

8/13/1936

**LANDMARK GONE**

On Monday workmen demolished the old Sorrel Horse—or Crawford's—Hotel, on Ridge avenue, just above the former trolley car barn, in Roxborough.

A century ago the hostelry was the stopping place for travelers on the Crawford stage coach line, which operated between Norristown and Philadelphia.

The construction of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown railroad spelled "doom" for the tages, and then the hotel business windled. In recent years the place is a two-family dwelling.

6/11/1930

**CONARROE STREET**

A little street, which climbs the hill,  
To near the distant skies,  
Where gnarled old trees provide their shade,  
And beautify its guise.

A little street, yes, where some woe,  
Has come to darken nights;  
A cobbled street, which struggles on  
To reach the greater heights.

But childish laughter's often heard  
Through hours of the day,  
And brings to tired souls new hope  
To aid them on Life's way.

There is no bowered pathway,  
With glories of its own,  
Of which I'd sing more praises  
In kinder tenderer tone.

A. C. C.

8/28/1930

**Gives Picture  
Of Old-Time  
Manayunk**

**Old Book Discloses Facts  
Concerning 21st  
Ward**

**WAS FACTORY TOWN**

**Benjamin Franklin Had Plan  
To Use Waters of the  
Wissahickon**

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

From an old book owned by John Shock, 126 Gay street, which he cheerfully loaned to me, I repeat the history of Manayunk as it reads from the pen of Sherman Day, under the title of "Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania, which was published just 90 years ago by George Gorton, of New Haven, Conn.

The book contains a wood cut of the town of Manayunk. On the upper end of the town is the old box bridge, about where the new Green Lane Bridge stands today. From the box bridge down to the Manayunk Locks are two small mills and four large five story factories. In the background can be seen the old Fourth Reformed Church, now the home of St. Joseph Polish Catholic congregation, and a cluster of twenty dwelling houses, and the tower of the original church of St. John the Baptist. Along the canal is pictured a sail boat and a coal barge. Between what is called McDowell's Paper Mill and the lower Schofield Mills, at the locks, was a large vacant lot on which now stands the Zane Chemical Company, or better known as "Archie Campbell's Mills." In the center of the Schuylkill River, opposite the vacant lot, two large rocks are high above the water. Two boats, containing men in each boat, are seen engaged in shad fishing, with a larger boat lying at anchor.

The growth of the town is shown according to the then latest census, as follows: Roxborough Township, including Manayunk in 1800, 1048; in 1820, 1623; in 1830, 3334; in 1840, 5797. Today it is, 1930, 40,358.

A brief history of the town reads thus: "Manayunk is a bustling and populous manufacturing village on the left bank of the Schuylkill, seven miles from Philadelphia. This village has grown up entirely since 1818 by the impetus given by the completion of the Schuylkill Canal, which has created a vast amount of water power at this place. Previous to that time and to the erection of

the Fairmount Dam it was remarkable only for extensive shad fishing with one or two houses scattered here and there. Among the earlier residents, here, were the Leygrings, and the Tibben's family.

3 the only factory enumerated as being here was Mary Richard's Flat-Rock Cotton Factory.

There are now located along the canal five cotton factories, three woolen factories, two paper mills, one rolling mill, one steel manufactory, one machine shop, one mill for polishing saws, and two flouring mills. Two noteworthy bridges cross the Schuylkill. The Reading railroad passes through the place. The village also contains Catholic, Dutch

Reformed, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. The slope of the hill above the village affords a delightful site for dwelling houses, commanding a fine prospect of this picturesque valley."

Mention is made of Ben Franklin's thoughts on a water supply for Philadelphia. Dr. Franklin had foreseen the want of pure water that would be felt as the city became densely populated, and by his will provided that one of his accumulative legacies after 100 years should be used for introducing the waters of the "Wissahickon" creek to the city. The suggestion was more useful than the legacy. The attention of the citizens were turned to the subject and one of the objects, the old Schuylkill and Delaware canal incorporated in 1792, two years after Franklin's death, was to introduce the water of the Schuylkill into the city from the level of Conshohocken. This attempt failed. The Wissahickon project was also deemed too costly, at that time, and a steam hoisting apparatus was built at the foot of Chestnut street, to raise the water to a considerable height, to force it through wooden mains into the homes of citizens who were taxed \$5.00 a year for the use of water from 1812 to 1815. Fairmount Water Works was then erected, doing away with the old Center Square waterworks.

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4/2/1931

# Roxborough Lodge Has Birthday

## Masons Observe 118th Anniversary of Group's Organization

### 10 CHARTER MEMBERS

### Founded in Haggart House Opposite Gorgas Park

Tomorrow will be the 118th anniversary of the first meeting held by Roxborough Lodge No. 135, Free and Accepted Masons.

In a small room, on the second floor of what was then the "General Washington" Hotel, with Aaron Levering as the genal host, twenty-seven men met to organize Roxborough Lodge. The building in which they met in more familiar to present-day residents of this section as "The Haggart House," on Ridge avenue, opposite Gorgas Park Ridge avenue, opposite Gorgas Park.

Horatio Gates Jones, Roxborough's noted historian, when he lived in the house, on March 29th, 1888, wrote a letter to the Roxborough Lodge in which he stated that the house was built about the year 1796, by Aaron Levering, who was a nephew of Jones' grandfather. Nathan Levering, Aaron 28th 1774, and was married December 1st, 1796. The house was his residence; and above it he built an augur and blacksmith shop. Subsequently the building was used as a hotel. Mr. Levering's Hotel, stood where the Roxy theatre is located and the proprietor was the first postmaster of Roxborough Post Office, which was established on June 23rd 1823. He died on April 7th 1829, when but 55 years of age, and is buried in the old Roxborough Baptist Church graveyard.

The historian went on to say: "The Lodge opened with ten members, most of whom, if not all lived in Roxborough, or what is now as Manayunk I know nothing of the constituents except Aaron Levering, John Conrad, Samuel Conrad, John Sinkett and John Boyer. The Conrads were long residents of Roxborough; so was the Starne family. John Conrad was a lineal descendent of Thones Kunders, one of the early settlers of Germantown; they had a mill on the Wissahickon at the foot of the lane long called Conrad's lane, now Roxborough avenue."

The members at the first meeting beside those whose names appear above were: Maurice Starne, William Lawson, William Davis, Archibald McVicker and Michael Lentz.

John Conrad was an uncle of

Robert T. Conrad, a Judge of Philadelphia County and Mayor of the city at one time. At one period in his life, Charles Conrad, the father of John taught the Roxborough Academy, which was built on the site now occupied by the William Levering School.

Maurice Starne was a son of Captain Joseph Starne, who in early times was a prominent man in this section.

John Boyer, it is supposed, lived down near the Schuylkill River, above a street called Rittenhouse lane, now known as Walnut lane, in a house owned by the late Jacob Kidd. Sinkett afterward moved and maintained his store in a double stone house further down on Ridge avenue. He was one of the town's early justices of the peace.

John Conrad was the first Master of the Lodge. His fellow officers were Senior Warden, William Lawson; Junior Warden, Maurice Starne; Secretary, Samuel Conrad; and treasurer, John Sinkett.

B. Newcombe, Jr., of Lodge No. 115, acted as secretary protom of the first meeting, which strangely enough, was held in the afternoon closing at "1/2 past three."

7-17-1930

# Colored Folk Lay Stone of A.M.E. Church

## Rites Held at New Josie D. Heard Church in Manayunk

### DR. HARPER PREACHES

### Edifice Stands on Hillside at Grape and Tower Streets

Ceremonies of a religious nature accompanied the laying of the cornerstone of the new Josie D. Heard African Methodist Episcopal Church at Grape and Tower streets, on Sunday afternoon last.

Walter W. Morris, Grand Deputy of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge, F. and A. M., wielded the trowel when the stone was placed in position, after which appropriate services were conducted in conjunction with the congregation of the Galilee Baptist Church of Roxborough avenue and Mitchell street.

Rev. J. A. Browne, P. E., was the presiding officer and the sermon was preached by Rev. W. O. Harper, D. D. Other prominent leaders who participated were Rev. Matthews, Rev. Talliferee, Mrs. Travilla Scott, Frank L. Kenworthy, Josiah Reed, Dr. R. R. Wright, Rev. W. R. Gullins, Jr., Dr. Hodson Waters, Rev. F. Peterkins, Rev. A. Robinson, Rev. P. P. Gaines, Rev. Harold

Anderson, Hobson Reynolds, J. M. Markees, Rt. Rev. Josiah H. Jones, Rev. Kelsie G. Keeys, and Miss Gladys Morton.

The new house of worship was created by re-modeling two dwelling houses, which have for the past nineteen years been used for church purposes. It stands on the hillside with a clear view of the Schuylkill Valley in both directions. The cupola of the building is visible for many miles.

Music for the occasion was rendered by one of the Masonic fraternity bands.

10-23-1930

## DO YOU KNOW THAT?

The 21st Ward has within its boundaries:

Ten streets on which you must climb stairways, and that in one place there are one hundred and three steps.

The largest group of apartment houses: Aiden Park.

Soon will have two of the highest bridges in the city; possibly in the country: Walnut Lane and Henry Avenue.

It has six six miles of the Wissahickon Creek and Valley.

The site of the first paper mill in America.

The birthplace of David Rittenhouse.

The only drive in the city where automobiles are not allowed.

The only stretch of canal in the city.

Second highest point along the Atlantic coast in the United States, between Northern New Jersey and Georgia.

One of Philadelphia's great journalists and writers is buried in Leverington Cemetery. Richard Harding Davis.

Local hills selected for automobile demonstrations in hill climbing contests.

Best sledding in the city for boys and girls.

Over 100 buildings used for manufacturing purposes.

One mill that is being run by the third generation of owners. Platt Brothers. They also have a "corner" in golf activities.

The oldest lock tender in length of service. Winfield S. Guiles, of Flat Rock.

One of the oldest roads from the city runs through the Ward. Ridge avenue.

The site of the new Cathedral of the P. E. Church.

11/6/1930

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ANOTHER HISTORIC HOUSE IS REMOVED



Above is a reproduction of a sketch, made by Joseph S. Miles, Secretary of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, of "the old Kidd house," which until two weeks ago, stood on the northeast corner of Ridge avenue and Walnut lane. The building, which occupied part of a tract held by one family for more than 130 years, was torn down to make room for an automobile service station.

**Roxborough  
Landmark  
Disappears**

**Kidd House, at Ridge Avenue and Walnut Lane  
Has Gone**

**BUILT IN SECTIONS**

**Remained in Possession of  
One Family for 130  
Years**

**By JOSEPH S. MILES,  
Secretary, Wissahickon Valley Historical Society.**

The passing of the Kidd House, recently demolished, at the corner of Walnut lane and Ridge avenue, to make way for another gas station, removes from Roxborough one more of its ancient landmarks.

This house for many years was one of the pleasant sights along the Ridge, especially on a clear morning, when its rough cast walls, brightened by the early morning sun, stood out boldly among the surrounding trees, boxwoods, vines and shrubs. Its excellent proportions and simplicity, its plain dor-

mers, shingle roof and small paned windows marked it as one of other days.

The dwelling was built at two different times, as might have been noticed by the fact that the cornice of the lower end (toward Walnut lane) and the upper end were different, in that the cornice of the former had a bed mould and that of the latter had none.

Away back in 1683, John Jennett, one of the first purchasers, bought from William Penn, the land from the Schuylkill River to Wissahickon avenue, between Markle and Pennsdale streets, containing 300 acres.

In 1698 he sold this tract to Matthew Houlgate, (Holgate), fuller. In 1790, Matthew's great-grandson, William Holget (Holgate) sold that portion of this tract from Ridge Road to Wissahickon Creek, between Walnut lane and Pennsdale street, containing 41 acres 60 perches, to Abraham Rittenhouse, miller, "together with all and singular the houses."

Whether the lower end of the house was included in "all and singular the houses", is not positive, but the assumption is that it was. If so, it was built prior to 1790.

In 1795, Abraham Rittenhouse conveyed the "two story stone message or tenement" and two acres of ground at the northeast corner of "road leading to Abraham Rittenhouse's Mill" (Walnut lane) and "the road leading to Philadelphia, called the Ridge road" to Benjamin Jones and Jacob Lukens.

In 1800 it is recorded that "Jacob Lukens, storekeeper, justly indebted to divers persons in divers sums of

money, which by reason of misfortunes and disappointments he is not able to pay," granted his one-half share to his assignees, Matthew Juston and John Fromberger, who conveyed his one-half share back to Abraham Rittenhouse.

The deed for this transaction says, "Benjamin Jones and Jacob Lukens, who erected and built the aforesaid Message", indicating that the upper end and the kitchen wing were built by Jones and Lukens between 1795 and 1800.

The front room of the upper end was used as a store and the door between this room and the kitchen was built in halves (upper and lower), with a small pane of glass in the upper half, to enable anyone in the kitchen to see if there was a customer in the store. This door remained until the house was torn down.

At the death of Abraham Rittenhouse, his property was divided, in 1817, among his three sons, Jacob, Enoch and Samuel, and Jacob obtained possession of this house. It then descended in succession to Thomas Rittenhouse Roberts, Jonathan Rittenhouse, Rebecca A. and Jacob S. Kidd, Thomas R. and Margaret A. Kidd and finally to J. Towers Kidd, by whom it was recently sold, thus remaining in the Rittenhouse family since 1800—one hundred and thirty years.

The house not only acquired this distinction, but throughout all these years it remained undisturbed, unaltered and unchanged—features, of which not many houses can boast.

The passing of "the Kidd house" is to be regretted.

# Death Claims

## Mrs. J. K. Uhler

### In California

11-13-1930

Former Resident of Roxborough Expired on Friday

WELL KNOWN HERE  
Was Wife of Prominent Physician at "The Falls"

Mrs. J. Knight Uhler, widow of Dr. J. K. Uhler, who lived and practiced medicine in the Falls of Schuylkill for many years, died on Friday, at Pasadena, California, according to a telegram received from that city on Saturday.

Previous to her marriage, Mrs. Uhler was Miss Emily Hudson Cauffman, of Roxborough. She was the daughter of Theophilus Francis Cauffman and Henrietta Minerva Cauffman. The latter was the daughter of Daniel Garnsey, who represented New York State in the United States Senate, and served as Secretary of the Interior in the cabinet of John Quincy Adams. Mrs. Uhler's father, Theophilus F. Cauffman, was one of the original founders of St. Timothy's P. E. Church in Roxborough, only two of which now survive. Her paternal grandfather, Lawrence Cauffman was one of the founders of St. Luke's P. E. Church, Germantown.

Mrs. Uhler, as Miss Cauffman, was a kindergartner and music teacher of note, and the first teacher in the Sunday School of St. Timothy's Church, when it held its services in the old Camac Lodge, which still stands on Ridge avenue below Manayunk avenue, adjoining Ridge Manor Hall.

She was married on October 19, 1871, to Dr. J. Knight Uhler, by the Rev. John W. Claxton, at St. Timothy's, and the couple immediately took up their residence, in the old Smith Mansion, on Indian Queen lane, once occupied by Rev. William Smith, first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, where they continued to live until Dr. Uhler's death on September 29th, 1878.

The deceased then made her home in Roxborough, and in Germantown, until 1923, when she removed to California, where she has since resided.

Mrs. Uhler is survived by two children; a son, J. Knight Uhler, Jr., and a daughter, Miss Florence Uhler; four grand-children, four great grand-children, and one nephew, Stanley Hart Cauffman, of Rochelle avenue.

Funeral services were held at Pasadena, California, on Monday. Hundreds of residents of the Falls of Schuylkill, Wissahickon and Roxborough, will recall this estimable lady, and read with great regret this notice of her passing to "The Great Beyond."

8-8-1935

## Two Old Men

Many splendid canvasses, portraying scenes in and about Manayunk and the 21st Ward, were shown at the recent Joseph S. Miles Memorial Art Exhibit, held in the parish house of St. Timothy's Church. The greater number of these pictures were painted within late years.

Back in 1824, or thereabouts, William L. Breton, resided in the lower end of what is now the 21st Ward. He was an Englishman who possessed great talent as a painter of local scenes. He was self-trained and it is said that his first attempt at drawing anything at all, was on shipboard as he came to this country.

He made a large number of views of Manayunk at different periods, but after his death in 1856 most of these were sent back to England.

A writer, long since gone, in telling of Mr. Breton, once wrote: "In 1824 I can remember there was a fashionable book store on the south side of Chestnut street, between Second and Third, kept by a Mr. Poole, who was the agent for his father, a large publisher in London I frequently called there, when in the city, and on one occasion there were two gentlemen in the store conversing on a subject that interested me. I listened for a short time and left. The next day I saw a person sitting on a stump at the foot of Church street (Manayunk) taking a sketch of the Stritzel house, subsequently torn down. I went towards him and discovered that it was one of the gentlemen I had seen the day before in Mr. Poole's store. It was Mr. Breton. I introduced myself to him and asked him if he resided in the neighborhood. He replied in the negative, and said he only intended to stay two or three days. I then asked him where he was located. He mentioned the place and I told him he could be more comfortably accommodated at the Leverington Hotel, on the Ridge road, where I then boarded.

"He came there the next day, intending, as he said, to stay two or three days. He continued there and at Manayunk for many years. There was always a mystery about him that I could never understand. I have learned since that he had a wife and a number of children in England. I believe he was over eighty years old when he died. Although a man of intelligence and education, he was a thorough John Bull, a constitutional grumbler—in his view there was nothing right in this country and nothing wrong in his own."

It would be interesting to know if any of Breton's old paintings are still in existence over on the other side of the Big Pond.

In referring to Breton, the artist, another one-time character who frequented the Manayunk section comes to mind. His name was

Joseph Montelier. Montelier was also an Englishman and resided for many years in a little log house on the west side of the Schuylkill, about opposite the Manayunk locks.

He was known in the neighborhood as Joseph Moore, but that was not his true name. His own account of himself was, to use his own words, "Born in Oxford street, London, Marylebone Parish, St. Patrick's Day, 17th of March, 1756, six o'clock in the morning, six inches of snow all over London."

He bought the log house that he lived in and some two or three acres of land surrounding it, in April of 1800, and dwelt there alone until his death on March 27th, 1836.

At the time he could not have selected a more retired or secluded spot, and it is said that he was troubled when his privacy was broken up by improvements being made at Manayunk, and the making of a road on the west side of the river in front of his house.

When he purchased the property he also provided for an annuity; his wants being few; and it was sufficient for his support.

He cultivated a very pretty flower garden, a variety of fruit, and vegetables, and had considerable taste for horticulture in general. He had evidently been a business man of some kind, and had made a voyage or two to China, and he had in his house some beautiful China ware, which seemed quite out of place in his humble establishment.

Each year, on the Fourth of July, it was the custom of John Levering, proprietor of a West Manayunk mill, to assemble under a tree in front of Montelier's house, provided with all the materials for making punch, and the "General" as Montelier was called, would bring out his great China punch bowl, in which the drink was made, and all was merry.

On one of these occasions, the artist Breton made a sketch of the quaint character. The picture could be seen in this neighborhood for many years, but to find it today, would, indeed, be a job.

Montelier is shown, resembling a hunch-back, seated on a low three-legged stool, a long typical English clay pipe in his mouth, and a tabby cat beside him.

SCAFF,

11-7-1929

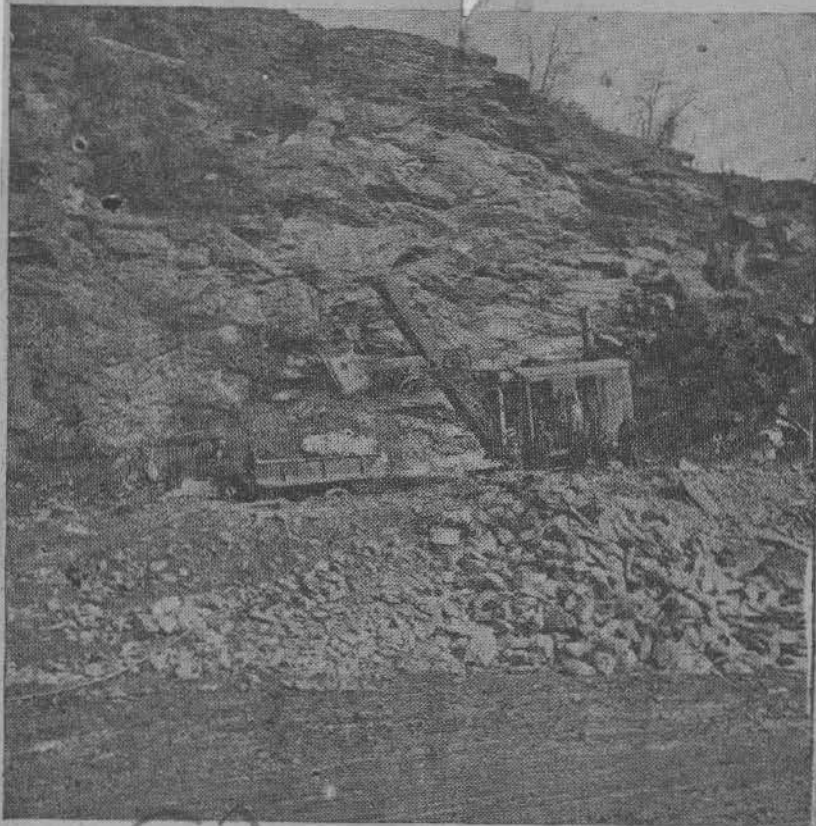
### MARRIAGE LICENSES

Clare Welland, 4508 N. Hurley street, and Gebhard Metzger, 346 Rochelle avenue.

Mable E. Hare, 4075 Manayunk avenue and Thomas J. Costello, Jr., 5849 Walton avenue.

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### A QUARRY OR A STREET?



Cutting Clearview street through solid rock. This view shows the lower end of the cut. The camera was pointed east at the intersection of Tower and Rector streets. Photo by Seeger

*Churchville*

### A QUARRY -- OR A NEW STREET?

Well it's a street. It will be known as Clearview street and will afford shorter and easier communication between Manayunk and Roxborough or Wissahickon. Cut through solid rock from Tower street at Rector, it will lead up to Terrace street at it's juncture with Jamestown street.

Clearview street winding as it does is really a continuation of both Rector and Jamestown streets, and the City Fathers, being in a quandry as to which of those streets to call it, begged the issue and gave it it's entirely new name.

The worst of the excavation has been completed as only about 7600 cubic yards remain to be removed. All of these 7000 cubic yards, however, like the much vaster quantity which has already been blasted away, are solid rock. The illustration shows a sample "pebble," which weighs well over two tons, on the motor truck. The depth of the cut is about 55 feet, solid rock, at it's

deepest point but nothing exceeding forty feet remains to be done.

The grade of Clearview street will not exceed nine per cent at its steepest point, which is less than that of Walnut lane and compares very favorably with the 13 per cent grade on Queen lane.

Ascending by the new street from Manayunk a person will proceed on Rector directly across Tower street into Clearview. Here he will curve to the right in almost a right angle turn and, after going southward for about a block, will bear east again and will arrive at the corner of Terrace and Jamestown streets, where one building and parts of three others will be demolished to make way for the street.

Clearview street will have a thirty foot cartway and ten foot sidewalks. The sidewalk on the north side, however, will not extend the entire length of the street. The ground on both sides of the new highway has been taken over by the City for a park. This is partly a move of economy but will also provide a beautiful little park with a magnificent view from the top of the cliffs which it contains. It will also convert an eyesore into a local beauty spot.

As to the economy phase, the ownership by the City of the abutting property eliminates the necessity of building a huge retaining wall. A plumb cut on the building line would

be required if the adjacent properties were privately owned. This, in a fifty-five foot cut, would be very dangerous and the city ownerships of the park permitted to cut sloped back from the street to one ratio.

It is necessary to charge improvements of this sort against the assessment of the adjoining properties, which under city ownership as a park, does not present the difficulties which would otherwise be perfectly obvious.

8/13/1931

## Thursday Is Monsignor's Natal Day

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Murphy  
To Mark His Birth  
Anniversary

BORN AT POTTSTOWN

Has Served St. John's Parish  
Since September  
of 1891

Rt. Rev. Eugene J. Murphy, rector of St. John the Baptist church, of Manayunk, who will celebrate his birthday next Thursday. Monsignor Murphy was born in Pottstown, Pa., and was ordained to the priesthood, by Archbishop Ryan, at the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, on May 20th, 1888. His first appointment was as assistant at St. Peter's in Reading, which took place June 1st, 1888. Two years later, on June 20th, 1890, he was appointed assistant at St. Mary's church in Philadelphia, and on September 21st, 1891, came to St. John's church as assistant rector. In 1905 he was appointed to serve as rector and was named a Monsignor some time later.

The Suburban Press takes this opportunity of extending its felicitations to the well-known churchman.

1/23/1936

# Roxborough Was Sparsely Settled Prior to 1776

## Dwellings Were Few and Far Between When Revolution Took Place

### LAND OF LEVERINGS

#### Township Reached Down as Far as Present-Day Queen Lane

According to an old-time historian, the houses in Roxborough Township, about the period of the Revolution, were few and far-between.

Benjamin Morgan lived in a dwelling near the present Midvale avenue and McMichael street. In those days the township extended down to the Queen lane of 1930. It was at Morgan's house that General Lafayette had his headquarters while the American Army was encamped on the site of the Queen Lane Reservoir, prior to and after the Battle of Brandywine.

Near the campsite, too, was the "Roxborough Plantation", now known as "Carlton" where Washington had his quarters.

Joseph Warner lived on School House lane, in a house that stood approximately in the neighborhood of the Henry avenue bridge.

John Vandaren occupied the house, which is still standing and is known as Barnett's Garden, at the junction of Ridge avenue and the Wissahickon Drive. The next house was that of Peter Righter, near the foot of the hill at Wissahickon; and John Righter's, that was on what is now Main street, opposite the entrance to the Pen-coyd bridge.

Going up Ridge road, the next building was the Old Plow Tavern, which is still standing at Ridge avenue and Hermit lane. It was occupied in 1776 by Michael Righter. Then came the home of Thomas Glackledge, near the present Weaver Drug store, on the Ridge above Seville street. Close by were three other dwelling that housed the families of three Levering brothers, who were the sons of Jacob Levering. The next house, below the present Walnut lane, was a frame one, in which lived Lawrence Miller. It soon afterward fell into poor repair and was replaced by a house built by Samuel Miller.

Where John Carlisle afterward resided, in the neighborhood of the present St. Timothy's Church, was an old building in which lived John Bigonet. Next above, at the corner of Ridge avenue and Roxborough avenue, was the farmhouse and barn of Andrew Wood. Mr. Wood also owned a house across the road,

which was then rented by David Whiteinan. The Roxborough School House was on the land now owned by the Board of Education and covered by the William Levering School.

From the school, up to Hipple's lane—now Fountain street—the land on the east side of Ridge road was owned by the Leverings. The only houses on this large property—in 1776—was that of Enoch Levering, who had a tanyard; Aaron Levering, who had a currying shop; William Levering, who conducted a smithy; the Leverington Hotel, which was managed by Nathan Levering; and Benjamin Levering's house, opposite Gorgas Park.

Along upper Ridge road there were three or four houses above Hipple's Lane. Philip Marewine resided above this and nearby, on land subsequently owned by Simon Snyder was the residence of the Starnes.

There was a small house above Domino lane; then came the "Irish Tract"; then a woodland on each side of the road. Crawford's Inn, still located by the old structure just above the former trolley car barn was next. Still farther up was the house of Peter Righter, that of Valentine Keely and several small houses.

There were also numerous dwellings scattered over the township in the valleys between the Ridge road and the Schuylkill and also on the other side between the Ridge and the Wissahickon, but these are difficult to locate.

Anthony Cook and George Sanders had homes near the present Poor House, and Thomas and John Livezey lived along the Wissahickon Creek. Sebastian Reaver lived on Gorgas lane. There was also a house near Oil Mill Run—Gorgas Creek—one beside a grist mill farther down toward the Wissahickon, and one up toward Ridge road, which was afterward occupied by Lewis Hinkle.

In 1776 Edward Milner, and in 1779, Peter Care, occupied the house and mill afterward conducted by William Kitchen & Son. The Red Bridge Mill—old Shurs Lane—was opened by Abraham Rittenhouse and the mill below—under the Henry avenue bridge—was owned by another Rittenhouse, while one nearer the Reading Railroad bridge—or rather Gypsy lane—was jointly owned by Martin Rittenhouse and John Vandaren.

The only access to the latter mills, in those days before the road along the creek was laid out, was by a private road which came up near the properties afterward occupied by Messrs. King and Salaig-nac.

The only house where the present Manayunk is located, was that of Abraham Levering, which afterward became the home of his grandson, Perry Levering.

Times 6/21/28 6

### SNYDER-CALAHAN

A very pretty church wedding took place on Wednesday evening, June 6, when Anna Mae Calahan and George Edward Snyder, formerly of 447 Roxborough avenue, were united in marriage by the Rev. George Mair, pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal church at Bridge and Melrose streets in Frankford.

The bride was attended by her sister Miss Bertha Calahan, as bridesmaid and her cousin, Miss Pearl Weiser, as flower girl.

The best man was Mr. Gordon Copeland. The ushers were Joel Knepper, Louis W. Snyder, both of Roxborough, and Mr. Russell Bush, of Frankford and Mr. Arthur N. Warrington, of East Falls.

The bride wore white silk lace and georgette dress, and carried a shower bouquet of white roses and lilies of the valley. The bridesmaid wore shell pink taffeta and carried pink roses. The flower girl wore turquoise blue and carried a basket of sweet peas.

A reception for the couple was held at the home of the bride 4746 Melrose street.

9-19-1929

### IRON WORK ON HAND FOR ELEVATED

Four cars loaded with bridge work from the Phoenixville Iron Works, for the new Manayunk elevated railroad, arrived on Monday, when the cars were shuttled on the new siding between Cotton and Levering streets.

The bridge workers are erecting a temporary frame office building on Cresson street at Grape street. Other equipment used by the riggers have arrived including an air compressor, crane hoist, rivet heater and forges.

Work on the site of the station, at Connaroe and Baker streets, is being rushed. The skeleton iron work on the new freight house, above Green lane, has also been bolted into place. A deep trench for the footings of a large concrete retaining wall, along the Pennsylvania Railroad property on Cook's Hill, is being excavated. The fill-in from Rector to Haines streets, is being rapidly done as well as from Green lane to Fountain street.

8-29-29

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Catherine M. Levi, 923 North 64th street, and Joseph J. Brill, 3709 Midvale avenue.

Mae D. Alden, 4027 Beehin street, and William R. Longacre, 415 Shurs lane.

Catherine Dudek, 3858 Terrace street, and Franciszek Gawel, 179 East street.

Katharine L. Twing, Alden Park Manor, and Arthur E. Taylor, 4951 Wakefield street.

Ethel Fisher, 4021 Beehin street, and Harold A. Faver, 4376 Manayunk avenue.

Regina Mullin, 1517 Sout 8th street, and Samuel Dougherty, 129 Ashland avenue, West Manayunk.

Agnes M. Sickinger, 4366 Dexter street, and Raymond Lees, 229 Grape street.

Henry I. Walmsley, 4028 Beehin street, and Dorothy G. Gotwals, 3314 Arnold street.

Helen G. Koslowski, 2256 North Hancock street, and Benedict J. Zisk, 335 Leverington avenue.

Margaret E. Fowles, 3029 Midvale avenue, and Thomas F. Boon, 215 Green lane.

4/13/33

8

An interesting clipping, cut from a newspaper of June 8th, 1872, tells of plans being made to purchase ground for the erection of the Wissahickon and Alfred Crease Public Schools, the former at Ridge avenue and Vassar street, and the Crease School, along Wissahickon avenue, on Blue Bell Hill. The story concerned a meeting of the Board of School Directors of the 21st District, which governed public educational matters in the 21st Ward. It reads as follows:

"An adjourned meeting of the Board of School Directors of this section, was held at their chamber on Tuesday evening. Present, Jas. B. Wimpenny, chairman; M. Blynn, F. H. Harjes, Capt. Dawson, Joseph H. Hoffman, W. C. Johnson, Wm. Ring, L. M. Jones, Dr. Trites and Dr. Uhler.

"The first business being the examination of lots for school purposes, Mr. Hoffman exhibited the plan of a lot on Township Line—Wissahickon avenue—above Naomi street, 100 by 150 feet, the property of Mr. Isaac Rittenhouse, which can be purchased for \$1,600. A resolution to accept the lot having carried unanimously, Mr. Blynn stated that the amount of the purchase money, \$1,600, had been appropriated by Councils two years ago for the purchase of another lot in the same neighborhood, and that the sum was still on hand. He had also asked for \$10,000 to put up the building, and had been assured by Messrs. Jones and Bowker, our members of Councils, that they would endeavor to get the amount appropriated.

"Mr. Harjes then produced the plan of a corner lot above the Wis-

ahickon depot, owned by Mrs. Scheetz, which could be had for \$2,000. The lot is irregular in shape, but nearly level and easily accessible, with a front of 117 feet on the Ridge turnpike, and one of 207 feet on Vassar street. The report was accepted and a resolution passed requesting the Central Board to ask Councils for an appropriation of \$12,000, from the School Loan, to pay for the lot and the erection of a building.

"The report of the Committee on Schools, which related particularly to the Manayunk schools, and had been laid over for consideration at that meeting, was then read by Mr. Harjes, chairman of the committee.

"The chief matter for consideration was the falling off in the actual average attendance in the higher grades of schools. So many pupils were short at the end of the secondary course of instruction, that the Grammar school is indifferently sustained. By comparing the figures in the report with those on the Quarterly Report it was found that while the committee reported but ninety-six present on Thursday morning, May 23d, at the Boy's Grammar School, the Principal's report of the same date gave the attendance as 133. The director of the school, Mr. Jones, then explained that the figures of the principal do not give the actual attendance, but include those on the sick list, or absent for other reasons.

"Mr. Hoffman thought the easiest

way to get rid of the discrepancy would be to abolish the visiting committees. (Laughter.)

"The subject of replenishing the Grammar and Senior classes, was discussed at considerable length, but the difficulty was to find a mode free from objections.

"Before adjourning, W. C. Johnson suggested the propriety of putting the water in the Green Lane school building before the street is paved, and the idea was adopted."

6-1-33

Lyle avenue, over in West Manayunk, gets its name from the Lyle family, which traces its ancestry back beyond the Colonial period in American history.

One of its most active members was Stewart L. Lyle, who traveled on to a Greater World, at the University Hospital, in August 1893.

Stewart L. Lyle was born in Trenton, N. J., on October 31st, 1821, but when he was quite young his parents moved to Manayunk, where he was educated. While still a lad he obtained employment in the old Ripka Mills, and for a time was engaged in canal boating on the Schuylkill, a vocation at which he was very successful, and at one time he was the owner of several lime and canal boats. He acquired a competency from this source and lived the last sixteen years of his life retired from business, in his mansion in West Manayunk, which he had purchased from Dr. Conry, a well known 21st Ward physician.

Mr. Lyle was also the owner of a handsome property in Cecil County, Maryland, where for a number of years he spent his summers.

In 1861 Mr. Lyle enlisted in one of the Civil War emergency regiments and served for three months, which was the full term of enlistment. He was a cousin of the late Colonel Peter Lyle, and the late David Lyle, who was known as the chief of the old Philadelphia Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Lyle was married in early manhood, to Miss Susan Adams, of Roxborough, who preceded her husband in death by several years. Of their children, two sons, two daughters, and sixteen grand children survived the couple. Mr. Lyle was a member of the First Baptist Church of Manayunk and

at his funeral the services were conducted by Rev. S. Z. Batten, with the burial being made in Leverington Cemetery.

The death last week of William Shingle, who served for more than 30 years as a park guard along the banks and drives of the Wissahickon brought back to mind another old-time park guardian, who is still remembered by many old residents of this locality.

Reference is made to the late Charles S. Albany, who was born in Manayunk, on November 4th, 1842, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Albany. In his early youth he joined the Ebenezer M. E.

Church, and was a member for more than sixty years. Even as a park guard, Mr. Albany found time to pursue his religious work, and served as a local preacher in many of the churches of this vicinity. When the Philadelphia Methodist Conference met at Bethlehem, Pa. in 1898, Mr. Albany was ordained to the ministry, and had charge of the Blue Bell Mission, for more than 20 years.

In his early manhood Mr. Albany had been a painter, and on May 1st 1876 was appointed a park guard and for many years was stationed at Ridge avenue and the Wissahickon Drive, but at the close of his services was night sergeant at the Sedgey Guard House. At the time of the Civil War he served during the emergency campaigns.

Mr. Albany was widely known and highly esteemed throughout the northwestern section of Philadelphia. He and his wife were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Joseph Schofield and Margaret Albany, the latter who held a remarkable record for attendance at the Ebenezer Sunday School which extended over forty years.

SCCAFF.



2/23/33

## Now and Then

Many readers of "The Riversons," a novel relating to the Wissahickon Valley and the Rittenhouse family, are inclined to believe that a man named Umstead, a cousin of the Rittenhouse's, wrote the book, rather than S. J. Bumstead, whose name appears on the fly-leaf as the author.

These, however, are wrong. The story was written by Dr. Samuel J. Bumstead, of Decatur, Illinois, who had formerly resided in this section.

He was the son of Rev. Dr. Bumstead, who died about 1894 at the age of 94, and who in his younger years had preached at the Roxborough Presbyterian and Fourth Reformed Churches.

It was in February of 1895 that a petition was circulated in Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon and the Falls of Schuylkill, requesting the Fairmount Park Commissioners to make an artificial lake for skating in winter, on the low-lying portion of land between the Wissahickon Creek and the Queen Lane Pumping Station. The lot was known as "the Meadows" and was a mosquito-breeding swamp that with every rain collected sufficient water to form a pond.

It was a contractor named Michael McManus, who in 1895, started the erection of the Blue Stone Bridge, over the Wissahickon Creek, at Rittenhouse street, to replace the former Red Bridge, of wooden construction, which stood there.

The bridge, as built by McManus, has a single span, and is 105 feet in length. The span is formed of a ten-rib skew arch, similar to the arches in the Reading Railroad Company Stone Bridge at the Falls. The arch has a rise of 11 feet to the base of the keystones, which are 17 feet above the ordinary level of the water. It is built of dressed blue stone from the old Rittenhouse quarry, which is but a short distance away, along the Lincoln Drive, and from tests made at the time was found to be the finest stone in this section of the country.

The bridge, including the foot-walks on either side, is forty feet wide and is surmounted by a handsome stone railing ornamented with posts.

The five large blocks of stone on the Garfield Monument, along the East River Drive, were also taken from the Rittenhouse quarry and set in place by McManus. One of these is 19 feet long, 3 feet wide and 12 inches thick. Two others are 13 feet long, while the other two are quarter circles with a radius of 5½ feet; other dimensions being the same as the first.

They are finished in ten cut bush hammered work and were tested by Messrs. Booth, Garrett and Blair, chemical experts and found to be composed of quartz, hornblend and feldspar, which combination forms true granite. A two inch cube stood a crushing test of 89,000 pounds, the highest test of any stone that

had been found near Philadelphia up to that time. The stone is susceptible of a bright polish and is almost black when the full polish is brought out.

At a meeting of the Fairmount Park Commissioners on Friday, July 11th, 1896, the committee on Land Purchases submitted a report on ground taken for park purposes the previous autumn on the west side of the Schuylkill river between

the Falls Bridge and City avenue. The properties were owned by the estate of Joseph Rubicam, the estate of Isaac Roberts, and the Reading Railroad Company.

Chief Webster, of the Bureau of Surveys, raised the point that the city should have the front on the river all the way to City avenue. However, it was decided that the city and park authorities could protect the waterfront, and a resolution was passed to purchase the land.

In October of 1896—the same year—bids were received by the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for the construction of the drive through Roberts' Hollow, which is now familiar as Neill Drive. The road was named for John J. Neill, who left a legacy for the planting of trees, and shrubbery in Fairmount Park.

The drive brought into use the new addition to the Park, which was a strip of land varying in width extending along the river above the Falls. The drive is winding in its course and is about three-quarters of a mile in length connecting the boundary of the Park—City Line—to the West River Drive.

The road jury which was appointed to ascertain the value of the properties taken for this purpose made a report in which the following amounts were awarded: Estate of Joseph Rubicam, deceased, \$62,617.25 for two tracts of land, one containing 24 and 135-1000th acres, and the other of 2 and 95-100th acres. Estate of Algernon Roberts, deceased, \$7,500 for a plot of 1 and 4-tenths acres. Estate and heirs of Isaac W. Roberts, deceased, \$20,209.80, for a tract containing 7 and 772-1000ths acres. In all the city was recommended to pay the sum of \$90,327.05 for a fraction over 35 acres, or about \$6,010 per acre.

SCAFF

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## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Consuela Branch, 4141 Boone street, and Russell Durham, 4317 Dexter street.

Hannah Moran, 2757 North Bon-sall street, and Joseph M. Smith, 441 Roxborough avenue.

Margaret V. McDevitt, 158 Cotton street, and William E. Lockhead, 2732 North Howard street.

Edith H. Lanigan, 521 Seville street, and Robert M. Long, 229 Wendover street.

Rebecca E. Wallace, 4323 Walnut street, and George T. Stevens, Jr., 4406 Manayunk avenue.

Helen Hill, 2704 North Reese street, and Joseph O'Donnell, 200 Dawson street.

Eva E. Robinson, Bristol, Pa., and George A. Scott, 4362 Cresson street.

Cora Lane, 150 Jamestown street, and Samuel J. Skovera, 3922 Dester street.

Margaret Baugler, 3258 North Dover street, and James F. Malady

7-26-28

## IMPORTANT WEDDING IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Among the interesting weddings of the season was that which took place on Tuesday, July 17, when Miss Bessie M. Fleming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Fleming, of Wissahickon, became the bride of Joseph W. Devereux, of Roxborough.

The marriage ceremony, held at the church of St. John the Baptist, Manayunk, was performed by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Eugene Murphy, followed by a Solemn Nuptial Mass.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was gorgeously gowned in pleated tulle and taffeta trimmed with pearls and her veil of tulle, which was of the cape effect, was trimmed with rose point lace and orange blossoms. She carried a colonial bouquet of white orchids and lilies of the valley.

Miss Mollie Fogarty acted as maid of honor, and was gowned in a frock of ivory taffeta and lace trimmed with pink velvet. Her large horsehair hat was white, trimmed with lace and pink velvet, and satin slippers to match while the bridesmaids, Miss Ethyl Finnegan and Miss Phlomena Fleming, sister of the bride, were gowned alike in dresses of three tones of pink tulle over taffeta with large horsehair hats and satin slippers to match. They carried colonial bouquets of pink roses.

Mr. Devereux was attended by his brother, Francis Devereux, and the ushers were John Devereux and John Dougherty.

After a reception and breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Devereux left for a trip to Bermuda. Upon their return they will reside at 5876 Henry avenue.

11/13/1930

# Mother of Irish Leader Buried Here

Catherine Davitt Interred  
In St. John's Ceme-  
tery

SON WAS PATRIOT

Member of Parliament  
Fought For Freedom  
of Ireland

There are probably thousands of true sons and daughters of "Old Erin," and others with a love of the "Land of the Shamrock," who pass up and down Rector street, in Manayunk, without knowing that within a few feet of where they are walking there lies the body of the mother of one of Ireland's greatest patriots.

In a quiet, shady corner of the churchyard adjoining St. John the Baptist Church, reposes the remains of Catherine Davitt, the wife of Martin Davitt. These were the parents of Michael Davitt, who left this world of strife on Memorial Day, 1906, but whose words and deeds on behalf of Irish freedom will live on forever in the history of the "green little isle."

Mrs. Davitt, who came from Straide, County Mayo, Ireland, was in her 61st year, when she answered the call to go Home, on July 18, 1880. A modest tombstone, now weather-beaten by the rains and sunshine of the passing years, which was erected by her daughter, Sabina, marks the grave of the patriot's mother. It bears a harp, a cross, a sprig of shamrock and an inscription telling of Mrs. Davitt's demise. Around the grave is a marble coping, at the foot of which are the words, "Our Mother."

In addition to being faithful to the cause of Irish liberty, Mrs. Davitt was a friend to all people who were poor and oppressed. Instances, wherein she gave to those in need, to the detriment of her own welfare, have been cited in profusion. She is known to have shared her last loaf of bread with suffering folk. Not in a figurative sense but in actually giving of bread baked by her own hands.

This great Irish woman came to America when her noted son, Michael, was imprisoned for his opposition to English tyranny, and settled in the Falls of Schuylkill, in the neighborhood of what is now 4136 Ridge avenue. When Michael was released he crossed the Atlantic and joined his mother and two sisters and all of them moved to Manayunk in 1878, where they lived for several years.

The first money contributed for

Michael Davitt and his cause was donated by the Irish people of Manayunk. The Owen Roe O'Neil Club raised more than \$800 for Davitt, after he was released from the English prison.

When he arrived in Manayunk he was accorded a tremendous ovation, but he always claimed that the best part of it all was when he was clasped in the arms of his mother. Afterward he traveled all over the United States in behalf of the United Irish Land League.

Sabina Davitt, the sister of Michael, who subsequently became a government clerk in Washington, D. C., remembered her mother's last resting place for many years, by placing a wreath of flowers on it, and the members of the Irish League, also placed floral tributes on the grave in St. John's Cemetery, but of late years the lot has been taken care of solely by the church officials.

Davitt, himself, often said, "If I should die in America, I must be buried in my mother's grave, in Manayunk, near Philadelphia." Efforts to obtain information as to the burial place of Michael Davitt, have thus far proved unavailing to the writer, but there is little doubt that when he expired, in May, 1906, he must have been on "the other side," otherwise his wish to be buried with his mother would have been carried out.

Many of Ireland's stalwart patriots have knelt at the grassy mound in the little hillside cemetery in Manayunk, and offered prayers in memory of her who reposes therein. Her son who is known to have attended church services in the original St. John's Church, often prayed beside his mother's grave, the last time being on October 3rd, 1902, when he made his final visit to Philadelphia in behalf of the United Irish League, at the Academy of Music.

Charles Stewart Parnell, John E. Redmond, Conor O'Kelly, and other Irish leaders have also visited the grave. Parnell paid a glowing tribute to the dead woman at a memorial service which was held in her honor in 1882.

Davitt's career was remarkable when it is recalled that he began work as a child of ten, in a Lancashire cotton mill, and lost his right arm when he was eleven. When he was in Australia, in 1895, and too far from home to do any campaigning, he was returned to Parliament without opposition from East Kerry and South Mayo. He resigned from the House in 1899.

Despite the fact that each generation has cares and worries of its own to call attention away from the glorious deeds, and men and women of the past, it is a curious fact that few aside from the clergy, Sisters and workers at St. John the Baptist Church, are aware that the mother of Michael Davitt, the once-internationally recognized Irish leader, is buried in this immediate neighborhood. **SCCAFF**

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## PRETTY WEDDING IN LEVERINGTON CHURCH

A beautiful church wedding took place in Roxborough on Saturday, at 4 o'clock, in the Leverington Presbyterian church, when Miss Anne Neely became the bride of Sherman Shultz.

The bride wore ivory tone velvet made with long tight sleeves and a side drape, and trimmed with real lace. Her veil was trimmed with orange blossoms and lace to match the dress. She carried a shower bouquet of roses, lilies of the valley and orchids.

Miss Dorothy Lewis, who acted as maid of honor, wore rose tan velvet with a hat to match and carried beautiful dahlias which harmonized with her costume.

George McClennen was best man. A reception followed the ceremony at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Margaret Ames, of Harmon road.

After a honeymoon trip through the South, Mr. and Mrs. Shultz will be at home at 124 Sumac street, Wissahickon.

Forecast 2/14/1918

### CUPID BUSY AT THIS WEDDING

At the marriage of William D. Martin, 341 Dupont street, Roxborough, and Miss Clara Teal, 3501 West Allegheny avenue, Wednesday, February 8, the engagements of three other couples were announced.

Mr. Martin is a son of Sergeant George Martin, Manayunk police station. The wedding took place at the home of the bride, Miss Esther Teal, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and George O. Martin, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

The other couples whose betrothals were announced are: Miss Elsie Leach, 3310 Lee street, and Howard Martin, 320 Krams avenue; Miss Florence Bestwick, 305 Hermitage street, and Raymond Currie, 4566 Boone street, and Miss Ethel Bowers, 3546 York road, and Howard E. Nunn, 1208 West Erie avenue.

9/19/1929

June 6/28/28

# Schuylkill Was Once Great Mecca of Izaak Waltons

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

In my early boyhood days when the Schuylkill river was free of filth, when the water was clear as crystal, coming direct from the mountain springs up through the valley, there were all descriptions of fish to be caught. I don't believe any one will disagree with me when I say that Sun fish which are cousins to the bass, was as game as any large fish.

The best bait I ever discovered for sun fish was small hoptoads. The sun fish would nest in clefs and on the edge of the river grass or celery as it is some times called, and as soon as the angler cast over his hook baited with a hop toad, his cork or floater would disappear beneath the surface like a submarine. With a quick arm movement the fisherman would often land a "sunnie" as large as the palm of your hand, big wall-eyes, if I remember the name correctly.

Opposite Flat Rock Tunnel is what was called "the Duck Falls," where the water went tumbling over large rocks, was the haunt of bass, both black and striped. Here they would rise to a worm, fly or helgamite.

We kids took great delight, when the river was very low, swimming about "the Duck Falls," recovering dippers, or sinkers, which would become fast on the rocky bottom. One afternoon several of us recovered two hundred and ten sinkers, all lead and made in different shapes. We river hounds, never lacked for dippers at any time.

Night-fishing, with a stretch line, was another favorite sport. We would tie a heavy cord or clothes line to trees on each bank then slip knot a short line and hook baited with a minnow about every five feet apart. We used a boat for the purpose and I recall the name of one of the boats, "The Roscoe." Every hour we would go over the line, remove the fish and rebait the hooks. Our reward would be a washtub filled with eels and "catties." We had a ready market for the "catties," back along the Wissahickon Creek, where the menu at the road-houses was catfish and waffles. The landlords would give a bonus price when they were delivered alive, because they could then place them in their private ponds at the rear of the hotels. Catfish had to be within reach at all hours, because that was the main dish along "the Creek," hence the private ponds.

The eels we caught were cut up in lengths, five inches long and salted down in an old lard firkin, to be used for snapper bait. Snapper fishing was another night sport but one would have to add the afternoon to it, getting all set for pastime. First we went into the woods and cut a few bundles of

saplings, about seven feet tall. The heavy end we sharpened like the point of a pencil, so they could be rammed down two feet in the bank. Along the pond or river heavy fishing line or mason line would be tied within six inches of the top of the saplings and a heavy sea hook was placed, baited with a piece of salted eel. The line would be thrown overboard to await results. To while away the time, a card game would be played by lantern light. After a few hours we went over our lines and gathered in the harvest. Big snappers and diamond back terrapins they are, too.

We cut the lines close to the poles and bridled the snappers with the same line by running it through their mouth, drawing their heads into their shells and tying the line tight under their tails. When a snapper finds himself hooked, he goes for the mud bottom and buries himself in the soft mud and the lines tied high in the air on the saplings prevents them from going to the mud bottom.

Whenever a farmer began to miss his ducks, or geese, it was a sure thing that his lake, pond, dam or creek was infested with snappers and "our crowd" would be invited to fish his water hole out. Transportation in an old hay rick, with breakfast at the old farm house thrown in for good measure, never failed to induce us.

Spring and autumn was the time for Sucker fishing. This species requires very cold water to make them edible. Following a freshet, when the river would start to rise, and become muddy, the suckers struck out for the small streams of spring water that empty into the river. The suckers gathered in schools at the joining of the clear and muddy waters and could be caught by tubfuls. German carp were caught and were saleable to Jewish families, if sold alive. Corn meal is used as bait for carp. The Schuylkill River at the present time has no edible fish of any kind on account of the pollution.

## PRETTY WEDDING IN HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Miss Rose Knoll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Knoll, of Umbria and Fountain streets, was married at 9 o'clock last Saturday morning at the Church of the Holy Family, to William J. Cate. The ceremony was performed by Father Dinn. Miss M. Lafferty was bridesmaid and the best man was William Janson. Mrs. Margaret Righter, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Miss Anna Knoll was assistant bridesmaid and Miss Sophie Knoll and Helen Logan were flower girls. The ushers were A. Knoll and Andrew Oprentic.

The bride wore a gown of white satin with a large horse shoe hat of the same material, and carried a large bouquet of roses. A reception to their friends followed the ceremony at the home of the bride's parents.

Upon their return from their honeymoon at Niagara Falls, they will be at home at Baldwin and Silverwood streets.

7-18-1929

## START DEMOLISHING MANAYUNK STATION

Early Monday morning a force of workmen employed by M. Sorrentino, a house wrecker, descended on the Manayunk depot, with picks and crow bars. The first thing to disappear was the Union News stand followed by the south end of the platform sheds. The O'Neil Construction Company, who has the contract to erect the new station, is rushing work on the entrance to the south bound platform, at Cresson and Carson streets and as soon as possible the ticket office will be removed to that corner and the entire depot which was erected in the late 70's, will be demolished.

Trains running through Manayunk, were shifted over to the south bound track that runs along the fence on the west side of Cresson street. Engine No. 697, due at 1:50 p. m. Standard Time, drawing a box car and three passenger cars made up the first train running south bound over the rails. The north bound rails will be removed to make room for dump trucks and steam shovels which are busy opening the excavations for the concrete foundations along the east side of the street.

6-7-1934

# Joseph Ripka Was Founder of Manayunk's Textile Trade

Austrian Immigrant Was at One-Time the Largest Manufacturer of Cotton Goods in America. — Had an Eventful Career

On the desk before me is a huge brass key, six inches long and weighing about a pound, that furnishes the inspiration for a local historical story. For the key was once used to open the safe in the mill office of Joseph Ripka, at Manayunk.

Ripka was at one time one of Manayunk's most noted manufacturers. He was born on April 24th 1788, in Wigstadt, Austrian Silesia, being the second son of Johann Ripka, a farmer. The Ripka family was a very old one, and originally belonged to Ratgan, in Bohemia, from where they moved to Wigstadt in the 16th Century.

When Joseph Ripka was twelve years old he was apprenticed to a weaver, and after serving his full term of five years, he worked at the trade, as a journeyman, for two years. Becoming liable to military conscription laws of Austria (which at that time were extremely severe, he left his native town and went to Vienna, where he was employed making damask shawls and similar goods for the next two years. The difficulty of evading army service

---the term of which was fourteen years---caused him to attempt to escape from the country. In this he was eventually successful, but the government officials, not to be outdone, took his brother, Franz, in his stead. Hearing this Joseph, voluntarily went back to Wigstadt, with the intention of giving himself up and securing his brother's release. Arriving home at midnight, his family persuaded him to go away again, and went back to Vienna, and took up his work there. However, he always feared the vigilance of the military authorities, and soon went back to Switzerland, and from there, after one year, traveled on to Lyons. He became acquainted with Jacquard, the famous textile inventor, and assisted him in making his new-type loom practical.

In 1812 Napoleon Bonaparte returned with his armies from Russia, and to recuperate his almost destroyed forces, tried to make every man, native and foreign, become one of his military followers. Once more Joseph Ripka was compelled to flee, which he did with little hardship, into Spain, staying there until 1816, when he finally came to America.

Arriving in Philadelphia he made a hand-loom and began to weave such goods as were in demand, and being successful gradually increased his looms to ten, buying the necessary yarns, dyeing, warping, and hemming them himself and wheeling

the finished goods to the Market street merchants in a barrow. Upon sufficient expansion of his business he rented a large warehouse on Poplar street, which he remodeled and renovated at his own expense, here carrying on his business for ten years.

The building, becoming too small for his trade, he concluded to move to Manayunk, which was then in its infancy as a textile centre. His first visit to this section was in June of 1830. He finally leased a mill, opposite the present Manayunk police station, and in 1831 he moved his hand-ooms out from the centre of the city. In 1836 he erected a new mill adjoining the mill he had originally rented. The new structure was designed to house 600 thirty-inch-wide power looms.

This innovation so incensed the Kensington hand-loom weavers, that a large mob started out to Manayunk to destroy Ripka's mill and machinery, but were stopped at the Falls of Schuylkill, by local military companies sent down from Manayunk and Roxborough.

In pace with the constantly developing trade, Ripka built other mills and dye-houses, and in addition, both rented and bought mills outside of Manayunk, one being at Holmesburg. At this time he had 1000 power looms operating at Manayunk and aws, from 1840 to 1850, the largest manufacturer of cotton goods in the United States. His products were sent to all part of the Union and Mexico. He employed about 1500 workers, ran 150,000 cotton spindles, did his own finishing and dyeing, and sold all of his own goods. He can justly be considered the founder of Manayunk's textile industry, which today needs rejuvenation.

From 1832 to 1842 Ripka resided in a house which occupied the ground level site of the present Manayunk station of the Reading Lines, and in the latter year moved to a mansion, erected by his son, Joseph, along Umbria street, in "The Blocks" section.

The Civil War, causing him the loss of his Southern patrons, forced him into bankruptcy, and the mills closed. He was preparing to start them again in January of 1864, but died on the 18th of that same month from a malignant fever.

Joseph Ripka was a scholarly man, who spoke fluent German, French and Spanish as well as English. He was married in 1839, to Miss Katie Geiger, a resident of Germantown. Their family consisted of nine children, five sons

and four daughters. Another branch of the family also took root here, when Joseph brought Franz Ripka, the son of his brother, Franz, to America, with his wife and family.

SCGAFF.

3/26/36

## MESSENGERS OF MERCY

It has been said that angels stand  
Beside God's throne, at His command;  
Waiting there, as nominees  
Picked for His humane embassies.  
These hurry off, at the slightest need  
To fill a stricken neighbor's need.  
With cures for body and for soul;  
A sort of Brotherhood Patrol.  
  
There are no men too high or low  
Too rich, or great, if God wills so;  
Nor any creature, large or small;  
Beyond His pity—touching all!  
Because He knows the loads we bear;  
Our struggling on through daily care;  
And there's not one so strong that He  
Does not stand guard eternally  
  
It isn't much of a far-flung cry,  
To picture, as coming down from high  
Those mercy-workers; have us feign  
That they're engaged in the great Campaign,  
To ask of us all—the Gentile and Jew—  
A return on the gifts from the Lord; long due!  
A toll, perhaps, that we long have shunned,  
That now can be paid through the Campaign Fund.

A. C. C.

2/14/33

# Now and Then

The snowstorm of last Friday night and Saturday morning was far from being the worst that has been experienced in this vicinity, according to old newspaper reports.

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Poulston's Advertiser, of January 26th 1931, contained an item which reads as follows: "We are informed that in twenty-four hours after the late heavy fall of snow a complete traveling path was cut along the Ridge turnpike, being a distance of 23 1/2 miles from Philadelphia to Perkioming, and such was the depth of this snow that it employed the labor of 300 hands to accomplish it.

"This credible exertion on the part of the company it is hoped will meet with its reward in an increase of traveling, particularly as we learn that some of the hills on that road were considerably reduced last fall, adding much to the comfort of those who frequent it."

It is strange how some little article in the newspaper will start a conversation on subjects which seem of small account. Last week there appeared in this column a little tale concerning the ice jams in the Schuylkill river, and sure enough an aged man stopped us to relate more stories of the "ice age" in these parts.

This old fellow wanted to tell us about the worst gorge he had ever seen in the Schuylkill, and although he didn't look the age, he stated that it occurred in 1874. He said that in that year the ice was piled nearly eight feet high on Main street, below Shurs lane. Owners of horses in Manayunk and other nearby communities had to take their teams up Shurs lane to Ridge avenue, in order to reach the centre of the city. The Ridge avenue horse cars could only run out as far as Wissahickon. Persons using the cars to get to and from their work threatened to take legal steps against the company to have its charter revoked. Then a force of men were put to work opening a road through the huge cakes of ice. The gorge, large as it was, went away without causing any of the much-expected damage.

The women members of any or all of the churches in this neighborhood always seem to be the persons who lead in the movement to raise money to keep the various places of worship in existence. It has always been so, evidently, for we recently ran across an old newspaper clipping, dated August 1893, which stated:

"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 3rd 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 were sentient with the spirit of the hour. Tables were set at wide intervals containing seasonable refreshments, and a number of bonnie lassies 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 willing as could be (Can you beat that? And these modern girls think they know their stuff!)

"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."

As one goes about his own business of the day he very rarely pays any attention to the work being accomplished by his neighbor.

This was brought to mind by the experience of a clergyman who once labored in Roxborough, who ran into a youthful physician from Texas, as both were guests at a house party far out in the country. The medico was enroute to an army post in the Philippines. The clergyman and the doctor fell into conversation, and the former happened to mention the name of Dr. Matthew Beardwood, of Wissahickon.

And then the young army surgeon went into a long string of praise for Dr. Beardwood, who it appeared had been one of his instructors at the Medico-Chi College, when he was studying for his life's work. He said that as an authority and teacher of chemistry the 21st Ward physician was considered one of the finest in the medical profession. And upon returning to his home the clergyman looked up Dr. Beardwood in the "International Who's Who" and found this concerning him: "Engaged in general medical practice, received degree of Medicine, Medico-Chiurgical College; took post graduate course at the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. One time resident physician at the Medico Chiurgical Hospital. Professor of General Chemistry and Toxicology at the Chiurgical College; expert toxicologist; has given expert testimony in courts in poison cases; professor of Chemistry, Ursinus College; received degree of Doctor of Science from Ursinus College, June 7th 1916; a member of several medical and scientific societies; author."

And the clergyman also found out that many of the best things about Dr. Beardwood are not to be found in the "International Who's Who," but can only be discovered by personal contacts with the Wissahickon physician.

SCAFF

3-19-36

13

## BETTER ENGLISH

They may teach us better English

In the schoolrooms, through the day;

Inform us that our "ain'ts" are wrong,

In speech, at work or play.

They may call to our attention

How we amputate our "ings,"

And instruct us where to use, or not,

The verb and other things.

The teacher may consult her books,

In search of methods new,

To point out errors, which in talk,

We've made but never knew.

She may tell us where an adjective

Should fall to be correct,

And call to mind faults none of us

Would ever once suspect.

Of nouns; contractions; negatives;

She can recite for weeks,

And tell us how the first-known roots

Came down to us from Greeks

Or Latins, with their diction pure;

Descending through the ages;

Inform us how our grammar was

Arranged by bookish sages.

Then, when our brains are full of facts

And rules for proper speaking;

When we have banished habits old;

Improvements always seeking;

The teacher's smile turns to a frown;

Comes woe, her heart to sicken;

To hear us say, in accents bold,

"We live in Wissy Hicken!"

A. C. C.

12/21/35

# Now and Then

Ray Ratcliffe, of West Oak Lane, drove into the centre of the city on Wednesday of last week, and parked his car. Then he went to a department store and bought a pair of skates for a Christmas present for his son.

The sleet storm had, in the meantime, changed the streets into an ice rink. Ray, wisely decided that motoring would be too risky, strapped on the skates and skated home.

He streaked up the East River Drive to Midvale avenue, out Warden Drive to School House lane, out Wissahickon avenue to Limekiln Pike and home. At least, so says one of our daily papers.

One of the vicissitudes of a local bank was also among those who had an unforgettable experience on Wednesday of last week. Being a resident of Roxborough, this gentleman has to negotiate the hills of this section to reach his home from his place of employment.

When ice covered the streets on Wednesday of last week, he was caught "flat-footed" at the office without any chains on his car. By clever driving he managed to reach his hilltop domicile. And Friend Wife, anxiously awaiting the homecoming of her spouse, waved a relieved greeting from one of the front windows, as she saw his car enter the driveway.

But the old saying of "there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip," was brought home with great force, when said husband had safely stowed his car away and attempted to navigate the distance between the garage and the back door. As he near the latter his feet rose heavenward, and he dove headlong into the housewall, striking the back of his head and bouncing back into a barberry hedge.

For a moment he lay there stunned, the blood oozing from a bruise on the back of his head, and barberry thistles piercing his ear.

The hedge will be replaced by California privet next spring.

The name Shakespeare, divided into "Shak" and "Speare" gives four and 6 letters, or 46. By turning to the 46th Psalm, and counting from the first word you will find the 46th to be "Shake" and counting from the last, you will find the 46th to be "Spear."

In a well-written volume, entitled "Historic Germantown," compiled in 1908, by David Spencer, D. D., a fine reference is made to Roxborough as follows: "Wigard Levering, his wife and four children settled here in 1685. For seven years this was their home, but in 1692 they removed to what is now Roxborough, where he bought five hundred acres of land and became one of the founders of that community, with whose history his descendants have been so promi-

nently identified.

"It was his grandson, William," who built the first hotel in Roxborough, known as the 'Leverington Hotel.' Through his exertions the first schoolhouse on that town was erected, on land which he gave in 1748. The earliest efforts for the establishment of religious services there were made by the Levering family, whose ancestry first lived in Germantown. They were the founders of the historic Baptist Church in that community, and gave the ground on which its meeting houses were erected. This church was organized in 1789, and from its constitution to the present time there have always been one or more of the descendants of Wigard Levering serving it as a dea-

con, as well as in other offices of honor or trust. It was during the pastorate of the author of this book, from the beginning of 1865

to the latter part of 1877, that the old meeting house, back in the graveyard, was torn down and the present magnificent structure erected. The bell in the spire of this church took the prize at the Centennial Exposition in 1876.

"From this noted family in Roxborough, whose first home in this country was in Germantown, have gone members who have been identified with the building up of villages, towns and cities in other parts of this country. Notably is the case with the Levering family, of Baltimore, Md., among whose honored names stand today the brothers, Eugene and Joshua Levering. The same might be said of Lafayette, Indiana, where the brothers, John and William, sons of Abraham Levering, became so distinguished in their day.

"All the renown and achievement of this family, through all these two hundred and sixteen years in the marvelous outreach, may be traced back with ever-deepening interest to their original settlement in Germantown."

SCCAFF

3/5/36

14

## HATTAL-TAYLOR'S QUARTET

Oh, the chaplain prayed devoutly,  
And the buglers sounded taps,  
And the soloists were greeted  
By prolonged and lusty claps,  
And a judge paid fervent tribute  
To a leader of the Post,  
But the singing of the Brass Hats  
Was the thing I liked the most.

I was given, by the Sheriff,  
Patriotic food for thought,  
And I marveled at his phrases,  
With important theories fraught,  
As subconsciously I waited—  
Though about it I won't boast—  
For the singing of the Brass Hats;  
'Twas the thing I longed for most.

When they start to harmonizing,  
I just close my eyes and think  
"That's a joy beyond all pleasures  
Which can come from food and drink!"

Oh, they should be on a hook-up  
Spreading wide from coast to coast.

For the singing of the Brass Hats  
Is the thing I like the most.

In hours of the night I wake  
To hear Joe Gutgesell,  
Reach up to sound a high-pitched note  
Beyond all parallel;  
Then Ambler, gay, or Weinman's voice  
Chimes in to please the host—  
To make me say, "It's Brass Hats' songs  
I like to hear the most!"

When Jimmy Wood assumes the lead,  
And Thring, with deep'n'g bass,  
Brings up the rear in "Prairie Moon,"  
A smile lights up my face,  
And when the time shall come for me  
To be a shadowed ghost,  
I know I'll haunt that Brass Hat four,  
And like their songs the most.

A. C. C.

sing

Feb 1932

2/6/36

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# Buy American!

An Editorial

We know of a 21st Ward physician who, when he learned that the drugs in a prescription he had ordered came from France, immediately sent the medicine back, with instructions that it must be compounded of American products.

And the thought which his action aroused is one which should be in the minds of all true Americans at this time, when millions of our own people are vainly searching for employment and are in dire need of the necessities of life.

The sage sayings of Abraham Lincoln have often been quoted for our good, and it may be forgiven if one of his statements is repeated here. Lincoln, preserver of the Union, said, "If America sends a thousand dollars to Europe for a shipment of iron rails, America gets the rails and Europe gets the thousand dollars. If America spends a like sum in this country for rails, America gets the rails AND the money."

Montaigne, thoughtful Frenchman, once said, "All the ills of this world come from asininity."

Consider the ultra-asininity of this wealthiest, most powerful, apparently-least intelligent nation, which sent 3,000,000 men to a European commerce-grabbing fightfest, and loaned \$10,000,000,000 to debt-dodging foreign governments, and advanced privately \$30,000,000,000 or more, to the same crowd on top of that, and now spends its money buying goods in Europe, with 12,000,000 workers idle here.

Foreign goods are advertised and purchased daily by the residents of this locality. Cheap clothing, brought into this country sans buttons, etc, to evade customs duties; shoes without heels, which are tacked on afterward, because the import taxes only cover completed articles. Toys, furs, stockings, perfumes, cosmetics, drugs, paper, cement, foodstuffs and a thousand and one commodities which American people delude themselves into thinking are bargains, come from abroad to prolong the depression here. Bargains, yes for penny-wise and pound foolish economists. But most costly in the long run because the buying of foreign-created goods robs Americans of the opportunity to earn, spend and, therefore, circulate their money.

All over England are "Buy British" signs; Chili, Brazil and other South American countries are planning a "bloc" to retaliate against European tariffs which shut out Pan-American goods; and so it is high time the people of the United States, and this includes the residents of Roxborough, Wissahickon, East Falls, Manayunk and West Manayunk; to confine their purchases to United States

products.

Thomas Jefferson, the democrat with a small "d," once said, "The patriotic determination of every good citizen to use no foreign article which can be made within ourselves (our borders) without regard to difference of price, secures us against a relapse in foreign dependency."

What Jefferson said many years ago can be applied with greater force today. It is of more importance now than ever.

Up in New York State, on Tuesday of last week, Senator William T. Byrne proposed a legislative resolution concerning "Buy American" and accompanied it with the following remark: "It is only recently that we have realized the necessity in doing something in this country to arouse Americans citizens to the necessity of protecting this country from outside commodities, particularly those from Japan."

Requirement of the purchase of American-made supplies and products for public buildings and for use in Federal structures was sought last Saturday, in a bill placed before the United States Senate, at Washington, by Senator Stiewer, Oregon Republican.

The bill was passed by the House on Monday.

And here and there, all over the Nation, men and women are giving serious thought to the subject as they realize that a dollar spent at home means seven or eight dollars of value, when the number of individuals who are affected is considered.

If someone advances the argument that the finer articles cannot be made here, answer them with the reasoning that the sooner we start to learn how to make these things the sooner we'll be proficient in that line, and therefore will develop new industries. France, which monopolizes the silk industry of the world, had not a yard of silk, satin, or velvet within its borders in the 16th century. But time has changed conditions.

And we, too, must take Time as our ally in order to change the deplorable employment situation which exists in America today.

One way to help us to "Buy American!"

And this is not a plea! Simply sound advice, inspired by thoughts of self preservation. And it effects every American----- whether he or she is intelligent enough to believe it, or not!

## YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

An ambulance is needed,  
In the direst sort of way,  
At our own Memorial Hospital,  
And the need grows more each day;  
So live men and women answered  
From each lodge and meeting hall.  
And the campaign's on in earnest  
To secure the wherewithal.

Bending every effort for it,  
An Alliance has been formed,  
Which determined all the people  
Of the need would be informed,  
So that when an injured person,  
Or, an ill one, called for speed  
In reaching nurse and doctor,  
There would be the means to heed.

Now they're going round the hillsides;  
In the valley; on the crest;  
And the word is spreading far and wide  
To north, south, east and west.  
And each person is accosted  
With the phrase "Now here's your chance  
To be prepared, if Fate should make  
You need an ambulance!"

So whenever someone approaches,  
With a plea to help the cause,  
Just dig down in your pocket-book,  
Without a doubt, or pause.  
For while you are aiding others,  
You are also helping "you";  
And your Conscience then can shout our loud,  
"That deed you'll never rue!"  
A. C. C.

8/2/1934

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## Now and Then

Politicians and their ways sometimes exert an influence that has peculiar results. Read, the following concerning a local lad, which was told by a good-natured physician in confidence, so no names are mentioned: It happened in April, when the Spring Fever was just beginning to spring. Said the doc, "A boy called on me one evening. 'Say, Doctor,' he said, 'I guess I've got the measles, but nobody knows it except the folks at home, and they're not the kind who talk, if there's any good reason to keep quiet!'"

"I was puzzled," said the doctor, "and I supposed I looked it."  
"Aw, get wise, Doctor," my visitor suggested. "What will you give me to go to school and spread it among all the kids in the neighborhood?"

But, nevertheless, a sign was plastered on the door of the youngster's home.

Lightning having struck the Roxborough Trust Company Building, at Green lane and Ridge avenue, in a recent storm, brings to mind a tale that was printed in the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, of August 24th 1872. The story was published in this manner: "Mr. Charles Lyle, gate-keeper on the turnpike road between King of Prussia and Norristown, who was an uncle of Mr. John Lehman, builder of Roxborough, was instantly killed by lightning during a recent thunder storm while sitting upon the piazza surrounding his dwelling. A Mr. Franklin Bernard who was sitting there at the same time was severely stunned by the shock, but afterward recovered. The Norristown Daily Herald says: In preparing the body for sepulchre, Mr. Mewday, the undertaker, could distinctly see where the electric fluid had entered and left the body. It appeared to have commenced at the left shoulder and taking a downward course, crossed the breast to the right side, descending the right leg, leaving an abrasion of the skin between two of the toes. But what is quite wonderful in connection with the matter is the fact that upon the right breast was the print of a leaf found on the floor of the piazza at the dead man's feet. The leaf was from an alanthus tree in the yard, and with the stem measured about five inches in length. The ribs, veins and cellular texture of the leaf were perfectly printed upon the skin, the whole having a red appearance. Mr. Lyle died in a sitting posture upon a chair, and when found his head inclined to one side. As his clothing was not disturbed in the least it would appear impossible for the leaf to have come in contact with the skin. In comparing the leaf found with the impression on the body, the two were exactly alike in size and development. How the impression was made on the skin is the mystery."

On February 7th. 1893. a charter

was issued at Harrisburg to the Belmont Avenue Railway Company, of Philadelphia, "the line of which runs on Belmont avenue from a point at or near its intersection with Elm avenue to the western end of the bridge across the Schuylkill river at Manayunk; thence across the bridge to a point at or near its eastern end, returning by the same route. A part of the route, from City avenue to the western end of the bridge is in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, and the other in Philadelphia. The capital is \$18,000 and the incorporators and officers are: President, George B. Roberts; Directors, D. E. Williams, John S. Gerhard, James A. Logan and G. Brinton Roberts."

The project would still be a good one!

How many 21st Ward people are left who can remember "Mox" Righter, who prior to 1897 had driven an omnibus, horse cars, cable cars and for a while was motorman on the trolley cars of the Union Traction Company?

Not many, is our opinion.

Righter was born about 1818, and at 80 years of age was still working for the Traction Company. He was at that advanced age, about the last of the old Roxborough-Norristown stage-drivers. The only break in his experience as a transportationist, covering a fifty year period, was during the Civil War, in which he served three years as a private.

8-9-34

## Now and Then

"Main street, in Manayunk," said an old man standing in front of the firehouse of Truck 25, "is a far different place than it was 65 years ago.

"The storekeepers of that day are all dead and gone. Towers Ogle, who kept the grocery store on the corner of Green lane and Main street, and Doctor Uhler's drug store, on the opposite corner, and across the way the little old office on the end of the wooden Pay Bridge that was carried away in the flood of October 4th 1869, have all disappeared.

"I can remember the old toll-gate keeper at the bridge, Johnny Owens. He was a jolly old chap, who was never at loss for a joke. He had a voice that could be heard at the other end of the bridge in West Manayunk when he whispered. The only man who had a louder voice was Elmer Rawley. Rawley was in the lime business, as was also Lew Hagy and Old Man Dager. I can readily recall one time when Elmer came over the old bridge with a load of hay that he had purchased from Billy Hewell, over on the west side. Elmer complained to Johnny Owens about the price Billy had charged him. Johnny, of course, was very sympathetic. Elmer, a little hard of hearing, thought that he must speak loud for Johnny to hear him. And Johnny knew that Elmer was partly deaf. Well, the ruckus they

raised made the police lieutenant, at the Station House, which was then down in back of Masonic Hall, send two officers up to the Pay Bridge to see what was causing the riot. They returned with smiles on their faces.

"Warner Roberts lived over in West Manayunk, almost at the top of the hill on Belmont avenue, where he had several acres of farmland. It is now part of a cemetery. Roberts was fond of coming over to Main street of a Saturday night and stopping to gossip a little with the storekeepers, all of whom he knew very well.

"I can still bring back to mind many of the old time merchants. There was Johnny McVey, who sold dry goods and notions; who had two of the cleverest daughters, Julia and Kate, you ever did see. They were both good-looking. I, and many another local lad, often bought things in that store that we didn't want, just to stop in and have a few words with one or the other of those girls. I one time bought seven yards of fancy-looking goods that I took home to my mother for a dress. She laughed until I thought she would die, when she saw it. She told me to take it back and exchange it for something she could wear without fear of being arrested for donning the American flag for a dress. So I lugged the package back to John Baer's shoe store and swapped it for a pair of shoes for 'the mother.' I was afraid to take it back to McVey's in fear that the girls would laugh at me.

"Jim Frazier was the local undertaker in those days. With Jim a funeral was an event. He used to say that he was looking forward to the time when he could bury George Tappen, the hatter, but that jest-desire was denied him, for Tappen outlived the undertaker.

"I can even recall the store that stood on the corner of Main and Levering street, where Howard Kerkeslager's is now, before Neil McGlinchey had his place there. It was a notion store, kept by Mrs. Rowbottom. John Bowker's millinery store was on the other corner, where the bank building is. Bill Entrekkin shot photographs across the street, and one time sued Jim Milligan, editor of the Chronicle for libel.

"Yes, the old street has changed!"

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4/23/1936

## Memoirs

Manayunk has had its share of former residents who went out into other sections of the country and made splendid reputations for their accomplishments. One of these was Rev. William H. Maher, a one-time pupil at St. John the Baptist School who was rector of St. Patrick's Church, at Mitchell, South Dakota, when he died back in 1897.

Father Maher was born in Manayunk on April 16th, 1857—the anniversary falling next Thursday—being the son of Daniel and Mary Maher. After attending St. John's School he went to Allegheny, Pa., where he matriculated at St. Bonaventure Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 20th, 1878, by Bishop Spalding, of Peoria, Illinois, at Milwaukee. His first charge was at SlouxFalls.

After spending a year as assistant to Rev. Father Flynn, at Madison, he was appointed rector of St. Patrick's Church at Mitchell.

While at SlouxFalls he succeeded in building a large church, a convent, a school and parish residence. His successor there was Bishop Marty.

Father Maher visited his mother in Manayunk in July of 1895, and attended services in his old church, where he had been baptized by Rev. David Mulholland and confirmed by Archbishop Wood. His brother too, was a priest, being Rev. Daniel A. Maher, who was stationed at the time of his brother's death, at Harrisburg, Pa.

Within the month that has just past people throughout the United States—aye, even throughout the world—have been surfeited with news concerning the kidnapping and murder of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.

In the opinion of his humble scribbles there is too much of this sort of thing. But even our own locality occasionally falls in for a bit of the same kind of news articles.

Probably the most noteworthy case of its kind that ever happened in Roxborough, was the unsolved slaying of Valentine Bartle and his wife and daughter on a site remembered by older residents as "Murderer's Hollow."

The little vale lies between Ridge avenue and the Schuylkill and within a week or two it will be covered with a profusion of Spring flowers. A little stream slips down the hillside on its way to the river, and the soil exudes the sharp, pleasant odor of rich loam.

A calmer, lovelier spot would be difficult to imagine. In the perfect quietness nothing is heard but the stream's gurgle the buzzing of insects and the call of birds.

Bartle his wife, and daughter, were slain here on May 3rd, 1848. Their bodies were taken and hidden in a nearby spring-house. And the crime has never been solved. The murderer has never been brought to justice although many false leads

were followed out in the endeavor of local police to bring the case to an end.

Strangely enough, another daughter of the Bartles, who escaped the fate of her parents and sister by being asleep in bed at the time of the horror, afterward grew to womanhood and married a man named George Stover, who was mysteriously killed in uptown Philadelphia.

Time, in its halting, staggering way, creeps on! Next January will mark the tenth anniversary of the last sale of the old Levering Inn, which once stood at Leverington and Ridge avenues, on ground now occupied by the Roxy Theatre.

At the time of the sale, in January of 1927, the Leverington Hotel as it was then known, was in a good state of preservation, although it had almost reached the two century mark. Originally it was called "The Three Tuns", but just why old timers called their hotels after big barrels, is not definitely known. It was owned for almost forty years, previous to the year 1773, by William Levering, who provided the ground on which the present Levering School now stands.

In 1773 he deeded the hotel property to his son, Nathan, according to records in Deed Book No. 13, Page 532. The conveyance was made for "a consideration of natural love and affection," and on the condition that the grantee, Nathan Levering, should provide "a genteel and proper maintenance for him, William Levering, during the balance of his natural life."

The inn was then surrounded by a tract of 41 acres of land owned by William Levering. Nathan conducted the business for the remainder of his life, which was during the Revolutionary War period, in which he escaped from serious

consequences several times, due to run-ins with the forces of the British General, Lord Howe. Levering is openly an avowed sympathizer with the Continentals.

Upon his death the property was divided up, the ground passing into the hands of Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, Levering's son-in-law, and Michael Righter, another son-in-law, both of whom took the old inn and 31 acres of land in 1818, for \$10,000.

In March 1858 the heirs of the clergyman sold the building, with the greatly reduced adjoining lot to Arnold Highley for \$1750. Highley's heirs sold the inn to John Gaiser, in 1884, for \$12,500, and in 1922 the latter's son, Joseph H. Gaiser, on the partition of his father's estate, took the inn for \$60,000. In July of 1926, Gaiser sold the premises to Sarah Mayer for \$120,000; she afterward turning the property over to Felt Brothers, real estate promoters, who demolished the hotel and erected the theatre.

On Monday, a Ripka avenue woman sent to The Suburban Press office, a printed time-table—dated 1890—of the old horse car line on Ridge avenue, known as the Manayunk and Roxborough Inclined Plane and Railway Company.

It appears that it required a full hour for the horse-drawn cars to

travel from Barren Hill to Wissahickon. Time stops were noted at Barren Hill, Car Depot, Domino len, Green lane, Shurs lane and Wissahickon.

C. J. Walton was president of the line, and A. Tibben, superintendent.

SCCAFF

4/2/1935

## MEMOIRS

One of the men of a generation ago who accomplished a great deal for the development of the 21st Ward was Josiah Linton, who passed to the Great Beyond on December 30th, 1912.

Mr. Linton was born at St. John, New Brunswick, on Wednesday, June 24th 1840, being the son of William and Elizabeth (Selfridge) Linton, both of whom were natives of County Tyrone, Ireland, who had first emigrated to Canada, and on October 1851 moved to Philadelphia, where Josiah Linton's father died six weeks after his arrival.

The son obtained his education in odd hours after his working days, which were spent in the woolen mill of his cousin, Robert Selfridge, at 13th and Carpenter streets. He remained at the mill until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, when he was among the first volunteers who responded to the call for troops, enlisting in the 18th Pennsylvania Regiment under Col. W. T. Lewis. Three of his brothers also enlisted about the same time—James S. Linton in the regular army and William and John Linton in the 23rd Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was known as "Barney's Zouaves." William Linton was killed and John Linton wounded, at Fair Oaks, on May 31st, 1862.

On the expiration of his term of service, Josiah Linton returned to Philadelphia and was employed by the Government at the Schuylkill Arsenal for three years. Afterward he tried his hand in two other lines of business, but in Centennial year, 1876, he entered the life work—the sale of shoddy, wool and woolen rags, which he successfully conducted until his death.

In 1889 he was elected a school director of the 21st District, being re-elected two years later. He was afterward a city councilman and a member of the State Legislature.

He was long the superintendent of the Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Sunday School, and also a church officer. He came from the Fourth Presbyterian Church of 12th and Lombard streets, Philadelphia, and joined the Falls congregation, it being at that time the nearest one of his tenets to his home in Wissahickon. This was in 1877, when Dr. Joseph Beggs was pastor of the church. In 1880 he was named the Sunday School superintendent.

He was married on November

17

29th 1877 to Miss Kate S. Heft, second daughter of Jacob D. Heft, manufacturer of Manayunk, and the couple established their residence at Rochelle and Freeland avenues.

One of the earliest residents of Manayunk, who had much to do in shaping the affairs of the community was Sebastian Anthony Rudolph, who died on September 16th, 1915.

Mr. Rudolph was the youngest son of Christian and Mary Anne (Kerns) Rudolph; and was born on Thursday, January 15th, 1829, in the town of Echenheim, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany.

In 1836 he came with his father to America, landing at New York City in October of that year, and after a short stay with relatives in the Nicetown section of Philadelphia, made a permanent settlement at Manayunk. Here he started work on the day following his arrival, in the spinning room of Wagner & Duval's mill, this department at the time being under the foremanship of Thomas Harding. His munificent pay was fifty cents per week. He worked at the mill for nine years, and left to obtain employment in the grocery store of George Plunkett, at Main and Levering streets, where he labored for three years. His next employer was Hugh Curry, grocer, at Levering and Cresson streets, whose business he purchased when he came of age. In 1851 he moved the store to Gay and Baker streets, where he bought the property.

In the following year on January 27th, 1852, he married Catherine Josephine Curry, daughter of Hugh and Jane Curry, of Philadelphia.

In 1863 Mr. Rudolph abandoned the retail trade and became a manufacturer, associating himself in a partnership with Jacob D. Heft, in the Ashland dye wood and chemical works, in West Manayunk. In the fall of 1864 they began to make paper, taking John Dixon into the firm as a practical paper-maker. They installed new machinery and made straw-board, and within a year white paper for newspapers.

In 1867 the buildings were partly destroyed by fire, and shortly afterward the partnership line-up was changed; Mr. Dixon retiring; and Mr. Rudolph, in January of 1868 becoming sole owner through the purchase of Mr. Heft's holdings. He successfully continued the business for a number of years afterward.

In October of 1880, Mrs. Rudolph died, and early the next year Mr. Rudolph retired from active business in favor of his sons, Augustus and Cornelius Rudolph. He made a trip to California and upon his return moved to 15th and Master streets. In the meantime he had been re-married to Miss Annie

Elizabeth Thomas, of Philadelphia. In 1885 he returned to Manayunk and re-organized the paper making firm and again assumed control, continuing it for several years before finally going into retirement.

The Ashland Mills, he it noted, were the second in the United States to manufacture paper from poplar wood by the Dixon process.

Mr. Rudolph was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption church, on Conarroe street, and in politics

was a Democrat, although he never took an active part in its campaigns.

In addition to his manufacturing business, the West Manayunk paper maker was interested in several mining ventures in Colorado.

SCCAFF

11-7-1935

## Looking Backward

One hundred and sixty one years ago, this month, a few hours after the Committee of Correspondence chosen by the citizens of Philadelphia to help discover ways and means of resisting British aggression had met in the State House, 28 men, three of them members of the above-named committee met in Carpenters Hall, where the first Congress had met on September 5th 1774, and associated themselves as the Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia.

This was the first organization of volunteers in America for the purpose of maintaining the rights of the people against the continued oppression by the British Government.

The principal social organizations of the city were represented on the rolls. There were men from the old Colony in Schuylkill, with its castle on the west side of the Schuylkill just above Girard avenue; men of the Fort St. David's Fishing Club, whose blockhouse headquarters stood where the west end of the Reading Company stone bridge at the Falls of Schuylkill now reposes. The blockhouse was later burned by the Hessians. There were also men of the St. Andrew's Society, Sons of St. George, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and men of the Gloucester Fox and Hunt Club who wore brown coats, faced and lined with white, which seems to have been adapted by the Troopers of 1774, who went into the war in rigs very similar to what the huntsmen had formerly worn to hounds.

When General George Washington left Philadelphia to go to Boston to take up his initial command of the Massachusetts soldiers, it was the City Troop which accompanied him as far as Kingsbridge, N. Y., where the thoroughfare now called Broadway crosses the Harlem River.

The Troop's service in 1776 drew from Washington a letter of commendation, around which evolved one of the strangest episodes of the Troop's long and honorable career.

The letter, received by Captain Samuel Morris, was retined by him and his descendants until 1866, when the First City Troop, the modern name of the old Light Horse, decided that it was the property of the Troop itself, rather

than of its former captain and his heirs.

Lengthy litigation ensued, with the case finally ending with the document still belonging to the Elliston P. Morris estate.

Said a real old man the other day: "I can easily recall my father telling me of the incorporation of all the boroughs of Philadelphia County into what is now the City of Philadelphia. It was in 1854. The Thirteenth Police District, now one of two in the 21st Ward, was originally directed by the late William Adams, of Manayunk. The district extended over all of the 21st Ward, which until 1868, included the territory now embraced in the 21st, 28th, 32nd, 37th and 38th Wards.

"When one thinks of the changes which have taken place in this area in the time between 1868 and now, and compares the present conditions he is almost led to wish that the old days were back again. And yet how would the people of these times get along without the modern improvements and conveniences? The enlarged city was but five years old when the Old Ridge turnpike was torn up for the construction of the horse car line, the first car running from the depot at Ridge and Columbia avenues, where they connected with the Girard College line, to James street—now Stanton street—in the Falls, on the afternoon of July 3rd 1859. Two months later we Manayunkers saw the cars rolling into our home town.

"The old roadhouses used to be open on Sundays in those days before the Civil War. One of the first acts of Mayor Robert T. Conrad, after assuming his duties was to issue an order closing all such places and to arrest persons found drunk on the streets. This order was successfully carried out by Lieutenant Adams, head of the police, as well as by the law enforcers in the other 12 districts, and was largely instrumental in later electing Richard Vaux, a resident of this locality, who was the Democratic candidate at the next election.

"How could the people of today get along without paved and lighted streets, without water flowing into their homes? Prior to the Consolidation the homes were illuminated by candles, camphene fluid or lard oil lamps. The trolley car came to supersede the horse car and now the motor bus and electric train are in use, with greater speed and comfort.

"What will the people of 1954, a hundred years after the Consolidation have that they didn't have in 1854? Perhaps they'll get back to the tax rate of those days, much of which we've been hearing a lot about lately?"

The reference to Lieutenant William Adams, of the old 13th Police District, brings to mind another "copper" of the time which has fled into the past. This was William Henry Lush, who also held the rank of Lieutenant. He was born in Manayunk on July 23rd, 1843, and after attending the public schools, learned the trade of

steel plate engraving and printing. On August 23rd, 1862 he enlisted as a private in Company "C," 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry, sometimes known as "Anderson's Cavalry," in which he served 3 years. At the close of the war he returned to live in Roxborough and engaged in the paper stock business, with offices at Delaware avenue and Spruce street. He was appointed a patrolman in the 13th District, by Mayor William Stokley, on March 6th 1872.

During Mayor King's administration he was a special officer, and in May of 1884 he was promoted to a serjeancy by Mayor Smith. When Lieutenant Allison left the Manayunk station, in 1896, Lush was assigned by Director Riter to take charge.

SCCAFF

1935

## Changes Being Made In Upper Roxborough

Improvements Come Slowly in Territory Above Port Royal Avenue

PATIENCE NEEDED

Pessimistic Critics Never Dwell Long on Any One Subject

"What can he do, that others cannot do?"

This is a remark that is often heard from people who would belittle the work of other men and women.

It is whispered about pioneers in all fields of endeavor; the athlete, the national leader, the clergyman, the introducer of new agricultural methods, the changer of the old order, the inventor of an automobile, an airplane or a radio.

Yet Time goes on and these things come to pass. The mocker lives through the various eras, but is blind to what's going on around him, for his eyes and tongue have found different things and people to criticize and condemn. The world, the Nation, the State, the community and living conditions of men, however, do progress.

These thoughts crowd in on us when we look back on Upper Roxborough and its appearance in 1875.

Where the 10th milestone on Ridge avenue is still located a large tract of land, running back to the 22nd Ward line, belonged to George Rapine. There has been little change there for it is still an open field.

Strolling down the east side of Ridge road toward the centre of Roxborough, the man of 1875 saw

that adjoining Rapine's land was that of the Cregar estate, bisected by Bells' Mill Road. Thomas lane cut back on an angle from Bells' Mill road to Manatawna avenue, with George Shock owning the corner tract at Thomas lane and Manatawna avenue.

Where the gasoline station is located today, was the ground owned by George Rex. Next to this, on Ridge road, were William Germ, and George Bartle. Joseph Bickins owned a house on Manatawna avenue. All told there were but 19 buildings on the land east of Ridge road to the Wissahickon Creek, between City Line and the north side of Manatawna avenue.

Continuing our imaginary jaunt of 1875, down the same side of Ridge road, in the order named, starting from Manatawna avenue and down to Port Royal avenue, were the properties of John Rex, Samuel B. Linton, George Loyle, the Keely estate, Manatawna Baptist Church, Henry Root, Albert Aull, John Marks, William C. Hamilton, a Mr. Steele, Abel Green, and Mrs. Knouse. Around the corner on the north side of Port Royal avenue, at the rear of Mrs. Knouse's property, was a blacksmith shop. William C. Hamilton, A Loyle and John Marks owned the land on the north side of Port Royal avenue back to Township Line road. Twenty-five buildings of all descriptions, including a church and a blacksmith shop were all there was between Manatawna avenue and Port Royal avenue, east of the Ridge road.

Crossing Ridge road, at Port Royal avenue, and walking back on the west side of the Ridge, we could have seen tracts owned by Reuben Layre, James F. Nicholas, the horse car depot on Lilly's land, John Crawford, the Tartars, Markley, Rex, Thomas Dixon, J. Bickens, George Layre, Andrew Markley, the Manatawna public school, Reuben Shinkel, Wolf, Robert Corbit, Mary Roberts, Sebald, Anthony Triple, William McFadden, Mrs. Markley and Samuel Grubb. There was a blacksmith shop on the Crawford holding.

