

cremated at the Washington lane crematory and the ashes were deposited in the family lot in Leverington Cemetery, besides the graves of his distinguished father and mother, L. Clark Davis and Rebecca Harding Davis.

A small stone of plain white marble, not more than two feet high, marked the graves of the parents. But where the ashes of the son rested there was only a bed of amilax.

The stone which now stands at the grave of the author of so many stirring tales is similar to the older stone, and, besides his name, it bears the date of his birth and death, April 18, 1864, and April 11, 1916. At the bottom is this scriptural phrase: "He that believeth on me shall not die."

The stone was erected upon the order of the Bank of America, of New York City, which is the executor of Davis' estate.

Written by A. C. Chadwick, but not published on account of great number of ads received that week
Ref new 12-14-29



WOOD'S BARN

Aside from the part played by Armstrong's division of Washington's army, which was assigned to hold the Hessians at the mouth of the Wissahickon, during the Battle of Germantown, probably the principal Revolutionary event that happened in Roxborough was the massacre at Wood's barn, on December 19, 1777, the 150th anniversary of which falls next Monday.

On Sunday the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society will hold memorial services in the Grace Lutheran Church, at Ridge and Roxborough avenues, which stands on the original Wood estate. Samuel Emlen, president of the Germantown Historical Society, will deliver an historical address on that occasion.

Various historians have written articles on the tragic death of the Virginians, under the leadership of "Light Horse Harry" Lee, who were slain in the Roxborough barn, by members of the Hessian troops under the command of Lieutenant General Baron Wilhelm von Knyphausen, Colonel Carl Emil Kurt von Donop, and Colonel Ludwig J. Adolph von Wurmb, who had their headquarters at Abbottsford in the Falls; or by the soldiers of the Seventeenth Light Dragoons of the British army, under Captain Andrew Cathcart, who was a staff officer and favorite of General Clinton. History leaves us in the dark as to which was really the slayers of the Americans.

Horatio Gates Jones was the author of a series of articles, which appeared in the Manayunk "Star" in 1859, and again in the Manayunk "Sentinel" in 1880, under the title of "Hist-

Notes on Olden Times in Roxborough and Manayunk," which refer to the event at Andrew Wood's barn.

In Volume 1 of Scharff & Westcott's history there is another reference to the subject which can be found on page 369 of that book.

James K. Helms, of Wissahickon, who is historian of the P. O. S. of A. and also of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, has written on the subject, too, in the columns of our esteemed contemporary, "The Chronicle and Advertiser," under date of June 23, 1927.

At the time of the Revolution the Wood family, who lived in a house near the present intersection of Ridge and Roxborough avenues, consisted of Andrew Wood; his wife, two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann; a son, John, and an old servant who bore the strange name of Nicholas Nezer.

These Woods' were public-spirited people and after William Levering, who was a grandson of Roxborough's original settler, Wigaru Levering, and his wife Hannah had in 1748 contributed thirty perches of their land for school purposes the Woods—Andrew and his wife—contributed ten more perches of land which comprised the most northern part of their holdings for the same purpose. This ground, or at least part of it, is still used for the same worthy cause, for on it stands the Levering School. The ground, since 1748, has been continuously used for the education of the children of the community.

The position of Mr. Wood's house made it a place that was often visited by the Hessians, who were quartered at the Falls. There are numerous tales of how the soldiers of King George, both Hessian and British, used to make raids upon the Woods. Among the stories is one concerning some of the "Redcoats," who stole some geese and left behind a scrap of paper with the following lines inscribed on it:

"Dear Mr. Wood, your geese were good;
We live just over yander,
We've bought your geese, for a penny
apiece,

We'll send the cash by gander."

At the time Washington and his army were undergoing the hardships of the winter camp at Valley Forge it was the custom to send parties out on scouting expeditions that would oftentimes last for days. It was such a party that applied to Mr. Wood for shelter on the evening of December 19, 1777. The little band was composed of Virginia troopers, who made an urgent plea to the Roxborough man to put them up for the night. After listening to their request, Mr. Wood warned them of the proximity of the enemy, but the men were tired and hungry and finally decided to run the risk of spending the night almost within the hearing of their foes.

Sentries were posted, up and down the Ridge road, and the remainder of the party retired to the barn to sleep. It is supposed that a nearby resident, whose sympathies were with the British, notified the Hessians, or British, that the "Green Boys" were quartered in the barn. These "Green Boys" were a group of Roxborough citizens who organized to defend their homes, and had frequent encounters with the moving bands of the enemy.

However, it was Southern strangers that were sleeping in the stable, and more than likely the local soldiers were safe at home in their beds.

Sometime after midnight one of the guards observed approaching horsemen, and sounded the alarm, but the suddenness of the attack robbed them

of any chance to escape. Such of the Americans as were able to mount their horses fled to the hills and valleys of the Wissahickon.

The barn was set aflame, and as the Virginians emerged they were felled by pistol and sword, to rise no more. Several dragged themselves off to the woods and fields, where their bodies were later found. Woods' servant, Nezer, was among those killed and was buried in the same common grave with the soldiers, who were interred in the private burial plot of the Woods' family, which stood about 350 feet back from the corner of Ridge and Roxborough avenues. The site is familiar to present-day Roxborough residents as being the home of William Henry Loos.

For eighty-three years the soldiers' bodies reposed in their original resting place, but on May 28, 1860, the remains were reinterred in Leverington Cemetery, and a granite shaft erected to their memory. Horatio Gates Jones was the orator of the day, and a military program was followed under the direction of Major Charles Thomson Jones.

The members of Grace Lutheran Church have paid homage to the Virginians by naming the organ in their house of worship "The Patriot's Organ," and this year the local patriotic societies erected a bronze marker on the site of the massacre.

Each time that we pass the corner, we think of the men who were slain in their efforts to make this the free and glorious country that it is.

SCCAFF.

Bulletin 12-14-29 Men and Things

Our Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Valley Forge is to be Marked by a Celebration Continuing Through Six Months

FOR the next six months, beginning today, Valley Forge will be the scene of a number of interesting celebrations planned in commemoration of the encampment there of Washington's Army one hundred and fifty years ago. On December 19th, 1777, the encampment began. On June 19th, 1778, the last of the Continental forces left. During those six months the most tragic story of the Revolution unfolded. Never were the patriots more discouraged. At no other time did the members of the Army display greater fortitude and heroism. "We cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery," wrote their commander-in-chief. And, with that thought in mind, the Valley Forge Sesqui-Centennial Association is preparing a series of exercises, extending over the whole period of the encampment.

Fifty years ago, on the centennial anniversary of breaking camp, there was a celebration. The entire National Guard of Pennsylvania was present, along with Governor Hartranft and representatives of other States and the Federal Government, to pay tribute to the Continentals. On that occasion Henry Armit Brown, the most eloquent speaker Philadelphia then possessed, delivered his famous Valley Forge Oration that is accounted one of the classics.

A half century before that the fiftieth anniversary of the encampment had been celebrated.

But at no time has Valley Forge been more attractive, more interesting as a place of patriotic pilgrimage or more fittingly marked with national, State and other memorials, than it is

is expected, as the
ion goes on, both within
memorial chapel which
as raised there, or in the
the weather permits, thou-
be drawn there. With Inde-
Square and the battlefield at
burg, Valley Forge is one of the
most sacred spots in Pennsyl-

Today's exercises, marking the opening of the camp, are simple and fitting. The raising of the old flag, with its

Opening Exercises Occur Today
thirteen stars, the assembling within the chapel of the representatives of the various State and county historical societies whose members are supporting the Sesqui-Centennial celebration, the invocation of the Divine Blessing by Dr. Burk, and the appeal to patriotism by Colonel McCain, have been planned as a short and reverent opening.

Later on the exercises will grow more elaborate. Every Sunday, until the middle of June, brief patriotic exercises are to be conducted in the chapel. As special days of commemoration come, more imposing celebrations will occur. The program already arranged calls for a memorial meeting on the Sunday nearest Washington's Birthday, when the State Fencibles are to attend the exercises in a body.

There will be a military and historical pageant on the sixteenth of June, the Saturday nearest the anniversary of the evacuation of the camp. This is regarded as the climax of the memorial celebration. President Coolidge is expected to be present. Representatives of all the original States are to be invited, with the officers and members of the old military commands and of the various patriotic organizations of sons and daughters of the Revolutionary patriots. Congress is to be asked to provide an appropriation for the participation of the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps. It is not unlikely that the park which the State has created at Valley Forge within the past quarter century and which is now a place of patriotic pilgrimage for a million visitors a year, will witness then the largest assembly it has ever seen.

The whole celebration, as it is being planned and directed, is unofficial and the product of the interest the members of historical societies and others are taking in the story of the Revolution and all that pertains to it.

Many days in the six months afford occasion for special remembrance, in addition to the opening and closing days. Among them are the birthday of the commander-in-chief, the coming of Von Steuben, the arrival of the news of Franklin's successful negotiations with the Court of France, the assignment of Lafayette as the head of the army which marched in May to harass Howe's men.

There is daily record of the hardships of the sorely tried soldiery set down in the diaries, journals and letters of men who were the eye-witnesses of the sufferings the half-clad, and sometimes almost naked, Continentals endured. The letters of Washington to the Continental Congress and to others give a picture of those days no American can read without reverence for the courage, fortitude and endurance of that army, waiting through a long winter while the British enemy were comfortably housed in Philadelphia and likely to come out at any moment to attack them. Washington wondered why the camp, sometimes a weak without meat and often without bread for days, did not dissolve

altogether or rise in general mutiny and desertion.

When he had left Whitemarsh on the eleventh of December to begin the march to Valley Forge, he led an army of 11,000 men. When he arrived at the Valley Creek, eight days later, he had 2,808 men unfit for duty, "because they are barefoot and otherwise naked."

Later, when cold, famine and disease had begun to make further inroads, there were said to be only three thousand to four thousand able, at times, to have defended the camp if need be.

Today, despite the exhaustive search of records that has been made, it is not known how many died at Valley Forge, or where most of the dead were buried.

The hardships were greater at the first, owing to the season of the camp's opening and the fact that winter quarters for the men had to be constructed after the Army arrived. The decision to select Valley Forge for that purpose was not reached until after a council of war had carefully considered the matter. Defeat at Brandywine, Red Bank, Fort Mifflin and Germantown had not left the Army confident. The occupation of Philadelphia, preceded by the withdrawal of the Continental Congress to Lancaster and York, had not been encouraging to its supporters. Many residents of this region were not hopeful of the outcome of the Revolution. Washington, as usual, was willing to take counsel. Some of his officers favored Trenton, others wanted to extend a line of camps from Reading to Lancaster, some wanted to go farther south. Patriots in this part of the State wanted to keep the Army within striking reach of Philadelphia in the

hope that the city might be re-taken from the British. Others counselled that, if the Army withdrew too far away from the city, a large and highly productive area of Pennsylvania farm land would be exposed to the ravaging of British foragers. During the maneuvers of the armies, in the preceding autumn, some of Cornwallis' men had camped in the vicinity of Valley Forge, the topography of the locality was well known to a few of the Continentals and the conclusion of the council was that this high and rolling ground, easy of defense and strategically well located for observing all the movements of the British in this section, was the most suitable spot for winter quarters.

Much has been made of the heroism displayed in the Christmas crossing of the Delaware at Trenton in 1776. Almost as much fortitude was required in the crossing of the Schuylkill that occurred during the next Christmas season. On the fourth of

Test of Men In Crossing Schuylkill
December, 1777, Howe had come out from Philadelphia to Chestnut Hill in the hope of drawing Washington into an engagement. The move failing, the British had retired within their lines in this city on the 8th. Three days later the Continentals were on the march to the fords on the Schuylkill.

Matson's Ford, at West Conshohocken, where the Gulf Creek empties into the Schuylkill, was chosen for the principal crossing. A bridge of boats was thrown across the river. The first division and part of the second had crossed when they found that Cornwallis, with four thousand men, was in force on the roads leading down through the Gulf. "This unexpected event," Washington informed Congress, "obliged such of our troops as had crossed to repass and prevented our getting over till the succeeding night. They (the enemy), were met in their advance by General Potter, with part of the Pennsylvania militia, who be-

haved with bravery and gave them every possible opposition, till he was obliged to retire from their superior numbers."

The next day the Continentals marched about three miles up the river to Swedes' Ford, where, on two bridges, one of boats and the other of rafts, they crossed, from sunset to sunrise, and began to tramp up to Gulf Mills, where they rested for a few days before going on to Valley Forge.

It was a cheerless rest for barefoot brigades, sleeping in the open during part of a cold and rainy week, until, after observing the 18th of December, as appointed by Congress, as a day for "public thanksgiving and prayer," they marched to the winter camp.

Here their first duty was to erect the little wooden huts in which the men were eventually housed, although it was almost February before all the Army was under roof, Washington offering cash prizes to the men who showed the greatest speed and ability in getting the army into quarters.

Redoubts and breastworks had to be erected, in accordance with Duportail's plans, guns put in place and the camp fortified against possible attack. Sullivan's bridge, later on, was thrown across the Schuylkill. Isaac Potts' house became the head-

On Guard All Through Hard Winter
quarters of the Commander-in-Chief. Other houses were assigned to brigade commanders and staff officers. Outpost details had to be assigned and there is evidence of the military genius of Washington in the assignments of such forces of observation as he posted at Whitemarsh under Armstrong, at Wilmington under Smallwood, at Trenton under Pulaski, and in the patrols of Morgan's riflemen along the west bank of the Schuylkill and of Jameson and Lee's men along the banks of the Delaware. Whatever Howe did was not to escape the watchful eye of the commander.

But Howe did not come out, waiting as he hoped for the acceptance of the various peace offers that were being framed here and in England.

Meanwhile, as the weather grew milder, Steuben's intensive training made the Continentals a better drilled force than they had ever been. The little camp became less gloomy. The wives of some of the officers came there, Mrs. Washington among them. There were moments of cheer when news came of the French alliance, which Washington celebrated by a military fete. An occasional dinner in state enlivened the staff.

There's an odd touch of the spirit of the men in the story that is told of how a stray dog coming into camp, with a tag bearing Howe's name, was returned to Philadelphia under a flag of truce. There was joy when Allen McLane's rangers, or some of the other American outposts, captured British provision trains and brought them into camp. And, when the news came of the British withdrawal from Philadelphia, Washington quickly sized up the situation and the Continentals left Valley Forge and, after crossing the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry, two days later, were on their way to engage the enemy in the following week at Monmouth.

Ind. Gazette
1-20-27

The Man on the Corner

Germantown Battle Monument Was Never Dedicated

Germantown's most conspicuous memorial of the battle of Germantown—the monument in Vernon Park—was never formally dedicated.

Attention has been directed to this oversight in a letter to William H. Emhardt, chairman of the committee that is arranging for the 150th anniversary of the battle of Germantown, next October. The letter suggests that the monument be dedicated as a feature of the anniversary.

There is little likelihood that the dedication of the monument erected more than twenty years ago will take place in connection with the observances of next October. Such ceremonies would revive a big controversy. And controversies are not conducive to successful celebrations.

One of the members of the commission that had charge of the placing of the battle monument in Vernon Park remarked only recently that he always blushed with shame when that monument was mentioned.

There was much protest at the time against placing the memorial in Vernon Park, both on the ground that the Park should not be cluttered up with monuments and that the monument should be placed upon the battlefield, of which Vernon Park was no part. In addition the monument is also criticised for lack of artistic merit.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania appropriated \$10,000 in 1903 for a monument on the Germantown battlefield. Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker appointed the following to constitute a commission to erect the monument: General John R. Brooke, David S. B. Chew, Charles F. Jenkins, Ethan Allen Weaver and Arthur H. Brockie. General Brooke was elected chairman of the commission.

The late Frank Miles Day was chosen architect, and he designed the memorial.

Suggestions that the monument be placed on the Chew grounds, that having been the site of the best known incidents of the battle, could not be carried out because of the objections of the Chew family.

Vernon Park was then decided upon as the site. Protests were made to City Councils against the use of the Park for that purpose, but Coun-

cils finally gave their consent. The monument was completed in 1905 but no ceremonies took place to signalize its completion.

Those who know something of the cost of monuments nowadays marvel that Germantown was able to get so much in the way of granite and bronze for \$10,000. Whatever the criticisms were, none of them alleged graft in spending the money.

Suggestions have been offered that the appearance of the battle monument be improved by placing a statue of a Continental soldier on top of the monument. Bills to that end have been introduced in the State Legislature, but they always failed of passage.

The Map on the Monument a Source of Perplexity

The monument is unusual in that it has upon it a large bronze map of the battlefield. On this map is something that has lately puzzled those who are trying to designate sites of importance connected with the battle that ought to be marked this year.

The map is evidently contemporaneous with the time of the battle. That is shown by the roads. School lane and Church lane are shown. Just south of these highways was the main line of the British. The next cross road to the north, on the map, is what is now Haines street.

In the space between School and Church lanes, on the south, and Haines street, on the north, there are three pairs of crossed swords on the map. Unquestionably this is intended to indicate that the main part of the conflict was fought here. Up at the Chew house is one other pair of crossed swords.

The origin of this map has not yet been determined. It does not coincide with any of the other maps of the battlefield that are readily accessible. It is believed Governor Pennypacker unearthed the map somewhere and that the commission accepted it at his suggestion.

The fact that the three pairs of crossed swords extended across Germantown road, south of Haines street, may have influenced the commission in locating the monument in Vernon Park.

Uncertainty and Controversy About the Battle

Trustworthy documents pertaining to the battle do not substantiate the claim of the map that the principal fighting occurred south of Haines street.

No battle of the Revolution is so beclouded with conflicting ideas and theories as the battle of Germantown.

The most careful study of the record of the battle by historians who have undertaken the task leads to the conclusion that General Sullivan's forces, which advanced along the west side of Germantown avenue got no further south than Washington lane, and those of General Wayne,

on the east side of Germantown avenue, proceeded a little farther, reaching the former Green Tree Tavern, north of High street.

Yet General Sullivan, in a letter which he wrote from Whitemarsh to the governor of New Hampshire, about two months after the battle, declared he had pursued the enemy

a mile and a half below the Chew house. That would have taken him far below the main line of the British. And it is known the main line of the British was never penetrated.

Likewise, General Wayne, in a letter which he wrote to his wife a few days after the battle, asserted that he had pursued the enemy for three miles. He does not specify where the pursuit began, but it could not have been north of Allen lane, for for there the advanced pickets of the British were posted. Had Wayne chased the British three miles he would have driven them below Wayne Junction.

In all probability the fog and the confusion of the battle made it difficult for the Americans to estimate distances. They advanced by slow stages from one fence or wall to the next, and most of them were unfamiliar with the landmarks, so that they had a hazy notion of what was happening. Official reports of the battle are few in number and give scant details.

Because the British had been in Germantown for some time and were familiar with the ground, the reports on that side are probably of more value to the historian today than are the letters and narratives that have come down from officers on the American side.

Dress Suits Appear at the Boys' Club

The appearance of evening dress suits in connection with the recent fortieth anniversary of the Germantown Boys' Club elicited disapprobation from some of the old-time members. They fear the Club is becoming fashionable and effete, and that they'll soon begin calling their parties "functions."

Charles W. Bainbridge, superintendent of the Club, says the first time in the history of the Club when a dress suit was worn at a Club celebration was at the Athletic Association's dinner, in 1925. "Perc" Andrea introduced the daring innovation at that time.

At the 1926 dinner of the Athletic Association, held on New Year's Eve, there was an increase of 100 per cent in the number of dress suits, for the toastmaster, Frederick M. Phillips, joined Mr. Andrea in exhibiting a wide expanse of shirt front and a long array of coattails.

First Kitchen in a Church

The Germantown Unitarian

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Church recently received the commendation of an Episcopal rector in Ridgewood, N. J., for being a pioneer in the establishment of a kitchen in the church and the promotion of social activities in the congregation.

