

5/19/38

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Rev. Von Bosse to Mark 25th Year as Pastor

Special Services Sunday and
Monday Will Feature An-
niversary at Bethany

PASTOR HERE 4 YEARS

Ordained in City in 1913.—
Serves With Many Church
and Other Organizations

Special sermons will be preached next Sunday morning at Bethany Lutheran church, Pechin and Martin streets by the pastor, Rev. S. G. von Bosse in commemoration of his 25th ordination anniversary. At the German service, beginning at nine o'clock, the sermon topic will be: "After Twenty Five Years". English worship begins at 11.30, the sermon topic being: "Facing Both Ways". Sunday school and Bible Class meet at 10.15 o'clock; Luther League devotions are held at 7.30 p. m.

On Monday evening at 8 o'clock an anniversary service will be held in German, Pastor Emil Schlick, of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, preaching and Pastor George von Bosse, father of the local pastor, making an address. Liturgicis will be conducted by Pastor Kurt Molzahn, of Old Zion, Franklin Square. A social hour will follow, sponsored by the Ladies' Aid and presided over by Paul W. Knittel. English greetings will be extended by Pastors Edmund Wood of St. Timothy's P. E., Aarien Muyskens of Falls Presbyterian, Pastor H. A. Kropp of New York City and Mr. Louis Schmidt, president of the German Society of Pennsylvania. Musical numbers and solo will beautify the program.

Has Interesting Career

Rev. S. G. von Bosse was born October 2, 1892, in Egg Harbor, N. J., where his father, who is rounding out fifty years in the ministry, was pastor of Zion

Church. He attended public and high schools in Harrisburg, Pa., Buffalo and Syracuse, N. Y. He graduated from Wagner College at Rochester, N. Y., in 1910, later serving as president of the Alumni Association for two years.

He studied at Kropp Seminary, Leipzig and Erlangen University in Germany and graduated from the Philadelphia Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1913, his ordination, taking place in Old St. John's Church, then located at 6th and Race streets, on May 19, 1913.

Rev. von Bosse was named pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Delaware and served there from 1913 to 1921. He was superintendent of the Wartburg Orphans Farm School, Mount Vernon, N. Y., from 1921 to 1934 and has served Bethanien Church since 1934.

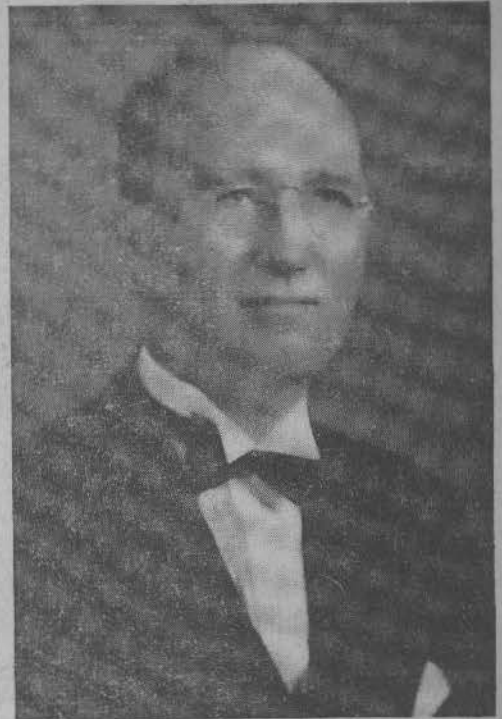
The pastor has been and is now a member of numerous church boards and secular organizations. He has attended four conventions of the United Lutheran Church in America as synodical delegate; was official correspondent from New York for German and English Church papers here and abroad. He is a prolific speaker and writer on historic subjects, and served as the last president of the former National German-American Alliance.

His favorite organizations are the German Society of Pennsylvania, of which he is secretary and which was founded in 1746 and of the Penn A. C. He obtained his B. S. degree for special work at Temple University and refused two honorary degrees from church schools.

Rev. von Bosse was married to Irma L. Vieser in 1915 and the union was blessed with five children, of whom two died in infancy. Their eldest daughter, Louise, is a Junior at Gettysburg College; Elsie is in hospital training, both being graduates of Roxborough High school and Theodore is a pupil at Levering school.

A non-partisan in politics, fond of all kinds of athletics, Pastor von Bosse has two hobbies. They are collecting books and traveling extensively.

ORDAINED 25 YEARS AGO



Rev. S. G. Von Bosse

Facts About Borough of Manayunk Come to Light

Petition for Creation of Self-Governing Community, Acts of Assembly; Ordinances and Resolutions of Council Contained in Old Document

A copy of the Act of Incorporation of the Borough of Manayunk, including Acts of Assembly, together with many of the Ordinances and Resolutions and By-laws for the Government of Council, as printed by Richard Beresford, printer, of Cresson street, in 1849, recently came to light.

It reads as follows: "Petition, Etc.: To the honorable judges of the Court of Common Pleas, of the City and County of Philadelphia, composing a Court of General Quarter Sessions of the, in, and for, the County of Philadelphia.

"The petition of the subscribers, inhabitants and freeholders of the town, or village, of Manayunk, in the County of Philadelphia.

"Humbly sheweth, That your petitioners labour under great inconvenience by reason of not being incorporated as a borough.

"They therefore pray that the said Town, or Village, of Manayunk, as contained within the following

bounds, to wit: 'Beginning on the River Schuylkill at mouth of Cinnaminson Run, thence by a line north 46 degrees and 15 minutes, east 124 and five-tenth perches, to a stake set for a corner near the house late of John Bloom, deceased, thence south 53 degrees, east 244 perches to the north side of Green lane, thence south 36 degrees east 251 and eight-tenth perches, to a mark in a rock, thence 63 degrees 30 minutes west, 89 and seven-tenth perches to the River Schuylkill, thence along said river its several courses to the place of beginning' may be incorporated as a borough, in the name, style, and title of 'The Borough of Manayunk,' according to the provisions of the Act of General Assembly of this Commonwealth, entitled 'An Act to Provide for the Incorporation of Boroughs' passed April 1, 1834, adding to the provisions of the said Act, that the first election shall be held on the second

the incorporation of the Borough of Manayunk, which is hereunto annexed, and after full investigation of the case they find that all the conditions prescribed by the Act of Assembly of April 1st 1834, entitled 'An Act to Provide for the Incorporation of Boroughs' have been complied with and they do believe that it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said Petitioners. Whereupon they do hereby certify the same to the said Court, agreeable to the directions of the Act aforesaid.

"In witness whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands and seals, at Philadelphia, this May 29, 1840.

"(Signed) Michael Baker, R. Palmer, Geo. W. Tryon, Norris Stanley, A. Stevenson, Thos. Pratt.

"In the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Philadelphia.

"In the matter of the Petition for the Incorporation of the Borough of Manayunk:

"And now, June 3, 1840, on motion of the Court grant a rule to shew cause why the report of the Jury should not be confirmed and a decree made in conformity with the prayer of the Petitioners.

"Returnable June 11th, 1840, at 6 o'clock A. M.

"(Signed) James Eneu, Jr., Clerk
"United States Gazette, June 4.
"8-10. American Sentinel June 5.
"8-10
"John V. Tittermary, being duly sworn according to law, saith that he examined (the files of the newspapers above) and finds that the above advertisement has been published in each, three times, agreeably to the date above mentioned in said advertisements.

"John V. Tittermary, sworn and subscribed in open Court, June 11 1840. Thomas D. Smith,

Tuesday of July next, and all subsequent elections shall be on the first Monday in March, in each and every year, at the Manayunk Hotel, Kept by D. H. Brower, or at such other places as the Burgess and Town Council may appoint; and that the present constable of Manayunk be authorized to call said first election on the 1st Tuesday of July next. And they will & etc. ever pray etc.

"(Signed) William Rawley, Joseph Ripka, James C. Kempton, James Downward, Ira Jones, Alex. Quinton, George Shields, John Brown, Roger Foster, Robert M. Harris, John McKinney, John W. Stephens, Joseph Reichert, Henry Barr, James Thomas, Hugh Mullin, James Barr, Amos Phillips, George Thomas, Andrew Barr, Dennis Kelley, James McCue, Robert Donnelly, J. Win-Penny, Robert White, George W. Davis, James Spence, William Welsh, James Ruhe, David Miller, Lewis Yerkes, Thomas F. Shronk, Daniel Mullen, Jesse Mancill, George Walther, Ezekiel Shur, Joseph Sutcliffe, Philip Ottey, Jr., Valentine Keely, J. D. E. Koch, Beriah Jones, Jesse Shoemaker, William Diree, I. V. James, William McFadden, William Carr, James Cook, Daniel R. McClennen, George Sutton, John Allison, Yeamans Paul, Benjamin Ziegler, Peter Fee, John Donnelly, Charles Boon, Andrew Young, George Jaggat, James M. Smith, John P. Thompson, David Bannister, Jno. Maxson, John D. Prosser, Benjamin Tibben, John Mitchell, Johnson Gilleland, William Abbot, Benjamin Miles.

"George Shields, and Alexander

"Recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Etc., for City and County of Philadelphia, in Miscellaneous Book S. H. F. No. 1, Page 282 etc.

(SEAL)

(Signed) G. Smith, Recorder.

AN ACT

"To divide certain wards in the City of Philadelphia into Election Precincts and to increase the number of Councilmen in the Borough of Manayunk.

Act of February 27, 1841, Pamph. P. 46.

"Sect. IX: That it shall be lawful for the electors residing in the Borough of Manayunk, in the County of Philadelphia, hereafter to elect ten councilmen, exclusive of the Burgess or President, provided to be elected by borough law. A majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, upon all occasion. And that the high constable shall be required to give security in the same amount to the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Philadelphia, as other constables of the County, but the said constable shall have no jurisdiction except within the said borough.

AN ACT

"Of April 21, 1841. Pamp. P 244
"Sect. II: That the election for officers for the Borough of Manayunk, in the County of Philadelphia shall be held at the lockup house, on the 1st Monday in March, 1842 and annually thereafter.

AN ACT

"To authorize the trustees of Williamina E. McElwee to pay her so much of the principal of a certain trust estate as may be necessary for the support of the said Williamina, and for the maintenance and education of her children, and for other purposes.

Act of 12 July 1842

They Found That Love and Medicine Mix

Next-Door Neighbor Doctors Who Married Among Those Honored by Medical Society for 50 Years' Service to Community



CUSTER'S LAST BAND . . . It was the wedding ring Dr. David Custer gave Dr. Ella Buchanan when she became Mrs. Custer 42 years ago. He's 80 and she's—well, she's younger by some years

BY STEVEN M. SPENCER

FROM two white stone window sills on the face of a red brick double house in Green Lane, Manayunk, hang two neat but weathered signs.

The one on the left reads: "Dr. D. D. Custer." The one on the right reads: "Dr. Ella B. Custer."

Fifty-four years ago the one on the right read: "Dr. Ella Buchanan."

Then, in 1895, the two doctor-neighbors "joined their houses," literally and figuratively. And that was the beginning of a partnership in a double bond—matrimony and medicine; a partnership which has made the name of Custer respected and loved throughout the steep hills and narrow valleys of Manayunk and Roxborough and far beyond.

With 47 other Philadelphia physicians who have a record of 50 or more years of medical service "faithfully performed to this community in the traditional ideals of the medical profession," the Drs. Custer will be honored tonight by the Philadelphia Councilor District of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. Certificates will be awarded at a meeting in the Philadelphia County Medical Society, 21st and Spruce sts.

THERE'S really nothing much to tell," said Dr. Ella Custer as she met us in the waiting room. A tall, slender woman, white-haired and blue-eyed, she is as poised and capable-looking as one 30 years her junior.

"Oh, she's just shy," confided Dr. David Custer, who also has thick white hair, but whose eyes are brown and whose figure is a bit heavier. "There's really a lot to tell. We've seen many things in 54 years of medicine. There was the time—"

Yes, Dr. Ella is a bit shy. But not so easily shocked now as she was in her student days, when "lady doctors" were objects of torment to male medical students. "They gave us the most unpleasant and embarrassing cases when we went to the Pennsylvania Hospital clinic," she recalled. "Twice was all I could stand. I didn't go any more."

That was in 1883, the year Dr. Ella was graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, and Dr. David from the University of Pennsylvania. "Attended Dr. Joseph Leidy's last lecture," Dr. David recalls.

And the two are still actively practicing, Dr. David at 80, his wife at—well a few years younger.

Each has his or her own group of patients, Dr. Ella Custer mostly women and children.

"The children always say, 'The lady doesn't hurt,'" she remarks with a laugh at her husband.

"Yes, and she once had a patient who had five babies in eleven months," remarks Dr. David, raising his eyebrow. "Twins and then triplets."

The two of them, for that matter, have brought 5,000 babies into the Manayunk community. "Doesn't quite account for the increase of population here from 18,000 when I first came to 48,000 now," Dr. David adds, "but it helped some."

They have seen the history of medicine in the making, these two. Forty-two cases of typhoid, Dr. David treated, the last year before Philadelphia began to filter its water. Now not a case in several years. He recalls the first child he gave diphtheria anti-toxin to. "Forty thousand units and he pulled through. I always gave big doses after that and it did the trick."

"The boy's mother wanted David to adopt him when the father died a few years later," Dr. Ella remarked. The Custers have no children.

Interesting Facts Contained in Old Newspaper Ads

2-13-36

Family Happenings Often
Recalled by Estate and
Other Notices

INSTANCES CITED

Entertainments of Other
Years Were Strange Com-
pared to Those of Today

There is rarely a week that passes that the Suburban Press doesn't have in its advertising columns one or more "Estate Notices" calling for those persons who owe bills to, or have sums coming to them, to get in contact with the executors of the estates of men and women who have expired.

These notices, prosaic as they may seem to the everyday reader, contain much of value for the future historian of this particular neighborhood, and at some future time may aid in tracing the family tree of people yet unborn. They are truly interesting.

In confirmation of this statement there are listed below a few such items, that appeared in old local newspapers of June 30th 1882. "Estate of Sarah Ann Bottomly, deceased. Letters Testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make payment and those having claims to present the same without delay, to Thomas N. Allison, Executor, 727 Walnut street Philadelphia, or 4346 Main street, Manayunk."

"Estate of Charles Moore, deceased. Letters testamentary on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present them without delay, to James Schofield, Executor, No. 301 Green lane, Manayunk."

"Estate of James B. Winpenny, deceased. Letters of administration on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same, without delay, to John J. Thomas, 468 Green lane, or to his attorneys, Horatio Gates Jones, 133 South 5th street, or John G. Johnson, 708 Walnut street."

Other advertisements, too, often provide material for the local historian. For instance, here is a notice of a property sale, dated in July of 1882, which reads: "Lots for Sale. The entire square of ground running from Ridge avenue to Selig street, Roxborough, has been laid out in lots, 20 x 123 feet deep. It is opposite Conarroe street and is admirably located for building, having fine drainage, and will be sold on the most reasonable terms, in monthly payments. Apply

to Charles Thomson Jones, 131 South 5th street, or to Charles T. Jones, Jr., Ridge and Monastery avenues, Roxborough, who will show the lots."