In the rear of these properties were lands owned by Hiram Johnson—below Manatawna avenue—and Daniel Wolf, William McFadden and George Freas between Manatawna avenue and the City Line. They extended back to what was Mill road. In this whole spreading acreage there were 59 buildings.

Several years ago the Houstons purchased much of the land in the area we have described, some of which is now owned by the Episcopal Church officers of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Developments were promised. A year went by. And still another twelvemonth. Then came the impatient critics. "Why isn't it done?" is the question which issued from the lips of the folk who expect miracles to be wrought overnight.

Henry avenue and a cross highway from Chestnut Hill to Bryn Mawr has been planned to open up the upper end of Roxborough. "Let's have these things done immediately!" cry the thoughtless ones who forget that all sorts of

barriers, physical, financial, political and of the selfishly-inspired man-made kinds have to be overcome. Haste must be made slowly.

Drive up through that part of Roxborough today, especially noting the changes and improvements being made in the new Spring Lane section. Things are beginning to happen, and soon the critics will have to turn to some other project pioneer of which to ask "What can he do, that others cannot do?"

The "others" have not made much progress in Upper Roxborough in the past sixty years. Who imagines that in 1995—sixty years in the future—that the identical neighborhood will hold the same appearance that it does today?

SCCAFF

12-26-29

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

Sarah Pearson, 3825 Olive street, and Henry A. Dennis, 241 Dupont street.

Josephine Sheilas, 1308 South 2nd street, and Stanley Pulkowsky, 130 Grape street.

Margaret Richardson, Rex avenue, and Edward Warren, 1743 N. 22nd street.

Rose S. Klotermann, 167 Krams avenue, and Harry M. Hill, Manayunk.

Margaret M. Flanigan, 3408 Sunnyside avenue, and George J. Pilon, 3626 Calumet street.

8-22-29

### MINISTER MARRIES

Rev. Frank G. Bossert, pastor of the Roxborough Presbyterian church, and Miss Ruth Levering Faust, of Roxborough, were united in marriage last Wednesday afternoon by the Rev. Z. M. Gibson, of Shawmont avenue. The ceremony was performed in the church, of which Rev. Mr. Gipson formerly was pastor.

The bride wore an attractive gown of blue crepe de chine, a tulip hat, black slippers and stockings. She carried a bouquet of white roses.

Rev. and Mrs. Bossert will be at home early in September.

1/2/1930

### GET LAST LICENSES

Clerk Miller, of the Orphans' Court, who issues the marriage licenses at City Hall, announced that the following couples from this section were the last to receive marriage licenses for the year of 1929.

Anna M. Lenox, 4244 Terrace street, Manayunk, and Clayton E. Whitman, 477 Minerva avenue, were the couple from the 21st Ward; and Margaret Morrison, 4440 Ridge avenue, and Harry Redrup, 4440 Ridge avenue, were the pair from the East Falls section. The Suburban Press wishes both couples a Happy New Year.

2/20/36

# Observes Youth And Nonchalance

## Growing Generation Takes For Granted Many Things That Were Wonderful to Their Parents.—Telephone Is One Example.

One of the interesting things observed in the cock-sure attitudes of the young people of today is their nonchalant manner of accepting things as they are, just as though existing conditions have always prevailed.

The reproduction and transmission of the human voice, the motion picture, color photography, the airplane, the radio, electricity and the labor-saving devices it has made possible, chemistry, medical and surgical progress, are all ordinary accomplishments to the boys and girls of this age.

Little do they know of the thrill that came with the introduction of any one of these great advances, despite their boasted modernity. To what can they turn for excitement? To old fundamentals, which interested our first parents:—sex, dancing, music, self-expression, over indulgence of appetites, and

what have you. All the new inventions have been taken for granted, just as if they had always been here.

A case in point was brought to mind through an editorial which appeared in a local newspaper, on June 23rd 1882, which read as follows:

"The reason that Manayunk so often gets the name of being a one-horse town is that its principal business men are so difficult to rouse up to anything like concerted and vigorous action in reference to public measures. Other towns no larger, and some not so large, go right in for good roads, hospitals, telephones and other modern improvements and civilizing agencies; while in most or all of these respects our leading citizens, of we have any such, are content to stick in the mud and let the town do the same.

"Take the matter of the telephone, for instance. Two firms, the Flat Rock Paper Mills and the Ripka Mills, have each a private wire to the city. But this must be very expensive comparatively, when a single wire would do for a dozen or twenty firms, which could then put in the necessary receivers and transmitters at a small additional cost. Wonderful as the telegraph is, even that has been supplanted by the telephone in carrying messages for short distances—a convenience that Frankford, for instance, has enjoyed for over a year.

"To bring the matter to a point, we should be willing to take and keep a list of names of those individuals or firms who are willing to unite in securing this great convenience for Manayunk, informing

all from time to time of the progress of the feeling in its favor. One important firm is already on this list, and we should think that at least twenty others would see their way clear to join some such arrangement, and thus have an instantaneous connection with their city offices or agents. Shall we have the telephone?"

Two weeks later the same newspaper carried the added editorial which appears below:

"It is gratifying to notice that a single forty line editorial in this paper has produced immediate fruit, and in a few days we shall have the telephone in active service. A meeting was held on Friday last at which the superintendent of the Bell Telephone Company was present, and it was decided to commence operations at once. New posts will not be erected, but those now standing will be rented for the purpose, at \$90 per mile for the three wires—a total of \$720 per annum."

So, while it is not believed that humankind has reached the end of its destiny and no more inventions can come into use, the younger people should realize that the generation ahead of them has done and seen much that will leave little for those of future years to do, except to develop the use of their thumbs for push-buttons, and be able to walk straight across the path of an invisible beam.

workers at the Empress, all of whom attended the wedding.

Following the ceremony a banquet was served at 2 p. m. and a reception was held in Polonia Hall at 7.30, at which a ten piece orchestra was engaged to entertain the guests, more than 4000 of whom paid their respects to the bride during the course of the evening.

The wedding gifts were on display during the reception and it was necessary to procure a truck in order to take all the gifts home.

The newlyweds are now on their honeymoon, a trip to Montreal, Quebec, and home by way of Rhode Island, where they will visit relatives in Providence.

Mr. C. Raymonda, father of the bride, gave her away, and the wedding party was as follows: First best man, Chester Raymonda; other best men, Anthony Curcio, Louis Curcio, Salvatore Labiola and John Raymonda; matron of honor, Mary Curcio; bridesmaids, Viola Curcio, Mary Veto, Eloira DiNumbi, and Louise Iademarco. Flower girl, Constance Burrows. Ring bearer, Francis Sickinger.

The magnificent wedding cake was a product of Whitaker's Bakery, and David Seeger was on board with his camera.

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June 4/26/1928

12-5-1929

## MISS RAYMONDA NOW MRS. CURCIO

### First High Mass Wedding Performed in Saint Lucy's Church

### MANY GIFTS RECEIVED

Miss Louisa Raymonda and Paul A. Curcio, were united in the first Solemn High Mass wedding ceremony held in the new St. Lucy's Roman Catholic church on Wednesday, April 18 at 11 o'clock in the morning by Monsignor Eugene Murphy. Nearly 1500 people crowded every available space in the beautifully decorated church to witness the ceremony, one of the most elaborate and beautiful ever held in Manayunk.

Before her marriage Mrs. Curcio was, for six years, the cashier at the Empress theatre and the number of her friends was legion and the depth of their affection for her as well as their number, was attested by the truck-load of presents which she received. Seventeen lamps surely ought to keep the Curcio home well illuminated for a long time, and that number were received by the happy couple.

A magnificent silver service expressed the sentiment for the bride by her former

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

Bertha Slavinski, 190 Baldwin street, and Gerald E. McKinney, Glastonbury, N. Y.

The following marriage licenses were granted to residents of West Manayunk at Norristown Court House last Monday.

Giuseppe Olivero, and Rose D. Cristipino; Theodore J. KingKiner, National Park, N. J., and Mary Neels, of West Manayunk, and Joseph Boyl, of Gladwyn, and Frances E. Lowry Collingsdale.

Elsie G. Buesser, 4323 Lauriston street, and Joseph T. Schuller, 846 Perkiomen street.

Genevieve A. Gdowik, 127 Seville street and Harry J. Zimmer, Conshohocken.

Alice E. Kehoe, 7615 Ridge avenue, and Irving T. Cannon, 1903 W. Allegheny avenue.

Ida M. Kennedy, 5734 Walton street, and George S. Tippin, 483 Gerhart

P-22-29

### WED AT MEDIA

A marriage license was granted last Tuesday at the Delaware County Court House, to George A. Gessner 710 Rising Sun avenue, and Alice G. Stewart, 4309 Pechin street.

3/31/32

# Roxborough Trust Company Inventory Is Made Public

Appears to Have Been in a Much Stronger Position Than Most of the Closed Banks. — \$1,655,653 Left After Appraisal Is Made

Assets of the closed Roxborough Trust Company, Ridge avenue and Green lane, show a shrinkage of almost 50 per cent. in the inventory and appraisal of the trust company's affairs, filed last Saturday with the prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas.

The bank closed on October 13, 1931. A notice posted on the doors blamed public hysteria and the withdrawal of deposits, and indicated that the Board of Directors of the bank decided to close the doors to protect depositors.

Since the closing of the bank and the placing of its affairs in liquidation no payments have been made to depositors. The accounting filed by Dr. Gordon shows the following comparisons in book and appraised valuations:

BOOK VALUE	
Cash on hand .....	\$ 46,353.18
Due from other banks ..	18,712.47
Checks and cash items ..	73.34
Loans and discounts ....	630,282.05
Securities .....	1,030,014.13
Mortgages .....	479,265.00
Other real estate .....	135,395.65
Overdue note accts. ....	3,436.00
Banking houses .....	158,308.01
Vaults .....	21,522.20
Furniture & fixtures ....	46,476.52
Overdrafts .....	44.99
Other assets .....	2,846.92
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,770,930.46</b>

APPRAISED VALUE	
Cash on hand .....	\$ 46,353.18
Due from other banks ..	18,712.47
Checks and cash items ..	25.34
Loans and discounts ....	499,561.38
Securities .....	540,686.76
Mortgages .....	268,410.00
Other real estate .....	86,460.60
Overdue note accts. ....	
Banking houses .....	69,605.00
Vaults .....	1,000.00
Furniture & fixtures ....	1,504.35
Overdrafts .....	14.99
Other assets .....	1,094.33
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,655,653.39</b>

The following figures also are given as of the day the bank closed.

Individual deposits .....	\$ 363,059.31
Com. of Pa. ....	25,000.00
Certified checks .....	294.03
Treasurer's checks .....	50.22
Drafts outstanding .....	458.27
Dividends unpaid .....	30.00

Total demand deposits ..	\$ 388,891.73
Saving fund .....	801,791.99
Certificates of deposit (time) .....	138,823.36
Christmas club unpaid (1928) .....	179.08
Christmas club unpaid (1929) .....	11.52
Christmas club unpaid (1930) .....	2.49
Christmas club unpaid (1931) .....	93,176.50
<b>Total time deposits ...</b>	<b>\$1,031,984.94</b>

The report also shows loss offsets

applicable to loans and discounts as follows: Demand deposits, \$76,564.39, and time deposits, \$31,131.01; bills payable (secured by pledge of securities and loans, \$484,000, and mortgage participation certificates, \$25,000; a total of \$617,695.40.

The discrepancy between the itemized list and the totals indicated is explained by failure to include minor items in the listing.

## DIRECTS TWO BANKS



CHARLES I. ENGARD

Special agent for the State Banking Department in charge of the Manayunk Trust Co., has also been appointed to take charge of the Roxborough Trust Co. affairs.

8-22-29

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Margaret M. Butz, 4176 Ridge avenue, and John Regetta, 4375 Manayunk avenue.

Mary Wiktor, 183 Levering street, and Bronislav Andruszka, 182 Levering street.

Ruth L. Faust, 7910 Ridge avenue, and Frank G. Bossert, 8232 Ridge avenue.

Norita A. Misahon, 23899 Midvale avenue, and Henry A. Steubig, 5544 Girard avenue.

Elizabeth F. Demming, 2630 Gumberland street, and Oliver E. Hanson, 4429 Main street.

June 4/12/1928

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## J. P. BUTTON WEDS BARREN HILL GIRL

Wedding of Miss Kathryn G. Hesley Takes Place in Barren Hill

### J. T. HENDREN BEST MAN

A wedding of much interest to Roxborough residents was that of Miss Kathryn Gray Hesley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hesley, of Ridge Pike, Barren Hill, and John Parker Button, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Button, of 462 Martin street, Roxborough, which took place on Monday, April 9, at 4 o'clock in St. Peter's Lutheran church, Barren Hill. Rev. E. A. Chamberlain, pastor of Grace Lutheran church, Trenton, N. J., and former pastor of the Barren Hill church, officiated, assisted by the present pastor, Rev. H. M. Bower.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and had as her maid of honor, Miss Kay Kahoe, of Germantown Pike, Barren Hill. The bridesmaids were Miss Isabel MacRae, of Chestnut Hill, and Miss Margaret Jones, of Germantown Pike, Barren Hill.

Edith Morris Button, a sister of groom rendered several beautiful vocal selections.

Joseph T. Hendren, of Mitchell street, Roxborough was the the groomsmen and the ushers were John Keever, of Mitchell street and Lyceum avenue, Roxborough, and Harry Fleming, of Grape street, Roxborough.

The color scheme of the bridal party was a combination of pastel shades in pale green, orchid and daffodil.

One hundred and fifty invitations were issued to the wedding and to the wedding supper, which followed the ceremony at the home of the bride. The new Mrs. Button, is a graduate of Conshohocken High School and studied professional nursing at Chestnut Hill Hospital.

8-22-29

## MARRIED AT ELKTON

Dominic F. Curcio, of Manayunk, and Miss Elizabeth H. Rawson, 2717 West Allegheny avenue, were married at Elkton, Md., on Monday.

2-25-29

## ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. George G. Littlewood, of 445 Lyceum avenue, Roxborough, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Katherine Littlewood and Mr. Harry G. Rieger, son of Mrs. Sophia Rieger, of Germantown.

11/16/33

# Now and Then

"How do you imagine we live on the pay we receive?" was the question that was put to us, by a Roxborough bluecoat, last Saturday.

Frankly, we don't know. These men, who are appointed to guard our lives and property and keep us from breaking laws, so that we won't deliberately or involuntarily "step on our neighbors' toes," are grossly underpaid. There is no doubt of that. And it's a wonder that the personnel of the force retains as high a standard as it does, under the existing conditions. Mayor Moore, may prate about economy all he pleases, but there are dozens of impractical jobs where he could pare down the city payrolls in order to better remunerate these public guardians.

Thinking about the integrity of "the force," and turning the matter over in our mind, we happened to think of an old book that was presented to us several years ago, by a good friend, which details the history of the Philadelphia police bureau, from its beginning in the time of William Penn, to the year 1887.

And in the volume there is a list of the old officers of the 13th (Manayunk, Roxborough and Wissahickon) District, which is interesting to peruse.

In 1887 Albert C. Allison was the Lieutenant, (then the commanding officer) of the 13th District. Allison was born in Manayunk on June 24th, 1844. He enlisted in Company I of the 122nd Pennsylvania Volunteers and served three months. He was appointed a patrolman, by Mayor Stokley, on July 13th, 1876; promoted to a sergenty in the 13th District, in October of 1878, and made a Lieutenant in March, 1881.

The station house at that time was located where the public bath house, on Station street, Manayunk, is now situated. The district, now the 13th and 43rd districts, comprised all of the 21st Ward, and at that time the section contained 25,000 inhabitants and numerous manufacturing plants.

The district sergeant, under Lieutenant Allison in 1887, was Robert H. Ward, who was been in 1842 and also served in the army. He was appointed to the force, by Mayor Stokley, in 1872 and was promoted to be sergeant in 1881.

Other sergeants were William H. Lush, Philadelphia born and a Civil War veteran. He was appointed in 1872 and became a sergeant in 1884; Levi S. Reger, detailed for duty at the Roxborough sub-station, was a Philadelphian, and was a war veteran, appointed in June and promoted in October of the same year; Lewis J. Dunlap, a Philadelphia war veteran, appointed as a telegraph operator by Mayor McMichael in 1868; William H. Hornby, a native of Delaware, who also served in

the Civil War, appointed by Mayor Stokley in 1875 and promoted in 1884; Winfield S. Lawrence, at the Roxborough substation, born in Philadelphia, in 1853, appointed to the force in 1876, and promoted in 1884; Samuel Thornton, a naturalized Englishman, who had served in the U. S. Army, appointed in 1873, resigned in 1876; re-appointed in 1878 and promoted in 1887.

The patrolmen were: James W. Kenworthy, Robert Whitesides, Harry White, George Moyer, George Glanding, John Kline, William Jones, William Green, Arthur Roberts, Timothy Clegg, Charles Watson, Henry Swartley, Peter Metzler, Daniel S. Jacoby, John Uttley, Harry F. Reibel, David Rowley, John Kinder, John B. Dunnohew, John R. Highley, Charles Rousher, Jacob R. Nice, Augustus Peterman, George Painter, Bartholomew Welsh, Richard Bodke, James Fullerton, August Reese, William McKane, Joseph Pontius, Alfred A. Bowen, Henry Kinder, Israel S. Greene, Samuel Levering, Daniel Desmond, Casper Strelbig, Samuel Robinson and Thomas J. Winn.

Most of the above men were veterans of the Civil War, and a greater part of them were residents of the vicinity in which they labored.

SCCAFF

7-26-34

# Now and Then

Eyes of few motorists who travel up along Ridge avenue miss the neatly-pointed Roxborough Presbyterian Church, which stands near the corner of what is now Port Royal avenue.

Started originally as a mission from the Dutch Reformed Church of Manayunk - - now the Fourth Reformed, located at Manayunk and Monastery avenues - - - first services were held in Upper Roxborough, in 1833, by the Rev. Samuel Bumstead. These were held in "the little Yellow Schoolhouse," on East Shawmont avenue, at Wise's Mill Road.

Later, John Hagy, proprietor of the Green Tree Hotel, gave a half acre of land for church building purposes, and it is on this land that the present structure stands.

The Roxborough Presbyterian Church was organized after the consistory and members of the Church had voted unanimously to dissolve relationship with the Dutch Reformed Church, and to affiliate with the Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church.

At the Spring meeting of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, held at Chestnut Hill on April 19th, 1954, the Roxborough Presbyterian Church was received into membership. Rev. Dr. Joseph Beggs, then a student at Princeton, was elected to supply the church, and the following Board of Elders and Deacons were chosen: Elders, Peter Streeper, John Hagy, Francis H. Latch, Valentine Keely; Deacons, John Levering, Joseph Layre,

Christian Rex, and Charles Keely. Dr. Beggs became pastor on May 17th 1855, and served until April 23rd 1868, when he became pastor of the Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church. With Dr. Beggs, the following members left the Roxborough Church and went to the Falls Presbyterian Church: Mrs. Beggs, Matthew Fulton, Alexander and Matilda Wilson, Elizabeth Johnson, William and Agnes Arrot, Agnes Hogg, Maria and Emily Culp, Laura Kephart, Angela C. Brenchley and Sarah Crawford.

Among the early pastors of the Roxborough Presbyterian Church were: Revs. Charles H. Ewing, Samuel Phillips, William A. Patton, W. E. Westervelt, Charles A. Oliver, John R. Sanson, J. C. Harvey, and M. F. Duncan. Others served in the interim between the pastorate of the last named and the present pastor, Rev. Frank G. Bossert.

During the time in which Rev. Samuel Phillips served as the clergyman, the spire was added to the church building. When land was condemned in 1894 by the city, for the Roxborough reservoir, a portion of the church property, including the parsonage which was on Port Royal avenue, was taken. The present parsonage, on Ridge avenue, on the site of the one-time Green Tree Tavern, was formerly a mansion house owned by the Houston estate.

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There are still living in the 21st Ward many men, who as boys, received their elementary education under the tutelage of Robert T. (Dad) Murphy, in the old Green lane school. The name of Murphy linked with schooling in this section is a familiar one.

And strange to state, the present principal of the William Levering School, at Ridge avenue and Gerhard street, is a descendant relative of (Dad) Murphy.

However, another by the name of Murphy - - Francis Murphy, was an earlier and prominent teacher in the old Levering School. A native of Ireland, Francis Murphy, had charge of as high as 100 pupils at one time. He heard classes in all branches from the A. B. C's to trigonometry, the children going to his desk in the crowded room for their recitations. After giving up teaching school, Murphy became the Justice of Peace in Manayunk, and died there in 1855. One of Schoolmaster Murphy's pupils was Horatio Gates Jones who in 1880, related the following recollection of his school days:

"I remember the smile-provoking joviality of Squire Murphy, who had a notable way of rubbing his hands whenever a good thing was about to be uttered - - and I have a strong reason for remembering still better a small round mahogany ruler which besides being used for copy books and deeds was too often applied to bare hand or harder head of some unruly urchin - - if the term unruly can be properly applied to an urchin who felt that same ruler at least once a day."

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3/23/33

# Roxborough Men Played A Part In Fight For Freedom

## Company Organized in This Vicinity to Oppose British First Assembled in Building That Was Located on Site of Levering School

Funds for the sustenance of needy families, and the work of committees for distributing such monies are not new in this section, although the present-day resident may think so.

Away back in the days of the American Revolution, in August 1776, to be exact, it appears that one Nathan Levering, of Roxborough, was appointed one of a number of persons to "distribute money for the support of poor women and children who are left destitute by husbands and fathers now in the service." The quotation is from the records of the Committee of Safety for Philadelphia County, where some of the history of the Roxborough Company of men who entered the American army is cited.

It is interesting to be able to trace the program of the Roxborough soldiers during the Revolution but occupying as they did, a position similar to other small companies like them, it is almost impossible to collect many facts concerning their doings. However there are brief references of the part they played in the forming of the Nation which are occasionally brought to light.

Roxborough Township in the days of the fight for freedom, it must be remembered extended from Barren Hill to Indian Queen lane, so that a great portion of the village of the Falls, was included in the territory involved.

The captain of the Roxborough Company, whose name cannot be definitely ascertained, due probably to several having served in that capacity, was at one time at least a miller who lived along the Wissahickon. Henry Hill, a wine merchant of Philadelphia, who lived on what was then known as "The Roxborough Plantation", now familiar as "Carlton", where General Washington had his headquarters when the Continentals were encamped on the Queen Lane Reservoir site, on Queen lane, left some notes in a letter book, which were inscribed by a clerk named Marion Lamar, one of which, dated May 20th, 1775, reads: "Mr. Hill mustered in a troop of light horse;" and under date of October 3rd, 1775, he says: "I have nothing to do at present but muster and we have got around about Roxborough an active and well disciplined Company."

When orders came for the men of this vicinity to join the American army, in the year 1776, all classes assembled in the Roxbor-

ough School House, (the original William Levering School), and a witness left the information that there was great enthusiasm on the occasion. Ignorant of warfare the men secured the services of a man named Payne, who had once served in the British Army, and for some days they were drilled by him. This, it is said, was performed on a field behind the house of one

George W. Hipple, who it is supposed resided somewhere along Ridge avenue, near the present Fountain street.

After such preparation as they received, and the fond farewells to wives, mothers, children and families, the soldiers marched down Ridge road, trailed by their kin and neighbors, until they reached the heights of Wissahickon, which is now Righter street. Here they halted and beseeched their friends to go home.

Then, as they were about to part from their husbands and sons, the women are said to have knelt down in the highway and commended the little band of patriots to the protection of the "God of Battles." This incident was commemorated by the late Rev. Charles W. Dennison, who had served in this locality, in the following verses:

### THE ROCKS OF INVOCATION

The blast of the trumpet rang shrill on the air,  
The War Spirit sprang from his mountain lair;  
His legions all serried and eager for fight,  
Swept the passes like eagles on victory's flight.

From the glens and the hillsides came for the fray,  
The youth with dark locks—the sire in gray;  
Where tall, stalwart manhood, arrayed in an hour,  
Saw the red front of battle exultingly lower.

They came in their haste, at the tap of the drums,  
As the clap at the burst of a thunder-bolt come,  
The foot prints of tyrants to wash from the sod,  
Which they'd sworn to keep sacred to freedom of God.

They marshalled their ranks by their own native trees,  
Where their rude-fashioned ensigns were flung to the breeze;  
And they sounded their bugles and shouted aloud,

That their land would be free or its flag be a shroud.

23

But hark! What shrill echoes comes answering back,  
'Tis the wild shriek of women who kneel in their track—  
Their mothers, their wives, and their daughters, who cry—  
'Ah, turn not thus from us, in battle to die!'

They fell on their necks, and the warm tears fell down  
On the cheeks that with tollings of Freedom were found,  
And the brave bosom heaved as it bore up the head  
Of the loved one the soldier had plighted and wed.

"But no! for the summons to conflict was heard,  
And within him the soul of the patriot stirred;  
Then they fell on their knees, with the ardent-breathed prayer  
That the dread God of Battles would strengthen them there.

"And they rose—with the tears on their cheeks standing yet,  
Which the true love of women, with torrents, had wet;  
With their eyes on their flags, and their hands on their blades,  
They shouted again—and were lost in the glade."

At the time of the Battle of Germantown, which extended west as far as Ridge avenue, the Roxborough Company was stationed on a bridge, presumably over the Wissahickon Creek, behind some fence rails which they had thrown up in a pile. The British were not far off and were firing at the local soldiers pretty sharply. As one of the men—Joseph Sturges—raised his head, a bullet passed through his ear. The pain and the surprise were too much for him, and he cried out at the top of his voice, "Boys, we will all be killed!"

Of the subsequent movements of the company, little is known, and the list of the names of the men who served with it is not at all complete. Aged people who lived here during the Revolution, related what they could of the happenings of that period to younger folk, who also grew old and handed the information down to us of today. Comparison of the various notes makes it almost sure that the following men were members of this Roxborough Company: Jacob Culp, Anthony Coak, Peter Cuspin, Samuel Holgate, Matthew Holgate, William Holgate, Christopher Ozias, George Bloom, Daniel Righter, Joseph Sturges, John Tibben, Henry Tibben, Aaron Levering, Anthony Levering, Enoch Levering, Jacob Levering, John Levering, Joseph Starna and a man named Potts. Of course there must have been more on the roll of the company, but the above were mentioned in several records, so that it is fairly certain that these particular men were members of the little band.

SCCAFF.

7/21/33

## Now and Then

There is little doubt that the present financial situation which exists throughout the country is the greatest through which the American people have ever had to go. This statement is made despite the memories of old folk who attempt to make a comparison between their experiences in other "panics" and the present economic condition which is without parallel.

But with everything as it is, there is a spirit of liberality among the greater part of the men and women, than has ever been evidenced before.

Proof of this is found in the report of the Memorial Hospital lawn fete, which was published in this newspaper last week. Katherine L. Cochrane, treasurer of the Ladies Aid, of the Hospital, the group which annually conducts the great outdoor carnival, sums up of receipts for last month's lawn party at \$2,977.13.

Back in 1916, during boom years when the factories of the United States were running full tilt making war supplies for the Allies, and wages rising weekly, no such success was registered. For the report of the lawn party of that year discloses that the total receipts were \$1,936.23.

And as a sort of explanatory note at the bottom of the statement was the following paragraph: Special thanks are due to the Philadelphia Electric Company, United Gas Improvement Company, Glen Willow Ice Manufacturing Company, Manayunk police, Boy Scouts, Adams Band, Kester's Orchestra, St. Timothy's Mens' Bible Class, William P. Stroud, James Eckersley and every friend of the Hospital who contributed to make this affair the splendid success it was."

"Twas back in January of 1917 that the first public appeals for the erection of a High School in Roxborough were made. In an editorial one newspaper stated: "Nearly three hundred from this (21st) Ward are attending High School. Doubtless there would be many more if a High School were located here. Germantown wants an annex to their High School building, and partly because they expect more pupils from this ward in February Will we pay tax to build and annex in Germantown and keep mum? Will we quietly submit to pay car-fares for hundreds of our boys and girls, and with the lack of transportation facilities which shame this ward? Are not the boys and girls morally safer at home than on these long trolley trips? Will you continue to quietly submit to these impositions and let other parts of the city enjoy all the advantages? Do you expect the authorities to come and ask us what we want?"

And now that High School, which came into being through united efforts of a determined people is too large to care for the small number of senior high school students, and far too small to accommodate the

great junior high school population. The pupils should be segregated. That means another high school for the seniors. And this should be located nearer the centre of the Eighth School District - - - somewhere in Wissahickon - - - where taxpaying residents of East Falls may send their children without having to pay carfares. Then there would probably be sufficient room for the Junior High students at the Ridge avenue and Fountain street building. Incidentally, it is believed that the Roxborough High School is the only combination education centre in the city.

With dissatisfaction creeping through the ranks of the dyed-in-the-wool political workers, there will more than likely be an upheaval in political circles this fall. And if not then, there will be next year. Mark that down as a prediction. For the independent voters are arousing themselves and preparing to go on the war path.

And their fight against the regularly organized forces can be successful. It has been done before.

Back in the days, after the United States entered the World War, when patriotic feelings ran high, there was one grand upset in the 21st Ward, which is still remembered. This was in the days of the old Town Meeting Party, which on Election Day in November of 1917, swept the Ward, as it was never done before nor since.

The Town Meeting Party was made up of voters of the independent Republican and Democrat groups, with the Councilmanic candidates from Roxborough, Wissahickon and Manayunk being Dr. Richard L. Entwistle for Select Councils; James Stott and Thomas Martin for Common Councils.

The Republican candidates were Tom Mackleer, for Select Councils; and Messrs. Dorwart and Anderson for Common Councils.

The Twenty first Ward, then made up of 30 Divisions, gave Entwistle a majority of 500 votes, more or less, over Mackleer. Stott's figures were 2884, Martin's 2825 and the vote for Anderson totaled 2437 and Dorwart came through with 2360.

In the old 16th Division, Entwistle polled 169 votes to Mackleer's 69, while the 11th Division, was the latter's stronghold, giving the Republican 124 votes to the Town Meeting candidate's 108.

The 11th was also Anderson's best bet, for the ballots there rolled up a count of 131 for him. Dorwart's strongest division was the 21st, which gave him 135 tallies. Tom Martin, the Democratic Town Meetinger rolled up a splendid vote in the old 16th Division, 157 voters there marking their O. K. on his candidacy. Stott, too, was a popular choice in the 16th, he registering 167 votes.

And with the unrest that is now prevalent, there is little telling what may happen when the next election rolls around. Or if not the next one, it will be very soon. For the customs, habits, reasoning and concern of the average voter is changing, and sooner or later there is bound to be felt the effect, of all this, at the voting places.

## BILTMIRE—McCORMICK

On Saturday morning, November 9th, the church of St. John the Baptist was the scene of a very pretty wedding, when Miss Marie McCormick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. McCormick, of 4324 Manayunk avenue, Roxborough, and Mr. Albert Biltmire, of Atlantic City, N. J., were united in marriage.

The ceremony was performed before a large assemblage of guests by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Eugene Murphy, who also celebrated the solemn Nuptial Mass. Rev. Joseph Curran was Deacon and the Rev. James McBride was sub-Deacon. Rev. P. H. McGinnis and Rev. P. J. Gallagher were in the Sanctuary. The choral organ and violin numbers by the choir were exquisitely rendered, under the direction of Mrs. Mary McK Makem.

The bride, who was beautiful in an ivory satin gown with a princess cap of rare lace and a long tulle veil, was given in marriage by her father. Her sister, Miss Eleanor McCormick, as maid of honor and her only attendant was a picture in a lovely gown of egg-shell taffeta combined with cardinal red, her hat and bouquet of the red.

Mr. Harry Cunningham, of Roxborough, acted as best man, and Messrs. James Byrne and John Doyle were the ushers.

Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held at the Manayunk Club, where a delicious breakfast was served to over two-hundred guests. An orchestra played selections during the repast and remained for the dancing later.

Showers with much rice and good wishes, the happy couple left for an extended honeymoon through the South. After December 9th, they will be at home in their new residences, 111 North Avolyn avenue, Ventnor, N. J.

9-19-29

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Catherine J. Bullock, 809 N. Franklin street, and Leon A. Lang, 3222 Terrace street.

Valerie Steklenski, 109 Cotton street, and Leon A. Sukalski, Conshohocken.

Elizabeth M. Hodgen, 188 Dupont street, and Clemens Scherhag, 161 Krams avenue.

Mary C. Reiley, 475 Dupont street, and Michael J. Ennis, Jr., Chestnut Hill.

Gertrude A. Wager, 538 E. Seville street, and Charles E. G. Snowden, 210 Osborne street.

Teresa, Sommers, 156 Pencoyd avenue, and Carl Fahrback, 228 Ripka avenue.

Hattie Bullock, 190 Maiden street, and James Bryant, 4323 Tower street.

Helen C. Underhill, 750 Martin street, and Herbert M. Smith, Hot Springs, Va.

Kathryn E. Landis, 4006 Pechin street, and George I. Charles, 327 Rector street.

11/14/29

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7/30/1936

## Dr. J. F. Strawinski Dies As Result of Stroke In 1935

Wissahickon Pharmacist  
Fought Valiantly For  
More Than a Year

A "FRIEND TO MAN"

Was Always a Leader in  
Movements of Public  
Character

"Let me live in a house  
By the side of the road,  
And be a friend to man."

Not many residents of this section of Philadelphia could be faithfully described by the above quotation, but one of them would surely be Dr. J. Franklin Strawinski, of Terrace and Hermit streets, Wissahickon, who expired at his home on Wednesday evening of last week as the result of a stroke suffered in June of last year.

Stricken while at the wheel of his automobile, Dr. Strawinski fought valiantly for recovery until July 5th, of this year, when a recurrence of the stroke weakened him to such an extent that it became apparent that the end of his earthly journey was near.

To Dr. Strawinski there are scores of local boys who owe their success in life from his teachings and the force of example of his kindly character. Many of these are pharmacists, scattered in various places throughout the land, and at least three became medical doctors. Persons, too, in other walks of life, felt the influence of his friendship and his efforts to advance their interests whenever the cause was just.

Serving the Memorial Hospital as member of the Board of Managers many years; and as president of the Wissahickon Business Men's Association, he was keenly interested in movements of a public nature.

At a Twenty-First Ward Medical Society meeting, following the death of his close friend, the late Dr. C. K. Ogler, he read a laudatory monograph on the physician's meritorious accomplishments which dissipated his own feelings toward suffering humanity. Each year—beginning including this one, as he lay motionless in bed—Dr. Strawinski was actively concerned in making arrangements for the Memorial Day services at the Wissahickon Memorial Roll, in memory of the soldiers and sailors who served in the World War. During the World War, himself, was in charge of examining and placing recruits in the army, and his own sadly depleted merchant marine service.

Few people here are acquainted with the fact that it was at Dr. Strawinski's suggestion that the PRT Company equipped each of its trolley cars with hoisting jacks, for use in time of accident, since which time many lives have been saved through persons beneath the cars having been extricated quickly.

He was an enthusiastic member of the Cynwyd Club, an organization of tennis players, and gained a wide reputation as an adept wielder of the racquet, and as an official in local national tournaments. Only recently the Cynwyd Club officials made him a life member and presented the Doctor with a handsomely-bound illuminated testimonial brochure to that effect.

Fraternally he was a Mason, being a member of Roxborough Lodge No. 135; Lulu Temple; and the Philadelphia Consistory.

The deceased was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Justus Frisbie Strawinski, and was born at York, Pa. He graduated with honors from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy with the Class of 1898, and later obtained a doctor's degree from the same place of learning. In 1900 he came to Wissahickon and entered the employ of the late C. L. Young, a druggist, whom he afterward succeeded. Three years later he married Mr. Young's daughter, Ella S. Young, who expired on September 12th of 1933. The couple were the parents of one son, Jay F. Strawinski, who survives.

A sister, Mrs. Norman Jack, of Wissahickon; and two uncles, J. G. Strawinski, of Wissahickon; and Clarence F. Strawinski, of New York; also mourn his loss.

Funeral services were held last Saturday afternoon, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

9-26-1929

### GIDLEY—BURNS

"A very pretty wedding was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Burns, 483 Kingsley street, on September 7th, 1929, when their daughter, Miss Edna Burns, became the bride of Mr. George T. Gidley, 6703 Ridge avenue, with Reverend Wm. B. Forney officiating.

The bride wore a gown of white satin, with a veil of tulle and lace, she carried a bridal shower bouquet of roses and lilies-of-the-valley.

She was attended by her sister, Miss Blanche Burns, who wore a snell pink satin dress trimmed with blue velvet and a blue hat to match and carried a bouquet of pink roses.

Dr. Frederick Long, of Philadelphia, was the best man.

After a small reception at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Gidley left on a motor trip to Washington and Hot Springs, Va.

They will be at home at 625 Jamestown street, Roxborough, after October 15.

7/4/1929  
Prof. King. 25

Before the Civil War he had planned a trans-ocean balloon trip and was about to depart from Point Breeze on what might have been an epochal trip, when his balloon burst as he was about to cut loose. Donaldson, a dare devil, and Wise, another balloonist, planned an ocean trip in 1873. They had the largest balloon built that the world ever saw up until that time, but could not get the balloon to lift from the ground. New York officials sent to Wissahickon and King showed them how to get started. The balloon landed in a forest in Canada and was destroyed.

The last balloon that Professor King built was called the "Ben Franklin" and was built in the Wissahickon school yard. The old aeronaut would lay his silk cords on the brick pavement and lap them over one another so that they shaped like a net. Each joint was tied with silk cords and all the neighborhood kids, both boys and girls, would assist in tying the knots. King would go across the street to his home and bring his youthful helpers cake and lemonade.

The "Ben Franklin" was finally completed and King gave the kids an invitation to take a ride in it. I know of none who accepted his invitation, but every Saturday afternoon Philadelphians would gaze skyward to catch a glimpse of King and Dr. Thomas H. Eldridge and other members of the Aeronautical Society for whom King built the "Ben Franklin."

Most of those kids who use to help tie knots in the silken cords at the Wissahickon school yard are married or have migrated elsewhere.

Professor King died fifteen years ago at the advanced age of 86 years. To Wissahickon he brought honors and glory.

Through our Congressmen and the War Department a fitting aerial exhibition of air craft could be staged over the Wissahickon section some time for Professor King, who put Wissahickon on the map. In various parts of God's world, we read and hear about the wonders of the Wissahickon Valley; the catfish and waffles at the roadhouses, and so forth, but no one ever mentions the name of Samuel A. King who helped place America where it is today in aviation.

7/9/36

## Manayunk Had Cheap Gas More Than 50 Years Ago

Competitive Firm Undersold Gas Trust to Local Mill Owners

SUPERIOR PRODUCT

Politicians Wouldn't Permit Private Pipeline Under Thoroughfares

Every sign points to "gas" becoming the topic of much conversation between residents of Philadelphia within the very near future, when the city's gas lease will be renewed. With this thought in mind it is believed that everyone who is interested—and who shouldn't be?—ought to obtain as many facts on the subject as is possible, in order to be able to discuss—or cuss!—the matter with complete intelligence.

How many local residents know that prior to the acquisition of the city's gas plant by private interests, that a small independent company operated in Manayunk and sold its products to the owners of the great mills here at 50 cents per thousand feet less than the then-prevailing rate?

This condition, however, actually existed in 1882, as is testified by a newspaper article of that period, which stated: "When this concern was started by the West Manayunk Gaslight Company, who purchased the buildings that had been erected by the National Petroleum Company, its early failure was prophesied, but notwithstanding the influence of the Gas Trust which has been exerted against it from the very beginning, the enterprise has prospered, and during the winter just past it has been conducted at a handsome profit. The original expenditure was not large, probably not exceeding \$25,000, but mistakes at the start in adopting processes and machinery that were not successful necessitated subsequent expenditures, but for which the venture would have been a veritable bonanza.

"Since the introduction of a process invented by a gentleman in Pittsburgh, everything has gone on smoothly, and the illuminating power of the gas and amount of pressure have been entirely satisfactory to the parties to whom it is furnished, who, without exception, claim that it is far superior in every way from the city works as now supplied.

"The West Manayunk Company claims for its gas a power of twenty-two candles, while the city gas is credited with a power from sixteen to eighteen candles.

"Unfortunately the benefits of having cheap gas are limited to the manufacturing establishments situated on the narrow strip of land, or island, between the Schuylkill river and the canal, which land is entirely owned by the proprietors of the factories and is not under the control of the city. The company has been persistently denied the privileges of extending its mains even to the boundaries of the thoroughfares adjacent to the island, which the city claims are under its jurisdiction.

"The company's buildings, consisting of a retort house and meter-room, and a holder, with a capacity of 35,000 feet, enclosed in a brick building, are situated at the upper end of the island. There is over a mile of mains altogether, and the establishments supplied are the American Wood Pulp Company, Seville Schofield's five mills, the A. A. Campbell & Company mills, Patterson's Ripka Mills, the Philadelphia Inquirer Paper Mill, Solm's two mills, James Preston's three mills, and S. C. Keely's planing mills.

"These necessarily consumed large quantities of gas, especially in the winter, and such has been the increase in consumption that the West Manayunk Company has determined to introduce another holder during the summer and thus double its capacity. The gas is made entirely from petroleum oil, which runs from a tank into a retort, where it passes over eighteen feet of heated surface, that evaporates it, and converts it into a fixed gas of 80-candle power. It is then diluted by hydrogen until reduced to a 22-candle illuminating gas. So successful has this hydrogen process become that private gas works in which it is a feature have been introduced in Paterson, N. J., and Reading, Pa., and one lately in San Francisco, which is on an extensive scale.

"On one occasion the opposition of the Gas Trust took a most aggressive form, and squads of men, under police protection, went out and severed the company's pipes at points on the island where they crossed a thoroughfare which the city claimed. In consequence of this, gas was shut off from one of the Preston Mills, throwing the employees temporarily out of work, but ultimately forcing the proprietor to take the competitor's gas, at an increased expenditure of about thirty per cent. This action has made the Gas Trust unpopular in the highest degree from one end of the place to the other.

"All the capital of the gas company is owned in New York, and the management is centred in William Field, the superintendent, whose capacity attracted the attention of the San Francisco company, who desired him to take charge of the new works there, but he was prevailed upon to remain in Manayunk."

The above article is reproduced in part from a published statement in the Philadelphia Times of May 1882.

7-9-1936

LOOKED 'EM OVER



ANDREW J. EMANUEL

Philadelphia's Director of Public Safety, who reviewed the 105th observance of the 21st Ward's manner of safety and sanely celebrating the Nation's Birthday, last Saturday, as members of 21 church schools in Roxborough, Wissahickon and Manayunk, paraded on Lyceum avenue, on their way to picnics in woods bordering the Wissahickon Creek.

1/2/1930

## CELEBRATE 60th ANNIVERSARY

New Year's Day callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hodson, 525 East Leverington avenue, Roxborough, felicitated them on the 64th anniversary of their wedding, which occurred on January 1, 1866, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Shinkel, on Green Lane, Manayunk.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodson, who are 85 and 83 years of age, respectively, have lived in the Manayunk-Roxborough section all their lives. Both are hale and hearty and expect to round out a century apiece.

Two sons and two daughters, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren were among the callers and well wishers of the elderly couple.

Mr. Hodson, whose parents were among the English people who came to Manayunk when it first became an industrial settlement, is a retired manufacturer. The rope making establishment, known as the Millinson Rope Walk, which he conducted for years, and which is now nearing a century of existence, is now conducted by his son, Walter M. Hodson. Another son is Frank Hodson, a local business man, and two married daughters are Mrs. B. F. Struse and Mrs. Edwin J. Fancourt, born in Roxborough.

Mr. Hodson is a trustee of the Roxborough M. E. church, of which his wife and he have been members practically all their married life. Mr. Hodson is active in the Masonic fraternity and is a past master of Roxborough Lodge, F. & A. M.

4/30/1936

# Old Resident Is Remembered

Wissahickon Man Recalls  
John Jacob Strader and  
His Activities Through  
Notes in His Record Book.  
Phila. Press Reporter.

"Wednesday of this week (meaning yesterday) will be the anniversary of the death of John Jacob Strader, who represented the old Philadelphia Press in this vicinity, and lived at 267 Sumac street," said a resident of Wissahickon, on Monday.

"Strader had an interesting life," went on the speaker. "He was the youngest son of John Strader and Mary Isabella Stuart Strader, and was born in Warren County, N. J., on March 2nd 1838. He was of German origin on his father's side, his ancestors being among the emigrants who settled New York in the early part of the 17th Century.

"His mother was a direct descendant of the royal house of Stuarts, of Scotland, her grandfather, Robert Stuart, being the founder of a town in Jersey which bore his name.

"In 1845 young Strader was bereft of his parents by death, and in the following year took up his abode with an uncle, Captain Jacob Strader of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was given a good education in private schools after graduating from the public places of learning, and afterward secured employment with the Little Miami Railroad.

"When the Civil War broke out he was at Nicholasville, Kentucky, engaged by his brother as superintendent of a line of transportation wagons, hauling goods from the terminus of the railroad to the towns of Kentucky and eastern Tennessee.

"He soon resigned and joined the Union Army, enlisting in the 31st Ohio Regiment, at Camp Chase, Ohio, on August 10th 1861. The regiment was the second to cross the Ohio River, and the first to be stationed at Camp Dick Robinson, when the First Division of the Army of the Cumberland was organized under the command of Major General George H. Thomas. Strader served in this 'outfit' until he was mustered out at Louisville, Ken., on July 20th 1865. During his army career he took part in 15 battles.

"In August of 1865 he became a conductor on the St. Louis, Alton and Terre Haute Railroad, which job he held for three years, giving it up to go farming in Illinois. Still later he became a merchant at Pekin, Ill.

"He was married on February 14th 1867 to Miss Edna Amelia Nelson, oldest daughter of Franklin and Elizabeth Jane Asher Nelson. The

couple had three sons, Franklin Nelson Strader, who studied for the Episcopal ministry; Robert Stuart Strader, who matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania; and George Asher Strader.

"In May of 1877, the Straders moved to Philadelphia, where he accepted a position at the Schuylkill Arsenal. Establishing a residence in Wissahickon, he soon became one of the active men of the community. He represented the Philadelphia Press here for many years. He attended St. Timothy's Church; after having been one of the founders and vestrymen of St. Paul's Church at Pekin, Illinois. He was energetic in his work at St. Timothy's Workingmen's Institute, and was for a long time its treasurer.

"His death occurred on April 29th 1912, and in looking over some notes I have, I noticed the refer-

ence to him, and thought of the work of this man, whose memory must still live in the mind's of those who were acquainted with him."

*Times 8/9/1928*

## ROXBOROUGH COUPLE WED IN OAK LANE

Miss Helen Kenworthy, 568 East Hermitage street, was united in marriage to Mr. M. McKay Swartley, 6835 Ridge avenue, on Wednesday at 2 o'clock in the Oak lane M. E. church, York Road and City Line.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. Franklin Flanagan, as matron of honor. Miss Hazel Kenworthy acted as maid of honor and Miss Adelaide Swartley, a sister of the groom, and Miss Edyth Manson, were her bridesmaids. Miss Gloria Greenfield was flower girl.

The groom's brother, J. Clark Swartley, was the best man. Dr. Frank Conzelman, Joseph Greenfield and R. Horace Wittner were the ushers.

Dr. Franklin Flanagan played the wedding music.

*1-2-1930*

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Elizabeth L. Truitt, Klitchen lane, and Neil Leckie, 1917 E. Atlantic street.

La Deva D. Coleman, 752 East Martin street, and Edward Davis, 1903 Kater street.

Lois Beddow, 516 Leverington avenue, and Donald M. Bast, Schuylkill Haven.

Sara A. Schroeder, 3561 Retta street, and Herbert A. Davis, Jenkintown.

Kathryn Fullerton, 4530 Manayunk avenue, and George Arnold, 447 Krams avenue.

Helen L. Flanagan, 415 Green lane, and Walter C. Dietrich, 208 Soth 36th street.

4/11/1936

27

# Forwards Copy Of Old Program

Bushrod W. Hagy, Jr., of  
Kingsport, Tennessee, Discovers Handbill Announcing Concert in Reformed a Church Century Ago.

Bushrod W. Hagy, Jr., of Kingsport, Tennessee, a former resident of Roxborough, on Saturday last forwarded to the office of The Suburban Press a photographed copy of a handbill which announced a "concert of sacred music, to be given in the Reformed Dutch Church, Manayunk, on Saturday evening, June 18th 1836."

The church, now known as the Fourth Reformed Church, was then located in the buildings now occupied by St. Josaphat's Polish Catholic Church, and the 100th anniversary of the concert will occur on Thursday of next week.

The handbill discloses a program of the titles and words of the anthems, solos and other selections which were sung, and a footnote, states, "tickets of admission, 25 cents each, may be procured from Mr. John Smart, Manayunk; Mr. Joseph H. Hoffman, Ridge Road, and at the door on the evening of the performance. The proceeds to be appropriated for the benefit of the church."

In an accompanying letter Mr. Hagy, writes: "I take pleasure in enclosing a print of a copy of a program given June 18th 1836. I found the original program, when hunting for watermarks, in a copy of the Life of Christ, published in London, in 1767. This book was originally the property of Samuel E. Slingluff, one of the early teachers in the Levering School, Roxborough. It was given to his sister-in-law, Hannah Levering Hagy, my great grandmother.

"I thought you might be interested in this copy, in view of its age. As a little boy I remember Mr. Joseph H. Hoffman, whose name appears on this program, as the chorister of the Roxborough Baptist Church.

"I am mailing a copy to the Germantown Telegraph, as these programs were printed in their office."

# Baptist Group Founded, In May, 64 Years Ago

Manatawna Church Organized on May 14, 1872, With William Dixon as Clerk

## PIONEER BODY

Council of Leaders From Nearby Churches Endorsed New Congregation

May 14th—next Thursday—should be marked by the members of the Manatawna Baptist Church, for it is a significant date in the history of that Upper Roxborough congregation.

The Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, of May 18th, 1872, noted: "The Manatawna Baptist Church was organized at Mechanics' Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 14th inst., under very favorable auspices. Rev. W. S. Crowley presided, and Mr. Wm. F. Dixon acted as clerk. A hymn was sung, followed by reading the Scriptures, and prayer by Mr. Crowley. Next came letters from various churches dismissing members to form the new organization, as follows: Roxborough Baptist Church, 51; Beth-Eden, Philadelphia, 1; Spruce Street Church, Philadelphia, 2; Cold Point Church, Montgomery Co., 2, making 57 in all. A covenant, pledging united church action, having been read and adopted, prayer for the divine recognition was offered by the Rev. David Spencer, when the new church adopted a manual containing views of Scripture Doctrine, Rules of Practice, &c., &c. Mr. Crowley presently retired, and was unanimously elected pastor of the church,—a fact upon which we heartily congratulate both minister and people.

"This action was appropriately followed up by the unexpected presentation of a purse of Fifty Dollars to Bro. Crowley, for the purchase of such 'vestments' as a Baptist clergyman may lawfully wear either in or out of the pulpit; and the reception-speech was worth all the sacrifices the gift had cost. The service then closed with the doxology, and the benediction by the pastor."

In its following issue—dated May 25, 1872—the Chronicle added: "A Council to consider the propriety of recognizing the 'Manatawna Baptist Church, of Philadelphia,' as a regular Baptist church in full fellowship with the general body, and to fix the time for such recognition, if everything is satisfactory, will be held at the Roxborough Baptist meeting-house at

2½ P. M. on Monday next, May 27th. The Council will consist of delegates from most of the following churches:

"Roxborough, First Church, Philadelphia, Spruce street, Fourth, Memorial, Beth-Eden, Manayunk, Chestnut Hill, First Germantown, Second Germantown, Third Germantown, Nicetown, Falls of Schuylkill, Cold Point, Norristown, Conshohocken, Ballingomingo, Lower Merion.

"At a meeting of the Manatawna Church, on Tuesday evening, an election of officers took place, resulting as follows: William F. Dixon, clerk; S. Benton Linton, Treasurer; Perry L. Anderson, Moses Pierce, Joseph V. Peterman, S. Benton Linton, Jacob Rahn, C. A. Randall and Walter J. Free, Trustees."

4-2-1936

# Masonic Lodge 135, Roxborough, Is 123 Years Old

Fraternal Group Organized Here on April 3rd of 1813

CONRAD, FIRST MASTER  
Founded in Haggert House  
Opposite Gorgas  
Park

Tomorrow will be the 123rd anniversary of the first meeting held by Roxborough Lodge No. 135, Free and Accepted Masons.

In a small room, on the second floor of what was then the "General Washington" Hotel, with Aaron Levering as the genial host, twenty-seven met to organize Roxborough Lodge. The building in which they met is more familiar to present-day residents of this section as "The Haggert House," on Ridge avenue, opposite Gorgas Park.

Horatio Gates Jones, Roxborough's noted historian, when he lived in the house, on March 29th, 1888, wrote a letter to the Roxborough Lodge in which he stated that the house was built about the year 1796, by Aaron Levering, who was a nephew of Jones' grandfather. The house was his residence; and above it he built an augur and blacksmith shop. Subsequently the building was used as a hotel. Mr. Levering's Hotel stood where the Roxy theatre is located and the proprietor was the first postmaster of Roxborough Post Office, which was established on June 23rd 1823. He died on April 7th 1829, when but 55 years of age, and is

buried in the old Roxborough Baptist Church graveyard.

The historian went on to say: "The Lodge opened with ten members, most of whom, if not all lived in Roxborough, or what is now Manayunk. I know nothing of the constitutents except Aaron Levering, John Conrad, Samuel Conrad, John Sinkett and John Boyer. The Conrads were long residents of Roxborough; so was the Starne family. John Conrad was a lineal descendent of Thones Kunders, one of the early settlers of Germantown; they had a mill on the Wissahickon at the foot of the lane long called Conrad's lane, now Roxborough avenue."

The members at the first meeting beside those whose names appear above were: Maurice Starne, William Lawson, William Davis, Archibald McVicker and Michael Lentz.

John Conrad was an uncle of Robert T. Conrad, a Judge of Philadelphia County and Mayor of the city at one time. At one period in his life, Charles Conrad, the father of John taught the Roxborough Academy, which was built on the site now occupied by the William Levering School.

Maurice Starne was a son of Captain Joseph Starne, who in early times was a prominent man in this section.

John Boyer, it is supposed, lived down near the Schuylkill River, above a street called Rittenhouse lane, now known as Walnut lane, in a house owned by the late Jacob Kidd. Sinkett afterward moved and maintained his store in a double stone house further down on Ridge avenue. He was one of the town's early justices of the peace.

John Conrad was the first Master of the Lodge. His fellow officers were Senior Warden, William Lawson; Junior Warden, Maurice Starne; Secretary, Samuel Conrad; and treasurer, John Sinkett.

B. Newcombe, Jr., of Lodge No. 115, acted as secretary protom of the first meeting, which strangely enough, was held in the afternoon at "1-2 past three."

11-14-1929

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Anna Olynick, 5415 Landsdowne avenue, and James A. Schooles, 4727 Smick street.

Teresa Petrone, 3722 Calumet street, and John V. Esposito, Allentown, Pa. Ethel Underwood, East Falls, and Henry Haig, 218 S. 60th street.

Hazel M. Kirkpatrick, 4439 Fleming street, and Arthur E. Maher, Dover, Delaware.

Marie A. McCormick, 4324 Manayunk avenue, and Aloysius T. Bihmeir, 473 Aurania street.

Anna A. Fogel, 4511 Mitchell street, and William Gitgesell, 409 Ripka avenue.

Catherine E. Ransell, 418 Delmar street, and Carlton Mozias, 426 Delmar street.

1/23/1936

## Roxborough Was Sparsely Settled Prior to 1776

Dwellings Were Few and Far  
Between When Revolution  
Took Place

### LAND OF LEVERINGS

Township Reached Down as  
Far as Present-Day  
Queen Lane

According to an old-time historian, the houses in Roxborough Township, about the period of the Revolution, were few and far-between.

Benjamin Morgan lived in a dwelling near the present Midvale avenue and McMichael street. In those days the township extended down to the Queen lane of 1930. It was at Morgan's house that General Lafayette had his headquarters while the American Army was encamped on the site of the Queen Lane Reservoir, prior to and after the Battle of Brandywine.

Near the campsite, too, was the "Roxborough Plantation", now known as "Carlton" where Washington had his quarters.

Joseph Warner lived on School House lane, in a house that stood approximately in the neighborhood of the Henry avenue bridge.

John Vandaren occupied the house, which is still standing and is known as Barnett's Garden, at the junction of Ridge avenue and the Wissahickon Drive. The next house was that of Peter Righter, near the foot of the hill at Wissahickon; and John Righter's, that was on what is now Main street, opposite the entrance to the Pen-coyd bridge.

Going up Ridge road, the next building was the Old Plow Tavern, which is still standing at Ridge avenue and Hermit lane. It was occupied in 1776 by Michael Righter. Then came the home of Thomas Glackledge, near the present Weaver Drug store, on the Ridge above Seville street. Close by were three other dwelling that housed the families of three Levering brothers, who were the sons of Jacob Levering. The next house, below the present Walnut lane, was a frame one, in which lived Lawrence Miller. It soon afterward fell into disrepair and was replaced by a house built by Samuel Miller.

Where John Carlisle afterward resided, in the neighborhood of the present St. Timothy's Church, was an old building in which lived John Bigonet. Next above, at the corner of Ridge avenue and Roxborough avenue, was the farmhouse and barn of Andrew Wood. Mr. Wood

also owned a house across the road, which was then rented by David Whiteman. The Roxborough School House was on the land now owned by the Board of Education and covered by the William Levering School.

From the school, up to Hipple's lane—now Fountain street—the land on the east side of Ridge road was owned by the Leverings. The only houses on this large property—in 1776—was that of Enoch Levering, who had a tanyard; Aaron Levering, who had a currying shop; William Levering, who conducted a smithy; the Leverington Hotel, which was managed by Nathan Levering; and Benjamin Levering's house, opposite Gorgas Park.

Along upper Ridge road there were three or four houses above Hipple's Lane. Philip Marewine resided above this and nearby, on land subsequently owned by Simon Snyder was the residence of the Starnes.

There was a small house above Domino lane; then came the "Irish Tract"; then a woodland on each side of the road. Crawford's Inn, still located by the old structure just above the former trolley car barn was next. Still farther up was the house of Peter Righter, that of Valentine Keely and several small houses.

There were also numerous dwellings scattered over the township in the valleys between the Ridge road and the Schuylkill and also on the other side between the Ridge and the Wissahickon, but these are difficult to locate.

Anthony Cook and George Sanders had homes near the present Poor House, and Thomas and John Livezey lived along the Wissahickon Creek. Sebastian Reaver lived on Gorgas lane. There was also a house near Oil Mill Run—Gorgas Creek—one beside a grist mill farther down toward the Wissahickon, and one up toward Ridge road, which was afterward occupied by Lewis Hinkle.

In 1776 Edward Milner, and in 1779, Peter Care, occupied the house and mill afterward conducted by William Kitchen & Son. The Red Bridge Mill—old Shurs Lane—was opened by Abraham Rittenhouse and the mill below—under the Henry avenue bridge—was owned by another Rittenhouse, while one nearer the Reading Railroad bridge—or rather Gypsy lane—was jointly owned by Martin Rittenhouse and John Vandaren.

The only access to the latter mills, in those days before the road along the creek was laid out, was by a private road which came up near the properties afterward occupied by Messrs. King and Salaig-nac.

The only house where the present Manayunk is located, was that of Abraham Levering, which afterward became the home of his grandson, Perry Levering.

2-6-1936

29

## Old Residents Are Remembered

Andrew Loos, of Roxborough, Falls Into Reminiscent Mood, and Tells of His Forebears, Who Were Early Residents Here.

Away back in 1853, when Christian Swartz erected the Stone Bridge over the Schuylkill river, at the Ferry road entrance to Fairmount Park, for the Reading Railroad Company, Frederick Snell conducted a tavern and boarding house on the site of a present-day automobile service station on the southwest corner of Ridge avenue Ferry road, which was long occupied by a saloon owned by James Hanlon.

When the bridge was being built many of the workmen made their temporary homes at Mr. Snell's tavern.

These facts were learned on Monday, in an interview with Andrew Loos, of 4141 Pechin street, Roxborough, who is a grandson of Frederick Snell. He states that his mother told him she was only eight or nine years of age when her father ran the tavern, and that she often stood on a chair to assist in making pies. One of her girlhood companions, at the Falls, was Kate Hess, afterward Mrs. Thomas Lister, who died recently.

Mr. Loos stated that his uncle, J. Andrew Loos, married Emma Snell, his mother's sister, and that they reside with their son, Ivan Loos, at 2113 West Erie avenue. Ivan Loos is well known to hundreds of long-time residents of this vicinity as "the great Petey Loos", of baseball fame.

Andrew Loos, the resident of Pechin street, was born in a house erected in 1844 by his grandfather, J. Andrew Loos, which still stands at the southwest corner of Ridge avenue and Seville street.

He, and a brother, who is prominent in local fraternal affairs, have two aunts, Kate and Louisa, and two uncles, Samuel and Henry, who live on the property on Ridge avenue opposite the William Levering Public School, which was procured by his grandfather after the latter had moved away from the dwelling at Ridge avenue and Seville street.

His uncle Henry, of this group, recently observed his 91st birthday. For many years people passing along Ridge avenue in the summer months have paused to watch the old man swing an old-fashioned scythe, with a grace and precision that was remarkable in cutting the grass down as close as is possible with a modern lawn-mower.

1/30/30

# William F. Dixon Expired at Home of His Daughter

Former City Councilman,  
From the 21st Ward,  
Died on Friday

## SPENT LIFE HERE

Was One of Roxborough's  
Most Active Residents  
For Many Years

William F. Dixon, who for twelve years was a member of the old Common Council, died last Friday, at 424 W. Hortter street, Germantown, the home of a daughter, Mrs. Harvey Bartle.

Mr. Dixon, who was 86, retired 15 years ago from the waste business he had operated in Manayunk for many years. He had been president of the 21st Ward Board of Trade, and he served as chairman of the Highway Committee when in Common Council. It was he who introduced the ordinance which brought the Walnut lane bridge, over the Wissahickon Creek, into existence.

A member of Roxborough Lodge of Odd Fellows, Mr. Dixon had been secretary of Odd Fellows' homes and orphanages in the State for 30 years. He was a Mason, and a charter member of Manatawna Baptist Church, Roxborough, of which he was treasurer 42 years.

Mr. Dixon was the eighth child of Thomas Dixon, a native of Washington, D. C., and of Mary Dixon—nee Graham—of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was born on the old Megargee farm, along the banks of the Wissahickon Creek, on July 20th, 1849.

He attended the public schools of Chestnut Hill until 1865, in which year the family moved to Roxborough, and he became a scholar in the old Roxborough Grammar School. He afterward attended the Pierce Business College in Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1870.

On completing his schooling he became associated with his father, in 1871, who was an iron, rag and paper stock dealer, with the warehouse being along Ridge avenue, near the Manatawna public school.

This partnership continued until 1882 when the elder Mr. Dixon retired from business, and the son assumed the sole control. Five years later, in 1887 Mr. Dixon built a large house on Leverington avenue to which he moved on January 1st, 1888.

He was married on June 15th, 1871 to Miss Emma C. Hagy, daughter of Samuel Hagy, of Upper Roxborough.

He was always a Republican, but prior to 1879 never took an

active part in politics. In that year he was elected—by the School Board—a member of the Board to complete the unexpired term of William J. Donohugh, and, again in 1881, he was re-elected in the same way to fill the seat vacated by Patrick Cannon. In 1882 he received the Republican nomination for School Director, and was elected, which was repeated in 1885 and 1888. In February, 1889, on his election to City Council, he resigned his seat on the School Board, to which Levi C. Hart succeeded.

In addition to presenting the bill which created the Walnut lane bridge, Mr. Dixon also was the leader in having the old Manayunk Pay Bridge, become free of tolls; helped introduce the ambulance and telephone service at the present Memorial Hospital; and had Ridge avenue and other 21st Ward streets, paved and re-paved.

He was secretary of the Survivors' Association of the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteers, a Civil War contingent in which his brother Thomas, was an enlisted soldier.

In addition to Mrs. Bartle, with whom he resided Mr. Dixon is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Gilbert Diamond and one son, Thomas.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon, at the funeral home of Charles H. Whiteman, 6216 Ridge avenue, and the interment was made privately.

1-16-1936

## AS IT WAS--

President Roosevelt's Jackson Day dinner, in Washington, on Wednesday night of last week brought to mind that these great Democratic banquets have been going on for many years.

It seems strange that so many people have an idea that the day—January 8th—is the date of former President Andrew Jackson's birth.

It marks the anniversary of his defeating the British in New Orleans in the War of 1812-1815.

General Jackson has long been regarded as the apostle of democracy, and there are said to be many men living in the interior of Pennsylvania who think they are still voting for him at every election.

Radio receptions "beat the news papers to it", last week, but wasn't always this way. There was a time in Copksockey, the one time village along the west bank of the Schuylkill, opposite East Falls that the Jackson Club would meet at Cruice's Hall, "over the river" for its annual dance on the night of Jackson Day.

Of the many who once belonged to that club there is little record. Edward F. Daymon was one of the most enthusiastic members until he moved over to this side of the stream and became a Republican. He secured the influence of the late George A. Smith, Select Councilman for the old 28th Ward, who had Mayor Stokley appoint him

the police force. A few weeks later he was promoted to a sergeant and within a few more months was made lieutenant of the old 22nd District. He served for several years at this post before he died.

Back in September of 1916, the Survivors' Association of the 88th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers held its annual reunion on the lawn of the home of William Dixon, secretary of the group, 8835 Ridge avenue.

"Judge" John Kelley, of Laboratory lane, East Falls, who was the first man to enlist in the Civil War from the Falls of Schuylkill, who has since expired, told in an address he made in the reunion dinner that was held in the Manatawna Baptist Church, how it came to "join up" with the military forces.

He was employed by Samuel Frazier, who rented the one-time Robeson Farm, which included the meadow—now Lake Gustine—on which Camp Stokley was located. One day he asked Frazier for a raise in pay, and gave him until the next day to consider the matter. The request was denied, and Kelley told him "Sooner than work for you for \$12 a month, I'll go over in the meadow and enlist for \$13 a month".

He stated that he climbed over the rail fence and walked down to the camp, and was sworn in as a soldier of the regiment and said he had never regretted the act.

Up on East Jamestown avenue lives William Dawson, well up in his eighties, who is still consulted by officials of the Water Bureau concerning the location and conditions surrounding the great water mains of Philadelphia.

It was he who was in charge of laying the great pipes and sewers that are under Midvale avenue, in East Falls.

At the time when Samuel Mayberry had his store approximately where the bank building now stands at Midvale avenue—then known as Mifflin street—there were no sewers to carry off the surface waters, and at every rainfall great volumes of water rushed down the hills above the railroad and collected at the top of "Dutch Hollow" to later form a veritable river out of Mifflin street.

It was no unusual thing for the crews of the old horse-cars to have to get out and shovel an accumulation of debris off the tracks. While thousands of dollars of damage resulted to Mayberry he never received a dollar of damages from the city towards covering the loss.

The floods, were in law, considered as "acts of God," despite the fact that their flowing down the valley was due to a great extent to the negligence of man, or city officials.

SCCAFF.

30

4/3/1930

## Roxborough Lodge Has Birthda

Masons Organized Here  
Hundred and Seven-  
teen Years Ago

HISTORY IS CIT

Order Met in Haggart Ho  
Opposite Gorgas  
Park

But few people, other than members of the order themselves know that today—April 3rd—is the 117th anniversary of the first meeting held by Roxborough Lodge No. 135, Free and Accepted Masons. Nevertheless this is an historical fact.

In a small room, on the second floor of what was then the "General Washington" Hotel, with one Aaron Levering as the genial host, twenty-seven men met to organize Roxborough Lodge. The building in which they met is more familiar to present-day residents of this section as "The Haggart House," on Ridge avenue, opposite Gorgas Park.

Horatio Gates Jones, Roxborough's noted researcher into local history, when he lived in the house, on March 29th, 1888, wrote a letter to the Roxborough Lodge, in which he stated that the house was built about the year 1796, by Aaron Levering, who was a nephew of Jones' grandfather, Nathan Levering. Aaron Levering was born February 28th 1774, and was married December 1st, 1796. The house was his residence; and above it he built an augur and blacksmith shop. Subsequently the building was used as a hotel. Mr. Levering afterward kept the Leverington Hotel, which stood where the Roxy Theatre is located, and the proprietor was the first postmaster of Roxborough Post Office, which was established on June 23rd 1823. He died on April 7th 1829, when but 55 years of age, and is buried in the old Roxborough Baptist Church graveyard.

Of the twenty-seven men who met at the first meeting, but ten were the prospective members, the others having been affiliated with other lodges and therefore being the sponsors for the local organizations.

Horatio Gates Jones, goes on to say: "The Lodge opened with ten members, most of whom, if not all, lived in Roxborough, or what is now known as Manayunk. I know nothing of the constituents except Aaron Levering, John Conrad, Samuel Conrad, John Sinkett and John Boyer. The Conrads were long residents of Roxborough; so was the Starne family. John Conrad was a lineal descendent of Thones Kunders, one of the early settlers of Germantown; they had a mill on

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John Conrad was the first Master of the Lodge. His fellow officers were Senior Warden, William Lawson; Junior Warden, Maurice Starne; Secretary, Samuel Conrad; and treasurer, John Sinkett.

B. Newcombe, Jr., of Lodge No. 115, acted as secretary pro tem of the first meeting, which strangely enough, was held in the afternoon closing at "½ past three."

The nearest Masonic Lodge to Roxborough, before Lodge No. 135, was organized, was Hiram Lodge of Germantown. The available records show that at a meeting of Hiram Lodge, held on January 16th

1813, a number of the members prayed the Lodge "that they would wish to withdraw and form a new Lodge and have their certificates granted. The prayer following their petition was granted and at the following meeting, on February 13th, a second petition was presented, signed by John Conrad and others, including those who had previously withdrawn, respectfully setting forth the fact that they had associated together for the purpose of establishing a new Lodge, under the name of Roxborough Lodge, "to be holden at the house of Aaron Levering, sine of George Washington in Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County." Another petition to the same effect, to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania or a warrant, was duly granted on March 1st 1913, with the first regular meeting held on April 3rd 1813.

On Tuesday evening next, the Lodge will celebrate the anniversary in Masonic Hall, Main and Cotton streets.

12-4-1930

31

## Century of Growth in 21st Ward

News Item Discloses Status  
of Roxborough Town-  
ship in 1830

SEVEN MILE AREA

Population of 40,358 With  
Real Estate Assessments  
of \$49,986,500

It is said that "the first hundred years are the hardest," and this though was brought back, on Wednesday of last week, when an evening paper printed the following item, under the caption, "One Hundred Years Ago." (From the Sentinel of November 26th, 1830). "We are indebted to Mr. William Matheys, assistant marshal for a copy of the census of the township of Roxborough, from which we take the following: Number of inhabitants, 3,334; of whom there are 1 blind, 1 deaf and dumb, 6 black males and 8 black females. The population in 1820 was 1,682. Increase in ten years, 1,652.

"The village of Manayunk, situated in this township, contains 1,593 inhabitants, of whom 131 are aliens, 1 deaf and dumb, and 2 are black.

"There are in Manayunk, 14 mills and factories; 198 dwelling houses occupied, 4 unoccupied and 20 house buildings."

Today—in 1930—one hundred years later, the census of the Township of Roxborough, which is now the 21st Ward of the city of Philadelphia, shows the following figures:

Population, 40,358; Fire companies, 4; police stations, 2; post offices, 2; railroads, 2; electric trolley lines, 2; shops and factories, 125; business houses, 923; dwelling houses, 8,625; electric street lights, 592; gas lamps, 408; hospitals, 2; indigent homes, 3; theatres, 5; banks and trust companies, 3; churches, white, 26; colored, 3; schools, 12, and five miles of the Wissahickon Creek ravine, the most beautiful park in the world. The real estate assessment amounts to \$49,986,500.00 and the personal assessments \$27,725,098.00.

What will the next century bring forth?

4/10/1930

# Funeral of Davis Took Place Here

Brilliant Writer Laid to  
Rest in Leverington  
Cemetery

14 YEARS AGO

Made Reputation as Reporter  
on Old Philadelphia  
Press

April 15th 1916—that's fourteen years ago, next Tuesday—was one on which literally critics of many nations stopped to pay tribute to one of the world's leading writers and incidentally to turn their thoughts to Roxborough.

Why? Well, because it was on that day that the earthly remains of Richard Harding Davis were laid to rest in Leverington Cemetery.

Until two years ago, no slab, or identifying mark indicated the grave of the one-time war correspondent, author, playwright and journalist who sleeps in a quiet spot near the center of the cemetery overlooking the peaceful Wisahickon Valley.

Davis, who has been credited with being the publicity man who brought Theodore Roosevelt—the original of the name—to the forefront in Spanish war annals, and thus to the presidency, was educated at Lehigh and at Johns Hopkins. In the early nineties he was employed as a reporter on the staff of the old Philadelphia Press, at 7th and Chestnut streets. He was familiarly known as "Dick" Davis to his fellow workers; a generous, warm-hearted fellow, with nothing "ritzy" in his demeanor toward his co-reporters on the old newspaper, although he was something of a Beau Brummel in the choosing of his wearing apparel.

Davis also worked for the "Record" and the tale of how he happened to lose his position with that paper is pretty generally known among newspapermen.

James Chambers, who was a resident of Germantown, was at the time city editor of the Record. One day he happened to observe Davis writing a story, wearing a fancy pair of gloves. Davis was fired on the spot.

"Dick" Davis earned a reputation for himself as a newsgatherer in Philadelphia. When the Johnstown flood occurred, Davis and "Bob" Brannan, of the Press reporting staff were sent to the stricken area to cover the story.

Davis always maintained that Brannan was the most natura

newspaper reporter that he ever came in contact with. Brannan's ability to ask the right question at the right time, and his lucid manner of writing always called for praise from Davis.

At the time Davis worked for the Press there was also employed there a youth by the name of Gallagher. The lad's Christian name cannot be ascertained, for it was never used around the office, he being known simply as "Gal." He was a rollicking sort of a character who had a knack of telling humorous stories and making what we in this whoopee age call "wise-cracks." The story that brought Richard Harding Davis his greatest fame was centered around this witty Irish youngster.

"Gallegher" first appeared in Scribner's Magazine, but was not published in book form until after the author had moved to New York. The book that was ultimately published was a collection of short stories which the writer named "Gallegher," spelled with an "e" in the center, supposedly from the manner in which the youthful Celt pronounced his own name.

The first book was an almost instant success, and the rapidity with which Davis forged to the front in popularity as a writer of short stories need not be recapitulated. His rise was without parallel in his own generation. The scenes of his first stories were principally laid in the old Philadelphia Press office.

The following are some of Davis' works: "Soldiers of Fortune," "Gallegher," "The Princess Aline," "Our English Cousins," "Van Bibber and Others," "About Paris," "The Ruler of the Mediterranean," "Exiles," "The King's Jackals," "Ranson's Folly," "The Bar Sinister," and "The Man Who Couldn't Lose." Among his plays were "Taming of Helen," "Ranson's Folly," "The Dictator," "The Yankee Tourist," and "Who's Who."

Davis was first married in 1899 to Cecil Clark, a daughter of J. M. Clark, and was divorced by her in 1912. A few days later he married Bessie McCoy, the well-remembered "Yama-Yama Girl" of stage fame.

Davis was stricken by the hand of death, while telephoning in his New York State home in 1916. His body, like those of his parents, who are also buried in Leverington Cemetery, was cremated at the Cheltenham Hills Crematory, in accordance to his wishes and placed in a dark coffin, adorned simply with long silver handles.

2-20-1936

32

# Frank J. Reinert Died From Stroke Last Saturday

Custodian and Engineer of  
Roxborough High School  
Had Been Ill Long Time

A NATIVE SON

Born and Spent Entire Life  
in Neighborhood of  
Final Residence

Friends of Frank J. Reinert, Sr., custodian and engineer of the Roxborough High School, of 554 Fairthorne avenue, are mourning his death, which occurred last Saturday from a stroke, following a lengthy illness.

Mr. Reinert was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Reinert, and was born in Roxborough, in close proximity to his final residence. After attending the public schools here, he obtained employment in the local textile mills and afterward became an engineer at the Pencoyd plant of the American Bridge Company. Subsequently, for many years, he served in a like position for the Alan Wood Iron & Steel Company, Ivy Rock, Pa. When the Roxborough High School was erected, in 1923, he was appointed custodian and engineer, where he was still employed at the time of his death.

In 1898 he was married to Miss Annie Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davis. In addition to his wife, Mr. Reinert is survived by two sons, Frank J., Jr., and Elmer, and one daughter, Evelyn.

The deceased was a member of Roxborough Lodge, No. 135, F. and A. M.; Harmony Chapter No. 52, Philadelphia Consistory; Lulu Temple; Vulcan Assembly; Keystone Council O. of I. A.; Camp 50, P. O. S. of A.; Manayunk Lodge, No. 31, I. O. O. F.; Wawatam Tribe, Red Men; the Philadelphia Public School Custodian and Engineers Society; the Watt Club, composed of Senior and Junior High School Engineers; the Roxborough Gun Club and the 21st Ward Republican Club.

He was long active in Republican political work, being a divisional committeeman for many years.

Funeral services for Mr. Reinert were held yesterday afternoon, with the interment being made in Westminster Cemetery.



5/8/1930

# Roxborough Indebted to J. V. Merrick

Philanthropist and Scientist  
Was Founder of Memorial  
Hospital

LIVED AT "HOUGHTON"

Recognized as Water Author-  
ity by City and National  
Leaders

There are many men and women whose unselfishness in life often rise as monuments after they have traveled into the Silent Land. Every time we pass Houghton street, the Memorial Hospital; or St. Timothy's church, in Roxborough, or the Northern Home for Friendless Children, in Wissahickon, we are reminded of John Vaughan Merrick, whose memory is preserved in the street, hospital, church and Home.

It is almost twenty-five years since Mr. Merrick died of pneumonia, but his works still live on.

John Vaughan Merrick came from a noted Philadelphia family, and the greater portion of his 78 years of life was given to researches along philanthropical and scientific lines.

He was born in this city, August 30, 1828, his parents being Samuel Vaughan and Sarah M. Merrick, who were residents of Roxborough. After graduating from the Central High School in 1843, he received a special education in engineering in

the best technical schools of this city, and in the works of Merrick & Towne.

He was married on October 23rd to Miss Sophia Wagner, and the couple experienced a most happy union until August 31st, 1907, when Mrs. Merrick died.

Mr. Merrick took up his business career as the senior partner of Merrick & Sons, in 1849 and served as such until 1870. Two years later he became manager, and in 1886 assumed the office of vice president. The firm was noted as builders of gas and sugar machinery and of marine engines.

He was a pioneer member of the Zoological Society. In 1883, Mr. Merrick was chosen as a member of the board of experts to examine the Philadelphia water supply, and in 1867 he was selected as an authority on the subject by the United States Navy Department. He was associated with many scientific bodies and had been a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

He was also affiliated with the Franklin Institute, and served as its president from 1867 until 1870. He was vice president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers from 1893 to 1895, retaining membership until his death.

He was the founder and a trustee

of St. Timothy's Hospital, now familiar as the Memorial Hospital, and was president of the Free and Open Church Association, occupying the chair of president for many years. He was honored by various scientific organizations and received the degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. The Board of Public Education might have been acting with more wisdom if it had named the new school on Umbria street, which is about being completed, in honor of Mr. Merrick instead of the man whose name it will bear, who did little or nothing for the advancement of the 21st Ward.

Mr. Merrick's social affiliations included active membership in the Union League, the Philadelphia and Penn Clubs, and the American Philosophical Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrick were the parents of four children, J. Vaughan Merrick, Jr., J. Hartley Merrick, Mrs. George A. Bostwick and Mrs. Minnie Williams. The Merrick estate, on Ridge avenue, was called "Houghton," which has since been bestowed upon one of Roxborough's finest thoroughfares.

SOCIAFF

5-1-1930  
**Jos. Sumner  
Passes Away  
At His Home**

33

Was 21st Ward Republican  
Leader For Many  
Years

FUNERAL ON FRIDAY

Served on State and City  
Committees of His  
Party

Hundreds of residents of the 21st Ward are expressing their sorrow over the death, on Tuesday morning, of Joseph Sumner, of 601 Rector street, who formerly was the recognized political leader of the ward for many years.

Mr. Sumner was born in Bolton, England, but came to this country, when but a youth. He immediately became interested in political activities and eventually became a member of the Republican State Committee, on which he served six years. Following this, the deceased, was a member, for twelve years, of the Republican City Committee, and during this period controlled the political destinies of the 21st Ward.

He was employed for many years as a State factory inspector, and afterward was a real estate assessor. Two years ago he retired from active work.

In his young manhood Mr. Sumner married Elizabeth A. Rothwell, and the marriage was blessed with two children, Joseph Sumner, Jr., and a daughter, Mary, who is now Mrs. Arnold West, of Logan. All of Mr. Sumner's immediate family survive him.

Church services will be held at St. Timothy's Church, tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock and the interment will be made in the adjoining churchyard.

3-20-1930

## CHURCH ORGANIST BURIED ON MONDAY

Mary McKinley Makem, of 201 Levering street, wife of the late Thomas P. Makem, who for many years presided at the organ in St. John the Baptist Church, in Manayunk, died on Wednesday of last week.

Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church on Monday morning and the interment was made in the adjoining cemetery.

4-17-1930

### IS ELECTED



HORACE J. HEAPS

West Manayunk resident who at the last meeting of the Montgomery County Firemen's Ass'n, held at Norristown, on April 5th, was elected Recording Secretary of the organization. Mr. Heaps who was formerly Credential Secretary, and still retains his old post as Fire marshal of the 8th District, is well known in this vicinity as the business manager of the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser.

5/28/1931

34

# John Milligan Dies After A Long Illness

Publisher of Manayunk  
Chronicle Expired at  
Hospital on Sunday

HAD MANY FRIENDS

Served as Secretary of Camp  
Fifty For Twenty-  
Seven Years

Death came to claim John E. Milligan, of 521 East Hermitage street, Roxborough, at 2:30 A. M. last Sunday, at the Memorial Hospital, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Milligan was the senior member of the firm of Milligan & Company, which publishes the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, and conducts a general printing office at 4442 Main street, Manayunk.

The deceased, who lived his entire life in the 21st Ward, was 69 years of age, having been born here on August 31st, 1861. He was one of six children of James and Hannah Smith Milligan, who came to Manayunk direct from Carlisle, England.

His father, James Milligan, a great temperance advocate, in 1869 established the Chronicle and Advertiser, with a partner, John McCook, under the firm name of Milligan & McCook. Mr. McCook took charge of the mechanical side of the business, while James Milligan was the editor. His was a fearless pen and the editorials which he printed gained for him a reputation as one of the great newspapermen of this section of the country.

Upon the death of Mr. McCook, John E. Milligan—the editor's son—and Samuel Ehly were admitted to the firm, which then changed its name to Milligan & Company, which still exists. James Milligan continued to write for the Chronicle until the time of his death in 1908.

John E. Milligan and Samuel Ehly have since directed the destinies of the publishing house.

Mr. Milligan was educated in the 21st Ward, and aside from two years spent in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, devoted all of his working years to the printing business. He was married on June 18th, 1890, to Miss Susanna Lippen, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Lippen, who were the proprietors of the Wissahickon Hotel, on the Wissahickon Drive at the foot of Gypsy lane. Mrs. Milligan and one son, Roy L. Milligan,

still survive, as does two sisters of the deceased, Mrs. Eleanor Omensetter, of Allentown, Pa., and Mrs. Anne Leewright, of East Orange, N. J. A brother of Mr. Milligan—Thomas L. Milligan—who was well known throughout this vicinity, died four years ago.

Joseph H. Ewing, president of THE SUBURBAN PRESS, served his apprenticeship in the newspaper business under the tutelage of John Milligan, and often, in his recollections, recalls the instructions of his first mentor in the composing room of the Chronicle.

One of the greatest activities pursued by Mr. Milligan, aside from printing, was in fraternal work. On March 24th, 1904, he was elected secretary of Camp Fifty, P. O. S. of A., and continuously served in that capacity until his final illness. He was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Manayunk, Roxborough Lodge No. 66, Odd Fellows; Roxborough Lodge No. 135, F. and A. M.; Roxborough Commandery, of the P. O. S. of A., and an honorary member of Camp No. 275, P. O. of A.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon, from the home of Isaiah T. Ryan, Lyceum avenue and Mitchell street, and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

3-5-1936

## Fire Bureau is 65 Years Old

City's Paid Smoke-Eaters Replaced Volunteers, Whose Intense Rivalry With Other Companies Prevented Efficiency at Fires.

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

March 1931 will be the 65th birthday of Philadelphia's paid fire bureau.

William S. Stokley was elected mayor with the pledge that he would abolish the former volunteer companies.

On New Year's Day of 1871 rioting broke out among the volunteers and one man was shot. This was the straw that finally broke the camel's back.

On January 3rd, Mayor Stokley appointed a Board of Fire Commissioners and on March 15th the new bureau went into service.

In locating the engine companies Manayunk was allotted Company No. 12 and the local company is so designated today.

The members of the original Company No. 12 were John Rumley, foreman; Charles L. Vernier, engineer; Daniel Jones, stoker; Hugh H.

Cochran, driver; Henry Firth, Joseph Marshall, Hugh McDermott, Jerry Stapleton, William Lanigan, John McLaughlin, Samuel Saunders and Thomas Mulligan, hose-men.

The engine house was leased by the city for \$500 per annum.

The Good Intent Fire Company, a volunteer organization, captained by the late Jacob Wright, with headquarters on Fountain street opposite the Roxborough High School, did not disband for a couple of years after the Manayunk paid company was established. It was given the privilege of continuing until better arrangements could be made for quenching the Hilltop fires and conflagrations in the mills along the Wissahickon Creek.

When the old pumper of the Good Intent Company was eventually put up for sale, a prospective buyer was examining the engine, when a boy ran into the firehouse, yelling "Smitty Reimshart's blacksmith shop, on Ridge road, is on fire!" The Good Intent responded and extinguished the blaze; that being its last run in Roxborough.

On July 3rd, 1873, a one-horse truck, equipped with five ladders, was sent to Manayunk, and housed in the old horse-car depot on Main street above Green lane.

As Time lurched on Engine Company No. 35 was established at Ridge and Midvale avenues; and No. 39 at Ridge and Leverington avenues. Truck Company No. 18, formerly at Ridge and Midvale avenues, was sent to 22nd and Hunting Park avenue, when Truck Company No. 25 was installed at Manayunk. The youngest local fire company, in point of service, is Engine Company No. 66, at Ann and Dearnley streets, in Upper Roxborough.

2-6-1930

### Whoa!



One hundred and fifty hostlers—members of The Roxborough Express Horse Company, known hereabouts as "The Horse Thieves"—are being sent invitations to "don the feed bag" at the ranchero of the Philadelphia Rifle Club, 8th Pike and Tabor Road, on the evening of February 20th.

The "stage coach," will leave the crossroads at Conarroe Lane and Ridge Road, at the usual early hour.

Members are requested to unwrap their dues, from their "bale of hay" and send them at once to Secretary Henry C. McVey, 6080 Ridge avenue, so that reservations for the "manger" can be made.

1/22/1931

# Roxborough Man Died On Tuesday

Daniel Weimer Bussinger,  
Sr., Succumbs Follow-  
ing Operation

HAD ACTIVE CAREER

Was Member of Local  
School Board For  
20 Years

Death came to claim Daniel W. Bussinger, Sr., of 476 Leverington avenue, on Tuesday, following an operation at the Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Bussinger, who was in his 78th year, sustained a fall several weeks ago, and had been at the hospital ever since. He was apparently recovering from the injuries when other complications set in and these with the handicap of his advanced years was too much to overcome.

Mr. Bussinger was born at the Falls of Schuylkill on Saturday, October 28th, 1843, being the youngest son of John Bussinger and Mary (Weimer) Bussinger. The family originated in Switzerland.

His father having died in his early infancy, he was admitted to Girard College, on April 1st, 1850, and remained there until November 1858, when he was apprenticed to a farmer in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He worked on the farm for nearly three years until August 1861, his patriotic fervor having become excited, he left his guardian suddenly, without any permission, and enlisted in the army. His employer caused him to be brought back, but it being found that his determination to be a soldier was unalterable, he was finally permitted to go to war, and in December of the same year, when a little more than eighteen years of age, he again enlisted at Rochester, Beaver County, Pa., and was sent to join Company "K" of the 10th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps. He continued to serve as a private soldier in this regiment until the spring of 1864, when the term of service having expired, and he himself having served two years, he re-enlisted at Manassas Junction, Va., as a veteran for the remainder of the war.

At Spottsylvania Court House, Va., on May 21st 1864, he was taken a prisoner by the Confeder-

ate troops, and sent to Libby Prison, at Richmond. Among the other prisoners he was transferred to Andersonville Prison, in Georgia, arriving there on June 7th, 1864. He was confined to this military prison for some three months, and then transferred to various other prison camps in the south, until November 21st, 1864, when he was paroled and sent to Annapolis, Maryland.

Upon his return from the war he settled in Germantown, and secured employment in a carpet mill, subsequently learning carpet weaving at the mills of McCallum, Greast and Sloan.

During President Grant's administration, Mr. Bussinger received an appointment at the Philadelphia Custom House, and two years later became a clerk in the Comptroller's office, under S. P. Hancock. There he remained for six years, disbursing millions of dollars, and discharging his duties with such carefulness and faithfulness as to receive the highest recommendation.

On July the fifth, 1877, he was appointed to the clerkship of the Eastern Penitentiary, which position he held until March 17th, 1900 when he was made warden of the institution, a capacity in which he served until October 3rd, 1903, when he was succeeded by Warden Robert J. McKenty.

For some twenty years, or more, he was a member of the 21st Section School Board, much of his time having been spent as its presiding officer. More than a score of years he served the poor of this district as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor of Roxborough. Besides being a G. A. R. man, he was a member of Mitchell Lodge, F. and A. M., the American Mechanics, Knights of the Golden Eagle, Knights of Pythias, representing the last named order in the Grand Lodge for several decades.

Mr. Bussinger was married on June 23rd, 1865, to Miss Mary Upton, a daughter of Cornelius and Sarah Upton, of Germantown.

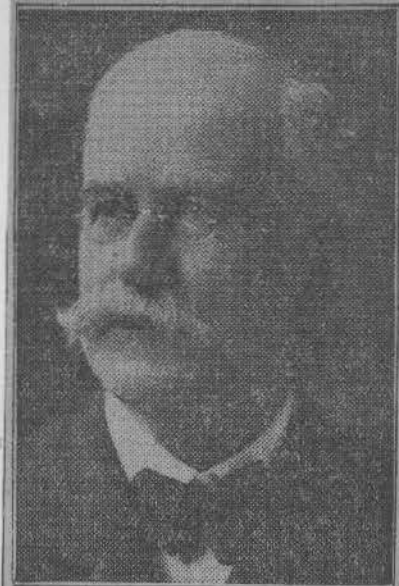
Mrs. Bussinger died on August 30th, 1911, being survived by her husband, and three sons, Daniel W. Bussinger, Jr., who is employed in the headquarters of the Philadelphia Fire Bureau at City Hall, residing at the Leverington avenue address; John R. Bussinger, of Philadelphia, and George Bussinger, of Germantown.

Funeral services will be conducted at the rooms of Kirk and Nice, Germantown avenue and Washington lane, on Saturday.

The Masonic rites will be followed. Burial will be made in Ivy Hill Cemetery.

ENDS LIFE'S MARCH

35



DANIEL W. BUSSINGER, SR.  
Prominent resident of the 21st Ward, formerly active in political, religious, educational and G. A. R. work, who expired at the Memorial Hospital, on Tuesday.

3-5-1936

# Michael J. Nolan Passes Away

Prominent Resident of Manayunk Succumbed on Monday. — Family One of Most Outstanding in This Vicinity.

Manayunk lost one of its most respected residents, when Michael J. Nolan, of 3947 Terrace street, died on Monday.

For many years he was employed in the Central Station of the Philadelphia Post Office, at Ninth and Market streets, retiring about three years ago.

Mr. Nolan, and his wife, Katherine A. Nolan -nee McIlvaine - were the parents of an outstanding family, two sons being priests, and one daughter a nun in the Roman Catholic Church. These are Rev. Fathers De Sales Nolan, O. F. M.; Murtaugh J. Nolan, Altoona, Pa., and Sister M. Murtaugh, S. S. I. H. During the World War sons of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan made splendid records in the U. S. Army.

Solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church, this morning, and the interment will be made in New Cathedral Cemetery.

11/19/36

# St. Stephen's P.E. Church To Mark 50th Anniversary

Parish Established Thanksgiving Day, November 27th, 1886

## STARTED AS MISSION

Special Services Have Been Arranged For Next Week Starting on Sunday

Beginning next Sunday, the parishioners of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, at Terrace and Hermit street, Wissahickon, will start a week's celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the church. The program is as follows:

Sunday, November 22nd, celebration of Holy Communion at 11:00 A. M. A service of preparation for the Festivities.

Wednesday, November 25th there will be a musical service in the church with Rt. Rev. Francis M. Tait, Bishop of the Diocese, as guest and speaker of the evening.

Another outstanding feature of this service is that the music will be furnished by the present choir, augmented by many of its former members; and among the selections to be rendered will be those composed by former organists and choir masters, namely Prof. Frank Berry, Harry Staten and Herbert M. Butcher. A very interesting service has been planned through the earnest efforts of Rev. Carroll M. Bates, rector, and Albert M. Drobil, organist and choir master, who request that former choir members take part in this service.

Thursday, November 26th. It is most fitting that Thanksgiving Day is embodied in the Festivities and there will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00 A. M.

Friday, November 27th. The actual Birthday of the Parish. A social gathering will be held in the Parish House, where former clergymen and members of the Parish will join in reminiscences.

