Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER

"Schuylkill" was the Dutch name given to the river that was known to the Indians as "Menejeck," "Manajung," "Manaiunk," or as Holmes map has it labeled, "Nittabaconck," which was simply another Indian appellation.

"Schuylkill" in the Dutch signifies, "the hidden river" and was bestowed on the local stream on account of its peculiar confluence with the Delaware. In coming up the larger stream, the Schuylkill could have been easily passed by explorers strange to the locality.

Tradition tells us that the Indians called the Schuylkill the "mother," and what is now known as the Little Schuylkill, above Reading, was called "Onteelaunee" meaning "a little daughter of a great mother."

In a letter, Governor Stuyvesant, in referring to the Schuylkill, in 1644, said that the Dutch discovered the "Varsche Rivierte"—that is, the little fresh-water river—in 1628.

Watson, in his Annals, puts forth an interesting theory, that at one time the Schuylkill may have, ages previous to the landing of the white man, passed into the Delaware through the Cohocksink creek.

He says, "I have heard it conjectured that the flat ground of Pegg's marsh, and the low ground of Cohocksink swamp, are the beds of the Schuylkill, which may have passed there before the Fairmount barrier gave away—one channel coming from Fairmount to Pegg's swamp, and the other from the Falls of Schuylkill by Cohocksink."

The high hills at the upper end of Laurel Hill Cemetery and of Chamonicux, across the river, are supposed to have been, at the time, one continuous hill which swerved the river over towards the Cohocksink creek.

Watson goes on to say, "A fact occurred in November, 1832, which goes to confirm the theory advanced, that the Schuylkill once passed from the Falls, by way of the Cohocksink Creek. In making a cofferdam—the first one on the eastern side—to form a foundation of the railway bridge (he referred, of course, to the original structure,) below Peter's Island, they came, at the depth of 30 feet of excavation, to the stump of a tree, completely embedded in the soil, thus evincing that the course of the river had been changed from ts original channel." The old historian refers, for substantiation to Poulson's Gazette, of November 26, 1832.

James K. Helms, the Wissahickon historian, who is employed by the Otis Elevator Company, states that when his company was installing an elevator at the E. G. Budd plant, on Hunting Park avenue, that he asked the foreman in charge of the drilling operation, what sort of soil he had struck, and the foreman's answer upheld the old theory of Watson's for the various alluvial stratas that were drilled through proved that the place was once a great river bed.

Followers of Izaak Walton, in the old days, before the Schuylkill river dams were built and the stream polluted by mine water and chemicals from the industrial plants along its banks, must have gloried in the sport to be obtained in piscatorial achievements.

Godfrey Shronk, the famed old fisherman of the Falls, related to historians, that he had caught as many as 3000 catfish, in a single night, with a dip-net, in the river near his home. William Penn, in a communication, dated in 1683, speaks of a "Captain Smith, at Schuylkill" who drew "600 shads at a draught."

There is a record of a peculiar deed, dated May 2, 1681, from Peter Peterson Yocum, a Swede, to Neils Joanson, for 200 acres of land to begin "at a creek on the west side of the Schuylkill above Arromink, called the Little Quarnes falls, and thence up along the river to the Great Hill," being a part of the original holding of 1100 acres that belonged to Captain Flans Modens—supposedly Moens—a relative of Hans Moens, the pioneer mill builder at the Falls of Schuylkill—by a patent grant from Governor Lovelace of New York.

The Great Hill has been located, by far greater historians than this humble scribe, as near Conshohocken, and the Quarnes—or quarries—as the Little Falls. This little falls must have been farther up the river than the great falls, known as the Falls of Schuylkill.

Phillip K. Nicklin, writing under the nom de plume of "Peregrine Prelix" was the author of a book entitled "A Pleasant Peregrination Through the Prettiest Parts of Pennsylvania." The author inscribed the volume to John Guilleman, a Fellow of the Royal Society, of London, and spoke of the unbroken friendship between them for forty years, and referred, in verse to the changes that had taken place along the Schuylkill, as a consequence of

the inventions, which to us, now, seem very primitive or clumsy.

The scenes described, my friend, did greet,
Before the steamboats mighty powers,
Had shortened English miles to feet,
And months to days and days to hours.

His memory yet, "The Hut" recalls,
Tht stands on Schuylkill's western shore,
A mile or less below the Falls,
Above the town, three miles or more.

Together there, the stream we viewed,
The forest roamed and climbed the hill,
Threaded the alleys of the wood,
And heard the gurgling of the rill.

This little book will show how changed
These scenes are now, by human art
How cunning engineers have ranged,
The land of Penn, in every part.

Leveled the mountains, raised the valleys,
Made straight the crooked, smoothed the rough,
Cut tunnels through the hills and alleys,
And through the forest dense and tough.

"The Hut," it may be said, was the house which stood in the Lansdowne region of Fairmount Park, and was part of the estate of the Bingams, when the main Lansdowne Mansion was their country abode.

The history and traditions of the Schuylkill furnishes enough material to write several volumes and the writer of this column would like to attempt to write a larger article, at some future date, and asks his readers to be content with the few facts that have been presented above, until he has more time to "dig into the past" and bring forth a further supply of Schuylkill river history.

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

TEDYUSCUNG

Tom Daly, in a little book, entitled "The Wissahickon," published by The Garden Club, of Philadelphia, in 1922, ridicules the Wissahickon tradition concerning one of its foremost Indian characters, Tedyuscung, who, most people believe, is the character portrayed by a picture in marble, which is mounted high on a bluff of the Upper Wissahickon, known as Indian, or Council Rock.

We agree with Daly, that "it is a curious and regrettable fact that in all the historical and legendary records of the Wissahickon, there is little mention of the native red man."

Tedyuscung, the one who is mentionmost, paced up and down the hills of the Wissahickon about the year 1758, or probably a little earlier. John Fanning Watson, in his famed Annals says of this copper-colored frequenter of our miniature mountain gorge, "Tedyuscung was a Delaware chief and a frequent visitor to Philadelphia from 1750 to 1760. By this means and his frequent intercourse with the whites he had acquired a competent knowledge of our language; he was a tall, large figure of a man, who regarded himself at home in the Norris family, where he was always welcomed; he generally had some retinue with him and affected the character of something superior as a sovereign; he was addicted to occasional excess in drinking.

"Governor Dickinson used to relate that he attended a treaty, at Albany,, where Tedyuscung was a negotiator; while there, at a time when the chief was making an ill-timed speech, being excited by a surplus of strong drink, his wife, who was present, was heard to speak in the most modest and silvery tones imaginable in the Indian tongue. The melody of her tones enchanted every ear while she spoke. She looked steadfastly at the ground and everybody was curious to inquire of the chief what she said. He answered rudely, 'Ho! she's nothing but a poor weak woman! She has just told me that it was unworthy the dignity and the reputation of a great king, like me, to show myself drunken before the council of the nation'."

In the Independent Gazette, of Germantown, in 1922, appeared a series of articles entitled "Along the Wissahickon" in which the writer, who is an acknowledged authority on local history, gives an interesting account of Council Rock, on which the statue of the Indian Chief is mounted in Fairmount Park.

He says, "Council Rock is a spot with which are connected many traditions of the Indians that once roamed these lands. On this rock, 150 feet above the creek, stands a striking marble statue of an Indian, garbed in war dress, grasping an arrow in one hand and shading his eyes with the other, as he crouches and peers towards the west, apparently contemplating the departure of his race before the advance of the white man."

According to the Germantown writer, the statue was erected by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Henry, and was presented to the Fairmount Park Commission on June 14, 1902. The statue was the work of J. Massey Rhind, a New York sculptor. The marble is a representation of Tedyuscung, who was known as the king of the Delawares. He and his tribe and their ancestors before them for many, many years, held the councils of their nation on the spot where the statue stands. In that place, about 1758, the Delawares lit their last council fire before they departed for the reservation set aside for them in the Wyoming valley.

Judge Samuel W. Pennypacker, who afterward became governor of Pennsylvania, made an address at the time the statue was unveiled, and in it he said, "Tedyuscung was the most distinguished of the Delaware Indians. He was capable of drinking a gallon of whiskey, in one day, without it having any visible effect on him."

Tedyuscung was converted to the Moravian faith and was baptized with the name Gideon. The white people as a rule, called him "Honest John."

The chief gained fame in negotiations begun about 1755, between the Provincial Government and the Indians, for payment for lands, and to assign a permanent reservation. Councils at which both sides were represented were held at Easton, Pa., and in other places, at which times Tedyuscung was usually the leader, not only for his own tribe but also for any of the other tribes that were concerned.

In 1758 Tedyuscung and his subjects took up their place of residence in the Wyoming Valley, near the present site of the city of Wilkes-Barre, which had been granted to them as a reservation. In 1762 a council was held in Lancaster, at which time the English king's

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answer relative to compensation for lands was received. The Delawares were granted a "gift" of 400 pounds and goods of equal value, providing Tedyuscung withdrew his charge that he had uttered, wherein he accused the government officials of stealing the Indian's land. This was humilitating to Tedyuscung, but in deference to the welfare of his people he did so. This was his last appearance as a councilor and diplomat.

The Delaware's sense of humor was manifested on a visit he paid to the city, when a Quaker, discovering the chief sitting drunk on a Market street sidewalk said, "Ah, Chief, how is this? I thought thee was a good Moravian!" Tedyuscung's reply was "Ugh! Chief no Moravian now. Chief turned Quaker yesterday."

Tedysucurg was burned to death, after a drunken orgy in 1763, at the tribe's village along the Susquehanna.

In the Wissahickon region of Council Rock, many Indian relics have been found in past years, consisting of arrow heads, beads, and various other trinkets.

Rebben Sands once conducted a hotel, near the locality, which became a favorite resort of Philadelphia politicians, but when the Park Commission acquired the property Sands moved to a roadhouse on Mcnastery avenue, close to the Creek, and gave it the name of "Indian Rock Hotel." This too, has long since disappeared.

SCCAFF

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

AT THE FOOT OF DOMINO LANE

In one of our strolls we started from Upper Roxborough down Domino lane, toward the Schuylkill River.

Starting from Ridge avenue, the lane runs east for about three good city blocks, and then abruptly turns to the south, around an "S" curve and thence southeasterly to the river, all the time descending the hill.

There are still a few farmhouses standing close to the old road, but after the final curve there is little left to mark its old course except a few deserted lampposts. It is doubtful whether they are ever lighted, at least beyond the last dwelling.

After passing the last house on the hill, the once-popular highway has taken on the form of an extremely rocky footpath and descends at such a sharp grade as would prove a severe test for any of man's modern mechanical devices. It seems marvelous to us in this age of automobile that horses were ever able to haul heavy loads up this incline.

Near the foot of the hill is a brick-arched brownstone bridge which carries the tracks of the Schuylkill Valley Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad over the old lane. This structure was erected in 1883, when the road was still in use, but now apparently simply serves, in addition to supporting the tracks, as a rendezvous of tramps and thrill-seeking school boys. There are the remains of many extinguished camp-fires and little trace of the one-time road remains. A little rivulet ripples through the huge arch on its way to the greater stream 300 yards eastward.

At the Norristown Branch of the Reading Railway, the old tunnel which formerly permitted the road to go under the railroad right of way became weakened by years of use and was filled in with dirt and the ends walled up, and all signs of Domino lane have vanished.

Down along the Schuylkill Canal banks, on the west side of the Reading's tracks, still stands the ancient Domino lane road house—or Domino House—whence the thoroughfare received its name.

The men who owned the grist mills along the Wissahickon Creek had large quantities of their grain shipped from Central Pennsylvania, by way of the canal boats, to storehouses along the Schuylkill, near Flat Rock. The millers would drive their teams up old Shurs lane, then along Ridge road and down Domino lane to the river, to receive the grain for the mills.

At times it was necessary to wait for the arrival of the boats and it was the millers' custom to while away the time by playing dominoes. Hence the name, Domino House, and the lane acquired its cognomen from the old road house.

The building is probably more than a hundred years old, and is occupied by Winfield F. Guiles, the 74-year-old lock-keeper of Flat Rock dam.

Originally it was a two-storied structure, but some fifty years ago another floor was added. Guiles himself extended the chimney of the house up and past the line of the roof.

The agile locktender has worked for the canal company for sixty-five years, first for the Schuylkill Navigation Company, before that concern was taken over by the Reading interests. For forty-three years he has been in charge of the Flat Rock station. He patrols the river in a little motor boat, being responsible for the care of the canal from Bridgeport to tidewater—or Fairmount Dam.

He began his river career at what was called the "little Reading dam" below the city of Reading, and he has a vivid recollection of the drowning of seven persons, who went over the falls at Flat Rock, in 1901. The accident happened on Memorial Day, when a picnic party in a hired rowboat approached too close to the dam breast and were drawn over the falls.

A brick lock-house was erected on the island between the canal and the river, in 1909, and bears a stone with this legend: "Lock No. 68—Flat Rock —1819-1909."

Just below Guiles' house, but across the canal, there stands a modern city sewer manhole, sticking high above the ground, which according to Mr. Guiles, marks the eastern end of the old Flat Rock bridge over the Schuylkill, which was carried away in the autumn flood of 1850. There is also one of the old abutments standing down close to the river's edge.

The old riverman says that in the spring of 1850 a marble-laden wagon which came down Domino lane from Ridge road, on its way to deliver the load of stone somewhere along Mill Creek, broke through the flooring of

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the bridge and the conveyance and horses were lost in the river. In the fall of the same year there came a huge flood which washed the bridge away for all time.

Across the Schuylkill, close to the spot where the west end of the old Flat Rock bridge rested, still stands the Tunnel Road House, which was frequented by teamsters on their way to the western parts of Pennsylvania, previous to the construction of the canal.

Guiles' father, John Guiles, was among those old-time teamsters and drove a Conestoga wagon loaded with merchandise from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, over this old road.

The River road in those days formed a part of what is now the East River drive, in Fairmount Park. Up this road came the teams of the western-bound travelers, thence up and over Robeson's hill, by way of Ridge road, to Domino lane and down the lane to the river, where on the east bank of the stream the River road separated into two branches, one up the east side and the other over the Flat Rock bridge, and up the western bank of the Schuylkill. The western road, it is said, was the better for the heavier loaded teams.

Part of this old road still remains in use. Almost all trace of the eastern road is lost, although just above Guiles house it can be traced a few hundred feet to a place where the railroad curves and then it is lost.

Guiles said that it usually took his father six weeks to make the trip to Pittsburgh, with a seven-horse team, three pairs being two-abreast and one animal out in front as a lead horse. In winter time, or rough weather, the trip consumed a greater length of time.

The island which is between the canal and the river is known to the old locktender as Venice Island. Its upper end, near Flat Rock, presents a pleasing appearance, but the paper mills have destroyed any beauty the lower end may once have had.

This is the vicinity of Domino lane as we know it. SCCAFF.

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

150 YEARS AGO

'Twas a hot summer day—August 1, to be exact—in 1777 that George Washington and his army marched from Coryell's Ferry, on the Delaware river, down the Old York Road to what is now known as Church lane, in the Oak Lane section of our city, and west on that thoroughfare, through the streets of Germantown, to a camp-site on Queen Lane at Fox street, which at this time is occupied by the Queen Lane Filtration plant, of the city water bureau.

And so, this week is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the "camp by the Schuylkill Falls."

The commander-in-chief believed that the British troops would land from a fleet, in the Delaware, and hastened to Philadelphia to be in readiness to repel them. He left his army at the Falls and pressed on to Chester, where he inspected the defenses of the Delaware, below Philadelphia.

After a week's stay, the American commander had not heard of the expected British fleet and broke camp and with his army started back to New York.

The army camped at the Falls was the Second Continental Army that had been raised and numbered in the neighborhood of 11,000 men, according to the papers of Marquis Lafayette, who was a visitor to the camp. Dr. Charles K. Mills, in his "Military History of the Falls of Schuylkill" tells of a court martial which was held on August 7, 1777, at Palmer's Tavern, on Ridge avenue, below Queen Lane, when the Americans were camped in the locality. He also speaks of a meeting of the general officers who were called together to find out why the pay abstracts had not been made out properly. This meeting convened at the headquarters of General Stephens, which were in the old Smith Mansion, on Plush Hill, overlooking the Schuylkill river, on the south side of Queen Lane.

While the American forces were resting on the Queen lane site, General Washington made his headquarters in the house of Henry Hill, which still stands on Queen Lane, just west of Wissahickon avenue.

Washington, in a letter written from Carlton, said: "The army at the camp by Schuylkill Falls, composed of troops from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina was the second one raised for the cause of Independence. It was the successor of that 1776, which enlisted in front of Boston and fought at Long Island, Harlem Heights, White Plains, Trenton and at Princeton."

At the time Washington made his headquarters on Queen lane, at Carlton, the home of Henry Hill, the estate was largely confined to North Penn Township, although part of it extended past School House Lane, into Roxborough Township and until 1840 the place was known as "the plantation in Roxborough." Some of Washington's official and private letters were addressed from "the camp by Schuylkill Falls" and others from "Roxborough."

Hill was a Maryland man who had come to Philadelphia and established a wine selling business. A stone on the Midvale avenue wall—the property's present northerly boundary—has carved on it, the following wards: "Ruined by the War of 1777—Rebuilt more firmly by the trusty Isaac Tustin." Henry Hill, its owner during the tempestuous days of the Revolution, died of the yellow fever in 1798.

Cornelius S. Smith bought Carlton in 1840 and he and the succeeding generations of his family have lived in it ever since.

General Green, of Rhode Island, Knox of Massachusetts, Stirling and Maxwell of New Jersey, Wayne and Moylan of Pennsylvania, Stephen, Muhlenberg, Weedon and Morgan of Virginia and Nash of North Carolina were the commanders of the ill assorted but valorous army that camped on the filtration plant site.

Again, in September of the same year, after the Battle of Brandywine, Washington's army returned to their old camp and Lieutenant James McMichael, who kept a diary during the entire period of his enlistment, recorded the following: "September 13: At sunrise we crossed the Schuylkill Bridge—(at Market street) and turning to the left to avoid the city, proceeded to the Falls of Schuylkill and at 11 A. M. reached the site of our former encampment, near Germantown, where we encamped and put up our tents which we had been without for a week."

On this same date, Washington, in order to console the men of his army, which was made up of perhaps 10,000 men, "indifferently armed, ragged, lacking military discipline, but invincible in the ardor of patriotism," to give them good cheer for the ill-success at Brandywine, at that time the

most disastrous for the "ragged Continentals" diplomatically said, "The General, with peculiar satisfaction, thanks the gallant officers and soldiers who on the 11th instant, bravely fought in their country's cause. Although the incidents of that day, from some unfortunate circumstances, were not so favorable as could be wished for, the General has the satisfaction of assuring the troops that from every account he has been able to obtain the enemy's loss vastly exceeded ours."

Lieutenant McMichael also recorded the departure from the Falls in these words: "September 14: At 9 A. M., we marched from camp, near Germantown, N. N. W., a few miles up the great road from Philadelphia to Reading (Now Ridge avenue) then turning W. S. W., we crossed the Schuylkill, in the center between Philadelphia and Swedesford, eight miles from each. (This was at Levering's Ford, in Manayunk.) We reached the great road to Lancaster, at Merion Meeting House and proceeded up that road, where we encamped in an open field, being denied every desirable refreshment."

Thus it is recorded that Washington, when he left the Falls after two days rest, recrossed the Schuylkill, on September 15, to battle Howe's army once more.

The late Rt. Reverend Monsignor W. J. Walsh, who died on July 8 of this year, the rector of St. Bridget's R. C. Church, in East Falls, was the writer of a brief history of the local parish, in which he stated: "One day while the troops were quartered in these now familiar places, they were joined by a slim, boyish-looking eager-eyer stranger who bore about him the marks of French origin.

He made his way along a ravine, which is now Midvale avenue, to a little house, where General Washington had his headquarters. After he came out it became known that he was the Marquis Lafayette and that he had journeyed thither to offer his sword and his fortune to the men who were struggling for America's Independence."

In the columns of the Public Ledger, of September 6, 1876—Centennial year—there appeared the following reference to Lafayette: "At the age of twenty he landed from his own vessel, at North Island, in Winyaw Bay, on the coast of South Carolina, in April 1777. He brought credentials and dispatches from the Commissioners of the United States in Paris. In his twenty-first year, five days after his twentieth birthday, September 11, 1777, in his first battle at Chadd's Ford, he commenced his experience of actual warfare by getting a wound, which he did not, however, abate his courage or cause him to remit his gallant service."

And so, if Lafayette did not enlist with the American forces at their first camp in the Falls of Schuylkill, he did so a short time after they had left here.

The old camp has received the attention of numerous writers, chief among them whom are Dr. Charles K. Mills, in his "Military History of the Falls of Schuylkill;" William S. Baker, in his large collection of Washingtonia; Bernard Dowdall in his "History of the Falls of Schuylkill;" Joseph G. Rosengarten in "The German Allied Troops, in the North American War for Independence, 1776-1783" which was translated from the German of Max von Eelking, of Albany, N. Y.; Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, in his historical novel "Hugh Wynne"; by Anthony M. Hance, in a speech delivered on July 4, 1911 at Independence Hall; by James K. Helms, in his "Historical Notes" and by Edward W. Hocker, in his current serial, in the Germantown Independent Gazette, entitled, "On the Trail of Washington's Army, 150 years After."

SCCAFF.

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

Have you ever heard of the Temple of Knowledge? No? Well then for the benefit of our interested readers, we're going to set down a few facts that we learned on one or two of our visits to "the Temple."

It is our understanding that when the course of Belmont avenue is changed, to connect with the new Green Lane Bridge, over the Schuykill, it will be necessary to demolish the old buildings which stand on the northwest corner of Belmont avenue and River road.

Some of these buildings were originally used as part of the Ashland Dyewood Company's plant, which afterward became known as the Ashland Paper Mills, and were owned by Heft Rudolph and Dixon. It was in this paper mill that the owners, at one time sold 80 reams of paper each day to William Singerly, which was used in the publishing of the Philadelphia Record, when that newspaper was printed at Third and Chestnut streets. From this same West Manayunk mill the Record purchased it's first roll paper, the initial roll being 4 and a half miles in length. In 1890 the owner of the Record, organized the Singerly Pulp and Paper Company, with a capital of $500,000. He also constructed a mill at Elkton, Md., and made paper for eight years. Then, in the stupendous crash of all the Singerly interests, banking, publishing and manufacturing, in 1898, the mill was lost with the rest and passed into other hands.

