinations are, an acknowledgment of their superior Utility.

By this discovery, I hope not only America but this country, will derive that advantage, which the discovery seems pregnant with, and the ingenious inventor will likewise receive a reciprocal advantage with the Public of both countries.

That this may be realized, is the near wish of

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Fulton returned to America late in the year 1806 and thereafter devoted much time to the improvement of the torpedo and in the perfection of the steam vessels in which he had pioneered.

SCCAFF.

Fulton Wrote of His Canal Plans to Governor Mifflin

(Continued from Page One)

bition which might have flowered into success but for the crushing growth and competition of railroad lines.

The story of his great interest in canals was recently discovered by J. V. Hare, in the record vaults of the Reading Company. This consisted of two old and musty letters; one written by Benjamin West, the noted American artist; and the other by Robert Fulton himself.

Both were sent in 1798, from London, to Thomas Mifflin, a former resident of the Falls of Schuylkill, who was then the Governor of Pennsylvania. Mifflin was much interested in the development of canals and other avenues of transportation throughout the Keystone State.

Both letters, as preserved in the ancient files of the Company of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Navigation, were written a short time after Fulton had published some thoughts on canals, in an article entitled "Treatises on the Improvement of Canal Navigation."

Fulton, remembered that much of Pennsylvania is mountainous terrain, and that the cost of building locks and occasionally using steam engines for through transportation was considerable.

His theory called for the use of small canal boats instead of the large ones, and in the substitution of what he called "inclined planes" to raise and lower the boats from one level to another. In addition he gave much thought to scooping out earth to form canal channels—very much like the present-day steam shovel.

Fulton's visit to England from Pennsylvania, where he was a native of a town once known as Fulton, in Lancaster County, and his association across the Atlantic with the artist Benjamin West, under whom he studied, came at a time when prominent Philadelphians, headed by Robert Morris, were in the throes of developing communication with the West by canals.

To this Fulton turned his own genius, as shown by the letters just discovered. His letter to Governor Mifflin was dated "London, Feby 24, 1796," and said:

"Sir: Having devoted much time to the Improvement of Canal navigation. And Arrived at a System which totally explodes the old practice, and which has for its principle And leading advantage First that it may be Constructed for half the Sum Usually expended. Second that it may be formed through the Most Mountainous Country.

"Yet on Such Canal Boats may Pass if necessary at the Speed of Six miles per hour from one extremity of the Continent to the other, which Circumstance will draw Passengers and articles which Require Quick Transfer, on to the Channels of Water-Conveyance And Thus they have a direct tendency to take in And Conduct the whole Carriage of a Country to and from the Various and most Remote districts, which will facilitate manual Labour and open an extensive home Market.

"And to which I have also added a plan for forming Canal to penetrate from the Ports of trade to the Interior Country. 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 to 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.

"But Having formed this system It is my most Ardent wish to transmit a full sense of the operation and Its Importance to my

Native Country. And having reserved your address to the House of Representatives in 95 In which your Ideas of the Importance of easy Communications through a Country are so Congenial to my own. And So earnestly Recommended the Consideration of the house. I Am induced to Write you on the Subject As I consider it a necessary precaution to have the exclusive Right of Vending and applying my Said Invention In the American States, Secured to me my heirs &c. by an act of Congress. Previous to exhibiting the System of proceeding.

This I hope you will Conceive my Indubitable Right for although any Perquisite or percentage Which I might Require for the use of my System; Could never in the lease effect the Carriage of Materials Yet on the numerous Canals it might be productive of emolument to me.

"And Such Rights being Secured to Inventors Is the Greatest Possible Inducement to exert their Mental faculties. And In this Request I hope to have your Assistance. Convinced that Your High Sense of the Importance of Easy Conveyance Will urge you to promote every plan which may tend to produce So desirable an end. I have therefore Requested my friend Bringhurst to Wait on you to Confer on the Business who will transmit Your Resolutions to me and immediately on the Right being Secured I will forward the plans and Mode of proceeding which will give the Blessings of Water Carriage to every district In America. The Importance of which must be too obvious to a discerning Mind, to Need Any Comment from me hoping for your friendly Aid In this Negotiation which I mean should extend to the whole of the States I Remain with all Possible Respect you

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"What Mr. Fultons propositions to you on this subject are, I know not; But I am induced by motive of friendship to genius and science to inform you, that I have examined his Models, Plans, and Improvements in general on Canal Navigation, and find they are on unerring principles. For example, The moderate expense in making his canals compared with the old plans; the straight directions that are capable of being carried over Mountains, and Plains, where feeding waters can be brought into them without the expence of erecting docks, Bridges, and Aqueducts; the expedition and cheapness by which property can be conveyed on them, and the great Utility to a Country by enabling the distant inhabitants to send their produce to the Capital for so moderate an expense as his System proves can be done to a demonstration not to be contradicted.

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7/11/1935

9

Civil War Regiments Were Organized In This Vicinity

Manayunk, Roxborough and East Falls Provided Many Recruits For Groups Formed For Union Service at Lincoln's Call to Arms

It seems but a few years ago since all of the Memorial Day exercises in this vicinity were conducted by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic. But this year the services of memory for the men who fought in the Civil War, were marked by the almost total absence of the men who once wore the blue of Uncle Sam's land forces. George Gillett, commander of Hetty A. Jones Post No. 12, of the G. A. R., who is also State Commander of the same organization, was the lone Civil war veteran to appear in uniform at the various ceremonies held in this vicinity.

Roxborough, Manayunk and the Falls of Schuylkill were places where early in 1861 patriotism was strongly in evidence. The local newspapers of that period contained many references to flag raisings at mills, private residences, newspaper offices, hotels, street corners and elsewhere. The militia companies, of which there were quite a few, at the breaking out of the war, were paraded and kept more or less constantly under instruction, these remarks especially applying to the Jackson Rifles, the Pennsylvania Dragoons, and the Morgan Rifles, under the command of Captain J. J. Belsterling, of Manayunk.

Some of these companies went to the front in three-month campaigns, with much the same personnel as they had prior to the war; while others, losing their pre-bellum special identity, furnished recruits from their membership to other military groups organized under newer and different requirements of

Falls, was known as the Garibaldi Guards. It was mustered into the Nation's service for three years, or the war, as Company "B" of the 2nd Delaware Volunteers. Its captain was Charles H. Christman, of Germantown, and its first lieutenant, Theodore Geyer, of the Falls of Schuylkill. The latter was a police sergeant at the outbreak of the war. It was the original intention that this company should become a part of a battalion or regiment to be commanded by Romain Lujeane, but the officers were afterward chiefly residents of Delaware, and Lujeane was not among the number.

When the first three companies of the 99th Regiment were recruited, through the agency of Thomas W. Sweeney, who had received authority for this purpose from the War Department, the battalion, on August 8th, 1861, was ordered to Washington and proceeded there under the command of Lujeane, who had been recommended for the position of colonel. According to Bate's History, on the 7th of November, 1861, Romain Lujeane, who had been mustered in as lieutenant colonel, resigned, and Thomas W. Sweeney was commissioned colonel, and William P. Seymour as lieutenant colonel. Lujeane was at one time professor of German at the Central High School. He was an Italian who had previous military experience in Europe; had been a student at Vienna, and lived for some years in Germany.

Besides the companies mentioned there were, of course other groups, such as the 88th Pennsylvania Vol-

Timothy Clegg, who is still remembered by many residents of the 21st Ward, was a corporal in this company. At the time when Morehead's regiment was serving at Baltimore the Confederate sympathizers were making efforts to get possession of Fort McHenry and turn Baltimore and the State of Maryland to the South.

In addition to his services in Captain Belsterling's Company "E" of Colonel Morehead's 22nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, Timothy Clegg

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Company "A", of the 119th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment, which had its recruiting camp near the present-day Budd Manufacturing Company plant, at Hunting Park avenue and Wissahickon avenue; with the exception of about ten men, was entirely composed of residents of Manayunk and Roxborough. The first commanding officer was Captain Andrew A. Ripka. James Dykes, who was the son-in-law of William Simpson, owner of the Washington Print Works, at West Falls, and one of the managers of the Simpson mill, went out as first lieutenant of this company and later became its captain. Dykes resigned in February, 1864, and returned to the Falls of Schuylkill, where he continued to take an active interest in military affairs. At one time, in 1863 or 1864, he took temporary charge as drill master of Captain John Dobson's old Company "I" of the Blue Reserves, which somewhat imperfectly retained its organization for a time after its return from the Gettysburg campaign in 1863.

One of the militia regiments, before the Civil War, was known as the Philadelphia Light Guards, which was organized in 1857 as the First Regiment, Third Brigade of the First Division. Its colonel was Turner G. Morehead. Responding to the call for troops for three months, this regiment was recruited to a war footing of ten companies and mustered in on April 23rd, 1861. Its services, which were of utmost value at the critical period, were first led to Baltimore by General George Cadwalader, and later by General N. P. Banks. It accomplished much to keep Maryland in the Union and prevent active assistance to the Confederacy by residents of Baltimore.

Company "E" of this regiment was largely from Manayunk and Roxborough, its various officers being: Captain, J. J. Belsterling; 1st lieutenant, Samuel Wrigley, and 2nd lieutenant, John L. Staples.

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In addition to his services in Captain Belsterling's Company "E" of Colonel Morehead's 22nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, Timothy Clegg served in three other campaigns during the war. Returning from his services in Maryland, he assembled a dozen or more lads from the Mt. Zion M. E. Sunday school, and joined Company "I" of Colonel John M. Gosline's 95th Regiment. He was discharged early in 1862. During the Emergency Campaign he raised a company in Manayunk and vicinity in about two days. This company served in Col. John Newkumet's 31st Regiment, in the Cumberland Valley.

Clegg, who later became a captain, also organized Company "L" of the 192nd Regiment, in one day, which was composed entirely of Manayunk men. It saw active and meritorious service in a lengthy campaign and was mustered out on the 11th of November 1864.

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8/16/1934

British Captain Described The Battle of Brandywine

Details of Engagement on September 11, 1777 Contained in
Diary of Army Officer. — Americans
Returned to Camp Here

Surrounded by old naval guns, a huge block of granite located at the corner of Fox street and Queen lane, marks the Revolutionary War camp-site of General Washington's army just prior to, and after the Battle of Brandywine. The Continentals rested there from August 1st to the 8th, 1777, and for two days immediately after the battle, on September 12th and 13th.

The Americans had marched there from Coryell's Ferry, in their search for the British, who had sailed out of New York, with destination unannounced. Washington did not know whether the king's warriors would put in at Delaware Bay to attack Philadelphia, or travel farther down to the mouth of the Chesapeake and come up from that

But Scouts and other informers sighted the Redcoats, coming up the latter bay, and sped the word on to Washington, who started at once to meet the enemy. He marched his men down beyond Wilmington, but later backed up to a more suitable meeting place, which happened to be near Chadd's Ford along the Brandywine.

The journal of Captain John Montresor, chief engineer of the British army, provides an exact account of the movement of the English soldiers from the time they left New York until they entered Philadelphia in September of 1777. Excerpts from the Journal read as follows:

"September 9th: At 2 o'clock P. M. Lt. General Kniphuysen with the Third Division and 2 more British Brigades marched for Kennett's Square, via New Garden, and arrived at his ground at 11. At sunset this evening the 2 other divisions of this Army under Lord Cornwallis and Major General Grant marched from Headquarters at Nichol's House, Mill Creek Hundred, by a bye road to Hokesson Meeting house---Quaker Meeting 4 miles distance and encamped. The roads bad for both Routes of the

Army and under many halts. At half-past five this afternoon the Commander-in-chief received accounts of the rebel army having evacuated Newport and Wilmington and taken post at Chad's Ford on the Brandywine Creek.

"September 10th: At 6 this morning the Army moved and arrived at noon at Kennett's Square in Chester County in Pennsylvania ---the middle very hot---our march this day about 6 miles through an amazingly strong country, being a succession of large hills, rather sudden with narrow vales, in short an entire defile. This days march and not a shot fired. Encamped on very strong ground where we joined Lt. General Kniphuysen's division. Cattle and horses collected. Accounts that the rebels had moved heavy artillery to the Turk's Head by intelligence at 5 this evening. Rebel Light Horse about but fled. Almost all the inhabitants found at their houses.

"September 11th: At daybreak this morning the Commander-in-Chief with the body of the Army marched, consisting of this column, about 7000 men, composed of Chassuers mounted and dismounted 1st and 2nd Battalions Light Infantry---1st and 2nd Battalions Grenadiers---the Guards---2 Squadrons Queen's Light Dragoons---dismounted ditto---and 4th Brigade Infantry. A thick fog contributed greatly to favor our march. Passed the forks of the Brandywine Creek at Trumbull's Ford, and at Jeffries' Ford, and arrived upon clear height at half-past 2 and halted and refreshed ourselves for an hour, during which time observed the Gros of the rebel Army forming upon an opposite height, one mile and a half from us and 2 1-2 miles for Chad's Ford on the Brandywine. This position for the Enemy was remarkably strong, having a large body advanced, small bodies still further advanced, and their Rear covered by a wood wherein their

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main body was posted with a natural glacis for 3-4 of a mile. However advantageous the Rebels were situated and notwithstanding our army had marched---miles, both sultry and dusty and rather fatigued, many remaining along the road on that account, nevertheless at 1-2 past 3 the whole moved towards the Enemy in three columns---the Light Infantry first; the British Guards second; and the Guards third; with the 3rd Brigade as a reserve. Back farther was the 4th Brigade, the Hessian Grenadiers and the Light Dragoons.

"Some skirmishing begun in the valley in which the Enemy was drove, upon gaining something further of the ascent the enemy began to amuse us with 2 guns. The ground on the left being the most difficult the Rebel disputed it with the Light Infantry with great spirit, particularly their officers. This spot was a ploughed hill and they covered by its summit and flanked by a wood; however, unfavorable the circumstances their ardour was such that they pushed in upon them under a heavy fire. The British Grenadiers and Guards at the same time labouring under a smart and incessant fire from the Rebels out of a wood and above them, most nobly charged them without firing a shot and drove them before them, they covering their retreat with their Light Troops from one patch of Woodland to another firing upon us, as we advanced into the cleared intervals until our cannon (Montresor commanded a field train in the Battle of Brandywine) surmounted the summits from one to another which effectually drove them beyond its posts. We then pursued them through Dilworth Towne and drove them for one mile and beyond it, to the skirt of a wood, where they had collected and from whence they poured on us, particularly on the Guards and 4th Brigade, the heaviest fire during the action. As soon as Lt. General Kniphuysen, who had the Gros of our army with him, heard the action begun, he instantly began his attack and drove the enemy over the Brandywine, across Chad's Ford, and pushed them, over it until he met with the left wing of the Rebel Army which likewise fled after an obstinate resistance and then encamped on the field of battle, being absent about 3 miles from headquarters---the 2 columns making a junction. Our army marched this day no less than 17 miles after

with they gained a complete victory over the Rebels in this general action. Rebel Orderly books found to the 7th instant inclusive, wherein Washington expected our attacking him at Wilmington, and his Order respecting it particularly, this now was their time for their utmost exertions as their liberties and fate of America depended upon one general action. Rebels returns found that their regular, Continental or standing army, consisted yesterday of 12,900 men, exclusive of their militia and 2 Regiments Light Horse then present and fit for duty. This return by some supposed to be false. Ordnance taken, viz. ten pieces of Cannon and one Howitzer. Killed of Rebel Army, of Officers, non-commissioned and privates, 450, and prisoners of th same, 400."

Thus Captain Montresor's Journal sheds additional light on the happenings at the Battle of Brandywine, and shows that his predictions concerning the fate of America was wrong, for while the followers of Washington lost that particular engagement, their will to fight on against very apparent odds won freedom for the land they loved.

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2/21/35

11

Odd Characters Bob Up In The History Of East Falls

George Mundy Recognized as First in This Vicinity to Go
Hatless.—Joe Busco Blew in Bottles.—Another
Individual Raced Railroad Trains

By John M. Sickinger

Who was it that started this habit of men and boys going hatless? Was it the Indians? Well, maybe, but even those fellows went about with feathers stuck on top of their skulls, and that was some sort of a head-dress. With the thermometer down around zero, it looks as if there's a little insanity lurking somewhere about those chaps who go around benny-less, while their coat collars are pulled up tight around their necks.

Paris is supposed to be the centre of feminine fashion creations, and London, for some reason or another holds the fort for men's wear. Down at the Falls of Schuylkill, away back in 1855, a man named George Mundy was the first to go hatless in this vicinity. At least the records disclose none earlier. He appeared outdoors with his long yellow hair hanging down over his coat collar. He claimed that the Saviour never wore a hat, and that he was following in His example.

"evidence".

Still another individual who once amused the people of the Falls was Benny Johnson, who resided in a frame house in Garrett's Woods. He used to carry eggs to customers in a red bandanna handkerchief hanging from his blue gingham umbrella, that was slung over his shoulder. Johnson had been a sailor in the British Navy during the War of 1812, but left the service on his first opportunity to become an American citizen. He worked along the township roads until late in life. During the Civil War, as an old man, he was made watchman of the Falls Bridge, at a time when most of the available man-power was needed on Southern battlefields. However, Johnson, with his queer way of delivering eggs, was never known to attempt to "pull a fast one" on the Falls housewives, by handing them a cracked egg.

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Mundy was a person of more than ordinary intelligence, and occasionally opposed the arguments of temperance speakers. He would often spend the night out-of-doors, and when women in the neighborhood inquired if he were not afraid to do this, he replied, "A good man will not harm me, and I'm not afraid of the devil!"

Another unusual character was "Billy Mahogany", who was accustomed to strolling along the Norristown railroad track and amuse himself by racing with trains, especially between the stations at Indian Queen lane and School House lane. In those times the locomotives were wood burners, and did not speed by like the electric trains of today.

Joe Busco was another strange person. He was of German origin and rather careless as to the appearance of his clothes. He usually wore a long tan overcoat, and in his felt hat he sported a turkey feather. Walking along Ridge road listlessly, every once in a while he'd give a jump into the air, then take a bottle from his pocket and blow in the mouth of it. He, it is said, seemed to take a delight in leaning over the fences of the front and back yards to make faces at the children who played within. One night, in the winter of 1857 he was found frozen to death.

No one ever believed that Busco's habit of drawing forth a bottle would be repeated, but during the life of the Snyder-Armstrong Act, in the days when the 18th Amendment was supposed to be in force, Busco's trick came back. When the Raiding Squad crashed the doors of a one-time saloon, every patron in the place was liable to jump up and pull a bottle out of his pocket. But not to blow in its mouth. The main object was to break the glass containers, in order to get rid of

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Record 6/5 '38

8/8/29

Walter Kelly Historian In 'Of Me I Sing'

It's a Book Containing
His Memoirs Covering
40 Years on Stage.



WALTER C. KELLY
... "The Virginia Judge" be-
comes a book.

HOLLYWOOD, June 4.—The Virginia Judge—the Walter C. of Philadelphia's famous Kellys—has written his memoirs—and he's entitled them "Of Me I Sing."

The book, soon to be published, covers the last 40 years in the life of the veteran actor and entertainer, whose vaudeville role as "the Virginia Judge" made him known to audiences not only throughout the United States, but around the world.

Stories of Theater.

"Of Me I Sing," despite its title, is not confined to Kelly or even his life as "the Virginia Judge." Woven into its pages are intimate glimpses of world affairs and world personages. There are colorful accounts of noted sports events and characters—and Kelly's more intimate stories of the theater and the motion picture world.

It is written in the same narrative vein that won him fame as a story-teller on the stage. Brother Jack, who won the sculls in the 1920 Olympic games at Antwerp, and who now is Philadelphia's Democratic leader, has a place in its pages. So does Brother George, the playwright, whose "Cain's Wife" won the 1928 Pulitzer prize.

Kelly tells of the creation of...

Old Coach Shop Being Demolished

Dilapidated Structure on
Ridge Avenue, in Falls,
Became Eye-Sore

ON HISTORICAL SITE

Stood on Ground Which
Penn Sold to Palmer
Family

After suggestions from business men and probably others, one of the old Sorber carriage building shops, on Ridge avenue, southeast of Indian Queen lane, in the Falls section is being demolished.

The structure was fast falling into decay, had become an eye-sore and a danger to the pedestrian who passed it, and so it was thought wise to remove the crumbling old walls before they tumbled down.

Joseph E. Sorber—a son of a Revolutionary scout, who served under General Washington when the intrepid Virginian and his troops were quartered at Valley Forge—moved from Germantown to the Falls of Schuylkill in 1803, and occupied a house near the site of the carriage shop on Ridge avenue just below the lane, which during the British-American hostilities was known as "Palmer's Tavern."

Dr. Charles K. Mills, in his "Military History of the Falls of Schuylkill," published serially in 1913, tells of these Palmers as follows:

"In the notes of the encampment of Washington, it is stated that a court martial was held in Captain Palmer's tavern, at the Falls, on August 6th 1777. The tavern referred to, was the Sorber house (1913) with its original peaked roof which was replaced many years since by a slightly slanting roof of the usual modern type. The Palmer spoken of was probably John Palmer, a grandson of the first William Palmer, who settled at the Falls. To what he owed his title as captain, I do not know. His name does not appear, so far as I have been able to learn in the registry of officers of the Revolution. It may be that his title of captain referred to marine service, as suggested by Mr. William Mervine, the genealogist, if it is possible that he may have been a captain of militia before the Revolution, in one of the organizations formed during the French and Indian War.

"The name Palmer was well known at the Falls, for at least a hundred years. Some of the old maps show that William Palmer owned a tract of land which included the very heart of the present village and also another further to the south and east. The present Scott's lane was at one time Palmer's lane, and one

3/19/36

(12)

Montrose Club Started Falls Boys At Boat Racing

John "Doc" Crawford Was
One of First Members
to Organize Crews

BEGAN WITH YAWL

Won First Race in People's
Regatta on July 4th
of 1895

When John "Doc" Crawford, the greens keeper of the Westmoreland Country Club, of Chicago, Illinois, died on January 4th, last, at the age of 78 years, many of the old residents in this vicinity were reminded that it was he who was one of the pioneers among East Falls residents bringing the community into the limelight through the skill and prowess of its oarsmen.

And with East Falls boasting of three Olympic champions and scores of other well-known scullers, the beginning of rowing as a sport in this section, is well worth remembering.

With other boys of the neighborhood, including his brother, James, Dan Boardman, A. C. Chadwick, Sr., some of the Adams, Thompsons and others, Crawford had much to do with forming the Montrose Boat Club, which long stood at the west end of the Falls bridge.

The club was organized on November 25th, 1837, as a social club, in a house on Ridge avenue. The members bought a huge yawl, in which the young men and their ladies would go for rowing parties on the Schuylkill. The boat held as many as 44 persons at one time. This was once towed from the up-river clubhouse slip of the Undine Boat Club, down to the Belmont Water Works, in 29 minutes, with 43 men and women aboard.

Pulling on the oars of the yawl gave the young men of the Falls the idea that they could row, and an effort to form a boat club was soon started.

Negotiations with the Crescent Boat Club were entered into, and a four-oared paper shell was soon obtained. In this craft the members began practice and some good crews were turned out.

On July 4th, 1894, the club entered a junior eight in the People's Regatta, but the crew didn't have much success. The following year, however, the club entered the junior eight again, and won; defeating the Vesper, Fairmount, and the Americus clubs.

This gave the Montrose group a boom, and entries were made in the

ationals, at Saratoga, when in the intermediate eights the Falls rowers were beaten by two feet, by the Wachusett Club, of Worcester, Massachusetts, in 7.33½, the fastest time ever made on Saratoga Lake up until that time.

The club, by 1897, had thirty men in training, and made bids for honors in the junior and intermediate eight races in the Passaic and Harlem Regattas, and senior, junior and intermediate eights in the Nationals, on the Schuylkill.

"Doc" Crawford captained the 1897 crews, he being recognized as a strong and reliable stroke man. A pair, formed of Bob Adams and Frank Hickey, done some good work for the Blue and White Montrose crews. Just before the turn of the century, the Club had ten boats; two singles, two doubles, a four-oared gig, a four oared shell, and a eights, a single work boat and a skiff.

The secretary's report for 1897 showed fifty members in good standing; the officers being; President James Crawford; vice president, Joseph Nunneville; secretary, Edward Lynch; treasurer, John Adams; and a Board of Directors composed of Edwin Markle, Frank Hickey and William Furman.

The intermediate eight that year was manned by Ed Markle, stroke; William Furman, 7; John Crawford, 6; George Pinyard, 5; Edward Lynch, 4; Edward Auer, 3; Joseph Nunneville, 2 and Lincoln Cliff, bow. George Harbison was coxswain.

The junior eight was made up of John Adams, stroke; Daniel Boardman, 7; Robert Adams, 6; William Jardiff, 5; Daniel Furman, 4; James Huffy, 3; John Welsh, 2; and Frank Hickey, bow. James O'Brien was coxswain.

and perhaps two mills were owned by the Palmer family. The signature of William Palmer appears on an arbitration agreement settling a controversy between Benjamin Morgan and Marcus Garrett, in 1765, as to the exact boundaries of their properties.

"The Palmers of the Falls, were in all probability descendants from George Palmer of Nonsuch, in the County of Surrey, England, who was one of the "first purchasers," of lands from William Penn, April 26th, 1682. William Palmer was the son of George and Elizabeth Palmer and is put down in the old documents as "of Wissahickon, Philadelphia County," this probably relating to his residence at the Falls, which was within a mile of the Wissahickon Creek.

"He inherited lands in the neighborhood from his father, and also other land was conveyed to him by his mother, in 1777. As mentioned in his will made in 1747, he had the following children: Mary, Elizabeth, William, Hannah, Charles, John and George. His son, William, like his father, is mentioned as a millwright.

"The second William Palmer died in 1770. He mentions in his will and codicil, proved in 1770, four children, William, John, Jonathan and Thomas. John Palmer, appears on the tax list of Philadelphia County under "Northern Liberties, West Part." in

... who was
necessity, when Marie Dressler was forced by a throat affliction to withdraw from a vaudeville skit in which she and Kelly were playing in New York. And he follows the "Judge's" career across the continent, through the music halls of England—where he became a favorite not only of the public, but of royalty—and on an around-the-world tour.

War Anecdotes.

There are anecdotes of the Spanish-American War and of Newport News, when, in the gay 90's, it "was as wild and woolly a town as any Western mining camp." He tells of Mark Twain directing him in "Huckleberry Finn," of the coronation of George V, of poker games in Washington and nights on Lord Dewar's estate in Sussex with David Lloyd George, Sir Thomas Lipton, J. M. Barrie and Lord Kitchener.

A wealth of his material comes, of course, from the stage (he starred in Maxwell Anderson's Pulitzer prize play "Both Your Houses" in 1933), his three years in motion pictures—"Sunset in Hollywood," he calls them, in "Of Me I Sing."

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of the nation.

6/11/1936

Picture of Bridge Causes Interest Over Its Site

Sketch of Wooden Structure, in Church Paper Printed in
West, Arouses Concern Among East Falls Folk

In the April 8th, 1936 issue of "Forward," a weekly paper for young people, published by the Presbyterian Church in the United States, at Crawfordville, Indiana, there appeared a picture, with the following subscript: "A sketch of the old wooden bridge across the Schuylkill, below the Falls, which was burned down in 1834. This bridge stood about 100 feet below the present stone railroad bridge in Philadelphia."

The illustration distinctly shows the hilly topography of the Stone Bridge neighborhood, with the hills of Chamounix and Laurel Hill in what must have been their early condition, and rocks extending far across the stream, in the foreground.

And thereby hangs a tale.

For according to all available statistics, there never existed (above Market street) any bridges below the site of the Stone bridge, except the present trolley structure at Strawberry Mansion; the Columbia Railroad bridge below Peter's Island (of which the present series of concrete arches in the second span at that place) the Girard avenue bridge, and several which at different times stood in the neighborhood of Spring Garden street. Therefore the subscript in the "Forward" picture must be in error, as far as its proper location is stated. The date "1834" also throws a veil of mystery around the picture.

A close inspection of the print, and imagination fostered by historical data, can very well place the structure on the site of the present iron "Falls Bridge," which was erected in the early 90's, to replace an earlier wooden covered

bridge which had blown down in a storm.

There has been much attention paid by local historians and engineers to the bridges over the Schuylkill River.

Fred Perry Powers, on October 12th, 1910, delivered an address before the City History Society of Philadelphia, in which he provided most of the information which existed up until that time concerning the historic bridges of Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania Historical Society, at 13th and Locust streets, has a picture of a chain suspension bridge which once stood at the Falls of Schuylkill. In the "Portfolio," a Philadelphia magazine of June 1810, it was stated, "there are eight of these bridges now erected, the largest of which is that at the Falls of Schuylkill, 306 feet span, aided by an intermediate pier; the passage eighteen feet wide, supported by two chains of inch and half square bar."

This bridge was erected by Messrs. Kennedy and Carpenter. An Act of Legislature, in 1811, recites these men had transferred all their interests and authorized the creation of a stock company. Another Act, two years later, permitted the Schuylkill Falls Bridge Company to increase its tolls one fourth, until the profits should reach 6 per cent. Evidently the bridge was a paying venture.

The "United States Gazette," a newspaper of January 19th, 1816, contained an article which read: "The Chain Bridge at the Falls of Schuylkill fell down about five o'clock on Wednesday morning. This

unfortunate occurrence is said to have been occasioned by the great weight of snow which remained on it, and a decayed piece of timber. There was no person on the bridge when it fell."

This chain suspension bridge, at the Falls, was erected in 1808 or 1809. The location is described in a poem as

"Where Schuylkill o'er his rocky bed

Roars like a bull in battle."

Which fact gives the site of the present Reading Railroad Company's Stone Bridge as the scene of the old chain bridge.

The patents for this, the first suspension bridge in the United States, were held by a man named Finley.

Samuel Breck, for whom the public school at East Falls is named, in one of his notebooks describing a trip to Washington, says, under date of September 27th 1809: "We crossed the Brandywine on a bridge just building, on iron chains, upon the principle of the one lately constructed over the Falls of Schuylkill."

Josiah White and Erskine Hazard, wire manufacturers, after the destruction of the Finley Bridge, built a suspension foot bridge over the Schuylkill at the Falls, which is described in a magazine article of June 1816, as follows:

"It is supported by six wires, each three-eighths of an inch in diameter, three on each side of the bridge. These wires extend, forming a curve, from the garret window of the wire factory to a tree on the opposite shore, which is braced by wires in three directions. The floor timbers are two feet long, one inch by three, suspended in a horizontal line by stirrups of Number Six wire at the ends of the bridge, and Number Nine wire in the centre, from the curved wires. The floor is eighteen inches wide, of inch board secured to the floor timbers by nails, except where the ends of the two boards meet; here, in addition to the nails, the boards are kept from separating by wires. The distance between the two points of suspension is 408 feet."

The Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, of October 26th 1917, contained the following article, which a reprint from the August number of the "Proceedings of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia."

In the article was mention of the Old Red Bridge—the Falls Bridge—as follows: "In 1878 a wooden bridge, known as the Old Red Bridge, was washed away by a freshet. In 1863 part of another wooden bridge was blown into the river by a wind and rain storm."

Robert Roberts Shronk, newspaperman and local historian, in commenting on this statement said: "The facts are that the Red Bridge which was erected by the city in

1861 to replace the corporation bridge, the middle spans of which collapsed from the weight of ice when a heavy rain froze, was a covered bridge painted in Spanish brown, and became known as the Red Bridge. On October 23th, 1878, the middle and western spans were blown into the river by a gale. The older bridge, painted white, which was the first on that site, was erected in 1848-49, and the western span was washed away in the record freshet of the river in September, 1850, when it was knocked from the pier and abutment by being struck by what remained of the Manayunk bridge as it came floating down the stream."

No facts can be gleaned concerning the bridges at the Falls between 1816 and 1848, and so it is just possible that the bridge pictured in the "Forward" of April, may have been a viaduct erected to replace the White & Hazard wire suspension bridge. It is this writer's opinion, however, that the bridge that was illustrated in the church paper actually stood on the site now occupied by the iron "Falls Bridge," which was originally intended to be a double-decked structure.

SCCAFF

6/18/1936

RESIDENCE OF STATE'S FIRST GOVERNOR



Picturing the old Mansion, at the Falls of Schuylkill, which was built by Thomas Mifflin prior to the Revolutionary War. It was here that Mifflin resided when he served as Chief Executive of Pennsylvania. The structure was located on the hillside, above Ridge avenue, between what is now Stanton street and Midvale avenue. It was torn down in 1893.

New School To Be Named In Honor of Thomas Mifflin

Board of Education Selects Appropriate Designation For Educational Centre at Falls of Schuylkill, Where State's First Governor Resided

By A. C. CHADWICK, JR.

In the June 6th, 1936 issue of "The News Letter," as published by the Philadelphia Teachers' Association, it was stated that the Board of Education has decided to name the new school, now being erected at Midvale avenue and Conrad street, East Falls, the "Thomas Mifflin School."

The new building has been designed in Colonial style of architecture, with the assembly hall facing on Conrad street, parallel with the main entrance to the building, which is also on Conrad street.

The structure is of ell-shaped plan, with the main class rooms facing on Midvale avenue, with an eastern, southern and western ex-

posure. It will be fire-proof throughout, made of brick and limestone, two stories in height, with a beautiful clock tower dominating the whole building.

There will be twenty regular class-rooms, with two first grade rooms of extra size, fitted with storage closets, etc., for additional activities; one kindergarten room, facing the south; one special class room; one adjustment room; and one speech improvement room. In addition to these there will be an industrial arts room; a clothing room; and a foods room.

Outdoors there will be plenty of play space, both to the south and western sides, with ample shrubbery development on each street

frontage.

The estimated cost of the building and grounds will be \$450,000 and it will have a pupil capacity of 1000.

Dr. Israel Galter, principal of the Samuel Breck School, whom, is anticipated will be in charge of the new Mifflin School, states that it is hoped to have dedication exercises at the time the cornerstone is laid, sometime about the third week in September of this year; and that he hopes to start regular school sessions in the new building in March of 1937.

The name selected is certainly an appropriate one, inasmuch as Thomas Mifflin, the first Governor of Pennsylvania (under the Constitution) resided within a city block or so of the new school; and Midvale avenue that winds down through a vale through which for many years a stream known as "Mifflin's Run" rippled its way to the Schuylkill river, was first called "Mifflin street."

Mifflin's Mansion was located on a hillside, not far distant from the home of Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, (which still stands), overlooking the Schuylkill, on a site now covered by dwellings on Eveline, Frederick and Stanton streets. The property extended along Ridge avenue from Stanton

to the Schuylkill to General Mifflin's house, to look at the windmill pump water for his garden."

"April 17th, 1788. General Mifflin, with Susannah Moore in his chair; and I, with Captain Falkner; attended the burial of John Vanderen (of Wissahickon) at Friends' Grounds, Germantown, where Nicholas Wain spoke. We returned to the General's for dinner, after which Edward Milnor, and his son-in-law, Donaldson, called, and we all went down to the Schuylkill to see the fishermen haul in their nets with shad. I brought two fine ones home with me."

Susannah Morris was a relative of General Mifflin's, and made her home in his dwelling.

The mansion and grounds eventually passed into the hands of Algernon Roberts, who re-named the place "Fountain Park," and during his possession it became famous for its beautiful fountains and deer park.

After Roberts died the estate had several owners, Bergdoll and Psotta, the brewers, owning it at one time, and erecting a brewery on a part of the property. In 1852 it was purchased by Samuel Winpenny for \$3500. The brewery later became known as Stein's Brewery.