A brief outline of the history shows that in 1871, Rev. F. H. Bushnell, rector of St. David's Protestant Episcopal Church, Manayunk, preached a sermon to his congregation proposing the building of St. David's Mission (later to be called St. Stephen's). In 1876, Rev. F. H. Bushnell preached at the first service within the walls of the chapel of the new mission. On November 27, 1886, Rev. Charles Logan, rector of St. David's Manayunk, came to this mission at the northwest corner of Hermit and Terrace streets, to hold a parting

service; the Mission having, by the request of its congregation and by the consent of the rector, wardens and vestrymen of St. David's Church, been declared free to organize itself into an independent parish.

Rev. Charles R. Bonnell, who had been in charge of the mission since September 1st, 1886, began the service; Rev. Henry P. Chapman read prayers, and Rev. Charles Logan preached on the text, "Be Strong. All Ye People of the Land, saith the Lord, and work" (Haggai 2:4). Rt. Rev. B. Wistar Morris, who was in the Chancel, made an address, and by request, named the new parish St. Stephen's, because of the fact that St. David's Manayunk, the mother parish, was organized and built under the influence of gentlemen connected with St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia. Letters of congratulation were read from Rev. F. H. Bushnell and Rev. Mr. Chapman, who preceded Rev. Mr. Bonnell. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to assist the rector until the organization of St. Stephen's should be completed: The Messrs. Samuel Rowley, Albert Berry, A. Wilby, James Harper, George Missimer and William Jeffries.

In 1887, the Parish was received into union with the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. In 1888, surveyors laid out ground for a parish building. In 1900 a new choir was formally installed, composed of men, women and boys.

Many people of the community remember the enviable record held by St. Stephen's Emergency Hospital during the great epidemic of influenza in 1918. The church turned over its parish buildings to Dr. Krusen, who was then Director of Public Health, for use as an emergency hospital, which was readily accepted and patients from all sections of Philadelphia were given the best of care by local women under the supervision of trained nurses, and local doctors under the supervision of Dr. Lawrence Simcox. This hospital emerged from the epidemic and closed its doors with a commendation from Dr. Krusen personally of having the lowest death rate of any hospital in the city, either emergency or otherwise.

Another interesting fact concerning St. Stephen's is that the first kindergarten in Wissahickon started in St. Stephen's Parish and later moved to Wissahickon School.

The Parish at the present time is on a comparatively good financial basis and expects by the first of the year to be entirely free of debt. Backed by an energetic and hard-working Men's Bible Class, an equally competent Women's Guild, and several other flourishing organizations, the Parish looks forward to a very promising future.

3/12/36

36

# Strange Street Names Confuse Local Residents

Few Persons Able to Locate All Thoroughfares in 21st Ward

## AGE OF SPECIALISTS

Those Who Know How to Run Nation, Unable to Name Own Councilmen

Most people are unobservant of things in general. This is an age of specialists. The real estate man knows real estate; the housewife knows all about her home; the mechanic keeps posted on all that's new in machinery; the doctor keeps check on vitamins, calories, etc.; the politician studies politics. But take anyone of these out of their own particular field, and their knowledge is usually limited.

Recently a test was made in Roxborough; men and women being asked "Who are the four Councilmen who represent this District?" And surprisingly enough some of the most ardent political spellbinders; men and women who work on political committees were unable to give a correct answer.

"How well do you know your own community?" is another query that would confuse many residents of the 21st Ward—and also those in other sections of the city.

Few individuals know the names of the streets a few blocks away from their homes; being sure of none but the one on which they reside, and the main avenues.

How many readers of The Suburban Press can give a one hundred per cent answer concerning the location of the following streets in Roxborough, Wissahickon and Manayunk, without consulting a directory? Davis street, Prospect Court, Canal street, Lofty street, Burnside street, Ring street, Maiden street, Roberts avenue, High street, Greenough street, Linney street, Alden street, Gypsy lane, Retta street, Township Line road, Vicaris street, Jacob street, Sarah street, Springbank lane, Scotforth road, Ellett lane, Willow Grove avenue, Manti street, Culp street, Newland street, Aurania street, Granville road, Crestview road, Pembroke road, Seffert street, Shallkop street, Eva street, Ann street, Spring lane, Wright street.

Those who can will be awarded their choice of a beautiful fur-lined syrup jug, or a silent peanut cracker for christening services.

6/11/34

37

# Noted Fliers To Testify In Court Suit

## Lindbergh May Be Present as Witness for Air- plane Company

### MAY SET PRECEDENT

## Duff C. Law, of Roxborough, Was Killed in Queer Accident

The legal and financial responsibility of air lines hinges on the outcome of a \$150,000 damage suit begun Monday in the United States District Court.

Famous fliers, including Bernt Balchen, who soared over the North Pole and over the Atlantic with Byrd, spent the day in Court awaiting an opportunity to testify as expert witnesses.

The suit was brought by Mrs. Janet P. Law, of 447 Harmon road, Roxborough, against the Transcontinental Air Transport.

Her husband, Duff C. Law, an official of Warner Brothers and the Technicolor Corporation, was killed in a T. A. T. plane crash at Stout Field, Indianapolis, December 22, 1929.

She seeks compensation on behalf of her five children and herself.

The famous fliers were summoned as defense witnesses, and it is understood that Colonel Lindbergh, vice president of T. A. T., will be among those called.

The major point at issue, according to counsel, is whether or not an airline is a common carrier in the eyes of the law.

Should Judge William H. Kirkpatrick decide this question affirmatively, a precedent will have been established placing planes in the same category of legal responsibility for negligence and accidents as railroads, boats, busses and trolleys.

Dean W. Burford, pilot, described on the stand the faulty landing that proved fatal to Law alone of the 10 passengers traveling from St. Louis to Columbus, O. Burford now is employed by the Cord-Stinson interests at Detroit.

"Bad Weather," Burford declared, "caused me to decide on an unscheduled landing at Indianapolis. It was snowing and a light north wind was blowing, I circled the field once and then came down toward the field downwind. The ship was floating badly.

"I saw I was going to overrun the field. The ship shot over the south boundary lights, trundled across a ditch and hit a snow-covered stump. After running about two-

hundred feet farther on, the landing gear collapsed and sent the plane skidding on its side for a short distance."

Burford's replies to questions by Morris Wolf, counsel for Mrs. Law, developed that the stump tore through the floor of the plane in front of Law's seat. The shock threw Law out of his seat to the rear of the cabin. His skull was fractured.

The airline's defense is based on

the fact that the ticket sold Law, who was an official of the Warner Brothers Company and the Technicolor Corporation, bore on its reverse side a statement that the passenger released the company from all damage suits. Wolf contended such a stipulation is illegal.

Another factor entering the case is the Indiana State law which limits the damages recoverable in accidents to \$10,000.

The only witness heard on Monday were Russel Law, a brother of the dead man, who identified certain correspondence between T. A. T. officials and himself concerning the accident; M. J. Barry, vice president of T. A. T., who identified advertising matter circulated by the airline and Charles Supplee a Pennsylvania Railroad ticket agent, who sold Law's ticket.

Among the famed pilots who were in the courtroom are; Charles S. "Casey" Jones, pioneer in commercial aviation and a vice president of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation; James Ray, chief pilot for the Pittcairn Aviation Company, who landed an autogiro on the White House lawn recently, and Ambrose Banks, former mail ace.

nves at 447 Harmon road, Roxborough, sued for \$150,000

In addition to the \$5000 damages granted by the jury, Mrs. Law also will receive \$5000 from the Maryland Casualty Company in which her husband, as a passenger on the plane, was insured by the airplane company.

The jury began deliberating at 3 P. M. Three hours later Judge W. H. Kirkpatrick directed sealing of the verdict if reached. Because the Judge was in Easton on Friday sitting as a special Federal Court there, Judge Dickinson received the verdict.

Law was fatally injured when the plane struck a tree stump in landing at Stout Field, Indianapolis. It was alleged the pilot of the plane was negligent. The case is the first of its kind ever tried here and involved the question whether a company operating airplanes is a common carrier.

One of the jurors several days before was seen to pat on the back Dean W. Burford, pilot of the plane in which Law met death, and tell him: "Don't worry, old man, everything's all right; you can carry me anytime." The incident was brought to the attention of the Court by Morris Wolf, Mrs. Law's attorney, but he said he believed the juror's action was "nothing more than a friendly gesture" and was no indication of bias.

A final witness in the case was Ambrose Banks, Plainfield, N. J., one of the first airmen to carry mail between New York and Philadelphia and former an associate of Burford. He commended Burford's ability as a pilot, but criticized his handling of the plane at the time of the accident which occurred on December 22, 1929.

6-18-1934

# Roxborough Woman Wins \$5000 Award

## Mrs. Duff C. Law, of Harmon Road, Victor in Court Case

### HUSBAND KILLED

## Also Obtains \$5000 From Company Which Insured Spouse

A verdict of \$5000 against Transcontinental Air Transport, Inc., in favor of Mrs. Janet F. Law, whose husband was killed in an airplane accident in Indiana, was returned last Friday by a jury in the United States District Court. The verdict was sealed. Mrs. Law was not in court at the time.

The husband, Duff C. Law was an employe of Warner Brothers as a technicolor expert when the accident occurred. His widow, who

3-27-1930

## ERNEST A. KING DIES IN FRANKFORD

Ernest A. King, son of the late Professor Samuel A. King, known as an aeronaut and constructor of balloons, died on Saturday at his home, 1658 Conklin street, Frankford. He was 67 years old. Mr. King, who until shortly before his death was assistant superintendent of Henry Disston & Sons, assisted his father in many of his enterprises. His father made more than 500 balloon ascensions and was recognized as one of the most skillful of pilots.

The Kings' formerly lived in Wissahickon, in a homestead on Ridge avenue, close to the Kenworthy Bridge. The deceased, who was born at Wissahickon in 1873, the year his noted father aided Donalson and Wise make an ocean flight in a balloon. The trip ended disastrously in a Canadian forest.

6/18/1931

## 21st Ward Sunday Schools Prepare for Hundredth Safe and Sane "Fourth"

Displays to Be Exhibited in Show Windows in Roxborough  
and Manayunk.--Radio Broadcasts on June 29th and  
30th.--To Unveil Memorial to Samuel Lawson

Twenty-first Ward Sunday School scholars are advised by the committee in charge of the 100th anniversary celebration that the booklet descriptive of the affair, will be available at their own schools, on Saturday next--June 20th.

The show windows of J. Raymond Turner, at Ridge avenue and Green lane, and of F. Kerkeslager, at Main and Levering streets, will contain displays significant of the past century of safe and sane Independence Day celebrations. Copies of the anniversary booklet will also be procurable at these places.

A bronze tablet, in memory of Samuel Lawson, the man who instituted the annual Sunday School picnics, will be unveiled in front of the Fourth Reformed Church, at Manayunk and Monastery avenues, next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Appropriate ceremonies will precede the unveiling.

On Sunday, June 28th, each 21st Ward Church, or Bible School, will hold special services emphasizing the contribution of the local Fourth of July custom to religion, patriotism, community life and health.

Radio Station WCAU will broadcast Part 1, of the 21st Ward 4th of July Celebration program, at 6:00 P. M. on Monday June 29th. At 7:25 P. M. on Tuesday June 30th, Station WFI will broadcast the second part of the program.

And on Saturday July 4th will occur the great Union parade of twenty four Sunday Schools, in the special 100th anniversary jubilee. The marchers, as usual, will start from Lyceum and Manayunk avenues, at 8 o'clock in the morning. Further details of the celebration will be printed in next week's edition of THE SUBURBAN PRESS.

6/15/1931

## Former Bank Official, Here, Succumbs

J. H. Ashton Died at the  
University of Penna.  
Hospital

CLERGYMAN'S SON  
Was President of Manayunk  
Trust Company For  
20 Years

Thomas H. Ashton, for twenty years until his retirement in 1927, president of the Manayunk Trust Company, died last Sunday night at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, at the age of 70. His health had been failing several months, but he had been in the hospital only a few days. He lived at the Union League.

Mr. Ashton was a son of the Rev. and Mrs. James Y. Ashton, and was born in Philadelphia. His father was one of the leading clergymen in the Methodist conference. He was educated in the public schools and at the Peirce School of Business Administration.

His first banking experience was with the old Seventh National, where he was a paying teller. In 1889 he went to the Manayunk Trust Company as secretary and treasurer, and became its president in 1907. He was recognized many years as one of Philadelphia's most conservative old-line bankers. He was prominent in the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Ashton married Miss Kate Hogg, of Baltimore, who died several years ago. One daughter, Mrs. Katherine Eccleston, of Washington, survives him.

3P

## Manufacturer Dies at Shore

Robert Wolstenholme, Well  
Known in This Section,  
Expires at Seaside Park.—  
Known to Oldtimers Here  
as "A Regular Fellow."

Robert Wolstenholme, retired Philadelphia financier, died last Thursday, at his home in Seaside Park, N. J. He was 50.

Mr. Wolstenholme dealt in securities at offices on 15th street, near Walnut. He was a son of the late Thomas Wolstenholme, founder of a yarn company bearing that name, at 3300 Frankford avenue. Another son, Alfred, is head of Alfred Wolstenholme & Co., Inc., 24th street and Allegheny avenue, and Fred Wolstenholme, a son, is head of the Frankford avenue office.

Robert Wolstenholme severed his connection with the mill before he opened his securities office. For many years a member of the Seaside Park Yacht Club, he was a racing enthusiast and owned Lazy Lady, one of the best-known New Jersey motorcraft.

Besides his brothers, his widow, Mrs. Ida Archibald Wolstenholme; his mother, Mrs. Emily M. Wolstenholme, 6457 Greene street, Germantown, and a sister, Mrs. Florence W. Hickman, survive.

The father of the deceased, Thomas Wolstenholme, founded the yarn manufacturing firm of Wolstenholme & Clarke, which started operations in the old Fitzpatrick Canton Mills, at Baker street and Leverington avenue, a decade ago. The partners, then erected mills on Allegheny avenue, near 23rd street, where all the employees of the old Manayunk were transferred. The deceased was attached to the office force of the Manayunk mills, and known as a "Regular Fellow" among the workmen.

6/25/1931

## Historians Elect Martin To Lead Again

Fairmount Park Secretary  
Named for Third Term  
as President

### MILES, SECRETARY

## Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, Ended a Successful Year

Major Thomas S. Martin, secretary of the Fairmount Park Commission, who resides at "The Hermitage" on East Hermit lane, was elected president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, for the third consecutive term, at a meeting of the organization, held at his home on Wednesday evening of last week.

Major Martin's intimate knowledge of the Wissahickon region of the park, as well as on historical subjects in the 21st Ward and vicinity, makes him an ideal leader for the group, which has for its object the instilling in local residents of a love of the development of their community.

Other officers who were named were: James K. Helms, vice president; Joseph S. Miles, secretary; Mrs. Edith Righter Schofield, treasurer; A. C. Chadwick, Jr., historian. The trustees are Stanley Hart Cauffman, Dr. J. Franklin Strawinski, Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, Wallace Bromley, Mrs. Sara B. Schofield, Mrs. Joseph Miles, Mrs. H. F. Hagenbucher, J. Ellwood Barrett, George L. Laver, Franklin Edmunds and Ernest J. Weber.

Secretary Joseph S. Miles, read a review of the past year's activities, which included the reviewing of two local historical books, a hike, a bus trip to the source of the Wissahickon, an address by Judge Harold K. Knight, of Norristown, a memorial service at Grace Reformed Lutheran church and a nature picture showing at Kendrick Centre.

Following the meeting, pictures were displayed by James K. Helms through the courtesy of the Visual Education Section of the Board of Education. The films were entitled "Home of the Birds," and "The Bird Masque", the latter being of the biennial fete held in Carpenter's Woods, by the pupils of the Henry School.

1/15/31

## Mill Owner Passes Away

Robert Krook, Manayunk Textile Manufacturer, Is Claimed by Death on Friday of Last Week.—Survived by Family.

Robert Krook, Manayunk textile Manufacturer, whose mill is located at Main and Jamestown street, expired on Friday and was buried from the funeral parlors of Oliver H. Bair, on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Krook, who resided at 623 West Cliveden street, Germantown, was honored and respected by all of the men and women who worked for him. He was a member of the Board of the Manayunk Trust Company; of Roxborough Lodge No. 135 F. and A.M., Lu Lu Temple, Mystic Shrine; and of the Philadelphia Consistory.

He is survived by his wife, Augusta B. Krook, one son and two daughters.

3/20/31

## Death Claims Old Resident

Rudolph Gallati, Manayunk's Ninety Year Old Brush-Maker, Expires on Monday.—Lived in 21st Ward Since 1847.

For 70 years Rudolph Gallati and his brother, Henry, were partners in a brush manufacturing business at 4348 Main street, Manayunk.

Rudolph died Monday night, ending the partnership formed when their father, Gabriel, retired in 1860. He died at the address housing the firm.

Gabriel Gallati came here from Switzerland in 1847 and settled in Manayunk. He built up the business carried on by the sons, both of whom were born in Glarus, Switzerland. The brother, Henry, who is 97 years of age, survives.

Rudolph, who was 90 years old was a life member of the First Presbyterian Church, duPont and Baker streets. He was trustee for 40 years, secretary of the board 30 years and even longer as elder.

The deceased was a member of Roxborough Lodge No. 135 F and A. M., Harmony Chapter No. 52 R. A. M., and Manayunk Lodge No. 31 Odd Fellows.

Funeral services will be held at the church tomorrow afternoon, with the interment being made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Viewing may be made this evening at the funeral home of I. T. Ryan, 200 Green lane.

3/12/31

39

## Fire Destroys Mansion in Shawmont

Home of Late Inventor Is Swept By Flames

### LONG HOSE NEEDED

Apparatus Forced to Make Unusually Long Detour

A lack of proper paving on Umbria street, in North Manayunk, has come in for further protest since Thursday afternoon when shortly before two o'clock, fire attacked the old Shaw Mansion, on Shawmont avenue, above the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks.

The dwelling was set ablaze, it is said, when a field of dried grass which was afire, veered with the wind and swept toward the house.

Thomas Shaw, who once resided in the building of stone and wood, was a noted inventor. The homestead overlooked the Schuylkill river, and was situated in a grove of shade trees. It fell easy victim to the flames.

Roxborough and Manayunk firemen, who responded to the alarm, were handicapped by the lack of fire hydrants, and found it necessary to run a line of hose 2200 feet to the nearest plug. After the firemen had labored for more than two hours, against the handicaps of the long detour up Ridge avenue and down Shawmont avenue, and the apparent insufficiency of fire plugs, all that was left of the once beautiful home and woodland was blackened ruins.

Shaw was the inventor of the gas cooking stove, locomotive and steam whistles, steam and hydraulic gauges, pure air devices for mines, and numerous secret mechanisms used by the Army and Navy. When U. S. Grant was president of the United States, he made a visit to the Shaw home, while here to inspect the Nixon and other paper mills.

10/15/36

## Local Resident Established Old Insurance Firm

William A. Simpson, of  
Manayunk, Founded Busi-  
ness in 1861

STILL "GOING STRONG"

Fourth Generation of Family  
Is Now Represented by  
One of Descendants

Among the many activities of which the 21st Ward may well feel proud is the record made by the insurance firm of William A. Simpson & Son, with offices in the Drexel Building, at Fifth and Chestnut streets.

William A. Simpson founded the business at 226 Walnut street in 1861. He was originally a textile manufacturer and the new firm specialized in insuring textile factories, located principally in Manayunk, Chester, and along the Darby Creek.

At that time the automatic sprinkler systems were unknown and rates ran from 2½ to 3 percent per annum.

Mr. Simpson, whose family residence was in the neighborhood of Dupont and Baker streets, in Manayunk, was an early member of City Council from the 21st Ward, and was prominently identified with all civic matters in his time. He expired in 1878.

The business was continued, without cessation, by his son, B. Mitchell Simpson, who was later joined by his sons, William M. Simpson and Charles C. Simpson.

In 1916 the firm was incorporated and Erwin M. Simpson, another grandson of the founder, and son of B. Mitchell Simpson, joined the company, the latter retiring at that time.

In 1923 Charles C. Simpson, youngest of the brothers, died and he was succeeded by his son, B. Mitchell Simpson, 2nd, who represents the fourth generation of the family in the firm. The latter is a resident of Roxborough.

William A. Simpson & Son is the oldest insurance brokerage firm in Philadelphia, and is still progressing. Some of the companies represented by the firm have been in its office for more than half a century.

The present officers are Erwin M. Simpson, president; B. Mitchell Simpson, 2nd., secretary and treasurer.

10-8-36

## Baptists To Mark 85th Anniversary Of Congregation

Members of First Church,  
Manayunk, Arrange Joyful  
Program For Next Sunday

ORGANIZED IN 1851

Special Speakers to Deliver  
Addresses at Morning  
and Evening Services

Next Sunday, October 11, has been set apart by the members and officials of the Manayunk Baptist Church, Green lane below Silverwood street, as a day of rejoicing over the completion of 85 years of church life.

Organized in 1851, the church has had a splendid record both in individual and denominational service.

In 1873 the Mount Vernon Mission was organized as a part of the work. This work grew to such an extent that before long a separate church was organized, and the two congregations went their several ways. The year 1925 witnessed the merger of the two churches, the Mount Vernon property being used from that date as a neighborhood mission operated jointly by the Manayunk Baptist Church and the Baptist Union of Philadelphia.

At the 10 o'clock service next Sunday morning the speaker will be prof. A. E. Harris, of the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary; in the evening, A. T. O. Marks, of the Baptist Union, will address the congregation and friends. On Wednesday evening, October 14, the Annual Fellowship Supper will be held under the auspices of the world Wide Guild.

The church, now being served by Rev. G. H. Asquith, has a membership of 380; the Bible School, with Wallace F. Ott as superintendent, has an enrollment of 323. The treasurer, Charles Lamon, reports the financial condition as very strong, and everyone is looking forward to steady progress in the time between this anniversary and the 100th.

7/30/36

40

TO MRS. S.

I met a heroine today,  
Who made me feel ashamed,  
For having cried against cruel  
Fate

Which I have often blamed  
For handicaps that held me back  
From happiness I craved—  
I'll never know the tests of Life  
This little woman braved!

Upon Roxborough's hills she  
lives,  
Destined to spend her days  
Within a chair—she cannot

walk—  
But patiently displays  
The pride she feels in mother-  
hood;

The years of orisons;  
Her glory that's reflected by  
Her five fine, stalwart, sons.

She gave them life, these boys  
of hers,  
And guided them through  
years

When they were tots, and grow-  
ing lads,  
With all a mother's fears.  
And now that Fate has willed  
that she

Shall never walk again,  
Her boys, rewarding all her  
care,  
Stand by to ease her pain.

How many times have you and I  
Watched parents with im-  
patience,  
Become the churls when chil-  
dren failed

To show mature obeisance,  
And then discerned the youth  
grow up  
To treat the parent badly;  
To live and see those parents  
moan,  
Of children's faults, most  
sadly?

This mother whom I praise to-  
day,  
Ruled kindly with her boys,  
So now—though aged and crip-  
pled, too,  
She still has many joys.  
She is the type of heroine  
That God will ever bless,  
Who makes Life brighter for us  
all  
In darkest days of stress.  
A. C. C.



## Old Timer Travels Back Memory Lane

Recalls Incidents in a Long  
Life Time, Concerning  
Manayunk and Roxbor-  
ough.—Attended Services  
in Old Mt. Zion Church.

He was old. Snow-white hair, the length of his beard, and the cane that he carried were all significant of that. But his eyes were bright and his memory keen.

"I was born and raised in the Manayunk section of the 21st Ward, in 1851", he said, "and am old enough to remember vividly the terrors of the Civil War and its aftermath; the condition of the country leading up to and during Grover Cleveland's administration; Teddy Roosevelt's exploits in the Spanish-American War (there was a man for you!); the oratory of William Jennings Bryan; the rough-riding Colonel's financial troubles during 1907 and 1908; trust busting; the entry of the United States into the World War; and this most-recent financial slump, which was not considered a 'panic'. The truth to tell, Son, it was the worst I ever experienced. And with the growth in population here, there were more people around me, for me to observe their extreme suffering and also the fortitude of most of them."

"But how about happenings of a more local nature?" asked his interviewer. "Cannot you remember some of them?"

"Oh, yes indeed", said the gray-beard. "When I was a middle-aged man I sometimes accompanied friends of mine to services in the old Mount Zion M. E. Church, on lower Green lane. The building is now used by Italian people, as St. Lucy's Church.

"There are members of the First M. E. Church, of Roxborough, still living, who as affiliates of the old Mt. Zion congregation, who should be able to easily remember back to December 13th of 1896, when Bishop Foss, at a re-dedication ceremony marking the re-opening of the building after extensive repairs, said:

"The railway strike of a year ago, when 4500 men went out on a strike, was finally adjusted through the intervention of the church. When those eighteen men, including Archbishop Ryan, Bishop Whitaker and myself, addressed a paper to the managers, they saw that the people had some rights. In the conferences held, the spirit of the living God was there. Our responsibility for our country's tomorrow is so great that I hardly know how to state it'. That was what Bishop

Foss said. The statement made so much of an impression on my mind that I never forgot it. The choir sang beautiful music that evening, under the direction of the late B. Mitchell Simpson, and a young man played the organ. I think he is still doing the same sort of thing around here today." "How about politics in the old days? Did you ever take any interest in civic activities?"

"Well, just enough to keep informed enough to vote intelligently", said the old man. "I never made any attempt to run for office of any kind. But I can recall some of those that did."

"There was the time back in 1893, when things were pretty hot an election for Common Councilmen and some township officers. The Republican candidates for Councils were William F. Dixon, who only died last year; Josiah Linton and Henry Wanklin. The Democrats based their hopes on one man, Alex. McKernan. There was a third party, in the name of the Independent Republicans, whose candidates were A. Ellwood Jones and Cyrus P. Carmany.

"There Republican candidates for school director were Daniel W. Bussinger, who only passed away a few years ago; Joseph Stanley and Harry Gill. 'Bob' Laycock, the old horse-racing newspaper reporter, was the choice of the Democrats. The Citizens' Party put up Sam Birkmire and Joe Jobbins.

"For Overseers of the Poor of Roxborough Township (which I, being a Manayunker, couldn't vote for or against) the Republicans put up Dan Bussinger and Joseph H. Foering. I am not able to recall whether the Democrats had any candidates in this field or not.

"There was a chap who served on the Park Guard force for many years, who lived out here among us Hill-climbers, who always interested me by the energetic way he did things. That was old Charlie Albany, who old-timers should remember as being stationed for many years at the Ridge avenue entrance to the Wissahickon Drive. In his youth Sam was a painter and belonged to the Ebenezer Methodist Church, and I think it was in 1898, or thereabouts, that he was ordained as a minister of the gospel. I think the Conference that year met at Bethlehem, Pa. He it was, that was responsible for the founding of the Blue Bell Hill Church and he was pastor there for more than twenty years, working through the week as a Park Guard."

### FRANK H. ROSE

Revealed to the world, through  
his daily deeds,  
Each friend that he gains knows  
it's love that feeds  
Vocational urges, traced to a  
heart.

Faithfully living a Christian's  
part;  
Religiously struggling—ofttimes  
alone—

As he guides men on to the  
Heav'nly Throne;  
Neglecting nothing the Master  
asks;

Keeping busy at godly tasks;

He brings us messages, sweet  
and clear,

Regarding peace, which we love  
to hear;

Or quotes the Scriptures, to  
bring to mind

Sweet joy that's ours, if we'll  
only bind

Elohim's promises to our souls;  
Gaining, thus, most glorious  
goals.

Object lesson, of faith, is he;

Doing and daring that we may  
see  
Salvation's glory; and have us  
learn

Mankind's reward, that we all  
must earn;

Eternal peace, from the cares of  
earth

Supplied by the Master who gave  
us birth.

Such is the man we honor to-  
night;

Effectively leading our constant  
fight;

Nurturing pastor, through six-  
teen years,

Gladly sharing our hopes and  
fears;

Ever helpful in peace or woes,  
Revered in our hearts is Frank  
H. Rose.

A. C. C.

7/2/1931

## Our Picnics

"How far that little candle throws  
its beam!  
So shines a good deed in a  
naughty world!"

A tiny spark touched by the  
Father's hand  
Has grown a blaze of loveliness  
today,  
Love and unselfishness the tapers  
were  
Lit on the altar of a country  
church  
In bonny England, where our  
Sabbath Schools  
Themselves were instituted and  
where words  
Of Heavenly peace and Christ's  
own tenderness  
Were taught at first to eager boys  
and girls.

'Twas there then, oh so many  
years ago  
That—service and happiness as  
ever in hand—  
A joyous picnic for the young and  
old  
Was planned and carried out with  
huge success.  
And who can say, God's spirit  
hovering o'er,  
Did not implant in Samuel Law-  
son's soul  
A longing thus to happiness im-  
part—  
In lives of fellow townsmen on  
this side  
Of the great ocean; in our thriv-  
ing town  
Our friendly, homely, busy Mana-  
yunk.

There is no thing so small or in-  
conspicuous  
That, if the spirit glows and  
brightens in it,  
Taking its flame from God, it will  
not shine  
In glory and true beauty ever-  
more.  
Even a common picnic can take  
on  
The blessed aspect of "the tie that  
binds" us,  
The love of many brothers bound  
in one,  
True love and service to the God  
we worship!

And now a century has taken toll  
Of lives and thoughts and deeds  
and glory too  
And here we find ourselves a  
happy town  
Full of a special kind of happi-  
ness  
The kind the Bible talks about as  
"Blessed"  
Because Sam Lawson lived and  
worked among us.  
And every year we join each  
heart and hand  
As Sabbath Schools in service of  
the King,  
And honor give our country's  
natal day,  
Exultant in the brotherhood we  
cherish!

If I should say the glitter of the  
tin cups  
The small boys' horns, the lemon-  
ade and pickles

Devoured by hungry people, by  
the thousand  
Were symbols of a patriotic fer-  
vor—  
You'd say I'd surely lost my  
humble wits!  
But just the same that certain  
swelling feeling  
Of joy we can't restrain, and soar-  
ing spirits  
Epitomizes youth in full thanks-  
giving  
For blessings of a home and God  
and country  
Than which no other hand has  
fuller measure.

Now comes the Fourth again and  
martial music  
Calls every Mother's son and  
daughter too—  
Swing into line, uphold the flags  
we honor,  
Symbols of Faith and Country  
both unfurl.  
Nothing can mar our joy or down-  
our spirits,  
This is our day, the glory of the  
year.  
Onward, oh Christian soldiers  
ours the path is  
That leads on step by step and  
year by year,  
To perfect understanding and the  
peace  
That brings at last eternal  
brotherhood!

MIRIAM R. KEELY

7-2-31

July 4th, 1877

## SABBATH SCHOOL PICNIC

By THOMAS L. YOUNG  
(For the Manayunk Sentinel)

The annual picnic of the Mt. Zion  
Methodist Sunday School was held  
in Davis Jones' beautiful grove on  
the 4th inst. It was well attended  
and all "went merry as a marriage  
bell". After the usual religious ex-  
ercises by Rev. Mr. Carson and  
others, the young folks scattered  
for a romp, and indulged them-  
selves in various sports and plays,  
while the "older folks" gathered  
themselves in groups beneath the  
grateful shade of the forest trees,  
to luxuriate in the good things pro-  
vided for the occasion, have a social  
chat, and revive pleasing remin-  
iscences of times long gone by,  
when they, too, were young, and  
delighted in the hilarious pastimes  
which have ever constituted a  
pleasing and attractive feature of  
picnic parties.

The number of people during the  
day was estimated at from five to  
six hundred. The Independent  
Cornet Band was in attendance and  
discoursed excellent music.  
Manayunk,  
July 10th, 1877.

(The original of the above letter  
was kindly loaned to THE SUBUR-  
BAN PRESS through the courtesy  
of Mrs. J. Franklin Strawinski, of  
Terrace and Hermit streets, and  
was penned as a news report to the  
Manayunk Sentinel, a one-time 21st  
Ward newspaper.)

7/9/31

42

## Ninety-Seven Year Old Man In Big Parade

John Henry Gallati Marches  
For 84th Time on  
Saturday

GREAT DAY FOR HIM

"Independence Day Better  
Than Christmas,"  
He Says

J. Henry Gallati, 97, of 4348 Main  
street, Manayunk, was the oldest  
man of the 21st Ward Sunday  
Schools to parade last Saturday. He  
was on hand at 8 a. m. to walk  
three or four blocks with his Sun-  
day School, that of the Bethany  
German Lutheran Church.

"July 4 is a greater day in the  
21st Ward than Christmas," Mr.  
Gallati said. "Not a mill runs a  
wheel on the Fourth, but if they  
were rushed they might run on  
Christmas."

Born in Switzerland, Mr. Gallati  
came to America as a lad of 12.

"I shall never forget my first  
Fourth of July," the old man re-  
minisced. "My parents stayed at  
home to meet a man from the old  
country. I went on a picnic with  
some other boys, but I had been in  
this country only a few weeks and  
knew no English. That was the  
longest day I experienced in all my  
life. I first began parading with  
the Sunday School eighty-four  
years ago.

"In the old days we carried our  
own lunch baskets and had tin  
cups tied around our necks. As  
now there were gorgeous costumes  
in the crowd. Some represented  
nations and some personages such  
as Washington and Lincoln. In-  
stead of horses there are trucks  
now to take the children and the  
whole celebration is done on a  
more expensive scale. Of all the  
days in the year July 4 is the one  
to which we most look forward."

7/2/1931

43

# Fourth of July in Gorgas Park, And on the Schuylkill River, When Father Was a Youth

Germantown Resident, Kin of Robert Roberts Shronk,  
Sends Letter Telling of Celebration of Thirty-Eight  
Years Ago.—"Dad" Murphy Led Pupils' Singing

Here's a story from a German-  
town resident, which very happily  
reach the office of THE SUBURB-  
AN PRESS, in time for this week's  
issue.

Editor of THE SUBURBAN PRESS  
Dear Sir,

It may be of some interest  
to you and your very successful  
SUBURBAN PRESS, of which the  
writer here had the delightful plea-  
sure of reading about a week since,  
to hear of a July 4th celebration  
some 38 years ago.

When I read over the news items,  
particularly those concerning the  
21st Ward's 100th anniversary of  
its Fourth of July picnics, it at once  
ran in my mind that you could use  
some copy from the "Historical  
Souvenir Programme" of the In-  
dependence Day events at Gorgas  
Park, Roxborough, in 1893.

This writer certainly enjoyed  
himself at the time, notwithstand-  
ing the fact that he was but seven  
years old. I still remember the day,  
spent in Gorgas Park with my  
father and mother, now departed.  
My dad played a snare drum in the  
Falls Band at the time, and he  
made up part of the band on that  
day, taking the drummer's place,  
whom I understand was stricken  
with illness two or three days be-  
fore.

## GORGAS PARK, ROXBOROUGH

July 4th, 1893—Programme.

Exercises at 8 o'clock A. M.

Overture ... American Cornet Band

Invocation ... Rev. Dr. Gilbert

"Hail Columbia, Happy Land!"

School Children

Reading of the Declaration of

Independence

George B. Carr, Esq.

"Columbia, The Gem of the

Ocean" ... School Children

Oration ... Rudolph S. Walton

Musical Selection .. By the Band

"My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

School Children

Benediction ... Rev. Dr. Gilbert

Committee in charge

George J. Jewill

Citizens Auxillary Committee

Joseph M. Adams, William F.

Dixon, Josiah Linton, A. Elwood

Jones.

The Children participating are  
from the 21st Section Schools, un-  
der the direction of Prof. R. T.  
Murphy.

I have also, before me, a copy  
of a Schuylkill River Regatta Pro-  
gramme, of the same day and year  
—July 4th, 1893. The races started  
at the Falls Bridge and ended at  
Rockland. They began at 2 P. M.  
Among the committees and sub-  
committees were: Dr. Conrad Ber-  
ens, G. S. Carrigan, Dr. Charles  
Petts, H. K. Hinchman, H. E. Mc-  
Pherson, Albert Lucas, George  
James, Dr. George Root, Stephen  
Eisenbrey, A. E. Crenshaw, Louis  
Gratz, W. H. Zehender and George  
W. Statzell.

These men were in charge of the  
rowing and steam launch contest  
held on the Schuylkill River, over  
the National Course, beginning at  
2 P. M.

The referee was Henry Whiting  
Garfield, president of the National  
Association of Amateur Oarsmen.  
The time keepers were: Oscar P.  
Schmidt, of the Potomac Boat Club,  
of Washington, D. C.; Frederick  
Vilmas, of the New York Athletic  
Club; and H. P. Rommel, of the  
Triton Boat Club, of Newark, N. J.

The judges at the finish line  
were: John Dwyer, of the Atalanta  
Boat Club, of New York; A. E.  
Hopper, of the Passaic Boat Club,  
of Newark, N. J.; and John B. Sie-  
bert, of the Vesper Boat Club, of  
Philadelphia.

The scorer was P. B. Matthews, of  
the N. Y. Athletic Club. Charles  
E. Adams, of the West Philadelphia  
Boat Club was guardian of the  
Press boat, and Robert Wallace, of  
the Crescent Boat Club, was guard-  
ian of the Guest boat.

The entries for the one mile  
steam boat race were: "Lille B"  
owned by Taylor Brothers; "Leona,"  
owned by Henry Frank; "I. W. Dur-  
ham" owned by William Marshall;  
and "Yankee Doodle," owned by  
McBride Brothers.

Dick McBride, one of the  
brothers, was, I believe, the same  
one who played with the "Ath-  
letics," when they were in the Am-  
erican Association, back in 1887 and

1888.

If you had the space to print  
them, I could supply you with the  
entire list of entrants, but I realize  
that space is to editors what rain  
is to de.arts. There's never enough.

However, I think this reminder of  
what happened in your neck-o-the-  
woods, thirty-eight years ago,  
should be of interest to your read-  
ers.

Wishing you continued success, I  
remain,

Your Friend

Germantown, Phila., Pa.  
Owen Shronk Young,  
234 Berkley street.

10-22-1936

TO C. E. M.

You have known the weary wait-  
ing

In the watches of the night,  
And the busy times of labor

Of allaying pains and fright,  
And the awful hush of hours,

When the world would seek  
repose;

Nursing tasks that few can  
value—

But the grateful patient  
knows!

Dark and stifling was each mo-  
ment,

In those watches of the  
night;

Nerves a'tingle with the tension  
When the blackness flashed  
with white.

There were tears of hurts to  
banish;

There were hands to hold,  
for strength;

There were duties filled with  
mercy,

Till the morning dawned at  
length!

There were other, aiding, nurses,  
Which were yours to guide

aright,  
In those silent, awe-inspir-  
ing

And long watches of the  
night,

When full faith and hope and  
yearning

And the will - to - do was  
strong,

That have brought you many  
praises

In the convalescent's song!

Now, we're told you are to leave  
us,

That you're going far away;  
That new duties are a'calling

With commands you must  
obey,

But, dear friend, we'll e'er recall  
you,

In your uniform of white,  
As you went about "Memorial,"

In the watches of the  
night!

A. C. C.

12-17-1936

# Presbyterians At Manayunk Honor Rev. Frank Rose

Congregation Has Banquet  
Marking 16th Anniversary  
of His Local Pastorate

## MANY FINE TRIBUTES

Church and Sunday School  
Officials Pay Their Respects  
to Popular Clergyman

More than 160 persons attended the congregational banquet, marking the sixteenth anniversary of Rev. Frank H. Rose's pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church, Du Pont and Baker streets, Manayunk on Wednesday evening of last week. Joseph F. M. Baldi, Esq., was the master of ceremonies.

Albert W. Whitaker, Sr., clerk of the Session, made the invocation at the beginning of the meal, and as the diners partook of the sumptuous repast spread before them, entertainment was provided by John McClellan, of the Schuylkill Branch of the Christian Endeavor Union who was the sing leader and also played two trumpet solos; and the well-known Yadrakon Quartet, with their negro spirituals and other songs.

Tributes to Rev. Mr. Rose were paid by George Day, William Green and John Lovett. Miss Margaret Hilton also spoke briefly of Mr. Rose's splendid service and of the unflinching aid given him in his work by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Rose, afterward presenting "the lady of the manse" with a framed, illustrated poem, from friends in the congregation.

Mrs. Rose responded with thanks for Miss Hilton's remarks, after which Miss Rose Douglas read the verses, which concerned the recipient's husband's work at the Manayunk church.

A. C. Chadwick, Jr., of the Suburban Press, also added to the compliments paid Mr. Rose.

Wilbur H. Hamilton delivered a short address, in which was pro-

posed a 20th anniversary celebration for Mr. Rose; with the congregation endeavoring, during the intervening years, to make it possible to burn the church mortgage at the time of the celebration. Mr. Hamilton called attention to the presence, at the dinner, of John Buchanan, of Hermitage and Silverwood streets, who has attended services at the First Presbyterian Church for more than 60 years.

Young ladies of the church brought to Mr. Rose congratulatory messages, "From The Hills and Far Away"; these consisting of written tributes from neighboring and distant clergymen and congregations; one penned entirely in German, and "best of all," as Mr. Rose put it, one from his brother, David, in Seattle, Washington. The brothers have not seen each other in 25 years.

The Manayunk pastor voiced this gratitude for all the fine things which had been done for him, and said about him; expressing particular thanks for the co-operation of the members of the church and its relative groups; and anticipating many more years of happiness and joy together.

The principal speaker of the evening, Rev. George G. Dilworth, of Drexel Hill, brought an inspiring message, praising Mr. Rose and the members of the First Presbyterian Church, and pointing out the personal responsibility of each individual in sustaining Christianity and in aiding in the progress of God's Kingdom.

The dinner ended with the diners uniting in singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

The Sixteenth Anniversary celebration, for the pastor, started on the previous Sunday, when splendid attendances were marked at all of the services; and last Friday night was observed as "Community Night", when all of Mr. Rose's friends in this vicinity, paid their respects to him by attending at meeting in the church, at which time Rev. Harry Burton Boyd, of the Arch Street Presbyterian

5/7/1936

44

### WEEPING ROCK

The cliff projects  
With brave aspects  
O'er Schuylkill's vale;  
From where we view  
The old and new  
In changing scale.  
And here stand I  
Close to the sky;  
A long-time friend;  
Where glorious moon,  
Or sun of noon,  
Above me wend  
Their course so true  
The ages through  
And peace descends.  
Below my feet,  
On Leving street,  
Are children at their games;  
Off there, Pencoyd,  
With men employed  
Near molten steel's bright  
flames.  
And birds are here  
Throughout the year,  
The ones that flying West,  
Or South or North  
Go back and forth,  
Or stop to seek a rest.  
And, from this rock,  
I note the clock  
On St. John's spire,  
Toll off the hours  
Of earthly powers  
Which men acquire.  
My eyes drop down  
Upon the town,  
On people great and small;  
On homes and mills  
Spread o'er the hills,  
And glory in them all!  
Then gazing high  
Into the sky,  
I know that God is great!  
And o'er the world,  
As Life's unfurled;  
In distant land and State;  
Each care and woe  
He's sure to know;  
Of all His earthly flock;  
His views more plain  
Than those I gain  
Atop of Weeping Rock.  
A. C. C.

12/17/36

## F. L. Heidinger Expired At His Home On Tuesday

Aged Resident of Roxborough Had Been Confined Indoors More Than a Year

### FUNERAL TODAY

Superintended and Established Textile Mills Prior to His Retirement

Residents of Roxborough, particularly those who knew him intimately, are mourning the death of Francis L. Heidinger, who expired at his home, 315 Lemonte street, on Tuesday morning, after he had been confined to the house for more than a year.

Possessing a wide circle of friends Mr. Heidinger, although well advanced in years, took an active interest in local happenings up until his final illness.

Born in Manayunk, on June 21st 1849, he was the son of the late Peter and Eliza (Lamon) Heidinger, his father having the first bakery in Manayunk.

The greater part of his life was spent in the textile business, as a superintendent and latterly undertaking the establishment of plants for various owners. Among the mills he started was one at Martin's Creek, Pa., and another in South Carolina.

On December 16th 1874, Mr. Heidinger married Miss Annie Whiteside, a local resident; the marriage extending until four and one-half years ago, when Mrs. Heidinger expired.

Mourning his loss are a son, Willis B. Heidinger, attorney-at-law; two daughters, Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, principal of the Shawmont School, and Miss Minnie Heidinger, of the Roxborough High School faculty; a granddaughter, Miss Elizabeth Heidinger; and a nephew, Hon. James V. Heidinger, a County Judge, who resides in southern Illinois.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon, from the Steller Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, and the interment will be made in Westminster Cemetery.

11/6/1936

## George A. Edwards Succumbed At His Home, Thursday

Was Descendant of Pioneer Settlers of Radnor Township in Montgomery County

### ACTIVE ODD FELLOW

Funeral Services Held in Roxborough on Monday Afternoon

Admired and respected by a large circle of friends, George A. Edwards died at his home on Crestview road, Roxborough, last Thursday morning.

Born at Merion Square, in Montgomery County, on August 22nd, 1862, Mr. Edwards was the son of Mahlon Worthington and Mary Ann Apple Edwards. Coming to Roxborough in May of 1890 he established a horse shoeing business on Ridge avenue, opposite Cinnaminson lane, which he continued for more than thirty years.

He was a member of the century and a half old Philadelphia County Express Horse Company, an association formed for protection against horse thefts, which still exists and is familiarly known as "the Horse Thieves." He was also a member of Roxborough Lodge No. 66 Odd Fellows, which he joined on January 7th 1899. For this fraternal order he acted as representative to the Home; was a member of the Hall Association from March 1906 until his death; and a Trustee from March 25th 1905 to date.

Mr. Edwards was a descendant of the Wills and Mather families, who settled in Radnor in 1728, coming from Scotland and Wales. These pioneers assisted in the formation of old St. David's Church, being members of the original congregation and vestries of that church, and also at St. Peter's in The Great Valley, at Tredyffryn.

Surviving are his wife, Elva S. Edwards, one son, Wayne, and four daughters, Mrs. John A. Sheldrake, Elsie M. Edwards, Mrs. Felix A. Krause, and M. Ruth Edwards.

Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon, from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. John A. Sheldrake, 514 East Leverington avenue, and the interment was made at Merion Square.

10/29/36

45

## John Wilde Dies In 90th Year

Retired Textile Yarn Manufacturer Succumbed on Monday afternoon.—Funeral Services to Be Held From Late Residence.

John Wilde, retired textile yarn manufacturer, founder of the firm of John Wilde and Brother, died at the residence of his son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Linton Turner, 450 Lyceum avenue, on Monday, at the age of ninety years. Born in England, Mr. Wilde came to this country when but ten years of age.

In his youth he was engaged in various lines of work; at one time being connected with John and James Dobson. About fifty years ago he started his own business, which continues, at Wissahickon.

As a young man he married Miss Sarah Wilde, who expired in 1931, after which Mr. Wilde resided with Dr. and Mrs. Turner.

Surviving the deceased is his daughter, Mrs. Turner and one grandchild, Linton Turner, Jr.

He was a member of Palestine Lodge No. 470, F. and A. M., and in church affairs was a Methodist.

Funeral services will be held from his late residence this afternoon, in charge of Dr. Samuel McWilliams, and the interment will be made in Westminster Cemetery.

8-13-1936

### COLLOQUIALISMS

In a nearby home, they stood apart,  
Where the four surveyed a work of art,  
Long they gazed and not one broke  
A space of silence until up spoke  
The Manayunker, with solemn face,  
Who said aloud, "What a lovely vase!"  
Then from the three a titter's heard  
As they note the way he utters the word.  
The Wissahickoner's mete of praise,  
Was "It is, indeed, a lovely vase!"  
His triumph was short, as Man oft wills,  
When he heard from the high Roxborough hills  
The words of one with his "hems" and "ahs,"  
"I say, my word, it's a lovely vaws!"  
Then a Queen Lane Manorite, full of laws,  
Said "Pardon me, it's a charming vaws!"  
Then their hostess entered with lively step,  
And gaily said, "It is pritty! Yep!"

A. C. C.

3/19/1931

46

# Bank Has Thirteenth Birthday

Roxborough Trust Company  
Opens Doors in  
1918

GROWTH CONTINUOUS

Started Business in Build-  
ing Across the  
Street

Founded on the principal that every community needs a banking institution operated on the basis of absolute safety for depositors and maximum helpfulness to individuals, business houses, the community and the city as a whole, the Roxborough Trust Company opened its doors for business on March 20, 1918, and today, thirteen years of service to this part of our city will be marked by this institution.

Housed today in a modern, handsome building of its own, the Roxborough Trust Company of 1931 presents as marked a sign of progress in 13 years as do the multitude of developments that have come to this section itself through building operation business advances, greater population and greater conveniences and facilities.

Through the period from World War days to the present, the company has added steadily to its family of depositors and other customers, until today it is "our bank" to more than 8000 firms and individuals in the Twenty first Ward.

Portrayed in the up-to-date structure at Ridge avenue and Green lane is an easy matter to recall the days when the "new bank was housed in temporary frame headquarters on the east side of Ridge avenue, directly across from its present location. The building was two stories in height, and the small sized safe, used during the early days, was a tax on the floor supports.

Easily remembered, too, are the days, four months after the bank opened, when a big sign was suspended across the front of the temporary bank building, announcing "We're Going Over." On July 15 the institution did go over—to the opposite side of the street, into an

old Colonial mansion which had been remodeled to meet the rapidly growing demands of Roxborough's first banking institution. This building served as the trust company's home until 1925, when the present beautifully designed and constructed quarters were erected on the same site.

Glancing back to the starting point for the Roxborough Trust Company, it is interesting to note that the project was fostered by men who today, as then are numbered among the business leaders of this section.

The first informal meeting at which the subject of a banking institution for Roxborough was taken up, was held in the early part of December, 1917, at the home of one of the directors. Other informal sessions followed, and it was on January 29, 1918, that the first formal meeting was held, and every man, who subsequently became a director, assisted in some individual way to further the project. Minutes of that meeting show that \$69,500 of capital stock was subscribed for at that time, and the name which the company still bears was chosen for the new institution. There were ten Roxborough residents at the preliminary meeting, and most of them still are numbered among the directors of the institution.

Indicating the enthusiasm aroused by the launching of the bank project, is the report of the organization committee dated January 31, 1918, only two days after the first formal gathering. At that committee session it was announced by the secretary that subscriptions for stock totalled far in excess of the original figure of \$125,000 determined upon for the bank, and the issue was formally increased to \$150,000 to provide the opportunity for as many residents of Roxborough as possible to share in the membership of the new community project.

## Glimpses Into The Past Disclose Many Interesting Facts

Old Residents and Incidents Recalled From Notes Accumulated During Search

### WELL-KNOWN NAMES

Lives, Labors and Loves Brought Back for Happy and Sad Reminiscences

Occasionally, while running down some historical fact concerning events in the territory covered by The Suburban Press, we run across mention of some old residents whose names often appear in tales of the community ten, fifteen, twenty, fifty or a hundred years ago, and the writer has grown accustomed to jotting down the names of these persons for use in future articles.

Among the prominent names mentioned is that of John Omensetter, who conducted a sort of a general store at the corner of Green lane and Ridge avenue, in Roxborough, who died at the age of 78 years, on January 28th 1882. Mr. Omensetter was a remarkable character, according to number of times his names crops up, of a quiet, civil disposition and was a good neighbor and business man. Despite his age, at the time of his demise, he possessed a full set of teeth and was able to read newspapers without the aid of eye-glasses.

William Jones, of Manayunk, died at the end of January in 1882. He had settled in Manayunk in 1837, coming to this section to superintend the operation of textile machinery in an old mill on Venice Island. Previously he had been in charge of two sets of the same sort of machines in a Philadelphia prison, where he supervised the work of the inmates. Subsequently he established a coal yard near the upper end of Main street, and after-

ward became a coal inspector for the public schools, and a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor.

William M. Clymer, who had fought in the Civil War, died early in 1882 at the residence of his father-in-law—named Fries—on Green lane, Roxborough.

Clymer, during the conflict between the States, was a member of Colonel Baker's Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was taken prisoner at Ball's Bluff, on October 21st 1861, along with several others from what is now the 21st Ward. With them he was incarcerated in Libby Prison at Richmond, Virginia, for more than four months.

Clymer was captured a second time, at the Battle of Gettysburg, and again sent to Libby Prison, subsequently being sent to Camp Parole, at Annapolis, Maryland, a detention camp within the Union lines. Here the men found life uncommonly tedious, because they were restrained from taken up arms against the Confederacy and at the same time could not secure passes to visit their homes.

The Manayunk man wrote to Heister Clymer, then a member of the United States Congress, making some sort of claim of relationship, and sure enough, in a week or two, there came a letter enclosing a pass permitting him to come home to his relatives and friends here, for a few days.

Among the interesting items of other years, the writer recently ran across the nuptial announcement of Robert G. Angstadt, of Pencoyd, Montgomery County, and Annie E. Dane, of Manayunk, who were married on January 21st 1882, by Rev. Andrew Culver, who had been the pastor of the Manayunk Presbyterian Church. The wedding took place in the clergyman's home, which was then located at 723 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia.

Listed, too, was the notice of the marriage, at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. William Huzzard, in Conshohocken, Pa., by the Rev. William Fulton, in December of 1881, of Hiram L. Wynne, of the Falls of Schuylkill and Mary E. Burke, of Wissahickon.

Arnold Highley, who for many years was "mine host" at the old Leverington Hotel, which stood on the present site of the Roxy Theatre, died at the age of seventy years

in March of 1881.

As a caterer, he was known far and wide. He was a member of the Roxborough Masonic Lodge, the local Odd Fellows and of Roxborough Encampment No. 66 of the Odd Fellows. His funeral took place on the 18th of March, 1881, from the residence of his son-in-law, John Fielding, with services being conducted in the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church.

Joseph Hallman, of Flourtown, Montgomery County, had succeeded Mr. Highley as the manager of the old hotel, only three days before the latter's funeral.

On June 23rd of 1893 it was publicly announced that William L. Donohugh, of Upper Roxborough, had bought out the entire interest of Josephus Yeakel, in The Manayunk "Sentinel", thus becoming its sole proprietor. "Like the editor F. A. Lovejoy, Mr. Donohugh is an active member of the Methodist Church," stated the same notice.

S. J. Solms, proprietor of the Peckin Mills, Manayunk, married Mrs. May J. Knight, on June 8th 1881, with Rev. Father Ellcock officiating, and being assisted by Rev. Father O'Neil.

Old time horse owners will doubtless remember the 1893 harness-making shop conducted by Theodore G. Farrell, at 4378 Main street, where that gentleman made "plain and fancy carriage, wagon, and cart harness, and had constantly on hand all articles pertaining to the business, as covers, whips, brushes, curry-combs, halters, wagon grease, oils for harness, etc." Repairing was promptly done and everyone's patronage was respectfully solicited.

Real estate men, doing business in this vicinity, are certain to remember how many times they have come across the name of Bigonett on old deeds. One of the last Elizabeth Bigonett, expired on the 8th of April, 1881, in her 52nd year. The family resided in Upper Roxborough.

Few people noted that last year was the 250th anniversary of the landing of the Leverings, who first settled Roxborough, in America.

And believe it, or not, Ed Struse of 4457 Main street, does all the plumbing in the Dearnley Mansion in Upper Roxborough, when it was first built in 1897.

SCCAFF.

1/28/1932

# Red Tape Held Up Old Time Firefighters

Local Flame-Chasers Needed  
Permission to Enter  
Montgomery Co.

## MILL DESTROYED

Modern Apparatus Might  
Have Saved Attacked  
Properties

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

Up on Rock Hill, over the river near the Cynwyd Estate, stands the ruins of a mill. Its tall brick smoke stack and the front and side wall are the only reminder one has of the once busy hive that was engaged making blankets for the War of the Rebellion.

In the center of the ruins are several large willow trees, that required many years' growth to climb to the height they are today. The ruin makes itself an artist's dream and has been sketched dozens of times since its destruction. The place was owned by a West Philadelphia man, named Henry.

Mr. Henry leased it to Ralph Wolfenden and Company, cotton

and woolen yarn manufacturers.

Just before eight o'clock on a Saturday night in August 1873, fire was discovered on the first floor of the building. Word was immediately sent to the Manayunk Fire Engine House, care being taken to prevent the ingress of air into the building, until the steamer arrived.

But, by a regulation of the Department, the superintendent of the engine company had to telegraph to headquarters for leave to cross the bridge into Montgomery County, so that between the discovery of the fire and the arrival of the steamer one hour had elapsed.

The second and third stories were flaming and soon the whole interior was one mass of flames. Such was the situation when the engine arrived and an effort was made to save the picker-house. The loss, to the owner, Mr. Henry, was \$10,000.

The Wolfenden concern running the mill, had a loss exceeding \$18,000. Mr. Wolfenden's partners were Robert Lees and James Leech.

Editorials appeared in the newspapers following the blaze. The Chronicle, said: "In view of all the facts we cannot but regret the necessity for the telegraphing for instructions to the Fire Marshal, when a fire is known to the local force to be within a reasonable distance. In this instance the mill and its contents were all owned by residents and taxpayers of Philadelphia, and were it otherwise, it would seem extremely ungracious to refuse aid in a matter of such extreme urgency.

"Another fire took place the same day, at noon, when a dwelling house occupied by the Williams' family, just below the Flat Rock tunnel caught fire, from sparks thrown out by the locomotive of the market train, and before effective aid arrived, it was completely destroyed.

A good deal of furniture was burned and also a quantity of clothing. It was a incident of great hardship and neighbors had to take care of the family.

All in all, however, the local Engine company was a great group and held the record for saving the lots to build another factory or houses on.

If our forefathers had modern fire apparatus those two fires would have been knocked down in their infancy and the newspapers would have been devoid of any editorial copy, because there is little chance for complaint these days.

10/28/37

48

# Landmark To Be Razed Because Of Deterioration

Old Plow Tavern, Built in  
1746, to Be Torn  
Down

## HISTORIC BUILDING

Has Served Many Useful Pur-  
poses Since It Was  
First Erected

A local landmark for many years, the old stone structure at Ridge avenue and Hermit lane, Roxborough, famed as a tavern more than a century ago and used as a hospital in the Revolutionary War, now faces destruction.

George M. Heller, for the last thirty-five years owner of the house states the city has ordered it torn down at once because its state of disrepair has created a danger for passersby and an eyesore to the community.

The cornerstone of the old tavern bears the date of its erection, 1746, when Philadelphia was only a country village and Roxborough a mere outlying settlement. Known as Plow Tavern, it housed weary travelers headed West and trappers and settlers from the Indian country who made it their last stop before reaching Philadelphia.

Wounded colonists were treated at a field hospital established at the tavern during the Battle of Germantown in Revolutionary War times and Colonel Righter, one of Washington's aides-de-camp, made it his headquarters.

From 1833 to 1859 it served as the Roxborough poor house and for four years it was used by St. Timothy's Protestant Episcopal Church before it became a private residence to be abandoned entirely twelve years ago.



9/23/37

# Deplore Death Of Former Pastor In Roxborough

Officials of Leverington Pres-  
byterian Church Pass Resolu-  
tions for Dr. D. C. Hanna

HERE 21 YEARS

Resigned in 1921 to Accept  
Lighter Work at Gil-  
bertsville, N. Y.

Resolutions deploring the death of Rev. Dr. Dwight C. Hanna, who expired at Centerville, Ohio, on August 31st last, have been passed by the officers of the Leverington Presbyterian Church, at Ridge avenue and Hermitage street, Roxborough.

Dr. Hanna, who served the local church for 21 years, from November 1st, 1899 until 1920, was born on a farm near Savannah, Ohio, on December 7th, 1859. He was the son of T. Wilson and Amanda Gault Hanna.

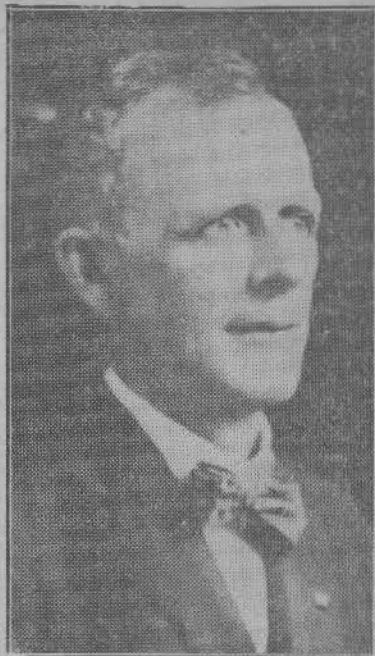
At the age of seventeen he united with the Presbyterian Church at Savannah. He was educated at Savannah Academy and the College of Wooster, afterward entering Princeton Theological Seminary. Immediately following his graduation from the Seminary in 1886, he was ordained to the ministry by the Philadelphia Presbytery on June 1st, 1886. This charge continued until 1890, when he became president of the Carthage Collegiate Institute, at Carthage, Missouri. In August of 1891 the Westminster Presbyterian Church was organized in Carthage and Dr. Hanna became pastor in addition to his college duties.

In 1892 he resigned the presidency of the Institute and devoted his entire time to the new church. In February of 1896 he resigned the pastorate of the Carthage Church, to become pastor of the Second (now Westminster) Church of Springfield, Ill.

On November 1st, 1899, he accepted the call to the Leverington Presbyterian Church, in Roxborough. For twenty-one years he served in this locality, and in addition to his work at the Roxborough church he served as Chairman of the Permanent Judicial Committee of the Philadelphia Presbytery, President of the city's Federation of Churches, Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Saloon League of Pennsylvania, and was Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance.

Feeling the necessity of lighter work, Dr. Hanna resigned the pas-

Died Recently



REV. DR. DWIGHT C. HANNA

Former pastor of the Leverington Presbyterian Church, Roxborough, who expired on August 31st, in Centerville, Ohio. He served the local congregation for 21 years, and was also a leader in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania religious movements.

torate of Leverington Church and his other duties here, and accepted a call from the Presbyterian Church at Gilbertsville, N. Y., where he served until he retired from public life in 1930.

Dr. Hanna received his D. D. from Wooster College in 1911.

On September 1st, 1886 he married Miss Laura Typer, of Fannettsburg, Pa. Three children were born to them: Dwight C. Hanna, Jr., Ruth A. Hanna and John Clarence Hanna. Mrs. Hanna expired on November 22, 1929, after a long illness.

On June 3, 1931, Dr. Hanna remarried, this time to Miss Jeanette E. Jackson, of Centerville, Ohio, a classmate of former days at Wooster College.

Dr. Hanna is mourned by his wife and three children, and a brother Rev. J. C. Hanna, of Glendale, California.

8-12-1937

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# Wm. S. Prediger Expired On Sunday

Roxborough Resident Succumbed to Illness of About One Month.—Survived by Wife, Daughter, 2 Brothers and Two Sisters.

Friends are mourning the death of William S. Prediger, of 4341 Mitchell street, Roxborough, who died after a comparatively short illness last Sunday.

Mr. Prediger, a son of the late John and Gertrude Prediger, was born in the 21st Ward. On October 28th, 1899 he married Miss Susan Newlin, a daughter of Levis Passmore Newlin and Mary A. Newlin.

He was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, the Odd Fellows' Lodge and William Penn Lodge No. 39 Knights of Pythias. He is survived by his wife and daughter, Mrs. G. Edwards Sheldrake; two brothers, George W. and Henry Prediger; and two widowed sisters, Mrs. Otto Ranglow, and Mrs. Samuel Focht.

Funeral services were held from his late residence yesterday afternoon, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

8-12-37

# Mrs. R. Foulkrod Died Last Friday

Many Friends in Roxborough and Vicinity Mourn Passing of Active Church and Community Worker.—Funeral Held Monday.

Mrs. Rae Keely Foulkrod, wife of Frederick S. Foulkrod, president of the Hughes-Foulkrod Construction Company, died last Friday in her home at 451 Lyceum avenue, Roxborough.

She was active in the work of the Leverington Presbyterian Church and the Needlework Guild, and was a member of the board of directors of the Roxborough Home for Women.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four daughters. Private funeral services and interment was conducted on Monday.

1/28/1932

## J.H. Gallati Will Celebrate 97th Birthday

Brush Manufacturer Has Re-  
sided in Manayunk  
Since 1847

A CHURCH MUSICIAN

Recalls Many Incidents of  
of Boyhood Days in  
21st Ward

King Henry IV, in the Shake-sperian play of the same name is philosophically made to say, "Past, and to come, seem best; things present worse."

But the phrase is evidently the reasoning of fearsome middle age, rather than that of hopeful youth, or satisfied lengthy age, and particularly not that of the comparatively few people who have been laboring, loving and lingering on this mortal coil for ninety-seven years. To those of these, who can better weigh things according to their true values, is given a cooler, calmer, more collected view of life. Everything appears to coincide with a belief that things are just as they should be:—the old days, the progress of men, women and conditions; modern inventions; modes of living of all periods have their good features; and contentment seems to spread a kindly aura all about these old folk and their surroundings.

Thoughts, in the above vein, were inspired by a visit to John Henry Gallati, of 4348 Main street, Manayunk, last Saturday, who on Thursday of next week, will observe his 97th birthday.

Born in Mollis, in the Canton Glaris, Switzerland, on February 4th, 1835, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Gallati, the grand old man of the 21st Ward, came to Manayunk when but a lad of twelve, and his extraordinary memory permits him to look back to the year of 1847, with a clearness which is truly remarkable.

The Gallati family, after its arrival in Manayunk, occupied a dwelling near what is Main and Lock streets, adjacent to a bakery owned by "Old Joe" Richart, a site which is now covered by a building known now as the Schofield Mill. Afterward, the Gallati home was in a house on Canal Bank, near Green lane, a building they resided in until 1888, when the row of which it was a part, was torn down.

However, before this occurrence, John Henry Gallati, had grown to manhood and in 1860, at the age a home of his own, when he was married by Rev. Andrew Culver, of the Manayunk Presbyterian Church, to Miss Annie Ross, a native of New York State. The couple enjoyed all the happiness of conn-

ciality until 1922, when Mrs. Gallati expired.

Mr. Gallati, with his brother Rudolph, who died about a year ago, learned the trade of brush-making from their father, and started in that business, in a small way, in 1876, making household brushes. Subsequently the venture developed into a factory for the manufacture of textile brushes and orders were taken for these special shaped brushes from all parts of Philadelphia and the surrounding territory. A year, or so ago, Mr. Gallati turned his business over to an old employee, who now conducts the factory.

The Manayunk man's home near the old "Pay Bridge" allowed him to be personally acquainted with the toll collectors on that span, the names of three of whom he readily recalls: Conrad Nell, John Smith and Johnny Owens.

Of the mills in operation in 1847, Mr. Gallati states that beginning from the lower end of the village, the factories were as follows: Maxson's Mill, near the present Littlewood Dye plant; Kempton's "Lower" Mill, near what is now Spink's Mill, a factory which was afterward known as Heft's; a little mill near the locks; Kempton's "Main" Mill; McDowell's Paper Mill; four buildings and a dyehouse of the old Ripka Mills; the Eagle Mills; Shaw's Mill—later Adams—Winnepenny's Mill; a saw grinding factory at what is now Keely's Lumber Yard—the Nixon street bridge over the canal being a wooden, covered affair which was known as the "Yellow Bridge"—Salm's Mills; a grist mill on the site of the familiar Collins & Aikman plant; another grist mill adjoined this; then there was a rolling mill between the last named grist mill and Hipple's lane—now Fountain street. Then came Whitaker's Mill; Preston's Mill, and the last, at the extreme end of Venice Island, Nixon's Paper Mills.

In those days a bridge crossed the Schuylkill River at Flat Rock, connecting Domino lane with the West River Road. At the west end of the bridge stood Smith's Hotel, where fishermen were wont to gather.

Main street, in 1847, was known as the Flat Rock Road, or more often, "the Turnpike," and was crudely paved with broken stone. There were no street lights, and pedestrians carried lanterns at night. The side streets were entirely devoid of any hard surface.

The 21st Ward churches, in existence when Mr. Gallati first came to Manayunk, were St. John the Baptist; the Dutch Reformed—a building now used by the members of St. Josephat's Polish Catholic Church—the Bethany Lutheran—in Temperance Hall, now the Dixie-Rose Theatre—St. David's P. E.; the Manayunk Presbyterian; Roxborough Presbyterian, at Port Royal avenue; and the Roxborough Baptist, on Ridge road. The cornerstone of St. Mary's Catholic Church was laid shortly afterward and in recalling the exercises, Mr. Gallati remembered the scaffolding collapsed and that Mrs. Joseph Richart—wife of the old Manayunk baker—was injured. Surrounding the former Dutch Reformed Church—now St. Josephat's—was a cemetery, in which the bodies of Mr.

Gallati's parents as well as many soldiers were laid to rest. When the cemetery was abandoned, Mr. and Mrs. Gallati were removed to West Laurel Hill, and the remains of the soldiers taken to Westminster Cemetery.

Transportation to Philadelphia was dependent upon John Small's stage coach until 1854, when the horse car line was placed in operation. This continued until the electric street cars replaced the horse-drawn vehicles in the early 90's. The PRT bus line to Roxborough, which went into operation

on December 13th, last, is the fourth change that Mr. Gallati has seen in Manayunk's transit facilities. Freight was hauled in and out of the town by canal boats and the Reading Railroad, when the aged man was a boy.

Mr. Gallati first attended Sunday School in the German Lutheran Sunday School, then in Temperance Hall. And incidentally he has marched in every Fourth of July parade since that time. In 1851 he removed to Reading, Pa., for one year, but came back to Manayunk and for three years was a member of the choir of the Manayunk Presbyterian Church. In 1860 he was asked to play the organ in St. David's P. E. Church, when Orlando Crease was in charge of the choir. In August 1879 Mr. Gallati went to the Bethany Lutheran Church, as organist and also directed the choir, remaining in that position until quite recently, when his years compelled him to retire.

An interesting sidelight, concerning church music, was given by Mr. Gallati, when he told of the introduction of a melodeon in the Manayunk Presbyterian Church, two members of which were so highly indignant at bringing music into the church, that they resigned and joined the Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church. But their chagrin must have been great when the latter congregation shortly afterward installed a pipe organ, several years before the Manayunk church replaced its old melodeon by a larger and more modern instrument.

Roxborough, in Mr. Gallati's boyhood, was principally farmland, with the exception of a few dwellings, a store or two, two churches and a couple of hotels along Ridge road.

Optimism prevails about the domicile of John Henry Gallati, who can look back and remember progressive incidents in the life of his community and circle of friends over a period of more than four score years, a situation which gives his opinions far more weight than all the theoretical data which can be assembled by those of a pessimistic turn of mind.

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## Roxborough Woman Is 93 Years of Age

Mrs. Adeline Carmany to  
Observe Birthday on  
Sunday

IS AN OPTIMIST  
Holds Original Opinions  
Concerning Actions of  
Young Folk

One of Roxborough's grandest old ladies—in the person of Mrs. Adeline Carmany, of 366 Green lane—will celebrate her 93rd birthday next Sunday.

Born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, on January 31, 1839, the daughter of David John Stober and Marie Liebig Stober, Mrs. Carmany, after her marriage, and at about the age of twenty-five years, moved to Roxborough, where she has since resided. Her husband, born in Annville, Pa., was a school teacher at the time of their marriage, but upon coming to this section established himself in the textile dyeing business and built up quite a large enterprise.

Of eight of her children who grew to manhood and womanhood, five still survive. These are Dr. Harry S. Carmany, Dr. William C. Carmany, Mrs. Harry Binns, Mrs. Dr. William McKinney and Mrs. Charles Stout. The late George Carmany—once mayor of Atlantic City—was also a son, and the late Mrs. Jacob Heft, who will be remembered by a host of the older residents of the 21st Ward, was a sister of Mrs. Carmany.

Of a family of fifteen children, Mrs. Carmany is the sole survivor.

Her 80th birthday was celebrated by Mrs. Carmany, by taking an airplane ride at Atlantic City. This wonderful person continues to personally supervise the household duties of her home, has an optimistic sense of humor, and holds a tolerant contempt for the present young generation, for their attitude of superiority.

"These young people", says Mrs. Carmany, "will grow to learn that people are people everywhere, and that a few dollars won't make any of them better than the rest. Human beings, everywhere, are made of the same materials, so why should these youngsters be proud?"

Mrs. Carmany says that she has never experienced a business depression as bad as the present one, but that she feels that conditions will eventually right themselves and the people will get back into their old habits.

One day last week, Mrs. Carmany was visited by John Henry Gallati, of Manayunk, who will celebrate his 97th birthday next Thursday, and as Mr. Gallati played the piano, Mrs. Carmany brought forth her old accordeon, and the couple held an impromptu musicale.

## Cemetery In Roxborough Is 59 Years Old

Burial Ground of St. Mary's  
Church Dedicated in  
July of 1873

BISHOP OFFICIATED

Caretaker Suggests Removal  
of Old Fashioned Rail-  
ings From Lots

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

The parish of St. Mary's German Catholic Church, was in its twenty-fourth year when the rector, Rev. Francis J. Marderstek, decided that the time had arrived to purchase ground for a cemetery, and in 1873 he purchased a large tract of ground on Hay's Lane, in Roxborough, for that purpose.

Hay's lane later became known as Prospect street, and still later was again changed to Lemonte street.

The ground was cleared of brush, and burial lots were staked off, and on Sunday, July 13, 1873, the Right Rev. Augustus M. Toebbe, Bishop of Covington, Ky., honored the congregation with a visit and at four o'clock a procession was formed to accompany the Bishop to the cemetery for the consecration exercises. The marchers were headed by the Manayunk Band, which was followed by a group of Catholics belonging to St. John the Baptist Church, attired in green shirts, black trousers, very oriental-looking red turbans, with white folds and a tassel.

The men each carried a formidable-looking axe and looked as if they would be a good body guard for any celebrity.

Then followed the pioneers of St. Mary's Church, with white shirts and black trousers; and the acolytes with red cassocks and white surplices, bearing the cross and carrying censers. After these came Father Mulholland, the Beneficial Society of St. John's Church; the Saint Bonifacius Society of the Immaculate Conception Church; young ladies of the Sodality, all dressed in white with blue sashes, carrying banners. The procession marched up Green lane to the Ridge road and thence to the site of the cemetery. The Bishop made an appropriate address and Father Gerdemann delivered a fine oration, in German.

The consecration ceremonies were beautiful and fitting. A circuit of the grounds was made by the Bishop and the reverend clergy; among them being Fathers Marderstek, Gerdemann, Dornhege, and McCallum, of Baltimore, Md. The services being concluded, the procession returned to the Church, on Oak street (now Conarroe) and soon dispersed.

The occasion was marked throughout with good feeling and cordiality; the most perfect order

being observed throughout and it was particularly pleasing to note the courtesy shown by the societies belonging to St. John's Church. It was the beginning of an era of good feeling and kindly mutual interest between the two congregations of Manayunk, which still prevails.

A few weeks after the exercises, the first body—a man named Kober, who conducted a barber shop on Main street—was buried in the new cemetery. Since then many hundreds have been interred beside Kober.

The Rev. Henry Gantert had a strong stone wall erected, both back and front, with an iron picket fence above it that replaced the old wood enclosure that fell into decay and St. Mary's Cemetery is now one of the neatest burial places in Philadelphia.

Frank Ballisty, the caretaker takes great pride in keeping it beautiful, and during the rose season it is worth the time to visit this Roxborough burial ground. Mr. Ballisty has been trying for the past year to get the lot owners consent to remove the old fashioned rails surrounding the lots, for the sake of beauty and convenience and the writer believes with him that the marble posts could be used in the building of a receiving vault that could be erected at the grounds for use when weather conditions would not permit the opening of a grave. Then the bodies could be placed in the vault for the time being.

Today, there are very few of the old residents who dwelt along the route of the procession, who remember the dedication of St. Mary's Cemetery, in Roxborough.

Members of St. Bridget's Church, in East Falls are numbered among the lot holders in the little cemetery, on Lemonte street.

5-14-1931

## Copper Makes A Wise Crack

Fire Engine Company, No. 39, of Leverington and Ridge avenues, was summoned last Sunday on a local alarm to extinguish a blaze in a trolley car, owned by the Reading Transit Company, at Manayunk and Roxborough avenues.

The blaze was caused by a short circuit. A belated pedestrian asked one of the recently exiled policemen, what all the excitement was about, and he said, "One of those rocking-horses owned by the Trans-Siberian Railroad, just took fire!"

4-1-1881

ROXBOROUGH POOR TAX.—In the State Senate, on Wednesday, Senator Jones introduced a bill repealing the law "To authorize the Receiver of Taxes of Philadelphia to collect and receive the poor tax assessed for the support of the late township of Roxborough, Twenty-First ward, and directing how the same shall be paid," approved May 16, 1878.

3/3/1932

# Tree At Eden Hill Attracted Great Crowds

Hailed as a Monster Fossil by Roxborough Residents in 1872

## ON SHAW ESTATE

Great Plant Believed to Have Existed in Alluvial Period

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

"A great natural curiosity, called a monster fossil, was dug out of a quarry on the estate of Thomas Shaw, at Eden Hill, opposite Green Tree Station, in Roxborough." Such was the announcement that was telegraphed across the country in September 1872.

Thomas Shaw was a noted inventor who lived in rambling estate built on Eden Hill, near the present Shawmont avenue. An old Reading railroad time table shows that "Green Tree" station, of old, is now "Shawmont".

Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., of Roxborough, called the Pennsylvania Historical Society's attention to the so-called fossil. It was a petrified tree, whose trunk, ten feet from the roots, was eleven feet in diameter, and could be easily traced a distance of two hundred feet. It was believed that when the tree was growing it stood a hundred feet high, as the fragments were six feet in diameter at the smallest ends. The roots and butts were upon the Shaw property, then passing under the road-bed of Green tree lane, now called Shawmont avenue, and reappeared in the hollow on the other side, owned by Chas. T. Jones, Esq., a member of Select Council.

It is possible that the monster may of been undermined by rain and drainage from the hills, and formed a kind of rustic bridge, over the torrent which formerly dashed through the, now silent, ravine, across which it lay. Its position was nearly north and south with a horizontal dip of about ten degrees, and its composition appeared to be mica, sand stone and feldspar.

The theory was that it belonged to the alluvial, or drift period. The fossil tree story was played up by the city newspapers and large crowds of persons began to make their way to Green Tree, to see the natural curiosity.

Mr. Shaw entertained the visitors with a trip up the Schuylkill River on his steam gig "Rachel". The spunky craft was anchored first in mid-stream opposite "the Soapstone quarries" and a number of explorers went ashore in a row boat. The immense chasm was entered and the quarrying of the stone was explained. A detached mass of rock came

sliding down the sides of the quarries, weighing fifty tons. The next stop was at the Moorhead Clay Works, near the site of Spring Mill. Here the mode of grinding clay and moulding it into terra cotta drain pipes was shown by the obliging manager, Joseph Benjamin.

The moulding machine was a mechanical curiosity invented by Mr. Shaw. The party then boarded the "Rachel" and returned to Green Tree, where luncheon was served at the Shaw homestead. After one hour's rest the party resumed its exploring and visited "the Monster Fossil."

Everyone gathered petrified rocks, or in other words branches of the fossil tree. The party retired to the workshop of Mr. Shaw where a new invention was displayed to the public for the first time. It was called a cupola, for the purification of iron and steel. The furnace was charged with white heat. Mr. Shay applied a nozzle, so shaped as to receive a strong jet of dry steam at such an angle as to throw the entire mass of metal into drops.

Another model shown the visitors was a mechanical device to haul the cars up over the hillside from Manayunk to Roxborough in case the General Assembly would pass the bill for the erection of the proposed Incline Railway through this section.

The Shaw mansion still stands on Eden Hill, at Shawmont, but is only a ruin, left standing after the Fire Demon had done his work. Nearby every spring and fall the dry grass takes fire, supposedly from locomotive sparks, and fire has destroyed building after building, so that today the once busy place is only a memory.

9/26/1929

## Police Pass Examinations

Twenty-two police captains have qualified for promotion to the rank of inspector.

The 22 were the only ones to successfully pass a recent examination for promotion held by the Civil Service Commission. The commission published the list of eligibles on Friday.

William McCaughan, at present an acting inspector, heads the list with an average of 85.8. Eight of the acting inspectors in the bureau finished among the first 10.

Among the other seven, who were successful, are John F. Barthold, William Stott, James A. Taylor and Charles L. Strickland.

All of these men, it is believed, will now be made full-fledged inspectors, with the exception of Stott, who will be forced to wait for a vacancy.

5/19/1932

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# Hazel Hilberg Heads B.Y.P.U.

Wissahickon Girl Is Elected President of Philadelphia Union. — Rev. J. Norman Martin Selected as Pastoral Counsellor.

The Baptist Young Peoples' Union, of this city observed its fiftieth anniversary last Monday with a great city-wide rally, in the Fifth Church, 18th and Spring Garden streets. The Union is composed of the young people of the Baptist churches of Philadelphia and vicinity and is unique in that its work is planned and prosecuted almost entirely by young people.

This community has long been well represented in the leadership of the Union. William Genne and Mabel MacMullan, past-presidents, of the Northwest District, occupied important positions in the city union. Genne is now a student in Yale Divinity School and Miss MacMullan is Church secretary in Oak Lane.

Rev. W. B. Forney was associated with the group in an official capacity for several years.

Rev. J. Norman Martin, pastor of the Wissahickon Baptist church, has been active in the city work for the past seven years, serving as Pastoral Counsellor for the last three.

Miss Hazel Hilberg of 3738 Manayunk avenue, who was installed as the president of the organization for the coming year, has for several years occupied a prominent and important place in Union activities.

William E. Zelner, of 126 Rochelle avenue, has been elected to succeed himself as Director of Fellowship for this term.

Special musical numbers were offered by the Roxborough String Quartette, composed of Harold Sutton, William Kurtz, Mone Rudolph and Theodore Reed, and vocal numbers by the Martin quartette, composed of A. G. Martin, superintendent of the Belmont avenue Baptist Sunday School and his three sons, one of whom was president of the B. Y. P. U. last year and another of whom is the above mentioned local pastor.

The message of the evening was presented by the radio evangelist, Rev. Theodore Elsner.

Inquirer 5-3-1931



3/3/32

## Now and Then

An old letter, written by a resident of Roxborough, to the editor of the Germantown Telegraph, in March of 1854, is before the writer, who thought it worthy of printing, inasmuch as it sheds some light on the history of what is now known as the 21st Ward. It is as follows:

Roxborough, March 1st, 1854  
Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago you were pleased to speak of this part of the county—I say county, for we are still a sovereign power, and not yet incorporated in the mammoth city of Philadelphia—in very high terms, and you said that improvements here and in Manayunk were rapidly progressing. At the same time, I observed in a city paper, the astonishing fact that it was a difficult matter to procure eligible building lots in your borough, except at an exorbitant price—so great that the demand exceeded the supply. I need not say to you and the citizens of Germantown, that such an announcement has given us of this region great pleasure, for we are always glad to hear of the prosperity of our neighbors, and especially of your "ancient town," because it must not be forgotten that within the memory of many citizens still living here, and in your place, the people of Roxborough and Germantown voted at the same polls, at all their elections, which were then held either at the old Academy on School lane, or at the Concord School House. There was in the "days lang syne," a community of interest between us—and I trust, as we are soon to mingle in Councils as part of a great city, that your representatives and our

own will always be found protecting the interests of our native soil.

As you have had no direct information from us for some time past, I thought I would give you a general idea of what we are doing. Prominent in Roxborough, and pursuing the even tenor of its way, is the Roxborough Lyceum, whose acts you have chronicled years ago. The number of active members is not large, and our force has been somewhat reduced by absence; still there are a few gentlemen who sustain the Lyceum in all its former strength, and the full houses that we have, attest how well their efforts are appreciated. Our officers, elected in January last, are as follows: President, Nathan L. Jones; Vice Presidents, Charles E. Graciff, Horatio Gates Jones, Jr.; Recording Secretary, Anthony D. Levering; Corresponding Secretary, Joseph E. Harned, M. D.; Treas-

urer, Joseph H. Hoffman. We have had quite a number of lectures, some of them deeply interesting. The Rev. Thomas Winter, lectured on "The Laws of Heat;" Rev. Samuel Bumstead, on "Four Months in The Great West;" Horatio Gates Jones, Jr., Esquire, on "Valley Forge in 1777 and 1778," and on Tuesday night, the Rev. B. Wistar Morris is expected to lecture on "Queen Isabella."

At this present time we are meeting in the Roxborough Academy, on the Ridge Road, but we hope ere long to have a Town Hall—and to accomplish this we have applied for a charter. When the hall is ready to be opened, we trust that we shall be honored with a visit from yourself.

Before I close this letter, permit me to say all persons who read your paper, that if they cannot secure a proper spot for a house in Germantown, and yet desire a residence in a region equally healthy, and almost as accessible to the city, let them come over to Roxborough, where they will find a number of beautiful cottage lots from half an acre up to five acres, on the Ridge Road, and the streets running into it. This is particularly the case in the lower part of our township, near the Wissahickon. Many of our worthy landholders who reside on farms which have been in their families for a century past, and who had no idea of being disturbed by the bustle and noisy turmoil of life, have at last concluded to sell cottage lots to such persons as choose to pay.

I shall in future letters, give you some details about Roxborough, which I hope will be of interest to your readers.

Yours Respectfully,  
L.

4/28/32

## CRONIES

By Grand-Dad

"Do you remember old Joe Adams, that kept the grocery store at the corner of Hermitage and Washington streets?" asked Matt, of his long-time friend Pat, in Upper Roxborough.

"I do," replied Pat, "They call it Umbria street, now, and Ann McNeil kept a notion store on the other corner."

"And Colonel Jordan and the Arbuckle boys on the opposite side of the street," went on Matt.

"That was a long time ago. Sixty years or more," said Pat.

"Old Joe sold Dr. Weeks' pills," said Matt, musingly. "That he did," stated Pat, "and they were good for anything that was wrong with your stomach."

"Did you ever take any?" asked

Matt.

"Once" said Pat, in a reminiscent way. "Just once. I had a bad pain in the belly, and a headache too. Old Joe advised me to take two of the pills, which I did. Fifteen minutes after I swallowed them I

was a 'wishin' that I had been satisfied with nothing but the pain in me stomach and head, and had left Joe keep his old pills."

"Old Joe was a great fellow for fishing," said Matt. "Do you remember?"

"Aye and I do," said Pat. "Do you recall the time he chased us all over the Blocks for throwin' stones at his cork? We'd been swimmin' in 'the Wide,' as we called it. Beside you and I, there were Joe McKernan, Jimmie Jasper, Felix Dugan, Jack Harlan, Harry Lamon, Sid Ring, and Johnny Fitzpatrick. And it was you that threw the stone at his cork."

"Who? Me! I guess you're wrong there, said Matt. "It was you that heaved the rock."

"No," said Pat, "It was you. And more than that, when McKernan and myself came in from a swim across the canal to the towpath you and the rest had tied our pants and shirts into hard knots and were yelling 'Chaw Beef!' You were all dressed and when Old Joe started to come after us we had to leg it with our clothes under our arms; Mac down the railroad track, and me up Hipple's lane, and all the women hollering at me. And as I was running for the alley into my home, Strawhopper, the policeman, grabbed me, and—"

"You mean Jim Strawhopper," corrected Matt.

"Well, we called him Strawhopper," went on Pat. He was very

decent about the matter, and Mother promised to lick me for running through the streets naked. "Did she lambast you?" queried Matt.

"As well as I can recall," said Pat, "My mother never fell down on a promise. Oh, those were the good old days," and Pat arose to stretch himself.

"Do you know," said Matt, after a minute's silence, "The only fun I could see in fishing, was throwing stones at somebody's cork," and then he ambled out to the fence, giving Pat a hint that it was near dinner time and he was going in the house to eat.

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# Cronies

By GRAND DAD

"I was down in Manayunk this morning", said Pat, as he seated himself on the bench under a tree, at Matt's house in Roxborough, one sunny afternoon recently.

"A good many changes have taken place in the old town during the last forty or fifty years", said Matt. "Did you see anyone that you knew?"

"Devil a one", answered Pat. "Main street is a strange place to me, these days. Do you remember George Davis' hardware store, on the Main street, below Green lane? Well, that's gone and there has been built a few stores, and the city has erected a fine fire-house there, which is very nice and handy. I miss the old Hardman store, and especially do I miss the jolly old fellows who used to gather there on a Saturday night. Ah, me! They're very near all gone!" and Pat gave a deep sigh. All gone!" echoed Matt. "A group of real good fellows. As fine men as one would want to meet anywhere. Good business men, too. Upright and kindly, with a high regard for each other, and a keen desire to serve the people of the community. Unselfish men, they were. Do you mind, Pat, the good times we had, when they would assemble in the store? What tricks they would play on each other! All in fun and the one who got the worst of it, laughed the easiest. I was a youngster compared to them, and many a good laugh I had at their jokes."

"Shure and don't I know, Matt", said Pat. "I've laughed until me face cracked. I remember one night old Joe Winpenny and Schoolmaster Murphy had an argument about the wisdom of the Constitutional Amendment giving the negro the right to vote. David Wallace was the judge, and the jury was made up of Frazee Bailiff, Bob Laycock, Billy Matters, Al Wilkinson, Pete Liebert and Leander Jones. William Rice, Graham Littlewood and Lew Bean were on the side lines giving suggestions. Harry Birkhead was appointed sergeant (without arms) to see that the two of 'em kept a safe distance apart. I don't think I laughed longer or more earnestly, before or since", ended Pat, as he chuckled.

"Your speaking of Winpenny" said Matt, "reminds me of a story told me by Adam McKnight about Joe, the time he was a judge of election in the 9th precinct. Joe was a Democrat all right. A Doctor Adam was the clerk at the polls. Well, you remember, we didn't have booths to fix your ballots in, in them days. We fixed our ballots outside the polls and pushed them in a small opening in a window. One man could carry 500 ballots in his coat pocket in those days, and not be a bit inconvenienced. Do you remember?"

"Do I," answered Pat, "Shure and I do. It's different nowadays. Five hundred ballots these days, would make a truck load."

"Well," went on Matt, "It

nearly 7 o'clock in the evening, and almost time for the polls to close, when a ballot was shoved in, and a voice said, 'John Kennedy, Cresson street below Green lane'. After a minute or two, the ballot was passed back as the Inspector said, 'not on the assessor's list'. 'Why roared Kennedy, 'I've been there for fourteen years, and voted from there often.' 'Can't help that', said the inspector, 'you are not listed and we can't accept your vote'. A hot argument ensued between Kennedy and the inspector, which produced no result. Kennedy then pushed his way into the room and appealed to Winpenny, who was the Judge.

"What do you want? snapped Joe. 'I am entitled to vote and I want to vote", yelled Kennedy.

"Your name is not on the list?" asked Joe.

"They say not", returned Kennedy, "But Mr. Winpenny, you know me. I am a Democrat like yourself, and always voted that way—"

"If you are not on the assessor's list, you have no right to vote.

"Now, Mr. Winpenny—why—Joe I—I—I"

"Listen," snapped the Judge, "Don't call me Joe, and don't address me as Mr. Winpenny! I don't give a darn whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, a Mugwump, or a Populist, and furthermore, I want you to understand that I am not Joseph B. Winpenny today. I am the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania! Your name is not on the assessor's list, and you have no right to vote, and so help me, you'll not vote!"

"And did Kennedy vote?" asked Pat, when he stopped laughing.

"You bet your sweet life he didn't", said Matt, as he walked to the gate to bid goodbye to his old time friend.

4/2/32

## Recalls An Old Group Of Singers

Samuel H. Birkmire Grows Reminiscent Concerning Choral Society

AIDED BY GALLATI

Names of Vocalists Are Remembered by Aging Members of Chorus

On June 19th, 1878, a company of singers from Manayunk and Roxborough journeyed to Valley Forge to take part in the Centennial celebration which was held there on that date.

There were forty-five men and forty-seven women who helped to make up the chorus of nearly five hundred, the rest having been gathered from Phoenixville, Norris-

town and the Falls of Schuylkill.

Mr. Roberts, then editor of the Phoenixville Messenger, was the director of the chorus.

Through the courtesy of John Henry Gallati, I am enabled to present the name of the 92 who went from the 21st Ward. They were: Caroline Stevens, Annie Simpson, Annie Schofield, Fanny Shelby, Hannah Nyce, Maggie Cornell, Mrs. Mary Maree, Fanny Lambert, Mary Whitaker, Josephine Maree, Mamie Maree, Lizzie Ross, Nellie Clowell, Sally Lee, Mary Ella Morton, Laura Donnelly, Laura Parsons, Emma Williams, Katie Kempner, Emma Green, Lettie Poleman, Maggie Donnelly, Mary Halderman, Sally Tyce, Lyda Mooney, Emily Jobbins, Sussie Glaub and Hermina Glaub.

There was also: Lizzie Belsterling, Adelaide Lawson, Sarah Henry, L. Dayton, Mary Hillsley, Mary Milligan, Bertha Donald, Annie Shoemaker, Annie Gallati, Fanny Tenant, Rebecca Deighton, Elizabeth Littlewood, Marie Wolfington, Mag-

gie Tyce, Ella Donnelly, Ellen Birkmire, Sallie Williams, Katie Wilkinson, and Adele Thomas.

Among the men were: Charles W. Schofield, Stephen Graloff, Samuel Birkmire, Paul Mason, Al Rudolph, Edward Lindell, Samuel Lindell, Ben Pickles, Tom Milligan, George Day, James Lumb, Fred Mallileau, James Armitage, Thomas Spence, John W. Dobson, James Dixon, Enoch Hull, Joe Phillips, John Makem, Ed Walton, Arthur Greenhalg, A. Ellwood Jones, James C. Maree, Joe Hoffman, John Henry Gallati, Hiram Nyce, Ed Hendricks, John Dyson, George Townsend, John Birkmire, Albert Dill, Ellwood Sheetz, Ed Goshow, John B. Batty, J. Dobson, William Fallows, Mitchell Simpson, Tom Allison, Jacob Stout, James Whitely, Cliff Warren, Morris Levering, Arama Tyce, Joshua Collins and Joe Marsden.