Here's another ad, clipped from the same newspaper: "For Sale. A stone dwelling, with mansard roof, 10 rooms and kitchen; all modern improvements. Rooms all newly papered. Lot 50 feet, front, 124 feet deep. For further information apply premises, Fleming street, northwest corner of Martin, Manayunk."

Social customs, too, can be traced back through advertisements. A typical specimen of what people did along cultural lines in the old days is printed thus: "Decoration Day, 1882. Masonic Hall. Mr. John A. Freeborn has the honor to announce to his friends and the public of Manayunk and vicinity, that he will give his first grand concert on Thursday evening, May 30th, in Masonic Hall, on which occasion the following eminent talent will appear: The champion Irma Glee, The American Quintette, Miss Maggie Christie, Mr. James Howard, Mr. William Markward, Pianist Professor Holcombe. The splendid programme which will be offered on this occasion will consist of glees, duets, solos, etc., patriotic, sentimental, comic, all combining to make this one of the finest entertainment that could be offered to the public. Admission 50 and 25 cents. Tickets can be procured at the principal stores and at the door on the evening of the concert. Door open at 7 o'clock. Commence at 8."

Here is another social notice, of the same year: "Roxborough Presbyterian Church, Grand Entertainment. Tableaux Vivants and Music, by the Bible Class of the Sunday School, on Tuesday evening, May 28th. Doors open at 7 o'clock, begin at 8 o'clock. Admission 25 cents. There will be one tableaux of 'The Sleeping Beauty'; a tableaux representing 'The May Day Festival,' consisting of ten beautiful tableaux, and a tableau representation of 'Dear Father Come Home,' including five tableaux, and a closing tableau representation of 'We Are Not All Here.' The tableaux will be interspersed with rehearsals and music."

A news item in an old newspaper of May 25th, 1872, stated: "Owing to the fact that 'Cook's Hill,' near the Manayunk Presbyterian Church will be occupied by a circus company on Thursday next, Decoration Day, the concert in charge of Miss McMonagle, which had been announced for that evening, will be postponed until the evening following, viz: Friday evening, May 31st. We consider the postponement fortunate in many respects, as our readers probably will also.

"The program is already out and the bill of fare is nothing if not tempting. The 'Anvil Chorus,' by four young ladies, is to accompany a Decoration Hymn especially adapted to the place and the occasion."

After reading the ad concerning the Roxborough Presbyterian tableaux, we can already imagine the chuckling of 1936 wise-crackers over that "We Are Not All Here," title. And we have visions of what

modern high school students will think of four young ladies in their "Anvil Chorus" accompaniment of a solemn Memorial Day dirge. However, those things were the custom of the times that have fled, and after hearing men and women who have advanced in age, glory over "the good old days," we haven't a bit of doubt that the entertainments were greatly enjoyed by the people who attended them.

SCCAFF

Roxborough Resident Posed For First Oil Painting

Johann Kelpius, Wissahickon Hermit, Had Portrait Painted by Dr. Christopher Witt More Two Centuries Ago

A recent exhibit of oil paintings, depicting scenes in this portion of Philadelphia at a Main street store, brought to mind the fact that the first oil painting made in America, was the portrait of a resident of the original township of Roxborough.

The story may be familiar to many, and then again it may not. But at any rate the tale bears repeating.

The painting was made by Dr. Christopher Witt, and the subject was none other than Johann Kelpius, the hermit of the Wissahickon.

Germantown, probably correctly, claims credit for having Dr. Witt, as one of its early settlers. At least John Fanning Watson writes to this effect, in his famed "Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania."

A brief of Dr. Witt and his "firsts" for what is now the 22nd Ward of Philadelphia, gives the Germantowner much to broadcast in defense of that community's great motto of "Germantowners for Germantown."

Dr. Witt was born in Wiltshire, England, in 1675, and came to America in 1704. The first that can be learned of him in this country was his association with the hermits who settled along the Wissahickon Creek, near Ridge Road. The place where these pious mystics had their settlement is now familiar as the ground surrounding the "Hermitage," residence of Major Thomas S. Martin, secretary of the Fairmount Park Commission, on East

Hermit lane. Down below the road-bed of Hermit lane, is a glen, the exact place, it is said, where the hermits practiced and taught their strange beliefs.

Back of the "Hermitage," on the way down to the glen, is a smaller building, the first story of which it has been stated, was the old log cabin once used by Phoebe Righter, and probably the men of Kelpius before her. (Still farther down the hill can be seen a man-restored cavern, in which Kelpius is supposed to have lived. Outside the cave, still trickles the water from the Hermits Spring, which was long guarded by a tall pine, or hemlock tree.

Dr. Witt lived with these hermits for more than four years, and they had a great influence on his life, and he on theirs. He was one of the band's leading interpreters to the outside world. The members of the section had emigrated from Germany on account of the religious persecution. And it is strange how history repeats itself. Those men of the hermit band of Kelpius, who sought the rugged wilderness of the Wissahickon to obtain religious liberty came from the Palatinate, the very same place where Hitler's Nazi movement has been launched against the Jews.

Kelpius and his men are first recorded to have visited London, then in 1684 landed in America. For a short time they stopped in what is now downtown Philadelphia, and chronicles tell of the strange impressions they made on the Quaker inhabitants of the city, as they walked two and two along the streets in their religious garb. Their leaders first called on Benjamin Fletcher, governor-general of Pennsylvania for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance. During one of the few nights they remained in town they journeyed to a hill outside the confines of the community, where all the rites incident to St. John's Eve were performed. Early one morning they started their walk up Second street, through Fairhill, and after four hours, reached the settlement of "Germanopol," as Germantown was then called.

It is said that they were disappointed to find their brethren whom they were seeking in Germantown, were to a great degree neglecting their religious observances. This probably accounts for their passing through Germantown in order to seek the quiet of the Wissahickon woods, where in seclusion they could follow out their plans.

The band led by Kelpius was made up of men who were exceedingly de-

vout and they developed much mysticism in their interpretation of Holy Writ. They were looked upon as sorcerers and fortune tellers. Their leader is said to have used the divining rod to help in their incantations, and the more complex horoscope was used by them in their casting of nativities.

After the death of Kelpius, in 1708, who expired in his 35th year, the sect broke up. Gottfried Selig succeeded as leader of the group, but did not hold it together as well as had Kelpius. Dr. Witt about this time moved to Germantown and first lived in a house on Haines street, but soon moved to the lands of Christian Warner, near what is now Germantown avenue and High street.

All that has been written about the Hermits of the Wissahickon, relates very definitely to Dr. Witt, for as has been said, he was one of them; their theories were his theories, their doing were his doings, their religious language was his language. Like the leaders of the sect he could cast horoscopes. In addition he had a knowledge of medicine and the use of herbs, all of which gave him a commanding position among the men of his era.

Dr. Witt possessed the greatest admiration for his old teacher, Kelpius, and through this admiration he was inspired to paint a picture of the hermit leader, and this was the first oil painting made in America. The picture is still in existence and may be seen at the Pennsylvania Historical Society, at 13th and Locust streets. It stands out among the yellowed pages of a book of hymns which were sung and written by Kelpius, and shows the Wissahickon dweller seated in a chair before a desk in which an open book lies before him. The right hand of Kelpius is resting on the arm of the chair, and his left hand is raised to his left eye, which was afflicted. Significant enough there is an old weight driven clock hanging upon the wall in back of the hermit.

Historians who have searched into the records, claim that this first oil painting of America was painted in a small house which stood on what is now the lawn of the Germantown High school. Maybe so, and maybe not judging from Kelpius' inclination to stay in the quiet woods away from men, there is a greater likelihood, that he posed for the picture in his own home along the banks of the Wissahickon, in old Roxborough Township. And at any rate, it was "one of our own" who was painted!

SCCAFF

12/17/1936

6

Old Names Are Recalled

Correspondent Wants Information Concerning "The Blocks."—Other Neighborhoods Come to Mind

Last Friday the following communication was received at the office of the Suburban Press:

"Your article of this date—December 10th 1936—entitled "Glimpses Into the Past," was read with interest by a number of readers, some young and many more no longer young.

"The article impels me to ask you to tell us, in your next issue, just where in Manayunk, is, or was, the place called "the Blocks". The question has been argued pro and con by many old timers, ranging in age from 65 to 96, without arriving at definite result.

"Some claim that it took in all of Manayunk running north from Hipple's lane (now Fountain street) to Paoli avenue Others state

that it lay along Umbria street, near Smick street.

"Very truly yours,

"Interested Reader"

The correspondent raises a sort of a hair-splitting question for one so young in years as this writer.

"The Blocks," as far as our knowledge has it, was originally located along Umbria street, from Leverington avenue to Fountain street, where a series of dwellings, consisting of four, individual-family houses in one complete structure, known as "block-houses" in variation to our familiar present-day "row-houses" had been erected in the early days of Manayunk.

This, we understand, stood along what is now Umbria street, extend-

ing back to Smick street. The neighborhood received its name from this building, or buildings.

As Time sloughed along the little community spread out and up as far as Paoli avenue, and acquired the high-hat appellation of "Mount Vernon," after the first President's Virginia estate. Umbria street, be it remembered, was once called "Washington Street," and the section also boasted of a "Jefferson street" and a "Persh Street".

"Interested Reader's" letter also brought up the names of other old sections of the 21st Ward.

Overlooking "the Blocks" was "Germany Hill," which is now easily located at the dead end of Lemonite street.

Below Leverington avenue, residents of "Hat Shop Hill" had little trouble in gazing up and down the Schuylkill valley, or as it was sometimes called "Sunncliffe". At Levering street, atop of which stands the Manayunk Club were the "Weeping Rocks"; "the Locks" section stretched out along Main street from what is now Rector street to Shurs lane; and "Crow Hill" was down near the Dawson street steps, that lead up from Main street.

"Birkinfire's Lots" are now covered by rows of houses near the foot of Leverington avenue.

What younger people call "Raynersville"—that is in the area of Mitchell street, Roxborough avenue, Shurs lane and Fechin street—was in an earlier day called "Nigger Hill."

Back in 1836—an hundred years ago—the inhabitants of Manayunk did not give their addresses by streets, but simply by mentioning the name of the row of houses in which they lived, such as "Wagner's"; "Rawley's", "McFadden's", "Keating's Front, Middle or Back Row," "Ripka's", "Davis's", "Mc-

Guinley's", "English's", "Club Row", "Myers", "McGlinchey's", and "Leverings". Just where these various "rows" were located is beyond the ken of this writer, with the exception of "Keating's Front, Middle and Back Rows", which skirted the south side of Rector street, from Main street back past the railroad, on the site now occupied by the present St. John the Baptist

Church. Perhaps elderly readers can properly locate the other "rows".

"Rockshade" was the home of Colonel William Savery Torr in 1868. It is still standing on Lower Parker avenue. Col. Torr was a retired merchant and part owner of "Sweet Briar Farm," near Belmont in West Fairmount Park, which Samuel Breck, the State Senator who introduced the acts creating Pennsylvania's public school system, had developed in his agricultural pursuits.

"Robeson's Hill," in Wissahickon, is still often called by that name, it being the ascent of Ridge avenue, from Main street to Hermit lane.

The "Dark Woods" were situated in the main, between what is now Dawson and Salignac streets, and Cresson street and Manayunk avenue.

"Carlisle's Lots" are now covered by the Kendrick Recreation Centre and St. Timothy's Church.

There may be other old names which we have skipped, in this review, and it is entirely possible that we haven't satisfactorily settled "Interested Reader's" question concerning "the Blocks", but if so, it is not done intentionally, but simply because of two reasons: a lack of sufficient years, and the time to make more complete research.

SOCAPP.

Old Picture Of Manayunk Is Portrayed

8/3/33
Many Old Families and
Property Owners
Recalled

DATED ABOUT 1875

Descendants Are Residents
of This Section
Today

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

Survey maps of 1875, disclose that there have been many changes along Main street, in Manayunk in the last sixty years.

On the west side of Main street, near what is now Keely's Lumber yard offices, were two frame houses once owned by the Marsdens. These were the only structures on that side of the street, down as far as what is now the Green lane bridge.

On the east side were M. Pester's coal sheds, and Muldoon's foundries and machine shops. Also the residences of the Saylor, Jones and Snyder. Then came the horse car depot and five houses owned by the Ogle estate.

From Green lane down to old Robeson street, now familiar as Rector street—on the east side, of Main street—were three properties owned by James Bramble, a large building possessed by William Simpson, the home of the Sherwins, four dwellings owned by George Davis, the site of which is now occupied by the Manayunk fire house and John Birkmire's marble works. Bramble's "United States Hotel" stood where the Riviera Theatre is today, and across an open lot was the "Quinton Hotel," where the Manayunk Police Station is located.

Below this was the houses owned by Mrs. McGlinchey, Hartzell's Clothing Store, Dr. Keim, and Bernard McKane's property. These were followed by four houses owned by the McVeys, and three by the Roats. From Levering street down, were two buildings of John Bowker, now the site of the Manayunk branch of the Commercial National Bank, William Davenport's store, the Manayunk Bank, now the real estate and law office of W. E. Shappell—James Bowker's "Industry Works," seven houses of John Haugh, George Tappen's, the Buchanan grocery store, Hallenbergers and Flanagan's. These adjoined seven houses belonging to John Morris, Kleins, J. Toon and the large mansion of Dr. D. T. Trites, now Nickel's Hall, with James Ledger's place on the

Roxborough; and on the corner of Rector street was McGlinchey's.

On the west side of Main street, from Green lane down, was the tool house of the Pay Bridge, the fire engine house, and the Ripka Mill properties. A long length of vacant lots came next, followed by Rileys and the Entrekin block, three structures owned by the P. & P. Railroad, with another vacant lot. Below these were four houses owned by Jacob Kettering, two houses that belonged to the Jardens two of Mrs. Nitilo's and eight owned by Alexander Given. Next door was one of the Baungartners, one by William Sand and the corner of what is now Cotton street, by a drug store conducted by Dr. Brown. On the opposite side of this canal-headed street was the Schofield "Blantyre" Mills and a stretch of vacant lots.

South of Rector street on the east side of Main street there were 24 houses in one block. Some of the owners were Michael Costello, John Davenport, Pat O'Donnell, Ben Davis, William Bickings, P. Dugan, Richard Foster and the Macom family. On the west side was the Seville Schofield Mill, the bakery of Joseph Richart, and a row of dwellings owned by Billy McFadden, of Canal boat fame. There were seventeen of these houses.

South of Pennsdale street, on the east side of Main street, stood five houses of which William Dawson held title; the beautiful homestead of Annie Somerset, the wife of a manufacturer, three vacant lots, and two dwellings owned by Michael Dougherty. Then came the old Yellow Row of 21 houses. These were owned by various persons, the names of some being Haugh, McGill, Boyle, Stemler and Robinson.

Below Shurs lane was the home of Mary Donnelly, the Fountain Hotel, the Lancaster & Littlewood Dye Works, the Manayunk gas works, with its two huge tanks, Platt Brothers mill, the Holt & Fitzpatrick "Perseverance Mills," a long open lot belonging to Hugh Adams, the Righter estate, with one house on it; sixteen lots at the foot of Dawson street, owned by James Homestead, and more vacant lots owned by Nathan L. Jones and at the intersection of Main street and Ridge avenue—at the foot of Wissahickon hill—the ground was owned by Mrs. Haigh.