Thomas Mifflin was born at Philadelphia, in 1744, of Quaker parentage.

The first commencement program, Class of 1760, of the University of Pennsylvania (then known as the College of Philadelphia) which was printed entirely in

verse more especially manifested in our late deliverance; praying, with solemn zeal, that the same Mighty Power would be graciously pleased to instil in our minds the just principles of our duty to Him and to our fellow-creatures; to regulate and guide all our actions by His Holy Spirit; to avert from all mankind the evils of war, pestilence and famine; and to bless and protect us in the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty."

Paul Revere, who became famous through the poem describing his famous ride, which was taken to warn the colonists of Massachusetts of the approach of the British soldiers, was a noted messenger in his day.

On Friday, May 20th, 1774, Thomas Mifflin was one of nineteen Philadelphians, who after Paul Revere had arrived in the Quaker City with a message from the residents of Boston on the previous day, requesting the formation of a Committee of Correspondence "until an alteration is made by a more general meeting of the inhabitants," appointed to such a committee, with the purpose of keeping in touch with the Colonists in other sections of the country.

Whenever the military academy at West Point, N. Y., is mentioned it brings to mind a tale which connects that Hudson River community with the Falls of Schuylkill.

There are not many people who would recognize in the name of Samuel Wheeler a person who did valuable service for the Nation at

street to Midvale avenue. At the time Mifflin served in the Continental Army, and as Governor of the State, it was the scene of many notable social events attended by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Judge Peters of Belmont, David Rittenhouse and other persons prominently mentioned as being publicly active in the early days of the Nation.

Mifflin, himself, had directed the erection of the mansion. It was of typical Colonial architecture, being two stories and a half high, and having in front the usual massive pillars which supported a balcony.

It was always a source of interest to the people of inquisitive minds. Curious stories were current about the mansion when the writer of this tale was but a small lad. Like other old houses it was supposed to have been haunted; to have double doors; and doors that would not stay closed. When the house was demolished in 1893, a secret room was actually found between the first and second stories.

J. P. Brissot de Warville, a Frenchman, in his "New Travels in the United States of America in 1788," describes a visit to Governor Mifflin at the Falls of Schuylkill.

Jacob Hiltzheimer, who came from Germany on September 5th, 1748; landed in Philadelphia; and became a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, kept a diary, from which the following items were culled:

"July 9th, 1773. Thermometer 92 degrees. Went over to the Schuylkill to the Fish House. There dined with thirty gentlemen at the invitation of Robert Roberts (of Lower Merion). After dinner cross-

Latin, bears the name of Thomas Mifflin as receiving an A. B. degree.

He was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1772, 1773, and in 1774 was sent as a delegate to the Continental Congress.

Entering the army, at Boston, just after the Battle of Bunker Hill, he became Washington's first aide-de-camp, with the rank of colonel. In August of 1775 he was made Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, and on February 19th, 1777, was promoted to the rank of Major General, and appointed a member of the Board of War. During the retreat from Long Island, Mifflin commanded the covering party and afterward rendered valuable service by recruiting men for war service, bringing essential aid to Washington before the Battles of Trenton and Princeton.

He was elected to the United States Congress in 1782 and became its president the following year. He was a member and Speaker of the Pennsylvania State Legislature in 1785, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. From 1788 to 1790 he was President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and from 1790 to 1799 was the first Governor of the State.

When the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, in Philadelphia, had been brought under control, Governor Mifflin requested Dr. William Smith to furnish the draft for a proclamation of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for having put an end to the dread condition. The proclamation issued by Mifflin, read as follows: "Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God to put an end to the grievous calamity that recently afflicted the city of Philadelphia; and it is the duty of all, who are truly sensible of Divine Justice and Mercy, to employ the earliest moments of returning health in devout expressions of penitence, submission and gratitude; I have therefore deemed it proper to appoint Thursday, the Twelfth Day of December, to be holden throughout this commonwealth as a day of general Humiliation, Thanksgiving and Prayer; earnestly exhorting and entreating my fellow-citizens to abstain on that day from all their worldly avocations, and to unite in confessing, with contrite hearts, our manifold sins and transgressions, and in acknowledging, with thankful adoration, the mercy and goodness of the Supreme Ruler and Preserver of the Uni-

the time of the Revolution. But it was he who made the famous chain which was stretched across the stream, beneath the surface of the water, to prevent the British war ships from ascending the Hudson. At that time General Washington was puzzled about means to defend the river and to make it impossible.

"I wish I could get a chain made; but I suppose that is impossible," he said, and General Thomas Mifflin, who resided at the Falls when he was not campaigning with the Army, in overhearing the remark, exclaimed, "A townsman of mine, one Wheeler, can make such a chain as you described."

Wheeler was brought to headquarters and Washington asked the mechanic if he could make the long series of links.

"I can!" said Wheeler, "but I cannot do it here." "Then," said Washington, "I will gladly give you permission to leave the army to do so, for badly as we need such men as you, I cannot afford to keep you from performing this task."

The chain was made, the links stretched across the Hudson, and the story connected with it is now a part of history.

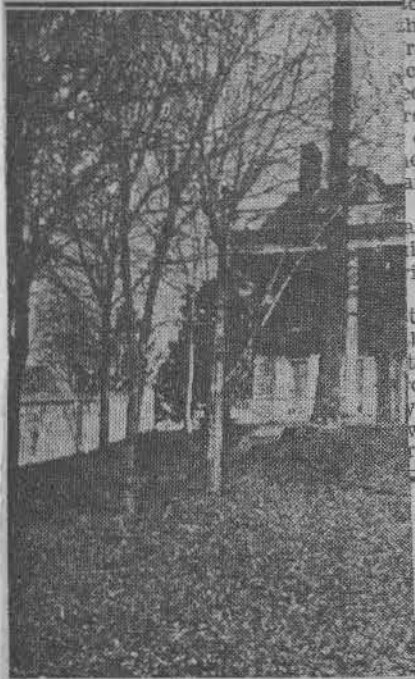
More interesting facts concerning Thomas Mifflin can be found in Simpson's "Eminent Philadelphians," 1869; J. H. Merrill's "Memoranda Concerning the Mifflin Family," 1890; and William Rawle's "Sketch of the Life of Thomas Mifflin," the latter work being available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 13th and Locust streets.

Residents of the Falls of Schuylkill, of all those in Pennsylvania, should feel extremely pleased that the name of Thomas Mifflin has been assigned to the new school.

6/18/1936

14

RESIDENCE OF STATE



Picturing the old Mansion, at hill-built by Thomas Mifflin prior to there that Mifflin resided when he served a. The structure was located on the hills, what is now Stanton street and Midvale

New School To Honor of The

Board of Education Selects Ap^{9th} Educational Centre at Fall 436 State's First Gove^{wn,} 525

By A. C. CHADWICK, JR.

In the June 6th, 1936 issue of "The News Letter," as published by the Philadelphia Teachers' Association, it was stated that the Board of Education has decided to name the new school, now being erected at Midvale avenue and Conrad street, East Falls, the "Thomas Mifflin School."

The new building has been designed in Colonial style of architecture, with the assembly hall facing on Conrad street, parallel with the main entrance to the building, which is also on Conrad street.

The structure is of ell-shaped plan, with the main class rooms facing on Midvale avenue, with an eastern, southern and western ex-

Tuesday Afternoon

By Eddie, The Office Boy

On Toosday afturnune I wuz awl sticky an swetty at the offis pree-parun tew herry threw a lot uf werk gettun owt the papur, wen the tele-fone rang and a voice calm over the wire sayun. Say whare did yew fokes get that itum in yewr paper lass weak about the ball gaim? My naim was spelled rong. I tolled him we yewsed the salm letters in spelling it wot wuz brawt intew us. Oh, he sed.

I had juss startud tew werk agen wen the fone rang agen tew. Hello sed I. Hello sed a mad wummuns voice. Wood yew be sew kind as tew tell me, she sed sarkasttely hoo tolled yew about my berthday notiss uf witch wuz in yewr papur lass weak? Sew I sed, Madam we print nuthun wot is sent intew us unless it has sumboddy's naim sined tew it, or nuthin wot is tolled tew us unless we no the persun hoo duz the tellun is relyibble. Well it wuz rong she sed. I wuzzunt born until tew daze later. Of, I sed, and thinkun evun that wuz tew sune.

Then the fone rang a therd time within fifteen minnuts, and sumwun sed Hay wots the scam, wots the scam, yew peepul printud—And I cuddunt help but slam the resecover down on the hook.

Yee gods wot dew these unthink-ing peepul get intew thare minds. That we dream things. The Siberbun Press has six full paiges uf intrustun things in it eech weak, and yet sum reeders think we auto no how to spell evryboddy's family naim cor-rectly, we auto no awl the berthdays and Annie Versserries, and wot not, and tiperite them, send them to be set intew tipe, and printud on the press awl in a mad rush, and not have a singel thing rong. Hoo dew thay think we are ennyway, a grupe of perfect peepul like themselves.

Yew bet I wuz mad on Toosday afturnune.

AT BETHANY CHURCH

Regular services will be held next Sunday morning at Bethany Lutheran Church, Pechin and Martin streets; the pastor, Rev. S. G. Gyon Bosse, preaching. German worship begins at 9:00 A. M. The sermon topic will be: "Love and Selfishness." English worship is held at 11:30 A. M., the sermon topic being: "The Man of Tears." Sunday School and the Bible Class continue with their sessions at 10:15. The annual Summer Mission Festivals of the churches of the German Conference will bhe held in the afternoon on the grounds of the Germantown Orphans' Home.

Puritan—Ah, an arrow from the bow of Cupid.
Indian (from behind tree)—Don't call me Cupid, silly.

Gifts of Lasting Appeal



Married at Tacor Last Saturday

Jean Elizabeth Linton Daughter of Clergyman and Thomas Walter Herbert, Son of Clergyman Wed by Their Parents.

Miss Jean Elizabeth Linton daughter of the Rev. J. Marshal Linton, of Tacony, was married to Professor Thomas Walter Herbert, son of the Rev. Chesley Carlisle Herbert, D. D., of Charleston S. C., last Saturday in the Dissto Memorial Presbyterian Church, Tacony. The fathers of the bride and bridegroom officiated.

The maid of honor was Miss Catherine Downie, of Lyndhurst, N. J. Miss Katherine A. Linton and Miss Jane E. Linton were the bridesmaids.

Rev. Chesley C. Herbert, who acted as best man, and the ushers were: Robert H. Linton and J. M. Linton, Jr., brothers of the bride; James W. Livingood, of Birdsboro; Charles Leonard Lurdin, of New Bedford, Mass.; Charles C. Rainey, of Atlanta, Ga.; Wilfred O. Stout, Jr., of St. Paul, Minn.; Thomas T. Travwick, of Cope, S. C. and Staring B. Wells, of Garden City, L. I.

Professor Herbert and his bride will live in Mount Berry, Georgia.

The father of the bride was born and reared in Wissahickon, being the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Linton; and received his early religious training at the Fall of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church

ADVERTISE IN THE PRESS

The Fourth of July Picnic

Remember your childhood days when mother packed that basket with *Grossmiller's Rolls* and that good *Dutch Cake*—and what an appetite you had after being at the picnic woods for only a few hours. Well today, *Grossmiller's* are baking a *Cream Roll* that is the finest roll made and you should order them today to make sure of your supply for the Fourth.

Serve *Grossmiller's* Ice Cream

for all occasions—it's pure, it's good, it's made right in our store—and we have many flavors.

Grossmiller's Baker

6148 RIDGE AVE., ROX.
Phone: ROX. 9075

YARNS

All New Summer

WOOLS and COTTONS
SPECIAL WHITE COAT YARN
INSTRUCTIONS FREE

GARDEN

Knitting Shop

467 LYCEUM AVENUE

GOVERNOR'S LADY OFFICIATES



Over the doorway to a Market st. furniture store, Mrs. George H. Earle, wife of the Governor, unveiled a plaque marking it as the side of the home of Thomas Mifflin, first and three-time Governor of Pennsylvania under the Constitution.

Market St. Plaque Unveiled To 3-Time Governor Mifflin

In the matter of the anti-third term tradition for chief executives, which conservatives are ballyhooing so ardently these days, Pennsylvania appears to be on the other side of the fence.

For the state's first governor after the drafting of the Constitution, was a three-termer.

He was Thomas Mifflin, a friend, who broke with his church to join the staff of George Washington's rebels.

Succeeded Franklin.

In 1788 Mifflin succeeded Benjamin Franklin as president of the Supreme Executive Council and under the new Constitution of 1790 was elected to the state's highest post.

That Constitution limited the governor to three terms of three years each. Mifflin served them all, but the young commonwealth was not yet ready to give him up.

It sent him to the assembly until his death in 1800.

Yesterday Mrs. George H. Earle, wife of the present governor, made a flying visit to Market st. and unveiled a plaque above a furniture store at No. 718, which was 248 High st., when Mifflin lived there from 1790 until his death.

250th Anniversary.

With Mrs. Earle, among others, was Louise Wallace, Chestnut Hill a great-great-great-grand daughter of Franklin. The ceremony was part of the preliminary celebration of Market st.'s 250th anniversary next Monday and Tuesday.

"This High st. in 'Penn's green town,'" said Norman J. Griffin, former president of the American Catholic Historical Society, "saw the practical establishment, side by side, of church, synagogue, kirk and chapel. Democracy breathed in this street."

At 8.00 P. M. Sharp
Next Wednesday Evening, December 11th 1929
 the members of the
EAST FALLS BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION
 will meet at **Ridge and Midvale Avenues**, to attend, in a body, the **Dedication Exercises**, of the **CHRISTIAN AND ELIZA SWARTZ MEMORIAL CHURCH SCHOOL.**

Our fellow member, John Wyatt will preside. The speakers will be James S. Swartz, L. LD, the donor of the building; Norman Hulme, the Architect; and Dr. Charles K. Mills, Falls of Schuylkill's eminent historian.

Every member of this Association has been extended a personal invitation to be present at these exercises.
 In addition to its value as a building for religious education, the structure is a distinct architectural improvement to the neighborhood in which it has been erected and we owe our thanks to those who have provided it.
 The exercises begin at 8.15 Please be at the meeting place at 8.00
 William B. McFarland, *President* A. C. Chadwick, *Secretary*

7/26/1934

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1934

Robert Morris A Patriot In A National Emergency

**Financier of the American Revolution Who Gave His All
For the Cause of Independence, Resided
Beside the Schuylkill River**

"It is the duty of every individual to do his part in whatever station his country may call him to, in a time of difficulty, danger, or distress."

The quotation is not one of those used by present-day leaders of the Nation but are words of wisdom—still applicable in 1934—uttered by Robert Morris, the financial wizard of the American revolution, who dwelt in a mansion along the banks of the Schuylkill, which he called "Lemon Hill".

Morris dwelt at Lemon Hill from 1770 until 1798, a period of 28 years, during the time of the separation of this country from England and during the Presidential term of George Washington. He had another mansion in the heart of old Philadelphia, but this Schuylkill river retreat was his real home; winter and summer the place where his hours of rest and enjoyment were passed. The original building is in existence no more, but Samuel Breck, from whom the public school at East Falls receives its name, painted a likeness of the old mansion in oils, which is believed to be still around, and if not, at least the reproductions of it.

On December 29th, 1776, Morris wrote to Baltimore, where Congress, having fled the Quaker City, was sitting: "I have always been satisfied with Philadelphia and the Hills. At the same time I have been constantly prepared; my things packed up, horses and carriages ready at any moment; I live at the Hills today, and have done so every Sunday. Thus, you see, I continue my old practice of mixing business with pleasure; I never found them useful to each other."

And when the evil days came, in which he had no pleasure, still he clung to this place. From "the Hills" he wrote on February 8th, 1796: "It is the only place of calmness and quiet my foot was in all day yesterday."

Morris, as is well known to every school boy and girl, was the representative of the capitalists of the Colonies, and was the most honorable and the most unfortunate. As such he has left, of his public life, three records, intelligible to his own and to after generations. His first record is the quotation given at the head of this article. His second record is his signature on the great Declaration of Independence, and the pledge of his financial abilities and private fortune to the cause of his Nation.

His third record is the ledger of his bank, and the folios of the Government, of which he was the treasurer from the year 1781 to the close of the Revolution. These disclose that he held the army together, from hour to hour, through the war, by the credit of his individual name.

At the most critical period of the Nation's early history, in 1781, Judge Peters, another Schuylkill valley resident, at Belmont, with Robert Morris and George Washington were together at the headquarters of the American forces, on the North River. Washington received on that occasion a letter from Count De Grasse, announcing his intention to remain in the West Indies with the French fleet. Washington read the letter, which ended with one blow his plans of operation against New York City, and resolved at once on an expedition to Virginia. Turning to Judge Peters, the General said, "What can you do for me?" The latter said "With money, everything; without it, nothing", as he turned toward Morris. "Let me know the sum you desire", said the patriot financier. Washington's estimates were made that night. Morris placed, within the required time, the amount of estimates in Judge Peters hands—and the army moved. The result was the surrender of Cornwallis, at Yorktown.

the war for America.
one example of the
of this steward. And
considered that bills of
ally would buy nothing;
e died on the road to the
want of public money to
under; that the Colonies
red to comply with
s upon them; that
e soldiers were sold to
ore suffering need-
who had made them—we
imate how constant were
drains upon the private for-
of Morris, and how large
their aggregate.
om the spirit and the word of
etter from "the Hills", along
Robert Morris never
ature which he

appended to the Declaration was
repeated again and again to notes
which were met as they matured,
and which amounted to millions;
but this expenditure of his private
fortune, princely as it was, was not
the measure of his service. The
folios of the Government show a
reduction of expenses, while its
finances were in his hands, from
eighteen to four millions annually,
and this was still not the full
measure of his service. The
pledges of the individual wealth
the man, who was himself
national coffer, inspired as we
sustained the country; thus
pleting the measure of his serv-
for this he was called in his
the right arm of the Revolution.

In his Schuylkill hills man-
which Morris loved so well
which was at last
visited him as guests
ored men in the land
John Adams, Hancock, ma-
signers of the Declaration, mem-
bers of the Continental Congress,
and officers of the army and navy.
On these grounds he received from
all the States, and from patriotic
hearts in other lands, tributes to
his financial power and financial
honor; resolutions and gifts which
he preserved through all his after
misfortunes. Here he originated
those enterprises, evidences of
which still remain along the river
and which, far in advance of his
age, extending over all the States
and embracing the prominent in-
dustries of his time, culminated in
his utter ruin? Here also took
place that last sad scene in his
life—the great financier bowed
down with age, helpless to preserve
his own fortunes, following an of-
ficer down the terraced grounds to
be consigned by laws, which are
now obsolete, to the common jail
at Sixth and Walnut streets.

What a man! Today, in a nation-
al emergency, we sign N.R.A.
pledges, do nothing to aid in the
cause except glory in the extra
hours of idleness and complain of
a few cents per hour less pay, in
order to give other men employ-
ment, and have the effrontery to
criticise General Johnson and say
his venture is a failure.

Think of a real American—Robert
Morris!

SCCAFF.

6/9/1938

(17)

Falls Baptists Marking Hundredth Anniversary

Anniversary Day will be celebrated this Sunday by the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, Indian Queen Lane, when the guest speaker will be Dr. James H. Franklin, president of Crozier Theological Seminary.

There has been activity at the church the past week, marking the 100th anniversary of its founding, and the celebration continues for several more days.

On Tuesday night Community Night will be marked, when pastors and congregations of neighboring churches will be in attendance. Sunday night at 7.30 p. m., there will be a pageant by the children, "Why We Are Here."

The congregation will have a social affair on Wednesday evening, which will include a banquet, and

Thursday night there will be a historic dramalogue by the young people of the church.

Interesting History

As early as 1810 preaching services were held in the community by Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, pastor of the Lower Merion Baptist Church. In the year 1821, it is a matter of record, prayer meetings were being held regularly in the homes of Mrs. Margaret T. Roberts and Ann Garret and Isaac Rice. Out of these prayer meetings developed the regular weekly devotions. At that time the church numbered 17 people.

In the year 1851, the cornerstone of the present church edifice was laid and what is now known as Fellowship Hall was opened for public worship on March 21 1852. The main audience room and the entirely completed church was formally dedicated to the worship of God on December 2, 1852.

A building for the purpose of Christian Education was erected as a memorial to Christian and Eliza Simmons Swartz by their son, James Simmons Swartz and was dedicated December 9, 1929, just 77 years after the completion of the church.

Since the year 1835, 22 ministers have served the congregation. The present pastor is Rev. W. H. Hayes.

The public is cordially invited to attend all of these anniversary service.

Record

was once the old Township Line, a more ancient name of which was Reading road, which a century ago formed one of the roadways leading into Philadelphia. The gradual advance of the building up of the city northward with the opening up of other streets or thoroughfares led to the abandoning of the old road, as far north as Venango street, where it intersects Twenty-third street and Hunting Park avenue, and is known as Wissahickon avenue, extending beyond the city line. It is and has been for years the dividing line of the Falls of Schuylkill and Germantown between Roberts avenue and School lane. Beyond the latter it divides Roxborough and Germantown. Of the oldtime hostleries that were located along this ancient road, but one has continued without interruption all through the years. This is now known as the Abbey, at the corner of Hunting Park avenue, where George W. Brunell, a former Twenty-eighth ward Councilman, holds forth. This old hostelry was erected long before the Revolutionary war by Frances Deal, and for years was a popular stopping place for farmers, drovers and others on their way to and from the city, and was a favorite resort for sleighing parties and the oldtime cotillon dances. Bonifaces who preceded the present proprietor included Matthew Ifell, Albert Brothers and George Kohl.

11/15/1931
1/16/31

Irish Actor Admired The Schuylkill

Columnist in Catholic Standard and Times Recites Tale

VISITED MANAYUNK

Tyrone Power Penned Experiences of 100 Years Ago

"The Rambler", columnist of The Catholic Standard and Times, last Friday, told an interesting tale concerning Tyrone Power's visit to Philadelphia in 1833, at which time the popular Irish actor enjoyed a trip up the Schuylkill river.

Powers spent some time in this country filling professional engagements, and later set down his experiences in a series of penned articles.

While he was in the Quaker City, the Celtic thespian was in the habit of wandering about the environs during the day, and in referring to this, Powers wrote:

"One of the pleasantest visits a man can pay in Philadelphia on a hot day, is to be the water-works at Fairmount, in the Schuylkill: the very name is refreshing with the mercury at 96 in the shade and, if there be a breeze in Pennsylvania, you will find it here. No city can be better supplied with water than this; and I never looked upon the pure liquid, welling through the pipes and deluging the thirsty streets without a feeling of gratitude to these water-works and of respect for the pride with which the Philadelphians regard their spirited public labor. They have evinced much taste, too, in the quiet, simple disposition of the ground and reservoirs connected with the machinery; the trees and plants are well selected for the situation and will soon add to the natural beauty of this very fine reach of river.

"Mounting the east bank of the stream, from this to the village of Manayunk, you have a pretty ride; and crossing the bridge at the Falls of Schuylkill; falls no longer, thanks to the dam at Fairmount; the way back winds along by, or hangs above the canal and river, here marching side by side; offering in about four miles, as charming a succession of river views as painter or poet could desire. It is a lovely ramble by all lights, and I have viewed it by all, in the blaze of noon, and by the sober grey of summer twilight; I have ridden beneath its wooded heights; and through its overhanging masses of rare foliage, in the alternate bright cold light and deep shade of a cloudless moon; and again, when tree, and field, and flower were yet fresh and humid with the heavy dew, and sparkling in the glow of early morning."

Organist Ends Fifty Years Of Service

5-12-1932

Miss Ella L. Beerhalter Feted by Her Friends at St. James the Less Church

RECEIVES SILVER GIFT

Provided Music For Three Different Rectors Since 1882

A silver tea service was presented Monday evening to Miss Ella L. Beerhalter, who has completed fifty years as organist of the Church of St. James the Less, Falls of Schuylkill. John Wagner, of School House Lane, Germantown, Rector's Warden, on behalf of the vestry and other friends, made the presentation at her home, 3101 North 32d street, opposite the church. The tray is inscribed "In grateful commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Ella L. Beerhalter as Organist of Saint James the Less, Philadelphia, 1882-1832." The other pieces bear the initial B in old English characters.

Miss Beerhalter was engaged by vote of the vestry during the Rectorship of the Rev. Robert Ritchie, D. D., who, with Mrs. Ritchie and their only daughter, the late Mary Helen Ritchie, of Bryn Mawr College, regarded her almost as a member of their family. She played the organ and conducted the choir also throughout the seventeen years incumbency of Dr. Ritchie's brother, the Rev. Edward Ritchie, rector emeritus since February 1924. In 1925 she sold her house on North Park avenue, and bought the gable house at the corner of 32d and Clearfield streets, thus occupying the dwelling nearest of any to the church building. Suitable alterations before completion provided rooms for the rector emeritus, who celebrated his eighty-first birthday on Monday. Mrs. Mannix, who was for some years his housekeeper at the rectory, is also with Miss Beerhalter.

For the last two seasons, Joseph Smith, director of the Falls Male Chorus, has taken charge of rehearsals, at Miss Beerhalter's suggestion. He and the choir and a few other friends gave her a party in the parish house in celebration of her jubilee. There was chorus singing, and also solos by Miss Irene Merrick, and Messrs. James Walsh and Harry Hoyle. Flowers and a cake were presented; and the table decorations were golden yellow.

The present members of the choir are: Mrs. John L. Brook, Mrs. Raymond C. Jones, Miss Irene Merrick, Mrs. Hugh Whalley, Miss Betty Sudell, and Miss Edith Sudell, sopranos; Mrs. J. A. Koch, Mrs. W. J. Proud, Jr., and Mrs. Edward Wilcock, altos; Harry Omensetter, Hugh H. Whalley, and Harry Hoyle, tenors; James Walsh, Edward Wilcock, and Herbert Greenwood, basses.

1/21/1937

Was Secretary For 37 Years

Resignation of Frank F. Hess as Scribe For Falls of Schuylkill Association. Is Accepted With Regret. — Succeeded by Nephew.

Frank F. Hess, of 223 West Gorgas lane, on Monday evening tendered his resignation as secretary of the Falls of Schuylkill Association, the board of trustees controlling the use and maintenance of the Old Academy, at 3544 Indian Queen lane, after having served in the position for thirty-seven years.

Being elected to the board in 1889, he was named secretary in 1900, taking the place left vacant by the late William Sorber. During the intervening years he has seen many trustees elected and resign. He gave his increasing years as the reason for his relinquishing the post, which was accepted with much regret, and upon a motion, made by James T. Buckley, was unanimously named an honorary life member of the Board.

At the annual election which followed, Harry B. Binkin was named president of the Board; Melvin Hess, a nephew of the retiring officer, succeeded his uncle as secretary; and Walter J. Binkin was re-elected treasurer. John Foyle, of Ainslie street, was named to fill the unoccupied position on the Board. Other members are: James T. Buckley, William J. Campbell, A. C. Chadwick, Jr., Clifford Morrison and William M. Turner.

The Falls of Schuylkill Association was organized when the Old Academy was erected in 1819, after the son and daughter-in-law of Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, had donated land for the purpose of building a structure for the religious and educational use of the people of the community.

9/28/37

5/23/38

19

Pulaski With Americans At Local Camp

Polish Cavalry Leader Joined Americans Before Fight at Brandywine

DEATH-DATE NEAR S

Fell in Battle at Savannah, in October of 1779

Whenever the early days of October roll around, the student of United States history, recalls the deeds of Count Casimir Pulaski, who served with great distinction in the American army during the Revolution.

And to the resident of Roxborough and the Falls of Schuylkill, there is added reason why this great general should be brought back to mind.

For he joined Washington's forces, in time for the Battle of Brandywine, in 1777, just before the Americans left their camp on the site of the present Queen Lane Filtration Plant, and after the battle came back with the fighters for freedom, to the same camping ground.

This campsite at that time was in, or on the very outskirts of Roxborough Township, but has been recognized for many years as the Falls of Schuylkill. In the old days the township line was farther below the School House lane (21st Ward) dividing line of today. And it is singularly appropriate that Pulaski avenue, nearby in Germantown, was named for this great man.

Born in Podolia, Poland, on March 4th 1748, of a noble and patriotic family, Count Pulaski was early drawn into the struggle of his homeland to maintain its independence.

Together, with his father, two brothers, a cousin and three other men, he formed the famous Confederacy of Barr to defend the ancient rights of free Poles and out the foreigners.

For eight years Pulaski performed such feats of strategy and valor he became known throughout Europe and America. In the end, however, in 1772, Russia, Austria, and Prussia made a joint invasion into Poland and divided its territory among them.

Pulaski escaped. His father had perished miserably in prison; one brother languished in irons; the other had been slain before his eyes; the cousin had been killed in action.

At length in 1777, his wanderings led him to France, where he met Benjamin Franklin and heard of the struggle then being waged between Britain and her American Colonies. The Declaration of Independence thrilled him, and he determined to make the Colonies' cause his own.

With Lafayette he joined the American Army, just before the troops left their camp along the Neshaminy to proceed to the Queen Lane site, during that period of anxiety felt by the American soldiers concerning the whereabouts of the British forces.

On August 22nd, 1777, Philadelphians heard the news that the British army, aboard ships, had been seen far up the Chesapeake Bay. By dawn of the following morning the whole American army was moved to meet the foe.

On September 11th the opposing armies met in the Battle of Brandywine, and Pulaski, as an uncommissioned volunteer officer, hastily formed a troop of cavalry, which until that time had never been organized. It was made up of the mounted aides of Washington's and other officers' staffs. With this band he performed valiant services throughout the day, and with it, as night fell, covered the retreat of the Continentals. So well did his conduct sustain his fame that on September 15th, four days after the Battle, on Washington's recommendation, Congress appointed him in command of the Continental Horse.

It was Pulaski who brought the first alarm of the British advance on the Lancaster Pike, near Warren's tavern, and it was he who, at Washington's request, suggested the disposition of the American forces to repel it. With his tiny troop he harried the Britons' van

October 4th 1777, had scarcely 200 men all told. Few horses were to be had, and there was little opportunity for drill prior to the conflict. Under the circumstances it could not be expected that Pulaski's men would distinguish themselves so early after the formation of the group.

Pulaski's part in the Battle of Germantown, created a violent historical controversy a half century after the great fight, when Judge William Johnson brought forth a book containing the letters of General Nathaniel Greene, in which Johnson suggested that Pulaski was not "on the job" at the time of the attack in the early morning of October 4th.

These charges, however, are not substantiated by contemporary records, and they were denounced as untrue by Colonel Paul Bentalou, who had been a captain under Pulaski, and who published a reply to Judge Johnson.

Like every other officer in the Continental Army, foreign or native born, he was the victim of cruel intrigue and bitter jealousy, and find him, on March 4th 1778, at Washington's headquarters in Valley Forge, resigning his command of the Continental Cavalry, "from a conviction," as Washington wrote to the President of Congress, "that his remaining at the head of the cavalry was a constant subject of uneasiness to the principal officers of that corps."

Instead he craved permission to retain his rank as Brigadier General and to organize and, for the most part at his own expense, accouter and provision an independent corps of horse and foot, which was destined later to become famous in history under the name of "Pulaski's Legion."

Ordered south by Congress in 1779, he arrived at Charleston on May 8th, and found the city almost entirely invested by the British and the inhabitants of the town, the Governor and Council just about to accede to the British general's demand for "a complete and unconditional surrender."

The idea was intolerable to Pulaski. Joining his devoted friend, Colonel Laurens, he accompanied General Moultrie to the Council chamber. The zeal of the soldiers awaked the courage of the assembly. The effect was that Pulaski led an attack upon the British which made them fall back and Charleston was saved.

On September 1, 1779, Count D'Estaing appeared on the coast of Georgia with a large fleet and about 6000 French troops to aid the Americans in an attack upon Savannah. A siege by the combined French and American forces failing, an assault was decided upon. The cavalry, French and American, was stationed at the rear of the columns under the command of Pulaski.

As soon as the way was opened, he was to rush in with these combined troops of horse and carry confusion and dismay among the garrison. D'Estaing himself led the French corps of attack. The British, however, had been informed by spies and at the first alarm opened a deadly fire. D'Estaing was seriously wounded. Hoping to rally the Allies, Pulaski rushed forward, only to fall mortally wounded. He died two days later, on October 11, 1779, aboard the United States brig, The Wasp.

WORK ON ADDITION TO CHURCH STARTED

Thirty-two years ago, little Margaret McKee used a gold spade to break ground for the old Park Congregational Church at 32d st. and Montgomery ave.

Yesterday her 7-year-old son, Henry W. Breyer, 3d, with the same spade, turned over the first earth for construction of an addition to the church's Sunday school at 32d st. and Midvale ave.

ground.
This campsite at that time was in, or on the very outskirts of Roxborough Township, but has been recognized for many years as the Falls of Schuylkill. In the old days the township line was farther below the School House lane (21st Ward) dividing line of today. And it is singularly appropriate that Pulaski avenue, nearby in Germantown, was named for this great man.

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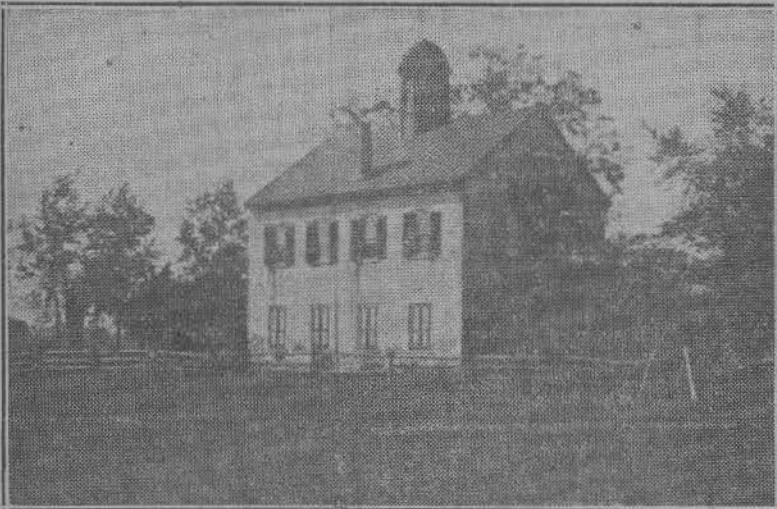
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7/21/1932

FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL'S OLD ACADEMY



Building which stands on east side of Indian Queen Lane, which is believed to be Philadelphia's oldest community center. In it all of the churches of East Falls held early services; it was used as a public library and is now the headquarters of The Old Academy Players, a dramatic organization.

Dramatic Organization To Devote Its Energies To Restoring Historic Shrine

Old Academy, on Indian Queen Lane, East Falls, Is Being Renovated, Inside and Out, by Noteworthy Group of Young People. — Project Is One to Be Lauded

Persons traversing Indian Queen lane, in East Falls for the past two weeks, have had their curiosity aroused by an artistic sign, bearing the legion "Old Academy Players" which adorns the front lawn of the Old Academy, historic shrine of the neighborhood, and have paused to wonder what was the meaning thereof.

Two months ago the trustees of the ancient building, which was probably Philadelphia's first community-center, leased the structure to the Moment Musical Club, who immediately started to renovate the interior to suit the needs of the members, with the sacred history of the place continually kept in mind.

For weeks this group of young men and women, which has done much quietly-accomplished charitable work in East Falls, have given of their time, talents, energies and funds to beautifying the buildings.