In the Fall of that year, from this group of singers, was formed the Manayunk and Roxborough Choral Society, whose work for several succeeding years, in giving good music for the entertainment of the people of this vicinity, has not been equalled in the more than fifty years since.

As I scan the list my memory carries me back to the merry times we had in each other's company. A jolly, good-natured crowd of music loving people, few of whom are now left. To my knowledge

there are but six of the ninety-two still living, three here, and three others scattered in various parts of the country.

SAMUEL H. BIRKMIRE

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## Booklet Tells Of Company Of Dragoons

State Organization Was Pride  
and Glory of  
Roxborough

JONES WAS CAPTAIN

Drunkenness On Parade  
Was Considered an Un-  
forgivable Offense

With the ex-service men's rites for their fallen comrades of last Monday, things military came to mind, and with them a little booklet, from Captain Charles Thomson Jones, of Green lane, Roxborough, entitled "The Constitution and By-Laws of the First Company, Pennsylvania Dragoons".

The laws of this old local military company, which was the pride and glory of the residents of this vicinity just after the Mexican War and previous to the Civil Conflict, bears the adoption date of December 1848.

Among the articles in the pamphlet is Number V, which reads as follows: "No person shall ever become a member unless he is a citizen of the United States, and as soon as he is elected, he shall be notified to attend the next meeting of the company and sign the Constitution, and receive the equipments allowed by the State."

And those who would have a return of the "good old wet days", are given an idea of how inebriation was considered among the respectable people of the community, by reading a portion of Article VIII, which is worded thus: "Drunkenness in parade is a fault so degrading and disgraceful to the whole corps, that it shall be punished by instant expulsion from the Troop, without any formality."

The equipped members of the First Company, Pennsylvania Dragoons, of Roxborough, in January of 1857, were: Captain, Charles Thomson Jones; Lieutenants, William Kirk, John S. Nicholas and Daniel Arbuckle; Ensign, Nathan L. Jones; Quartermaster, George W. Hipple; Assistant Quartermaster, Henry K. B. Ogle; Surgeon, Dr. J. M. Morrison; Sergeants, William Wright, Maris Wright and James F. Nicholas; Corporals, George Kirkner, John Morton, John Hinkel and Edward Strouss.

The Privates were: Maurice M. Levering, John R. Benson, Daniel R. Umstead, Josiah Umstead, Alexander Crooks, Charles H. Sutton, J. Gordon Kitchen; William Adams, Moses Miller, Madison Richmond, Robert Roberts, James Bowker, Chalkey James, Henry Raynor, John Harris, John Sharpleigh, J. Bolton Winpenny, Thomas Rick-

ards, James Simpson, Jacob Wright, Henry Mower, George R. Dager, George Moyer, David M. Beck, James McFadden, Daniel Kirkner, William Ashton, James Coleman, James Baldwin, Joseph McDowell, Peter Wise, Arnold Highley, Edward Holgate, Charles Ehresman, George Tams, Richard Blunden and James Lisle.

SCCAFF.

5-19-1932

## CRONIES

By Grand-Dad

"Do you remember what great things there was when we had an election campaign in full blast, in Manayunk, 'way back in and before the eighties?" asked Pat, as he and Matt settled themselves for a quiet smoke.

"Shure, and I do," replied Matt. "They don't seem to get as much fun out of elections these days, as we did. What with parades, and bands, and meetings in Masonic Hall where the spellbinders used to harangue the voters, we had lively lively times."

"Do you mind," said Pat, "the night that Owney Dugan had his big boots on, and sat on the raised platform at the rear end of the room? It was a Republican meeting, and Owney, who was a Democrat, was fixed to applaud any remarks that pleased him. I'll never forget that. The room was packed. I guess there were as many Democrats in the hall as there were Republicans. Old William D. Kelly was the principal speaker, and"

"That was 'Pig-Iron' Kelly, from the 24th Ward" interrupted Matt.

"The same," continued Pat. "He was a Congressman and also represented cur Ward, and when he came up for re-election never had any trouble holding his job. Very few men, Democrats or Republicans, ever voted against him. It's a pity we haven't got men of his calibre in Congress today. He had more hard, solid, common-sense, and commanded more respect than the whole push down in Washington just now."

"Do you recall," said Matt, "that while he was speaking he kept continually walking from one side of the stage to the other, and with his tall, gaunt form, and his heavy close-cut beard, reminded me of a powerful lion, or tiger, in a cage. He was a wonder. You could learn more from what he would say in his speeches than you could get from all the books in the public schools."

"Shure, and you could," said Pat, as he laid his pipe down. "He had a remarkable store of knowledge and knew how to tell it."

"But what about Owney and the boots?" asked Matt.

"Oh, yes, I forgot Owney for the minute," said Pat. "He was very quiet while Kelly was speaking, but

he got into action when the next speaker began. That was Charlie Warwick; him that was mayor for a time. While Kelly never, that I recollect, referred to a Democratic candidate in a harsh way, Warwick did. Well, the boots started. Every time Warwick would mention a name that was on the Democratic ticket, bang went the boots, followed by a roar of laughter, and what Charlie had to say about the candidates was lost in the racket. After about ten minutes of this, Warwick lost his temper and with a white face and flashing eyes, shook his fist at Owney, and called him a 'damned Copperhead.' The crowd roared with laughter. Warwick saw at once that he was beaten, and when quiet was restored begged Owney's pardon and quit."

"I remember that night, all right," said Matt, "the next speaker was Colonel Mann."

"Yes, and do you remember what he said after the chairman introduced him?" asked Pat.

"I guess I've forgotten that," said Matt.

"The Colonel said he would speak, only on one condition," said Pat.

"What's that?" asked someone in the crowd."

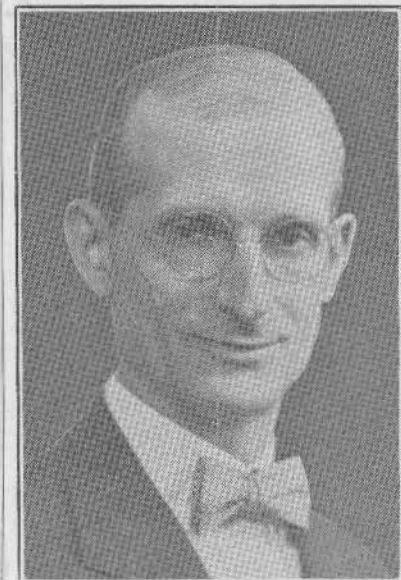
"That Owney take his boots off!" said the Colonel."

"I think they laughed for ten minutes," said Pat. "And only stopped when Owney took his boots off, and held them up so the Colonel could see them, and called 'here they are Colonel.'"

"The Colonel was a good orator," said Matt.

"He was that," said Pat, "Few could equal William B. Mann!"

January 1930



D. WILSON MAYBERRY  
Sales Manager

"Wils" is known to all of our dealers from his activity as sales manager of the Penn Phonograph Company.

6/9/1932  
**Historical Society Elects  
Officers For Coming Year**

**Resolution Concerning the Late Secretary, Joseph S. Miles  
Is Spread Upon the Minutes.—Plan Historical Room  
for House in Which David Rittenhouse Was  
Born. — Pageant to Be Held in November**

At a meeting of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, held at the home of Major and Mrs. Thomas S. Martin, East Hermit lane, on Wednesday evening of last week, the following officers were elected to direct the destinies of the society for the coming year:

President, Major Thomas S. Martin; vice president, James K. Helms; secretary, J. Ellwood Barrett; treasurer, Mrs. Edith Righter Schofield; historian, A. C. Chadwick, Jr., and directors: Dr. J. Franklin Strawinski, Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, George L. Laver, Miss Minnie Heidinger, Wallace Bromley, Mrs. Sara B. Schofield, Franklin D. Edmunds, Mrs. Joseph S. Miles, Rev. J. Foster Wilcox and Mrs. H. J. Hagenbucher.

The following resolution, relating to Joseph Starne Miles, late secretary of the Society, who died recently, was spread upon the minutes and a copy forwarded to Mr. Miles' family:

**A Resolution**

WHEREAS, Joseph Starne Miles was a charter member and for many years the Secretary of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, and

WHEREAS, He served the Society faithfully and well, adding to its store of historical fact through the medium of his careful and thorough research, and assisted in many ways in the dissemination of historical knowledge in the community, and

WHEREAS, By his pen and ink sketches of local scenes he has preserved for posterity pictures of many buildings and historical sites already vanished by the advance of progress, and has created in these works an invaluable collection for the future student of local history, and

WHEREAS, By his death during the past year, the members of the Society have lost a valuable and esteemed friend, and his death, having caused a loss to the community which cannot be estimated, therefore

LET IT BE RESOLVED, That the Officers and Directors of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, at its annual meeting, held in Roxborough, June 1st, 1932, present to the members of his family, surviving him, their condolence and sympathy, and publicly acclaim the memory of this worthy citizen.

Secretary, J. Ellwood Barrett.  
President, Thomas S. Martin.  
Rev. J. Foster Wilcox, pastor of

the Roxborough Baptist Church, who was the orator of the day, at the Rittenhouse Bi-Centennial Celebration, on April 16th, was given a vote of thanks for the splendid address he delivered at that time.

Plans were discussed for obtaining a room in the house on Lincoln Drive, where David Rittenhouse, Roxborough's most noted citizen, was born, for the care and display of relics pertaining to David Rittenhouse; the Wissahickon Valley; and the early days of the nation.

Local residents who possess pictures, period furniture, china, documents, and other relics of the section, and of the Colonial era, who would like to see them placed in

the care of a reliable organization for preservation, are requested to communicate with the secretary of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, J. Ellwood Barrett, at 4115 Houghton street, Roxborough.

The Society will participate in a George Washington Bi-Centennial pageant, to be held at the Shawmonth Public School, under the direction of Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, next November, the date of which will be announced later.

Vice President James K. Helms, displayed the four-reel Eastman moving picture, "George Washington and His Times" as the closing feature of the meeting.

7/28/1932 56  
**Couple Have  
Been Married  
Fifty Years**

**Mr. and Mrs. William H. Bovard Wed on August  
1st, 1882**

**RESIDE IN FLORIDA**

**Both Were Active in Methodist Episcopal Church  
Work**

Next Monday will be the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Bovard, long-time residents of the Twenty-First Ward, who now reside at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Married on August 1st, 1882, by Rev. Thomas M. Jackson, at Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, on Gay street, Manayunk, this well known couple are the parents of George M. Bovard, of Flamingo street, Roxborough. One other son, William M. Bovard, died but a few years ago.

Mr. Bovard was born on James (now Stanton street) opposite St. Bridget's Church, in the Falls of Schuylkill, where his father had opened a jewelry store in 1859. In 1880, Mr. Bovard was taken into the business. He continued in that line of work in the Falls and at Manayunk, until 1925, when he relinquished the reins to his son, George M. Bovard. He was one of the early pioneer dealers in this section for the Edison phonograph, and his family led to the sale of radio receiving sets. William H. Bovard, was for forty years the treasurer of the Ebenezer M. E. Church and assistant superintendent of its Sunday School for 32 years. He is still listed as the Honorary Treasurer of the Manayunk church.

Mrs. Bovard before her marriage was Miss Sallie B. Miller. She was born on Gay street, in Manayunk, and served on the Board of Managers of the Methodist Episcopal Home for many years.

George M. Bovard, their son, continues the jewelry business started by his grandfather.

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Bovard, of Roxborough, with their three children, and Mrs. William H. Bovard, Jr., of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, will celebrate the golden wedding anniversary with the elder couple, in Florida, on Monday.



6/9/1932

## Death Claims Thos. Higgins

Well Known Manayunk Insurance Underwriter Is Found Dead in Chair at Home.—Active in Church and Community Affairs.

Thomas A. Higgins, who for thirty-two years has been an insurance underwriter in the 21st ward, was found dead sitting in a chair at his home, 4502 Baker street, last Thursday afternoon. Mr. Higgins, who spent his entire life in the 21st Ward, was known almost every resident of the community. He was an active member of the 21st Ward Board of Trade, as well as as various religious societies at St. John the Baptist Church.

For many years he was interested in community affairs. Two years ago he was appointed district supervisor of the Continental Casualty Company, and maintained an office in the Drexel Building at Fifth and Chestnut streets.

The deceased is survived by his wife, who previous to her marriage was Miss Gertrude Dohman, of East Falls; and two daughters, the Misses Catherine and Gertrude Higgins.

Funeral services were held from a Manayunk funeral home on Monday morning. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at Holy Family Church, and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

6-9-1932

## "The Blocks" Were North Of Fountain St.

So Says John Sickinger,  
Manayunk's History  
Searcher

OLD SETTLEMENT  
Names of Old Families  
Are Recalled in  
Story

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

The Manayunk folk who do not live north of Fountain street, do not live in "The Blocks."

"The Blocks" was the section beginning north of Fountain street, and extending from the Manayunk Canal up to Smick street and was called after the three block houses built at the extreme upper end of Manayunk. The block houses are

four family homes under one roof, and were believed to have been built to repel any attacks from the Indians, because some of the four families living under one roof was always on the alert for such attacks.

"The Blocks" section also includes Rosebud Heights, which was a picnic resort and base ball diamond. But few are the old timers, now, who remember the old Rosebud team, the fighting "Blockers", who won more games by trickery and fights than any other team in this section.

Every church hereabouts had a pioneer corps and each Saturday afternoon after a street parade, they would hold their annual picnic at Rosebud Heights in their turn.

The base ball field is now the site of a vacant hotel at the northeast corner of Fountain and Umbria streets. The Heights ran up Fountain street, to the base of old Germany Hill, and many queer carryings-on took place in the picnic grove.

Some forty-five years ago, when the American Volunteers were in their infancy holding street revivals on the Bowery of New York, an old woman who had joined the group said that she first "received salvation" at Rosebud Heights on the blocks of Manayunk.

Billy Watson, of Beef Trust fame, made the woman's confession a stage slogan for many years afterwards, which drew many thousands of laughs.

There were very few residents in the Blocks section in 1875. Thirty-eight houses, not including the three block houses, formed the settlement, with ten others facing the canal that were owned by Wm Kohler—now the site of A. T. Baker's Plush Mill. Between Kohler's houses and Bicking street, now the roadbed of the Pennsylvania Rail

road, was a farm house and barn owned by Cornelius McCann, and a row of five houses owned by Pat Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lingelbach, Matthew Pester, Harry Ogle, John Wheeler, Wm. McIlhenny, Kitchen Estate, Jos. Rothman, Green Pirth, and the People's Estate owned considerable ground. On the east side of Bicking street was the Wright's, Powell's and Warren homesteads. On the west side of Washington, now Umbria street, was eleven homes. Some of the owners were Fitzpatrick, Cusick, Lung and Marlins. On the east side at the upper end stood a row of six homes owned by Robert Haley. More vacant lots, then the Layfield and Horner homes.

Farther down was Pat Connell's home and the homes of the Warrens and Peoples families. On Fountain street stood the Ogle and Erecht homesteads. And now you have the entire Blocks section mapped before you. South of Fountain street to Leverington avenue, was the Mount Vernon section, with 180 houses located within its boundaries: the Getz's, Heaps, Grass's, Sorbenheimers, Bowkers, Saunders, Messmers, Stanleys, Dills, Haughs, Otts, Rowleys, Stouts, Mackeys, Leighs, Harris, Cronshaws, Collins, Thompsons, Birkmires, McCorm-

icks, Ripkas, Glenns, Atkinsons Lamons and many others.

But to have lived in "The Blocks" you must have resided above Fountain street.

8-11-1932

## Death Claims Old Resident of 21st Ward

Mrs. Annie W. Heidinger  
Succumbs After Illness  
of Six Weeks

BORN IN THIS SECTION

Lived in Manayunk And  
Roxborough For More  
Than 75 Years

Sympathy is being extended to the family of Francis L. Heidinger, of 315 Lemonte street, Roxborough, whose wife, Mrs. Annie W. Heidinger, died on Monday morning following an illness of six weeks.

Mrs. Heidinger was born in the Falls of Schuylkill, on December 12th, 1849, being the daughter of Robert and Mary Burns Whiteside. When about six years of age she removed with her parents to Manayunk, and later to Roxborough, having been a resident of the 21st Ward for 75 years.

When twenty-five years of age, in 1874, the deceased was married to Francis L. Heidinger, of Manayunk, in the Mount Zion M. E. Church, with the ceremony being performed by the Rev. R. J. Carson.

Three children blessed the union, these being Willis B. Heidinger, an attorney-at-law, and a farmer member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature; Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, principal of the Shawmont Public School, and Miss Minnie H. Heidinger, a member of the faculty at the Roxborough High School.

In addition to the above, Mrs. Heidinger is survived by two granddaughters, the Misses Anna Elizabeth and Mary Louise Heidinger, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Willis B. Heidinger.

Services were held at the Stetler Funeral Home, 6124 Ridge avenue, yesterday afternoon and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

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8/11/1932

## Old Sections of 21st Ward

Ship Lane—Manatawna District of Upper Roxborough Is About To Experience a Land Boom—Names of Old Families Are Recalled.

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

Back at the time when the Borough of Manayunk and the Township of Roxborough were incorporated with the City of Philadelphia, the territory now known as the 21st Ward was parceled out into little sections, which had characteristics of their own.

Some time ago I told of the families which owned property in the "Blocks" and Mt. Vernon sections. Now, I would like to relate a tale of the Ship Lane and Manatawna districts, as they were shortly after the consolidation.

The Ship Lane neighborhood extended along the Schuylkill river from the County line down to Ship lane, which is now called Port Royal avenue, and from the river back to Mill road. In the district were the buildings of the Soapstone Quarries, and the storage houses of the Carpenter Ice Company. There was also a picnic grove known as "Rockdale" which was owned by Samuel F. Prince, that was equally divided over the County line. Joseph Sharmer, John Bowker, John Bigonette, Joseph Kensel, Leonard and Joseph Deweese, Frank Cartreau, James Lee, David Steel, Cornelius O'Calligan, Joseph Davis, Philip Gault, George Klauder, Samuel Parker and the Earl, Kershaw and Spear estates were among the many farms in the boundaries and from Mill road out to the Ridge and from Ship lane to the County line, in the Manatawna section were the lands of William McFadden, Jr., Daniel Wolf, Hiram Johnson, John Crawford, the Lilly Estate, James F. Nicholas, and Reuben Layre.

Along the Ridge, from the County line down, were the homesteads of Samuel Grubb, Mrs. Markley, William McFadden, Anthony Triple, Mary Roberts, Robert Corbit, the Wolfs, Seabolds, and the Tartars; also Reuben Shinkel, George Layre, Andrew Markley, J. Bickings, Rex Markley, Thomas Dixon, the old Horse Car depot, and the quaint little Manatawna schoolhouse, on the east side of the Ridge.

Along the boundary of the 22nd Ward was Charles Rapine's house, with the Tenth milestone in front of it; the Cregar estate, George Shick's Farm, George Rex' place, at the junction of Thomas Mill lane; William Germ, George Bartle's, the Odd Fellows Hall, six properties or lots belonging to Joseph Bickens, John Rex' house, Samuel B. Linton, George Loyle, the Keely's, the Manatawna Presbyterian Church, Henry Root, Albert Aull, John Marks, A. Loyle, William C. Hamilton, the Steele estate, Abel Green and the home of Mrs. Knouse.

And now you have a complete list of all the property owners in the

Ship Lane-Manatawna section of Upper Roxborough. Most of these have been called away by The Grim Reaper, but many of their descendants still reside in the locality. Some of the old farms have been cut up into building lots, and new homes have since been erected.

The horse car line was replaced by the trolley, and now this has given way to the modern motor bus. Another few years will see the Episcopal Cathedral in existence, for work has already been started on that worthy project. A proposed bridge across the Schuylkill in this neighborhood is expected to be built within the life time of those of us who are now living, and when it is completed will provide a direct connecting link for traffic between Chestnut Hill Roxborough and Bryn Mawr, running close to, or through the church property, which should increase the land values in what was once known as the Ship Lane-Manatawna portion of Roxborough.

9/22/32

## School Pupils Of 50 Years Ago Recalled

Many of "Dad" Murphy's  
Boys at Commence-  
ment Exercises

### METHODS CHANGED

Studies Were Not Made In-  
teresting as at  
Present

Children of school age, are not showing many signs of breaking down and crying over the fact that the infantile paralysis epidemic has delayed the opening of the city's places of instruction.

But later on, when the lost time has to be made up, by hard study, there may be heard many walls of despair. For in education, like anything else in life that is worthwhile, Time figures as a great element.

But even with all the hardships which the youngsters may feel the Board of Education will "wish on them," they have little to contend with in comparison to the days of their grandfathers and grand-grandmothers.

There are plenty of intervals in the life of school child, today, which are devoted to studies and tasks, both interesting and pleasant, rather than the "grind, grind, grind" over dry lessons which was the lot of the men and women of 50 years ago or so.

Back about 1882, the pupils of Robert T. "Dad" Murphy's Manayunk School, on Green lane, were taken to the Zoo, in the early

Spring, and on a nature study and nutting party back near the Wissahickon, in the Fall. The remainder of their time was spent in the schoolroom, with no physical culture, no shop practice, no needlework, no psychological studies for them.

There may be those who are still residing in the 21st Ward who will "get a thrill" out of reading the following report, of the 13th Annual Commencement of the Boys' Grammar Schools, of Philadelphia, which was held at Horticultural Hall - - - South Broad street - - - in 1882.

#### 14TH GRADE

Distinguished—Orlando C. Harper, 95.9; Albert M. Levering, 94.8; John Kenworthy, 94; Clayton L. Tunis, 93.6; Edward P. Wallace, 91.1; John Rowland, Jr., 90.2; J. Hugh Wilson, 92.2.

Meritorious—Herbert E. Schofield, 85.8.

#### 13TH GRADE

Distinguished—Clifford Rahn, 90.2; Frank B. Dawson, 90.

Meritorious—Elwood E. Erdis, 86.3; Allan Koch, 85.7; Charles O. Wagner, 85.1.

#### 12TH GRADE

Distinguished—Clinton A. Stafford, 93.2; Charles C. Simpson, 91; Horace A. Walton, 90.5; Edward Kaufman, 90.2; Nicholas Whiteside, 90; Paul Dewees, 90.3.

Meritorious—John A. Davis, 86; Alex Russell, 87.1; Emmett Mills, 86.1; Jas. I. Nicholas, 85.4; Arthur Robinson, 85.

#### 11TH GRADE

Distinguished—Charles Broad bent, 91.6; Aleck Christie, 91.4.

Meritorious—James Bernard, 85.

#### 10TH GRADE

Meritorious—August Miller, 86.6; Joseph Brown, 85; Florian Am buster, 85; Lewis Frame, 85.

#### 9TH GRADE

Distinguished—Harry Harper, 94; Francis Ehly, 90.6.

Meritorious—Thomas Levins, 86.9; Walter Hornby, 86.8; Willie Brecht, 86.5; Harry Sobernheimer, 86; Ferdie Johnson, 85.6; Wilbur Pepper, 85; Alan Clarke, 85; Thomas McKnight, 85.

#### 8TH GRADE

Distinguished—Harry Smith, 91.9; Willie Jackson, 90.1; Geo. Forster, 85.3.

There were but 24 boys sent from the two Secondary Schools for admission to the Boys' Grammar, 15 from Fairview and 9 from Schuylkill Secondary. This is only about one-half the number that should have been sent.

#### 4TH GRADE

Distinguished—Samuel Wilson, 93.1; Charles Macaleer, 93.1; George Sheard, 91.9; Leon Klein, 90; George Bratton, 90.

Meritorious—Oscar Brooks, 89.1; Fletcher Preston, 87.6; Willie Shaw, 87.4; Harry Lance, 87.3; Richard Hall, 87.2; Kirk McMaster, 87; Hugh Gray, 86.9; Harry Birkmire, 86.7; Harry Coight, 85.9; Henry Brecht, 85.6; Martin Kineavy, 85.4; Charles Nuss, 85.4.

SOCCAPP

58

10/6/1932

59

# City Home of Burt Family To Disappear

## Washington Furnishings Will Be Brought to Wis- sahickon

### A N O L D L A N D M A R K

## Rare Wrought Iron Hinges And Locks Are Salvaged

Another old Philadelphia home, long a landmark, is to disappear.

Furnishings from the Presidential mansion, once occupied by George Washington, on Market street below 6th, are among the rare appointments of the old Burt homestead, at the northwest corner of 12th and Walnut streets, which has been vacated for demolition.

Memories of the days when what is now Broad street was regarded as a suburban lane are revived as workmen removed paintings and antiques from the house, which was built in 1830.

Removal of the furnishings was supervised by the Misses Theodora and Edith Burt, granddaughters of Nathaniel Burt, who built the house. It stands on a lot fronting 48 feet on Walnut street, and 141 feet on 12th street. No other building ever occupied this plot of ground.

Nathaniel Burt, younger son of Arthur Burt, came to this country from Glennaby, near Belfast, Ireland, shortly before the Walnut street home was erected. He was the only member of the family to come to this country. A son, Nathaniel Burt, Jr., of Wissahickon, was the father of the Misses Burt.

The house—three stories and an attic—is believed to be the first one in this city to have a built-in bathtub.

Furnishings from the Washington mansion include an ornate mantel and beautiful framed mirror in the drawing room, as well as doors, old locks and bars from the Philadelphia home of the first President.

The Walnut street house was built at a time when beautiful and spacious gardens were a pride to home owners. A high brick wall encloses the Burt garden, shutting out street cars and automobiles, leaving a peaceful scene in this built-up section. Four magnolia trees, numerous plants and bushes and a fig tree are in the garden.

"The fig tree was planted over 100 years ago," said Miss Theodora. "It disappeared, and we thought it had died, but six years ago, after a hot rainy summer, it made its reappearance from a dormant root."

No fruit was borne by the fig tree since its revival, but it is in a decidedly healthy condition. The

magnolia trees two bearing pink flowers, another bearing white ones, and one with red blossoms, bloom every spring.

As one ascends the broad Colonial stairway of the Burt home, a tall grandfather's clock on the first landing seems to give welcome. Ceilings are high doors are wide. Handmade bricks for the house were brought from England, and most of the furnishings are from that country.

There are large mirrors in most of the rooms. Some extend from floor almost to ceiling; others spread expansively over the full width of artistic mantels.

The locks throughout the house were made in a day when locksmithing was regarded as an art. A photographer was busy last week taking pictures of these various locks, so that they may be placed accurately after their removal from the house to the doors of the Misses Burt's suburban home at Osborne and Righter streets Wissahickon.

The big white front door, from the Washington mansion, contains an array of formidable looking heavy iron locks and bolts also from the old Presidential home. In the kitchen of the Burt home, is a mahogany clock, which, no doubt, often helped the first President to be punctual in his appointments.

A collection of old-fashioned bells hangs in a corner of the kitchen. One was connected with the front door, while the others were wired with various rooms and used to summon servants. Each bell has a different tone serving to show the source of the call.

The Washington relics and virtually all the furnishings of the house are being moved to Wissahickon. In past years the Misses Burt occupied the home here from the last Thursday of April and returned to the Walnut street house for Thanksgiving Day.

When the Walnut street house is razed, the ground will be leased for an open air garage.

Records show the house was assessed this year at \$250,000. Since the day it was completed, no one but members of the Burt family has occupied it.

11-5-1931

## Old Newspaper Ceases Publication

Readers of the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, which ceased publication last week, will regret the passing of that local newspaper, which has been in existence since the days immediately following the Civil War.

The old weekly was established in 1869, by the late James Milligan and John McCook, who were affiliated together under the firm name of Milligan and McCook. Mr. McCook had charge of the mechanical end of the business, while James Milligan edited the paper. The latter wielded a pen which became a power in this vicinity and the sur-

rounding country.

Upon the death of Mr. McCook, John E. Milligan, son of the editor, who himself died on May 24th of this year, and Samuel Ehly, were admitted to the firm, which then changed its name to Milligan and Company, which continued until last week.

James Milligan was connected with the Chronicle, up until his death in 1908, after which the business was directed by John Milligan and Samuel Ehly. Mr. Milligan's death this year, placed the whole responsibility of issuing the publication upon Mr. Ehly.

10-20-32

## Funeral Rites For Louisa J. Kerkeslager

### Roxborough Woman Expired on Tuesday of Last Week

### BORN IN KENTUCKY

### Was One of 21st Ward's Most Prominent Persons

Another of Roxborough's finest feminine characters, in the person of Mrs. Louisa J. Kerkeslager, of 401 Lyceum avenue, who died on Tuesday of last week, was buried on Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Kerkeslager was born in Covington, Kentucky, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Ames, Sr., and came with her parents, to this section in early girlhood, being a resident of the 21st Ward continuously since.

She was married to the late Milton W. Kerkeslager, of Manayunk, at St. David's P. E. Church, by the Rev. Charles Logan, in 1883. Her husband conducted a mens' furnishing and haberdashery store at the corner of Main and Levering street, Manayunk, which is still in existence, and later went into the oil business. He also served two terms as a representative in Legislature, at Harrisburg.

Two daughters, Mrs. Wayne R. Moyer, and Miss Edith A. Kerkeslager survive their parents. Four brothers: William C., Jr., Edwin, and Albert Ames, of Roxborough, and W. Frank Ames, of Glencoe, Kentucky; and two granddaughters, Louisa M. and Edith W. Moyer mourn the loss of Mrs. Kerkeslager.

The funeral was held from her Lyceum avenue residence and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

11/3/1932

## Roxborough Couple Have Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Goshow Observe Golden Wedding Date

BOTH WELL KNOWN

Family Holds Quiet Observance on Tuesday

Tuesday of this week was a red-letter day in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo F. Goshow, of 428 Connaroe street, Roxborough, it being their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. Goshow was born in Jeffersonville, Montgomery County, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Goshow, and came with his parents, in boyhood, to the 21st Ward, where he has since resided. For many years he was the senior partner in the memorial monumental firm of Goshow & McBride, which had its shops at the northeast corner of Ridge avenue and Connaroe street. For the past fifteen years, however, he has lived in retirement.

Mrs. Goshow was born near Birmingham, in England, as Miss Elizabeth Humpstone, coming to this country as a very young girl. She is a sister of the late Rev. Dr. John Humpstone, whose first charge was at the Manayunk Baptist Church, at which time she first became acquainted with her husband.

Shortly after Dr. Humpstone accepted a pastorate in Albany, New York, where his sister accompanied him, her marriage with Mr. Goshow took place, in the New York city, on November 1st, 1832.

The couple established their home on Connaroe street, Roxborough, within a short distance of their present residence. Later the house in which they now dwell was erected by Mr. Goshow, and most of their married life has been spent there.

Mr. and Mrs. Goshow are the parents of six children, five of whom are well known in this vicinity. These are: William H. Goshow, assistant cashier of the Commercial National Bank, in charge of the East Falls office; Mrs. Elizabeth G. Miles, of Wissahickon; the Misses Helen and Mildred Goshow, both of whom are public school teachers; and Mrs. William McClennen, of Moore, Pa. One son, Arthur D. Goshow, died in his early teens.

In addition, there are seven grandchildren who felicitated Mr. and Mrs. Goshow on the happy

event Tuesday; namely, Mrs. D. Carol Barnhart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Goshow; Elizabeth, Helen, Joseph, Benjamin and Martha Miles, and William McClennen, Jr.

A family observance of the occasion took place on Tuesday evening, at 428 Connaroe street.

8/26/1937

## Early History of Gas Works

City Councils Passed Ordinance Creating Privately Owned Plant, Which in 1841 Became Municipal Property.

With the renewal of the gas lease for Philadelphia taxpayers getting nearer, the city's newspapers make frequent mention of the illuminating and heating element which is used in almost every home throughout the municipality.

In a history of the Quaker City, made public in 1875, it is stated that "Philadelphia is a well-lighted city, and the smallest houses are supplied with gas. The quantity manufactured by the city works, during the year 1874 was 1,766,268,000 cubic feet, an increase over the year 1873 of 117,681,000 cubic feet. The largest consumption for any 24 hours was on the night of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve) 1874 amounting to 7,826,000 cubic feet, being an increase over the largest consumption of the previous year of 787,000 cubic feet."

"The manufacturing gas works are the City, Point Breeze, Spring Garden and Manayunk."

"The first gas for illuminating purposes made in the United States was manufactured by Michael Ambrose & Co., Italian fire workers and artists, who gave exhibitions of figures of temples, masonic devices, etc., at their amphitheatre, Arch street between Eighth and Ninth streets. These pieces, they said, were produced by 'inflammable air with the assistance of light.' They were exhibited in August 1796. In 1803 one J. C. Henfrey, proposed to illuminate the city by gas-lights burned in high towers, but City Councils gave him no encouragement. In 1815 Councils were petitioned by James McMurtrie to introduce gas-lighting, but no definite action was taken. Shortly afterward, in 1817, Dr. Charles Kugler succeeded in manufacturing illuminating gas, which was first introduced to public attention by its use at the Philadelphia Museum, then exhibiting at the State House, or Independence Hall, where it was lighted on gala-days and on one or two evenings of a week. The second Masonic Hall, on Chestnut street between 7th and 8th streets, rebuilt

in 1820, had gas-works connected with it in which the carburetted hydrogen gas used was prepared from tar. For many years this hall and the Gas-Light Tavern, on Second street near Walnut, were the only buildings in the city in which gas was used. On the 12th of March 1835 the Philadelphia Gas Works was authorized by ordinance of Councils. It had a capital stock of \$125,000. The city reserved the right to purchase the works from the shareholders at any time. The works on Market street were first put into operation on the 8th of February, 1836. Only two stores were prepared to burn gas, and the whole number of applications at that time were for nineteen private and forty-six public burners. On July 1st 1841, the city bought out the stockholders for \$173,000 and took possession of the works by the intervention of a board of trustees. The City Works have been increased in capacity frequently since that time, and are very complete."

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10-20-32

## H.A. Markley Died Monday

Life-Long Resident of Roxborough Expires After Lengthy Illness.—Once Served as Member of Local Poor Board.

Harry A. Markley, business man and life-long resident of Roxborough, died on Monday at his home, 8841 Ridge avenue. He had been in ill health for a long time.

Until his retirement some years ago, Mr. Markley was for many years an officer of the Twenty-first Ward Poor Board. He was also at one time in the city service, having been connected with the Water Bureau. For more than fifty years he was treasurer of the Manawna Baptist Church.

Mr. Markley was a member of Palestine Lodge, No. 470, F and A. M., at the Falls of Schuylkill, and other fraternal organizations. He is survived by his widow and a son, John A. Markley, and a sister Mrs. Clara Mitchell. Funeral services will be conducted at his home this afternoon followed by burial in the cemetery at Barren Hill.

Forecast 5/8/1919

HERE AND THERE  
NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

No issue of the "Weekly Forecast" will be printed next week, because of the great holiday in Philadelphia, Thursday, May 15.

10/20/1932

# Wm. F. Dixon Tells of 88th Regiment, P.V.

## Secretary of Veterans' Ass'n Gives Brief History of Civil War Unit

### ONLY TWO SURVIVORS

### Company "C" Was Made Up of Men Residing in This Section

When, on May 3, 1861, Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to put down the Rebellion, 1214 men from Philadelphia and adjacent counties rushed to the colors and formed the 88th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Last Saturday only one survivor of that regiment appeared for the 66th annual reunion of the 88th Pennsylvania Veterans Volunteers Association at Adams & Son's building, 13th and Spring Garden streets.

He was George W. Gilligan, of 1304 Riltner street, president of the association, who enlisted as a drummer boy at the age of 14 and saw General Lee surrender at Appomattox courthouse. He was 85 last December.

Samuel Martin, of Wilmington, Del., the only other survivor of the regiment, was ill at his home and unable to be present. He was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, where he lost the use of his legs, and has been in a wheel chair ever since. Despite his affliction, he was able to attend the annual gathering last year on crutches.

About 20 members of the auxiliary association, comprising the descendants of members of the 88th, attended the meeting and re-elected Gilligan president; John S. Turner of Roxborough, vice president, and William F. Dixon, former 21st Ward Councilman secretary-treasurer.

When the remnants of the regiment returned to Philadelphia at the end of the war, the survivors formed the association to keep alive old memories.

Each year they have met for an annual banquet.

The Cameron Light Guards, as the 88th Regiment was known in the time of Abraham Lincoln, had its first taste of real war in the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia. It had been recruited during the summer and fall of 1861, in Camp Stokley, in what was known as Robeson's Meadow, along the Schuylkill River, a short distance below the Wissahickon Creek.

The regiment broke camp early in November and headed by Ringgold's Band, of Reading, marched

down Ridge road to the city, in command of Colonel George McLean. Upon reaching the city, arms were furnished the men and they marched to Broad and Prime (Washington avenue) street depot, where they boarded a train for Washington D. C.

Company "C" of the regiment was in charge of Captain John C. Belsterling, of Manayunk, who had served in the Mexican War. The company was made up of men from Manayunk, Roxborough, Wissahickon, Falls of Schuylkill and Conshohocken. Captain Belsterling was killed at Bull Run, on August 30th 1862.

General Louis Wagner, at this time, was a first lieutenant of Company "B," but subsequently became colonel of the regiment. General Wagner was among the wounded at the Battle of Bull Run, in which conflict many of the local men were killed.

The total enrollment of the regiment was 1214. Killed in battle 179; died from wounds 363; captured as prisoners 165.

In a letter, written by Charles McKnight, of Company "K," dated June 8th 1864, appears the following lines:

"Oh, whether we live, or whether we fall  
By sabre cut or by rifle ball,  
The hearts of the free can never forget,  
My country, my country will remember us yet."

The 88th Regiment participated in the following engagements: Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Thorough Gap, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Totopotamy, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Dadey's Mills, Five Forks, and Appomattox.

Appomattox Day was celebrated every year by a banquet, given by General Wagner until his death on January 14th 1914. His son, Louis M. Wagner, continued the annual Appomattox dinner until April 9th 1926, when only one survivor was able to be present. Eight of the old regiment were living at that time, but only one, Comrade George W. Gilligan was able to attend.

Today only two of the 1214 men who enlisted in the 88th Regiment—George W. Gilligan and Samuel Martin—remain. A letter, received at the 66th re-union, from Comrade Martin, dated October 11th, stated that he was afraid he would never be able to attend another re-union, as he is unable to leave his room. Comrade Martin resides in Wilmington, Delaware and has been forced to use a rolling chair since the Battle of Gettysburg, on 1863.

A memorial tablet was unveiled at Camp Stokley, on October 5th 1907, by members of the 88th Regiment. It stands just south of the Queen Lane Pumping Station. At the exercises music was furnished by the Girard College Band; prayer was made by John D. Vautier, the regiment chaplain. The presentation of the tablet to the Fairmount Park Commissioners was made by Robert B. Reath and the

unveiling was made by John Kelly and Daniel J. McLean. Acceptance of the tablet was made by Major Thomas S. Martin, secretary of the Fairmount Park Commission.

The chemical manufacturing firm of Powers & Weightman, which had been in existence, and where many of the recruits were employed when the 88th Regiment marched away to war, closed its plant on the day that the memorial tablet was unveiled.

On September 11th 1889, a magnificent granite monument was unveiled in the National Cemetery, at Gettysburg, in honor of this regiment. Colonel George E. Wagner delivered the dedicatory address.

The Veteran Association of the 88th Regiment was among the first to erect three granite tablets at Gettysburg, designating the position of the regiment during the three days of terrible battle at that place; these being dedicated on

August 27th 1883, and the other being General George W. Gile.

Wm. Dixon recalls the names of the following men from Manayunk, Roxborough and the Falls of Schuylkill who bled and died for a united nation: Captain John C. Belsterling, killed at Bull Run August 30th 1862.

Lieutenant Harry Hudson, killed at Railroad Bridge over Cedar Run Va., August 1th 1862.

John W. Hanson, wounded at Fredericksburg.

John T. Williams, captured at Bull Run, but escaped. Later wounded at Spottsylvania.

John Pagle, wounded on the Rappahannock.

Samuel Binns, wounded at Bull Run, and lost his right eye.

Thomas J. Dixon, wounded at Bull Run, August 30th 1862.

David J. Hartzell, wounded at Bull Run, August 30th 1862.

James Hague, captured at Gettysburg. Wounded at Spottsylvania May 10 1864.

Peter Hinkle, wounded at Antietam and Gettysburg.

William Maddis, mortally wounded at Bull Run.

Thomas Palmer, wounded and discharged 1863.

Matthew Pinyard, John B. Righter, John B. Beaver, Wilson Reeder, George Still, Thomas Winn, Andrew J. Wier, Peter Wilfong, John Kelly, George Peterman, William Reed, John A. Donahue, George Davis, George W. Toland, Charles H. Zaiser, and others of Company "C" are among those who have answered the last Roll Call.

# MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ALMOST COMPLETED

## IDEAL WEATHER AIDS BUILDING

**"New Memorial Hospital" Will  
Result from Sweeping Re-  
novations Under Way**

### PLAYGROUND AN ASSET

The work on the new addition to the Memorial Hospital is going forward rapidly, the weather conditions having been ideal for construction. It would be more exact to say "The New Memorial Hospital" for the entire institution will be revolutionized by the added space and equipment. Hardly any arrangement of the building will remain as before.

Two of the new sunrooms with their far view over the Wissahickon Valley and beyond are now in use, and the other two will be ready by the middle of February, if not earlier. These sunrooms probably command the most beautiful outlook of any hospital in the city. Even from the first floor a fine, unobstructed view can be had, because there are permanently open spaces across the street from them, the spacious grounds of St. Timothy's, with its low, ivy-covered buildings at the extreme left, and the open playgrounds of the Kendrick Recreation Center at the front and left. Here, voices of the children in play will be sufficiently distant to lend a cheerful rather than an annoying note to the atmosphere of these bright rooms. The glass is scientifically prepared to transmit all the elements of sunlight itself, and will not absorb the heat as other glass does, but remains always at the temperature of the air itself.

One of the outstanding features of the new arrangement will be the detached receiving ward. This will be entered from Rector street, between St. Catherine's and Locust Cottage, the nurses' home. Hospital arrivals are often painfully wounded and making disturbing outcries, or are suffering from alcoholism and being noisy and unpleasant, and it has been arranged to shield the patients of the hospital from any of this intrusion on their nerves.

In the basement of the new addition is a wonderfully equipped dispensary and clinic for out-patients, comprising the following departments: dental, orthopedic, children's, prenatal, ear-nose-throat, eye, surgical, medical, women's clinic and periodical health examination. There are seven of these dispensary rooms, and these are fitted with cubicles, three to a room, for undressing preparatory to examination or treatment, which expedites considerably in point of time the work of the attendant physicians. In the back of the dispensary rooms are the quarters for the male employees of the hospital.

On the first floor, entering from the new doorway on Rector street, there

are the administration offices and six rooms equipped with the most modern X-ray apparatus that can be had. Service kitchen, ward, with glass enclosed cubicles, solarium, etc.

On the second floor are 11 private maternity rooms and nursery. These rooms can easily contain two beds, so that the number of private maternity cases cared for at one time may be as high as 22.

On the third floor there are seven private rooms, with solarium, and two general maternity wards containing seven beds each, a recovery room, a quiet room, and a nursery for the newly-arrived infants, which has a glass enclosed isolation ward next to it, for the infant that is so unlucky as to have a contagious malady. The nurseries are both "glass houses" through which the newborn in their tiny bassanets may be under constant observation. These nurseries are both on the south side of the building and get a great deal of sun.

The fourth floor contains the operating room with all necessary sterilizing facilities and ten private rooms, with baths, some connecting to form a suite accommodating private nurses, or two or more patients. Here, too, is the general diet kitchen. At the front, the Ridge avenue side of the building, on every floor, are the wonderful sunrooms, to which all patients can have access.

Then there's the roof! On last Monday noon, with sun brilliant and a temperature in the neighborhood of 60 degrees, the roof of the hospital was a wonderful place. Some day it

may be another solarium, but even in its present unequipped condition it offers a wonderful place for the convalescent to walk or sit upon. From that vantage point the curve of the Delaware Bridge could be seen, and the great wheel at Woodside park, and the wooded stretches that lie between Roxborough, Cynwyd and Narberth. Supt. William F. McBride, looking over the great expanse of country, said "It's been said by the Bureau of Vital Statistics that Roxborough is the most healthful suburb west of the Mississippi, and it seems reasonable that it would be, if sun, woods and elevation have anything to do with health. Roxborough's only drawback," he continued, "has been that it had to be reached through the neck of a bottle, by Ridge avenue up the valley of the Schuylkill, but within a year, Henry avenue will be open, and at a later date the Boulevard from Bryn Mawr to Chestnut Hill, via

Roxborough. Then this section will be recognized as the best of them all."

Every floor of the new hospital is equipped with electric refrigerators, and the fourth floor will have two. There are ten drinking fountains or sanitary, ice-cooled "bubblers" in the building, two on each floor.

Every possible provision has been made for quiet; the stairs are slate, which have the quality of deadening the sound of footsteps, and the hallways are floored with tile and cement and covered with linoleum. There are

also double glass walls enclosing both nurseries, so that wall of the dissatisfied infant cannot disturb the patients.

The neighborhood should indeed be proud of this splendid hospital in its midst. Its equipment, when completed, will be second to none in point of modernity and quality, and its favorable location on the crest of the wooded hill gives it an advantage which could not be bought. It's grove of maples, it's English box yew (valued it is said at close to two thousand dollars) and its commanding view in all directions give it a natural charm. There are now 74 patients in the Memorial Hospital, five of whom are new-born infants.

When visited on Monday morning these fine babies were all soundly asleep. In the Memorial Hospital they footprint the infants to establish identity instead of fingerprinting them. There is one winsome little one about five or six months old who is in the hospital for treatment, and three other children of six or eight.

It is hoped that the entire building will be in use by the 1st of May.

4/2/31

## Aided in Erecting Church Buildings

Frederick G. H. Woerner, of 4415 Manayunk avenue, who with Mrs. Woerner, celebrated a 51st wedding anniversary, last Sunday, was born on August 1st 1856, in Houston, Texas. The couple were married in the parsonage of the German Lutheran Church, in Roxborough, by the groom's father, Rev. G. H. Woerner.

The Manayunk avenue man was chairman of the church committee which erected the Bethany Lutheran parsonage, during the pastorate of Rev. George Gardiner. He also served as chairman of the committee which had charge of building the Epiphany Lutheran Church, at Green lane and Silverwood street.

10-3-29

### Congratulations

Readers of the Chronicle and Advertiser, of Manayunk, were last week surprised at its changed appearance.

The old 21st ward newspaper now comes to the homes of the section in tabloid form, and the front page devoid of advertising.

The Suburban Press extends its congratulations to a contemporary publication, "for its neat dress."

Forecast 5/22/1919

## HERE AND THERE

On account of the few working days in the next week and the large amount of contracts we have on hand, it will be impossible to get an issue of the "Weekly Forecast" out next week.

4/16/1931

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### MANAYUNK MORTICIANS



WALTER M. SYLVESTER

WALTER S. SYLVESTER

Father and son, who under the firm name of Walter S. Sylvester & Son, Undertakers, have moved from their former address on Baker street, Manayunk, to a new location at 200 Green Lane, where they have one of the finest funeral homes in this section of the city.

## Undertakers Make Change Of Address

Walter S. Sylvester & Son  
Move to 200 Green lane,  
Manayunk

### FINE FUNERAL HOME

Senior Member of Firm Has  
Been in Profession  
39 Years

Another of the undertaking firms of the 21st Ward announced the removal of their funeral home, last Monday, when Walter S. Sylvester, the senior member of Walter S. Sylvester & Son, 4515 Baker street, Manayunk, stated that their parlors would be located at 200 Green lane.

Mr. Sylvester, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Sylvester, like his parents before him, was born and reared in this section of the city, and in reviewing his experiences, told of having started in the profession, at the age of fourteen, back in 1892, as an assistant to I. T. Ryan, at 160 Green lane. Mr. Sylvester was serving his apprenticeship with Mr. Ryan, when that mortician was forced to hurriedly prepare the remains of the victims of the Flat Rock tunnel disaster for burial.

Subsequently, and for many years, he was employed by Charles L. Dykes, at the Falls of Schuylkill, when that gentleman was president of the State Board of Undertakers.

Twenty years ago, Mr. Sylvester entered the business for himself, on Baker street, where he has since conducted hundreds of funerals for the people of this vicinity.

Walter M. Sylvester, the junior member of the firm, became affiliated in business with his father, some three years ago, after having passed the State Board examination. Mrs. Walter S. Sylvester, widely known throughout this section in fraternal work, as Laura Sylvester, also assists her husband and son in the embalming and funeral arrangements, whenever women and girls are to be interred.

In moving to the new quarters at 200 Green lane, Walter S. Sylvester & Son, will have one of the finest provisioned funeral homes in northwest Philadelphia, in a quiet and refined neighborhood, and yet conveniently located to better serve their clientele.

*Forecast 4/11/1918*

*Germantown Telegraph  
2-14-1930*

### MANAYUNK PAPER HAS NEW PILOTS

The "Chronicle and Advertiser," of Manayunk, founded by James Milligan in 1869, and conducted by him until his death in 1908, then passing to the son, last week made its appearance for the first time under the auspices of the Inter-Church Federation, of the Twenty-first ward and vicinity.

The editorial staff consists of the following: Rev. W. B. Forney, editor-in-chief; Rev. S. M. Vernon, D.D., patriotic and war-time; Rev. George N. Makley, community interest; Rev. D. C. Hanna, D.D., temperance; Rev. William R. Rearick, news; David Fulmer Keely, Esq., Bible School; Chas. A. Flanagan, young people, and Wm. J. Hamilton, Jr., athletics.

The policy of the publication is outlined by Rev. W. B. Forney, editor-in-chief, thus:

"In our new capacity we greet the public. It will be the object of this paper to serve the people, the whole people of our community.

"We will therefore endeavor to be fair and frank.

"We will be non-sectarian in religion.

"Non-partisan in politics.

"Impartial in everything.

"We are not infallible, and will no doubt make mistakes, but they will be of the head, not the heart.

"You can help us make this paper a success, and we are counting on you to do it.

"The editor-in-chief and his staff are servants of the public, and we desire at all times to serve them, and serve them well."

### PAPER HAS A BIRTHDAY

One of the cleanest and best edited weeklies that reaches us every week is the Suburban Press, Roxborough, which is celebrating its first anniversary. A. C. Chadwick, Jr., the editor, is widely known as a writer on many topics and he keeps "The Press" up to the minute in news and typographical neatness, and each issue is a credit to him and his associate, Joseph H. Ewing, business manager and president of the company. "The Press" carries a large volume of advertising and is recognized as a big help toward the advancement of the 21st Ward. We wish both men and their paper many more happy birthdays.

*Para-2-20-30*

### THE GERMANTOWN TELEGRAPH SAYS:

"One of the cleanest and best edited weeklies that reaches us every week is the Suburban Press, Roxborough, which is celebrating its first anniversary. A. C. Chadwick, Jr., the editor, is widely known as a writer on many topics and he keeps "The Press" up to the minute in news and typographical neatness, and each issue is a credit to him and his associate, Joseph H. Ewing, business manager and president of the company. "The Press" carries a large volume of advertising and is recognized as a big help toward the advancement of the 21st Ward. We wish both men and their paper many more happy birthdays."

# Roxborough Resident To Observe 100th Birthday

10-6-1932

Jacob Wright, Born in Montgomery County on October 12, 1832, Has Lived Here Almost All of His Life.—  
Reception Planned to Mark Occasion

Across the Schuylkill River, one hundred years ago next Wednesday, William Wright, a butcher by trade, and his good wife, who as a girl had been Miss Marie Widener, of the old family whose sons attained prominence in public utility circles, were happy over the birth, that day, of a son and heir whom they called Jacob. And thereby hangs a tale.

For Jacob Wright is still with us and will complete a century of living on Columbus Day, possessed of every faculty and a splendid memory which enables him to point back along the highway of life to men and places in distant days that have gone.

When a representative of THE SUBURBAN PRESS called to see the aged gentleman at his home, at 404 Fountain street, Roxborough, last Friday, his daughter, Mrs. Johnson Hughes, who resides with her father, directed the news-seeker to find the centenarian "out in the garden, where he's cutting grass and straightening up the bean patch."

Mr. Wright was soon found and not at all embarrassed or annoyed by the barrage of questions which were sent in his direction. What manner of man is this, who has been on God's earth for an hundred years and still retains good eyesight, perfect hearing, a remarkable memory, and is able to sleep and eat like a youngster?

Born in Lower Merion Township, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on October 12th, 1832, he came with his parents to Roxborough, when but two months of age, the family settling in a home on Apple's lane, that is now familiar Fountain street. Mr. Wright is one of his parents' eight children, all of whom have passed to The Great Beyond, except he and one sister, Mrs. Julia Smith, who has reached the age of 87 years, and resides in Santa Barbara, California.

As a lad Mr. Wright attended school in the Old Yellow Schoolhouse on Shawmont avenue, and afterward at a school lower down on Ridge avenue. One of his boyhood friends, John Harry Gallati, of Manayunk, about two years the junior of Mr. Wright, expects to visit his Fountain street contemporary and chat over old times next Wednesday. And it is felt that the conversation will be of great interest to local historians.

At 16 years, Mr. Wright started his life's work with a butcher wagon, like other male members of his family, and he continued at this business until 15 years ago, when he decided that sixty nine years was long enough to have spent in one line of endeavor, which had carried him up, down and through all the streets and lanes of this neighborhood.

On November 26th 1857, this

Roxborough resident was married to Miss Elizabeth Marshall, of Manayunk, by Rev. W. M. Baum, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barren Hill. The couple moved to the house at 404 Fountain street, and spent their entire married life there, as time passed additions being made to enlarge the dwelling. Two sons and two daughters blessed the union, of which Mrs. Johnson Hughes, of Roxborough, and Mrs. William H. Ashbridge, of Chestnut Hill, still survive. In addition to Mr. Wright's two daughters, and his sister, two grandchildren, Miss Julia Wright, of 130 Pine street, Philadelphia, and William H. Ashbridge, Jr., of Chestnut Hill, will help to celebrate the Roxborough man's 100th birthday. Mrs. Wright, wife of the aged man, died in 1906.

Mr. Wright remembers every president of the United States from William Henry Harrison to Herbert Hoover, casting his earliest votes for the Whig Party, but since the formation of the Republican Party has been an enthusiastic G. O. P. ballot marker.

He readily recalls the assassination of Presidents Lincoln and Garfield, as well as that of McKinley, all of which caused great excitement in this locality.

Wars—why wars are known in personal recollections by Mr. Wright, who can recall Santa Anna, in the Texan war for independence; Grant and Lee, with their Yanks and Rebs, of the Civil Conflict; the feats of Dewey at Manila, in the Spanish-American War; and also Black Jack Pershing and his doughboys, devil dogs and gobs of the great World War.

And great has been the changes in living conditions since Mr. Wright's youth. People did not walk, after dark, on electric lighted highways, but those who ventured abroad carried candied lanterns. Water was obtained from wells, or nearby natural springs. There was no Fairmount Park. Thomas Edison was not born; railroads came into existence when he was about three years old; and wood was the only fuel until he was eight or ten years of age.

Roxborough's transportation problem has gone through various phases in the life of this aged citizen: first, Crawford's stage line; then horse drawn street cars; which became obsolete as electricity became the motive power; and now the gasoline-driven bus has superseded them all.

Mr. Wright was, in his young manhood, president of the Good Intent Volunteer Fire Company, which, with its hand pumper was often called upon to extinguish neighborhood blazes prior to the creation of the paid fire department. These volunteers had their

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firehouse on Ridge avenue opposite Fairthorne avenue, and later built a new building on Fountain street. This structure is now the headquarters of Hetty A. Jones Post No. 12, G. A. R.

Partenheimer's store, which still stands on Ridge avenue, above Fountain street, was once known as Hipple's Tavern, and the Levering Tavern, on the site of the present moving picture theatre at Ridge and Leverington avenues, was conducted by a man named Hallowell.

Mr. Wright takes a keen interest in current happenings and the doings of people of the day. In the early evening it is one of his pleasures to sit down before the radio receiver to listen to the dinner time musical concerts which come over the air, listening with a fine appreciation to the varied broadcasts. Baseball scores, however, bore him.

A reception will be tendered this grand old man on his 100th birthday, next Wednesday afternoon, from 3 until 5:30 o'clock, at which time more than one hundred guests are expected to be present. Among these well-wishers will be many prominent persons whose mothers and grandmothers purchased their meats from Mr. Wright in the years that he earned his livelihood as a butcher. They come from every walk of life: teachers, preachers, bankers, manufacturers, mechanics, and men and women employed in many different professions.

To but few people is given the health, vigor, mental faculties, and privilege to live and enjoy one hundred years of living, and when one has been, it behooves all of the rest of us to extend our heartiest congratulations, which is unhesitatingly done so by THE SUBURBAN PRESS on this occasion.

10-2-1930

## ANOTHER PAPER

"The Century Plant", a new weekly newspaper devoted to the interests of St. John Baptist Parish, in Manayunk, made its initial appearance on Sunday last.

The Suburban Press welcomes "The Century Plant", to the local newspaper field and wishes it success in its efforts to forward the campaign for the 100th anniversary celebration of St. John's, the 21st Ward's oldest Catholic church, which will take place early next year.

11-21-1929

## "THE RIDGE RECORD"

Volume No. 1, Number 1, of "The Ridge Record" the new newspaper edited and managed by the students of the Roxborough High School, made its appearance on Monday, and The Suburban Press unhesitatingly extends its hand in congratulation to the producers for the neat dress, the quantity and quality of the news it contains, and the general make-up of the paper, including its convenient size and fine printing.



9/16/1937

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# Steady Growth In Long Record Of Pencoyd Plant

First Mill Was Only 75x75  
Feet, With Single Fur-  
nace and Hammer

## A BUSY PLANT

Norristown Paper, of 1885,  
Gave Good Description of  
Company and Owners

When railroad trains pulled out of the Pencoyd freight yards on Monday evening, cars loaded with billets of steel, consigned to Japan, gave the giant locomotives a genuine test for strength.

So near to local residents are the affairs of the Orient!

Intent upon their own interests men and women here seldom give consideration to the beginnings of great and important things that are going on around them.

At Pencoyd, for instance—just one of the many local manufacturing plants—are being born everyday, great bridges, tall buildings, resistant armor plate. And little is thought of the fact.

"Pencoyd" has been doing similar things through all the years since the plant was first founded by the brothers, Roberts.

The Norristown Times, of January 9th, 1885, in an article signed "Alpha", said this of the local steel mill:

"The first mill erected was about 75 x 75 feet and contained one heating furnace and a trip hammer. The fuel consumed daily was about two tons, and the product was eight car axles. The number of hands was 12 men. As the fame of the works extended, the demand for this product was greatly increased, making addition after addition necessary, until the available space for building was all occupied, making it necessary to purchase more space, and in 1865, six acres were purchased of the A. L. Anderson Estate, being a part of the original tract like the first purchase.

"Upon this was erected, in 1872, a stone structure 225 x 130 feet, containing two trains of rolls and two steam hammers, which enabled the firm to turn out altogether about 20,000 tons of finished iron per year. The demand for more iron became so great, that in order to extend the works and control a pure water supply, purchases of land were made from time to time.

"The firm now owns about fifty acres. The capacity of the entire works is about 35,000 tons of various kinds of manufacture, such as car axles, beams, channel and angle iron, etc., etc., consuming about 130 tons a day. The last addition, erected in 1883, is 200 x 00 feet in size, and contains two furnaces heated by gas; one train of rolls; and is capable of turning out about 15,000 tons per year. It requires about two miles of different kinds of railroad tracks in order to have material handled to advantage. As previously stated, the works give employment to 700 hands when in full blast. The employees are paid every two weeks and the payroll amounts to about \$30,000 per month.

"From this brief statement it can easily be conjectured that these works compare favorable with any other plant of the kind in the State and are the second largest of the kind east of the Alleghenies. The entire plant as it stands today is worth two million dollars, and we are of the opinion that having increased their capacity so rapidly, affords convincing proof of the superiority of their manufacture.

"There is now preparation being made to extend the works for architectural purposes.

"The firm owns about 55 dwellings, all of which are kept in excellent repair; some of them are models of neatness and architectural beauty, and are finished within in good style.

"The residence of the junior proprietor stands on the hillside to the south of the works, surrounded by beauties of nature and art. It is one of the most inviting places to while away a summer's afternoon that can be found in any direction contiguous to the city. From the front veranda is to be obtained a magnificent spectacle, having a view of the Schuylkill, north and south, the iron works, the 'Lowell' of Pennsylvania, Manayunk; Falls of Schuylkill, North Laurel Hill, Reading Railroad on both sides of the river, Ridge avenue and Roxborough Passenger Railroad; the Schuylkill River steamboats and the East Park Drive, with its teeming populace of handsome turnouts, etc., etc.

"The stable in which are kept the work and driving horses is a model building for comfort and convenience, and is situated in the valley a little south of the works and convenient to aforesaid dwelling.

"In order to utilize the roadway on the river front from the works to the city line, the firm has at its own expense opened a public road from a point on Righter's Ferry Road contiguous to the mill, to the county line on the hillside south of the Reading Railroad, which is one of the most picturesque drives to be found anywhere, and when coated with cinders in accordance

with their intentions, it will rival the Lancaster turnpike, which is now the finest thoroughfare in this section of the county.

"In order to conduce to the intellectual improvement of the employees, Messrs. Roberts have established a free library, reading room, and lyceum in a large room in the public school building, where concerts and lectures are occasionally given for all who see proper to attend. The only qualification necessary for admission being a guarantee of good behavior.

"The firm is deserving of great credit for their care in providing for the comfort and temporal welfare of their workmen."

2-19-29

## TO BID AGAIN ON HENRY AVE. BRIDGE

The two-year delay in getting the Henry Avenue Bridge under contract will be further prolonged, it was disclosed last Saturday in the announcement that the bids had been rejected and new proposals asked. The new bids are to be opened in the Department of Public Works on December 27.

Councilman Howard Smith, who represents the section in City Council expressed disappointment that the big span, connecting Manayunk and Roxborough with the northeast and the central section by way of the Wissahickon, would be further delayed.

The bridge will be of the same type as Walnut Lane Bridge, but will have the largest arch span of all city bridges. It was designed by Modjeski & Chase, who built the Delaware River Bridge, with Dr. Paul P. Cret as consulting architect.

## ROXBOROUGH TIMES

Philadelphia  
Established 1928

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6100 Ridge Avenue  
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THURSDAY, APRIL 13-28

News 3/14/1928

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# COMMUNITY CELEBRATION FOR OPENING OF BRIDGE

## RIDGE AVE. SPAN READY FOR USE

Grade Crossing at Wissahickon  
Station to be Eliminated  
on Friday

### NOTABLES TO BE PRESENT

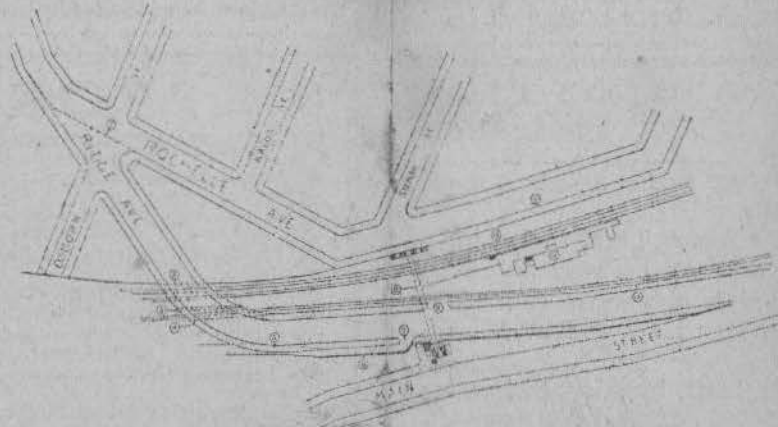
Friday, March 16, 1928, will go down in the history of the Twenty-first Ward as the day when the Ridge avenue grade crossing at Wissahickon was eliminated. The long-wished for day is at hand, for between 3 and 4 o'clock, on Friday afternoon, the new bridge over the Norristown branch of the Reading will be opened to the public with formal exercises under the direction of city officials, the contracting firm of Seeds & Derham and the Wissahickon Business Men's Association.

This announcement came as the Roxborough News was about to go to press this morning, through Dr. J. Franklin Strawinski of the Wissahickon merchants organization, who had been notified of the opening by City Inspector Charles E. Edge, and Frank James, the city engineer on the job.

The school children of the Wissahickon Grammar School, under the direction of their principal, Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, will participate in the opening exercises, by marching across the new structure. Representatives of City Councils, ward leaders, city engineers and inspectors, Reading railroad officials, members and superintendents of the firm of Seeds & Derham, and the officers and members of the Wissahickon Business Men's Association will all take parts in the final step of eliminating Wissahickon's age-old grade crossing.

The members of the Roxborough and Manayunk Business Men's Associations, the Twenty-first Ward Civic Federation, the Twenty-first Ward Board of Trade, the Twenty-first Ward Parents Association and all other organizations interested in the welfare of the residents of this northwest section of Philadelphia are cordially invited to attend the opening exercises.

### FINISHED CONDITIONS AT WISSAHICKON STATION



The above plan shows how the course of Ridge Avenue has been diverted to carry it over the new span, and how the abandoned portion of the Ridge has been cut off at the old crossing and now becomes a part of Rochelle Avenue. At Fig. 1 is the former curb line of Ridge Avenue; Fig. 2, face of the north abutment; Fig. 3, bridge pier; Fig. 4, south abutment; Fig. 5, cantilever sidewalk; Fig. 6, masonry retaining wall; Fig. 7, driveway; Fig. 8, tunnel under tracks; Fig. 9, entrance to station; Fig. 10, north platform; Fig. 11, Rochelle Avenue retaining wall; Fig. 12, railroad station; Fig. 13, retaining wall between freight siding and Ridge Avenue.

Established 1925

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# IDENTITY OF SCAFF DIVULGED AT LAST

## Alexander C. Chadwick, Under Nom de Plume, Builds Fine Reputation

### HISTORICAL AUTHORITY

In addition to being in the first Roxborough Times, there appeared in a competing local paper a column headed "Along the Schuylkill with Scaff," which is one of our own exclusive features, which has been written for the past four years by A. C. Chadwick under the now-familiar nom de plume of "Scaff."

While we do not believe this article was published deliberately to bewilder the reading public, it may have fooled some, so we feel that now is the time to compel the writer of the column to disclose his identity.

Mr. Chadwick, who with Isaac M. Walker and Cornelius L. Wells forms the triumvirate who publish this paper, tells us, and we have no reason to doubt his word, that the signature was derived from the initial letters of the words of a phrase, "Surely Chadwick Commits a Fine Folly," which came into his mind as he timidly submitted his first article for publication. If the name has any other derivation we are not in on the secret and are willing to let it go at that.

However Scaff's articles have come into popularity and favorable comment has been heard of them, as far south as Louisiana and north into the middle of New York State, from former residents of the territory covered by this paper.

Many have supposed him to be a stoop-shouldered old man with a flowing beard, but this is not true. He is constructed along lines which proclaim to the world that he is in the finest of health, being short of stature, but wide of grith. He was born in the valley of which he writes, and admits to being thirty-eight years of age, which causes many of his readers to wonder where he obtains all the facts about the beginning of things hereabouts. His stories are gleanings from old books, papers, deeds, maps, and the personal reminiscences of old residents, with whom he seems to have an unlimited acquaintance.

Historical lore has always been a penchant with Scaff, and on assignments his best work comes forth when some of the things which happened in the past have to be described.

Like the fellow who took a ride on a carousel, "he's been around

some," for his work, previous to entering the newspaper field, carried him to farms, to the offices of great corporations, to schools and other institutions, to battleships, the foundries and construction enterprises, through the Government departments and even into the White House. In pursuing his vocation Scaff acquired the knack of observing things that were going on around him in his leisure moments set down his thoughts on paper, so that today he wields a mighty trenchant pen.

We assure all of his readers that his articles will continue to be one of the regular features of the Roxborough Times, and that the only reason one of his tales appeared elsewhere was because it had been set in type a week previous to his resigning his old post with the competing newspaper. This will never legitimately occur again.

2/15/1928

## FIND OLD PAPERS IN BRIDGE GIRDER

### Copies of Manayunk Sentinel and Chronicle Dated 1885 Revealed

#### GIVEN TO C. A. RUDOLPH

When the old iron Manayunk (Pay) Bridge was torn down last week copies of the Manayunk Sentinel, dated August 6, 1885 and The Chronicle & Advertiser of August 7, 1885, with some old copper pennies, toll tickets, and copies of program of the old Emerald Dramatic Society were taken from the inside of one of the iron columns.

The papers had been placed there on August 7, 1885; two years after the bridge was first erected, at a time when the eastern end of the structure was raised to permit trains of the Reading railroad to pass under it on their way down along the canal bank, by C. A. Rudolph of West Manayunk and George Kollenbach, who was the toll-collector on the bridge.

Remembering the incident, Mr. Rudolph, who still lives in West Manayunk, went to the spot, when the workmen were ready to remove the particular column where the relics had been secreted, and was presented with the articles when they were again brought to the light of day.

The copper pennies and toll tickets Mr. Rudolph retained and the old dramatic programs he sent to Patrick Carberry, the only surviving member of George Reynold's old historical society. The newspapers were presented by the West Manayunk man to the writer of the Roxborough News "Along

the Schuylkill" column, Scaff.

Among the advertisements of 1885, which appeared in the Sentinel were many paid spaces which should prove interesting to many of our current readers. Among them was one of Joseph Milos, who at that time, sold Lehigh and Schuylkill coal, at his yard in West Manayunk, although orders could be left at his residence, "129 Gay street, or at George Day's Segar store and at William J. McDonald's Segar store at 447 Main street." Hair work was done by "Mrs. E. C. Gifford, of Haywood street, Falls of Schuylkill, where one could have "combs made up, human hair, switches and frizzes." The Manayunk (now National) Bank had as its president David Wallace and John J. Foulkrod was the cashier. Its directors were David Wallace, John J. Foulkrod, D. J. McClinchey, Leander M. Jones, Harmon Johnson and Ammon Platt.

In 1885 considerable of a furure was being raised to obtain a Tower and Town clock for Manayunk. John Wardle was evidently the one who was designated to secure subscriptions for this worthy purpose and the Sentinel's editor used up much of the space of the editorial column in commenting upon the project.

In sporting circles the United Baseball Club had defeated the Nicetown A. C. by the score of 6 to 5. Chidester of the United's held his opponents to a lone hit, and that feat, coupled with the brilliant playing F. Brill at first base and of Moran at second, permitted the Manayunk club to emerge victors. The lineup of the United Club was as follows: Moran, second base; Miller, left field; F. Brill, first base; Zinn, catcher; Mulligan, short stop; J. Brill, third base; C. Gallagher, right field; J. Gallagher, centre field, Chidester, pitcher.

In the old Chronicle & Advertiser, Charles O. Struse and John Birkmire announced that they had purchased the coal yard of John Adams on Shurs lane, and Milligan and McCook, who published the Chronicle, had a space which told that world that they done all kinds of book, newspaper and job printing, at their establishment at the northwest corner of Main and Levering streets.

Here's a laugh that is among the Falls of Schuylkill articles sent in by the Falls correspondent, Robert Roberts Shronk: "Dobson's Carpet Mill has started up and will soon be running with every department in full operation."

8/26/37

# Bank Occupies Historic Site In Roxborough

Continental and Civil War Soldiers Gathered on Site at Ridge Ave. and Green La.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE

Brief Histories of Earlier Financial Institutions Are Cited

During the Civil War, Manayunk manufacturers had an unprecedented season of prosperity owing to army contracts. Many new factories were established and the older ones grew beyond all bounds. Naturally, the prosperity of the factories extended to the people of the community, and caused the building of additional homes as new residents came to the neighborhood to work in the mills.

The Manayunk National Bank came into existence in 1871 at the prosperous season following the erection of the new mills. Previous to the opening of this first local bank, the nearest financial institution was at Germantown.

The first president of the Manayunk National Bank was F. H. Shelton, and John J. Foulkrod was the cashier.

This bank expanded as the years passed, first taking over the business of the East Falls Bank and Trust Company, at Ridge and Midvale avenues; then rebuilding its structure in Manayunk, and afterward affecting a merger with the Quaker City and other banks, to become The Manayunk-Quaker City; then The Commercial National Bank & Trust Company, and finally the Commercial National Bank.

The Great Depression of 1932 brought about its end after many years of successful banking.

Another institution which conducted financial affairs for the people of this vicinity was the Manayunk Trust Company, whose building, at 4340 Main street, is now a State Liquor Store.

This company was organized in 1889 with Richard Hey, as president. At that time Graham J. Littlewood was vice president and Thomas H. Ashton, the secretary and treasurer. It grew to have two branches; one at 5152 Ridge avenue, Wissahickon; and the other at 6062 Ridge avenue, Roxborough; before the Depression closed its doors on October 13th, 1931.

The Roxborough Trust Company was formed to afford banking facilities for the people of the hilltop area of the 21st Ward, prior to the establishment of the two Manayunk

Trust Company branches.

The first meeting was called for January 29th, 1918—during the prosperity era of another war—and on March 11th 1918, its charter was granted, and business was started nine days later in a small frame structure on the east side of Ridge avenue, near Green lane. Shortly afterward the Roxborough Trust Company moved across Ridge avenue to an old stone building on the site of the present bank structure at the corner of Green lane. It, too, went under, with thousands of other banks throughout the United States during the Depression of 1931-32. Like the Manayunk Trust Company, it failed to open its doors on October 13th 1931.

During its term of service to the people of the 21st Ward and vicinity, the Roxborough Trust Company erected the handsome bank building which stands at Ridge avenue and Green Lane.

The building, reopened for business on July 19th of this year, as a new office of the Erie National Bank, after the residents had been totally lacking in banking facilities since 1933, has an interesting history.

Over the Ridge road, many scouting parties of Continental troops found their way, for in 1777 General John Armstrong's Pennsylvania Militia paused to rest on the bank site on its way to participate in the Wissahickon Creek sector of the Battle of Germantown.

At the time of the Civil War, when the Ridge avenue and Green lane tract was the site of a general store, the town prophets and those who held opinions of what ailed the Nation, met in the place to discuss the progress and outcome of the struggle. Within a couple of stone-throws, on ground now occupied by the Gorgas Home for Women, Colonel John Richter Jones, enlisted and organized a regiment which gave valiant service during the War of the Rebellion.

Many of the arguments held around the store's pot-barreled, cast-iron stove made their impression on the life of people in the 21st Ward and its environs.

SCCAFF

1/21/37

# Newspaper Tells of Borough Seal

Device, Which Made Community Documents Legal, Found in Junk Heap at Manayunk.—Was Presented to James Milligan.

"Town Topics", an old-time Wissahickon newspaper, dated September 16th, 1893, published by A. Lawson, contained the following

news item, titled "Seal of Manayunk".

"An important local relic, the long-lost seal of the borough of Manayunk, was unearthed a few days ago from a heap of old iron in the yard of Joseph Riley's residence, at the corner of Main and Levering streets. The seal was given by the finder, to James Milligan, editor of the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser. It had lain in the yard for a number of years, and is supposed to have been among a lot of old iron Mr. Riley had purchased at a public sale.

"The seal, which is engraved upon a circular-shaped plate of brass, is mounted upon a piece of wrought iron five inches long and two inches square. Upon its face is a representation of a loom, beside which stands a female weaver. Around the outer edge of the circle are the words 'Borough of Manayunk' while surrounding the loom in an inner circle are the words: 'Incorporated June 11th 1849'.

"The opposite side of the seal is of lead securely fastened upon a circular plate of brass.

"The incorporated borough existed from the date given until the Act of Consolidation went into effect in 1854. So far as is known but one of the old borough officers is now living. Ex-councilman John Bowker, who is still a resident of the town, says, that the name 'Manayunk' was first applied in 1822, at a meeting held by the residents, and was taken from the Indian name of the Schuylkill river, a term, which translated from the Indian language, is said to have been 'The place where we drink.'"

2/28/29

Matthew Edmunds Dunlap, of Ridge avenue and Flamingo street, has been elected superintendent of the First M. E. Sunday School, to succeed John Morton, who resigned after 30 years in the office.

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6/24/37

## Pass Resolution of Regret Over Death Of Samuel Wagner

Board of Managers of Memorial Hospital Forward Copy to His Widow

### AN ACTIVE WORKER

Served in Many Capacities During a Long, Busy Lifetime

At a recent meeting of the Board of Managers of the Memorial Hospital, Roxborough, a resolution was passed, regretting the death of Samuel Wagner, president emeritus of the Wagner Free Institute of Science, and one of the original incorporators of the Memorial Hospital, and a member of its board of managers. Mr. Wagner expired, in his 95th year, on May 17th 1937.

An educator, lawyer and author, Mr. Wagner was born in this city, the son of Samuel and Emilie Obrie Duval Wagner. He was educated at Episcopal Academy and the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from its Law School in 1864.

Before serving in the First Regiment of the Pennsylvania Militia in 1862 and 1863, he was master in mathematics for two years at Episcopal Academy. From 1881 to 1883 he was chief of the editorial staff of The Penn Monthly Magazine and the following year became president of the Wagner Institute, founded by his granduncle, William Wagner.

Mr. Wagner was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, Civil Service Reform Association, Medical Jurisprudence Society; American Society for Extension of University Teaching, Free and Open Church Association and the University, Rittenhouse, Penn and Philobiblon Clubs.

He was a trustee of the Free Library of Philadelphia, a member and former councillor of the American Philosophical Society and vice president of the Bishop White Prayer Book Society and Advancement Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He had been a contributor to various publications.

Mr. Wagner gave of his best efforts toward founding the Memorial Hospital, of which his sister, Mary Sophia (Wagner) Merrick, was one of the two persons who gave the medical centre its beginning.

7/15/37

## Address Of More Than Century Ago Tells Of Manayunk

Old Records, Recently Discovered, Refers to Founding of Textile Centre

### COMPARISONS MADE

"Flourishing and Populous Village" Rose on Site of Rural Landscape

Records concerning the early days of Manayunk, through an Independence Day oration, delivered on July 4th 1828, by Dr. J. A. Elkington, have recently come to light.

Dr. Elkington was zealously interested in the new settlement as one who would now be called a promoter.

In the address he delivered away back in that distant time, he spoke with all the ardor and hopefulness characteristic of the man of progress who believes that he is living in great and unprecedented times. He looked back twenty years to 1808 and told how at the winter fireside he would listen to his father recounting the trials and tribulations that had been encountered by pioneers crossing the Alleghenies and how the mountains and precipices almost overwhelmed them for their daring.

Dr. Elkington compared the times and spoke of the possibilities that lay before the people of Manayunk. At the time of his talk, only nine years had passed since Captain John Tower and Charles V. Hagner had succeeded in putting Manayunk, as it were, on the rural map.

"It seems comparatively but a few months since our favorite ramble along the Schuylkill," said the Doctor, "we were accustomed to meet nothing more imposing than a gentleman's country seat. But now, five miles from Philadelphia, we have the broad shadow of the cotton factory and the swift rushing of the water as it hurries away from the mill wheel. A flourishing and populous village has risen up suddenly where we lately paused to view the simple beauties of the landscape."

Then he proceeded to give a long list of the factories which were in existence in the early party of 1828. The industries included the cotton factory of Richards, Rush and Company, with more than 3000 spindles and sixty power looms; the grist mill of Smick and Gorgas, which manufactured 300 barrels of flour a week; Mr. Rowland's mill for grinding and polishing saws; Mr. Hagner's mill; Mr. Darrach's mill for manufacturing wool for hats; Mr. Rising's mill, with 2000 cotton

spindles; Mr. Brook's mill for the manufacture of wool for beds; Mr. McDowell's mill for the manufacture of paper in one part and had a thousand cotton spindles in the other; Mr. Morris' mill, conducted by Mr. Wagner, with more than 3000 cotton spindles; and the cotton mill of Borie, Maguerenne & Keating, which had more than 4000 spindles, manufactured 20,000 yards a week and employed more than 200 hands.

In addition it was said that soon there would be completed Mark Richard's rolling mill; Mr. Shippen's three factories; Mr. Eckstein's large paper mill; and Moses Hays mill for manufacturing woolen and worsted goods.

According to Dr. Elkington the first mill started on the bank of the river was that of Captain John Towers, which was running on October 10th 1819, and the first child born in the village was Christianna Margaret Baird, in January of 1820.

7/9/37

## Albert Lee, Tax Commissioner Of Lower Merion, Dies

Succumbed to Illness Following Stroke on Thursday of Last Week

### WIFE DIED IN 1934

Funeral Services Held in Roxborough on Tuesday Afternoon

Residents of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, are mourning the death of Albert Lee, Township Tax Commissioner, of 211 Ashland avenue, West Manayunk, which occurred last Thursday following an illness of five weeks, which started with a stroke. He was 82 years of age.

Mr. Lee, of a quiet and congenial disposition, was well known throughout Lower Merion, due to his position which he occupied for many years.

He was the husband of the late Emma Entreklin Lee, who expired in March of 1934. He is survived by one son, Russell Lee, of Hackensack, N. J., and one daughter, Mrs. Stanley H. Bussinger, of West Manayunk.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon, from the parlors of Charles H. Whiteman, 6216 Ridge avenue, Roxborough, and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

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7/24/37

## Rev. O. T. Steward Died At His Home In Roxborough

Clergyman Served Long as  
Executive Secretary of  
Baptist Union

SON OF MINISTER

Funeral Services Held at  
Roxborough Baptist  
Church Monday

Rev. Orlando T. Steward, executive secretary for twenty-seven years of the Baptist Union of Philadelphia and vicinity, and a member of the first graduating class of Temple University, died last Thursday at his home, 8428 Pembroke road, Roxborough. He was 74.

Born, December 11, 1862, Dr. Steward was the son of J. Baker Steward, a Methodist minister of Chester County, and Mrs. Hannah Steward. He was one of the seven original students of the late Dr. Russell H. Conwell's theology class which grew into Temple University. Four years ago Temple honored him with the doctor of divinity degree.

Dr. Steward was graduated from the Crozer Theological Seminary and then entered the Baptist ministry. His first pastorate was the old Messiah Baptist Church of Philadelphia.

Several years later he became pastor of the Bridgeport (Pa.) Baptist Church, and then the Baptist Church of Troy. The last charge he held before becoming executive secretary of the union, was the Roxborough Baptist Church.

Dr. Steward, long a leader in Baptist circles, formerly held office in the Business Men's Council of the Pocket Testament League. He once said that his favorite recreation was motoring. He retired from the Baptist Union, June 30, 1936.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 P. M. last Monday at the Roxborough Baptist Church, Ridge and Lyceum avenues. Rev. J. Foster Wilcox officiated. Burial was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Abbie Steward; a daughter, Mrs. Edmund Keely, of Philadelphia, and a son, Russell Steward, of Merchantville, N. J.

7/15/37

## Sevill Schofield Expired Suddenly From Heart Attack

Member of Imperial Woolen  
Company Stricken at  
Home on Tuesday

COMMUNITY MOURNS

Funeral Services Held Pri-  
vately on Saturday  
Afternoon

Sevill Schofield, a member of the Imperial Woolen Co., Main and Rector streets, died suddenly on Tuesday of last week, at his home, 550 Fairthorn avenue, Roxborough.

He was 39 years of age and associated in business with his three brothers, A. Wallace, William S. and John Dobson Schofield, Jr.

Mr. Schofield is survived by his widow, Virginia Thompson Schofield, a son, his parents, J. Dobson and Annie Gibbons Schofield, and three brothers.

He was a grandnephew of James and John Dobson, founders of the Dobson Mills in Falls of Schuylkill.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, at the parlors of Charles H. Whiteman, 6216 Ridge avenue, and the interment was made privately.

7/1/1937

### WANTED:—A CLEAR DAY!

Next Monday, in the morning, eight thousand folks, or more, from County Line, o'er all the hills above the Schuylkill's pour,

Will leave their homes and workshops; men, women, children dear;

Bound for the great "Fourth" picnics, which are annually held here,

And most of all the rest of us, will see them on the street,

With flags and banners held aloft, and bands to time their feet,

Each one who lives upon these hills will hope for sunny skies, So that the Sunday Schools can march; instead of hearing sighs

From children who for days have prayed that there will be no rain;

From Pops and Moms who seek delights of childhood once again;

For if the hours are bright and clear for picnickers that day The people here will mark "the Fourth" in old - accustomed way.

A. C. C.

## GAR Commander George W. Gillet Obeys Last Taps

Wissahickon's Grand Old  
Man Succumbed to Pneu-  
monia and Partial Stroke

HAD HOST OF FRIENDS

Joined Union Army as Drum-  
mer Boy During War  
of the Rebellion

George W. Gillet, Wissahickon's grand old man, who for twenty years was commander of Hetty A. Jones Post, No. 12, G. A. R.; State Department Commander of the G. A. R. during 1935 and 1936; and Acting Department Commander this year; died at his home, 212 Rochelle avenue, \* at 5:30 on Tuesday evening, from pneumonia and apaprtial stroke.

Commander Gillet's last public military appearance was made at the February banquet of Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Roxborough, when as one of the speakers he related his experiences in the Union Army during the Civil War, and his personal contacts with President Lincoln.

Born on April 8, 1850, he first enlisted for service in the War of the Rebellion, at the age of 11 years, while troops were being recruited on the site of the Queen Lane Pumping Station, but his parents objected, and he was discharged. At 14 years of age, however, he enlisted as a drummer boy and served out the remainder of the War.

Following his military service Commander Gillet earned his livelihood as a carpenter, his last position being with the City of Philadelphia, from which he retired 20 years ago.

In young manhood he married Miss Emma J. Harmer, who expired about 27 years ago. He is survived by two brothers, Joseph and Frank Gillet, and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Melville and Mrs. Ella Bamford.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday afternoon from the parlors of I. T. Ryan, Mitchell street and Lyceum avenue, and the interment will be made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Members of the G. A. R., Sons of Veterans and the Women's Relief Corps for Union Soldiers will attend the funeral.

4/22/1937

70

5/27/37

# Dr. R. L. Entwisle Expired After Week's Illness

Roxborough Dentist Succumbed on Tuesday From Heart Disorder

## NOTED ORGANIST

Served 21st Ward in Former Two-Chambered City Council

Friends of Dr. Richard L. Entwisle, Roxborough dentist, of 420 Lyccum avenue, were grieved to hear of his death, which occurred on Tuesday morning, following a week's illness with a heart complaint.

Dr. Entwisle, who was 62 years of age, was born at Phoenixville, Pa., on February 17th, 1875, being the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Entwisle. He completed his course of studies at Central High School prior to matriculating at the University of Pennsylvania Dental School, from which he graduated in 1898. He immediately afterward started a practice in Roxborough, which continued until his death.

He was a director of the Germantown Mutual Fire Insurance Company; a member and organist of the First M. E. Church, Roxborough; organist of the Philadelphia Consistory; was for many years a 32nd Degree Mason, and five years ago received the 33rd Degree at Boston, Mass. He also belonged to Roxborough Lodge No. 135 F. and A. M.

During the municipal administration of Thomas B. Smith he was the Select Councilman from the 21st Ward, in the former two-chambered City Council.

He is survived by his wife, Myrtle, and two sons, Richard L. Jr., and John Entwisle.

Funeral services will be held from his late residence tomorrow afternoon, and the interment will be held in Westminster Cemetery.

7/8/37

# Mrs. E. H. Goshow Expired After A Lengthy Illness

Widow of Former Member of Marble Monumental Partnership

## ACTIVE BAPTIST

Funeral Services Held at Home on Conarroe Street Last Saturday

Roxborough lost one of its most respected residents when Mrs. Elizabeth H. Goshow expired at her home, 428 Conarroe street, last Thursday, after a lingering illness.

Born in Manchester, England, Mrs. Goshow came to this country while still a child. She was the daughter of William Humpstone, a Baptist missionary, and Dunmore Elizabeth (Oliver) Humpstone.

On November 1st, 1882, she was married to the late Lorenzo F. Goshow, at Albany, N. Y. Her husband, for many years, was a member of the marble monumental firm of Goshow & McBride, Roxborough. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a little more than a month prior to Mr. Goshow's death in December 1932.

The deceased was for years an active member of the First Baptist Church of Manayunk and of the Roxborough Branch of the Needlework Guild.

Her death is deeply mourned by one son, William H. Goshow; four daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Miles, Mrs. William McClellan, Miss Mildred Goshow and Miss Helen Goshow, the latter two being public school teachers; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at her late residence last Saturday, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

4/22/37

71

# Dr. W. T. Boon Expired Suddenly From Heart Attack

Manayunk Physician Is Claimed by Death While Reading at Home

## INSURANCE DOCTOR

Graduated From University of Pennsylvania in Class of 1897

Residents of this section of the city were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Dr. W. Thomas Boon, which occurred from a heart attack, at his home, 215 Green lane, Manayunk, on Wednesday of last week.

Seated in a chair, reading the evening paper, Dr. Boon expired quietly, and was found in this position when called for dinner by members of his family.

The deceased, aged 63 years, was born in Wissahickon, being a son of the late William and Sarah (Mulholland) Boon. His father conducted a grocery store for many years near Cotton and Main streets, Manayunk.

After attending the local public schools, Dr. Boon took up the study of medicine under the tutorship of the late Dr. Howard M. Fussell; later matriculating at the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with the Class of 1897.

Dr. Boon's internship was served at St. Mary's Hospital, Philadelphia, after which he established his own practice in the 21st Ward.

On June 11th, 1901, he was married to Miss Harriet Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lee, a local family. The couple became the parents of one son, Thomas F. Boon, who with Mrs. Boon, still survives.

For thirty-nine years Dr. Boon served as medical examiner of the Manayunk District of a national insurance company. He was a member of the American, County and 21st Ward Medical Societies; of Roxborough Lodge No. 135 F. and A. M.; Harmony Chapter, R. A. M. and the Philadelphia Consistory.

In addition to his wife and son, Dr. Boon is survived by one brother, Dr. David J. Boon; and three sisters, Mrs. Ida Welsh, Mrs. Elmer L. Cuthbertson and Mrs. C. Gordon Stafford.

Services were held last Saturday afternoon at the Stetler Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, Roxborough, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

2/18/37

## GAR Commander Relates Tales Of Abraham Lincoln

George W. Gillet, of Wissahickon, Delivers Address  
in Germantown

### W A S W A R O R D E R L Y Carried Messages Between War Department and the White House

"A fatherly sort of man with a deep interest in all those with whom he came in contact."

Thus was the character of Abraham Lincoln described by George W. Gillet, Rochelle avenue, Civil War veteran, who served President Lincoln as a military orderly and who was the guest of honor at last week's luncheon-meeting of The Business Men's Association of Germantown.

Mr. Gillet, immediate Past Commander of Pennsylvania for the Grand Army of the Republic, shared the honors on the program with H. R. Disston, vice president of the L. H. Gilmer Company, who gave a stirring and dramatic talk on "Lincoln the Man," and two Boy Scouts who gave the Scout salute and pledge in honor of the anniversary celebration of their organization.

Nearing his 87th year and still physically fit and active, Mr. Gillet said he enlisted in the Union Army when he was yet a month from being fourteen. He was almost immediately assigned to the War Department as an orderly to carry dispatches from there to the White House.

"I saw the President every day for many months," recalled Mr. Gillet, "and whether the news I brought him was good or bad he was always kind and considerate with me."

"I remember one day after I had been in the service about six months I contracted a bad cold and when I went to the White House that day Mr. Lincoln noticed that I was not well."

"Son," he said, "what's the matter, you seem to have an awful cold. You have no business to be out in the condition you're in. You must get back to your quarters and remain off duty until you are well."

"Whereupon he called another orderly and had me removed to the hospital where I remained until I was well again."

"I could generally tell from the shades of expression on Mr. Lincoln's face whether the news I brought him by my dispatches was good or bad and there was plenty of bad news for him in those trying days."

Later Mr. Gillet said he was relieved of the duty at the War De-

partment and assigned to the 213th Pennsylvania Volunteer regiment for duty in the field.

He was serving in that regiment, a unit of the 8th Corps under General Lou Wallace, at Danville, Va., when the news came of Lee's surrender.

"We were glad to get the word too, because we were threatened with a battle against overwhelming odds, as two Confederate armies were on the point of converging for an attack on us, 30,000 men against our 10,000."

"I shall never forget that day, lying at City Point awaiting the orders to be mustered out of service, when we were called to formation by the 'long roll' of the drums."

"We couldn't imagine what the call meant. But we learned soon enough. Lincoln had been shot. And I say without one word of exaggeration as I looked down the ranks of our company that day, I didn't see a man with a dry eye. All were deeply affected and profound in the sorrow they felt at the passing of this man we knew to be a friend of all."

2-5-1937

## Operation Change To Go Into Effect At Pencoyd Plant

Will Be Part of Carnegie-Illinois  
Steel Corporation  
Next Month

### UNGER TO BE MANAGER

President of American  
Bridge Co. Host at Dinner  
Last Friday

Reports have it that the Pencoyd Iron Works plant of the American Bridge Company in Manayunk, will enter the control of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation of Pittsburgh on March 7.

This announcement came last Friday from the Pittsburgh offices of the steel company. The Pencoyd plant will be operated as a part of the eastern or Pittsburgh district of the Carnegie-Illinois Concern.

The American Bridge Company will retain the bridge shop and erection tool house, but all the other operations at Pencoyd will become Carnegie-Illinois. Both companies are subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation.

William S. Unger, assistant general superintendent of the Homestead Steel Works, will become general superintendent of the Pencoyd plant. A. H. Wartman, who has been acting manager at Pencoyd since January 1, will be his assistant.

L. A. Paddock, president of the American Bridge Company, was host last Friday night at a dinner at the Union League to the present and incoming officials of the plant.

4/30/1931

72

## Tells Purpose of Newspapers

Fred Fuller Shedd Declares  
that Unbiased Interpretation  
of News Is Vital.—  
Public Expects Information  
to Be Reliable.