On the Schuylkill side of Main street, near the foot of the hill, was the "Centennial Hotel," conducted by Harvey Bancroft, better known as "Riverside Mansion;" nearby was Charles Toland's "Union Hotel," two old homes adjoining the Craven estate, four homes owned by Mrs. Haigh, the Jones Lumber yard, on the site of the American Bridge Company's machine shop and the row of dwellings once known as "Keely's Row," now used as offices by the Bridge Company.

7
Across the street, at the corner, a drug store, today, was the home of Sarah Winpenny, Masonic Hall, William Dawson's home, the Stringfellow's, William Smith, Broclevbanks, Burns and James McNamee on the corner of what is now known as Roxborough street. On the opposite side of this last-named street, was the double house of C. Thomas Brafftoys, the son of the Thomas Brafftoys, the son of a man named Kober who was a barber shop, and is said to have been the first person in Manayunk to have a barber shop. Mary's cemetery in

9

COMMUNITY DINNER UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
H. C. SCHMIEDER MEMORIAL BIBLE CLASS
THE PASTOR PRESIDING

Friday Evening, May 17th, 1935, at 7.00 o'clock at the P. O. S. A. Hall
Roxborough

Our Guests of Honor:—

Pastor Henry Wacker, Epiphany Lutheran Church Manayunk
Pastor R. P. Mallery, Fourth Reformed Church, Roxborough
Pastor Marion G. Gosselink, Talmage Reformed Church, Roxboro
J. Langdon Jones of Hattal-Taylor Post, Roxborough
Representative "Bob" Hamilton
A. C. Chadwick, Jun., Suburban Press, Roxborough
Pastor H. A. Kropp, St. Paul's Manhattan
Dr. Orlando Stewart, President 21st Ward Clergy Club
F. Earl Westcott, President Lion's Club 21st Ward

There will be community singing, special orchestral music, solos and quartets. A special hour of fellowship will close the evening.
The cost of tickets is \$1.00 each, dress informal.

BIBLE CLASS HYMN

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling To tell to all the world that God is Light; That He Who made all nations is not willing One soul should perish, lost in shades of night Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace; Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.	With none to tell them of the Saviour's dying, Or of the life He died for them to win. Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation That God in Whom they live and move, is Love: Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation, And died on earth that man might live above.
Behold, how many thousands still are lying Bound in the darksome prison-house of sin,	

HISTORICAL DATA FROM THE RECORDS OF
BETHANIEN CHURCH

- 1742—Organisation of old Zion.
- 1792—Organisation of Emmanuel in Frankford.
- 1845—Organisation of Bethanien.
- 1848—Purchase of first building lot for church.
- 1851—Dedication of first church building, situated in cemetery.
- 1851—Organisation of Sundayschool with 8 children.
- 1874—Dedication of second church building.
- 1875—Transfer of Sundayschool to new church building.
- 1889—Organisation of Epiphany due to demand for English.
- 1891—Alteration of charter and change of name to "Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Bethanien Gemeinde von Manayunk und Roxborough."
- 1892—Opening of private kindergarten.
- 1893—Enlargement of Sundayschool facilities.
- 1895—Celebration of fiftieth anniversary.
- 1901—Debt on parsonage liquidated.
- 1902—Rededication of enlarged and renovated church building at cost of \$16,000.
- 1905—Organisation of Grace Church.
- 1913—Completion of basement at cost of \$4,000.

Bethanien Church has had 21 pastors during her history. Of these Pastors Adolph Hellwege and H. C. Schmieder served the longest, the former 10 and the latter 29 years. The present pastor began his work on February 1st, 1934.

9/29/1932

Symphony Orchestra Will Make Its Debut In School Auditorium Next Monday

21st Ward Musical Organization Destined to Be One of
Community's Outstanding Achievements, Say Critics.
Splendid Program Offered for Initial Concert.

On Monday evening next, October 3rd, the Roxborough Symphony Orchestra will hold its first concert at the Roxborough High School, Ridge avenue and Fountain street, with a silver offering being asked for the benefit of the unemployed men and women of this vicinity.

It is expected that an audience taxing the capacity of the auditorium will be present on this occasion, not only to lend aid to a worthy charitable enterprise, but to show interest in a symphony orchestra composed entirely of the finest musicians of this locality.

The Parents' Public School Association of the 21st Ward, has wholeheartedly sponsored the movement which created this splendid organization, and last Sunday all of the churches in the 21st Ward made pulpit announcements of the coming concert.

All through the sultry days of the last eight or nine weeks, the members of this young, but sturdy group, have crowded the Turners Hall, on Leverington avenue, perfecting themselves in the elaborate and difficult program with which they will make their debut to local music lovers. The interest these

well known soloists have shown, the sacrifices made to attend regularly on each rehearsal night, their willingness to subordinate personal aspirations to combine harmony of both music and organization, assures an outstanding artistic treat.

Among the musical numbers which will be played next Monday night are: March from "Tannhauser," by Wagner; "The Serenade," by Herbert; two movements for string orchestra from the "Peer Gynt Suite," "Ase's Death" and "Anitra's Dance" by Grieg; "March and Procession of Bacchus," by Delibes; "The Royal Australian Navy March," by Lithgow; "The Symphony (No. 8) in B. Minor," by Schubert; Overture, "Morning, Noon and Night," by von Suppe.

Henry Gurney, internationally known soloist, will sing a group of three songs with the Orchestra, these being "Dawning," by Cadman; "Where My Caravan Has Rested," by Lohr, and "Smilin' Through," by Penn, and also three songs with the piano, when Dr. Phillip H. Goepf will be the instrumentalist.

The membership of the Roxborough Symphony Orchestra is made up of the following: Conductor, Stanley Hart Cauffman. Stringed Instruments: Bertrand A. Austin,

Rev. Ulla E. Bauers, Ulla Bauers, Jr., E. M. Bowen, Miss Clara M. Brower, Miss Eleanor M. Chamberlin, Charles F. Cole, George S. Cooper, John B. Cooper, Miss Elizabeth S. Doerr, E. Stanley Hart, Charles S. Hartman, William Hohlfeld, John E. Holgate, Jr., Oscar Lyman, Hayden Marriott, Miss Marguerite Mervine, L. M. Newbaker, Harry T. Reichert, Harmon Robinson, Jr., August Sauer, Mrs. B. W. S. Stirling, Harold Sutton, Eugene L. Townsend, Alvin F. Voigt, and Sidney Weitberg.

Wood-Wind: Paul Bertholomew, William A. Folkman, Charles R. Lowe, Walter B. Papernick, Ellwood M. Schmidt, Roy Reichert, and Harry V. Tarbuck.

Brass: George Baker, Russell H. Cunningham, Conard K. Donnell, John G. Heiser, J. Edward Holgate, Ernest F. Miller, Frank J. Miller, and H. T. Reichert. Drums: John T. Schmidt, and Piano: Charles W. Price.

The officers of the Orchestra are: President, Ernest F. Miller; vice president, Frank J. Miller; treasurer, Harry V. Tarbuck, and secretary, Conard K. Donnell.

The conductor, Stanley Hart Cauffman, is well known as

Chronicle

9

8/11/93

The brilliant glow of one gross of Japanese lanterns illuminating two gross of merry people in Summer costumes, was the spectacle which attracted the gaze of passengers on the Roxborough horse-cars at Ridge and Fairthorne avenues, on Thursday evening, the 3d instant. "Lawn fete!" you conjectured, and lawn fete it was, the good ladies of St Alban's taking that method of bringing their friends together and enjoying a royal time.

The grounds were found to be spacious and beautifully clean and level, and from the trees and other points of vantage swung lines and clusters of quivering lights as though the shining globes themselves were sentient with the spirit of the hour. Tables were set at wide intervals containing seasonable refreshments, and a number of bonnie lasses darted hither and thither, taking your order and delivering the goods as though they had been born to do that very thing and rather enjoyed it. Chairs and benches were scattered about in convenient niches, and if ilka laddie did not have his lassie it was certainly no fault of the lassie, for she was as willing as could be.

As the night wore on music was added to the other enchantments of the hour, and by the time for closing the affair was voted all sorts of a success.

6/14/1934

10

Diamond Anniversary of the Church of St. Alban

By JOSEPH E. J. MCGEE

During the distressing years preceding the Civil War there were fourteen Protestant Episcopal churches established in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Among these were the Church of St. Alban, now located at Ridge and Fairthorne avenues, and St. Timothy's Church, at Ridge and Jamestown avenues, Roxborough.

Early in the year 1859 a number of communicants of St. David's P. E. Church, Manayunk, who resided in the vicinity of Ridge avenue and Crease's lane (now Livezey lane) desired a church in Roxborough. As a result of several meetings, a congregation was formed and called, tentatively, "St. Peter's Church."

When actual organization started, these people took as a name, "The Church of St. Alban," in honor of the first British martyr, Alban.

The first service was held in a store at 6785 Ridge avenue, which is now a private dwelling two doors north of the present church property. This service was held on June 26th 1859, eight days prior to the Fourth of July observance of the "Wissahickon Sunday School," which afterwards became St. Timothy's Church.

The initial service, in the store on Ridge avenue, was conducted by Rev. J. W. Claxton, then rector of St. David's Church, Manayunk.

There were fifty persons present, and on the following Sunday—July 3rd, 1859—a Sunday School was organized with forty-eight pupils in attendance. The Primary Department met in the home of Alfred Crease, at the northeast corner of Ridge and Fairthorne avenues. The Primary teachers were Miss Louise Crease—now Mrs. Louisa C. Harper—who is still living at 401 Green lane; and a Miss Dannaker.

Giving the greatest impetus to this early movement was Frederick F. Fairthorne, who owned what is now a major part of the familiar Fairmount Farms. The present Fairthorne avenue was the private road to his estate and was guarded by gates at the Ridge avenue entrance.

The men who composed the first vestry, which drew the church charter, were: Frederick F. Fairthorne, D. Mason Godwin, Joshua Garsed, Joshua S. Garsed, C. G. VonTagen, T. Cecil Andrews, Albert N. Rorer and Charles I. Crease.

Frederick F. Fairthorne donated the property on which the church

William Bacon Stevens was consecrated Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania (January 30th 1862) he dedicated the Church of St. Albans building to the worship of God.

The clergy who participated in the dedication services were Rev. Dr. G. E. Hare, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Watson, Rev. George Leeds, Rev. Richardson Graham, Rev. E. W. Syle, Rev. E. L. Lycett, Rev. J. Leighton McKim, Rev. S. F. Hotchkiss, Rev. Benjamin Wistar Morris, and Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, the rector. Other Clergy present included: John Woart, of Norristown; Samuel Smith, of Hulmeville; Chandler Hare, Charles R. Hale and F. G. Clemson.

On June 30th, 1862, after receiving formal notification of the Church's admission to the Diocesan Convention, the secretary of St. David's vestry was instructed to return the deed to Mr. Fairthorne, he, with Charles I. Crease being the respective wardens of the new parish.

In April of 1863 the founder, Mr. Fairthorne, met with financial difficulties and removed to Australia. He was living in Woodbury, N. J. in 1899, and probably dying there, was interred in St. Alban's churchyard in December of 1899. His wife, Emma Parker Rand, was buried in the same plot in 1906. A few years previous to his death, Mr. Fairthorne visited the Sunday School, while it was in session. He showed a continued interest in the welfare of the parish, and his removal brought trying days to the church.

In January, 1866, Rev. Thomas W. Martin became pastor and remained until February 1868. A year of services by lay readers, followed. In February 1869, Rev. J. H. MacElroy became rector, remaining less than two years.

Rev. Richardson Graham was elected rector in June of 1871, and remained about one year. On September 19th, 1871, a resolution was passed declaring the pews thenceforth to be free. This was sanctioned and approved by the Bishop of the Diocese. Rev. A. A. Rickerts was rector during 1872 and 1873. The next rector was Rev. John W. Windsor, who resigned on August 18th, 1875, whereupon Bishop Stevens appointed a divinity school student, John Cotton Brooks, as lay reader, who continued at this work until May 14th 1876, about which time he was ordered

don M. Custer, James R. Lord, Ralph R. Moyer, Joseph E. J. McGee, Edwin N. Hofford, and Alfred Edmunds, Jr.

An endowment fund was started and amounted to \$307 at this time. On November 16th, 1907 a gilded cross was donated by the American Bridge Company and erected on the peaked roof of the church vestibule. Two years later the parish house roof was replaced with slate, and all of the buildings improved, most of the work being done by the Mens' Guild of the church.

James L. Rahn, a vestryman for forty years, died on April 9th, 1908, and a stained glass window was placed in the Vestry Room, in his honor.

During Rev. Mr. Lyons' rectorship he was greatly inspired and aided in gathering an endowment fund of \$8500. To this was willed \$1000 by the late Miss Mary P. Hagner.

When replacing tin rain conductors on the church, by copper ones, in 1912, a piece of moulding, in one of the cornices was found with the following words written on it: "William T. Faust and Josiah Bickings, house carpenters, Curtain (Curtin) for Governor, 15,000 ahead." Building improvements kept on apace, the heating apparatus and chimneys being improved as time and the funds permitted.

During the World War, St. Alban's Church, like others in the community were active in sustaining the morale of the soldiers, marines and sailors, who were engaged in the conflict. On St. Alban's Day, June 17th, 1917, on a newly-erected flagstaff in the churchyard, an American flag was raised in honor of two members who were seeing service in the Marine Corps: William F. Engle and J. Ernest McGee. Twenty-eight of the male members of the church eventually saw action in the various branches of the Nation's military service.

In 1922, during repairs to the Parish House roof, a board was found bearing this legend: "Frank Mower, Jr., Saturday, November 14th, 1835."

About 1926 the Sewing Guild paid for pointing the exterior of the church. The time-honored ivy and plaster were removed.

On April 1st, 1928, Rev. Mr. Lyons conducted his final service here, after a rectorship of 39 and one-half years, becoming Rector Emeritus.

In 1932 a bequest became available to the Sunday School, of \$1000 from the late Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, the interest of which was to be used to defray the cost of Christmas gifts to Sunday School members.

On April 2nd, 1928, Rev. Edgar C. Campbell began a 13 1-2 month rectorship, passing away on May 17th 1929. Rev. Mr. Campbell

Guild, and the Brotherhood, record was left by the late James M. McGee.

Dr. J. Mr. Lyons is the only surviving rector of those who served Alban's. He resides at Southorne, Pa. The Young Peoples' League and the Altar Guild of the church are present-day active groups. The rare ability and devotion of Miss Edith Moyer, organist for 37 years, is somewhat of which members of St. Alban's are justly proud. Miss Moyer is at present a member of the Wissahickon Branch of the Library of Philadelphia. The late Mrs. Maud Rahn Bechtel ded Miss Moyer as organist.

The foregoing information to the late Rev. Marcus Tolman, Rev. A. A. Rickerts, and the Rev. Mr. Lyons, Miss Mary Hagner, Rev. E. O. S. Louisa C. Harper, Howard T. Mrs. Freiderick F. Fairthorne, the Church Standard, of St. Alban's Day, June 17th 1899. This history was compiled as a preliminary to the 75th anniversary of the church, which will take place on June 26th.