And now, it is understood, Mrs. Bessie Dobson Altemus has wholeheartedly joined in the project and is aiding in every way possible to have the plans of the young people come to perfect culmination. Much is still to be done to the ex-

terior of the building, and to the surrounding ground and enclosures.

Charles A. Call, director of the Old Academy Players, in discussing the reason of the sign, last week, stated:

"The Moment Musical Club was formed during the month of April, 1923, and was comprised of the following members: Stanley D. Smith, William Costello, Amy Smith, Lottie Treges, Ida Treges Smith, Anna Lightowler, Albert Lightowler, Gladys Benjamin, Edna Wooley, Harold Webster, Arthur Edwards, Jr., Elizabeth Towers, Gladys Smith, Anna Blacker and myself.

"The membership was composed entirely of Falls of Schuylkill residents. However, during the ten years of the club's existence, we have had a transient membership, that goes well over the hundred mark. It has included aspirants from most of the outlying districts of Philadelphia.

"The numerous productions that we have sponsored over this period have been viewed by many thousands of people. The proceeds from these dramatic presentations, up to the present time, have been divided among various charitable enterprises. We have had no per-

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Dramatic Organization to Devote Its Energies to Restoring Historic Shrine

(continued from page one)

mañent meeting place, but our rehearsals and our different business sessions were held in the homes of our members, at first, and then later, in the lecture room of the Falls of Schuylkill branch of the Free Library, at Warden Drive and Midvale avenue.

"For some time the matter of a new name was the subject of much debate among the membership. As our original aspirations were of a musical character, but later developed along dramatic lines, the name, 'Moment Musical' did not adequately describe our activities, and was often misleading to persons who were not entirely familiar with our work.

"Upon taking over the Old Academy the matter was immediately settled, and for the future information of our many friends and patrons we will henceforth be known as the 'Old Academy Players.'

"We are exceedingly proud of our new headquarters, and trust that we can perpetuate, for future generations, these traditional walls which are the source of an abundant and interesting history.

"Our ambitions from this time forward shall be centered in acts of enhancing the value of this rare old spot, and we trust that we may eventually attain our desire in preserving its historical beauty; a beauty that our fellow townsmen should reverence highly.

"It has been my privilege and pleasure to direct the activities of the organization for the past ten years, and I trust that my relationship shall continue indefinitely, now that we have become involved in such an interesting and worthwhile cause.

"Our membership, today, is made up of Grace Adams, Irma Bacon, Grace Bartholomew, William Costello, Thomas R. Craig, Ransford Fowler, Roland Greenwalt, Marie Holton Hess, Charles H. Hall, Godfrey Hundertmark, Cecil Jones, James Lawson, Alice Mainwaring, Alice McElhany, Ted Pflaumer, Charles Pfahler, Theresa Schofield, Gladys Smith, Ida Tregoe Smith, Stanley D. Smith, Mary Smith, Lottie Tregoe, John E. West, Clarence Walker, Mark Walther, Anna May Hall, Malcolm Zellers, Dorothy W. Lister, Mary M. Lawson, Edna O. Walker, Marjorie A. Hall, John M. Hocksetter, William Clarence Appleton and Paul Pflaumer.

"We hope to retain and also to increase the good will of the people of this northwest section of Philadelphia, in an enterprise which is worthy of their continued support and patronage."

Standing on the east side of Indian Queen lane, a short distance below Cresson street, is the two-story stone building, about 40 by 70 feet, with its pitched roof surmounted by a dome-shaped cupola, which is known as the Old Academy, and which has been the cradle of all the churches in the Falls of Schuylkill proper.

The building was erected in 1819 by popular subscription and volunteer labor by the people of the Falls of Schuylkill, for a place of worship and an educational hub, thus being probably the first community centre in Philadelphia.

The ground had been donated in 1816 by William Moore Smith and

Church the Church of St. James the Less, P. E.; The Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church; The Grace Reformed Episcopal Church; St. Bridget's Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, all had their early services in the Old Academy. The Forest School, now the Samuel Breck School, was organized in the old building, and occupied it until 1850 when the little yellow schoolhouse on Carson's Hill was first occupied. This yellow school was torn down when the present red-brick school was erected in the late 80's.

For years the Old Academy was the only place of amusement in the Falls of Schuylkill, magic-lantern shows, Indian exhibitions, lectures, concerts and other like entertainments being given there.

The Free Library of Philadelphia occupied the structure, until the erection of the Carnegie Library at the corner of Midvale avenue and Warden Drive, from about 1909 to 1919.

Now the Old Academy is in a period of renaissance under the management of the Old Academy Play-ers. It is hoped, will continue to do work they have started and occupy the building for the benefit of the community for many years.

12/17/36

Why Two Queen Lanes?

Confusion Created by Streets With Similar Names. —
Traditions Cling to Oldest Thoroughfare

Strangers to the Falls of Schuylkill, especially deliverymen from downtown stores, often find it confusing to properly locate Queen lane. And the condition is due to nothing little short of foolishness on the part of those who have charge of naming the city's thoroughfares.

The "Queen lane" of time-honored tradition, properly known as "Indian Queen lane," received its name from a Revolutionary period inn, of the same title, which was located at the Germantown end of the old road. It ran from what is now Germantown avenue and Queen lane to the Schuylkill river, giving access to a ferry which permitted travelers to cross the stream and proceed on their way into inland Pennsylvania. Today its wes-

tern terminus is at Ridge avenue, just below Midvale avenue.

"Indian Queen Lane," below Vaux street, takes a bend to the northeast and ends at the Queen Lane Filtration plant.

Prior to the building of the great water basins, the road ran over to the Queen lane station of the Pennsylvania railroad, and then made another bend directly east and continued on to Germantown road.

The building of the basins forced vehicles to make a circuitous route around the reservoir, but pedestrians could still take an almost direct course by way of a footpath between the two basins. When the northern basin was converted into the filtration plant, even that "short-cut"

(Continued on Page Six)

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"Indian Queen Lane," below Var Lanes? street, takes a bend to the north east and ends at the Queen Filtration plant. (in Page One)

Prior to the building of the water basins, the road from the Queen lane station to the Pennsylvania railroad, and another bend directly eastward. Soon afterward the portion of the original road east of the basins to the station, was closed to traffic. An ungraded street runs from the Pennsylvania railroad yard to North 35th street at the Falls. When realigned up the surrounding development, they believed to be—or knowing—the title—Queen Lane. The building of the Filtration plant, even that (Continued on Pa

All of which results in persons attempting to live on "Queen Lane" in 35th street and the slight difference of the old time "Indian Queen Lane" street is not to prevent many people from living on the old section's would not that the traditional old lane be retained. It belongs, and that the new street be given an entirely different designation.

At that point in the Falls of Schuylkill where Indian Queen lane turns to the northwest (the head of Scott's lane) Abbottsford lane, once had its beginning. The first few hundred feet of the latter road, was a private entrance to a mansion house known as "Abbottsford," which site is now occupied by the Woman's Medical College and Hospital. The dwelling may have been named after the ancient home of Sir Walter Scott, but it is more likely that it received its appellation from the fact that at one time a family by the name of Abbott resided there. The building had been originally erected by a man named Nicklin, in 1752.

There is an incident in "Pember-ton," the old Centennial year novel by Henry Peterson, which has been said to refer to this "Abbottsford" at the Falls.

Between the old house and the southeast corner of the reservoir was during the American Revolution, a small private burying ground. The place was enclosed by a fence and the stones indicated the graves of the British soldiers who were interred there. It is to be the corner of Ridge and Henry ave-

nue (not the present intersection, but one nearer Indian Queen lane) stood a log cabin which, historians relate, was used to isolate men of the British army who were stricken with contagious diseases.

Families who lived in "Abbottsford" prior to the Abbots, included those bearing the names of White, Moss, Bird, and Wilson.

At one time, when changes were being made around the place, long before the Medical College and Hospital were built, an underground passage was discovered, leading toward Scott's lane. The tunnel was wide enough for a person to crawl through, and is thought to have been a secret way of escape from the house in time of attack.

General Von Knyphausen, who commanded the Hessians forces in the Battle of Germantown, resided temporarily at "Abbottsford". Musket balls, grapeshot and military buttons have often been unearthed nearby. The writer once picked up a United States penny dated "1794" on a path which skirted the lower side of the estate near the property line of the Dobson family. The penny, which was coined two years after the opening of the first United States Mint, is as large as the present-day half-dollar and has on its edge, instead of the familiar milling, the words "One Hundred For a Dollar."

Along the original "Indian Queen Lane", near Ridge avenue, still stands the home of Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University, and farther up the lane, is the "Old Academy," which is the oldest community centre in Philadelphia, the land having been given to the people of the neighborhood by the son and daughter-in-law of Dr. Smith, in 1816. The building long used for religious and educational purposes was erected by public subscription, in 1819, and is still in use.

The trouble created by two streets in the same immediate locality bearing names so similar should be ended by changing the name of the newer and less meaningful thoroughfare to something that would better designate its location.

12/17/36

21

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"Our membership, today, is made up of Grace Adams, Irma Bacon, Grace Bartholomew, William Costello, Thomas R. Craig, Ransford Fowler, Roland Greenwalt, Marie Holton Hess, Charles H. Hall, Godfrey Hundertmark, Cecil Jones, James Lawson, Alice Mainwaring, Alice McElhany, Ted Pflaumer, Charles Pfahler, Theresa Schofield, Gladys Smith, Ida Tregca Smith, Stanley D. Smith, Mary Smith, Lottie Tregca, John E. West, Clarence Walker, Mark Walther, Anna May Hall, Malcolm Zellers, Dorothy W. Lister, Mary M. Lawson, Edna O. Walker, Marjorie A. Hall, John M. Hocksetter, William Clarence Appleton and Paul Pflaumer.

"We hope to retain and also to increase the good will of the people of this northwest section of Philadelphia, in an enterprise which is worthy of their continued support and patronage."

Standing on the east side of Indian Queen lane, a short distance below Cresson street, is the two-story stone building, about 40 by 70 feet, with its pitched roof surmounted by a dome-shaped cupola, which is known as the Old Academy, and which has been the cradle of all the churches in the Falls of Schuylkill proper.

The building was erected in 1819 by popular subscription and volunteer labor by the people of the Falls of Schuylkill, for a place of worship and an educational hub, thus being probably the first community centre in Philadelphia.

The ground had been donated in 1816, by William Moore Smith and his wife, Ann, the former, being

son of the first Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. William Smith.

The gift of the land was to the people of the community and distinctly stated that it should be used for the erection thereon of a schoolhouse and a place of worship. There was a "string" attached to the gift, to the effect that should the trustees fail to meet on any first Monday in January, the land would revert to the donors or their heirs. As a consequence of this proviso, the first Monday in each January has been carefully watched all through the 113 years by the trustees.

There are nine members on the Board of Trustees, which is self-perpetuating. All through the years this board of trustees has almost invariably consisted of some members of the Garrett, Sorber, Morison, Marley and Hess families. The present Board is made up of William E. Marley, president; Frank Hess, Walter J. Binkin, Samuel Garrett, Clifford S. Morison, Harry B. Binkin, Robert Whartenby, William Campbell, Wayne Hawk.

When the building was first erected an organization was formed by the yeomanry of the neighborhood, known as the "Falls of Schuylkill Association," in which any respectable citizen of the village could become a member upon payment of \$4.

Prior to the erection of the building the only religious services held in the village were conducted in various homes. Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, a Roxborough Baptist clergyman, frequently went to the Falls to conduct services. He was among the first to preach the Gospel in the Old Academy. Rev. Joseph Kennard, of the Blockley Baptist Church, too, was accustomed to riding over from West Philadelphia on horseback, to preach. Rev. Dr. Shull, a Lutheran minister, came from Germantown, and other clergymen from Manayunk and Fairmount also conducted divine services.

The Union Sunday School was

organized in the Old Academy, with Thomas Mason Mitchell, and Abraham Martin, after whom two streets in Roxborough are named, being active in this organization. Mitchell was a Presbyterian, and he was succeeded by Benjamin R. Marley, a Baptist. The school afterward became the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday school, being attached to the Baptist church which was organized in 1838.

Members of the Falls M. E.

12/12/1935

22

"Old Oaks" Was Palatial Home of Late John Tucker

Railroad President's Home Stood on Site of Atwater-Kent Radio Factory

A SOCIAL CENTRE

Estate Was Afterward Purchased by a Company for Cemeterial Purposes

Time, in its flight, makes great changes in the neighborhood in which we live, many of which come about so natural as to be unobserved by the present generation.

There are a lessening number of people who reside here who have a clear recollection of the land which Falls of Schuylkill people used to familiarly call "up in back of the Reservoir," reference being made to the area now covered by the vast radio plant of the Atwater-Kent Manufacturing Company.

Just about where the offices of the company now stand was a one-time palatial mansion known as "Old Oaks". It was originally the home of John Tucker, who was the first president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, for whom it was erected about one hundred years ago, by Christian Swartz, the railroad company's master mason, who later utilized a new method of stone construction in building the Reading Company's stone bridge over the Schuylkill at the Falls.

Swartz was the father of the late James Simmons Swartz, a great benefactor of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church.

Old Oaks, on the brow of the hill overlooking a long stretch of land south of Abbottsford avenue, and west of the old Germantown township line, which is now called Wissahickon avenue, gradually crumbled into decay from lack of use. It was a huge brown stone pile that long attracted the attention of passengers on the Pennsylvania Railroad branch to Chestnut Hill, prior to the electrification of the line.

The grounds, at the time the great house was built, extended down Wissahickon avenue from Abbottsford avenue to Hunting Park avenue—or Nicetown lane, as it was then called—and west to what is now Stokley street, with

West of the handsome home down in the hollow were many grape arbors and greenhouses. The latter had an arched roof, glazed with bent French glass of the finest quality. On the ends and along the sides the glass bore pictures of fruit and vegetables in rich coloring. Beneath were deep bricked vaults.

When occupied by the Tucker family the house was the scene of many brilliant social functions. Two driveways led from Nicetown lane to the mansion, with bridges spanning the Port Richmond branch of the Reading Lines.

In 1870 the property was purchased by a company and was transformed into the Old Oaks Cemetery. In front of the mansion, on slanting ground, was laid a large circle from which avenues radiated in all directions. Upon the circle was erected a large monument bearing a statue of Peter Lyle, chief of the Volunteer Firemen of Philadelphia.

A large number of burial lots were sold and for a time the prospects of the cemetery becoming a popular one were encouraging. It turned out, however, that the most of the ground was so wet from springs that graves in being dug would fill with water. From this and other causes the cemetery was abandoned and the dead therein removed to other places.

The opening of the Chestnut Hill Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad through the grounds disfigured the estate by the filling up of the lowlands west of the mansion where the grape arbors and greenhouses had stood. This hollow and the winding drive from Abbottsford avenue was later made a dump for city ash-gatherers, which killed more of the oaks that once thrived there.

Another invasion of the property was made in building railroad sidings into Midvale Steel Works and other plants. Most of the front toward the Reading Railroad was sold and additional manufacturing plants built.

Streets have been opened through the Old Oaks ground, in the march of time, and practically all of the remainder covered by the great radio factory.

SCCAFF.

the exception of a tract known as "Devonshire" which was the home of the late George Blight.

Back of Old Oaks mansion there used to be large stables, coach houses and other buildings of hewn brownstone, and a large octagonal-shaped summer house of ornamental iron, erected over a deep, walled-up, ice-preserving house. These structures were all surrounded by towering oak trees, from which the place received its name.

Along the Pennsylvania railroad front was another wood of huge oaks, extending over an L-shaped portion of the grounds toward Wissahickon avenue. These noble trees were afterward killed off by the fumes from the industrial plants which sprung up about the place, among which were the Midvale Steel Company, the Conkling and Armstrong Terra Cotta Works, the American Pulley Company and others, prior to the coming of Budd.

Feb. 28/1929

23

Old Mills of Schuylkill Have Interesting Story

About the year 1800 there was a great deal of talk devoted to the subject of domestic manufacturing and a real effort was made to become independent of the nations of the Old World, so that in case the United States would become embroiled in another war, the citizens could avoid the difficulties they had experienced during the Revolution.

Thomas Jefferson, who draughted the Declaration of Independence, and who afterward became President of the United States, was a personal friend of Philip Hagner, who lived at the Falls of Schuylkill, and imbued Hagner with the manufacturing fever to such an extent that the old German, who had emigrated to America in 1745, procured some antiquated machines for spinning cotton. This machinery was previously used for making candle-wick, which was at that time in great demand.

Hagner became the owner of two mills on the Falls creek—now covered by the Dobson Mills—one of which was a short distance below the old Falls Hotel, which still stands to this day. This mill was on the same side of the road as the tavern and was used for the manufacture of paper, being one of the first of its kind in this country. He also erected a mill on the other side of the Ridge road, close to where the Reading railroad now crosses that thoroughfare. Farther up the creek, which was dammed at what we now know as Scott's dam, was a stone-cutting mill owned by a man named Traquar. This mill was equipped with a number of saws for cutting marble. They were not the conventional circular saw that we now possess, but were similar to the old "buck" saw and swung back and forth across the stone that was being cut.

Still farther up the creek there once stood the remains of an old powder mill. The stream of water that swept down from the high places of Germantown, furnished sufficient power to drive at all times a pair of five foot millstones, while at times it would collect

enough energy to turn two pair, and occasionally three pair of the ponderous wheels.

The stream has almost entirely disappeared, but if one traces out the topography of the land in back of the Dobson plant and along the Port Richmond branch of the Reading lines, he will find the valley that was cut down, through the ages, by the waters of the old creek. Beyond Scott's dam, there still flows a little stream that has twisted and trickled its way down along the Chestnut Hill Division of the Pennsylvania railroad, and across the fields to the dam. The dam itself will more than likely soon be a thing of the past, for it is from a point somewhere near the dam that Henry avenue will start from Hunting Park avenue to end up in Roxborough. It is said that the Wissahickon creek is small in comparison to what the old Falls creek used to be and when we pause to consider this circumstance, we are led to believe that in the early days the Schuylkill river must have been a mighty stream indeed.

During the period following the war for freedom, Robert Morris, who successfully financed that conflict, and a partner named Nicholson, erected on the west side of the Schuylkill, opposite Midvale avenue, a glass house where they began the manufacture of glass. Just how long it was used for that purpose is not known, but in the year 1808 the building was altered by John Thornburn, who made it into a calico printing establishment, and later it became one of a group of structures owned by William Simpson and known as the Washington Print Works.

On a map showing the Falls of Schuylkill in 1750, there appears a sickle mill at the mouth of the Falls creek. Farther up the Schuylkill, at the mouth of the Wissahickon was the Robeson Mill.

Old deeds, show that as early as 1658 a "corn mill" was operated at the mouth of the Wissahickon, and that in 1689 there was "saw and corn mills." Andrew Robeson ac-

quired these mills between 1691 and 1703, and he and succeeding generations of his family were the owners of the Wissahickon Mill.

Andrew Robeson became the proprietor of 500 acres surrounding this mill site, the place being known as "Sumac Park", extending from the Schuylkill river to Wissahickon avenue, and from School lane to a boundary, a short distance north-west of the creek. The larger part of Sumac Park is now included in Fairmount Park, but there are still some parts of the tract that are in the possession of members of the Robeson family.

The Robeson's not only ground the corn of the farmers, and made flour, but they also utilized part of their plant as a saw mill and historians tell us that they also started the first cut nail mill in the United States. The building, known as Colony Castle, which is used by the Philadelphia Canoe Club is believed to have been originally the foundry. At one time it was the club house of the State in Schuylkill, still existing as the oldest social organization in the world.

At the time of the War of Independence, John Vandaren, or Vandearing, operated the Wissahickon Mill, but this must have been under lease, or possibly the family sold him the mill and then repurchased it from him, for it is recorded that in 1786 Jeter and Jonathan Robeson, two brothers, were the owners.

The Duke de la Rochefoucault Liencourt, who visited America in 1796, mentioned the Robeson Mills in a descriptive book of his travels. Like many others he misspells the name as "Robertson." In a rather lengthy description of the mill and the miller appears the following excerpt:

"He appears to be more skillful as a miller. His mill, which is said to be the first built in America, is worked by a rivulet called Wissahickon, which turns twenty-five other mills before it reaches Robertson's. It has three separate water courses and three separate mills, two of which are for the manufactory, as they call it, and one for the public. The latter grinds all the corn which is brought thither without the least alteration of the millstones, in its passage from the grain to the flour, which naturally renders the meal very indifferent. The miller's due is one-tenth, according to the law of the land. Robertson does not grind any Indian corn on his own account, nor has he any kiln to dry it. Meal from this corn is not bad if speedily used, but it is not for being kept long, and yields but little."

But more of the mills, anon.

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6/2/1938

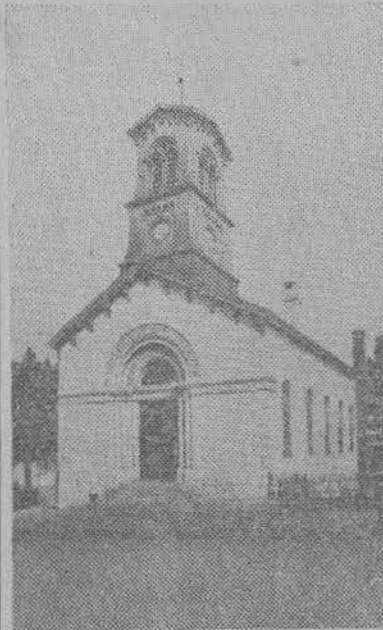
24

Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church to Mark Centennial

One Hundredth Anniversary Will Be Marked With Special Services for Sunday, June 5 to Sunday, June 12.—Special Music and Speakers

REV. W. J. HAYES IS PASTOR

100 Years Old



FALLS BAPTIST CHURCH

Falls Baptist Pastor



REV. W. J. HAYES

A centennial observance of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, Rev. W. J. Hayes, pastor, will be marked from Sunday, June 5th, to Sunday, June 19th.

On Sunday morning, June 5th, there will be a roll call of the church members, followed by reception of new members and partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In the evening, at 7:30 o'clock the choir will render "The Holy City," by Gaul, conducted by Guy McCoy and assisted by the Presser Orchestra. The high quality of this rendition should attract lovers of good music, to this service.

Tuesday evening, June 7th, will be the 100th anniversary of the Constitution of the church. Dr. J. Foster Wilcox will be the special preacher. Other parts will be taken by the Rev. B. L. Scott, of the Lower Merion Baptist Church and the Rev. David Bartine.

On Sunday, June 12th, which is the anniversary Sunday, Dr. James H. Franklin will be the guest preacher. In the evening, more than eighty children of the Church School will present the pageant, "Why We Are Here."

Tuesday evening the 14th, will be Community Night at which time members of the local churches will attend with their congregations and bring greetings.

Wednesday evening the 15th, will be Congregational Night with banquet in Fellowship Hall. Dr. R. E. E. Harkness, Professor of Church History of Crozer Theological Seminary, will be the speaker.

Thursday evening, June 16th, the young people of the church will give a historical dramalogue. This presentation which has been specially written and prepared for this occasion, will portray the early history of the church, concluding with a review of one hundred years of service by Mother Church and the presentation of her children.

Sunday, June 19th, former pastors of the church, the Rev. B. F. Bray, of Marion, N. C., and the Rev. Edwin W. Saylor, will be guest preachers. The public is cordially invited to attend all of these services.

Forecast 4/10/1913

25

Saturday Night

AT THE

YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY CLUB HOUSE.

a two reel feature, showing

"Frank Merriwell in Arizona"

or the mystery mine. A sensational western story showing life and scenes on the border. This picture alone is worth the price of admission but we will also show six other good reels—every one a positive hit

Admission = = 10 Cents

26

11/27/1918

FUN FOR ALL
 Every Evening and Saturday Afternoon
 AT
STRAWBERRY MANSION
PALACE
Electric Carrousel
 Opens This Saturday,
 April 5th 1913.

DR. WM. B. RUBIN
 MODERN DENTAL OFFICE,
 Now in Charge
DR. SAMUEL CORNFELD
 (Cor. Ridge Avenue and Queen Lane)
 OPEN EVENINGS
 Sundays until 12 M.
 BELL PHONE, MANAYUNK 226
 Good Dentistry at Low Prices.

May 8th 1918

Closed May 15
 Until 6 P. M.
 On Account of
28th Division
Parade
Fiedler's DRUG STORE
 Ridge Ave. and Stanton St.

May 1st 1913

WEEKLY FORECAST
 ESTABLISHED 1900
 Office, Cresson St. and Sunnyside Ave.
 Falls of Schuylkill, Phila.
 Issued every Thursday by
ERNEST E. CARWARDINE
 Editor and Proprietor
 Subscription 40 cts per year in advance
 Entered in Post Office at Philadel-
 phia, as Second Class Matter.

PHONES { Bell, Manayunk 536
 { Keystone, North 43-25 D

6/15/1916

Notice
 from the Barbers' Union of
 the Falls to the Public.
 On account of the raise in pices of wages
 and everything else pertaining to the
 Barber business, the undersigned shops
 have been forced to change their prices:


Shaving	10c
Hair Cutting	20c
On Saturday,	25c

HOURS:
 7.30 a. m. to 8.30 p. m.
 Sat. 7.30 a. m. to 11.00 p. m.
 Closed all Holidays. Open evening
 before Holiday until 11.00 p. m.

THESE ARE ALL UNION SHOPS

N. CHIBES,
4155 Ridge Ave.
C. GORDON,
4168 Ridge Ave.
J. HOCHL,
4235 Ridge Ave.
J. BUCKLEY,
35th and Sunyside Ave.
R. TROMMER,
Queen Lane and Cresson St.
G. CHAMBERLAIN,
N. 35th Street

6/12/1919



DAN HICKEY,
 do you know
 him? He is in
 Gimbel's Cloth-
 ing Department.
 How about that
 new suit you
 need?
 Respt. Yours
DAN HICKEY

9/13/34

27

A Sight-Seeing Trip Made During Centennial Year

Street Cars and Steamboats Were Popular Means of Transportation at Time of Philadelphia's Great Exposition

Mention of the many residents of this vicinity who have paid visits to the Century of Progress Exposition during 1933 and 1934 caused one Old Timer to delve into some old books in his library to bring forth a guide to Philadelphia, which was issued for the benefit of visitors to this city, during the great Centennial Exposition of 1876. Old people who "took in the sights" of that still-vividly remembered world's fair, claim there never will be anything like it again. Of course, there is a lot of loyal pride behind these remarks. The Centennial was held in their own home town.

In this particular old volume, which was again dragged into light last week, one of a list of proposed sight-seeing tours around the city of Brotherly Love was most interesting. It said:

"Laurel Hill Cemetery will occupy our morning, and Woodlands our afternoon of today. Our route is by the Ridge avenue cars. We can reach them by way of Fifteenth street, to which we walk from our starting place at Broad and Market streets. Here, on entering the car, we purchase an exchange ticket. Fifteenth strikes Ridge avenue at Brown street. As we change cars and look down the avenue we will observe the fine large Lincoln Market building, at the corner of

Fairmount avenue, and before us, toward the east, the sombre front of the Broad Street Baptist Church, with its neat spire. Ridge avenue is one of the 'catercornered' streets, runs northwest all the way, and crosses, before it passes Laurel Hill, all the streets as far as Thirty-fifth street. It also passes twenty-three principal streets running east and west. It is a short-cut running across the northwest part of the city and is thronged in consequence. It is a street of shops which stretch along it with scarcely an interruption from Vine street to Columbia avenue and ready to march out to Manayunk with little delay.

"There are no public buildings of any great extent upon this street, but we notice some at the intersecting streets. On our left hand, below Girard avenue, we pass the new Ridge avenue Market and Hotel. On the same side shortly afterward we notice the high stone wall of Girard College, along which we pass for a quarter of a mile. At North College Avenue, if we look toward the Schuylkill, we will see the handsome buildings of the Woman's Medical College and Hospital. Above Columbia avenue, on our right, is the Penn Township Odd Fellow's Hall. At Islington lane on the right we see Glenwood

Cemetery the Odd Fellows' and Mechanics' Cemeteries adjoining

on the west. Shortly after passing this enclosure the East Park comes in sight; the reservoir looms up immediately in front. At Thirty-second street we reach the depot of the railway company and here our passage-right on the original fare

ends. If we wish to go farther we must pay another fare. This is a matter of choice. It is but a short walk of three or four squares to the south entrance of Laurel Hill. Before we reach it we are at the Park boundary. The mansion nearest is Woodford in which the Park superintendent resides. A little beyond nearer the Schuylkill and shaded by magnificent old trees is Strawberry Mansion, one of the Park restaurants. Near is the gate of South Laurel Hill. Let us enter. We will be struck by the elegance of the enclosure, the richness of flowers and shrubbery, and will perhaps be lost in the wilderness of monumental marble and granite which encompasses us.

"If we have time, we may inspect Mount Vernon Cemetery opposite, Mount Peace adjoining, and the interesting building and graveyard of the church of St. James the Less. We may return by the Schuylkill River steamboat, which we will reach by the lane which divides Central from North Laurel Hill, and lead to the Schuylkill; or re-entering the Park and passing Strawberry Mansion, lingering for a few moments on the brow of the precipice, we may enjoy the view of the river north of us, showing the Falls railroad bridge, the Falls and the distant steeples and chimneys of Manayunk. Immediately opposite, on the west side of the river, the heights of Chamounix before us, and the view down the stream, showing the Belmont bridge, with glimpses of Memorial Hall, is charming. The steamboat will take us through the water-way of the Park, past Edgely and Rockland on our left hand, and Chamounix, Ridgeland and Belmont on our right. Passing under the railroad bridge (Columbia avenue) we notice on our right the Belmont Water works, and the Centennial Water-works a short distance below. We soon pass on the right the deep and romantic openings of Belmont Valley, Lansdowne Glen and Sweet Briar Vale. The Centennial buildings rise before us all along, shooting under the connecting railroad and Girard avenue bridges, we pass the Zoological Gardens on our right; the Park is on our left hand all the way. We reach and pass the bathhouses; land, walk through the water-works (Fairmount) buildings and galleries, and at the entrance to the bridge (Spring Garden street) take the Arch street, car from which we land at Broad and Arch streets."

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10/12/37

28

Centennial Being Continued At Falls Methodist Church

October 24th Designated as "Anniversary Sunday" With Double Celebration

BISHOP TO PREACH

Congregation Has Had an Eventful History in Past Hundred Years

"A century of service to mankind! And still the church stands beneath the sky, Thrones rise and fall and fashions drop behind. The church is all we have that doesn't die!"

Next Sunday will be known as "Anniversary Sunday" at the Falls M. E. Church, Indian Queen lane and Krail street.

Rev. B. Smith Stull, pastor, states that the program will be in the nature of a double celebration; "One Hundred Years of Methodism in East Falls" and the "Sixty-fifth Anniversary of the Present Church Building".

The visiting speaker at the 11.10 a. m. service will be Bishop Ernest G. Richardson, D. D.

Rev. W. Galloway Tyson, D. D., District Superintendent, will deliver the message to the 7.30 p. m. congregation. Music of more than ordinary merit will be provided by Jack Gilbert, trumpeter, and the church choir, directed by Joseph Smith.

In addition to the historical facts concerning the Falls Methodist congregation which appeared in last weeks issue of this newspaper, a booklet being currently distributed at the church contains the following interesting references:

In 1877 the first Ladies' Aid Society was organized, during the pastorate of Rev. Wilmar Coffman, consisting of the Mesdames Mills, Armitage, Rudolph, Parks, Mettinger and Taylor.

In 1822 Harry Hess, a son of the church, entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In more recent years his nephew, Monroe Hess, a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Willard Hess, entered the Home Mission field.

The parsonage of the church was erected in 1884, during the pastorate of Rev. Eli Pickersgill, who expired within the past few years.

The officers of the church of 1937 consists of the following: Resident Bishop, Dr. Ernest G. Richardson; District Superintendent, Dr. W. Galloway Tyson; Pas-

tor, Rev. B. Smith Stull; Local Preacher, George Smith; Exhorter, Russell Clayton; General Superintendent of the Sunday School, M. Willard Hess; Superintendent of the Main Department, George Gotwols; Superintendent of the Primary Department, Mrs. James Buckley; Superintendent of the Beginners' Department, Miss Gladys Smith; Trustees, Harry Clayton, William Clayton, Thomas Davey, George Gotwols, M. Willard Hess, George Stubblebine, Herbert Turner and George Walker; Stewards, Walter Barrows, George Bates, James Buckley, Harold Clayton, Russell Clayton, John W. Davey, Morris S. Davis, John Garbut, Harry Hess, Howard Hodge, Ronald Hodge, Albert Homewood, James Howarth, Theodore MacKebzie, Milton Major, George Smith, Joseph Smith, William Thorpe, Guyon Wierman and Norman Woolley; Communion Steward, Mrs. George Stubblebine; District Steward, George Smith; Recording Steward, Harry Clayton; Connec-tional Steward, William Clayton Disbursing Steward, George Bates; Trier of Appeals, James Buckley; president of the Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Morris Davis; President of the

Junior Ladies' Aid, Mrs. William Clayton; President of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, Miss Bertha Hunter; President of the Queen Esther Society, Mrs. George Fink; President of the Senior Epworth League, Fred Davis; Superintendent of the Intermediate Epworth League, Mildred Major; Superintendent of the Junior Epworth League, Mrs. John Voetsch; and Financial Secretary, Thomas Davey.

Sedger
Detroit 7/2/1934

Record 7/2/1934

(29)

TWO SISTERS HELD IN DEATH OF INFANT

New-Born Babe Found
Stabbed in Germantown Lot;
Married Man Also Arrested

A 17-year-old Germantown girl is under arrest today on manslaughter charges in connection with the finding late yesterday of a dying four-hour-old infant in a clump of bushes on a lot in Indian Queen Lane just west of Vaux Street, Germantown.

The child's unwed mother, sister of the girl arrested, is under police guard in Philadelphia General Hospital. A neighbor of the girls, said to be married and the father of several children, is under arrest in connection with the case.

The girl under arrest at the Twenty-second Street and Hunting Park Avenue police station said she was Elizabeth Kindon, Bowman Street near Vaux. She is accused of conspiring with her sister, Mildred, 19, mother of the child, to kill the baby a few hours after birth.

Detective Finds Infant

Charles Schadel, 32, Bowman Street near Vaux, has been arrested and slated at the Hunting Park district station house on statutory charges. He was taken into custody on oath of the young mother. He and the younger sister are scheduled to be arraigned before a Magistrate today, but detectives intimated the hearing may be delayed until the other girl involved is able to leave the hospital.

Detective Herlinger found the infant shortly after 2 P. M. yesterday, when its cries attracted him while passing the lot. He said it was lying naked but for a diaper and had been stabbed in the throat, right shoulder, abdomen and both wrists by a knife or other instrument evidently used in a kitchen.

The child died in Woman's College Hospital at 3:30 P. M.

Detective George Knott, of the homicide squad, began an immediate check-up of the neighborhood and learned that Mildred Kindon had gone to a hospital for treatment early in the afternoon.

Further investigation by Knott is alleged to have developed the fact that the young mother gave birth to the child in the kitchen of the Bowman Street home about 10 A. M. He is said to have learned that the sisters then conspired against the life of the baby. Elizabeth was arrested for allegedly carrying the child to the bushes to die.

2 SISTERS HELD IN BABY'S DEATH

One of Prisoners Said to
Be Its Mother.

Two sisters were arrested yesterday on a charge of killing an unwelcome baby.