Jacob Heft, one of the members of the Ashland Paper Mills firm, it is said, at one time, owned all of the Wissahickon Turnpike, and maintained several toll gates along that highway, which ran up and down along the banks of the Wissahickon Creek. In 1869, this road was taken over, with the rest of the surrounding territory and included in Fairmount Park, and the road is now familiar to people of today as the Wissahickon Drive.

John W. Dixon, also one of the papermaking firm, held 28 patents on the manufacture of paper. His brother, William F. Dixon, who is still living and a frequenter of the "Temple of Knowledge" was one of the organizers and president of the 21st Ward Board of Trade and also represented the northwestern ward in the Common Councils of Philadelphia. While serving in that body he acted as chairman of the Committee on Highways, at the time the Walnut Lane bridge over the Wissahickon Creek was authorized. He is the present secretary of the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteers, which in preparation for the Civil War, was recruited at Camp Stokley, on the present site of the Queen Lane Pumping Station. Mr. Dixon is also a member of the Committee on Homes, of the I. O. O. F.

The 88th's secretary has a vivid memory of matters concerning happenings in this locality. In one of his talks he mentioned Simon Markley, who in 1860, acted as "mine host" at the Valley Green Hotel, on the Wissahickon creek. Markley had an advertisement, in the form of a printed card, on the reverse side of which appeared these lines:

"Now, mine frients, I got someding, mit you I wish to speak,
Yust dake a ride up der Wissahickon Creek;
Der first blace you stop, is at der Hall,
Und dere you see mine friends, dere Lippens' all.
Der nexds blace you stop, is at der Log Cabeen,
You see two big bears and one bambeen.
Den you cross dere red bridge straight,
Und if you are not very late,
You follow up dere crooked stream,
Vot brings you straight to Valley Green,
And Sime valks owit, und gents valk in,
In dere you get, someding sweet und wet,
Vot you haff to suck a stick to get.
It makes you feel so nize und fine,
By Jing, dot's yust the place to recline.
Den you goes owit, and looks about,
And see der boats, tied to der floats,
You jump in dere water, und its worth a quarter,
Den you come back to dere shore,
Und meet four or five friends more,
And all you will haff to say,
Is, dot in Valley Green, you'll always stay."

The third member of the West Manayunk paper firm, was Sebastian A. Rudolph, who had his homestead acrcs: the road from the mill, and is occupied by a descendant. C. A. Rudolph, the son of Sebastian, who lives in close proximity to the old mill, years ago, cted as superintendent of the old paper plant.

Mr. Rudolph and his wife, whose maiden name was Dixon, are the parents of eight children and twenty-seven grandchildren.

Old newspapermen, including "Bob"

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Laycock and "Bob" Shronk were wont to visit the present Mr. Rudolph, whenever they were in search of a good story, for the Philadelphia Record, and the Manayunk man never failed them. He has had a wide variety of experiences, is an omnivorous reader, and with Winfield F. Guiles, the lock-tender of Flat Rock Dam, is considered an authority on matters pertaining to the Schuykill river. Never a flood or a low tide in the stream, but what it is recorded in Mr. Rudolph's note books.

He holds the degree of LL.D from La Salle College, having graduated from that institution in 1876 and last year returned and took an examination and received his sheepskin as a doctor of laws.

The West Manayunk man spends a great part of each day watching the progress of the new Green Lane bridge, studying the formation of the rocks which are being brought up from the bed of the river, and making other observations, all of which is noted down.

When the pier, for the modern concrete Pennsylvania Railroad bridge, which is in Birkmire's Marble Yard, on Main street, was built, it was necessary to make quite a large excavation. At the depth of 26 feet, the workmen found an old battered relic of ancient Indian craftmanship in copperware. Mr. Rudolph asked if he might have the piece of battered copper, which everyone thought was worthless. After taking it home, he carefully re-shaped the vessel into its original contour, and it now represents a most interesting exhibit of the aborigines handiwork. It is a copper cup, some four inches in depth, and about 7 inches in diameter, its side and bottom seams being peculiarly dovetailed and then tinned, or soldered. The entire inside of the cup is also tinned.

On his residence along the River, in West Manayunk, C. A. Rudolph has furnished a study, or den, which he calls, the "Temple of Knowledge." Here, he and several of his friends congregate on cold evenings and discuss every conceivable subject under the sun, from Phallic worship, down through history to the recent airplane flights over the Atlantic, from fist fights to bridge parties, from canal boats to dirigibles, from Washington to Pershing, and a thousand varied topics. Dense, indeed, is he who does not emerge with some new food for thought, that has come to him through his visit to the "Temple of Knowledge."

SCCAFF.

A. C. Chadwick. Jr

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SOUVENIR EDITION
Aug. 17, 1927.

OUR SPEEDBOY

Sccaff, along the Schuykill. We don't know whether Sccaff, who appears to be in a hurry, has just picked up a "scoop" and is rushing it into the office, or whether he is being pursued by his arch-enemy, Chadwick. It may be that Sccaff has just remembered that its payday. We don't know, and we don't much care —only we've never seen Sccaff break a slow walk before.

8-17-27

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Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

In the early history of this section of Philadelphia, East Falls was known as Fort St. Davids, from the fact that there was a fishing club of that name situated on a broad rock near what is now known as the Ferry street entrance to Fairmount Park.

Another early name was Roberts Ferry. This was given to the settlement because a ferry was operated by a member of a Welsh Quaker family named Roberts, at a point a short distance above the long-since-gone rapids that were near the present Stone Bridge, nearly opposite the foot of Queen lane. The lane, in some documents, is oftimes spoken of as "the road from Germantown to Roberts Ferry."

All chroniclers agree in the statement that the Society of Fort St. Davids, like that of the State in Schuylkill, which were actually organized for fishing, social intercourse and conviviality, had in their lists of members before the Revolution many lovers of their country, indeed the society seemed to have been regarded as a hot bed of liberty enthusiasts. It was because of this that when the Hessians came into the neighborhood, the substantial log building which was the society's club house, was destroyed and the materials used to erect huts for the officers or soldiers of Knyphausen's corps.

John Dickinson, the author of "The Farmer's Latters," which according to good authority did as much as any other publication to bring to the issue of arms, the struggle between the mother country and the colonies, became one of the gratuitious or honorary members of Fort St. Davids. He was admitted with much ceremony to membership, because of his good services in the interests of his country.

The following is the record of his admission to Fort St. Davids on the 16th day of April 1768.

"Which day in the presence of his Excellency Governor Vanderspiegel, Esq., commander-in-chief in and over His Majesty's colony of Fort St. Davids, and the territories, fisheries, etc., thereon depending, and vice admiral of the same, in full court, John Dickinson, Esq., of the City of Philadelphia, barrister, the friend of liberty, the second Pitt, the author of the Farmer's Letters—for his patriotic productions of the present, as well as the rising and future generations in America, is hereby admitted one of our members, for good services done by him to the interests of the British Plantations in America, and we do hereby declare that the said John Dickinson, Esq., his admission be valid, effectual and sufficient to him as if he had paid the whole fees in use to be paid by freeman. Extract from our book of Records, in the government of St. Davids, by me, Deputy Secretary, thereof, and seal of the government affixed.

HENRY VANDEERSPIEGEL,
Deputy Secretary."

The Pennsylvania Gazette, of May 12th, 1768, stated that on the previous Tuesday the Governor and Society of Fort St. Davids and a Committee of Fourteen gentlemen, members of that company, waited upon John Dickinson and presented him with an address which was encased in a box, of Heart of Oak. The address is given in full by the writer, but the description of the box is of more interest than the document which it contained.

This box was finely decorated and the inscription neatly done in letters of gold. On the top was represented the cap of liberty, on a spear, and this rested on a cypher of the letters "J. D." Underneath the signet, in a semi-circular label "Pro Patria." Surrounding the whole were the following words, "The gift of the Governor and Society of Fort St. Davids, to the author of the Farmer's Letters, in grateful testimony of the eminent services thereby rendered to this country 1768."

On the inside of the top was the following inscription:

"The Liberty of The British Colonies in America Asserted with Attic Eloquence and Roman Spirit by J-N-D-K-N-S-N-, Esq., Barrister at Law."

On the bottom appeared: "ITACUIQUE—EVENTIAT UT, De, REPUBLICA, MERUIT."

On the outside of the bottom was a sketch of Fort St. Davids.

SCCAFF.

13 9-7-27

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

LAFAYETTE AT BARREN HILL

It may afford interest to some, especially those who live in Upper Roxborough, to read some of the known facts relating to the retreat of the Marquis de Lafayette, from Barren Hill, where he had been sent with a force of some 2500 men to harass the British soldiers, who were destroying the shipping along the Delaware, as far up as Trenton, at the time King George's warriors occupied Philadelphia.

Lafayette's purpose was to safeguard the boats of American people who plied the Delaware above Frankford and he was on his way to that point when he stopped at Barren Hill.

His intention was frustrated, for the English Cavalrymen learned of his design and decided to surprise and capture him, but they, too, were observed on their way to Barren Hill and messengers flew to Lafayette to warn him.

A certain Mr. Denny, who was an American Militia lieutenant, and had passed the British lines, to visit his father, who lived near the market-house, in Germantown, chanced, at midnight, as he was about to leave his father's house, to encounter the advance of a secret, silent detachment that was proceeding to capture Lafayette at Barren Hill. Denny, on horseback, fled up a nearby church lane and hastened to warn the French general.

There lived at Plymouth Meeting, one Samuel Maulmsby, a Friend, who at the time of the Barren Hill episode, was an active and observing boy. The whole British detachment arrived early in the morning, at the Plymouth Meeting house, in the rear of Lafayette.

They stopped on the old Germantown Road, and remained there for some time, making inquiries and seemingly perplexed and disappointed, apparently undecided between going on to Spring Mill or to Matson's Ford, which was then located at Conshohocken. The men did not appear to be tired, but were plainly chagrined and angry.

Maulmsby, at the time, had an uncle, Captain Davis, of the Pennsylvania militia, who was then with the American Army, and familiar with all the highways and byways of that particular country. From him, Maulmsby learned the facts concerning Lafayette's retreat across the Schuylkill. The captain told his nephew that as the British turned to go to Plymouth, they passed the home of Captain Stoy, an American officer who having occasion to get out of bed, chanced to see the Redcoats passing his door. He immediately dressed and ran across the fields to give Lafayette the alarm, but his breath failed him and he had to stop and wake Rudolph Bartle, a dweller in the locality who ran on to Barren Hill and warned the Marquis of the approach of the English soldiers.

Which of the two messengers, Denny, who saw the soldiers of King George, in Germantown, or Bartle, who had been called from his bed by Captain Stoy, of Chestnut Hill, was the first to reach Lafayette, is now uncertain, but it remains a fact that one of them did arrive there in time to permit Lafayette to retreat in safety.

Lafayette immediately sent his artillery to the other side of the Schuylkill, by way of Conshohocken and went with the rest of his force over the river, at Spring Mill.

The Oneida Indians, who were attached to his command, took their own course and swam the river. Watson, in his "Annals," says, "In doing this they left behind them a young prince, of twlve years of age, whom they there lamented, in strong cries and yells of distress, as being captured or drowned. He soon after appeared, when they all knelt down in solemn praise and thanksgiving to the Great Spirit, for his safety."

Maulmsby related a story, which should be remembered, as it goes to show, that in the Revolution, as in all wars, soldiers are often accused of doing things, which when the light on calmer reason returns after the conflicts are over, proves to be false or at least exaggerated.

A party, from the force which stopped in the Germantown Road, at Plymouth, came into his mother's house on the pretense of getting water. They were apparently Highlanders. They ran all over the house and going upstairs, forced open chests and drawers with their bayonets, and took whatever struck their fancy. Had the matter stopped at that, the incident might have been called a common violence, but happily it turned out otherwise. An officer came in to ask if the family could spare a pair of swingle-trees, which when found, the price was asked and none being given the officer handed young Maulmsby a guinea. At this time a soldier was seen running to the house for his musket which he had forgotten

and the officer asked him what he wanted. When the soldier made his explanation, the story of the plunder came out, and the officer entreated the Widow Maulmsby to come out and identify the men who had stolen her household goods, assuring her that her property would be restored and the men punished before her face, he saying that they had already been threatened with death if they attempted plunder.

It is entirely possible that all of the British officers did not live up to the regulations, but from the foregoing facts there certainly must have been some gentlemen among them.

SCCAFF.

9-14-24

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

FORT ST. DAVIDS.

Charles Valerius Hagner, who for many years lived and conducted a drug mill, at the Falls of Schuykill and afterwards moved his factory and residence to Manayunk, was the author of a volume of local history, which bears the lengthy name of "The Early History of the Falls of Schuykill, Manayunk, Schuykill and Lehigh Navigation Companies, Fairmount Water-Works, etc" which was published in 1869.

Hagner was born January 13th, 1796, the son of Philip Hagner, and the grandson of Frederick Hagner, who emigrated to the United States, from Germany in 1745. His father and grandfather were citizens of note, and served as commissioned officers in the Revolutionary War.

This local historian received his education at the University of Pennsylvania and commenced his business life as a clerk in a merchant's office. After about a year spent in this position he entered his father's drug mill, at the Falls of Schuykill and remained there in a subordinate position until 1817, in which year his father retired and he assumed the absolute control of the business.

In 1820 he bought a water-power right, at Manayunk, (of the Schuykill Navigation Company), and removed there and erected a mill adapted for the manufacture of oils, and the grinding and powdering of drugs. Before this time all this work had been done by hand, exclusively, with pestle and mortar, and to him belongs the distinction of being the founder of the mechanical system of grinding drugs. He successfully introduced the improvement and notwithstanding much adverse criticism brought it to a recognized and accepted standing and for many years held a monoply of this trade.

Hagner established the first post-office in Manayunk and kept it running fo rseveral years through his own individual efforts.

He was commissioned by Governor Wolfe, as a magistrate of Manayunk, and it was through his efforts that the first stage was run between Manayunk and Philadelphia. In 1832 during the cholera epidemic he exerted himself manfully for the sufferers. Charles V. Hagner died, on Mount Vernon street in Philadelphia, in 1877.

In this history that he wrote of this section, there is a reference to the Fort St. David's Fishing Club, from which the settlement at the Falls, received its first name of "Fort St. Davids."

The fishhouse, according to Hagner, was built of hewn logs, situated at the foot of the hill "immediately opposite the long rock, as it was called, upon which the abutment of the Falls (Stone) Bridge was subsequently and partly built."

The story was so interesting to the writer, that Hagner's tale of Fort. St. Davids is quoted verbatim:

"I remember very well, when the tavern sign, hanging in front of the lower tavern at the Falls,—the property now occupied by Mrs. Matilda Whelen— had on it a representation of of Fort St. Davids Fish House, and the tavern was called "Fort St. Davids Hotel." The village was universally known in old times, as Fort St. David and the name officially adopted by the Government, as a post town, or route. I have seen an almanac for so late as the year 1807, in which the name occurred in the list of post routes. My father always dated his letters and other documents, "Fort St. Davids" and was a great stickler for the preservation of its ancient name. It appears to me that it would be a matter of good taste if the people now residing there, would restore and adopt it. As it is, at present ,the name "Falls of Schuykill" is a misnomer, there being no falls there, much to the disappointment of many strangers, who resort there with the expectation of seeing a water fall.

"After the Revolution, what remained of the fishing society assembled at Fort St. Davids and resolved to rebuild their fort, which they did. Some years after that it caught fire, by accident, and was destroyed. Every vestige of this building has disappeared, but the exact locality I can still point out.

s frequently, when a lad, played in the stone foundations, that were then left. After the destruction of their second building, a portion of the members of the society united with the Philadelphia Fishing Company, called the "State in Schuykill," whose house was lower down the river. The "State in Schuykill" I believe still keeps up its organization, and there was a history of it published some years ago. In Watson's Annals of Philadelphia, there is a brief notice of Fort St. Davids, but it is erroneous in several particualrs. He says, 'The same association still exists, but have transferred their place of meeting to Rambo's Rock, below Gray's Ferry, the former attractions at the Falls, as a celebrated fishing place, having been ruined by the river obstruction, etc.' I have already shown that a portion of the Society of Fort St. Davids was merged with the Philadelphia Fishing Company, which had also existed many years previous, from 1732, and contemporaneously with that of Fort St. Davids, and so far from river obstructions being the cause of their removal from the Falls, there was no obstruction whatsoever, so late as the year 1817; Fairmount dam, the principal obstruction, was not erected until after I became a resident of Manayunk, or Flat Rock, as it was then called. I saw shad caught there—at the Falls—in the spring of 1821.'

Hagner also gives an excellent portrayal of the admission of John Dickinson, the author of "The Farmer's Letters," which are supposed to have played a large part in the break between the Colonies and the Mother Country, to membership in the Fort St. Davids Club. This I am forced to reserve for another story.

SCCAFF

9-21-27.

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

PAPER AND ITS MAKERS

Almost every school child knows that the Rittenhouse Mill, on the Wissahickon Creek, in the old township of Roxborough, was the first paper mill in America, but it is possible that some of the readers of this column have never given much thought to the development of paper-making as it touches our own immediate neighborhood.

Newspapers did not exist prior to 1700, and there were very few books, except those brought from the home country of the immigrants, and consequently there was comparatively little use for paper in the early days of our republic.

At the time of the first paper mill, the product was made entirely from rags, while today the greater bulk of the paper that is being used is made from wood pulp.

An early writer, whose name has been lost to my memory, wrote the following lines, of the Rittenhouse Mill and is method of making paper from rags:

"A paper mill, near German-Towne doth stand,
So that the Flax, which first springs from the land,
First Flax, then yarn, and then they must begin,
To weave the same, which they took pain to spin,
Also when on our backs it is well worn,
Some of the same remains; ragged and torn,
Then out of these rags, our paper it is made,
Which in process of Time, doth waste and fade,
So what comes from the earth, appeareth plain,
The same in Time returns to Earth again."

William De Wees, a brother of Wilhemina De Wees, who married Nicholas Rittenhouse, in 1689, also had a paper mill on the Wissahickon, from 1729 to 1745, which upon his death he willed to his son, Henry De Wees. A Philadelphia map of 1746 locates "Hy De Wees' Paper Mill," so that there is little question as to where it stood. During the Revolution, this mill made cartridge paper for the Continental Army.

An early historian of American printing wrote that as early as 1729, William De Wees had a mill "on the Wissahickon where he manufactured an imitation of asses-skin paper for memorandum books, which was well executed."

To verify this fact the writer added: "John Brighter, an aged papermaker, who conducted a mill for more than half a century in Pennsylvania, and who gave this account observed that this kind of paper was made from rotten stone, which is found in several places near and to the northwest of Philadelphia, and that the method of cleaning this paper was to throw it into the first for a short time, when it was taken out perfectly fair." This description would seem to fit an asbestos paper.

Christopher Saur, a German university graduate, who came to America in 1724 and settled in Germantown, set up a printing press in 1738 and was one of the leading printers of the colonies. The need of his printing business impelled him, it is said, to try

the paper-making business. He printed many books, the most famous of which is the German Bible known as the "Saur Bible" the second Bible printed in America, which bears the imprint, "Germantown, Printed by Christoph Saur, 1743."

Just where Saur's mill was located is hard to ascertain, but it was either along the banks of the Wissahickon or the Schuylkill. The mill, it is recorded, was erected "in 1744, near the Falls of Schuylkill, not far from Manayunk." Some of the paper for his Bible may have come from this mill, although most of it is known to have been made in the Ephrata Mills, of the Zionistic Brotherhood, in Lancaster County.

R. W. Givin, of Manayunk, published a volume called "Manayunk, Roxborough and Falls of Schuylkill Directory for 1883" in which a brief historical sketch is included and which states "The father of Mr. Hagner owned the lower mill on the Falls Creek (this is now Midvale avenue). It was and had been a paper mill, for several years, one of the oldest in the country."

But Sharf and Westcott, in their "History of Philadelphia," give an account of the confiscation of Saur's property, in December, 1779, and quote this entry among the records: "Christopher Saur, House, paper mill, saw mill, mill dams, etc., Wissahickon Road, Roxborough, sold to Jacob Morgan Jr., for £5,150." Further searching may disclose the true location of the old German printer's mill, but to date we are still in the dark in regards to where it actually stood.

In spite of repeated failures, improvements were made in the implements used, the treatment of raw materials and the methods of paper-making. Some of these, it is true, were not of great importance, but did assist in developing the industry and improving the character of the product. Those of the early paper makers who contributed in furthering the industry were John Reardon, an Englishman, William, Claus and Jacob Rittenhouse, William and Henry De Wees, Christopher Saur and his son, and Thomas and Mark Willcox, besides those who came in later times, particularly in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

Men began to search for a cheaper and better substitute for rags as the source of their paper and in 1853, Jean T. Coupier and Marie A. C. Mellier brought from France a process by which they manufactured paper from straw. Feinour and Nixon introduced the process into their mills, at Manayunk, where the Dill and Collins plant now stands. The old time concern was then making the newsprint stock for the Public Ledger and the owners of that paper, impressed with the shortage of rags for pulp purposes, encouraged the experiment with straw by trying to use the new paper. But their good intentions did not meet the success they had hoped for.

We heard a good story, from a reliable source, regarding this venture. The subscribers to the Ledger in many cases returned their papers with the inquiry penciled on the margin, as to why the owners did not use wrapping paper. Complaints were made from a section of the city in which the Ledger was served, and in which a large number of goats were kept, that the subscribers had failed to receive their papers. Knowing that the paper had been served a watch was set to catch the thief, when it was discovered that the goats, attracted by the yellow color of the paper, and thinking it was straw, ate the newspaper. The mortality among goats in that section increased greatly, due to the bad quality of printer's ink that were used at that time, and the improper preparation of the pulp which was not boiled.

In 1851 Hugh Burgess and his partner, Charles Watt, of Reading, England, produced a good pulp and from their mixture, white paper, suitable for printing, was made in a paper mill in Boxmoor, Hertfordshire, England. The process was patented in 1852, but the new pulp did not meet with prompt acceptance and Burgess brought his invention to this country in 1854 and secured an American patent. He joined with Morris L. Keen, of West Philadelphia, and they conducted experiments in an old engine house of the Wilmington and Philadelphia Railroad, at Gray's Ferry on the Schuylkill. The perimenting period lasted several months and during that time various raw materials were tried, wood, straw, corn-stalks, bamboo and cane. Several mills adopted the wood-pulp process and large mills were built along the Schuylkill, up as far as Royersford.