Fred Fuller Shedd, of The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin and American Society of Newspaper Editors told the Princeton University Conference last Friday that a newspaper's greatest asset is reliability.

Besides looking to newspapers for news, readers expect to know its significance and its consequences as well, Mr. Shedd said. News requires interpretation, he asserted, either in the news of editorial columns.

"In this service of interpretation, whether undertaken in the news columns or on the editorial page," he said, "the public is entitled to and naturally expects the same degree of truth, of reliability, of unbiased use of the newspaper's faculty for forming judgement and opinion, that applies in the simple presentation of news."

"A newspaper which misleads its readers as to the meaning and significance of news, is as much at fault as unworthy, as futile in its ultimate appeal to continued support as is the newspaper which deals with fiction instead of statement of fact."

"By and large, the American people nationally and individually believe in their newspapers. They do not always coincide with editorial opinion, but they believe in their favorite newspapers just the same, and even thought they may make some mental reservations, they read, and to a great extent believe in, the editorial pages as well as the news stories."

A relationship exists between the newspapers and its readers, from which the readers assumes that he is receiving unbiased and impartial news, Mr. Shedd said. While a reader expects to find no partiality in the presentation of news, the newspaper should be under no restraint upon editorial expression of opinion, he said.



6/10/37

## Wesley Calverley Becomes An Army Officer This Week

Roxborough Lad in Graduating Class at United States Military Academy

PARENTS TO ATTEND

Appointed to West Point by Former Congressman, George P. Darrow

Roxborough will be represented in this year's colorful commencement at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., by Wesley Skilton Calverley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Calverley, Jr., of 6100 Ridge avenue, when the future generals and other officers of the United States Army graduate and receive the ranking of second lieutenants at the Government's great military school next Saturday.

Lieutenant Calverley was educated in the schools of this vicinity, having graduated from the Roxborough High School in the class of 1928. He was given his appointment to West Point by former Congressman George P. Darrow, representing this, the Seventh, District, and prepared for his entrance to the Academy, at the Cornwall Preparatory School, Cornwall, N. Y., and through a special course of one year at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. He will receive his post assignment at, or shortly after, the graduation exercises.

Prior to going on active duty, however, he, with about forty other army officers, from this year's class, will sail on June 18th, for a month's educational trip to Ecuador, as the guests of the South American Republic.

Lieutenant Calverley's parents, with Mrs. Elizabeth Harker; his sister, Miss Dorothy Calverley; and a cousin, Miss Ada Smith, of Conshohocken, Pa., left for West Point on Tuesday, where they will spend the remainder of the week attending the many interesting events which lead up to the graduating ceremonies.

West Point Graduate



WESLEY SKILTON CALVERLEY

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Calverley, Jr., of Roxborough, who will become an army officer upon his graduation at the United States Military Academy, next Saturday.

2/18/37

## Funeral Rites For Howard Levering

Manayunk's Oldest Druggist Succumbed on Thursday of Last Week.—Buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery Monday Afternoon.

Howard Levering, 80 years old, of 4654 Umbria street, Manayunk, died on Thursday of last week, following a brief illness.

A descendant of the founders of Roxborough township, Mr. Levering was the oldest druggist in this section of the city.

He served a four year term, beginning in 1891, in the Philadelphia Common Council, under a former city charter. He was a past master of Roxborough Lodge No. 135 F. and A. M. and a member of Harmony Chapter, Royal Arch Masons.

Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon from the parlors of I. T. Ryan, Lyceum avenue and Mitchell street, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

2/4/37

23

## Manayunk Mourns Death Of James F. Cavanaugh

Wholesale and Retail Tobacconist Succumbed After Being Ill One Week

HIGHLY ESTEEMED

Solemn Requiem Mass Celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church Yesterday

Scores of the friends of James F. Cavanaugh, of 4353 Main street, in Manayunk and in other surrounding places, mourn his death which occurred last Saturday, from double pneumonia.

Mr. Cavanaugh was born in Manayunk, being the son of Patrick and Catherine Cavanaugh. Following his early education he found employment in the textile trades, and later founded a wholesale and retail tobacco business of his own, which he conducted up until the time of his final illness. The business will be continued by members of his family.

In 1908, Mr. Cavanaugh married Miss Mary H. O'Connell, a local resident; the ceremony being solemnized in St. John the Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife, the deceased is survived by one son, James G. Cavanaugh, who is in his sixth year of studies for the Roman Catholic priesthood, at the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook. A nephew Theodore Strenger, of East Falls, is also preparing to enter the priesthood at Overbrook, being in his final year. One brother, John, and four sisters, Mrs. Catharine Bowe, Mrs. Theresa Casey, Mrs. Mary Strenger and Mrs. Anna McMennamin, also lament his loss.

Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church, and the interment will be made in Westminster cemetery.

2/11/37

## Noted Judge Was Resident Of This Section Of City

John Richter Jones Built Elizabethan Cottage Along Ridge Road, Wissahickon

CLASSICAL SCHOLAR

Killed in Civil War While Serving as Colonel of Volunteer Regiment

Current discussions about the judges of the land, from those of the Supreme Court in Washington, down to and including the State jurists, among whom are practically all of those in Philadelphia, bring the matter of those individuals on the bench, down to the local community.

Today, in the territory covered by The Suburban Press, there are at least two judges who reside in the 21st and 38th Ward area. Much has also been said of the late Judge Michael Arnold, who spent his boyhood in the Falls of Schuylkill, when his father was "mine host" at the old Falls Hotel, and who afterward became the first judge of the Common Pleas Courts from this section.

Little, however, has been said about another, most reputable gentleman, John Richter Jones, of Wissahickon and Roxborough, who served as a noted jurist in his day.

John Richter Jones was born at Salem, N. J., on October 2nd, 1803, being the son of Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, who at the time was serving a pastorate in South Jersey. About 1805 the family came to Roxborough, to make their residence in a house which had been built by one of the Leverings, who were ancestors of the Jones'.

He received his early education at the William Levering Public School and also at the Germantown Academy, being accustomed while attending the latter school to walk both ways, daily. He afterward entered the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1821.

In 1827 Mr. Jones was admitted to the Bar and in 1836 he became one of the judges of the Common Pleas Courts. He erected the first Elizabethan Cottage, in Roxborough, on part of his ancestral ground, which beautiful cottage was afterward sold to D. Rodney King, who subsequently sold it to Dr. William Camac. It is still standing, with uninteresting front additions, along Ridge avenue, in Wissahickon, just below the corner of Manayunk avenue.

During his residence in this place Judge Jones was accustomed to driving out, by means of horse and carriage, along Ridge road, after holding court in the centre of the city. In 1846 his house was attacked in the middle of the night, by three robbers, and he defended himself with a loaded whip, which was his only weapon of defense. The robbers were later apprehended in Germantown, and in due course, tried and convicted.

His term as judge expired in 1847, and his family being greatly upset by the robbery, he concluded to remove to Lycoming County, which he did, but afterward removed again to Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, where he owned an estate of five thousand acres.

On the outbreak of the Civil War, while still residing in Sullivan County, he raised, in 1861, the 58th Regiment, of Pennsylvania Volunteers, of which he became the colonel. The regiment had a recruiting camp, on the site of the Gorgas Home for Women, East Leverington avenue, Roxborough. The story tellers have it, that one of the men in the regiment was one of those who had entered the Jones' house at night, intent on robbery, his reason for enlisting being that he "wanted to be in a regiment that was led by a man who had no fear of death."

Upon leaving Philadelphia the 58th Regiment went to a point near the Fortress Monroe, in Virginia and remained there for several months. It was then transferred to New Berne, North Carolina, where it soon attained distinction, and was sent on various hazardous expeditions. Having heard that there was a large force of Confederates further south, Colonel Jones went, as Acting Brigadier General, to meet the enemy. After a long march and considerable strategy he captured the entire force, without the loss of any of his own men.

On the return of the 58th to New Berne, the Southerners made a bold attack on his Federals at that point, and while he was observing this action, on May 23rd, 1863, a sharpshooter, recognizing him as a Colonel and commander of the defenders, shot him through the heart. He was the only one of his command that was killed.

His death was universally deplored and his body was sent to Philadelphia where it lay in state at Independence Hall. He was buried in Leverington Cemetery, with the largest military funeral ever seen in Roxborough. His name is inscribed the first on the roll of honor placed by the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, in the old chapel of that place of learning.

Judge Jones was a classical scholar and carried into camp with him his Septuagint copy of the Old Testament, which he is said to have read daily. He devoted a great part of his time to the study of the Welsh language, as being described as being descended on his father's side, from Welsh parentage. An ancestor of his, was the celebrated Welsh preacher, Morgan Ap Ryddarch Ap Dafydd Ap Gruffydd. The judge was the author of an interesting Revolutionary war story entitled, "The Quaker Soldier."

1/28/37

74

## Fred W. Gilliard Died At His Home In Wissahickon

Deacon and Trustee of Baptist Church Had Been Ill Two Months

HIGHLY ESTEEMED

Burial Services Held at Stetler Funeral Home Last Saturday

One of Wissahickon's most highly respected residents, Frederick W. Gilliard, of 226 Sumac street, expired on Wednesday of last week, following an illness of two months. He was in his 86th year.

Mr. Gilliard, who was a steam fitter and roofer by trade, held the esteem and admiration of a large circle of friends. He was for many years a deacon and trustee of the Wissahickon Baptist Church, at Terrace and Dawson streets.

Born in Maidstone, England, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Gilliard. His mother's maiden name was Simmons. He came to the United States in 1871, and settled in this neighborhood. On October 9th, 1873, he married Miss Matilda Jefferies, also of Maidstone, England, at St. Timothy's Church, Roxborough.

One son, Stephen C. Gilliard, a past commander of Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333 Veterans of Foreign Wars; and two daughters, Mrs. Frances Mayberry and Miss Minnie Gilliard mourn his loss. The deceased is also survived by one brother, Charles Gilliard, of Roxborough, and five grandchildren.

Services were held on Saturday afternoon, from the Stetler Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, Roxborough, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

1/17/37

75

## FOUNDER OF MANAYUNK WAS A VENTURESOME CHARACTER

Captain John Towers Renowned For His Ingeniousness to Overcome Obstacles.—Earned Wide Reputation as Shipmaster

Ship's carpenter, sea captain, merchant, ship owner, manufacturer. Such was Captain John Towers, the man who had most to do with the founding of Manayunk. A daring, venturesome individual, it is little wonder that he was the person who had the first idea for building a mill along that portion of the Schuylkill River that is now a part of the 21st Ward.

At the time, early after the beginning of the last century, there were few persons who would risk the erection of a mill along the "Hidden River," of the Dutch, because of the likelihood of having it destroyed by the tremendous ice freshets which were prevalent at that period. For miles around men were astonished when they heard that Captain Towers had bought a narrow strip of land, consisting largely of rock, gravel and juniper bushes, for the sum of five thousand dollars, on which he intended to build a mill. Conservatives of the day predicted that the building would be carried away with the first flood in the spring.

Towers, however, was an ingenious character, and was more adaptable than his critics gave him credit for, an attribute which he soon demonstrated in the construction of his mill. His first move was to build a water-wheel, and then he placed a man inside of it (like the exercising wheel of a squirrel cage) and by the use of the wheel and a great rope, hoisted the heaviest of the timbers of the mill into their places.

Many are the stories of his cleverness, which have been handed down from that time. It is stated that when he was following the sea he would often venture out on the ocean in the most rickety of vessels. On one occasion, when abroad, he met a man who wanted to obtain passage but seeing Towers' leaky tub refused the captain's offer to bring him to Philadelphia. He became a passenger on another ship which sailed two days before Towers, who had told the man that he (the Captain) would be in the Quaker City two days before him. Sure enough the first man to welcome him ashore at the Philadelphia docks was John Towers.

On another occasion, when in a small vessel, he met an English ship of war, in a sinking condition, with a signal flag of distress flying from the mast. Towers bore along side of the Britisher and went aboard. The commander of the warship requested Towers to take his crew on board of his little vessel, but the Captain told him it was impossible to place so many men in the smaller craft without jettisoning part of his cargo, but he

would place his ship at the command of the warrior and in the last resort take his men aboard. The British commander consented to this arrangement and Captain Towers, by his ingeniousness finally succeeded in getting the ship safely into port, for which he was rewarded by the British government.

One of the strangest ships which ever sailed the seas out of Philadelphia was the "Woodrup Sims." Once this boat went ashore in the Delaware Bay. Two or three different gangs of riggers were sent to get her off; but all failed and abandoned the attempt. Captain Towers heard of the situation; hired a ship; took some men down the river and on the third day afterward had her back at her dock in Philadelphia. Joseph Sims, whose home was in the Falls of Schuylkill, where part of Laurel Hill is now located, was the owner of the vessel, and he paid Captain Towers eight thousand cash dollars for salvaging the "Woodrup Sims."

During the War of 1812 a number of tiny ships, known as "block ships," were built and armed by the United States government, for the defense of the Delaware river, which was then blockaded by the British. One of Captain Towers' sons commanded one of these little boats, the fleet being under the command of a U. S. Naval officer. On one occasion when about to be attacked by the British ships, this commander gave the order to retreat, which was done. When young Towers came back to the city, a few days later, his father reprimanded him severely for having run away. The son explained that he had obediently followed the commander's orders. His reasons were given in vain, for the old Captain denounced everybody connected with the retreat. Shortly afterward the same sort of a situation arose concerning the block ships, and young Towers, following his father's advice disregarded the commander's signals to retreat, and determined to have a brush with enemy—and came near losing his vessel. And was also suspended for disobedience. But on his arrival home his father greeted him in great pride and glee, praised him for his splendid conduct and assured him he would sustain him and defend him at all hazards. So Captain Towers corresponded with William Jones, of Philadelphia, who was Secretary of the Navy at the time, with the final result being a challenge from Captain Towers to fight Secretary Jones a duel. Eventually, however, the matter was amicably settled to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

Some years before Captain Tow-

ers commenced operations on the Philadelphia side of the Schuylkill, at Manayunk, he purchased two mill sites along Gulley Run, in West Manayunk, a tiny stream which empties into the river just above the Green lane bridge. Here he built factories, adding to those already located on the little creek, known as Helmbold's paper mill; Lloyd Jones' paper mill; Levering's grist mill; and a saw mill almost at the mouth of the Run.

The risky daring of Captain Towers finally resulted in his death. Engaged in a law suit at Norristown, he had chosen Charles Valerius Hagner, of Manayunk, to be his arbitrator. The pair started off for the Montgomery County courts in a rickety old buggy. Something was wrong with the harness and every time they descended a hill the buggy ran up on the horse's heels. At Barren Hill this happened again and the horse ran away. In the flight the men were thrown from the vehicle and Towers received a broken arm and several broken ribs, from which he never actually recovered.

SCCAFF

11-6-1930

### LEGION LEADER



DANIEL E. CURRAN

Past Commander of Thomas F. Emery Post, No. 229, American Legion, of Roxborough, resident of Sumac street, Wissahickon, who was last week elected Commander of the Philadelphia County Council of the veterans' organization.

Of a retiring nature, Commander Curran is one of the 21st Ward's most popular ex-service men. He is the first member of the Legion from the 7th Congressional District to be elected to lead the County Council, and is employed in the State Auditor General's department in this city.

The Suburban Press, with hundreds of Mr. Curran's neighbors, congratulates him upon his elevation to such a high position.

(Bulletin Photo.)

1/28/37

## Interesting Facts Unearthed In Old History Of Poor Boards

Ancient Tavern, at Ridge Avenue and Righter Street, Was  
Roxborough's First Building For Care of Indigents

By a special Act of the State Legislature, passed in 1832, the Managers of the Poor of Roxborough were incorporated.

On the 15th of June, 1833, the men who composed this Board, purchased a house (which is still standing) and farm of 21 acres, situated on the Ridge road below the sixth milestone. The house, in early times, was known as "The Plow Tavern" and was kept at various times by Michael Righter and Michael Moyer.

For many years the former tavern and its surrounding land was sufficient for the needs of the Managers, which included taking care of lunacy cases. For this latter purpose the Board erected a large building to the east of the original structure, and in the basement they had a number of cells built for the confinement of vicious and uncontrollable persons.

The first steward of this Poor House, was John Roberts and he was succeeded by John Moyer.

In 1847 Manayunk and Roxborough were separated. The 5th Section of the Act of March 3rd, 1847, provided that "from and after the passage of this Act, the incorporated part of the township of Roxborough, in the County of Philadelphia, called the Borough of Manayunk, shall be no longer connected with the unincorporated part of the said township, in the levy and assessment of taxes for the relief and employment of the poor, or for the opening and keeping in repair of the roads, or for any other township purposes whatsoever."

Section 8, of the same Act, provided for the proper distribution of the funds by the Auditor of the Township, and Section 10 authorized the sale of the Poor House and farm, and directed that the proceeds should be equally divided between the Managers of the Poor of Roxborough and the Town Council of Manayunk. A subsequent Act was passed, and the Poor House and farm were bought by the Borough of Manayunk for the sum of

\$7,000, and used by them for poor purposes until 1854-5, when the citizens of Manayunk availed themselves of the Act of Consolidation, and became subject to the poor laws of the City of Philadelphia. From 1847 until 1850 the Managers of the Poor of Roxborough, boarded their poor at the Manayunk Poor House, as it was then called.

The land connected with the old poor house extended from the Ridge road to the Schuylkill river, and the greater part of it was capable of cultivation, although the middle section was hilly. Near the rocky cliffs overlooking Manayunk avenue, was the burial ground of the poor, and many were interred

there. This property became vested in the City of Philadelphia, but it was afterward sold to John Adams and David Wallace.

It was eventually deemed expedient to secure a farm and house for the separate use of Roxborough and on the 15th of May, 1850, the Managers purchased a farm from Benjamin Shourds, situated on Livezey's lane, (Shawmont avenue), between the Ridge road and the Wissahickon Creek.

The buildings on the old Poor Farm, which were across the road from the present farm, which is the third location, were long known as the Camel Houses. The property had a unique history. On April 16th, 1777, Anthony Cook conveyed 74 acres of land, including the second Poor House property to George Saunders, and the latter, on November 22nd 1806, sold slightly over 40 acres to Jean Jacques de la Bourdine, who had been a grocer in Philadelphia.

On January 27th, 1807, John Everman sold Mr. de la Bourdine 2 acres, and on the 16th of May, 1808, John King sold him 15 acres, so that de la Bourdine owned, in one tract, about 57 acres of land. The (second) Poor house buildings, consisting of two large structures with a small one between them, were erected by Mr. de la Bourdine.

When he purchased the property there were some buildings already upon it, on the eastern side of the lane, "near Philip Marwine's land," but de la Bourdine did not like the old-fashioned house, and determined to erect a house that would "astonish the natives of Roxborough."

So the building with two high ends caused plenty of comment, with one of "the natives" remembering that European houses often had stables in them, saying that the small central building was too high for horses, so that maybe "de la Bourdine had built them for camels!"

This novel idea took hold and was popular, especially among the boys of the neighborhood, who soon dubbed the place "The Camel Stables."

Mr. De la Bourdine did not enjoy his prosperity long. Reverses were met and on October 19th, 1810, an early occupant of Billy Hamilton's office sold the place to Joseph Clark of Philadelphia. The place was afterward owned, in order, by John Thoburn, Eliza Lybrand, Howell Hopkins, Charles Finney, William C. Shourds, Benjamin Shourds, and then he conveyed it to the "Managers for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the Township of Roxborough."

## Helped to Create Tower

C. O. Struse & Sons Provided Stone for Beautiful "Singing Tower," Bequeathed by Edward William Bok.

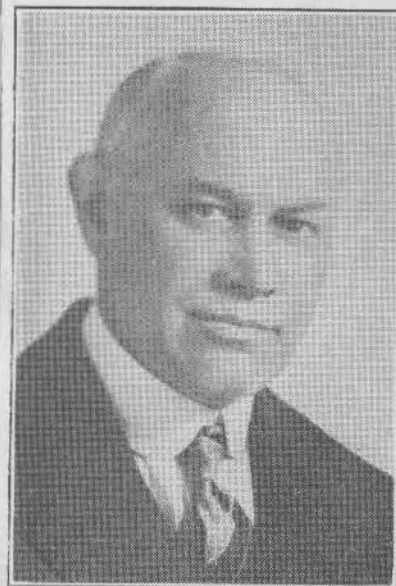
Co-incident with the filing of the will of the late Edward William Bok, Philadelphia editor, author and philanthropist, at Norristown, on Saturday, and the appearance of the January number of the National Geographic Magazine, we learn that all of the stone used in the construction of the "Singing Tower," erected by Mr. Bok, near his Mountain Lake home in Florida, was furnished by the local contracting firm of C. O. Struse and Sons, which has offices on Shurs lane, in Manayunk, and at East Falls.

The "Singing Tower," which is one of the most beautiful monuments ever erected in America, contains a carillon which is surpassed by but few in the entire world.

The structure is located on Iron Mountain, the highest point in the state of Florida, and in addition to its equipment of bells, is also a bird sanctuary. It projects itself 205 feet into the heavens, being of Georgia marble and native Florida stone, re-inforced by a steel framework.

Horace Borrell, of Philadelphia, was the general contractor for its erection, but all of the stonework was taken care of by the local firm.

Mr. Bok bequeathed the tower as a "gift of beauty to the people of America," and its praises have been sung throughout the world, with but few of the readers of the Suburban Press realizing that people of this immediate locality had any part in its creation.



H. W. MILLER  
Vice-President

Mr. Miller, for years vice-president of Penn Phonograph Company, holds the same position in the merged company.

1/30/30

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Jan 1930

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### UNDERTAKER MOVES



**ISAIAH T. RYAN**

Who has been conducting funerals in this section for the past 62 years, and who has moved to a new location at 433 Lyceum avenue, Roxborough, where he will be better able to serve his patrons.

*Bulletin  
4/18/1930*

### Who's Who in Local Skies

Norman Smith, who teaches students to fly at Philadelphia Airport, ranks as instructor for Ludington - Philadelphia Flying Service, Inc.



**Norman Smith**

Born November 28, 1898, in England, and coming to this country in 1904, Smith first became interested in aviation in 1922, when he joined the old Pennypack Flying School, Roosevelt boulevard, May, 1922.

He soloed in the remarkably short time of two and one-half hours and then went off barnstorming with other fliers, covering the Eastern and Southwestern States until the summer of 1928.

He then became pilot for Deale Aviation Corp., Hazleton, Pa., where he remained for a few months until he became chief pilot and instructor for Tri-State Airways, Middletown, N. Y., where he remained until the summer of last year.

He joined Ludington-Philadelphia August 7, 1929; is the holder of a Transport Pilot's license; lives at 5273 Ridge av., Philadelphia; is single.

## I. T. Ryan to Locate In Roxborough

21st Ward Undertaker Moves To 433 Lyceum Avenue

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1869

Has Seen Many Changes In Methods of the Profession

After having practiced the undertaking profession in Manayunk, continuously for the past sixty-two years, Isaiah T. Ryan has moved to 433 Lyceum avenue, in Roxborough.

It was on April 1st that Mr. Ryan started his career as a mortician, as an apprentice with his brother, John F. Ryan, at 4363 Main street. In those days, before modern embalming methods were in vogue, he was often called to shoulder his boxes and bags of ice and carry them to the home of the deceased, in order to preserve the body for burial. This was a far cry from the present sanitary procedures and the use of funeral homes and cars.

Afterward Mr. Ryan moved to 160 Green lane, where he was located for twenty-five years. In his reminiscences the 21st Ward undertaker recalled the terrible Flat Rock tunnel train wreck on October 24th, 1892, when he was hurriedly summoned to care for the remains of nine victims of the disaster which occurred when a freight and passenger train collided. Police were necessary to keep the crowds of uninjured relatives and friends from hindering Mr. Ryan and his assistants in their work of embalming the remains which were shipped to homes in up-State Pennsylvania. In his 62 years of business, this undertaker has conducted approximately 6500 funerals.

Until the outbreak of the World War, in 1918, when the Government limited the purchase of lumber, Mr. Ryan manufactured all his own caskets, over-boxes, etc., for his patrons. Since then he has been purchasing his supplies from the National Casket Company.

For the past twelve years the I. T. Ryan Funeral Home has been conducted at 200 Green lane. Associated with Mr. Ryan is his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Parks, who like her father, passed the State Board examination, and cares for the feminine end of the business.

In moving to the Lyceum avenue address, which is at the corner of Mitchell street, Mr. Ryan feels that he will be in a more central location, and therefore in a position to better serve his many patrons.

4/30/31

77

## "Press" News Gains Wide Circulation

Firemen's Magazine Reprints Tale of Roxborough Smoke-Eaters

LAD'S LIFE SAVED

Suburban Press Write-ups Utilized by Other Publications

In the current issue of the "International Fire Fighter," which is the official publication of the International Association of Firefighters, appears a story which was clipped from THE SUBURBAN PRESS of March 12th, concerning the saving of the life of George Barr, Jr., of Spring street, Upper Roxborough, by members of Fire Engine Company No. 39, of Ridge and Leverington avenues.

The little son, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Barr, Jr., had swallowed a collar button and was slowly strangling to death, when his mother rushed into the street, enroute to a doctor's office, just as the Roxborough firemen were answering an alarm turned in from the Houston Estate. Driver Harry Bodkin, Engineer Frank Keely, and Hosemen "Al" Burton and Charles Forstrom were all involved in the task of extricating the button, thereby saving the little fellow's life.

The "International Fire Fighter" is printed at Washington, D. C. and circulated throughout the United States, Canada, the Panama Canal Zone, and British Columbia, and the incident goes to show that one can never tell how far good news travels.

This is not the first instance of items which were written by members of THE SUBURBAN PRESS staff, being used in other publications. One of Philadelphia's great dailies, on Monday mornings, often utilizes tales which were printed in these pages, the previous Thursday, and another downtown weekly, has recently "stolen our thunder" by publishing a "Do You Remember" column. We feel complimented.

5/15/30

# Centennial Policemen In Re-Union

John Uttley, of Manayunk  
Police Station, Is in  
Group

SEVEN SURVIVE

"Sparrows" Is Nickname  
of Association of  
Old Cops

A mystery squad of police peacefully raided Hanscom's restaurant at 1232 Market street last Sunday night and, while no liquor was disclosed, spirits of a vintage dating back more than half a century were uncovered and discussed.

It was by no order of Director Schofield that this squad of seven members assembled and there was no disposition on the part of the restaurant management to oppose the flow of spirits which added much to the entertainment of the policemen-visitors, everyone of whom pointed to a career of more than a half century in the municipal service.

The occasion for their appearance was the 15th annual banquet of the Sparrows Association and the 54th anniversary of the opening of the Centennial Exposition, in which latter every man present played active part, as a member of the Centennial Division of the Philadelphia force.

There they sat—seven gray-haired or bald septuagenarians, John Lynch, one-time Lieutenant of Police, and in his day a terror to evil-doers in South Philadelphia, presiding, while "Charlie" Kunkle, also an ex-Lieutenant, but better remembered about Hestonville and northern West Philadelphia as one of the stars of the old Sixteenth district nine, when the Bureau of Police boasted its own baseball league and inter-district games took on all the enthusiasm and local pride of a World Series, called the roll.

Responding as alertly as to the daily checkup in the rollroom at detective headquarters when "Pete" Miller, of Molly Maguire fame, captained the handful of sleuths then composing the bureau, Adam Ulrich, a once-noted thief-taker answered "here," while those about recalled his single-handed capture of the armed slayer of Professor Roy Wilson White more than thirty years ago.

Ulrich, long since retired from the service, is vice president of the Sparrows. Beside him sat John Uttley, still active in the police bureau. Uttley is attached to the 13th police District in Manayunk, and acts as a messenger between here and City Hall; John H. Nash, former harbor policeman, and Sam-

uel B. Lukens, whose name is well remembered as a sergeant in various districts before being placed, with honor, on the department pension roll.

Anecdote and reminiscence that would furnish plot and material for melodramatist and or thrill writer, and every item taken from life, rolled from the lips of these "veterans" as one by one they responded to toasts called by Daniel W. Lanard, one of the original members of the Twenty-seventh police district at Tacony, where for years single peats, covered only on horseback, exceeded in area entire city districts.

How those "Sparrows" did chirp, as under the influence of the reunion, dormant memories were rejuvenated for review.

Seven only survive of the original 500 appointed in 1876 by Mayor William S. Stokley to police the grounds of the great exposition in Fairmount Park. Seven only—a bit time-worn, but not one whit less determined than fifty-four years ago.

Seven only, but every man answering "present" to the roll call and drinking his toast to those called "to other duty" and every man pledging attendance, if living, at the next reunion, May 10, 1931, and in the spirit of '76.

news 2/29/1928

## JAMES L. TAYLOR MADE A CAPTAIN

Lieutenant of Manayunk District Promoted by Director of Public Safety

A POLICEMAN SINCE 1892

Lieutenant James L. Taylor, of the Manayunk police station, was promoted to captain by order of Director Davis, last Monday.

Captain Taylor was appointed a patrolman in 1892. He is 64, lives at 133 Roxborough avenue, and will remain in charge of his present district until further orders. He was elevated to his Lieutenantcy in 1911, to fill a vacancy left by Lieutenant William H. Lush, who dropped dead, at that time, in the station house during a midnight roll call.

The new captain's room at the police station was decorated with handsome floral gifts, and he was kept busy all day receiving the congratulations of his friends.

The promotion of Captain Taylor fills one of the two captaincies that have been vacant since the promotion of Captain James J. Hearn to night assistant superintendent of police, and the promotion of Captain Joseph W. Cannon to corporal.

The Roxborough News congratulates the first commander of the Manayunk Police District that has ever been elevated to the rank of Captain.

Bulletin 4/18/30 78

## KEMP B. & L. LENDS ON P. O. BUILDINGS

Former Postmaster Heads Society  
That Put \$26,000 in Morris Wolf's  
Mortgages—Leases Collateral

SECURITY GOOD, HE SAYS

Three of the branch postoffice buildings in this city owned by Morris Wolf and leased to the Postoffice Department have second mortgages on them held by a building association of which former Postmaster George E. Kemp, now City Treasurer, is president, records in the Recorder of Deeds office at City Hall show.

Wolf, who controls the Interstate Postal Building Corporation, with offices in the Drexel Building, owns seven branch postoffice buildings in Philadelphia.

A demand has been made by U. S. Senator Gerald P. Nye that leases the country over be investigated. In many instances, he charges, the rentals are too high.

In every case, however, it is pointed out here, bids are advertised for by the Postoffice Department, and the lowest bidder gets the lease for the building in question for a ten-year term. Because of the length of time the lease runs, and the fact the Government is the lessor, these leases are generally considered gilt-edge security.

The building of the Manayunk station, 134-136 Levering st., registered in the name of Morris Wolf's wife, Ida, has two mortgages upon it. The first mortgage is to Eli Kirk Price, Jr., et al., dated January 9, 1930, for \$17,000.

The second mortgage made January 10, 1930, after Colonel Kemp had resigned as Postmaster, is for \$13,000 to the Market Street Building and Loan Association, of which Colonel Kemp is president. This station brings an annual rental of \$3,100.

9/12/1929

### POSTAL STATION STARTED

A giant steam shovel started work on the excavations for the new Roxborough Post Office, on Green lane, east of Ridge avenue, on Tuesday.

Contractor Harvey S. Brown, who is supervising the work, states that the entire job will be completed as per contract, which calls for the opening of the new office about December 15th, of this year.

6/30/32

## Break Ground For Cathedral In Roxborough

Bishop Taitt Officiates at  
Ceremony Held on  
Saturday

FOR FIRST CHAPEL

Plans Completed and Ap-  
proved for Great Edifice,  
Outlined by Architect

With Bishop Taitt officiating, ground breaking exercises for the first unit of the projected Protestant Episcopal Cathedral in Upper Roxborough were held last Saturday afternoon.

The unit, to be known as St. Mary's Chapel of the Cathedral of Christ marks the beginning of the building plan of the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese on the more than 100 acres acquired for Cathedral purposes under the leadership of the late Bishop Garland.

Several hundred persons attended the ceremonies, which followed the accepted Episcopal ritual for such occasions. The first shovelful of earth was turned by Bishop Taitt, whose example was emulated by members of the Cathedral Chapter. Among them was Representative Henry W. Watson, of Langhorne, whose late wife provided the money for erection of the chapel. The ground on which it will stand was bought and donated by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Houston.

The ceremonies were part of the Diocesan Day program held annually on the Cathedral grounds. Episcopalians from all parts of the diocese attended.

The procession to the chapel site was led by the boys' choir of Old St. Peter's Church, under the direction of Harold W. Gilbert, organist and choirmaster.

"There is no cathedral in the country," Bishop Taitt declared in a brief address following the ground breaking "with a finer view or a greater opportunity for work. The site of the New York Cathedral, now greatly admired, was condemned by the clergymen of New York as a most unhappy one, and the same thing was true of the great National Cathedral at Washington.

"We cannot judge a thing at its beginning. I do not believe in the wisdom of establishing a cathedral in the center of Philadelphia, where there are already plenty of churches

which are not full, and probably will not be for many years. There is no need for it there, and the expense of buying the necessary ground would have been prohibitive.

"A cathedral should represent the devotion to Almighty God of an entire diocese, not a single parish or community. We hope that here on this spot will be built a place that will adequately express such devotion."

Plans for the chapel which have been completed and approved, were briefly outlined by the architect, Frank R. Watson, while Mr. Houston pointed out the value of the site and the beauties of the surrounding territory. When the cathedral is completed, he said, its spire will be plainly visible from the Delaware River Bridge.

The high rolling ground on which the edifice will stand—the second highest spot in Philadelphia—was acquired a few years ago under the leadership of the late Bishop Garland.

One hundred acres are included in the parcel and the finished plans call for a large group of buildings for various community purposes, in addition to the cathedral proper. Construction work on St. Mary's Chapel will begin in the near future.

In addition to Bishop Taitt, clergymen taking part in the ceremonies included the Rev. Edward M. Jeffrys, president of the Standing Committee of the diocese; the Rev. Charles E. Eder, dean of the Germantown Convocation, in whose jurisdiction the cathedral grounds are located; the Rev. N. Herbert Caley, rector of St. Alban's Church, whose parish is the nearest to the proposed chapel, and clerical lay members of the Cathedral chapter.

Clergy members of the chapter are the Revs. James O. McIlhenny, William C. Patterson, James M. Nible, Malcolm E. Peabody, George H. Toop, Frank L. Vernon, George G. Bartlett and George C. Carter. Lay members are Lawrence J. Morris, Frank H. Moss, John S. Newbold, William E. Scull, John J. Collier, Eli Kirk Price, J. Vaughn Merrick and Thomas Robbins.

The chapel will stand about 300 feet west of Ridge avenue, a short distance north of the points where the new Henry avenue boulevard and the proposed Bryn Mawr-Chestnut Hill boulevard intersect Ridge avenue.

## New Post Office Opens At Manayunk

Ward's Second Mail Station  
Went Into Operation  
on Monday

PLANNED BY QUINN

Erected by Roberts & Caster,  
of Audubon, New  
Jersey

Manayunk's new post office, on Levering street above Cresson, went into operation on Monday of this week, after its opening had been delayed by contractors since December 16th.

This structure, like the recently erected Roxborough station, was built from plans drawn by Charles A. Quinn, Post Office Architect, of the Philadelphia district.

Morris Wolf, of Philadelphia, was the successful bidder for the job, and the contract was awarded to Roberts & Caster, of Audubon, N. J. This firm is experienced in post office construction, having erected stations in Conshohocken, Birdsburg, Baltimore, South Bethlehem, Harrisburg and various other places.

The sub-contracts, for plumbing, heating, lighting, carpentering, bricklaying, etc., were apportioned out to different firms, some of which were local.

The furnishings and general layout of the Manayunk office greatly resembles the new Roxborough station, on a smaller scale, with the exception that the Levering street branch will be the distributing center for all 21st Ward mail. The letters, parcels, etc., will be received at Manayunk, distributed according to location, and such matter as bears Roxborough and Wissahickon addresses, will be sent by messenger service to the Roxborough office and then delivered from that point. The additional furniture and equipment necessary for this distribution has been installed at Manayunk.

Eight mail carriers, will work out from the smaller office in Manayunk, while eighteen are to be assigned to the Roxborough headquarters.

With the completion of these two fine mail stations, the 21st Ward is splendidly prepared, as far as postal facilities are concerned, for the natural population growth which is expected to take place in this section during the next few decades.

1/2/1930

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12/19/1929

## Roxborough Post Office in Readiness for Holiday Mail

New Structure, Started on September 10th, Is Completed Two Days Ahead of Schedule.—Local Artisans Employed on its Erection

Roxborough's new Post Office, on Green lane, east of Ridge avenue, went into operation on Saturday morning of last week, December 14th, two days ahead of schedule, although the task of moving from the old location prevented the carriers from starting out from the new headquarters until Monday.

Samuel T. Banham, who received the contract for the erection of the structure, and Contractor Harvey F. Brown, who built it, are therefore to be congratulated for having carried out the completion of the structure according to the plans of the Governmental authorities.

The spacious one-story building has an attractive front of buff-colored bricks, laid in graceful lines, and is provided with every modern device, for the rapid distribution of mail, and for the convenience of the employees who will work in it.

The iron work of the structure was furnished by the Robinson Iron and Steel Company; the masonry and brickwork, by Joseph A. Duva; the plumbing, heating, roofing and sheet metal work, by George Wad-enphful; the electrical equipment by William Lawrence; the excavating by Root Brothers; the painting by Richart & Richart, and the hardware by George E. MacFarland, all local contractors.

The Ideal Woodworking Company provided the millwork in the building, the postal furnishings came from the Federal Equipment Corporation of Carlisle, Pa., metal ceilings by the Penn Metal Ceiling Co., the concrete and cement work was done by D. C. Brown, and the glass was supplied by Wachman & Company.

On Thursday, June 13th, Postmaster George E. Kemp announced that the contracts had been awarded for the two new post offices—that in Manayunk, which is not quite ready for occupancy, in addition to the Roxborough office.

At that time it was announced that added facilities would take care of the postal needs of this section for at least ten years, and as stated before, Samuel T. Banham was the successful bidder.

Congressman George F. Darrow, Park Commissioner Frank L. Kenworthy, former State Representative Wallace L. Bromley, Samuel T. Banham, George D. Littlewood, president of the Roxborough Trust Company, and Erwin G. Stein and Adolph Lang, of the Roxborough Business Men's Association were chief among those who labored without stint to secure the new building.

Actual work on the construction of the office started on September

10th, of this year, when a huge steam shovel dug out the first bucketful of earth in the excavating.

Mayor Harry A. Mackey and Park Commissioner Frank L. Kenworthy, proved to be the only guests of honor who appeared for the formal dedication exercises, which were held at the Green Valley Country Club, Ridge avenue and Livezey's lane, on Tuesday evening.

An elaborate banquet had been prepared by a committee of the Roxborough Business Men's Association, for the occasion, and more than two hundred of the 21st Ward's citizens attended. The shronng was, as stated by Toastmaster Howard A. Lukens, a true cross section of the people of the vicinity; men and women of prominence, in every art, industry and profession of the ward being present.

Mayor Mackey, on account of duties connected with his office, was forced to leave early, but before going, delivered a brief address in which he expressed his pleasure at being present to help celebrate such a forward step, and then told of the work being done for the welfare of the children and unfortunate people of the city.

After the dinner had been completed, Mr. Lukens called upon John S. Turner, local textile manufacturer, who is a human encyclopedia of facts concerning the ward's public improvements. After praising the men who have labored long to obtain the sadly needed postal improvements, Mr. Turner told of transit conditions as they relate to the northwest section of the municipality.

Samuel T. Banham, president of the City Business Club, who was the successful bidder for the contract of erecting and furnishing the new post office, was the next speaker, and he, too, spoke of civic matters pertaining to Roxborough, and of the development of the port of Philadelphia, and its bearing on labor conditions in this vicinity.

"Dick"—the one and only Dick—Farron, entertained the guests with several vocal selections and the music was provided by Pickel's Orchestra.

4/17/30

80

## Pays \$3100 Rental for \$5000 Site

Postmaster Lists Manayunk Station Among Others

M. WOLF, OWNER

Building Completed Shortly After Christmas 1929

The Manayunk postal station at 134-136 Levering street, for which the Postoffice Department pays an annual rental of \$3100, has an assessed valuation of \$5000, according to records at City Hall.

In a list made public by Acting Postmaster McLeister, the Manayunk station is listed as being leased from Morris Wolf, 6200 Carpenter street.

The Manayunk property is one of six owned by Mr. Wolf and leased to the Government for branch postoffices in this city.

The aggregate of the assessments on his properties is \$86,500 and the total in rentals he receives is \$42,100. The six properties are listed in either or both of the names of Morris Wolf and Ida Wolf, but the rentals are all listed as paid to Morris Wolf.

The Manayunk postoffice building is a modern, one-story structure. The postoffice branch took possession shortly after Christmas.

The site of the building originally was occupied by two houses and the lots were sold to Wolf for \$8200 by John Tague.

There are seven clerks and seven carriers attached to this office. The clerks in addition to handling the mail for Manayunk also sort the letters and deliver the mail for the Roxborough branch, which is located in East Green lane, Roxborough.



1/14/37

# Legislative Act Passed To Create First Main Street

Turnpike Company Act Was  
Supplemented on April  
3rd, 1843

## POWER FOR GOVERNOR

Road Ran From Wissahickon  
to Foot of Present Lev-  
erington Avenue

While going through some old State Legislative records, recently, a copy of a Supplement of an Act, dated April 3rd 1843, which pertained to Manayunk, was uncovered. It reads as follows:

"Supplement to an Act entitled 'An Act authorizing the Governor to make an artificial road, commencing where the Schuylkill canal intersects the Ridge turnpike, near Robeson's Mill, thence along the bed of said road to the Flat Rock Bridge, passed April 10th, eighteen hundred and twenty-six.

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the present managers and company of the Manayunk and Flat Rock turnpike road be, and they are hereby exonerated from any obligation further to complete the said road

beyond its present termination at the bridge across the canal at Rowland's Mill, and so much of an Act, authorizing the Governor to incorporate the said company, and of the supplements thereto as is inconsistent herewith be, and the same is hereby repealed. PROVIDED, That the Town Council of the Borough of Manayunk shall have the privilege, under the direction of the president and managers of said turnpike company, of paving or macadamizing two and a half feet on each side of said road, now used as ditches: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That said road shall be not less than forty feet wide.

HENDRICK B. WRIGHT,  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives.

B. Crispin, Speaker of the Senate.  
Approved: the third day of April,  
one thousand, eight hundred and  
forty-three.

David R. Porter.

Pennsylvania S. S.

I hereby certify the within to be a true copy of an Act of General Assembly of this Commonwealth, passed the 3rd day of April, 1843, as the same remains of record in

the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said office, at Harrisburg, this 6th day of June A. D. 1843.  
Charles McClure,  
Secretary of the Common-wealth."

The Act, as can be recognized by the description of the road, referred to the thoroughfare now known as Main street.

1/28/1937

# Old Lane Once An Important Link In Traffic Highway

Millers Used Domino Lane  
to Reach Grain Boats,  
Coming Down Schuylkill

## LONG ABANDONED

Conestoga Wagoners Used  
Route Between Philadel-  
phia and Pittsburgh

Winfield S. Guiles, the lock tender at Flat Rock Dam along the Schuylkill River who observed his 84th birthday last Sunday with a record of 75 years service along the muddy old stream, once related some facts concerning Domino lane which in "the old days" was a great traffic artery, connecting the Ridge road up with the inland highways that skirted the Schuylkill.

Domino lane, today, gives little evidence of the fact. Beginning just below the 8th milestone on Ridge road (which is at Harmon road) the lane winds its way downhill in an easterly direction for about three squares, and then turns abruptly around an "s" curve and proceeds southeasterly to the river. There are still a couple of dilapidated farm houses along the old road, but after the final bend is made there is little left to mark its course, except a few isolated lampposts. The thoroughfare has taken on the form of an extremely rocky path and descends down a slope which would prove a severe test for today's mechanical conveyances.

At the bottom is a brick-arched, brown stone viaduct which carries the tracks of the Schuylkill Valley Division of the Pennsylvania railroad over the old lane. This structure was erected in 1883, and apparently serves, in addition to supporting the railroad tracks, as a rendezvous for tramps and thrill-seeking schoolboys. Here is found remains of camp fires and little trace of the one time road to the Schuylkill.

A tiny rivulet makes its way to the greater stream, under the bridge. At the Reading railroad tracks, the old tunnel which once stood there, became weakened after years of use and was filled in with dirt and all marks of the lane has

disappeared.

Along the banks of the canal, at the foot of old Domino lane,—between the Reading tracks and the water—is the old Domino Lane Roadhouse—or Domino House—whence the millers' road, received its name. It is probably more than a century and a quarter old, and is occupied by Mr. Guiles, the lock tender. Originally it was a two storied building, but more than fifty years ago another floor was added, and the aged locktender, himself, extended the chimney of the house up and beyond the line of the roof.

Across the canal is the upper end of Venice Island, with the dumps of the Container Corporation. Amid the debris stands a manhole—projecting high above the ground level of the island—which marks the site of the one-time Flat Rock Bridge over the Schuylkill, which was carried away in a flood in the autumn of 1850 and has never been replaced. There is also, according to Mr. Guiles, one of the old abutments standing, but a recent spectator was unable to see it on account of a huge pile of dirt which had been dumped in the immediate vicinity. To see it, one would have to cross over to the island and climb down the river bank to satisfy his curiosity.

It is said that in the spring of 1850 a wagon, loaded with slabs of marble, came down old Domino lane to the bridge, on its way to deliver the stone somewhere over along Mill Creek, and while on the bridge broke through and the conveyance and horses were lost in the stream. In the autumn of the same year came a torrential flood which washed the structure away for all time.

Over the river, close to where the old bridge had its western end, still stands the "Tunnel House", which was frequented by millers who waited for their grain to come down the river, and by teamsters on their way to the western sections of the State, prior to the construction of the canal.

Mr. Guiles' father, John Guiles, was among those old-time teamsters, and drove a Conestoga wagon loaded with merchandise from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh over this old road. The River Road, in those early days, formed part of what is now the East River Drive of Fairmount Park. Up this highway came the teams of the western-bound travelers, thence up over Ridge road to Domino lane, and down that hilly lane to the Schuylkill, where, on the east bank of the river the road made a sharp turn and skirted the river to Pottsville. Some drivers crossed the Flat Rock Bridge and proceeded up the west side of the river, which road, it is said, was in better condition for heavy hauling.

Winfield Guiles, the locktender, said that it usually took his father six weeks to make the trip to Pittsburgh, with a seven horse team; three pairs being two abreast, and one animal out in front as leader. In winter time, or rough weather, the trip consumed a greater length of time.

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The Roxborough Branch of the Needlework Guild of America was formed April 7th, 1893 by Mrs. Charles Walton, who became the first President. Associated with Mrs. Walton in this new work were Mrs. J. J. Spalkeon, Mrs. Ross R. Bunting, Mrs. Herbert Dennison, Mrs. Cecelia Andrews, Miss Walton and Miss Dennison. The first collection of garments for 1893 - were 184.

The Roxborough Branch has grown steadily these past forty years and has become among the very best of the 658 guild branches throughout the United States.

The Roxborough Branch does a wonderful work locally and is a

recognized factor in organized relief work in this section of Phila.

The collection of new, warm, suitable garments last year amounted to 11,458 which were distributed to Institutions including to our own Memorial Hospital 1,562 and the Manayunk Branch of the Visiting Nurse Society 1846, also to 6,091 Private Families who were in distress.

The National organization is meeting in Phila. on May 7, 34th to celebrate its 50th Anniversary at the Bellevue Stratford.

2/28/1929

83

# Police Inspector Honored At Emmanuel M. E. Church

Great Throng Attends Memorial Service for John W. Blackburn—Bronze Tablet Unveiled

*"To Know Him Was to Love Him"*



JOHN W. BLACKBURN

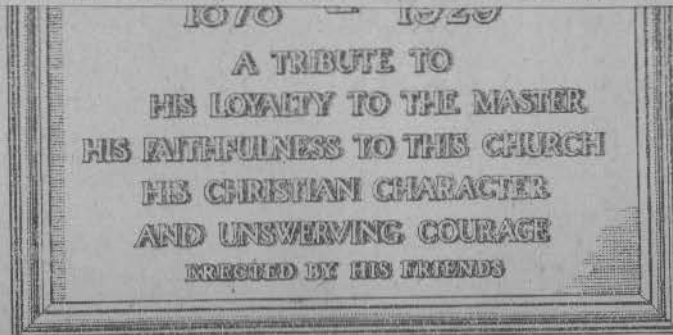
High tribute was paid John W. Blackburn, slain police inspector, and a tablet to his memory was unveiled last Sunday night at a service participated in by the chief executives of his department and his city and attended by hundreds of his friends and former comrades.

The tablet, cast in bronze and testifying to "his Christian character and unswerving courage," was erected by his friends above the Blackburn pew in Emanuel Methodist Episcopal Church, Silverwood and Gates streets, Roxborough, of which he was a member twenty-

four years.

For valor, loyalty and an exemplary record in public and in private life, Inspector Blackburn was eulogized in addresses by Mayor Mackey, Director Schofield, Superintendent Mills, the Rev. Dr. William B. Forney, secretary of the Philadelphia Sabbath Association, the Rev. George A. Laughhead, pastor of the church, and the Rev. A. Percival Hodgson, of the Allegheny Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. The tablet was unveiled by Mr. Laughhead.

~~Continued on page~~



The above illustration shows the bronze tablet which was unveiled last Sunday evening in the Emmanuel M. E. Church in honor of the late police inspector.

2/28/29

Address Will Be Broad  
MONDAY, MA  
HOORVE

83

Pres 2/28/29

Continued from First Page  
The church auditorium was filled, as was an adjoining Sunday school room, with a congregation numbering about 1000, while hundreds, unable to get within hearing distance, turned away. In the family pew were Mrs. Blackburn, the inspector's widow, and his two sons and three daughters. About 200 policemen were present, including members of the Lambskin Club and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The plan for the memorial was first proposed by Joseph Lawrence, Inspector Blackburn's chauffeur, who was wounded at the time of the inspector's death on January 17.

The program was as follows:  
Prelude . . . Miss Emmaline Mann  
Hymn, "How Firm a Foundation" . . . By the Congregation  
Prayer . . . Rev. A. P. Hodgson  
Former Pastor at Emmanuel  
Anthem, "My Jesus, I Love Thee" . . . . . Choir  
Selection, "Over the Stars There is Rest" . . . . . Mixed Quartette  
Unveiling of Tablet . . . The Pastor  
Solo, "Face to Face"

Mr. Wesley King  
Address, . . . Hon. Harry A. Mackey  
Mayor of the City of Phila.  
Address . . . Rev. W. B. Forney  
solo, "Calvary" James McFarland,  
A fellow-policeman of  
the Inspector's.  
Selection, "It is Well With My Soul" . . . . . Male Quartette  
Hymn . . . . . Congregation  
Benediction  
Rev. George A. Langhead

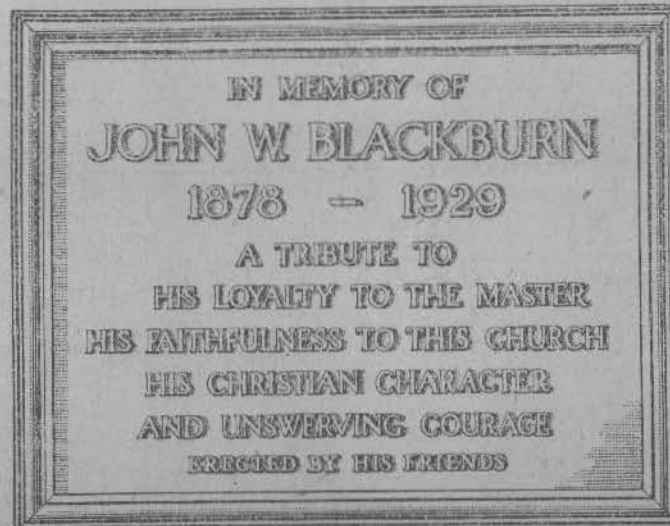
ONLY A COP

A Tribute to Inspector Blackburn  
I'm only a cop, he used to say,  
As he walked along in life's toil-  
some way.  
But what say we who this good  
man knew,  
Who was always ready his duty  
to do?

Gentleman, brother, Christian friend  
Always ready a hand to lend;  
A great man, say we!  
No greater has lived in this our day,  
A man who was known as the friend  
of God,  
And walked in the steps his Saviour  
trod.  
He sought God's guidance to lead  
him aright,  
And prayed that the blind might  
see the light,  
He asked God's blessing on friend  
and foe.

We heard him sing 'fore he fell,  
And his voice was strong and clear  
as a bell.  
We followed him out to the tomb  
on the hill,  
Where all was quiet and still,  
But leave him there, nay, nay, my  
friend,  
He has gone to a place that hath no  
end,  
For the song he sang that last night  
on earth  
Is one that should echo from pole  
to pole.  
Take up the song as onward we go:  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

PERPETUATES MEMORY



The above illustration shows the bronze tablet which was unveiled last Sunday evening in the Emmanuel M. E. Church in honor of the late police inspector.

4/30/31

## Growth of 21st Ward Has Been Slow, But Continuous'

Large Number of Old Dwellings Torn Down to Make Way for Improvements.—Has Population of 40,759

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

At the Kenworthy dinner, held at the Elks' Club, on Wednesday night of last week, one of the speakers arose to quote the area, population and wealth of the 6th Councilmanic district, which includes the 21st, 22nd, 38th and 42nd wards.

Which brought to my mind the fact that the 21st Ward is slowly, but surely, increasing in size, despite the fact that in past years many of the dwellings have been removed to make room for improvements.

The Roxborough section, in particular, has been building up fast in recent years. Ofttimes one hears someone remark about the number of new houses which are being erected, but few think of the quantity which have been demolished.

Half a century ago, the Pennsylvania Railroad constructed its Norristown branch, through the 21st Ward. The railroad right of way traverses property which was once a city street, with dwellings on both sides of it. The transportation improvement also threw into the discard another row of houses, on the east side of what is now known as Canton street. Likewise a number of frame houses which stood on Green lane at Main street.

When Manayunk Park, at Silverwood and Roxborough streets, was brought into existence, a large number of outworn residences were demolished to make way for the breathing place. St. Mary's new parochial school building, on Conarroe street, made it necessary to remove several houses, as did the rebuilding of the Ebenezer M. E. Church, on Gay street. The brewers, Leibert and Obert, tore down a number of homes on Carson street, to make room for their brewery.

A T. Baker & Company, plush manufacturers, occupy a factory which was erected on the site of a row of houses which stood on a street known as "Koehler avenue." Along the Manayunk Canal bank, near the old Pay Bridge, there once stood four houses; two frame and two brick. For the latter the well-known Gallati Brothers had the bricks shipped here from some distant place. These were the first brick dwellings erected in this section. After falling into bad repair, the four houses were taken down—for safety's sake.

Another section of buildings stood in the way of the Kenworthy Bridge, when it was erected at Wissahickon, to eliminate a dangerous railroad grade crossing. And there were other homes, up along the Wissahickon Creek, which the Park Commissioners tore down, when

they were acquired by the Park.

Houses were taken over in order to build Roxborough High School, as well as the James Dobson grade school, on Umbria street. More recently, a row, which has gone forever, stood on the west side of Cresson street, at Rector. These have been replaced by Station street. Many others, parts of which are as yet standing, will after the settlement of damage claims, more than likely fall into the hands of the house wrecker.

Other modern structures, which were responsible for the removal of from one to six dwellings, are the Commercial National Bank and Trust Company, the Roxy Theatre, the Manayunk Trust Company, the Philadelphia Gas Works Office, the Fred Pearson Plush Mill, the Manayunk Plush Mill, the Manayunk Bathing house, and the old Riverside Mansion, with the Union Hotel and the two adjoining houses, are now leveled off as the stock yard of the Pencoyd Iron Works. The Manayunk Fire House is standing on the site once occupied by four houses.

Village blacksmith shops, with the smithy's dwelling beside it, have given way to a superfluity of gasoline filling stations, which are—or are not, as you look at them—an improvement.

A report of the census taker in 1840 discloses that Roxborough Township—which is now Manayunk, Wissahickon and Roxborough—had a population of 5797 persons; five cotton factories; three woolen mills; two paper mills; one rolling mill; one steel mill; one for polishing saws; one machine shop; and two flouring mills. Tallow candles were used for illumination.

The most recent census—imperfect as it may have been, is close enough for our purpose—shows a population as 40,759; 710 retail stores; 13 wholesale houses; 37 eating houses; 126 factories; 8655 dwellings; and the lighting system is placed at 403 electric lights and 974 gas lamps. There are two police districts; three fire engine companies and one fire truck company. Its one hospital with ambulance service, commendably serves the ward and its environs.

## Mrs. Goettman Died, After Long Illness, On Sunday

Conducted Confectionery Store in Manayunk For Many Years

MARRIED TWICE

Was Member of Board of Managers and Ladies' Aid of Lankenau Hospital

A large number of friends are mourning the death of Mrs. Katharine R. Goettman, of 4357 Main street, Manayunk, who succumbed to a lengthy illness, in her 87th year, last Sunday.

Born in Baden, Germany, on November 10th, 1850, she came to the United States at the age of 18, and immediately settled in Manayunk.

She was first married to George Koegel, a confectioner, who conducted a store at 4339 Main street. Two sons, George and Frank; and one daughter, Katharine, were born to this union. Mr. Koegel expired more than fifty years ago.

Subsequently she married Daniel Goettman, also a confectioner, and the store at 4339 Main street remained in the same business until 26 years ago when Mrs. Goettman retired. By the second marriage there were also two sons, Walter and Ralph; and a daughter, Florence.

Mrs. Goettman was, up until her death, an active member of the Board of Managers and of the Ladies' Aid of the Lankenau Hospital, and also of the Epiphany Lutheran Church.

She is survived by one son, Ralph Goettman, of Pottstown; a daughter, Mrs. Charles Coppes, of Roxborough; and three grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday afternoon at the Stetler Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, Roxborough, and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

2/25/1937

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9/3/31

## Clergyman's Widow is Buried Here

Mrs. Jane T. Willmarth Interred in Leverington Cemetery, Roxboro

OCCURRED MONDAY

Husband Was Ninth Pastor of Church at Ridge and Lyceum Avenues

Mrs. Jane T. Willmarth, widow of Rev. James Willard Willmarth, a former pastor of the Roxborough Baptist Church, died last Thursday, ending another chapter in the history of that religious group.

Her husband was the ninth clergyman to serve the church at Ridge and Lyceum avenues. He was born on December 23rd, 1835, in Paris, France, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Mason Willmarth. His father was then laboring as the first American Baptist missionary to France.

The early life of Mr. Willmarth, the son, was spent in northern New England, in various places, where his father was either teaching or preaching. He was baptized at Crafton, Vermont, on October 29th, 1848. His course of study was affected by a fault of his vision, which the oculists of that day stated was incipient amaurosis, and he was therefore compelled to engage in secular business.

His first religious work was as a colporteur-missionary of the American Baptist Publication Society in 1858-1859 in Chicago. He was licensed by the Edina Place Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois, where Dr. Robert Boyd was pastor, on April 1st, 1859, and he then studied theology, with his father, who was a graduate of Newton Theological Institute, having everything read to him. It was afterward discovered that there was never any disease, or even weakness of his eyes and with proper glasses his eyes served him well until the end of his days.

In 1860, Mr. Willmarth supplied the Union Baptist Church, at Aurora, Ill., and was there ordained on July 26th, 1860. His first pastorate was served at Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, from June of 1865 until June of 1866.

Soon afterward he settled at Wakefield, Massachusetts, and remained there from March 9th, 1867, until October 1st, 1869, when he became pastor of the Pemberton, N. J., Church. His services there extended for eight and one-half years, when on April 1st, of 1878, he became pastor of the Roxborough Baptist Church, a position he occupied for many years with honor and respect.

In 1882 and 1883, he was editor of

"The Advanced Quarterly, a Publication Society magazine. He was a trustee of the Crozer Theological Seminary, and of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, and preached the Doctrinal sermon, on "Election" in 1880, which was published by request of the latter body. In 1881 he was chosen its moderator.

In June of 1889, Mr. Willmarth received the honorary degree of D. D., from Carson College, of Tennessee, and also the L. L. D. from Southwestern Baptist University, of Tennessee.

Dr. Willmarth was a writer of note, specializing in newspaper articles and for various magazines, and also published several pamphlets. Of the later may be named "Baptism and Remission"; "All in the Name of Jesus"; "The Temptation of the Church"; "Woman's Work in the Church"; and "Election: Gracious, Sovereign, Glorious", the Doctrinal sermon above referred to.

Dr. Willmarth has been dead for many years, and in the demise of his relict, another contact with the past of the Roxborough church is ended.

Funeral services were held at the Stetler Funeral Home, Ridge avenue and Martin street, on Monday afternoon, and the interment was made in Leverington Cemetery, close to the scene of her former activities.

8/20/1931

## Bannon Boys Were Noted as Contractors

Manayunkers Used Novel Methods for Moving Freight and Coal

### FATHER KILLED

Held Contracts for Laying Many 21st Ward Sewers

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

Do you remember the Bannon boys? They were a hard-working class of tillers of the soil. Their father was an old time political contractor, of the old school. Many of our highways were built by the Bannon boys, and remain in good condition after many years of use.

John Bannon, the father, met a terrible death one Saturday afternoon when he was killed in an explosion while cutting Tower street, in Manayunk, through a solid mountain of rock, between Grape and Levering streets. It happened thirty years ago.

If any one gave the Bannon boys a contract to dig a cellar why the whole family turned in and threw dirt. That was before the days of steam shovels. And how they made the dirt fly was a caution to "Duffy's Rats." The Ban-

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nons' started the contracting business along the Manayunk Canal. Every factory along its banks bought coal by the boat load. Perhaps Joe Hendren, the old time shipper, would deliver the coal in one of his boats. Being the owner of a fleet, and a local resident, he generally did the hauling from the mines to the factory, and as soon as his boat tied up at the wharf of the mill, the Bannon boys would appear to unload the canal boat. Each mill had a derrick with a boom that would swing from the hold of the boat to the coal pile, in the mill yard. A large iron bucket was then fastened to the derrick and lowered into the boat. The Bannon boys, with big wide scoop shovels, would fill the bucket with coal while a horse attached to one end of the hoisting rope would be led by one of the younger members of the family.

An arrangement was made, by fastening a check to the hoist rope, and while the criver was leading his horse the bucket would start to go upwards and the boom would swing across the top of the boat and tow path into the mill yard. When the check reached the pulley that was fast to the ground, the bottom of the bucket would fly open and drop the contents on the high coal pile. The last one of these hoisting derricks along the canal was owned by Simpson & Moore, dress goods manufacturers.

With the building of the railroad up the canal bank the mill began to get their coal in railroad car load lots. The Schuylkill Paper Mills of Robert Stillwagon was the first to install a conveyor, which consisted of a link belt, or chain system. It required two men to keep the coal running into the small iron pockets of the conveyor. Other factories engaged the Bannon boys to unload the coal cars, but the hardest part of the contract was to trim back the coal from the mouth of the chute.

About this time City Councils passed an ordinance to lay sewers through the 21st Ward. Very few streets had sewer connections, at the time and so the Bannon boys went in for political contracts. Likewise, did Joseph Atkinson and Andy Wilson, of Roxborough. They all proved to be successful contractors and their work remains monuments to them. The Bannon boys hired only deep-dyed Irishmen, who loved strong liquor and who knew nothing but work.

"Dad" Bannon would never stand for delays in his contracts. The quicker the job was finished, the better it suited him, and whenever he held a contract to place another highway on the city map where once stood a mountain of rock, he'd blow it sky-high.

It was through his own lack of care that he met his death, from an overload of blasting powder.

Nearly all of the Bannon boys have passed "the Great Divide," as well as Atkinson and Wilson. But, no one ever could say that the local contractors did not share their profits with home workmen. The only outsiders working on their contracts would be city inspectors.

Building sewers in the old days was quick work, and no highway would be blocked for the length of time that it takes present-day contractors to do the work.

11/10/1932

## Hold Funeral Rites For Mrs. Annie Nelson

Death of Active Church Worker Occurred on Tuesday of Last Week

### LAST OF HER FAMILY

Daughter of One of 21st Ward's Early Textile and Paper Manufacturers

Sympathy is being extended to the family of Mrs. Annie I. Nelson, 5536 Ridge avenue, whose funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, following her death on Tuesday of last week.

Mrs. Nelson, who was an active church worker in this vicinity for more than fifty years, was born in 1850, at Shaffertown, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob D. Heft, and was the last surviving member of her family, which consisted of her parents, four sisters, and two brothers.

In early girlhood she moved with her parents to downtown Philadelphia, and later to the 21st Ward. Her father, Jacob D. Heft, was the owner of the Dexter Dye Works, which at one time was one of Manayunk's busiest textile mills, and was subsequently a partner in the paper making firm of Rudolph, Dixon and Heft.

Upon reaching maturity, the deceased was married in 1873, to the late Thomas F. Nelson, senior partner of the merchantile firm of Nelson & Brother, the marriage ceremony being performed by the Rev. Andrew Culver, of the First Presbyterian Church, of Manayunk.

Four children were born to the couple: Thomas F. Nelson, Jr., who died after reaching manhood; C. Alfred Nelson, an attorney at law; Miss Irene Nelson, a Public Librarian and church worker of Wissahickon; and Ralph Nelson, who died in childhood. The husband of the deceased died many years ago.

Annie I. Nelson continued actively at Sunday School teaching at the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, until she was past 79 years of age, and at her funeral, the boys of her class served as pall-bearers. All through her life Mrs. Nelson was a vocalist of uncommon ability, and only last February sang in the First M. E. Church, of Roxborough.

Funeral services were held at the Stetler Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, last Saturday afternoon, and the interment was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

11/10/1932

## Death Claims Mrs. Schwarz

Well Known Resident of Roxborough and Wissahickon Expired on Thursday.—Is Survived by Husband, Son and Daughter.

Roxborough residents, last week end, were grieved to learn of the death on Thursday of Louise M. Schwarz, wife of Ernest F. Schwarz, who resided at 3304 Tilden street, Queen Lane Manor.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwarz had spent their entire married life in the 21st Ward, until four years ago when they moved to the Tilden street address.

Born in Mulhausen, Alsace Lorraine, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Andre, when that area was a French dominion, the deceased was ten years of age when the Franco-Prussian War was fought, and the territory was taken over by the German government.

When 24 years old, she came to America, and two years later was married to Ernest F. Schwarz, by the Rev. G. C. Gardner, of the Bethany Lutheran Church, Roxborough. Mr. Schwarz, until his retirement, was for many years an engineer for the Bureau of Water, in the Department of Public Works.

Three children were born to the couple, these being E. Fred Schwarz, a World War veteran, who expired five years ago; George E. Schwarz, and Miss Ernestine L. Schwarz. In addition, two grandchildren, Mildred Schwarz, and Ernest Fred Schwarz, 3rd, survive their grandmother.

Funeral services were held at her late residence on Monday afternoon, and the interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

Ledger 10/2/1932

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## OLD WALNUT ST. HOMES TORN DOWN

Burt and Pepper Residence Sites to Be Used as Parking Spaces

Two of the old Walnut street houses, which formerly occupied both sides of the street between 12th and 13th streets, the Burt residence at the northeast corner of 12th and Walnut streets, and 1219 Walnut, owned by the late Frederick Seckel Pepper, are now being demolished with the view of using the lots as parking spaces.

The Burt residence has not changed owners, except by will, in over a century. It was built in 1930 by Nathaniel Burt, a large property owner of a past generation, who bequeathed it to his son, Arthur Burt, in 1850. The latter's heirs have decided to clear the site. The Burt residence was conspicuous by the walled garden which adjoins it. The frontage of the lot is 48 feet on Walnut street. It has been used continuously as a residence till recently.

The heirs of Nathaniel Burt, a wealthy merchant of a past generation, are also the owners of considerable property at 6th and Market streets, including the premises 526-28-30 Market street, the site of the Robert Morris house, which President Washington occupied during his term of office in Philadelphia. In his will Robert Morris referred to the property "as my house on Market street, in which the President of the United States now resides." The property was sold in 1832 to Nathaniel Burt by John P. Kennedy, who had purchased it a number of years before from the Morris estate. The Burt heirs still own it.



11/24/1932

## Stephens Library, of Manayunk, A Boon To Scores of Students

More Than Eight Thousand Reference Books Available to  
People of This Section, Through Generosity of  
Manufacturer's Widow.—Subjects Widely Varied

High up on the hill overlooking the Schuylkill, on Krams avenue in Manayunk, stands one of the finest reference libraries which it is the good fortune of the people of any community to possess. And here it is, during the current time of great unemployment, that thousands of men and women have found knowledge in the books which are available, with the practice also having increased the number of children which make use of the facilities.

How many of the residents of this section know that the William B. Stephens Memorial Library contains 8323 volumes of reference work, on scores of different subjects?

Philosophy, economics, sociology, religion, money and banking, law, socialism, finance, production, government, military science, fraternal, education, manual training, commerce, communication, weights and measures, costumes, philology, natural science, languages, geometry, Mathematics, astronomy, geodesy, surveying, navigation, physics, mechanics, liguids, hydrostatics, hydraulics, sound, optics, heat, thermodynamics, electricity, chemistry, mineralogy, geology, meteorology, biology, evolution, botany, patents, steam engines, telegraph, telephone, textiles, building, assaying, surgery, medicine, farming, dairies, children, home furnishing, advertising, gardening, history, architecture, designing, and a thousand and one other subjects are among the information to be found on the pages of the books in this wonderful library.

The William B. Stephens Memorial Library owes its existence to the generosity of the late Caroline A. Stephens, for sixty-one years a resident of Manayunk.

By the terms of her will it became possible to establish, in memory of her husband, a Manayunk textile manufacturer, a reference library for scientific, historical and technical instruction and research which would primarily meet the needs of the rising industrial community in which she had so long resided. The memorial building occupies the site of the Stephens homestead on Krams avenue.

The structure is modern in every respect and constructed with particular thought in the minds of its builders for the purpose for which it is used. Just inside the main doors are oil paintings of Mr. and Mrs. Stephens which are well worth viewing.

The work of construction was started in September 1909, the cornerstone being laid in November of the same year, and on March 25th 1911, the building was opened

to the public with appropriate ceremonies. Miss Katherine H. Shoemaker was the first librarian and served until four years ago, when she was claimed by death. Her assistant for some years was Helen M. L. Folk. The first and only custodian of the building, Benjamin F. Gardner, still serves in that capacity.

The present librarian is Mrs. Edna Alrich, who on November 16th 1928, succeeded Miss Shoemaker, and is a person ideally suited for the position, she taking the keenest interest in the researches of each individual who calls at the library for information.

The library is governed by a Board of Trustees. The original Board consisted of J. Frederick Herbert, M. D., and Charles Franklin Shaw, Jr. The latter is still serving, with the former having been succeeded by his son, J. F. Herbert, Jr.

Among the new books at the library are the most recent travel works of Lowell Thomas, and the most modern medical text-books.

For the high school student the Stephens Library is an invaluable aid, and those of maturer years, who are in search of technical findings of experts in their line, are certain to find on the shelves books that will help them increase their knowledge of almost any subject they care to follow up. The building is open to the public every week day, from 2 until 9 P. M., holidays excepted.

11-7-1932

## Base Lines On Drill Hole In Big Rock

Boundaries of Mill Property,  
in Manayunk, Fixed in  
Unusual Way

DESCRIBED BY DEED

Mark Established Years  
Ago, by Ingenious  
Surveyor

A drill hole made more than 47 years ago in a large rock on the east bank of the Schuylkill still is used to mark the beginning of the

boundaries of one of the "Pekin Mills," in Manayunk according to a deed recorded recently at City Hall.

The "New Mill" or "Lower Mill," a five-story stone building, was conveyed recently by the Kensington Security Bank & Trust Company to the Kensington Corporation, "for and in consideration of the sum of \$1."

The deed transferring the property describes it in accordance with the lines and distances shown on the plan of a survey made by John H. Levering, surveyor and regulator of the 8th District of the City of Philadelphia, May 15, 1835. to wit:

"All that certain property beginning at a drill hole in a rock by the Schuylkill River, corner of land now or late of James Roland; thence along said Schuylkill River by low water mark thereof north 49 degrees 59 minutes 44 seconds" etc . . . "to a point in the middle of Schuylkill road or Main street; thence east by a line running through the middle of a double dwelling house known as the Superintendent's House 253 minutes, 8 3-8 seconds to the middle of the Schuylkill Navigation Company canal;" etc . . . "thence south," etc., "thence west," etc. "to the place of beginning." "begin that one of the Pekin Mills known as the New Mill or Lower Mill."

Years ago, when the boundaries were first defined, the rock loomed as an obstacle in the path of surveyors laying out the property lines. A fence post could not very well be sunk nor was it desirable even if practical. But instead of a detriment the rock, a landmark in the Manayunk section, turned out to be of some use.

"Here," reasoned one surveyor with more ingenuity than the others, "is a permanent landmark. It is but a simple matter to make a hole in the rock with an drill and there can then never be any dispute as to the boundary."

The drill was brought into play and a hole of sufficient size and depth was made. Since then all subsequent deeds have mentioned the hole, it has served its purpose well apparently, and no doubt will continue to do so as long as the property remains intact.

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12/8/32

## Death Claims James Kinney

Former Plumbing and Heating Contractor Passed Away on Wednesday of Last Week. — Leader Among B. & L. Organizers.

Manayunk lost one of its oldest and most respected residents with the demise of James H. Kinney, who died on Wednesday of last week, at his residence, 4225 Main street.

Mr. Kinney was born in Manayunk, on October 1st 1852, the son of James and Jane Kinney, and spent his entire life here. After attending the schools of this vicinity he was apprenticed to the plumbing and heating trade, in 1872, launching out in the business for himself. This work he carried on until about 1916, when he was succeeded by his nephew, James A. Burgess.

On December 30th 1889 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Barr, a local girl, at St. John the Baptist Church. His wife died in 1916. He was the last of his family, one sister who resided in California and another, Mrs. John Burgess, who lived here having preceded their brother in death.

In his active days Mr. Kinney was keenly interested in community affairs, having been one of the building and loan pioneers of the section, and giving much time to work of a fraternal nature.

Surviving Mr. Kinney are two nephews: James A. Burgess and John F. Burgess, of Manayunk; and three nieces: Sister Monica, of the Order of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who is stationed at Norristown, Pa.; Mrs. H. P. Barnes, of Roxborough; and Mrs. William Devereux, of Germantown.

Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church on Monday morning, and the interment was made in the adjoining churchyard.

12/8/1932

## L. F. Goshow Died Sunday

Retired Partner in Former Local Monumental Firm Expires After Long Illness. — Had Resided in Roxborough Since Boyhood.

Sympathy is being extended to the wife and family of Lorenzo Freas Goshow, of 428 Conarroe street, Roxborough, who died last Sunday in his 81st year.

Mr. Goshow, who had been confined to his home for several years, was taken with his final illness during the night, and expired in the morning.

Five weeks ago, on November 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Goshow, who is a sister of the late Rev. Dr. John Humpstone, a well-remembered Baptist clergyman, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

The deceased was born in Jeffersonville, Montgomery County the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Goshow, and came with his parents in boyhood to the 21st Ward, where he afterward continuously resided. For many years he was the senior partner of the memorial monumental firm of Goshow & McBride, which had its shops at the northeast corner of Ridge avenue and Conarroe street, Roxborough. For the past fifteen years, however, he lived in retirement.

On November 1st 1882, he was married to Elizabeth Humpstone, in Albany, N. Y., and the couple established their home on Conarroe street.

In addition to Mrs. Goshow, the deceased is survived by one son, William H. Goshow, assistant cashier in charge of the East Falls office of the Commercial National Bank; four daughters: Mrs. Elizabeth G. Miles, of Roxborough; Mrs. William McClennen, of Moore, Pa., and the Misses Mildred and Helen Goshow, the latter two being teachers in the public schools of Philadelphia.

There are also seven grandchildren, these being Mrs. E. Carol Barnhart, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Goshow; Elizabeth, Helen, Joseph, Benjamin, and Martha Miles; and William McClennen, Jr.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon.

11/24/1932

## 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 expecting 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.

2/12/1931

## GIDDY-UP!

The Roxborough Horse Thieves Association is to hold its annual round-up at Kugler's Cafe, 30 South 15th street, on February 26th.



The filly filchers will assemble at Conarroe lane and Ridge turnpike at 5:30 and board the stage coaches for the roadhouse, where the feedbags will be donned, much to the delight of all the members, particularly one Joseph Richart, Jr., one of the most flagrant of the 21st Ward horse stealers.

President George Wright, and Secretary Henry C. McVey will conduct the festivities, and a large class of initiates are expected to be given the rope.

Those who intend to be among the posse will please communicate with Secretary McVey, at Ridge avenue and Conarroe street.

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7/16/1931

## S. D. Jenness Ends His Life

**Dearnley Park Resident Shoots Self at Roxborough Country Club, on Monday Morning. — News Stuns His Many Friends Here.**

Hundreds of the friends of Shockley D. Jenness, of 450 Flamingo street, Roxborough, were stunned on Monday, to learn of his sudden death earlier in the day.

He shot himself at the Roxborough Country Club, Ridge and Manor roads. Illness is given as the cause of his action.

Mr. Jenness, one of the community's most popular young men, was twenty-nine years of age, married, and the father of two children.

According to Chief Koons, of the Springfield Township police, Mr. Jenness drove alone to the Country Club, which is at Ridge pike and Manor road, Springfield township, at 11 a. m. Employees of the club said he appeared gloomy and worried. About forty-five minutes later, a shot was heard from the second floor, and Jenness was found unconscious in a living room there, blood flowing from a wound in the right temple and a .32 calibre pistol nearby.

The wounded man was taken to the Memorial hospital in an ambulance. He did not regain consciousness. There was no note explaining the reason for his act, Chief Koons said.

Officers of the Manayunk Trust Company, where Jenness served as assistant treasurer, stated that his accounts were examined carefully and found to be in perfect order. He was one of the bank's most trusted officers, despite his comparative youthfulness for such a responsibility, and was generally conceded to have a brilliant future in the banking business.

12/29/32

## R. B. Wallace Succumbs To Pneumonia

**Retired Financial Leader Died at His Home in Roxborough**

### WAS NATIVE SON

**Served as President of Manayunk National Bank For Seven Years**

Robert Bruce Wallace, retired banker, died of pneumonia at his home, 6011 Ridge avenue, Roxborough, early last Thursday. He was 73.

For more than 10 years, Mr. Wallace was president of the Manayunk National Bank. He retired in April, 1928, when the bank was merged with the Quaker City National. By another merger, the institution later became the Commercial National Bank.

Mr. Wallace was born October 27, 1859, in Manayunk, a son of David and Mary Preston Wallace, and was educated in the public schools and Friends' Central School. He became cashier of the Manayunk bank in 1901. In young manhood he was married to Miss Irene Vassar Cornman, who preceeded her husband in death.

He was interested in the American Shipbuilding Company, and was an official of the Leverington Savings Fund and Loan Association. He was on the Board of Managers of the Memorial Hospital, Roxborough; board of Roxborough Baptist Church, and a director of the Roxborough Country Club. He was a member of the American Bridge Club.

Surviving are a son, C. Thompson Wallace, of Silver City, N. M., and a daughter, Mrs. T. X. Potts, of Philadelphia.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon from his late residence and the interment was made privately.

7/23/1931

89

## Vent Boxes Tell A Tale Of Service

**Plumbers of Old Were Artisans Whose Work Has Endured**

### OLD FIRMS RECALLED

**Expressmen Were Kept Busy Hauling Boxes From Foundry**

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

When you walk along the highways of the 21st Ward, look down at some of the vent boxes which cover the sewer pipes on the side walks. Consider them for a moment and then figure out the service which mechanics of old rendered for their patrons.

I noticed one vent box with the name of Matthew Bradley, of Green lane, cast in the cover. Inquiries disclosed that Bradley was in business here in the late seventies.

In another section I came across one with the name of Reliance Works, 4206 Main street, which was conducted by John Dobson, who now resides in Collingswood, N. J. and I found he was another local plumber of the late seventies and early eighties.

In the lower end of Manayunk one is to be seen with the name Perseverance Works, 4349 Main street. This shop, records show was maintained by G. S. Vandevander. On the side of a hilly street, in front of a vacant lot where there once stood a fine homestead, I sighted another box bearing the name Peoples' works, which was managed by William J. Craven, at 4458 Main street. Another in the Mount Vernon section, was marked Hyde & Shaw, 103 Division street.

Once in a while I come across some marked Bowkers' Industry Works, at 4365 Main street. Another plumber who seemed to be in great demand was James Priest, of Cresson and Gay streets.

When work like theirs can stand since 1875, to the present day, no one should complain about being satisfied.

An old-timer told me that the plumbers kept Runzer & Wagner, the local expressmen, very busy hauling the cast iron boxes from the foundries. Pat Dillon's shoe store, at Main and Mechanic streets, was the express office, and a busy place it was. Every evening the men of the community would gather there to discuss the happenings of the day.

7/30/1931

## Councilmen Petitioned by Coach Owners

"Taxi" Drivers of Old  
Thought License Fees  
Were Too High

### SOUGHT RELIEF

Building of "City Railroads"  
Affected Their  
Livelihood

That transit problems have long been a source of trouble to the City Fathers of Philadelphia, is evidenced in an original petition to the "Honorable Members of Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia," dated in the late 80's or early 90's, which was courteously loaned to us by Charles T. Jones, of Roxborough.

The time-faded document reads as follows:

"The undersigned, owners of Hackney Coaches in this city, would respectfully and earnestly represent to your honorable bodies the justice of repealing the Ordinance passed May 10th, 1855, which compels us to pay \$2.50 per annum license for each coach; and your Memorialists would respectfully ask the repeal of the said ordinance for the following reasons:

"We are a class having no other means for the support of our families, and since the said Ordinance was passed in 1855, our business has been very materially injured by the numerous City Railroads now existing, (not mentioning those yet to be laid) which traverse almost every section of the city, which have reduced our employment greatly, and have consequently lessened our means of support. This, together with the item of repairing our coaches when damaged, which frequently becomes necessary in consequence of the many tracks laid, and the present high price of provender, made the present license a burden, and we would ask that it may be reduced to Fifty Cents for each coach; and in duty bound, & etc."

The petition is signed by the following owners of Hackney Coaches: Roger McCloskey, John Toorish, John Duffie, James Haggerty, John McCartney, Daniel McDevitt, John Brown, Thomas Atkinson, John Hasson, Stewart McMullen, Neil McDevitt, Patrick Dugan, Patrick McAnulty, Michael Laggin, John McGillion, Patrick McCloskey, Patrick Mullin and Patrick McGarvey.  
SCCAFF.

8/20/1931

## Bessie McCoy Dies Suddenly In France

Widow of Richard Harding  
Davis Once Famed as  
"Yama Yama Girl"

### WAS BIG FAVORITE

Remains to Be Cremated and  
May Be Interred in  
Roxborough

Mrs. Richard Harding Davis, widow of the famous novelist and war correspondent, known on the stage as Bessie McCoy, died Sunday night at a hospital in France.

Her daughter Hope, who is in her teens, and Miss Louise Frey, her nurse and companion, were with her.

Mrs. Davis, known to thousands as the "Yama Yama Girl" a quarter of a century ago, had been summering with her daughter at St. Jean de Luz. A few days ago she was taken ill and hurried to Bayonne for treatment and hurried clinic operated by Dr. de Lay.

The body is to be taken to Paris for cremation. The ashes will be sent to the United States, probably to her Westchester county (N. Y.) home where her husband died fifteen years ago, or possibly to Leverington cemetery, in Roxborough, where her husband's ashes repose.

Mrs. Davis' husband was born in Philadelphia April 13, 1864 and died April 11, 1916. He was a son of L. Clark Davis, for years editor of the Public Ledger, and Rebecca Harding, a popular writer of her day.

Mr. Davis attended Lehigh University and Johns Hopkins, but did not graduate from either, quitting college early in life for newspaper work.

Bessie McCoy was Mr. Davis' second wife, his first, divorced, having been Cecll Clark, the daughter of a Chicago manufacturer.

Although the Davis estate had dwindled to \$58,000 at his death, the royalties from his many works sent it upward again, and recently it was appraised at \$136,181.

His widow was one of the great favorites of the light opera stage, and was born Elizabeth McCoy. She played with Weber and Fields as the "Yama Yama Girl."

In 1912 she was married to Mr. Davis, then in the heyday of his career. The only celebration of the wedding day was an outing to a resort near New York with 500 East Side children and their mothers, a picnic which Mr. Davis had arranged with a charitable organiza-

tion.

After a period of married life, Bessie McCoy expressed a yearning for the stage, in defiance of her husband's wishes.

After his death in 1916 she appeared for several years in dancing acts. For a time, in 1920, she appeared in the Shubert "Midnight Whirl."

In January, 1922, Miss McCoy appeared at the Chestnut Street Opera House as the headliner of a Shubert vaudeville bill. Her vehicle was a dancing sketch, "Castles in the Air," which gave her opportunities for many changes in costume.

12-15-1932

## C. C. Cox Dies In Hospital

Former 21st Ward Council-  
man Expired on Friday  
After Illness of Several  
Weeks.—Had Resided in  
Roxborough Many Years.

Charles C. Cox, 65, president of the Cox Lime and Stone Company, and member of the old Common Council from the 21st ward, died Friday in Memorial Hospital after an illness of several weeks.

He was born in Whitemarsh, son of Charles Alven and Margaret D. Cox, but spent most of his life in the 21st ward, where he was active in civic affairs. His home was at 425 Lyceum avenue, Roxborough.

He was a member of the Roxborough Lodge, No. 135, F. and A. M., and of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Roxborough. He is survived by two sons, Charles Alven and Irvin Cox, and a daughter, Mrs. Howard Murray, of Villanova. Funeral services were held Tuesday morning, with burial in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

8-13-1931

### DEMOLISHING SCHOOL

Workmen are busy razing the old red brick building which served the William Levering School, at Ridge and Monastery avenues, for many years. The old granite structure will be left standing for the use of the lower grades.

90

9/10/31

# Boys Played 'Bum-Bear' on Policeman

Bluecoat Was Victim of Boys  
in Once Popular  
Pastime

A ROUGH SPORT

Manayunk Lads Were Up-  
held by Late Magis-  
trate Wilhere

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

This is the time of the year when the boys of "teen" age are hurrying out to the fields to practice for the coming football season, but when I was a lad, things were a little different.

The roughest sport which we indulged in was "Bum Bear," or "Prisoner's Base." Do you remember the call of the master: "My bear is so free, let him have it hot and heavy—not?" And how you would hold off for a half a second fearing that delayed word "not?" And what a pummelling that unlucky bear took, if his master so desired?

On evenings in the early fall a group of boys usually assembled on a nearby corner. "Let's play something," some one would say. "All right would be the answer, and 'Sheepy Run,' 'Prisoner's Base,' 'Hare and Hounds,' 'Leap Frog,' 'Pussy in a Hat,' 'Bum Bear' would be some suggestions.

A toss-up would take place, and perhaps "Bum Bear" would be chosen. The first man to win on the drawout would be selected as "master" and the last one would be the "bear." A rope, about twenty feet long, would be procured. The master would grasp one end and the bear the other. The remainder of the players tied their caps to a short length of rope and stood around the bear, who was forced to stand in a stooping position. The master would then shout, "My bear is so free, let him have it hot and heavy" and if he added the word "not" in the next breath, the lad who struck the bear would have to take the bear's place in the game. Then the bear replaced the master, who in turn moved back among the other players. But if the master failed to say "not," then His Honor the bear received the wallop of his life from the other players.

It was the master's task to run after the "clubbers" to the full length of the long rope, and tag some one if he could. Sometimes he would be chasing "Smithy" or "Brownie," while the rest of the group would take advantage of his concentration to slug his bear plenty. Many a tough kid who had the reputation of being a bully would come out of the game thoroughly tamed, for the bear would usually take a lot of punishment

One evening, when a game was taking place at the rear of the Reading railroad's old Manayunk station, a certain young police officer, who was evidently striving to earn a great record as a kid snatcher, hid in the shadows of the baggage room door. He rushed out with the determination to make a "pinch," but one, "Nickie" Sohn, who was master at the time, seeing the copper rushing toward his bear, began running around the policeman in circles, until the lad had the bluecoat fastened tight to the bear with the twenty-foot clothes line. The rest of the boys closed in and what a dandy trouncing they gave the cop. When re-enforcements arrived they found a long-legged officer tied to a small kid. The cop sported a college-colored eye of blue and black, and his high gray helmet was pushed down over his eyes. The rescuers unravelled the policeman and the boy, and took them both off to the lockup.

A few seconds later the late Magistrate Maurice Wilhere, who was the last Manayunk man to hold that office, appeared in the police station, and released the unfortunate bear, who was very nearrowned in a flood of tears.

The next morning the newspapers layed up the incident as a Jesse James affair, in which a gang of pung hoodlums had assaulted an officer. The printed story gave the cop a ray of hope and he appeared before the Magistrate, ready to rear warrants for the arrest of the entire group of boys, which was known as the "Dutch Oakies."

"Nothing doing," said "the Judge," as I was addressing a Democratic rally at Knoll's Hall, and I saw the hole thing from a window. I do not uphold any officer for interfering with a healthful play, especially when sneaking tactics are employed to make an arrest. I certainly enjoyed that show, and I must say you were a bum bear."

And Bum Bear was that cop's name until he expired several years ago.

"Nickie" Sohn, now resides on the river road, near Mill Creek Road, and conducts a roadside stand on the site of Boyle's old picnic grove.

The "bear" of that day is one of this section's leading manufacturers at the present time, and many a rough we have had about the frosty night he was hog-tied to the policeman. "It was bad enough," he has told me, "stopping some of the blows intended for the cop, but it was crow-pie when they locked me up, and it was a double portion of the latter, when my daddy was through using his carpet slipper on my rumble seat."

9/24/1931

91

# Roxborough Has Historic Pear Tree

Planted by Peter Kieffer  
on East Shawmont  
Avenue

STILL FLOURISHES

Bore First Crop of Fruit  
Fifty-eight Years  
Ago

Two of the most popular varieties of the pear may justly be labeled as "Philadelphia products." One of these, the delicious "seckle" was discovered growing on the farm of Lawrence Seckel near Girard Point, in the "Neck" district, late in the eighteenth century. The original tree succumbed many years ago, but not, however, before numerous cuttings or "scions" had been removed from it, and this excellent variety perpetuated by grafting on other stocks.

The other Philadelphia pear, noted for its keeping qualities, is the "Kieffer." It began as a chance in the gardens of an Alsatian nurseryman, Peter Kieffer, on Shawmont avenue, Roxborough, and first bore fruit in 1873.

Kieffer had grown many specimens of the Chinese Sand Pear (*Pyrus serotina*) for ornamental purposes, the roundish fruit of the tree being virtually inedible in its raw state, though said to be very palatable when cooked and spiced. Near these Sand Pears were also grown some trees of the well-known Bartlett variety.

The original Kieffer tree still flourishes on the site of the old nurseries, now in the possession of David Fulmer Keely, a well-known attorney. The tree still bears freely and seems to retain sufficient vigor to assure many more years of existence.

9/10/1931

## A Big Time

If the Great Weathermaker is kind,  
And will graciously send us  
Atmospheric conditions  
Devoid of moisture,

We know where we are going to  
have  
A BIG time,  
Tonight.

And tomorrow's and Saturday's  
nights, too!

It's not exactly what you would call  
A close secret,  
For everybody, who is anybody,  
Is sure to be there,  
When the BIG doings take place.  
And when we say BIG—we mean  
BIG!

Just like the story of the Wow.  
Of course, you know what a  
Wow is?

It's an animal that is ten times  
Bigger than an elephant,  
And when it desires to cleanse  
Its pores, necessity makes it  
Find an ocean. For a towel  
To dry itself, it requires the  
Whole output of a Turk's textile  
Factory—but if it should happen  
To catch cold—and sneeze—  
WOW!

Well, this doesn't happen to be an  
Animal story, nor, even yet, a  
Bedtime tale, but it is BIG—  
Yes, indeed—BIG.

And it's going to take place  
Right here—in Roxborough.  
And hark ye, Boys, there'll be  
Plenty of ladies on hand—

All sizes, ages, styles and tempera-  
ments—

Blondes, brunettes, and ginger tops.  
And Girls—lend us your ears—

There'll be a whole army, navy and  
Marine corps, combined,  
Of "huminines" a' buzzin' around  
To do the honors.

Oh, Old Man Action  
Will be on hand every moment  
To make things hum.

And if you go one night,  
You'll not be satisfied until  
You've visited the place

The whole three evenings.  
George Dessin, who if we are  
Correctly informed, is about to be-  
come

A benedict, was one of the first  
To tip us off

About the BIG affair—and we're  
Not alluding to his wedding—we're  
Talking about the other party,  
To which the whole joyous world  
Is invited.

Another chap who has been "filling  
us up"

About it for weeks, is  
Admiral "Ellie" Barrett,

The big Gas Man from the East  
Walnut lane section,

Who is furnishing the oil  
For the BIG show, and in all truth  
It's as BIG as the "Atlantic" the  
Way he tells it.

What are we talking about?

Oh, yeah! we're coming to that—  
it's

Hattal-Taylor's Annual

VETERANS' FROLIC,

At Langhurst,

Which will hold sway,

Tonight,

Tomorrow night, and

Saturday night—  
If it doesn't rain.  
And even if there is a  
Precipitation of heavenly aqua,  
The affair will be held  
On early convenient dates.  
But no matter when it's held,  
It'll be BIG,  
And we don't mean  
Maybe.  
We'll be seein' ya!