They are Mildred Kindon, 19, said to have been the mother of the child, and Elizabeth, 17. They live on Bowman st. near Vaux.

Charles Chaddell, 33, who lives in the same block on Bowman st., was arrested on statutory charges. Detectives said he was the father of the infant. Chaddell, married and the father of two children, is a semi-pro baseball player.

The baby was born Saturday morning in the Kindon home, according to police. The body was found yesterday on a vacant lot on Queen Lane near Henry ave. The sisters were arrested a short time later and confessed, police declared.

Mildred was taken to Philadelphia General Hospital and Elizabeth was jailed on a charge of homicide. A similar charge will be made against the elder sister when she is released from the hospital, police said.

6/1/1933

Clergyman At Odds with Old Philosopher

First Provost of University and Its President Often in Conflict

FORMER LIVED HERE

Churchman Delivered Splendid Eulogy Following Franklin's Death

Much has been written concerning Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who resided in a building which still stands on the southeast side of Indian Queen lane, in the Falls of Schuylkill, with most people still being unaware of the great enmity which existed between that indefatigable worker for "me College", as he often termed it, and Benjamin Franklin, philosopher, statesman, inventor and what have you, who was also another of those public men who never seem to tire of activity.

In a brochure, published by Edgar Fahs Smith, no relative, but a more recent provost at the great university, in January, 1927, there are many references to the faults, as well as the good qualities of Dr. Smith.

This early Episcopalian preacher, who was trained at Edinburgh, assumed the provostship of the College of Philadelphia—now the University of Pennsylvania—when he was but 27 years of age. Being active, it was but natural that he would acquire enemies as well as friends. On all important assemblages of the Episcopal church around Philadelphia, he presided, and made addresses including many delivered in connection with the consecration of bishops. He assisted in the revision of the English Prayer Book, after the Revolution, and an eminent writer has said:

"A lasting memorial to Dr. Smith, however, remains in the preface of the present American prayer book, which as a specimen of dignified, vigorous and impressive English style, has, I think, been seldom surpassed."

What caused the breach between Franklin and Dr. Smith, is not quite clearly known, although Franklin, as president of the college, refused to give up his title or office when Dr. Smith was engaged to take charge of the institution, and therefore made it necessary to create the title of "provost" which continues to this day. But there is evidence enough that great rivalry existed between these two early leaders.

Religious opposition provided much activity for the busy clergyman, and he bore the criticism aimed at him complacently enough, although it is said he was "unsparing toward his enemies, but never vindictive."

Franklin, in a letter dated December 7th, 1762, and addressed from Philadelphia, to William Strahan, a publisher in England, said:

"Dear Friend;

I wrote to you some time since to acquaint you with my arrival, and the kind reception I met with from my old and many new friends, notwithstanding Dr. Smith's false reports in London of my interest as declining here. I could not wish for a more hearty welcome and I never experienced greater cordiality.—I must join with David in petitioning that you would write all the politics; you have an opportunity of hearing them all and no one that is not quite in the secrets of the affairs can judge better of them. I hope the crazy heads that have been raving so long about Scotchmen and Scotland are by this time either broke or mended.—In two years at the farthest, I hope to settle all my affairs in such a manner as that I may then conveniently remove to England—provided we can persuade the good woman to cross the sea. That will be the great difficulty; but you can help me in removing it.

Present by compliments to all the enquiring friends, and believe me ever

My dear friend,

Yours most affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN."

Despite the feeling which existed between these men, it was Smith who was called upon to deliver the eulogy after Franklin was buried, and it has always been known as one of Dr. Smith's most magnificent efforts, delivered before "a vast concourse of people."

At a dinner to which Governor

Thomas Mifflin—a graduate of the Class of 1760, and first governor of the State of Pennsylvania, under the Constitution, who also resided at the Falls of Schuylkill—had invited the faculty of the college to his home facing the Schuylkill river, a day or two after Franklin's death. David Rittenhouse, being one of the company; a great thunderstorm arising during the dinner, he proclaimed.

"Cease, cease ye your elemental strife;

Why rage ye thus as if to threaten life?

Seek, seek no more to shake our souls with dread,

What busy world has told you Franklin's dead?

What, though ye yielded at Jove's imperious nod,

With Rittenhouse he left his magic rod."

And in a volume of manuscript poems by William Moore Smith, son of the provost, graduate of the Class of 1775, there appeared—after learning the Provost's words—these lines:

"What means that flash—the thunder's awful roar?

The blazing sky—unseen—unheard before?

Sage Smith replies "Our Franklin is no more,

The clouds, long subject to his magic chain,

Exulting now, their liberty regain."

When the American Philosophical Society chose Dr. Smith to deliver the eulogy upon Franklin, he demurred. He had never forgotten the adverse criticism on "me College", made by the old philosopher. More than a year elapsed before he discharged the duty imposed on him by the Society of which he was an honored member and long its secretary. The occasion was of unusual interest. Immense crowds assembled, and the Provost was in every sense the master of the day.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies many distinguished people gathered about the dinner table at the Provost's home. All can imagine what the subjects might be which were discussed. Tradition has it that the Provost's favorite daughter, Rebecca, simply shocked the company by saying very innocently, yet mischievously:

"Father—father! I think you don't believe one-tenth of what you said about 'old Ben Lightning Rod!'"

It was on midnight of May 14th, 1808, that Dr. Smith, himself, passed away, in a house which stood at the southeast corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, where the Drexel Building of the great House of Morgan stands. His remains were brought to his Falls of Schuylkill home and placed in the family mausoleum, later to be taken to North Laurel Hill Cemetery, peaceful, at last, with Franklin also at rest in the old Friends' Burial ground at Fifth and Arch streets.

SCCAFF.

30

Church To Observe 95th Anniversary

Falls M. E. Congregation to
Have Week of Special
Services

STARTS SUNDAY

Former Pastors Will Speak
at Several Weekday
Meetings

Members of the Falls of Schuylkill Methodist Episcopal Church, Indian Queen lane and Krail street, East Falls, are prepared to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the founding of that congregation next week.

Beginning on Sunday next, which has been designated "Home Coming Sunday," services will be held every evening during the week, except Saturday, and also on Sunday, October 23rd, which will be "Anniversary Sunday."

At 10 A. M. next Sunday there will be a roll-call communion service in charge of the pastor, Rev. H. St. Clair Carter, and in the evening at 7:30 o'clock an anniversary service, the sermon subject being "The Church."

Monday evening, October 7th will be "Church Night," with the guest speaker being Rev. Francis H. Tees, a former pastor; and the music being provided by the Falls Male Chorus.

"Ladies' Night" is scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 18th, with another former pastor, Rev. Dr. John S. Tomlinson, being the speaker. A chorus of women will sing.

Wednesday evening, October 19th, will be "Church Organization Night," with Rev. Frederick Gacks, who also served at the Falls M. E. Church, in previous years, bringing the message. The music will be supplied by the choir and several soloists. "Mens' Night" will be held on Thursday, October 20th, with Rev. A. Percival Hodgson, who is another of those who served at East Falls, speaking. A male and brass quartet will furnish vocal and instrumental music.

Friday night, October 21st, has been reserved for the Sunday School and Young People's Rally, with Rev. Dr. John C. Bieri, formerly of the Wissahickon M. E. Church, as the speaker.

Rev. John Watchorn, D. D., the M. E. District superintendent, will deliver the sermon on Sunday, October 23rd, at 10:30 A. M. and in the evening, known as "Musical Night;" the exercises will be directed by Joseph Smith.

All of the weekly evening services

will start at 8 o'clock, and the Sunday church services at 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.

The Falls M. E. Church was organized in 1837, following meetings which were held on Sunday afternoons in the home of Andrew Gilmore, on Ridge avenue, in charge of Abraham Asey. Prayer meetings were held in a stone house on Ridge avenue, in which lived Daniel Glacking and John Jackson, on Wednesday evenings. Still later public services were conducted in the Old Academy on Indian Queen lane, the pulpit being supplied from the Philadelphia Local Preachers' Association, on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month.

A lengthy meeting was held in the Old Academy, in December of 1837, when a number of the town-folk professed conversion and united with the church. In 1839 the Falls church was added to the circuit with Manayunk and Fairmount, the Rev. John Henry being the preacher in charge and Rev. B. Smith his assistant. At that time there were about 40 members of the Falls organization.

Sunday School was started in the home of Hugh DeHaven, he furnishing the books, while his wife and daughter, as well as himself, were teachers and officers.

Rev. Robert A. McNamee was appointed pastor for Manayunk and the Falls, in 1840, Fairmount having been made a station. At that time John Chew became the class leader. In 1845 the congregation had only 32 members, still holding its meetings in the Old Academy and supplied by local preachers from the Mt. Zion Church, in Manayunk.

On May 26th 1851 it was decided to build a church building and the first step taken was the election of nine trustees. Having only seven members, residing in the Falls, who could serve as trustees according to the regulations of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Edward Preston and Charles H. Sutton, of Manayunk were elected members of the Board, and to the counsel and financial assistance rendered by those two men the advancement 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, Edward Preston and Charles H. Sutton.

James Mills, Sr., was elected president, Israel Foster, treasurer; and James Dykes, secretary. A building committee was appointed and the next day purchased a lot, with a building on it, for \$900, at the corner of Frederick and Stanton street. The building, which still stands, although converted into dwellings, was enlarged, altered and improved, and shortly afterward was dedicated as a place of worship. The entire cost of the lot and improved building amounted to \$2,258.65.

The first Board of Stewards was appointed October 29th, 1855 by the

presiding clergyman, 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 on March 29th, 1855, and Rev. Elree was the first regular pastor of the church.

In 1871 it was thought best to procure a more desirable location for the church, and a committee consisting of John M. Shronk, John Schfield, and James Mills reported in favor of three adjoining lots at Indian Queen lane and Krail street, which was purchased and the present structure erected.

The pastors who have served the Falls M. E. Church, following Mr. Elree, were and are: the Revs. W. C. Best, W. Smith, S. B. Best, J. R. Bailey, J. S. J. McConnell, Stephen Townsend, Jacob S. Hughes, Maris Graves, Thomas B. Neely, George A. Wolfe, J. C. Wood, Wilmer Coffman, P. J. Cox, Eli Pickersgill, Nathaniel Turner, T. T. Mutchler, J. W. Rudolph, Robert A. McIlvaine, J. J. Timanus, S. K. McConnell, A. Percival Hodgson, Richard Turner, F. A. Gacks, Joseph Gallagher, Francis H. Tees, John S. Tomlinson and the present pastor, Rev. H. St. Clair Carter.

11/14/1935

Library At The Falls of Schuylkill Is 22 Years Old

Building at Midvale Avenue and Warden Drive Dedicated in November 1913

FORMAL CEREMONY

Local Residents Worked Long Time to Bring This Asset to The Community

Next week will mark the 22nd anniversary of the formal dedication of the building occupied by the Falls of Schuylkill branch of the Free Library, which stands at Midvale avenue and Warden Drive.

Held on November 18th, 1913, the dedication ceremony was one of the most delightful affairs the community ever witnessed. The building, tastefully decorated and illuminated, was thrown open for the inspection of the invited guests at 7.30, and was thronged continually throughout the entire evening. The spacious library room was banked with flowers, forming a pleasing background for the many beautiful gowns worn by the women who were present. Until 8.30 the guests wandered throughout the building and freely expressed themselves in praise of the many novel and striking features revealed to them for the first time.

At 8.30 Dr. John Thomson, chief librarian of the city of Philadelphia, led the way to the lecture room on the first floor, and, apologizing for the chairman, Henry Edmunds, who was unavoidably detained out of town, assumed the role of chairman, and in a short speech congratulating the people of the Falls of Schuylkill upon the bequest of the new library building, the fourteenth of the thirty Carnegie Library buildings to be erected in the city of Philadelphia, introduced Mr. Crane, of the firm of Rankin, Kellogg & Crane, one of the leading firms of architects in the United States, the designers of the building.

Mr. Crane gave a very interesting description of the structure and its characteristics, describing it as being built in what is known as the prevailing English collegiate type, which in this instance harmonizes with its surroundings and reflects great credit upon its creators, and at the conclusion of his remarks formally presented to Mr. Thomson, as the representative of the city of Philadelphia, the key of the building.

Mr. Thomson accepted the key on behalf of the Free Library Association of Philadelphia, and in a short speech congratulated the architects upon the happy results

they had secured in construction, and then introduced Hon. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, who made the speech dedicating the building to the use of the people of the Falls of Schuylkill and the city of Philadelphia. In the course of his remarks Mr. Woodruff eloquently described the growth and development of the Philadelphia Library system under the able management of Dr. John Thomson, as one of the

greatest features of the new Philadelphia, and closed with a stirring appeal for the final completion of all the branch libraries, and then the erection of the proposed Grand Central Parkway Library Building as a fitting climax and monument to the excellence of the library system of Philadelphia, which, he declared, stood unexcelled throughout the United States. His remarks were received with great applause. Mr. Thomson then spoke of the good work that had been done in connection with the library by the Falls Business Men's Association, and introduced J. W. Flanagan, the president.

Mr. Flanagan in a short speech described the events leading up to the formation of the first free library in the Falls, of the meeting held in June 1901, at the old Academy Building, and gave proper credit to the promoters of the project, Charles L. Dykes and John Hohenadel. He paid a touching tribute to those associated with these gentlemen who had since gone to the Great Beyond. John Sloan, who was the first president of the library; George Carwardine and Bernard E. Dowdall, were three of those who worked untiringly for the success of the library.

Mr. Flanagan then concisely sketched the history of the library and the various events leading up to its final success, paying a deserved tribute to Messrs. Warden

and Merrick and a grand tribute to that great philanthropist and benefactor, Andrew Carnegie, and on behalf of the people of the Falls regretted that they could not extend to Mr. Carnegie the feelings of gratitude and appreciation that they felt upon the acquisition of the complete building, but in lieu thereof extended them to his chosen representatives, the chairman and directors of the Carnegie Fund Commission present. He thanked Mr. Thomson and his able assistants for the many favors shown, and the new librarian, Miss Glendinning, Miss Ella Boyd, and other assistants, in anticipation of the good work they were to do.

After a short address by Rev. B. B. Royer, of the Falls Presbyterian Church, in which he congratulated Dr. Thomson and the people of the town upon the splendid results accomplished and a few brief remarks by Charles L. Dykes, Mr. Thomson brought the ceremonies to a close with the announcement that the library would be formally opened the following day at 9 o'clock, and would continue open thereafter from 9 to 9.

The first woman to receive a book at the new library was Miss E. Sudell, of Ainslie street.

In 1913, a former resident of the Falls of Schuylkill, while riding over Midvale avenue, in an automobile, admired the Free Library building which at that time was surrounded by woods, and said "When I was a boy there was a Falls of Schuylkill Library Association that did a great deal of good for the moral and intellectual benefit of its members. Every young

man of any account was glad to be admitted as a member and have the privilege of reading and studying the valuable books. I was not old enough to join the organization but I knew most of those who did. As I think of them my heart feels sad, for most of them have passed away. The organization was kept up until the Civil War. I only know of four men now living who belonged to the library, and they have each seen more than four-score years, Hugh Scott, Charles K. Sorber, Franklin W. Morison and Adam Mettinger, all of whom are well preserved and have been "felong residents of the Falls of Schuylkill."

The staff in charge of the Falls of Schuylkill Branch Library, today, is composed of Miss Ellen Schurch, librarian; Miss Ella M. Boyd, 1st assistant; and Miss Therese H. Wheeler, assistant.

2/13/30

33

Will Observe Birthday of Literary Club

44th Anniversary of Found-
ing of Catholic Organiza-
tion to be Marked

ORGANIZED IN 1886

Several Charter Members
Will be Present at
Celebration

While tomorrow is the 44th anniversary of the founding of the Young Men's Literary Institute, at Midvale avenue and Frederick street, the organization's celebration will not be held until Wednesday, February 26th, when a luncheon, dance and entertainment will be held for its members and friends.

The institute was formed forty-two years ago for the mutual improvement for the young men of the vicinity; for social purposes, intellectual advancement, and as a benevolent organization to help one another.

The association's original Financial Secretary very graciously supplied our correspondent with some details of the history of the Y. M. L. I., which we believe will prove interesting to all of our readers and so we pass it along.

The Young Men's Literary Institute was founded on February 14, 1886, and for a few weeks held its meetings in the basement of the old St. Bridget's Church, on Stanton street, afterward moving to a second floor room over Logan's Cigar Store, on Ridge avenue near Crawford street.

The group of young men were not long in realizing that they needed larger quarters, and therefore leased a three-story building at 4137 Ridge avenue, where they were located for several years.

Again becoming dissatisfied with their club quarters, they moved across the street to a house two doors above the present Y. W. C. A. Building, but after two years, once more made their headquarters at the old location, at "4137." In the summer of May, 1907, they established themselves permanently in their own building at Midvale avenue and Frederick street.

After the first election of officers had been held, in 1886, it was found that the following men had been chosen to lead the destinies of the organization. Spiritual Director, Rev. J. A. Mullin, of St. Bridget's Church, who is still living and is the present Monsignor Mullin at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Overbrook; President, Edward A.

Carroll; Vice President, James P. Byrne; Financial Secretary, John F. Peardon; Recording Secretary, Andrew D. Byrne; Corresponding Secretary, Lawrence Grant and Treasurer Dr. Bernard J. Murray, who now lives in Chestnut Hill.

The Board of Directors consisted of Alfred Byrne, who is familiarly known to everyone in East Falls as "Al"; William Flynn and Hugh McGeogh.

The remainder of the charter members were Bernard Dowdall, Thomas Berry, Edward Whelan, Edward McGann and John White.

John P. Reardon, John White and "Al" Byrnes, three of the original members, are still listed on the membership rolls of the literary organization.

The structure on Midvale avenue, was erected through the energy of the men who organized the Institute. The ground, building and furnishings amounted to some \$19,000, most of which was realized on entertainments, card parties, and fairs, in addition to building and loan stock. The ground was obtained on August 31, 1906, and work started immediately. The building was first put in use in May, 1907. All of the encumbrances due on the headquarters had been paid with the exception of a few thousand dollars which are covered by building and loan shares which will mature next year.

The Y. M. L. I. has during the years of its existence built up a fine reputation for baseball, basketball and football teams and for the minstrel shows and other entertainments which the members formerly staged.

During the World War, the members of this, East Falls' old literary club, were proud to announce that twenty-nine of their members were serving in the various branches of Uncle Sam's military service.

As stated before the Y. M. L. I. was formed for the intellectual, social and physical advancement of its members and this holds true today, and any young man who is desirous of joining a company of men who have always striven for

the good of their organization and have provided in the present headquarters, billiard rooms, library, dance hall, kitchen and other features for the promotion of good fellowship, should get in touch with the secretary at their earliest convenience. Free doctor's service, sick and death benefits are the benevolent reasons which are advanced in inducing the youth of the neighborhood to join.

At a meeting of the members, held on Monday night of this week, the following officers were elected: President, Harry Andrews; Vice President, Joseph Furlong; Recording Secretary, Frank Bowers; Financial Secretary, Nicholas F. Markey; Treasurer, John May; and Trustees, James McCarthy, P. J. Kelley and Thomas Markey.

3/30/1933

Now and Then

Down in Mount Vernon Cemetery lie the remains of Charles Albert Fechter, the eminent French actor, who spent the last five years of his life in this vicinity.

Fechter was ranked among the great thespians of the 19th century. Born in London, in 1824, of French parents, he was educated in Paris, and there, in 1840 he made his first appearance at a private theatrical entertainment in the Salle Moliere. His parents desired him to be a sculptor, and after a brief experience on the boards he returned to Paris, from a trip with a strolling companion through Italy, and attended the Academie des Beaux Arts from which he graduated in 1844, winning the highest honors of the school. But he again turned to the stage and, becoming a member of the troupe at the Theatre Francais, attracted the favorable attention of the Parisians. Melodramatic roles were his favorites, and soon he was heading a company of his own. While so engaged, at the Vaudeville Theatre in Paris, where he played from 1852 until 1858, he created the role of Armand Duval in Dumas' "La Dame aux Camellias."

Paris accepted him as one of its players before he made his first appearance in English drama, in London, in 1860. Ten years later he came to New York, where he first appeared at Niblo's Garden, in "Ruy Blas." His success in this country was almost as great as that in Europe. Selwyn's Theatre, renamed the Globe, in Boston, was turned over to his management. Later the Lyceum Theatre, in New York, was built for him. But he retired from the stage, although appearing at intervals in 1877 and 1878, in renewals of three of his notable roles, in "Monte Christo," "Hamlet" and "Ruy Blas."

For the last five years of his life he lived on a farm near Quakertown, in Bucks County, with his wife, the former Lizzie Price, who had appeared with him at the Park Theatre in New York.

Down at Ridge avenue and Ferry road, in East Falls, workmen have been demolishing the former Young Womens' Christian Association building exposing to view the old Hagner Drug Mill, which is hidden behind a store adjoining the structure once used by the women.

In the early days of the Falls of Schuylkill there was a waterfall in the Falls Creek, close to this mill; that being the reason for the erection of the building at that place. Before the Hagner Mill there stood on the site a paper mill, which had been built before 1775, by Joseph Potts, gentleman; Isaac Parrish, hatter, and Benedict Dorsey, merchant. It was these men who had the dam constructed in order to furnish power for the mill. The water flowed through a culvert under the Plymouth road (now Ridge avenue) to a forebay along to a tail race and under another

little bridge into the Falls Creek and thence into the Schuylkill.

The paper mill was subsequently turned into a chocolate mill and as such was known to people of that section prior to the Civil War.

The Hagner Mill became the property of Winabald Nagele, a well known butcher, who in 1869 erected a meat store in front of the former drug manufactory.

The new electrically operated cars of the Reading Railroad System speed along silently through East Falls, Wissahickon, and Manayunk, with a reduction of time

which is indeed pleasing to the people in this age of hurry.

How different from the methods of the line, when it first came into existence in 1834? On October 18th of that year, the first cars ran out this line from the city. It was a Saturday, and the train was made up of four handsomely painted cars, each with a lower and upper deck, and each drawn by two fine horses. The new system of transportation went into effect when the train left Ninth and Green streets and ran out to Shur's lane, Manayunk, where the bridge crossing that lane was still in the course of construction. Aboard were 130 passengers, who were escorted to the Fountain Hotel, on Main street, and treated to a fine dinner.

On August 15th 1835, the first locomotive ever seen in this vicinity drew a train of cars to Norristown, and thousands of people gathered at various points along the line to see the marvelous iron horse.

There are still a great many old folk who lived in Manayunk and Roxborough who remember Joshua C. Bartley, who was one of the early engineers at the Shawmont Pumping Station, and who passed on to "His Reward" in July of 1896.

Mr. Bartley was born of Irish parents, aboard a ship enroute to America, in 1818. In his early boyhood he was apprenticed to the firm operating the Bushkill Iron Works, at 16th and Spring Garden streets, and served his time as a machinist. Later he entered the employ of I. P. Morris & Company in Kensington and was sent by them to Cuba as engineer of one of the sugar-making plants installed by the firm on that Island; and for 13 years he went South during the sugar season, and returned to his home at its close.

In 1859 Mr. Bartley entered the city's Water Department and served continuously until his death, principally at the Spring Garden and Roxborough stations. He was married twice, his last wife dying in 1894. When Mr. Bartley died, three daughters and one son survived him.

SCCAFF

11/2/1933

76

Now and Then

Veterans of the Philadelphia area are elated over the success of Congressman George P. Darrow in having a new Naval Hospital erected in Philadelphia. And those of the 21st Ward particularly happy because he is their "own" representative in the halls of the solons at Washington. Now the men who served Uncle Sam in a military manner can get the hospitalization that is needed by and justly due them.

The dilapidated old structure in "the Yard", at League Island will soon be a thing of the past. The one that preceded this medical centre, housed in frame buildings, was the old Naval Home, on Gray's Ferry avenue. And thereby hangs a tale with a probable local angle.

The Gray's Ferry road grounds were purchased by the United States for the purpose of a naval asylum and navy school, in 1826. The buildings were commenced in 1830 and they were formally occupied December 1st, 1831. The United States Naval Academy was established within this old building, before it was removed to its present location at Annapolis, Maryland, in 1845.

Upon the portico of the Gray's Ferry Road Naval Home there reposed for many years two small brass cannon. As far as we know they are still there. Three stories are connected with these ancient pieces of armament, the latter of which we, personally, like to believe. They are said to have been captured by Commodore Charles Stewart, of the Frigate "Constitution", in an engagement with the British Ship "Levant", on February 25th, 1815. Another account says that they were captured from Burgoyne at Saratoga, on October 17th, 1777, and the third tale has a local angle in that they were captured by Lafayette in his first fight with the Americans at the Battle of Brandywine and dragged back by his men to their encampment on the site of the Queen Lane Filtration plant in the Falls of Schuylkill.

The tale, however, requires ascertaining, a task which is a difficult one.

The pieces were cast in 1756, as this date appears on the inscription found on them. Two large cannon balls, made of granite, for the guns of the Turkish forts on the Hellespont, presented by Commodore J.D. Elliot in 1838, lie near them.

The Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania, between 1730 and 1735 sat in a building on the plot of ground now familiar to us as Independence Square, Philadelphia. In 1750, the King's august body authorized the erection of a building "on the south side of the State House, to contain a staircase, with suitable place for hanging a bell." This included the tower which is the foundation of the present spire on Independence Hall. A bell was directed to be obtained in October of 1751. A few days later Isaac Norris, speaker of

the Assembly, wrote to Robert Charles, of London, England, authorizing him to purchase for the use of the province a good bell of about 2000 pounds weight. And he said: "Let the bell be cast by the best workmen, and examined carefully before it is shipped, with the following words in large letters shaped around it, Viz: 'By the Order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1752.'

"And underneath, 'Proclaim Liberty Throughout all the Land to All the Inhabitants Thereof.' Lev. XXXV, 10."

The bell was cast at Whitechapel, London. It weighed 2080 pounds. It was received in Philadelphia about the end of August 1752. Upon trying the tone it was unfortunately cracked, and it was at first determined to send it back to London to have it recast; but before this was done, Pass & Stow, brass-founders of Philadelphia, undertook to recast the bell, and succeeded about the beginning of April, 1753. These founders had put too much copper in the metal prepared for the bell; and when it was tried, the tone was unsatisfactory. The bell was broken up again and recast by Pass & Stow, and was placed in the steeple about the beginning of June, 1753. This bell bore the inscriptions ordered by Isaac Norris for the original bell, and upon the 8th of July, 1776, its tones fulfilled the command, "proclaim liberty throughout the land". The bell was kept in the tower. It was taken down and removed to Bethlehem, Pa., upon the approach of the British army in 1777, and returned after the evacuation of the city. In 1781 the upper part of the steeple having become decayed and dangerous, was ordered taken down by the "Charlie" Flanagan of that day. The tower was covered with a hip roof, from which rose a short spire with weathercock. A small belfry was erected in the front, and in this bob-tailed steeple another was hung and used on public occasions. This was the original old bell which called the Assembly together long before the State House was built. In 1818 a new steeple was erected upon the tower which was sixty feet higher than that which was finished in 1753, but in architectural appearance was made to resemble the old steeple as nearly as possible. And a new and larger bell was placed in it.

The revered Old Liberty Bell was used after the first steeple was taken down only upon particular occasions. It was rang in honor of the news of the passage of the act of British Parliament emancipating the Catholics in 1828. It was rang on Washington's birthday in 1832, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of America's greatest patriot. It was cracked on the morning of July 8th, 1835, while tolling at the death of Chief Justice Marshall, who had died in Philadelphia on the 6th of that month, and whose remains were being removed, attended by City Councils and many citizens to a steamboat wharf to be transported to their last resting place in Richmond, Virginia. The bell, thus cracked is believed to have been

used on after-occasions which increased the fracture. It became hopelessly useless; for anything except a loved relic, after having been tried upon the observance of Washington's birthday on February 22nd, 1843.

The bell, from the time of the convention for delegates from the thirteen original States, was hung on a temporary pedestal awaiting the erection of a permanent monument commemorating the Declaration of Independence. Afterward a handsome wooden pedestal with emblematic carvings and decorations was prepared, upon which the bell was placed, and there it remained until 1873, when its setting was again changed.

The old Assembly-calling bell (not to be confused with the Liberty Bell) and the original clock of the first tower was sold to the Catholic Church of St. Augustine, at Fourth and Vine streets. These were destroyed when fire ravished the place of worship in 1844. Isaac Lukens, a watch and clock-maker of Philadelphia made the clock for the Independence Hall steeple that was erected in 1828-29.

SOCAFF.

10/19/1933

Now and Then

Philadelphians, who know their local history, are pondering on thoughts of happenings three hundred years ago.

Long prior to the coming of William Penn, there was a pioneer outpost, established by the Dutch, known as Fort Beversrede (meaning Beaver's Road), on land bought by Arent Corssen, Dutch commissary, east of the Schuylkill river, near Passyunk avenue. And down the Schuylkill went the canoes of the Delaware and Iroquois Indians, freighted with pelts, after a portage made at the Falls of Schuylkill.

That first white man's location in what is now Philadelphia, was a palisaded fort, defended with guns.

When the Swedes dispossessed the Dutch, they resented continuance of Dutch fur trade hereabouts. By order of John Printz, the Swedish Governor, a house was built on the banks of the Schuylkill, between the Dutchmen's Fort Beversrede and the river. That resulted in an eclipse of the first named trading post and ended the business of the Dutch.

Visitors to the three-day celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Germantown, tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday, may see the bell which summoned George Washington to church while he was President of the United States, and resided in what is now the 22nd Ward.

At two different periods Washington lived in Germantown, while he was the Chief Executive; both times in the dwelling known as the Morris House, just below School House Lane. In 1793, when yellow

fever was prevalent in Philadelphia, Washington and other members of his cabinet moved to Germantown until the epidemic had somewhat subsided.

He evidently liked it so well in the pleasant suburb (then a separate town) that the following summer, during the hottest months, he again went to live in the Morris House.

While stopping there Washington and his family attended the Dutch Reformed Church, opposite his residence in Market Square. Every Sunday morning Washington's house was kept tightly closed until the church bell rang. Then the front door was opened, the shutters thrown back and the President and his family walked down the steps and across the street to the church.

It was while attending these services, that occasionally Rev. William Smith, first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, then a resident of the Falls of Schuylkill, mounted his horse and rode out old Indian Queen Lane (then Bowman's lane) to Germantown, to conduct an Episcopal service for

"the Father of His Country."

The church land was purchased in November of 1732, by a committee of the Dutch Reformed Congregation. The church was conducted under the authority of the Amsterdam Classis for a number of years, when it became a German Reformed concern.

When the building was built, a bell that had been cast in Germany, in 1725, was placed in the steeple. The bell bears the inscription, in German, "Gott Allein die Ehre," meaning, "To God alone the honor." The steeple was surmounted by a weather-vane, described in the records as of "well finished iron."

After the German Reformed era, the church became an independent one, for three years. Then on July 1st, 1856, the congregation voted to become a Presbyterian Church, in which communion it has been ever since.

Trevelyan's "The American Revolution," in telling of depressing conditions just prior to the retirement of the American Army to Valley Forge, in October 1777, says: "As far back as the 18th of October, English officers had been puzzled and worried by a concerted discharge of artillery from all the American ships and batteries in the Delaware River. Something had evidently happened which pleased the adversary. Disagreeable rumors filtered through the British outposts; and, after the lapse of a fortnight, certainly came. On the 3rd of November, Sir William Howe announced to the army in a General Order that Burgoyne had capitulated at Saratoga. Such an extraordinary delay in the transmission of such important intelligence brought home to the apprehension of the British in Philadelphia a very painful sense of their own isolation. The increasing scarcity of provisions, fuel and warm clothing had already begun to teach them how completely they were cut off from the outer world. The approach of a Pennsylvania winter was severely felt by both man and beast. The

horses were in poor condition from cold weather, exhausted, pastures, and a total lack of imported forage. The price of most articles essential to human existence was flying up at an alarming rate. Salt fetched sixteen shillings a bushel, and butter four shillings a pound. Very poor meat was sold by the ounce and each ounce cost two-pence, while wheat flour could not be purchased. These sums were reckoned in hard money; for the notes issued by Congress did not pass current inside the city; but luxuries might be smuggled through the lines by those who could afford to pay for them in Continental paper on the scale of four hundred dollars for a pound of green tea, and a thousand dollars for a half a hundredweight of loaf sugar."

SCCAFF

9/28/1933

Pulaski With Americans At Local Camp

Polish Cavalry Leader Joined Americans Before Fight at Brandywine

DEATH-DATE N E A R S
Fell in Battle at Savannah, in October of 1779

Whenever the early days of October roll around, the student of United States history, recalls the deeds of Count Casimir Pulaski, who served with great distinction in the American army during the Revolution.

And to the resident of Roxborough, and the Falls of Schuylkill, there is added reason why this great general should be brought back to mind.

For he joined Washington's forces, in time for the Battle of Brandywine, in 1777, just before the Americans left their camp on the site of the present Queen Lane Filtration Plant, and after the battle came back with the fighters for freedom, to the same camping ground.

This campsite at that time was in, or on the very outskirts of Roxborough Township, but has been recognized for many years as the Falls of Schuylkill. In the old days the township line was farther below the School House lane (21st Ward) dividing line of today. And it is singularly appropriate that Pulaski avenue, nearby in Germantown, was named for this great man.

Born in Podolia, Poland, on March 4th 1748, of a noble and patriotic family, Count Pulaski was early drawn into the struggle

of his homeland to maintain its independence.

Together, with his father, two brothers, a cousin and three other men, he formed the famous Confederacy of Barr to defend the ancient rights of free Poles and oust the foreigners.

For eight years Pulaski performed such feats of strategy and valor he became known throughout Europe and America. In the end, however, in 1772, Russia, Austria, and Prussia made a joint invasion into Poland and divided its territory among them.

Pulaski escaped. His father had perished miserably in prison; one brother languished in irons; the other had been slain before his eyes; the cousin had been killed in action.

At length in 1777, his wanderings led him to France, where he met Benjamin Franklin and heard of the struggle then being waged between Britain and her American Colonies. The Declaration of Independence thrilled him, and he determined to make the Colonies' cause his own.

With Lafayette he joined the American Army, just before the troops left their camp along the Neshaminy to proceed to the Queen Lane site, during that period of anxiety felt by the American soldiers concerning the whereabouts of the British forces.

On August 22nd, 1777, Philadelphians heard the news that the British army, aboard ships, had been seen far up the Chesapeake Bay. By dawn of the following morning the whole American army was moved to meet the foe.

On September 11th the opposing armies met in the Battle of Brandywine, and Pulaski, as an uncommissioned volunteer officer, hastily formed a troop of cavalry, which until that time had never been organized. It was made up of the mounted aides of Washington's and other officers' staffs. With this band he performed valiant services throughout the day, and with it, as night fell, covered the retreat of the Continentals. So well did his conduct sustain his fame that on September 15th, four days after the Battle, on Washington's recommendation, Congress appointed him in command of the Continental Horse.

It was Pulaski who brought the first alarm of the British advance on the Lancaster Pike, near Warren's tavern, and it was he who, at Washington's request, suggested the disposition of the American forces to repel it. With his tiny troop he harried the Britons' van while that disposition was being made, and brief as the delay was, it was sufficient to deprive the Redcoats of the benefit of a surprise attack.