Prejudice against the new pulp was hard to overcome and for a long time many manufacturers held stubbornly to the opinion that while wood-pulp might be a good filler it was not a good fibre. Gradually, however, soda pulp won its place into acceptance. Jessup and Moore and Martin Nixon, of Manayunk, became large users of it and others followed them. The American Wood Paper Company was organized, with High Burgess as one of the firm, in 1863, and they built large mills at Manayunk. John W. Dixon, of the paper firm of Rudolph, Heft and Dixon, held twenty-eight patents on various phases of the manufacture of paper. His firm was sued by Burgess, for infringements, but Dixon won out.

One of the famous paper mills on

the Wissahickon Creek was that with which the Megargees were long identified. The house of Charles Megargee was established in 1830 and the Wissahickon mill was one of the finest of its time, and was in operation from 1850 until 1894, when it was removed by the Fairmount Park Commission. Martin Nixon, another old time Manayunk paper maker, was a son of Daniel Adams Nixon, and his mother was Susanna Rittenhouse, daughter of Martin Rittenhouse, of the old family of paper manufacturers.

Some of the noted paper makers of Philadelphia were Joseph Duckett, Charles Megargee, Sylvester Erwin, Joseph Stelwagon, Jacob D. Heft, Theodore Megargee, Charles Wells, Morris L. Keen, Sebastian Rudolph, John W. Dixon, E. R. Cope, Alfred D. Jessup, B. H. Moore, Henry Nixon, Martin Nixon, E. C. Warren, P. H. Warren, John Lang, Caspar Garrett, Alexander Balfour, Joseph McDowell, F. W. McDowell, Charles McDowell and William Singerly. This list is almost as noteworthy for its omissions as for those who are listed, but Space, the bugaboo of the writer, compels us to leave further doings of the paper makers for a later article.

SCCAFF.

9-28-29

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

THE HERMITS

Almost everyone has some knowledge of the fact that in the early days there were hermits who dwelt in the wilderness of the Wissahickon Valley.

As early as the year 1700 there were four hermits who lived in the vicinity of the present-day Hermit Lane. These were Kelpius, Seelig, Bony and Matthias. But it is principally of Kelpius that we write this tale.

Johann, or John Kelpius, of German birth, first saw the light of day in 1673 at Sieburgen, Transylvania. Chroniclers tell us that the family was of noble origin. Kelpius studied under John Fabritius, at Helmstadt. He also received a vast amount of his learning from Maecken, who was chaplain to the Prince of Denmark, in London.

Kelpius came to this country in 1694, in company with John Seelig, Barnard Kuster, Daniel Faulkner and some 40 or 45 others, most of whom were men of education, to devote themselves, for the sake of religion, to a solitary or single life. They received the name of the "Society of the Woman in the Wilderness." When they first landed they proceeded to Germantown, where for a while they preached their peculiar doctrines, but they finally went into the wilderness, "on the Ridge," above the Wissahickon ravine.

In 1708 Kelpius, who was regarded as the leader of the band of celibates, died in his 35th year and some of his followers fell in with the world around them and some broke their religious promises and married. With this, the society lost its distinctive character and disintegrated. Just previous to their disbanding, they were joined by others, among whom was Conrad Matthias, who by the way was the last of the Ridge hermits, a native of Switzerland, and by Christopher Witt, who was a professor of medicine and a "magus" or diviner.

After Kelpius died, John Seelig, who had been his companion, attempted to keep the band together. Seelig lived many years after Kelpius and was remarkable for resisting the temptations of the world. Seelig was a man of great learning, and lived in a cave on the farm of William Levering, in Roxborough. He died in 1745, at the age of 77 years, in a valley between Dupont street and Connaroe street, a square or two east of Ridge avenue. John Seelig and his followers had adopted some of the beliefs of the Rosicrucians, and Seelig, himself was a believer in the principles of the Teutonic philosopher, Jacob Boehmen.

Seelig recorded the death of his friend Kelpius in a MS. hymn book, which was set to music, and which John Watson, of the famed "Annals," said that he had seen. Kelpius is reported to have died in his garden, attended by all his children. These were apparently spiritual ones and those whom he taught.

Everyone who has lived in this vicinity for any length of time is familiar with the location of Kelpius' dwelling at the foot of the hill, in the rear of the residence of Thomas Martin, secretary of the Fairmount Park Commission, on Hermit lane, down near the Wissahickon.

Kelpius was a prolific writer, according to his times, as is attested by the chronicler Watson. A small book of one hundred pages, which was written by Kelpius, contained his writings in Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German and English. The last is remarkable in its style and purity. The journal of his voyage to this country which consisted of sixteen pages is said to have been written entirely in Latin. Some of his letters were written in Latin, some in German and still others in English. They were all on religious topics and very acutely and soberly reasoned out.

Kelpius and his followers expected the second coming of Christ to be near—so near that he told Alex. Mack—

the first of the Germantown Tunkers —that he should live until he saw it. The final chapter of the Bible—Revelations—was his basis for believing that "the woman of the Wilderness" was prefigurative of the great deliverance that was then soon to be displayed for the church of Christ. She was "to come up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved" so the hermits laid aside all other engagements and adorned themselves with holiness so that they might be prepared to meet the "Woman" with joy.

Kelpius believed it very essential to attain holiness by dwelling in the wilderness, stating that Moses' prepared for forty years in the wilds, that Christ was tempted for forty days in the wilderness and that John the Baptist came out of the wilderness, etc. He held the belief that these things proved that holy men might be thus qualified to come out among men and convert whole cities, and to work other miracles.

Watson tells of two of Kelpius' MS. Hymn Books that were still existant in Germantown in 1842. The titles of some of the hymns may exhibit the mind of the writer:

"Of the Wilderness—or Virgin-Cross Love."

"The Contentment of the God-Loving Soul."

"Of the Power of the New Virgin-Body Wherein the Lord Revealeth His Mysteries.'

"A Loving Moan of the Disconsolate Soul."

"Colloquim of the Soul With Itself."

"Upon Rest After He Had Been Wearied With Labour in the Wilderness."

Kelpius evidently had two or three dwellings while he lived along the Wissahickon. The first, I imagine, was in a cave, but later there is evidence that he erected a hut.

In the Annals it is stated: "Kelpius' hut or house stood on a hill, where the widow Phoebe Riter (Righter) now lives. Her log house has now stood more than forty years on the same cellar foundation which was his. It is on a steep descending grassy hill, well exposed to the sun, for warmth in the winter and has a spring of the hermit's making, half down the hill, shaded by a stout cedar tree." After Kelpius' hut went down—he must have built a later one—the foxes used to burrow in his cellar; he called the place the "burrow of rocks" or "Rocksburrow"—now Roxborough.

According to Edward W. Hocker, of the Germantown Site and Relic Society, there is a letter from John Kelpius, written in 1706, which is dated 'Rocksburrow." The letter is addressed to Hester Palmer, of Flushing, L. I., who was active in the Society of Friends, and it is filled with a maze of philosophication that is now scarcely intelligible.

So much for the Hermit of the Wissahickon. SCCAFF.

10-4-24 18

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

MORE ABOUT THE BATTLE

Back in 1776, the rugged wilderness of the valley of the Wissahickon was considered a good place to establish storehouses for arms and ammunition, for the Revolutionary troops. The Council of Safety, which was organized to direct the defense of Philadelphia, had the following item, set down in the minute book of the Council under date of 1776.

"Mr. Wharton, Mr. Biddle, Mr. Rittenhouse and Colonel Humpton, the committee appointed to view the country and fix upon a spot for a magazine for military stores, report that they have viewed the ground along the Wissahickon road for twelve miles, and are of the opinion that the heights on the north side of the Wissahickon creek afford a very convenient situation for stores, which is capable of being defended to great advantage, and the back country affords a fine retreat in case of necessity.

"The hill on the Wissahickon road, just above Mr. Venderin's mill, is very proper to erect a fortification upon, as it may be made almost inaccessible and must command that country."

Various writers have located Venderin's Mill, or Vandaren's, or Van Deering's Mill, as it is also sometimes called, as being near the mouth of the Creek. But in Washington's orders, Armstrong's troop which attacked the Hessians, on October 4, 1777 were instructed to cross the creek at the "head of Vandaren's dam." Joseph S. Miles, of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, locates this position close to the foot of the present Hermit lane. The Hessian troops were stationed on the School lane side of the creek, and their commander had his headquarters, not in Carlton, on Queen lane, as some believe, but at Abbotsford, close to the Queen Lane Filtration plant.

The hill, then, as reported by the Committee of Safety, was more than likely the spot which is known variously to old residents of Wissahickon and Roxborough as "Lover's Leap," "The Hundred Steps," or where the

northwestern end of the planned Henry Avenue Bridge will rest.

The Mr. Rittenhouse, mentioned in the report was David Rittenhouse who was a native of the valley having been born there April 8, 1732, which was then, as now, in Roxborough and he commended the place as a stronghold. Doubtless he was familiar with its characteristics and was able to give first hand information to the Committee.

However there is no documentary proof that the Wissahickon region was utilized as an ammunition dump. When Philadelphia was assailed the following year, Washington's men left the city and transported their military stores up to Valley Forge and Reading.

Another item, which appeared in the minutes of the Council of Safety, is printed in the Pennsylvania Archives. Under date of August 1, 1777. There appears a memorandum of the appointment of a Committee of citizens to make a survey of the available food supply, in the region about Philadelphia.

The territory to be covered was divided into sections. One such section included Germantown, Roxborough, Springfield and Whitemarsh Townships. All of these were then a part of Philadelphia County, but since 1784, the latter two have been incorporated in Montgomery County.

The following men were recommended on August 1, 1777, to obtain the needed information, concerning the food that could be furnished of this local district: Samuel Mechlin, Jacob Hall, Frederick Mehl, Charles Engle, Wickard Miller, Abraham Rex, Peter Henschell, Joseph McClean and Nathan Levering. The latter was a resident of Roxborough, which included all of Wissahickon, Manayunk and the Roxborough of today, and it was his duty to secure the data that the Council needed concerning foodstores.

While on the subject of military matters along the Wissahickon it might be apropos to include a letter written by General John Armstrong, to Thomas Wharton, the President of the Supreme Council of Pennsylvania, the day following the battle of Germantown, which was exactly 150 years ago today:

Camp near the Trapp, 5th October, 1777

Sir:

By a forced march of fourteen miles or upward on Friday night, General Washington attacked about sunrise yesterday morning, the British & Foreign Troops encamped at Jerman Town, Van Durings & elsewhere toward the York road. We marched by four different routes—those on the left did not arrive so scon as the Columnes on the Center and Right. The Continental Troops drove the principal part of the enemy at Jerman Town full two miles; yet what I shall say a victory almost in full embrace was frustrated, but by what means cannot yet be easily ascertained. I think by a number of casualties, a thick fog whereby not only our ammunition was expended without an object, but it's thought that our own troops had been taken in an instance or two for reinforcements of the enemy, whereby a panic & retreat ensued, which the General could not prevent! Thus may it be said, thro' some strange fatality (tho not the less faulty on our part) that we fled from victory. Another reason was the time spent about Mr. Chew's house, where a number of the enemy took sanctuary & from which a number of our people were killed & wounded. We can yet tell nothing perfectly of our loss, nor of that of the enemy. General Nashes thigh & the head of Major Witherspoon were, it is said, both taken away by one and same cannon ball. I shou'd be glad to send you a copy of Our Order of Battle, or attack, but have it not here. My destiny was against the various Corps of Jermans, encamped at Mr. Vandurings or near the Falls. Their Light Horse discovered our approach a little before sunrise; we cannonaded from the heights on each side of the Wissahickon, whilst the Riflemen on opposite sides acted on the lower ground. About nine I was called to joine the General, but left a party with the Colls. Eyers & Dunlap, & one field piece & afterwards reinforced them, which reinforcements, by the way, however did not joine them, until after a brave resistance they were obliged to retreat, but carried off the field piece, the other I was obliged to leave in the horrendous hills of the Wissahickon, but ordered her on a safe rout to joine Eyeres if she should retreat, as was done accordingly. We proceeded to the left, and above Jerman Town some three miles, directed by a slow cross fire of cannon, untill we fell into the Front of a superior body of the enemy, with whom we engaged about three quarters of an hour, but their grape shot & ball soon intimidated & obliged us to retreat or rather file off. Untill then I thought we had a victory, but to my great disappointment, soon found our army were gone an hour or two before, & we the last on the ground. We brought off everything but a wounded man or two—lost not quite 20 men on the whole, & hope we killed at least that number, besides diverting the Hessian Strength from the General

d seaman was in poor health.

As further evidence of Ferdinand's friendship for Columbus is the fact that de Bobadilla was condemned to restore to Columbus the property that he had taken from the discoverer, and was recalled to Spain.

Although Columbus' character has been sketched in various lights, it is certain that like other men who have gone before, the tales have been changed by the frequent telling and the imagination of those who loved or hated him.

We, of today, should celebrate the birthday of the discoverer of America, for without his courage, zeal and persistence, we who boast of our freedom, of our beautiful land and of our progress, would have nothing to talk about. Even the writer of this column —"Along the Schuylkill"—would have no territory in which to trace back events of the olden times.

SCCAFF.

10-19-27

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

The Palmers and The Sorbers

The Sorber buildings, which stand on Ridge avenue, just below Queen lane, in East Falls have some interesting history connected with them. The house at 4183, orfginally had a peaked roof, but this was replaced many years ago with one of the more modern type.

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The Palmers, of the Falls, it is thought descended from George Palmer, of Nonsuch, County Surrey, England, who was one of the "first purchasers" of lands from William Penn, on April 26, 1682. William Palmer was the son of George and Elizabeth Palmer and is put down as living in Wissahickon, Philadelphia County. This address probably refers to his residence at the Falls, which was within a mile of the Wissahickon creek. He inherited lands, in the neighborhood from his father and other land was also conveyed to him by his mother in 1777. As mentioned in his will, made in 1747, he had the following children: Mary, Elizabeth, William, Hannah, Charles, John and George. His son William, like his father, is mentioned as a millwright.

The second William Palmer died in 1770 and his will, proved the same year, mentions four children: William, John, Jonathan and Thomas. John Palmer, the son of the last named William, appears on the tax list of Philadelphia County, under "Northern Liberties: West part," in 1774, as an innkeeper, owning 34 acres of land and this same hotelman is also recorded as having died August 13, 1791.

The Palmer house was afterward occupied by members of the Sorber family. Charles Kirk Sorber, is well remembered by middle-aged and old people of East Falls as "Squire" Sorber, and was one of the last of the prominent members of the Sorber family who lived in the town, although there are still dozens of the residents of the locality who are connected with blood ties to the original family.

"Squire" Sorber was one of the grand old men of the vicinity and acquired the title of "Squire" through having been an alderman from the Thirty-eighth ward. He was born in the Falls of Schuykill, at the old Sorber homestead, at 4183 Ridge avenue, on July 28, 1833, the son of William E. and Mary Lamb Duey Sorber, and a great-great-grandson of John Kirk, who served as a scout in Washington's army and from his reputation for courage was known as "Fearnaught."

John Kirk, came from Lower Merion and settled in Germantown in 1734. The Squire's mother's forebears were also active in the Revolutionary War and by reason of his ancestry, Mr. Sorber was entitled to membership in the old exclusive Revolutionary bodies of which he never availed himself.

Charles K. Sorber's father, William E.

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in the morning. I have neither time nor light to add but that I am respectfully yours,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed.

The Honorable Thos. Wharton, Lancaster.

And still we haven't told the half of Wissahickon's history. SCCAFF.

10-12-27

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

The writer, as the readers of this column probably realize, has a penchant for going back into the past, to reach the beginning of things, and today, being Columbus Day, asks that he be forgiven for digressing from the Schuylkill Valley to talk of America's birth.

For the subject of this article is none other than Christopher Columbus.

In the history of the Rennaissance Period, the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus forms a chapter, the importance of which cannot be overestimated. It was a period of high adventure, not only in the physical sense but in the intellectual field as well.

The men of that time who appeal strongest to the popular imagination were those hardy souls who sailed the seas to win fame and wealth for themselves and their countries. Due to their enterprise the dread perils of the deep were surmounted and new lands opened to the people of Europe. Preceding them, of course, were those brave seamen who for a long time had been venturing farther and farther into the unknown and who had prepared the way for the voyages of those who are better known to history.

Columbus' life was as stormy as the seas that he sailed. At the very beginning his great project seemed defeated. The King of Spain, engaged in a great struggle with the Moors, was loath to divert even a fraction of his resources from the pressing business at hand. The proposal of the Genoese was rejected despite the support given it by the royal treasurer, Alonzo de Quintanilla, Friar Antonio de Marchena, Diego De Deza and others.

The rulers of France and England were then approached but they also refused their aid. Previously the King of Portugal had refused his aid, as had several other wealthy princes.

Another effort to obtain the assistance of Ferdinand of Spain was made while that monarch and his army were before the walls of Granada, the last stronghold of the Moors. Again the proposal was rejected and, his spirit crushed, Columbus wandered off with his young son.

On foot and reduced almost to beggary he reached the Convent of La Rabida, where he solicited lodging for his son. The Prior of the convent was Father Juan Perez, confessor to Queen Isabella. To him Columbus told of his ambition, and so impressed the cleric that he hurried off to court to enlist the aid of the queen. Through her influence Columbus was financially embarked on his enterprise.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of October 12, 1492, the New World was sighted. A few hours later Columbus landed on what is now called Watling's Island, in the Bahama group, West Indies.

The outstanding results of the first voyage were the exploration of Cuba and the establishment of a Spanish settlement on the coast of present-day Haiti. His second voyage in 1493 resulted in further explorations off the coast of Florida, and the discovery of the Carribean Islands and the Island of Jamaica, lying west of Haiti. On the voyage of 1498, Columbus landed in South America.

The story of the last years of Columbus' life has various differences, which have come through the telling by many historians and biographers. The charge that the navigator was badly treated by King Ferdinand, it is said, was unfounded, and it is also said that the discoverer of America did not die destitute.

There is little doubt that there was trouble in the colonies which Columbus discovered and later ruled. Dissension broke out in the ranks of the settlers who, splitting up into opposing camps, practically ousted Columbus from power. Indeed conditions in Santo Domingo, the seat of Columbus' official residence, became so bad that an investigator, in the person of Francesco de Bobadilla, was dispatched to the colony by the King.

In sending Columbus back to Spain under arrest, de Bobadilla clearly violated the trust placed in him by King Ferdinand. In proof of this, Columbus was immediately discharged from arrest and everything done to assure him of royal favor; that is, everything except his reinstatement as Governor of the Indies. It appears clear that Ferdinand refused to do this for two reasons; first, the unmistakable fact that Columbus' ability as an administrator in no way compared with his genius as a navigator, and secondly,

d seaman was in poor health.

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SCCAFF.

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Charles K. Sorber's father, William E.

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Sorber came to the Falls, from Germantown in 1800, and started in the coach and carriage building business. Charles after receiving an education in private schools was apprenticed to his father and later joined him in the business. At the death of his father in 1862, he carried on the business with his brother, Joseph E. Sorber, under the firm name of J. E. and C. K. Sorber, until 1872, when Joseph died and the Squire continued the business alone. In September 1892, his only son, Harry M. Sorber, a real estate broker, died. The father took up the real estate business and disposed of his interests in building carriages.

Mr. Sorber served several terms as an alderman and one in Common Councils. He refused re-nomination, because it interfered too much with his real estate affairs. He was also the local postmaster during the administrations of Presidents Hayes, Garfield and Arthur.

In his early manhood he was married to Virginia Matthewson, who passed away in September, 1910. Mr. Sorber, at the time of his death, on May 24, 1919, was survived by his daughter, Mrs. Charles L. Dykes, who still makes her residence on Queen Lane.

Charles Kirk Sorber was a member of the Falls of Schuykill Baptist Church and possessed a bass voice of unusual compass, which was often heard in the church choir. He was one of the charter members of Palestine Lodge, No. 470 F. and A.M. and for 49 years was the treasurer of the Germantown Chapter Royal Arch, and a trustee of the Old Academy. During the Civil War he served with Captain John Dobson's Company "I" of the Blue Reserves and was a member of General G. K. Warren Post of the G. A. R. He was buried with full Masonic rites in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Some of the old Palmer-Sorber buildings still stand, but the old blacksmith shop, around which the boys of the neighborhood were wont to gather, and which stood on the corner of Queen Lane and Ridge avenue has long since been torn down and the eyes of the history seeker are now greeted with the less romantic view of a modern chain grocery store.

SCCAFF.

10-26-27

Along the Schuylkill With Sccaff

THE MONASTERY

Baedeker, who is certainly an authority on such matters, calls the Wissahickon valley, "a minature Alpine gorge." The description could hardly be bettered and it must be conceded, it was utterly beyond the possibility of improving for practical uses, in the old days at least, that caused the region to remain a jewel in the rough, and to descend to us of today, the treasure that it really is.

To the student of planet life, which includes ferns, mosses, lichens and fungi, the valley of the Wissahickon is a veritable Mecca.

At all seasons an abundance of love ferns grace the walks and driveways. Even in winter the Christmas fern can be seen along the banks. The club moss, of the North, too, adds an evergreen adornment to the scene.

In the summer, the ferns are at their best. And the mosses! How they throw a glorious cloth over the rocks of the stream!

Quite a group of grasses, rushes, sedges and allied plants interest the discerning botanist. The trees of the valley are especially fine. Here can be found willow, white poplar, aspen, black walnut, butternut, hickory, birch, beech, elm, maple, mulberry and hackberry. The oak is there, also, in all the divisions of its family. The white and red oak, the pin oak, the rock chestnut oak, the golden oak and the shrub oak.

Closely connected with the glory of the Wissahickon is a building known as "The Monastery." Of one travels up the stream as far as Kitchen's lane, and crosses the creek, by way of the bridge at that point, he will find himself at the bottom of a hill on which the Monastery stands. It is a three-storied stone structure, oblong in shape, and looks down into the dell through which the Wissahickon ripples on its way to the Schuykill.

About this house, so secluded and little known to a great many people, there are sundry and vague tales and traditions of its once having been occupied as a monastery. A name and purpose of use which captures the interest of those who, like Lot's wife, would turn and look back to the things that are behind them.