The rector in question is the Rev. Edward S. Carson. He is a neighbor of the Rev. Hubert A. Wright, minister of the Unitarian Church in Ridgewood, and at Mr. Wright's invitation Mr. Carson made an address at a social meeting in the Unitarian Church.

In this address Mr. Carson spoke of Germantown as his home town and said that in his youth the Unitarian Church was the only church in Germantown that had a kitchen and that made a feature of social assemblages on weekdays as well as the Sunday services.

"In their rationalizing about religion," said Mr. Carson, "they reasoned that solid food and steaming coffee and tea were assets of the mind and spirit tending to a right attitude toward life."

March 3 - 1927

The Man on the Corner

Villages and Districts in Old Germantown

Keen interest has been aroused in The Independent Gazette's publication of the series of papers on the old-time districts or villages which have been swallowed up in Germantown.

The subject has by no means been exhausted. Besides those described, there were numerous other little settlements that had their own names and their own individualities, and it would be worth while recording whatever remains of their traditions.

The Rise and Fall of McNabtown

There was McNabtown, for instance. It has been entirely obliterated, and in a few years recollections of the place will have faded.

Until 1916 McNabtown was situated east of Chew street, between Walnut lane and Tulpehocken street, comprising twenty-nine small dwellings built in the late sixties of the nineteenth century. Neither Walnut lane nor Clearview street, on which the houses fronted, had been graded at that time, and there were no sewers, the streets not being on the city plan. Water for the houses was supplied from pumps.

David McNabb built the houses shortly after the close of the Civil War, using material obtained upon the dismantling of the military hospital at

Chestnut Hill

The Cope family, living at Awbury, built a high wall on the line between their grounds and the McNabtown houses and also planted a hedge of trees.

In 1916 the whole of McNabtown, consisting of about an acre and a half, was transferred to the City Parks Association. It was understood the purchase price was paid by members of the Haines, Cope and allied families living at Awbury.

These families also gave part of the Awbury property to the City Parks Association, and thus the park known as Awbury Arboretum was established, the McNabtown houses being removed and the site added to the park.

Ancient Hamlets on the Eastern Borders

On York road and on Limekiln pike were several villages which have lost their identity.

On York road Branchtown, at Church lane, and Milestown, at the city line, are now regarded as part of the more modern Oak Lane, whose name is much less significant than the homely old village appellations which it has superseded.

On the Limekiln pike a like fate has overtaken Pittville, round about the intersection of that old highway with Haines street. Pittville had its own postoffice for thirty-four years, it being conducted in Morrison's typical country store. The postoffice was discontinued fifteen years ago.

Farther up Limekiln pike, near Washington lane, was another village at one time called Helltown, then Pleasantville, and finally Cedar Park. The latter name comes from the famous Cedar Park Stock Farm which Robert Steel conducted in that locality in the later years of the nineteenth century.

Origin of the Name of Beggarstown

There were also similar ancient villages along the Germantown road north of Germantown.

Germantown in early days extended along the main highway from Neglee's hill to Carpenter lane.

The upper part of this district, known colloquially in later times as Dogtown, was originally termed Van Bebberstown, because members of the Van Bebber family owned much land in the neighborhood of St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

The name was corrupted at an early date into Beggarstown, and in certain documents, notably the will of Christopher Ludwick, St. Michael's Church is called the Beggarstown Church.

There is a theory that the name Beggarstown originated from the poverty of the residents of that region. But this is hardly tenable.

The theory, however, was substantiated in a curious way.

The name Germantown is not German. When those of the pioneer settlers who were born and bred to the use of the German language attempted to pronounce the word "Germantown," they had difficulty with the "G," and

their utterance sounded like "Yarmen-town." It was easy for the Germans to make this "Armentown." "Armen" is German for "poor."

Knowing of the use of this term, some investigators concluded that it explained why the upper end was called Beggarstown.

Early Settlements North of Germantown

Just beyond the northern limits of Germantown, the first elevation, near where Mount Pleasant avenue now crosses Germantown avenue, was called Mount Pleasant in early times.

Mount Airy was the name given to the next elevation northward, where Allen lane now is.

John J. Macfarlane, Chestnut Hill's leading historian, has found that this name was applied to the heights at the upper end of the present Twenty-second Ward in the earliest years of the eighteenth century.

Where Bethlehem pike crosses the city line there was a settlement in the eighteenth century which was called Heydricksdale, for a Schwenkfelder family that were extensive land owners thereabouts. Later the locality took the name Wheel Pump, from the tavern there. Now the name is Erdenheim,

this name coming from a famous stock farm, some distance to the west, on Stenton avenue.

South of Germantown, along Germantown road, was Nicetown, also an early settlement which long maintained its individuality. In recent times its residents seem to have grown ashamed of its old name, notwithstanding it has historical significance and commemorates a family which supplied many worthy citizens. So the use of the name Nicetown has to a large degree been abandoned.

Devilstown is Located

As Clarence Jacoby told, Blue Bell Hill, round about Wissahickon avenue and Johnson street, is comparatively modern, having originated in the sixties of the last century.

Only a few houses remain of the once thriving village of Rittenhousetown, south of Blue Bell Hill.

Farther north along Township line, now Wissahickon avenue, near Carpenter lane, was another little settlement called Devilstown. It was populated by mechanics who were employed in the mills along the Wissahickon, all of which have disappeared.

A few of the old houses of Devilstown remain, including two cottages in Carpenter's woods which have been attractively remodeled in recent years, one of them being occupied by the Bird Museum.

It seems highly incongruous nowadays to think of applying the ancient name to this delightful spot.

Community Names Old and New

Community and district names were adopted in many instances right within the limits of old Germantown.

Smearsburg, Pulaskitown, the Brick-

yard, Sawdust Village, Irishtown and Little Britain are instances of this fact already discussed.

Potterton Heights is a street extending south from 5312 Magnolia avenue.

Kane's Point is the triangle bounded by the Reading Railroad's tracks, south of Chelton avenue and west of Chelton avenue station.

Smoky Hollow was the region in the neighborhood of Church lane and Lens street, being so called because of the mills thereabouts.

New Jerusalem, near Haines and Crittenden streets, was still more modern.

There were even districts within districts, such as the Devil's Half Acre and Thewlis' Yard, in Pulaskitown.

Ind. Gazette 2-3-17

The Carpenter Estate in Bygone Years

[For the Independent Gazette]

I was born on the Carpenter estate, now called Pelham, in the year 1859, at 57 Franklin street, which is now 136 and 138 West Horrtter street.

The Carpenter estate was a paradise to me, and for thirteen years it was my playground. In the estate there were six good springs of water; four creeks with minnows, mullets, suckers, small crabs, tadpoles, frogs and lizards in them; two ponds, with gold, silver cat and sunfish and water snakes in them. There were many cedar and juniper trees for Christmas trees.

The food I had for lunch comprised blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, dewberries, sheepberries, elderberries, gooseberries and currants; chestnuts, black walnuts, hickory nuts, honey cherries, black cherries, Mayduke Bullhart and Indian cherries, pears, early apples, chicken and fox grapes, turnips, rutabaga, cabbage, corn and potatoes.

My sports were making and placing water wheels in the creeks, rolling hoop, marbles, tops, making and shooting bows and arrows, making and flying kites, town ball, base ball, foot ball, shinney, quoit pitching, jumping, running jump, standing jump, casting large stone, wrestling, swimming, fishing, gunning, sledding and skating.

My companions were boys and girls and animals—the rabbit, opossum, gray squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk and flying squirrel; snakes, water, black, copperhead and garter; birds, the cat bird, robin, swallow, bat pee wee, wren, salad or yellow bird, blue bird, blackbird, crow, humming bird, tomtit, meadow lark, thrush, flicker, owl, oriole, snow bird, hanging bird and woodpecker, with the fields of oats, rye, wheat, clover, timothy, potatoes, turnips, rutabaga, corn and pumpkins.

What is now the northeast corner

of Horrtter street and Lincoln drive were woods to which numerous picnics came during the summer. With these

I had many good times, while my clothing was only a hat, shirt and pants.

Now after reading this do you believe me?

But, alas! my paradise has been wiped out and is no more.

At 223 Pelham road and Phil-Elena streets, there still remains part of a chestnut tree, now covered with vines. From this tree I gathered chestnuts fifty-five years ago. It then had a trunk fifteen to eighteen inches in diameter. It bore the finest of chestnuts, and many of them.

There is also on this property a wooden bridge over a small creek, and the spring which feeds this creek had a dam in it that forced the water up to the Carpenter mansion, on Germantown avenue.

This bridge is part of one of Carpenter's driveways, and over this bridge passed a number of McCallum Carpet Mill employes to and from work each day. The ground on this property southeast of the bridge was a small woods at this time, fifty-five years ago. One winter when the snow had a crust on it I went down this hill between the trees sitting on my sled. At the bottom the snow was drifted and my sled broke through the snow crust and stuck fast and threw me in the air and I landed in the creek. I was good and wet.

I had a good straw bed with plenty of warm covers to sleep on. Oh, how I could eat and sleep! I ate cherries, stones and all. I just lived, not simply existed.

The Carpenter estate extended irregularly from Germantown avenue to Township line, which is now Wisahickon avenue.

MILTON B. TYLER

5-26-27

The Man on the Corner

4000 Soldiers Rest
in the National Cemetery

More than 4000 bodies of men who served in the armies of the United States rest in the National Cemetery, at Limekiln pike and Haines street, where the remains of sixty-one soldiers of the Mexican War were recently reburied, after having been removed from Glenwood Cemetery.

It is the largest National Cemetery north of Arlington, near Washington.

Yet comparatively few Philadelphians know anything about this National Cemetery, situated on the eastern limits of Germantown. The average resident of Philadelphia is surprised to learn that there is a National Cemetery within the city limits.

National Cemeteries are conducted quietly and unobtrusively. Being situated off the main avenues of travel, either by trolley car or motorcar, the Germantown National Cemetery does not come to the attention of the gen-

eral populace, except those who are connected with one of the organizations of former service men.

Furthermore as there is no sign visible from the highways to identify the spot, many who do pass by are unaware of the character of this burial ground.

But everyone who is at all observant must be impressed with the neatness and the evidences of careful attention that are conspicuous.

The present superintendent, John Harrigan, has been engaged for many years in this line of work. Before coming to the Germantown National Cemetery, he was in charge of the National Cemetery at Finn's Point, along the Delaware, near Salem, N. J.

He well maintains the splendid record for supervision which John Laun, a veteran of the Civil War, attained during his long service as superintendent of the Germantown cemetery.

The Cemetery is under the care of the quartermaster's department of the United States army, and the United States flag flies every day from the tall flagstaff in the grounds.

Many Bodies Removed from Other Cemeteries

The government established this National Cemetery in 1885, buying a twelve-acre tract that had long been an attractive country estate. The large house on the property was retained as the cemetery office and the dwelling of the superintendent.

When the cemetery was opened and for many years afterward the region round about the cemetery was known as Pittville. The village had its own hotel, general store, postoffice and school house. In recent years Germantown, on the west, and Oak Lane, on the east, have expanded and virtually absorbed old Pittville.

A large proportion of the bodies buried here are those of men who died before 1885. That is due to removals from other cemeteries.

Some of the oldest stones are for men who died at Fort Mifflin, on the Delaware River, below Philadelphia, and were originally buried there. Several died more than 100 years ago. Included among them no doubt are some soldiers of the War of 1812.

Among the older stones is also one for a soldier of the Mexican War.

Confederates Died While Prisoners of War

The great majority of the graves are those of men who served in the Civil War. Both the Union army and the Confederate army are represented.

A monument which the United States government erected in 1911 commemorates 184 soldiers of the Confederacy who died while prisoners of war, either in Chester or Philadelphia. Their bodies were first buried in Chester and in Glenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia, but, after the opening of the National Cemetery, they were removed and buried there.

The remains of the Confederates were placed in a trench and the individual bodies are not identified, though there is a record of the names and regiments of all the men.

Until recently the Confederate monument was the largest memorial in the National Cemetery. Small and inconspicuous markers of uniform type are the rule, the long rows being suggestive of military ranks.

Now that the Mexican War monument has been removed, with the bodies of the Mexican War soldiers, from Glenwood, and placed near the en-

53
trance to the National Cemetery, it constitutes the largest memorial on the grounds.

General and Private— White and Black

The largest stone at any individual grave is that marking the resting place of Major General Galusha Pennypacker, who died in 1917. He was the youngest general in the Civil War.

The democracy of the dead in the National Cemetery is illustrated by the fact that not far from the grave of General Pennypacker is a small stone inscribed thus:

"George Washington, U.S.A., 926."

soldiers. Many negroes are buried in this section.

Those who know the forlorn characteristics of the average negro burial ground are quick to note that here in the National Cemetery the plot of the negroes is just as attractive as the rest of the grounds.

A few women and children are buried in the cemetery, theirs having been among bodies removed from army posts.

In early days employes and members of the families of soldiers who died at Fort Mifflin and other posts were buried in the post cemetery. Their bodies were removed with the others to the National Cemetery.

At the time of the Civil War there was a military hospital at Bristol, Bucks County. As patients died they were buried near by. One of those who died and was buried in the adjoining cemetery was May Ann Davis, the negro cook of the hospital.

In 1898 all the bodies were removed from the Bristol cemetery to the Germantown National Cemetery. When the grave of the negro cook was opened it was found that her hair, which had always been straight, rather than curly, had grown since her death, and, in the language of a report of that time, it extended "down to her feet and then back again to where it started from."

Also Many Soldiers of Recent Wars

Of course there are also buried here the bodies of soldiers of the Spanish War, the various Indian Wars and many who served in the World War.

The names of the later burials in many instances gave indication of foreign birth or ancestry. Many nations of the earth are here represented by men who fought for the United States.

One of the World War soldiers of the United States buried here was a Turk. He enlisted in the army at the opening of the World War, but he committed suicide, due, it was supposed, to his distress over Turkey's being engaged in the war as the ally of Germany.

Most Spanish War deaths were due to disease. But there is in the National Cemetery the grave of one soldier of the Spanish War who was killed in the charge at Santiago, in 1898.

Memorial Tablets in the Cemetery

As in the case at all National Cemeteries, the drives are bordered with bronze tablets bearing extracts from the poem by Theodore O'Hara, entitled "The Bivouac of the Dead."

O'Hara is one of the authors famous

for one poem. Furthermore, that poem acquired note chiefly because of the one expressive line—the last of the first stanza—"The bivouac of the dead."

This first stanza is inscribed over the gateway at Arlington.

The last four lines of the first stanza appear on a monument on one of the battlefields of the Crimean War.

O'Hara, a native of Kentucky, served in the war against Mexico, and he wrote his poem on the occasion of the removal of the remains of Kentucky soldiers in the Mexican War from the Buena Vista battlefield to their native state.

In the Civil War O'Hara was a colonel in the Confederate service.

Another bronze tablet in the National Cemetery bears Lincoln's Gettysburg address, delivered at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, which, of course, is exceedingly appropriate for any National Cemetery.

Cemetery Occupies Part of Germantown Battleground

The Germantown National Cemetery is also situated upon a battlefield. Though that matter probably had nothing to do with the selection of the site.

At the time of the American Revolution, when the American army advanced down Skippack road the night of October 3, to attack the British in Germantown, Washington divided his forces when he reached the terminus of Skippack road, at the Bethlehem road, where St. Thomas' Episcopal Church stands.

The Pennsylvania militia were ordered to proceed down Ridge road. Other militia commands were sent over to the York road, to march along that highway toward Germantown.

The regular commands were divided into two wings. One, comprising nearly two-thirds of the Continental forces, was assigned the duty of moving down Church road from St. Thomas' Church, to Limekiln pike, and continuing on Limekiln pike, with the purpose of attacking the British right wing, along Church lane, while the right wing of the army, under Washington, marched down Bethlehem pike and Germantown road, and attacked the British center.

The plan was that Greene's command should overwhelm the British right wing and drive it in toward the Schuylkill.

The advanced post of the British right wing consisted of a regiment of light infantry stationed in the neighborhood of Limekiln pike and Washington lane. When this regiment was attacked by Greene's men it fell back, but made a stand in Betton's woods, in the neighborhood of where the National Cemetery now is.

Some fighting occurred there, but the British soon retreated to the main line at Church lane.

Unfortunately Greene was not able to carry out Washington's plans.

He was late in reaching the scene where he was expected to act. His commands became confused in the fog and some of them lost their way and never encountered the enemy. Some of them wandered eastward into Germantown and fired upon their compatriots in the main wing advancing along Germantown road.

So there was little fighting on the east side, and Greene, receiving word of the defeat and retreat of the right wing, under Washington, was compelled, as he termed it, to run away from a victory.

2-24-27

The Man on the Corner

Roosevelt School Issues a Calendar

The Roosevelt Junior High School, East Washington lane, is said to be the only school in the city that has a calendar of its own.

The suggestion of having a calendar originated in the Student Council of the Students' Association.

As the school was named for Theodore Roosevelt, naturally his works were consulted for ideas. More than 200 extracts from his works were submitted to a committee of students. From these twelve paragraphs were chosen to be printed on the calendar.

Then the members of the School's Camera Club took numerous photographs of scenes about the School and activities in the classrooms and on the grounds.

To provide more room than is available on the usual calendar of twelve leaves, only two weeks were placed upon each leaf. On each leaf appears either a picture of a School scene or a quotation from Roosevelt.

The cardboard base for the calendar was designed by the Art Club and Block Printing Club of the School.

One thousand copies were printed and sold at a price just sufficient to pay the cost of production.

Of course the calendars are treasured in the families of students.

Daily Newspapers in Germantown

Two frayed copies of the Daily Evening Gazette, printed in Germantown in 1879, have just turned up. These copies were of the second volume of the paper. It was a tiny publication, consisting of four pages, each thirteen by eighteen inches.

Smith & Hoekley were the publishers and their office was at 14 West Cheltenham avenue.

Germantowners of the younger generation are surprised when they learn that daily newspapers were published here at different times in years long gone by. Yet it is a fact that Germantown has had at least four different daily newspapers.

The Chronicle was a daily newspaper which gained considerable prestige under the editorial direction of Dr. Alfred C. Lambdin. George W. Hamersley was the publisher. It was issued in Germantown from 1868 until 1880, and was then moved down town.

Horace F. McCann issued The Independent as a daily from 1886 until 1891.

In 1885 an evening paper called the Eagle was started in Germantown. It

existed for only five weeks.

The Gazette continued as a daily for about two years, and was then made a weekly. It was finally merged with the Independent.

Files of the Chronicle are in the possession of the Site and Relic Society, and those of the Daily Independent are in The Independent Gazette office. But of the Daily Evening Gazette and of the Evening Eagle no files are known to be in existence and very few stray copies.

—:— Buffalo Bill's Mother Not a Germantowner

Newspaper mention of the plans of the Cody Family Memorial Board to found memorials to Buffalo Bill at various places and of the establishment of the Buffalo Bill Museum at Cody, Wyoming, has repeated the tradition, or legend, or whatever it may be called, that the mother of Colonel William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, was born in Germantown.

This assertion is contained in the book called "Buffalo Bill's Own Story." It was repeated at the time of Buffalo Bill's death ten years ago. The Independent Gazette then tried to run down the story to get all the facts about Buffalo Bill's Germantown connection. The results indicated that Buffalo Bill's ancestry had no association with Germantown.

Colonel Cody's mother was Mary Laycock. She was the daughter of Samuel Laycock. In his early life the father lived on a farm near Chester, Pa. He sold the farm and engaged in mercantile business in Chester. Later on he made his home at Dorchester, Cumberland County, N. J., engaging in trading by ship with South America and the West Indies. On one of his voyages he was lost at sea.

Samuel Laycock's wife was Hannah Taylor, daughter of Enoch Taylor, a farmer at Media, Delaware County.

The daughter, Mary Laycock, went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to live with a brother. Later she married Isaac Cody. After their marriage they moved to Kansas, where William F. Cody was born.