The brigade that Pulaski led in the Battle of Germantown, on

October 4th 1777, had scarcely 200 men all told. Few horses were to be had, and there was little opportunity for drill prior to the conflict. Under the circumstances it could not be expected that Pulaski's men would distinguish themselves so early after the formation of the group.

Pulaski's part in the Battle of Germantown, created a violent

historical controversy a half-century after the great fight, when Judge William Johnson brought forth a book containing the letters of General Nathaniel Greene, in which Johnson suggested that Pulaski was not "on the job" at the time of the attack in the early morning of October 4th.

These charges, however, are not substantiated by contemporary records, and they were denounced as untrue by Colonel Paul Bentalou, who had been a captain under Pulaski, and who published a reply to Judge Johnson.

Like every other officer in the Continental Army, foreign or native born, he was the victim of cruel intrigue and bitter jealousy, and find him, on March 4th 1778, at Washington's headquarters in Valley Forge, resigning his command of the Continental Cavalry, "from a conviction," as Washington wrote to the President of Congress, "that his remaining at the head of the cavalry was a constant subject of uneasiness to the principal officers of that corps."

Instead he craved permission to retain his rank as Brigadier General and to organize and, for the most part at his own expense, accouter and provision an independent corps of horse and foot, which was destined later to become famous in history under the name of "Pulaski's Legion."

Ordered south by Congress in 1779, he arrived at Charleston on May 8th, and found the city almost entirely invested by the British and the inhabitants of the town, the Governor and Council just about to accede to the British general's demand for "a complete and unconditional surrender."

The idea was intolerable to Pulaski. Joining his devoted friend, Colonel Laurens, he accompanied General Moultrie to the Council chamber. The zeal of the soldiers awakened the courage of the assembly. The effect was that Pulaski led an attack upon the British which made them fall back and Charleston was saved.

On September 1, 1779, Count D'Estaing appeared on the coast of Georgia with a large fleet and about 6000 French troops to aid the Americans in an attack upon Savannah. A siege by the combined French and American forces failing, an assault was decided upon. The cavalry, French and American, was stationed at the rear of the columns under the command of Pulaski.

As soon as the way was opened, he was to rush in with these combined troops of horse and carry confusion and dismay among the garrison. D'Estaing himself led the French corps of attack. The British, however, had been informed by spies and at the first alarm opened a deadly fire. D'Estaing was seriously wounded. Hoping to rally the Allies, Pulaski rushed forward, only to fall mortally wounded. He died two days later, on October 11, 1779, aboard the United States brig, The Wasp.

SCCAFF

January 11, 1934

Story of Franklin Recalled By His Birth Anniversary

Philosopher Had Many Differences With Dr. William Smith
First Provost of the University of Pennsylvania

Wednesday of next week, January 17th, will be observed, with fitting exercises, by several Philadelphia organizations, as the birth anniversary of Benjamin Franklin.

And thereby hangs a local tale. Franklin be it remembered was born on January 17th 1702. In his autobiography, Poor Richard has this to say of his family: "My father married in early life. He went, with his wife and three children to New England, about the year 1682. Conventicles being at that time published by law, and frequently disturbed, some considerable persons of his acquaintance determined to go to America, where they hoped to enjoy the free exercises of their religion, and my father was prevailed on to accompany them.

"My father had also, by the same wife, four children born in America and ten others by a second wife, making seventeen in all. I remembered to have seen thirteen seated together at his table, who all arrived at years of maturity, and were married. I was the last of the sons, and the youngest child, excepting two daughters. I was born at Boston, in New England. My mother, the second wife, was Abiah Folger, daughter of Peter Folger, one of the first colonists of New England, of whom Cotton Mather makes honorable mention, in his Ecclesiastical History of that province, as "a pious and learned Englishman," if I rightly recollect his expressions. I have been told of his having written a variety of little pieces; but there appears to be only one in print, which I met with many years ago.

"My brothers were all put apprentices to different trades. With respect to myself I was sent, at the age of eight years, to a grammar school. My father destined me for the church, and already regarded me as the chaplain of the family. The promptitude with which from my infancy I had learned to read, for I do not ever remember to have been with this acquirement, and the encouragement of his friends, who assured him that I should one day certainly become a man of letters, confirmed him to this design. My uncle Benjamin approved also of the scheme, and promised to give me all his volumes of sermons, written, in a shorthand of his invention, if I would take the pains to learn it.

"I remained, however, scarcely a year at the grammar school, although in this short interval I had risen from the middle to the head of my class, from thence to the class immediately above, and was to pass, at the end of the year, to

the one next in order. But, my father, burdened with the numerous family, found that he was incapable, without subjecting himself to difficulties, or providing for the expenses of a collegiate education; and considering, besides, as I heard him say to his friends, that persons so educated were often poorly provided for, he renounced his first intentions, took me from the grammar school and sent me to a school for writing and arithmetic, kept by a Mr. George Brownwell, who was a skilful master, and succeeded very well in his profession by employing gentle means only, and such as were calculated to encourage his scholars. Under him I soon acquired an excellent hand; but I failed on arithmetic, and made therein no sort of progress.

"At ten years of age I was called home to assist my father in his occupation, which was that of a soapboiler and tallowchandler; a business to which he had served no apprenticeship, but which he embraced on his arrival in New England, because he found his own, that of dyer, in too little request to enable him to maintain his family. I was accordingly employed in cutting the wicks, filling the moulds, taking care of the shop, carrying messages, etc.

"This business displeased me, and I felt a strong inclination for a sea life; but my father set his face against it. The vicinity of the water, however, gave me frequent opportunities of venturing myself both upon and within it, and I soon acquired the art of swimming, and of managing a boat.

"I continued to be in my father's trade for the space of two years; that is to say, till I arrived at twelve years of age. About this time my brother, John, who had served his apprenticeship in London, having quitted my father, and being married and settled in business on his own account at Rhode Island, I was destined, to all appearances, to supply his place, and be a candle maker all my life; but my dislike of this occupation continuing, my father was apprehensive that if a more agreeable one were not offered me, I might play the truant and escape to sea as, to his extreme mortification, my brother Josias had done. He therefore took me sometimes to see masons, coopers, braziers, joiners, and other mechanics, employed at their work, in order to discover the bent of my inclinations and fix it if he could upon some occupation that might retain me on shore.

"My brother had returned from England in 1717, with a press and types, in order to establish a print-

ing house at Boston. This business pleased me better than that of my father, though I still had a predilection for the sea."

From there on most of Franklin's life story is known to the American people, and especially those of Philadelphia.

Franklin was the first president of the College of Philadelphia, afterwards the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. William Smith, whose old home still stands on Indian Queen lane, in East Falls was its first provost. Provost Smith and Franklin did not entirely agree on college policies and frequently had wordy differences on the subject.

On Saturday, April 17th 1790, Franklin died, in the 88th year of his life. On that evening a company of gentlemen were seated at the dinner table of Governor Mifflin, at the Falls of Schuylkill. It consisted of Thomas McKean, Henry Hill, owner of Roxborough Plantation, at whose house George Washington had made his headquarters at the time the American troops occupied their Queen lane filtration plant camp-site prior to the Battle of Brandywine; Hon. Thomas Willing; David Rittenhouse the famed astronomer and mathematician, and Dr. Smith. During the dinner a great thunderstorm arose, and "Primus," the favorite negro body-servant of Dr. Smith, brought to Governor Mifflin's house the news that had just been received at Dr. Smith's townhouse, of the demise of the philosopher, Dr. Smith, under the impulse of the moment, wrote the following lines without leaving the table.

"Cease! Cease ye clouds, your elemental strife,
Why rage ye thus, as if to threaten life?"

Seek, seek no more to shake our souls with dread,
What busy mortal told you, 'Franklin's dead?'
What, though he yields at Jove's imperious nod,
With Rittenhouse he left his magic rod."

Mr. Willing, not to be outdone by Dr. Smith, immediately wrote the following:

"What means that flash, the thunder's awful roar—
The blazing sky—unseen, unheard before?
Sage Smith replies, 'our Franklin is no more'
The clouds, long subject to his magic chain,
Exulting now their liberty regain."

On Wednesday the 21st of April, Dr. Franklin's remains were interred in Christ Church burial ground at the corner of Fifth and Arch streets.

Edgar Fahs Smith, a recent provost at the University, in a brochure made public in 1927, refers to the eulogy over Franklin, which was made by Dr. Smith, proving his unsparing but invictive attitude toward his opponents, as follows:

"The eulogy on Franklin was another significant effort, delivered with great dramatic effect before

a vast concourse of people.

"When the American Philosophical Society chose Provost Smith to deliver the eulogy upon Franklin he demurred. He had never forgotten the adverse criticism on "me college," as it was oft called by Smith, made by the old philosopher. More than a year elapsed before he discharged the duty imposed on him by the Society, of which he was an honored member and long its Secretary. The oc-

casions was of unusual interest. Immense crowds assembled and the Provost was in every sense the master of the day.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies many distinguished people gathered about the dinner-table at the Provost's home. All can imagine what the subjects might be which were discussed. Tradition has it that the Provost's favorite daughter—Rebecca—simply shocked the company by saying very innocently, yet mischievously, "Father, father! I think you don't believe one-tenth of what you said about Old Ben Lightning Rod!"

The following epitaph, on himself, is cut on the stone of Franklin's grave: "The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer, (like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stript of its lettering and gilding) lies here food for worms; yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will (as he believed) appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by The Author."

At the conclusion of his will, Franklin wrote: "I request my friends, Henry Hill Esquire (Of Roxborough), Francis Hopkinson, and Mr. Edward Duffield, of Bonfield, in Philadelphia County, to be the executors of this my last will and testament, and I hereby nominate and appoint them for that purpose."

SCCAFF

Now and Then

In an old directory of Manayunk, Roxborough and the Falls of Schuylkill, of a half-century ago, is an interesting record of the fraternal orders which existed at that time, with the names of the officers then in charge.

The local Odd Fellows assembled at various places in this vicinity. Manayunk Lodge No. 31, which was organized on August 24th 1830, met in Odd Fellows Hall, on Baker street above Green lane, every Saturday evening. The officers were N. G. Joseph Garth; V. G., H. B. Wimpenny; A. S., Thomas N. Allison; Secretary, James Berry; treasurer, James Duncan, and trustees, John McCook, Benjamin Jaggers and Francis Levering.

Industry Lodge No. 130 I. O. O. F., organized on November 15th 1845, met in the same hall as Manayunk Lodge, on Tuesday evenings. The officers were: N. G., John R. Bradshaw; V. G., John F. Horrocks; Secretary, Rudolph Gal-

ati; Assistant Secretary, Solomon Steinrook; treasurer, William Smith, and representative to the Grand Lodge, James Plant. The trustees were Lewis Bean, Isaac Wilde and Richard B. Ott.

Roxborough Lodge, No. 66, instituted May 28th 1841, met in Odd Fellows Hall, Ridge and Lyceum avenues, on Saturday nights. The leaders were: N. G., H. C. Whiteman; V. G., James O. Holgate; Secretary, F. S. Whiteman; Assistant secretary, C. C. Crosdale; treasurer, William H. Harner, and representative to the Grand Lodge, William Ring.

Andrew Jackson Encampment No. 9, I. O. O. F., organized on June 16th 1842, met in the Manayunk Odd Fellows Hall, on 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Henry Wilde was Chief Patriarch; Henry Woolman was H. P., the S. W. was Charles Hunsberger; J. W., Henry R. Lukens; Scribe, Rudolph Gallati; treasurer, William Leech; and trustees, John Bowers, Louis Freedman and Richard B. Ott.

The Roxborough Encampment, instituted November 29th 1847, had a membership of seventy. The officers were: C. P., James O. Holgate; S. W., August Peterman, J. W., H. C. Whiteman; Scribe, George B. Levering; treasurer, J. B. Righter and H. P., Richard Cope. This group met on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Odd Fellows Hall, Roxborough.

Falls of Schuylkill Lodge No. 467, had a roll of 226. It met on Monday evenings in Odd Fellows Hall, at Ridge and Midvale avenues. The officers were: N. G., C. M. Green; V. G., E. G. Smith; secretary, James A. Mills; assistant secretary, John Gidley; treasurer, William R. Swartz; representative to the Grand Lodge, John Burke. The Falls of Schuylkill Encampment, instituted May 7th 1867, had 72 members. The officers were: C. P., E. C. Leidy; S. W., C. M. Green; J. W., John Speck; H. P., H. E. Green; Scribe, C. Whalley and treasurer, J. J. Righter.

The Masonic lodges were, as at present, Roxborough Lodge No. 135 and Palestine Lodge No. 470.

The former met at Masonic Hall, at Main and Cotton street. It was organized April 3rd 1813. In 1883-84 the officers were: W. M., John M. Hodson; J. W. A., A. W. Givin; treasurer, William Walter Shaw; S. W., James G. Brooks, and secretary, Thomas McCully.

Palestine Lodge met in Odd Fellows Hall, Ridge and Midvale avenues, on the 4th Tuesday of each month. It had been constituted on May 17th 1870. The 1883-84 officers were: W. M., J. J. Righter; S. W., Frank Boutcher; J. W., W. R. Swartz; secretary, James A. Mills, and treasurer, Charles K. Sorber.

Camp Fifty, of the P. O. S. of A., which had been organized May 28, 1858, in Manayunk, was re-chartered in Roxborough, on March 18, 1869. Fifty years ago it had a membership of one hundred, and met every Thursday night, in Lyceum Hall, at Ridge and Lyceum avenues, Roxborough. The officers were: President, Harry Donnell; V. P., Charles Dewees; Recording secretary, William H. Taylor.

Camp No. 111, of the P. O. S. of

A., organized October 19th, 1874, met every Tuesday at Masonic Hall, Manayunk. The officers were: President, J. H. Reynolds; Vice president, John H. Fisher, M. of I and C., John A. Ehly, and recording secretary, John F. Miller.

The Red Men boasted of three wigwams: Manalung Tribe No. 118, of Manayunk; Wawatam Tribe, No. 63 of Roxborough; and Wyalusing Tribe No. 56, at the Falls of Schuylkill.

Manalung Tribe was organized March 2nd 1870 and at 1883 had a membership of 98. It met every Friday evening at Temperance Hall, (Dixie Rose Theatre) Manayunk. The Sachem was Samuel Grow; Senior Sagamore, Samuel H. Grove; Junior Sagamore, John S. Fryer and Chief of the Records, W. R. Davis.

Wawatam Tribe, instituted February 26th 1866, met at Lyceum Hall, on Thursday evenings. The officers were: Sachem, Anthony A. Wetherill; Senior Sagamore, Joseph Lilly; Junior Sagamore, Louis Smick; Prophet, William W. Nace; Chief of Records, Charles F. Hardie; Keeper of Wumpum, Samuel Strout and representative to the Grand Council, William Carl.

Wyalusing Tribe, which assembled every Friday night in Odd Fellows Hall, at Ridge and Midvale avenues, was instituted on July 16th, 1861. In 1883 the officers were: Sachem, George Kindon; Senior Sagamore, Giles S. Stafford; Junior Sagamore, Robert Tweedie; Chief of Records, Theodore S. Marley; Keeper of Wumpum, Edward Foster.

There were other fraternal organizations, beneficial, and temperance societies, all of which had large enrollments. Among these were Cicero Lodge No. 73 K. of P., of Manayunk; the Sons of St. George, Collingswood Lodge No. 17, of Manayunk; Manayunk Division No. 54, Sons of Temperance; St. John's T. A. B. Society, of which Patrick Curran was president; St. John's T. A. B. Cadets, with Charles McCoy as its 1883 leader; St. Bridget's T. A. B. Society, William Conery, President; Sons of Joshua, Loyal Orange Lodge No. 555, of Wissahickon; St. Peter's Beneficial Society, of Manayunk; the Rev. David Mulholland Society, of which Levi Hendricks was president; the Washington Beneficial Society; the Manayunk Beneficial Society, St. Timothy's Yearly Beneficial Society, with J. V. Merrick as president; the St. Joseph's Society and others of lesser prominence, to which most of the men and boys of this area belonged in a day when diversion was largely found in the lodge room and similar meeting places.

SCCAFF

1933

Viewing The City From The Queen Lane Reservoir

Reminiscences of a New Year's Night Twenty-One Years Ago. — Neighborhood Has Changed But Little Since 1912

Twenty-one years ago, on New Year's night, 1912, the writer dwelt in the old Hubbard house, which stood southeast of the Queen lane reservoir, along what is now Abbottsford avenue.

In those days there were not many dwellings, or other buildings, in the vicinity. Just west of the "big basin" was the ancient Abbottsford mansion, tumbling in its ruin, which has been replaced with the college and hospital buildings and the campus of the Greater Woman's Medical College; then, too, Bella Vista, the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Dobson, stood around the corner on Abbottsford road. Next to the late carpet manufacturer's home, which still stands, was the Richards place, since destroyed by fire, and then Edgewood, the Hubbard home, which has also been removed by the Fire Demon. A few years before the time referred to, there stood on the corner of Fox street and Abbottsford avenue, the Griffith Evans house, which was intimately connected with the Revolutionary days of America. "And that's all there was, there wasn't anymore," to paraphrase a one-time famed lady of the stage.

It is New Year's night, and I wait for a group of young people from the Falls Methodist Church who are coming up to visit us. I climb the steep bank of the reservoir and walk around the bricked driveway which skirts the top of the city's great water receptacle. It was a cold and blowy night, exactly like that of last Saturday. The skies were black save for the stars which twinkled and gleamed from a thousand port-holes in the heavens. I turn to look toward the city. I find there are conditions of atmosphere which magnify the huge town and distort some of its elements; a sunset on a clear day will sometimes do this. Under the lights of a full moon the crowded municipality seems greater than ever, because the edges and outskirts, silvered by the fairy light go shimmering off interminably, intriguing one's imagination with the belief that the city flows on forever, melting into heavenly fields far beyond.

Against the black curtain that canopied western New Jersey, the beautiful skyline, now and then broken by great masses, formless

and shadowy, heaped against it. Little could be identified. The statue of William Penn, on City Hall, was marked by a little coronet of lights, near the great Quaker effigy's feet, high above everything else. Since then other great buildings have arisen in Philadelphia sky, and additional electric and gas-electric illumination makes the structures more brilliant and familiar.

On that far away evening the cold black "mask of night" had fallen upon the plain covered with a confusion of tumbled dark masses, generally rectangular. The effect of one brilliantly lighted building was striking, the color was like that of the moonlight upon a warm colored stretch of sand. Here and there were myriads of twinkling lights sparkling blue, but the blackness about them contracted their effulgence.

The lines of the nearby streets and bridges were marked by long rows of many pin-pointed lights, some of them curving. Since 1912 there has been added to these the distant Delaware River bridge, and the more recent Henry avenue bridge over the Reading track near Allegheny avenue. But to go back again. The cornices of downtown buildings, too, were discerned by rows of electric light. The end windows of a house just across the field below me—on Crawford street—reflected tinsel and Christmas tree ornaments.

Huge electric signs were everywhere, offsetting feelings and the glamour of romance that hovered about the great abyss-like shadows of streets that were filled, by day, with happy, busy folk, exulting in the sunshine, with duties to perform and pleasures to pursue.

A note of warm color is to be seen on the illuminated facades of the houses along the east side of "the Basin". This faint, rose-colored flush fluctuated now and then as passing lights fell upon the dwellings. These came from the sudden release of long lines of automobiles filled with merry holiday seekers freed by some alert traffic policeman. The rising glow was caused by the headlights of the motor cars.

12/12/1935

81

"Old Oaks" Was Palatial Home of Late John Tucker

Railroad President's Home
Stood on Site of Atwater-
Kent Radio Factory

A SOCIAL CENTRE

Estate Was Afterward Purchased by a Company for
Cemeterial Purposes

Time, in its flight, makes great changes in the neighborhood in which we live, many of which come about so natural as to be unobserved by the present generation.

There are a lessening number of people who reside here who have a clear recollection of the land which Falls of Schuylkill people used to familiarly call "up in back of the Reservoir," reference being made to the area now covered by the vast radio plant of the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company.

Just about where the offices of the company now stand was a one-time palatial mansion known as "Old Oaks". It was originally the home of John Tucker, who was the first president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, for whom it was erected about one hundred years ago, by Christian Swartz, the railroad company's master mason, who later utilized a new method of stone construction in building the Reading Company's stone bridge over the Schuylkill at the Falls.

Swartz was the father of the late James Simmons Swartz, a great benefactor of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church.

Old Oaks, on the brow of the hill overlooking a long stretch of land south of Abbottsford avenue, and west of the old Germantown township line, which is now called Wissahickon avenue, gradually crumbled into decay from lack of use. It was a huge brown stone pile that long attracted the attention of passengers on the Pennsylvania Railroad branch to Chestnut Hill, prior to the electrification of the line.

The grounds, at the time the great house was built, extended down Wissahickon avenue from Abbottsford avenue to Hunting Park avenue—or Nicetown lane, as it was then called—and west to what is now Stokley street, with the exception of a tract known as "Devonshire" which was the home of the late George Blight.

Back of Old Oaks mansion there used to be large stables, coach houses and other buildings of heavy brownstone, and a large octagonal-shaped summer house of ornamen-

tal iron, erected over a deep, walled-up, ice-preserving house. These structures were all surrounded by lowering oak trees, from which the place received its name.

Along the Pennsylvania railroad front was another wood of huge oaks, extending over an L-shaped portion of the grounds toward Wissahickon avenue. These noble trees were afterward killed off by the fumes from the industrial plants which sprung up about the place, among which were the Midvale Steel Company, the Conkling and Armstrong Terra Cotta Works, the American Pulley Company and others, prior to the coming of Budds.

West of the handsome home and down in the hollow were many grape arbors and greenhouses. The latter had an arched roof, glazed with best French glass of the finest quality. On the ends and along the sides the glass bore pictures of fruit and vegetables in rich coloring. Beneath were deep bricked vaults.

When occupied by the Tucker family the house was the scene of many brilliant social functions. Two driveways led from Nicetown lane to the mansion, with bridges spanning the Port Richmond branch of the Reading Lines.

In 1870 the property was purchased by a company and was transformed into the Old Oaks Cemetery. In front of the mansion, on slanting ground, was laid a large circle from which avenues radiated in all directions. Upon the circle was erected a large monument bearing a statue of Peter Lyle, chief of the Volunteer Firemen of Philadelphia.

A large number of burial lots were sold and for a time the prospects of the cemetery becoming a popular one were encouraging. It turned out, however, that the most of the ground was so wet from springs that graves in being dug would fill with water. From this and other causes the cemetery was abandoned and the dead therein removed to other places.

The opening of the Chestnut Hill Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad through the grounds disfigured the estate by the filling up of the lowlands west of the mansion where the grape arbors and greenhouses had stood. This hollow and the winding drive from Abbottsford avenue was later made a dump for city ash-gatherers, which killed more of the oaks that once thrived there.

Another invasion of the property was made in building railroad sidings into Midvale Steel Works and other plants. Most of the front toward the Reading Railroad was sold and additional manufacturing plants built.

Streets have been opened through the Old Oaks ground, in the march of time, and practically all of the remainder covered by the great radio factory.

S.C.A.F.F.

7/12/1934

Canoe Club Has Occupied "Colony Castle" Since 1905

Many of Original Members Are Still Residents of This Section.—Structure Has a Long and Interesting History

Back in 1905 a group of young men, residing in the Falls of Schuylkill, decided that the old building at the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek would make an ideal home for a canoe club. These were none other than Dr. David Boon, now president of the 21st Ward Medical Society; William J. Benham, secretary of the Board of Revision of Taxes; W. D. Jamison, and Frank Kerber.

Dr. Boon had been appointed a committee of one to see about renting the property, but the first time the party visited the building none would enter the place except Boon, because of the litter which cluttered up the interior. They realized however that the building was in the right location for their purposes, and it wasn't long before the place was cleaned up and made inviting. Many times, in those early days, the men were warned not to stay there after dark because the house was haunted.

Colony Castle, as the structure has been known since that time, due to past history, is a most interesting place. "William Penn, by the grace of God and King, Proprietor of Pennsylvania, on the 21st day of the first month, 1683" granted to Robert Turner, native of Cambridge, England, 500 acres of land known as "Sumac Park," in the manor of Springettsbury. This is now Roxborough Township, but at that time extended down as far as Midvale avenue. On June 19th 1686, Robert Turner leased for 101 years, 50 1-2 acres of the 500 acres

to Joshua Tittery, a broad-glass maker, and Richard Townsend, a millwright; they agreeing to erect mills and improve the land. Before 1689 they erected a grist mill and a saw mill on opposite sides of the Wissahickon Creek on what is now Ridge avenue. In 1690 and 1691 they sold the two mills and the land to Andrew Robeson, Sr., of West New Jersey, and Charles Saunders. Robeson died in 1694 and his half interest was purchased by his nephew, Andrew Robeson, 2nd. In 1703, Sarah, the widow of Charles Saunders, wished to sell her half interest in the two mills and land to Robeson.

The Court, however, ordered that eight acres of this land could not be divided, so the heirs of Andrew Robeson, 2nd, and Charles Saunders continued to own jointly the eight acres, running from Ridge avenue to the Schuylkill. This is the land on which the Canoe Club building now stands.

In 1775 John Vandaren purchased the mill and eight acres. A Revolutionary tradition says that this structure, Colony Castle, the home

of the Philadelphia Canoe Club, was once the headquarters of Moses Doane and his seven brothers, the noted Bucks County outlaws, who terrorized the colonists in the upper reaches of Philadelphia County and also what is now part of Montgomery County.

John Vandaren owned the mill during the War for Independence and during the battle of Germantown, on October 4th 1777, the American forces of John Armstrong carried out the only successful part of General Washington pre-arranged plan of battle, against the Hessians at and near the mouth of the Wissahickon.

On June 6th 1789 the mill was sold to Peter and Jonathan Robeson. A survey of 1848 records a logwood mill, nearby, which manufactured dyes made from chipping and grinding logwood. It was still owned by the heirs of the Robesons and rented to Minister and Moore, who had married into the family. The one-time Riverside Mansion, since dismantled by the American Bridge Company, was once the residence of the Minsters.

In 1868-68 the State Legislature created the Fairmount Park Commission and gave it power to purchase the property near the stream. Shortly afterward the Commissioners had all the buildings on this parcel of land demolished, with the exception of Riverside and the building used by the Canoe Club. Riverside was torn down just prior to the World War, leaving Colony Castle the sole remaining historical structure.

In April of 1876, when Dr. William Camac, a resident of Wissahickon, was president of the "State in Schuylkill Fishing Club," this organization of fisherman occupied Colony Castle. The State in Schuylkill Club was organized in 1732, and is still in existence, along the Delaware, near Eddington. In an earlier day, the former Fort St. David's Fishing Club, which had its headquarters near the eastern end of the Reading railroad Company's Stone Bridge at the Falls of Schuylkill, merged with the State in Schuylkill Club. Many noted Philadelphians were members of both of these clubs. The home of Dr. Camac, still stands in the rear of the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, on Manayunk avenue, and is familiar to adults as "The Pen-coyd Club."

The State in Schuylkill Fishing Club, moved away from Colony Castle in 1887, and the building was

unoccupied from then until May 22nd 1905, when the Philadelphia Canoe Club took up its abode there.

Colony Castle is just as interesting on the inside as it is on the outside. It has a large open fireplace in one corner of the great living room with a massive Colonial mantelpiece.

A good deal of the information given above is contained in a brief framed history of the Canoe Club, which was presented to the organization by one of its first members J. Howard Fell, who graciously gives credit to James F. Magee, Jr., for the research work.

By 1915 the Philadelphia Canoe Club had been incorporated and had a full membership limited to 75 persons. The officers, at that time were: Commodore, Dr. David J. Boon; Vice-Commodore, Howard R. Lord; secretary, Joseph W. Blain; treasurer, Eugene Hunter; quartermaster, Earl P. Kerber; fleet captain, Alfred H. Kress; and directors, Arthur J. Ehringer, Fred Ehringer, J. Howard Fell, Otto R. Stoeckel, and G. F. Eisenhardt.

SCCAFF

8/29/1933

Park First Intended To Insure Purity Of City's Water Supply

Terrane Draining Into Schuylkill and Wissahickon Purchased in Order to Keep Impurities From Flowing Into the Streams

The first acquisition of land by the City of Philadelphia within the bounds of Fairmount Park was made in the year of 1812, for the purpose of obtaining a supply of water free from the impurities of city drainage, and a site for a reservoir high enough to distribute this supply to the homes and business places of the town. Can you imagine how high a storage basin would have to be in this period of the city's life to reach the highest floors of our present-day office buildings?

The precipitous bluff known from the earliest days as "Faire Mount" was the nearest point sufficiently high for the plans of water made by our old city fathers: It was then outside the city limits and much too far away to be thought of as a resort for public recreation; the most remote spot reached by pedestrians of that day was the water basin on the Schuylkill at the head of Chestnut street.

By the first purchase only five acres was obtained, at a cost of \$16,667, but additional ground was bought as it was needed until the whole tract, in 1828, consisted of 24 acres, the aggregate cost of which was \$116,834.

When the Water Works had been established upon a scale, at that time, of unexampled magnitude and excellence, the good taste and judgment of the projector and lifelong superintendent promoted the

adornment of the grounds by planting shade trees and covering the rugged cliffs with shrubbery and vines. All the surroundings were at that time rural. The view up the valley of the river brought in sight the elegant country seats of Lemon Hill and Sedgely, on the east bank, and Solitude and Eggesfield and Lansdowne on the west. The factories of Manayunk had then no existence, and no town or cluster of houses bordered on the stream, with the exception of the Falls of Schuylkill, until it reached the village of Norristown, fifteen miles distant.

For more than twenty years after the foundation of the Fairmount Water Works, Philadelphians reposed in the belief of their unsurpassable excellence and their perpetuity; and indeed did not become fully awake from this pleasant dream for about thirty years.

Trade and human industry had broken in upon the quiet of the rural scene and had driven out the descendants of ancient dwellers at the country seats, some years before the city authorities made the unwelcome discovery that their cup of water was in danger of becoming a poisoned chalice.

No sooner did this suspicion take a tangible shape than the men of action urged prompt measures to put away the insipid evil; but with them, as with most other pion-

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eers in social progress, the great difficulty was, not in doing the things they had liberally devised, but in getting clear of the hindrances ingeniously set up by the obstructive members of the community. But perseverance brought success.

An opportunity offered itself for buying the estate known as Lemon Hill, containing 45 acres, lying nearer to the forebay of the Water Works than any other large parcel of open land, and so located as to pour its surface waters directly into the current that supplied the city reservoirs. In Revolutionary times it was the country seat of Robert Morris, the patriot financier; there he hospitably entertained many of the most eminent of his contemporaries; and there in later life, when financial ruin overtook him, he kept out of reach of the sheriff's writs. At the close of that century, this fine estate passed into the hands of a successful merchant and man of liberal tastes, under whose embellishment it attained that beauty which made Pratt's Garden the pride of Philadelphia. Mr. Pratt sold it in 1836, for \$225,000, to men who intended to use it for investment purposes. While in their possession much of its adornment fell into ruin, but its natural beauties and many of its noble trees remained. A slump in the real estate market depreciated its value to one-third of the price which had been paid for it.

The favorable opportunity was not lost by the persevering advocates of pure water; they at once redoubled their efforts and the Lemon Hill estate became the property of the city in 1844, at a cost of \$75,000.

In 1855, in an Ordinance of Councils, approved on September 28, it stated that the ground would be "devoted and dedicated to public use, as a Park, the Lemon Hill estate, to be known, by the name of Fairmount Park."

In 1857, by concerted efforts, subscriptions amounting to \$60,000 were obtained for the purpose of buying and presenting to the city, the estate known as "Sedgely", containing some 14 acres, situated between Lemon Hill and the Spring Garden Water Works; the price of which was \$125,000. The land was bought and tendered to the city subject to a mortgage for the balance of the purchase money.

The Sedgely tract, like Lemon Hill, had once belonged to Robert Morris, constituting the country seat designated by its owner as "the Hills."

On one of Holmes' old maps, dated 1681, on which is marked "Faire Mount" the place is located within the manor of Springettsbury, which was a large proprietary tract situated north of Vine street, and extending from the River Schuylkill to some distance east of the road to Wissahickon (Ridge avenue) containing 1830 acres.

In 1718, the commissioners of William Penn sold 1084 acres of this land, which lay north of the present Fairmount avenues, and west of Ridge avenue, to Jonathan Dickerson, who, by his will, devised the

12/17/1936

same to his son by the name of the "Vineyard." In 1768 Tench Francis became owner of 400 acres of the "Vineyard" and 1770 sold to Robert Morris several parcels of land, including with others, Sedgely and Lemon Hill.

Another section of the original tract, that lying between the Schuylkill and Twenty-first street, and Vine and Fairmount avenue, was divided between John Penn and John Penn, Jr., and later sold to Robert Morris and subsequently came into the hands of the Park Commissioners.

In 1868, an additional acreage of 310 acres was added on the east side of the river, being bounded by the Reading Railroad, along the river to near Dauphin street, eastward as far as Thirty-third street, thence to Ridge avenue to South Laurel Hill.

A dedication was made in 1869 by Jesse George and his sister, Rebecca George, of "George's Hill" and at the death of these two benevolent persons their property came into the possession of the pary authorities.

In the same year the Wissahickon section was added to Fairmount Park, the boundaries being "along the shores of the Wissahickon creek, on both sides of the same, from its mouth to the Paul's Hill road, and of such width as may embrace the road now passing along the same; and may also protect the purity of the water of said creek, and by passing along the crest of the heights which are on either side of said creek, may preserve the beauty of its scenery."

From the foregoing the reader may grasp the fact that primarily the first ground which was purchased by the city, was not intended for park purposes, but for preserving the purity of the community's water supply. And now while we are proud of Fairmount and its wooded hills, rolling lawns and well-paved highways we have strayed away from our intention of keeping the Schuylkill's waters fit to drink.

SCCAFF.

Should be westward

Why Two Queen Lanes?

Confusion Created by Streets With Similar Names. — Traditions Cling to Oldest Thoroughfare

Strangers to the Falls of Schuylkill, especially deliverymen from downtown stores, often find it confusing to properly locate Queen lane. And the condition is due to nothing little short of foolishness on the part of those who have charge of naming the city's thoroughfares.

The "Queen lane" of time-honored tradition, properly known as "Indian Queen lane," received its name from a Revolutionary period inn, of the same title, which was located at the Germantown end of the old road. It ran from what is now Germantown avenue and Queen lane to the Schuylkill river, giving access to a ferry which permitted travelers to cross the stream and proceed on their way into inland Pennsylvania. Today its western terminus is at Ridge avenue, just below Midvale avenue.

"Indian Queen Lane," below Vaux street, takes a bend to the northeast and ends at the Queen Lane Filtration plant.

Prior to the building of the great water basins, the road ran over to the Queen lane station of the Pennsylvania railroad, and then made another bend directly east and continued on to Germantown road.

The building of the basins forced vehicles to make a circuitous route around the reservoir, but pedestrians could still take an almost direct course by way of a footpath between the two basins. When the northern basin was converted into the filtration plant, even that "short-cut" was eliminated. Soon afterward the remaining portion of the original "Queen lane," east of the basins to the railroad station, was closed to traffic.

For many years an ungraded street ran from the Pennsylvania railroad station eastward to North 35th street, in East Falls. When real estate men opened up the surrounding fields for development, they believed the street to be—or knowingly appropriated the title—Queen lane, and named the locality "Queen Lane Manor." All of which results in confusion for persons attempting to locate people living on "Queen Lane," between 35th street and Henry avenue. The slight difference of adding the old time "Indian" in front of the older street, is hardly sufficient to prevent many errors.