The place was once owned—previous to 1844—by Joshua Garsed, who manufactured flax thread and twine. It is said that late in the 1700's, the house had a balcony all around it, at the floor of the second story. Tradition tells that in the early days of the last century, that it had been used by monks of "the Seventh Day Baptist Order" and that they used wooden blocks for pillows, carved out to fit the head.

John Watson, the famed historian said, "If the house was built as early as 1708—when Kelpius the hermit died 'at the Ridge' it may

Nov. 2nd 1927

have been constructed by the forty students from Germany—the Pietists who came out in 1694, with Kelpius, to live a single life in the wilderness—but if it was built, as is most probable, and as has been said, by Joseph Gorgas a Tunker Baptist who intended it as a branch of a brotherhood, established at Ephrata, near Lancaster, and to where he afterwards moved and joined, himself,—then he must have built it before the year 1745, when Conrad Matthias, 'the last of the Ridge hermits' died. It is known by the 'Chronica Ephrata'—a folio—that there was a brotherly affinity between the 'Ridge hermits'—of Roxborough—and those of Ephrata.

When Joseph Gorgas decided to move to Ephrata and had done so, the property consisting of the Monastery, with a farm of 70 acres and a grist mill fell to his son, John Gorgas. About the time of the American Revolution, John Gorgas sold the estate to Edward Miller, who in turn, disposed of it to Peter Care, about 1793, who held it till about the year 1800.

John Livezey then acquired title to the building and surrounding ground and he subsequently released it to a man named Longstreth, who turned the building into a paper mill. Joshua Garsed became the next owner. Garsed converted the Monastery into an agreeable dwelling, changing and altering the internal shapes of the rooms and removing all the corner chimneys and so forth.

The scenery from this house and from the valley below is indeed romantic, very rugged and in nature's most tempestuous mood. The place is encircled by high and mossy rocks, studded with sturdy rock-rooted hemlocks.

The Seventh Day Baptists led by Gorgas had their fasts and vigils and practiced a modified mysticism in imitation of their more famous predecessors. For a time proselytes came to them and were inducted into membership through the saving waters of a deep pool in the Wissahickon, still known as the "Baptistery."

It was in the year 1732, that the religionists of Ephrata first decided to end their former solitary life and to dwell together in monastic society as monks. This they did, first, in May 1733. A book of their chronicles says, that "the society was enlarged by members from the banks of the Wissahickon." This, of course, intimates and confirms the theory already stated, that theirs was a brotherhood of the order dwelling at or near the place now known as "The Monastery."

SCCAFF.

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

BELMONT MANSION

There are some old houses on the banks of the Schuylkill river, which have some interesting history attached to them. Chief among these is the home of Judge Peters, familiarly known as "Belmont Mansion."

The Pennsylvania Museum in cooperation with the Fairmount Park Commission have restored the place to some of its former resemblance and it is worth the time of anyone, interested in such subjects, to visit.

Fiske Kimball prepared a paper for the Pennsylvania Museum Bulletin, which disclosed a tremendous amount of data concerning "Belmont."

The mansion, even as it stood in the time of the Revolution was a building which grew with the years. The oldest part was a small stone house, in which Judge Richard Peters was born in 1744.

The brick portion, which adjoins, eventually formed the south wing of the mansion house and was added in 1745. The present main house of brick and rubble followed about 1755 and sometime later the great tower stairway was added to make it more beautiful.

The style of the ornaments on the house indicated that they were finished in 1760 and the gardens and plantation was probably complete by 1761.

William Peters, the father of Richard, who came to this country in 1739, secured possession of the property by deed of July 21, 1742.

Who built the original stone cottage, is not known for certain, probably William Peters, or some earlier owner. With its low ceilings, tiny casement windows, narrow stairs and gambrel roof, it shows the type of the early houses along the Schuylkill banks, another example of which is "Tom Moore's Cottage."

The long wing, which is constructed across the river end of the building, bears in its northern gable a date-stone with a cipher which is variously read, but with the unmistakable date of 1745. A winding stairway, to the second story, that was replaced in 1874, was at this

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end; a sunny octagonal bay window, removed in Centennial year, was at the other end. And so, in 1745, while the house was a cheerful one, it had no great pretensions.

As the time went on William Peters' station and requirements came to surpass his quarters, and he built, just to the north and thus on angles to the garden already existing, the more ambitious dwelling.

Unlike the older structure this was a symetrical house with long windows, that showed patient planning had been devoted to its erection.

It had two stories, with a level classical cornice and a hip roof.

A slight projection of the front, embracing the width of three windows, rose in a broad pediment towards the river. The interior remains unchanged today. On the ground floor a single great room traverses the center, with small cubicles to the left and right. Upstairs there are two large chambers and other small alcoves. The small staircase, in the southwest corner and winding up within a circular wall was the original sole means of access. Very soon, however, Peters felt the need of a finer stairway and added at the center of the western side, a projecting porch or tower of stone, with broad stairs and a fine classic entrance from the garden

Deborah Logan visited the place in 1819 and wrote on November 15, of the "garden exhibiting a most perfect sample of the old taste of Parterres, made of yew clipped into forms, and beyond this is a long avenue of hemlocks planted close and arched above. Really very fine And likewise some trees of the same kind to the south of what was formerly a wilderness, very large and covered to their tops with the finest ivy I ever seen"

In an article, in this column, dated March 2, the writer spoke of Yeyser, who in his "Fairmount Park" stated of these same trees, "On this place, was standing what Downing describes, as the grandest avenue of hemlocks in America These trees are centenarians in the perfection of their growth, ninety feet high, some draped with masses of English ivy."

At a later period, a six-column porch was added to the house across the river front, and small wings of one story at either end, enlarging the adjacent cubicles. Another porch is carried along the southern wing.

The house was abandoned by the family, shortly after the building of the Columbia Railroad, in 1832, but remained in their hands until 1853, when it was sold to the trustee, Joseph Levering.

A third story was added and a latticed porch of Victorian style, replaced the old one, extending across the whole front. After Fairmount Park had acquired the property in 1867 the small windows were removed and a light Victorian portico was carried around three full sides of the house. A victorian door was hung, at some period in the old river-side doorway.

The house is now restored for public enjoyment and is an important link in the evolution of American art, a precious monument of which every one in Philadelphia can be proud.

SCCAFF.

11-23-27

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

THANKSGIVING DAY

Tomorrow will be Thanksgiving Day. The holiday that is named by the President of the United States and usually kept by the governors of the various states and territories, as a day of thanksgiving, for the mercies of the year.

The festival is essentially a harvest thanksgiving and its earliest observance can be traced to the Pilgrim Fathers. The summer of 1621, following the landing at Plymouth Rock, yielded but a scanty harvest and unless speedy supplies came from Europe, the sturdy colonists foresaw that they would be reduced to the point of starvation. Yet amid such surroundings as these, we learn from old chronicles that Governor Bradford, "the harvest being gotten in, sent four men out on fowling, so that we might, after a more special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labor." Thus the first governor of New England instituted the American Harvest Home.

Artists have pictured for us the scenes of Pilgrim Thanksgiving Days, with the courageous pioneers, men and women, on their way to the meeting house to offer up their thanks to a

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...canal was constructed in 1819 ...this soon attracted the attention ...of mill owners. The first mill to be erected on the canal was built in 1819 by Captain John Towers, and it started operating on November 10th of that year. Subsequently the mill was owned by a Mr. Rising, then by Joseph Ripka and still later by General Robert Patterson. From the color of its walls it was usually referred to as the "Yellow Mill."

At one time, when Joseph Ripka was the owner of the Yellow Mill he became involved in a labor dispute with some of the spinners in his mill. One, "Tony" Kerns was the boss spinner and sided with the mill owner in his argument with his hands. This action of the boss' enraged the strikers, who threatened violence against the head mule tender. The laborites paraded along Main street singing the following song:

"Old Tony, he owns a house,
Old Tony, he owns lands,
As far as we can understand
He's at Joe Ripka's command.
Oh, rise up ye spinners!
Don't let your courage fail,
If Tony Kerns goes into work,
We'll ride him on a rail."

The second factory was built by Captain Charles V. Hagner, in which he manufactured and ground drugs. This was built in 1820. Before the erection of this mill, all drug grinding had been done by hand, with a pestle and mortar, and to Hagner belongs the distinction of being the founder of the system of powdering drugs by machinery. In 1823 he added to his works, a fulling mill and caused to be made, a number of power looms, for weaving satinette, which were the first power looms ever used in Pennsylvania for weaving woolen goods. Thus, Hagner was the pioneer in the introduction of looms and his establishment became the birthplace of the vast woolen manufacturing industry which sends its hum throughout the entire Keystone state.

The third mill was erected by Mark Richards.

George Shields, who settled in Manayunk, on July 7th, 1824, once told Horatio Gates Jones, the historian, that there were then seven mills and about forty houses in the town. In 1828 there were ten mills in operation and six in the course of erection and there were 636 persons employed in the factories.

In 1824 and 1825 the population of Manayunk was about 800; in 1827 and 1828 about 1300; in 1830 about 1800; in 1850 it was 6158, composed of white males 2,925; white females 3,232, and one colored woman.

The first person born in Manayunk, after the erection of the mills, was Christiana Margaret Baird, daughter of Isaac Baird. She was born January 23rd, 1820.

Charles V. Hagner established the first postoffice in Manayunk and kept it running for several years through his own individual efforts.

The first school house, erected in 1825, was built on land donated for that purpose by Peter Robeson and Jonathan Robeson, his son, who were members of the Society of Friends. In 1858 there were five schools, sixteen teachers and 1,031 pupils, of whom 560 were boys and 471 were girls. In 1874 there were 6 schools, 24 teachers, and 1259 pupils, of whom 633 were boys and 626 girls.

Richard Beresford published the first newspaper in Manayunk. It was called "The Manayunk Courier" and its first issue appeared on January 1st, 1848 and the last on March 18th of the same year. The second paper was "The Manayunk Star and Roxborough Gazette," by D. B. Potts and J. H. Scott, and afterwards continued by J. Lewis Scott. It first appeared on Feb. 5th, 1859 and continued to be issued until August 9th 1862, when it ceased because all of the men connected with it had enlisted for the Civil War.

There were other papers printed since then, and there is still more to be told of Manayunk, but space, for the time being prevents the completion of the narrative.

SCCAFF

12-7-27

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

JOHN WELSH

As one strolls up the Wissahickon ravine, just before Kitchen's lane is reached, on the east side of the creek is a towering mass of rock, known as "Mom Rinker's Rock."

How the huge stone received its name, is not now definitely known. Molly Rinker is supposed by some, to have been a witch who started her broomstick flights from tops of the rock. Another tale, which sounds more plausible, is that she was an American patriot of Revolutionary times. Her family, it is said, owned the land in the vicinity of the rock, and it was her custom to bleach flax on the sunny surface of the huge boulder. It has been told, that she was party to an agreement with the Green Boys, of

Roxborough, who were an irregular band of American sympathizers, whereby she would transmit any news she could procure regarding the movements of the British troops.

As the scouts of the Roxborough band would hide in the woods on the opposite shore of the creek, she would come out to the rock and sit there knitting. By seeming accident, her ball of yarn would escape her and roll over the edge of the cliff, and the Green Boys would find in it, a letter containing such information as she had gathered. This message, was in turn, forwarded to General Washigton at Valley Forge.

One hundred feet up, on top of the rock, today stands the marble statue of William Penn, in a setting of foliage which constitutes one of the most striking sights of the Wissahickon region. The single word "Toleration," is inscribed on the pedestal which forms the base of the monument.

John Welsh, a former Fairmount Park commissioner, who owned the land at the time, placed the statue on the rock in 1876. Mr. Welsh was president of the Board of Finance of the Centennial Exposition and did yeomen's work in successfully promoting that celebration.

Welsh was unquestionably one of Philadelphia's most foremost citizens and dwelt in Germantown.

At the time of the labor troubles some fifty years ago, Philadelphia was saved from the frightful riots, that occurred in other cities of the country. This was due in a large degree to John Welsh.

Wage reductions were the order of the day during the "Slack times" of the year 1877. Strikes were started all over the eastern part of the nation. Railroad transportation was badly crippled. The militia was called out in several instances.

Philadelphia, at the time was under the administration of Mayor William S. Stokely. The police force which was composed of about 1000 men was unable to cope with the problem of law and order and consequently the mayor called upon 200 prominent citizens to meet with him and discuss measures for preserving peace. At this meeting John Welsh was made chairman, on account of the confidence the people had in him, when they remembered the success he had met with in Centennial matters.

The outcome of the meeting was that a committee of safety consisting of five members was appointed, and these men were given absolute power to adopt such tactics as they saw fit to eliminate trouble.

The mayor explained that he had no authority to hire additional policemen, and the Committee of Safety directed him to engage the 1000 needed extra men and that they would be responsible for the consequences. Though there were thousands of men out of work, none were desirous of joining the police force to wage war against the laborites. Stokeley finally appealed to the Grand Army of the Republic and in a few days had enrolled more veterans of the Civil War than was needed.

For a week during the critical period, late in July, 1877, the committee of safety met three times a day with the mayor. John Welsh was chairman of the committee and the other members were Morton McMichael, and Daniel M. Fox, who had been former mayors, State Senator Cochran and Col. Alexander McClure.

No information concerning the proceedings of their meetings was given to the newspapers, but they suppressed the tendencies for disorder in the city, so that few outbreaks occurred.

Undoubtedly, it was due to the sagacity of John Welsh and the wisdom and vigor of Mayor Stokeley that Philadelphia had no serious riots.

John Welsh's service in this crisis, and his capable financial management of the Centennial, later led President Hayes to appoint the Germantown man minister to Great Britain.

John Welsh died in 1886 and up until that time he extended his greatest efforts for the development and extension of Fairmount Park.

Springbank, Mr. Welsh's home on Wissahickon avenue, near Kitchen lane, is still occupied by members of his family.

Note:—A manuscript, containing the memories of an old-time resident of this locality, was found on a Norristown-bound train, after it had left Manayunk, and turned over to Ervin P. Knipe, president of the Montgomery County Historical Society. The paper states that the writer once lived on the west side of the Schuylkill River, above the Green lane bridge, and that he, or she, remembered accompanying his father to have horses shod, at a blacksmith shop on Ridge avenue in Roxborough. The writer also attended church services at the Roxborough Baptist Church. No name is on the manuscript. The owner may obtain possession of these papers by applying to Mr. Knipe, at Norristown.

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Crowded out by ads
12-14-27

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

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 "Historical 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, Wigard 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 1743, 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 ofttimes 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 roving bands of the enemy.

However, it was Southern strangers that were sleeping in the stable, and more than likely the local soldiers

...ife at home in their beds.

...metime after midnight one of the ...ards 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 Lood.

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.

12-21-27

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

HORATIO GATES JONES

From time to time, we meet people who ask us to answer some historical question, or other, concerning the Twenty-first ward. We always endeavor to accommodate these curious folk and make our explanations to the best of our ability.

Very often the questioners inquire the source of our information, as the data of the happening being referred to, is of a period that is clearly, back before the days numbered in the life of this scribe. If the matter happens to be a subject which occurred before the year 1893, this writer is more than likely prone to reply that his authority is Horatio Gates Jones, who, as a historian, has written volumes of interesting facts relative to the old borough, which, in yesteryear, included Wissahickon and Manayunk.

Horatio Gates Jones was born in Roxborough on January 9, 1822, being the youngest son of Horatio Gates Jones, D. D., a Baptist clergyman, who was the founder and for forty-eight years the pastor of the Lower Merion Baptist Church, and who died in Roxborough December 12, 1853.

The historian was also a grandson of a Baptist theologian, the Rev. David Jones, A. M., of Chester county, Pennsylvania, who was the pastor of the Freehold, N. J., Baptist Church from 1766 until 1775 and then of the Great Valley Baptist Church, of Chester valley and died in 1820, two years previous to the birth of his historically-minded grandson.

This David Jones was the chaplain for "Mad" Anthony Wayne at the time of the American Revolution. The grandfather of David Jones, also bore the same name and had emigrated from Cardinganshire, Wales, to America in 1710 and settled at Welsh tract, Delaware. On the maternal side, Horatio Gates Jones' ancestry was German. They settled in Germantown in 1685 and came to Roxborough in 1691. The name of this ancestor was none other than Wigard Levering. Or Libering, as it was then spelled.

Horatio Gates Jones obtained his early education at the public school in Roxborough, and afterwards at Haddington College. He finally matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1841. He had studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1847 and subsequently followed that profession as a vocation.

In 1874, he was elected Senator of the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, re-elected in 1876 and again for a third term of four years in 1878. His representative career was marked especially by his introduction of a bill, known as the "Religious Liberties Bill," to secure freedom from the penalties of the Sunday laws of 1794, for all persons who observed the seventh day of the week as Sabbath.

He devoted a vast amount of his time to historical matters and was connected with many historical societies. In 1848 he joined the Pennsylvania

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Historical Society and was elected secretary in 1849, and continued in that capacity until 1867, when he was made one of the vice presidents, a position which he held for many years. He was also a member of the New England Historical Society, the Western Reserve Historical Society of Ohio, the American Antiquarian Society and of the historical societies of Rhode Island, Florida, Wisconsin, New York, Delaware and Minnesota. In 1877, he was elected an honorary Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Great Britain.

Jones was a prolific writer, as stated before, in the province of history. Among his many works were:

"Ebenezer Kinnersley, and his Discoveries in Electricity."

"Memoir of Henry Bind, M. D."

"Report of the Committee of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on the Bradford Bi-Centenary."

"Life of Andrew Bradford, the Founder of the Newspaper Press in the Middle States of America."

"The Bradford Prayer Book of 1710."

"Diary of S. J., or the Journal of a Country Baptist Minister."

"Memoir of the Rev. Abel Morgan, of Pennypek Church."

"History of the Great Valley (Pa) Church."

"History of the Brandywine (Pa.) Church."

"Biographical Sketch of the Rev. David Jones, A. M."

"History of Pennypek, or Lower Dublin Baptist Church, Morrisania, N. Y."

"History of the Roxborough Baptist Church, 1889."

"History of Roxborough and Manayunk."

"History of the Levering Family, of Roxborough."

"Sketches of the Life of Johannes Kelpius, the Hermit of the Wissahickon."

"An Account of the Early Paper Manufacturers in Pennsylvania," etc.

In addition to the above he wrote numerous articles in Baptist periodicals. He retained an ancestral interest in the Welsh people and language and in everything relating to the Welsh in the United States.

He was a zealous churchman and actively furthered the interests of the Baptist church. He succeeded his father as president of the Philadelphia Baptist Association.

In 1853, Brown University gave him the honorary degree of M. A., and in 1880 he received that of D. C. L. from Jordan University.

Horatio Gates Jones was married on May 27, 1852, to Caroline Elizabeth Vassar Babcock, a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Rufus Babcock, of Poughkeepsie, New York.

Roxborough's historian died at the age of 71 years in 1893, and in the family plot in Leverington tery a few feet from the cente of the activity of his life.

SCC.

12-28-27

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

GEORGE LIPPARD

Among the early writers who have written of the Wissahickon region was George Lippard, who was born in 1822 and died in 1854. In a short life of continuous activity, Lippard, who lived in Germantown, at the time, wrote a dozen or so, large volumes of melodramatic extravagances, the best of which brought together in romantic fashion, the legends of the Revolution, with many fictitious incidents which pretended to show the early American army officers.

The Wissahickon Valley supplied a great amount of inspiration for Lippard's pen. Early in his life he started to study law, but at the age of twenty he tired of the routine duties of the barrister and permitted his vivid imagination to run riot by means of printer's ink. He utilized the abundance of tales, true or fancied, concerning the "valley greene" especially the stories concerning the hermits and their activities and beliefs. One of his books, in which he used the famous gorge as a background was "Paul Ardenheim, the Monk of the Wissahikon." Lippard consistently wrote the word without using the letter "c."

The eccentric writer exhibited a true appreciation of the scenery surrounding the stream, although occasionally he carried his descriptions to extremes. In a series of sketches, historical and otherwise, entitled "Along the Wissahickon" which were written by Edward W. Hocker, for the Independent Gazette, of Germantown, in 1911, Mr. Hocker gives a specimen of Lippard's style:

"On this rock of Wissahikon, I pause in my pilgrimage, and write these words to my reader. This rock of Wissahikon which rises on the side of steep hill, amid thick woods,—a craggy altar on whose summit worshipped long ago the priests of a forgotten faith. Around me branch the trees,—glorious monuments of three hundred years—fresh from the verdure of June. Between their leaves the sky smiles upon me, dimpled only by a floating cloud. Far

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the stream flashes and sings be-n its mountain banks. Looking own the vista of trees and moss and flowers. I behold a vision of forest homes grouped by the waters. You that love to lap yourself in June and drink in its odors and feel its blessed air upon your brows and recline on its rocks covered with vines, musical with birds and bees, should come hither. It is an altar for the soul."

Lippard's imagination was responsible it has been discovered, for some of the traditions of American history. Have you ever heard the tale of the old man whose duty it was to ring the bell in Independence Hall? Who waiting to hear of the final signing of the Declaration of Independence was ready to ring out liberty throughout the land, as his grandson cried out, "Ring out, Grandpa." This story, it is said, was one of Lippard's. The writer appeared to form in his own mind a large number of such happenings, which later generations have accepted as true.

A list of Lippard's works, include "Legends of the American Revolution," "The Quaker City, or the Monks of Monk Hall," "Washington and His Men," "The Mysteries of Florence, or the Crimes and Mysteries of the House of Albarone," "The Memoirs of a Preacher, or the Mysteries of the Pulpit" and "The Empire City, or New York by Day and Night."

Probably the most preferable book of Revolutionary history that Lippard wrote was "Blanche of Brandywine," which had numerous readers as late as 1894. It was widely circulated in England, where a cheap reprint was on sale until about 1900.

One of the memories of Lover's Leap—the high promontory on the northwest bark of the Wissahickon Creek, where the new Henry Avenue Bridge will rest—deals with George Lippard. Here it was that the peculiar writer was married, at dawn on a May day in 1847. Coinciding with the romancer's habit for the unusual the marriage was conducted according to Indian rites, the man and the maid, plighting their troth without the presence of a magistrate or a minister of the Gospel.

In addition to writing, Lippard in 1847, organized a secret society called "The Brotherhood of the Union." He composed a ritual for the association and worked diligently to advance the fraternity. Lodges were orgarized in 23 States. The society erected a monument to Lippard, who is buried in the old Odd Fellow's Cemetery, on Twenty-third street, between Diamond and Norris streets.