These facts are all those which came to the attention of the scribe. If anyone possesses additional information it will be sincerely appreciated, in order that the record be made as complete as is possible.

charter, were: Frederick F. Fairthorne, D. Mason Godwin, Joshua Garsed, Joshua S. Garsed, C. G. VonTagen, T. Cecil Andrews, Albert N. Rorer and Charles I. Crease.

Frederick F. Fairthorne donated the property on which the church, parish house, the one-time horse sheds, and the drive are located. The corner lot was purchased in May of 1879, and a rectory was built thereon and completed by the contractor, Benjamin T. Lentz, on November 8th, 1879.

At a meeting of the vestry of St. David's Church, held on February 16th 1880, a letter was received from Mr. Fairthorne, offering to assume the payment of \$500 for the support of Rev. R. H. Brown, a deacon, to serve as assistant to Rev. J. W. Claxton, and to have charge of the (St. Alban's) Mission for one year. The offer was accepted. On May 19th, 1880, Mr. Fairthorne made another offer of \$500 towards a church building and stated there was \$2000 in view. St. David's accepted the offer and appointed Alfred I. Crease and Jacob Casselberry to view the proposed site and see to conveyance of the property. On September 12th, 1880, these two men reported that the lot had been deeded and the chapel was in the course of construction, and three days afterward, on September 15th, the cornerstone was formally laid.

Alfred I. Crease, who lived at Ridge avenue and Creases lane, was chairman of the building committee. Alfred Byles was the architect; John Lehman, the mason; and Turner & Brown were the carpenters. Incidentally, the same James Turner was the foreman carpenter when St. David's new church was erected in 1830.

Rev. Mr. Brown terminated his service on January 1st 1881 and at that time the organization of a parish was seriously discussed. As to the name of the mission, Mr. Fairthorne wrote to St. David's Accounting Warden, that the St. Alban's people had not yet applied for a charter, but that those who attended its services were in the habit of calling the church "St. Alban's," and that when application for the charter was made, it would be under that name.

In a letter dated March 25th 1881, Mr. Fairthorne further stated that Rev. Charles R. Hale, a deacon, and later Bishop of the Diocese of Cairo, Illinois, had been secured to conduct the services in the unfinished church building. In the same year this clergyman was ordained a priest and became assistant rector of Christ Church, Germantown.

The first service in the finished church was held on October 13th, 1881. In July of the same year, Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, previously assistant rector of St. David's Church, was chosen rector, and ordained a priest in the church. His rectorship ended in November 1865, he being the rector during the trying days of the War of Rebellion.

About one-half of the parsonage had been completed at that time. It possessed a belfry carrying three small bells, one of which was tappered during Rev. Mr. Tolman's time by a rope leading to the vestry room, to inform the communicants that he was ready to begin the service. In the parsonage, at the time of its construction, Howard McBride, of Pease street, started his Sunday School career, in the Primary Department. Six days after Right Rev.

Windsor, who resigned on August 18th, 1875, whereupon Bishop Stevens appointed a divinity school student, John Cotton Brooks, as lay reader, who continued at this work until May 14th 1876, about which time he was ordered a deacon. On May 21st, 1876, Rev. E. Owen Simpson became rector at St. Alban's. He entered vigorously into the work, but the purchase of the corner lot and the erection of the rectory (previously referred to) was apparently too much of a strain, and he expired on Sunday, August 6th, 1882. The vestry recorded at that time, "He strove to do his Master's work, both temporal and spiritual, and these speak with their own tongues and will live."

On September 11th 1882, the Rev. J. J. Joyce Moore became the rector. In September 1895 the parish house was enlarged at a cost of \$900. Aaron Hofford was the contractor. Financial conditions were bad and it was necessary to place a mortgage of \$1500 on the rectory.

On June 26th, 1886 Rev. Mr. Moore resigned. A month afterward he was succeeded by Rev. J. Thompson Carpenter, and in a year's time much of the indebtedness was paid off.

In September 1888, Rev. Mr. Carpenter was succeeded by a young deacon, Rev. Charles Stratton Lyons, who was ordained priest the following year. Mr. Lyons proved to be capable as to finances as well as a constructive and spiritual builder. Stained glass and memorial windows were presented by the Sunday School and in memory of Lillie May Custer, John J. Joyce, Mary C. Hooman, Mary J. Duffield, Henry and Catherine Ashworth. The furnishings and interior of the church were changed and renovated, and the exterior of the building greatly improved. In 1890 the rectory indebtedness was paid off. In April of 1894 the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was organized. In 1897 a new Hook Hastings pipe organ was installed and first used by Miss Edith Moyer, on Easter, 1897.

Under the direction of Mr. Lyons and the Warden, James L. Rahn, the church finances were commendably handled. On May 10th 1898, the rector, through direction of the Vestry, informed the Bishop that the Church could relinquish aid from Diocesan funds, which was done. On June 17th, 1898, the rector celebrated the 10th anniversary of his ordination, Bishop Whitaker and three members of Mr. Lyons' graduating class being present.

The Vestry at this time consisted of James L. Rahn, Rector's Warden; Dr. Charles Bland, Accounting Warden; E. Atlee Snyder, William R. Knipe, Elisha B. Knowles, Benjamin T. Lentz, Shel-

by, used to defray the cost of Christmas gifts to Sunday School members.

On April 2nd, 1928, Rev. Edgar C. Campbell began a 13 1-2 month rectorship, passing away on May 17th 1929. Rev. Mr. Campbell possessed rare gifts of oratory and was a preacher of remarkable ability.

A new altar was installed and dedicated on February 9th, 1929. The church worshipped with various clergymen and lay readers until the arrival of Rev. Neville Herbert Caley, on March 2nd of 1930. Activities once more took on new life and greater improvements to the church are continuing. A new lectern and pulpit, in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Lyons, replaced the former ones placed in service by Mr. Lyons in 1899. A new lighting system has been installed. Mr. Caley has proven to be a talented musician as well as a splendid preacher. The choir, under his direction, ranks second to none in the locality. The future of St. Alban's Church appears in a fine light under his leadership.

The present vestry consists of Ralph Moyer, Rector's Warden; Theodore Bechtel, Alfred R. Bechtel, William Holland, William A. Taylor, Howard S. Goodman, Owen B. J. Fulloway, and Alvion P. Mosier.

The marble tablets on the church walls are in memory of Alfred Crease, Joshua Garsed, (slain at the Battle of Gettysburg) and Clifford Rahn (son of James L. Rahn). Miss Mary P. Hagner, a life-long member and supporter of the church died on February 23rd, 1931. The present font in the church is a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. James Work.

Among the valued workers during the existence of St. Alban's Church, have been Annie Kimble Snowden, Miss Lily Snyder, Mrs. Elizabeth Dearnley, Benjamin T. Lentz and Mrs. George W. Moyer. The present Sewing Guild is composed of members of St. Alban's Church, as well as of other denominations, and contributes largely to the finances of the church. Mrs. Israel James is president. As one of the workers at St. Alban's School, the

10/6/1932

Church Marks Anniversary Of Founding

Ridge Avenue Methodist
Episcopal Church Or-
ganized in 1847

HAS SPECIAL SERVICES

Congregation and Sunday
School Has Fine History
Through the Years

Up at Ridge and Shawmont ave-
nues, the members of the Ridge
Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
are this week celebrating the 85th
anniversary of the founding of
that congregation.

The anniversary sermon was
preached last Sunday morning by
the pastor, Rev. O. C. Ketels. In
the afternoon Rally Day was ob-
served in the Sunday School. The
evening address was delivered by
Fletcher W. Stites. On Tuesday
evening, "Home Coming Night"
was marked, with former pastors
and their wives being the guests of
honor. The special service last
night, was in charge of Rev. George
J. Burns, Ph.D.

Next Sunday evening, which will
be known as "Young People's
Night", the sermon will be deliv-
ered by Rev. Robert C. Wells, D.D.

The Ridge Avenue Methodist
Episcopal Church had its birth on
August 15th, 1847, in the little
Yellow School House on East
Shawmont avenue, when Rev.
George Heacock conducted the first
service.

For ten years thereafter the in-
fant mission was under the care
of Methodist Episcopal churches
of Manayunk, the Falls of Schuyl-
kill, Germantown, Chestnut Hill
and Conshohocken.

In 1858, Rev. Wesley C. Best was
named pastor, and in one year of
his administration the congrega-
tion increased from seven persons
to fifty-six, and the organization
continued to grow so much that
the Yellow School House soon
proved inadequate. Accordingly,
in 1859, a lot on Ridge avenue,
above Shawmont avenue, was pur-
chased and in the following year a
one-story place of worship was
erected, this during the pastorate
of Rev. Horace A. Cleveland. It is
stated that the famous preacher,
Peter Cartwright, laid the corner-
stone. A constitution was drawn
on May 22nd, 1859, and the church
was incorporated on August 19th,
1862.

In 1864 Rev. Silas B. Best was
appointed pastor and the church
was released of debt. In the year
1867, during the term of Rev. A. W.

Milby, a parsonage was built on
the lot at the corner of Ridge and
Shawmont avenues, which was do-
nated by Mrs. Wm. F. Hamilton,
for a legal consideration of one
dollar. In 1871 the church build-
ing was completed while Rev. H. F.
Isett was minister.

During the next pastorate, that
of Rev. George Broadbent, a mis-
sion was established at Miquon,
which was then known as Lafay-
ette. The first meeting was held
in a building provided by Messrs.
W. C. Hamilton and Sons, the
paper manufacturers. The mission
is still in existence and is directed
by Milton W. Frey.

During the Rev. Mr. Broadbent's
first pastorate, the Sunday School
was re-organized and Rev. F. W.
Lockwood was chosen superintend-
ent, a position which he success-
fully filled for many years, until
1921, when he retired. He was
succeeded by Harry Reiver, who
was in turn succeeded by the pres-
ent superintendent, Harry D.
Evans, who has developed the
school to a high state of efficiency.

Among the names of the teach-
ers who served in the early days of
the Sunday School, were: Julia
Diamond, Thomas S. Donohugh,
Miss M. J. Marshall, Mrs. Annie
Mackin, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Davis,
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Culp, Mrs. W.
F. Hamilton, Miss Emma Dono-
hugh, Robert Adair, Abel Green,
Edward Sutch, Mrs. John Gland-
ing and others.

In 1892, in connection to the
Sunday School, the Epworth League
was organized, and named Roxbor-
ough Chapter No. 8369. It grew
rapidly, especially under the guid-
ance of Thomas S. and Miss Emma
Donough, and is still functioning
in a splendid manner with Daniel
Chestnut as president.

During Mr. Broadbent's second
term as pastor, a movement was
started to procure a pipe organ,
and as a result of liberal donations,
by members and friends of the
church, the instrument was secure
and quickly paid for.

Rev. Maris Graves succeeded Mr.
Broadbent as pastor in 1899 and
served in that capacity until 1902,
when he was followed by Rev.
Amos D. Geist, who labored at the
upper Roxborough church from
1902 until 1907. It was while Mr.
Geist was pastor that the upper
church auditorium was remodeled
and re-decorated and the stained
leaded glass windows installed.

During the term of Rev. L. S.
Ewing, which extended from 1926
until 1929, the pipe organ was re-
placed by a more modern one and
an addition built to the rear of the
church building, which necessitated
other extensive changes.

Rev. Mr. Ewing was succeeded by
Rev. John C. Petre, a spiritual lead-
er loved by all who knew him.
This was in 1929. Shortly after his
installation at the Ridge avenue
church, Mr. Petre was taken ill
with meningitis and expired sud-
denly. This sad blow followed one
of a few days previous when Rev.
Amos D. Geist, a former pastor,
had passed away in Roxborough.
Following his retirement from the
active ministry, Mr. Geist had
taken up his residence in Roxbor-
ough and rejoined his former
charge.

Since the death of Rev. Petre,
the church has been served by the
present pastor, Rev. O. C. Ketels.

A complete list of the clergymen
who have labored at the Ridge
Avenue M. E. Church includes the
names of: Wesley C. Best, Horace
A. Cleveland, J. Taft, Isaac Mast,
Silas B. Best, T. B. Neely, A. W.
Milby, S. A. Heilner, D. L. Patter-
son, (supply) H. F. Isett, George
S. Broadbent, J. J. Timanus,
George Heacock, Joseph B. Graff,
N. D. McComas, J. Wesley Harkins,
Francis Asbury Gilbert, Maris
Graves, A. D. Geist, A. A. Thomp-
son, C. M. Haddaway, Alfred Heeb-
ner, F. W. Z. Barrett, William May,
William H. Beyer, L. S. Ewing, J.
C. Petre and O. C. Ketels.

11/23/1932

Lych-Gate Here A Rare Sight

Several times recently attention
has been called to scarlet doorways
of the picturesque St. Timothy's
P. E. Church, at Ridge and James-
town avenues, Roxborough. The
brilliant color of the doors have a
religious significance and attract
the notice of many passersby.

Another of the features of the
church and its surroundings is the
wall which encloses the ground. It
extends for some 300 feet along
Ridge avenue, and is built of rubble
stone, pointed on both sides, and
is topped with two courses of red
and black brick, surmounted by a
rough coping of rounded or pointed
stones, laid up on edge and pointed
with cement.

Beside the small gates, there is
a wide carriage entrance, and near
it a covered "lych-gate," the sides
of which are stone pilasters and the
roof-frame of finished yellow pine
of very ornamental appearance,
covered with red slate. The ridge
of this lych-gate is topped with
terra-cotta tiles.

The gate receives its name from
the Saxon word "lych," or "lich"
(from which Litchfield, lichen is
derived) signifying "dead" and in
England is often seen along the
front of churchyards, especially the
more ancient ones. Its use is to
afford a waiting place for the
clergymen and bier, when expect-
ing funerals; and in that country
of rainy weather often affords
shelter from the storms.