The possible history of one of Philadelphia's oldest sections would seem to warrant that the traditional name of the old lane be retained where it belongs, and that the newer street be given an entirely different designation.

At that point in the Falls of

Schuylkill where Indian Queen lane turns to the northwest (the head of Scott's lane) Abbottsford lane, once had its beginning. The first few hundred feet of the latter road, was a private entrance to a mansion house known as "Abbottsford," which site is now occupied by the Woman's Medical College and Hospital. The dwelling may have been named after the ancient home of Sir Walter Scott, but it is more likely that it received its appellation from the fact that at one time a family by the name of Abbott resided there. The building had been originally erected by a man named Nicklin, in 1752.

There is an incident in "Pemberton," the old Centennial year novel by Henry Peterson, which has been said to refer to this "Abbottsford" at the Falls.

Between the old house and the southeast corner of the reservoir was during the American Revolution, a small private burying ground. The place was enclosed by a fence and one of the stones indicated that Captain Sims, of the British Army had been interred there.

On what used to be the corner of Abbottsford lane and Henry ave-

nue (not the present intersection, but one nearer Indian Queen lane) stood a log cabin which, historians relate, was used to isolate men of the British army who were stricken with contagious diseases.

Families who lived in "Abbottsford" prior to the Abbots, included those bearing the names of White, Moss, Bird, and Wilson.

At one time, when changes were being made around the place, long before the Medical College and Hospital were built, an underground passage was discovered, leading toward Scott's lane. The tunnel was wide enough for a person to crawl through, and is thought to have been a secret way of escape from the house in time of attack.

General Von Knyphausen, who commanded the Hessians forces in the Battle of Germantown, resided temporarily at "Abbottsford". Musket balls, grapeshot and military buttons have often been unearthed nearby. The writer once picked up a United States penny dated "1781".

The path which skirted the lower side of the estate near the property line of the Dobson family. The penny, which was coined two years after the opening of the first United States Mint, is as large as the present-day half-dollar, and has on its edge, instead of the familiar milling, the words "One Hundred For a Dollar."

Along the original "Indian Queen

Lane", near Ridge avenue, still stands the home of Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University, and farther up the lane, is the "Old Academy," which is the oldest community centre in Philadelphia, the land having been given to the people of the neighborhood by the son and daughter-in-law of Dr. Smith, in 1816. The building long used for religious and educational purposes was erected by public subscription, in 1819, and is still in use.

The trouble created by two streets in the same immediate locality bearing names so similar should be ended by changing the name of the newer and less meaningless thoroughfare to something that would better designate its location.

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 fir

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

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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

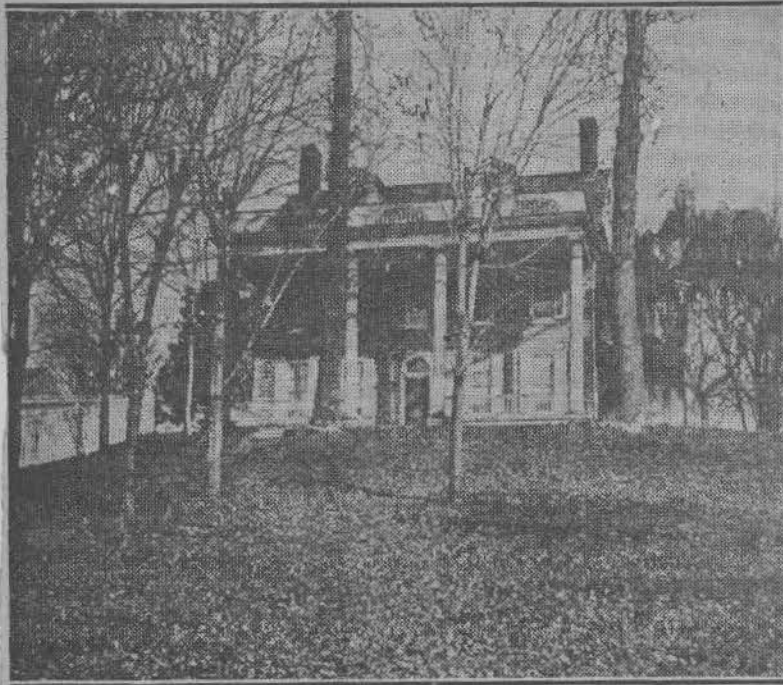
between North Penn and Roxborough Townships. To the people of today, the Morton House and the old run can be properly located in McMichael Park, at Midvale and Henry avenues.

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

6/18/1936

RESIDENCE OF STATE'S FIRST GOVERNOR



Picturing the old Mansion, at the Falls of Schuylkill, which was built by Thomas Mifflin prior to the Revolutionary War. It was here that Mifflin resided when he served as Chief Executive of Pennsylvania. The structure was located on the hillside, above Ridge avenue, between what is now Stanton street and Midvale avenue. It was torn down in 1893.

New School To Be Named In Honor of Thomas Mifflin

Board of Education Selects Appropriate Designation For Educational Centre at Falls of Schuylkill, Where State's First Governor Resided

By A. C. CHADWICK, JR.

In the June 6th, 1936 issue of "The News Letter," as published by the Philadelphia Teachers' Association, it was stated that the Board of Education has decided to name the new school, now being erected at Midvale avenue and Conrad street, East Falls, the "Thomas Mifflin School."

The new building has been designed in Colonial style of architecture, with the assembly hall facing on Conrad street, parallel with the main entrance to the building, which is also on Conrad street.

The structure is of ell-shaped plan, with the main class rooms facing on Midvale avenue, with an eastern, southern and western exposure. It will be fire-proof throughout, made of brick and limestone, two stories in height, with a beautiful clock tower dominating the whole building.

There will be twenty regular class-rooms, with two first grade rooms of extra size, fitted with storage closets, etc., for addi-

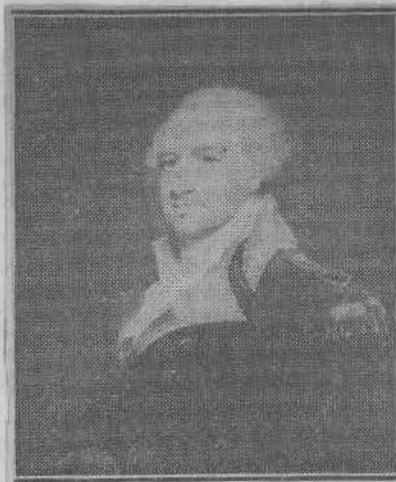
activities; one kindergarten room, facing the south; one special class room; one adjustment room; and one speech improvement room. In addition to these there will be an industrial arts room; a clothing room; and a foods room.

Outdoors there will be plenty of play space, both to the south and western sides, with ample shrubbery development on each street frontage.

The estimated cost of the building and grounds will be \$450,000 and it will have a pupil capacity of 1000.

Dr. Israel Galter, principal of the Samuel Breck School, whom, is anticipated will be in charge of the new Mifflin School, states that it is hoped to have dedication exercises at the time the cornerstone is laid, sometime about the third week in September of this year; and that he hopes to start regular school sessions in the new building in March of 1937.

The name selected is certainly an appropriate one, inasmuch as Thomas Mifflin, the first Governor of Pennsylvania (under the Constitution) resided within a city block



THOMAS MIFFLIN

Pennsylvania's first Governor, who lived at the Falls of Schuylkill, for whom the new public school, at Midvale avenue and Conrad street will be named.

or so of the new school; and Midvale avenue that winds down through a vale through which for many years a stream known as "Mifflin's Run" rippled its way to the Schuylkill river, was first called "Mifflin street."

Mifflin's Mansion was located on a hillside, not far distant from the home of Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, (which still stands), overlooking the Schuylkill, on a site now covered by dwellings on Eveline, Frederick and Stanton streets. The property extended along Ridge avenue from Stanton street to Midvale avenue. At the time Mifflin served in the Continental Army, and as Governor of the State, it was the scene of many notable social events attended by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Judge Peters of Belmont, David Rittenhouse and other persons prominently mentioned as being publicly active in the early days of the Nation.

Mifflin, himself, had directed the erection of the mansion. It was of typical Colonial architecture, being two stories and a half high, and having in front the usual massive pillars which supported a balcony.

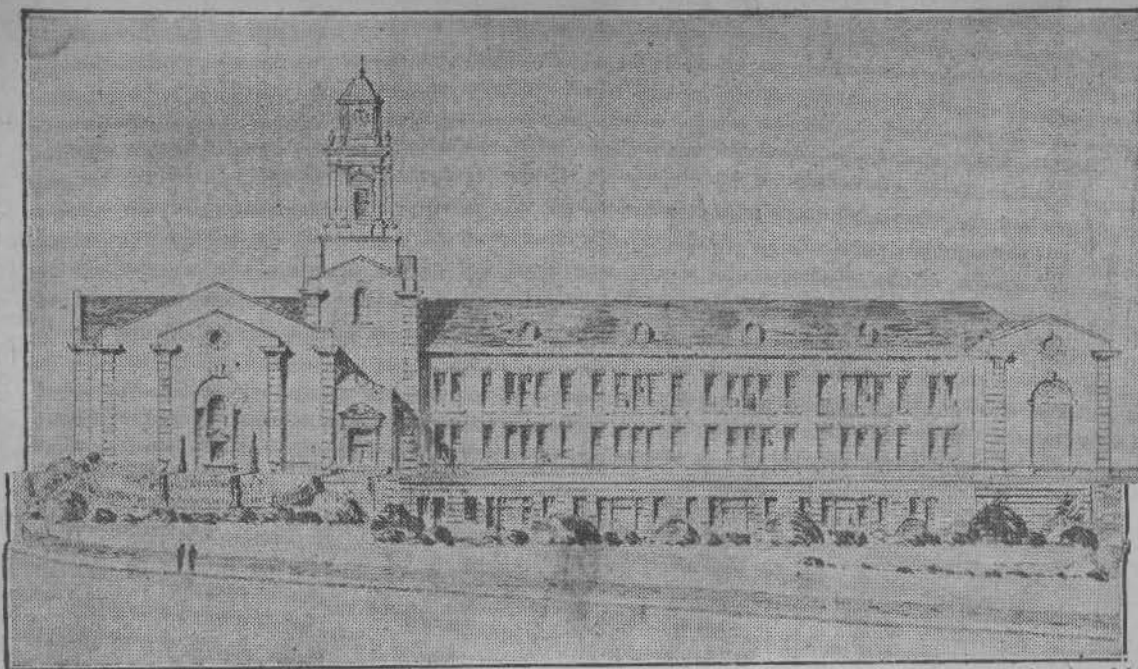
It was always a source of interest to the people of inquisitive minds. Curious stories were current about the mansion when the writer of this tale was but a small lad. Like other old houses it was supposed to have been haunted; to have double doors; and doors that would not stay closed. When the house was demolished in 1893, a secret room was actually found between the first and second stories.

J. P. Brissot de Warville, a Frenchman, in his "New Travels in the United States of America in 1788," describes a visit to Governor Mifflin at the Falls of Schuylkill.

Jacob Hiltzheimer, who came from Germany on September 5th, 1748; landed in Philadelphia; and became a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, kept a diary, from which the following items were culled:

"July 9th, 1773. Thermometer 92 degrees. Went over to the Schuylkill to the Fish House. There dined with thirty gentlemen at the invitation of Robert Roberts (of Lower Merion). After dinner cross-

THE NEW THOMAS MIFFLIN SCHOOL AT EAST FALLS



Architects' drawing of the public school now being erected at Midvale avenue and Conrad street, which will honor the memory of General Washington's first aide-de-camp in the Revolutionary War. The Board of Education is to be congratulated upon the selection of such an appropriate name, for Mifflin is frequently mentioned in the early history of the community, through having been a resident of the immediate neighborhood.

ed the Schuylkill to General Mifflin's house, to look at the windmill pump water for his garden."

"April 17th, 1788. General Mifflin, with Susannah Moore in his chair; and I, with Captain Falkner; attended the burial of John Vanderen (of Wissahickon) at Friends' Grounds, Germantown, where Nicholas Wain spoke. We returned to the General's for dinner, after which Edward Milnor, and his son-in-law, Donaldson, called, and we all went down to the Schuylkill to see the fishermen haul in their nets with shad. I brought two fine ones home with me."

Susannah Morris was a relative of General Mifflin's, and made her home in his dwelling.

The mansion and grounds eventually passed into the hands of Algernon Roberts, who re-named the place "Fountain Park," and during his possession it became famous for its beautiful fountains and deer park.

After Roberts died the estate had several owners, Bergdoll and Psotta, the brewers, owning it at one time, and erecting a brewery on a part of the property. In 1852 it was purchased by Samuel Winpenny for \$3500. The brewery later became known as Stein's Brewery.

Thomas Mifflin was born at Philadelphia, in 1744, of Quaker parentage.

The first commencement program, Class of 1760, of the University of Pennsylvania (then known as the College of Philadelphia) which was printed entirely in Latin, bears the name of Thomas Mifflin as receiving an A. B. degree.

He was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1772, 1773, and in 1774 was sent as a delegate to the Continental Congress.

Entering the army, at Boston, just after the Battle of Bunker

Hill, he became Washington's first aide-de-camp, with the rank of colonel. In August of 1775 he was made Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, and on February 19th, 1777, was promoted to the rank of Major General, and appointed a member of the Board of War. During the retreat from Long Island, Mifflin commanded the covering party and afterward rendered valuable service by recruiting men for war service, bringing essential aid to Washington before the Battles of Trenton and Princeton.

He was elected to the United States Congress in 1782 and became its president the following year. He was a member and Speaker of the Pennsylvania State Legislature in 1785, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. From 1788 to 1790 he was President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and from 1790 to 1799 was the first Governor of the State.

When the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, in Philadelphia, had been brought under control, Governor Mifflin requested Dr. William Smith to furnish the draft for a proclamation of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for having put an end to the dread condition. The proclamation issued by Mifflin, read as follows: "Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God to put an end to the grievous calamity that recently afflicted the city of Philadelphia; and it is the duty of all, who are truly sensible of Divine Justice and Mercy, to employ the earliest moments of returning health in devout expressions of penitence, submission and gratitude; I have therefore deemed it proper to appoint Thursday, the Twelfth Day of December, to be holden throughout this commonwealth as a day of general Humiliation, Thanksgiv-

ing and Prayer; earnestly exhorting and entreating my fellow-citizens to abstain on that day from all their worldly avocations, and to unite in confessing, with contrite hearts, our manifold sins and transgressions, and in acknowledging, with thankful adoration, the mercy and goodness of the Supreme Ruler and Preserver of the Uni-

verse, more especially manifested in our late deliverance; praying, with solemn zeal, that the same Mighty Power would be graciously pleased to instil in our minds the just principles of our duty to Him and to our fellow-creatures; to regulate and guide all our actions by His Holy Spirit; to avert from all mankind the evils of war, pestilence and famine; and to bless and protect us in the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty."

Paul Revere, who became famous through the poem describing his famous ride, which was taken to warn the colonists of Massachusetts of the approach of the British soldiers, was a noted messenger in his day.

On Friday, May 20th, 1774, Thomas Mifflin was one of nineteen Philadelphians, who after Paul Revere had arrived in the Quaker City with a message from the residents of Boston on the previous day, requesting the formation of a Committee of Correspondence "until an alteration is made by a more general meeting of the inhabitants," appointed to such a committee, with the purpose of keeping in touch with the Colonists in other sections of the country.

Whenever the military academy at West Point, N. Y., is mentioned it brings to mind a tale which connects that Hudson River community with the Falls of Schuylkill.

There are not many people who

would recognize in the name of Samuel Wheeler a person who did valuable service for the Nation at the time of the Revolution. But it was he who made the famous chain which was stretched across the stream, beneath the surface of the water, to prevent the British war ships from ascending the Hudson. At that time General Washington was puzzled about means to defend the river and to make it impossible.

"I wish I could get a chain made; but I suppose that is impossible," he said, and General Thomas Mifflin, who resided at the Falls when he was not campaigning with the Army, in overhearing the remark, exclaimed, "A townsman of mine, one Wheeler, can make such a chain as you described."

Wheeler was brought to headquarters and Washington asked the mechanic if he could make the long series of links.

"I can!" said Wheeler, "but I cannot do it here." "Then," said Washington, "I will gladly give you permission to leave the army to do so, for badly as we need such men as you, I cannot afford to keep you from performing this task."

The chain was made, the links stretched across the Hudson, and the story connected with it is now a part of history.

More interesting facts concerning Thomas Mifflin can be found in Simpson's "Eminent Philadelphians," 1869; J. H. Merrill's "Memoranda Concerning the Mifflin Family," 1890; and William Rawle's "Sketch of the Life of Thomas Mifflin," the latter work being available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 13th and Locust streets.

Residents of the Falls of Schuylkill, of all those in Pennsylvania, should feel extremely pleased that the name of Thomas Mifflin has been assigned to the new school.

3/27/1935

Names Of Former Residents Of East Falls Are Recalled

Community's Active Citizens, at Time of Civil War, Receive Attention of Searcher Into Past Records

By John M. Sickinger

During the Civil War, when the Southern forces threatened to enter Pennsylvania, George P. Eldrige, the principal of the old Forest School at the Falls of Schuylkill, made himself busy in organizing a volunteer company of militia, composed of young men of the neighborhood. Eventually this group was captained by the late John Dobson, internationally known textile manufacturer. Eldrige was the company's 1st Lieutenant; Samuel Sutcliffe was the 2nd Lieutenant, and Jacob Dietrich was the orderly sergeant.

This company assembled for drill in a building that once stood on Midvale avenue. Following two brief campaigns, in 1862 and 1863, when the company, officially known as Company "T", of the Blue Reserves, went out to stop the enemy at Carlisle and in the Gettysburg region, the equipment was stored in part of Dobson's mill.

Some of the old-time prominent residents of that period were Franklin Snyder, who after his discharge from the Union Army settled at the Falls and married Miss Susan Shaffer; Jacob Noll, Bright Pinyard, Edwin Singer, William Bell, who worked for Powers & Weightman, where Barclay R. Leeds was the bookkeeper.

Jimmy Hope and Bob Timbers were war veterans, and so, too, was John Wesley Shronk. Everyone knew John McEwen who was called "Doc". There was also, Bill Tindall and Jimmy Bew, the local paperhangers, and Pat McCarty, the carpenter; Adam Mettinger who ran a general store; and the local builder, Thomas Roberts White, who erected the Manayunk Gas Works; Bill Stehle, who baked delicious buns and coffee cakes; William R. Jardine; Robert Crompton; Frank Morison and George H. Kelly. When the Falls got its post-

office William H. Lawson was proud to be named the first letter carrier.

Nearly every one who worked in Dobson's Mills knew George Arnold, who was an expert on Brussels carpet, and was a weaver-teacher. Then there was William Griffith Morrison, a marble cutter, and letterer of tombstones. Richard Buckley, who reared two sons who entered the newspaper business. Another well-known carpenter was Joe Meredith and Dan McGovern was the railroad yardmaster at West Falls. Josh Lake had been a hotel man; the Shaffers, Clouses, Pinyards and Shronks were boatmen; and Dan Hickey was a boss at Simpson's Print Works, after it had been moved to Chester, but he came home regularly every weekend.

Another great Civil War period event occurred on Saturday afternoons when Dr. John Conry, of Manayunk, a militia captain, marched his Jackson Rifles down from Manayunk to Joe Evan's Fountain Park Hotel for target practice. They used a large bill poster of Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, for the target, and the great songbird was often shot clear off the picture.

Evans had a large elk for a pet, which on one occasion became vicious and attacked his mother-in-law, throwing her into a ditch and severely injuring the old lady. The elk, with its head down charged the aged woman, when Albert Ripka, of Manayunk, killed it with one accurately placed shot between the eyes.

All of the above mentioned persons have traveled on to The Great Beyond, but most of them are still remembered because they were some of the early residents who aided in developing the community.

3/29/1934

Philadelphia City And County in The Beginning

Community Was First "A Great Towne of 10,000 Acres."—
County Was One of Three Originally Established

In "certain conditions and concessions agreed upon by William Penn, Proprietary and governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, and those who are the adventurers and purchasers of the said province, the 11th of July, 1681," it was agreed that "so soon as it pleaseth God that the above persons arrive there a certain quantity of land or ground-plot shall be laid out for a large town or city, in the most convenient place upon the river for health and navigation".

On September 30th of the same year, William Crispin, William Heage, Nathaniel Allen and John Bezer were appointed commissioners to lay out "a great towne of 10,000 acres". Crispin died during the passage to America; Heage, Allen and Bezer are supposed to have arrived in what is now Philadelphia in the latter part of the year 1681.

From such evidence as is now extant it is supposed that the site of the great town was determined upon by them as early as the beginning of May 1682. Exactly when the name of Philadelphia was applied to the town cannot be definitely ascertained. One of the earliest surveys on record, To David Hammond, dated the 10th of the fifth month (July) 1682, speaks of the lot being "situate on Pool street (afterward Walnut street) in the city of Philadelphia". It is probable that it was about this time that the name Philadelphia began to be applied to the "great town".

Penn must have determined upon the name almost as soon as he had obtained the charter for the province and contemplated the settlement of a large community. In a letter to Thomas Lloyd and others, members of the Society of Friends, written aboard the ketch "Endeavor" on which he had embarked to return to England, in August of 1684, he wrote: "And thou, Philadelphia, the virgin settlement of this province, NAMED BEFORE THOU WERT BORN—what love, what care, what service and what travail hast there been to bring thee forth and preserve thee from such as would abuse and defile thee!" (Present-day political leaders take cognizance of that paragraph!)

The origin of the name is conjectural. The reason for Penn adopting it for his city is not known. It is supposed that he selected it from that of a city in Lydia, Asia, the seat of one of the seven early Christian churches. (Revelations 1: 11; 3: 7; 9: 11). The significance, "Brotherly Love" no doubt commended the name to

his taste and judgment. The original boundary of the city of Philadelphia was between the streets called Valley (now Vine) and Cedar (now South) and the two rivers, Delaware and Schuylkill.

From a map, of Thomas Holmes, published in 1685, in London, it appears that Philadelphia extended three blocks on the west side of the Schuylkill, to a distance which would now be about three squares below the Market street bridge. For some reason, or another, this design was abandoned and the western limit of the city was placed at the Schuylkill.

There are grants on record for lots on the west side of the Schuylkill "in the city of Philadelphia", one of which is dated as late as 1695. In Penn's charter to the city corporation, October 25th, 1701, he says that the city shall extend the limits and bounds "as it is layed out between Delaware and Schuylkill". This charter was in operation until it was superseded by events of the Revolution, and ceased to be effective after July 4th, 1776.

For nearly thirteen years Philadelphia was governed by Wardens and commissioners. A new charter was granted by Legislature, March 11th, 1789. This was extended by Act of February 2nd, 1854, commonly known as the Consolidation law, which extended the boundaries of the city over the entire county of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia County was laid out by Penn, it is supposed, after his return from New York, which visit probably took place in November of 1682. On his return, it is said he established the counties of Chester, Philadelphia and Bucks. Chester was south and west of Philadelphia. Bucks was north and east. The county of Philadelphia was without boundaries, except as far as they were limited in the royal grant of the province to Penn, and by the establishment of Chester and Bucks counties. Philadelphia lay between these counties and extended from the Delaware and the boundaries of Chester (now Delaware) county, and the southern and western boundary of Bucks county, to an unlimited extent, and may be said to have embraced all the rest of the land in the province except the counties of Bucks and Chester. This great area was diminished by the founding of Berks County, March 11th, 1752, and other counties north and west of Bucks, and by the establishment of Montgomery County, on September 10th, 1784, which blocked off all further claims north of it.

SCCAFF.

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"Our Musical" Was Pioneer Artistic Group

Vocalists and Instrumentalists of Lower Roxborough Were Active in 1876

SOME STILL LIVING

Roxborough is justly proud of its Symphony Orchestra and the Male Chorus led by William C. Ames; and in East Falls, Joseph Smith and the Falls of Schuylkill Male Chorus have been making musical history for almost a quarter of a century.

Back in 1856 the Harmonic Singing Society was formed in Manayunk, the group meeting every Tuesday night in a building at what is now Levering and Silverwood streets, John Harry Gallati was the president and leader; J. Zimmerman, the secretary, and John Andres, the treasurer.

In 1874 the Germania Saengerbund was founded. In 1883 its leader was Stephen Graloff, with Charles Strutt as president and August Gudeman as secretary.

All of the above groups of musically talented persons who aided in advancing the cultural achievement of this section of Philadelphia, are well known to those who have resided here any appreciable length of time.

There is still another organization, however, which since the passing of the late James Milligan, founder and editor of the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, has received little mention. It was one of the early associations that had much to do with fostering musical and dramatic tastes in the 21st Ward and East Falls.

Reference is made to the group known as "Our Musical", which existed in period about 1869 to 1876. Probably some time before and for some years after these dates, it was indelibly identified as a "Lower Roxborough" aggregation of vocalists.

Among its members were the Misses Nellie Camac, Nannie Camac, Emily Cauffman, Mary King, Emily King, Minnie McCullagh, Mary Merrick, Fannie Merrick, Sallie Merrick, Mary Jones, Hettie Jones, Kittie Babcock, Jennie Burt, Annie Mitchell, Lillie Abbot, Rand and Yeaton; and Messrs. W. M. Camac, Frank Cauffman, P. Senat, Harry Cauffman, Griffith Abbott, Egbert Mitchell, H. Burt, William Uhler and E. L. Cauffman.

Miss Minnie McCullagh is still living in Germantown. She is the daughter of the late Robert Poalk McCullagh, who died in 1893 at the age of 82 years. He was for many years an officer of the Adams Express Company, and later aided in organizing the Philadelphia Trust Safe Deposit, and Insurance Company. Mr. McCullagh was long active in Episcopal Church affairs.

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being accounting warden of St. Luke's Church, Germantown, for more than 25 years.

Miss Hettie Jones, of "Our Musical" afterward became Mrs. Nathaniel Burt. Miss Emily Cauffman became Mrs. J. Knight Uhler, wife of Dr. J. K. Uhler. This couple resided in the former Provost Smith mansion on Indian Queen lane, East Falls. Mrs. Uhler expired in California a few years ago. Miss Emily Merrick became Mrs. Bostwick, and is now a resident of Ardmore, Pa.

Many of the recitals of "Our Musical" were held for the benefit of St. Timothy's P. E. Church, in the home of the late J. Vauhan Merrick, which is now used as the main building of the Northern Home for Children at Ridge avenue and Lauriston street; at the home of the Uhlers on Indian Queen lane; and also in St. Timothy's working Men's Hall, at Ridge avenue and Vassar street.

At the time the Smith Mansion, at East Falls, was known as "Vue de l'Eau"—or View of the Water—in English. On old programs, kindly loaned to the writer by Stanley Hart Cauffman, Wissahickon author of historical romances, appears this hitherto unknown name for the residence which was originally erected for Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania. The appellation was certainly an appropriate one, as can be appreciated by anyone who has stood on the hill, near the mansion, and gazed toward the Schuylkill River, where a splendid view of the stream can be obtained in both directions.

A love of the musical compositions of Mendelssohn, Bellini, Verdi, Lachner, Plotow, Meyerbeer, Campana, Schubert, Mozart, Weber, Donizetti, Suppe, Gounod, Haydn, Schumann, and the original works of Frank G. Cauffman was developed by the artists of "Our Musical", as is evidenced by their old programs.

The concerts often consisted of a series of charades, or posed costume pictures; a musical interlude; a playlet—usually a farce—and a musical ending.

In one of the dramatic offerings, given at the Uhler home, at the Falls of Schuylkill, on February 3rd, 1875, the farce was entitled "The Widow's Victim" which was repeated at the same place on May 17th, 1876.

Most of these singers, musicians and amateur thespians have traveled on to "The Happier Land", but the good seeds that they planted here have aided greatly in bringing beneficial fruition along the line of esthetic accomplishments in the earthly community where their voices, hands and minds were once active. For as Shakespeare penned it: "The man that hath no music in himself, nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils. The motions of his spirit are as dull as night and his affections dark as Erebus."

SCCAFF.

East Falls Has Produced Many Prominent Athletes

2-7-1934

Favorable Attention Has Been Attracted to The Community Through Sporting Activities of Its Residents

In recent years probably the greatest interest exhibited in athletic sports, in the East Falls area, has been confined to rowing and golf, with maybe a little championship form being disclosed by the table tennis sharps up around the Queen Lane reservoir section.

It is comparatively easy to account for the great amount of rowing talk that one hears, when it is remembered that three World's Champions, in the persons of John B. Kelly, Paul Costello, and Charles McIlvaine, make their homes within the community's boundaries. But there are also other oarsmen who won fame for the town, notably John F. Reardon, of the old Chamounix crew, the Harbisons, the Boardmans, Allie Morrow, Sturgis and others of the old-timers, and the Benny Walkers, Tom Maguires, the Millers, and others of later years.

And it is also not much of a job to check up on the golfers when such names as Cleary, Walter Woods, Burke, Brennan, Jerry Marr, Bill Neilan and Griff and Dan Boardman are mentioned.

George Kelly, nephew of "Jack", is East Falls' contribution to billiard fame, and "Judge" Clarence—Jerry, to you—Walker holds a high position among the table tennis advocates.

Baseball, too, proudly boasts of Billy Gray, Benny Beaumont, Jimmy Kelly, the Brill brothers, Harry Clayton, Duggy Walker, Jack Redington, Benham, "Oily" Maguire, Tommy Murphy, Rodgers, among the older players, with "Henny" Shaw, Griffiths, Pearson, Rube Grill, Babe Calhoun, the Matthews Boys—and others too numerous to mention, holding high the banner of the diamond in later years.

Willard Hess, in addition to having been a prominent baseball team manager, once handled a great combination of basketball players, which brought much favorable publicity to the community. Some of the players under his management were: MacKay, Walters, Buckley, Hoffman—now a medico up in Roxborough—Walten, Waltermath, Sterling, Dick Cole, Stout, Stamm, Hutchison, Siefert, Bill Clayton, Stocker, Molyneaux and Myers. Trenwith, Murphy and Campbell played at various times with East Falls, St. Bridget's and the Y. M. L. I. squads.

St. Bridget's had a wonderful team, which broke many records, it being composed of Enos, Murphy, Campbell, Trenwith, Kelly and Coyne. The Young Men's Association had a "quintet" made up of

The Fairview eleven and its substitutes were picked from Kelly, T. Murphy, T. Gribbon—ye Philadelphia County Club Caddy Master—R. Gaughan, V. Hurley, J. Mirk, F. Short, G. Maguire, J. King, Buckley, Shivers, Clegg, Tweedie, Bargh, Turner, Kelley, Fellows, Jenkinson, Welsh and Matsinger.

Then there was the Clearfield aggregation of 1901: R. Timbers, J. Nichols, G. Denby, D. Flemings, Sam Auty, B. Bright, "Yank" Welsh, H. Daly and Hughie Owens.

No football history of the Falls would be complete without the names of Jimmy Fiedler, Tiny Scott, Tom Dougherty, Jack Kelly—yes, the Democrat!—Homer Fellows, Art Harrison, John Donnelly, Frank Lally, Tom Maguire, Pickard, Rammy Norton and scores of others who made up once-famed East Falls teams.

The mention of George Kelly as a billiardist, brings back to memory, the name of his father P. H. Kelly, who himself swung a "mean cue" in the old days, finding particular joy in defeating the aspiring Manayunk pool players, in particular, and others in general, who thought they were going somewhere. Shuffleboard, too, has had its top-notchers, probably the best today being Bill Ashton, the storekeeper up at the Queen Lane Pumping Station.

In the old days there were also a number of expert cricketers, among these being John Smithies, Theodore MacKenzie and men of like years.

Soccer held a high place in the esteem of the sport fans for many years, the name of Leidy, and others being recalled with little difficulty.

Boxing has been represented by a long line of clever pugilists, notably, "Scribb" O'Donnell, Jim Trenwith, Charlie Turner, Frank O'Donnell and others—and there are still many who recall that one of the country's most talented amateurs in this sport was none other than the late John Costello, father of Paul, the oarsman. Mr. Costello also held a wide reputation as a swimming instructor at the Philadelphia Swimming Club, up at Miquon.

At least one girl, Florence McKee, who is believed to be still teaching swimming at one of Philadelphia's recreation centres, was one of Mr. Costello's proteges.

Joe Rafferty, another East Falls natatorialist, has been an instructor at the Y. M. and Y. W. H. A. Association for several seasons.

This list of athletes is far from

Dolphin, Marriott, Phy, McLaren, Warren, Mirk, Clayton, Whitaker, Schofield, Strenger and Cropper.

The Y. M. L. I. outfit players were: Murphy, King, Parks, C. B. Kelly, Trenwith, Enos, Campbell, McNeill, J. Furlong, W. Furlong, Coyle, White, Foster and Coyne.

Sammy Moorehead is a comparatively recent basketball celebrity.

Football! Who forgets the old Westmoreland team? Webster, Reese, Kirchoffer, and Dunlaps—Bob and Sam—and all the others of that husky crew.

being complete, [redacted] painted entirely from memory, with additional names cropping up for mention, until the time of going to press. To those who have not been recalled we extend our apologies.

After the East Falls boys of today have lived another twenty years, in 1955, they too will look back with pleasure to the days when they played a leading part in the athletic events of the section—or will they boast of how many times they attended the movies?

SCCAFF.

3/8/1934

Winpennys Were Prominent Among Early Mill Owners

Samuel Winpenny and His Five Sons Contributed Largely
to the Development of Textiles in Manayunk,
The Falls of Schuylkill and Germantown

One of the names which has figured prominently among the early manufacturers of this section of Philadelphia, is Winpenny, known alike in the annals of the 21st and 22nd Wards and also the Falls of Schuylkill.

Samuel Winpenny, probably the first of the name to win recognition, was famed as a producer of hosiery, blankets and cloths. He was born in Yorkshire, England, about 1777. His father also Samuel Winpenny, was a well-known manufacturer of broadcloth at Wike, England, while his grandfather was a prominent manufacturer of his day, in Flanders.

The Samuel Winpenny, who came to this country, was well educated in his native land, and was brought up in his father's business.

Having in early manhood married Ellen Bolton, a daughter of James Bolton, of the Royal Academy at Edinburgh, Winpenny remained in England until 1805, when he came to America and settled in North Carolina, and there set up the first cotton machinery ever put into full operation.

He removed to Germantown in 1808, and operated mills which afterward became known as Kelly's Mills, and there made the first Germantown hosiery, and produced the first blankets and cloth ever made for the United States Government in this country.

His family having joined him in October of 1810, he moved, about 1811, to the works at the Falls of Schuylkill, which afterward became known as William Simpson's "Washington Print Works" which were located along the West River Drive opposite the foot of Midvale

avenue. Here Winpenny was eminently successful with Governmental contracts and continued until 1815, when he returned, with his family, to Germantown.

There they remained until 1818, when they again moved to the Falls of Schuylkill. After giving up his own business, Winpenny engaged in various mills, until 1829, when he was induced to make a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At Carlisle he was taken suddenly ill, and died at the age of 52 years, leaving a widow, five sons and a daughter. The sons were: John, Samuel, William, Joseph and James B. Winpenny, all of whom were, or subsequently became, prominent and practically industrialists.