"SCCAFF."

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

ROXBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH

This writer has never before seen such a complete church and Sunday School plant as that which has been lately completed at the Roxborough Baptist Church at Ridge avenue and Martin street.

In celebration of opening of the new buildings, the officers and members of the church very fittingly held rededication services on Sunday.

This local church is without doubt the oldest place of worship in the territory covered by the Roxborough News.

When the first Baptist clergyman held services in Roxborough, is a fact which is now lost in antiquity, but from old records of the Pennepek, or Lower Dublin Church, which was organized in 1698—the present-day location of which is on the Krewstown road, in Bustleton, and is the oldest Baptist Church west of New England, with the single exception of one that started in South Carolina—the local worshipers started religious services in March of the year 1762.

According to an old manuscript, containing the origin of the Roxborough Baptist Church, whose writer is unknown, a few Baptists in Roxborough, in 1754, invited the Rev. Peter P. Van Horn to preach to them at certain definite intervals, in the old Roxborough Schoolhouse. Another who came occasionally was the Rev. Morgan Edwards, of the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia. Brother George Eaton was the supply pastor at Pennepek Church and was called every third Sunday to preach at a place called "the Ridge, near Germantown."

The first Baptist who lived in Roxborough, as far as can be ascertained was Catherine Standeland. Services were held in the old Roxborough Schoolhouse—as mentioned before—on the site of the familiar Levering School, in an old building which was erected in 1748, on land which had been presented to the residents of the town by William and Hannah Levering; or in the homes of members of the congregation. Among the early preachers were William Rogers, D. D. and the Rev. Thomas Ustick, A. M., of Philadelphia; Samuel Jones, D. D., of Pennepek; the

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Rev. David Jones, A. M., of Great Valley, and the Rev. James McLaughlin, of Hilltown.

One of the chief places where religious services were held was at the house of Abraham Levering, in an isolated part of Old Roxborough, but which is now the congested section known as Manayunk. Worshipers also met at the residence of Nathan Levering, which stood on the site now occupied by the new Roxy Theatre.

Among the early members of the church were Abraham and Anna Levering, Jacob Levering, Samuel Levering, Nathan and Sarah Levering, Hannah Levering, Cornelius Holgate, Wicker Jacoby, Sarah Stearn, another Sarah Levering, John Levering, Maragaret Levering, Mary Levering and Elizabeth Jerret.

As stated before, the Pennepek Church was organized in 1698. The First Baptist Church of Philadelphia began in 1746 and most of the early Roxborough Baptist belonged to that congregation.

The records of the Philadelphia church contains the following: "August 3, 1789. A request from our brethern and sisters of Rocksburrow for a dismission in order that they may be constituted a church, being delivered to this church, July 12, last, after communion, it was read and the church agreed that they be dismissed. Brother Ustick (the pastor) to draw the letter."

Accordingly, on Sunday, August 23, 1789, the following persons met at the Roxborough Schoolhouse: Abraham Levering, Anna Levering, Catherine Standeland, John Levering, Hannah Levering, Anthony Levering, John Righter, Nathan Levering, Sarah Levering, Cornelius Holgate, Mary Holgate, Samuel Levering, Rebecca Levering, Hannah Coulston, Sarah Mathias, Mary Levering, John Howell, Elizabeth Howell, George Sinn, Margaret Sinn, Dorothy Sinn, Wickard Jacoby, Michael Conrad, Jane Conrad, Elizabeth Yerkes, Charles Nice, Sarah Stearn, William Holgate, a second Mary Holgate, and also another Sarah Leverington, Sarah Lobb and Mary Stout.

The first of the constituents who expired was John Highter, on February 6, 1790. The last was Sarah Stearn, who afterwards married John Gorgas, of Germantown. She died in her ninety-first year, on May 13, 1862.

Having invited Samuel Jones, D.D., of Pennepek, the Rev. Thomas Ustick, A. M., of Philadelphia, the Rev. Thomas Ainger, of Wilmington, Delaware, and the Rev. James McLaughlin, of Hilltown, Bucks county, the ministers proceeded according to Baptist custom and duly constituted the above named thirty-two persons into a church. The record states: "The Church of Jesus Christ, on the Ridge road, Roxborough Township." Therefore, the organization of the church took place in the old schoolhouse on August 23, 1789. There is little doubt that it was a happy day for those early worshipers, happier, perhaps, than this recent celebration, for present-day members of the church mourn the loss of loved fellow-members, who have gone to their reward, while those pioneers had only a future of spiritual fellowship to look forward to.

The Rev. Thomas Singer, of Wilmington, supplied the church from 1789 until 1791, when the first regular pastor was appointed. Since then the Roxborough Baptist Church has been served by Curtis Gilbert, from January 27, 1791, to April 22, 1792; Thomas Fleeson, from 1800 to 1821, and from 1822 until 1827; Henry Keeling, from September 22, 1821, to October, 1822; Samuel Smith, from November, 1827, to April, 1831; Dyer Aylesworth Nichols, from December 24, 1831, to April 16, 1837; Simeon Siegfried, from August 19, to April 1, 1838; Thomas Winter, D. D., from 1840 to 1863; David Spencer, D. D., from 1865 to 1877; James Willmarth, D. D., LL. D., from 1878 to 1901; Dr. Orlando T. Steward, from 1901 to 1909; the Rev. John P. Champion, 1910 to 1915; the Rev. John Gordon, D. D., 1915 to 1916; the Rev. William C. Richardson, from September 1, 1916, until his death, March 21, 1917; the Rev. Johnson L. Miner, from September 9, 1917, until he, too, died on December 21, 1922.

The present pastor, the Rev. J. Foster Wilcox, has been in charge since September 1, 1923.

Mr. Gilbert was a teacher in the Roxborough School and was later ordained. He died at the age of 23 years and was buried in the rear of the original Roxborough Baptist Church, in Leverington Cemetery.

The second pastor, Thomas Fleeson, had an affliction of the eyes—was probably blind, for he was unable to baptize members and had to depend upon other pastors to perform that service. He had a remarkable memory and could repeat whole chapters of the Bible, and when hymns were announced they were usually read by his aged deacon, John Levering, who stood in front of the pulpit for that purpose. Mr. Fleeson lived in a dwelling on Ridge road, below Fountain street, which was afterwards known as 'the Shalkop house." He was an early riser and every pleasant spring morning he would walk along the path in front of his garden, with cane in hand, humming over some familiar tune. His hair was white and he wore it long. This, with knee breeches and topboots, which he continued to wear as long as he lived, gave him a venerable appearance. Mr.

Fleeson was also buried in the rear of the old church.

The church has occupied several buildings on practically the same site and the same ardent enthusiasm which was present at the organization, was exhibited at the rededication services 139 years later, which occurred last Sunday.

SCCAFF.

1-25-28

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

The Churches of 1883

Let us go back into the history of things religious in the valley of the Schuylkill, within Philadelphia County and obtain a few thoughts concerning the places in which our fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers used to worship.

We have recently obtained a volume of statistics which were compiled in the year 1883 and it is, in the phraseology of the day, "just crammed" with interesting data on the subject. In that year there were about 26 or 27 religious organizations in the district which comprised Roxborough, Manayunk and the Falls of Schuylkill.

The Episcopal churches were St. Timothy's in Roxbcrough, St. David's in Manayunk and St. James the Less in the Falls. St. Timothy's had as their rector, the Rev. Robert Evans Dennison. J. Vaughan Merrick was Rector's Warden and William P. Stroud was Accounting Warden. St. David's pastor was Rev. Charles Logan with Orlando Crease as Rector's Warden and Richard Hey, Accounting Warden. Rev. Robert Ritchie was the rector of St. James the Less, with George Blight as Rector's Warden and Ellis Yarnall as Accounting Warden.

Among those of the Methodist denomination were Mount Zion M. E., of Manayunk of which Rev. J. W. Mills was the pastor. Some of the prominent men of the church were: John Schofield, Robert T. Noble, James Hardman, Thomas Poleman, William B. Trites, Oram Pester, James Ellison, Harry R. Craven, Adam Tyce, George P. Hodson, Sylvester Yardley, William H. Preston, Thomas Webb, John M. Hodson, James G. Donley, B. M. Simpson, Albert Lee and Robert Parsons.

Ebenezer M. E. was also located in Manayunk, with Rev. T. M. Jackson as pastor. Some of the men who comprised the board of trustees and stewards were J. T. Gilton, Andrew Flanagan, James Flanagan, John Dobson, William Goodfellow, M. N. Bovard, Fred Weaver, William Johnson, John Kenworthy, James S. Priest, John Robinson, William Eddleman, Charles S. Albany, Job Guerny, William Chappel and William Russel. F. A. Lovejoy was the Sunday School superintendent. The Ridge Avenue M. E. was in charge of Rev. Joseph B. Graff. The Trustees were: W. C. Hamilton, William Burnheter, Abel Green, William A. Mooney and Joseph H. Bosson. F. W. Lockwood and William B. Hughes were on the Board of Stewards in addition to the trustees, before mentioned.

Roxborough Central M. E. was presided over by Rev. T. A. Fernley. The Trustees were: T. Wilkinson, Harry Beaumont, S. W. Stivers, Henry Kemper, Robert Lee, E. C. Parker, James L. Hodson, Peter W. Lindsay and John Baxter. The Stewards were: A. Lackey, J. Frederick Schnateman, Harry Gill, S. W. Stivers, W. E. Yarnall, M. Pester and T. Wilkinson. E. S. Sutch was the Sunday School superintendent.

The Falls M. E. was ministered to by Rev. P. J. Cox. The Board of Trustees consisted of James Mills, Randal M. Cox, Harry P. Mills, Edward Foster, John M. Shronk, James Taylor, John R. Scott, John Brown and John Rudolph. The Board of Stewards were composed of James Mills, Edward Foster, William McKinney, John M. Shronk, John Brown, Alexander McSeveny, James Taylor, Harry P. Mills, and Albert G. Marley. James Mills was the Sunday School superintendent.

The Catholics of the neighborhood worshiped at the St. John the Baptist Church, and also at St. Mary's of the Assumption in Manayunk and at St. Bridget's in East Falls. Reverend J. A. Brehoney was the pastor of St. John's with Reverends F. J. Fitzmaurice and J. Campbell as his assistants. Patrick Curran was the superintendent of the Sunday School for the man and the girls and women were instructed by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The German Catholics of the Falls of Schuylkill, Chestnut Hill, Germantown, Manayurk and Roxborough were parishioners of St. Mary's. Rev. F. J. Martersteck was the pastor with Rev. H. Hameke as his assistant. H. Stemmler, B. Larberg and C. Rudolph were the members of a committee which assisted the pastor. The school was in charge of Sisters of St. Francis.

The Baptist believers worshiped at the Roxborough Baptist and the Manatawna Baptist in Roxborough, and at the Wissahickon Mission, on Ridge avenue, down near Manayunk avenue. This is now an organized church and

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is known as the Wissahickon Baptist Church, and is located at Terrace and Dawson streets. Manayunk followers of the faith attended services in the First Baptist and this church also conducted a mission in Mount Vernon. Falls residents attended divine services at the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church on Queen lane.

Rev. James W. Willmarth was the pastor of the Roxborough Baptist Church and William H. Lewis was the Sunday School superintendent. Joseph Adams was the superintendent of the Wissahickon Mission. The Manatawna Baptist Church was located "between the Ninth and Tenth Milestones" and had as its pastor the Rev. William B. Tolan. The deacons were B. W. Hagy, Perry L. Anderson and Edward H. Latch. The trustees were: Matthias Ritter, B. W. Hagy, W. H. Harner, Abraham Ritterhouse, E. H. Latch, Leonard Streeper and William F. Dixon. B. W. Hagy was the Sunday School superintendent. The First Baptist of Manayunk was ministered to by Rev. George H. McClelland. The deacons were: P. W. Levering, John Dill, John Mitchell, Frazer Baliff, Jonathan C. Anderson, Lorenz Goshow and William Heath. Joseph Miles was the president of the Board of Trustees, James G. Davis was the secretary and John G. Morris was the treasurer.

Rev. Henry W. Jones was the minister at the Falls Baptist. The deacons were: C. F. Abbott, B. F. Marley and J. Hoffman. The trustees were: Horace Evans, Harmon Johnson, C. K. Sorber James S. Swartz, G. E. Abbott, M. D.; Charles Ashton and the deacons, above mentioned. James S. Swartz was the Sunday School superintendent.

The Fourth Reformed Church, was in 1883, located on Cotton street above Cresson street. Rev. Cornelius Schenck was the pastor. The Elders were: J. W. Turner, Coleman Hendrickson, A. W. Givin and George Dorwart. Theodore Thornberg, John Miller, William Hamilton and William Evans were the deacons. The Trustees were: Seville Schofield, Edward Lyndall, Thomas Lebengood, William Beaty, J. Wesley Norbury and Christopher Flexer. A. W. Givin was the Sunday School superintendent.

The Presbyterians had congregations at the First Presbyterian Church of Manayunk, the Leverington and the First Presbyterian Church of Roxborough and the Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church, which was then, as now located on Ridge avenue below School lane.

The Manayunk Presbyterian had as their pastor, Rev. Charles E. Burns. The Elders were: Dr. Henry Keim, C. S. Davis, Joshua Batty, and W. A. Bell. The Trustees were: H. J. Ramsay, Rudolph Gallati, and William Boon, Jr. Thomas L. Milligan was the Sunday School superintendent. The Roxborough congregation was led by Rev. William E. Westervelt. Henry D. Coler, Henry C. McManus and Robert Corbit were the elders. The Board of Trustees consisted of John Peters, Henry Bickings, C. F. Hoffman, Absalom Foyle, William McFadden, Gustav A. Sisler and Benjamin McManus. Henry McManus was the Sunday School superintendent.

The Leverington Presbyterian was ministered to by Rev. James W. Kirk, Andrew B. Detweiler, William C. Todd, M. D., and William Bell were the elders. The Trustees were: John J. Foulkrod, William C. Todd, M. D.; Charles Struse, Joseph Hendren, John Doak, Frank Boutcher, William J. Robinson, Edwin Struse and William Nice. The Falls Presbyterian was pastored by Rev. Joseph Beggs. James McMurtie and John Maxwell were the elders. The trustees were James Dobson, Samuel H. Mayberry, John Frazer, Archibald Lawson, James Cowan, William Kilpatrick, David Furman, Alexander McNeill, John Highlands, William Davidson and Alexander Krall. Josiah Linton was the Sunday School superintendent.

Other religious societies included the Caizelia; Maria Hilf; and St. Joseph's Societies, all being German Catholic organizations. H. Rudolph was the president of the first named. H. Stemmler was vice president, August Weinman was secretary, Stephen Josephs was treasurer, and the trustees were: F. Wiphler, B. Larbig and A. Fritz.

The Maria Hilf Society was presided over by Miss Mary Stemmler. This society was, by its faithful co-operation with the pastors, a great help to the Church of the Assumption. C. Rudolph was president of the St. Joseph's Society and was a great help to the Church of the Assumption.

The German Evangelical Church met on Martin street near Pechin street. Rev. R. Gustav Zobel was the pastor. The officers included Julius Stricker, Adam Gross, Philip Kling, Frederick Klant, G. Adolph Penn, Gottlieb Tharan and Rudolph Lobernheimer. Louis Krauss was the superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Methodists also maintained a mission in the Pencoyd Public School Building, on River Road, Montgomery County. James Hardman was the superintendent and Irvin Kerkeslager was his assistant.

Read over this long list of our early church officials and you will find almost every old family name that is still to be found in the neighborhood served by the Roxborough News.

SCCAFF

2-1-28

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Along the Schuylkill with Sccaff

IN THE BEGINNING

Roxborough is one of the original townships of Philadelphia County. When it was first settled cannot now be ascertained, but it must have been shortly after William Penn founded the city. Thomas Holmes, who was Penn's surveyor general, published a large map in 1681-1682, and on the plan Germantown and Roxborough are named together, but the eleven names of the patentees for Roxborough are given separately.

The names of these patentees, together with the number of acres called for by the patent is as follows:

Robert Turner	500 acres
Richard and Robert Vicaris	446 acres
John Jennett	200 acres
Philip Talmun	200 acres
Francis Fincher	500 acres
James Claypoole	500 acres
Samuel Bennett	246 acres
Charles Hartford (about)	400 acres
Richard Snee	334 acres
Charles Jones	400 acres
Jonas Smith	500 acres
Total	4226 acres

The early settlers were Hollanders, such as the Rittenhouses, the Liberings, or Leverings and the Gorgases; or Germans, such as the Richters, or Righters; or English, as the Robesons, Livezeys, Holgates, Woods, Moyers and Cooks. The first permanent settler of whom satisfactory information has been obtained was Wigard, or Wishart Levering.

Wigard Levering made a purchase from Francis Fincher, and another purchase at a later date from Fincher's widow who had again married.

The greater part of Manayunk is built on the old Fincher tract. It started at Levering street on the east and extended to Fountain street, which was formerly known as Hipples lane, on the west. This area of ground stretched from the Schuylkill River to Wissahickon avenue. For this section of land he paid the handsome sum of £169 sterling, or what would amount to $840 in American money.

The lower portion of Manayunk, which was then a part of Roxborough township, was bought in October, 1692, by Gerhardt Levering, Wigard's brother, from John Jennett, 100 acres of which Jennett had previously purchased from Talmun.

The land along School lane and Wissahickon creek, from the Schuylkill River to Wissahickon avenue, was part of the Richard and Robert Vicaris patent.

All of the early settlers were engaged in some useful occupation besides agriculture. The Rittenhouses, it will be remembered, were noted because they had the honor of establishing, in 1690, the first paper mill in America. It was located on Paper Mill Run, or Monoshone creek as it was once known, close to Wissahickon avenue, which was the old township line of Germantown.

The historians of our neighboring community, Germantown, are wont to claim this territory as part of their bailiwick, but it is nevertheless a part of Roxborough, being still in the Twenty-first Ward and never was in Germantown. William Rittenhouse, more than likely because of its nearness and the fact that most of his co-religionists lived in Germantown, attended church services in that community and there acted as pastor of the Mennonite Church, incidentally being the first Mennonite bishop in America. Thus, while our Germantown friends may claim Rittenhouse as a leader in their community, his residence and paper mill were in Roxborough.

But to return to the Leverings. The Roxborough purchase was not the first land that the Leverings had bought in America, for in a deed recorded in August, 1685, it stated: "On the 10th of that month and year, Francis Daniel Pastorius, as the attorney of Jacob Van de Walle and others, forming the Frankfort Land Company, conveyed to Wigard Levering a lot in Germantown, containing 50 acres of land." The deed is in the German language and closes as follows: "So done in Germantown, on the 10th day of the 6th month (August) in the year of Christ, 1685, in the sixteenth year of the reign of King James the Second of England and in the fifth year of the reign of William Penn."

Gerhardt Levering also purchased a like area of land.

How long the Leverings remained in Germantown cannot be positively stated, but it is probable that they moved to Roxborough in 1691 or 1692, as on the 24th of February, 1691, Wigard paid £68 for a tract of land 200 acres in extent, including "a mansion house and several other buildings, orchards, gardens, apple trees, etc."

It is more than likely that this was the period of his settlement in Roxborough, for his name does not afterward

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appear in any Germantown transactions.

After his original purchase he bought 300 acres more from Christopher Libthorpe, a brazier, and his wife, Mary, who had been the widow of Francis Fincher.

The original Fincher warrant, issued by William Penn, was dated April 24, 1684, and confirmed as Fincher's ground, through a deed from Penn's commissioners, dated November 4, 1691.

SCCAFF.

2-8-28

Along the Schuylkill with Sccaff

SOME OLD-TIME RESIDENTS

At the corner of Vaux and Ainslie street, in East Falls, stands the sole remaining piece of property that was once part of a large tract owned by the Garretts, whose ancestors were among the earliest settlers of that region. Early in 1800's Andrew Garrett lived near there in an ancient one-story log farmhouse, about two hundred yards back from Indian Queen lane.

Charles V. Hagner, who wrote a history of the vicinity in 1869, said that when he—Mr. Hagner—was a lad, Andrew Garrett was a very old man. He was the son or grandson of one of the Swedes, who were the original settlers of this part of the country. Hagner often visited the old gentleman and said that he had hanging in his house the horns of deer that he had shot in the vicinity of his house, and that Garrett remembered seeing Indians fishing and prowling about the Falls. This old gentleman met with an untimely fate, for some unscrupulous characters, thinking that the old man had a large sum of money about the house, broke into it and murdered the owner in an attempt to make him tell where he had hidden his money. Andrew Garrett's gun can be seen by anyone interested in the large collections of relics owned by the Germantown Historical Society.

There was an Englishman who lived for many years in the Levering Hotel by the name of Breton. He was an artist and it is said that he made his first attempt at drawing while working his passage across the Atlantic. He sketched a large number of views of Manayunk, Roxborough and the Falls, and after his death in 1856 most of his drawings were sent to England. Some of the pictures that he made dated back as far as 1824.

When he first came to the neighborhood he lived at the hotel on Ridge avenue where the present Roxy Theatre stands. He had come to the hotel, intending only to stay a few days, but the locality interested him and he stayed in Roxborough and Manayunk for many years. He was very uncommunicative and little was known of his past history, but it is thought that he had a wife and several children back home in England. He was over 83 years of age when he died and although he was evidently a man of intelligence and education he was a thorough Johnny Bull, a constitutional grumbler and in his view of things, there was nothing right with this country and nothing wrong about his own.

Shortly after the opening of the last century there came to the Falls a singular character by the name of Joseph Neef, a pupil of the celebrated Pestalozzi, of Switzerland. Neef was induced to come to this country for the purpose of introducing Pestalozzi's system of education by William McClure, the philosopher, who endowed the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Neef had a large school of boys, who were assembled from all parts of the country, and occupied the old Octagon building on the property of William Smith, D.D., the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania. He was a very learned man and a perfect child of nature. He would never touch money, nor have anything to do with it, his wife, a French lady, managing and controlling all his financial affairs. He never wore a hat, and he and his boys, during play hours were always together, swimming, skating or roaming the country, and were it not that he was older and larger, it is said that he would have passed for one of his scholars, for it seemed to be a part of his system to make a boy of himself, on a perfect level with his boys in all their games and amusements, and also in their studies, yet a most rigid disciplinarian.