A. C. C.

11-5-1931

### WARD'S FIRST



**FRANK L. KENWORTHY**  
Republican leader and membe  
of the Fairmount Park Commission  
who was on Tuesday elected to  
serve in City Councils.—To Mr  
Kenworthy goes the distinction o  
being the 21st Ward's first residen  
to be a member of the smaller  
councilmanic body.

## Coal Dealer Expired From Gun Wound

Joseph Missimer Died at  
Memorial Hospital  
on Saturday

### DEATH SHOCKS FRIENDS

Found on Green Valley Golf  
Course by Emloyees  
of Club

Joseph Missimer, fifty-four,  
7350 Ridge avenue, Roxborough,  
senior partner of the coal firm of  
George Missimer & Sons, Umbria  
street, Manayunk, died last Fri-  
day from a self inflicted gun  
wound in the head on the 17th  
fairway of the Green Valley Golf  
Club, Roxborough.

Despondency because of an ill-  
ness he had been suffering for  
some time and fear he would not  
recover is said to have been the  
cause. He expired in the Mem-  
orial Hospital.

Three employes of the golf  
club, Russel Relling, 4142 Man-  
ayunk avenue, Charles Miller, 4163  
Pechin street, and Francis Curcio,  
4163 Apple street, found Mr. Miss-  
imer unconscious shortly after  
9 A. M. with a bullet hole in the  
right temple, and a revolver lying  
by his side.

An hour before he was found,  
Mr. Missimer started for his daily  
morning stroll over the golf course  
from the club house. He was seen  
walking over the fairway and then  
disappeared.

No one heard the shot, but police  
believe Mr. Missimer wounded  
himself shortly after 8 o'clock,  
perhaps ten or fifteen minutes  
after he had left the club house.

Mr. Missimer had been a mem-  
ber of the coal firm, started by his  
father, for many years. He was  
widely known in Roxborough and  
Manayunk.

The deceased was buried on Mon-  
day afternoon from the Stetler  
Funeral Home, Ridge avenue and  
Martin street and the interment  
was made privately.

Mr. Missimer is survived by his  
wife, who previous to their mar-  
riage was Miss Emily Cording;  
three sons, William, Joseph, Jr.,  
and John; two brothers, George and  
Harry; three sisters, Mrs. Fanny  
Stauffer, Mrs. Susan Houghton and  
Miss Mary Missimer, and one  
grandchild. The coal business,  
conducted for so many years by Mr.  
Missimer, will be continued by his  
sons.

11/12/1931

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11/24/31

# When "Leona" Met "Vigilant" On Gridiron

## A Thanksgiving Day Game of the Past Is Recalled

### DOCTORS PLAYED

#### "Eddie" Eichman Captained One Eleven With "Frank- ie" Hoffman, Opposing

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

Thirty-two years ago, today, two 21st Ward football teams played a wicked game in a field adjoining Bowler's Woods, on the outskirts of West Manayunk. It was an old time Thanksgiving Day. Brisk, chilly winds were blowing across the fields, with flurries of snow falling every now and then.

Those old warriors of the gridiron are now daddies themselves, with sons following their footsteps, but the kids of today do not know of "the rough stuff" that was "pulled" in their fathers' time.

Eddie Eichman, who lived on Cresson street, near Grape street, was the captain of a team named the "Leona's" and it was an unbeatable combination finishing season after season without a defeat and being scored on only once. The player to make that record was Leonard Hams, who was fleet of foot and had a cabinet filled with medals and silver cups, that he'd won on local tracks and in cross country runs. Hams' great run, however, was useless because "Leona" won the game as usual.

That memorial Thanksgiving Day, of 1899, found the playing field crowded with fans from Manayunk and Roxborough, reinforced by a large crowd of natives who lived in West Manayunk. The Keely brothers, of Roxborough, had a strong team in the field against Eichman's squad, named the "Vigilants". Rail fences were crowded with rooters; fist fights were numerous and the smaller kids had roaring bonfires burning here and there about the field. Many of the fans were armed with shot guns which they used before and after the game hunting for rabbits.

After the teams had each taken fifteen minutes' practice, they went into action. When a man was "down" in those days, the entire mob of players would pile on top of him, and he had to be built of material like cast iron to survive the game. Every boy was a "huskie" and how they'd struggle for a score.

The teams were made up as fol-

low:

**LEONA Positions VIGILANT**  
Billy Belz ... L. E. Yocker Young  
Ed. Maiden . L. T. . Doc. Schofield  
Ed Crowthers L. G. . Gus Thoma  
Fatty Gagus ... G. . . . Pud Keely  
Tom Bigley ... R. G. . Kidder Keely  
Jack Donahue R. T. Smokie Becker  
T. Butterworth R. E. . . . Bill Riley  
Oscar Coyle . . Q. B. . . . Ollie Keely  
Tom Mooney L.H.B. Jack Schofield  
Billy Knoll . R.H.B. . Wissie Farley  
Ed Eichman . F. B. . Doc. Hoffman  
The final score was Leona, 6;  
Vigilant, 0.

During one scrimmage, Butterworth suffered a fracture of an arm, and "Pud" Gillespie had a narrow escape when one of the armed fans dropped a shot gun which discharged between "Pud's"

The Manayunkers celebrated an undefeated season. The Penn-Cornell games at Franklin Field in modern times have nothing on the old time contests of past years.

Three of those old time players are today leading physicians of this community: Dr. Edward Eichman and Dr. Frank Hoffman, who are playing fullback against diseases; likewise, Dr. James Dobson Schofield. "Doc" Eichman can justly boast that he lead a team that went on the records of the past as undefeated.

11-5-1931

## Old Newspaper Ceases Publication

Readers of the Manayunk Chronicle and Advertiser, which ceased publication last week, will regret the passing of that local newspaper, which has been in existence since the days immediately following the Civil War.

The old weekly was established in 1869, by the late James Milligan and John McCook, who were affiliated together under the firm name of Milligan and McCook. Mr. McCook had charge of the mechanical end of the business, while James Milligan edited the paper. The latter wielded a pen which became a power in this vicinity and the surrounding country.

Upon the death of Mr. McCook, John E. Milligan, son of the editor, who himself died on May 24th of this year, and Samuel Ehly, were admitted to the firm, which then changed its name to Milligan and Company, which continued until last week.

James Milligan was connected with the Chronicle, up until his death in 1938, after which the business was directed by John Milligan and Samuel Ehly. Mr. Milligan's death this year, placed the whole responsibility of issuing the publication upon Mr. Ehly.

12-10-31

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## Notice To Depositors

In order to satisfy the queries of Suburban Press readers, we submit the following report of the Depositor's Committee of the Roxborough Trust Company, sent to this office on Tuesday, last.

"The Committee formed for the purpose of formulating plans for the re-opening of the Roxborough Trust Company, desire to inform the Depositors that they have made a thorough investigation of the Bank's condition and have held innumerable meetings, for the purpose of adopting a plan which would be acceptable to the State Banking Department.

"The Committee necessarily had to await the completion of the Inventory prepared by the Deputy in charge, before they could intelligently consider any plan. This information was obtained by the Committee on December 3rd, 1931.

"The Committee called upon the State Banking Department in Harrisburg in order to ascertain the Department's attitude toward the re-opening of the Institution. The rigid requirements for the re-opening of any closed bank are such that the Committee concluded it would not be advisable to submit a plan at the present time owing to the fact that the Appraisal of the Assets of the Institution will necessarily have to be considered in any future plan which may be proposed.

"The financial matters in connection with the Institution are entirely in the hands of the State Banking Department and not the Depositor's Committee.

"It is the opinion of this Committee that the unnecessary and unreasonable withdrawals on the part of the Depositors caused the officers of the Bank to put the affairs in the hands of the State Banking Department."

DEPOSITOR'S COMMITTEE

12-24-1931

### TO SUBMIT PLAN

The Depositors Committee of the Manayunk Trust Company, are about to submit to the State Banking department a plan for re-organizing and re-opening the Manayunk Trust Company. In a statement issued on Monday, C. Brooke Jones, the chairman, and Francis E. McGill, the secretary, concurred in saying, "We believe that the condition of the Company justifies re-opening. The formal order of liquidation will not prevent the re-opening, if the Department of Banking approves the plan."

12-17-1931

# Joseph S. Miles, Roxborough Historian and Artist, Dies Following Long Illness

Made Many Researches Into "Past" of Section in Which  
His Ancestors Were Always Prominent.—Sketches  
Hung in The Academy of Fine Arts.—Fidelity  
to Detail in Writings and Drawings a  
Feature of All His Works

With the death of Joseph Starne Miles, which occurred on Sunday evening at his late residence, 5453 Ridge avenue, Roxborough, lost a noted resident and a scion of one of the section's oldest families.

Mr. Miles, who was fifty-five years of age, succumbed after an illness of four months.

The son of the late Joseph and Martha Miles, he was born and reared in the 21st Ward, attending the Green lane elementary school, as a pupil under the late Robert "Dad" Murphy, after which he matriculated at the Central Manual Training School, graduating in the Class of 1893. Following this he enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania, and completed his studies with the Class of 1897, since which he followed his vocation as an architect.

Mr. Miles was an artist of note, his pen and ink sketches of historical buildings, and the landscape of this vicinity being classed as extremely well executed, with an attention to detail which was exceptional. Several of his drawings have been exhibited at the Academy of Fine Arts.

He was the secretary of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society ever since its founding, and his researches into the "past" of Roxborough and its environs have always been considered as being remarkably complete.

The deceased was also a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the City History Society, the Friends of the Wissahickon, Sons of the American Revolution, Roxborough Lodge No. 135, F. and A. M., and of the Manayunk Baptist church.

Mr. Miles' great-grandfather, Joseph Starne, at the time of the American Revolution, as a lad of 16 years, resided in what is familiar to present-day residents of this locality, as "the Hegert House", in which was organized the Roxborough Lodge of the Masonic Order, on Ridge avenue, opposite Gorgas Park.

When General John Armstrong's division of Washington's Army marched down the Ridge road, to attack the left flank of Howe's British troops, composed of Hessians under the command of Knyphausen in the Battle of Germantown, the youthful Starne joined the Americans and fought for the liberty of

the Colonies, which action, incidentally, took place on ground at or near, where his great grandson resided at the time of his death.

The deceased's grandfather, Benjamin Miles, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and his father, Joseph Miles, served with the Union force in the Civil conflict of 1860-65.

Mr. Miles is survived by his wife, who previous to their marriage was Miss Elizabeth Goshow; three daughters, Elizabeth, Helen and Martha Miles; two sons, Joseph and Benjamin Miles; two brothers Benjamin C. Miles and Griffith Miles; and one sister, Mrs. Franklin Keller, of New York.

Funeral services were held at his late residence, yesterday afternoon and the interment was made in Leverington Cemetery.

2-19-1931

## Horse Thieves Will Assemble Next Thursday

Annual Meeting to Be Held  
on February  
26th

DINE AT KUGLER'S  
Secretary McVey Sends Out  
Call to Posse  
Members

When the members of the Roxborough Express Horse Company, better known nowadays as "The Horse Thieves" - - - assemble at Ridge avenue and Conarroe street, on Thursday evening of next week, they will start on a jaunt which has been an annual occurrence for about one hundred and thirty years.

A strict account of the minutes of this meeting has been continuously maintained, and if Secretary Henry C. McVey, of Harmon Road, were to search back through the records,

he would probably come across a notation of an act of the solons of Pennsylvania, dated March 10th 1780, which reads.

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Section 3: And whereas persons who have heretofore committed the offence of horsetealing, have often escaped from justice by reason of the insufficiency of the bail taken for their appearance to answer for the same.

Section 4: No persons or persons who shall be charged with the stealing of any horse, mare or gelding, on the direct testimony of one witness or who shall be taken with such horse, mare or gelding, in his or her possession, shall be admitted to bail otherwise than by one or more justices of the supreme court.

And on April 5th, of 1790, another bit of legislation was enacted, to wit:

Every person convicted of horse stealing or as accessory thereto before the fact, shall restore the horse, mare or gelding, stolen to the owner or owners thereof, or shall also pay to him, or her, or them, the full value thereof, and also pay the like value to the commonwealth. And moreover a servitude for any term not exceeding seven years, in the discretion of the court be fore which the conviction shall be and shall be confined, kept to hard labor, fed and clothed in manner hereinafter mentioned.

Horse stealing, in the early days of Roxborough, very evidently occurred with disconcerting and direful frequency, thereby making it necessary to organize The Express Horse Company, as a sort of vigilance committee to recover the stolen animals.

The organization grew until it numbered well over 300, and it is said that it has a record of recovering every horse that was stolen in the Ward.

In those days everyone owned a horse, and thieves were numerous in the city but they were unable to make a living in the Twenty-first Ward because of the vigilance of the organization.

In later years the horses began to thin out and, as a consequence, the society began to dwindle as the need for the "vigilants" disappeared. The automobile made its appearance and soon there were few of the noble beasts in the Ward.

Someone thought of reviving the organization under this odd name in order to keep the memory of its

Business and political leaders, have agreed upon well-being cannot be advanced. But application of the ax is not so easy. Albert H. W. National Bank, thinks it points and a lowering of tariffs. But artistic, take a middle ground. Prosperity depends on the earnings of the people of all the world." \* \* \*



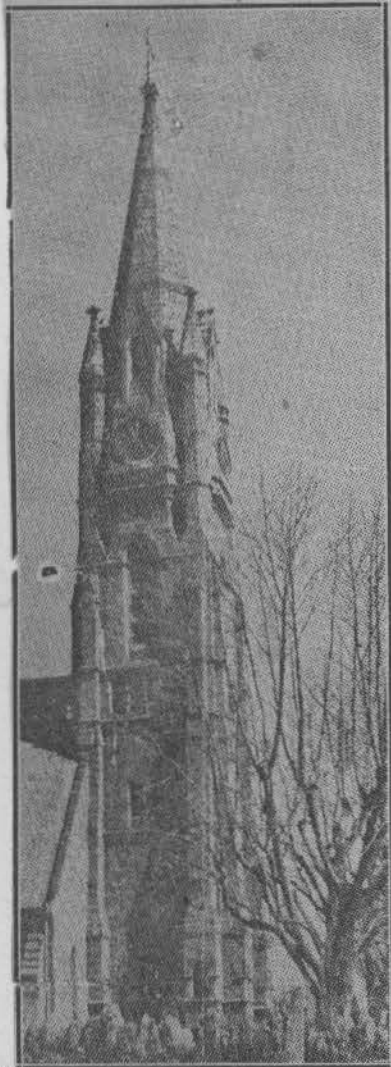
12/3/31

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A CENTURY OLD

# St. David's Parish Was Formed A Century Ago

Episcopal Church, in Manayunk, Established December 3rd, 1831.—Is "Mother" Church of Neighboring Congregations.—Special Services Being Held all Week



St. David's P. E. Church, on Dupont street, Manayunk, the members of which are this week celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

special services marking the 100th anniversary of St. David's P. E. Church, on Dupont street, Manayunk, started last Sunday morning with Corporate Communion for men, at eight o'clock.

Every night during this week, there has been, and will be, some observance relative to the centennial celebration of the church.

Monday night was Organization Night, with all the church groups taking part in the program.

Tuesday night was designated Community Night, and pastors of neighboring churches were invited by the rector, Rev. Dr. J. Ogle Warfield, to participate in the services.

Last night was Sunday School Night, and young and old, alike, joined in the exercises commemorating the birth of St. David's Church and Sunday School.

Tonight will be Music Night, and a long and varied program of instrumental and vocal selections will

be provided by visiting organists, artists on other musical instruments, soloists, and the Roxborough Male Chorus.

A Congregational Dinner is planned for tomorrow night, as a general "Get-Together" occasion, and Saturday is reserved for young people.

The closing of the Centennial Week will be held on Sunday, when it is expected that Bishop Taitt will be present to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

It is recorded that in the year 1831, the town of Manayunk contained 317 dwellings and 2070 inhabitants. This estimate probably included adjacent portions of Roxborough, as well, but up to that time, as far as is known, there had been no Episcopal services held there, unless by British soldiers, during their stay near here, during the Revolution.

The story of the beginning of St. David's Church contains a recital of determined enthusiasm and faith. Three members of St. Stephen's Church, of Philadelphia, who resided in the neighborhood: Tobias and Samuel Wagner, of School House lane, and Charles Valerius Hagner, of Manayunk, were largely instrumental in having the parish formed. One morning in November of 1831, Mr. Hagner received a call from Rev. Robert Davis, who sought Hagner's interest in the establishment of an Episcopal church in Manayunk. When Mr. Hagner attempted to dissuade him, the clergyman showed the manufacturer the names of almost 300 persons, affiliated with the church, which he had personally gathered by a house-to-house canvass. As a result of this interview, on November 26th of that year, a notice was posted on a building, known as the "Academy", that there would be a meeting held in the structure on Saturday, December 8th, for the purpose of organizing a congregation.

The "Academy" was a school house that stood on a knoll on the west side of Main street, near Lock street. In that building, in response to the call, fifteen persons met and determined to form a parish and erect a church. They elected twelve vestrymen, and appointed a committee to arrange immediately for regular services. Plans were at once laid for the purchase of a parcel of ground, on which to place a building. The name of St. David's was adopted—probably from the name of some

"old country" church which one or more of the vestry remembered sacred associations—and the leaders of the enterprise set diligently to work to secure funds for the place of worship, obtaining money, not only from people residing in the neighborhood, but from other members of the Episcopal Church in the diocese as well.

On June 13th, 1832, the title to a portion of the present lot was secured, the price being \$600; the erection of a building measuring 39 by 64 feet inside, was begun, and on August 2nd of that year, the cornerstone was laid by the late Bishop H. U. Onderdonk. Rev. Christian F. Cruse was appointed by the Advancement Society of Pennsylvania as missionary for six months.

On Friday, May 1st, 1835, the church was duly consecrated by Bishop Onderdonk, Rev. Mr. Cruse, Rev. Mr. Rodney, of Germantown, and several of the city clergy.

The building is of Birdsboro brownstone, with the roof rising 50 feet above the floor, and the spire rises 156 feet.

Almost immediately following the consecration of the church, Mr. Cruse resigned, and on August of 1835, Rev. Frederick Freeman was unanimously elected rector, a position he held for three and one-half years. In November of 1839, Rev. Mr. Jansen accepted the position and held it for about the same length of time. For five months after the resignation of Mr. Jansen, the parish remained without a rector.

Rev. Azariah Prior, the next clergyman, served from 1843 until 1848, and the prospects of the church brightened and its strength increased, the people never having lost hope or faith.

Rev. Mr. Prior was followed in November of 1848, by Rev. Milton C. Lightner, who later became one of the most distinguished clerics of his day. He labored in Manayunk but eighteen months, when he resigned and was succeeded by Rev. B. Wistar Morris, who became the Bishop of Oregon. For six years Mr. Morris threw all of his energy into the work of St. David's parish. He secured the lot on which the parish building stands, and accomplished the erection of the first Sunday School building, before he was called away to Germantown.

In the spring of 1857, Rev. J. W. Claxton became the parish leader. He established a Sunday School and afternoon service, two miles away, on Ridge avenue, and by 1862 this mission had grown into what is now St. Alban's Church, in

Ledger 6/18/1931

Henry and Ridge avenues and a very few Class A sites scattered throughout the community.

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#### Main Street Commercial

Lining the Reading Railroad tracks is an industrial zone which includes one least restricted zone west of the railroad south of Shurs lane. Commercial zones, open to stores, offices and a few light industries lie along Main street for almost its entire length, along Ridge avenue, Shurs lane and other traffic cross streets.

In Falls of Schuylkill the situation is reversed. Class A residential covers almost half of the area lying west of Wissahickon avenue and north of Allegheny. Class B and C residential follow in importance with perhaps a fifth of the area given over to the three other classes, D, E and F.

Commercial zones are found along Midvale avenue, Ridge avenue and 35th street, while a large industrial area skirts the community on the south and east.

## ZONE PLAN READY FOR MANAYUNK

### Falls of Schuylkill Section

#### Chiefly Class A Residential on Map

Manayunk and Falls of Schuylkill, although adjacent, differ widely in property classification, according to the plans of the Philadelphia Zoning Commission.

The first is an old, industrial and manufacturing community and is so indicated on the zoning map, while the Falls, with the exception of an industrial area flanking it on the south and east, is predominantly residential, nearly half of it being indicated as Class A, the highest type of zone.

The plans of the zoning commission for these two sections in north-west Philadelphia will be explained at a public hearing tonight in the Falls Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia at Midvale avenue and Widener drive.

#### North Phila. Completed

With tonight's meeting the commission will have completed its zoning of all of Philadelphia lying to the north of Frankford Creek and Allegheny avenue.

Residents of Germantown, Chestnut Hill and Roxborough, who were unable to attend the two previous public hearings of the commission, may learn how their property is zoned at tonight's meeting, since these sections are included on the map to be shown this evening.

Members of the zoning commission will be present to explain the various types of zones and the reasons for including varying kinds of property within them, with the large scale map and lantern slides, the latter indicating types of structures permitted and barred from the various zones.

#### Public Hearings Required

Tonight's meeting is in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Zoning Enabling Act, which states that public hearings must be held in each community zoned before the plans of the commission are presented to City Council for enactment into an ordinance.

In Manayunk, Class C residential is the predominating residential section, with Class D a close second. In the former no rows of houses are permitted and it differs from Classes A and B mainly in the size of the front, side and rear yards, which must surround the houses.

Class D permits rows of homes, but as in all the residential zones all commercial and industrial establishments, shops, stores, public garages and filling stations and industrial plants of all kinds are banned. There are several B zones along

Roxborough, its first rector being the former assistant at St. David's, Rev. Marcus A. Tolman.

Rev. Mr. Claxton was also present in 1858 at the first service held in the old Poor House, at Ridge avenue and Righter street, which subsequently developed into the establishment of St. Timothy's Church. Mr. Claxton resigned St. David's Church in 1862, and for a long period following, the parish was once more without the services of a rector.

On April 23rd, 1866, Rev. F. H. Bushnell accepted the rectorship and during his time the church was renovated, the grounds improved, and the lot on the corner of Terrace and Hermit streets, where St. Stephen's Church now stands, was secured for a mission building. That building was put under roof, and plans for a new Sunday School at St. David's prepared before Mr. Bushnell resigned on December 8th, 1874.

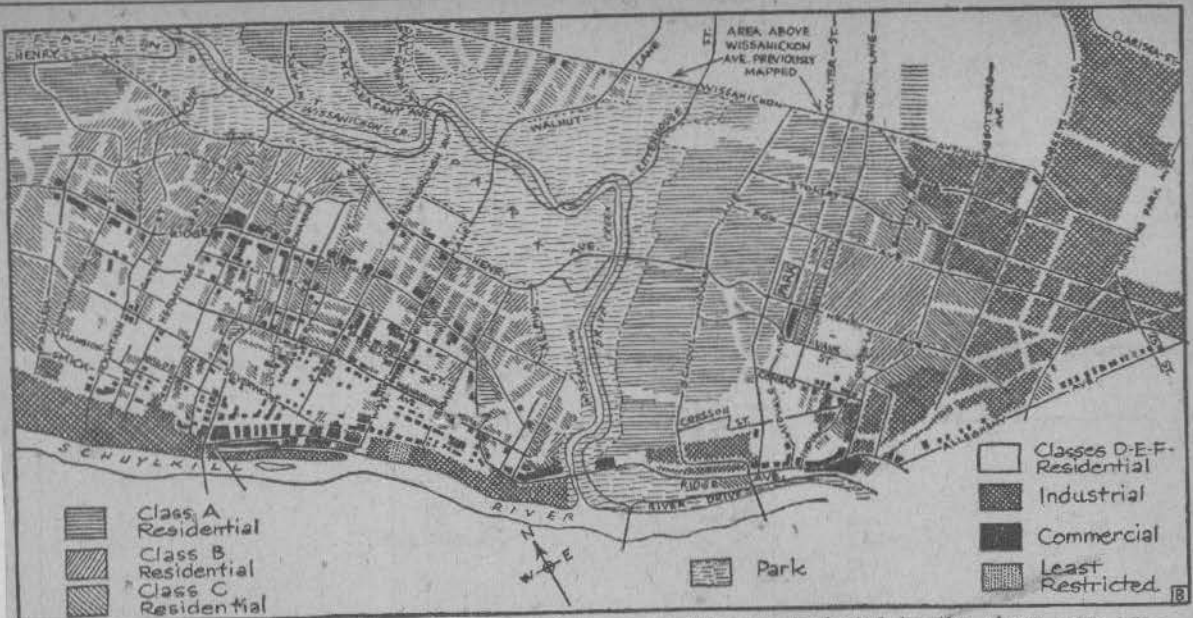
Easter of 1875, saw Rev. Charles Logan serving as rector. The cornerstone of St. David's Sunday School building was laid on June 17th, 1876, and it was opened on Thanksgiving Day of that year.

On December 23rd, 1879, the old church was destroyed by fire, after forty-four years of sacred use and associations. In May of 1880, the cornerstone of the present building was laid by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Stevens. Messrs. James Stafford, Orlando Crease and George Missimer, formed a building committee which was in charge of the construction. It was hoped to have the church finished in time for the fiftieth anniversary on December 3rd, 1881, but that occasion had to be celebrated in the Sunday School building. Three weeks later, however, the new church was consecrated on St. Stephen's Day, December 26th, the Bishop of the Diocese again officiating.

On Easter of 1891 Rev. Mr. Lon resigned as rector of St. David's and was succeeded by Rev. F. A. D. Launt, D. D., who served a long term of service until 1911.

Rev. R. W. Woodroffe was the next spiritual leader of the Manayunk church, but stayed but one year when his place was taken by Rev. Edward Stewart Hale, who directed the destinies of the parish, until 1918, when he was stricken with influenza, which was then epidemic, and he died. His body rests, as stated in a history of the church, "until the day break," in St. David's churchyard.

The deceased clergyman was succeeded by Rev. Francis B. Barnett, and in February of 1923, Dr. J. Ogle Warfield became the rector and still serves in that capacity.



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

*Germantown Telegraph*  
4/4/1934

## The Leverings of Germantown

By A. C. CHADWICK, JR.

In a well-written volume, entitled "Historic Germantown," compiled in 1908, by David Spencer, D. D., a fine reference is made to Roxborough as follows: "Wigard Levering, his wife and four children settled here in 1685. For seven years this was their home, but in 1692 they removed to what is now Roxborough, where he bought five hundred acres of land and became one of the founders of that community, with whose history his descendants have been so prominently identified.

"It was his grandson, William, who built the first hotel in Roxborough, known as the "Leverington Hotel." Through his exertions the first schoolhouse in that town was erected, on land which he gave in 1748. The earliest efforts for the establishment of religious services there were made by the Levering family, whose ancestry first lived in Germantown. They were the founders of the historic Baptist Church in that community, and gave the ground on which its meeting houses were erected. This church was organized in 1789, and from its constitution to the present time there have always been one or more of the descendants of Wigard Levering serving it as a deacon, as well as in other offices of honor or trust. It was during the pastorate of the author of this book, from the beginning of 1865 to the latter part of 1877, that the old meeting house, back in the graveyard, was torn down and the present magnificent structure erect-

ed. The bell in the spire of this church took the prize at the Centennial Exposition in 1876.

"From this noted family in Roxborough, whose first home in this country was in Germantown, have gone members who have been identified with the building up of villages, towns and cities in other parts of this country. Notably is the cast with the Levering family, of Baltimore, Md., among whose honored names stand today the brothers, Eugene and Joshua Levering. The same might be said of Lafayette, Indiana, where the brothers, John and William, sons of Abraham Levering, became so distinguished in their day.

"All the renown and achievement of this family, through all these two hundred and sixteen years in the marvelous outreach, may be traced back with ever-deepening interest to their original settlement in Germantown."

12-4-1930

## Picked for Army Examination

Wesley Skilton Calverley, of Wigard avenue, Roxborough, on Tuesday was named one of the five members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who will take the regular examination for admittance to West Point in March.

Calverley, who is 19, is a private in Troop C, of the 103d Cavalry. He was graduated from the Roxborough High School and attended the Cornwall Preparatory School, at Cornwall, N. Y.

He was selected from 30 candidates in a preliminary examination. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Calverley, Jr. His father is a widely known real estate man with offices at 6160 Ridge avenue.

9/11/1930

## Letters To The Editor

Roxborough, Sept. 8, 1930.  
To the Editor of the Suburban Press,  
Dear Sir:

In answer to Ed. Mustin's, "Do you Remember?" I can say yes to forty of those questions in your August 21st issue.

In answer to John M. Sickinger's queries of August 28th, I can answer to thirty-nine questions affirmatively, and to the writer of the "Do you Remember?" of September 4th, I can answer yes to fifty-four.

JOSEPH E. J. MCGEE.

Letter to the Editor:  
The Suburban Press,  
Philadelphia, Pa.,

Among the questions asked in last week's paper there was one which I will ever remember. My father, James L. Marlin, of 4555 Manayunk avenue, Roxborough, was a fireman at Company No. 12, and whenever there was a "Tub race" on the canal he would have us children view it from the Mill Bridge opposite the old fire engine house. Once when the pay bridge collapsed on account of the large crowd gathered there, father rescued nine or ten persons. If anyone remembers the date this happened I would be interested to know it.

Every edition of The Suburban Press is to me like a letter from "Home Sweet Home" even the advertisements seem like messages from friends I knew so well nearly a quarter of a century ago.

With best of wishes I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Margaret Marlin Plumsted

1301 Third street

Bay City, Michigan

September 1st, 1930

7/10/1930

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## Thousands Participate in 21st Ward's Great Parade

Twenty Sunday Schools Have Members in Line.—Color and Music Predominate in Brilliant Affair.  
—Weather Was Ideal

Lyceum avenue, from Manayunk avenue to Ridge avenue, with all the side streets, and Ridge avenue, both north and south of Lyceum avenue, was on Friday last, once more crowded with thousands of Fourth of July Sunday School marchers and spectators, thus presenting for the 22nd time the greatest spectacle of the year in the Twenty-first Ward.

Men, women and children—oh, hundreds of children—clad in costumes of red, white and blue—American flags—Sunday School banners—martial music—balloons—floats—pretty girls—happy youngsters—knicker-clad men—white garbed women—more flags—more music—clergymen, with their chests out—Sunday School Superintendents, wearing canes—church workers—streamers with Biblical quotations—fat men—thin women—young men—John Gallatti—kids in overalls—mothers with go-carts—Pops, too—Charlie Flanagan—Mattis, on a horse—Hattal-Taylor Post's Bugle and Drum Corps—with George Winterle and "Tuck" Turner—drill teams, with hoarse leaders—"Onward Christian Soldiers"—cheery "Hellos"—"Nawnie" Bovard—farmers—Blanche Heidinger—the Lindberghs; Charles A., Ann and Charles A., Jr.—the latter in a ground plane—Walter Button—Pilgrims—Galilee Baptist's fine turn-out—Admiral Byrd, in an airplane, crying for a "big" balloon—Mrs. Calverley—"America"—still more flags—"Jim" Helms—Joseph "Mountain" Missimer, who's still a boy—Hattal-Taylor's boys again—babies, flocks of 'em; white, black, brown and red—horsemen—and equestriennes—ponies, which never had a chance to grow up—busses for old folk—Uncle Sam—cheers—Howard Lukens—the South Pole—and other impressions ad infinitum.

The Fourth dawned with a bright sun shining and a cool air stirring, making it an ideal day for the parades and picnics.

Headed by Chief Marshal William Flanagan, the picnickers left the junction of Manayunk and Lyceum avenues, at five minutes after eight, marching east on Lyceum avenue to Ridge avenue, where the various schools separated, some going north and the remainder turning south, to their respective groves.

Brilliance and beauty was accentuated by varied costumes and flags as the parade passed. The great line of marchers, which as stated before, started at 8.05, continued until the last school had passed Ridge and Lyceum avenues at 9.45. Bands of all descriptions were plentifully interspersed with the men, women and children, all pouring forth inspiring church and patriotic music, emphasizing the go-

aspect of the beautiful day, and holding the attention of the thousands of spectators who lined the route of the parade.

The first group in line came from the First Presbyterian Church, which had the recently organized Hattal-Taylor Bugle and Drum Corps, in new uniforms, as an escort. This school was closely followed by that of the First Baptist Church of Manayunk, which had with it the Boy Scouts of Troop No. 51. Roxborough Baptist, with Rev. J. Foster Wilcox in the lead, was the third organization in line and made a noteworthy showing, as to numbers and its a mounted escort.

To the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers," the marchers from the Leverington Presbyterian Church passed along Lyceum avenue, with a large number of its school and church members being present. And next came the First M. E. Church, from Green lane, which had probably the largest number of any congregation in line. Rev. Frank D. Lawrence was at the head of the column wearing a Turkish fez. Following Mr. Lawrence were a large group of the male members of the school, all with headgear similar to that of their leader, each with a megaphone through which was sung in a most impressive manner, "Onward Christian Soldiers." Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh were represented in this aggregation.

The Roxborough Band led the picnickers from St. David's P. E. Church, which also had a good turn-out of members, among whom were children garbed as farmers drawing hay-wagons in which smaller tots were sitting.

Rev. L. Wartena, who led the Wissahickon Presbyterian representation, will have no apologies to make to any of his contemporaries over the showing of his followers. The colored Sunday School and church workers from Galilee Baptist Church, with Rev. W. O. Harper, D. D., in the van, made their usual fine display, many of the men being dressed in blue shirts and straw sombreros.

Roxborough Presbyterian, with Rev. Frank G. Bossert, was the next school in line. The folk from Uner Roxborough turned out in better numbers than ever. Emmanuel M. E., from Silverwood and Gates street, had in its line of marchers a party of girls representing the hardy Christian women of Puritan days bearing a huge Bible; and the

women of the church and school all wore sunbonnets.

Ridge Avenue Methodist, from Shawmont avenue, came marching by, to the lively tune of "Oh, Come Let us Adore Him," played by the West Philadelphia Band, and were followed by the men, women and children of St. Timothy's Church, who were kept in step by the martial airs played by the nickle-helmeted band from Henry H. Houston Post No. 3 of the American Legion.

Rev. M. G. Gosselink was grand marshal of the pupils and friends of the Tadmage Reformed School, from Rector and Pechin streets, who were accompanied by Joseph Richard's Roxborough Band. William E. Marley's Band furnished the music for the Epiphany Lutheran School, which was led by Rev. Henry A. D. Wacker. The girls in white and blue, and the men in red capes, from this school added a touch of color to the parade which drew forth the praise of the spectators along the entire line of march.

Grace Lutheran paraded past Lyceum avenue and Mitchell street, with its band playing "My Country 'Tis of Thee", with a large party in line. Ebenezer Methodist led by its pastor, Rev. E. B. Baker, made a particularly striking display by having all of its marchers wearing blue paper fezzes, with a large white "E" on the front. These attractive hats some five hundred in number, were made by the women and girls of the church and school. At the head of this school a flag bearer held aloft the banner of the Christian, "By This Sign We Conquer."

Rev. J. Norman Martin walked at the head of the scholars and church members from the Wissahickon Baptist school and church. Immediately following him was a group of twenty girls wearing aprons, on nineteen of which were large letters, the whole spelling "Wissahickon Baptist."

Fourth Reformed was the next school in line, and was led by its pastor, Rev. Richard P. Mallery. This school was also one of those which had a great number of persons in line.

Bethany Lutheran Church, led by its clergyman, Rev. H. C. Schmiede and John H. Gallatti, the 21st Ward's 96 year old citizens, who has never missed walking in a parade since he has lived in the ward, had a mixed drill team, headed by John Helwig, which received the loud handclapping of the sightseers every time it went through its intricate evolutions. The band accompanying this school was clad in Arab costumes, thus adding to the colorful tone of the parade.

Wissahickon Methodist was the last group in line, and was led by the pastor, Rev. John C. Berl. This congregation also had a drill team, composed of boys and girls, under the supervision of Mrs. Marie Wissahickon, of Wanamaker's Caddis, and Miss Betty Glover.

As each school reached Ridge avenue, its members turned in the direction of the woods in which the merry-makers were to spend the day.

The Wissahickon Baptist, Tadmage Reformed, Epiphany Lutheran, and Grace Lutheran went to woods on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek south of Walnut lane and the Wissahickon Methodists proceeded to a grove on the

north side of the same thoroughfare.

Wagon wheel bridge on the east side of the creek, were the homes of the Ebenezer Methodist and the Fourth Reformed Schools. Fairmount Park, near Hermit lane, was the scene of the Bethany Lutheran picnic. The colored pupils of Galliee Baptist were located back near the park on East Dupont street.

St. Timothy's and Leverington Presbyterian enjoyed the day on East Gates street, while the Ridge avenue Methodists had a good time on Shawmont avenue.

The Episcopal Cathedral grounds furnished the site of the outing of St. David's and St. Alban's. The Wissahickon Presbyterian School enjoyed the day on East Andorra avenue.

Roxborough Baptist and Emmanuel Methodist were close to each other on Livezey's lane. First Methodist, Roxborough Presbyterian, and the First Presbyterian spent the day on East Port Royal avenue. The First Baptists picnicked on East Manatawna avenue.

The P. O. S. of A. co-operated with the local Fourth of July parade committees, in giving some of the local schools the use of thirty fine silk American flags, which were delivered to churches previous to the time of marching. Camps No. 50 of Krams and Manayunk avenue and No. 111, of Fountain street, also granted the use of several larger flags to various groups.

Next year the 21st Ward Sunday Schools plan to observe the 100th anniversary of the Fourth of July picnic in this vicinity, and it is hoped to erect some kind of a permanent memorial to William Lawson, superintendent of the Fourth Reformed Sunday School, who for July 4th 1831, hit upon the safe and sane manner of celebrating Independence Day.

This custom, inaugurated by a 21st Ward citizen, has prevailed ever since, until now every Sunday School, of every denomination, in this section, parades and picnics in this fashion. The parade of last Friday was the 22nd time that the schools of the ward have united in one grand line of marchers.

7/10/30

## Catholics of Section Hold Annual Fetes

Fourth of July Custom of  
Years, Is Followed  
Again

PARADES RE - ROUTED

Holy Family, St. John's  
and St. Mary's Schools  
Enjoy Picnics

On the stroke of eight, last Friday morning—Independence Day—the members of the Holy Family Church assembled at the church on Hermitage street, and led by Pinola's Manayunk Band, several hundred boys, girls, men and women, headed by Thomas Bowen and Mrs. Robert Roach, began the march to the woods for their annual picnic.

The parade moved east on Hermitage street to Ridge avenue, to Domino lane, to the Fox Estate, where the day was spent in merriment. The huge farm houses and other buildings were thrown open for the use of the picnickers, by Robert Barr and his good wife, Minnie.

To settle a long dispute, the single and married men clashed in a forenoon base ball game, and the "Daddies" emerged victors over the "Sons," by the score of 5 to 4.

After ninety-nine years of safe and sane celebrations in this locality, Main street failed to hear the tramp of children's feet. The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church re-routed their parade for the first time in history. Led by the High School Band, under the marshalship of Father Curran, the twelve hundred boys, girls and members of other societies connected with the church, began to move at 8:15 a. m. over the new route: Churchview avenue, Terrace street, Roxborough avenue, Ridge avenue to Monastery avenue, and thence to the woods on the edge of Fairmount Park, where many athletic events took place during the day.

The parade of St. Mary's School was also re-routed this year. Marshal John Strittmatter, headed the line of marchers who were escorted by White's Band, of Manayunk. Then came a large delegation of school children. They marched from the school building on Conaroc street, east to Silverwood street, to Green lane, to Wilde street, to Dupont street, to Baker street, to Leverington avenue, to Umbria street to Paoli avenue, into Scheaffer's Woods.

Father Bruckmann had a full program laid out for the kiddies and the winner of each event carried off a handsome prize. It was the largest turnout of St. Mary's communicants in recent years, and all day long the woods were crowded with people.

The condition of the highway in

the Manayunk section, due to the elevation work on the Reading Railroad, was the cause of the re-routing of the Sunday School parades. Main street was like a trail through Death Valley, on account of the quietness which prevailed. Automobile traffic was principally on thoroughfares leading to the groves in Roxborough. Here and there was heard the report of firecrackers and other noise-making products, which have been outlawed by the City Fathers, but bootlegged into this section by local residents who went over the Montgomery County Line into Whitmarsh township.

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3/10/32

## Rogers Craves Local Paper

Famous Comedian-Sage Tells  
of Value of Hometown  
Newspaper.—Worth Lies  
in Fact It Talks of Well  
Known People.

From the way that people clamor for THE SUBURBAN PRESS, we know that Will Rogers, the gum-chewing, lariat-manipulating, sage, knows "his stuff," when he says:

"Take my ham away, take away my eggs, even my chill, but leave me my newspaper. Even if it just has such purely local news as 'Jim Jones came home last night unexpectedly, and bloodshed ensued;' or 'Jesse Bushyhead, our local M. D., is having one of the best years of his career, practicing speaking. But they just won't pay him when they get well;' or, 'the county seat was packed yesterday with prominent visitors from out of town, attempting to renew their notes;' or 'election ain't far off and everybody is up for office that can sign an application blank.'"

"Now all that don't seem much news to you. But it is news, especially when you know the people, and they are your own folks. So not matter how punk you may think your local paper is getting, why just take it away from you and see how you feel. The old newspaper is, I think, just about our biggest blessing. Course, the car will strike some of you as better, but a horse and buggy was a mighty fine substitute for one. But there has been no substitute for the old newspaper."

# 21st Ward's Safe and Sane 'Fourth' Nears

Schools Prepared to Join in  
2 Week's Program Mark-  
ing Old Custom

FLANAGAN, CHAIRMAN

Memorial Tablet Unveiled in  
Honor of Samuel  
Lawson

Elaborate plans have been announced for a two weeks' celebration in the 21st Ward of the one hundredth anniversary of its original safe and sane Fourth of July.

On July 4, 1831, a group of persons led by Samuel Lawson, who was born on December 23, 1799 and died August 12th, 1887, a teacher of the Fourth Reformed Sunday school, formed a procession in front of the church and marched to the picnic grounds, on a hill overlooking what is now St. John the Baptist Church. The day was spent in outdoor games and contests and proved so successful and free from the then usual casualties that the following year several other churches joined in the custom.

Each Fourth of July since 1831 the idea of Samuel Lawson has increased in popularity until now the entire twenty-four Sunday schools of the ward take part.

Last Sunday, with appropriate ceremonies, a bronze tablet erected in memory of Lawson was unveiled. The memorial was placed at the Fourth Reformed Church, Manayunk and Monastery avenues. This was the first event in this year's celebration of the safe and sane Fourth by the Twenty-first Ward.

Next Sunday, every church and Sunday school will hold special services emphasizing the contribution to community life and patriotism and health that was born of the Lawson idea.

A patriotic program, setting forth the historical facts of the celebration will be broadcast June 29, and a similar program will be put on the air Tuesday, June 30.

The biggest feature of the anniversary celebration will be the parade of Sunday schools on the morning of July 4.

Thousands of men, women and children, representing twenty-four churches, will meet at Lyceum and Manayunk avenues at 8 A. M., and form a parade which will march over the principal streets of the community before separating and going to the various picnic grounds.

Floats, depicting historical events will be featured by the various Sunday schools.

Along the line of march there will be frequent drills and special formations by the paraders arrayed in artistic and unique costumes, residents of the ward, especially those living in the streets over which the parade will pass, have been asked to decorate even more lavishly than usual with American flags and bunting for the occasion.

## Our Picnics

"How far that little candle throws  
its beam!  
So shines a good deed in a  
naughty world!"

A tiny spark touched by the  
Father's hand  
Has grown a blaze of loveliness  
today,  
Love and unselfishness the tapers  
were  
Lit on the altar of a country  
church  
In bonny England, where our  
Sabbath Schools  
Themselves were instituted and  
where words  
Of Heavenly peace and Christ's  
own tenderness  
Were taught at first to eager boys  
and girls.

'Twas there then, oh so many  
years ago  
That—service and happiness as  
ever in hand—  
A joyous picnic for the young and  
old  
Was planned and carried out with  
huge success.  
And who can say, God's spirit  
hovering o'er,  
Did not implant in Samuel Law-  
son's soul  
A longing thus to happiness im-  
part—  
In lives of fellow townsmen on  
this side  
Of the great ocean; in our thriv-  
ing town  
Our friendly, homely, busy Mana-  
yunk.

There is no thing so small or in-  
conspicuous  
That, if the spirit glows and  
brightens in it,  
Taking its flame from God, it will  
not shine  
In glory and true beauty ever-  
more.  
Even a common picnic can take  
on  
The blessed aspect of "the tie that  
binds" us,  
The love of many brothers bound  
in one,  
True love and service to the God  
we worship!

And now a century has taken toll  
Of lives and thoughts and deeds  
and glory too  
And here we find ourselves a  
happy town  
Full of a special kind of happi-  
ness  
The kind the Bible talks about as  
"Blessed"  
Because Sam Lawson lived and  
worked among us.  
And every year we join each  
heart and hand  
As Sabbath Schools in service of  
the King,  
And honor give our country's  
natal day,  
Exultant in the brotherhood we  
cherish!

If I should say the glitter of the  
tin cups  
The small boys' horns, the lemon-  
ade and pickles  
Devoured by hungry people, by  
the thousand  
Were symbols of a patriotic fer-  
vor—  
You'd say I'd surely lost my  
humble wits!  
But just the same that certain

swelling feeling  
Of joy we can't restrain, and soar-  
ing spirits  
Epitomizes youth in full thanks-  
giving  
For blessings of a home and God  
and country  
Than which no other hand has  
fuller measure.

Now comes the Fourth again and  
martial music  
Calls every Mother's son and  
daughter too—  
Swing into line, uphold the flags  
we honor,  
Symbols of Faith and Country  
both unfurl.  
Nothing can mar our joy or down-  
our spirits,  
This is our day, the glory of the  
year.  
Onward, oh Christian soldiers  
ours the path is  
That leads on step by step and  
year by year,  
To perfect understanding and the  
peace  
That brings at last eterna  
brotherhood!

WILLIAM R. KEELY

9/24/1929

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# Blight of Chestnut Trees Ended Great Autumn Sport

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

I was standing on the Walnut Lane bridge, which spans the Wisahickon gorge, admiring Mother Nature, who, with her paint brush, is beginning to dab the foliage of the trees, all shades and tints; a sure reminder of the coming of the fall of the year.

Science tells us that there are two lost arts: that of tempering copper and the other is the embalming of a human body like the mummies dug up in Egypt after being buried for centuries.

I agree with the men of science, but say there are three lost arts. The one I refer to is gathering chestnuts early in the morning, after a strong night wind.

In October, with the assistance of old Jack Frost, who helped to gather the crop of sweet meaty nuts, the chestnut picker would go out into the woodland and reap a harvest.

The growth of a chestnut tree, like every other plant, must start from a blossom which later grows into a burr which is a mass of sharp pointed stickers. In the hollow center of the burrs grow the nuts. The skin of the nut is white until it is ripe, after which it turns to a brown. Then old Jack Frost blows his icy breath over the country side and forces open the burrs, showing the ripe brown-skinned nuts, sometimes two or three to a burr.

A person could stand beneath a chestnut tree and look at the tempting nuts but still they were out of reach until the strong October breeze switched down the burrs and dried leaves from the tree tops. With a forked stick the hunter would scratch among the dead leaves, uncovering the nuts by the quart. These were placed in the attic until they became hard and were then "as sweet as butter" as the old saying goes.

I, for one, would toss my harvest into a boiler with a hand-full of salt and could tell the world that I was eating something worth while. In my school days we use to beat Jack Frost to it. The first thing was to make a collection of broom handles from around the neighborhood, then

travel along the railroad tracks and pick up all the loose nuts. Before the invention of the cotter pin these threaded nuts were plentiful along the railroad tracks. No matter how tight the nuts were screwed on the bolts of the spring rigging of a locomotive, or on the brake-rigging of the cars, they would work loose. With the advent of the cotter pin the nuts were drawn up tight against a shoulder and a small hole drilled through the bolt at bottom of the nut. A cotter pin was inserted and spread open with the result that the nut never gets lost. With the broom handles pointed on one end, to fit the nut we would drive a nail through the wood to hold the metal tight in its place. I really believe the inventor of the cotter pin got his idea from trying to outwit a chestnut picker.

Armed with these weapons, like cave men of the past, we would storm the forest and club the green chestnut burrs off the trees, crack them open with a stone, and gather our supply. But the elders knew better places, miles away from the kid's haunts, and they awaited for nature to bring the nuts down to them.

Every chestnut tree in this state was destroyed by a disease which was called the blight. It ate through the bark of the tree and caused the trees to die like a person with heart disease. Government officials and other men of science tried to save the valuable trees from the destructive blight, but failed. In a short time both the nuts and lumber of these trees became a thing of the past; the land owners cut down the dead "sticks" as they were called, and tilled the ground for other purposes.

Up state, on the mountain sides, tourist is greeted with the sight of hundreds of dead trees standing like lone sentries among the green forests. They were not hit by lightning, as many suppose, but are the remains of our once famous chestnut groves. In the past twenty years chestnut woodlands have been cleared but in many miles of travel I have lately seen but two scrub chestnut trees; one on Mary Water-

ford road in West Manayunk, and the other a short distance above Washington's Crossing, on the Delaware River in Bucks County.

I do not believe I will ever live to see the day when a person can take a flour sack and gather chestnuts to fill it. Ask your grand-dad if he ever enjoyed a chestnut hunt and listen to what he says about the days of real sport.

12/1/1932

## New Thoroughfare Provides Access To Notable Section

21st Ward Residents Can Now Get Acquainted With School House Lane Neighborhood.—Many Fine Estates Border on Ancient Highway. — Scenic Locality

With the Wissahickon Creek having been a natural barrier to easy access to School House lane, since the opening of the Henry avenue bridge, there are thousands of 21st Ward folk who are just now getting acquainted with the lower end of the political sub-division in which they live.

The old estates along School House lane, which was a part of the old Indian trail from Tacony to the Schuylkill and beyond, have been unknown to all 21st Warders except a few hardy hikers who clambered up the Wissahickon hills to view the countryside in that section.

Probably the name of Bensell's lane, is the oldest one which has been applied to the thoroughfare we are discussing, but at other times it has been called Ashmead's road, School lane, and King street. However, it is best known as School House lane, the second oldest street in the 21st Ward, and received its present name from Germantown Academy which is located along its sides at Greene street.

To the left of Henry avenue, as one crosses the great Memorial Bridge going southward from Roxborough, is "Malvern," the estate of Colonel Louis Kolb. The residence stands far back near the Creek, and it is said that it was built by Samuel Welsh, whose daughter married Judge Wiltbank. The style of architecture is known as "Classic Revival" and the dwelling seems like a gem in a beautiful setting. The gardens surrounding this home are horticultural wonders.

Henry avenue reaches School House lane, directly through the property which for many years was known as "Glenwood," or the "Harrison place." The old homestead stood close to the Lane, and was of square construction with a mansard roof. It was owned at various times by Dr. J. K. Mitchell, father of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, and Mrs. George L. Harrison. Incidentally the Mitchell street of Roxborough, receives its name from this same Mitchell family who once dwelled on School House Lane.

One writer in mentioning "Glenwood," said, "It is a summer residence and a neat porter's lodge introduces a way to it. The fence is similar to that on the old Merrick place, known as "Torworth." John Walter, editor of the London Times, when on a visit to this country, rode out from town to see its much heralded beauty, but his natural love of England was unmoved until he saw the iron fence in front of "Torworth," when he

alighted and measured it as a pattern for use in his own country, and when he drew near the Harrison neighborhood, and saw the glorious view to be had from there, he called his son's attention to the hills and cried out, "Barkshire!"—the scenery here reminding him of that beautiful English district."

Many years ago "Glenwood" was sold by former Provost C. C. Harrison, of the University of Pennsylvania, and son of George Leib Harrison, to Sydney Hutchison, who made great changes to the property. The trees, grounds, and mansion were renovated and the house was occupied by his son-in-law

daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Morgan.

A new villa was built nearer the Wissahickon woods, and this was used in summer time by Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison, the latter a daughter of E. T. Stotesbury. Part of the house still stands, waiting to be torn down by the present owner of the property, Colonel Louis Kolb. Henry avenue runs right through what was the centre of the building and the city only removed that portion which stood in its right of way.

When the Henry avenue bridge was planned to cross the Wissahickon valley, Colonel Kolb, to protect his interests in that section, bought "Glenwood," and so owns the ground on both sides of the new thoroughfare, between School House lane and the Park line.

Below the "Glenwood" estate is "Springmead," the home of Mrs. Edward E. Denniston. The house is a high-roofed one, with a deep declining lawn that runs into a charming dell that contains a spring and a rivulet which courses down to the Wissahickon. Miss Margaret D. Denniston, who resided here, served as a war nurse in France during the recent World War. Upon her return she was married to Ernest Kershaw, at Petit Manor, Maine.

Still nearer to Ridge avenue, adjoining the Denniston home, is the home of the late Samuel Wagner, late chief engineer of the Reading Railroad Company, whose death occurred last year when he fell from a short ladder while at some small task on a window of his home, receiving injuries from which he never recovered. The building is a neat, cottage-like structure, with a sundial at its rear, on the trunk of a tree. In front of the house is a tulip-poplar which is a king among its kind, with a girth of over nineteen feet. The rugged

bark, evenly divided into ridges, on its great trunk speaks silently of its age, despite the kindly treatment which it has received from Mother Nature.

The Wagner estate, known as "Four Oaks" is one of the oldest along School House lane, and has been owned by one family longer than any of its neighbors.

The present owner is John Wagner, who is of the sixth generation to possess the property. The residence is reached by a private lane at the western border of the grounds. John Wagner, ancestor of the present owner, purchased the property in 1784, at the time of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. The old barn is said to have been built in 1772, and is probably the oldest building along School House lane, west of Wissahickon avenue.

In addition to the four oak trees from which the estate gets its name, there is a wooded dale in the rear which adds to the picturesque beauty of the place. John Wagner, present owner of "Four Oaks" is a collector of curios and has assembled, with the assistance of his brother, Worrell, one of the finest collections of old prints, guns, swords, canes, arrowheads, and Indian relics, china, glassware, and various other articles that exists in this section of the city.

Still traveling down hill toward Ridge avenue, and adjoining "Four Oaks," is "Roslyn Manor," the residence of the Milnes. This is a massive stone pile with a square tower designed to resemble a Turkish minaret.

Everything about the place suggests immensity. A huge porch surrounds the great building; big lawns lead into a large vale; great trees grace the thick woodland in the rear; and the outbuildings are big. Thomas W. Smith built the original house on this estate. Archibald Campbell, who owned and operated a textile mill in Manayunk, bought and enlarged the house. The property once belonged to Benjamin Morgan, a blacksmith, who married one of the Levering women of Roxborough. Morgan is listed as one of the earliest taxpayers of Roxborough Township, in the Poorhouse records, and his estate originally ran down to what is now Midvale avenue. During the American Revolution, it was in a house owned by Benjamin Morgan, near what is now McMichael and Coulter streets, that General Lafayette had his headquarters when the Continental soldiers were encamped on the Queen lane filtration plant site.

Next below "Roslyn Manor," and skirting Gypsy lane, is "Ellersleigh" formerly the home of W. Worrell Wagner, but now occupied by Lionel Friedman. The original house was erected by James C. Kempton, another one-time Manayunk mill owner. Kempton sold the place to Ellis Yarnall, who enlarged it and sold it to Charles C. Harrison, who was provost of the University of Pennsylvania at the time. The style of the dwelling is familiar as the type of American farmhouse, and with its bewitching background of woodland, and valley in front, and well-placed ever-

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greens, makes a picture which common folk as well as artists may rave over. There once stood along Gypsy lane, a double cottage, of Queen Anne style, which housed the gardener and coachman employed at "Ellersleigh," but this was torn down a decade ago.

All of the estates mentioned are in the 21st Ward, but we doubt if more than a very few 21st Ward residents have ever walked along School House lane and realized what show places they could boast of. The properties on the south side of the lane, as far east as Wissahickon avenue, are in the 38th Ward today, but in the old days were in Roxborough township.

Germantown historians, ever on the alert to take credit for anything which is at all noteworthy have always claimed School House Lane and its territory as their own, and even the daily newspapers regularly err in saying that the Henry avenue Bridge connects Roxborough to Germantown. "Forgive them for they know not what they do!"

*Germantown Telegraph*  
12-18-1931

## Says World Isn't Centered Here

### Roxborough Editor Raps Germantown, But Omits Part of Our Reply

Several weeks ago the Suburban Press, Roxborough, gave Germantown a nasty dig about the removal of Route 75 to Frankford by saying that Germantown merchants had no cause to worry about the change in the line because Frankford had fine stores and that the people of that section shopped at home.

I came back at the esteemed editor of that excellent paper and sent him a reply which is published below, with the exception of four or five lines at the bottom—the meat of the article—which he was compelled for a good reason to omit.

Here is my reply, minus the aforesaid four lines with another wallop at Germantown tacked on the bottom:

#### BELIEVE IT, OR NOT!

Editor Suburban Press,

Sir:

When I read "Roxborough Investor's" article "It Makes Me Laugh," in a recent issue, I could not help but laugh again at his remarks about why Frankford people should choose Germantown as a place to shop when they have such fine stores in Frankford.

Believe it, or not, the Germantown Business Men's Association will tell you that hundreds of Frankford people buy in Germantown and the crowd that comes over here from Roxborough to buy is a poor advertisement for your town. Why they fill the busses daily, especially Sat-

urdays, to patronize our fine stores.

There must be a reason.

If you don't believe this, come over here some day during the Christmas holidays and see the Roxborough and Wissahickon folks buying in Germantown stores.

Yours very truly,

E. R. MUSTIN,

Germantown Telegraph.

**Editorial Note:** For a hundred years and more, The Germantown Telegraph has been inculcating pride for the community into the people of Germantown, until now old residents there, think that "the world" is centered in the 22nd Ward. A good situation in one way, but very narrowing, in another. Roxborough, until comparatively recently, has been without means of publicity.

As far as what the Germantown Business Men's Association might tell us: After those good fellows had attempted to claim the credit of establishing the safe and sane Fourth of July celebration, when we of Levering's old town had beat them to it by about 50 years, we'd discount a lot of things for which they feel inclined to stick their chests out.

In the case of the "E" route busses, the Germantown merchants received "a break" when the PRT management placed the eastern terminus in a business district, while the western end of the line wound up in a residential section. Again, Mr. Mustin, don't underestimate the population of Roxborough by imagining a few bus loads of 21st Ward residents who live conveniently close enough to the route to utilize it, constitute a very great portion of our buying public. Like "Bad Debts," these people have to be figured as "out of the picture." When we procure just half as many means of ingress and egress to our high and reathy hills, as has Germantown—Look Out! Believe it or not!

Among the First Things happening in America, Germantown lays claim to the following:

- First Mill for grinding grain, Townsends, 1683.
- First Protest against Slavery signed 1688.
- First Paper Mill in America, 1690.
- First School Book, "A New Primer," Francis Daniel Pastorius, 1698.
- First Mennonite Church in America, 1708.
- First Forge or Bloomery in Pennsylvania. Thomas Rutter in 1716.
- First Fulling Mill in Pennsylvania, Matthew Houlgate, 1719.
- First Dunkard Church in America, 1723.
- First Medical Diploma issued in America, 1738, to John Kaign, of Haddonfield, N. J., by Dr. Christopher Witt.
- First Portrait painted in oil, that of Jo-

# Clergy Lauds Presbyterians of Manayunk

Pastors of Locality Attend "Community Night" Service

TOWN HAS CHANGED

Neighborhood Has Developed Considerably in Past 100 Years

One of the splendid services, marking the 100th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Manayunk, was held last Thursday evening which was known as "Community Night," when the pastors of neighboring churches were present to offer the congratulations of their various congregations to the pastor and members of the church which has progressed through a century of existence.

Among those who spoke were: Rev. Geo. Makely, a former pastor; Rev. J. Foster Wilcox, pastor of the Roxborough Baptist Church; Rev. Arien J. Muyskens, of the Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church; Rev. H. A. D. Wacker, of the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany; Rev. Charles Mervine, pastor emeritus of the First M. E. Church of Roxborough; Rev. Dr. J. Ogle Warfield, of St. David's P. E. Church; Rev. Herbert R. Burgess, of the Leverington Presbyterian Church; Rev. Samuel McWilliams, of the First M. E. Church of Roxborough; Rev. L. Wartena, of the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. William B. Forney, secretary of the Philadelphia Sabbath Association; Rev. David W. Siegrist, of the Ebenezer M. E. Church; and Rev. William John Bawden, of the Wissahickon M. E. Church.

Letters of felicitations were received from Rev. Fred. R. McArthur, of the First Baptist Church of Manayunk; and from Rev. A. L. Copper, pastor of the Emmanuel M. E. Church.

State Representative Joseph F. M. Beldi, who is treasurer of the Manayunk Presbyterian Church, read letters of praise from United States Congressman George P. Darrow; Mayor J. Hampton Moore, and Governor Gifford Pinchot.

The neighborhood in which the First Presbyterian Church is located has changed considerably in the time that the congregation has been in existence.

Manayunk—first known as Flat Rock—came into existence as a village following the construction of the Schuylkill Navigation Company's canal, which was completed in 1820.

Water rights were sold along the banks of the canal to manufacturers, who after erecting their mills obtained power for their machinery by means of wheels forced around by the waters of the canal.

From the present Flat Rock dam

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down to Keely's Lumber Yard, previous to the building of the canal there was a sort of a natural canal channel, which during high freshets spilled its waters over into the Schuylkill, but it was generally a pool, or swamp, into which ran little brooks from the Roxborough hills. The land in the vicinity of this swamp was part of the Rush Estate.

About the same time the canal was being built, what is now known as Main street, was laid out; previous to that time there being no road except the one leading from Green lane to a point near the present home of Winfield S. Gules, the Flat Rock lock tender. At the foot of Green lane there were two branches to this road—the one extending to Flat Rock and another leading in the opposite direction to a shad fishery, conducted by Benjamin and Michael Tibben, on an island in the Schuylkill almost opposite, or nearly so, to the present home of John Henry Gallati.

In laying out the Manayunk road—that is Main street—it was at first intended to make it run in a straight line from Wissahickon, which would have made it strike almost the site of the church, but members of the Levering family, and others, made strenuous opposition to the route through their farmlands, and to accomodate them the angle was made at what is now Rector street, which deflected the right of way toward the river again.

When the men and women who formed this church congregation were engaged in that God-inspired work, there were no gas, electricity, no steam engines, no telegraph, telephone, radio, photography. No oil burning steam heating plants, no public schools, libraries or church music. Think of it!

Shur's lane came down and met the Manayunk Road, as did also Robeson street—now familiar as Rector street; there was a thoroughfare to the Dutch Reformed Church, which is now used by the Polish Catholics; a Levering street, and then Green lane. Dupont street was a dirt road, known as Church, and later as Centre street.

Above was Hipple's lane—now called Fountain street—and still farther up was Domino lane, which can still be traced from Ridge avenue down the hill to the Schuylkill river at Flat Rock, where a bridge permitted the Conestoga wagons to wend their way westward into Pennsylvania.

Samuel Levering's farm house was down near Shur's lane; a family named Waldreth lived in a dwelling in back of the Dutch Reformed Church; and the Tibbens', the fishermen, resided in two small stone houses that stood between Manayunk road and the canal. Anthony Levering's farm was divided by Green lane, and the site now occupied by this building was owned by a man named Stritzel. Benjamin Levering had a farm house in the neighborhood of where the two railroads cross Leverington avenue; John Tibben resided in a house at the foot of Fountain street; and nearby was a cottage on the Rush Estate.

Captain John Towers purchased the first power right along the canal and erected a mill. Others followed him, and with the influx

of workers for the mills the village expanded rapidly. Rows of houses appeared and additional streets were laid out on the hillsides.

Among the mills here about 1832 were Towers, Hagners, Ripkas, Mark Richards, Woods, that of Borie, Lagurene and Keating; Peter Robesons, George Smicks, William Rowlands, James Darracha, Morris and Wilson, later carried on by S. and T. Wagner, Pattersons, Ecksteins, Moses Heys, Robert Shippens, and one owned by a Dr. Moore.

Rev. Mr. Cleaf, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church had, in 1827, taken the first reliable census of the town, as follows: 147 families; 244 men; 306 women; 182 boys, and 266 girls—a total of 1098 persons. By the time this Presbyterian Church was organized—five years after the first census—there was between Shur's and Domino lanes, 317 dwellings and the population was placed at 2070 individuals. Four years after the founding of this congregation the number of homes had increased to 541, with 1420 white males, 1729 white females; 16 colored males and 10 colored females—a total of 3175 souls.

The Norristown division of the Reading Railroad—then the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad—was not constructed until 1834—1835, transportation to and from the village being by horse drawn vehicles, in the saddle, or by the canal boats.

One of the stage lines was run by Jacob Shuster, who started at the Ship Tavern on Ridge road—now the manse of the Roxborough Presbyterian Church—and ran down Ridge road to Green lane and thence through Manayunk. Another of the stages was run by a man named Crawford, who resided in a hostelry which still stands on Ridge avenue, adjoining the former trolley car barn property. Still another stage was run for a time by a Mr. Reeside.

The Manayunk Post office, with a Mr. Stott, an apothecary in charge, was but eight years old when this church was first established, letters previously coming out from "the city" by stage.

There was a day school for children on a plot of ground which had been donated by Peter and Jonathan Robeson, near Main and Pennsdale streets.

The places of worship which were already here were in the order of their age: The Roxborough Baptist; the Dutch Reformed; the Mount Zion M. E.; St. John the Baptist; and St. David's Protestant Episcopal.

What has transpired in the history of this church in the century that has passed, has been ably ar-

ranged in the attractive volume which is now available as a memento of the 100th anniversary.

Nations have been born and nations have fallen during the life of the First Presbyterian Church of Manayunk, Germany, for instance, came into being, had its brief day and expired. The oldest dynasty, China, is now a Republic. The United States has gone through the fire of three great wars. Lincolns, Bismarcks, Napoleons and Wellingtons have traveled on, but that work which was started here through the inspiration of the Great Father goes on, and must continue to go on until mankind everywhere has been redeemed.

12-8-1932

## To Observe Anniversary of Massacre

Special Services at Grace  
Church to Commemorate  
Revolutionary Incident

PASTOR TO PRESIDE

Stanley Hart Cauffman to  
Be Guest Speaker Next  
Sunday Evening

Special services commemorative of the massacre of a group of Virginia troopers will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church, Ridge and Roxborough avenues, under the joint auspices of the congregation and the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, next Sunday evening.

Rev. William H. Cooper, pastor of the church will preside, and the guest speaker will be Stanley Hart Cauffman, first president of the local historical society, novelist and musician, who will relate the Revolutionary story of the happenings which took place on the site of the church, on the night of December 19th 1777. The colors of Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333, Veterans of Foreign Wars, of Thomas F. Emery Post No. 229, American Legion and of the Sons of American Revolution will serve as appropriate decoration for the affair.

A brass septet, composed of members of the Roxborough Symphony Orchestra will provide special music for the occasion. The musicians who will play are Frank J. Miller and John G. Heiser, trumpets; J. Edward Holgate and Harry T. Reichart, French horns; John M. Hess and Conard K. Donnell, trombones, and Ernest F. Miller, bass horn.

A male quartet of Roxborough High School students, composed of Clarence Zelter, Raymond Christy, Herbert Spencer, Jr., and John Shappell will sing several selections.

The story of Wood's Barn is familiar to most residents of Roxbor-

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ough, but is always worth repeating. During an extremely cold night in December 1777, a company of Virginia troopers rode down Ridge avenue on their way from Washington headquarters at Valley Forge. Upon reaching the Wood farmhouse, located at what is now the northwest corner of Ridge and Roxborough avenues, they halted and asked for lodging for the night.

About the same time they were informed of a body of Hessian soldiers which were in the vicinity of the four milestone on Ridge road. This was at what is now Scott's lane, in the Falls of Schuylkill. The soldiers were advised by Andrew Wood to leave and proceed toward Germantown.

They were so tired, however, that they risked discovery, and were given accomodation. After a hearty meal they prepared for sleep, some

in beds some on the floor and still others in the barn. The Wood family consisted of Andrew Wood, his wife, a son, two daughters, and an old servant named Nicholas Nezer. The troopers, with a sentinel stationed at the front of the house, remained undisturbed until

midnight, when the man on guard discovered a Hessian horseman approaching.

Giving the alarm he hastened across the nearby fields. Some of the Virginians mounted their horses and escaped by a little lane opposite the house. The Woods fled into the thick trees and shrubbery back of their home. Nicholas Nezer attempted to hide himself in a clump of bushes but was found and shot.

In the meantime the redcoats had fired the barn. During the melee the older of the Wood girls, then 13 years of age, took her little sister to the home of a neighbor on the opposite side of Ridge road. When the girl returned the barn was on fire. As she entered the house a soldier drew a pistol to shoot her, but upon her saying, "Would you shoot a child?" put up the gun.

The mother hastened to the burning barn and dragged out the dead and wounded troopers from the floor. Sparks from the structure were falling upon the roof of the house. These were put out with saturated coats, aprons and other wearing apparel by the woman who dipped them in barrels of water and threw them to her son who stood on the roof, thus saving the house. The wounded were cared for by neighbors and later removed to their own camp.

The dead were buried in Woods private burial plot, in graves dug by Mr. Wood's son, John, and

Henry Tibben. Later the bodies were removed to Leverington Cemetery where a statue marks their final resting place.

The foregoing facts were once related by Horatio Gates Jones, who had been given them on March 7th 1845, by Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, then in the 82nd year of her age, who was the little girl who carried her sister through the snow on the memorable night of the massacre.

# To Observe Centennial of July Fourth Celebrations

## Committee of 21st Ward Residents Plan Great Independence Day Spectacle.—Will Honor Samuel Lawson, Who Originated Custom

Samuel Lawson, a teacher in the Fourth Reformed Sunday School, one hundred years ago, conceived the idea of taking the scholars of that school on a picnic to celebrate the Fourth of July. They formed a procession and marched from their church to the picnic grounds on the hill overlooking what is now St. John's Church. This significant little procession was held on July 4th, 1831. It was a good idea, practical in the extreme and a safe, sensible, healthy way of celebrating Independence Day.

The idea was adopted by other Sunday schools and with increasing favor has been carried out each year, consecutively, since it was first introduced. Now the churches of the 21st Ward are preparing to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of safe observance of Independence Day. This means that a committee must be at work and making preparations to fittingly honor such an occasion and the members are meeting at stated intervals. Plans have been worked out, up to date, to provide for the holding in each church a religious patriotic service on the Sunday prior to the Fourth. The committee asks the co-operation of the clergy and laity in each church to hold a fitting service in which the particular part that congregation has had in the development of this particular form of observance may be historically presented. A sub-committee has in charge the selection of a suitable memorial to Samuel Lawson so that somewhere along the route of the parade his memory may be perpetuated. One of the most important phases of this one hundredth anniversary is the publishing of a dignified brochure which will contain a great amount of interesting facts relating to the one hundred years of church and Sunday school development and work that this occasion will commemorate.

The union parade this year is being planned on a more elaborate scale than ever before and will present the history of outstanding historical events connected with Philadelphia, by means of floats and other presentations that will be of especial interest. It is expected that thousands of people from all sections of the city will flock into the 21st Ward to witness this affair.

7/2/1931

## Everything Ready For 21st Ward's Great Sunday School Parade on July Fourth

Twenty-Four Schools to Be in Line as Religious Groups  
Assemble to Go on Picnics for 100th Time.—Great  
Line of Marchers to Honor Memory of Samuel  
Lawson, Creator of Custom

### MARCHERS IN THE MOVIES

If the weatherman is kind on Saturday, Edward Jeffries, of the Roxboro Theatre, Manayunk avenue and Conarroe street, will have moving pictures made, showing the Sunday School parade, on Lyceum avenue.

The film will be displayed at his theatre during the week of July 6th.

Only two more days!

And then the 21st Ward's big Sunday School parade!

For Saturday will be the one hundredth anniversary of the establishing of picnics here, in a safe and sane manner for which to celebrate the birth of the Nation.

Promptly at eight o'clock in the morning, the scholars of twenty-four Sunday Schools in Manayunk, Wissahickon and Roxborough, will start from Manayunk and Lyceum avenues, in the greatest Fourth of July glorification which has ever been held in this vicinity.

Bands, floats, and costumes of all descriptions will be in the long line of marchers. Many novel features have been arranged by the committee in charge, which has been laboring earnestly on the task, for many months. This year's event, beside being a great parade, is in commemoration of Samuel Lawson, the man who conceived the local Independence Day picnics.

The order of the schools in line will be as follows: Fourth Reformed, Talmage Reformed, Epiphany Lutheran, Grace Lutheran, Ebenezer M. E., Wissahickon Baptist, Bethany Lutheran, Wissahickon Methodist, Gospel Church of Roxborough, St. Stephen's P. E., First Baptist, Manatawna Baptist, Roxborough Baptist, Leverington Presbyterian, Galilee Baptist, First M. E., St. David's P. E., Wissahickon Presbyterian, Roxborough Presbyterian, Emmanuel M. E., Ridge Avenue M. E., Timothy's P. E., St. Alban's P. E., and the First Presbyterian.

The parade will be on Lyceum avenue, from Manayunk to Ridge avenue, where the line will divide, some schools going north and the others south on Roxborough main thoroughfare.

The remainder of the day will be spent in the woods of Roxborough, the various school picnics being lo-

cated as printed below:

Fourth Reformed, on the east side of the Wissahickon Creek, south of Walnut lane.

Epiphany Lutheran: West side of the Wissahickon Creek, south of Walnut lane.

Grace Lutheran: West side of the Wissahickon Creek, south of Walnut lane.

Ebenezer M. E.: East side of the Wissahickon Creek, south of the Walnut Lane Bridge.

Wissahickon Baptist: West side of the Wissahickon Creek, south of Walnut lane.

Bethany Lutheran: Hermit lane, east of Ridge avenue.

Wissahickon M. E.: West side of Wissahickon Creek, north of Walnut lane.

Gospel Church of Roxborough: Wissahickon Creek, below Walnut lane.

St. Stephen's P. E.: Wissahickon Creek, at Ridge avenue.

First Baptist: Manatawna avenue, east of Ridge avenue.

Roxborough Baptist: Livezey lane east of Ridge avenue.

Leverington Presbyterian: Gorgas Woods, East Gates street.

Galilee Baptist: Dupont street, east of Ridge avenue.

First M. E.: Port Royal avenue, east of Ridge avenue.

St. David's P. E. Cathedral Grounds, Ridge avenue, near Manatawna avenue.

Wissahickon Presbyterian: On Andorra avenue.

Roxborough Presbyterian: Port Royal avenue, east of Ridge avenue.

Emmanuel M. E.: Livezey lane and Shawmont avenue.

Ridge Avenue M. E.: Shawmont avenue, west of Ridge avenue.

St. Timothy's: East Gates street.

St. Alban's P. E.: Cathedral Cathedral Grounds, Ridge avenue, near Manatawna avenue.

First Presbyterian: Port Royal avenue, east of Ridge avenue.

## Bluecoats Search Into Zoology

Last Thursday afternoon, Patrolman Barney Miller, of the Roxborough police district, whose fixed post of duty is in the Blue Bell Hill section, found a small animal in a ditch, beside the road.

Apparently an automobile had ran over the creature injuring its front feet. Miller placed it in a card board box, and brought it to the police station. "Here he is!" he said, "he came out of his hole and if we have to suffer six weeks more of snow and ice he might as well have the same pleasure as the rest of us.

"That's no ground hog," said Officer John Jordan, "it is a ground mole." "Don't try to kid me," said Miller, "I know that a ground hog is brown, and a mole is grey, and as this is brown, I am willing to bet my semi-monthly salary that it is a ground hog. "Your on," said Jordan

At this point of the argument, Acting Street Sergeant Miller entered the contest, as a Solomon, and requested Dr. Greenfield, a veterinarian, who was visiting fire headquarters next door, to decide who was right. As soon as the veterinarian looked at the animal he said, "Both men are wrong; it's a ground squirrel, commonly called a hackey."

Officer Charles McMahon asked for a resolution to be passed forbidding any officer from bringing small animals into the police station in the future. McMahon conjectures one of the men might capture one of those pretty imported kittens from Poland sometime. And that would be horrible to think about.

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6/8/1931

## 21st Ward Sunday Schools Prepare for Hundredth Safe and Sane "Fourth"

Displays to Be Exhibited in Show Windows in Roxborough and Manayunk.—Radio Broadcasts on June 29th and 30th.—To Unveil Memorial to Samuel Lawson

Twenty-first Ward Sunday School scholars are advised by the committee in charge of the 100th anniversary celebration that the booklet descriptive of the affair, will be available at their own schools, on Saturday next—June 20th.

The show windows of J. Raymond Turner, at Ridge avenue and Green lane, and of P. Kerkeslager, at Main and Levering streets, will contain displays significant of the past century of safe and sane Independence Day celebrations. Copies of the anniversary booklet will also be procurable at these places.

A bronze tablet, in memory of Samuel Lawson, the man who instituted the annual Sunday School picnics, will be unveiled in front of the Fourth Reformed Church, at Manayunk and Monastery avenues, next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Appropriate ceremonies will precede the unveiling.

On Sunday, June 28th, each 21st Ward Church, or Bible School, will hold special services emphasizing the contribution of the local Fourth of July custom to religion, patriotism, community life and health.

Radio Station WCAU will broadcast Part 1, of the 21st Ward 4th of July Celebration program, at 6:00 P. M. on Monday June 29th. At 7:25 P. M. on Tuesday June 30th, Station WFI will broadcast the second part of the program.

And on Saturday July 4th will occur the great Union parade of twenty four Sunday Schools, in the special 100th anniversary jubilee. The marchers, as usual, will start from Lyceum and Manayunk avenues, at 8 o'clock in the morning. Further details of the celebration will be printed in next week's edition of THE SUBURBAN PRESS.

4/21/1916

### Ashes of Richard Harding Davis Buried

With the simple service of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the ashes of Richard Harding Davis, novelist, play writer and war correspondent, whose body was cremated on Friday, were buried in Leverington cemetery in the plot that contains the bodies of his parents last Saturday. Rev. Charles K. Penney, of St. James' Church, recited the ritual at the grave. Only Charles B. Davis, a brother, and Dr. William W. H. Furness, of New York, attended the burial, and there were no pallbearers.

Phila record  
7/21/1930

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS NO. 3 FOR  
THE COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.  
Order of Publication in Divorce.  
To Arthur C. Brown, late of 49 Thomas  
avenue, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania:  
Whereas, Josephine B. Brown, your wife,  
has filed a libel in the Court of Common  
Pleas No. 3 of Philadelphia County, of  
June Term, 1929, No. 172, praying a divorce  
against you. Now you are hereby notified  
and required to appear in said Court on,  
or before Monday, the 1st day of December  
next, to answer the complaint of said  
Josephine B. Brown, and in default, of  
such appearance you will be liable to have  
a divorce granted in your absence.  
THOMAS W. CUNNINGHAM,  
Sheriff of Philadelphia.

4/24/1930

### DR. CARMANY IS MARRIED

For the past few weeks close friends of Dr. Harry S. Carmany, 366 Green lane, Roxborough, and Miss Geraldine Girton, of the Carber Apartments, Oxford pike and Harrison street, have been expecting their marriage and immediately extended their congratulations when the ceremony was solemnized at Old Christ Church, yesterday.

Miss Girton is a nurse by profession and until March was supervising nurse at the Friends' Hospital.

Dr. Carmany is a surgeon connected with the Episcopal and Memorial Hospitals. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

A reception was held last night at Whitmarsh-Country Club and will be followed by a honeymoon trip to Bermuda.

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### FIRE HOUSE BIDS IN

New Manayunk Fire House One Step  
Nearer Reality

Bids were received January 18 for the erection of a new fire house at 4445 to 4451 Main street, Manayunk, for the new fire house. Plans for the project were prepared by John Molitor for the Department of Public Safety. The building will be two stories and constructed of brick and steel and will have a slag roof, cement and composition floors and includes metal lathe and marble trimmings. The name of the successful bidder will be announced later. At last our fire laddies' dreams are coming true.

2/2/1927

### ENGINE CO. 66 FOR UPPER ROXBOROUGH

Fire protection for Upper Roxborough will become a fact in the near future when Engine Company No. 66 is put on duty. The new fire company is now housed in a temporary building at Dearnley avenue and Eva street, near Shawmont avenue and the Ridge. At present it houses the chemical apparatus or "Combination Wagon" formerly belonging to Company No. 39, and is in charge of Hosemen John Jagers and Samuel Gunning, who were formerly connected with Companies No. 39 and 12 respectively.

A permanent fire house will be built at Minerva avenue and Eva street, adjacent to the property upon which the proposed Upper Roxborough School will be erected. When completed, two new engines, similar to those recently installed in Roxborough and Manayunk, will be provided, giving it the most modern equipment made.

At present every effort is being made to get the company in service as expediently as possible, with the present equipment. The personnel will be increased and officered in the immediate future. The new apparatus will be included in the next contract of that nature let by the city.

# Walks and Talks: *By The Rambler*

## Richard Harding Davis' Character May Be Summed Up in Theodore Roosevelt's Tribute: "He Was as Good an American as Ever Lived, and His Heart Flamed Against Cruelty and Injustice. His Writings Form a Textbook of Americanism"

ONE of the mile posts in the progress of Richard Harding Davis toward the goal of fame was marked by his writing of the appealing little story of "Gallagher." It was the tale of the exploit of an office boy and of how he was responsible for getting a "scoop" for his newspaper. The charm of it was chiefly in the knowledge the author had of boy nature. His young hero was real and true to life. There was not a false note in it and the picture was recognized immediately by all of those who were familiar with newspaper office boys, those precocious youngsters who come and go and usually develop into first-class newspaper workers.

One of the immediate effects of it was to stimulate other newspaper men and to start some of them on the uncertain road of fiction writing. Many of the other reporters on the Philadelphia "Press," such as Robert Neilson Stephens, Ralph Paine and Burr McIntosh, afterwards proved their mettle by breaking into the field of fiction or of play writing. It happened that all of these young men were great admirers of Robert Louis Stevenson who had made both fame and fortune with his "Treasure Island" and "The New Arabian Nights." They were particularly enthusiastic over the style of this master of English and the alluring smoothness of his writing. So, one night, they sat down and sent him a communication, telling him how they felt about his fiction and of their own ambitions in that direction. It seems to me that it was Davis who sent him the letter, enclosing at the same time an interview which he had printed with Walt Whitman who was then living in Camden.

The result of this was a delightful letter from Stevenson, a letter which was carried around and exhibited with pride, until it was almost worn out from constant usage. This is what the wonderful "Robert Louis" had to say to his young worshipers:

"Why, thank you so much for your frank, agreeable and natural letter. It is certainly very pleasant that all you young fellows should enjoy my work and get some good out of it and it was very kind in you to write and tell me so. The tale of the suicide is exceedingly droll, and your letter, you may be sure, will be preserved. If you are to escape unhurt out of your present business you must be very careful, and you must find in your heart much constancy. The swiftly done work of the journalist

and the cheap finish and ready made methods to which it leads, you must try to counteract in private by writing with the most considerate slowness and on the most ambitious models. And when I say 'writing'—O, believe me, it is rewriting that I have chiefly in mind. If you will do this I hope to hear from you some day."

Davis spent about three years on the Philadelphia "Press" and then the urge to go to New York took possession of him. He looked ahead constantly and he was convinced that it was time to move. So one bright day in September, 1889, he went over to the neighboring city to search for a job on a metropolitan newspaper. He carried no letters of recommendation, but he had "a hunch" that he would land some place in some way. He made the rounds of both the morning and evening newspaper offices and was received with a lack of enthusiasm which almost quenched his usual lively spirits. None of the city editors wanted a new reporter and they betrayed a singular want of interest in what he had been doing in Philadelphia.

Then an incident occurred which made Richard Harding Davis resemble one of the young heroes in the books of Oliver Optic or Horatio Alger, Jr. He sat down on a bench in City Hall Park in a very depressed state of mind. The thought of confessing defeat was very foreign to his optimistic nature but what was he to do when he had been told—all but unanimously—that he was not wanted. And at that critical moment in his life who should come along but Arthur Brisbane who had just been appointed editor of the "Evening Sun." The two had met in London a few years before and the moment Brisbane spied Dick Davis he walked over and greeted him with a hearty hand shake. In the course of their chat Davis told him of his futile quest for a job in New York and there and then he was engaged as a reporter for the "Sun."

It was one of the turning points in a successful career. He had gotten a lucky break. The relationship between Dick Davis and his parents was peculiarly affectionate and a few days later when he started off to take his job in New York, he paused long enough at the Broad Street Station to scribble off a penciled note to his mother in which he said: "I am not surprised that you were sad if you thought I was going away for good. I could not think of it myself. I am only going to make a little reputation and to learn enough of

the business to enable me to live at home in the centre of the universe with you. That is truth. God bless you!" But that was only the first of a series of journeys from the old home that was to take him around the world. Yet, always, he kept in touch with the family and the series of letters to his father, mother, brother and sister which were edited by his brother, Charles Belmont Davis and published by Scribner's, prove the deep love he had for them.

From the outset he was successful in New York and the columns of the "Sun" show how rapidly he was advancing in his profession. It may interest ambitious young men of the

present day to know that his first salary there was only \$50 a week, and that he considered it very good. His work on the "Sun" was varied with the writing of short magazine stories. The loving interest with which his father followed his work is shown by a letter which was written to the son shortly after the publication of his little tale called "A Walk Up the Avenue." The elder Davis, while a practical man of the world, was always deeply religious. In this epistle, published in "The Adventures and Letters of Richard Harding Davis," the father says:

"You can do it; you have done it; it is all right. I have read 'A Walk Up the Avenue.' It is far and away the best thing you have done—full of fine subtle thought, of rare, manly feeling.

"I am not afraid of Dick, the author. He's all right. I shall only be afraid—when I am afraid—that Dick, the man, will not live up to the other fellow, that he may forget how much the good Lord has given him and how responsible to the good Lord and to himself he is and will be for it. Don't let the world's temptations come between you and your work. Make your life worthy of your talent, and humbly, by day and by night, ask God to help you to do it."

Others have called attention to the fact that Richard Harding Davis always wrote clean and wholesome stories. Perhaps that was partly due to the kind of parents he had. Shortly after the incidents we are relating he resigned from the "Sun" to become managing editor of "Harper's Weekly" at a time when George William Curtis was its editor. From that time until his death he was a conspicuous figure in the public eye. He won fame not only as a novelist, but as a war correspondent. His big hit in fiction was "Soldiers of Fortune" which was afterwards made into a play and finally found its way into the films. In these three forms it netted him a tidy sum.

He was very jubilant when he was appointed the special correspondent for the London "Times" to report the Spanish-American War. It was the sort of thing of which he had often dreamed. He was also to do work for the New York "Herald" and "Scribner's Magazine." Writing to his brother about this he informs him that he is to be paid \$400 a week "and all expenses." In mock seriousness, he announces that he is to travel with an assistant, a pony, a courier and a servant, a tent and a secretary and a typewriter, "so that Miles will look like a second lieutenant in comparison."

The work he did in Cuba, in Cen-

tral and South America, in the Boer War, the Japanese-Russian War, in the Congo, at the Spanish and English coronations and in the last great war would and have made volumes. He was a clever writer of fiction, but above all else he was a first-class reporter. Some of the other correspondents had a lot of good natured fun over the dress and habits of Richard Harding. Thus John T. McCutcheon writes of Davis as he appeared during the Vera Cruz days:

"He dressed and looked the 'war Correspondent,' such a one as he would describe in his stories. He fulfilled the popular ideal of what a member of that fascinating profession should look like. His code of life and habits was as fixed as that of the Briton who takes his habits and customs and games and tea wherever he goes, no matter how benighted or remote the spot may be.

"He was just as loyal to his code as is the Briton. He carried his bath tub, his immaculate linen, his evening clothes, his war equipment—in which he had the pride of a connoisseur—wherever he went, and what is more, he had the courage to use the evening clothes at times when their use was conspicuous. He was the only man who wore a dinner coat in Vera Cruz, and each night, at his particular table in the crowded 'Portales' at the Hotel Diligencia he was to be seen, as fresh and clean as though he were in a New York or London restaurant."

It was while he was in Cuba that he won the everlasting friendship of Theodore Roosevelt. The head of the Rough Riders was so impressed with certain incidents in which Davis was concerned that he declared Dick could have a captaincy in his regiment at any time. "None of my officers," he said, "has been of more help or shown more courage." On the death of R. H. D. he paid him a tribute which may fittingly end this brief sketch:

"He was as good an American as ever lived, and his heart flamed against cruelty and injustice. His writings form a textbook of Americanism which all our people would do well to read at this time."

3/7/1929

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### The Kenworthy Bridge.

The municipal authorities are, we understand, about to make some changes to the Kenworthy Bridge; which eliminated Wissahickon's age-old grade crossing; in order to prevent motorists from driving through the fragile iron fence which adorns the edge of that structure.

It has been suggested to place a fourteen ~~inch~~ iron girder along the ~~east~~ curb line, so that automobiles, which are out of control, cannot possibly mount the sidewalk and crash through the fence for a plunge to the depths below.

A red light has already been placed on one of the electric light poles on the bridge to warn drivers of the danger which exists there.

We feel that a broad, white traffic-lane line should be painted on the roadway of both approaches and the bridge itself, for several times, we have observed that it is the cars coming up the hill, attempting to pass slower moving vehicles, that create situations which force descending cars to the danger point of the curve, and feel that these drivers who break the safety code should be arrested and fined.

According to reports it is also planned to erect a heavy screen on the cantilever of the bridge, outside the fence, to prevent children from climbing the rails and falling over into Cresson street.

The hazards at the Kenworthy Bridge, which was a long-needed improvement, will not be disposed of until all of these steps have been taken.

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5/1/1930

## Lady Artisans of America Organize Roxborough Chapter

Initiatory Team, Headed by Supreme President, Sarah Ward, Installs Officers, at Fine Meeting Held in Lyceum Hall.—Mary Hauenschild is President of Local Group

Another fraternal order came into existence, in Lyceum Hall, at Ridge and Lyceum avenues, last Friday evening, when officers were installed for Roxborough Chapter No. 5, Lady Artisans of America, by Supreme President Sarah Ward, and an initiatory team from Chapter No. 1, of Philadelphia.

To Mrs. Ann Walters, of James-town avenue, must go a great deal of credit for the organizing of this new local lodge, for she, with several of her friends worked tirelessly to "sign-up" the fifty-five members who were present at the first meeting.

The officers who were installed were: President, Mary Hauenschild; Vice President, Bessie Hardman;

Recording Secretary, Sarah Bussinger; Financial Secretary, Edith Chase; Treasurer, Anna Turtle; Conductress, Mary Murray; Senior Past President, Anna Winkler; Junior Past President, Mrs. John Kern; Chaplain, Clara Mullin; Inner Guard, Marie Musselman; Outside Guard, Catherine Reilly; Trustees, Sarah Sager, Anna Mulcrone, Hannah Emery; Pianiste, Louise Porreca.

The new chapter was the recipient of a beautiful ebony gavel, encircled by a broad silver band, on which was engraved the name of the chapter and its donor, Stanley H. Bussinger, Recorder of Roxborough Assembly No. 73, Artisans of America.

# Old Firemen Had Some Big Blazes

## Engine No. 12, of Manayunk Among First in Paid Department

### DRAWN BY HORSES

### East Falls Company No. 35 Will Celebrate 41st Birthday This Year

By JOHN M. SICKINGER  
After many years of riots, murders and robberies which was laid on the door steps of the old volunteer fire department, Mayor Daniel M. Fox had Councils pass an ordinance to abolish the volunteers and on December 29, 1870, the paid department started operating.

Feeling ran high for the ordinance was a sensation. No one would believe that Councils would dare to pass the bill. The old volunteers were a power in politics, backed up by the rowdy element, and on New Year's Day, 1871, rioting broke out and one man was shot to death. The police, under Fox, who was in personal command, soon had the red shirted heroes on the run. At the end of ten days the Mayor signed the bill and appointed a board of commissioners who began work at once on reorganizing the paid fire department.

The Commission was composed of President, Jacob Loudenslager; George E. Plumly, Hamilton Diss-ton, Joseph R. Lyndell, William A. Porter, William F. McCulley, Joseph R. Edmundson; secretary, John R. Cantlin, and chief engineer, William H. Johnson.

After three months of hard work on the part of the commission, the paid fire department went into service on March 15, 1871, and Manayunk was assigned Engine Company No. 12. For six days, following, accordingly to old records, the new department had very little to do. Nothing but small minor fires occurred all over Philadelphia until March 21, 1871, when the first big fire broke loose. Like many other things it had to be chalked up against Manayunk. The blaze was in a drying house attached to Heft and Ogles' big woolen mill. The mill engineer was killed by a bursting fly wheel.

The following year, on May 27th, 1872, another big fire drew almost the entire department to this section, when the Greenwood's Wissahickon Mill went up with a loss of \$20,000. The following month, on June 24th, 1872, Engine No 12 had its first run out of its own section, when another large fire called them into service at the Littlewood &

Lancaster Dye Works, on Ridge avenue, East Falls. The works was destroyed to the extent of \$20,000.

Year, after year saw other big conflagrations. Beginning with Christmas Eve, of 1879, when Old St. David's P. E. church, at Wabash avenue and Center street, was totally destroyed at a loss of \$18,000, the men fought some of the biggest blazes in history of the paid department. A glance over the following list will show the reader what kept the firemen from growing old.

December 31, 1880—Flat Rock Paper Mills, of M. & W. H. Nixon, on Chanal Bank. Calender and rag rooms. Totally destroyed. Loss \$80,000.

January 27, 1881—Carpet Yarn Mill of Richard Hey, Main and Seville streets; Thomas Blackley, a workman, burnt to death. Loss \$10,000.

April 21, 1881—Lager beer brewery of Phil Guckes', School lane above Norristown R. R. Loss \$60,000.

January 5, 1882—Woolen Mills of Seville Schofield, on Canal Bank. Loss \$50,000.