—:— Another Revolutionary Monument That Was Never Dedicated

Telling about the suggestion that the present Congress carry out the plans of the Congress of 150 years ago for the erection of a memorial to General Francis Nash, who was killed in the battle of Germantown, the news columns mentioned the fact that an appropriate monument stands at the grave of General Nash, at the Towamencin Mennonite Meeting House, and therefore, should the \$500 monument authorized in 1777 be erected, it would probably take the form of a tablet at the spot where General Nash was wounded, on Germantown avenue, near Sharpnack street.

General Nash, who commanded a brigade of North Carolina troops, was carried with the army on its retreat to the Perkiomen Valley, near Schwenksville, and then a few days later the army moved to another campground, along Skippack Creek, in Towamencin and Lower Salford Townships, in what is now Montgomery County. This re-

gion is along the Summertown pike, north of the village of Kulpsville.

Following the death of General Nash, on October 7, his body and those of Major John White, of Philadelphia; Colonel Boyd and Lieutenant Matthew Smith, of Virginia, the latter an aide on General Sullivan's staff, were buried in the grounds of the nearby Mennonite Meeting House.

When John Fanning Watson, of Germantown was conducting his historical researches throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, in the thirties and forties of the last century, he undertook the patriotic duty of placing markers at the graves of Revolutionary soldiers in the Upper and Lower Burial Grounds of Germantown and also at the graves of these officers buried in Towamencin. Among the people of Germantown and Norristown Watson raised a fund sufficient to pay for a ten-foot marble monument.

Apparently no ceremonies marked the dedication of this monument. In that regard it is like the monument to the battle of Germantown which the state of Pennsylvania erected in Vernon Park.

A search of newspaper files for 1844 shows that the Nash monument was constructed in the marble works of Franklin Derr, in Norristown, in the early part of that year, and was taken to the graveyard for erection. The newspapers mentioning this fact intimated that the militia organizations would later have a celebration for the unveiling of the monument.

But nothing further was reported as to any public commemoration of the placing of the monument.

It may be that nothing of the kind took place because of the attitude which the Mennonites owning the grounds take towards such matters. The use of the meeting house has never been permitted for any kind of meeting commemorative of the scenes enacted in that locality at the time of the Revolution. However, no objection is made to the placing of flowers at the Nash monument on Memorial Day, this having been done by the Sons of the American Revolution and other organizations.

Two years after the Nash monument was erected there was an encampment of militia commands in Towamencin, from August 11, to 14, 1846. The encampment was described as being in honor of General Nash.

3-28-27

The Dummies in Germantown

[For The Independent Gazette]
Reading and digesting the various and at times interesting articles of bygone reminiscences of Germantown and vicinity, I am often amused and at times chuckle at the wide differences of facts, of old time locations and conditions. And the most glaring that jars my still active brain is the confusion of routes of the early means of transportation in

Germantown, known as the dummies, the motive power being steam created by combustion of what is now a scarce and expensive product of Nature's law, oak logs.

The dummy terminus in Germantown was on the northwest side of Cheltenham avenue just east of the First Presbyterian Church. The route was west on Cheltenham avenue to Wayne avenue, south to Manheim street, west on Manheim street to Pulaski avenue, south on Pulaski avenue, crossing the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad on a wooden truss bridge, just west of Wayne Junction station, continuing to what is now Seventeenth street and Pulaski avenue, south on Seventeenth, crossing the railroad again over a wooden truss bridge at what is now Seventeenth street and Indiana avenue, continuing the the Lamb Tavern road, now obliterated, on which it entered Broad street, at Huntingdon street, continuing south on Broad street to Columbia avenue, west on Columbia avenue to midway on the north side of Columbia avenue, between Broad and Fifteenth streets, which location became later the Columbia avenue market.

The route, excepting Columbia avenue, Broad street, Lamb Tavern road and Cheltenham avenue was known as the old Plank road, the road bed being covered by four-by twelve-inch planks.

I often assisted, by permission of the road overseers, in removing a few of these planks after the dummies went out of existence, to the old homestead on Queen lane. When the bottom side of the planks was turned up, they made excellent floors for the stable and hog pens.

I cannot say whether or not "Billy" Wright's father used any of the planks as joist in his early building operations, but I do know, had the Germantown Historical Society been in possession of only part of one of those historic

planks, it would have been a lasting relic, in combination with the old one-horse shay.

The names of the organizers and controllers of that railroad system, being foreign to Germantown, have passed from my memory, but I think the late William Kemble was an active factor. He later became president of the Market Street Passenger Railway Company, later the cable road, now a subsidiary of the Mitten Management.

The dummies lived a very short life as a means of transportation, about eighteen months or two years. It was one of those unsuccessful financial undertakings, just a trifle ahead of their time. The movies and apartment houses had not yet been born, and the boxom female consumed so much material for wearing apparel, it being mostly homespun, but now, just a small wrap about waist and shoulders suffices.

GILES S. STAFFORD.

55 Ind. Gazette
8-17-27

Pulaskitown in Bygone Days

[Fro. The Independent Gazette]
Pulaski avenue and Pulaskitown were named after Count Pulaski, who, with his 400 cavalry in the Revolution, encamped on Taggart's place, so I learned from my grandmother.

The old tannery at Carlton was destroyed by the English in 1777, but I remember well the long arched cellar.

Old Kelpius was a keeper of the signs of the zodiac. And I believe Jacob Surber was a follower, as all the records of births of his family written in his Bible which I have tell what sign they were born in.

Along the road from Queen lane to the quaint farm houses at Penn street, was a Dutch oven, where Henry Houschild made his white bread and "Knaeckebrod" and "Kuche."

He worked alone in the small hours of the night baking. By daylight he would be on his rounds, a large basket piled high, on both shoulders.

How we children would be after him! According to the money we had, to the size of a slice of "Kuche," and the more cinnamon and baked sugar on it, the prouder we were.

Oftentimes he would travel through the high snow away above the knees, and never miss. What man would do it today? They are not raised that way.

The Kleever house was a one and a half story stone house, and as the family grew an additional story was put on, as could be easily seen in recent years. It was where the first axe in America was made, according to Giles L. Stafford, of Bourman's lane.

It was where Jacob Surber with his Frau wended their way with a feather bed and a carpenter kit. Years after they were willed to a grandson, Elias Surber, as a Will I have shows.

August 25, 1788, twins were born, Elizabeth and Elias, making eight children in all. Elizabeth was a red-header. The same red has popped out somewhere in each generation now for over two hundred years; in my branch not for over a 100 years. But I am glad to say I have a granddaughter with the red, same shade as Elizabeth of 1788.

I have been trying to place the original Hingles, and within the last three weeks, I believe I have traced them to near Pottstown and Lebanon, Pa., by certain peculiarities and the red hair. Some of the family detest it, but I like it.

The carpenter kit must have been good, as I have a desk he made.

I have a Martin Luther German Bible, printed in 1763. Several Ger-

mans of today try to read the good script of the marriages, births and deaths, but they all miss it in translating. However, all say it was printed in the poor house somewhere in Germany.

It was presented to Heinrich Surber, a son, on Christmas day, December 25, 1765, with good advice and a couple of verses, noted in Job and I Timothy. Sorry to say, I never hunted them up to read.

Until 1832 records have been made. My grandmother was born in 1800. All births were noted as the zodiac showed at the time. Another is at the Germantown Site and Relic Society museum.

Possibly the willed tools are still in the Sorber family, as some of the Sorbers and Shingles are now following the craft of their ancestor, Jacob, 1744.

I find in the researches of the Surber family that Jacob came from Germany in 1730 with a wife, Anne Fraley.

A son, Heinrich had a daughter, Magdalena, who married George Tilghman, whose daughter Mary married Robert Lynch. The Lynches reared a family of ten children on a farm in Pulaskitown. Then they left, going to Norristown, up through the state and to Ohio.

William Patton cut it up, the farm previous, I believe, in 1870.

Over 56 years ago the good was started in Pulaskitown. A chapel Sunday School was started by the First Presbyterian Church in the second story room on Coulter street, in the Savage house. Alexander Savage was once one of the owners of The Independent before it absorbed the Gazette.

Isaac Jones was superintendent of the school. Jonathan Graham was a teacher. I was one of his first scholars. After the chapel was built on Coulter street, the first Christmas there a small red-bound Testament was presented to me in 1871.

The Westside Presbyterian Church was the outcome. The chapel is now a garage.

Previous to 1891 a Sunday school was started at St. Stephen's Methodist Church, on Queen lane, then moved to Thewle's Hall, Penn street and Patton avenue. My daughter, 5 years old, was one of the first to attend. She was taken by that dreadful disease, diphtheria, within five days of her 5th birthday.

Having a number of pennies in her savings, as she thought a great deal of her little Sunday school, papers and attendance cards, I took or sent the money to her class. Immediately there was a nucleus started for a church. A chapel was built on Pennsylvania Railroad ground at Coulter and Morris streets and named Ethel Memorial Chapel, after her.

Later a lot was procured at Queen lane and Wayne avenue, southeast side. The chapel was removed there. In due time a stone church was built, a credit to the city. It has a large congregation now. But the name Ethel has been changed.

Before my time, some of my ancestors lived in a frame house on Queen lane, on the site of Baird street. It was burned down. I remember the

old cellar hole and a large fine horse chestnut tree that stood on the pavement.

After years there was a grog shop there. And after that a brewery was started, part of it remains now

as it was and part has been turned into apartments.

On the southwest corner, running along an alley, as some of the cellars showed, a blue stone vein ran from the Schuylkill to the Delaware. It was fine curbing stone. Now as the heavy trucks go by, the house will sometimes quiver and a rumbling sound can be heard.

Once upon a time there was a fierce bull fight between Coulter's and Smith's fine bulls, on Coulter street. They were both good bodily. It was a draw. Lots of fence rails had to be used before they were parted and driven home.

If we had now such good old grandmothers as I had, I believe there would be better boys in Germantown today. She was lovable but strict. I remember once saying something back, I don't remember what. But she caught me by the cuff of the neck and laid me over her knee. I remember that. And with a half lath or shingle, she gave it to me. For several days I never sat down, but walked. But I remember my grandmother today.

Some of my great aunts, born where the house burnt, were full of their pranks. And husky. If a fellow would get fresh and say anything out of the way, they would slap him right over the kisser, and he would remember his place thereafter.

The entrance to the farm was from Queen lane and alongside of the burying ground, then crossing a fair sized creek by a bridge. A large beautiful weeping willow stood there, where the cattle stood in the water in hot weather to keep the flies off. We boys fell in occasionally for fun.

At the rustic frame house the Widow Bailey lived, with Robert, her son, and two daughters, one deaf.

The town was getting built up in 1871. A row of houses was about finished, with alleys so small a fa-

man could hardly get through. Bob one Sunday morning took a plasterer's trowel—full of whitewashing and spread it in a freshly finished alley, as far as it would go. I believe you can see it today.

A very short time afterward, with companions, he went to the Wissahickon, near the Red Bridge, and was drowned. His companions came to the farm and seeing me, I was told the news and I conveyed it to his mother, in Germantown than Pulaskitown.

314 West Queen lane.
WILLIAM H. SHINGLE

March 17 - 1924
Ind. Gazette

Museum Gets Painting of Megarge's Paper Mill

An oil painting, four by five and a half feet in size, depicting Megarge's paper mills on the Wissahickon, is the latest acquisition of the museum of the Germantown Historical Society, formerly the Site and Relic Society.

The big painting was presented to the Vernon Park museum by Mrs. Ella P. Megarge.

The name of the painter as it appears on the picture is Winner.

Megarge's paper mill was on the west side of the Wissahickon, north of Cresheim Creek. It is said to have been the last of the numerous mill structures along the Wissahickon removed following the acquisition of the Wissahickon territory by the Fairmount Park Commission, in 1869.

The office building of the mill still stands. It is clearly shown in the painting, being on the opposite side of the highway from the main buildings.

Charles Megarge bought an old mill at this site in 1848 and equipped it for the manufacture of paper. Later he enlarged the mill and it was long one of the principal industries of the region.

The same year that Mr. Megarge founded the paper mill he was elected president of the Germantown Bank, and he held that office until 1866, the institution becoming the National Bank of Germantown in 1864.

His record as a banker was notable because of his having insisted upon a reduction of his salary to \$300 a year when he found that his private business was taking a large share of his time.

Mr. Megarge's home was on the west side of Germantown avenue, south of Tulpehocken street, the house being now occupied by the Colored Branch of the Germantown Young Women's Christian Association. He died in 1883.

Sept 23 - 1924

The Man on the Corner

The First Town Clock of Germantown

Old-time town clocks are an object of interest nowadays to those interested in antiques. No one has yet started to make a collection of town clocks. But information about them is sought.

Makers of town clocks in early days were usually mechanical geniuses. One man would make the entire clock, many months being given

to the task.

The story of Isaiah Lukens, the famous clockmaker of Horsham a century ago, is well known. Probably the best preserved specimen of his craft is the clock on the Germantown Municipal Building, Germantown avenue and Haines street, which was made in 1828.

However, the clock now on the Municipal Building and formerly in the Town Hall was not Germantown's first town clock.

An inquiry as to earlier town clocks in Germantown is suggested by a biography of Jacob D. Custer, which appears in a collection of sketches of eminent men of Montgomery County which Moses Auge compiled in 1879.

Jacob D. Custer lived in Norristown from 1832 until his death, in 1872. He was an inventor and mechanical genius. He had but six weeks' education in a school, and no mechanical nor scientific training whatever. Yet he became widely known for the steeple clocks he made and for other ingenious contrivances, such as fog bells and a machine for making bullets. It is said he was the third person in the United States to make watches throughout.

His first important achievement in the way of a steeple clock was one which he made for the Court House in Norristown, in 1834.

According to the biography quoted, Custer developed an extensive business in the making of town clocks, and he produced such clocks for Danville, Gettysburg, Phoenixville, Germantown, Falls of Schuylkill, Coatesville, Glassboro, N. J., Bridgeton, N. J., Salem, Ohio, and also towns in South Carolina, Georgia and elsewhere.

The inclusion of Germantown in this list naturally arouses inquiries as to where this Custer clock was placed and what became of it.

Unfortunately, no date is given as to when this clock was made. But certainly it was not the clock known in late years as the town clock, namely, that now on the Municipal Building, for its story is well known.

The next step then is to determine what town clocks Germantown had before 1877, when the Lukens clock of 1828 was brought to Germantown from Independence Hall.

Little Data Available About the Purchase of Trinity's Clock

In the sixties and the early seventies the Germantown town clock was that in the steeple of Trinity Lutheran Church, Germantown avenue and Queen lane.

But when efforts were made to learn something of the history of this clock little progress could be made toward determining the maker.

Consultation of the files of the one Germantown newspaper of the fifties, when Trinity Church was built, reveals some information.

In September, 1857, about the time the church was completed, the congregation asked public subscriptions to raise \$800 to buy a clock and bell. As these were to be for the benefit of the community it was held that the

community should help to pay for them.

True to the journalistic methods of that time, no further information was printed as to whether or not the money was raised and the clock and bell purchased.

The next intimation on the subject in the columns of the weekly consisted of Thomas MacKellar's poem "The Bell in Trinity Steeple," printed December 11, 1858.

This long poem deals mostly with the message of the bell to the people, but there is one stanza that unmistakably alludes to a clock, for it speaks of the weary watcher on a sick bed who, as the clock strikes the hour of one, realizes that a new day has begun.

But in a history of Trinity congregation printed two years ago the seeker for information about the clock and bell is surprised to find the following:

"December 1, 1864, someone began the collection of money for a steeple clock. The clock was purchased from the Town Hall of Germantown in 1865."

Of course the clock could not have been bought from the Town Hall because the Town Hall did not get its clock until 1877. The confusion no doubt arose because the writer encountered some allusion to Trinity's clock as the town clock of Germantown. Such it was before the Lukens clock was placed in the Town Hall, in 1877.

Reuben M. Prichard, long secretary of Trinity Church, was asked to look over the records of the congregation for the period under inquiry and see whether any information could be obtained there. He made a search through minute books and cash books of the late fifties and early sixties, but found not an entry about the clock and bell.

Inscription Found on the Old Bell

Mr. Prichard became so interested in the subject that he had the sexton climb up into the steeple and look around for inscriptions. The search

was rewarded by finding the following upon the bell:

"Holiness unto the Lord. Trinity Lutheran Church, Germantown, Luther E. Albert, A. D. 1858. Cast by Jos. Bernhard & Co., No. 120 Nth 6 St. Phila."

The Rev. Dr. Luther E. Albert, whose name appears, was minister of the Church when it was built and for many years afterward.

But on the clock nothing was found to indicate its maker.

John E. Fischer, who keeps the clock in repair, also said he had never found any indication of the name of the maker on the clock.

Traditions among the older members of the congregation are to the effect that the funds for the acquisition of the clock and bell were raised by public subscription and that the clock was the town clock of Ger-

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mantown. It may be that the church board never had any direct part in the matter and that for this reason nothing appears on the church records.

But it was at that period that Jacob D. Custer was one of the famous makers of town clocks, and in view of the fact that his biography says he made a town clock for Germantown and it is not known that there was any other town clock in Germantown then except that at Trinity Church, the inference is that this clock at Trinity Church is one of Custer's clocks.

The clock is a heavy and cumbersome piece of mechanism. The weights consist of wooden cases filled with pig iron and weigh five tons. Winding the clock is an arduous task that the sexton has to undertake twice a week. Each winding consumes a period of about twenty minutes.

Gaining a Reputation as a Philanthropist

It used to be that whenever anyone wanted anything here in Germantown and did not know how to get it, he would apply to Jacob C. Bockius, town clerk and representative of the Germantown and Chestnut Hill Improvement Association.

Of late the distressed and inquisitive public has shown evidence of a disposition to deal more kindly with Mr. Bockius. Now Charles W. Bainbridge, superintendent of the Germantown Boys' Club, is coming into favor as a popular bureau of information and philanthropic endeavor.

An interesting demonstration of Mr. Bainbridge's popularity occurred one Sunday morning recently.

When he set out to go to Westside Presbyterian Church, of which he is an official, a truck arrived with a load of boats from the Boys' Club summer house at Ocean City, and Mr. Bainbridge had to delay his church going until the boats were housed at the Boys' Club.

Just as he was about to make another attempt to leave for church a motorcar drove up. The man in the car manifested great delight at finding Mr. Bainbridge, which feeling was but slightly reciprocated.

"I've just arrived from Pittsburgh, and you're the one man that can help me out of a difficulty," said the man in the car. "You see, I've got to have four tickets to that Dempsey fight at the Sesqui-Centennial, and you're the man to get them for me."

Mr. Bainbridge is accustomed to shocks, but when called upon at church time to deliver four tickets for a prize fight the shock was almost too much even for the Boys' Club secretary.

He quickly dismissed the Pittsburgh man by explaining that he was not handling tickets for the prize fight, and then hurried on to church in time to hear Dr. Lee conclude his sermon.

12-23-26

The Man on the Corner

The Wartime Christmas of 150 Years Ago

The Christmas season of 150 years ago was a turning point in the fortunes of the new nation that had come into existence on July 4 of that year.

After having retreated across New Jersey into Pennsylvania before the victorious British army, General Washington, with his band of scarcely 6000 effective men, left his camp in Bucks County, on Christmas Day, crossed the Delaware River at night amid floating ice, and early the next morning made the onslaught upon the camp of the Hessians at Trenton which is one of the picturesque episodes of the American Revolution and which imparted new enthusiasm and energy to the patriot cause.

But during the days and the weeks preceding Christmas, 1776, alarm and distress spread among the people of southeastern Pennsylvania. Congress fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore and many Philadelphians, especially those who had been active "rebels," packed up their household goods and took them and their families to the homes of relatives and friends up the state.

Confronted by a trained army so much stronger than his own, Washington expected General Howe to continue his pursuit, with Philadelphia as his objective.