In a work published by Neef, entitled "A Sketch of His Plan and Method of Education," he alludes to the manner in which he happened to come to America, as follows:

"In the summer of 1805, William McClure, of Philadelphia, one of Pennsylvania's worthiest and most enlightened sons, happened to visit Helvetia's interesting mountains and valleys. He was accompanied by Mr. Cabell, of Virginia, brother of the then governor. Pestalozzi's school attracted their notice; they repaired thither, and were soon convinced of the solidarity, im-

portance and usefulness of the Pestalozzian system . . . 'On what terms,' said this magnanimous patriot to me, 'would you go to my country and introduce the system there? . . . My country wants it and will receive it with enthusiasm. I engage to pay your passage, to secure your livelihood. Go and be your master's apostle in the New World.'"

Neef finally left the Falls and went to the West.

There was another singular character, an Englishman, who resided for many years in a little log house on the west side of the Schuylkill. The house was originally built on the east side of the river, at the foot of Green lane, in Manayunk, but in the winter of 1793-1794 it was taken across on the ice that covered the stream, and set up on the bank in West Manayunk.

The Englishman was sometimes spoken of as "The Hermit," although he was known in the neighborhood as Joseph Moore. But his true name was Joseph Montelier. He accounted for himself in the following words: "Born in Oxford street, London, Marylebone Parish, St. Patrick's Day, 17th Day of March, 1756, six o'clock in the morning, six inches of snow all over London."

He bought the house, in which he lived, and two or three acres of land attached to it, in April, 1800, and resided there alone until his death March 27, 1836.

At the time he came there, he could not have selected a more retired spot, and it troubled him when his privacy was broken up by the improvements of Manayunk, and the making of a road on the western side of the river in front of his house. When he purchased the property he also purchased with the rest of his means a small annuity; his wants were few, and it was sufficient for his support.

In the old times, before the existence of Manayunk, or any improvements in the neighborhood, he cultivated a very pretty garden, a variety of fruits and flowers, and had considerable taste for horticulture. He had been a business man of some kind, had made a voyage or two to China, and had in his house some beautiful chinaware, which seemed quite out of place in his humble domicile.

Annually, on the Fourth of July, it was the custom of John Levering, the proprietor of the West Manayunk grist mills, and others, to assemble under a tree near Montelier's home, provided with all the materials for making punch, and the "General," as they called him, would bring out his large china punchbowl, when they would have a grand-old-time. It was on one of these occasions that the artist, Mr. Breton, drew a picture of Montelier.

We'll tell you more about some of the old-time residents in a later issue.

SCCAFF.

2-22-28

Along the Schuylkill with Sccaff

BLUE BELL HILL

Let's take a little trip, back from the river, for this week's visit to Blue Bell Hill.

Enroute, by motor, from Roxborough to Germantown via the Walnut Lane bridge, one will find almost at the eastern end of the great viaduct, a collection of dwellings that is known to the people of this section as "Blue Bell Hill."

The houses are stretched up the hill of Wissahickon avenue, out Johnson street and in several other smaller thoroughfares.

This group of houses is a part of the 21st Ward but was once a next door neighbor to old Rittenhousetown, which is now no more. The appellation "Blue Bell Hill" was bestowed on the neighborhood because the gayest flower of all, the blue bell, once grew in such profusion in the locality, that in one of the field, they covered the ground to such an extent as to make it appear entirely blue.

The tract, in our story, was a part of the estate of Jonathan Rittenhouse, and was situated next to the farm which was once owned by the late John Welsh, who in President Hayes administration served as minister to Great Britain.

There is a deed in existence which says of the property: "Being a part of the premises which Daniel Rittenhouse by indenture bearing date of the 24th day of September A. D. 1851, did grant and confirm unto the said Jonathan Rittenhouse."

The field ran along Wissahickon avenue, which was then called Township Line, about 450 feet and extended back toward Wissahickon creek, to somewhere in the neighborhood of the present park line along Walnut lane. West Johnson street was originally called Nice's avenue, and was cut through the tract and ended at the railroad cut of what was to have been the Norristown right-of-way of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad. The route was originally intended for the

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P. G. and N., which is now familiar to everyone as part of the Reading lines, and was from Philadelphia to Germantown and thence across the Wissahickon Creek and through Montgomery County to Norristown. In 1832 the road was finished as far as Germantown, but after completing some of the grading between Germantown and Wissahickon, including that at Blue Bell, the width of the valley and its depth discouraged the railroad engineers, and they abandoned the route west of Germantown road and looked for an easier way of reaching the Montgomery County town, which they found along the eastern bank of the Schuylkill river.

A writer, R. Matthias, in 1836 commented upon the project of bridging the Wissahickon as follows: "Here upon the edge of a hill may be seen the point at which it was some time since proposed to throw a bridge across the stream, to carry across the railroad from Philadelphia to Norristown. The projectors of the scheme reached thus far in their onward progress, but in casting a glance over the precipice into the gulch below, were struck with dismay at the formidable obstacles which appeared, and prudently abandoned the hazardous and wildly conceived undertaking."

Thus Blue Bell was robbed of being placed on the railroad map, with all the advantages that railroad transportation would have meant to its growth. The "hazardous and wildly conceived undertaking" of bridging the Wissahickon at that point, was not began until 1906, when with the aid of iron and cement the Walnut lane bridge was erected. This bridge, which consumed two years in the making stands 133 feet above the bed of the creek and is 585 feet in length.

In Civin's Manayunk, Roxborough and Falls of Schuylkill Directory published in 1883, Rittenhousetown, Blue Bell's neighbor, is listed as "Rittenhouse Place," followed by this description, "a small village on the north side of Rittenhouse street, at its lower junction with the creek." Rittenhouse street ran "from Ridge avenue at a point opposite Shurs streets, NE to Rosena street and thence east to Wissahickon avenue—which is now the Wissahickon drive—near Red Bridge; commencing below Red Bridge, it continues NE to Township Line, being the main road to Germantown."

Sarah street followed a course from "Township Line SW; parallel with Nice avenue, above Rittenhouse street, east of Wissahickon Creek." Naomi street is described as running from "Township Line road SW, near Rittenhouse street."

The first house in Blue Bell was probably the one erected by Patrick Lane, which fronted on Wissahickon avenue; but the Henshaw, Hutelmyers, Foster, Jacoby, Rhoades, Green, Mollenkopf, Aucott, Bussinger, Evans and Gentner homes were built the same year, so it is hard to determine which really was the first. All of these houses were of stone construction and in their building each of the men of the neighborhood helped each other.

The field below that of the blue bells, was owned by Isaac Rittenhouse. The boys of the locality were appointed guardians of a certain apple tree in this field and were told they might have all the fruit from it that they desired, provided they kept strangers from entering the field. This they had to do, too, for the lads from the neighboring communities of Rittenhousetown, Smearsburg, Devilstown and Little Briton were well aware of the quality of the fruit that came from that particular tree.

In Givin's old book, there is a reference to the "Alfred Crease Secondary School" at Blue Bell. The school directors in 1883 were Messrs Bussinger, Steele and Brookes. M. Conway was the principal and Miss E. S. Yocum, who retired within the last year, was the one and o nly teacher. In reference to schools, it is my belief that somewhere I have seen an old paragraph of the Rittenhouse Acadamey, and it seems that when I was shown the picture, the person who possessed it said that the old institute of learning was located in the present confines of Fairmount Park, on the hill west of Naomi avenue.

Blue Bell has other tales that are interesting and when we have again found time to "skip over there" we're going to tell you another.

SCCAFF.

FEBRUARY 29 1928

Roxborough News

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

INDIANS OF THE LOCALITY

Tedyuscung, the Indian, whose effigy stands as a monument, high on a cliff above the Wissahickon creek, has already came in for a story in this column, so we take up the narratives of other redman, who in the early days, lived in and traveled about the neighborhood in which we live.

Isaac Still was one of these copper-

colored natives, who had received a good education and was a leader of the last members of the Delaware tribe who inhabited the vicinity of Philadelphia. He was a christian, of good morals, and was considered quite a wise person and was frequently employed as a representative and interpreter in French, as well as English, in many negotiations with distant tribes of his race. He is said to have traveled over the greater part of the surface of the United States and had seen, as he said, "the Rocky Mountains."

In 1771 he moved from the vicinity of the Wissahickon Valley to Buckingham, for the purpose of collecting his scattered tribe and to move with them, to some distant point, as he phased it, "away from war and rum." This action he carried out in 1775, taking with him about forty of his clan, chiefly squaws and children, as the men, especially the younger ones, who were about twenty in number, had gone on ahead to prepare a camp on the banks of the Wabash.

John Fanning Watson cites the fact that a Samuel Preston witnessed their departure and describes Still as a fine looking man, "wearing a hat ornamented with feathers, the women, all bareheaded, each loaded dwith a large pack on her back, fastened with broad straps across their foreheads, thus making their heads bear most of the burden, they proceeded in a regular form of march." Thus ended, in the year 1775, the last vestige of the Lenni Lenape—or Delawares—from the neighborhood of Philadelphia, and from Bucks County and Jersey.

Another Indian, probably of the greatest fame, who used to frequent the neighborhood was Tamanend—or Tamane, as Penn spelt his name. This is the character from whom the Democratic Party in New York State, acquired the name of the famous old headquarters, "Tammany."

Heckewelder, the noted authority on the aborigines, tells a most interesting tale of Tamanend, whose remains, it is said, repose by the side of a spring, not far from Doylestown, Pa. Watson, also speaks of the redskin and tells of a letter from a friend who said, "I have just returned from visiting the identical spot in which the celebrated Indian chief, 'St. Tamane' was buried. It is about four miles from this village, in a beautiful situation, at the side of an endless spring, which after running a furlong, empties into the Neshaminy—the spot is worth visiting and the reflections it awakens are worth a league's walk."

There is a belief existing that at one time Tamanend had a cabin, or tepee, on the meadow near the Ridge road, situated under a great elm tree, on the Francis farm. This was somewhere below Girard avenue.

Tamanend and another Indian, named Metamequan, made a treaty with William Penn, on the 23rd day, 4th month, 1683, for lands near Neshaminy Creek and thence to the Pennypack. This was out beyond the northern county line of Philadelphia. Tamanend's mark—in place of a signature—was made by forming a crudely-shaped square with a slanting line drawn from the center, up and through the left hand corner of the square. It looked exactly like a pen sticking up from a square inkwell.

In 1728, a band of Indians were attacked by a group of white people "in Manatawna," on the Schuylkill," as Watson says, and some of the red men were killed. Governor Gordon consequently united the Indians at French Creek and at "Indian town at Conestogoe," in an effort to pacify the braves, and proclaimed that "no molestation shall be offered to any of the Indian nations, then in our borders, to wit: Delawares, Conestogoes, Ganawese, Shawnese, Mingoes."

The Indian appellation for Schuylkill was "Ganshowe-hanne" meaning "noisy stream," on account of its falls and ripples. Manayunk was "Menelunk," or "our place of drinking." Delaware river was "Makerish Kitton," it very likely getting its names from the Trenton Falls, meaning "strong, rapid," like the falls. Wissahickon was "Wisamekhan," or "catfish creek," or sometimes "Wisauchican," the "stream of yellowish color." Manatawna was "Menhattanink," or "where we drank." Pennsylvania they called "Quokelink"—the "country of Quakers."

Dr. Charles K. Mills, in a Centennial poem, entitled "The Schuylkill" referred to the local natives, in the following lines:

"Sternly commanded to retrace
The route by which theid haughty race
Ancestral centuries before,
Had come on conquering tide of war,
Tradition tells—a said voiced tale—
How clung the Indians to this vale
Fast to its many beauties grew,
The tendrils of their hearts, who knew
The loveliness of nature best,
Ah! fiercely cruel the behest,
Even though it came not from foe,
Which bade them from these charms to go,
The music of the Falls no more,
Should witch them to a rocky shore,
Nor lull at nightfall unto rest,
The tumult of each savage breast.

They here the fish should seine and spear
No more: nor near hunt bear and deer,
No more should they, in light canoe,

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Cleave swift the cascade's dangers through.

Here throve the long-leaved osier fair,
With which they curious baskets made,
With berries decked and minerals rare
Were; in the shelving rock are worn
Great indentations where, 'tis said,
The squaws with pestle punded corn.

Oft have I, in imagining
Heard through these woods the war whoop ring,
The bow's twang heard a lullaby
Sung to a papoose hung on a tree;
And oft I on these shores well known
My boyhood's frequent tramping ground,
Have traces of the redmen found—
In axe, or arrowhead of stone,
Or queer carved implement of bone,
Or half-obliterated mound."

So much for our Indians.

SCCAFF.

Independent Gazette
MARCH 8 1928

ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

OLD ADVERTISEMENTS

There are probably thousands of people, aside from the women of the house, who in truth are the real economists, that find something of interest in newspaper or other forms of advertising. The merchant's message to the public in general, is worthy of perusal, for information of importance is often encouched in his appeal to the people to make their purchases from him.

We, who in our simple way, attempt to grind out an interesting tale for this column each week, happened to have an old business directory for the year 1883, fall into our hands, a few weeks ago, and the local advertisements in the volume proved of such unusual interest that we decided to let the rest of our friends "in on the know" of things as they were in a business way in this vicinity forty-four years ago. Here is the tale:

A. W. Givin was the "boss" at the Manayunk Insurance Agency, at 4342 Main street. Mr. Givin was the representative of the German American Insurance Company, of New York, and insurance could be effected in the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia an "The Mutual" of Germantown, or in any other company desired. The printed notice told the world that the "office is connected by telephone" and that the place was also the Bell Telephone Company's Manayunk exchange.

Mrs. E. Whitaker had a "Bread and Cake Bakery" at 4367 Cresson street, "near the railroad depot," where parties could be "supplied at short notice." The establishment is still in existence.

Lots of folks remember C. J. McClinchey's grocery store at the corner of Main and Levering streets, but who recalls the Manayunk Machine Works of Muldoon & Bramble, "at Main street near Center," where Yorksrire Fulling Mills, Yorkshire Gigs, Rotary Fulling Mills, Wash Boxes and Paper Machinery were made.

S. A. Pickard, at the Falls, manufactured "Pickard's Celebrated Mayflower Bitters," a certain remedy for purifying the blood. The advertisement stated that this medicine was an "unequalled appetizer and tonic without rival." So you see, even before the days of convenient transit facilities, or daily dozens, when pedestrianism was compulsory, instead of optional, there was need for a substitute for arousing one's desire to eat. And the old-timers endeavor to tell us that the old days were the days of real he-men! The printed words of an advertisement come back to refute the stories that they tell us of the sturdiness of the men who lived the simple life. We fear that their memories serve them falsely.

Mrs. J. Cain, at 3291 Ridge avenue, Schuylkill Falls, sold Gaiters, Boots and Shoes, and stated that the establishment turned out "neatly executed" repairing. Joseph Malden sold new and second hand tools, at 4351 Main street, Manayunk. John Gallati, the venerable manufacturer of 93 years, made brushes at 4355 Main street, which is the same location at which he still carries on. Forty-four years ago, Mr. Gallati also sold "baskets, brooms, sporting tackle, powder, shot and caps."

Edwin H. Pester was the proprietor of the Mount Vernon Meat and Provision Market, at 4670 Washington street, Mount Vernon. Edward Kinder, at 3917 Cresson street, wove rag carpets at lowest prices and guaranteed to give satisfaction. Miss M. A. Jamison, at 126 Oak street was the artist who covered the unshorn locks of the ladies of the day.

Joseph McKernan, of Manayunk, according to the directory, was the man who should be seen, for "Ready Made,

and Made to Order Clothing, from Wanamaker and Browns', Sixth and Market streets, Philadelphia.

The Roxborough undertaker, H. F. Whiteman, on Ridge road, above Green lane, told that the world, that he prepared the "bodies with cold air by the use of a "New Corpse Preserver." William Schofield manufactured Wool and Rag Pickers, at his "Perseverance Works" on Church street, in Manayunk.

Samuel W. Brown conducted the old drug store at the corner of Main and Cotton street, Peter Lindsey was the owner of the Reliance Iron Foundry on Church street aabove Hamilton street. His ad contained the following interesting line. "A share of your patronage is respectfully solicited."

A. Ellwood Jones maintained a conveyancing and notary public office in the "second story of the Manayunk Bank Building." A. S. McKnight would send workmen to any part of the city or country to hang wall paper or window shades. His place was to be found at 4447 Main street.

William Bernard had a coal yard at Green lane and Cresson street and also another one over in West Manayunk. Joseph Hyde, the plumber located at 103 Division street, Manayunk, and J. W. Norbury, the paper hanger, could be found on Ridge avenue above Green lane.

The old advertisements of the directory show that the main business section of the Twenty-first Ward, n 1883, was along Main street in Manayunk, for in the whole of the book's 330 pages there only appear two from Ridge avenue in Roxborough. Walk up that old thoroughfare today, with its multitude of stores, its theatre and restaurants, banks and other establishments, which serve the people of the community and witness the change that has been wrought in the years that have intervened since 1883.

Wissahickon merchants were few and far between, and those of East Falls were scattered along Ridge avenue, with a few neighborhood grocery stores upon the side streets. Thirty-fifth street, Cresson street, Midvale avenue and others, now have business places of various kinds in addition to those of Ridge avenue.

Compare the elaborate advertisements of modern times with illustrations to attract the eye with the old typography of the days which are gone. They are exceedingly more convincing and without a doubt have more "pulling" power.

SCCAFF.

made 21st 1928

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ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

Wissahickon's old grade crossing is gone, for last Friday afternoon, the new bridge over the Norristown branch of the Reading railroad was formally opened to the public.

Ridge road was the first thorofare in this vicinity that was laid out. It is known that the old highway was laid out in, 1706, from the Wissahickon Mills to Philadelphia. The road has had many different names. Sometimes it was called the Manatawny, or the Plymouth Road, or the Great Road leading to Plymouth. It was, however, more generally called "the Ridge", from the fact that it ran on the tops of the ridge of hills between the Schuylkill river and the Wissahickon creek.

The same year the road was extended to the Perkiomen creek, above Norristown. The route through the 21st Ward has been changed previous to this last one at the Wissahickon station. Originally it started from the foot of the hill, just above the Wissahickon Creek, and followed the line of "Wetherill's Lane", then up the present Righter street, and through the farm of Peter Righter, out past Henry Root's and the old Poor House, or Plow Tavern,at the present Ridge avenue and Righter street. This road was opened to the width of 60 feet, but was later narrowed to 50 feet.

It would seem that at an early day there was a ford over the Schuylkill near Andrew Robeson's mills. Righter's Ferry was a short distance above the Wissahickon Creek, near the present Pencoyd Bridge.

It is more than probable that the old Ridge road, at first, ran over a part of the Manayunk Turnpike, and before reaching the ditch below the lumber yard of N. L. Jones—near the Pencoyd offices—turned to the right.

The route was travelled for many years but in 1723 a partial change was made, and in September 1753, several residents of Roxborough requested a change in the route, on account of the steepness of the hill. In March 1754, a Road jury reported against altering the road, and it was not until 1786 that any futher effort was made to change its original lines.

The road, meanwhile, had become worse and worse, and the heavily laden

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wagons wore ruts in the rocks to the depth of a foot in many places.

In June, 178.., there were three petitions in favor of a change of route presented to the Court. These represented, among other things, that "the Road leading north-westwardly from Philadelphia, through Reading to North Cumberland County is one of the great Highways of the State through which the produce of the back counties is brought to the city; that in its present passage through Roxborough, it passes over a very steep, rocky hill, called Van Deren's Hill, which is near or about three-fourths of a mile in its ascent, which renders carting and traveling very difficult". It was suggested that the hill could be avoided by taking a road around the side of the embankment, which would permit gradual ascent without increasing the distance to be traveled.

It was further represented that at times the road was so bad as to be impassable, and travelers to the city were compelled to take a round-about way to the city, by way of Germantown road. These petitions had the desired effect and the Ridge road was changed to its present route over Righter's Hill, but why the valley beyond, which would appear to have been the natural course of the road, was not utilized as the route, still remains a mystery.

The estate of Esther Righter, of whom Nathan Levering and Algernon Roberts were the guardians, received the sum of 29 pounds sterling as damages.

The jury on this route was ordered in September 1786, so that it is probable the road, as we knew it before the recent changes, was made during the fall of that year, but, notwithstanding the change, many persons preferred the old route, and in March 1797, Messrs. Levering and Roberts, as guardians of Miss Righter, petitioned the court to vacate the old road.

Accordingly the Court appointed Peter Robeson, Andrew Wood, Godfrey Bockius, Joseph Crawford, George Sinn and Christopher Ozias, jurors to examine the road, and on the 24th of August 1797, they reported as follows: "We have viewed and vacated the following courses of the old Wissahickon road, in the Township of Roxborough, the centre whereof begins about 16 perches northwestward from the fork of the old and new roads, thence along the line of the said Esther Righter's land, north 16 degrees, 30 minutes, east 31 perches and north 5 degrees, east 34 perches and thence along the line of the said Esther Righter's land, north 3 degrees, east 26 perches and 5 tenths, to the westerly corner of David Merkle's land, the whole distance being one hundred and 31 perches and 5 tenths." This report was confirmed and the old road through Miss Righter's farm was vacated.

The bad state of Ridge road led some of the prominent men of the generations gone to organize the Ridge Turnpike Company, and numerous were the articles written for the press, upon the subject, in order to awaken an interest in a turnpike. At length after enduring the evils of a muddy impassable road for years, the people of Roxborough—who, an old writer says, "took a long time to consider and think over a matter before they did anything—a fault which still clings to them "—went to work in earnest and on March 30th 1811, the act of incorporation was signed by Governor Simon Snyder. The following persons were appointed commissioners to open the stock subscription books: General John K. Duy, John Markley Henry Nixon, Joseph Starne, Matthias Harrison, Francis Deal, Alexander Crawford and Levi Pawling.

The turnpike was eventually finished and it proved of the greatest advantage to the whole section of country through which it passed, but it never yielded the projectors of it any remuneration whatever— the cost having exceeded their expectations.

There was a curious provision in the charter of the Turnpike Company which was stated "It shall be unlawful for any person to remove any stone, sand or earth from the stoned part, or from the side or summer road, within the limits of the road of the Ridge Turnpike Company, without the consent of the said company; and if any prson shall dig or remove any stone, sand, or earth, contrary to this section, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of $10 for each offense, to be recovered as debts of the same amount are recoverable, for the use of the person who may sue for the same".

The latest change in the course of the old highway is the best which has been planned and carried out, since the road was first laid out, and the danger of thousands of lives has been eliminated by the construction of the bridge which crosses safely and sanely above the railroad tracks.