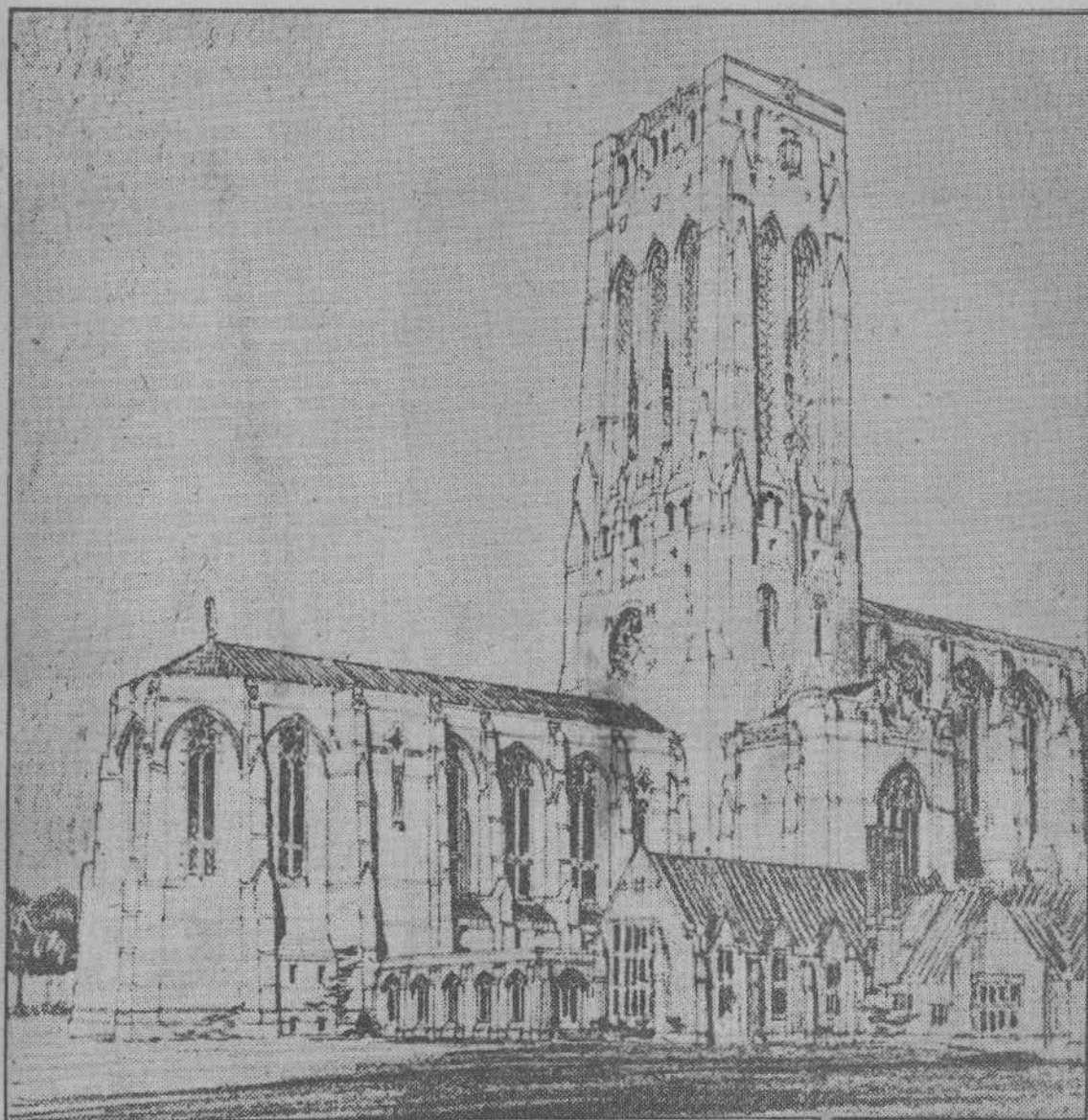
It is believed that few specimens
of these gates exist in this country,
and it certainly enhances the quiet
beauty of the church, and furnishes
a framing to the approaches which
is quite appropriate.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 23, 1932

Inquirer

OF INTEREST TO PULPIT AND

CATHEDRAL CHAPEL AND TOWER



Architects' drawing of the Lady Chapel and Carillon tower of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Church of Christ to be erected on the Roxborough cathedral site. Ground for the chapel erection was broken by Bishop Taitt June 25. Frank R. Watson, Edkins and Thompson are architects of the building, which is the first of the projected group.

4/27/2

13

Recalls History Attached To Medical College Site In Falls of Schuylkill

Dr. Charles K. Mills Relates Interesting Tale Concerning Abbottsford and Other Old Houses, in Vicinity

BY CHARLES K. MILLS

The breaking of the ground for the new building of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania at the Falls of Schuylkill on June 11th, was a noteworthy occasion to the medical profession in general, and in particular to those concerned in the civic and professional status of women. From several points of view the event was one of much historical interest. In the first place as indicated in the invitation to the guests by the board of corporators of the college the first spade of earth was turned by Mr. Albert R. Brunker the grandson of the first president of the college, W. J. Mullen. In the second place the locality on which the new building will be erected is encircled by much colonial, revolutionary and post-revolutionary history.

The house known as "Abbottsford" was built in 1752 by a financier, Nickelson or Nicklin. Later it was occupied by several well known Philadelphia families namely, White, Moss, Bird, Wilson, and Abbott. Its last occupant was a man well known in Philadelphia public affairs. He was at one time a member of the board of education of Philadelphia. He did much to advance the religious welfare of the Falls in connection with the Baptist church.

Adjoining properties of Abbots, Richards and Evans at first were entered by way of old Abbottsford, avenue, which took its course in the rear of the original buildings. These properties are located upon an elevated plateau overlooking the Falls and the river, forming a striking panorama. The Richards house nearby surmounted by a cupola and steeple is visible for many miles.

Before the coming of Griffith Evans, from Westchester county, to the neighborhood, the house occupied by Evans at Fox street and Abbottsford avenue, was known as the McCall house. The McCall property was extensive, reaching in all directions from Indian Queen Lane to Nicetown Lane. The son of Griffith Evans, was a physician named Dr. Horace Evans. He did not practice his profession but was well known in the business world of Philadelphia as a prominent broker.

The "Abbottsford" house was at one time temporarily occupied by Colonel Chew, of Howe's army, during the British occupancy of Philadelphia, and for a short time also by General Knyphausen, commander of the Hessians, who were located in the neighborhood. The Chew house in Germantown took its name from the above named officer.

From 1779 to 1787, the Chew house

was owned by a picturesque character known as Blair McClenachan. His city residence was on Second street near Chestnut or Walnut street. McClenachan was associated with Robert Morris in some of his financial projects. In one of these he gave financial help to Washington's army. Clenachan was on friendly, social and political terms with Washington.

Adjoining the old properties of the Abbots, Richards' and Evans' on the south, were several beautiful country estates among them those of Blight and Tucker. The houses on these estates were visible from Nicetown lane or Hunting Park avenue, and Wissahickon avenue, near their junction. The Blight house, or "Devonshire Place," was purchased by Peter Blight, in 1816 from its former owner, Captain Cochran, and has remained in the Blight family almost to the present time. The original Blight house, built in 1797 was replaced in 1842, by a newer mansion with a pillared front. "Old Oaks," a little to the south and west of the Blight house, was formerly occupied by John Tucker, president of the Reading railroad from 1844 to 1856.

Situated in the angle formed by the Norristown branch of the Reading

Fairmount Park, might well become a playground for the people of the Falls.

As stated in the invitation of the board of corporators, the new building of the Woman's College, will be...
...on Tuesday evening and placed a...
...panish-American war marker over...
...the grave of their late member...
...College Inspector John Blackburn...
...James K. Heins presided. Fred...
...does offered prayer, and short...
...remarks were delivered by C. B...
...Heins, Hiram L. Wynne and George...
...Lare, Jr., Joseph Lawrence...
...who almost sacrificed his life for...
...duty at the same time that Black...
...burn was killed, placed the marker...
...in his commander's grave. James...
...K. Heins offered the benediction...
...In the camp room, later, Rev. Dr...
...William B. Forney, a member of...
...the camp, delivered one of the most...
...impressive patriotic and memorial...
...addresses heard at the camp in re...
...cent years. Dr. Forney was a close...
...friend of the late John Blackburn...
...as he is of "Joe" Lawrence, and at...
...the time of the inspector's death...

IN NEED

Workers, Professional and...
of \$50 up at a saving of about...
are made for ten-month per...
installments. Loans also mad...

Amount of Loan	Others Charge
\$100.00	\$19.25
200.00	33.50
300.00	57.75

Rates for other amount Given Up

Borrow the...
Repay the...



Germantown
9 E.

Telephone

the front both in 1862 and in 1863, to assist in the defense of the state against the invading army of Lee, was commanded by Captain John Dobson. I recall that on the very ground on which the college building is to be erected the company took part in a target practice in 1863.

The entire occasion of breaking of the ground for the Woman's Medical College and Hospital had a peculiar personal interest for me, because in the first place I was professor of medical jurisprudence and of neurology in the Woman's College and secondly because of the interest I have always taken in recording the local history of the Falls and its environment.

4/27/2

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From 1779 to 1787, the Chew house

railroad and Hunting Park avenue, was a house which dates back to the revolution. It was occupied at an early date by a family named Stance and later by one named Peltz. The pillars of the house were tree trunks from which the bark was never removed. This building was removed about three years ago.

The opening of the new building concerned with medical education recalls the important part played by the old village in educational matters in general. In the Falls once lived, Thomas Mifflin, the first president of the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania after the adoption of the Federal constitution. Here also, resided William Smith, first provost of the University.

The plateau or tract of land, on the east side of Ridge road, and on the south side of Queen Lane was popularly called Smith's Hill. On this hill were several important houses two of which still remain although much changed. One of these was the house in which the first provost lived for many years, and was later occupied by some of his descendants who were themselves men of distinction in literature, war and public station.

One of the other two buildings because of the manner of its construction was originally known as the hexagon. In it lived some members of the Smith family from time to time. The third building also because of the manner of its construction was originally known as the octagon house. In this building, Joseph Neef, friend of Henry Pestalozzi, in whose school in Switzerland he was for a time a teacher, introduced and first practiced the Pestalozzian system of education in this country. The octagon building disappeared through the encroachment of a quarry reaching eastward and back some distance from Ridge road.

A fountain, or some other memorial, should mark the spot near which the Neef school once stood, and this might well be a part of the general plan for rescuing the old Smith estate for the use of future generations.

A restored Smith's Hill, as a part of

Fairmount Park, might well become a playground for the people of the Falls.

As stated in the invitation of the board of corporators, the new building of the Woman's College, will be located at Henry street and Abbotsford avenue.

The name Henry Street is derived from the name of Alexander Henry, one of the mayors of Philadelphia, between the time of the consolidation of the city and county of Philadelphia and the new constitution of the State of Pennsylvania, in 1832, under which Edwin H. Pitler became the mayor of Philadelphia.

After the consolidation of the city and the county of Philadelphia in 1854, the part of the Falls of Schuylkill situated above the Norristown branch of the Reading railroad and north of Indian Queen Lane, for some reason which I have not been able to determine, adopted from time to time for its cross streets the names of mayors of the city. The names which continue to be used in the part of the Falls referred to are: Conrad, Vaux, Henry, McMichael, Fox, Stokley and King.

The house of Mr. James Dobson, who did so much personally for the welfare of the people of the Falls was visible from the spot where the exercises of the breaking of the ground for the new school of medicine took place. His daughter, Mrs. Bessie Dobson Altemus Eastman, her sisters, Mrs. Richard Norris and Mrs. John C. Norris and his children's children to the second generation are active and helpful in advancing the welfare of the old Falls village.

John Dobson, the founder of the great manufacturing plant at the Falls, is recalled by his daughter, Mrs. Samuel D. Riddle, of Glen Riddle, and by Sarah Dobson Fiske Jeffords, a descendant of his other daughter "Mally" Dobson. The house erected by John Dobson could have been seen from the plateau where the Woman's Medical College will stand. It was, however, some distance to the south and not far from the church of St. James the Less. The wives of both John and James Dobson were sisters and both were active in charitable work in the neighborhood.

This occasion also recalls the relations of the village to the Civil War. The village company which went to the front both in 1862 and in 1863, to assist in the defense of the state against the invading army of Lee, was commanded by Captain John Dobson. I recall that on the very ground on which the college building is to be erected the company took part in a target practice in 1863.

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5/14/35

Revolutionary Character Told Of His Experiences

John Levering Was Twenty-Six Years of Age When Declaration of Independence Was Signed.—Lived Until July 28th, 1832

Among the several John Leverings who have made their residence in Roxborough, was the John who was born in 1750 and lived for eighty-two years until July 28th, 1832. This particular individual counted among his experiences, the hectic days of the American Revolution, and lived sufficiently long enough after them to relate many tales of the time when the Nation was coming into existence.

One of the most interesting follows: "In the summer of 1778, while pursuing General Howe's army through New Jersey, the American generals quartered for the night in a farmhouse. Way-worn and exhausted, Washington, Lafayette, Green and Knox, extended their weary bodies on the floor of a comfortable second-story room. 'Blue Billy,' Washington's negro servant, lay stretched, partly from a privileged habit of being near his master, and partly as sort of an inner bodyguard, across the stairway landing. During the night heavy thunder storm pealed above and around us, terrifying to all except those who can trust in the Almighty. Flash after flash,

and peal upon peal, followed in quick succession. Sleep was impossible. All were awakened; yet none felt disposed to arise. Just then the heaviest, a bolt with stunning report, descended the chimney to the open fireplace, bounded over the generals and Billy, and passed down the staircase, thence out the doorway, committing no injury. Upon looking out the window we could see three dwellings on fire at the same time, and felt thankful for our providential escape.

"Brother Jacob was styled a 'neutral,' though a true patriot at heart and a secret spy for Washington. He resided near the Schuylkill, in what is now Manayunk, then, a few houses, and under the pretense of furnishing the British with the produce of his farm, he obtained valuable information which he transmitted to Washington. On one occasion, when obliged to stay all night, in the city, Samuel G—a 'tory' cousin, with whom he lodged, privately informed him of the intention of General Howe to send a clandestine expedition to surprise and seize Red Bank early

the next morning but one. Jacob treasured the information, 'hoped they might obtain their object,' turned over and went to sleep apparently, but in reality he was meditating upon the quickest way of getting the intelligence to General Washington.

"Jacob reached home late the next afternoon, and when an opportunity offered beckoned me to the haymow (I was home on furlough then) told me the scheme, and we laid our plans accordingly. After supper Jacob complained of fatigue, and proposed that the family should retire early to rest, which they did. As soon as we considered the inmates sound asleep, Jacob silently let me out the back window, down over the shed roof to the ground; and thence to the river-bank, where unmooring a small boat, I crossed to the opposite shore, secured the boat, ran up the bank, tapped at a window of the ferryman's house, and soon gained admittance.

"Uncle Anthony, I have business of great importance with General Washington tonight. Can you lend me a horse?"

"Yes, John. Behind the kitchen door thee will find my great coat; then go to the stable and take my best riding horse; thee will find his saddle hanging up beside him. I don't care if thee rides him to death so thee does it."

"I did as I was bidden and by eleven o'clock that night was at 'headquarters' in Valley Forge. Passing the sentries, I was ushered into Washington's room. There upon the floor, wrapped in their cloaks, lay the Commander-in-chief, Lafayette and Greene; they arose upon my entrance, whereupon I began the news, but Washington motioned silence, and conducted me into another room. There he knelt by a desk and offered up a silent prayer to God, the Ruler of all armies. After prayer he attentively listened to my story, called in Greene and Lafayette, acquainted them with the intended attack and commenced immediate preparations. Being thankfully dismissed, I reached home and was in bed again without anyone of the family but Jacob knowing of my absence.

"We shrink with horror and disgust from the many atrocities perpetrated by the British on unsuspecting outposts and pickets of the Continental army; even defenceless women and children escaped not the ruthless sword of the bigoted hirelings of British power."

Here John Levering told of the massacre at Wood's Barn, which is familiar to most residents of this section, as having taken place on the site now occupied by the Grace Lutheran Church at Ridge and Roxborough avenues.