Planned a Last Stand at Germantown

In anticipation of the necessity of falling back from his camp in Bucks County, Washington had determined to try to make a stand in the neighborhood of Germantown.

This plan of the commander in chief is revealed in letters which he wrote on December 12 to Colonel Cadwalader, General Irvine and General Dickinson, commanders of Pennsylvania militia.

If driven from the posts then occupied he directed that the troops fall back to "the strong ground near Germantown."

Just where Washington intended to make this stand can now only be conjectured.

Perhaps he was thinking of the Wissahickon hills, which were a natural stronghold where a small force would be secure against a much stronger enemy. Only a short time before that a committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Safety had recommended that in case Philadelphia should be threatened with capture a magazine for military stores should be established in the Wissahickon

hills.

Militia Reluctant to Respond for Service

Meanwhile Washington, Congress and the Council of Safety were appealing to the Pennsylvania militia to come to the aid of Washington and his army. But the militia, especially in the interior counties, were slow to respond.

The Philadelphia City Associators had attained some degree of organization and discipline, and were the first to go into the field, being stationed at Bristol, Bucks County, under command of Colonel John Cadwalader.

But in the county of Philadelphia outside the city, as well as in the other counties, the organization of the militia proceeded slowly.

A letter which Colonel Henry Hill wrote on December 6, 1776, tells of the reluctance of the residents to enter upon a winter campaign. Colonel Hill's home was at Carlton, on Queen Lane, west of Wissahickon Avenue, and he commanded the Fourth Regiment, composed of residents of Roxborough Township. His letter follows:

"The Council having honor'd me with repeated orders & intelligence from the 24th to the 30th past, I consulted the officers of my Battalion on Monday, and met as many people as could be collected on Wednesday.

"Altho' some officers join'd their best endeavors to produce a desirable effect, others were utterly deficient, & the men could be brought to no good resolution.

"Their obligations can never be silenced but by a more established & equitable militia law, for the cry is, 'all or none.' Yet I must think these unmanageable fellows would fight if the Enemy was at hand.

"I shall not trouble you with a detail of all the steps taken in the line of my duty on this occasion, but I hope they will appear neither more nor less deliberate than my materials & the noblest cause demand of, Sir, Your most obedt humble Servt."

Letter Reveals the Army's Alarming Situation

By the utmost exertions Colonel Cadwalader assembled about 1000 of the city militia at Bristol. Colonel Irvine commanded another division composed of Pennsylvania and New Jersey militia, posted along the river opposite Trenton.

Additional militia commands that responded later were sent to Philadelphia, where General Israel Putnam was in command.

How the failure of the militia to turn out in large numbers impressed the officers at the front is evident in a letter which Colonel John Bayard wrote in the camp at Bristol on December 13, 1776, and sent to the Pennsylvania Council of Safety. It read thus:

"The Brigade commanded by Col. Cadwalader, consisting of the Philadelphia militia, came to this place this day from Trenton Ferry. We are greatly distressed to find no more of the Militia in our state. Joining General Washington at this time, for God's sake what shall we do, is the cause deserted by our state, &

shall a few Brave men offer their Lives a Sacrifice against treble their number without assistance? for my own part, I came cheerfully out not doubting We should be Joined by a number sufficient to drive our Enemy back, with Shame, Disgrace and Loss; but, alas, here we are about 4 or 5000 men, to oppose a Regular Army, well disciplin'd and flushed with success, said to consist of 15,000, headed by able Generals & encouraged by the Inhabitants of the Country through w'ch we march.

"We now ought to have had at least 10,000 militia from our State, instead of that we have about 1200 from Philadelphia and 200 from Bucks County; are our People fast asleep or have they determined basely to give up the cause of their Country? If the latter, humanity at least ought to lead to an Explicit Declaration in order to save the Blood of those Worthy men who are ready to offer it in the Genl Cause, and give them an equal opportunity of making their peace.

"I am far from thinking our cause desperate, If our people would but turn out but I am sure if the Enemy proceed and we are not supported, the City (at least) will be lost, I believe the Council do every thing in their power, but you cannot expect that our few Citizens, Join'd to the small remains of Genl Washington's Army, will offer up their lives without a prospect of success, unless join'd by a proper force."

The Christmas Night Advance on the Hessian Camp

It was Washington's plan that when he and the Continental troops crossed the Delaware north of Trenton on Christmas night, the militia should cross the river south of Trenton and help in encompassing the Hessian forces.

However, the militia were unable to carry out the duty assigned to them, and they did not share in the glory of the undertaking. The floating ice in the river made it impossible to cross below Trenton.

On December 27 the cheering news of the successful attack on Trenton reached Philadelphia.

Though the Americans did not reach Trenton until 8 A. M. on the 28th, the Hessians had not yet recovered from their Christmas festivities and were quickly captured or put to flight. Nearly a thousand prisoners and many munitions of war fell into the hands of the Americans. The Hessian commander, Colonel Rahl, was mortally wounded.

It was the Delaware River that saved Washington's army. Washington had the foresight to secure all the boats along the stream. Howe could not cross to continue his pursuit because he had no pontoon train. The success at Trenton, quickly followed by an American victory at Princeton, assured Philadelphia against capture that winter at least.

Muhlenberg's Journal
Records His Gratitude
In the Krauth Memorial Library.

at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mount Airy, are the manuscript journals of the Rev. Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, of Trappe. They give a vivid picture of the state of Affairs in Pennsylvania in the fall and early winter of 1776—the alarm prevailing because of the British advance, the flight of the residents of Philadelphia and the assembling of the militia.

At last, on December 28, when Muhlenberg learned from his son, Frederick A. Muhlenberg, of the victory achieved at Trenton, he closed

his recital of the particulars with these words:

"The Lord has heard the cry of the distressed and sent an angel to their assistance."

Attack at Germantown Like That at Trenton

A study of Washington's plans for the battle of Germantown, nine and a half months later, suggests that the commander essayed to employ again the tactics that proved so successful at Trenton.

After crossing the Delaware the army was divided into two columns which proceeded over different roads, with the object of uniting in the center of Trenton. The militia, crossing south of Trenton, were to come to the support of the two main columns.

In the attack upon the British in Germantown, October 4, 1777, the army again was on the move all the preceding night. In Whitemarsh it was divided into two columns, one of which continued down Bethlehem road and Germantown road, and the other down Church road and Limekiln road. The militia were sent down Ridge road and York road.

But at Germantown Washington confronted not a few regiments of festive Hessians but a large and alert army of English soldiers under capable commanders. So the results at Trenton were not duplicated at Germantown.

12-20-26

Reminiscences of Old-Time Inns

An Englishman Rebuked—Catfish and Waffles Along the Wissahickon—Fishing in By-Gone Days

A few generations ago there were in Germantown such wayside inns as the General Wayne, Bittenball, King of Prussia, Railroad House, Green Tree, White Swan and Golden Swan, and the old Buck, with its large swinging sign, along with others where likely the old Conestagoes stopped on their way going and com-

ing. There was on—I'll mention no name or place. The proprietor saw there were no fusses or disorderly conduct and chance there might be he soon quelled the same and if necessary threw the contestants out. And well they knew how powerful he was. Generally when he hit a man, down he went.

One hot summer day there was a stranger, an Englishman, wending his way north on the pike. He summed the inn up and concluded to stop awhile and have a bit of half-and-half. Those days it could be relied on in getting the best made.

The Englishman was well pleased and stayed there several days, sipping his ale out of his mug, as the inn always looked after man and beast with board and bed.

He got thoroughly acquainted with the inside of the house and the "eats," which were always good, but on several occasions they were fine. But he would say they were a little better over home.

One day the proprietor detailed one of his sons to take Mr. Englishman about the well stocked place and show him the stock and poultry, as in those days it was necessary to have all that was called for so a quick and good meal might be gotten up.

Things outside were like the inside—"A wee bit bigger over thar."

The boy was an out-and-out American and born in Germantown, and he became a little peaved.

Showing almost everything, he came to a large box bush grown in almost all fine gardens then, but seldom seen now. The bush was well covered with a mock orange vine and full of large oranges.

"This is a gooseberry," said the boy.

The Englishman made the usual reply. That broke the camel's back with the boy.

After supper he went to the swill tub at the hog pen where they kept the snapping turtle to fatten quick. The boys always had a stick there and would find out which snapper bit the hardest. Eve naffer the head was cut off often they would take a savage bite. The crossiest one was tied by the hind leg and tied to the bed post nearest where the Englishman sat when retiring.

Just as wanted, it happened. The snapper had him and held on.

He "hollered" and squirmed, and said, "What's that! What's that!"

The boy came running, and said: "That is a bed bug. Can you beat that over thar?"

It is not necessary to say the Englishman got up next morning and left before sun up never to return, an dwhere he went was never known. But he went alimping.

The majority of snappers were then got out of the good old Wissahickon.

It is amusing to know that the thousands who ate the catfish and waffles at the inns along the Creek always thought they were caught there and told so. But the Creek was fished out long ago, and the

supply came from elsewhere, being kept in cisterns until wanted.

It was a shame to fool the drivers and their ladies so, but the business had to be kept up. But the catfish and waffles were good.

The toothsome shad, perch, rock and small blue catfish of the Schuyl-

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all are all gone.

When the dam was built at Fairmount, in 1822, the livelihood of many was gone at the Falls of Schuylkill. The high tides would bring up the fish in season by the thousands as far as the falls. The roaring of the falls at low water could be heard at times in Philadelphia, five miles away, and over the countryside about. On their runs the fish could be seen trying to go over the falls. Some would succeed but a large majority fall back—a sight sometimes.

My grandmother told me of this—how the people would go there for miles to the fisheries and get their fish to eat and pickle, getting four or more fine shad for a dollar, and the small fry according to their catch.

But it changed years ago when the dam was built.

I remember when the Wissahickon was stocked by the state with different kind of fish and closed to fishing for five years. A few tried their luck by special permit and more local fishermen ran their chance of being caught by the guard.

I believe the finest string of speckled trout I ever saw was caught that way, a sister doing the watching while he fished.

After the five years were up the Creek was thrown open for two days a week, Wednesday and Saturday. On the first day the fishermen and reporters were there by the hundreds, sitting there on the bank and casting and wearing hip boots and carrying catch baskets on their hips.

The boy with his hickory stick was in his glory.

The majority went home disgusted with the fishermen's luck.

But the Park guard got the large amount of the abuse.

The comment from the fishermen and reporters the next morning was laughable. One day of the sport satisfied many, after the papers had puffed it up so much.

But today I believe there are few fish in the Creek.

I firmly believe a fish has sense to protect his own safety. For three years I knew of a large speckled trout whose home was under a shleving rock at the bottom of a small ripple, where it could see everything that came over. When having a little leisure time, I always fed my pet speckle.

Standing in the shade of a tree, I would cast worms, grasshoppers and small frogs, but quickly he would have them.

One day I tied a small frog to a small branch with black thread and let it go over the ripple. No sooner had he caught it than out he casted it. I tried it several times after but the bait was left go by.

One day he was gone—to a fisherman's pan in Roxborough.

WILLIAM H. SHINGLE.

314 West Queen Lane.

1-13-27

The Man on the Corner

Charles F. Jenkins Gives Museum Collection of Sower Books

A collection of books and almanacs printed in Germantown by the two Christopher Sowers and by Michael Billmeyer has for some years been a feature of note in the museum of the Site and Relic Society, in Vernon Park. This collection was loaned by Charles F. Jenkins, honorary president of the Society. Mr. Jenkins recently notified the Society that the collection is no longer to be regarded as a loan, but it is now the property of the Society.

There are 135 pieces in this collection, and it includes numerous rare items. The collection fills two large cases, and is a treasure in the eyes of bibliophiles.

Many of the books are well preserved and are notable specimens of the printer's art.

During the forty years that the Sower printing house flourished here, more than 200 books were issued from its presses. This was a greater number, it is said, than came from any other one publishing house in America during Colonial times, not excluding even that of Benjamin Franklin.

Viewing this extensive collection of fern shops, but who laboriously set type that all these publications were produced here in the old village of Germantown, from about 1740 until 1826, by printers who had none of the labor-saving equipment of modern shops, but who laboriously set all the type by hand and then printed four or eight pages at a time upon an ancient handpress. Practical printers of today when they inspect this collection express their admiration and respect for those old-time craftsmen who wrought so well.

As to their literary value—well, that is another matter. Most of the books deal with religious subjects and would have no appeal today, except to the seeker after the curious.

Besides the Bibles and the New Testaments, there are numerous hymn-books, some having run through several editions. Dissertations on religious themes abound. There are also "Ready Reckoners," some text books for schools and a book on the treatment of the ailments of horses.

Probably seventy-five per cent of the books are in German.

Rare and Interesting Old Volumes

The outstanding feature of the collection is the three editions of the Sower Bible—all printed before an English Bible was issued in America. The first edition, of 1743, contains

some manuscript records of the family of Joseph Rittenhouse. The second edition is dated 1763, and the third, 1776. The latter is now the scarcest of the three, as many of the printed sheets were confiscated or destroyed when the British held possession of Germantown, in 1777.

The oldest book in the collection is an 800-page hymn book entitled "Zionischen Weyrauchs Huegel." Sower printed this volume in 1738 for the Ephrata community of Seventy-Day Brethren.

This hymn-book was the second book that came from the Sower press, the first having been an A, B, C book, also dated 1738, the year he began his printing business.

The collection is the more valuable because some of the books formerly belonged to Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker, and several bear notations in his handwriting.

On a flyleaf of a copy of "The Everlasting Gospel," printed in English and dated 1753, is Governor Pennypacker's bookplate and these lines written in the hand of this eminent historian and collector: "Saml. W. Pennypacker, March 18, 1877." Evidently this book was one of his early acquisitions, obtained when Sower books were comparatively plentiful.

After Pennypacker began to direct attention to the importance of the Sower and Ephrata imprints, the price advanced. But the thrifty Pennsylvania Germans had preserved their books so well that these products of the early printers of Pennsylvania have never commanded the fancy prices that are paid for some other early volumes. Sower Bibles were sold for \$5 to \$15; the great Ephrata Martyr Book, the biggest book printed in America before the Revolution, can be had for a few dollars, and the scarcest of the Sower books rarely command a price in excess of \$50.

Another volume in the collection contains an entire page of comment by Governor Pennypacker. This book is entitled "Erscheinungen der Geister," a collection of ghost stories, printed in 1755.

Series of Almanacs of Early Years

Sower's first almanac was that for 1739. The Jenkins collection includes copies for the years from 1759 until 1778.

Sower almanacs bring higher prices as a rule than the books, running from \$5 to \$15 a copy.

The most treasured of the Sower almanacs is that for 1752. In that year the rectification of the calendar, from old style to new style, took place. To do this eleven days were dropped out of September, 1752. Consequently September that year had but nineteen days, September 14 followed immediately after September 2.

The Jenkins collection does not include the almanac for 1752. Governor Pennypacker's full set of the Sower almanacs, including one for 1752, is now in the Schwenkfelder Library, in Pennsburg.

Sower also printed an English almanac, called "Town and Countryman's Almanac," edited by John Tob-

er. The Jenkins collection includes copies for 1756 and 1761.

The books printed by Michael Billmeyer are similar to the issues of the Sower press, for Billmeyer sought to follow in the footsteps of the pioneer printers of Germantown. Some of the Sower hymnbooks and other religious works were continued by Billmeyer, and he also issued an almanac. The Jenkins collection includes copies of the Billmeyer almanac for the period from 1785 until 1826. For a time Peter Leibert was associated with Billmeyer in the printing and publishing business.

Museum Also Has Rare Berleburg Bible

Separate from the Jenkins collection there is in the Site and Relic Society museum a copy of the Berleburg Bible, in eight volumes, which is now very rare and which has an interesting history.

The Berleburg Bible was issued in eight volumes at intervals from 1726 until 1742, as an interpretation of Holy Writ according to the thought of the various mystical sects of that period.

Before he established his printing business in Germantown Christopher Sower sold different German versions of the Bible, including the Berleburg. The popular version was the translation of Martin Luther, published at Halle. But this did not suit the Mennonites, Dunkers and other mystics.

The Berleburg version was intended to correct what were declared to be errors in the standard versions, it included extensive commentaries and numerous books not generally accepted as canonical. But because there was so much of it the price was high and it found few purchasers here in Pennsylvania. Sower advertised the price of four volumes to be £4, 15 shillings.

On the other hand, the cheaper Bibles were often poorly printed and in small type, so that people in that period when spectacles were a rarity were deprived of the privilege of reading the Bible.

These considerations influenced Sower to print his own edition of the Bible, in 1743. The title page announces that it is Luther's version, but at the bottom of the page are a few lines in small type telling that the Third and Fourth Books of Ezra and the Third Book of Maccabees are added, these being in addition to the Apocryphal books which Luther permitted, though he did not accept them as fully inspired.

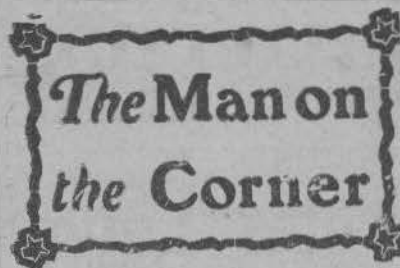
These three books which Sower added were taken from the Berleburg Bible. They, together with the inclusion of three paragraphs from the Berleburg version of the Book of Job alongside Luther's version, aroused a storm of protest from the orthodox clergy of Pennsylvania against Sower's Bible. They warned their people not to buy the Sower Bible, declaring it heretical.

In the historical collection of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown avenue and Phil-Ellena street, is an interesting broadside printed

in 1743, warning the people of Germantown not to buy the Sower Bible and naming a Germantown dealer who sold the authorized Halle Lutheran Bible.

The Berleburg Bible in the museum was brought to America by Samuel Meclin, a pioneer resident of the lower part of Germantown. His descendant, the late Miss Jane Wagner, gave the Bible to the museum.

10-7-26



First Germantown Deed Book Is on Exhibition

A famous Germantown relic is on view in the special exhibition of historical documents displayed in the building of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Locust and Thirteenth streets, in recognition of the Sesqui-Centennial anniversary of American independence. It is Francis Daniel Pastorius' "Grund und Lager Buch," or book of record of land titles incidental to the founding of Germantown.

This is the first time in many years that the volume has been publicly displayed. It is a thick book, about ten by eighteen inches in size, and is in fairly good condition.

One thing that attracts attention of the observer is that in reinforcing the binding and repairing the frayed leaves of the book, reavy strips of writing paper an inch wide were pasted along the edges of the title page in such a way that they cover the writing to the extent of a half inch.

For such work, where it is desirable to paste reinforcement over writing or printing, binders use a tough quality of transparent paper. But the paper used on the noted old Germantown book is not a bit transparent.

The title page, in Pastorius' handwriting, is in German. Some pious admonitions cover the center of the page, and at the bottom is the Latin salutation to posterity which John Greenleaf Whittier translated into sonorous English as the preface of his poem "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim." The salutation has not been much quoted since the World War, probably because its use of the phrase "Dear German land," is no longer deemed quite happy.

The Historical Society has had the book in its possession since 1908. Before that time it was kept in the office of the recorder of deeds, in the City Hall. Court proceedings were necessary to authorize the transfer. The Historical Society guaranteed fire and burglar-proof lodgment for the book and also to provide the recorder of deeds with a complete copy

of its contents, they being regarded as part of the official land records of Philadelphia.

The Historical Society also has the ancient court records of Germantown though these are not part of the present exhibition.

Numerous Relics Remain of Francis Daniel Pastorius

Francis Daniel Pastorius wrote so much that his manuscripts are by no means rare at the present time.

His famous "Beehive," a compilation of all kinds of odds and ends, is at the University of Pennsylvania.

The museum of the Site and Relic Society, in Vernon Park, has a letter which Pastorius wrote to his son.

Pastorius' own copy of his first printed book is in the Schwenkfelder Library, at Pennsburg, Pa. It is a twenty-four page Latin dissertation which he wrote on attaining his doctorate at the University of Altdorf, Germany, in 1676, and the pages bear many manuscript notes by the author.