John Winpenny, son of the former, was born in Yorkshire, England, October 24th, 1800. He came with the family and followed its fortunes in and around this part

of the city of Brotherly Love. After obtaining such education as the schools of the period afforded, he entered the mills of his father and readily mastered all the details of textile manufacturing. He married Esther Marshall, of Roxborough, in February of 1821, and in 1828, with the assistance of Frederick Stoever, a resident of the Falls, who owned a mill in that locality, he went into business for himself. The property afterward became a part of the great Dobson plant. John Winpenny and his brother Samuel, formed a co-partnership about 1834 and made Kerseys, blankets and blue cloths for the Government in Stoever's mill for some years, and though twice burned out, their energy conquered every misfortune. In 1839 they purchased the mustard mill of Charles V. Hagner, at Manayunk, and made necessary alterations and erected additional buildings to carry on their business. As they were about ready to start production, fire destroyed their structures and the work of months was wiped out in a few minutes.

Undaunted they rebuilt the mills without delay and moving their machinery from the Falls, they commenced full operations at Manayunk in 1840.

The partnership was dissolved on July 1st, 1847, and the business was continued until September 7th, 1856, by John Winpenny.

This latter individual was an intimate friend of Governor Bigler the chief burgess, for many years, of the Borough of Manayunk, and an active promoter of local civic enterprises.

Samuel Winpenny, son of Samuel and brother of John, too, was born in Yorkshire, England, his birthday being February 13th, 1804. To his mother, who was a woman of unusual culture and who carefully instructed her children, he was indebted for the greater part of his education.

Having in 1810 accompanied the family to the United States, in the vessel of Captain John Towers, who afterward became one of Manayunk's early mill owners, Samuel Winpenny, Jr., entered the mills of his father at the Falls of Schuylkill, when but eight years of age. His ability and intelligence caused him to assume high rank among the practical and scientific men of the textile trade, and he long enjoyed the reputation of being the best blue dyer in the United States.

After dissolving his partnership with his brother, John, in 1847, he removed to Ohio, in 1848, where he

was engaged in various speculations until 1850, when he returned to his neighborhood and lived in retirement until 1861. In that year he associated in partnership with his nephew, Bolton Winpenny, at the old mill in Manayunk, and was engaged in filling Government contracts until 1863, when he withdrew and went into final retirement, with his family at the Falls. He had been married in 1849 to Elizabeth Shronk, daughter of George Shronk and grand-daughter of Godfrey Shronk, one of the earliest settlers of the locality.

Joseph Winpenny, another of the sons of Samuel, Sr., was born at the Falls of Schuylkill on January 31st, 1815, and having entered the mills as a lad, became the efficient superintendent in one of his brothers' mills.

James B. Winpenny, the fifth son, was born in Germantown, on April 7th, 1817, and after a few years at school entered his brothers' mills at the Falls where he remained about three years, after which he returned to school where he continued until he was seventeen years of age.

In 1841 he went to Virginia, and until 1844 was a contractor for railroads and bridges, and then, having returned to Manayunk, associated in business with George Moyer, in the spinning of yarn and the manufacture of cotton goods, in the mill afterward known as Littlewood & Lancaster's, in 1847 this firm moved to Joseph McDowell's Mill, and operated it for the production of yarn until 1852, when Winpenny leased the Darrach Estate Mills and operated them as lessee until 1863, when he purchased the property. During the Civil War he made army blankets.

James S. Winpenny spent several years in the Borough Council and was for more than twenty years a school director. He was most enterprising and was active in affairs affecting the good of the community.

Bolton Winpenny, son of John Winpenny and nephew of the other of Samuel Sr's, sons, was born at the Falls of Schuylkill on August 15th, 1836. His mother's maiden name was Esther Marshall, who was a resident of Roxborough.

After receiving a good education at the school of Samuel Alsop, in Wilmington, Delaware, he entered the drug store of Samuel Grant, Jr., & Company, in 1852, and subsequently became superintendent of their drug mill, where he continued until after his father's demise. He then occupied himself in settling his father's estate, until December of 1858, when he was induced to enter the textile business in his late father's mills. He was without practical experience and at first objected to taking over the plant, but yielded to the advice of James Dearie, and engaged in the business with a few looms and \$100 capital. Within a year he had his father's former mill running in its entirety, and within five years the whole plant had been refitted with more modern machinery. For a time his

Uncle Samuel was his partner, but afterward conducted the business as sole owner, until February 23rd, 1872, when he sold out to Preston & Erwin. He became a special partner in the commission house of William Yelland & Co., of New York, on January 1st, 1868, and was one of the originators and a half owner of the Arch Street Opera House, which was one of this city's most prominent amusement centres in its time.

He was married on June 11th, 1867, to Lucy A. Sutton, daughter of Pierre A. Sutton, of Danbury, Connecticut.

SCCAFF.

1/18/1934

AN EARLY COMMUNITY CENTRE



An old picture of "The Academy" on Indian Queen Lane, East Falls, which was erected in 1819, on land donated expressly for community purposes. The self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, who care for its proper maintenance held its quarterly meeting last Monday night.

Trustees of Old Academy Have Regular Meeting

Board Entrusted to Caring for City's Oldest Community Centre, Followed Its Time-Honored Custom on Monday Night

Despite the fact that present-day "City Fathers" have failed to provide the residents of the Falls of Schuylkill with a recreation centre, such as can be found in other and more-recently populated parts of the municipality, the people of "the Falls" can point with a great deal of pride to the fact that on Indian Queen lane, just below the Norristown branch of the Reading Railroad, stands the oldest community centre in Philadelphia. And it was paid for by contributions made directly by the men and women who lived in its vicinity.

Reference is made to "the Old Academy", which was erected by public subscription, on land donated to the people of the Falls of

Schuylkill, by William Moore Smith—a son of Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania—and his wife, Ann, in the year 1816. The Academy was completed in 1819.

The gift of the land was to the men, women and children of the immediate neighborhood, and provisions distinctly stated that the ground should be used for the erection thereon of a building for recreation, education and worship. There was also a clause, to the effect that should the trustees fail to meet in January of any year, the land would revert to the donors, or their heirs. As a consequence, this provision has been carefully

adhered to all through the one hundred and fifteen years which have passed since.

There are nine members of the Board of Trustees, which is a self-perpetuating body. Since the building was first put into use this Board, known as The Falls of Schuylkill Association, has almost invariably consisted of some male members of the Garrett, Sorber, Morison, Marley and Hess families. On Monday night, last, the Board met to perform its customary duties. The men who make up the present Board, are: William E. Marley, president; Frank F. Hess, secretary; Walter J. Binkin, treasurer; Samuel Garrett, Wayne K. Hawk, William J. Campbell, Harry Binkin, Clifford Morison and A. C. Chadwick, Jr., who is serving out the unexpired term of Robert Whartenby, resigned.

It was when the building was first erected that the organization was formed by the residents of the community, and given the name of "The Falls of Schuylkill Association", in which citizens of the village could become members upon payment of \$4.

Prior to the completion of the "Old Academy" religious services in the Falls of Schuylkill had to be held in the homes of the people. The Union Sunday School, probably the first organized group for worship, was founded in this old building, with Thomas Mitchell and Abraham Martin, for whom Mitchell and Martin streets, in Roxborough are named, being active teachers. Mitchell was a Presbyterian, and he was succeeded by Benjamin R. Marley, a Baptist. The Union Sunday School afterward became the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday School, being attached to the church of that denomination in 1838.

Members of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church; the Falls Methodist Episcopal Church; the Church of St. James the Less; St. Bridget's Church; the Falls Presbyterian Church; Grace Reformed Church, and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, all held their early services in the Old Academy. The Forest School, which subsequently became known as the Samuel Breck School, was organized in the ancient structure and was conducted there until 1850.

For years the Old Academy was the only place of amusement in the

village. The lantern shows, Italian excursions, lectures, concerts, and other entertainments being great attractions.

The library of Philadelphia used the building until the erection of the Carnegie library building, at Midvale Avenue and Warden Drive. This was from 1909 until 1912.

The Old Academy is now the home of the Old Academy Players, a dramatic organization, which has contributed greatly to the advancement of the neighborhood, and the Sarah Dobson Lodge, a woman's fraternal organization.

Some of the principals and teachers of the old school days at the Old Academy were: Daniel B. Hibbs, William J. Kurtz, Jane Gray, Robert T. Bradley and Susannah McKinnon. Later on, the Academy was utilized as a supplementary building for the "Old Yellow School" which was on the former Carson estate, where the present-day brick Breck School is located. Older residents of the community recall with a happy memory the days they spent in the Old Academy school rooms.

The Board's principal work now-days is to secure trustworthy tenants and to keep the building in good repair. It is a task that has been faithfully done through all the years since it was first built. The Old Academy Players and the Sarah Dobson Lodge, with an appreciative interest in the history and romance of the time-honored structure, since their organization, have co-operated with the trustees, in placing the building in fine condition. Careful regard to the painting, plastering and roofing, is being from its present appearance. The Old Academy can stand the rigors of a few more years.

92

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Later on, the Academy was utilized as a supplementary building for the "Old Yellow School" which stood on the former Carson estate, where the present-day brick building of Breck School is located. Older residents of the community recall with happy memories, the days they spent in the Old Academy school rooms.

The Board's principal work nowadays is to secure trustworthy tenants and to keep the building in good repair, a task that has been faithfully done through all the years since it was first built. The Old Academy Players and the Sarah Dobson Lodge, with an appreciative interest in the history and romance of the honored structure, since their organization, have co-operated with the trustees, in placing the building in fine condition, with careful regard to the replastering, plastering and roofing. The Old Academy can stand the rigors of a few more years.

7/14/1932

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Henry Avenue To Be Partly Opened By End of Summer

Thoroughfare to Be Made Available For Traffic From Allegheny Avenue to Bridge Over Wissahickon Valley

A new and important highway connection between the East Falls section, in the 38th ward, and the central business district will be available for use about September 1 under two contracts signed by Mayor Moore last Thursday.

The Mayor announced he has approved a contract between the city and the Union Paving Company, for asphalt paving of Henry avenue, from Hunting Park and Allegheny avenues, to the south end of the concrete bridge over the Reading tracks. The city will pay \$8,000 and the property assessment will be \$10,000. About two blocks of paving work is involved in this contract, according to city engineers.

The bridge was completed in December, 1930, at a cost to the city of \$392,966. The Reading Company paid \$30,797 as its share.

Mayor Moore also signed a contract between the city and the Frank Mark Contracting Company, at a cost to the city of \$18,000, for the macadam surfacing of Henry avenue, from the north end of the bridge over the railroad tracks to Bowman street, and where Henry avenue extends along the west side of the Queen lane reservoir.

As Henry avenue is already paved with macadam from Bowman street,

to School House lane, completion of the construction will open the section of the proposed 5-mile connectin with upper Roxborough from School House lane to Hunting Park and Allegheny avenues.

All this work is east of the new bridge over the Wissahickon.


This will not only benefit residents, manufacturing and other business concerns but also the Woman's Medical College at Henry avenue and Abbottsford road, on the south side of the reservoir and connecting with Wissahickon avenue on the east and Ridge avenue on the west.

A contract for final work for approaches to the Henry Avenue Bridge was awarded on Monday by Director Frank H. Caven, of the Department of Public Works.

The job went to the Union Paving Company and calls for construction of an approach from School House lane to the span over the Wissahickon Creek at Hermit lane. The work will cost \$62,000.

Director Caven announced that the bridge should be ready for opening in December.

The contract for the northern approach from Walnut lane, was awarded two weeks ago on a bid of \$18,000.

8/4/1932 

ry Work Started ing Line of Henry e Into Roxborough

inery Employed at Hunting Park Avenue Thoroughfare.—Telephone Poles Being ositioned Along Hermit Lane.—Two Large "Fills" to Be Made

augmented by steam
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ing toward the new bridge which
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avenue, in front of the residence
of Mrs. James Dobson, large terra
cotta pipes, presumably for surface
drainage purposes, are being deliv-
ered, ready for the culvert and
other provisions which must be
made prior to the paving of the
street.

In Roxborough, along Hermit
lane, Bell Telephone linemen are
re-positioning the wooden telephone
poles, in anticipation of the change
in the grades and curves of the

new highway, which must be done
in that vicinity.

It is understood that enough
earth will be excavated near the
Roxborough end of the Wissahickon
Memorial Bridge, to make the "fill"
necessary to carry Henry avenue
to the level of its juncture with
Walnut lane.

On the School House lane side
of the Wissahickon Creek, there is
a deep ravine which must be filled
with soil, and this "fill" will prob-
ably furnish the most difficult task
for the contractors in the opening
of Henry avenue, from Walnut lane,
in Roxborough, clear through to
Hunting Park avenue.

But with a "fair break" on the
weather, and modern devices for
excavating, loading and hauling the
material to properly grade the thor-
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the work cannot be completed, as
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8/4/1932 

Preliminary Work Started For Grading Line of Henry Avenue Into Roxborough

Men and Machinery Employed at Hunting Park Avenue
End of New Thoroughfare.—Telephone Poles Being
Re-Positioned Along Hermit Lane.—Two
Large "Fills" to Be Made

Workmen, augmented by steam shovels, rollers and other mechanical equipment, have started work on the grading and paving of Henry avenue so that it may be available for use this Fall.

A force of men are employed at the Hunting Park avenue end of the new thoroughfare and are pushing toward the new bridge which crosses the Port Richmond and Norristown branches of the Reading Railroad. Near Abbottsford avenue, in front of the residence of Mrs. James Dobson, large terra cotta pipes, presumably for surface drainage purposes, are being delivered, ready for the culvert and other provisions which must be made prior to the paving of the street.

In Roxborough, along Hermit lane, Bell Telephone linemen are re-positioning the wooden telephone poles, in anticipation of the change in the grades and curves of the

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It is understood that enough earth will be excavated near the Roxborough end of the Wissahickon Memorial Bridge, to make the "fill" necessary to carry Henry avenue to the level of its juncture with Walnut lane.

On the School House lane side of the Wissahickon Creek, there is a deep ravine which must be filled with soil, and this "fill" will probably furnish the most difficult task for the contractors in the opening of Henry avenue, from Walnut lane, in Roxborough, clear through to Hunting Park avenue.

But with a "fair break" on the weather, and modern devices for excavating, loading and hauling the material to properly grade the thoroughfare, there is no reason why the work cannot be completed, as planned by Mayor Moore, on November 1st.

Coal Oil Explosion Caused Injuries To Several Firemen

Fire at Falls of Schuylkill in May of 1882 Was One Which Is Still Remembered by Old-Time Residents

BY JOHN M. SICKINGER

The men attached to Fire Engine Company No. 12, were sitting around fire headquarters waiting for something to break. Some were talking about Memorial Day, others about things in general, when the telegraph instrument began to tick off an alarm of fire.

The "wide awake" call was given, followed by "It's a go" yell, and the horses hooked to the heavy steamer and hose cart, followed by the hook and ladder were galloping down Main street toward the Falls of Schuylkill to one of the worst fires in the history of Old Engine No. 12. This was in 1882 and in those days the Philadelphia Fire Department was in its infancy and such fire companies as there were had to cover considerable ground. Injured persons had to be taken down town, if the family doctor was unable to handle the case, and the telegraph was not as quick bringing help as telephones and electrical equipment of the present day.

But many are the old timers who still remember May 26th, 1882 when

the Falls of Schuylkill was rocked by the coal oil explosion as reported as follows in a local paper the following week:

"Shortly after four o'clock last Friday afternoon a fire occurred in the grocery store of John McNeill, No. 3428 Ridge avenue, Falls of Schuylkill. One of the men employed in the store went down into the cellar to draw some oil, turning up to its full the gas jet, which was placed just above the barrel. The fumes of the oil rising to the gas became ignited, and communicated to the woodwork of the cellar. An alarm was sounded, and Fire Engine No. 12, from Manayunk, was soon on the ground. Meanwhile a number of the employees of Powers and Weightman's chemical works, had proceeded to the burning store, and endeavored to extinguish the flames. They united their efforts with those of the firemen, and, in about twenty minutes, had the fire well checked, when an explosion of one of all the barrels of oil in the cellar took place.

Daniel Shronk, one of the firemen of Engine No. 12, was standing at the time in the center of the store, pouring a stream of water through a hole in the floor down to the cellar. He was hurled with great force through the front door out into the street, sustaining severe injuries. Thomas Mulligan, another fireman, and Greenwood Firth, also a member of Engine Company No. 12, were in the doorway of the building and were badly injured by the explosion. A number of other men were trying to extinguish the flames and were variously occupied inside and outside the building. Nearly all those thus engaged were injured by the explosion. Those sustaining the more serious injuries were:

"Howard Shuster, residing at 3419 Ridge avenue; Joseph Englehardt, residing on the corner of Twenty-sixth and Dauphin streets; Patrick Fiegal, residing on Markle street, Manayunk; John McNeill (not the proprietor of the store), residing on Clearfield street, below Thirty-fifth; Peter Rice and John Neely, residing on Laboratory Hill; Henry Kane, residing at 1824 Knox street, and Henry Fillon, residing at 1841 Indiana avenue. Most of these men were severely burned

about the hands and face. Kane's body was badly burned.

"The following received injuries of a less serious character: Lambert Shuster, father of Howard Shuster, same residence; James Downing, residing on Park road; Oswald H. Henry, residing at 3428 Ridge avenue; Samuel Frazer, John Crawford, Bright Pinyard, Ridge avenue, below School Lane; Robert Morrow, No. 151 Spencer street; John Hutchinson, residence on Bowman street; a man named Eastwick, residing at Wissahickon; William Jamison, residing on Spencer street; Edward Henry, No. 151 Spencer street; Archie Thompson, Mower's Block, Ridge avenue and Peter McIntyre, residing on Park Road.

"Nearly all the injured men were taken to their homes. Fireman Shronk, who was, perhaps, the worst injured by the explosion, was removed to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where his injuries were stated to be not of a dangerous character. He resides on Fowler street, Manayunk, and is unmarried. Firemen Mulligan and Firth were taken to their homes. Mulligan resided on Winchester street and Firth on Washington street, Manayunk.

"The explosion created excitement at the Falls, and during the afternoon and early evening large numbers of people congregated about the small grocery store where it occurred. The report was very loud, but the flames were confined to the one building, and the damage was comparatively trifling. A good-sized piece of glass was carried with great force across Bridge street, through the open doorway of Stelle's tavern on the other side of the street, and left a heavy imprint on the counter. No accidents, however, were reported from the flying missiles. A number of boys seated on a wall on Ridge avenue, opposite the store, were blown over into the field behind it.

"The building where the explosion took place is a two-story stone structure, owned by the Powers Estate. Considering the force of the explosion, the building is but slightly damaged. Mr. McNeill, the proprietor of the store, was absent at the time. The loss is estimated at \$5000; insured for \$2,500. For the present Mr. McNeill is carrying on his business in the property he recently purchased from Mr. John Cruice, 3411 Ridge avenue. The corner store will probably be torn down and a new structure erected.

"It is satisfactory to learn that the injured firemen are all improving, although it may be a couple of weeks before Shronk is able to leave the hospital. But it is less pleasant to hear that several persons have been applying for their positions."

Old Pictures of Falls of Schuylkill To be Shown at Parents Meeting

Dr. Charles K. Mills Collection of Prints, Paintings and Photographs Made Available by Free Library of Philadelphia
1934

Falls of Schuylkill history will be disclosed by means of lantern slides, painstakingly collected through years of effort, by the late Dr. Charles K. Mills, at the March meeting of the Breck Home and School Association, which will take place at the Samuel Breck School, Krail and Crawford streets, East Falls, on Thursday evening of next week.

Among the pictures to be shown will be those of early residents and buildings of the community, pioneer manufacturing plants, Schuylkill river scenes, Revolutionary characters, officers of Captain John Dobson's Company "I," of the Blue

Reserves during the Civil War, old roadhouses, the development of transportation facilities, old schools and many other rare old photographs.

The slides are being furnished through the courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and will be explained by A. C. Chadwick, Jr., of The Suburban Press.

In addition to the pictures, there will be a fine surrounding program provided by President Harry Binkin and other officers of the Home and School Association.

The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting of the Association.

6/9/1932

10/16/30

Aged Man Relates Stories Connected With Old House

Structure, Which Stood at Ridge Avenue and School Lane, Was Occupied by Interesting Characters

"When I was a boy," said an old man as he stopped at the junction of Ridge avenue and School house lane, "there used to be a little yellow-washed frame house down in that hollow where the driveway goes up to the coal bunker of the Queen Lane Pumping Station."

"I understand that it stood there for almost a century, before it was torn down to make way for the 'improvements' which you now see.

"The little old building was, according to what I have heard, erected near the close of the 18th century, as a farm house on Peter Robeson's farm.

"Among those who occupied it, were George Miller, whose Herculean strength made him a terror to evil doers. The grip of his hand was so powerful that he could place a raw potato in each palm, hold his arms at full length, and squeeze the 'spuds' into a pulp. He was also credited with being able to grasp a barrel of cider by the chimes, raise it up and drink from the bung-hole. From the actions of some of the 'Wet' advocates of today, it must be one of their regrets, that they, too, cannot do this. Miller, when he tilled the farm, was among the first to grow sweet potatoes in Philadelphia County.

"A later occupant was Jesse Evans, who carried on an extensive dairy farm here, for many years. When he moved in, a narrow addition was made to the front of the house.

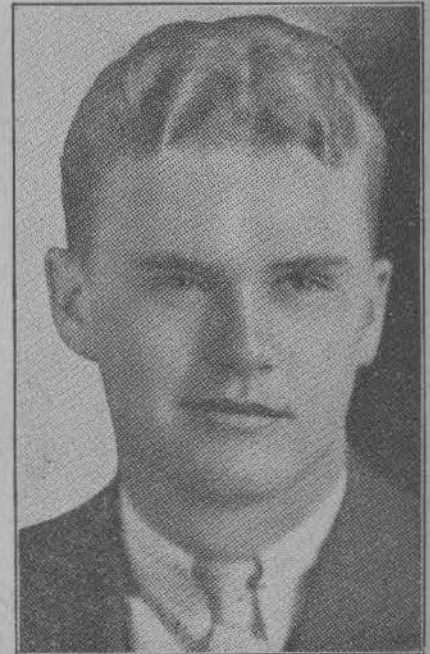
"The house, until 1854, was the uppermost dwelling in North Penn Township, and after the consolidation of the townships into one great municipality, in 1854, was the farthest house of the Falls of Schuylkill, to Manayunk. Jesse Evans raised a large family in that little house, which for years was the center of many social functions.

"Samuel Frazer succeeded Evans, as its occupant, and was the last to live in it, when it passed into the hands of William Weightman, of the old chemical firm of Powers and Weightman.

"The meadow, which was the ground which laid between Ridge avenue, here, and the Schuylkill River, was transferred to the Fairmount Park Commissioners, on condition, so I understand, that the laboratory people could retain a wharf on the Schuylkill at their lower works.

"When it was first built, I have been told, the little house was surrounded on two sides with a rocky embankment, which, as you see, must have been quarried away afterwards."

LEADS TEMPLE DEBA



TING CLUB

ROBERT M. CROOKS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Crooks, of 3455 Cresson street, East Falls, who is a sophomore in the School of Commerce, Temple University, and a member of the varsity debating team, was elected president of the Debate Club, at the annual banquet held in the Faculty Dining Room, Mitten Hall, recently. Mr. Crooks is also a member of the Pre-Law Club at Temple.

The Falls boy, and his achievements, were the subject of a front-page article in the Temple University News.

Forecast 5/4/1916

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Large Building Operation In Falls

Thomas J. Gavaghan, Builder; Joseph P. Tyrrell, Architect



THOMAS J. GAVAGHAN



JOSEPH P. TYRRELL

The man undertaking the building of these houses is Thomas J. Gavaghan, of Ainslie street, who will make arrangements for the sale of the properties at any time.

A detailed description of one of these houses, which are all alike, as given by the architect, Joseph P. Tyrrell, who resides on Krail street, is appended:

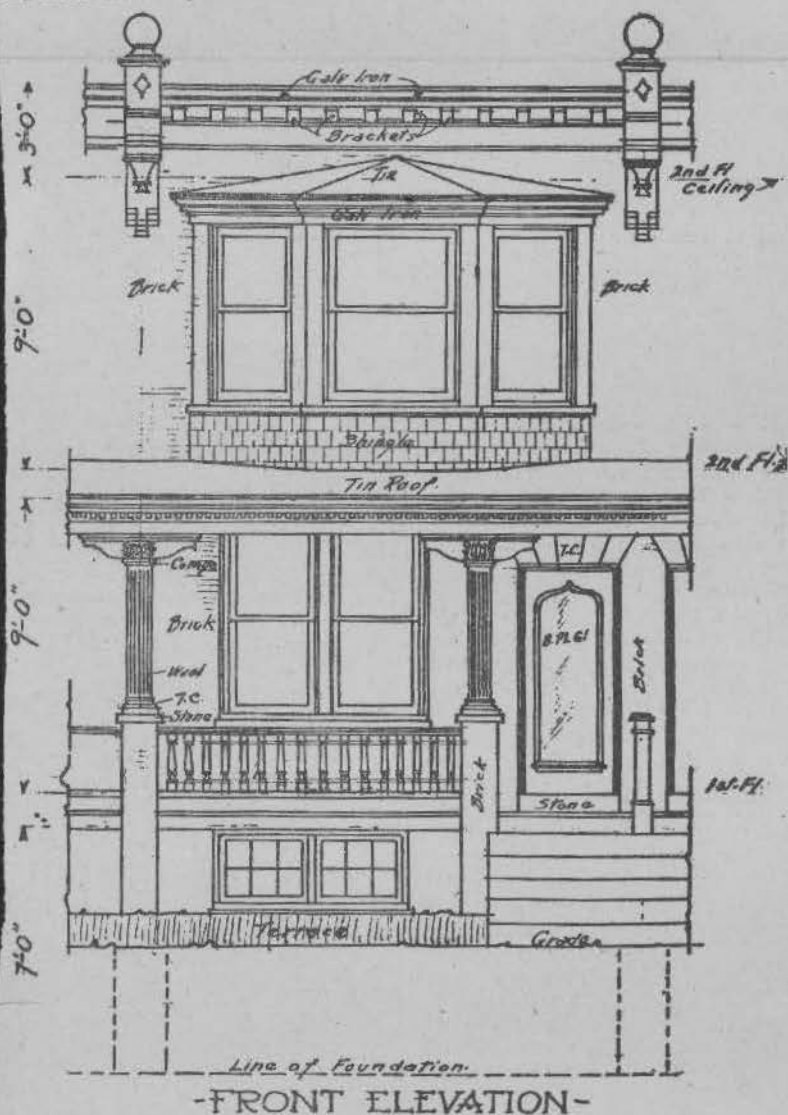
Ground was broken on Saturday a week ago for an operation of forty-one houses to be erected on the south side of Queen lane, Bowman street, Vaux street and the north side of Queen lane.

The houses will be of the type usually found in the exclusive sections of Philadelphia with the most modern and up-to-date improvements, such as parquetry floors, hot-water heat, sunken bathtubs, with tiled floors and sides, and shower. Stationary washtubs located in the cellar, with outside entrance to the same. The usual coal range has been dispensed with, and in its place is an up-to-date gas range.

The houses will have an artistic porch, large and well-lighted rooms; in fact, everything usually found in a house selling for seven and eight thousand dollars, while the price placed on these houses will be within the reach of every family in this town desirous of living in comfort to which they are entitled.

These houses will have a 10-foot terrace front and a 10-foot entrance porch of a Colonial design. The vestibule will have tile floors and wood-paneled wainscot, finished in light oak. The door between the vestibule and dining-room will have a full-length leaded glass panel. The living room will be 19 feet six inches long by 14 feet 7 inches wide, and will have a picturesque open stairway leading to the second floor. On the opposite side of the room will be placed a handsome design of desk mantel, and the end of the room will be a large arched opening leading to the dining-room. This room will be finished in white enamel and light oak alternately. The lighting fixtures for this room will be a modern design of light combination gas and electric fixtures in the center of the room and two electric candle brackets over the mantel. The dining-room will be 14 feet deep by 14 feet 9 inches wide and will have a large window facing an areaway. In one corner will be placed a door leading to a large coat-closet under the stairway. The communicating door to the kitchen will be double-acting. This room as well as the living-room will have a parquetry floor and will have exceptional pretty combination gas and electric shower lights. The simplicity of the room with its beautiful doors and arch will form a picture that will please the most critical purchaser.

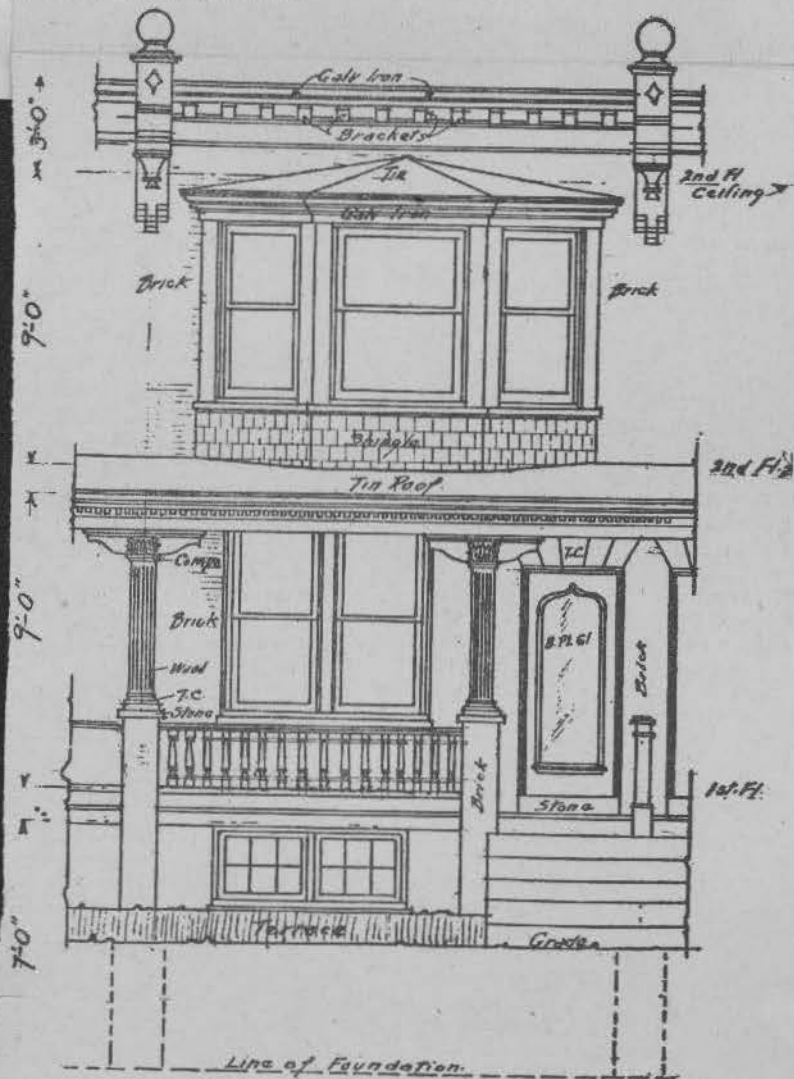
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The kitchen will be finished light oak or white enamel as may be desired and will be fitted with the most modern kitchen fittings, including a large cabinet gas range, a new type dresser closet, a pot and pan closet and an excellent system of lighting. At the rear will be a frame extension, which will furnish ample storage room or a pantry; from the kitchen will be a stairway leading to the laundry in the basement, which will have a modern laundry stove and water boiler and wash-trays. This room will be separated from the front portion of the basement and will have a direct passage to the yard.

The bath-room will have a tile floor and tile walls, which will be carried to the height of 6 feet 6 inches at shower-bath, a white porcelain built-in sunken bathtub with nickel-plated shower bath, a pedestal with nickel-plated fittings and a medicine closet above, a white enamel water-closet outfit with modern low-down tank, and a large linen-closet; this room will be finished in white enamel. The balance of the second floor will consist of three large bedrooms and seven large closets. All the bedrooms will be finished in white enamel with mahogany doors. The interior wood finish throughout will be of first quality hard wood.

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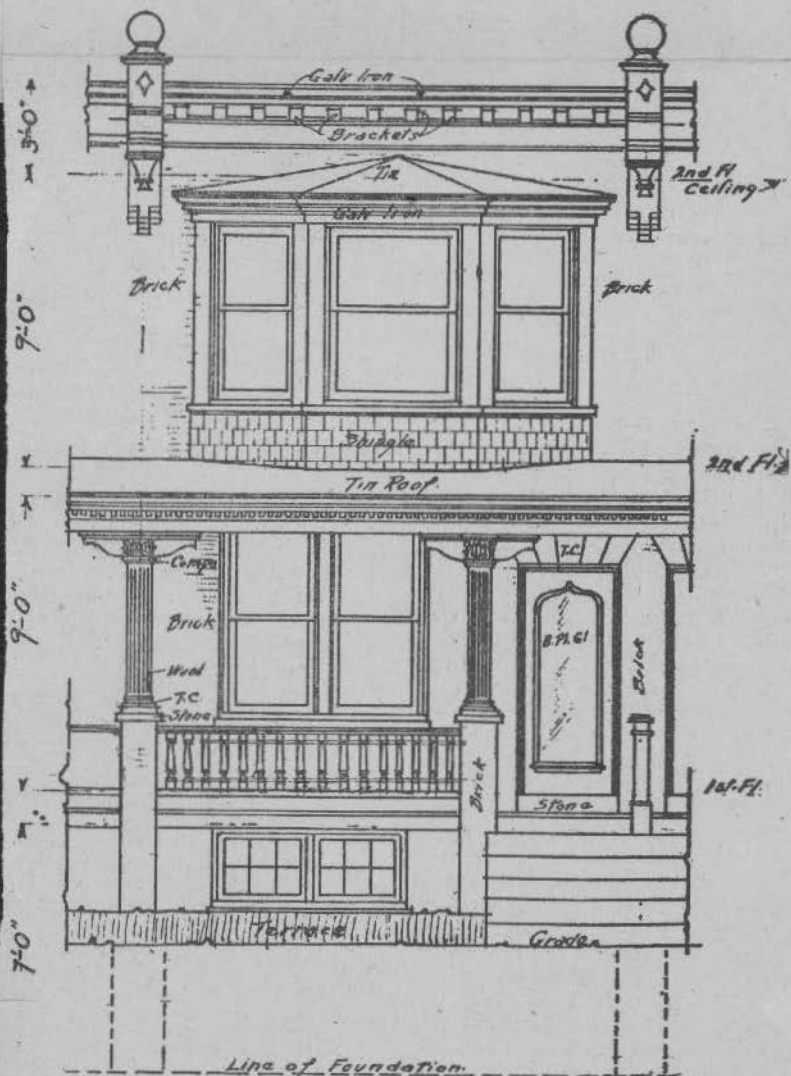


-FRONT ELEVATION-

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S.P. 8/15/1929

Romance of Jas. Buchanan Discovered in Laurel Hill

To the average person, a cemetery would probably be that last place to look for romance, and yet it was on the green clad slopes of North Laurel Hill, up from the banks of the Schuylkill River, that we unearthed a story, as tragically romantic as any we have ever seen on the silvered screens of the modern moving picture houses.

Almost opposite the point where North 35th street joins Ridge avenue, and a short distance back from the roadway, rests the remains of Elizabeth Colman, the sweetheart of Pennsylvania's lone occupant of the Presidential chair, James Buchanan.

The spot is marked by a monument surmounted by the figure of a young girl leaning on a pedestal. The lot was formerly recognized by the presence of three large pine trees, but in recent years these have gone.