Continuing the story as told by the aged Continental soldier: "Among the many who flocked to support the newly-raised standard of American liberty was John

Wood, a brave Pennsylvanian his services to and received a chosen body scouts,' whose the Command the movements side of Philade

"One time was familiarly and two or three were on 'scout' Philadelphia, they ment of British counter the A byroad—which leading from t lowed by the reached the es troop of Hessian front at a gal short distance road, halted, tation, drew th silence until t the corner, and volley which d horses; those k checked in tim piled over the steeds. The re plete formation and horses, bre road. 'Jack' an as they saw th shots, leaped th left and disa neighboring woo suing party of with their wou Hessian comrad

"After severa capes from the eventually killed the same divi whom he had s as mentioned be ant in one of h acquainted and woman residing phia. When ex ary visit she in of it; they, on despatched a bod house located b taken by Wood. tered the dwellin ily into a back guard over them some time. Pre Wood made his slowly along, un and when oppo fired through a as it stood ajar, the back. W wheeled and gall speed nearly two met a countrym market. The farr wounded, and th down both sides (him to 'Ride on, then urged his o road to meet th sians. As soon as of them, he wave shouted: "Turn b sake, turn back! troop of rebels be you!". The Greer more and instant leaving the counti rear.

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Character Experiences

When Declared Lived

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Continuing the story as told by
the aged Continental soldier:
"Among the many who flocked to
support the newly-raised standard
of American liberty was John

Wood, a brave and intelligent
Pennsylvanian. He had volunteered
his services to General Washington
and received an appointment in a
chosen body of the 'light-horse
scouts,' whose business was to keep
the Commander well apprised of
the movements of the British out-
side of Philadelphia.

"One time when 'Jack' (as he
was familiarly called by the troop)
and two or three of his comrades
were on 'scout' near West Phila-
delphia, they met a small detach-
ment of British; to avoid an en-
counter the Americans fled into a
byroad—which led to another way
leading from the city—closely fol-
lowed by the enemy. Before they
reached the end of the road, a
troop of Hessian horse appeared in
front at a gallop. The scouts, a
short distance from an angle in the
road, halted, held a brief consul-
tation, drew their pistols, waited in
silence until the Hessians turned
the corner, and then gave them a
volley which dropped a couple of
horses; those behind could not be
checked in time to prevent being
piled over the bodies of the fallen
steeds. The result was the com-
plete formation of a barrier of men
and horses, breast high, across the
road. 'Jack' and his party, as soon
as they saw the effect of their
shots, leaped the fence on their
left and disappeared into the
neighboring woods, leaving the pur-
suing party of British to con-
doe with their wounded and bruised
Hessian comrades.

"After several remarkable es-
capes from the enemy, Wood was
eventually killed by a portion of
the same division of Hessians,
whom he had so roughly handled
as mentioned before. The lieuten-
ant in one of his rambles became
acquainted and wooed a young
woman residing in West Philadel-
phia. When expecting a custom-
ary visit she informed the British
of it; they, on the day appointed
despatched a body of 'Yagers' to a
house located by the road to be
taken by Wood. The 'Yagers' en-
tered the dwelling, drove the fam-
ily into a back room, placed a
guard over them and watched for
some time. Presently Lieutenant
Wood made his appearance, riding
slowly along, unsuspecting danger,
and when opposite, a rifleman
fired through a crack of the door
as it stood ajar, and shot him in
the back. Wood immediately
wheeled and galloped back with
speed nearly two miles, where he
met a countryman coming to the
market. The farmer, seeing he was
wounded, and the blood rushing
down both sides of his saddle, told
him to 'Ride on, ride for life!', and
then urged his own nag down the
road to meet the pursuing Hes-
sians. As soon as he came in sight
of them, he waved his hat and
shouted: 'Turn back! For God's
sake, turn back! There is a whole
troop of rebels bearing down upon
you!'. The Green coats, needed no
more and instantly turned and fled,
leaving the countryman far in the
rear.

"Poor Jack rode half a mile fur-
ther, when he dropped from his
steed and was carried into a house
nearby, where he bled profusely,
through two beds, 'til it coagulated

on the floor, and shortly expired.

"At the time that Washington
and his army lay in winter quar-
ters at Valley Forge, the Schuyl-
kill, at Market street, Philadelphia,
was crossed upon a 'floating' or
'moored' bridge, generally secured
by stout hawsers to each shore.
This was one of the principal exits
for foraging parties of the English
from the city. No crowded town
then occupied the western side;
all, excepting the nucleus of a vil-
lage or two, was a thinly settled
farming country, the road at and
from the bridge being lined with
thickets of briars and bushes, with
occasionally a lonely dwelling.

"While the American main body
was inactive, smaller detachments
of picked men, having a better
knowledge of the region than their
enemy, ventured on and even with-
in his lines. A 'Major' Jessup
commanded a company of twenty
men, selected for their agility and
fleetness of foot. These, known as
'Jessup's Scouts' acted as independ-
ent rangers, cutting off or driv-
ing weaker parties of British. One
dry, frosty night, having 'got wind'
of an intended movement of the
British, they marched from Valley
Forge to Market street, severed the
fastenings of the bridge, but just
sufficient to retain it in place and
then concealed themselves in the
bushes. At daybreak a regiment of
the British on a predatory expedi-
tion, began filing across. When
within a few feet of the western
shore, Jessup's men debouched, im-
mediately cut the ropes and as
quickly fled, leaving their foes
swing around and land in Philadel-
phia again. Rapidly recovering
from surprise as they floated
around, they discharged a volley of
bullets at the Americans, flirting
the dry earth on all sides; but an
over-ruling Providence protecting
them from injury, not one of the
'Twenty' received so much as a
scratch.

"During the battle of German-
town, an American subaltern,
named Holgate, mounted the top
of a British ammunition chest,
and from that position fired six-
teen 'rounds'. When obliged to
leave his impromptu battery, he
retreated along a hedge. Having
thus gone some distance, he met a
grenadier who was on the other
side; they stopped, and began load-
ing their muskets as fast as haste
would permit them. The English-
man being better drilled, finished
first, and according to 'tactics' was
returning the rammer, which Hol-
gate perceived and fired, ramrod
and bullet piercing the grenadier
through.

"In the dark of the Revolution,
when the treasury was low, credit
exhausted and famine facing the
army, a great many patriot farm-
ers appointed a person to collect
donations of grain, each one giving
what he could afford.

"The wheat thus gathered was
converted into flour by a miller re-
siding on a tributary of the Schuyl-
kill, not fifty miles from Philadel-
phia. The soldiers after eating the
bread made of it, sickened, and
many died in great pain. Upon
searching the flour, sifting it in
water, crushed glass was found to
be a large ingredient. Suspecting

the miller, and investigating the
case, they discovered he was a se-
cret 'Tory.' A number of troops
seized him in his mill and hung
him to the beam across the gate-
way in front of his house."

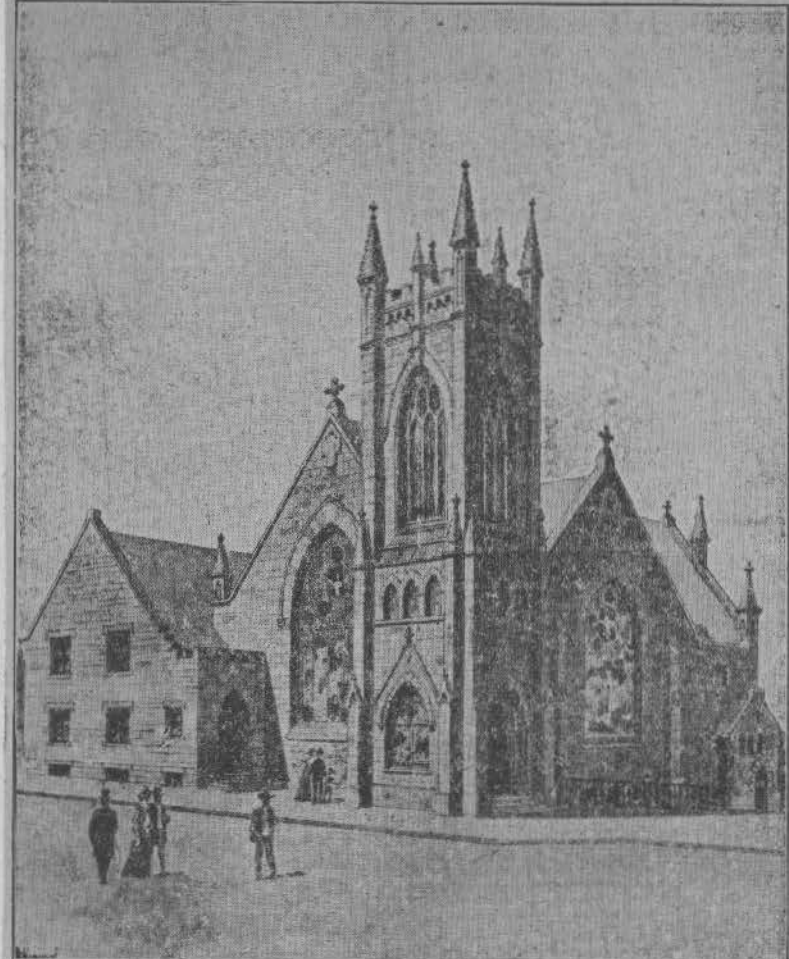
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5/1/30

5/1/30

15

EBENEZER M. E. CHURCH



Situated on the corner of Gay and Mansion streets, in Manayunk. The members of the congregation will, on Sunday next, observe the 83rd anniversary of the founding of the church. Religious and social activities, held in the above building, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. E. B. Baker, have given to Ebenezer an enviable reputation among the churches of this vicinity.

Church to Observe 83rd Anniversary

**Ebenezer M. E. Congregation
To Have Special
Services**

ORGANIZED IN 1847

**Manayunk Religious Group
Has Had Interesting
History**

Members of Ebenezer M. E. church, at Gay and Mansion streets, will, on next Sunday, celebrate the 83rd anniversary of the founding of that church.

Special music, under the direction of Dr. Franklin Flanagan, will be rendered. At the morning service the selections will be: Prelude, "Springtime" by Kinder; anthem, "Te Deum Laudamus" by Lemarre, and postlude, "Postlude in C" by Mosmer. A sermon appropriate to the occasion will be delivered by the pastor, Rev. E. B. Baker.

In the evening the service will be in accordance with Boys' Week. Walter Snader and B. A. Kline, of the teaching staff of the Roxborough High School will make brief addresses. The music will include "Reverie" by Frysinger; anthem, "God That Madest Heaven and Earth" by Matthews and postlude, "Marche Anglaise" by Clark. Assisting the choir will be Masters William Marley and Elias E. Baker, trumpeters and Adam Lutweiler, xylophonist.

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church came into being because of a difference among local Methodists over a matter of denominational administration. It was the second Methodist Church formed in Manayunk.

The congregation first met in the old Fourth Reformed Church, on Cotton street which is now occupied by St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church. The church was formally organized on May 2, 1847. The church occupied successively the old police station on Main street, and the site of what is now the Dixie Theatre. On May 23, 1847 it was proposed to consider a new church building. Following this meeting the site at Gay and Mansion streets, where the present edifice now stands, was purchased and the cornerstone of the old church building was laid on July 25th of the same year and the building dedicated on March 19, 1848. The structure was enlarged in 1856 and again in 1869. The present house of worship was built in 1901 and has just recently been remodeled and decorated. It is constantly being improved and kept up to date. A noteworthy fact in its history is that Ebenezer Church has never been mortgaged.

Hold Service In Memory of Virginians

Historians and Church Officials Collaborate in Fine Service 12/18/30

HELMS CITES FACTS

Rev. William H. Cooper
Lauds Men Who Died
For Freedom

Members of the nursing staff of the Memorial Hospital, and Sons of the American Revolution, participated in the memorial church service, arranged by the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church officers, at the latter church, Ridge and Roxborough avenues, last Sunday night.

The exercises were held in commemoration of the massacre of the eighteen Virginia troopers, of Washington's army, who were slain at Andrew Wood's barn—which stood on the site of Grace Church—on the night of December 19th, 1777.

A brief story of the affair, which appeared in the printed programs, distributed at the service, reads as follows:

On December 19, 1777, Captain Andrew Cathcart of the 17th Light Dragoons of the British Army, then occupying the City of Philadelphia, with a squadron of men, surprised an American picket of 18 men of Lee's Virginia Legion, on Ridge road at an outpost about four miles from the City. This was at Scott's lane and Ridge avenue. The British, greatly outnumbering the American force, opened fire, immediately cutting down seven of the Continentals. The others retreated in the direction of Valley Forge, where the main force of the American Army had recently established their winter headquarters. Toward nightfall they took refuge in the barn owned by Andrew Wood, at what is now Ridge and Roxborough avenues, in Roxborough, which formerly stood on the site now occupied by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. There they were discovered by the British. Failing to respond to the first challenge to surrender, Captain Cathcart ordered the barn burned, and the Continental soldiers were killed as they tried to escape.

Major Thomas S. Martin, president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, who was to have delivered an address concerning the stirring events connected with the sacrifices of the Virginians, was unable to be present, owing to illness, and his place on the program was taken by James K. Helms, vice president of the Society. Mr. Helms disclosed a vast store of historical facts relative to the family of Andrew Wood, and of the action in Roxborough, on the December night of one hundred and fifty-three years ago, when the soldiers of the Old Dominion lost

12/23/33

Men of This Locality Aided In Organization of Bank

Michael Righter, Jacob Holgate and Peter Robeson Were
Among Group Which Formed Bank of Germantown

Previous to the founding of the Manayunk National Bank; which is now familiar as the Commercial National Bank, at Main and Levering streets, Manayunk and other branches in East Falls and central Philadelphia; which started business on August 14th, 1871 there was no financial institution in this vicinity.

People who resided in this northwestern section of the county of Philadelphia done their banking in Germantown, where prominent men of Roxborough and the surrounding country had been among those who founded the National Bank of Germantown.

At that time men had been laboring to incorporate a bank under a State charter. A favorable opportunity for this purpose was afforded by the failure of the First United States Bank to obtain from Congress, a renewal of its charter, despite a great effort made in its support, and in 1811, its career was finally ended.

The first meeting held, in Germantown, to organize a bank was held on January 20th, 1814, at Michael Righter's "King of Prussia" Tavern which was on Germantown avenue, near the present Germantown Theatre. Righter, be it remembered was a Roxborough man.

Samuel Mechlin, Jr., was chosen presiding officer, and William Davy, Jr., the secretary. Fourteen men were delegated to solicit among the people of this portion of Philadelphia and urge them to attend a mass meeting to be held at the King of Prussia on the following day. Those named were Dr. Erasmus Thomas, Conrad Carpenter, Jacob Clemens, John McClune, Baltus Beck, Michael Righter, Stephen Boisbrun, Dr. William Runkel, Jacob Sommers, Henry Frailey, George Hauto, John Lorrain, William Alexander, and Caspar Heft, of Wissahickon. Almost every name was significant of German origin.