Famous Kelpius Portrait and Other Germantown Items

Another famous Germantown relic shown in the display at the Historical Society is the oil painting of John Kelpius, leader of the Wissahickon mystics of the seventeenth century. Dr. Christopher Witt, of Germantown, is believed to have painted the portrait about 1705. It is declared to be the earliest oil portrait painted in America.

The picture is small, measuring only eight by twelve inches. Much of the paint has peeled off, but the full-length portrait is still well defined.

Other exhibits having special Germantown interest are a copy of Christopher Sower's Bible of 1743, the first Bible printed in America in any European language; a letter written in 1713 by James Logan, of Stenton, William Penn's secretary, and a book containing Samuel Chew's speech "on the lawfulness of defense against an armed enemy." This speech was delivered in 1741, when Samuel Chew was chief judge of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex," but this little volume was not printed until 1775, when the Revolution had opened and Chew's sympathies were with the British. The book was published by R. Aitken, and the price was "two coppers."

Bayard Henry Rests Amid Notable Environment

Bayard Henry, staunch Presbyterian and staunch Germantowner that he was, now rests in an Episcopal burial ground in Montgomery County.

Visitors who wander through the grounds of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Whitmarsh, on the hilltop bordering the Bethlehem pike, between Flourtown and Fort Washington, note upon the stones the names of many families identified with Germantown and Chestnut Hill.

It is not a large burial ground, nor in lavish expenditure of money or costly mausoleums can it com-

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pare with the several Laurel Hill Cemeteries. Yet there is a charm about the St. Thomas' Church region that is rarely matched elsewhere. There is antiquity, for St. Thomas' was founded more than two centuries ago. Many persons of distinction are buried here. With the Wissahickon winding along the foot of the hill, the scene is indeed picturesque. It is altogether fitting that Bayard Henry should rest amid such surroundings.

Just above St. Thomas' hill is Fort Hill, where the remains of earthworks which Washington's army threw up in the fall of 1777 are still visible.

Militia Hill, west of Bethlehem pike, is a wild and rugged territory which so far has resisted the invasion of the city dwellers seeking sites for country homes.

Another of the cluster of hills identified with the historic associations of the Revolution is Camp Hill, north of St. Thomas'. Here is the palatial home of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer.

A half century ago Camp Hill was covered with woods, like Militia Hill is now. John R. Fell, who married Sarah R. Drexel, daughter of A. J. Drexel, the Philadelphia banker, bought Camp Hill early in the eighties, cleared off the crest of the hill and built a house that was notable in its day, and even now, when million-dollar palaces are numerous in the suburbs, it is still one of the finest country houses of the Philadelphia region.

Back in the eighties Whitmarsh was still completely rural. The erection of the Fell house was the beginning of the development of the locality which has progressed, until now the land is too valuable for farming.

John R. Fell died in 1895 at the age of 57 years. He is buried at St. Thomas'.

His widow married Alexander Van Rensselaer. In later years the Camp Hill house was enlarged and the estate developed in many ways, though much of the primitive remains in the woodland on the grounds.

In odd contrast with the mansion and the twentieth-century conveniences is a forsaken little burial plot on the grounds, near the main entrance. This is the burial ground of the Scull family, who came to Whitmarsh with the Farmer family, the first settlers, in the time of Penn. Nicholas Scull was surveyor general of Pennsylvania. The one stone remaining in the burial ground marks the grave of Abigail, wife of Nicholas Scull, who died in 1753.

A daughter of John R. Fell, Mae Drexel Fell, married a son of Bayard Henry, Howard Houston Henry. The latter was a captain attached to the staff of General John Biddle, in charge of American forces in Great Britain at the time of the World War. Captain Henry died in England of heart disease in 1919. He was buried in England, but later the body was brought home and buried at St. Thomas' Church.

Ind. Gazette 10-13-27

The Man on the Corner

Ottinger House Built by a Revolutionary Soldier

Mrs. Susan D. Coulter, widow of Stephen Coulter, who died recently at the age of 90 years, lived all her life in the house at 4825 Germantown avenue. She was of the Ottinger family, who have dwelt in this house since it was built, in the eighteenth century.

Her ancestor, Christopher Ottinger, who built the house, was a soldier in the American army in the Revolution. In a letter written seventy-five years ago, Douglas Ottinger, of Erie, a son of the builder of the house, told of his father as follows:

"The house was built by Christopher Ottinger, my father, as I have been told, soon after he came out of the Revolution, about 1781. I heard him tell about the battle of Germantown and the whiz of the bullets. He fought in that battle. For his service as a soldier, a land warrant was issued to his widow, my mother. In it he is ranked as a non-commissioned officer. He volunteered before the age that would have subjected him to draft. My father afterward was a master coach-maker. His shop was on the lot near where our old house is."

Historians are of the opinion that the rear part of the house is older than the letter quoted indicates, probably having been built before the Revolution.

Douglas Ottinger, writer of the letter, was a sea captain and was the inventor of a "life car" for rescuing passengers from stranded ships. As an official of the United States revenue service he equipped a chain of life-saving stations on the New Jersey coast in 1849, this having been the beginning of the government life-saving service on the coast.

Stephen Coulter, the husband of Mrs. Coulter who has just died, has been dead for fifty years. He was a son of John Coulter, who lived at the east corner of School lane and Wayne avenue and owned a large farm, extending west to Wissahickon avenue and south to Queen lane.

Descended from Drummer Boy Who Was in Germantown Battle

Millener Thomas, 540 East Washington lane, a student at the Germantown High School, is a lineal descendant of a drummer in the American army in the Revolution. His ancestor, Alexander Millener, according to family tradition, participated in the battle of Germantown 150 years ago. He lived to the age of 104 years, and was one of the last survivors of the soldiers who fought under Washington.

Howard B. Thomas, the father of Millener Thomas, has some old newspaper clippings about his ancestor. One of these tells of an interview in 1864 with the Revolutionary veteran.

An antiquary of Hartford, Conn., visited the pension office in Washington in 1864 to learn how many soldiers

of the Revolution were then receiving government pensions. There were five of them. Mr. Moore then made a tour to visit all of these Revolutionary soldiers and compile their recollections of the war.

Mr. Millener was then living with a son in Rochester, N. Y. He was 104 years old. The clipping continues as follows:

"He was in pretty fair condition of health, except that he was totally blind. He was more reminiscent than any of the others, and he recollected the battle of Germantown, in which he took part, and also that remarkable night attack of 'Mad Anthony' Wayne at Stony Point."

Mr. Millener, according to another clipping, was born March 14, 1760, and died on his birthday anniversary in 1864.

Some of the other clippings, however, speak of his entering the army as a drummer boy at the age of 9 years, which is manifestly erroneous if he died in 1864 at the age of 104 years.

Another tradition about Mr. Millener is that he posed for one of the three principal figures in the painting "The Spirit of 1776."

A bronze marker was placed at his grave in Rochester, N. Y., in 1916.

Records and Traditions Sometimes Disagree

Study of history in a scientific way has wrought much havoc among traditions of the American Revolution.

Early writers accepted the stories handed down by word of mouth, and in many cases later investigation with the aid of documentary sources failed to substantiate some of the picturesque narratives of the days of Washington.

George Lippard, the Germantown writer of the middle of the nineteenth century whose chief possession was a fervid imagination, is responsible for the propagation of many fanciful tales of the Revolution.

That accurate and conscientious historian, Fred Perry Powers, whose recent death was a great loss to the endeavor for historical research, in the course of his investigation of the happenings of Revolutionary times in

Pennsylvania, demonstrated the falsity of the claim that an old tavern in Chester bearing the name of Washington House was Washington's headquarters after the battle of Brandywine.

This tavern for years has had upon its walls a bronze tablet declaring that there Washington wrote his report of the battle of Brandywine on the night of September 11, 1777. The tablet was erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mr. Powers found from the writings of Timothy Pickering, adjutant general of the army, that Washington spent the night after the battle at Withy's tavern, which was removed a half century ago.

"I pointed out this record," Mr. Powers once wrote, "to one of the local historians, but I did not succeed in making a dent in his consciousness. The records did not count; the story was always told of the Washington House, and that settled it."

Suit of Linen Clothing a Link With the Long Ago

The recent commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the battle of Germantown has stirred up almost forgotten recollections and traditions connected with the American Revolution and the men who were conspicuous in it.

The celebration reminded Mrs. Lewis Linn, 5219 Marion street, that she had an old linen suit of men's clothing which, according to the story handed down with the clothing, was in the Morris house, on Market Square, when President George Washington lived there. Through Wilson Woods she has presented the suit of clothing to the Germantown Historical Society.

Mrs. Linn says the suit was given many years ago by the occupants of the Morris house to the mother of her husband, the late Lewis Linn. The clothing, it was said, had been in the house since the time of Washington.

Mr. Woods, who possesses expert knowledge of fabrics and needlework, declared the coat and trousers comprising the suit were undoubtedly made many years ago, before the invention of the sewing machine. The needlework is of the finest character, though all done by hand.

"Only a person of means could have paid for such careful sewing," said Mr. Woods.

The trousers are of knee length, in the vogue of the eighteenth century. Trousers and coat are made of light weight linens, yellowish in color. The clothing evidently was intended for summer wear.

The buttons are also of superior workmanship and covered with linen, like that used in the suit.

Four generations of the Morris family have lived in the Morris house. Colonel Isaac Franks was the owner at the time Washington lived there, in 1793 and again in 1794, when yellow fever in Philadelphia led to the signing of the federal government to mantown.

Ind. Gazette 11-3-27

The Man on the Corner

Founding of Market Square Church Two Centuries Ago

Some accounts of the history of Market Square Church say the Rev. George Michael Weiss was the first pastor.

George Michael Weiss came to Pennsylvania just two centuries ago. The anniversary was recently commemorated in the New Goshenhoppen Reformed church, in the upper Perkiomen region, of which congregation Weiss is credited with having been the first minister.

Definite information is lacking as to the date of the founding of some of the oldest churches of Pennsylvania. In the case of Market Square Church the time of organization is sometimes given as 1726, sometimes it is 1727 and sometimes it is placed in the early thirties following.

The Rev. Dr. William J. Hinke, an authority on the history of the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania, names Weiss as having been the first pastor of Market Square Church, saying he

served from 1727 until 1730.

As early as 1710 services of the Reformed Church were held for what was known as the Whitemarsh congregation. This congregation never had a church building, but it met for worship in the house of William Dewees, on Germantown road at Wissahickon Creek, just within the present city limits, and it included some Germantown members.

After some years this congregation disintegrated and the few remaining members attached themselves either to the church in Germantown or to another congregation which John Philip Boehm founded at Blue Bell, in Whip-pain Township.

Controversy Between Boehm and Weiss

Boehm, a schoolmaster, was ministering to the Reformed people of southeastern Pennsylvania when Weiss arrived, September 27, 1727. In a short time a conflict arose between Weiss and Boehm. Weiss, an ordained minister, warned the people of his denomination not to accept the ministrations of Boehm because he was not ordained.

Within a month after his arrival Weiss was preaching to the Reformed people of Skippack, where Boehm had organized a congregation. Soon the Skippack flock was split, some following Boehm and some following Weiss.

Here in Germantown Weiss apparently met with little opposition. Boehm was finally ordained in 1729, and thereupon a nominal reconciliation followed between the two religious leaders. Weiss was to confine himself to the congregations in Philadelphia and Germantown, and Boehm was to have full charge of those farther in the interior. These proceedings took place in New York, and the minutes of the Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church of New York contain the details of the agreement, concluding as follows:

"Dominie Weiss also binds himself to endeavor to bring his congregation in Philadelphia and Germantown into subordination to the reverend classis of Amsterdam."

From this Dr. Hinks assumes that Weiss was then the regularly recognized pastor of a congregation in Germantown.

Tribulations of a Pioneer Pastor

Nevertheless controversies continued between the followers of Weiss and those of Boehm in the interior congregations, for Weiss did not confine his ministry to the churches of Philadelphia, but also served the New and the Old Goshenhoppen charges, in the Perkiomen region, and the Skippack congregation until it was disrupted by dissensions.

The early German settlers of Pennsylvania had so many unfortunate experiences with renegade preachers that some of them were at first suspicious even of Weiss notwithstanding his thorough university training abroad. He exhibited his Latin certificate of ordination to the ministry. But the Pennsylvania German farmers could not read Latin, and they refused to accept it. So Weiss had to send to Heidelberg University for a certificate of ordination written in German. This finally arrived and satisfied the critical church officials that Weiss was a real minister.

Weiss and George Reiff, of the Skippack congregation, undertook to make a tour of Europe to collect funds for the Pennsylvania churches. The tour

had a long sequel of scandal, chiefly involving Reiff but also attaching some blame to Weiss. The churches got little of the money that was collected.

On returning from this ignominious collecting tour Weiss became pastor of congregations in New York, and remained there until 1746. Then he took the charge consisting of the New and the Old Goshenhoppen churches, in the Perkiomen region, and Great Swamp Church, in Bucks County. His salary was £40 a year.

The same year he was one of four ministers who organized the first German Reformed Synod in America.

Weiss served the three congregations named until his death, in 1763.

He is buried at the New Goshenhoppen Church, near East Greenville.

Market Square Congregation Becomes Presbyterian

Perhaps one reason why the Market Square congregation of the present time takes but slight interest in the beginnings of its history is that the congregation left the Reformed denomination and became Presbyterian in 1856, when "high church" tendencies were manifesting themselves in the Reformed church.

Market Square's pastor of that time, the Rev. Jacob Helfenstein, fought these tendencies, and a sermon which he preached on March 2, 1853, on the subject "A Perverted Gospel," created a marked sensation and was virtually an ecclesiastical declaration of independence. Under his leadership the congregation severed its connection with the Reformed denomination and entered the Presbyterian fold.

He Talked With Persons Who Saw Washington's Army

The little congregation of the Germantown Mennonite Church, which maintains the ancient mother church of the denomination in America, on Germantown avenue, north of Herman street, holding services therein every Sunday, has just lost one of its leading supporters, Benjamin Bertolet, who has died at the age of 81 years.

Though not a resident of Germantown, Mr. Bertolet became interested in the Germantown Mennonite Church a dozen years ago. He was made one of its deacons, and he rarely missed attending a service as long as he was able to do so. His home was at 2112 Columbia avenue.

Mr. Bertolet was attracted to the Germantown church because of his intense interest in the history of the early Mennonite families and congregations. His youth was spent in Frederick Township, Montgomery County, where there is a Mennonite place of worship known as Bertolet's Meeting House, indicative of the prominence of the family thereabouts in earlier times.

In these recent months, when there has been a series of commemorations of the 150th anniversary of events of the American Revolution in southeastern Pennsylvania, it was most interesting to hear Mr. Bertolet tell how in his youth he talked with persons who with their own eyes had witnessed scenes connected with the movement of the armies through Pennsylvania, 150 years ago.

Some years ago Mr. Bertolet wrote a paper on the encampment of the American army on the hills north of Pottstown, in September, 1777. In that locality Mr. Bertolet was born and

there he spent his early days. In his paper Mr. Bertolet thus narrated how he came in contact with persons who recalled the presence of the army in that locality:

"I remember two persons who lived during the Revolutionary War in our neighborhood and died within my recollection.

"One was Christian Stetler, a member of Captain Michael Dotterer's company, of Frederick Township. He is buried at the Stetler and Leidig burial ground.

"Mrs. Phillip Leidig was the other person. She lived several years longer than Mr. Stetler and was buried in the same burial place.

"I remember her very distinctly. She called on my mother often, and rested there while on her way to Stetler's store, as she was very old. She always had with her her grandson, Josiah Leidig, who later lived at Hatboro.

"On one of these stops—I was then about 7 or 8 years old—she and my

mother talked on the subject of the Revolutionary War, and she said:

"I remember the Revolutionary War well. When the army encamped on the hills a whole company came to our house and took possession of our place during the rainy weather. The barn and every outbuilding was full of soldiers, lying on and covering the floors in each room, while the family were compelled to occupy but one room."

How Washington Greeted a Germantown Boy

In the delightful "Memories" of Robert Collyer, the "blacksmith preacher" who worked at a forge near Ogontz and preached in the old Milestown Methodist Church, now the Oak Lane Church, three quarters of a century ago, are some stories of survivors of Revolutionary times with whom Collyer talked while living in the York road region. Later on he became one of the famous preachers and lecturers of the land, and he lived until 1912.

Telling about his neighbors in the region now known as Elkins Park, in the fifties Dr. Collyer wrote:

"Another neighbor, old Michael, was of a good German stock that stays by the land and the old usage.

"Did you ever see Washington?" I said to him one day.

"Yes, indeed, I did," he answered, "and it were this way: We lived in Germantown when I were a boy, and one day I saw General Washington coming along our lane. So I waited until he come near where I were standing, and then I took off my cap and made the best bow I knew how to; and he looked down at me a-smiling, patted me on the head and said: 'Fine lump of a Dutch boy!'"

Nature's Memorial at a Forgotten Washington's Headquarters

Representatives of the Germantown battle tablet committee visited the Perkiomen region recently to view the site where that committee, in co-operation with Valley Forge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Norristown, will place a marker in memory of the men of the American army who died there from wounds received in the battle of Germantown.

Jacob Bromer, burgess of Schwenksville, guided the visitors over the hills west of Schwenksville, where the army went into camp the night after the battle and where probably a hundred

men died and were buried in graves all trace of which is now lost.

One of the places visited was the site of the Keely farm house where, according to traditions of the neighborhood, General Washington made his headquarters at the time of the camp.

The house was removed many years ago, and not a vestige of the structure remains.

But Nature has marked the spot that man would forget.

The site is in a field that is not cultivated because it is somewhat marshy.

In this field is a small tract where flowers bloom every year—flowers unlike the common wild blossoms of the region.

Nine different kinds of old-fashioned garden perennials have been counted here from year to year.

These plants, the people of the vicinity say, indicate where the Keeley family had their garden.

Though the house was demolished long ago, the flowers of the garden blossom from year to year in the same place.

It may even be that some of the blooms seen here in 1927 were the direct progeny of the flowers that bordered the walks when General Washington walked past.

Phila Record Nov. 4th 1927

Seek Persons Alive Today Who Knew First Printers of "Freedom's Charter"

Want Them to Attend Unveiling of Tablet at No. 134 Market Street in Honor of Dunlap and Claypoole on Nov. 17.

Possible That Aged People May Have Met One of Them, Who Lived Here Until 1849—Printed Nation's Documents.

Is there anyone alive today who remembers Captain John Dunlap or Lieutenant David C. Claypoole?

These are the two men who first printed the Declaration of Independence after its adoption here on July 4, 1776, and who founded the First City Troop.

If there are any persons anywhere in America who knew either of these men, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania wants to invite them to the unveiling of a bronze tablet in their honor at Nos. 134-136 Market street, where they had their print shop.

It has been 150 years since these men set type for the greatest political document in the world.

Yet it is not as absurd as it sounds to say that some persons still living may have met them in their old days.

as one of them lived until 1849.

One person still lives who might have known one of the men—Ex-Senator Chauncey M. Depew, of New York, who has been invited to attend the unveiling despite his 93 years. There may be others and perhaps they will be found.

The tablet will be unveiled by the 1st Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, of which John Dunlap was one of the organizers in 1774 and at one time captain. The date of the ceremony of unveiling the tablet is November 17 at 4 o'clock. The public will be invited to attend. That date is the 153d anniversary of the organizing of the 1st Troop at Carpenter's Hall.

The committee would be glad to learn the names of any living descendants of Dunlap and Claypoole and of any living persons who might remember David C. Claypoole, who died in Philadelphia in 1849 at the age of 92. Such information should be sent to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, No. 1300 Locust street.

Further details as to the unveiling of the tablet will be announced.