May 21, 1882—Shoddy Mill of Alber Lee & Bros, Terrace and Dawson streets. Totally destroyed. Loss \$50,000.

May 26, 1882—Fire and explosion in grocery store of John McNeal, on Ridge avenue, East Falls. 21 persons burned and injured.

December 12, 1882—The Enterprize Mills, Main and Dawson streets, occupied by Joseph M. Adams, Kelly & Wilhere, Lord & Connor, John Wilde & Brother, Cotton Yarn Spinners. One girl injured jumping from an upper window. One died from burns and 18 others injured. Loss \$60,000.

January 12, 1883—The Canton Mills of Fitzpatrick & Holt, Leverington avenue and Baker street. Party destroyed. Loss \$20,000.

August 11, 1883—Picker House, of Robert Wilde & Son, Hamilton street and Leverington avenue. Loss \$15,000.

June 15, 1885—Fire at wharf of American Paper Pulp Company, on Canal Bank. 1400 cords of poplar logs. Burnt nine days. Loss \$15,000.

July 12, 1885—Woolen Mills of Benjamin Schofield, on Rock Hill road, West Manayunk. Totally destroyed. Loss \$150,000. Note: In

those days Engine 12 would cross the river on orders from headquarters, when Philadelphia county was asked to render assistance to save other property.

November 26, 1885—Dyeworks of G. J. Littlewood & Company, Main street and Shurs lane. Loss \$6,000.

December 30, 1885—Warehouse of Flat Rock Paper Mills, of W. & M. H. Nixon, on Canal Bank. Loss \$6,000.

March 15, 1886—Picker House of Seville Schofield, on Canal Bank. Loss \$30,000.

December 17, 1886—Haley Mills, on Wissahickon Creek at Gorgas lane, owned by J. G. Haley. Totally Destroyed. Loss \$20,000.

December 31, 1886—Roxborough Mills, of J. Leech & Brother, Shurs lane, below Pechin street. Loss \$120,000.

April 13, 1887—Fire at Mill of Robert Lee, Terrace street. Loss \$15,000.

July 16, 1889—Schuylkill Paper Mill, of Stellwagon & Co. on Canal Bank, at Leverington avenue. Loss \$54,423.00.

July 30, 1889—Boiler explosion at the mill of Flanagan & Brother, Shurs lane and Freeland avenue, killing Joshua Ambler and George D. Schofield. Fire followed and damaged the mill to amount of \$10,000.

Engine Company No. 35 at East Falls went into service in 1889. Truck No. 13 at the Falls is about 20 years old. Roxborough had its fire company, Engine 39, installed in the early nineties. About four years ago Engine 66, located at Eva and Dearnley streets, Upper Roxborough, went into service and two years ago, Truck No. 25 was put into operation in the new fire headquarters with Engine 12, on Main street near Carson street.

The fire losses of today are very small compared to fifty years ago. Wurr-r-r-r, clang-clang-clang, and one stands frozen to the spot as the modern fire apparatus goes flying to the scene of a blaze. It takes two persons to watch the fire engines travel at the present time: one to say, "Here they come!" the other to shout, "There they go!" How can a fire possibly get a start with that kind of firemen and apparatus?



6/5/1930

# G. A. R. Pays Tribute to Union Dead

Hetty A. Jones Post No. 12,  
Visited Local Cemeter-  
ies on Thursday

## GILLETTE IN COMMAND

Main Services Held by Civil  
War Veterans in  
Afternoon

Each year takes its toll from the ranks of the men in blue who fought for the Union cause more than sixty-five years ago, and Memorial Day, of last week, found but a few of the comrades with silvered heads and faltering feet in the parades of this vicinity to lay wreaths and flags upon the graves of those who have gone before.

In the 21st Ward, five of the seven members of Hetty A. Jones Post No. 12, G. A. R., of Roxborough, under Commander George Gillette, and one member of General G. K. Warren Post No. 15, G. A. R., of Manayunk, James K. Marlin, visited the local cemeteries to keep their pledge of decorating the mounds of their Civil War comrades.

In the work in the public schools, which is done every year in the week before Memorial Day, the old soldiers were aided by members of the Sons of Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other patriotic organizations. To every school child they take a message of patriotism and love for that Nation strong in the union which they so ably fought to preserve from '61 to '65.

Tribute to the heroes of the Nation who died on their native soil was paid by these surviving G. A. R. men, on Memorial Day morning, by visiting the various local cemeteries in Manayunk and Upper Roxborough, but the main Grand Army service took place as usual, in the afternoon at Gorgas Park and in Leverington Cemetery.

At 1:30 the members of Hetty A. Jones Post, No. 12; Samuel Clegg Camp No. 9, and the Women's Relief Corps, of Hetty A. Jones Post, led by the Roxborough Band, were escorted from their Post Home, at Fountain street and Ridge avenue, to the Memorial Monument in Gorgas Park, by Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333, V. F. W., and a huge delegation of Boy Scouts.

Wreaths were placed at the base of the monument, in the park, by Commander George Gillette, and by the president of the Women's Relief Corps, after which the firing squad and buglers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars gave the military farewell to the dead by gun-fire and sounding of taps.

From Gorgas Park the Civil War veterans, with their escorts, par-

aded to the Lutheran Cemetery, on Martin street, where flowers were strewn on the graves and the ritualistic rites of military form were observed. The firing squad of Samuel Clegg Camp No. 9, and the buglers participated in this service.

The marchers then proceeded to Leverington Cemetery, where ceremonies were held at the Civil War Monument, under the direction of Commander Gillette of Post No. 12 and the G. A. R. Senior Vice Commander of Pennsylvania C. W. Meconnahey, of Winfield Scott Post No. 114, Samuel Clegg Camp No. 9, assisted in the rites at this place, as did James Marlin, of Post No. 15, of Manayunk, who had enlisted in the Union Army on June 16th 1861, in the Second Delaware Infantry.

Commander Meconnahey read General John A. Logan's Order No. 11, after which Bruce Priest, of the Shawmont Public School read Lincoln's Gettysburg address. In every G. A. R. Post, on Memorial Day, the Gettysburg address is read, as well as the order by General Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army, issued in 1868, setting aside May 30th as the day for honoring the memory of the Union veterans.

Rev. Luther Ketels, of St. Stephen's M. E. Church, Germantown, who is a brother of Rev. O. E. Ketels of the Ridge Avenue M. E. Church, at Shawmont avenue, was the orator of the day at the G. A. R. service in Leverington Cemetery.

Dr. Ketels reviewed the story of "The Man Without a Country," and used the tale as a plea for strengthening the patriotism of the American people. The speaker called the attention of his hearers to God's guidance of America through all of its national crises and paid a high tribute to the loyalty of the G. A. R. men who preserved the United States as one nation.

After singing the "Star Spangled Banner," Dr. Ketels pronounced the benediction and the Union veterans marched to Hattal-Taylor Post Home, on Lyceum avenue, where they spent the remainder of the day as guests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2-7-1929

### DO YOU KNOW

THAT the 21st Ward's real estate assessment is \$28,289,600 and  
THAT its assessment on personal possessions is \$21,952,802.  
THAT the Ward has 8,408 dwellings,  
3858 of which are two-story buildings and 3687 are of three story construction.  
THAT it has 743 retail stores,  
12 wholesale houses,  
50 eating houses,  
195 shops and factories,  
1051 businesses of all kinds,  
567 Electric lights,  
1056 gas lamps,  
422 gasoline lamps,  
4 fire companies—29-66-13 and Truck No. 25,  
2 police stations, 13th and 43rd,  
And has a population of 38,194.  
WELL, IT HAS 4

10-6-1932

# Baptists Have 225th Birthday

Philadelphia Asso'n Was  
Parent of Present Nation-  
Wide Group of Churches.  
John Langdon Jones De-  
livers Educational Address

The dank walls of the old Barbadoes storehouse on the Delaware River front 225 years ago resounded to the exhortations of Baptist leaders of that day, as they completed the organization of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, out of which was to come the entire organization of Baptist Churches existing today.

Five early mission churches formed this first group. The church at Pennypack had been organized in 1698 and the one at Middletown, N. J., the same year. The following year a third church was founded at Piscataway, N. J., and in 1690 came the organization of the Cohansie, N. J., Church. Eleven years elapsed before the founding of the fifth of the original group in the Welsh Tract, Del. The Baptist Association was established in 1707.

The anniversary celebration of that event is being held in connection with the annual meeting this week, in the First Baptist Church, which grew out of the first Pennypack mission. Sessions and special anniversary features are going on in the present church at 17th and Sansom streets.

Dr. Milton G. Evans, president of Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, was the anniversary preacher Tuesday evening. Dr. Ivan M. Rose, pastor of the First Church, welcomed the delegates who attended from Baptist Churches of the city.

The historical record was surveyed in a special address by Dr. G. Morton Walker yesterday afternoon. "Philadelphia Baptists in Education" was discussed by Dr. John Langdon Jones, of Roxborough, and the work of the same group in social service by Dr. John W. Elliot, in charge of that department for the American Baptist Publication Society, one of the bodies to grow out of the original association.

1/23/30

will be at 7:30 and 10:30 A. M. and at 7:45 in the evening. The special preacher at 10:30 A. M. will be Rev. R. K. Yerkes, D. D., of the Protestant Episcopal Divinity School, and at 7:45 P. M. Rev. W. F. Conkling, rector of St. Luke's Church, Germantown.

The parish reception will be held on Thursday evening of next week.

An outline of the history of St. Timothy's Church states that "this parish was begun on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27th. A. D., 1859, by holding upon that day of a Sunday School in the dining room and kitchen of a small house at the entrance to the residence of D. Rodney King. This house was occupied as a summer residence of J. Vaughan Merrick, and being at the time vacant, was cheerfully loaned for the purpose. The reasons which prompted the establishment were these: The nearest places of worship or Sunday Schools of any kind were that of the Baptists, at Lyceum avenue, or Ridge avenue, about a mile distant; those of the Methodist, or the Presbyterians in Manayunk, and at about the same distance or more. No Episcopal Church or Sunday School existed at a nearer distance than two miles; viz., "St. David's" at Manayunk, and "St. James the Less," at the Falls of Schuylkill. St. Alban's on the Ridge road was not then commenced.

"Therefore many children in the vicinity had no Sunday School instruction, nor had the people any religious services on that day unless by going to one of the before-mentioned places of worship. As a natural result Sunday was not to many a day of rest, and during the summer months was not a day of tranquillity. The school was at first called the 'Wissahickon' Sunday School, being near the station of that name. As much publicity as possible having been given of the intention to open it, forty children assembled on the day named, and were met by eight teachers, including a superintendent, viz., Mr. and Mrs. D. R. King, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Griffiths, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Cauffman, Miss Emily Cauffman, and Charles H. Miller. W. F. Griffiths, Jr., acted as superintendent.

"William H. James, in the employ of Mr. and Mrs. King acted as sexton. Emmeline Winn (Bancroft) was one of the scholars.

"From this successful beginning the school gradually increased in numbers and with such increase came an enhanced interest on the part both of teachers and scholars.

"In the month of March, 1860, it became necessary to vacate this house, which was wanted by its summer occupants; and the schools were removed to a building known as 'the old Poor House', at the junction of Ridge avenue and Hermit lane.

"This building was fitted up and was used the first year—to be accurate, six months—rent free, and afterwards at a rent of fifty dollars a year. The fitting up was done partly by the contribution of money from the founders and their friends, and partly by the freely-given labor of some of the workmen in the vic-

inity. The size of the building was 17 by 45 feet, and two stories in height. The upper floor was used for the infant school. At the time of removal the number of names on the roll was about 70.

"The interest evinced by the scholars and their families in the school was general. This and the religious wants of those who were engaged in teaching contributed to produce the resolve that a church service should be held each Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The first of these services was held on April 27, 1860, by the Rev. J. W. Claxton, at that time rector of St. David's Church, Manayunk. That church being somewhat the nearest Episcopal Church and the one which had been previously attended by the majority of those who founded St. Timothy's, it was considered proper to obtain its rector's ministrations at the first service.

"The first rector, the Rev. John Leighton McKim, was called to the parish, on October 28th, 1860.

"On the 31st day of May, 1860, shortly after the beginning of the first church services, a meeting of the signers to articles of association for church purposes—12 in number—was held at the residence of Mr. King, the following persons being present: D. R. King, H. K. B. Ogle, A. A. Ripka, S. E. Babcock, C. H. Miller, W. F. Griffiths, Jr., J. V. Merrick, T. E. Cauffman. The other four signers: R. B. McCullough, S. Wagner, J. D. Rodney and A. Hemsley were absent. A committee of three was appointed to prepare articles of incorporation and to obtain a charter under the title 'St. Timothy's, Roxborough.' Another committee of three to report the best plan for the organization of a parish. And still another committee of three to prepare a code of by-laws.

"A charter was finally granted, under decree of Court, and the Parish legally incorporated February 5th, 1861.

"Before attempting to build a Church it was recommended that a clergyman be obtained to have temporary charge of the parish, and that, pending his selection services should be maintained by the assistance of outside clergy.

"At a meeting held October 11th, 1860, a committee reported that they could obtain a clergyman, for \$600 and the use of a rectory free. A suitable house for this purpose was offered by Messrs. King and Merrick. It was the same house in which the Sunday School had been started. It was determined to invite a clergyman to take charge, year by year until the success of the effort should seem to be assumed. The Rev. John Leighton McKim, as stated before, was elected to the position. The Poor House was rented at \$50 per annum, from October 9th 1860. A committee was appointed to see if an eligible church lot could be obtained."

"The committee was authorized to spend not more than \$2000. The salary of the rector was fixed at \$600 and the free use of the rectory.

At a meeting held May 26th 1862, the Vestry approved plans by Emlen T. Littell, church architect, of New York, for the church, the cost of

which was estimated at \$3500 and order for the Building Committee to contract for work at once. On June 15th 1862 was purchased the lot upon which the church stands, about one and one-eighth acres, at a total cost of \$1300, of which \$1200 was to remain on mortgage.

The cornerstone of St. Timothy's Church was laid on July 18th, 1862, by Bishop Alonzo Potter, with addresses by the Revs. Leighton Coleman and B. Wistar Morris.

In 1863 "it was resolved to purchase for Sunday School purposes, the Government Hospital, and a piece of land in the rear of the church yard, 40 feet deep by 205 feet long, on which to erect the Sunday School; the cost to be at the rate of -1000 per acre."

"The outstanding events of the progress of the parish in the last twenty years has been the acquisition of the large church yard extending from the church to Rector street and the erection of the beautiful rectory on the new plot of ground.

The full history of St. Timothy's Church contains a vast store of interesting data, but the length of the full recital makes impossible the printing of it all at this time.

11-14-29

### "ST. JOHN'S"

Here, on rumbling noisy corner,  
Where engines speeding go,  
"St. John's" is a record of  
Christians,  
Who lived in the long ago.  
And men and women and  
children,  
Who have gone to a just  
reward  
Have knelt within its sacred  
halls,  
To worship a Precious Lord.

How staunchly stand its granite  
walls,  
As though the passing years,  
They've encircled the Holy Altar,  
Where souls have been freed of  
fears.  
Here, men and women of courage,  
Have labored and loved  
and wed;  
Their babes have been brought  
for pledging;  
And rites have been sung o'er  
their dead.

And the grandsons of those who  
built it,  
And granddaughters, too, as  
true,  
Still throng to the masses within  
it  
To give to their God, His due,  
Its spire points up to the heavens,  
To the saintly Home up above,  
And its clock chimes hours, that  
passing  
Bring closer His Eternal Love.

Blessings sent down on this  
temple;  
Filled with mem'ries loved and  
dear;  
Are an inspiration forever,  
And an invocation here,  
Blessing all who pray within it,  
As through Life they travel on,  
And makes it a sacred guerdon,  
Left by those who long have  
gone.

A. C. C.

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12/19/29

## Roxborough Post Office in Readiness for Holiday Mail

New Structure, Started on September 10th, Is Completed  
Two Days Ahead of Schedule.—Local Ar-  
tisans Employed on its Erection

Roxborough's new Post Office, on Green lane, east of Ridge avenue, went into operation on Saturday morning of last week, December 14th, two days ahead of schedule, although the task of moving from the old location prevented the carriers from starting out from the new headquarters until Monday.

Samuel T. Banham, who received the contract for the erection of the structure, and Contractor Harvey F. Brown, who built it, are therefore to be congratulated for having carried out the completion of the structure according to the plans of the Governmental authorities.

The spacious one-story building has an attractive front of buff-colored bricks, laid in graceful lines, and is provided with every modern device, for the rapid distribution of mail, and for the convenience of the employees who will work in it.

The iron work of the structure was furnished by the Robinson Iron and Steel Company; the masonry and brickwork, by Joseph A. Duva; the plumbing, heating, roofing and sheet metal work, by George Wadephtul; the electrical equipment by William Lawrence; the excavating by Root Brothers; the painting by Richart & Richart, and the hardware by George E. MacFarland, all local contractors.

The Ideal Woodworking Company provided the millwork in the building, the postal furnishings came from the Federal Equipment Corporation of Carlisle, Pa., metal ceilings by the Penn Metal Ceiling Co., the concrete and cement work was done by D. C. Brown, and the glass was supplied by Wachman & Company.

On Thursday, June 13th, Postmaster George E. Kemp announced that the contracts had been awarded for the two new post offices—that in Manayunk, which is not quite ready for occupancy, in addition to the Roxborough office.

At that time it was announced that such facilities would take care of the postal needs of this section for at least ten years, and as stated before, Samuel T. Banham was the successful bidder.

Congressman George P. Darrow, Park Commissioner Frank L. Kenworthy, former State Representative Wallace L. Bromley, Samuel T. Banham, George D. Littlewood, president of the Roxborough Trust Company, and Erwin G. Stein and Adolph Lang, of the Roxborough Business Men's Association were chief among those who labored without stint to secure the new building.

Actual work on the construction of the office started on September

10th, of this year, when a huge steam shovel dug out the first bucketful of earth in the excavating.

Mayor Harry A. Mackey and Park Commissioner Frank L. Kenworthy, proved to be the only guests of honor who appeared for the formal dedication exercises, which were held at the Green Valley Country Club, Ridge avenue and Livezey's lane, on Tuesday evening.

An elaborate banquet had been prepared by a committee of the Roxborough Business Men's Association, for the occasion, and more than two hundred of the 21st Ward's citizens attended. The throng was, as stated by Toastmaster Howard A. Lukens, a true cross section of the people of the vicinity; men and women of prominence, in every art, industry and profession of the ward being present.

Mayor Mackey, on account of duties connected with his office, was forced to leave early, but before going, delivered a brief address in which he expressed his pleasure at being present to help celebrate such a forward step, and then told of the work being done for the welfare of the children and unfortunate people of the city.

After the dinner had been completed, Mr. Lukens called upon John S. Turner, local textile manufacturer, who is a human encyclopedia of facts concerning the ward's public improvements. After praising the men who have labored long to obtain the sadly needed postal improvements, Mr. Turner told of transit conditions as they relate to the northwest section of the municipality.

Samuel T. Banham, president of the City Business Club, who was the successful bidder for the contract of erecting and furnishing the new post office, was the next speaker, and he, too, spoke of civic matters pertaining to Roxborough, and of the development of the port of Philadelphia, and its bearing on labor conditions in this vicinity.

"Dick"—the one and only Dick—Farron, entertained the guests with several vocal selections and the music was provided by Pickel's Orchestra.

### GREEN LANE

Back in the dim and distant past,  
Twas but a path, where shade  
was cast

From full-leaved trees, which  
lined its course;

A pleasant road for man and  
horse.

It ran, they say, through well-  
kept farms.

Down to the Schuylkill's rippling  
charms.

Where anglers sought the  
river's flow

To snare the swimming fish  
below.

It found its way through pastures  
green,

Down to the water, which was  
clean,

Where patriots used the Lev-  
ring Ford,

To cross the stream, when Albion  
warred.

But now the fields have disap-  
peared,

Homes line its sides; all Time-  
ended

By generations, some who've  
gone

To Lands of Glory; traveled on.  
Here is the doctor's; there a  
man

Who earns his bread, as best he  
can.

By selling motor cars; and here's  
A preacher who instills the fears  
Of future punishment in knaves;  
And there a house of banking  
saves

The money of the townsfolk  
true;

A home of World War veterans,  
too.

And here a teacher of our youth  
Dwells in a house, where Beauty's  
truth

Shines out in grandeur, o'er the  
lawn

Each day the sun appears at  
dawn.

And I can see, through Memory's  
eye,

Fond loves scenes, which have  
now gone by.

Although they come to haunt  
my brain

Whene'er I walk along Green  
Lane.

A. C. C.

11-7-1929

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11/14/1929

## Armistice Day Brings Back Memories of Spanish War

By JOHN M. SICKINGER

A busy year for local doctors occurred in 1898. There was no outbreak of an epidemic but the casualties were very heavy among small boys in every section of the 21st Ward.

The spring of 1898 found "the kids" on their favorite lot playing marbles, or "Peggie" or rolling their hoops along the highways, until April 25th, when every mill whistle in the town was tied down which was the custom of calling for help whenever floods or fire endangered the factories.

Everybody ran to the mill district where they found three soldiers standing atop a wagon on a lot at the foot of Levering street, surrounded by a large mob of people.

I will never forget that April 25th as long as I live. One soldier held the American flag, another was playing an ancient flute while the third was "rolling away" on a kettle drum. After playing "Yankee Doodle," a large stout man, in the uniform of an officer walked in front of the trio and saluted the colors. All "the kids" were up front, thinking this was some new kind of a medicine show, until the high officer uttered these thrilling words: "Gentlemen, today the Congress of the United States have, at President McKinley's request, declared war on Spain and the President has issued a Proclamation calling for one hundred and seventy-five thousand volunteers to join the army."

This speech was greeted with cheers by the mill workers, but the cheering soon was checked by the tears from the mothers, sisters and sweethearts, of the boys who were rushing, crowding and pushing to get up on the wagon to sign the docket first.

After the excitement had died down it was found that nearly five hundred young men placed their "John Hancock" on the register. They were sent to various armories in the City and very few were turned away for disability. Those that were accepted were shipped to camps on Staten Island, and others to cantonments in the South, and then placed on transports bound for Cuba.

With the kids it was a great affair. They built forts on the hills and I remember "the gang," I traveled with, had the honor of erecting the first fort which we called "Fort McKinley." It was built on Ogle's Hill, a small mountain surrounded by Carson, Levering, Fleming and Silverwood streets. We toiled hard

collecting rocks to build the fort the wall being chin high and midway between the top and bottom we placed tomato cans for peep holes. Stove and heater pipes stuck out looking like cannons on a real fortification.

Joseph M. Adams, the then local Councilman and factory owner, who resided in the old homestead, now known as the Manayunk Club, in the rear of our fort, was as much interested in our citadel as we were. He told us to go down to the rear of his mill and get a flag pole that one of his workmen made out of a willow tree. We lugged the long stick up over the hill and the next day, which was Saturday, we raised a large flag that Mr. Adams presented to us. Standing on the wall, that protected his homestead, he delivered an address. We bestowed upon him the title of "Colonel of Fort McKinley."

Other kids, following our example, began to build forts until the surrounding hillsides were studded with them. And the factory owners began to raise flags over their mills. Every Saturday afternoon would see Rev. Patrick Kane, of the Fourth Reformed church, delivering an address, while the bands blared forth patriotic airs. Mill trucks with fire bells attached, would be in the parades.

The finest flag-raising that took place was at the Wm. and Martin Nixon "Flat Rock" Paper Mills. When the flag was raised and took the breeze 13 red, white and blue pigeons which were dyed and represented the 13 original states, circled over head until they located their bearings and flew off towards their coop.

On the canal, in front of the mills, was the Spanish fleet. Each boat was of large sized model and contained a keg of gunpowder, connected with a battery on shore. The Sons of Veterans held a sham battle across the canal and at a given signal an electric switch was thrown and the entire fleet blown up. Yes, those were the stirring days. I heard the Rev. Kane deliver his patriotic speech so often I knew it word for word and honestly believe that I could have "pinch-hitted" for him if necessary.

The War lasted but 114 days but many of our boys who went to Cuba are still there. Swamp, yellow and typhoid fever and other diseases were worse than Spanish bullets, while stone fights at the hillside forts kept local doctors very busy at home.

## Death Claims Well Known Bus Owner

Edward Twells Dies at Leverington Avenue Home 10/24/1929

### PIONEER OPERATOR

Began With Horse-Drawn Vehicles 35 Years Ago

The Twenty-first Ward suffered a tremendous loss on Friday, when death claimed J. Edward B. Twells, at his home, 600 Leverington avenue, Roxborough.

Mr. Twells was one of the section's pioneer bus operators, having started in the business before the era of the motor driven coach, some thirty-five years ago. His first venture was in operating horse-drawn busses up and down the Wissahickon Creek Drive, and to West Laurel Hill Cemetery. When the automobile came into existence he was the first in the northwest part of Philadelphia to adapt the mechanical means for transporting passengers. His keen business sense and determination brought him to the top rank in his profession, and his large fleet of de luxe cars have traveled all over the Atlantic coast.

"Eddie" Twells, as he was familiarly called by thousands, was born at 323 W. Penn street, Brooklyn, N. Y., on March 18th, 1871, the son of George and Mary E. Twells. His father having died while he was a young lad, Twells at the age of seven, with his mother and two sisters, who still survive, came to Philadelphia, where he has since lived continuously in Wissahickon and Roxborough.

On July 13th, 1892 Twells was married to Miss Ida Lebengood, of Roxborough. The union was blessed with two children, a son, Bray who died in infancy, and a daughter, who is now Mrs. Charles Sowden, the wife of a former U. S. Naval officer, at present a merchant marine port director, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Twells, who was loved for his quietly genial disposition, once found his greatest diversion in owning and training fast horses for the race track. Three of the best known animals which he owned were "Coal Black Lady," "General Annie," and "Peaches." These horses were often taken to the track at Belmont where by their performances they added to their owner's long list of friends.

The deceased, in addition to being vice president of the Philadelphia Bus Operator's Association, was a director of the Wissahickon Business Men's Association, and a member of several fraternal organizations, including Richard Vaux Lodge, No. 384, F. and A. M. and of the P. O. S. of A.

The auto bus business, so capably built up by Mr. Twells, will be continued by members of his family, at the headquarters at 4026 Main street, Manayunk.

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5/30/1929

## Origin of Local Grand Army Receives Attention

BY JOHN M. SICKINGER

Today we will hear the tramp of feet and the music of the fife and drum corps over the hills and down in the dale. The children are anxiously awaiting to view the boys who laid aside their jobs, left their sweethearts, mothers and homes and answered their Uncle Sam's call to the colors.

The day was dedicated in honor of the boys who answered Lincoln's plea in 1861. God alone, knows the suffering that those school boys suffered, for mostly of school boys the Union Army was composed.

Since the Civil War strife the ranks of the soldiers who fought for the stars and stripes have thinned out considerably. Sixty-eight years ago, means that a living veteran of the Civil War would be well up in his eighties, and so very few survive.

The veterans of the World War have taken over the duties of their forefathers, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars having succeeded them.

The first Post of G. A. R. in the 21st Ward was organized in Roxborough, December 13th, 1866 with the name of Samuel Clegg Encampment Post 12, with 14 charter members. The following comrades were elected first officers of the Post: Colonel S. I. Givin, post commander; T. P. Wilkinson, senior vice commander; N. M. Rittehouse, junior vice commander; A. W. Given, adjutant; J. G. Morris, quartermaster; Dr. W. C. Todd, surgeon. The post meet weekly with good results for several months and mustered comrades until they had a membership of fifty soldiers. But it seemed as if some of the comrades had an erroneous idea in regard to the object of the organization and politics got to be the topics of the meetings of the Post instead of its regular business. The membership fell off and they were forced to surrender their charter May 27th 1870.

On February 24th 1874 twenty-five of the old soldiers of the 21st Ward held a meeting to make arrangements to take up the charter of Post 12. After the meeting was called to order and the twenty-five signed the application for the charter they elected the following officers: P. L. Langer, senior vice commander; Joseph Hurst, junior vice commander; T. D. Lush, officer of the day; F. Parker, adjutant; C. Harner, outer sentinel; Dr. W. C. Todd, surgeon; James McGee, chaplain; D. L. McBlain, sergeant major; W. H. Lush, quartermaster sergeant. The meeting then adjourned to hold the first meeting of the re-organized Post on March 2 1874, and that date the Post held its first meeting in Odd Fellows Hall at Lyceum and Ridge avenues, when it was decided to call the Post Hetty A. Jones Post 12, it being only the second post named after an Army nurse in the Department of Pennsylvania.

The Post was attended with good

success and at one time numbered 200 members, but death and other causes has reduced the membership to a number that can be counted on one's fingers.

Post 15, which surrendered its charter about five years ago had its humbled beginning in 1878, when a meeting of the soldiers of the late war had assembled at the home of Samuel Wrigley, on Wabash avenue now called Smick street, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Army Post.

On motion, Samuel Shur was appointed as temporary chairman, and George Day as secretary. The meeting was then called to order for the purpose of organization as above stated, and made considerable progress in that direction. After a social conversation the meeting adjourned to meet on Saturday night, October 19th 1878.

On November 2nd 1878, a regular stated meeting was held for the purpose of installing the officers of Post 5 G. A. R.. The following officers were installed: Post Commander, Samuel Grigley; senior commander, Thomas J. Reed; junior vice commander, Joseph Turner; adjutant,

George Day; sergeant major, Thomas Shaw, officer of the day, Charles Jefferies; quartermaster, Samuel L. Shur; sergeant, Charles Hunsberger; officer of the guard, Amos Richards; surgeon, Christopher A. Frame; chaplain, William H. H. Lawson.

The meeting took place in old Temperance Hall, on Levering street (now known as the Dixie theatre- the Post was known as Ken. G. K. Warren Post 15 of the G. A. R. and this post was to cover all cemeteries west of Manayunk avenue to the river.

About five years ago the remaining survivors, James Marlin, Barney Conlow, and William McNeil, decided it was necessary to surrender the charter to the mother order, death having removed so many of the members that there were not enough soldiers alive to elect to office which the charter called for.

Since that time the Spanish American War Veterans, the Emery Post of the American Legion and Hattal-Taylor Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars have taken over the Memorial Day duties of their forefathers.

7/25/29

115

## Death Claims C. A. Rudolph, Old Resident

Former Paper Manufacturer Died on Monday Morning At Home

LED ACTIVE LIFE

Is Survived by Seven Children and Twenty-Seven Grandchildren

After fighting the grim reaper for the past three months, C. A. Rudolph, a retired paper manufacturer, died at his late residence, River View Mansion, along the Schuylkill below the Manayunk Inter-County Bridge, at West Manayunk last Monday at 12.30 P. M.

Born in the old Rudolph Mansion, the son of the late S. A. and C. J. Rudolph on November 27th, 1858, he received his early training at St. Mary's School, then entered Manhattan College for a term after which he was qualified for and entered La Salle College, from which he graduated with high honors in 1876. He then entered the paper-making business with a firm of which his father was a member, Heft, Rudolph and Dixon.

He married Clara Dixon, the daughter of his father's partner.

The mills were built on River road and Belmont avenue and were known as the Ashland Paper Mills and furnished news print for the Philadelphia Record until 1890, when the Singlerly interests, owners of the Record, built their own plant at Elkton, Md.

Mr. Rudolph, who held the degree of LL. D., of La Salle College, is survived by his wife, Mrs. Clara Dixon Rudolph; a son, Sebastian R. Rudolph, 2d, of Wynnewood; six daughters, Sister Alberta Joseph, of the Sisters of Mercy; Mrs. Pierre Smith, of Trenton, N. J., and Mrs. Jane Rudolph Swanson, Mrs. George M. Dorsey, Mrs. William F. Emory and Mrs. William J. Walsh, of this city; four sisters and twenty-eight grandchildren.

Requiem mass was celebrated this morning at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, Manayunk. Burial was in Westminster Cemetery.

2/14/1929

## Glen Willow Ice Company Moves to New Location on Belmont Ave. W. Manayunk

### Progress of Local Manufacturing Concern Has Been Steady Since Its Organization—One-Time Office Boy Now President

Thirty-seven years ago, the late Peter P. Liebert and several other noted local men, met in private conference and talked over community improvements which were needed in the 21st Ward.

The most serious matter was a scarcity of ice, and Mr. Liebert talked about the growing increase in the population and the small capacity of the local ice storage houses which then stood along the banks of the Schuylkill river.

A date was set for a public hearing and at that gathering a company was formed. A committee was named and detailed to inspect several sites on which to erect an ice plant. The men who were on this committee finally decided on a glen along the Manayunk Canal, near the Chinnaminson Station of the Pennsylvania railroad. The glen was overgrown with weeping willow trees and at the next meeting of the company the site was accepted and the name Glen Willow Ice Manufacturing Company given to the new enterprise.

Bids for the plant and machinery were advertised for and contracts awarded and work started in 1892. An office was opened on the second floor of Ben Davis' hardware store, on the site of the new fire headquarters of Engine Company No. 12 and Truck 25. The late Hiram Lippen was named superintendent and John C. Belz was office boy. Four horses and two wagons, that were stabled in the Liebert & Obert Coal Yard, formed the humble beginning of the Glen Willow Company's delivery service.

Several years later, a vacant lot on Main street, above Green lane, was purchased and at what was considered at that time, a modern, two-story office building, wagon sheds, stables and coal yard were erected.

The removal of the Main street plant, which stood in the way of the construction of the elevated railroad of the Reading Company, through Manayunk, to the new location at Belmont avenue and River road in West Manayunk, which occurred last week, was the crowning glory in the life of the president, John C. Belz, who grew up with the firm.

The new plant is constructed on the old historical Levering estate, where the first mill that was ever erected under a grant from William Penn once stood.

When the British occupied Philadelphia in 1776-77, Levering mounted a fast horse and rode to Valley Forge to notify Washington of the redcoats' plans concerning the capturing of the American Army.

In front of the drive entrance, beneath the paving of Belmont avenue, still lie the remains of Anthony Levering, his two wives and three children, who were buried in the family burial plot which once occupied the site.

The main plant of the Glen Willow Ice Manufacturing Company is a two-story office structure, with four business stores on the Belmont avenue front. Five large concrete silos, a garage and stabling wagon sheds, are now being erected, in addition to a huge supply ice box.

The Roxborough plant, on East Green lane, is now having an electric ice making machine installed. The company also has branches in Chestnut Hill, Bala and Norristown, which capably takes care of the growing suburban business.

John C. Belz, the president; John A. Eichman, Treasurer and Charles J. Weisman are the oldest men in line of service. The Board of Directors consists of Peter P. Liebert, John B. Obert, William J. Bovard, Basil S. Walsh and Fred G. M. Woerner.

The office force, under James E. Copeland and John M. Kaufman, is made up of Harry Ackerman, John McCarey and Clarence G. Francis.

The yard employees are supervised by Neil Junker, and motor repairs are attended to by Robert Pester. Arthur Holdsworth, one of the best horsemen in this section of the country is in charge of the stables. Twenty-two ice wagons and a fleet of fast motor trucks are working to capacity in caring for the summer trade of ever-growing population.

11-21-35

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## To Observe His 91st Birthday

John M. Hodson, Retired Rope Manufacturer, Was Born on November 25th, 1844.—Spent Entire Life in This Locality.

John M. Hodson, of 525 East Leverington avenue, Roxborough will observe his 91st birthday next Monday.

Born in Manayunk, on November 25th 1844, Mr. Hodson has resided in this vicinity through his entire life. On January 1st 1866, he was married to Miss Emma Louise Shinkle, a local woman. Mrs. Hodson expired on June 2nd of 1934. Two sons, Walter M. and Frank S. Hodson; and two daughters, Mrs. Edith H. Struse and Mrs. Tisie H. Fancourt, are well known here.

Mr. Hodson's business career was an unusual one he having been interested since youth in the Mallison Rope Walk, in Manayunk. The business was founded by his grandfather, John Mallison, in May of 1827, and Mr. Hodson became owner through inheritance in 1866, and has carried on continuously ever since that time.

He was Worshipful Master of Roxborough Lodge F. and A. M., in 1883, and at the present time is the oldest living member of the fraternal organization, and is also the oldest member of the First M. E. Church of Roxborough.

### FELICITATIONS



JOHN HODSON

Of Leverington avenue, Roxborough, whose friends will extend him birthday congratulations next Monday, on the occasion of his 91st natal anniversary.

12/19/35

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# Roosevelt Writes Letter Concerning Slain Virginians

Read at Commemorative Service Held at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday

## PATRIOTS PRAISED

Dr. Paul Zeller Strodach Preaches Splendid Sermon on Subject

December 11th, 1935

To The Members of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society:

I take pleasure in joining with you to pay tribute to the nameless patriots of Light Horse Harry Lee's command, whose sacrifice sanctified the picturesque valley of the Wissahickon.

It is particularly fitting that we cherish the memory of these heroes, who, in the darkest hours of our history, died willingly that the nation might live.

There are few places so sacred to such memories as the historic precincts whence your society takes its name.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

The above letter, with splendid addresses by Stanley Hart Cauffman, president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, and Rev. Paul Zeller Strodach, D. D., editor of the Book Department of the Lutheran Publication Society, were the high-lights of the combined commemorative service, held at the Grace Lutheran Church, Ridge and Roxborough avenues, last Sunday evening.

Arranged by Rev. William H. Cooper, pastor with officials and members of the church, and officers of the historical society, the service marked the 158th anniversary of the massacre of 18 Virginia troopers at Wood's Barn, on the night of December 19th, 1777. Grace Church stands on the site of the Revolutionary occurrence.

Having taken refuge in the barrack of Andrew Wood, after a reconnoitering expedition, the party of Virginians on their return to the American camp at Valley Forge, were sound asleep when a large body of British soldiers, led by Captain James Cathcart, descended on the Americans and 18 were slain. Their remains were first

interred on a part of the Wood property, but afterward removed to the Leverington Cemetery, where a monument rises as one of the first of the resting places dedicated to Unknown Soldiers.

Representatives of the following patriotic, veteran and historical organizations attended the service on Sunday night: Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333, V. F. W.; Clegg Camp, Sons of Union Veterans; the Womens Relief Corps, of the G. A. R.; Girl Scouts from the Manayunk and Roxborough Baptist Churches; Boy Scouts of District No. 1; the Germantown Historical Society and the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. The military and scout groups massed their colors at the front of the church. A trumpet quartet, from the Wissahickon M. E. Church, and the Grace Church Choir and organist added greatly to the service with musical renditions.

The pastor, Rev. Mr. Cooper, presided. Mr. Cauffman was the historical narrator and read the message from President Roosevelt; and Dr. Strodach preached the sermon, which was based on the incident at Wood's Barn.

1/9/1930

# Curiosity Is An Old Habit Says "Sickie"

Tells Tale of Railroad Construction Through Manayunk

## 1883-1930 COMPARED

Pennsylvania Railroad Has Fast Trains Running Through Town

BY JOHN M. SICKINGER

Manayunk improvements in 1883 were very much like they are today for then, too, it was a great sight for the residents to stand along the Reading Railroad right of way, watching a group of workmen, doing their daily dozen. Today one may see a large number of unemployed citizens standing along Cresson street, watching the riggers, cement workers, riveters, carpenters, bricklayers, etc., doing their share of work to rush along the elevation of the Reading Railroad tracks, through that section.

Forty-six years ago, it was the same, and over head, too, at that. A large "Pennsy" right of way through manayunk in the spring of 1882. Dwelling houses, orchards and farms stood in the way.

These had to be demolished. A gang of workers started to erect large coffer dams in the Schuylkill river, for the erection of stone piers that

the old iron "Snake Bridge" rested on

Center street, now Dupont, was a grade crossing and had to be removed. A high retaining wall, along High street, with another overhead bridge across Leverington avenue, were some of the obstructions which the field engineers had to meet when the Pennsylvania Railroad company built its road through this section to tap the hard coal fields in Schuylkill County.

The bridge-work, across the river, was an engineering feat alone. The span was built on curve and was always called the "Snake Bridge" by old time railroad men. Built in 1883, it was replaced some years ago by the beautiful concrete bridge that spans the river obliquely from the Green Lane bridge. Owing to the curve of the bridge, it was always necessary to have a hill "pusher" to shove a train of ten coal loaded cars across it.

Today a locomotive, with a train of twenty cars, loaded, can cross the new bridge at an express speed. Trains running west, draw as high as sixty empties enroute to the coal mines. A new railroad passenger depot is soon to be erected in place of the old one, which now stands in a hollow. A construction concern is busy at the present time working on the electrification of the road from West Philadelphia to Norristown.

In the early eighties, the work was crude compared to the way it is done today with modern machinery of every description. The auto truck has replaced the mules and "jacks". Oh, boy, how those drivers could cuss! They would make a sea captain hang his head in shame. And that, by the way, is the only thing that is now missing on any construction job. A cussing mule driver and the crack of cart whip!

The "Pennsy" runs some very fast trains up and down the Schuylkill Valley Division. If you should be close to their right of way some time after nine o'clock in the morning, and see a fast express go roaring up the rails you can say to yourself, "There goes the Mountaineer." It has a dining car and parlor car in the train. The next express following is called "the Anthracite." Crack trains running into Philadelphia bear the titles of "The Philadelphian," "the Valley River Express," the Schuylkill, "the Anthracite" and "the Mountaineer." The latter two return to Philadelphia. All these crack trains stop at Conshohocken, running either direction.

The building of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Schuylkill Valley Division, brought the first Italian families into the section, some of whom remained here, and made it their permanent home.

Yes, there is very little difference between the two construction jobs; the "Pennsy," of 1883; and "the Reading," of 1930. They both attracted the same amount of attention from the sight seeing point of view.

12/12/35

# J. V. Merrick Was Prime Mover In Founding Hospital

## Roxborough Man Was Active in Many Branches of Scientific Endeavor

### UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE

## Was Recognized as Expert on Water and Marine Matters By U. S. Government

As people pass the Memorial Hospital, at Ridge avenue and Recor streets, in Roxborough, the curious among them are likely to wonder who was first to conceive the idea of establishing a medical centre in this particular place.

Perhaps there were more than one person who thought of and worked to bring the hospital into existence, but there is no doubt that the prime mover was none other than the late J. Vaughan Merrick, scientist, noted citizen and philanthropist.

Mr. Merrick was born in Philadelphia, on August 30th, 1828, his parents being Samuel Vaughan and Sarah M. Merrick, well known old-time residents of Roxborough. After graduating from Central High School, in 1843, he received special education in engineering at the best technical schools in the Quaker City, and practical experience in the works of Merrick & Townen.

On October 23rd, 1855, he married Miss Sophia Wagner, a marriage contract which existed happily until August 31st, of 1897, when Mrs. Merrick expired.

Mr. Merrick took up his business career as senior partner of Merrick & Sons, in 1849, serving the firm until 1870. Two years afterward he became manager and in 1886 assumed the vice-presidency. The firm was noted as the bulder of gas and sugar machinery and of marine engines.

He was a pioneer member of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia. In 1883 he was chosen as a member of a board of experts to examine the Philadelphia water supply, and in 1867 he was selected as an authority by the United State Navy Department. He belonged to many

scientific bodies and had been a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania from 1870 until he died.

He was also a member of the Franklin Institute, and served as its president from 1867 to 1870. He was vice president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers from 1883 until 1885, retaining membership until his earthly existence expired.

In religion Mr. Merrick was an Episcopalian and was extremely active in charities of that denomination. He was the founder and a trustee of what used to be called St. Timothy's Hospital—now the Memorial Hospital—and was president of the Free and Open Church Association, holding the presidency of that body since 1873 until 1906. He was honored by various scientific societies and in February of 1906 received the degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Pennsylvania.

His social affiliations included active membership in the Union League, the Philadelphia and Penn Clubs, and the American Philological Society. He joined the Union League on July 22nd, 1863.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrick were the parents of four children, J. Vaughan Merrick, Jr., J. Hartley Merrick; Mrs. George Bostwick, and Mrs. Minnie Williams.

This noted resident of Roxborough died of pneumonia, after an illness of several weeks, at his home here, on March 28th, 1907.

But his memory lives on in the many works that he instituted while he lived and labored in this immediate vicinity, particularly so in the case of St. Timothy's P. E. Church and the Memorial Hospital.

# Memorial Service In Honor of Late Hiram L. Wynne

11-28-35

## Camp Fifty P. O. S. of A. to Pay Respects to One of Its Active Members

### SPECIAL SPEAKERS

## Deceased Was a Lineal Descendent of Dr. Thos. Wynne, Penn's Physician

In commemoration of the long service the late Hiram L. Wynne devoted to the success of Camp No. 50, Patriotic Order Sons of America, the local camp, of Roxborough, will devote its meeting tonight, November 28th, in his honor, a special program having been arranged by a committee, with George H. Lare as chairman.

Members will meet at the Temple of Camp 50, Manayunk, and Krams avenues, at 8 p. m., sharp, on Thanksgiving night, when automobiles will be provided to take all to Leverington Cemetery, where a flashlight memorial service will be conducted at Mr. Wynne's grave, just two days after his 75th birthday. A tribute in the form of a Memorial Wreath and a P. O. S. of A. bronze marker, both containing his name, will be placed by officers of the lodge.

All will then return to the Temple of the Camp, when the regular meeting will be held as briefly as possible, after which the commemorative program will be offered, including musical numbers by the Glee Club. Guest speakers will include Herman A. Miller, national secretary, of Easton, Penna.; John W. Harper, national master of forms, of Chester, Penna.; and Rev. William R. Rearick, former pastor of Talmage Reformed church.

Hiram L. Wynne, was born in Ardmore, November 26th, 1860, dying this year in Roxborough, in his 75th year. He was a direct lineal descendant of Dr. Thomas Wynne, physician to William Penn, who arrived in Philadelphia with Penn on the ship "Welcome." He had at least three ancestors participate in the Revolutionary War, Thomas Wynne, 1733-1782, great (2) grandfather, Thomas Wynne, 1763-1810, great (1) grandfather, and Sharp Delaney, great (1) grandfather.

He was for many years engaged in the contracting business and for twenty years employed in the Traffic Department of the U. G. I. as an expediter, until retired several years ago. He was well known under the familiar name of "Hi Wynne" an appellation he liked, under which he was known to every active worker in P. O. S. of A. circles, whether in Roxborough, or State and National Camps, where for years he was prominent in debate at all conventions.



10/31/35

## Directors Of Poor Levied Taxes In The Early Days

Roxborough Township Officials Kept List of Freeholders For Collections

DEPENDENT ON SELVES

Many of Family Names Have Disappeared in the Lapse of Time

Taxpayers are people of whom much is heard, particularly around Election Days, but very seldom are they singled out in any specific manner.

In the beginning of things hereabouts, in Roxborough Township, things were different. Lists of the taxpayers were kept nearby, so the Directors of the Poor could locate and levy imposts on them.

Roxborough Township, be it remembered, once included all of what is now the 21st Ward, and down as far as Indian Queen lane, in the 38th Ward, between Township Line (Wissahickon avenue) and the Schuylkill. At the time Manayunk separated itself from Roxborough, and was ruled by a burges, it instituted its own poor directors, whose duties after the consolidation of the city, were taken over by the municipality.

Among the names on the early tax lists of the original Roxborough Poor Directors, are those of Henry Frey, Johannes Gumre, Samuel Guldin, Michael Pelsner, Samuel Savage, John, John Henry, Abraham, William Christian Samuel and Zachariah Linderman, Henry Snyder, George, Henry, Jacob, Peter and Matthias Jacobs, Thomas Rees, Isaac Linglow, Benjamin Morgan (who lived at Midvale avenue and McMichael street of today, and where Lafayette established his headquarters when the Continental Army was encamped along Queen Lane), Bartle Righter, and his sons, Jacob, Peter and Bartle; George Giger, John, David and Henry Shellenberger, Adam Alt, Jacob Amos, James Angnas, John Bouler, Daniel Barndollar, George Barkman, Jacob Blade, Frederick Black, John Bold, John Butterwarke, George Calege, Isaac and Jacob Cooke, Isaac Cooke, Jr., Jacob Colton, Conrad Corett, Frederick Coon, Jacob Crawford, Arnold Fight, Thomas Daves, John Gruber, Casper Fight, Isaac Hanney, Matthew Holgate, John Holgate, John Holgate No. 2, Henry Kile, Joseph Keckler, Andrew Lees, Abraham Levering, Benjamin Levering, Jacob Levering, Septimus Levering, Benjamin Levering, Wigard Levering, Jacob Levering, William Levering, Thomas Livezey, Phillip Marewine, Henry Markle, Michael Moyer, Wil-

liam Morgan, George Page, Thomas Page, Jacob Pancake, David Person, Frederick Plankhorne, Thomas Price, Thomas Reese, George Righter, Michael Righter, Peter Righter, Jacob Rinker, William Rittenhouse, Michael Rittenhouse, William Rittenhouse No. 2, Nicholas Robin, Adam Shaffer, Jr., Adam Shaffer, George Shurr, Nicholas Shoulde, Oliver Shortalle, John Standeland, Conrad Starr, Andrew Wood, John Wood, Peter Wood, Adam Yager and Henry Zeiner.

The whole number of taxables in 1758 was between 70 and 80 heads of families, and allowing four to a family, the total population was probably in the neighborhood of 320 persons. Some of the names are erroneously spelled, and may require explanation. John and Jacob Bold, for instance, should be John and Jacob Bald, Nicholas Robin was, no doubt, Rapine, Michael Moyer, it is very likely lived in what is known as "The Plow Tavern," now in dilapidation at the corner of Ridge avenue and Righter street.

What became of Oliver Shortalle and Jacob Pancake, even tradition fails to detail. These unusual surnames have not been recorded in this locality for many, many years.

It is somewhat remarkable that among all the freeholders named in the old lists of taxpayers, only four of the families can still be identified with Roxborough. These are the Leverings, Moyers, Righters and Rittenhouses.

It appears, therefore, that within the past century and a half, the names of nearly the entire population has been changed, and but for the accidental discovery of the foregoing tax list, the people of this generation would never have known who resided in Roxborough in the days prior to the American Revolution.

The occupations of the early taxpayers were various. Chief among them were the farmers, the millers along the Wissahickon, Schuylkill, Cresheim and smaller streams, and also the paper-makers, carpenters, and blacksmiths. Sometimes one would carry on two or three of the trades. Everyone, in those days had something to do, and no one was ashamed of his particular occupation. All were industrious and before their stalwart blows the surrounding forests soon disappeared. Their farms yielded them a fully supply, and as the clothing of the early folk was of homespun, they felt, far more than local residents of today can, independent of the world around them.

10/31/35

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## Woman Reaches Age of 105 Years

Mrs. Ellen Kell, of 4545 Baker street, Manayunk, Reads and Sews Without Glasses.—Father Purchased Mother From Slavery.

Mrs. Ellen Kell, of 4545 Baker street, Manayunk, a resident of this locality for the past thirty years, rounded out another year of her life last Friday, when she reached the grand old age of 105 years.

Mrs. Kell, a colored woman, was born at Havre De Grace, Maryland, in 1830, of parents whose lives were of an ill-fated nature. Her mother was still held in slavery, and her father, a free negro, was a sailor aboard a trading vessel.

When Mrs. Kell was about six months old her mother was sold by the family which owned her, and she was sent out of Maryland, so that her husband, Mrs. Kell's father, on receiving this sad news, set about at once to raise sufficient money to purchase his wife from her new owners. This he succeeded in doing, so that all six of the children born to the couple were free, as a birthright, even though having been born in slavery. Mrs. Kell and one brother, aged 97 years, are all that is left of this family.

Mrs. Kell had one son, the late Charles A. Lisby, who expired two years ago, after having resided in the 21st Ward for about 40 years.

The grand old lady makes her home with her grandchildren, at the Baker street address. Although she was very ill through the past summer Mrs. Kell now seems to have regained her old health, and sits in her room and reads and sews without the aid of glasses. Her mind and faculties are extraordinarily alert and she takes a great deal of interest in events of the day, and can relate stories of the past that are interesting in the extreme. She is now busy braiding strips of materials to make a rug for her room.

8/29/35

# Wm. F. Rayner Passed Away Last Friday

Building Contractor One of  
Roxborough's Most Prom-  
inent Residents

## BURIED YESTERDAY

### Death Believed to Have Been Caused by Beating in Hold-Up Last Winter

William F. Rayner, of 4128 Pechin street, who died at midnight last Friday, was buried from a Roxborough funeral home yesterday.

Last winter Mr. Rayner was assailed and badly beaten by thugs who attacked him near his home. He was under the care of a physician ever since the time of the beating, receiving treatments for severe headaches. On Thursday he was ordered to the hospital, where he expired the next day.

Born in Roxborough, he was the son of the late William F. and Margaret Rayner. After being educated in the local schools, he entered the building contracting business with his father and brother, erecting many houses in the neighborhood of Shurs lane, Pechin street and Pennsdale street, and in other parts of the 21st Ward. The elder Mr. Rayner, an ardent anti-liquor proponent, built Prohibition Hall at the corner of Shurs lane and Pechin street, many years ago. After the death of the father the business was continued by his sons, William F. and John.

The deceased, who never married, resided with his brother, at the Pechin street address. He was a great lover of flowers and music, and was a regular attendant at concerts of the local musical organizations and at Robin Hood Dell. He was the president of the St. Timothy's Building and Loan Association; a member of Palestine Lodge No. 470 F. and A. M.; and of St. Timothy's P. E. Church.

The interment was made in the churchyard of St. Timothy's Church, at Ridge and Jamestown avenues.

8/29/35

## Two Old Men

Many splendid canvasses, "portraying scenes in and about Manayunk and the 21st Ward, were shown at the recent Joseph S. Miles Memorial Art Exhibit, held in the parish house of St. Timothy's Church. The greater number of these pictures were painted within late years.

Back in 1824, or thereabouts, William L. Breton, resided in the lower end of what is now the 21st Ward. He was an Englishman who possessed great talent as a painter of local scenes. He was self-trained and it is said that his first attempt at drawing anything at all, was on shipboard as he came to this country.

He made a large number of views of Manayunk at different periods, but after his death in 1856 most of these were sent back to England.

A writer, long since gone, in telling of Mr. Breton, once wrote: "In 1824 I can remember there was a fashionable book store on the south side of Chestnut street, between Second and Third, kept by a Mr. Poole, who was the agent for his father, a large publisher in London I frequently called there, when in the city, and on one occasion there were two gentlemen in the store conversing on a subject that interested me. I listened for a short time and left. The next day I saw a person sitting on a stump at the foot of Church street (Manayunk) taking a sketch of the Stritzel house, subsequently torn down. I went towards him and discovered that it was one of the gentlemen I had seen the day before in Mr. Poole's store. It was Mr. Breton. I introduced myself to him and asked him if he resided in the neighborhood. He replied in the negative, and said he only intended to stay two or three days. I then asked him where he was located. He mentioned the place and I told him he could be more comfortably accommodated at the Leverington Hotel, on the Ridge road, where I then boarded.

"He came there the next day, intending, as he said, to stay two or three days. He continued there and at Manayunk for many years. There was always a mystery about him that I could never understand. I have learned since that he had a wife and a number of children in England. I believe he was over eighty years old when he died. Although a man of intelligence and education, he was a thorough John Bull, a constitutional grumbler—in his view there was nothing right in this country and nothing wrong in his own."

It would be interesting to know if any of Breton's old paintings are still in existence over on the other side of the Big Pond.

\* \* \*

In referring to Breton, the artist another one-time character who frequented the Manayunk section comes to mind. His name was

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Joseph Montelier.

Montelier was also an Englishman and resided for many years in a little log house on the west side of the Schuylkill, about opposite the Manayunk locks.

He was known in the neighborhood as Joseph Moore, but that was not his true name. His own account of himself was, to use his own words, "Born in Oxford street, London, Marylebone Parish, St. Patrick's Day, 17th of March, 1756, six o'clock in the morning, six inches of snow all over London."

He bought the log house that he lived in and some two or three acres of land surrounding it, in April of 1800, and dwelt there alone until his death on March 27th, 1836.

At the time he could not have selected a more retired or secluded spot, and it is said that he was troubled when his privacy was broken up by improvements being made at Manayunk, and the making of a road on the west side of the river in front of his house.

When he purchased the property, he also provided for an annuity; his wants being few; and it was sufficient for his support.

He cultivated a very pretty flower garden, a variety of fruits and vegetables, and had considerable taste for horticulture in general. He had evidently been a business man of some kind, and had made a voyage or two to China, and he had in his house some beautiful China ware, which seemed quite out of place in his humble establishment.

Each year, on the Fourth of July, it was the custom of John Levering, proprietor of a West Manayunk mill, to assemble under a tree in front of Montelier's house, provided with all the materials for making punch, and the "General", as Montelier was called, would bring out his great China punch bowl, in which the drink was made and all was merry.

On one of these occasions, the artist Breton made a sketch of the quaint character. The picture could be seen in this neighborhood for many years, but to find it today, would, indeed, be a job.

Montelier is shown, resembling a hunch-back, seated on a low three-legged stool, a long typical English clay pipe in his mouth, and a tabby cat beside him.

SCCAFF.

# The Religion Of The 21st Ward

Rev. S. G. Von Bosse, pastor of the Bethany Lutheran Church, Roxborough, after making a house-to-house canvass of 254 squares in the 21st ward, last Sunday made the following report to the people of his congregation:

"Seventeen months have elapsed since the pastor set out to make a religious survey of all of Roxborough and some of the adjacent sections. The figures, which the pastor hopes will prove as interesting to others as they do to him, do not record the exact number of our population, but are contact records. In other words, a religious classification is made on the basis of a home and not upon the number in that home; there may be one Lutheran and again there may be ten Lutherans in one home; in the survey the denomination is only listed once. It is well to remember this in a study of the figures to be presented below. Naturally no survey can be absolutely correct. If everyone, who expressed a certain affiliation with a church really attended that church our churches in Roxborough would be far too small! Affiliations have been listed for each square and will form a permanent record among our church books. Anyone interested in looking them over is perfectly welcome to do so. The totals (in home contacts) for the 254 squares follow:—

LUTHERANS .....	482
Catholics .....	1722
Reformed .....	281
Episcopal .....	468
Methodist .....	727
Presbyterians .....	462
Baptists .....	381
Hebrews .....	58
Colored .....	91
NONE .....	285
Other churches .....	69

Grand Total .....5026

"Among those listed under "other churches" are members of Christian Science, Unitarians, United Presbyterians, Evangelicals, "atheists," Brethren, Gospel Mission, Friends, Baraca, Community Church, Bible Students, Greek Catholic, Swedenborgian, Mormons, Salvation Army, Spiritualist, Schwenkfelder, Mennonite, United Brethren—and one Chinaman. A canvass such as this offers a wide field in the study of plain, Christian or general courtesy. Of greatest concern to us is the rubric "NONE," 285 announced that they had no church affiliation whatsoever and in most cases they did not even care. How many are in YOUR square? And what surprised us most was the great amount of members in other churches, who had at one time been Lutherans. The Pastor will probably refer back to the survey from time to time. Today he would like to close with a most emphatic statement: during all of the survey the pastor never asked a single person to visit or join Bethany unless the person admitted to non-membership anywhere."

# Cite History At Church's Centennial

## Eight Pastors Deliver Addresses at Roxborough Presbyterian Church

### INTERESTING EXERCISE

## Cornerstone of Building Was Laid on June 8th 1835

Splendid attendance marked the special services at the Roxborough Presbyterian Church, Ridge and Port Royal avenues, last Sunday, held in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the congregation's place of worship. Rev. Frank G. Bossert, pastor of the church, presided. The auditorium was beautifully decorated with seasonable peonies and roses.

Rev. Z. Montgomery Gibson, Ph. D., who served as pastor of the Roxborough Presbyterian Church from 1898 until 1919, delivered the sermon at the morning service, held at 11 o'clock. Special anthems were sung by the choir, with Mrs. Margaret S. Hohl at the organ.

In the afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the program was of a community nature. Rev. Richard P. Mallery, of the Fourth Reformed Church, from which the Roxborough Presbyterian Church branched, gave a most interesting discourse in which he told of the origin of his own congregation, and the various other local religious groups which it has fostered or befriended.

Rev. Marion G. Gosselink, of the Talmage Reformed Church, in his talk entitled "Reformed and Presbyterian", reviewed church history and the doctrines to which the above-mentioned denominations subscribe. Rev. Arien J. Muyskens, of the Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church, the session and a goodly number of members of that church were in attendance. Mr. Muyskens brought the greetings of the Falls congregation and cited some of the early history of the church, which sprang from the Roxborough and Manayunk Presbyterian Churches, telling of the service of Dr. Joseph Beggs, who was pastor of the Roxborough Presbyterian Church and who afterward

directed the activities of the Falls Church through a period of thirty-eight years.

Rev. David A. Noble, pastor of the Leverington Presbyterian Church, another of those which the Roxborough congregation exerted its influence in having founded, too, gave a short talk of a historical and grateful nature.

Robert L. Barbor, of the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, which also owes its existence to the early precepts of the Upper Roxborough congregation, was present to extend the greetings of the members of his church and congratulations upon the happy occasion.

Rev. Frank H. Rose, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of Manayunk, preached the sermon, his topic being "The Chief Cornerstone", and being one of the most eloquent and impressive addresses of the afternoon.

The choir rendered special music and Nevin's "My Faith Looks Up to Thee", was sung as a duet by Mrs. Mildred Michel and Alfred MacMoran.

The Roxborough Presbyterian Church—with the Manayunk Presbyterian Church, and therefore, all of the others—owes its origin to the untiring work of Charles Brown, a student for the ministry, who in 1832 was a member of the Fifth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, who came to this section, and while worshipping at the old Dutch Reformed Church—now the Fourth Reformed Church—established prayer meetings in Upper Roxborough. This active young man was later followed by Rev. Samuel Bumstead, the pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church, who later became the pastor of the Upper Roxborough Church. The first eighteen years of the existence of the latter church was as a Dutch Reformed Church, but since 1853 it has been affiliated with the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

The cornerstone of the building was laid on June 8th, 1835. The structure is therefore, probably the oldest church edifice in this section. While the Roxborough Presbyterian Church is antedated by the Roxborough Baptist Church, the Fourth Reformed Church, St. John the Baptist Church, the First Presbyterian Church and St. David's P. E. Church, all of these congregations are now occupying their second or third buildings. Originally it had a spire, but this was removed for the sake of safety after many years of use, and replaced by the tower and belfry it now possesses. For a long time in its early days, the church was known as "Hagy's Church", and is so mentioned in an old novel of this section, entitled, "The Riversons", which was written by the son of Pastor Bumstead, that has as its period-setting, the year 1847.

6/6/35

# Roxborough Man Penned Historic Novel

Colonel John Richter Jones  
Was Author of "The  
Quaker Soldier"

## REVOLUTIONARY TALE

Grandson of Rev. David  
Jones, Chaplain in Con-  
tinental Army

Long before Dr. S. Weir Mitchell won fame with his historical romances, of which "Hugh Wynne" was one, John Richter Jones, who claimed Roxborough as his birthplace, wrote a novel that had a Revolutionary patriot for its hero, and the background of which was based on facts connected with the founding of the Nation.

The title of the book is "The Quaker Soldier," a copy of which was recently loaned this writer by one of the author's kinfolk.

But, first, let us talk of John Richter Jones. He was a grandson of Rev. David Jones, the chaplain of Anthony Wayne's Regiment of Pennsylvanians in the conflict against the mother country; and brother of the late Horatio Gates Jones.

In the records of the Pennsylvania Volunteers of the Civil War, John Richter Jones is named as colonel of the 58th Regiment, part of which was recruited at Camp Roxborough, on the site of the Gorgas Home, on East Leverington avenue. Colonel Jones is registered as being from Sullivan County, but this was probably due to the fact that he served as a Circuit Judge there, prior to the time he entered the army. He, however, was born and lived for many years in Roxborough.

After the recruiting period at Camp Roxborough, Colonel Jones and the 58th Regiment moved on January 17th 1862 to a camp on Turper's lane, not far from the present Columbia avenue entrance to Fairmount Park, at 33rd street. On March 8th 1862 the regiment left for Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

Soon after reaching a rendezvous near Fortress Monroe, Colonel Jones, who was desirous of having active service, wrote to the Secretary of War, asking that he and his regiment be sent to North Carolina, as he did not relish being boxed up in a fort, or around Washington. His request was granted and he was among those commissioned officers who fell comparatively early in the war, having been killed near Newbern, N. C., shortly after reaching the field of battle.

It was while he was a Circuit Court Judge, a position to which he had been appointed by Govern-

nor Ritner, that Colonel Jones penned "The Quaker Soldier."

In the story, the hero is known as Charles Hazlewood, the son of a wealthy Quaker of Philadelphia. The father's sympathies were with the Crown, but the son was not in accord with his parent in his ideas of political duty and in fact he had secretly reached the conclusion that the cause of the Whigs and Continentals was sustained by truth and reason, and he had, previous to the time of the story's plot, been mysteriously absent from home at various intervals.

Hazlewood's heart, however, went out to a Tory maiden, Catherine Selwyn, and the young lady cleverly kept him guessing as to where her affections were really centred. A colonial adherent and worker for the British government was Walter Robinson, who plays cards to win the hand of Hazlewood's sister, but is eventually found out for the scoundrel that he is and is given his just deserts.

Aside from the sentimental romance the tale keeps pretty well to facts, the Rev. David Jones, as the fighting clergyman with Wayne, playing a large part in making the story an interesting one. Prominent Revolutionary characters, known to every student of American history; campsites and battles that all have a familiar ring, all lend interest to the experiences of "The Quaker Soldier."

With the genealogy that he had, it is small wonder that the author, who as a Judge could have remained at home and viewed the war from a distance, chose to take up arms to preserve the Union that his ancestors fought to create. He was not exactly a young man at the time of his volunteering. His family, which included three brothers, Charles Thomson Jones, Horatio Gates Jones, and Nathan Levering Jones, and a sister, Hettya A. Jones, were all prominent public-spirited residents of the Roxborough-Manayunk area. He went into the conflict between the North and the South as one who felt that there was a Divine purpose to be served and that he should disclose a gentleman with the tastes of a student might also be worthy of respect for what we would call today, of being a "real he-man." It is stated that he habitually carried in his pocket a copy of the Septuagint version of the New Testament—very possibly Charles Thomson's version—and that he would read a chapter of it at sunrise every morning in his tent.

After his death at Newbern, Colonel Jones' body lay in state in Independence Hall. Years ago one newspaper writer in speaking of this jurist-soldier, said, "no soldier of the Civil War who fell in battle was less timid and less unselfish in making the supreme sacrifice."

To Colonel Jones patriotism appears to have been similar to a religion, and not like the melodramatic emotion some people would have us believe. And his sentiments are easily recognized in "The Quaker Soldier."

SCCAFF

7-4-1935

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## THE LOCAL "FOURTH"

The Nation's Birthday comes  
once more,  
To call from homes a patriot  
corps,  
And, here, in Lyceum A'nue's  
shade  
The hillside churchfolk will  
parade,  
As in the days of yore.

Musicians, with their martial  
airs,  
Will lull away all daily cares,  
As marchers go to sheltered  
woods  
In various nearby neighbor-  
hoods,  
And picnicking affairs.

Mid National banners, waving  
high,  
The Christian flag we will des-  
cry  
And other emblems will be  
seen  
That no true patriot would  
demean,  
Or knaves could vilify.

The firearm's noisy, ill-bred  
peal,  
Which makes the cultured  
senses reel,  
Will not be heard through-  
out the day,  
As we, in safe and sanest  
way,  
Our love of land reveal.  
A. C. C.

8-29-35

## MUSTARD—THASSALL

There are those who eat egg cus-  
tard,  
Some of whom that in their trust  
erred,  
When they went to dining par-  
ties late at night;  
But whene'er a hot dog's lustred  
With the yellow-brown of mustard,  
Some Lions and their ladies  
praise the sight.

Now George Earle, he shot a bus-  
tard,  
It's a tale the wrong and just  
heard,  
And we're keeping close to all  
the printed facts;  
But more words must now be  
mustered  
Since the boys went slinging mus-  
tard,  
At a party, held on Saturday,  
at Macks.

Hyah Keed

# Manayunk Was Village In The Confines of A Big City

## Unpaved Streets, Unpaid Firemen, and Inadequate Police Force Prevailed Before 1871.—Politics Provided Great Battles

By John M. Sickinger

"What was Manayunk like a half century ago?" is question which is often asked by present-day residents of the old mill section. Well, here's a go at a description.

Manayunk, in 1870, was, as it is now, a part of the 21st Ward, of the City of Philadelphia, although it was a country village in appearance. Dirt roads and boardwalks for pavements. Streets were not graded. In almost every block there was a public pump, for drinking, with a half cocoanut shell fastened to it for the convenience of the thirsty. To these the "Drys" acked posters telling of local option meetings in Temperance Hall, and other propaganda. The only time the "Wets" stopped at a pump was when the whiskey they drank was too fiery to be taken "straight".

The political campaign of 1871 found things at a fever heat. Hon. William S. Stokley was elected mayor; Charles Thomson Jones, of Roxborough, was sent to Select Council, and James Bowker, of Manayunk, won out as Common Councilman. Then the fun began!

The paid fire bureau went into service; a new police force was demanded. "We want paved streets and sidewalks; running water in our homes" and many other improvements, were the voters' demands.

John Levering was the District Surveyor. And what a busy man he became. The first release of the appointments to the paid fire company was made, the Manayunk crew becoming known as Engine Company No. 12. The foreman was John Rumly; the engineer, Charles L. Vernier; the stoker, Dan Jones; the driver, Hugh H. Cochran, and the hosemen were Henry Firth, Joseph Marshall, Hugh McDermott, Jerry Stapleton, William Lanigan, John McLaughlin, Samuel Saunders and Thomas Mulligan. The former engine of the old Mechanic Fire Company was sent to Manayunk and given the number "12".

The Police Force personnel was next made public, as follows: Lieutenant, Captain William Taylor; Sergeants, John Stinson and Joseph White; Patrolmen, Henry Wolfington and David Rowley to Post No. 1; William Lackey and George Wright to Post No. 2; John Genshelmer and Conrad Norbury, to Post No. 3; Oscar Tappan and Leonard Siebert, to Post No. 4; Captain H. R. Clevenger and John Miller, to Post No. 5; Benjamin Bennett and Charles Black, to Post No. 6; William Ernesman, to Post No. 7; Captain Timothy Clegg, to Post No. 8; William Evans to Post No. 9; Dan Jacoby, to Post No. 10; and Charles Ehresman was a substitute. The title of Cap-

tain, held by Taylor, Clegg and Clevenger, was on account of Civil War Army commissions which they possessed.

Election riots occurrences. Expolice Sergeant Lynch arrested the superintendent of the Manayunk Gas Works because he would not fall in line with his party before election. The gas man was held in \$1,000 bail for election violations, and \$1,500 for assault to answer at the next term of court.

In those days a change in the party line meant a new police force, for the motto (even in those days) was "to the victor belongs the spoils".

Next came the paving of the principal streets. The Manayunk turnpike—now known as Main street—Green lane and Shurs lane were first considered. The stone for these improvements was quarried out of the Stewart Lyle and Thomas Schofield quarries at West Manayunk. It was called rubble stone, and was as hard as iron ore. A fine grade of flat stone was uncovered and some one, noticing the large flat surfaces, said that "they broke out in pieces as big as a flag". And as flagstones they are still known to old people of this vicinity; the name having stuck. The quarry owners were rushed with orders for flagstones as the merchants and property owners along the newly-graded streets sought surfacing for their sidewalks. Boardwalks began to disappear.

When it came time to pave Green lane, the property owners took out an injunction against Contractor Holgate, because they did not want the Rock Hill paving from West Manayunk. After hanging fire for several months, the courts decided Holgate was right in following specifications and the work was resumed.

Schools came in for their share of improvements. A new building known as the "Schuylkill School" was erected on Washington (now Umbria) street, in the Mount Vernon section. This building was demolished several years ago and the site is now occupied by the modern James Dobson Public School. The paving of Washington street soon followed the school construction.

The first big fire to break out, after the start of the paid fire bureau, was on Saturday, November 25th, 1871, in the card room of the Sciota Mills, owned by Holt and Maguire. The site is now a part of the Spink Mill property along the canal bank in Upper Manayunk. A second alarm was sounded, bringing seven "steamers", each with a hose carriage; and four hook and ladder companies. A large crowd cheered the smoke-eaters, who ran their ladders up the sides of the blazing

building and chopped holes in such places as they could for the entrance of the hose lines.

Volunteer fire companies were still around, the rivalry between the paid forces and the volunteers being very bitter. The "Fame" boys and the "Good Intent" company from Roxborough, answered fire alarms with a special permit from City Council, covering principally those sections not served by the paid company.

The Manayunk mill fire lasted five hours, and all along the Main street, was fire apparatus, stuck in the mud.

There were no water plugs. The fire quenching was done by sucking water from the canal, or the river.

Medical treatments were confined to the old family physicians who served the neighborhood; and a good job they done, considering the old conditions. Among them were Drs. Ross Bunting, N. H. Uhler, William C. Todd, T. Trites, William B. Trites and J. J. Griffith. Contagion was left to far different ways than it is today. Once, in those old times, a load of rags, consigned to one of the local paper mills, was the cause of an outbreak of small-pox, and then the local medicos had their hands full.

Yes, Manayunk was a country village, prior to 1871, even though it was a part of the great City of Philadelphia.

### THE MANAYUNK SENTINEL



AND STAR

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Manayunk, Friday, January 10, 1879.

3/28/35

# Manayunk Theatre Occupies Site of Former Wayside Inn

Bramble Hotel, Along Main Street, Was One of First Stone Structures Erected in Manufacturing Community

By John M. Sickinger

A stone house, one of the first that is recorded as having been built in Manayunk, was demolished 21 years ago and what is now familiar as The Riviera Theatre was erected on its site. Silas Gilbert Levering made public in 1856, that he had erected the house, in Manayunk, "which I kept as a public hotel for five years. It is now known as the Bramble Hotel, and is located on the Manayunk turnpike below Green Lane."

The history of the hotel is interesting. When Levering first opened it for the accommodation of man and beast the structure faced the Canal with the land in front rolling down to the water's edge. The Manayunk Turnpike was established early in the last century, and an Act of Assembly, passed at Harrisburg in 1835, gave the turnpike builders an extension of two additional years time to complete the job, on account of the great amount of stone that was uncovered in its making, thus causing delays.

When Silas Gilbert Levering retired as hotel-keeper he was succeeded by Jacob Levering, who in turn, sold out to James Renshaw, who had previously conducted an inn at East Falls, but was forced to vacate when the property was acquired by the Laurel Hill Cemetery Company. This in 1835, Renshaw was subsequently the first postmaster of Manayunk. Then James Bramble took over the hotel. On the second floor was a large hall room in which traveling shows were presented. It was also used as a lodge room, and at various times as Democratic headquarters. At elections the voters would turn out in masses at the hotel, for here it was that everyone in the village cast his ballot.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Pennsylvania's Governor, Andrew Curtin, came to the Bramble Hotel, on a recruiting expedition. The reception committee was mostly composed of manufacturers and politicians.

Thirteen girls, dressed in white, wore red sashes over their shoulders on each of which was the name of one of original States. The State's chief executive greeted each girl separately and planted a kiss on the cheek of each. The men and boys from the lower end of what is now the 21st Ward, marched back to their homes after the speech-making, behind a brass band, singing a tune which ran something like the following:

"When Johnny came marching home again,

Old Andy Curtin he got drunk,  
And kissed the girls in Manayunk,  
We like the game and will do the same

When Johnny comes marching home."

Like the famed old Grandfather's Clock, the old hotel stood ninety years before it was taken away to make improvements. During its life it had been known by various names, but at the end it was called The Manayunk Hotel, a name that was given to it by Abraham Quinton. Thus it remained under the proprietorship of John Brower, Richard Collett, Hartley Shoemith, and J. Madison Richmond.

In 1892 Harry Firth who conducted the Quinton Hotel, on a site now covered by the Manayunk Police Station, sold his hotel to the city, and on it erected the local hoosegow. He had his liquor license transferred to the Manayunk Hotel - - - the old Bramble house - - - and renamed it The United States Hotel. The last owner was Peter P. Liebert, and the place was conducted by James Seery, under the title of Hotel Liebert.

Prior to the establishing of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown railroad, through Manayunk, in 1834, the property ran back to the base of a rocky cliff. When the railroad was completed the first passenger station was erected at the rear of the hotel.

Near the station had been the stables for horses that relieved those of the stage line that was conducted by John Crawford, who extended his line from Philadelphia to Norristown so that it included Manayunk on its route. When the railroad started, Crawford's business fell off, but was later taken up by Johnny Small, who continued the stage line until about 1859, when horse cars first made their appearance along Ridge avenue, and up the Manayunk Turnpike.

The railroad station became a dwelling when a newer depot was erected on the site of the present elevated station. In one part of it dwelt a peanut vendor, known as "Hecker", and in the other half resided old "Mother" McDermott, who sold Irish linen, fish hooks, and "penny Ikes," as small plugs of chewing tobacco were called. These were the last tenants of the old place.

The hotel, wagon sheds, stables, and the old railroad station all fell before the onslaughts of the housewreckers, when room for the theatre, - - - first known as The Empress - - - was being made. The place of amusement, - - - now "The Riviera" - - - reaches its majority this year, now being 21 years of age.

7/11/35

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## The Roxborough Manayunk Lions' Club

Whene'er the town has something done;  
A civic betterment is won;  
Whenever action is begun,  
You'll find it's by the Lions.

For "Faith's" a Lion's heritage;  
Unto the end his fight he'll wage,  
Whate'er the problems he'll engage,  
So call upon the Lions.

The Lions eat and talk and sing,  
And listen, too, to everything,  
And then, to life, their dreams they bring,  
These goal-attaining Lions.

They are not narrow in their views,  
They pay to all the fairest dues,  
And helping hands will ne'er refuse,  
Just try the local Lions.

They back the Government and State,  
The laws they will not violate,  
And treachery will not tolerate;  
The patriotic Lions.

Perhaps a blind man needs a cane,  
To get about in sun or rain,  
He asks but once, and not in vain,  
And gets it from the Lions.

It may be glasses for a tot,  
Whose vision, poor, all joys will blot,  
The child will get them, like as not,  
From men we know as Lions.

Whene'er a Mayor you'd like to greet,  
As you, with friends, parade the street,  
Presto! He's there, in viewing seat,  
And is the guest of Lions.

So when there's any job for MEN,  
With faith and force and acumen,  
We look around, and hasten then,  
To call upon The Lions.

A. C. C.

4/4/1935

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# OLD SCHOOLS OF 21st WARD AND EAST FALLS DISCUSSED

## Yellow School, on East Shawmont Ave., Was Community Center in Its Earliest Days

By John M. Sickinger.

With the demolition, within the past year of two of the old schools of the Twenty-first Ward—the one at Ridge and Parker avenues, and the other on Shurs lane above Cresson street—came thoughts concerning some of former places of learning in this vicinity.

Still standing, on East Shawmont avenue—at the corner of Wise Mill Road—is the "little Yellow School" which is said to have been erected in 1810. A record of December 12th, 1811, states that it was transferred to George Martin, David Davis, Henry Keely, John Wise, Jacob

Culp and Garret Snyder, as trustees "for the sum of one dollar, the said building to be used for school purposes."

It was a paid school and a man named Hunter was the first teacher. The congregation of the Roxborough Presbyterian Church, which now meets in its own building at Ridge and Port Royal avenues, held services of worship in the Yellow School, until its own first building was erected in 1839.

The Ridge avenue M. E. Church was organized in the Old Yellow School in 1859, and used it until May 1st, 1862.

The pupils of the Andorra School, on West Shawmont avenue, which has since been replaced on a nearby site by the modern Shawmont School, first attended classes in the Yellow School.

Down in Manayunk, on old Center street, adjoining the St. David's P. E. Church, may be seen even today, a building which was originally used as a school. William Hodgson was the teacher, and many of the local manufacturers received their elementary education there. He afterward became principal of the Green Lane School. Hodgson, with Rev. Frederick Freeman, rector of St. David's Church; Joseph H. Hoffman and several other prominent 21st Ward men, subsequently formed the Roxborough Lyceum, which was recently merged with the Parents Association of the 21st Ward. Hodgson, when his school

duties in Manayunk ended, moved to New York in 1854. He died in Brooklyn in 1893 and his remains were brought back here and interred in St. David's churchyard, near his former school. The building is now occupied as a double dwelling.

Another of the old Manayunk schools was located on the west side of Main street, near Pennsdale street. Jonathan Robeson provided the lot on which this building was erected. Funds for the structure were raised by public subscription.

William Levering founded a school in central Roxborough, on the site which has since been continuously used for school purposes, now familiar as Ridge avenue and

Gerhard street.

Down in what was formerly the "lower end of Roxborough Township", but for many years recognized as part of the Falls of Schuylkill, the first known school was on Bowman's lane—now Indian Queen lane. The building was shortly after the Civil War period still standing, as the residence of John H. Green, Joseph Neef, a disciple of Pestalozzi, the great Swiss educator, opened a school in one of the Provost Smith buildings on Indian Queen lane, and afterward Nicholas Maguire taught in a school near the same site. Maguire, still later, became principal of the Central High School in Philadelphia.

The Old Academy, on Indian Queen lane, near the Norristown branch of the Reading Railroad, was opened as a place of education and religious training in 1819. Robert Fraley was an early teacher.

George Lieb Harrison, as a member of the chemical manufacturing firm of Powers, Weightman and Harrison, established a school on Laboratory Hill, which still stands as a two-family dwelling. Mary Twigg was the first teacher. She was succeeded by James K. Finley.

While the boys were at their studies, Finley would walk about the room puffing on an old clay pipe. If he chanced to hear any of the lads boasting of their physical prowess, especially in regards to wrestling and fist-fighting, he called a recess and permitted the boasters to settle the argument in the only way it could be settled. So adroit was he in managing his pupils that it is said that punishment was rarely required.

However, if this had to be done, he had a way to do it. It seems that the few girls who attended the school were placed in a series of raised seats in one corner of the room. The boy who wouldn't obey was sent to sit between two of the girls on these elevated seats. The punishment was usually more effective than if the lad had been placed in a corner, a dunce cap adorning his cranium.

One day, so the story goes, Teacher Finley wanted an aged cat drowned in the Schuylkill. He placed the feline in a bag and gave it to two of the larger boys, with instructions to take it down to the Laboratory wharf and throw it overboard.

The boys followed instructions somewhat hurriedly, afterward making a quick raid of Lewis Shronk's orchard. When they returned to school, the teacher asked them if they had drowned the cat. "Yes, Mr. Finley, we have!" was their reply. Just then Tabby, with her fur all wet, stalked gravely into the room. The teacher said, "That

being the case, what thing that came mewing through the back door, must be its ghost!"

In 1853 when George Leib Harrison retired from the chemical firm, the school was closed and Finley removed to the city, the last being heard of him that he had obtained employment at a sugar refinery.

P-29-1935

### SUNFLOWERS In Upper Roxborough.

Far up "the Ridge" we ride in haste;  
Past scattered homes, along the road;  
Just glimpsing fruits we'd love to taste,  
Grown near some humble man's abode.

And nodding near the wayside fence,  
We see great yellow flowers bow,  
Which by their motion's eloquence,  
Guide all our thoughts to them, somehow!

These sunflowers all in stately pride,  
Draw close their leaves around them—  
A bouquet soon for Death's brown bride,  
But that does not confound them!

The winter winds will weave their shrouds,  
Snowflakes will form above them,  
The sun will sulk behind the clouds,  
With no one near to love them.

But when the Spring returns, and dawns  
Of warming days surround them,  
They'll rise once more with little yawns,  
And spread more joy around them!

A. C. C.

5/9/36

# Roxborough Man To Mark 85th Birthday

William H. Dawson Has Resided Here All of His Days Since 1850

## H A S F I N E M E M O R Y

Recognized as Expert on Laying of Huge Cast Iron Water Mains

One of Roxborough's grandest old men, in the person of William H. Dawson, of 581 East Jamestown avenue, is going to celebrate his 85th birthday tomorrow.

Possessed of a keen mind; a remarkable memory; and every faculty except the agility of men of less years, Mr. Dawson can relate the most interesting reminiscences of his experiences that extend over a lengthy period in the growth of this and surrounding communities.

He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dawson, old-time residents of the 21st Ward, and was born at what is now 168 Cotton street, Manayunk, on May 10th, 1850. As a lad he attended the Shurs Lane School, and at the age of 13 years aided his father, who was then a boatman on the old Schuylkill Canal. Subsequently his father was a police officer attached to the Manayunk Station.

After a brief experience along the canal, Mr. Dawson worked at three of the one-time Wissahickon Valley textile mills; the plants of Wolfenden & Winterbottom; the Kitchens' and the Hefts. Following this he was employed as the street lamplighter for Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissahickon, his district extending from the Wissahickon Creek to Domino lane. This was away back in 1865, when he was but 15 years old. He worked at this daily marathon-walking job until he was 24 years of age, in 1874. At 27 he was a member of the State Militia and served with the Philadelphia units in the Pittsburgh riots of 1877.

But his life's work, however, was found in the Water Bureau of Philadelphia's Department of Public Works, which he entered in 1874, where—excepting for a brief furlough in 1880—he served, most of the time as a general foreman in charge of laying the great water mains of the Bureau in various parts of the city, until 1918—a term of 44 years,—when he was pensioned. He has since lived in retirement.

When Mr. Dawson entered the Water Bureau, water for household use was conducted through the street in 20 inch mains. He was one of the mechanics when these were replaced by 30 inch mains, and

in charge of the work at a later replacement when the mains were increased to 36 in. diameter. In the early 90's he had charge of laying the 48 inch pipes that carry water from the Queen Lane Reservoir to Hunting Park avenue and beyond. In this connection he relates a tale of how Mr. and Mrs. James Dobson came out to see what the workmen were doing in an excavation that had been made through the Richards estate, below what is now Abbottsford avenue, and how Mrs. Dobson, who as Mary Anne Schofield had been a childhood neighbor, recognized and greeted the man who was superintending the pipe-laying.

Mr. Dawson early earned a wide reputation as an expert caulker on cast iron pipe, and also for the knowledge he possessed for properly installing it in various kinds of soil and rocky formations. Even today, cast iron pipe manufacturers, from near and far, visit him at his home to obtain information on the subject. Incidentally, the Philadelphia Water Bureau holds the honor of having cast iron pipe in use longer than any other municipality in the world.

In young manhood Mr. Dawson was married to Miss Margaret Maguire, a granddaughter of William Levering, of the family which founded Roxborough. The marriage took place in the parsonage of the Roxborough Baptist Church, and was solemnized by Rev. David Spencer. Mrs. Dawson expired in 1920.

Five of the couple's children will felicitate their kindly old father tomorrow. They are Mrs. Joseph Cantley, of 581 East Jamestown avenue, with whom Mr. Dawson resides; Mrs. George Perry, of Philadelphia; Charles Dawson, of Fountain street; Mrs. Lulu Buckalew, of Philadelphia; and Edward Dawson, of Gloucester, N. J.

Three of Mr. Dawson's sisters, too, will help to mark the joyous occasion. These are Mrs. Sarah Hollingsworth, Miss Mary Dawson and Mrs. Arthur Littlewood, all of Roxborough.

Besides the afore-mentioned, there are eleven grand-children, and two great grand-children who think their Grand Dad is the greatest man in the world.

Among Mr. Dawson's recollections he gives a clear word-picture of the appearance of Roxborough and Manayunk in his youth, mentioning the Levering Farm, on the west side of Ridge avenue near Walnut lane; the Carlisle Lots which extended across Ridge ave-

nue at the Kendrick Playground; the Kidd property east of Ridge avenue in the vicinity of Walnut lane; and the homestead of the Walters family, and later of the James on the site of the Memorial Hospital. He also recalled carrying the mail—in bulk—for a time, from the Manayunk post office, where John Shoemaker was the postmaster, to Roxborough where William Morrison was in charge of the postal headquarters, stating that in those days Roxborough was served by but two mail carriers, one of whom, James Yocum, he personally remembered.

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CHARLES E. HELMS

Approved by Mayor To Be Republican Nominee for City Controller

CHARLES BRUMM HELMS says he has lived, eaten and slept P. O. S. of A. for 37 years since he joined order in home town of Schuylkill Haven. Since 1916 has been State Secretary. His father was one-time National as well as State president of the patriotic organization.

Coincidence: Gets middle name Brumm from another of Mayor Wilson's candidates—Dr. Seth Brumm, for Coroner. Dr. Brumm and Helms' father were close friends. Serious by nature, Helms at 53 is taking his first fling in politics. When not busy with P. O. S. of A. duties, he's busy with affairs of Messiah Lutheran Church, and his family. Has two sons and a daughter, lives at 149 Sumac st., Wissahickon. Hobbies: a garden and a great dane, "Marc Antony."



2/14/35

## History of Green Lane

Thoroughfare Connecting Manayunk With Roxborough Is 21st Ward's Third Oldest Highway. — Was First a Private Road.

By John M. Sickinger

Judging from their questions, people often wonder why the surveyors constructed Green Lane—the best thoroughfare from the Schuylkill river to Ridge avenue—on such a steep and crooked grade, when they could have made it almost straight. There were originally only two structures that would needs have been demolished on this project.

Road Supervisor Michael Righter once placed a heavy coating of cinders over the roadbed of Green Lane, and it became almost as smooth as the present-day asphalt pavements. The gutters and outlets

were kept in good condition, and such little damage as was caused by storms was easily repaired. Succeeding supervisors did little toward keeping Green Lane in proper condition, and consequently it wasn't long before it became a regular gully, filled with small rocks and other debris.

It was in the early 70's that the Lane was finally given a permanent paving. The road had been declared a public highway in 1769. In the early history of Lower Merion and Roxborough Townships, it is recorded that there was a ford across the Schuylkill, just below the present Green Lane bridge. It was immediately behind what is now the mills of Charles Lachman & Co. This was called Levering's Ford, inasmuch as the land on both sides of the river at the point was owned by Jacob Levering, a son of Wigard Levering, Roxborough Township's pioneer settler.

Green Lane was a private road for many years, its origin being attributed to Wigard Levering, who in February of 1716 granted his son, Jacob, 85 acres of land along the Schuylkill. The elder Levering included a private right of way, from the said tract down along the river, to his other holdings along Ridge road.

In 1769, when the petition to make Green Lane a public road was presented, it was set forth that it had "been much used for many years past, but the road was only used on sufferance," and hence its route was very uncertain. It was finally ordered as a public road, at a width of 33 feet. The road was surveyed in October 1767, by John Roberts, and a map included in the return to the road jury exhibited a creek at what is now Silverwood street.

Jacob Levering erected a homestead and factory on the west side of the Schuylkill, in 1751. The homestead was afterward occupied

by George Shields, and finally was the residence of S. A. Rudolph, the paper maker.

John Constantine operated the factory until it was taken over by the Rudolphs and used for a paper mill. Recently the old home of Jacob Levering was demolished, after having fallen into decay. The site of his one-time factory is now covered by the offices and yards of the Glen Willow Ice Manufacturing Company.

It is said that very few persons are acquainted with the burial place of Jacob Levering and his family. There is a story to the effect that when the contractors who were erecting the new concrete Green Lane bridge, were re-locating Belmont Avenue, they uncovered a circular vault on the lawn of Levering's former home, and discovered that it was a family burial tomb. The contractor wanted to remove what remains were left in the vault—according to the story. But on the advice of the Montgomery County Historical Society and Lower Merion Township officials, it was re-sealed with steel and concrete. It is located partly under the sidewalk and partly under the roadbed, in front of the Glen Willow driveway.

When Levering built his home and mill he had the materials shipped from England to Philadelphia. This material was loaded on carts, hauled up the old Ridge road and down private thoroughfares to the ford at the foot of Green Lane.

The old Stewart Lyle farmhouse, on Ashland Avenue, overlooking the ice company's plant, was built from plans made by Jacob Levering.

1/12/1933

Inquirer 9/9/36

### TRUSTS YIELD \$828,000

Two trust funds created under the will of John Lang, paper manufacturer, who died September 14, 1901, returned income of \$828,513 on a total principal of \$632,677, according to accountings of the Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Co., surviving trustee, filed for audit in the Orphans' Court.

Lang, who lived at 6012 Ridge Ave., created the trust funds for his daughter, Mrs. Lilla F. Myers, and her son, John Landon Jones. The one for the daughter shows a balance of principal of \$315,577 and the one for the grandson \$317,099.

Mrs. Myers received \$421,714 income from 1903 to August 11 last, from the trust for her benefit, while other annuitants under the Lang will got \$4836 income from the same fund. The testator's grandson received \$401,963 income from 1906 until August 11 last, the period during which the accounting for him is rendered.

The accountings were filed because of the death on August 11 of Edward H. Morris, co-trustee.

5-31-1934

### GRAND ARMY LEADER



GEORGE GILLETTE

Commander of Hetty A. Jones Post No. 12, G. A. R. whose time-torn ranks conducted Memorial Day services in Leverington Cemetery yesterday. Commander Gillette is prominently mentioned as a candidate for election as State Commander of the G. A. R.

### MOURNING FLAG

The flag which flies o'er Gorgas Park

Has sadness in its every fold,  
Despite the sinking western sun  
Which circles it with gold.

'Tis raised but half-way up the staff

And waves despondently,  
As if it knew a Nation mourns,  
And needs its sympathy.

'Tis floating thus to mark respect

For Calvin Coolidge—now at rest!

But not forgotten in the minds  
Of countrymen who loved him best;

An outward sign of sorrowed hearts,

That flutters in the breeze,  
To symbolize Mankind submits  
To God's abstruse decrees.

A. C. C.

2/7/1935

## Old Dramatic Organization Is Recalled

Manayunk Thespians Entertained Community Prior to Advent of Moving Pictures

### TALENTED GROUP

Only One of Original Members Is Still a Resident of 21st Ward

A long-time resident of the 21st Ward, last week related the following recollections of his boyhood, about fifty years ago, as spent in Manayunk and its vicinity.