This meeting started some genuine action. It was decided that the capital stock of the bank should be fixed at \$300,000, divided into shares of the par value of fifty dollars. Subscriptions were to be received for five days at the King of Prussia Tavern and also in Roxborough, at Levering's Inn. After the five day limit expired, on January 27th, Dr. Runkel was named to go to Harrisburg, which for fifteen months had been the State capital, after it had been moved from Lancaster. There were no railroads, an even canal transportation had been developed but little. Bank bills were

Robert Adams, Conrad Carpenter, and Charles J. Wister. Samuel Harvey was named president and Charles J. Wister secretary. The site selected for the first building is practically that where the institution stands today, although more land was added, and the present building erected for modern use.

On July 16th, John Fanning Watson, famed for his "Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania" was named cashier.

This bank, at Germantown, had business dealings over a wide territory, extending from the Schuylkill, at Manayunk and the Falls of Schuylkill, to the Delaware at Frankford and as far as the Perkiomen in Montgomery county.

Among the interesting papers of the Germantown bank is a note which was discounted (with a mortgage as collateral security) on April 26th 1815. After 212 renewals and running 53 years it was paid, April 23rd 1868, with the interest having amounted to \$1908.

It reads as follows:
Roxborough Township

April 26th, 1815
Philadelphia County

\$600
Three months after date I promise to pay the Bank of Germantown, on order, without defalcations, Six Hundred Dollars, at the said Bank of Germantown, for value received.
Cornelius Conrad

SCCAFF.

principal questions before the Legislature of that day, and although Governor Snyder opposed the bill favored by Dr. Runkel, it was finally passed over his veto on March 21st 1814. The bill called for five banks for Philadelphia county, three to what was then the city of Philadelphia, and two to that part of the county outside of the city. One of these, in the wording of the bill, was "to be called the Bank of Germantown, the house of which shall be located in the village of Germantown."

A committee appointed to prepare for the organization of the Bank of Germantown, met for the first time on March 29th, 1814. The commissioners were: Jacob Holgate, Michael Righter, Samuel Harvey, William Logan Fisher, John Conrad, and Joseph Starne. The first two and last named were Roxborough men. Jacob Holgate was made chairman and Samuel Harvey, secretary and treasurer.

The first directors, among whom are names familiar in the history of the 21st Ward, and the Wissahickon valley, were Peter Robeson, Samuel Harvey, John Johnson, Samuel Johnson, William R. Rodman, John Rogers, Richard Bayley, Dr. George Hensell, Edward Russell,

"Sick" Takes a Walk

BY JOHN M. SICKINGER

Crossing the new Manayunk bridge last Sunday evening, I walked up Belmont avenue to Rock Hill road and out through the quarries to the Conshohocken State road. At the Merion cemetery I watched several Chinamen worship their dead. They placed a bundle of clothing, a basket of food, and lit several candles of pink, on some few of the many graves in this stony cemetery. From the cemetery I came to the fork of Manayunk and State roads and noticed that Lower Merion township has erected a sewage disposal plant at that point, which was formally a swamp. Up State road I went past many beautiful mansions, until I arrived at the home of A. R. Roberts, former owner of the Pencoyd Iron Works. His home is his castle, as it is a reproduction of a Western Iron Master's castle built in Scotland. It stands high on a rocky terrace with a dreamland of flowers surrounding a fountain, a beautiful sight to behold.

Then walking down State road I came to Mill Creek where stands the ruins of Humpries Mills, erected in 1825, as a gun factory. Mills on this site were burnt down five times, the last time in 1902 never to rise again. About a quarter of a mile below the Humprie's mill stands a power house that furnishes electricity for the Robert's estate. It was known, seventy years ago, as Godds Mill, and is a huge three story structure where, for sixty years, Henry Derringer made the guns and pistols, which caused his name to become a word in the English language. No old fiction of adventure seems complete without drawing, at close range, of his trusty Derringer. The Derringer type of firearms was used all over the world and the Government took complete charge of this mill during both the Mexican and Civil wars.

The next mill down the creek is the Rose Glen, or Nippes Mill, formerly owned by Booth and Barker and now run by the Barker family, who have been mill owners in the valley for many years. The Nippes family made guns in the mill for the Revolutionary War and the war of 1812. Old patterns and moulds and even an old Nippe gun are preserved by William Booth, of Narberth, who married into the Nippe's family. The mill burnt down in 1886, but part of the present walls date back to 1814. For generations it has been a woolen yarn mill and is used for the same purpose today. A short walk from the Rose Glen Mill took me to the Chadwick mills, now the property of Dr. S. D. W. Ludlum, who beautified the place and turned it into a private hospital. On the hill side to the west still remain the old powder magazines. These mills came into the Chadwick family in 1836; Sarah Chadwick married Christian Sharpe, who invented the Sharpe rifle, which became a standard in both the Confederate and Union armies. In the early sixties Virginia first fought these rifles from Robert Chadwick, when the John Brown raid threw that state into a turmoil of fear from a slave uprising. The Sharpe rifle was not made at the Chadwick mill the ammunition for them was.

They were among the first breech loading rifles ever invented.

After leaving the Chadwick mill I rounded a sharp turn on Mill Creek road and saw before me the ruins of another factory. A large growth of willow trees that grew up in the center of the ruins. I learned it was formally a paper mill owned by the Stillwagons, and was destroyed by fire in 1882 never to be rebuilt.

I then walked under the railroad arch and found myself at Criger's Picnic Grove, later run by the Boyles. It was here that a boat load of picnickers floated away to meet their deaths by drowning on Memorial Day 1901. Since that time the grove has been under police ban, and was cut up into boat house sites, and a colony of bungalows now stands there.

Walking down river road I stopped at the Hollow road and gazed east and beheld the City of Philadelphia's most expensive child, the Shawmont Water Works. Along this stretch of water of the Schuylkill Yale, Penn, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell and many other colleges fought for rowing honors in the late seventies and early eighties. Next I passed the Flat Rock Dam where the upper Schuylkill tumbles over into the lower river beneath a cloud of spray and foam.

Next came into view a house standing beside a great hole in the side of a small mountain. It was built in 1835, and was called the Flat Rock tunnel and is almost 1000 feet in length. The house mentioned was a tavern or inn and was called the Domino House. At this place a bridge crossed the river from the Manayunk turnpike, and the farmers on their way to and from market would pass away the long evenings playing dominos.

Rounding the bend at the side of the tunnel I beheld the old town of Manayunk before me, in the distant I saw the new Pennsylvania R. R. bridge and along its base the new inter-county bridge now under construction. Looking southwest of the river one sees, on the mountain top, the village of Ashland Heights. The golden sunset was now shining on the glass windows and the same sight greeted the eye when directed east towards Roxborough. A picture no artist could paint!

I now arrived at the old Randolph mill, at the west end of the Manayunk bridge and gazed at the old pipe and brick that are being unearthed by a contractor, who is now erecting an office building, stables and coal wharf for a local ice company. The brick and pipe were brought here from England in 1794 by Anthony Levering, who built the first mill in this section.

In all I covered five miles in four hours and recommend this route.

FR. M'KENNA TO BE MANAYUNK RECTOR

Assigned to Church of St. John the Baptist From Mission Berth.

Rev. John J. McKenna, national secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, has been appointed rector of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Manayunk. He succeeds Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eugene Murphy, who died May 1.

Father McKenna, native of this city, was director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Philadelphia archdiocese from June, 1932, until January, 1937, when he was appointed national secretary, with offices in New York.

Educated in St. Anne's parish school, St. Joseph's College High School and St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Father McKenna was ordained in the cathedral here June 10, 1922.

Prior to 1932, Father McKenna held assistant rectorships at the Church of the Annunciation, Shendoes; St. Mary's, Phoenixville; St. Michael's, Chester, and the Church of the Ascension of Our Lord, 725 E. Westmoreland st.

5/14/38

17

Pencoyd Was A Thriving Community

Old Village Along River
Road Once Scene of
Great Activity

HAD MANY HOMES

Colored Church-folk Held
Baptisms in Schuylkill's
Icy Waters

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

River Road, in West Manayunk, from Robert's Rolling Mill to the Green Lane Bridge, had quite a hamlet of its own some forty years ago.

It was composed of dwelling houses of men who worked in Pencoyd and had a village school house, a general store, where the employees of the rolling mills obtained provisions and had their bills deducted from their pay envelopes, and two churches, one which was a branch of the Mt. Zion M. E. Church, of Manayunk. The Superintendent of the Sunday School was James Hardman, and his assistant was Irvin Kerkeslarger. The secretary was James Cascaden; treasurer, John R. Bradshaw; librarian, Solomon Steinruck, and eleven teachers taught one hundred and nine scholars. The Sunday School met in the old Pencoyd school building, on River road, south of the Mule Bridge.

Another congregation which met in a private house on River road was the Pencoyd African Baptist Church.

The Pencoyd Iron Works were at this time bringing many negroes up from the South to work in the rolling mills and very naturally the membership of the Baptist church gained rapidly.

In those days the river would freeze over and remain in that condition for many weeks of the winter and this was the time each year that the converts "in the Navy branch of the Lord's Army" would be baptised. The parson, a tall, pious man, with a Bible under his arm and an axe in hand, his long frock tail coat blowing to the winds, would walk out on the thick ice and chop a hole of considerable size. The parson would then jump into the cold icy water and offer up a prayer and then call the converts by name, reaching up as he

grasped their hands to assist them into the hole. Standing waist deep he would most likely say, "Sister Jane Jackson, I see now baptise thee in the name of dee Lord, Amen!" The remainder of the flock would then sing a hymn.

I don't know whether it was the cold, icy river water, or if the sin was intredded so deep in her soul that it hurt so much when it was being washed away, but any how Sister Jackson would yell like a son-of-a-gun, to the delight of five or six thousand white men, women and children who lined the old Mule Bridge and both frozen shores of the Schuylkill River.

Those were the days when hot dogs were unknown. A hustling man today selling hot dogs in a crowd like that would make a fortune.

Around the high cliff, that is known as West Laurel Hill, was an open road that ran from the Schuylkill River to State Road, known as Levering Mill Road, but commonly called Clegg's Lane, after ^{WALTER M.} which stood beneath a frame trestle that carried the Pennsylvania railroad across the deep gorge. The railroad has since filled in the hollow, burying the mill and dwelling houses under mounds of earth.

Another woolen mill stood on River road and was known as

Campbell's Mill. Then came rows of dwellings familiar as Higgins Row, "Connors Row," which was occupied by the families of rivermen iron and textile workers; and attractive, unattached homesteads of the Maxwell's; Barrett's, Reeds', Hoffmans, and last of all the home of the late C. A. Rudolph, known as "River View," which is the only building standing of that once busy settlement.

When Pencoyd was taken over by the American Bridge Company, the new company needed more ground to use for stock and storage purposes. House after house became the property of the corporation until it owned everything but the Rudolph Estate. Instead of a busy wrecking crew demolishing the houses, the Lubin Moving Picture Company staged a fake rebellion with actors and the houses were laid level with bombs and explosions. The beginning of the moving picture industry helped to bring about the end of the Pencoyd village.

MONSIGNOR MURPHY OF MANAYUNK DIES ON EVE OF JUBILEE

Rector Dies

Rector of St. John the Baptist Was Active in Parish 47 Years.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Eugene Murphy, for 31 years rector of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Manayunk, died yesterday morning in Misericordia Hospital. He was 75.

Father Murphy had been in failing health since last May, but continued his many duties until three weeks ago Palm Sunday when he was removed to the hospital.

News of his death came as a shock to his parishioners, who were planning to celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination on May 20.

In Parish 47 Years.

Father Murphy was active in the Manayunk parish for 47 of the years of his priesthood, and was credited with building one of the most complete parishes in the country. In addition he was active in many civic activities.

Born in 1862 in Pottstown, Pa., of Irish parentage, Father Murphy attended Pottstown schools and entered the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook, in 1880. He was ordained by the late Archbishop Ryan May 20, 1888.

His first appointment was to St. Peter's Church, Reading, where he spent two years. Then he came to St. Mary's, Philadelphia, for a year and a half, and on September 21, 1891, was made assistant rector of St. John the Baptist Church.

Became Rector in 1907.

He became rector of the church in 1907, succeeding the late Father Brehony.

During his rectorship, Father Murphy enlarged the parish convent, erected a large parish hall, and established high schools for boys and girls on the church grounds.

An advocate of higher education, he took greatest pride in the high schools, which he founded in 1901 to supply the educational needs of a large number of young mill workers, for whom the nearest high school was in Germantown, some miles away.

Father Murphy's interest in education was a principal factor in the final erection of a high school in the area in 1922.

Aided Civic Movements.

Interested in civic improvements, Father Murphy was one of the prime movers in the establishment of Manayunk Park and in the elevation of the Reading Railroad's right of way. He also founded three building and loan associations for the benefit of his more



MSGR. EUGENE MURPHY
... a priest for nearly 50 years.

than 5000 parishioners, and was credited with enabling some 700 persons to purchase homes.

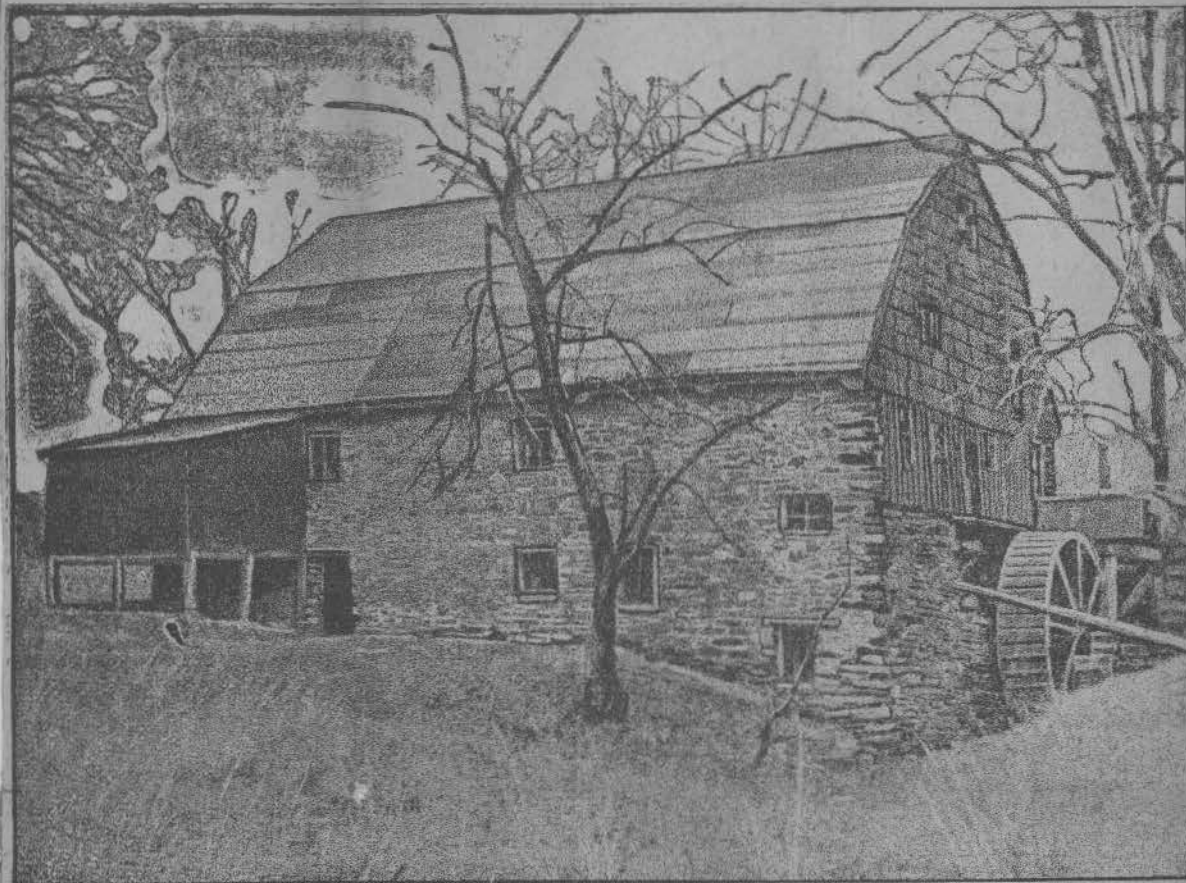
A lineal descendant of the great Archbishop Troy, of Dublin, Father Murphy was invested as monsignor in 1915. He was a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, Promoter Justitia of the archdiocese and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

His only close survivors are a cousin, Miss Mary Donahue, his housekeeper in the rectory, 146 Rector st.; and a niece, Miss Molly Fogarty, a teacher in St. John the Baptist Parochial School.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Quaint Old Spring Mill Grist Mill

Turns Continuously for 219 Years



Two hundred and nineteen years continuous turning!