The committee of arrangements consists of William W. Matos, chairman; Captain Clement B. Wood, of the 1st Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry; John Frederick Lewis, vice president, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Edward Robins, Harold E. Gillingham, Joseph V. Horn, Arthur R. Kane, John Barr and Ernest Spoffard, secretary.

Sketches of the Men.

Sketches of Captain Dunlap and

Lieutenant Claypoole prepared by the Historical Society follow:

CAPTAIN JOHN DUNLAP.
1747-1812.

- 1755—Emigrated from Ireland to America at the age of 8 to become an apprentice under his uncle, William Dunlap, one of Philadelphia's earliest printers.
- 1771—Began publication of a weekly newspaper, Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet or the General Advertiser.
- 1774—Became personally acquainted with the delegates to the First Continental Congress. A founder of the First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, and later captain.
- 1775—With the First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, escorted General Wash-



CAPTAIN JOHN DUNLAP
LIEUTENANT DAVID C. CLAYPOOLE

- ington on his way to take command of the Continental Army.
- 1776—For the Congress on the evening of July 4 printed for the first time the Declaration of Independence under the supervision of Jefferson, Franklin and Adams. This broadside was sent out to all the States and to the Army. With Washington and the First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, at the battles of Trenton and Princeton.
- 1784—With his partner, Lieutenant David C. Claypoole, began the publication of the first daily newspaper in America.
- 1787—By authority of Congress, printed for the first time, the Constitution of the United States.
- 1788—Voted at Independence Hall for Washington as President.
- 1789 to 1792—Member of the Common Council of Philadelphia.
- 1794—As colonel commanded Pennsylvania Cavalry in suppression of Whisky Insurrection.
- 1807—Sold to Stephen Girard for \$100,000 the property bounded by Eleventh, Twelfth, Chestnut and Market streets.
- 1812—Buried with highest military and civic honors in Christ Churchyard, near the

- grave of Benjamin Franklin.
- LIEUTENANT DAVID C. CLAYPOOLE.**
1757-1849.
- 1757—Born in Philadelphia of Quaker parents.
- 1771—Apprentice to John Dunlap, assists in publication of "The Packet."
- 1775—Sets type for newspaper account of the battles of Lexington and Concord, Concord and Bunker Hill. At Independence Hall was among the first volunteers to join Captain Mifflin's militia company.
- 1776—In the late afternoon of July 4 set up the type for the first printing of the Declaration of Independence, under supervision of Jefferson, Franklin and Adams.
- 1784—With his partner, John Dunlap, began publication of the first daily newspaper in America.
- 1787—By authority of Congress, printed the Constitution of the United States.
- 1788—Voted at Independence Hall for Washington as President.
- 1798—Chosen by Washington to publish his Farewell Address in the American Daily Advertiser. Washington's manuscript given to him.
- 1826—Called by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to give circumstances of publication of Washington's Farewell Address.
- 1849—Died at the age of 92, honored and loved by his countrymen. Buried in vault under St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia.

Record 11-13-27

have the ability to co-operate with other welfare and civic organizations, she said.

A "policeman's attitude," taken by some health officers, was attacked by the speaker, who said that they should be educators as well as law-enforcers. "There is too much danger of men in the departments viewing themselves as mere law-enforcers," she said.

Charges Fraud Against Daughter and Son-in-Law

Alleging fraud, Howard M. Ford brought suit in Court of Common Pleas No. 2 yesterday against his daughter, Mrs. E. Leona Siles, and her

In the ponderous archives of history there still are unrevealed secrets. Men whose years are spent among the musty shelves of the world's legends explore the past and seek truth. Occasionally one finds and reveals what others have passed, not noticing.

To the Historical Society of Pennsylvania new distinction falls with the discovery by several members of a new note in the history of the Declaration of Independence. For 150 years this secret has lain, as most secrets of the kind, open and unhidden, yet seen by no one.

Among the papers of John Nixon, who read to the people of Philadelphia the famous document, was found the first proof of the Declaration, struck off by Captain John Dunlap and Lieutenant David C. Claypoole, his apprentice. The paper was presented to the Historical Society and for many years students of American history have pored over it, examining the work of the official printer of the revolutionary Congress. Until three weeks ago no one had detected a curious feature of the document which is important to historians throughout the world.

Great Drama Enacted.

The first proof of the Declaration contains quotation marks that are omitted in all of the five other existing original copies of the document. To students, the marks are the cause of considerable conjecture.

A great drama was enacted in the print shop on Market street and the quotation marks played an outstanding part. Historical accounts of what occurred on the Fourth of July, 1776, are vague, following the decision of the delegates in Independence Hall at 4 o'clock.

Immediately after the Declaration

had been accepted by the convention, a resolution was passed that before the day was over the formal decision of the body be set in type and printed in a broadside by the official printer, Captain Dunlap. The work was to be done under the personal supervision of the drafting committee.

Straight from the hall Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams went to the print shop in the building now known as No. 134 Market street. Captain Dunlap, according to a living descendant, brought out the best table in his house and the type was set there while the country and the world waited to learn of the final decision of the Representatives from the 13 States.

It was Jefferson who wrote the text of the Declaration, and those who discovered the quotation marks in the proof attribute their presence to the modesty of the author of the document. Jefferson used phrases in the Declaration that had been in common usage during the debates of the delegates. He marked them to avoid taking credit for the beautiful and forceful words.

Circulated Throughout Country.

His companions persuaded him to remove the marks, arguing that the declaration was the word of the nation and not of himself, it is believed. The proof containing the quotation marks was given to John Nixon, who read from it on July 8 when the people of Philadelphia gathered to hear the great announcement.

Broad-sides, without the marks, were printed and sent to the army and to officials of all the States. In the Pennsylvania Packet and the General Advertiser, Dunlap's paper, the Declaration was printed and circulated through the country.

The investigation that resulted in the discovery was started by the Historical Society to gather material for the celebration, November 17, of the one hundred and fifty-third anniversary of the founding of the First Troop, City Cavalry and to commemorate the work of the two pioneer newspapermen of America, Dunlap and Claypoole. Dunlap was one of the organizers of the premier cavalry unit of the United States.

Independence Hall and all the physical existing relics of the greatest period in American history will be gone in time. Philadelphia has a great distinction, however, that even time will not erase. Here, on Market street, an avenue of historic sites, was written what is termed the most complete and accurate history of the American Revolution.

Hampton L. Carson, president of the society, has said of the occasion, "Certainly no such association in the whole history of newspaper publication can be attributed in such measure to any other spot."

Soldiers Published Paper.

In the same shop where the Declaration was printed, the Constitution was set in type and the farewell address of George Washington was published. Here a newspaper was published by two soldiers and statesmen, who were probably in closer touch with the civil and military leaders of the time than any other men. From 1771 to 1800 the events of the time were set down in a national newspaper.

In the issues of the Packet during 1771 the brewing of the trouble with England is evident. A picture of the feelings of the colonists is drawn in it. In 1772 the paper reports

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Boston massacre, related by General Joseph Warren. Paul Revere, who came to the newspaper office in Philadelphia, is a character in the pages of the Packet during 1774. In 1775 the battles of Lexington and Concord are described, with the events preceding the battles and the subsequent happenings. On September 19, 1787, the Constitution of the United States occupied the entire four pages of the publication. The printing work in the papers has been admired by modern publishers.

An Incident of War.

The men who wrote the news were active in the service of the Government as soldiers and also as financial supporters of the revolutionary movement. With the City Troop, they gave half the capital of the first bank. The papers have been little used by historians, but it is planned to have them copied and reproduced where they may always remain at hand for students.

The attitude of Captain Dunlap and of the City Troop is shown by an incident of the war.

In the campaign of 1790, which was undertaken to secure internal peace, and the efficient operation of the general Government, Captain Dunlap, having received notice of a general order, sent the following characteristic reply:

Wednesday evening, March 27, 1790.

Sir: About an hour ago I received through you the general order of the Commander-in-Chief, dated this day, with a letter directing me to report when the First Troop of Philadelphia Cavalry will be ready to march. With pleasure I tell you that when the laws and Government of this happy country require defense, the First Troop of Philadelphia Cavalry want but one hour's notice to march.

"I have the honor to be, with esteem,
Your obedient, humble servant,
"JOHN DUNLAP."

Letter From Washington.

Washington's regard for the City Troop is shown in a letter of the commander. The Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse under the command of Captain Morris, having performed their tour of duty are discharged for the present—

I take this opportunity of returning my most sincere thanks to the captain and to the gentlemen who compose the troop for the many essential services which they have rendered to their country, and to me personally during the course of this severe campaign. Though composed of gentlemen of fortune, they have shown a noble example of discipline and subordination, and in several actions have shown a spirit of bravery which will ever do honor to them and will ever be gratefully remembered by me.

Given at headquarters at
Morristown this 23d Jan. 7, 1777.

G. WASHINGTON.

Meets Washington.

It was Claypole who edited the paper on the day it released the farewell address of Washington. He wrote of the event:

"Having been requested by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to give an Account of the Circumstances attending the first Publication of the Valedictory Address of the late President Washington to the People of the United States,—I will now state them as accurately as my Memory enables me.

"A few days before the appearance of this memorable Document in Print, I received a Message from the President by his Private Secretary signifying his desire to see me. I waited on him at the appointed time, and found him sitting alone in the Drawing Room. He received me kindly, and after paying my respects to him, desired to take a seat near him;—then, addressing himself to me, said, that he had for some time past contemplated retiring from Public Life, and had at length concluded to do so at the end of the (then) present year;—that he had some Thoughts and plans on the Occasion, which he

deemed proper to communicate to the people of the United States, in the form of an address, and which he wished to appear in the Daily Advertiser,—of which I was Editor. He paused, and I took the opportunity of thanking him for having preferred that Paper as the channel of his Communication with the People, especially as I viewed this Selection as indicating his approbation of the Principles and Manner in which the Work was conducted. He silently assented and asked when the Publication could be made. I answered that the time should be made perfectly convenient to himself,—and the following Monday was fixed on;—he then told me that his Secretary would bring me the copy on the next (Friday) morning,—and I withdrew.

"After the Proof Sheet had been compared with the Copy and corrected by myself, I carried another Proof and then a Revise, to be examined by the President, who made but few alterations from the Original, except in the Punctuation, in which he was very minute.

"The Publication of the Address (dated United States, September 17, 1796) being completed on the 19th, I waited on the President with the Original and in presenting it to him expressed my regret at parting with it, and how much I should be gratified by being permitted to retain it; upon which, in an obliging manner, he handed it back to me, saying that if I wished for it I might keep it; and I then took my Leave of him.

"Any Person acquainted with the handwriting of President Washington would, on seeing this Specimen, at once recognize it. And, as I had formerly been honored by written Communications from him on Publick Business, I may say that his hand Writing was familiar to me, and I think I could at any time and without hesitation identify it. The manuscript Copy of the Address consists of 32 Pages of Quarto Letter Paper, sewed together as a Book and with many Alterations, as in some places whole Paragraphs are erased and others substituted; in others many lines struck out; in others Sentences and Words erased and others interlined in their Stead. The 10th, 11th and 16th Pages are almost entirely expunged, with all its numerous corrections saving only a few lines, and one-half of the 3d Page is also effaced. A critical examination will show that the whole, from first to last, was the work of the same hand—and I can confidently affirm that no other Pen ever touched the Manuscript; now in my Possession than that of the great and good Man whose Signature it bears.

"(Signed) D. C. CLAYPOOLE.

"Philadelphia, February 23, 1826."

Story of Dunlap's Life.

The story of the life of Captain Dunlap is told in the annals of the City Troop:

John Dunlap, the fifth captain of the Troop, was born in Strabane, County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1747. His family emigrated to America when he was but 8 or 9 years of age, and settled in Philadelphia. At the age of 18, having served an apprenticeship of about 10 years with his uncle, William Dunlap, printer and publisher, in this city, who was about this time admitted to orders in the Church of England and as a clergyman went to Virginia, he assumed his business, and on October 28, 1771, published from the "Newest Printing Office" (on Market street, third house east of Second) the first number of The Pennsylvania Packet or General Advertiser, with its motto: "Quisquid agunt Homines, nostris est Farrago Libelli." Captain Dunlap was elected printer to the Convention which met at Philadelphia before the Revolution, and continued to hold the position of public printer after the permanent establishment of Congress. While in that capacity he had the high distinction of printing by authority and publishing for general distribution the Declaration of Independence, while the British army occupied Philadelphia in 1777-78, he published his newspaper in Lancaster. The paper currency is-

ued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1777 was printed on his press. In 1784 his newspaper was converted into a daily, being the first daily newspaper printed on this continent. He withdrew from this business in 1793. Dunlap has the honor of having been one of the original members of the Troop. He was elected to the post of cornet in 1775, and to that of second Lieutenant in 1782, and first Lieutenant in 1784. He had twice declined the position of captain in favor of those who held higher positions during the War of Independence, and, have been for three years, May 3, 1787, to May 4, 1790, in command as first lieutenant, he was finally induced to accept the post of captain on April 12, 1794, although a greater military rank in another organization was offered him at the time. As cornet he had served with honor in the field and on occasion drew heavily on his private income in subscribing to war funds.

In "Whisky Rebellion."

In the "Whisky Insurrection" of 1794, the command of all the cavalry was given to Captain Dunlap, who held the rank and title of major during the campaign. He was noted on this expedition not only for his strict adherence to discipline and duty as a soldier, but also for his kindness and humanity as a man. Upon the return of the military he reassumed his position as captain, and held the post until June 30, 1803, when he resigned his commission, having done good service in the troop for 29 years, and was placed upon the honorary roll.

By his talents and industry Captain Dunlap amassed a large fortune. He purchased from the State of Virginia 92,000 acres of land, in what is now the State of Kentucky, and also owned the land on which the town of Utica, Ind., is now built. In the city of Philadelphia he owned the square of ground between Market and Chestnut and Eleventh and Twelfth streets, on which plot he had built his mansion house. He sold this ground in 1807 to Stephen Girard for \$100,000. He also owned the greater part of the ground on the north side of Chestnut street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets. He was prominent in the affairs of the times; he was chairman of the Public Meeting Committee for Relief of the Poor and returned October 13, 1793, his collection of \$1106 in cash and a subscription of credit of \$10,000 as a loan from the Bank of North America; he was a subscriber to the fund for building the Chestnut Street Theater in 1794. He was a member of the Common Council of the city between the years 1789-92.

Captain Dunlap was married in 1772 at Christ Church, Philadelphia, to Elizabeth Allison (nee Hayes), widow of Captain Allison, of England. She came to this country in 1771 with her father from Liverpool. Captain Dunlap died November 27, 1812, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, and was buried with the honors of war at Christ Church burying ground, Fifth and Arch streets. Captain Dunlap's son, John Dunlap, Jr., became a member of the troop, February 7, 1807. The likeness of Captain Dunlap is a copy of an oil painting by Rembrandt Peale, which hangs in the Armory and which was bequeathed to the troop by Captain Dunlap's grandson, John D. Bleight, Esq.

The formation of the City Troop was closely identified with the first Congress. This Congress continued its meetings until the end of October. On November 12, in accordance with the suggestion of the Congress, a Committee of Correspondence was chosen by the citizens of Philadelphia. The duty of this committee was to determine the best method for collecting the sense of the Provinces as to the most efficient means of resisting the aggressive acts of the British Ministry to carry into effect the nonimportation resolutions of the lately adjourned Congress. The committee held its first meeting at the

State House in Philadelphia on the afternoon of Thursday, November 17, 1774.

In the evening of the same day, 28 gentlemen (three of them members of this Committee of Correspondence), who had been agitating for some time the project of forming a troop of light horse, met and associated as the Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia. It is a tradition that the meeting took place in Carpenters' Hall. The Troop thus formed was the first organization of volunteers in the Provinces, associated with the avowed purpose of maintaining the rights of the people against the continued oppression of the British Government.

In the seven years following, 60 names were added from time to time, making in all 88 names on the membership roll of the troop at the close of the War of Independence. Although Philadelphia was at this time the largest and most important city in America, its total population was only about 40,000—"Whites, Indians, slaves and free blacks"—occupying an area of the strip of land of less than one-half mile in width which extended about one mile along the Delaware riverfront.

The men of the troop were professional men, ship owners, shippers and importers—"traders in dry goods, teas, wines, silks and linens." In the affairs of the day they were conspicuously prominent. It is found that five of

them were members of the Committee of Correspondence, eight of the Committee of Safety, three of the Council of Safety, three of the Committee of Inspection and Observation, three of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania and four of the Pennsylvania Assembly.

During the war several members held commissions in the Continental service and in the army and navy of the State, and several others, who were enrolled as privates in the ranks of the troop,

had already served with distinction as officers in the field. Of those in war service, other than that in the ranks of the troop, there were 26 members. In the army a brigadier general, three colonels, two lieutenant colonels, four majors and four captains, and there were four who were captains in the navy. One of these captains of the navy, Andrew Caldwell, as commodore in command of the Provincial fleet, fought the British frigates Roebuck

and Liverpool in the Delaware River in the action of May 9, 1776. Of the privateers in commission in this year three were owned by members of the troop.

Mayor to Attend.

David Chambers Claypoole was born of Quaker parents, in Philadelphia, in 1757, and died in 1849. He is buried in a vault in St. Stephen's Church. It is planned to hold memorial exercises at the burial places of the two men next Sunday.

The celebration on Thursday, November 17, has been made a public function by proclamation of Mayor Kendrick. John Hazelhurst Mason, chairman of the Bank of North America and Trust Company, a descendant of Captain Dunlap and William T. Sellers, member of the City Troop and a Claypoole descendant, will take part in the exercises. The Mayor will attend and it is expected that he will speak.

FIRST PROOF OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- Showing quotation marks hitherto unnoticed.

CELEBRATION AT HISTORIC SITE WILL HONOR PRINTERS OF DECLARATION AND CONSTITUTION

Found among the papers of John Mifflin & Philip supposed to be the original form which he used the Declaration in public

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People " to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another," and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station " to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them," a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires " that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation. We hold these Truths to be self-evident, " that all Men are created equal," " that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, " that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, " deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed," that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, " it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organising its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shown, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security." Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; " and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government." The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. He has refused his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only. He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalisation of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither; and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

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Refined 11-9-27

TALK OF INTEREST BY J. E. BARRETT

Father Time's Clock Turned Back 200 Years in Address On David Rittenhouse

LIFE HISTORY PAINTED

J. Ellwood Barrett, vice president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, read a most interesting paper on David Rittenhouse before a meeting of that society in the Hattal-Taylor Post Home on the evening of Monday, October 24. Mr. Barrett's address follows in full:

Ladies and gentlemen:
Just forget for a moment that you are comfortably sitting in this room and quietly walk with me down to the Wissahickon. We'll scramble down the embankment to the Park drive near the Walnut lane bridge, where we will enjoy some of the peacefulness of this region we all love. We will saunter on toward Lincoln Drive, turning our imaginations backward about 200 years. The Wissahickon could not have presented a very different picture at that time except that its rugged beauty was probably enhanced by the lack of a passable road. Reaching Lincoln Drive, we ignore the passing automobiles as an intrusion on our picture, and walk up the Monoshone valley several hundred yards to stop before a very old, a very picturesque house beside the quiet brook. We are made aware of the fact that there is some activity in and about the house. The forerunner of the Covered Wagon is backed up to the door where tradition says only coffins were passed out of the house. This door is rather high in the air, stranded as it were, without steps to the level ground about it. Another door nearby is smaller and apparently is used by persons going in and out of the house. Several large boxes are being passed out of the larger one to the waiting wagon. No! They're not coffins. It appears that the family is moving out. Furniture is being neatly stowed in the wagon. A two-year-old child is prattling about—helping—stumbling over the rear of an old rocking chair—screaming as it hits its tiny head upon something hard. An anxious mother runs out of the house, picks the child up, mothers it for a second, mutters a few words in German, and rushes back into the house to continue gathering the family belongings. We venture closer as the wagon filled with furniture, the mother and father and several children move slowly up the narrow dirt road. The sharp warning of an automobile arouses us as we cross the road, and separating our thoughts with 200 swift years, we come forward to read on a bronze tablet plastered to the wall that here, on April 8, 1732, David Rittenhouse was born. Who David Rittenhouse was and what he did to gain everlasting fame is the object of this paper. But before passing on, I want to impress on

you the fact that he was born in Roxborough and that his background for two generations was built upon lives lived within the confines of the Wissahickon Valley.