SCCAFF.

Printed in Roxborough, after I had resigned, Wed. Mar. 28-1928

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ALONG THE Schuylkill WITH Sccaff

Epidemics

There is hardly anyone, who is over fifteen years of age who does not have a vivid recollection of what ravages the Spanish "flu" worked among our people during the time of the last war. But there has also been other epidemics in this secton of Philadelphia.

In the summer of 1832, this part of the country was sorely afflicted with cholera. Previous to its breaking out in this neighborhood, as was done everywhere else, the citizens organized a Sanitary Committee, of which Charles V. Hagner was the president. They went actively to work in the vicinity and had the surrounding country examined and cleaned. Every house was freely opened to their inspection and all nuisances abated; cellars cleaned and white-washed; and lime freely used in every direction. The people were greatly alarmed and readily acceded to the Committee's efforts, and doubtless the measures which they adopted modified the disease when it reached the valley of the Shuykill; yet it was very severe; there were in all from forty to fifty deaths.

Many persons had light attacks of it and passed them off harmlessly, but when it got hold of a heavy drinking man, there was not the slightest chance for his life, and in many cases they were carried off in a frightfully rapid manner.

The physicians had a hard time of it, and the Committee was obliged to get assistance for them. Dr. George McCalmont, then a student, offered his services, and on one occasion when he and a committeeman was attending a case, one of the other physicians came to them and told them that there was another man who had just been taken with it in the street. He directed Dr. McCalmont to go along and attend to the newer case.

The stricken man, an hour before had been hauling stone with a horse and wagon and the doctor had spoken to him .

At the time, nothing seemed to be wrong with him. He was a very stout man, weighing over 200 pounds, and known as a heavy drinker. Dr. McCalmont went to his house about ten o'clock in the morning and found him walking about his room in great agony. He immediately started to abuse the physician and ordered him out of his house, saying that the doctor should not make any experiments with him, that he knew what was the matter with himself, and that he simply had cramps, which he had often had before. The doctor knew from the man's appearance; the color of his eyes and so forth; what was the matter with him and that he had a bad case. He tried to reason with him, but it was useless. There was a bed in the room, but the man would not be induced to lie down, until a long period of argumentation had been gone through, but he soon fell into a collapsed state and died and before six o'clock that afternoon he was in his grave.

This specific case was unusual, but not the only one of its kind. It was by the advice of the physician that this particular man was so speedily buried. The overseers of the poor, on Ridge avenue refused to bury him, for they were alarmed and refused to go near his house, so the doctor had to do the best he could. The basement of the German Reformed Church in Manayunk was fitted up as a hosital and had a number of cases in it.

On a certain Sunday, when the disease was at its heighth, there was a terrible panic prevailing throughout the Twenty-first ward, and there was a great cry for doctors. The physicians of the neighborhood could not attend to all the cases, and Dr. Joseph Carson, of the Falls, who afterward became a professor at the University of Pennsylvania was called for, and responded. He had only a day or two previously returned from India. As soon as he arrived in Manayunk he was immediately surrounded, every one anxious to get possession of him. The doctor, of course, was surprised at such a reception, and appealed to the Sanitary Committee's chairman to know what he should do. He was told to go to work as soon as possible. He was taken to the nearest house and from there made a tour of the neighborhood. There was little or nothing the matter with most of the people that were visited, most of them merely frightened, and they magnified every little pain or ache into

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the cholera.

There were two Catholic priests in Manayunk at the time,—the Rev. Mr. Mulholland and the Rev. Mr. Carter, who afterward was rector of a church at Twelfth and Spring Garden streets. They were remarkably active and useful, night and day, among the sick.

Still earlier than the cholera epidemic, for several years after 1821, Manayunk was sorely afflicted with chills and fever, and doubtless the growth of the village was much retarded from this cause, for it made the town a very unpopular place in which to live. Before the improvements on the river were made, the disease was scarcely known along the Schuylkill's shores, but in 1821 it broke out with great virulence.

Every man, woman and child in the village, at some time or another, was afflicted with the fever, and it is said that the very dogs had the shakes, and near the Falls, there was a monkey, which tradition tells us, had a regular tertian ague. Isaac Bird, a Manayunk mill owner, was obliged to close his mill for some six or seven weeks, himself and all his hands being unable to work. He retreated with his family to Germantown. At that time there was a race of men in existence employed in the woolen factories, who have since became extinct. They came from England and there business was to sheer cloth with an immense pair of shears, from three to five feet long. They were shortly superseded by the invention of the cloth shearing machines now commonly used. They were biped animals certainly, and stupidly ignorant. They had been accustomed from youth up to handle the huge shears, which they did well; beyond that they did not appear to have a single idea, except drinking porter, which they did in wholesale quantities.

Those kind of workmen were very much in demand at the time and were hard to secure. Five or six of them arrived from Yorkshire, England, in the extreme warm weather, clothed in the thickest of woolen garments, woolen stockings, etc. They were all unusually large stout men, of fine healthy color and appearance, but one month's residence in Manayunk was quite sufficient to "use them up," and any person who had seen them at the beginning of the month and again at the end of it, would be almost ready to swear they were not the same set of men. All their fine rosy color had vanished and they became miserable, cadaverous, melancholy looking objects.

From sheer ignorance and stupidity two of them lost their lives. One, in the host stage of the disease, stripped himself and lay on his back on the damp ground. There happened to be a ug of buttermilk within his reach and he drank it and was a corpse within a very short time. Another got the idea that it required something powerfully strong to kill the disease; he procured a pint of horseradish and cider, which he swallowed at one gulp. It threw him into convulsions and he died. With a few exceptions such as those related the disease was rarely fatal; on the contrary, often a subject of mirth.

It was quite a common affair to see half a dozen at a time sitting around Ilas Levering's stove in the bar-room of his hotel, all shaking at the same time, others looking on quizzing and laughing at thtem; and more than once the tables were turned, and the merry ones obliged to take their turn at the stove and be laughed at.

SCCAFF

Volume #1 Number #1
Roxborough Times
March 29th 1928

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

THE MAIN STREET

About the time the Schuylkill Canal was constructed the present Main street, in Manayunk was laid out. Previous to that time there was no road along the river through Manayunk. Teams coming from the city went up over Robeson's hill and along Ridge road to Domino lane and thence down to the river, again where the Flat Rock bridge crossed the stream and the driver could choose to take the river road, on either side of the Schuylkill.

There was a short road which ran from Green Lane to the Flat Rock Bridge, and to the fishery and ford across the island, but the highway did not run down to Wissahickon. At the lower end there was only a short road which extended to Righter's ferry, a distance of about 150 yards beyond the present foot of Wissahickon hill.

There was no road from there up to Green Lane. In laying out the present Main street it was the intention and desire of the managers of the Schuylkill Navigation Company, who were the fathers of the

idea, to make it straight, from the extreme lower end of the ward, at Righter's Ferry, to Domino Lane, near the Flat Rock Bridge, which would have made it cross Krams avenue near St. David's church, but the Levering family and others made strenous efforts in opposing that route, on the ground that it would cut through the middle of their farms, and to accomodate them, the angle was made at Rector street. This threw it down nearer the river.

It was at first called the Manayunk Road, and was so intolerably bad, at times, that it became absolutely necessary to do something with it. From Righter's Ferry—the present Pencoyd bridge—to Manayunk, it was sometimes impassable, and often the teams and other vehicles would be forced to go up Ridge road and down Shur's or Green lanes, to reach their destination.

It was finally concluded to macademize the thorofare. An act of incorporation was obtained from the legislature on the 10th of April 1826. No one thought that the road would ever pay any interest, but it was necessary for business to have a good road. The mill owners were all assessed in proportion to the number of inches of water power rights that they held, and generally took their proportion of the stock.

When the Schuylkill Navigation Company started its operations at Flat Rock in 1818 there were but eleven houses in the whole distance from Wissahickon Hill to Flat Rock Bridge. These were Samuel Levering's farm house, on what is now called Shur's lane. next was Waldreth's house, halfway up the hill back from the German Reformed Church; two small houses between the road and the canal, occupied by Benjamin and Michael Tibben, who owned the shad fishery on the island that formerly was situated in the Schuylkill, opposite the foot of Grape street; Anthony Levering's house, on Green lane; the Stritzel house at the head of Krams avenue and another house at the foot of Krams Avenue—or Church street as it was then known—which was torn down when the Main street was constructed; Benjamin Levering's farm house opposite the Umbria street bridge over the canal; a one story house nearly opposite and below the canal; John Tibben's home at the foot of Hipple's lane—now Fountain street—and the cottage on the Rush estate—upper Mt. Vernon. The whole population was about sixty persons.

The origin of St. David's Episcopal church was due to Rev. Robert Davis, familiarly known among the clergy as "Eusebius Davis," from the fact that he had published an English translation of some of the Ancient Fathers. He had been the rector of a parish at Reading, but ill-health obliged him to give it up. He made himself useful by seeking new localities in which churches could be established.

He called upon one of Manayunk's prominent citizens and after introducing himself, stated that he was going to organize an Episcopal congregation. He was told that there was little chance of success, that there were only two known Episcopal families in the neighborhood. The minister then exhibited a memorandum book containing the names of nearly 300 persons in the village who, he said, were brought up in and belonged to the Episcopal church. He had canvassed every house in the village. A committee of citizens was called and when the clergyman returned within a week, they combined forces and proceeded to organize a parish and on December 3rd, 1831, held a meeting and elected 12 vestrymen. The late Tobias Wagner contributed largely to the building of the church.

We mention these facts concerning the church, on account of having had to search back among our notes to find just where "Church street" was located in order to write the first part of this article. As we have mentioned, Church street is now called Krams avenue, and when we came across the references to the church it diverted our attention and to fill out the remaining part of space we put in this little interesting piece of history concerning the church.

Ridge road, as everyone probably knows was the first street that was built in the Ward, with Green lane coming second and if recollection serves me right there was another lane that branched of from the Ridge in Roxborough, but just where and what it was has now slipped my memory.

SCCAFF.

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IDENTITY OF SCCAFF DIVULGED AT LAST

Alexander C. Chadwick, Under Nom de Plume, Builds Fine Reputation

HISTORICAL AUTHORITY

In addition to being in the first Roxborough Times, there appeared in a competing local paper a column headed "Along the Schuylkill with Sccaff," which is one of our own exclusive features, which has been written for the past four years by A. C. Chadwick under the now-familiar nom de plume of "Sccaff."

While we do not believe the article was published deliberately to bewilder the reading public, it may have fooled some, so we feel that now is the time to compel the writer of the column to disclose his identity.

Mr. Chadwick, who with Isaac M. Walker and Cornelius L. Wells forms the triumvirate who publish this paper, tells us, and we have no reason to doubt his word, that the signature was derived from the initial letters of the words of a phrase, "Surely Chedwick Commits a Fine Folly," which came into his mind as he timidly submitted his first article for publication. If the name has any other derivation we are not in on the secret and are willing to let it go at that.

However Sccaff's articles have come into popularity and favorable comment has been heard of them as far south as Louisiana and north into the middle of New York State, from former residents of the territory covered by this paper.

Many have supposed him to be a stoop-shouldered old man with a flowing beard, but this is not true. He is constructed along lines which proclaim to the world that he is in the finest of health, being short of stature, but wide of grith. He was born in the valley of which he writes, and admits to being thirty-eight years of age, which causes many of his readers to wonder where he obtains all the facts about the beginning of things hereabouts. His stories are gleanings from old books, papers, deeds, maps, and the personal reminisences of old residents, with whom he seems to have an unlimited acquaintance.

Historical lore has always been a penchant with Sccaff, and on assignments his best work comes forth when some of the things which happened in the past have to be described.

Like the fellow who took a ride on a carrousel, "he's been around some," for his work, previous to entering the newspaper field, carried him to farms, to the offices of great corporations, to schools and other institutions, to battleships, the foundries and construction enterprises, through the Government departments and even into the White House. In pursuing his vocation Sccaff acquired the knack of observing things that were going on around him in his leisure moments set down his thoughts on paper, so that today he wields a mighty trenchant pen.

We assure all of his readers that his articles will continue to be one of the regular features of the Roxborough Times, and that the only reason one of his tales appeared elsewhere was because it had been set in type a week previous to his resigning his old post with the competing newspaper. This will never legitimately occur again.

Rox Times 4-19-28

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

SOME OLD NEWS

This writer gets a real "kick" out of reading news items in old papers and counts himself unusually fortunate when he happens to come into possession of a "weekly" from our own immediate neighborhood.

For the benefit of those who might enjoy reading some "old news" that was gleaned from one of our local papers in the year 1887, we submit the following:

MANAYUNK AND ROXBOROUGH

"The Emerald Dramatic Associa-

tion is doing good work.

* * *

"Sub-Police Officer Robert Graham has been promoted to a regular.

* * *

"J. Vaughn Merrick and Charles Paxson are among the jurors for the coming term.

* * *

"Rev. G. Huston, pastor of the Manayunk Baptist Church, on Sunday last, read to the congregation his resignation of the pastorate of that church, to date from tomorrow.

* * *

"Last evening the White Ribbon Army of the Manayunk Presbyterian Sunday school paid a visit to the W. R. A. of Grace Reformed Episcopal Church, Falls of Schuylkill.

* * *

"Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, Wednesday evening, at their residence on Shur's lane. Some fifty guests were present, including children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Congratulations were freely bestowed upon the venerable couple, and the refreshments were luxurious and abundant.

* * *

"Director Stokeley, Superintendent Lamon and a few Councilmen visited the Manayunk Station House yesterday afternoon on a tour of inspection.

* * *

"The Actives of Manayunk defeated the Houston of Chester, on Saturday last, in a well played baseball game, by the score of 10 to 5.

* * *

"The United Baseball Club defeated the Nicetown Club, at Manayunk, on Saturday last, in a finely contested game. The score was 6 to 5.

Wisssahickon

"Rittenhouse street is in a disgraceful condition.

* * *

"Jacob Anderson has been awarded the contract for sprinkling the Wissahickon Park Drive for $1,875.

* * *

"The osage orange hedge in front of the Park on the Ridge below Wissahickon has been neatly trimmed.

"The blasters for the branch intercepting sewer along Wissahickon creek should have a care. The neighbors are both alarmed and annoyed by their heavy blasts. Stones are thrown away up into Rochelle avenue.

"While Mrs. Sarah Haight was attending to some flowers in the garden of her residence, on Ridge avenue near Wissahickon, yesterday, a sneak thief broke open a trunk in the house and carried away some deeds, a will, bank Books and Mrs. Haight's marriage certificate.

* * *

"Wissahickon Castle, No. 121, K. of G. E. will attend in a body to hear a special sermon tomorrow evening at the Falls M. E. Church.

Falls of Schuylkill

"Dr. L. M. Service is recovering from his late disposition.

* * *

"This evening Riverside Section, Cadets of Temperance, will give a benefit entertainment in Odd Fellows Hall.

* * *

"There appears to be quite a number of cases of measles about the Falls of Schuylkill but we have not heard of any serious cases.

* * *

"A quoit match took place at Job Pearson's Laurel Hill Hotel, Nicetown lane and Ridge avenue, one day last week, between Job Pearson and Frank Bertlebock, distance 28 yards, Pearson staking $50 to $25. The game was well contested in the first half, Bertlebock scoring 21 to Pearson's 20. After the recess, Bertlebock seemed to fall off, and Pearson eventually won by 12 points, the total being: Pearson 41; Bertlebock 29.

* * *

"The Rivertons visited the Falls of Schuylkill on Saturday last, and defeated the Bellevue Baseball Club by the following score: 10 to 5.

* * *

Read over your "Personal Columns" today and see if there isn't a great deal of similarity in the style of writing, and in the things that were in those days considered "news".

The items that were noted in that old newspapers were things that interested the people along the Schuylkill valley in 1887, and if anyone ever retains a copy of this issue of the Roxborough Times for forty years, and then reads it again I feel sure that he will have a real "thrill" coming to him.

SCCAFF

4-26-28

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ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

CAPTAIN JOHN TOWERS

Captain John Towers, Manayunk's pioneer mill builder, was a remarkably active and energetic man, originally a ships carpenter, afterward a sea captain, merchant, ship owner and finally a manufacturer. He had the reputation of always having been a daring, venturesome individual and consequently it is little wonder that he was hte one who first conceived the idea of erecting a mill at Manayunk.

No other person was willing to run the risk of building a mill to have it destroyed by the ice freshets so prevalent at that time. Everyone who dwelt in the neighborhood, and for miles around were astonished when they heard that Captains Towers had bought a narrow strip of land, consistenly entirely of rock, gravel and juniper bushes, that previously had no value at all, for five thousand dollars, and intended to build a mill. Wiseacres of the period predicted that the building would be carried away with the first rush of water in the Spring.

Towers however, was a wily creature and had more ingenousness at his command than any of his critics gave him credit for. He proved this fact by his first action in erecting his factory. His first move was to build his water-wheel, and then he placed a man inside of it, to turn it—like the exercising wheel of a squirrel cage—and by the use of a rope hoisted the heaviest girders and timbers of his building into place.

Other tales of his cleverness have been handed down since the death of the captain. It is said that when he was following the sea he would often venture in the most rickety of vessels. On a certain occasion when in a foreign port, there was a gentleman who wanted to obtain passage but seeing Tower's leaky tub, refused his offer to bring him to Philadelphia. He took a passage on another ship which sailed two dyas before Captain Towers, who had told the passenger at parting, that he would be home before him; and sure enough, the first man to welcome him ashore was Captain Towers who had arrived two days previously.

On another occasion, when in a small vessel, he met at sea an English ship of war, in a sinking condition, with a signal flag of distress flying in the breeze. He bore alongside of her and went aboard. The commander of the warship requested Towers to take his crew on board of his little vessel, but the captain told him it was impossible to put so many men on his ship without tthrowing part of his cargo overboard; but that if he would place his ship under his command, he would stick by him and in the last resort, take off the crew. The British commander consented to the arrangement and Captain Towers, by various ingenious contrivances, finally succeeded in getting the ship and crew safe into port, for which he was rewarded by the British government.

One of the largest ships sailing out of Philadelphia, was the "Woodrup Sims." As she attempted to leave Philadelphia on one occasion, the boat went ashore in the Delaware Bay. Two or three different gangs of sailors and riggers were sent to get her off; but all failed and abandoned the attempt, when Captain Towers hired a ship, took down some men, and the third day after had the ship back at her wharf in Philadelphia. Joseph Sims, whose home was where the present North Laurel Hill Cemetery stands, was the owner of the vessel, and he paid Captain Towers eight thousand dollars for the job of releasing the "Woodbury Sims."

During the War of 1812, a number of small ships, known as "block ships" were built and armed by the government for the defense of the Delaware river, then blockaded by the forces of the King of England. A son of Captain Towers commanded one of them, the whole being under the command of a United States naval officer. At one time, when about to be attacked by the British ships, the commodare gave the signal to retreat, which was done. When young Towers came back to the city, a few days later, his father gave him a severe reprimand for having run away. The son explained that he had followed the commodore's orders—but in vain—for the captain

denounced him, the commodore and the whole party as a set of cowards. Shortly afterwards the same situation arose to he block ships and young Towers, obeying his father, disregarded the commodore's signal and determined to have a brush wih the enemy—and came near losing his vessel and was suspended for disobedience, but on his arrival home his father greeted him with great glee, praised him for his conduct and and told him he would sustain him and defend him at all hazards. He corresponded with the then Secretary of the Navy, William Jones, of Philadelphia, who was a personal friend of the elder Towers. The final result of this letter-writing was a challenge from Captain Towers to the Secretary to fight a duel.

Some years before Captain Towers commenced operations at Manayunk, he bought two mill sites at Rock Hill, on Gully Run, in West Manayunk, and erected two mills there. There were three other mills on this old creek .These were Helmbold's paper mill, Lloyd Jones' paper mill and Levering's grist and saw mill at the mouth of the creek. Lloyd Jones was at one time in possession of more money than any other man in the country. This came about when the seat of the Government of the United States was in Philadelphia, Jones bought several tons of old paper money, at the price of old rags, to make paper from it.

The risky, daring character of Captain Towers was finally the cause of his death. He had a lawsuit at Norristown and had chosen Charles V. Hagner to act as an arbitrator for him. The pair started off for the Montgomery County county-seat in a rickety old buggy. Something happened to the harness ing of the horse and the buggy ran up on the horse 's heels each time they descended a hill. At Barren Hill the horse ran away and the men were thrown from the conveyance. Towers received a broken arm and several ribs, from which he never actually recovered.

This then is the story of the man who was the real pioneer of the "town of the hills and the mills."

SCCAFF.

May 10th 1928

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ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

THE MANAYUNK PAY BRIDGE

The new Green lane bridge, over the Schuylkill, half of which is now open for traffic, displaces an old structure which was known as the Manayunk Pay Bridge, which formerly stood at the foot of Green lane.

We are indebted to Mr. Adam Greenwood, of Smick street, Manayunk for the following interesting history of the old wood and iron span. Mr. Greenwood's father, Richard Greenwood, of Montgomery County, was the first policeman appointed by that county's authorities, to guard the old bridge, a position which he held until the time of his death. The Philadelphia County officer, first appointed was old "Cap" Shields. Greenwood's father possessed a printed copy of the original charter and Act of Incorporation, which he passed down to his son, and it was from this little 92 year old book that these facts were garnered.

John Towers, in 1828 was authorized "to erect a bridge over the canal and river Schuylkill, at a town called Manayunk, in the County of Philadelphia." It was provided that "the said bridge shall be finished within three years after the passage of the said act."

This provision was not complied with and so a new company was formed to construct a better means of crossing the river. And so it was "enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, that John Levering, Paul Jones, Jacob Levering, Lloyd Jones, Samuel Gorgas, George W. Smick, James Barrach, Paul Jones, Jr., J. L. Boris, Andrew Ripka, Newman and Haley, Norris J. Hoffman, Enock Rittenhouse, Jacob Rittenhouse, John Scravendyke, Alexander Quinton, Perry W. Levering, Silas G. Levering, Charles W. Hagner, William Rawley and John Roberts, be authorized and required to pay the treasurer, herein after named, ten dollars on each and every share by them prescribed respectively; and when the said payment will have been made, the said treasurer shall certify the same under his hand and seal, by the Governor, and thereupon it shall be the duty of the Governor, by letters patent, under his hand and seal of the State, to create and erect the aforesaid subscribers and all such persons as shall become share or stockholders in the company, hereby incorporated, into one body politic and corporate by the name and title of The Manayunk Bridge Company, over the Schuylkill River and Canal; and by the said name, the said subscribers shall have perpetual succession and all privileges and franchises incident to a corporation, and shall be capable of taking and holding their capital stock and the increase and profits thereof and of enlarging the same, by new subscriptions, in such manner and form as they may think proper, if such enlargement shall be found necessary to fulfill the intent of this Act, and of purchasing, taking and holding to them and their successors and assigns, in fee simple, or any less estate, all such lands, tenements, hereiditaments, estate real and personal, as shall be necessary and convenient to them in prosecution of their works and the same to sell and dispose of at their pleasure and of suing and being sued, and of doing all and every other matter and thing which a corporation or body politic may lawfully do."