This virtually unequalled record in America is held by the picturesque Spring Mill grist mill, which was built in 1712, and has defied summer drought and winter's rigor, ever since. The mill, located but a stone's throw from the railroad stations at Spring Mill, lends a breath of Colonial beauty and quaintness to the Spring Mill section.

The mill is remarkable for the fact that, unlike the majority of early mills in this section, its wheel has never been halted by vagaries of temperature. Summer's heat and attendant drought, and winter's freezing breath have never treated it harshly. Always, the sparkling water sang past it, and kept the big wheel active.

A magic hand seemed to direct the waters of the Bubbling Springs that revolved it. Day in, and day out, the stream flowed on. The mill-wheel moved. Flour poured from its grinders. In those days, it was the only mill within a radius of fifty miles that was not "temperamental."

The popularity of the little white mill, soon created a demand for a more direct method of reaching it from northerly and easterly sections. Cumbersome farm-wagons, laden with their golden burden of wheat, had to travel almost to the

Schuylkill River on Conshohocken turnpike, before a road was available, that moved eastward along the river to the mill. Several unnecessary miles had to be covered. Accordingly, sometime about 1730, a petition signed by names that now appear like a blue-book of early settlers in the section, found its way to the Assembly, in Philadelphia, asking that body that a more direct road be created, running from Conshohocken Pike, somewhere between Ridge Turnpike and the Schuylkill, east to the grist mill.

The petition was favorably received. Early settlers donated the land, the Assembly bore the cost, and there resulted North lane, running diagonally off Ridge pike, for a distance of two miles, to the Spring Mill grist mill. The road, now 200 years old, still holds to its original course, but has been modernly reconstructed.

The sparkling purity of the water of Bubbling Springs and the enormous quantity of it, caused Benjamin Franklin, in 1787, when it was then owned by Peter Legaux, famed French scientist, who resided at Mount Joy, now the Spring Mill Fire company property, to recommend it as a water supply for the city of Philadelphia. Legaux also concurred in the idea.

The relative purity of the Schuylkill River, at that time, however

made the water problem a minor one, and the excessive cost of conveying the water to the metropolis by the then approved method of hollowed-out tree trunks, discouraged its utilization for the purpose.

The Spring Mill grist mill was probably the most important producer of flour for the soldiers' bread, during the Revolutionary encampment at Valley Forge. Wheat was also ground at the Gulph Mills grist mill, but here, freezing temperature oft stilled the wheel.

Today, the ancient old mill at Spring Mill is the mecca of many visitors who have heard of its unusual history and picturesque appearance. Numerous artists, too, have made it the subject of their canvasses.

Ice-Cutting at Shawmont Was Once a Great Industry

Grandparents of Present Generation Enjoyed Watching
Large Groups of Men Gathering Mother
Nature's Refrigerant

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

Don't laugh at me, girls, I'm sensitive, but "believe it, or not," this story is true, every word of it, and if you doubt my word, ask your Pop's Mom, or your Mom's Pop, and I know they will back me up, word for word.

Scientists claim that there are but two lost arts: tempering copper and embalming bodies so that they will last for ages. But I go a little bit farther than the sages, and say that there is another profession which has gone into the discard, as far as this section is concerned, and that is cutting ice on the Schuylkill river.

Many years ago, say about half a century, grandma's sweetheart was apt to knock on the door, instead of sitting in a car outside and honking a horn which seems to utter, "Thirteen five bucks!" and

after entering would be more than likely to say, "Put on your wristlets, heavy woolen stockings, and we'll hop into the sleigh and drive up along the river and watch the men cutting ice."

That may be a laugh to you, but it was real sport in those days. Nowadays no one ever sees a girl wearing woolen hosiery—and the men in those days didn't either—but if one looks at a modern miss to see what she is covering her lower limbs, he has to blink his eyes several times to be sure that there is anything on them or not.

But, back in the late seventies, things were different. The lovers of that day, finally arrive at the river front, between Shawmont and Miquon, where the great ice houses are located. They drive to McCarty's Hotel, which was situated

about midway between the two villages, the horse and sleigh are "parked" in the barn at the rear of the hostelry, and Romeo and Juliet enter the inn and pick a table close to a window facing the river.

A roaring log fire is blazing in the open grate hearth. Hot drinks and food are ordered and while the couple enjoy the feast, they watch a vast army of workmen, out on the wide stream, measuring and cutting Mother Nature's refrigerant into cakes which are poled through a narrow channel opened through the frozen surface, to the "gig," a machine like an elevator, that hoists the cakes into the mammoth storage houses which look like castles along the river bank.

The Knickerbocker Company had two ice houses and stacks, with a capacity of fifty thousand tons. The structures were constructed of stone and had four compartments, each of which was seventy five feet square, and thirty feet high. The ice that was cut on the river weighed about one hundred and fifty pounds. The company started cutting operations when the ice was about six inches thick, and sometimes it ran to eleven inches. The houses were packed to the roof as the "gigs" ran the cakes into the houses at the rate of forty per minute. However, no matter what precautions were taken—and I suppose the same is true of the manufactured product today—about one-third of the harvest melted away.

The Schuylkill river, at Shawmont, is some seven hundred feet wide and ice was once cut on a two mile stretch. About four hundred men were employed to gather in the wintry work of nature. The men were divided into "gangs," one crowd driving mules, hooked to scoops, that cleared the snow and soft ice from the surface of the river. Another crew went along measuring the ice, to be cut into blocks measuring twenty-two inches in size. Yet another group followed up, sawing out the cakes which were poled by a fourth company of men to the gig. Inside the houses was still another small army of laborers, who stacked and sawdusted the cakes, for storage.

Those were industrious days along the river, but the winters have apparently become milder, as the years have passed, and the once thriving business has been abandoned. The huge storage houses fell into decay, and left to the elements. One by one, they eventually set attacked by flames, through one source or another, until nothing is left but the crumbling foundation walls.

The site of the old Knickerbocker buildings is now occupied by a colony of boat houses and summer bungalows. The stone piers which were utilized to fasten the "gigs" along the water's edge, may still be seen, but the Hotel has disappeared, but Grand Dad and Grand Ma are not likely to forget those old-time sleigh rides and McCarty's hospitality.

6/2/38

10/13/32

22

Harry J. Rodgers New Memorial Hospital Head

Former Asst. Sup't of Phila.
General Hospital Ass-
umes Duties

IS A PHILADELPHIAN

Served as Executive Secre-
tary of Phila. County
Medical Society

Harry J. Rodgers, a Philadel-
phian, is the new superintendent
of Memorial Hospital, Roxborough.
Mr. Rodgers assumed his new
duties last week.

Experienced in hospital adminis-
tration, the Board of Directors of
the institution feels that it has se-
cured a man that will be able to
do much for Memorial and increase
its prestige not only in this com-
munity, but in surrounding terri-
tory, when the fact is made known
that efficient hospital facilities are
available at all times.

Mr. Rodgers was an assistant
superintendent of the Philadelphia
General Hospital for fourteen years,
where he received training and ex-
perience which aid him greatly in
assuming the local responsibilities.

He was born and raised in Phila-
delphia, attending the Public
Schools here, and later he attended
the Wharton School at the Univer-
sity of Pennsylvania. Mr. Rodgers
was identified with the Department
of Public Health of Philadelphia for
20 years, during which time he
served at the Philadelphia General
Hospital.

More recently he was the execu-
tive secretary of the Philadelphia
County Medical Society, where he
acquired further knowledge which

Now and Then

The visitor to the Memorial Hos-
pital, in Roxborough, if he be ob-
servant, will see there a memorial
tablet to Eugene Nugent, and won-
der who Mr. Nugent was, and what
he did for the hospital. The follow-
ing old letters may prove interest-
ing and informative to those who
have noticed the tablet:

Office of
Ashland Paper Mills
Manayunk, May 4th, 1893

To The Board of Managers of
The Memorial Hospital and
House of Mercy of St. Tim-
othy's Church, Roxborough.
Gentlemen:

Knowing and appre-
ciating as I do the advantages
and benefits derived from your
institution without regard to
race, color, or religion, and as
I have the honor of being the
executor of the last will and
testament of the late Eugene
Nugent, who was in my employ
as confidential clerk for about
17 years, and as by his will left
a sum of money for me to
apply to such charities as I
think proper to select, and as
your committee who called
upon me on April 30th so elo-
quently pressed your claim for
a donation from the said
money, to erect a suitable
building for an operating room,
and that the said building
could be completed at a cost
not exceeding \$5000; therefore,
in order that the said building
may be erected as soon as pos-
sible, I have concluded, and do
suggest to your committee that
you erect the said building at
once, and when it is completed
I will pay over to you the sum
of \$5000 as a memorial to my
dear friend, Eugene Nugent.

Knowing that God will re-
ward him for the same, I re-
main,

Yours truly,
S. A. RUDOLPH.
Houghton, Roxborough,
May 23rd '93

Ridge road. Mr. Towers carried on
an extensive feed, flour and coal
business which is still in existence,
as the William P. Stroud Estate, at
Wissahickon station. The pioneer
of the business died on October
30th 1869, from the result of injur-
ies sustained when he was thrown
from a carriage, and the firm's
patrons were served for several
years thereafter by his widow.

Mrs. Towers was a Baptist and
during her residence in this local-
ity, attended services at the Rox-
borough Baptist Church. Though
well advanced in years, this grand
old lady retained all of her faculties
to a remarkable degree up until
the time of her final brief illness.
Funeral services were held on Feb-
ruary 23rd 1893 and the interment
was made in Leverington Ceme-
tery.

One of the old and respected men
of the Falls of Schuylkill section,
whose descendants are still promi-
nent in the community was Edward
McIlvaine, who went to his Eternal
Reward on Sunday, August 23rd,
1897.

Mr. McIlvaine had been taken ill
while at work in the laboratory of
Powers & Weighman, and Dr. J. V.
Kelly, of Manayunk, Dr. M. Howard
Fussel, Dr. Aloysius Kelly and Pro-
fessor Steinbach of the University
of Pennsylvania were called in to
diagnose and treat his ailment, but
despite all their efforts he grew
worse and died at one o'clock on
the Sunday morning stated. It
was thought by the physicians that
the fatal attack was one of nervous
prostration superinduced by the
excessive heat of the week previous.

Mr. McIlvaine was born in Don-
geal, Ireland, in 1841, and when still
a child brought to this country by
his parents. He was first employed
as an office boy for Powers &
Weightman, where he afterward
learned the trade of cooper, at
which he continued until his death.

In 1887 his wife died, but he al-
ways kept his family together.

He was an active member of St.
Bridget's Church, and for 24 years
was the marshal of St. John the
Baptist's T. A. B. Society. He was
buried on Wednesday morning, Au-
gust 26th 1897, in St. John's Ceme-
tery.

Mr. Rodgers was an assistant superintendent of the Philadelphia General Hospital for fourteen years, where he received training and experience which aid him greatly in assuming the local responsibilities.

He was born and raised in Philadelphia, attending the Public Schools here, and later he attended the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Rodgers was identified with the Department of Public Health of Philadelphia for 20 years, during which time he served at the Philadelphia General Hospital.

More recently he was the executive secretary of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, where he acquired further knowledge which will be of value in hospital management.

Mr. Rodgers states that after one week here, he is enjoying his work immensely and likes this community. With Mrs. Rodgers he will soon occupy the Locust Cottage on the hospital grounds. The couple has no children.

and that the said building could be completed at a cost not exceeding \$5000; therefore, in order that the said building may be erected as soon as possible, I have concluded, and do suggest to your committee that you erect the said building at once, and when it is completed I will pay over to you the sum of \$5000 as a memorial to my dear friend, Eugene Nugent.

Knowing that God will reward him for the same, I remain,

Yours truly,

S. A. RUDOLPH.

Houghton, Roxborough,

May 23rd '93

To The Editor of the
Manayunk Chronicle:

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Board of Managers held this evening, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas: Mr. S. A. Rudolph, executor of the estate of Eugene Nugent, deceased, has selected St. Timothy's Hospital as one of the beneficiaries, under the will of Mr. Nugent, to the sum of \$5000, therefore be it

Resolved, that the thanks of the Managers, be, and are hereby tendered to Mr. Rudolph, personally, for his great kindness in selecting our institution for this gift.

Resolved, that the surgical operating ward to be built from the fund, when completed, be marked with a suitable tablet in memory of the donor and his executor, and that this ward be called the "Nugent Ward."

Very truly yours,

J. VAUGHAN MERRICK, JR.

An old Twenty-first Ward family is recalled by the activities relative to the William Penn anniversary which is now being planned by Keystone state historical societies. This was the Towers family, probably the last of whom lived here being Mrs. Mary Pennypacker Towers, who died at the residence of her son-in-law, the late William P. Stroud, on East Roxborough avenue, on February 20th 1893.

Mrs. Towers' maiden name was Pennypacker. She was born in Montgomery County, about two miles below Phoenixville, in a settlement which afterward became known as Port Providence. Mrs. Towers was a descendant of an old Pennsylvania family which settled in the state shortly after it had been acquired by William Penn from the Indians. She was married to Mr. Towers in 1827 and subsequently moved to Manayunk, where the couple lived for a short period near the lower canal locks, afterward moving to Rittenhouse street (East Walnut lane) and

the fatal attack was one of nervous prostration superinduced by the excessive heat of the week previous.

Mr. McIlvaine was born in Donegal, Ireland, in 1841, and when still a child brought to this country by his parents. He was first employed as an office boy for Powers & Weightman, where he afterward learned the trade of cooper, at which he continued until his death.

In 1887 his wife died, but he always kept his family together.

He was an active member of St. Bridget's Church, and for 24 years was the marshal of St. John the Baptist's T. A. B. Society. He was buried on Wednesday morning, August 26th 1887, in St. John's Cemetery, Manayunk, after solemn high mass at St. Bridget's Church, in East Falls.

SCCAFF