When David was two years of age, he moved with his parents to a farm on the hill overlooking Norristown. Here as time went on the boy was put to work on the farm. He very early developed a taste for mathematics and proved his inclination by covering fences, walls and plow handles with figures and geometric lines. His father at first looked with disfavor upon this tendency to abandon the business of farming and did his best to discourage it. But after a time he became recon-

ciled and furnished David with means to supply book and tools for study and work. He also built a little shop on the farm near the roadside where David started in business as a maker of clocks and mathematical instruments. Before David Rittenhouse had reached the age of 24, his clocks and instruments were noted throughout the Colonies for their accuracy, and he had gained a provincial reputation as a mathematician. No doubt he paused before the glowing glamor of success and thoughtfully looked out upon his world.

He had heard of Benjamin Franklin flying his kite in a thunderstorm and talked with interest of his discoveries in electricity. He was influenced by the efforts in polite learning being made in the Colonies. The newspaper published in Germantown by Christopher Sauer and known as the "High German Pennsylvania Historian" acquainted him with the gossip of his contemporaries. Poor Richards Almanac was a welcome visitor to his home, and kept him interested in the world at large. He read of improved military tactics being successfully developed by the King of Prussia, Frederick the Great. He pored over choice morsels of Addison and Steele, of Pope and Dryden, of Thomson and Milton. Perhaps he exulted a little in the poetry of Thomas Godfrey, of Pennsylvania, and praised the poet's genius while deploring his lack of education to prove it. But he was ever conscious of the growing wish for learning in the Colonies and was prepared to do anything in his power to advance it. He had been interested in an account that Benjamin Franklin had helped to found an Academy in the City, and when Thomas Barton, alumnus of Trinity College, Dublin, married his sister, he became warmly interested in academic work. Thomas proved a worthy brother-in-law indeed, and used his influence to call the attention of men of learning to David's proficiency in scientific and philosophic subjects. He was making frequent trips down to Philadelphia now, and was fortunate in being able to borrow books from the growing library of the American Philosophic Society. He mastered Sir Isaac Newton's "Principia," and astonished himself by discovering for himself the mathematical method of fluxions, or differential calculus, and thought for some years that he had been the originator of this principle.

He became acquainted with Richard Peters, secretary of the Province, who called upon him to perform his first public service, a job which involved astronomical and mathematical calculations to determine the true boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1770 he completed his famous planetarium, an intricate and

complicated mechanical device showing in detail the movements of the planets of the solar system. The relative location of all the planets at any period of time for 5000 years backward or forward could readily be shown by this contrivance. The machine was exhibited in Philadelphia and marveled at by the curious who came from miles around to see it.

His reputation before the public being thus secure, it was but natural that with the outbreak of the Revolution he should be called to the service of his state. He was appointed treasurer of the newly organized state late in 1776, to succeed Michael Hillegas, who had moved away. This office he continued to hold by subsequent elections for thirteen years. He somehow found a method of making an empty treasure devote a big portion of its contents toward successfully financing a very expensive and lop-sided war. With a

fellow citizen, one John Bull, he was appointed a member of the State Board of War. When the Continental government moved out of Philadelphia at the approach of the British from Brandywine, on September 26, 1777, David packed his official baggage and moved with it. In Lancaster, on 13 October, he was made a member of the national Council of Safety with very broad powers to extend capital punishment in summary courts, and to take at their own appraisement any necessity wanted for the army.

The Council of Safety very strongly felt the influence of General Mifflin, who whipped up a very strong criticism of the high command of the army. Events of the time show this criticism to be but a natural outcome of the gloom and dissatisfaction over the loss of the Capital and the apparent failure of Washington's military tactics. When the news of the brilliant victory of General Gates over Burgoyne at Saratoga came to brighten the prospect, Dr. Benjamin Rush, friend of Rittenhouse and member of the Council, suggested that Gates had proved himself more worthy of high command than Washington. The sinister work of the Conway Cabal found willing, if inchoent allies, among the friends of Mifflin, Rush and Rittenhouse, and the showing of the scorpion's head with Conway's mortal wound and public apology to Washington, cleared the skies of what threatened to be a disastrous conspiracy.

Rittenhouse was no longer an obscure scientist. He was very much in the public eye and having moved to a large house at Sixth and Arch streets in the city, he numbered as his friends all of

the bon-tons and influential people of the town. When Franklin died, Rittenhouse succeeded the great philosopher as president of the American Philosophical Society, the fame of which had by 1795 reached the stodgy ears of the Royal Society in London, so that David Rittenhouse was elected an honorary member.

The career of Rittenhouse much more resembled that of Franklin than of any of his other contemporaries. The people of provincial and revolutionary Pennsylvania fully believed in the genius of Rittenhouse. Like Franklin he was drawn into the maelstrom of revolutionary politics, and followed in Franklin's footsteps as president of that learned society of philosophers which had afforded both men many of their opportunities.
In person, David Rittenhouse was

all and slender, and the expression of his face soft and mild. He had such a sense of honor that he refused to interest in the loans of the State while he was treasurer. It would be unkind to suggest that his knowledge of the true state of the treasury showed that he was at least discreet. He was rather effeminate, and extremely modest and sympathetic. His tastes were simple and plain, and his greatest pleasure was found in the circle of his own home.

The last year of his life was spent in quiet retirement, and he died on the 26th of June, 1796, extolled by Washington and official Philadelphia, and beloved by a people becoming faintly conscious of the scientific development destined to make their nation the greatest upon earth.

Ind GAZETTE
11-17-27

The Man on the Corner

Wagon-Making in Germantown
150 Years Ago

One of the consequences of wartime conditions hereabouts 150 years ago was that Germantown's principal industry, that of manufacturing "Germantown wagons," suffered seriously.

Chaises, carriages and wagons made in Germantown were sought in those days and for many years afterward by the leading families of the land. Members of the Ashmead and Bringham families had established a high reputation for the vehicles which they made and these found a wide sale.

A patron of one of these Germantown wagon manufacturers who was inconvenienced through the capture of Germantown and Philadelphia by the British was Benjamin Harrison, governor of Virginia and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was an ancestor of the two Presidents, William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison.

Just 150 years ago this month, November 7, 1777, Governor Harrison wrote a letter to Robert Morris, in which he mentions his negotiations for the purchase of a "chariot" to be made in Germantown.

The letter discusses some of the questions uppermost in the minds of the American leaders of that time. That was shortly after the Rev. Jacob Duché, of Philadelphia, originally a supporter of the patriot cause, had written to Washington urging that the situation was hopeless for the Americans and it would be better to make the best peace possible with Great Britain. Regarding this letter Harrison wrote:

"I am unable to account for his behavior in but one way, which is that he is out of his head, and this I think may be fairly concluded from his insolent attempt on the most virtuous Washington."

As to his arrangements for procuring a "chariot" from the Germantown manufacturer, Governor Harrison's letter contains the following:

"Before I left Philadelphia I had

agreed with Bringham, of German Town, for a Chariot with four harness compleat to be furnished in the most workmanlike manner for the sum of £310, it was to go on the Carriage except, that it wanted a lining, to get which done and the painting it was sent into the City, if we should again be so happy as to possess ourselves of the Town will you be so obliging as to Demand it and pay him the money and Charge it to either Ben or myself, and let us know when it is ready that it may be sent for by Mr. Peyton Randolph my son-in-law to whom it belongs."

Popularity of the "Germantown Wagon"

The Germantown manufacturer with whom Harrison was dealing was John Bringham, who lived at what is now 5219 Germantown avenue—on the east side of Germantown avenue, south of Bringham street. His shop adjoined his house on the south, at what is now 5215 and 5217 Germantown avenue.

The vehicle which Governor Harrison had ordered for his son-in-law was more elaborate than the "Germantown wagons" for whose manufacture the community was noted and which constituted the principal product of the Bringham shop.

Whether John Bringham or William Ashmead invented the "Germantown wagon" is not entirely clear. The distinction is claimed for both. Both made these wagons, as they were not patented.

The new type of wagons came into use about the time of the Revolution. William Ashmead, a blacksmith whose home was on the west side of Germantown avenue, between School lane and Coulter street, is said to have realized the need of something lighter and more comfortable than the heavy coaches then imported from Europe. Consequently he made a wagon with an open front and of much less weight than the wagons in common use.

This carriage he hired out for \$1 a day, so the tradition goes.

So popular was the light carriage that it was in constant demand. A visitor from Maryland admired it so much that he wanted to buy it. Mr. Ashmead told him it was not for sale, but when the visitor offered £120 for it Ashmead let him have it.

Then he began to take orders for the carriages and found ready sale for all he could build. Mr. Ashmead's son, John continued the wagon-making business.

The Ashmeads and the Bringham had intermarried. John Bringham had been making chaises, and he now took up the manufacture of "Germantown wagons."

The new type of wagons had a wide range of usefulness. The family could drive to church in them. They could be used to haul the farmer's products to market. They were also serviceable in conveying live stock, and for the latter reason they were sometimes called "calf wagons."

Made a "Genteel Chariot" for General Washington

General George Washington also was one of Bringham's customers. That was in 1780.

Washington wrote from the headquarters of the army on March 20 of that year to John Mitchell, deputy quartermaster general, asking that Mitchell inform General Washington "if any good coach-maker in Philadelphia or Germantown (Bringham, for instance) will engage to make me a

genteel chariot with real harness for four horses to go with two postillions. I wish to know the terms and in how short a time it can be done."

Later Washington sent instructions to have his arms and crest "properly displayed on the chariot."

Mitchell wrote in reply:

"This day I went to Germantown and prevailed on Mr. Bringham to let you have a chariot he has on hand. It appears to be good work and well seasoned timber. The size three feet six and one-half inches high and three feet ten inches wide—and will have a very good second cloth or better if to be got. This will be ready in six weeks."

The price paid was £210 in gold. Bringham bought General Washington's old coach, paying £27 for it.

The new chariot was used for the first time the latter part of June, 1780, to carry Mrs. Washington from Philadelphia to Mount Vernon.

Bringham Family's Prominence in Germantown

John Bringham, who was born in 1725, helped to found Germantown Academy, having been a member of the building committee. The site for the Academy building, at School lane and Greene street, was bought from John and George Bringham for £125. John Bringham was a member of the Academy board of trustees for many years, and president of the board from 1787 to 1789.

According to the tax list of 1780 John Bringham was the second wealthiest resident of Germantown.

In the great parade in Philadelphia, in 1788, celebrating the adoption of the federal constitution, John Bringham led the coachmakers, driving two horses attached to a phaeton and carrying a silk flag upon which a coach was depicted.

John Bringham built what was popularly known as "Bringham's big house," at the east corner of Germantown avenue and Bringham street.

Prior to the battle of Germantown Lieutenant Colonel John Bird, of the British army, occupied the Bringham house. He was sick when the battle occurred, but he insisted upon leaving his bed and accompanying his regiment into action. He was wounded in the fight, and died shortly afterward. Colonel Bird was buried with General Agnew in the Lower Burial Ground, Germantown avenue and Logan street. Just before the British evacuated Philadelphia they had both bodies removed to the DeBenneville burial ground, on York road at Branchtown.

In the nineteenth century Jabez Gates owned the Bringham house, and converted it into a store. The building was removed to make room for the fire house now on the site.

Wagon-making was continued in the Bringham shop by Thomas Bringham, who made drums and squares, in addition to coaches. Later Christopher J. Jungkurth manufactured "Germantown wagons" and omnibuses there. At the time of the Civil War many army ambulances were made in the Jungkurth shop.

John Bringham died in 1795. In the nineteenth century his heirs opened Bringham street through his lands and divided the tract into building lots.

A public school erected on Bringham street in the middle of the nineteenth century was called the Bringham School, for the family that had so long been prominent in that region.

69 Some years ago the Board of Education changed the name to General Isaac Wistar School—honoring a man who had no connection with Germantown.

Other members of the Bringhurst family were also engaged in wagon building and kindred industries.

It is said that the property on Market Square, at 5448 Germantown avenue, was owned by Bringhursts as early as 1725 and remained in the possession of descendants until 1843.

George Bringhurst, who lived here in 1752, was a saddle-tree maker. His sons, Robert and William, made carriages.

Early in the nineteenth century Samuel Bringhurst made iron work for carriages in the old building still standing at the front of the grounds of the estate of the late William Wynne Wister, 5140 Germantown avenue.

The dwelling on this property attained historical note because Gilbert Stuart, the famous portrait painter, lived there for a time. The old building that is so conspicuous near the street is often erroneously pointed out as Stuart's studio. The real studio was at the rear, and is no longer in existence.

Record 12-18-27

Honors for Philadelphia's Patriot Printers

No doubt the ferment over American history will do good before it ends. Already, thanks to Mr. John Barr, an enthusiast as well as expert, a practical suggestion has been developed, to wit: Let photostats of the two newspapers issued in Philadelphia by Captain John Dunlap and Lieutenant David C. Claypoole, during the formative period of the United States, be published and placed in the public schools throughout America, so that young students may obtain at first hand contemporary accounts of the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary struggles. These papers, The Pennsylvania Packet, a weekly, dating from 1771—the very year the “s” that looks like an “f” was dropped—and The American Daily Advertiser, which grew out of the weekly in 1784, afford a continuous record from the Stamp Act period to the death of Washington. The 29 years covered by them would necessitate the issue of 29 photostat volumes, with a thirtieth volume devoted to an index. The set owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is complete—the only complete newspaper record of the most important revolution in the history of mankind.

Why have Dunlap and Claypoole been neglected so long? Both were able men, highly honorable and devoted to the public service. Washington appreciated and commended them. Dunlap, a leader of the First City Troop, suffered the hard rubs and knocks of actual campaigning. He would take no pay when he worked for Congress. He lived and died a patriot and founder of the nation, as did Claypoole, a youth in Continental days, a venerable Philadelphian in the first part of the nineteenth century. Like his friend, Charles Thomson, Dunlap was Irish-born. Claypoole had in his veins the blood, and in his head the liberal ideas, of Oliver Cromwell.

These two printers of the Revolution deserve all the honor given them by Mr. Barr and Captain Clement B. Wood, of the First City Troop, in their addresses before the Historical Society. Too long have they been overshadowed and diminished in fame by that greatest of printer-worthies, Benjamin Franklin. Without derogation of Franklin, or detriment to the first magnitude fame universally assigned him, Dunlap and Claypoole may be acclaimed and made much of by our rising generation.

Record 12-16-27

The Valley Forge Sesquicentenary.

In mid-December, 1777, Washington's army left its Whitemarsh camp, to the northward of Philadelphia, where Howe was comfortably quartered, and crossed the Schuylkill at Swedes' ford on a bridge of wagons arranged in a double row, back to back. A new camp was pitched, on the south side of the Great Chester Valley, at Gulf Mills, a little ways beyond what was then Matson's ford, but which is now West Conshohocken. The Gulf was a sheltered and most inviting valley and a good grist mill in camp was mighty useful—but Washington rightly reasoned that Howe could too readily creep up on the Gulf camp, and so he moved his whole army northward across the valley to Valley Forge. Here on the southerly, sunny slopes of Mounts Misery and Joy, with the Schuylkill on one side and Valley creek on another, he built his city of huts and went into winter quarters. From his heights he could view the Schuylkill, Great Chester and Perkiomen valleys and was safe from surprise.

Thus December 19, the date of the occupation of the historic spot, marks the beginning of the Valley Forge sesquicentenary. Next Monday, therefore, we may well pay homage—in thought, at least—and offer the accolade; for on the nineteenth began those months of sacrifice and suffering on the part of the officers and men that make Valley Forge especially memorable and sacred in patriotic annals. Congress and its commissary were remiss. That Congress had been driven from Philadelphia to York partly accounts for the inefficiency, but the fact

remains that it was an autumn and w of politics and intrigue rather than of eration and service. In listening to the way cabalists Congress wasted time should have been used in devising means sustaining and improving the army. Franklin, or heaven, or both, sent Ste to reorganize the ragged regiments, an ended well; but the endurance of the sol is grimly attested by the fact that in cases frozen feet turned black, necessit amputation. It is almost unbelievable hogsheads of shoes and stockings were st on the road for lack of teamsters to them to camp; yet such was the case.

Today a great park, with fine roads beautiful monuments, covers the space pied by the devoted defenders of the A can cause. How grateful we feel when think of the hardships endured by the not to be expressed in mere words; it si be expressed rather in what we do to the same flag further along for the go the land enriched and glorified by sacrifices.

Pennsylvania German Folk Lore

BY E. SCHULTZ GERHARD, M.A.

Department of Languages, Northeast High School, Philadelphia

Following is the second installment of a paper read at a meeting of the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, November 26, 1926.

Pow-wowing

Probably one of the strangest and yet most interesting of all these quaint customs was that of pow-wowing, or the use of magic formulas for the cure of certain diseases.

The word pow-wow is of Indian origin. In English it is "conjuring" for sickness and means a mumbling or muttering.

The real German word is "bruchen," a simple and common word, but it is difficult to give it its proper connotation in this connection. It comes from the Gothic "brukjan" to use, to enjoy the usufruct thereof; the English equivalent is "to brook," to use, to enjoy, to endure.

The art is still practiced by people of German descent in North Carolina, and is therefore also not peculiar to the Pennsylvania Germans; and it is still practiced in certain parts of Germany.

Seemingly it is as old as the German language itself, for some of the earliest remains of Old High German and Old Saxon poetry are the "Segenformen," i. e. set forms for a benediction, etc. Here we have the "Hundesegen" and "Bienensegnen."

These differ but slightly from the formulas for pow-wowing, and date back to the tenth century.

Pow-wowing is more of an art than these simple charms and prescriptions of harmless, homely, and home remedies, and the repetition of a jargon of words; it has its formulas and prescribed methods of application; it is, may we say, more "scientific."

The method of practice was held in great secrecy, almost as much as any obligation a person might take in joining a secret order. It was a subject not to be made light of or even to be talked about.

The art was not to be transmitted indiscriminately to anyone, but always to one of the opposite sex, that is, from man to woman, and then again from woman to man, but never to one of the same sex.

The treatment was applied to both man and beast, and invariably for chronic diseases only: rheumatism,

sprains, skin diseases, erysipelas, sweeney, marasmus, goitre, and the like; and then also to remove pain from cuts, burns, bruises, and for rosebleed and blood flow.

How it is Done

The treatment was very often given in conjunction with some force or aspect of nature: under the spell

of the sun or the moon or some sign of the Zodiac.

Not infrequently one can talk best from one's own experience and observation; and so the writer feels constrained to admit that he remembers that when a boy, just old enough to sit astride a horse, he was sent with a horse afflicted with sweeney to a practitioner, who applied his treatment at sunrise and at sunset, and always three times in succession: one morning and two evenings or two evenings and one morning, and always when the sun was just dropping down behind the horizon or was just peeping up behind. The afflicted part of the animal was always turned toward the sun.

The practitioner with the flat of his hand stroked the afflicted part beginning at the top of the horse's neck down over the front shoulder, over the foreleg, over the hoof, and he was sure to touch the ground. This would seem to serve as a sort of lightning conductor or ground wire for leading off the supposed evil or disease. All the time he was muttering to himself—pow-wowing.

We happened to know another practitioner who plied his craft under the influence of the moon. For instance, if the man or beast was afflicted with sweeney or marasmus, both of which indicated a wasting away of flesh, it was self-evident that the treatment in order to be efficacious had to be administered during the increase of the moon so as to get the wasting flesh to return. If on the other hand you had rheumatism or erysipelas or the like, it was only reasonable to apply treatment during the decrease of the moon. We happened to know in times past four of these practitioners in a distance of six miles.