The story of Buchanan and his early love is very touching, and presents in a true light the character of a man who was made fun of and ridiculed to the extreme on account of his bachelorhood. In the campaign for his election this fact was used against him. They called him "Ten-Cent Jimmy" and said that no bachelor was wanted in the White House.

It was at this time that the youthful romance of the to-be President was first published, and although it was suppressed as much as possible, yet it was responsible to a considerable extent for the re-action of the public feeling.

When Buchanan was about 24 years of age, he was a rising young attorney, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was engaged to be married to an estimable young lady of that place, named Elizabeth Colman, a member of a noted family, whose connections owned the finest coal mines in the State, known at that time as "the Buck Mountains," in Lebanon County, including nearly all of the town of Cornwall, where the Colman's carried on an extensive iron business, and having also a railroad which ran between Cornwall and Lebanon.

Young Buchanan had made arrangements with the young lady who was to be his bride, for attending a dance which was to take place on a certain specified evening. A few of his professional friends sent a request for the transaction of some important legal business. As the time designated was the same of his appointment with his sweetheart, the situation caused the young attorney some embarrassment. He did not wish to refuse his friends the permission asked, nor did he wish to deprive his fiancée of the anticipated evening of pleasure. He was in a quandary for if he gave a favorable reply to his friends it would require his presence in the office. So he made up his mind to escort Miss Colman to the dance, after which he would do the usual courtesies to his lawyer friends.

He called upon Miss Colman and

explained the dilemma he was in and stated his intentions. She refused to leave pleasure interfere with his business engagement and decided to remain at home.

When the evening of the appointment arrived, Buchanan was in his office, awaiting the coming of his friends. He waited until 9 p. m., but they did not put in an appearance. He was wondering at their delay, when the janitor asked him if he had received the letter they had left for him. He said that he had not—although it was upon his desk before him. He opened the missive at once, and found that its contents informed him that the intended meeting of his friends had been called off. He was chagrined. He had disappointed the dearest being on earth, to him, and had wasted the whole evening besides.

It was too late to retrieve the condition of affairs. He would not ask Miss Colman to go at such a late hour, and yet, it was too early for he, himself, to go to bed. He thought he would take a stroll through the town before retiring.

His peregrinations took him past the hall wherein the dance was being held, and without a thought of remaining longer than to see how the affair was progressing, he passed in.

As he entered the place he spoke to a couple of lady acquaintances who were also just going in. He remained but a few minutes, and then went home and retired, but it is supposed that some one who saw him entering with the ladies, at once carried word to his sweetheart at her home, that her intended husband had escorted another woman to the dance, for on the following morning, Miss Colman failed to appear for breakfast. A servant was sent to her room, only to find her cold in death, with an empty laudanum bottle beside her.

It is supposed that when she heard of her lover's faithlessness, she became disconsolate and ended her life. Her body was brought to Laurel Hill, and the monument, before mentioned, was erected over her grave, although it does not bear her name. For many years her resting place was visited by Buchanan, and her immediate family, but after a time they moved to Kentucky, and the grave was taken care of by other members of the family.

It was this sad incident of his early days that perhaps soured the disposition of the Bachelor President. He remained true, until death, to his lost love and never married.

This, then is the little romance that was uncovered by taking a stroll through the city of the dead in the Falls of Schuylkill, where dozens of prominent men in the history of the Nation lie awaiting the trumpet call of the Angel Gabriel.

SCCAFF

4/3/1930

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Highways and Landmarks, of Old, Disappear

Road Named for Monument Erected by Judge Peters Remains

MANY CHANGES

Parts of Old Lanes Have Been Vacated in March of Progress

Each year sees the West River Drive growing more popular. It runs along the bank of the Schuylkill river and was once known as "the River Road," and extended from Fairmount to and beyond Norristown. At the end of the last century according to old files of the Weekly Forecast, it was vacated north of the Falls bridge through the influence of the Pencoyd Iron Works; now the American Bridge Company, and the Reading Railroad Company. The closing extended northward to Righter's Ferry Road, on the corner of which the little foundry used for the making of blacksmiths' anvils was erected in 1855 by Algernon and Percival Roberts, founders of the Pencoyd Iron Works. Later the iron company secured the vacating of Righter's Ferry Road and River Road, and the closing of the latter to within a short distance of Belmont avenue.

In the last half of the 18th century, a road opened from Righter's Ferry, which extended in a winding course to the Lancaster pike. This road was called Monument avenue, and although shortened at the West Philadelphia end, still bears that name. The road was one of those which, with its intersection with two other lanes, the Falls and Ford Roads, made up Five Points, a settlement back of the present Woodside Park.

Along the north side of Monument avenue, a short distance west of Belmont avenue, on a sloping hill, stood a monument built of stone. It was circular in form and tapered to a point covered by a capstone. At the base the pile was about five feet in diameter. It was built, they say, by Judge Peters, of Belmont, who erected it to mark the spot where he first met his wife, a charming woman, who was gathering blackberries on the hillside. Close to where the shaft stood the road took a sharp turn toward the south, passing through a clump of cedars, from which it was called Cedar lane. Cedar Driving Park, which is well known to middle aged folk, received its name from this old road. At the foot of the slope, the road again turned westward, near where the "Iron Gates" once stood. Two large, ornamented iron gates, with a neatly built porter's lodge on each side, formed the entrance to the Lansdowne Mansion, which overlooked the Schuylkill from the height near where Memorial Hall now stands. The mansion was de-

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stroyed by fire on July 4th, 1856, and was never rebuilt.

Owing to the great expansion of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Monument Road was vacated from the point where the iron gates stood. It used to be a favorite road for people of Roxborough, Manavunk and the Falls to get to Hestonville, by which name the upper part of West Philadelphia was then known, and to the Old Cathedral Cemetery, or to the Blockley Baptist Church burying ground.

From River road, one could reach the Monument road, by way of Ford road, which still exists, and Mendenhall's Ferry, which was located at what is now the bottom of Strawberry Hill, near Nicetown lane. The ferry road extended from Ridge avenue at what is now the Huntingdon street entrance to Fairmount Park. On the west side of the river it climbed the hill to Mount Prospect now familiar as Chamonix, then descended into the ravine and continued along the west front of the Philadelphia Country Club's property until the Falls road was constructed in 1850, when that part of Ferry road became the new thoroughfare. At the Falls of Schuylkill, on the upper side of the Falls Hotel, was Watkin's Ferry, known as "the rope ferry" owing to a rope being stretched across the stream, one end fastened to a large willow tree, and the other to a huge iron ring leaded in a rock. Other ropes, with pulleys, trolleyed along the larger rope, kept the boat from drifting down the river. This road extended along the lower side of Simpson's Print Works, close to the mill dams, now called the Chamonix

Lakes, where it merged with the Mendenhall Ferry road. When the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was built, the lane to Watkin's Ferry was blocked by the railway embankment, but was continued by running it up the hill over the embankment, until the Falls road was opened, when the Ferry road was permanently closed. It crossed the railroad for ten years without an accident occurring there.

The improvement which followed the extension of Fairmount Park obliterated most of the old-time landmarks, including the Judge Peters monument, after it had begun crumbling with age and want of care. The old woods, the iron gates, and other objects of interest have all disappeared, and in a few more years will be entirely forgotten, as the present generation knows little, or nothing about them.

SOCAFF.

Thomas Moore Helped to Organize First Reformed Episcopal Church In U. S.

Former Manager of Powers & Weightman Laboratory, In The Falls of Schuylkill Was Lay Founder of Grace Reformed Church—Prominent In Early Synods

Thomas Moore, a widely known chemist, and for more than thirty years the manager of the big laboratories of Powers & Weightman, at the Falls, died in 1902, at his home, residence, No. 1639 North Broad street, of pneumonia and heart failure.

Mr. Moore was about 76 years of age, but invariably enjoyed the best of health. He took a heavy cold, due to a change of weather, and in a day or so his physician diagnosed his case as one of pneumonia. He was forced to take to his bed, but at no time was it thought that he would not recover. Later he experienced considerable difficulty in breathing, and during one of these spells died. His death was said to be due to the pneumonia, hastened by heart failure.

Up to the time he was taken sick he attended to his many personal affairs with the same activity which he was noted for during his life. On the previous Sunday he was found in his accustomed pew in the Church of the Redeemer.

Mr. Moore was born in Philadelphia in 1825 and had ten children, five sons and five daughters. One of his daughters was the wife of Charles T. Yerkes, Jr.

Mr. Moore spent his whole active business life with the Powers & Weightman, manufacturing chemists. He entered that establishment as a mere boy, and in 1851 or 1852, when he reached manhood, he was made the manager of the big laboratories at the Falls. Mr. Hoopes, who was connected with Powers & Weightman for a number of years,

said that Mr. Moore's executive ability made him more valuable in those days than any great extraordinary work as a chemist. For more than thirty years Mr. Moore remained as manager, until his retirement from active business life, about forty-four years ago.

He was born in Philadelphia, and the family was well known in this city for years. His grandfather is said to have been the first quarantine master at the old Lazaretto Station. He was prominent in Reformed Episcopal Church circles, and was really the organizer of the very first Reformed Episcopal Church in the United States. With Mr. Powers and Bishop William R. Nicholson he assisted very materially in the compilation of the Prayer Book used by Reformed Episcopalians and also in the enactment of the original constitution and canons of the church. In speaking of Mr. Moore's career Rev.

Dr. Hoffman, pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, Sixteenth and Oxford streets, said:

"He was one of the most upright men I ever knew, and was thoroughly honest in all his business and church relations. In church circles and throughout the community generally he was highly respected and was a man of the highest integrity and Christian character." Originally he was a member of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, in which his father was an active and prominent member. Then, when the Reformed Episcopal Church was formed in 1873, he was one of those early prominently connected with the movement, contributing largely of his means, and assisting in founding and organizing the Second Reformed Episcopal Church, later called St. Paul's, which was in charge of Bishop Nicholson. Really, next to Mr. Powers, he was the main factor in starting the church. Being connected with the laboring people at the Falls, he swung them into line, and was the means of organizing the very first Reformed Episcopal Church in the United States, now Grace Reformed Church, in charge of Rev. Howell S. Foster.

He was very prominent in the early General Councils of the Reformed Church and also in councils of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia. Years ago he came to the Church of the Redeemer and was very much interested in its work.

Mr. Moore was also prominent in Masonic and Odd Fellows' circles and was a member of the Union League, Art and Columbia Clubs, and of the Sons of American Revolution.

SOCAFF.

6/4/1931

Dr. Charles K. Mills

Dr. Charles K. Mills, who died at his home in Philadelphia, on Thursday of last week, was one of the natives of this section of the city, to whom we could always point with just pride.

His rise, against all sorts of adversities, to a position of international prominence as a neurologist and his many contributions for the alleviation of suffering peoples in the city's hospitals have always sustained the admiration of those who were acquainted with him.

It is men of his type who have spread the fame of this city throughout the world. The skill and learning of the Philadelphia lawyer has become proverbial; but, as a matter of fact, the physicians and surgeons of Penn's old town are quite as well known in this country and abroad. Dr. Mills had lived a long and useful life. His work was finished.

Not least among is accomplishments for which we are most grateful, were his historical writings, concerning the Falls of Schuylkill and Roxborough, the "land of his youth" for which he never ceased to have a proud affection.

* * * * *

5/14/1931

REV. EDW. RITCHIE IS FETED ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

Former Rector of St. James the Less P. E. Church, Is Congratulated by Huge Crowd of Friends, Upon Reaching Four-Score Mark in Life.—Will Be Honored by Stained Glass Window, as Thank Offering

Three hundred, or more, friends of Rev. Edward Ritchie, assembled in the church house of St. James the Less P. E. Church, 33rd and Clearfield street, last Saturday evening to offer their congratulations to the rector emeritus of the parish, who was observing his eightieth birth anniversary.

Included among the great crowd of well-wishers were Episcopal clergymen from all parts of the city and its environs. Rev. Charles Jarvis Harriman, Father Ritchie's successor at the Falls of Schuylkill church, presided at the affair and introduced the various speakers, all of whom lauded the elderly churchman, who despite his four score years retains all the vitality of a man very much his junior.

Samuel T. Wagner read aloud letters from church leaders in different parts of the country, who because of the distance, or other engagements were unable to be present, all of which praised Father Ritchie for the splendid contribution he has made for the good of mankind in the service of the church. A message, along the same lines, from Mrs. Mary A. Dobson, was also among those which were read by Mr. Wagner.

Clinton Rogers Woodruff, rector's warden of St. Clement's Church, paid a fine tribute to the aged clergyman, with whose family the speaker was quite intimate, and spoke of the late Rev. Robert Ritchie, a brother of the man being feted, who also served as rector of St. James the Less Church.

Mr. Woodruff, who closed his little talk with a hope that the clergyman will live to see many more such birthday parties.

John Wagner, chairman of the church property committee, told of the affection that the members of the parish felt for Father Ritchie, and on their behalf presented the priest with a photograph of a large stained glass window, which is to be erected at the Church of St. James the Less, as a thank offering for the services Father Ritchie has rendered to the parishoners.

The gift was accepted by the recipient with words—according to his own phrase—that he "found difficulty in expressing". He uttered his gratitude to "those whom I have known so long," and also for the opportunity of living eighty years. Before he was able to resume his seat, little Miss Kathryn Harriman, tiny daughter of the rector of the church, walked up to Father Ritchie and handed him a huge birthday cake, bearing a

single candle, which this humble scribe could not help but think, was symbolical of "one life, devoted to one purpose—the service of God."

Father Harriman voiced the appreciation of Father Ritchie and himself, for the work of the committee who had arranged the natal day fete and also to the large group of clergymen who were in attendance.

Refreshments were served and then Joseph Smith, director of the Falls Male Chorus rendered a vocal solo, which was followed by the entire assemblage singing old fashioned "rounds", as only Mr. Smith can invoke such a congregation to do, all to the great delight of everyone.

Rev. Edward Ritchie, is the son of Arthur Ritchie and Mary R. B. (Hopkins) Ritchie, and was born on May 9th, 1851, in Philadelphia.

He had three brothers, Rev. Robert Ritchie, who was for 37 years the rector of St. James the Less Church; Rev. Arthur Ritchie, the most noted of the family, who served as rector of the Church of the Ascension in Chicago, and at St. Ignatius Church in New York, and Samuel Ritchie, a layman who was a vestryman of St. Ignatius Church, New York.

Father Edward Ritchie graduated with a B. A. from the University of Pennsylvania, in 1869, and received his M. A. degree in 1872, from the same institution. He later completed a course of studies at the General Theological Seminary, in New York, with the degree of S. T. B.

He was ordained a deacon in 1880, and as priest on June 12th, 1881, by Bishop McLaren. The golden jubilee of his ordination will take place on June 12th of this year.

In 1880 Father Ritchie served St. Stephen's Church, in Chicago; from 1881 to 1883 he was rector of St. James Church, Dundee, Illinois, and of St. John's Church, Algonquin, Illinois, serving both churches at the same time. From 1883 until 1887, and again from 1891 until 1892 he was in charge at St. Stephen's Church, Florence, N. J. The years between 1887 and 1891 he was assistant rector at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Philadelphia, and from 1892 until 1907 he was rector of St. Luke's Church, Newtown, Pa.

In 1907 he succeeded his brother, Robert, as rector of St. James the Less Church, and as such served until 1924, when he became rector emeritus, being succeeded by Rev. Charles Jarvis Harriman.

6/11/1934

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New Officers Elected For Male Chorus

George Gotwols Named President of Falls Vocal Organization

SMITH IS DIRECTOR

Group Has Always Created Favorable Publicity for Community

"The man that hath no music in himself, Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils, The motions of his spirit are dull as night And his affections dark as Erebus, Let no such man be trusted."

—Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice: v, I.

At a meeting of the Falls Male Chorus, held in the auditorium of the Free Library, at Midvale avenue and Warden Drive, last week, new officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year.

Those who were selected to guide the work of the organization for the next twelve months are: Director, Joseph Smith; President, George Gotwols; Vice President, Donald S. MacKenzie; Secretary, Claude S. Hazel; Treasurer, Harold Webster; Secretary for Associate Members, George Gotwols, and Directors, Joseph Tidswell, Thomas Brimfield, Walter Smith, William Rawley, Herbert Greenwood, Thomas Dunlay and Clarence Walker.

Mrs. Bessie Dobson Eastman is Honorary President, John Hohenadel, of East Falls, and Albert Walker, of Roxborough, are Honorary Vice Presidents, and A. C. Chadwick, Jr., Honorary Secretary.

The organization, composed of some fifty members, was founded on June 1st, 1912. In giving the group the name of the Falls Male Chorus, it was decided that a more befitting title could not be found other than one specifying the community in which most of the men resided. Experience has shown that this was a wise action, as the Chorus has always been a source of favorable publicity for the Falls of Schuylkill, not only in Philadelphia, but in the surrounding States.

Non-sectarian in its character

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Chairs in Falls Church Are Memorials of Spanish King's Flight

4/23/1931

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4/23/1931
Gifts of James Simmons Swartz Remembered When Alfonso XIII Abdicated His Throne Recently.—Were Used by Joseph Bonaparte in His Bordentown Mansion

"It is not such a very large world, after all!"

How often have we heard that phrase when learning of people or incidents of widely separated countries, having some common interest with each other?

However, the trite saying came back to our minds a few days ago, when the recent dramatic departure of Alfonso XIII from Spain, took place, and we remembered two curious chairs which occupy the space in front of the pulpit of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, on Indian Queen lane, above Ridge avenue.

These chairs are memorials of another famous exiled King of Spain, who found refuge in the United States, and who for a time made his home in this city.

That royal refugee was Joseph Bonaparte, brother of the great Napoleon, and stories of his life in Philadelphia, as "a dignified, generous, kindhearted gentleman" more than a century ago, are legion.

The house he first occupied, at 260 South Ninth street, is still standing, and contains a sideboard used by the royal occupant. And he is known to have given a lawn fete on the site of what is now 12th and Market streets, in one of the finest mansions in the Quaker City.

Joseph, later, built a palatial mansion at Bordentown, N. J., and "Bonaparte Park" still exists to commemorate the graciousness of New Jersey in sheltering its royal guest.

"King Joseph" seems to have been an eminently acceptable citizen, democratic and hospitable. But he did not respond readily to the overtures of Philadelphia society, which would gladly, it is said, have accepted him. His heart was with France, and his last home was in Florence, Italy, where he died in 1844.

It was in September, of 1815, that King Joseph, a fugitive from the throne he precariously occupied from May, 1808 until late in 1814, landed surreptitiously at New York, and hid there from the English, who were ransacking ships for him and for Napoleon, himself.

Tradition says he was recognized on the sidewalk, by a soldier of his Old Guard, and passersby were surprised to hear him greeted as "Your Majesty," by a stranger kneeling on the cobbles.

Recognition under such circumstances was dangerous. Joseph came to Philadelphia afterward, in company with Commodore Lewis, of Amboy, N. J. They planned to continue to Washington to pay their respects to President Madison, but the Chief Executive was unwilling to give official welcome to the fugitive, and although

eph started out in a coach, he turned back before arriving there.

At "Lansdowne," a country place—in what is now Fairmount Park—which the exiled King rented in 1816, he talked freely with neighboring farmers, drank their cider and impressed all by his manner. Samuel Breck, for whom the public school in East Falls is named, who lived in the neighborhood, and kept a diary, records having met King Joseph on the road, and what he said was like "a plain country gentleman."

His house was open to all the Bonapartists in America. Stephen Girard was the closest friend of Joseph in this country, and Philadelphia's royal resident and his friends were often entertained at Girard's house on Water street.

Joseph, who lived at Bordentown for eighteen years, had furnished his home with all the grandeur which was possible in those days, and the chairs which are now in the Falls Baptist Church were used in the Bonaparte mansion.

James Simmons Swartz, who is known as the Falls Baptist Church's greatest benefactor, purchased the chairs one day, many years ago, at Freeman's Auction House, thinking that they would be suitable for his own home. However, they were later sent to the home of his cousin, Mary Simmons, at Devon, Pennsylvania. Subsequently, upon the death of his relatives at Devon the chairs came back to Mr. Swartz, who very kindly gave them to the church.

The chairs, are indeed, worth viewing, for beside their queer coverings, the arms and other parts, which in an ordinary chair is usually of wood, are formed of the tusks of some huge animal.

Bonaparte's mansion, at Bordentown, was destroyed by fire in 1820. Joseph's appreciation for assistance at the time for the fire was contained in a letter to one of the magistrates of the Jersey town.

"All of the furniture, statues, pictures, money, plate, gold, jewels, linen, books and, in short, everything that was not consumed, has been most scrupulously delivered into the hands of the people of my house," he wrote.

"In the night of the fire, and during the next day, there were brought to me by laboring men drawers in which I found the proper quantity of pieces of money,

medals of gold, and valuable jewels, which might have been taken with impunity."

Restoration of the house, which he immediately undertook, could not make Joseph forget his native land. King Louis Philippe was willing for him to live in Florence, and he returned there in 1823, to remain until his death.

Bonaparte Park is now owned by Harris Hammond, son of John Hays Hammond, the inventor, who is restoring it to its old grandeur, but the chairs at the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, will more than likely remain here, to remind the members of the congregation of the many debts they owe, James Simmons Swartz, among whose many gifts to the church were these two chairs of Joseph Bonaparte.

SCCAFF

Old Academy On Queen Lane Is Most Famous Structure In This Vicinity

Was Cradle Of All Churches In The Falls; Land Was Gift Of Son Of First University Of Penna. Provost

*Forrest
Dec. 7
1916*



OLD ACADEMY BUILDING

The Old Academy Building, which at present is occupied by the Mission of St. James-the-Less Church for the convenience particularly of the aged living in what is called the upper part of the Falls of Schuylkill, is the most famous structure of this section, than which few buildings in the city have a more interesting history, or are more closely associated with the life of any particular section.

Standing on the lower side of Queen lane, a short distance from Cresson street, is the two-story stone building, about 40 by 70 feet, with its pitched roof surmounted by a dome-shaped cupola, which is known as the Old Academy Building and the cradle of all the churches in that vicinity. The building was erected in 1819 by popular subscription and volunteer labor by the people of the Falls of Schuylkill for a place of worship and a schoolhouse. The ground was donated in 1816 by William Moore Smith, whose father, Rev. William Smith, was the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

The gift of the land was to the people and distinctly stated that it should be used for the erection thereon of a schoolhouse and house of worship. There was a "string" attached to the gift, to the effect that should the trustees fail to meet on any first Monday in January the land would revert to the donor or his heirs. As a consequence of this proviso, the first Monday in January has been carefully watched all through the 93 years by both the trustees and heirs of the donor.

There are nine members of the Board, and all they do at the annual meeting is to reorganize and fill vacancies caused by death or removal from the Falls or the expiration of terms. These are the members of the Board: Samuel Garrett, president; Frank Ferguson Hess, secretary; Charles K. Sorber resigned as treasurer in the beginning of the year 1915, and Samuel Garrett is acting treasurer; William E. Marley, Arthur Binkin, Adam Mettinger, Charles L. Dykes, Horace E. Green, Franklin W. Morison and John M. Shronk, Jr., mostly representatives of the oldest families of that section. President Garrett's ancestors, the Garretts, having been among the Swedes who preceded Penn to this country. All through the history of the building the

trustees have included a member of the Sorber family, while the Green, Morison and Marley names are to be found in many years of the trustees' records.

When the building was erected an organization was formed by the "yeomanry" of the neighborhood, known as "The Falls of Schuylkill Association," in which any respectable resident of the place could become a member upon the payment of \$4. This association has long been defunct, and the property has for years been held by the self-appointed trustees, who care for it as a possession belonging to the people.

Prior to the erection of the building the only religious services held in the community were conducted in the different homes of the residents. Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, a Baptist clergyman, who in 1803 had established himself in the old homestead, at Wissahickon, frequently came down to the Falls to conduct services. He was among the first to preach the Gospel in the schoolhouse. Rev. Joseph H. Kennard, long pastor of the Tenth Baptist Church in later years, would ride on horseback from the Blockley Church, of which he was pastor, to preach at the Falls. Rev. Dr. Shull, a Lutheran clergyman, came over from Germantown to minister to people of that faith, while clergymen and local preachers from the Fairmount and Manayunk circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church held class meetings and preached to the Methodists.

The Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church was organized in the schoolhouse on June 7, 1838, with 11 members, most of whom had been members of Blockley Church. This church first occupied its own building, on Queen lane near Ridge avenue, on March 21, 1852, and celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in June, 1913.

An organization known as the Falls of Schuylkill Sunday School Association was formed about the same time the building was completed. Abraham Martin, of School lane, was for many years its president. A Union Sunday School was formed and had as its superintendent Thomas Mason Mitchell, a devout Presbyterian. He was succeeded after resigning by Benjamin R. Marley, a Baptist. The school continued as a union school until 1852, when it became known as a Baptist Sunday School and left the schoolhouse, to meet in the Baptist Church. The Falls of Schuylkill Methodist

Episcopal Church, which occupied its own building, on James street, in 1851; St. James-the-Less, Protestant Episcopal Church; Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church, St. Bridget's Catholic Church, Grace Reformed Episcopal Church and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer all worshiped in the old building.

The Forrest Public School was organized in the old building and occupied it until 1850, when the little yellow schoolhouse on Carson's Hill was first occupied.

For years the old building was the only place of amusement in that section, magic-lantern shows, Indian exhibitions, lectures, concerts and other like entertainments being given there.

When the Baptists met in the old building converts were taken to the Schuylkill to be immersed. The baptisms took place at the mouth of Mifflin Run, now opposite the Midvale avenue entrance to Fairmount Park. At the corner of Ferry road was a frame building that once belonged to Watkins' ferry. In that dwelling the converts would put on dry clothing after being baptized. Close to the house, at the river's edge, was an immense willow tree with a large limb extending out over the river. On Sunday in the spring of 1850, when Rev. John M. Richards, who was supplying the church, baptized a large number of converts, a party of about twenty young men climbed out on the limb so as to witness the baptism. When the last candidate had been immersed the young men rose simultaneously from their sitting position, with the result that the limb snapped off close to the trunk and with those on it tumbled into the river. Those who could swim helped the others to shore.

For a time the Free Library of Philadelphia occupied the Old Academy until the new Carnegie Library, at Midvale avenue and Warden drive, was completed.

The following, furnished by Samuel Garrett, of Ainslee street, who is president of the trustees of the Old Academy Building, will be illuminating:

The deed of July 9, 1816, William Moore Smith and Ann, his wife, to Robert Watkins and other trustees, conveying the Old Academy site, declares: "The said lot or property of fifty-six square perches to be held in trust, nevertheless, that they, the said trustees, shall and will as soon as they can conveniently, next build and finish upon the said granted lot a house or building of such size, form and dimensions as they, the said trustees, shall think fit, which said house or building shall, when completed, be used and occupied as a schoolhouse for the instruction therein of children and others in the useful branches of school learning, commonly understood by the description of the lower branches of an English education, and also shall moreover be used and occupied as an occasional place of worship for the use and service of the professors of Christianity of every denomination in the celebration of Divine worship, who shall have the right and privilege from time to time to meet and assemble therein for the adoration and worship therein of Almighty God, the Creator, Upholder and Ruler of the Universe, and that the said house or building shall only be used and occupied in manner, and for the several purposes aforesaid from time to time, and forever, and upon this further trust—that the said trustees or their successors in the said trust may repair, alter, rebuild the said house or building at their will and pleasure, from time to time, so always, however, that this present grant shall only enure to and for the uses and purposes above mentioned."

Mention of the first trustees in the minutes of the Falls of Schuylkill Association is made in the following language (quotation being furnished

by Samuel Garrett, of Ainslee street, president of the trustees):

"And the following gentlemen were duly elected trustees of the Falls of Schuylkill Association, viz.: William Alexander, Isaac Saikeld, Joseph Sorber, Isaac Johnson, Frederick Stoeber, Jr., Robert Watkins, Charles V. Hagner, Godfrey Shronk and William Briggs, to whom the care and management of the same was delegated."

Mr. Garrett also furnished a copy of the "plan of a piece of ground for the use of a school part of the property of William Smith, situate on the southeasterly side of a road leading from Germantown to the Falls of Schuylkill, in the County of Philadelphia, containing," etc., etc.

"Surveyed August 22, 1815.

"JOHN K. DUY."

but this drawing could not be reproduced.

4/30/1931

Hagner's Had Active Parts In History

Recalled by Recent Death of Roxborough Woman

LAST OF FAMILY

Rehear Carried Bells of Christ Church to Safety

Truly one of the grand dames of Philadelphia passed away by the death of Miss Mary Hagner of Shawmont avenue, which occurred a few weeks ago.

Well up in the eighties she had heard from her uncle, Captain Charles V. Hagner, the personal story of the War of 1812. Her grandfather, Colonel Frederick Hagner, was a soldier in the Revolution.

No other name was for a longer period so closely associated with the history of Manayunk and the Falls of Schuylkill than that of Hagner.

One of the earliest chemical industries in Philadelphia county was the Hagner drug mill at the Falls.

Miss Hagner's grandfather was one of the soldiers who in the autumn of 1777 took the Christ Church bells from the old steeple and hurried away with them to Bethlehem.

At the same time the Liberty Bell was also taken from Independence Hall just before Howe's British army marched into the city.

The Liberty Bell and the Christ Church bells were kept closely hidden in the Lehigh Valley until the summer of 1778, when the redcoats fled from Pennsylvania, never again to return.

College and school fees have now risen to great heights.

Not so when Captain Charles Hagner was a student at the University of Pennsylvania in 1802. There is a receipt, existing, which

shows his tuition for three months was only \$5.

And Miss Hagner paid as much at a fashionable school for girls.

From the days of Jefferson the Hagner's were red-hot Democrats. But Miss Hagner's father had been a protective tariff Democrat until as he wrote in 1840, he had been converted by President Jackson.

Were an invading army now to swoop down upon Philadelphia what things in the city would be deemed most worthy of saving.

In 1777 those bells and the records of Congress were the only things which were accorded a military escort to safety.

5/14/1931

Settlers Here Greeted Rider Of Revolution

Paul Revere Met by Men Who Resided in This Section

SMITH IN GROUP

John Dickinson and Charles Thomson Were Present at Meeting

Paul Revere, the man who arose in the middle of the night to carry a message of great importance to the American people, was of Huguenot descent, a goldsmith by trade; was born in Boston on January 1st, 1735, and expired in the same city on May 10th, 1818.

So last Sunday was the 113th anniversary of his death. And thereby hangs a tale of local history.

Revere was twenty-one years of age when he was serving as a lieutenant in the Colonial Army, stationed at Fort Edward, near the shores of Lake George. After his term of office had expired, he established himself as a goldsmith, and by his own unaided efforts learned the art of copperplate engraving, and at the breaking out of the Revolution was one of the four engravers then resident in America.

He engraved plates, made the press, and printed the bills of the paper money for the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts; was sent by that body to Philadelphia to learn the art of powder-making, and on his return he set up a mill.

He was engaged in the destruction of the tea in Boston harbor in 1773, and was sent to New York and Philadelphia to carry the news of that event and he again visited these cities to invoke their sympathy and co-operation when the decree closing the port of Boston was promulgated. The event that gave rise to Longfellow's "Paul Revere's Ride" was his escaping from Boston with the intelligence that General Gage, the British commander, had prepared an expedition to

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destroy the Colonial military stores at Concord, Revere rode by way of Charlestown, rousing people on his route, until a little after midnight he reached Lexington, and communicated the news to Hancock and Adams. He became a lieutenant-colonel in the Massachusetts line, and, after the close of the Revolution, he embarked in the business of bell and cannon founding. The rolling works of the Revere Copper Company, at Canton, Massachusetts, were built by him.

On Thursday, May 19th, 1774, the 157th anniversary of which will fall next Tuesday—Revere, whose name is now familiar to all, arrived in Philadelphia, with a letter from the town of Boston, dated on the 13th, requesting the advice of the city of Philadelphia upon the occasion of the publication of the act of Parliament for shutting up the port of Boston. Notice was given to the public, and a meeting called to assemble at the City Tavern, a large inn, on the west side of Second street, just above Walnut, which was sometimes called "Daniel's Smith's Tavern." Later it became known as "The Merchant's Coffee House."

"On Friday, the 20th, between two and three hundred very respectable citizens," says Horace Wemyss Smith, in his "Life and Correspondence of the Rev William Smith, D. D." who was the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and resided on Indian Queen lane, in the Falls of Schuylkill, "met as requested at the City Tavern, and agreed as follows, viz: 1st, That John Dickinson, Esq., Edward Pennington, John Nixon, Samuel Howell Joseph Reed, Benjamin Marshall, Thomas Barclay, Charles Thomson, John Cox, William Smith, D.D., Joseph Fox John Maxwell Nesbit, Thomas Miffin, Thomas Wharton, Joseph Moulder, George Clymer, Jeremiah Warden, Jr., John Gibson and Thomas Penrose, compose a Committee of Correspondence, until on alteration is made by a more general meeting of the inhabitants.

"Second: That the Committee shall write to the People of Boston assuring them that we truly feel for their unhappy situation; that we consider them as suffering in the general cause. That we recommend to them Firmness, Prudence and Moderation; that we shall continue to evince our Firmness to the cause of American Liberty.

"Third: That the Committee shall transmit the foregoing Resolution to the other Colonies.

"Fourth: That they shall apply to the Governor to call the Assembly of this Province.

"Fifth: That they be authorized to call a meeting of the Inhabitants when necessary."

On Saturday, May 21st, in pursuance of the above appointment, a group of the members of the above named committee, many of whose names are recognized as residents of Roxborough and the Falls of Schuylkill, met again at the City Tavern, and authorized a letter to be written upholding the position.

And so, when these dates in May occur, concerning the activities of Paul Revere, the dwellers in this section of the great municipality of Philadelphia may justly feel proud some of its early settlers were energetically concerned in the creation of the United States.

CRONICON

of the wintry black atmosphere and the enveloping dark, a that the spiritual nature of was awakened, that the of a new year meant something more to God's children than understood by the pagan, even though many features disconnected with religion were manifest. Soon the midnight bell would strike and another work-a-day year from the Creator's great stock of them would be upon us.

Beneath me I could hear the faint, far-off notes from a chime of church bells, so blown hither and thither by the wind that I could not tell from what direction they came. I fitted the tune of the bell to the music of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."

The dark outlines of the Church of St. James the Less could be made out against the dimmer background, bravely setting forth the testimony of righteousness against the great pleasure-bent city, while all about it, the "flecked darkness like a drunkard reeled." The nearby roof of a mill building, crusted with hoarfrost, in spite of the wind, gleamed like a halo of a saint under the glow of a circle of arc lights.

To the west, on my right, Belmont Plateau loomed a shapeless mass, with no suggestion of an

labor of another year had started. Today there are scores of buildings around the reservoir; those of the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company being the nearest.

Below my stand was the cinder and dirt road that wound about the base of the reservoir. Along it I saw a man trudging by the side of a wagon loaded with household furniture, as if he had been forced to move in the night. The wagon creaked, the old horse pulled steadily up the slight grade, now and then a buckle gleaming in the rays of distant lights. As the wagon drew closer and closer, I saw that the driver carried a whip, and while he spared his faithful beast, he now and then cracked his lash in the face of the night—as if the creeping shadows leered at him.

And then the party I was to escort around the "basin" arrived and my poetic fancies were driven away.

But it's still worthwhile on the Queen Lane Reservoir, gold, bright night, to see the city.

W.M.
 Sahickon, Esq.

AY, JANUARY 5, 1933

POLITICAL LEADER