"As a small boy I remember Maurice Wilhere, who later on became a local magistrate; Joseph Reley, who became postmaster; Neal McIlvaine, builder; John F. Maken, letter carrier; Thomas Reiley, who became a boss dyer; William Rowe and many others. This group were accustomed to presenting nice little entertainments in the basement of old St. John's Church, in Manayunk. These were usually Irish dramas. Then they formed the Emerald Dramatic Society, and put on plays at Masonic Hall. The "shows" were really good.

"Some of the ladies who took part were Jetta Barr, Kate Gibbons, a Miss Davis and others.

"Neal McIlvaine was often 'Robert Emmet'; Maurice Wilhere can be remembered in "Handy Andy" when he broke an arm-load of dishes. The group was successful for several seasons, and the people crowded into the halls, well-pleased with every performance.

"Once a new play was being rehearsed, and it had been advertised everywhere in this vicinity. A few days before the date of the show, the father and mother of one of the participants died. There were others in the cast who were near relatives. The incident depleted the cast and in order to stage it at all, they had to fall back on us boys, who never failed to be present at a rehearsal. We knew the lines well enough. So the show went off as scheduled, and so successful was it, that it changed the whole future of the company. The group was re-organized as the New Emerald Dramatic Company, composed of the following persons, many of whom turned out to be genuinely talented artists: John McGarrigle, comedian; George A. Reynolds, versatile; Peter A. Conway, versatile; George B. Kelly, lead; P. J. Carberry, heavy, and B. J. Makem, versatile;

"The above were ably assisted by J. P. Makem, Thomas Makem, Collie McGarrigle, John P. Connelly, Charles Gray, M. J. Walsh,

and later on by Edward A. Kennedy, John A. Callahan, Walter Leftus and many others. The young ladies were Mary O'Brien, Fanny Gallagher, Rose Dolan and Lizzie Kern. These were all local talent. The professionals were Mrs. Clara Rennoyer, Nellie Rennoyer, Carrie Rennoyer, Alice Rennoyer, Millie

Fulmer, Helen Dane, Ethel Barrington, Elvia Crox, Kate Campbell, Fanny Jacoby and many others.

And we must not overlook Will D. Sapher, in "The German Volunteer". He was one of the best comedians ever seen here.

The last 'get-together' show was put on for the opening night of St. John's (then new) Parish Hall. The play was the celebrated "Two Orphans". The performance was so satisfactory that by request it was repeated the following week.

"Us boys, in those days, applied ourselves after working all day in the mills, to study at night and also built our own scenery. So you see had no time to get into mischief, or become 'tough'. We prided ourselves on having the ability to please the public in clean dramatic recreations. Such plays as "The Two Orphans"; "Miss"; "Colleen Brown"; "Ten Nights in the Bar-Room"; "My Partner"; "The Banker's Daughter"; "The German Volunteer" and others of a like nature, were presented."

The original Emerald dramatists have practically all gone, with the exception of P. J. Carberry, who is still a resident of Roxborough, looking as quiet and innocent as ever. No one would now recognize him as the deep-eyed villain, that he so often characterized.

A prominent manager of professional thespians once said that whenever he needed a good heavy man, he had only to go to Manayunk to find him—meaning Carberry.

At the same period, in the old days, there was another dramatic company in Manayunk, known as the Adonis Dramatic Company. Its cast was made up of George Ven-

devender, William Stinson, William Moore, Charles Sutcliffe and others. This group staged the well-known

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" with George Vandevender as "Simon Leggs" and William Stinson as "St. Cl.

3/22/34

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## Many Mourn Loss of Mrs. F. E. Westcott

Community Grieves Over Death of Florist's Wife, Following Operation

### EXPIRED SUNDAY

An Active Worker and Soloist at Roxborough Baptist Church

Grief permeated this entire section on Monday morning, when it was learned that Mrs. Doris Elizabeth Westcott, of 7045 Ridge avenue, had expired at the Habnemann Hospital, on the previous evening, following an appendicitis operation. Mrs. Westcott had been ill less than a week.

The deceased was born in Roxborough, on December 27th 1901, being the daughter of Mary and the late John M. Moyer, both of old Roxborough families. She was married to F. Earl Westcott, florist and prominent business man, on October 17th 1923, at the Roxborough Baptist Church, with Rev. J. Foster Wilcox officiating. There are three children: Mary Elizabeth, aged nine years; F. Earl, Jr., aged 8 years and William H. Westcott, 3rd., three years.

For many years Mrs. Westcott was one of the most active workers in church and Sunday School activities at the Roxborough Baptist Church. She possessed a splendid soprano voice which often added to the vocal musical events of the church and the community. Of recent years her children occupied most of her time, but whenever the occasion presented itself she lent her aid to outside activities.

In addition to her mother, Mrs. Mary Moyer; her husband, F. Earl Westcott; and three children, Mrs. Westcott is survived by two brothers, Wayne R. and E. Henson Moyer, and one sister, Mrs. Charles Edgar Righter, Jr.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon, from the funeral home of Charles H. Whiteman, 6216 Ridge avenue, with interment being made in Westminster Cemetery.

10/24/35

## Historians Elect Officers For The 1935-36 Term

Stanley Hart Cauffman Selected President of Wissahickon Valley Society

### PROGRAM PLANNED

Interesting Meeting Held at St. Timothy's Church on Tuesday Evening

Stanley Hart Cauffman, prominent local author and musician, was elected president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, at the meeting held in the Parish House of St. Timothy's Church, Roxborough, on Tuesday evening. He succeeds Major Thomas S. Martin, secretary of the Fairmount Park Commission, who has held the office for a number of years. Major Martin was elevated to the office of Honorary President.

Mr. Cauffman was one of the organizers of the Wissahickon Valley Society, and was its first president, which position he held for several years. He has been active in all of the major activities of the society since its inception.

Other officers and directors elected at the meeting on Tuesday, were: A. C. Chadwick, Jr., vice president; J. Ellwood Barrett, secretary; Mrs. Edith R. Schofield, treasurer; and James K. Helms,

historian.

The following directors were elected to serve one year: Wallace Bromley, Blanche Heidinger, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Miles, Dr. J. Franklin Strawinski, Rev. J. Foster Wilcox, Mrs. E. B. Hoedt, William B. Forney, Jr., Rev. Edmund B. Wood, Joseph R. Sumner, and Dr. Henry L. Hansell.

William B. Pollock, Jr., addressed members of the society on Tuesday evening, on "Postage Stamps and History." His talk was augmented by exhibits from the collection of A. C. Chadwick, Jr.

Activities were outlined for the season. In December, the Historical Society will co-operate with Grace Lutheran Church in commemoration of the Revolutionary massacre at Wood's barn. In February, a prominent speaker will address the group on Current History. In April, there will be an organized hike through the Wissahickon Valley, with a competent guide as leader, and with Boy Scout groups co-operating.

The Art Exhibition, which proved such a success last year, will be repeated in May 1936.

11/22/34

## Leaves Books To School In Roxborough

Mrs. Emma V. Thomas-Tindal, Former Principal, Remembers Pupils Here

### TAUGHT AT "LEVERING"

Benefactress Had Hoped to Provide a Scholarship Fund

A large number of books, together with bookcases, in lieu of the scholarship she had hoped to give, were left to the William Levering School, Ridge and Monastery avenues, by Emma V. Thomas-Tindal, of 604 South Forty-eighth street, who died recently.

Mrs. Thomas-Tindal was assigned to the school as a teacher in 1886 and for many years, until she was transferred she was principal of the school. Her last post was principal of the Holmes Junior High School.

In a will written last July and filed for probate on Wednesday of last week, Mrs. Thomas-Tindal explained that losses during the depression had made the gift of a scholarship impossible. Actual setting up of the library, as well as the carrying out of thirty-six other bequests of personal and household effects, is entrusted to the principal heir, Irene T. Priest, a niece.

Out of a personal estate of \$13,500 and real estate valued at \$3500 Mrs. Thomas-Tindal left two \$2500 trusts, one for the benefit of a sister, Adele I. Thomas, the other for a brother, William F. Thomas. Each also is left \$500 outright.

The Roxborough Baptist Church and the Chestnut Street Baptist Church are to receive \$250 each, with four relatives receiving \$100 each.

The niece, who, Mrs. Thomas-Tindal wrote, had always been a daughter to her, is left a bungalow in Eagles Mere and the remainder of the estate. Ralph Levering, of 563 Leverington avenue, is executor.

12-6-34

129

## J. V. Merrick Died Suddenly At Newport

Prominent Episcopal Layman Expired on Sunday While Visiting Son

### WELL KNOWN HERE

Parents Made Possible the Founding of the Memorial Hospital

John Vaughan Merrick, Sr., member of one of the old Roxborough families, died suddenly on Sunday in his 71st year at the home of his son in Newport, R. I.

Mr. Merrick, who made his home at the Philadelphia Club, left early in the week to spend Thanksgiving with his son, J. Vaughan Merrick, 3d, who is headmaster of St. George's School at Newport.

Mr. Merrick's father, the late J. Vaughan Merrick, prominent in the iron and steel industry, was one of the founders of St. Timothy's P. E. Church, the Memorial Hospital and was among the earliest members of the Union League, joining a few months after its formation in 1863. Mr. Merrick was a member of the League and of a number of the city's most exclusive clubs, including the one at which he lived, the Rabbit Club and the State in Schuylkill.

Mr. Merrick was a member of the Episcopal Church and active in its affairs for many years. The son he was visiting at Newport is one of the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania where he was graduated in 1915. During his college days he was captain of the U. of P. rowing crew.

Mr. Merrick resided for many years at his residence "Denby" which stood on the high knoll along Ridge avenue, between Lawriston and Righter streets.

Funeral services were held at St. Timothy's Church yesterday, and the interment was made privately.

Survivors are a brother, J. Hartley Merrick; two sisters, Mrs. George A. Bostwick, of Ardmore, and Mrs. David E. Williams, of Bala, his son, J. Vaughan Merrick 3rd, and three daughters, the Misses Mary and Catherine Merrick, of Overbrook, and Mrs. Anne Merrick Downes, of Narberth.

1777-1937

**The Patriots' Memorial Service**

AT

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pa.



**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 19th, 1937**

**7:30 P. M.**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### HYMN 379—"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the Cross of Jesus  
Going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
See, His banners go!  
Onward, Christian soldiers, etc.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus  
Constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.

Like a mighty army,  
Moves the Church of God:  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided,  
All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine,  
One in charity.

Onward, then, ye faithful,  
Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices,  
In the triumph-song;  
Glory, laud and honor,  
Unto Christ the King;  
This, through countless ages  
Men and angels sing.

### THE MASSING OF THE COLORS

#### THE VERSICLE

O, Lord, open Thou my lips.  
And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.  
\* Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without  
end. Amen. Hallelujah.

### THE PSALM—Psalm 43

Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation:  
O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

For Thou art the God of my strength, why dost Thou cast me off:  
Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me:  
Let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles.

Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy:  
Yea, upon the harp will I praise Thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted  
within me? hope in God:

For I shall yet praise Him, Who is the health of my countenance,  
and my God.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GLORIA PATRI

### GREETING

The Rev. William H. Cooper  
Pastor of Grace Church

### THE LESSON—Isaiah 2:1-5

O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Thanks be to God.

### ANTHEM—"Souls of the Righteous"

*T. Tertius Noble*

### THE HISTORICAL ADDRESS

Stanley Hart Cauffman

President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society

### TAPS

### HYMN 490—"My Country, 'tis of thee" (Congregation Standing)

### THE SERMON—"Peace and War in the Light of Christ"

The Rev. H. A. D. Wacker, Pastor of Epiphany Church

### THE OFFERING

### ANTHEM—"The First Noel"

*Alfred E. Whitehead*

### REMARKS

His Excellency, George H. Earle  
Governor of Pennsylvania

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE COLLECTS

### THE BENEDICTION

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## HYMN 21—"Adeste Fideles"

Come hither, ye faithful, triumphantly sing;  
 Come see in the manger the angels' dread King!  
 To Bethlehem hasten, with joyful accord;  
 O come ye, come hither, to worship the Lord!  
 O come ye, come hither, to worship the Lord!

True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;  
 To be born of a Virgin He does not despise;  
 To Bethlehem hasten, etc.

Hark, hark, to the angels, all singing in heaven,  
 "To God in the highest all glory be given!"  
 To Bethlehem hasten, etc.

To Thee then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth,  
 Be glory and honor through heaven and earth;  
 True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!  
 O come, let us hasten to worship the Lord!  
 O come, let us hasten to worship the Lord!



Participating in this service are the two congregations of Grace and Epiphany Lutheran Churches, the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, and a number of Veterans', Patriotic and Civic Organizations of the city. A cordial welcome is extended to all, and especially to our distinguished guests, Governor Earle and his associates.

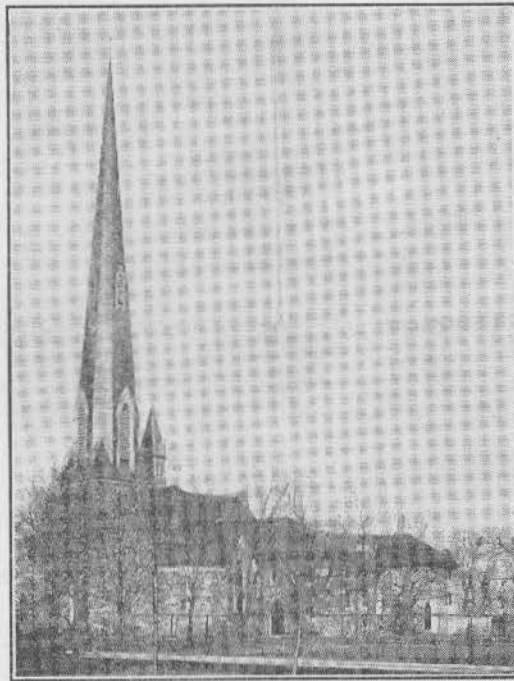


The congregation is asked to remain standing and in good order during the recessional of the choir, the clergy, the Governor's party, and the color guards at the close of this service.

# The Church Messenger

## Roxborough Baptist Church

Ridge and Lyceum Avenues  
Philadelphia



James Foster Wilcox,  
Minister

Miss Edith Myfanwy Morgan  
Director of Music

Mrs. Rosa Mattis  
Organist

The Church of the Cordial Welcome

Sunday, October 27, 1929

Morning Worship—11.00 o'clock

Organ Prelude  
The Doxology (Congregation standing)  
Invocation (All unite in Gloria)  
Responsive Reading No. 69  
Hymn No. 258  
Prayer (Followed by the Lord's Prayer)  
Anthem  
Scripture Lesson  
Offertory  
Prayer of Consecration  
Announcements (See Weekly Messenger)  
Hymn No. 159  
Sermon "Victory in Christ."  
Hymn No. 151  
Benediction and Choral Amen  
Organ Postlude

Evening Worship—7.45 o'clock

Organ Prelude  
Hymn No. 360  
Responsive Reading Selection No. 47  
Anthem  
Prayer (Followed by the Lord's Prayer)  
Offertory  
Scripture Lesson  
Announcements (See Weekly Messenger)  
Hymn No. 382  
Sermon "The Cost of a Christian Life."  
Hymn No. 202  
Benediction  
Choral Amen  
Organ Postlude

Following the benediction at both services, the congregation is respectfully asked to remain standing until after the organ meditation.

THE FIELD AND THE FORCES

Musical programs today. Morning: Anthems (1) "Oh, Taste and See How Gracious the Lord Is," by Goff; (2) "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds," by Liszt-Bliss. Evening: Anthem, "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee," by Shelley. Miss Adams will sing, "More Love to Thee, Oh Christ," by Sheldon.

The Senior B. Y. P. U. invites all young people to attend the interesting meeting at 6.30 tonight. The society is the training school for young Christians, a fine group of young people will welcome all who come.

The Intermediate B. Y. P. U. meets in the Brotherhood room at 6.30 tonight. All of our boys and girls are urged to attend. Miss Snyder promises a very helpful service.

The Senior W. W. G. will meet in the Guild room Tuesday evening. This

will be a special White Cross meeting, and the young ladies are requested to bring articles on which they have been working.

The sermon subject tonight is "The Cost of Discipleship." The sermon is based on the discussion between Christ and a fine young man who sought information on this great question. The attendance last Sunday evening, while far from what it should have been, showed an increase over the previous weeks. We trust that this increase may continue. Come out tonight.

The death of Anthony A. Wetherill, which occurred last Sunday noon, removes from our church one of its most faithful members, and a deacon for whom the whole church had the most profound respect. No man has been more deeply interested in the work of our church and Bible school than he, and from childhood he loved and served his Master. Deacon Wetherill was a

quiet, modest man, but he was always responsive to any call for service and was faithful to all of the responsibilities placed upon him. As a member of the Board of Deacons, he seldom missed a meeting, and his counsel was always appreciated by the pastor and his associates. He was a dependable man and brother. The funeral services were held from his late home in Green Lane, Wednesday morning, and the interment in Westminster Cemetery followed. We extend the sympathy of our church to the members of the bereaved family, and pray that God may comfort them in this time of great sorrow. God bless to our church the memory of the life and service of Anthony A. Wetherill.

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held in our church this year, and the preacher will be Rev. W. H. Cooper, pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church. The congregations of the Leverington Presbyterian, Fourth Reformed, First Methodist, Talmadge Reformed, Grace Lutheran and Roxborough Baptist Churches will unite in the service.

The Junior W. W. G. has postponed its meeting to November 8th. The girls will meet in the Guild room on that date.

The following assignments for services have been made for our church: Memorial Hospital, January 19th and May 18th; Gorgas Home, November 17th, January 26th and March 16th; Clergy Club Dinner, March 25th.

Next Sunday morning we shall observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. We urge all of our members to be present at this deeply spiritual service. Your presence will be a testimony to your faith.

Mrs. Jane Lindley, possibly the oldest living member of our church, who is a guest at the Baptist Home, is confined to her bed by illness. Mrs. Lindley has a deep love for our church and reads the Church Messenger each week and rejoices in all of our activities. We are sure that this beloved sister will have the prayers of our members for her recovery.

The White Cross served a luncheon to the directors of the Needle-work Guild last Wednesday afternoon. About seventy ladies were present.

We are indebted to the Surburban Press for a fine historical article on the history of our church, which occupied much space in the current issue. The article was written by "Secaff" and was highly complimentary. Our members should read this interesting account of our history.

The Men's Bible Class will hold its monthly business meeting and social at the church, Tuesday evening. All the men in the congregation are invited to spend a delightful evening with us.

"The World in Which Christ Lived," is the subject of four illustrated Sunday evening sermon-lectures, to be presented by the pastor beginning next Sunday evening. The topics are as follows: November 3d, "The Political World in Which Christ Lived;" November 10th, "The Social World in Which Christ Lived;" November 17th, "The Religious World in Which Christ Lived;" November 24th, "The Last Year of Christ's Ministry". The renowned photographers, Underwood & Underwood, will provide the views to illustrate the topics. The lectures will be of especial value to Bible students, as the places Christ visited, the roads over which He traveled and the wonders He wrought will be vividly portrayed. Tell your friends about this presentation and invite them to come.

The Bible School attendance last Sunday was especially pleasing. Officers and teachers are encouraged by the reviving interest after the vacation period. There are classes for all ages.

Many Classes in our Bible School are working enthusiastically to promote the Bazaar, which will be held in a few weeks. The object is a worthy one, and we invite all of our people to co-operate.

At this writing (Thursday evening) Mrs. Arthur Dewhurst, who has for many years been a member of our church, is at the point of death in the Memorial Hospital. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

A. C. Chadwick Jr.



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church Telephone, Rox. 9124 (Not Pastor)

**Pastor—Rev. JAMES FOSTER WILCOX, 467 Gerhard Street**

Parsonage, Rox. 2522

Study, Rox. 1489

Rev. FREDERICK W. STAIT, Udayagiri, S. India.

Rev. O. T. STEWARD, Executive Secretary Baptist Union of Phila.

## Deacons

Walter H. Snyder, 5907 Ridge Ave.  
John Herbert Bowen, 472 Lyceum Ave.  
George M. Righter, 6524 Ridge Ave.  
John Field, Jr., 535 Livezey Lane  
Albert M. Pfisterer, 4012 Pechin St.  
Anthony A. Wetherill, 445 Green Lane  
William H. Goshaw, 429 Harmon Road  
Geo. W. Henshaw, 656 Rector Street

## Board of Trustees

R. Bruce Wallace, 6011 Ridge Ave.  
T. Rawlins Adams, 2353 Bryn Mawr Ave., Phila.  
F. Oliver Keely, 344 Green Lane  
T. Wilford Schofield, 5930 Ridge Ave.  
Elmer M. Pfisterer, 6910 Ridge Ave.  
Henry F. Miller, 6435 Ridge Ave.  
Ralph I. Levering, 563 E. Leverington Ave.  
Russell C. Keely, 606 E. Gates St.  
Charles H. Brooks, 573 E. Conarroe St.

Church Clerk, Elmer M. Pfisterer,  
6910 Ridge Avenue

Treasurer, Edmund M. Keely, Jr.,  
350 Green Lane

Assistant Treasurer, Russell C. Keely,  
606 E. Gates Street

Financial Secretary, F. Earl Westcott,  
7045 Ridge Avenue

Secretary of Benevolences,  
G. Sherman Tippin, 483 Gerhard St.

Superintendent of Bible School,  
Chas. H. Brooks, 573 E. Conarroe St.

Assistant Superintendents, Russell C.  
Keely, F. Oliver Keely, Joseph M.  
Adams.

Sexton, George W. Levering,  
571 E. Conarroe Street

## SOCIETIES

### The Brotherhood

President, Wm. C. Levering  
Meets on 3d Tuesday Evening of  
Month.

### Woman's Work

President Mite Society, Mrs. Harry C.  
Hays.  
Meets on 1st Monday Evening of  
Month.  
President Pastor's Aid and Missionary  
Society, Mrs. Chas. J. Thompson.  
Meets on 2d Monday Evening of Month

### World Wide Guild

President, Miss Ida M. Pfisterer  
Meets on 4th Tuesday Evening of  
Month.

### Junior World Wide Guild

President, Miss Doris Raider.  
Meets on 3d Friday of Month.

### Senior B. Y. P. U.

President, Miss Margaret Theiss  
Bus. Meeting, 1st Tuesday of Month.

### Intermediate B. Y. P. U.

Superintendent, Miss Edna M. Hill.

### Troop 114, B. S. of A.

Scout Master, F. O. Keely.  
Assistant Scout Masters, R. C. Keely,  
Russell McNutt, R. B. Steward.  
Meets Every Friday Evening

### S. S. Board of Management

Meets 3d Monday Evening of  
Month.

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UP-TO-DATE

SOUVENIR

With History, List of Officers and Members of

Hetty A. Jones Post 12

—AND—

Gen. G. K. Warren Post 15

Department of Penna., G. A. R.,

33d National Encampment

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA

September 4th to 9th, 1899



UP-TO-DATE  
**Shoes**  
FORSTER BROS.

4235-37 Main Street

MANAYUNK

**S. W. SLOAN**  
**Restaurant**

4350 MAIN STREET

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Ladies' Dining Room Second Floor Front

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Second-Hand **Furniture**

STOVES ETC.

HAULING DONE

Stove Repaired and put up at Short Notice

4369 Main Street, Manayunk

**History of Gen G. K. Warren Post, No. 15**

A meeting of the soldiers of the late war was held at the home of Samuel Wrigley, on Wabash avenue, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Army Post. On motion Samuel Shur was appointed as temporary chairman and George Day as secretary. The meeting was then called to order for the purpose of effecting an organization as above stated, and made considerable progress in that direction, with the help of W. J. Kramer, a comrade of Post 46, G. A. R., of Philadelphia, for which he deserves praise for his time and attention.

On motion a committee of three was appointed to procure a suitable place to hold their meetings. The committee appointed were the following: George W. Lafferty, Thomas J. Reed and Joseph Turner. The same committee kindly consented to have a local put in the Manayunk Sentinel stating the purpose of this meeting, giving an invitation to the soldiers to come and join us in our new enterprise. After a social conversation the meeting adjourned to meet on Saturday night, October 19, 1878.

GEORGE DAY, Sec'y.  
Manayunk, Nov. 2, 1878.  
Temperance Hall.

A regular stated meeting was held on the above date for the purpose of installing the officers of Post 15, G. A. R., which duly was performed by the Assistant Adjutant Vander-slice. The following were the officers installed:

Post commander, Samuel Wrigley; senior vice commander, Thomas J. Reed; junior vice commander, Jos-

1729  
1861  
—68

**JACOB B. FRANCIS**

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**G. J. STRICKLAND**

**PRACTICAL HORSE SHOER**

Main Street, opposite Chestnut

HISTORY POST 15, Continued.

eph Turner; adjutant, George Day; sergeant major, Thomas Shaw; officer of the day, Charles Jefferies; quartermaster, Samuel L. Shurr; quartermaster sergeant, Charles Hunsberger; officer of the guard, Amos Richards; surgeon, Christopher A. Frame; chaplain, William H. H. Lawson.

At the installation of the officers of Post 15, G. A. R. there were visiting comrades from Posts 46, 51, 94 and 12 of the G. A. R., and in behalf of Post 4, G. A. R., Comrade J. K. Kramer, of Post 46, presented Post 15 with a ballot box and two gavels, after which remarks were made by comrades of the different posts for the general good of the order.

The officers serving in Post 15, G. A. R., this year are as follows:

Post commander, J. J. Fisher; senior vice commander, Richard Righter; junior vice commander, William Mattis; adjutant, —; quartermaster, Joseph Stickle; surgeon, Albert Fritz; chaplain, John McLaren; officer of day, William Nuttal; officer of guard, Frank Riley; sergeant major, James L. Marlin; quartermaster sergeant, William Whartenby; ordnance sergeant, John Sweeny; inside guard, Sylvester Stemmer; outside guard, Jacob D. Emery.

Large Assortment of early Fall  
Wear at

**NEWMAN'S  
COLUMBIA BAZAAR**

4254-56-58-60 Main St.

Polite Attention assured  
Satisfaction Guaranteed

**PETER J. TERNUS**

**WHOLESALE LIQUORS**

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**BOTTLER**  
**HOHEN-ADEL BRAU**

and Trilby Export Beer

Also Dealer in Wines and Liquors

S. E. Corner Umbria and Hermitage Streets

**J. J. FARLEY**

*Wissahickon Station Hotel*

S. E. COR. RIDGE AVENUE AND SUMAC STREET

Wissahickon, Philadelphia

J. J. FARLEY, Proprietor.

**JOHN H. GAISER, JR.**

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**LEVERINGTON HOTEL**

Choice Wines and Liquors

Ridge & Leverington Aves.

ROXBOROUGH, PA.

**JOHN H. GAISER, Prop.**

**Hirtory of Hetty A. Jones Post, Po. 12,**

The Post was organized on December 13, 1866, with the name of Sam Clegg Encampment, Post 12, with 14 charter members. The following comrades were elected first officers of the Post:

Colonel S. I. Givin, post commander; T. P. Wilkinson, senior vice commander; N. M. Rittenhouse, junior vice commander; A. W. Givin, adjutant; J. G. Morris, quartermaster; D. W. C. Todd, surgeon.

The Post met weekly with good results for several months and mustered in comrades till they had a membership of fifty, but it seemed as if some of the comrades had an erroneous idea in regard to the object of the organization, and politics got to be the topic of the meetings of the Post instead of their regular business. The membership fell off and they were forced to surrender their charter about May 27, 1870.

On February 24, 1874, twenty-five of the old soldiers of the Twenty-first ward held a meeting to make arrangements to take up the charter of Post 12. After the meeting was called to order and the twenty-five signed the application for the charter they elected the following officers for the first term:

John Harper, post commander; P. J. Langer, senior vice commander; Joseph Hurst, junior vice commander; J. F. Parker, adjutant; T. P. Wilkinson, quartermaster; T. D. Lush, officer of day; C. Harner, outer sentinel; Dr. W. C. Todd, surgeon; James McGee, chaplain; D. L. McBlain, sergeant major; W. H. Lush, quartermaster sergeant.

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Estimates Cheerfully Furnished for Weddings, Parties and Festivals.

Cor. Cotton and Fleming Streets

MANAYUNK

Dr. W. M. HORNBY, Druggist

Ridge Ave., above Green Lane, Roxborough

All Diseases of the Feet Succesfully Treated.

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*H. O'DONNELL, Jr., Proprietor*

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**JOSEPH W. GUBA**

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Sap Sago Cheese a Specialty.

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**P. J. SERWAZI**

**Bottler**

250 GRAPE STREET,

MANAYUNK

## HISTORY OF POST No. 12, Continued.

The meeting then adjourned to hold the first meeting of the reorganized Post on March 2, 1874. On that date the Post held their first meeting in Odd Fellows' Hall, Lyceum and Ridge avenues, when it was decided to call the Post Hetty A. Jones Post 12, it being only the second Post named after an army nurse in the Department of Pennsylvania.

The Post was attended with good success and at one time numbered 200 members, but death and other causes has reduced the Post to 73 members in good standing.

At this date we own our hall, situated on Fountain street, Roxborough. The following are officers of the Post for the year 1899:

Isaac Wright, commander; Washington Kent, senior vice commander; Max Mehrman, junior vice commander; C. B. Dunlap, adjutant; Simon Nelson, quartermaster; Robert Lees, chaplain; Dr. W. C. Todd, surgeon; E. S. Sutch, officer of day; Thomas McElhaney, officer of guard; J. D. Fink, ordnance sergeant; G. W. Gillett, sergeant major; W. Clark Johnson, quartermaster sergeant; B. H. Jenkinson, outside guard; Richard Somers, inside guard; Lewis J. Dunlap, librarian; trustees, Simon Nelson, C. B. Dunlap, Thomas McElhaney, Robert Lees, Joseph Aldinger.

Yours in F. C. & L.

C. B. DUNLAP,

Adjutant.

4362 Manayunk ave.,

Roxborough, Phila., Pa.

**GEO. W. RUMNEY**

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**WM. M. MORRISON**

**...Druggist...**

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**GEORGE A. EDWARDS**  
**PRACTICAL HORSESHOER**

DGE AVENUE, OPP. CINNAMINSON LANE  
ROXBOROUGH, PHILADELPHIA

**FORMATION AND ROUTE OF EN-  
CAMPMENT PARADE.**

The marshal and staff, President of the United States and Cabinet, Commander-in-Chief and staff, Departments of Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maine, Nevada, California, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Potomac, Virginia, Maryland, Nebraska, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Delaware, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Kentucky, West Virginia, South Dakota, Alaska, Washington, Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Montana, Texas, Idaho, Arizona, Georgia, Alabama, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The Department of Pennsylvania is assigned to the rear of the column.

The parade will start at 10 o'clock sharp at Broad and Girard avenue and pass down Broad street (east side of City Hall) to Market street, to Fourth, to Chestnut, to Broad, to Pine, where the parade will dismiss. All parades held during the week will pass over the same route.

Ice Cream, Water Ices, Confectionery.

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...Bread and Fancy Cake Baker...

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Fresh and Salt Meats, Poultry and Produce

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Private Dinners and Suppers at any hour

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**WILLIAM FALKENBERG, Prop.**

William Falkenberg was formerly connected with Hotel Walter, and was with Chas. H. Reisser for over Twelve Years.

2/1/34

## Will Begin Pastorate Here Next Sunday

Rev. S. G. von Bosse to Occu-  
py Pulpit at Bethanien  
Lutheran Church

ABLE MINISTER

Young in Years He Has Es-  
tablished a Fine Record  
as a Church Leader

Rev. Sigmund G. von Bosse will begin his pastorate at the Bethanien Lutheran Church, Pechin and Martin streets, Roxborough, at the morning service next Sunday, succeeding the late Rev. H. C. Schmeider, who served the congregation for more than 28 years.

Mr. von Bosse was born at Egg Harbor City, N. J., in 1892, being the son of Rev. and Mrs. George von Bosse, who now resides at Rahns, Pa. He received his elementary schooling at Harrisburg, Buffalo and Syracuse, where his father had been stationed at different periods as a pastor and as superintendent of an orphan's home. He subsequently graduated from Wagner College, and after several semesters at the Universities of Leipzig and Erlangen, in Germany, he completed his theological training at the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary, being ordained in 1913. His first pastorate was at Zion Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Delaware, where he spent eight years, building up a strong German-English congregation. During this time he also served as president of the National German-American Alliance, as successor to Dr. C. J. Hexamer.

In 1921 Mr. von Bosse was called to the Wartburg Orphans' Farm School, as the third director of the institution, following Dr. G. C. Berkemeier, who had held the post for 35 years. In accepting the call to serve as pastor of Bethany Church, Roxborough, Mr. von Bosse relinquished this position.

In addition to having established a splendid record as an administrator, at the Farm School, Mr. Von Bosse was largely instrumental in organizing the Wartburg Men's Club, the Lutheran Welfare Council of New York, the Interdenominational German Preachers Conference, of New York, and the Conference of Lutheran Institutional Workers. He was official correspondent to "The Lutheran" and "The Lutherischer Herald," official publication of the United Lutheran Church in America. He has served as secretary of the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Syn-

od of New York, and has acted, on several occasions, as delegate of that group to the conventions of the United Lutheran Church. He is still a member of that organization's committee on German interests. The Alumni Association of this alma mater, Wagner College, has twice honored him by electing him to its presidency.

?

about 1935-36

## Clergyman Died After Long Illness

Rev. Fred R. McArthur Suc-  
cumbed at Abington Hospi-  
tal Following Operation

HERE SINCE 1929

Funeral Services Held in  
Manayunk Baptist Church  
Last Saturday Afternoon

Funeral services for Rev. Fred R. McArthur, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Manayunk, were held in that church last Saturday at 2 P. M.

Mr. McArthur died in the Abington Hospital on Wednesday of last week, following an operation that was performed seven weeks ago. He was pastor of the local church since 1929.

The deceased, who was born at Bloomville, N. Y., June 15, 1881, lived at 197 Green Lane. He was graduated from Onconta Normal School, New York, in 1904, and after attending Conneaut School was graduated from Dennison University, Granville, O., in 1908.

Graduating from the Rochester Theological Seminary in 1911, he was ordained in the Bellevue Church, Pittsburgh, and served there as pastor until 1914. From 1914 to 1921 he was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Bradford, Pa., and from 1921-28 was at First Church Bethlehem. The next year he served at the East Side Baptist Church, Sharon, and then came to the Manayunk church.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and during the World War served as a Y. M. C. A. secretary in France.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, Robert William and Richard Edward.

The interment was made in Leverington Cemetery.

4/19/1934

## Wissahickon Writer Pens New Novel

Stanley Hart Cauffman Tells  
Tale of Queer Character  
in English History

INTERESTING TALE

Latest Romanæ "The Witch-  
finders," Discloses Practices  
of the Political Parasites

In "The Witchfinders," just issued by the Penn Publishing Company, Stanley Hart Cauffman, of 127 Rochelle avenue, Wissahickon, has added another delightful novel to his growing list of historical romances.

The new tale follows "The Sun Sets Red"; "The Adventures of Polydore"; "The Wolf, the Cat and the Nightingale"; "The Ghost of Gallows Hill"; and "At the Sign of the Silver Ship," all of which were created by the mind and pen of the well known Wissahickon writer and musician.

"The Witchfinder" is a story of love and intrigue, laid in England in the 1600's at a time when that Nation was approaching a great civil strife. Among the characters portrayed is one which English historians very seldom mention—The Witchfinder General. This individual, a villainous knave, secured his appointment to his lucrative post from a weak and disorganized Parliament, and by the power thus invested visited all sections of the land, terrorizing the inhabitants and extorting money and other possessions from them—much like many political parasites of today.

The narrative deals with the adventures of two active and clear-thinking youths in their efforts to frustrate the "racketeer" and their attachment to two charming girls in a shire far distant from the home manor of the young men.

'Tis truly a tale of turmoil and passionate affection, which sustains the interest of the reader from the very beginning of Chapter One, to the final sentence, in which the couples "heed that bell whose song was that of bliss."

The story is sturdily bound in enameled black cloth with exterior orange lettering. The text matter is printed in the easily-readable 10 point type, and the jacket is the usual attractively pictured and colored product of the Penn Publishing Company.

A. C. C.

## Transit In The Good Old Days Was Not Really Good

Horse-Cars May Have Been Adequate For the Times, But Would Not Be Endured in This Hustling, Bustling Age

By Edward E. Mustin

We frequently hear elderly people say they wish they could live in the good old days again, but we wonder how many in Roxborough would like to go back to the old Roxborough horse car system which required two to three hours to make the trip from Wissahickon to Barren Hill?

Remember the old line, with its six cars that ran on a zig-zag schedule, and in the stormy days of winter were lucky to run at all?

Even in good weather it was a daily nightmare for those who had no other means of transportation to reach Wissahickon Station.

The cars were dingy old things with oil lamps, plush seats and straw for your feet in the winter time.

The oldest driver was "Pop" Fischer who, with his long, flowing whiskers, reminded one of Santa Claus.

But "old Pop" never lost any time for years, in all kinds of weather, with no protection from the rain, snow and wind, he stood out in front directing his horses.

The long Wissahickon hill, from the station to Hermit lane, was a tough one and required hill horses driven by Wm. Funk, to assist each car up the heavy steep grade. At Hermit lane they were unhitched and left to walk back to their stable which was on a lot just above Sumac street, now occupied by stores.

William Tibben was superintendent of the road, and the depot was in Upper Roxborough.

As time marched on the trolleys came and transportation was revolutionized. Roxborough real estate took on a big boom, especially with the building of the Manayunk avenue line, which joined Roxborough and Wissahickon with Manayunk.

The main line from Wissahickon ran all the way up through the country to Norristown and Boyertown and thence to Reading, Slatington and other towns with a nickel fare between zones.

The coming of the trolleys made trolley trips popular and the cars did a land office business for years.

Night trolley parties were featured and I remember there was

one from Wissahickon to Plymouth Meeting House that caused its promoters a lot of trouble.

A crowd of Wissahickon Station bench habitues chartered a car on an evening before the Fourth of July. On the way up some of the boys who carried canes, smashed gas lamps they could reach as the car whizzed by. Later they had to pay the damage.

When the crowd reached Plymouth Meeting House they made a rush for the general store owned by an old man, who was alone and helped themselves to all the eatables, soft drinks and cigars they could reach. However, before they left, the boys settled with him and all was well.

The climax at Wissahickon Station, when they returned, about 1 o'clock in the morning, was a hair raiser, but luckily nobody was hurt.

Dan Taylor's saloon was crowded and through the two swinging doors a giant cannon cracker was thrown. The explosion that followed was terrific. Beer glasses fell off tables and there was a grand scramble of the thirsty ones for the exit.

Taylor came rushing out, white with rage. But "nobody did it" and nobody ever squealed, so Dan never found out. After the excitement the mob piled in the saloon and spent so freely that all was forgiven.

The trolleys continued to prosper, but in Time's march the automobile came and, as it grew in popular favor, trolley receipts started to dwindle. In fact they fell off so fast that fares were increased. But this made matters worse. Service was curtailed. The tracks wore out and the company finally quit three years ago. Thus ended the so-called Tockerville line as far as Norristown. Now we have the busses, speedy and comfortable, with quick time to the subway.

You can't stop progress. Who knows but that years to come will not see airplanes or stream-lined trains supplanting the busses?

Who can tell? And may I ask how many would want to return to the old Roxborough horse car days or even the "rocking boat" trolleys?

## Doctors and Nurses Remembered

Seventeen physicians and thirteen nurses were remembered by the special requiem held at St. Timothy's Church, Ridge and Jamestown avenues, last Friday.

The doctors were Walter M. Hornsby, Clarence K. Dengler, Howard M. Fussell, George D. Fussell, Clayton R. Entwistle, Harry S. Carmany, Jay D. Linton, Howard Geisler, Joseph V. Kelly, Orlando T. Petty, John S. Woodruff, Samuel Boyd, Charles K. Mills, Dr. Todd, Ross R. Bunting, Walter S. MacFadyen and Charles H. Myers.

All of the above served as various times on the staff of the Memorial Hospital. There were also several others included for remembrance by the service.

Nurses, who served on the staff of the local hospital, whose names were recalled, were Margaret Fraser, Adelaide Johnson, Maybelle Strawinski, Anna Gifford, Anna K. Curry, Mary A. Baxter, Marguerite I. Powell, Emma T. Tischke, Anna MacFadden, Edna Place, Katherine Tait, Grace L. Lineaweaver, and Alice Morrissey.

1/4/1934

## Will Rebuild High School

Pupils of St. John's Boys' High School, Attend Classes in Temporary Quarters at Manayunk Club.—Contract Is Given.

Since December 16th, when fire destroyed the interior of St. John the Baptist Boys' High School, Wissahickon, pupils have received their training in the St. John's Parish Hall, on Rector street, Manayunk.

Beginning today the boys and their instructors will find temporary quarters in the Manayunk Club, at 250 Lyceum avenue, and will do so until the restoration of their school building.

A contract for the work of placing the former Schofield mansion in condition for the use of the various classes has been awarded to McCloskey and Company, Philadelphia contractors, with the provision that all work on sub-contracts, as far as is possible will be made by local artisans.

1/12/1933

135

# Levering Inn Was Section's Old Landmark

Site Now Occupied by a  
Moving Picture  
Theatre

CENTURIES OLD

In Existence at Least Forty  
Years Before  
Revolution

A former resident of Roxborough, riding up Ridge avenue, on a bus recently, waved his hand as he passed the moving picture theatre at Leverington avenue, and said to his seat-mate: "Why they've taken away the community's best landmark!"

He evidently referred to the Levering, or Leverington Hotel, which until 1927, stood on site of the picture house.

For more than a century it was known as the Leverington Hotel, although its original name was "The Three Tuns". Even when it was torn down it was in a good state of preservation. At that time it was more than two hundred years old. For more than forty years prior to 1773 it was owned by William Levering, but three years before the Declaration of Independence was signed he deeded the place over to his son, Nathan Levering, as is recorded in Deed Book No. 13, Page 532. The conveyance was made for a consideration of "natural love and affection" and on condition that the grantee, Nathan Levering, should provide a "genteel and proper maintenance for him, William Levering, during the balance of his natural life", the maintenance to be provided, presumably out of the proceeds of the hotel business.

The inn was then surrounded by a tract of forty-one acres owned by William Levering. Nathan Levering conducted the business all his life and during the Revolutionary War narrowly escaped serious troubles with the British military force of General Howe, due to his well-known Revolutionary sympathies. It was here, it is said, that the Green Boys, which scoured the countryside for information to pass on to Washington, were accustomed to congregate.

The property was divided up by the will of Nathan Levering, much of the ground passing into the ownership of the Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, his son-in-law, and Michael Righter, another son-in-law. Both of these men took the old inn and the thirty-one acres of land in the year 1818 for \$10,000. In March 1858, the heirs of the clergyman sold the building with the lot reduced to the dimensions it held at the time of the last

transfer, 153 by 185 feet, to Arnold Highley, for \$1750. In the deed the property was described as "the Leverington House, formerly known as The Three Tuns."

Highley's heirs sold the inn to John Gaiser in 1884 for \$13,500, and the latter's son, Joseph H. Gaiser on the partition of his father's estate in 1922, took the inn at a valuation of \$60,000. In July of 1926 Mr. Gaiser sold the premises to Sarah Mayer, who sold the inn in January of 1927 to Fred and Abraham Felt at a large increase in price over the two previous sales.

4-28-1934

## Wissahickon Pastor Ends Work Here

Rev. L. Wartena Preached  
Farewell Sermon Last  
Sunday Morning

WILL GO ABROAD

To Teach in Montgomery  
County Schools Upon His  
Return in the Fall

After having tendered his resignation as pastor, to the congregation of the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, Ridge and Manayunk avenues, on June 13th, Rev. L. Wartena, preached his farewell sermon last Sunday morning.

It is with deep regret that the residents of the surrounding neighborhood, as well as the members of his own congregation, learned of Mr. Wartena's decision to relinquish his position here, and at the Congregational Meeting, when his plans were divulged, the communicants of the church presented him with a purse containing a substantial sum of money. His resignation becomes effective July 1st.

The Rev. Mr. Wartena became endeared to the unfortunate people of the entire 21st Ward, through his efforts as one of the leaders of a committee which provided food, clothing and shelter for poor people during the early days of the depression. His work at the church, too, will remain as a monument to his tireless energy and his somewhat brief but most pleasant stay here. The church building was enlarged during his time, and the relationship between the pastor and members of the church has been closer than in most instances. His work among young people, particularly added greatly to his popularity.

During the next few months, Mr. Wartena will play a visit to relatives across the Atlantic, in Holland. Mrs. Wartena, and the couple's daughter, Rhea, aged nine years, will summer in America.

Upon the return of the clergyman, he will take up a teaching position in the schools of Upper Merion township, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The family will establish a residence at Woodbury, N. J.

Rev. L. Wartena received his initial degree in Theology from the University of Princeton, later earning a similar degree from the University of Pennsylvania. To obtain his Doctor's degree, he has only to complete his thesis on psychology. He came to the Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, following three and one-half years' pastorate at Califon, N. J., in the autumn of 1926, succeeding the Rev. James Robinson, who had received and accepted a call to the Holland Memorial Church, Philadelphia.

3-29-34

## Richard Lorz Died Sunday

Minerva Avenue Policeman  
Expired After Five Weeks  
of Illness. — Saw Service  
in World War. — Leaves  
Wife and Two Sons.

Following five weeks of illness, with a stomach disorder, Richard A. Lorz, a policeman attached to the 14th District, who resides at 473 Minerva avenue, Roxborough, expired in the Police, Firemen's and Park Guards' Ward at the Philadelphia General Hospital on Sunday.

The deceased was born in Roxborough, the son of the late Richard and Ida Lorz. He was appointed to the police force in 1925, and served in the 13th, 14th and 31st Districts, and also on the traffic squad.

During the World War, Lorz saw service in France, with the 109th Infantry. He was a member and Junior Vice Commander of Hattal-Taylor Post No. 333, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is survived by his wife, who was Claire E. Rambo; two sons, Malvern and Richard, Jr.; one sister, Mrs. Ella McDonald, and two brothers, Max and Walter Lorz. Max Lorz is captain of Fire Engine Company No. 12, at Manayunk, and Walter Lorz, is a police patrolman attached to the 13th District.

Funeral services will be held from the Stetler Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, this afternoon, with the interment being made at Leverington Cemetery.

The funeral rites will be of a military order, conducted by members of Hattal-Taylor Post, No. 333, V. F. W.

7/19/34

## Dr. Carmany Passed Away On Birthday

Well Known 21st Ward Physician Succumbed on 66th Natal Anniversary

HAD LONG ILLNESS

Served With American Forces in France During World War

Dr. Harry S. Carmany, a member of the surgical staff of the Memorial and Episcopal Hospitals, died on Saturday, in the former hospital on his 66th birthday.

Dr. Carmany, who had been ill several months, lived at 366 Green lane, Roxborough. He was a past commander of the Thomas Emery Post of the American Legion, Roxborough, served overseas with the medical service during the World War and retired with the rank of major.

Born in Philadelphia July 14, 1868, Dr. Carmany was the son of the late Cyrus P. and Adeline S. Carmany. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1893, made further studies in Europe, and served his internship at St. Mary's Hospital.

Dr. Carmany was a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, Philadelphia College of Physicians, County Medical Society and 21st Ward Medical Society.

For many years he was the physician and surgeon for the Pencoyd plant of the American Bridge Company.

A brother of Dr. Carmany, the late George Carmany, was Mayor of Atlantic City. Dr. Carmany is survived by his widow, Geraldine; a brother, William C., of Atlantic City, and three sisters, Mrs. C. M. Stout, Mrs. Harry Binns and Mrs. W. H. Mackinney, all of Roxborough.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon, from the Stetler Funeral Home, 6024 Ridge avenue, with military rites prevailing. The pall bearers were: Dr. J. H. Lehman, Dr. Julius Propper, Past Commander William D. Ralston of Thomas F. Emery Post, William Johnston, Charles M. Stout, Walter Keely, George Wilby and Dr. J. Franklin Strawinski.

The interment was made in Leverington Cemetery.

12/27/34

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## Many Anniversaries To Be Marked In The New Year

Great Number of Local Churches, Lodges and Organizations Will Hold Special Celebrations in 1935

An attack of la grippe recently spoiled an anniversary we wished to celebrate and so we trudged disconsolately home to cogitate upon these annual occurrences. And these are a few "birthdays" that our thoughts dwelt on:

St. David's Church in Manayunk, celebrates its 104th anniversary in 1935. St. Timothy's congregation will glory in the fact that its church is 75 years old. Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal was organized in 1827, and that is 108 years ago. Ebenezer M. E. came into existence in 1857, some 78 years back; Ridge Avenue M. E. is 77 years old; Roxborough Central M. E. was started in 1871, and is 64 years of age.

Roxborough Baptist is the most venerable of all, having records which reach back 148 years. Falls Methodist will celebrate its 80th anniversary next October. First Baptist of Manayunk was organized May 22, 1851, eighty-four years ago; Falls Baptist has a record of longevity of 97 years. The Fourth Reformed at Manayunk and Monastery avenues, is 107 years old.

St. John the Baptist in Manayunk celebrated a century of existence four years ago; St. Mary's has 86 years to her credit; the German Evangelical Lutheran has 90; St. Bridget's in the Falls, has seventy-seven years, and the Falls Presbyterian, eighty.

Hetty A. Jones Post of the G. A. R., was organized in December, 1866, and therefore has its 69th birthday next year.

The Odd Fellows of Manayunk held their first meeting in 1830, some 104 years ago. The Roxborough Lodge was started 11 years afterward in 1841. The Falls Odd Fellows' anniversary is shrouded in doubt, but we know that it is getting to be in the venerable class. The Encampment at the Falls was organized on May 7, 1867.

Roxborough Lodge No. 135, F. and A. M., is now in its 120th year, and Palestine Lodge is 59 years old. Camp 50 of the P. O. S. of A. will on May 26th, celebrate 77 years of activity. Redmen were known in Manayunk as far back as February 26th, 1866, when Wawatam Tribe was instituted. Four years later Manayunk Tribe was born.

The Knights of Pythias started Cicero Lodge on April 28th, 1868, which you know was not yesterday, and St. John's T. A. B. Society of Manayunk was launched by a group of local residents on August 6th, 1873. St. Bridget's T. A. B. came into existence in March, 1874.

The Fifth Mutual Building and

Loan Society was organized in 1869; the Independent Saving Fund and Loan Association in 1872, and St. Timothy's B. and L. Association in March, 1874.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-four was a good year for B. and L.'s, for in that twelve-month the Franklin B. and L. and the Roxborough Building and Loan Association came into being.

Another aged association which bears the lengthy name of the Falls of Schuylkill Building Saving Fund and Loan Association, was organized in January, 1867, and so is across the three-score mark. The Laurel Hill B. and L. started in 1869 and the Wissahickon, of East Falls, came in during September, 1873.

The Philadelphia Gas Works started in Manayunk on April 20, 1853, quite a little spell ago; and on the corner now occupied by J. Raymond Turner, Roxborough's widely-known furniture dealer, there was the Roxborough Police Station in the year 1883.

Although Joe Richart was not around, the 21st Ward had a band in 1860, it being the Independent Cornet Band, which met at Gardner's Hall, corner of Cresson and Chestnut streets, Manayunk.

The new Green lane bridge took the place of a structure which crossed the Schuylkill at that point, the owners of which were organized as a company in 1832.

SCCAFF

1930 ?

## Wanted

One hundred and fifty 21st Ward Citizens, of the Male Persuasion, to organize a posse for the capturing of Horse Thieves.

A suitable reward—of one grand evening of fun—will be provided for everyone joining.

Those wishing to participate will assemble at Ridge Road and Conarroe lane, on the evening of February 20th, and then take the stage coach to the Philadelphia Rifle Club, at 8th Pike and Tabor Road.

For further information see George Wright, President Henry C. McVey, Secretary Roxborough Express Horse Company, 6080 Ridge Road

2/9/1933

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# Stevens Once Labored In Roxborough

Great Civil War Statesman  
Helped to Edit News-  
paper Here

FREE SCHOOL ALLY

Came to 21st Ward at the  
Solicitation of Col-  
onel Jones

Probably the greatest member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature which that body ever contained was Thaddeus Stevens, who hailed from Gettysburg, and later from Lancaster. Afterward Stevens became one of the leading Congressmen, at a time in the Nation's history when great men were needed just as much as they are today.

Few people in this section realize that Stevens played a prominent part in the history of Roxborough, and may have resided here for a short period at least, although no records have as yet been found which locates his home here.

Stevens' connection with Roxborough was brought about by Charles Thomson Jones, Sr., who resided on the site of the new William Levering Public School, at Ridge Avenue and Gerhard Street. Jones was born on January 10th, 1814, at Roxborough, being the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Horatio Gates Jones. His father was for almost a half century the pastor of the Lower Merion Baptist Church, and his mother was a daughter of Nathan Levering, of the family which first settled Roxborough. He was the grandson of Rev. David Jones, A. M., for many years the pastor of the Great Valley Baptist Church, in Chester County, and had served in the American Revolution as the chaplain of the forces led by General Anthony Wayne.

Captain Jones, who subsequently became Colonel Jones in the Civil War, was educated at Roxborough Academy, which had been founded by his grandparents, William and Hannah Levering.

After receiving his education he spent several years farming, and when quite a young man, established a newspaper office and published a weekly paper named "The Sun," which was anti-Masonic in its activities. Later in life, Jones changed his opinions concerning the Masons and became a member of the order.

But it was while engaged in newspaper work that Jones brought Thaddeus Stevens to this section. Stevens was one of the more ardent foes of the Masons, and at one time almost created a political party over the issues which arose relative to the workings or rather supposed workings of the ancient fraternal group; and gave vent to his feelings in Jones' paper.

Stevens was the son of Joshua and Sally Stevens, and was born in Danville, Vermont, on April 4th, 1792. His father died when he was quite a young lad, and his mother, one of that courageous type, which we still run across occasionally, valiantly and successfully carried out her plan to have her boys educated so that they might become men of outstanding calibre. In this instance the mother's sacrifices were not made in vain, and as Stevens advanced in life, he seemed to be more attached to his mother than ever.

Stevens went to an academy at Peachem, Vermont, which is still in existence after having been founded in 1795. After finishing his course at Peachem he entered Dartmouth College in the fall of 1811, as a sophomore. And following this he spent one or two years as a student at Vermont University.

When Stevens graduated from Dartmouth College he was twenty-two years old well educated for those days and wholly dependent upon his own resources. He determined to study law, a profession which, under the circumstances surrounding him, offered the shortest road to fame and a livelihood, if not to a fortune. In order to support himself while studying law, he taught school. His native State did not offer the opportunities which he desired, and the year after graduating he removed to Pennsylvania, where he secured a position as instructor in the academy which a few years previously had been established in the town of York.

After he had read the scanty amount of law then required for admission to the bar, he crossed the line to Maryland and took the examination in a court which was being held in a neighboring county of that State.

Uncertain in what county he should settle, Stevens visited Lancaster, returned to York, and finally decided to begin practice at Gettysburg, afterward made famous by one of the greatest military battles known to mankind.

It was the losing of a murder case, in which the defendant was guilty beyond any possible chance to prove otherwise, that Stevens came into prominence. He astonished everybody by his skill, his eloquence, and the display of those qualities which according to a most distinguished and by no means partial judge, made him before he died the equal of any law-

yer in America. Stevens' connection with the free schools of Pennsylvania came about almost as soon as he entered the State Legislature. In his first session he secured, in the face of determined opposition, the passage of a bill making a liberal appropriation for Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg. In grateful recognition of this event and his other services in the cause of education, one of the finest buildings at Gettysburg was given the name of Stevens Hall.

John T. Morse, in his series of volumes entitled "American Statesmen" devoted one book to Thaddeus Stevens, which is well worth reading, and is available at the Public Libraries in this vicinity.

9/13/34

## THE TIN HAT

Converted, it swings from a porch's beam,  
Rusting and filled up with dirt,

Where in breezes it sways,  
through the summer days,  
Or silently hangs inert.  
It calls back into mind, grim  
deeds, and we find  
There's scenes that will ne'er  
be forgot,

When it served in the fray, as a  
hat, while today  
For flowers it's used as a pot.

In a charge he had fell, on a  
field far away.

With Death in the blank, star-  
ing eyes.

With his rifle flung wide, from  
his bullet-pierced side.

On the ground 'neath the  
smoke-laden skies.

In his helmet each Spring, we  
plant seedlings that bring  
Bright flowers, we cherish  
with care,

So that we can recall, that he  
gave up his all,

To save us from pain and  
despair.

At Langhurst his comrades are  
active.

In deeds to help neighbors to-  
day.

So let's visit their lawn, while  
"the Frolic" is on,

To prove that we want to re-  
pay

A part of the debt, that we owe  
- - don't forget! - -

To these soldiers and sailors of  
ours,

Who'll deserve all our praise to  
the end of our days.

Though their helmets may  
never hold flowers.

A. C. C.

4/9/1933

# T. Banham Dies Suddenly At His Home

## Business Leader Succumbs to Unexpected Heart Attack

### HAD MANY INTERESTS

### Was Prominent Civic Work- er and Advocate of Greater Port

Samuel T. Banham, president of the Manayunk Business Men's Association, and leading advocate of Philadelphia's port, died suddenly on Wednesday night of last week.

Mr. Banham, who was 61, has been ill for several weeks, but was able to go occasionally to his office. He returned from the office and went to his room when he had a sudden heart attack. He collapsed and died before a physician could arrive.

He lived with his aged mother, Mrs. Anna Banham, who is 80, and his sister, Miss Bertha Banham, 427 Green Lane, Roxborough. His business activities were largely confined to Manayunk and Roxborough, though his interests were international.

At the time of his death, he was president of the Manayunk Business Men's Association, a post he held for 12 years, as well as his 10-year incumbency as president of the City Business Club. He was a former president of the United Business Men's Association, a member of the Merchant Marine Committee of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and for four years was president of the Ford Dealers' Association of Philadelphia.

Mr. Banham was the president of the 21st Ward Memorial Monument Association, which erected in Gorgas Park the first permanent World War Monument in America.

He was born in England July 9, 1871, and came to this country with his father, the late George Banham, and his mother, when he was 10 years old. He was educated in the local schools and as a youth entered the employ of the Pencoyd Iron Works.

When only 19 he went into business for himself, opening a tobacco shop in Wissahickon. He was identified with the tobacco business for 35 years being senior partner of S. T. Banham & Co., one of the argest wholesale tobacco dealers in this section.

His place of business was at 4367 Main street, Manayunk, with another warehouse at 130 E. Main street, Norristown. He was one of the oldest Ford dealers in Philadelphia, having been in business for 21 years in Manayunk and

## LEADER EXPIRES



**SAMUEL T. BANHAM**  
Philadelphia's great port booster and civic leader who succumbed from an heart attack at his home in Roxborough, on Wednesday of last week.

Roxborough. He retired from this business in 1931.

Mr. Banham as chairman of the merchant marine committee of the Chamber of Commerce made more than 25 trips to Europe and South America seeking to bring trade to his port. In 1931 some civic leaders urged Mayor Moore to appoint him Director of Wharves, Docks and Ferries.

Just a year ago he opened an Ocean Travel Bureau at his place of business in Manayunk, for the purpose of placing at the disposal of the public his extensive experience as a traveler, and to establish closer contacts with steamship lines. He was active in seeking to effect direct steamship connections between Philadelphia and foreign ports.

In October of 1931, business and civic leaders of this city and executives of international shipping interests united to honor his work for the port with a testimonial dinner. At that time, Harry A. Mackey, then Mayor, said that the city "owed a great deal to the optimism and industry" of Banham.

The deceased was a member of Palestine Lodge, No. 470, F. and A. M., of East Falls.

Mr. Banham is survived by his mother and sister, who lived with him; another sister, Mrs. Charles Garner, and three brothers, Albert L., his partner in business; Frederick, of Tulsa, Okla., and Elmer, of this city.

Funeral services were held from Mr. Banham's late residence on Saturday afternoon, with Rev. William R. Rearick, former pastor of the Talmage Reformed Church, Church, Roxborough, who now fills the pulpit of the North-Mutchmore Presbyterian Church, Broad and

Allegheny avenue, being in charge. Assisting him was Rev. Charles Dubell, rector of St. Simeon's P. E. Church, of Ninth street and Lehigh avenue.

The pall bearers were: Thomas D. Martindale, Gustave A. Wick, Al E. Glaub, John E. Eichman, James A. Burgess and Alvin Swenson. The interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

8/30/1934

## DETOUR!

If you're driving up "the Ridge"—  
Detour!  
Make a winding pilgrimage,—  
Detour!  
If you'd purchase food or flowers,  
Or rent books to read through  
hours,  
Go around the highway ploughers,  
Detour!  
When you come to Pennsdale  
street,—  
Detour!  
You'll see Mitchell's girls, so sweet—  
Detour!  
With a smile upon the face  
Of each Doris, Jane and Grace,  
It's a chance that you'll embrace—  
Detour!  
If you're coming "down the line"—  
Detour!  
Gaze on Pechin's femmes fine,—  
Detour!  
Oh, "the Ridge" where you would  
spark,  
Will be silent when it's dark,  
After passing Corgas Park,—  
Detour!  
Oh, they're tearing up the pike,—  
Detour!  
Every foot's a dale or dike,—  
Detour!  
And the cops have plenty work,  
And, you bet, they will not shirk,  
Placing you in celldom's murk,—  
Detour!  
Till the paving it is done,—  
Detour!  
Under moon or autumn sun,—  
Detour!  
Then we'll have a modern street,  
Sans the car tracks, obsolete,  
For the nonce, we'll say "Tout  
suite!"  
Detour!

A. C. C.

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1/2/1933

### SHAWMONT RESERVOIR

'Tis midnight, and the murky  
skies  
Disclose a misty moon o'erhead,  
While down below a glance des-  
cries  
Old trees, their leafless branches  
spread  
Before the wind, like arms it  
seems,  
To clasp each other, so to find  
Some comfort from their lonely  
dreams;  
To hold her face a world unkind.  
The Schuylkill and the heavens  
meet  
In darkness hard to penetrate,  
The distant hills would fain re-  
treat  
To farther lengths of dimness  
great.  
The stream winds serpentine  
and black;  
Quite sinister when moonbeams  
fall;  
Between small mounts; brings  
thoughts which rack  
Poor timid souls which shrink  
and quail,  
While city lights appear like  
grain  
That's scattered far in circles  
wide;  
Queer fitful flickers on the  
plain,  
Where Life, Romance and Death  
reside.  
Nearby, a darkened schoolhouse  
stands,  
Where boys and girls of tender  
years  
Receive instructions through the  
day.  
When youth discounts both  
smiles and tears.  
Most of the dwellings, which are  
near,  
Are unlit now; their inmates rest  
From daytime cares; while  
dream-gods peer  
Above each quietly breathing  
breast.  
But, here and there a window  
gleams  
Which proves nocturnal eyes  
still seek  
The end of toil, or pleasure  
schemes;  
Or, mayhaps, illness grips the  
weak.  
The once-warm wind has now  
turned chill,  
Dark waters splash the basin's  
lips,  
And birds, with all their pipings  
shrill;  
Which frequent here for day-  
light dips;  
Have flown away to sheltered  
nests.  
All this bears impress on the  
heart  
Of one whose loneliness is great;  
Who finds he drew a solo part  
part  
In Life's huge drama; finds his  
fate  
Rests on the acts of Father  
Time,  
Which must be viewed before his  
own  
Shall end the play and peace  
sublime  
Shall crown his efforts and  
atone

For days and nights, when  
darkness reigns  
To hide the heights and fresh-  
ing streams,  
Like midnight scenes of hills  
and plains  
From Shawmont basin, when  
no beams  
Are sent by fickle Luna, queen  
Of all the heavens; who can  
change  
Her night-cloak to a dress of  
sheen  
Whene'er she wants to make ex-  
change!

A. C. C.

12-21-33

## Frank Haley Succumbs to Long Illness

Well Known Resident Ex-  
pired on Sunday From  
Heart Ailment

### FUNERAL YESTERDAY

Came to This Country From  
England, in His  
Youth

After suffering with a heart  
condition for more than six weeks,  
Frank Haley, Sr., of 523 East Se-  
ville street, Wissahickon, expired  
on Sunday morning.

Mr. Haley, known to scores of  
residents of the 21st Ward and  
East Falls, was born at Liversidge,  
England, on July 15th 1869, being  
the son of Mr. and Mrs. George  
Haley. While still in his youth,  
Mr. Haley came to this country  
and settled at the Falls of Schuyl-  
kill. On July 13th, 1896, he was  
married, at the Falls M. E. Church,  
to Miss Hannah Smith, by the  
Rev. Robert McIlwain.

Mr. Haley an active church-  
worker, at the Ridge avenue  
M. E. Church, Ridge and Shaw-  
mont avenues.

With Mrs. Haley, the deceased  
is survived by two sons, Walter  
Haley, and Frank Haley, Jr.;  
three daughters, Mrs. Thomas  
Dunlop, Miss Elizabeth Haley, and  
Miss Jean Haley. A granddaughter,  
Mildred Eckerling, daughter of  
George and the late Mildred Eck-  
erling, nee Haley, also mourns his  
loss. In addition to these are  
three sisters, Mrs. Wayne Hawk,  
Mrs. Robert Smith and Mrs. Mary  
Ellen Crabtree, who grieve over  
Mr. Haley's death.

Funeral services were held from  
his late residence, yesterday af-  
ternoon, and the interment was  
made in West Laurel Hill Ceme-  
tery.

12-13-34

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### CHRISTMAS IS NEARING

Out upon our Schuylkill hills,  
Above the vale of myriad mills,  
The days and nights are fleet-  
ing;  
For Christmas Day will soon be  
here,  
With all its old-accustomed  
cheer:  
But have you mailed that  
greeting?

Again December brings its rush;  
The crowded stores with all the  
crush;

Each year it bears repeating,  
We purchase toys and gifts  
galore,  
And sadly think of "just one  
more";  
But have you mailed that  
greeting?

At Christmas-time our sympa-  
thies

Are raised to high and glad  
degrees,  
Our hearts with thrills are  
beating.

But all the joy we wish to spread  
Will find the mailmen worked  
half-dead

Unless we mail that greeting—  
EARLY!

A. C. C.

10-25-34

### MONSIGNOR MURPHY— LOYALIST

"I've lived and labored here,"  
he said,

"For forty years and more;  
And if God's willing I'll remain,  
Till earthly days are o'er.

"I've known and loved the people  
here,

The righteous and the erring,  
I've watched them plod ahead  
in life

With many things occurring.

"I've seen the babies grow to  
men;

The girls to mothers grand,  
I've shared their victories at  
home;

Their deeds in every land.

"I'm proud of them, and of the  
town,

Which grows as Time ad-  
vances.

I'm glad God placed me here  
to work

And in these circumstances."

Thus speaks this man, whose  
monuments

Around us rise in glory;

Of labor, love and loyalty

To tell his life's work story.

A. C. C.



11/23/33

## Death Claims Mail - Carrier Albert Haas

21st Ward Resident, Attached to Roxborough Post Office, Died Thursday

**HIGHLY ESTEEMED**

Many Messages of Sorrow Received at Local Postal Station

Following eight weeks of illness, which did not entirely confine him to his bed, Albert C. Haas, Sr., of 121 Dupont street, Manayunk, died on Thursday of last week.

Serving as a letter-carrier in the 21st Ward post offices for more than twenty years Mr. Haas, through the faithful and kindly manner of doing his work, built up a large circle of friends, many of whom are still sending word to Superintendent Edward R. Koch, of the Roxborough station, and Mr. Haas's family, to express their deep sorrow over his demise.

Born in Manayunk, on November 17th, 1881, Mr. Haas was the son of John and Lavinia Pausch Haas. On April 26th, 1910 he was married to Miss Louise Schneider, who survives him. Three sons, Albert C., Jr., Francis J. and Carl Haas, also mourn the loss of the deceased.

Albert Haas was reared, from his eighth year onward, by his Aunt Salome Pausch, who at the age of 83 years, also grieves over the death of her favorite nephew.

Mr. Haas entered the Post Office Department at the inauguration of the Parcel Post service, in 1913, and afterward delivered mail on a route in Roxborough.

A loved husband, an honored father and brother, an esteemed neighbor, Mr. Haas possessed a deep religious nature which kept him continually active in laymen's duties at St. Mary's Church, in Manayunk. Never were volunteer church workers needed that Albert Haas was not among the first to answer the call to serve and the last to cease his labors.

In addition to his wife, aunt and three sons, Mr. Haas is survived by four brothers, Rev. Francis Haas, who is at present in this country on a furlough from an African Mission; George, John and William Haas, and two sisters, Mrs. James Stead and Miss Dorothy Haas.

Funeral services were held from the late residence of this greatly respected public servant on Monday morning. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church and the interment was made in St. Mary's Cemetery, Roxborough.

9/28/1933

## Fire Captain Answers His Last Alarm

Harry J. Wunsch, Commander of Engine Co. No. 39, Claimed by Death

**A COMMUNITY LOSS**

In Addition to His Heroic Nature He Was Active in Charitable Causes

Headquarters of Fire Engine Company No. 39, at Ridge and Leverington avenues, Roxborough, is draped in mourning over the death, on Wednesday of last week, of Captain Harry J. Wunsch, who died after a brief illness starting with an attack of acute indigestion.

Born in the 21st Ward, 54 years ago, Captain Wunsch lived his entire life in this vicinity. He was the son of the late Maximilian and Matilda Wunsch; his mother's maiden name being Schilling. He served in the Philadelphia Fire Bureau for the past 26 years, being first assigned as a hoseman to Engine Company No. 12 of Manayunk.

He was afterward promoted to a lieutenant and placed in charge of Engine Company No. 66, at Upper Roxborough. Subsequently he was appointed captain of Engine Company No. 39, at Ridge and Leverington avenues, and later was transferred to Engine Company No. 35, at Ridge and Midvale avenues. At a still later change, he was sent back to Company No. 39, in Roxborough, where he was serving at the time of his death.

After returning from his annual vacation, Captain Wunsch, although an extremely ill man, continued at his duties for a week, when he was forced to take to his bed. But three days elapsed before his demise.

The deceased, who was never married, is survived by two brothers, August and Edward, and one sister, Miss Amelia Wunsch.

Funeral services were held from his late residence, 318 Rector street, on Saturday afternoon, at which time the entire personnel of Company No. 39 attended; accompanied by a large number of members of Companies 12, 66, 25, 35, and fellow Fire Captains from various parts of the city. The interment was made in Leverington Cemetery.

### CAPTAIN HARRY WUNSCH

The fire tocsin—silent now—  
Will ne'er call him again;  
No more his shout of "Wide Awake!"  
Will spur his company's men;  
He's through with all the maddening rush

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Of speed, in crowded streets;  
He's gone from acrid, stifling smoke  
He's through with dang'rous feats.

No burning structures beckon him,

To quench the mounting flames;

The men of "39" now miss  
His calling of their names;  
This hero—Harry Wunsch—has gone,

On to the Safer Zone,  
He, though his task was saving lives,

Could not extend his own.

The squirming, twisting line of life,

For him, is laid—is still:

The final ladder he has climbed,  
To please the Great Chief's will;

But friends he made while here on earth;

The sorrowed; poor and pained;

His mem'ry will preserve through years—

Through good-will that he gained!

A. C. C.

Phila Record 7/13/1930

## SALESMAN VANISHES WITH WIFE OF BOSS

Deserted Husband Says \$3000 Also Is Gone; Three Children Left Behind.

Leaving a wife and three children behind, a salesman for a Roxborough radio dealer eloped Tuesday with his employer's wife, the husband charged yesterday.

In addition, he took some of the deserted husband's merchandise and the fleeing wife took \$3000 owned jointly by her and her husband, he asserted.

The charges were made as fliers for the arrest of the fugitives were sent throughout the State by Philadelphia police.

Those sought are Mrs. Katherine Kamp, 35, wife of David Kamp, 38, of 5158 Ridge avenue, and Anthony Macrone, 34, of 3357 Vaux street. They were last seen riding together in a sedan owned by the salesman. In addition to the \$3000, Mrs. Kamp is accused of taking her collection of jewelry, valued at \$5000.

Kamp said he was very much in love with his wife and that they had been married for 12 years. Three months ago he began to hear rumors that his employe and his wife were unduly friendly, but he discounted the stories.

"In recent weeks, however," he said, "my wife has been acting queerly. She had a wild, almost hunted look in her eyes. She acted as if she had been taking drugs. I am sure Macrone exerted some sinister influence over her."

3/15/1934

# 1854 News in Cornerstone of Old School

Found When Charles T. Jones School Is Torn Down

## CITY LACKED FUNDS

Teachers Were, Even Then, Asking For Salary Increase

Public schools have doubled their normal capacity.

Teachers ask for increased salaries.

City Council has no money.

These probably sound like headlines from the newspapers of today? They are not. They are news items from Philadelphia newspapers of November 1, 1854, which were found in the cornerstone of the Charles T. Jones school, Walnut lane and Cresson street, Manayunk, being demolished by the Board of Education.

Among the news references were the following:

A large number of persons were arrested for selling liquor on Sunday.

Michael Winn was fined for driving his horse in a reckless manner.

Samuel Hill was fined \$10 for having his omnibus off its regular route.

In City Council, Mr. Waterman wanted to know if Council had any money to appropriate, and was told it had none.

An editorial charges that jurymen on an important case asked for and received intoxicating liquor while deliberating on a verdict. For that, it says, they and court officers should be censured.

At that time the Bohemian Girl was playing at the Walnut Street Theatre, and Boucicault's "London Assurance" at Wheatley's & Drews Arch Street Theatre. The Philadelphia, Germantown & Norristown Railroad, now the Reading, had its station at 9th and Green streets and was making six trips a day. "Romantic Excursions" were being made from Fairmount to Manayunk on the Schuylkill, on the steamboats Reindeer and Frederick Graff. The Rev. Albert Barnes was preaching in the old First Presbyterian Church in Washington Square.

One newspaper of that date records:

"Mr. Waterman in Select Council is to confer with the Controllers of the schools as to properly raising the salaries of certain lady teachers. Servant girls get \$1.50 to \$2.00 a week and are found board, lodging and washing. Teachers re-

ceive \$200 per annum and often pay \$3.50 per week for board. They only have \$18 a year for clothing, light and fuel. This is all wrong."

The report of the school controllers, taken from the cornerstone, shows that the school authorities were even then talking of making the schools safe from fire. The first fireproof school, the Charles W. Henry, was not built until 50 years later, and even today the city has not yet completed its program of making the schools fireproof. It is hoped that the increased payment of taxes this year will enable the building department to recall its building staff and continue that work.

One paper carried advertisements asking for the return of stray cows, and another one noted that a bear had been caught in the woods between Frankford and Bustleton. Among the out-of-town items is one stating that a toad in a torpid state had been dug out of solid rock at Rutland, Vt., "where it must have slept for centuries."

6-15-1933

## Dies Following Brief Illness

Samuel H. Birkmire, Old Resident of 21st Ward, Succumbs at Memorial Hospital on Tuesday Evening.

Sympathy is being extended to the family of Samuel H. Birkmire, aged 76 years, of 445 Wigard avenue, Roxborough, who died at the Memorial Hospital on Tuesday evening, following a brief illness.

Mr. Birkmire was born in the Falls of Schuylkill, being the son of the late Samuel and Elizabeth Birkmire. In early life he obtained employment in one of the local textile mills and later became bookkeeper for the S. A. Randolph Paper Manufacturing Company, at West Manayunk, afterwards being connected with several other 21st Ward manufacturing concerns, retiring from active work about seven years ago.

The deceased was in former years a noted singer having been the president, at one time, of the old Roxborough Choral Society. He was also a member of the Roxborough Baptist Church.

He is survived by his widow, who was Laura Scheetz, of Philadelphia; two sons, Leon H. Birkmire, a vice president of the Commercial National Bank, and Ralph H. Birkmire, of Allentown, Penna.; one daughter, Mrs. E. W. Hammond, of San Francisco, Cal. and three grandchildren.

The funeral will probably take place on Saturday afternoon, from the funeral home of I. T. Ryan, Mitchell street and Lyceum avenue, with the interment being made in Westminster Cemetery.

3-9-33

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## Roxborough Woman Dies

Mrs. Bessie Thompson Sobernheimer Succumbs at Her Home on Green Lane. Was Interested in Many Charities.

Bessie Thompson Sobernheimer, widow of Frederick A. Sobernheimer, prominent Philadelphia attorney, died on Wednesday of last week at her home, 323 Green Lane, Roxborough. She was 67.

Mrs. Sobernheimer for many years was treasurer of the Children's Seashore Home, Atlantic City, and served on the Auxiliary Board of the Children's Homeopathic Hospital. She was a director of the Matinee Musical Club and a member of the American Club in Paris.

Since her husband's death, Mrs. Sobernheimer lived in France, and only recently returned to this country. She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Bessie Sobernheimer Mullin. Funeral services were held Saturday at 2 p. m. Burial was made in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

4-12-1934

### IS HE UNDERSTOOD?

Sometimes a writer pens a verse

"To One Who Will Understand"  
And in the wording of his song;  
'Neath all the phrases grand;  
Lie hidden gems of comradeship,

Each set in burnished gold,  
Yet warm and glowing brightly for

His friend, who's kindred-souled.

And down within care-chosen words;

Reclused; are yearning hopes,  
That always fill an author's heart;

Confessed in queer-made tropes;  
As he essays to gauge the depths—

Unfathomed depths they are—that

Friendship furnishes for man;  
False, true; that time can mar;  
Mayhaps of lifetime - lasting length

And e'en Beyond. It should!  
No doubt this friend can understand,

But is he understood?

A. C. C.

9/10/1933

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# Water Works Of The Past And Present

Roxborough Plant Was First  
Put Into Operation  
In 1870

SUPPLIED MANY HOMES

Old Reservoirs Used as  
Emergency Basins in  
Recent Years

Riding northwest on the Norristown division of the Reading Railroad, the passenger in one of the new electric trains, is impressed by a fast growing row of Lombardy poplars which lines the eastern bank of the Schuylkill river just above Flat Rock Dam. These trees are on city-owned property purchased as the site of the Shawmont Pumping station, formerly known as the Roxborough Water Works.

Old residents of the 21st Ward are familiar with the events connected with this project, which was one of the noteworthy local enterprises a half century, or more, ago.

The Roxborough water works, which were finished on December 21st, 1870, according to an old report, "had its reservoir at the intersection of Ann and Isabella street, west of Greentree lane." There was also another reservoir at Mount Airy. In 1874 the pumping station, at Shawmont, supplied to these two storage receptacles, a daily average of 2,281,287 gallons of water for the use of the people of Manayunk, Roxborough, Chestnut Hill and Germantown.

In the beginning the works were run by steam-power, one Cornish and one Worthington engine. The Germantown and Chestnut Hill works, originally constructed by a private corporation, were connected with Roxborough, on September 30th, 1872. Two great mains crossed the Wissahickon Creek to the 22nd Ward, by means of an aqueduct far above the park roadway, familiarly called herabouts "the Pipe Bridge."

At that time there were four other stations which supplied water to the residents of Philadelphia. One of these was the Fairmount works, at the lower end of the East River drive, which was long considered a model for other cities. Old records say of this station: "The first water works of the city

embraced pumping engines at Chestnut street, Schuylkill, and a distributing reservoir in a large circular tower erected at Centre Square (City Hall Square of 1933) at the intersection of Broad and Market streets, commenced May 2nd, 1799. Water was first passed out for distribution on the 1st of January 1801. In the course of a few years more extensive means of supply were needed. On the 19th of April, 1819, work was commenced for the erection of a dam across the Schuylkill at Fairmount. Wheel-houses were built and reservoirs prepared. Three water-wheels were set in motion December 25th, 1822, and the work was then considered finished. The first water poured out from the reservoir on the 1st of the July succeeding.

"Fairmount Water works originally embraced a limited space, including Fairmount Hill and the ground immediately adjoining, bounded east by the street now called 24th street, west by the Schuylkill river, south by Callowhill street, and north by Coates (Fairmount avenue) street, the latter now being embraced in the Park. Subsequently the city purchased Lemon Hill, north of the works, embracing the ground west of the Reading Railroad, and extending along the Schuylkill to a point at some distance south of Girard avenue. The Fairmount works supply the reservoirs at Fairmount and a reservoir situated between Corinthian avenue and 22nd and Parrish and Poplar streets."

Then there was also the Schuylkill water works, opened for use in 1844, located on the Schuylkill river at the foot of Thompson street, supplying the old 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Wards of the city. These were brick buildings, originally constructed in the Egyptian style and made conspicuous by their high chimney, which resembled a tall Egyptian pillar. During the year 1874, this plant supplied a daily average of 5,226,008 gallons of water. The works were run by steam power, with Cornish side-lever and compound engines. The project was first launched by the commissioners of the old districts of Spring Garden and Northern Liberties, which were independent municipal corporations before the Consolation Act of 1854. This is now out of existence.

The Delaware Water works was located on the Delaware river, at the foot of Wood street, on the south bank of Gunner's Run, in the old 18th Ward. They supplied the one time 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th wards. In 1874 they supplied a daily average of 4,960,709 gallons of the very essential liquid to Philadelphians.

These were run by steam power, a Worthington beam and horizontal engine. They were built by the commissioners of Kensington for the people of that section, and first started operating in 1850. This plant, too, is no more.

The Belmont Water works, housed

in brick buildings on the west side of the Schuylkill, below the Columbia avenue bridge, replaced the West Philadelphia Water works, which were located farther down the stream, the site being within the boundary of the present Zoological Gardens. This West Philadelphia plant started business in 1853 and was superseded by the Belmont works in 1870. The Belmont reservoir is located at George's Hill and the modern filtration plant is along Belmont avenue, near City avenue.

Others of the city's water works are the Queen Lane, with its pumping station along the East River Drive, at Gustine Lake, with the reservoir and filtration plant on the heights above East Falls, built in the early 90's and the Torresdale plant which is comparatively modern.

In 1874 the average daily pumpage for all of Philadelphia amounted to 42,111,730 gallons of water. In 1932 the average was 333,000,000 gallons all of which was filtered.

The Upper Roxborough filtration plant, near Ridge and Shawmont avenues, has a sedimentation basin of 147 million gallons; 2 slow sand filters of 0.7 acres each, or 5.6 acres in all, and a filtered water basin of 8 million gallons. The capacity is 20 million gallons daily.

The Lower Roxborough filtration plant located below Shawmont avenue, is not in operation, being held as a reserve plant. It has a sedimentation basin of 12 million gallons, 5 slow sand filters of 0.54 acres each, or 2.7 acres in all, and a filtered water basin of 3 million gallons. The capacity is 8 million gallons daily.

The Queen Lane plant, at Queen lane and Fox street, has a sedimentation basin of 177 million gallons; 19 preliminary sand filters of 9.48 acres each, and 22 slow sand filters of 0.71 acres each. It also operates as a rapid sand filter plant with four coagulating basins of 8 millions capacity, and 20 rapid sand filters or 0.51 acres in all. Its filtered water basin is of 40 million gallons. The combined capacity is 100 million gallons daily.

7/4/1933

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# "Aunt Lizzie" Nears 89th Birthday

Mrs. Elizabeth Sickinger Was  
Born July 27th,  
1844

## HAS KEEN MEMORY

Parents Were Among Early  
Members of St. John  
The Baptist Church

Down in a little house, at the corner of Mansion and Conarroe streets, dwells one of the most remarkable old ladies in this section of the city, known to hundreds by the more familiar titles, "Aunt Lizzie," or "Mother" Sickinger.

Mrs. Elizabeth Sickinger, who will observe her 89th birth anniversary on Thursday of next week, has lived her entire life in Manayunk. Her experiences and recollections are well preserved on the pages of Rt. Rev. Monsignor Eugene Murphy's splendid historical book, "The First One Hundred Years of The Parish of St. John the Baptist," which was published two years ago.

Chapter Nine, of the Monsignor's book, is largely devoted to Mrs. Sickinger and her family's connection with Manayunk and St. John the Baptist Church. The grand old lady is the widow of Philip Sickinger, a Civil War veteran, who was a member of Company "K" of the 192nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, and still retains a keen memory and a wit that is a delight to encounter.

The article prepared by Mrs. Sickinger for the volume, of which the rector of St. John's Church is the author, tells of her life history as follows:

"A ship entering the port of Philadelphia was infected with yellow fever. The crew and passengers were all victims of the disease which occurred about 1815. Stephen Girard, a ship master, had a row of new dwelling houses under construction, and he at once turned them into a hospital, and the fever victims were taken there. Doctor Houston, of Quaker descent, asked for volunteer nurses, and nine women members of the Church of St. Joseph, Willing's Alley, responded. My mother, Mrs. Alice O'Connor, was one of them. The entire staff of nurses fell victim to the fever and all died except my mother. Upon her recovery Dr. Houston advised my father to live in the open country. My parents then moved to what was called 'Roxborough Township,' and settled in a house on the hillside known as 'Mullins' Row', which still stands and is known as Boone street, at the foot of the Roxborough street steps. At this time Manayunk was only a wilderness. Few houses were

then built, and the residents were scattered far apart. My father, who was a hand loom weaver, set up his loom and began to weave cloth for Michael McMahon, of Philadelphia. Being devoted Catholics, my father and mother and our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Haggerty, would walk each Sunday morning to attend Mass at St. Joseph's. They would sling their shoes across a stick and carry them on their shoulders and walk bare-footed. When within a few squares of the church they would put on their shoes.

"Suddenly a boom hit the village—the building of the canal, which brought hundreds of men here to dig into the earth to throw open the big ditch. My father was installed as a cook. The men lived in shanties and daddy's motto, 'a man's stomach is the strongest part of a man's work' kept them well fed. It took several years to build the canal, and the laborers who were of Catholic faith would go along with my father to attend Mass at St. Joseph's. Down across the Commons was another settlement of dwelling houses, and a woolen mill owned by Mr. Keating, who was also a devout Catholic. It was in his home that my parents attended the first Holy Mass ever celebrated in Manayunk, and it was through the efforts of the Keatings that the origin of the parish of St. John the Baptist was made possible one hundred years ago.

"With the building of the canal factories began to be erected here and there and one man, Captain John Towers, showed the mill owners the value of water power. The old cow lane that ran along Mullins Row, was named Tower street in honor of him.

"The next boom to hit the borough was the building of the railroad through the town. Again my father began to swing the skillet as cook for the workmen, and when that was finished he had charge of the kitchen for the men working to bore the Flat Rock Tunnel, through the small mountain north of Jones Ferry, about where the new Manayunk bridge across the Schuylkill now stands.

"The first child born to my parents was named Margaret, and she was burned to death when her clothing took fire while cooking dinner in 1859. She is buried on the hillside in the old churchyard, and was a grown woman at the time of her death. The second child was a son named Joseph, whose birth took place in 1836. He died in 1898 at the age of 62, is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Roxborough."

After relating some stories relative to the native riots in which the Catholics of Philadelphia were persecuted, Mrs. Sickinger went on to say, "During the church riots I was born. To be exact it was the 27th day of July 1844. I was baptized by Rev. David Mulholland. On Thanksgiving Eve of 1872, I was married in the little church by

Father Walters, a curate. When I was a young girl, before the Civil War broke out, I remember well that when a family buried one of its members in the churchyard, men of the neighborhood took turns at night in guarding the grave from the body snatchers. I know of one being stolen, named Loftus.

"The biggest event that vere took place in bygone years was the burial of the beloved rector, the Rev. David Mulholland. If ever there was a saint on earth—Father Mulholland was one. The next stirring event was the outbreak of the Civil War. I was then seventeen years of age. Down on the meadows, below the Wissahickon Creek, lay the camp of the 88th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. Many of the soldiers were of Catholic faith and would march in a body to St. John the Baptist Church to attend Holy Mass on Sunday mornings. When this regiment left for the field of battle they were mowed down like hay. All of these soldiers were only school boys. The Civil War soon thinned out the Parish of St. John's. The entire Conlow family, the father, Patrick, and his sons, Michael John, Bernard and William went. The McNeil family sent four sons, Daniel, William, Charles and Michael. A father of this family, or a son of that family, left for the field of battle. Some of those brave boys still sleep on the battlefield. The remains of others were brought home and buried in the old churchyard. A view of the old churchyard on Memorial Day will impress upon the minds of the readers the number of youths from St. John's who fought for their flag during the Civil War, by the number of flags they see flying in the breeze.

"When I became Mrs. Sickinger, in 1872, I became a member of St. Mary's Church, the parish of my husband, but I hold a spot dear in my old heart for the Church of St. John the Baptist, the scene of my childhood. I am eighty-six and one-half years of age (this was two years, and more, ago) and in good, sound health, and the youngest of eleven children. I am the only surviving child of Mr. and Mrs. Francis X. O'Connor, who settled in Philadelphia in 1789, and were driven into the open country by the yellow fever in the year 1818."

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## Jos. C. Morris Succumbs To Long Illness

Former Resident of Manayunk Claimed by Death  
On September 27th

WELL-KNOWN H E R E

Was Active in Civic and  
Church Interests Two  
Decades Ago

Following an illness of several weeks, which developed into pneumonia, Joseph C. Morris, a former well-known resident of Manayunk, expired at his home in Germantown on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. Morris was the son of the late Owen J. and Catherine McGlinchey Morris and was born in this locality. For many years he was associated with his uncle, Cornelius J. McGlinchey, in conducting a fancy grocery store, at the corner of Main and Levering streets. After the demise of Mr. McGlinchey, the nephew assumed full control of the business, retiring some 20 years ago, when he removed to Haddonfield, N. J., where he resided for several years before establishing his residence on School House lane, in Germantown.

While engaged in business in the 21st Ward, Mr. Morris was an active worker with the 21st Ward Board of Trade, serving on committees which first sponsored the erection of the Walnut Lane and Henry avenue bridges over the Wissahickon Valley, and in other civic projects. He was also a devoted and active member of St. John the Baptist Church. In early manhood he was married to Miss Anna Bateman, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bateman, respected residents of the 21st Ward. Mrs. Morris died about 20 years ago, at Haddonfield, N. J.

Surviving the deceased are two sons: Joseph C. Morris, Jr., who is engaged in the banking and security business, and Thomas Bateman Morris, employed with the Curtis Publications. There is also one daughter, Miss Nancy Morris. In addition to these there are two brothers, Eugene J. Morris, vice president of the Commercial National Bank of Mt. Airy; and John A. Morris, of Sumac street, Wissahickon, who survive.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, with Solemn Requiem Mass being celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Germantown, and the interment being made in Westminster Cemetery.

## Wynnes Show Interest In Property Sale

Old Family Residence Is  
More Than Two Hun-  
dred Years Old

CALLED "WYNNESTAY"

First of Name in America  
Was Co-Worker With  
William Penn

Members of the Wynne family, who reside in this section were interested in the recent sale of "Wynnstay" or "Wynnestay," as the property at the northeast corner of 52nd and Woodbine avenue, is sometimes called. It is one of the oldest dwellings in Philadelphia. It is said to have been built by Dr. Thomas Wynne, Penn's partner in the founding of the Province of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia's first physician, in 1690. Some authorities ascribe its erection to a later date, and that Dr. Wynne's son, Jonathan, was the builder. There is little doubt that the residence is over 200 years old.

That part of the city in its local designation of Wynnefield memorializes the famous Welsh surgeon and physician who was largely responsible for the Welsh migration that accompanied the coming of Penn.

When Philadelphia was laid out it was Penn's intention, so well did he esteem his friend and companion on the voyage of the "Welcome" which brought the Founder to Philadelphia in 1682, to have one of the main streets in the central section of the city bear the Doctor's name; and so Chestnut street was first known as Wynne street, the only main thoroughfare in the old city, as planned by Penn's surveyor, to bear the name of an individual. Penn selected this energetic Welshman as the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, and as an aid in the framing of the Colony's laws.

Dr. Wynne was so enthusiastic over Penn's plan to found a new province in America, and had helped to organize in Merionethshire, Darbyshire and Caernarvonshire, the company of Welshmen who crossed the Atlantic, helped to develop the area known as the Welsh Tract and founded families that became of note in the annals of Pennsylvania. When Penn returned to England in 1684 the doctor went with him. A few years later, Dr. Wynne returned and took up his residence in Lewes, in the lower counties on the Delaware, and

some time prior to his death, in 1692, moved to Philadelphia where on his first visit, ten years before, he had built one of the first brick residences in the city, on Front street, above Chestnut.

Until far into the 19th Century lineal descendants of the Doctor resided at the ancestral home, Wynnestay, as the plantation in Blockley used to be known. There, during the days when the British troops were in possession of Philadelphia, and the Continentals were ranged around the suburbs, under Washington's command, a foraging party of British soldiers attempting to raid Wynnestay were held at bay by the wife and servants of Dr. Wynne's great-grandson until a detachment of Pennsylvania Militia came to their rescue and drove off the marauders.

11-9-1933

## New Pastor For Church in Roxborough

Dr. David A. Noble, of Louisville, Comes to Leverington Presbyterian Church

ORDAINED IN 1925

Will Preach First Sermon  
as Pastor-Elect Next  
Sunday

On Wednesday evening, November 1st, the official board of the Leverington Presbyterian Church, Ridge avenue and Hermitage street, met in special session and extended a call to Rev. David A. Noble, Ph. D. of Louisville, Kentucky to become the pastor of the church. The pulpit has been vacant since April 3rd.

Dr. Noble is a man of wide experience both as pastor and teacher. He was ordained in 1925 as pastor of a Presbyterian church in Louisville, Kentucky. Later he served a large congregation of Chattanooga, Tennessee. For three years he was a teacher in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. During the past year, he has been studying in the Louisville Seminary for the Ph.D. degree and served as supply pastor of the Highland Methodist Church of that city. He had remarked success in this field, especially in the line of Bible Study lectures.

During the month of October Dr. Noble supplied the pulpit of Leverington church and attracted large congregations. He will preach his first sermon as pastor-elect on Sunday morning, November 12th. He expects to move to Roxborough about December 1st.