You could give the practitioner any fee you felt like giving, there was no fixed charge. To have had one would have been against the "rules of the game," it would have been unprofessional, and worst of all it would have spoiled the charm or

spell. And so the treatment seeming to cost nothing, and it was worthless.

Some of them, in addition to their pow-wowing, prescribed home remedies in the way of herbs or some concoction of a kind, and occasionally there was relief, whether from the pow-wowing or from the additional medicinal treatment we will let others judge.

The King of the Pow-wowers

Probably Bucks County, in time, had the Prince of Pow-wowers in the person of Abraham Wenhold, who, according to newspaper accounts, died in 1918. He was 84 years old. He learned the art from his mother, but he knew more than she did and so developed her instruction.

Ever since his marriage he supported himself in the main by his art, and he raised a family of eight. He charged no fees, for reasons already stated, but depended entirely on voluntary contributions. Though he had students in Quakertown, Perkasie, Sellersville, Naceville and Argus, he remained the peer.

His favorite ailments for treatment were consumption and warts; while his "specialties" were rheumatism and nervous complaints. But he very cleverly let cancer and erysipelas severely alone.

He practiced on humans and animals alike, treating the latter for colds, sore throat, stomach troubles and such, accompanied by his medicines of roots, herbs, barks and leaves.

He did not believe in soliciting trade; it should come voluntarily, even though boosted by his friends and the recommendation of his patients.

You could make your first visit any day you wished, but 'repeat' visits had to be made on a Friday. Warts, however, could be removed by mail or telephone.

Philadelphia twenty years ago had a pow-wow doctor in the person of Thomas Marshall, of North Fifth street. In one instance he gained some notoriety by being summoned before the coroner in the case of a 4-month old baby suffering from marasmus. After two physicians had given up all hops for the child the mother, out of sheer desperation took the child to Marshall, who smeared the body of the child with mud and prescribed a herb concoction one drop of which was to be given the child three times daily. Its clothing he ordered to be shaken out of the window and never to be used twice. The child was to be placed out of doors as soon as the sun appeared and left there until the stars stood in the heavens. The child died and he was accused by the coroner for preying on the ignorant and foolish and for receiving money under false pretense, though he claimed he had no fixed charges and guaranteed no cure.

We are confident that those whom we knew as practitioners were devout, pious people who believed in the efficacy of their treatment just as much as they did in the Apostle's Creed. Most of them seemed to look

upon it is a divine gift, like the Charism of healing in the early church.

Almost a thousand years ago, long before any Germans ever thought of coming to America, the British King, Edward the Confessor, 1042, began to touch for the King's evil, namely scrofula. This treatment was supposed to be a divine gift transmitted to the royal sovereign and made effective through his touch.

Occult Books Still Read

There are some rare and noteworthy occult books on this subject, chief among them the "Seventy Book of Moses," containing the seals, signs, and emblems of Moses, Aaron, the Israelites, and the Egyptians; dealing with the magic of second sight, healing the sick, spiritual and sensual affection, divine inspiration, mesmeric clairvoyance, etc. This book has always been considered as the great occult book.

Another noted book is "The Lord's Lost Friend," or book of pow-wows,

printed for the first time in the United States in 1820, and just lately reprinted. It is by John George Hobman, necromancer, who claims that whoever carries this book with him is safe from all enemies, visible or invisible, will not drown in any water nor burn in any fire, and no unjust sentence can be passed upon him.

Still another book of note is "Black and White Art" by Albertus Magnus, a Swabian who died at Cologne in 1280, a most profound scholar, student, philosopher, chemist and magician. Thomas Aquinas was one of his pupils. His writings fill up twenty-one volumes.

These books, among others, were still for sale in a popular book store in Harrisburg in 1925.

We still remember that it was said in our younger days that a novice in reading these books was apt to read himself to a stand still, that is, he would come to point where he could not get any farther, and if he did not know the secret to retrace his steps, he would see and feel all sorts of creeping things—that is, the goblins would get him, if nothing worse.

Some of the formulas were based on texts in Holy Writ, e. g. James 5:14, 15, and others on the Glorification of the Holy Spirit.

Following is the third installment of a paper read at a meeting of the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, November 26, 1926.

Witchcraft Beliefs

When we come to the subject of witchcraft we meet with something very intangible, and, may we say, unprovable, but something which has caused more ill-feeling, more quarrels, more litigation, and more unwarranted suffering than any other aspect of superstition the world over. Probably nothing is more inconsiderate and more worthy of condemnation than to accuse someone else of being in league with the Prince of the Power of Darkness, with the assumption, of course, that whoever has sold his soul to him has been given all power in heaven and earth and in other places.

The literature on this subject is very voluminous. It is immense, and dates way back into the past ages. Some of the world's most learned men have written and discoursed on this subject.

The belief of the Pennsylvania Germans in this old time magic of witchcraft is nothing new; it is really the common heritage of humanity. Their ancestors brought this witchcraft lore from Germany, and the immigrants from the British Isles contemporaneous with the Germans brought their contributions, so that not many years ago many a village or town in the quiet Pennsylvania hills had its witch, its witch doctor, and pow-wower.

Litigation Results

There are any number of witchcraft cases to be found all over the eastern part of the state. We are not giving a complete list. Some are matters of court records; there are charges and countercharges, hearings before magistrates and justices of the peace, and court trials. Such can be found in Schuylkill, Berks, Lebanon, Lancaster, Delaware, York, and Northampton Counties. And ever so many have passed by partly unnoticed.

The writer recalls one instance of thirty years ago where a man accused a widow of bewitching his cows. The accusation acted like a boomerang, for the charge came back to him. He had disgraced himself and not the woman. The woman is dead, but the people in the immediate neighborhood still remember the accusation against the man.

Allegations of witchcraft have been exceedingly rare in Montgomery County, although it is said that a century ago the residents of Flourtown, in the lower end of the county, were exceedingly superstitious; but they had to go outside the county to find a charlatan willing to profit by their credulity and gullibility. This was "Old Schronk," from the Falls of the Schuylkill.

Watson in his Annals says that in those days Flourtown was the peculiar headquarters of witchcraft; and that virtually everybody believed in the evil influence. Consequently "Old Schronk" was in constant demand. The place was in confusion for several years, each person seemingly accusing and charging the other

with this black-art; and they all turned to Schronk to find out the real truth.

The litigations, if any, were not always instituted by the supposed sufferer from the craft of bewitchery, but not infrequently by the person accused of being a witch. He or she would resent the charge and bring suit for slander and defamation of character. In 1905 a woman in Reading entered suit against a man for \$20,000 on such a charge; and in 1922 a woman in Pottstown had a man hauled up before a magistrate for a similar reason.

Probably the latest case of this kind was the one that aroused a good deal of attention in Pottsville a few years ago. We lost sight of this one and so have not further data.

Troubles Blamed on Witches

Any person believed to have this magic power is always thought of as exercising it only out of spite and evil intent. If a farmer's cows did not give as much milk as he thought they ought to, or give bloody milk; if the housewife's butter would not churn or her bread would not raise, or if one of the children had marasmus, or were persistently ailing and fretful, then sure enough some witch had been casting her spell or charm over the subject thus afflicted.

And the person thus accused was invariably some old woman, poor, lonely and homely, possibly eccentric in her ways and actions; and the more of these traits she evinced the more likely was it that she was the one who caused all the trouble and consternation. Just why it is invariably a woman who is the supposed witch is a philosophical, psychological subject and is not germane to our theme.

York County Case

Unfortunately the writer never knew a witch, never saw one, nor the manifestations of anyone's black art. So we will recount a story as told by a farmer from York County who in 1905 tried to bring suit before an alderman against a supposed witch. And we will give it in his own words.

"I had gone to the woods to work when a stranger appeared at my door and asked to be loaned a pair of trace chains. Though he was a stranger and my wife was averse to give him the chains she could not resist the strange power which the man seemed to exercise over her, and so he got the chains.

These chains were missing three days when all kinds of trouble overtook me and mine. My baby got sick, my wife was seized with fainting fits. I lost my appetite and could not sleep because there were strange noises in the house and in the barn. Both my cows became sick, and my horses became unmanageable. Even the chickens seemed to be affected. They refused to eat and stood around drooping.

"In the morning when I would go into the garden I would find plants and flowers torn from the ground and replanted with roots inverted and exposed.

"I sent for a witch doctor, he said he would put a spell upon the witch.

"The trace chains were found back in my barn the next day. They had been returned during the night, and my neighbor had been seen by other neighbors to have them in use and

o return them.
"Now, witches have the power to change their appearance so that those who are familiar with them cannot know them. That is exactly what my neighbor resorted to when he came to borrow the trace chains. I know he is a witch and that he has 'hexed' other neighbors.

"When the traces were returned to my barn, all the troubles in my home and on the farm ended."

This farmer was much disappointed when told by the alderman that he had no case against his neighbor; so he berated the lawmakers of the State for not providing laws to punish witches. Witch cases cannot stand court trial; you cannot pro-

duce the evidence. When is a person a witch and when not?

Witch Doctors

We will now turn to the counterpart, namely the witch doctor, who is supposed to possess the art of breaking the spell and of bringing the witch to terms.

If Bucks County had the Prince of Pow-wowers, then Berks County had the Prince of Witch Doctors, and that in the person of Joseph Hagenman, of Reading, who died in 1905 at the age of 73; his taking away was an occasion for mourning through the whole Berks County region. He was undoubtedly the most popular and the most respected and well-to-do witch doctor in his day in the entire state. He was the high priest and prophet of his craft. He was for many years a practicing physician and eventually acquired the reputation of being a witch doctor.

His dingy office, we are told, was frequently crowded with patients, many coming long distances to seek his prayers and potions, his charms and talismans. These persons, in the utmost confidence and simplicity, went to Hagenman to get their bewitched children and live stock released from the spell which hovered over them. Their rest was gone, they could not sleep, their peace of mind was gone, in other words they were bewitched — "verhexed"; and just mere medicine would not suffice to restore them to health and sanity. To accomplish this it was necessary that some systerious charm or talisman be hung around neck or leg, and some cabalistic mummeries, or nine-days soothsaying, or some hocus pocus had to be gone through with.

We are told furthermore that to see a half dozen farmers' teams in front of his home was a usual sight on market day. These people paid good money and thought it well invested, and for years afterwards continued to trust in his charms. If the patient persistently did not get well and stubbornly died—well, that was all in the course of a lifetime. They had gone to Hagenman, the last resort when all other efforts failed—and that settled it.

Methods of Treatment

When he had diagnosed a case he turned to the region of alchemy for the cure-all charm. This was his chief stock in trade. This charm consisted of a small canvas bag pinned at both ends and bearing on one side the letters "I. N. R. J." and three crosses. The letters stood for, "Jesus, King of the Jews," in Latin. To most people even Latin is "Greek." Inside of the bag was a

card containing inscriptions in Greek, Latin, German and Hebrew. This very likely was a charm or prayer. This talisman was hung around the neck or some other part of the body.

At other times he gave cards to be placed under the pillow of the patient and ordered a cross made of salt to be placed at the foot of the bed. The cards bore a prayer with an anagram at the end.

The ills of babies was one of his specialties. Here is a case in point: A woman took her baby to him and said it was hypnotized or bewitched; so he gave her two powders, ordering her to give them to the child when the bell on St. Paul's Catholic Church struck 6. He directed her furthermore to make a sign of the cross with salt at the foot of the cradle. To the father he gave brimstone which he was to put in a crock, set it on fire, then strip the child of its clothing and to hold it as near the flames as possible without burning it. This ordeal was to be repeated nine times. The object was

to find the witch. We are not told whether she was found or not.

This witch doctor had previously treated a young child of the same family. In this case he gave the mother a razor which she was to place under the child's pillow with the edge up, and then to wait for a sign. At midnight there was a sound as if a heavy person had fallen out of bed. And this was the sign. The next morning the woman's landlady came to the house and complained she could not sleep. Hagenman declared the landlady was the witch, and so the family moved out of the house.

This witch doctor also pretended to cure animals. A prosperous cattle dealer in the vicinity of Reading found that his pigs were sick and that his horses and cows were off their feed; so he sent for Hagenman who, of course, declared they were bewitched. He bored holes in the feeding troughs and stuffed in something wrapped in muslin; and told the man not to borrow or loan out anything for nine days. When Hagenman came the next time he brought along some papers containing the mystic symbols "I. N. R. J." and nailed them up in the stables. The cattle dealer declared that immediately after this treatment his animals got well and that he sold as nice stock as any dealer in the county.

Indisposed animals of other farmers were treated by this "doctor" in the same way.

A woman in Reading had trouble to get her bread to raise; she at once concluded it was bewitched. So she bought one of Hagenman's charms and put it in the bottom of the bread tray—and the loaves immediately got better—and such bread!

Never Burned Nor Hanged Witches

The practice of witchcraft among the Pennsylvania Germans never came within reach of the fanatic cruelty once so prevalent in Europe, and which has given Salem, Mass., such an unenviable notoriety in American history, seemingly a blot in the escutcheon of that state for all time. The Pennsylvania Germans never burned any witches nor have they even hanged any. The superstitious beliefs of these people have disappeared remarkably during the

last twenty-five years.

It is to be expected that with the diffusion of knowledge and of general enlightenment many more will disappear. But man's belief in the supernatural will never wholly vanish. In the saecula saecularum, i. e. in the age of ages, man will still believe with Hamlet that the earth hath bubbles and that these are of them, and that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Ind. Gazette 11-27-27

The Early Years of the Germantown Y. M. C. A.

The following history of the Germantown Young Men's Christian Association was placed in the cornerstone of the association's new building recently. The sketch was prepared by W. Beaumont Whitney in 1896.

The writer has been asked to give a history of our Association, not because specially fitted for the duty, but because he is one of the few who have continued active connection with the Association since its organization.

Before giving the history of the present association, it is proper to record that there had previously existed in Germantown an association for a short time. It was organized in the year 1858, and its president was Henry S. Tarr, who was very active and energetic in building up the association and in endeavoring to carry it on. But, from circumstances which are unknown to us, it had only a short existence.

We are sure that this could not have been caused by any lack of energy or ability on the part of its officers, amongst whose names we find the leading citizens of Germantown, some of whom are members of our first board. B. B. Comegys, president of the Philadelphia National Bank, was a member of one of the committees, as was also Thomas Mackellar.

Mr. Comegys showed his interest in the new organization by delivering an interesting address to its members on the "Passion Play of Oberammergau."

T. Charlton Henry, whose memorial room will keep bright his memory for many years, was also one of the early supporters and one of the best friends of the association as long as he lived, as was also Enoch Taylor.

Other names appear in the list of managers and committees who have never been connected with the present association and who have passed away long since.

The large Bible presented by the Philadelphia Bible Society, and now used by our association, belonged to this original association, and was no doubt used by them, as it is now by us, at all meetings. The Bible was presented by George Heberton, one of the original members, and turned over to the society by him, and he states that a delegation from the Germantown association attended the first anniversary

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of the Philadelphia association, held in the Chambers Presbyterian Church, on Broad street.

The first meeting of those favorable to the present organization was held December 13, 1870, in Market Square Presbyterian Church, where a few subsequent meetings were held, culminating in the meeting held in the basement of the First Baptist Church, on Price street, on the evening of January 30, 1871.

The present organization originated, we think we may say without fear of contradiction, with its first president, William Adamson, who gave time, money and efficient oversight to the organization as long as he lived.

Mr. Adamson tendered his resignation more than once, but finally in such wise that the board was compelled to accept it, on the 26th of June, 1877, and at a meeting held June 30, 1877, William Brockie was elected to succeed Mr. Adamson. Mr. Brockie was one of the originators and secretaries of the early meeting for organization.

From the time the association was organized, January 30, 1871, rooms were engaged at 4767 Main street, where the work was carried on in the second and third stories of the building, while the lower story, for a part of the time at least, was occupied by a saloon, thus bringing under the same roof very opposite enterprises.

[According to the old method of street numbering, 4767 Main street was on the east side of Germantown avenue, south of Church lane.]

Our charter was granted on the 26th of November, 1871, and as the work prospered and was pressed by the indefatigable, energetic, and capable president, larger quarters were needed, and after much consultation and great anxiety the building of the First Presbyterian Church, which occupied the site of the present magnificent building, was purchased, the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church making a donation to the association of \$3000 rather than accept a higher price, which they could have had from those who wished it for different purposes. We occupied the building February, 1873.

During the whole time of Mr. Adamson's presidency it was his desire and ambition to erect on the lots in front of the old church building stores and additional rooms which the association needed, and plans were more than once submitted for such a building, hoping that the income from the stores would be sufficient to supply the deficit in the expenses, which have always been much more than the income from all sources, including members' dues. The difficulty in securing the needed means for this purpose has resulted in the erection of this beautiful building, which is so admirably adapted to all uses of the association.

Upon the declination of Mr. Brockie to be again elected, W. Beaumont Whitney was elected president of the association in May, 1885, and continued to hold that office for two years, at the expiration of which the association was able to persuade J. Bayard Henry to accept the position, for which he was peculiarly fitted in every way, notwithstanding that his connection with the association had previously been only that of a member. The wisdom of this choice has been demonstrated by the results, which are plain to every one.

The contract for the present building was entered on the 16th of May, 1881, and early in September, 1892, it was completed ready for the furniture and occupation, which was only delayed until we could secure the means

to equip it with furniture, heating, lighting, and gymnastic appliances.

It is estimated that \$30,000, in addition to the \$50,000 which were secured before the contract was made for the building, will give us all the means necessary to thoroughly equip the building for the work, and it is earnestly hoped that our friends will be enabled to put us in possession of this money at a very early period.

The work of the association is so well known to be that of elevating and refining the young men who are to be in the future our rulers, professional men, and citizens, that it is only necessary to say that this has been continually in the minds of those connected with the association, and has resulted in increasing the membership from the organization of the association, which was 38, to 430, which was the number when we entered the contract for the new building. The membership was 306 at the time of the purchase of the Presbyterian Church, and has varied from that time to this.

One of the most efficient aids to the board of managers in the conduct of its work has been the Ladies' Auxiliary, which was organized on the 6th of June, 1882, and has been in active and useful operation ever since, though it suffered a severe blow in the loss of its first president, Mrs. M. H. Stevens, who was taken suddenly from her sphere of action.

Mrs. John T. Roberts was chosen to fill the vacancy in June, 1884. She resigned in June, 1887, and Mrs. R. T. Widdrop was chosen as president, and has continued to fill the office very efficiently ever since.

The refined taste of the ladies has been frequently exhibited in making changes and improvements which the board could not otherwise have secured, and the historian who should fail to make record of their active work would be wanting in proper appreciation.

The completion of the present building in all its beauty and adaptation to the work of the association will, we trust, prove the beginning of the era of great success and increasing usefulness.

It is hoped that all citizens of Germantown will feel that this building and the work going on within its walls are their own, and each feel called upon to do his full share in supplying it with sympathy, co-operation and means needed to make it successful.

Since the erection of the new building the work of the Association has gone on vigorously, and, as we believe, very successfully, the educational classes being well attended and the membership considerably increased.

A visit by any of our friends to our hall will show, we think, that great advances have been made in all departments of our work, and we are pleased to record that the number of those aiding our work by their contributions has been considerably increased, and we wish to acknowledge the great encouragement this has been to the management and its officers and aids.

Experience shows that the arrangement of the building and its facilities were intelligently comprehended and provided for by the committee, who gave their time and attention to the same.

The auditorium, which, as has been explained to our friends, was the cause of the mortgage which we are now rejoicing in extinguishing, has proven, we think, a valuable aid to those who desire the moral and mental advancement of Germantown. The University

Extension lectures, which have been held the past winter in this hall, have been well attended and fully appreciated, so that we think all who have the real welfare of Germantown at heart will sympathize with us in the pleasure and relief we feel in the occupancy of our building without debt upon it.