The first officers of this corporation were President, Lloyd Jones, Managers, John Levering, Paul Jones, Alexander Quinton and Perry W. Levering. Treasurer, George W. Smick.

In the Act of Incorporation it was stated that if there were any excess monies in the hands of the Treasurer, than were necessary for th payment of all expenses incurred in erecting the bridge, they were to be spent for improving the approaches.

A queer provision permitted the said President and Managers and Company, and their agents, and all persons employed by, or under them, for the purpose contemplated in this act, to enter upon any land which they shall deem necessary

for laying the abutments of the said bridge and for constructing roads leading thereto, and also for the purpose of searching for stone, gravel, sand and other materials, for constructing the said bridge but no such marterials shall be taken away from any land, without the consent of the owner thereof until the rate of compensation be ascertained and agreed upon."

It was stipulated that the bridge must be twenty feet wide and have "a good and sufficient railing on each side."

The rate of tolls is worth looking over; but in so doing please remember that there were no Flivvers or Ton Mac's in those days.

"For each coach, landau, phaeton or other pleasurable carriage, with four wheels, drawn by horses, twenty cents and so on in proportion for more horses added and for the same carriage with two horses, twelve and a half cents. For evry loaded wagon, with four horses, seventeen cents. For every carriage of the same description with four wheels with two horses, 12½ cents. For every pleasurable carriage with four wheels and one horse, ten cents. For every chaise riding, chair, sulkey, cart or other two wheeled carriage or sleigh, or sled, with two horses, ten cents; and so on in portion for more horeses added: and the same for one horse, six and a quarter cents; for a single horse or mule and rider, two cents; for every horse or mule witholt a rider, one cent, for every head of horned cattle, one cent; for every sheep or swine, half a cent; but the said tolls shall from time to time be regulated that not more than three-fourths of the tolls demanded in other cases, shall be taken for the transportation of the produce of the country, and for those laden with manure, half toll; empty carriages of burden to pass for half toll; and a proportion of the foregoing toll to be added to the sums chargeable for carriages of burden laden with more than two tons, wood and stone to be considered as loading entitling carriage to a diminution of toll."

No tolls were collected for funerals not "returning from same" nor turning, from persons going to and from church or from school children.

The Shares of stock were allotted as follows: John Levering, 20; Paul Jones, 20; Jacob Stadelman, 20; Silas Jones, 20; Charles Marquedent, 20; Jacob Levering, 20; Lloyd Jones, 20; Samuel Gorgas, 5; George Smick, 5; James Darrch, 5. Paul Jones, Jr., 5; J. J. Borie, 10; Andrew Adams, 10; Joseph Ripka, 10; Newman and Haley, 10; Norris J. Hoffman, 10; Enock Rittenhouse, 6; Jacob Rittenhouse, 4; John Scravendyke, 2; Alexander Quinton, 3; Perry W. Levering, 6; Silas G. Levering, 5; Charles V. Hagner, 2; William Rawley, 3, and John Roberst, 4 shares, amounting in the whole to 264 shares.

All foot passengers were strictly forbidden to smoke pipes, or "seegars," or carry fire on or over the bridge; no filthy or dirty animals were allowed to cross, no guns or other firearms were to be carried over and there was a five dollor fine for any injuries made to the bridge.

This, the original bridge was later carried away by a freshet and was then replaced by the Company, with, however, different officers in charge.

SCCAFF

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ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

ELISHA KENT KANE

As one motors cityward along the East River Drive, just below two railroad bridges in the Falls, there is a high wall which retains the soil of North Laurel Hill Cemetery. If the rider is curious and looks up the bank, at the extreme northern edge of this retaining wall, he will see stretched up and down the bank, a series of low stone posts, with a heavy chain connecting each of them. These posts and the chain surround the tomb of Elisha Kent Kane, the Artic explorer, an intrepid adventurer, who this writer believes has never received the credit which should have been his.

The year 1853 saw our old Quaker City send Poleward, the man who blazed the trail to the farthest north for Admiral Peary, in his sailing ship, and Commander Byrd and Floyd Bennett in their giant Fokker, the "Josephine Ford," who overcome the frozen wastes and flew over the pole, as well as more recent fliers.

Elisha Kent Kane, as Carlyle said to Robert Burns, had but one epoch in his life, and that was the first one, for he died in 1857, before he had hardly rounded out a third of a century.

After leaving the Spruce street home of the Wistar's, where he had attended a party, Kane proceeded to Washington where he enlisted in the army which won the Mexican War. When he died, soon after his return from his second Artic expidition, his body was laid to his final rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery in the alls of Schuylkill.

Kane Bas'n in Northwestern Greenland perpetuates his name. In his writings, it is revealed that he was a man of courage, dogged persistance and steadfast humor, and deserved the admiration of those who have followed his trail into the north.

Kane's thoughts, while in the Artic, continually brought him back to his Fern Rock home. He seldom saw a glacier without using the Greek Temple of the building at Girard College as a unit of measurement for its glassy proportions. Fixtures in the ice, he compared to the Schuylkill, at Gray's Ferry or the Wissahickon, whose evergreen glade he was particular fond of, though he saw too little of it.

The City fathers, on his return from the Mexican War presented him with a sword. But his most distinguished performance was still to come. In 1850, with but two days notice, he started to the North with DeHaven, as surgeon on an expedition to solve the mystery of the disappearance of Sir John Franklin. Again in 1853, he returned to the frozen wastes with his own expedition and took a sailing vessel nearer to the Pole than any other such ship had ever ventured before him. It was on this trip that he took a sledge ride and discovered the Humboldt glacier, on the west coast of Greenland, one of the chief sources of icebergs which afflict the steamer lanes to the North Atlantic.

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

Although himself a doctor, he was unable to cure himself. All of his life he had to make his will assert itself against an ailing body. He was a sufferer from rheumatism and to the coast fever which he brought back from Africa with him. Neither in Greenland or in the torrid zones did he have any fears of his condition. Yet he is described as having a nervous temperament, possessing irrepressible energy which rivaled the action that was attributed to "he of the Big Stick."

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

However he is not to be classed with the ordinary globe trotter looking for thrills, whose sentimental journeys only serve to gratify a passion for change and excitement. Wherever he went, he carried science with him, and Sir William Osler,—he that said that men are useless after tixty—was not more versatile in observation and research. If an ill man could accomplish as much as Kane did, what might he not have done if his body had always obeyed his commands.

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

The next time you drive down the "Park" take a look up the bank, at the last resting place of Elisha Kent Kane, one of America's most courageous leaders.

SCCAFF

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Germantown Press June 7, 1928 54

Local Fire Operated to Save Betsy Ross House

An old man, in his shirt sleeves, sat basking himself in the warm June sun in front of the firehouse recently and told an interesting local tale of the Betsy Ross House which with Flag Day falling next Thursday seems to be worth broadcasting.

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

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

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

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

"After the destruction of their home in Schuetzen Park, the Mund family moved into the house at 239 Arch street, and no one could have been selected who would have been more suitable than Mrs. Mund for the preservation of that shrine of patriotism. The once popular three by six window panes, the rugged pine boards out of which the house was built, the ornaments and time-worn pictures of Colonial scenes, of the modest dames and great Revolutionary generals hung liberally around the walls, had a peculiar interest for her. Of everything about her she had stories to tell—and she could tell them well, for it was a 'hobby' with her. The simple abode, spotlessly clean and well preserved, had, through her efforts remained in the very same condition as in the days of old, when Betsy's form cast its shadow there and when she smiled at the taunts of her Tory friends and her husband died over the cannon balls of the aspiring colonies. The very window panes, they tell me, are unchanged, and the twelve pieces of tiling over the fireplace in the famous sitting room have remained exactly as they were when taken from the good ship Welcome and finally fitted into a row below the breast high mantle piece. Perhaps the homestead is a trifle more conspicious now than it was when Betsy lived in it.

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

"One day a solemn policeman came to Mrs. Mund and said with an air of authority: 'That sign is too big, you must take it in.' Mrs. Mund promptly hastened to comply with the order, but the lady had a niece—she whose young

arms had made the bricks in the yard so red, and the tins and pails so bright—who laid down woman's ancient weapons, the brush and the broom, and took up the modern woman's dagger—a pen. 'Sir,' she wrote to Superintendent of Police Linden, 'one of your men has made us take in the American flag and they won't let us put it out again unless we say it in half. Now, we want to display the flag, and we will never, never s , it in half. It is just big enough for us and for our country as it is.' A couple of days later back came the solemn policeman, now friendly and almost cordial, with permission for Mrs. Mund to show the flag intact. It was then readjusted in a more conspicuous place.

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

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

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

'Mr. Mund died August 1882, his widow continuing to reside there at the Arch street house until her death, which occurred in September 1897, from a stroke of apoplexy in her 46th year. Her body lies interred in the Mount Vernon cemetery.

"Charles P. Mund, the son of the patriotic old lady, was her sole survivor and came into possession of the Flag House, but it now belongs to the Betsy Ross Memorial Asscication and will probably be preserved forever.

"However, it always pleases me to know that it was one of our own residents who saved the place, in which Old Glory first came into existence, and I believe the tale should be told so that the people of the neighborhood should know about it."

So when June 14th makes its rounds each year, we out here in the outskirts of Philadelphia should feel, like the old man, proud that it was one of our own people who aided materially in keeping the Nation's shrine as it was when Betsy Ross made the first flag.

SCCAFF.

Roy Time 6-14-28

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ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

DR. WILLIAM SMITH, D. D.

One hundred and seventy-three years ago next Saturday, on June 16th, 1755, the confirmatory charter was granted for the College of Philadelphia, which later became the present University of Pennsylvania.

If one could go back to those days and happened to be in the neighborhood of what is now familiar to Germantown people as Queen Lane and Germantown avenue, one might have heard horsemen, or those in ancient coaches inquiring of residents of the vicinity, the directions to the home of Dr. William Smith, D. D., the first provost of the University.

Queen Lane, in those days was known as Bowman's lane, and followeod a westerly course from Germantown avenue, through Bowman's Woods, to the Schuylkill river.

The listener would have heard the seeker of information being directed to follow Bowman's lane to Dr. Smith's "great house which stands on the hill overlooking the river."

Fortunately enough the mansion house and one or two of the other buildings which belonged to Dr. Smith are still standing on what is known to the people of East Falls as Plush Hill, on Queen lane and some steps have already been made for their preservation.

Dr. Smith was an Episcopalian clergyman and a character of the times previous to, during and after the Revolution. At the time George Washington, as president of the United States, dwelt in Germantown, during the yellow fever epidemic, Dr. Smith came to the Germantown churches to preach and it is said that Washington often attended religious services which the provost conducted.

In speaking of the College of Philadelphia, Dr. Smith was in the habit of referring to it as "me College."

None other than Silas Deane, of Connecticut, while in Philadelphia, in June of 1775 wrote to his wife that he had heard the expression "me College" fall from the Provost's lips. In the same letter Deane referred to a visit he made to Dr. Smith's home on Queen lane, and after advising his wife of the remarkable character of the city and alluding to the gradual assemblage of delegates from the various colonies, he said that on June 23rd, 1775, he had parted with General Washington six miles from the city."

When Paul Revere, on May 18th, 1774, arrived from Boston there were two or three hundred inhabitants assembled at the City Tavern and a Committee of Correspondence was appointed and that in this list appeared the name of William Smith, Provost of the College.

The letter from Boston which had been brought by Revere was read. The Committee convened the next day and agreed on a general meeting of the inhabitants of the City at the State House and it was resolved to make common cause with Boston. The speakers were Smith, Reed and Thomson.

The provostship of the University was assumed by Dr. Smith on May 24th, 1754, when he was but 27 years of age. Few men of the present or in the past share such a distinction with him. The average age of the University of Pennsylvania's provosts, on assumption of their office, has been 48 years.

"The 24th of May, 1754," stated the late Edgar Fahs Smith, "should ever be memorable among Pennsylvanians, for then it was that William Smith stepped forth from the Tun Tavern, N. E. corner of 2nd and Chestnut streets, walked north on the same to Arch, then west to Fourth street, where stood the Whitefield House, the home of the infant University, and there in the words of the youthful educator 'I was this day inducted Provost of the College & etc'.

"Benjamin Franklin at the time was President of the Trustees, and according to tradition had in some way let it be known that there wasn't room enough in the institution for two officials bearing the same title, so it was imperative that the new accession to the teaching staff, much as and his educational writings were appreciated by the great philosopher, it was very natural for him, under the circum-

stances, to choose a term familiar there and also as a reminder of his Alma Mater in Scotland, hence he chose that of Provost, for his new office. The name Rector was not agreeable to him, as it had already been appropriated by the presiding officer of the Academy."

The Quakers who in early days controlled the destinies of the Province of Pennsylvania, hated Smith. They feared his college and for many reasons he was held to be their enemy.

With Judge William Moore, of Chester County, Smith became embroiled in a controversy with the Religiouos Society of Friends and both were cast into prison, at what is now the corner of 6th and Walnut streets.

The men were held in confinement until the end of the session of the Assembly and freed both Smith and erated. Smith sailed for England and through political friends told his troubles to the leaders of the mother country who censured the sembly and freed both Smith and Moore from political oppression.

On his liberation, Smith married Rebecca Moore, the Judge's daughter, in old St. David's Church, in Radnor. They then made their home in the mansion house at the Falls of Schuylkill. In a short period of four years the Provost acquired about 60 acres of land in the Falls.

Benjamin Rush maliciously said of Dr. Smith, "He has acquired a grant from Mr. Penn to a tract of land which had been occupied for many years. To acquire title to it, it was necessary that he should survey it. The person who lived on it declared if he attempted to carry a chain around it he would shoot him. The Provost gave it out that he would preach in the neighborhood of this person on a certain day. He went with his family to hear him (Smith) and while he was away from home the Doctor had the land surveyed without interruption by men whom he had previously hired for that purpose."

The Pennsylvania State Legislature on September 30th, 1791, passed an Act, merging the College of Philadelphia and the University of the State of Pennsylvania into the present University of Pennsylvania, as it is now known everywhere. Dr. Ewing became its provost, and William Smith's connection with the principal seat of learning in the himself, passed away in a house at State ceased, and the sturdy champion of collegiate education was obliged to turn to other problems.

Smith's wife died in 1793 from yellow fever and her loss was a great blow to the old educator. At midnight, on May 14th, 1803, Smith, the southeast corner of 5th and Chestnut streets, and his remains rest in North Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Smith was attacked from all sides when he was alive, but today nobody cares about the coarse calumnies to which he was exposed. He reaches high above his detractors, like a monument whose base is so strong that like the pillar itself it cannot be shaken. His name itself is fame.

SCCAFF.

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1803

died at

ber of remarkable trees. Chestnuts of immense girth, but of no great heighth; storm-riven and impressive; beech, 3 feet in diameter and 60 feet high being among the finest specimens in or near Philadelphia.

On a part of the original "Carlton" estate, but in our youth outside of its boundary fences, stood a dogwood. It grew between the the Queen lane reservoir and Midvale avenue, and was a notable one of its kind, for it was five feet in circumference and about 20 feet high. Close by were two sassafras trees, each of which were 2 feet in diameter and 40 feet high, one, however, surpassing the other in form.

Andrew Garrett, who will be remembered as one of the family of Falls of Schuylkill pioneers, was a tree lover and often planted seedlings in various parts of Philadelphia, and sometimes transplanted trees of several years' growth.

"Ye Roebuck Inn," which stood on the grounds of William Heft, in Germantown, had its name changed to "Buttonwood Hotel" from a tree which Garrett moved from the banks of the Schuylkill

Cedars of Lebanon, which grew in North Laurel Hill Cemetery were noted trees of their day.

However, in the olden days, as well as now, the Wissahickon Valley was the scene of the finest natural growths of wood. It may be interesting to note that Peter Keiffer, at his nursery on Livezey's lane, west of the Wissahickon creek, developed the famous Keiffer pear tree. This old-time nursery man also was the proud owner of a Japanese cedar.

Close to the Rittenhouse buildings, along Monoshone creek, and up at the old Livezey Mills, were one or two persimmon trees.

Our finest hemlocks are along the Wissahickon creek, where almost the entire bank of this romantic old stream is fringed with the hardy trees. They can be found in the gorge at Kitchen's, Allen's and Livezey's lanes, and at the Devil's Pool; besides Megargee's dam and near Summit avenue, with trunks 1 1-2 to 2 feet thick and from 60 to 80 feet in heighth.

The building of houses and factories may cut a wide swath in the woods outside of the park domains, but nothing aside from nature can now disturb the forest giants of Fairmount Park.

For which we are duly grateful.

SCCAFF

Rx Times 6-28-25

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

A CIVIL WAR ACTION

Seventy-five years is a long time to live, but there are still those among us who saw action in the Civil War. To be sure, there are very few of the "Boys in Blue" left, those that were mere lads of fourteen, fifteen or sixteen years of age at the time they went into battle.

Recently we fell into conversation with one of the old vets, and here is the tale that he told us.

"I was a member of Company I, of the Blue Reserves which had for its captain the famed old textile manufacturer, John Dobson, of the Falls. George P. Eldridge was the First Lieutenant, and Samuel Sutcliffe was the Second "looey" as the Boys of 1918 call them.

"At the time Lee's army was leaving Gettysburg in July 1863, it was concentrated along our side of the Potomac; which was gradually becoming harder to cross; between Williamsport, a little village along the river near Hagerstown, and Falling Waters, which was come 10 miles down the river. It was here that Lee had fortified himself, with his troops occupying good positions in the center of an arc, with his left flank near Williamsport, and his right at Falling Waters.

"During the time which elapsed between Lee's men reaching this position and his crossing, he was engaged in preparing, as quickly as was possible, some means of gettings over the Potomac, with his army, war material and baggage.

"The Blue Reserves reached Hagerstown on the 13th of July, to find

Germantown Press 6-21-28

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Many Fine Old Trees Interest Botanists

When old-time residents travel east on Midvale avenue, they are amazed at the number of new dwellings which have been built in that section, which is known as Queen Lane Manor.

Years ago this district was a beautiful woods and extended from the Norristown branch of the Reading railroad east to Wissahickon avenue.

The young people of the Falls used to have delightful times tramping through this wooded ground. Shrubbery, underbrush and wild flowers were to be found in profusion. Rabbits and squirrels were plentiful and thousands of birds made the woods ring with their song.

In the fall of the year, days were spent in chestnuting in this old woodland. The chestnut tree blight of 18 or 20 years ago, however, destroyed all of this fine species of wood, and the houses rapidly making it necessary to remove other varieties of timber.

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

The beautiful estates along School lane used to be places of study for the botanist, and there is little doubt that tree lovers can still find interesting specimens along the thorofare.

The maple-lined road, which leads into the Aldan Park Manor Apartments, at School lane and Wissahickon avenue, is still one of the most striking which can be seen. This place, about 25 years ago, was the property of Justus C. Strawbridge. Another fascinating road was that which led up to the house of Samuel Welsh, on the same lane.

Outstanding examples of white pines, which are in many respects our most impressive trees, could be seen at "Carlton," on Queen lane, and at almost every estate along School lane, from Wissahickon avenue to William Weightman's "Raven Hill." At Phillip Guke's place on the south side of ancient lane, stood an odd white pine, 2 1-2 feet in diameter,, by 70 feet high. Its terminal bud at a heighth of 40 feet, had been destroyed in some manner and resulted in two shoots sprouting out and growing to an additional 30 feet apiece.

A tulip poplar, four feet in diameter and 100 feet high grew on the land of Edward T. Steel, and John Wagner had one which was five feet in diameter and sixty feet high.

Pines, technically known as "pinus inops," which are unusually interesting, grew at "Raven Hill" which is now used as an academy by the Roman Catholic church, on School lane opposite Gypsey lane, and also in the immediate neighborhood, extending to the mouth of the Wisahickon Creek.

On the Mosas Brown estate stood a magnificent specimen of the Japanese ginko tree, almost ten feet in circumference and reaching eighty feet into the air; a rare Japanese cedar and an even rarer, "Varnish Tree." Giant Chestnuts were also scattered about this property.

John Tucker, a late Pennsylvania Railroad official, had a "plantation" on Township line, which is now familiar as Wissahickon avenue. Tucker's estate was located on the old Township Line and extended from near the toll gate at McKean's Hill, south as far as the railroad tracks of the Reading's Port Richmond branch. Afterward this place became a burial ground and was known as the Old Oaks Cemetery. The site is now partially covered by the radio plant of the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company.

In this cemetery were three of the largest oak trees that we have ever seen and several large chestnut trees from which we have picked many a cap-full of meaty nuts.

"Carlton," which provided headquarters for General Washington, when his army was encamped at "the Falls," also possesses a num-

the bulk of Lee's forces still on this side of the river.

"At Williamsport we found a natural ford, which could be made use of when the water of the river was low. At Falling Waters was a bridge which was being rebuilt. By way of this ford, bridges and boats, and by every other possible means, Lee was hurrying to cross the stream, and to return to his old base on the Rappahannock.

"There are critics, today, who still find fault with Meade for not energetically attacking the Southern forces, while the river was swollen. This action they tell you, would have ended the war. Well, I don't know yet, whether it would have, or not. However, on the 14th, we received the word to attack.

"Soon after the First Brigade reached the environs of Hagerstown, on the afternoon of the 13th the Blue Reserves—our own regiment—was ordered out to join a force of cavalry, under the command of General Custer, from Kilpatrick's Third Division of the Army of the Potomac.

"We proceeded with rapid step along a lane which led from Hagerstown to Williamsport. It wosn't very long before we heard the sounds of firing and recognized the sounds of a battery and the rifle fire of thearmy. We were sent into the field on the run, deploying as skirmishers as we advanced.

"At the time, with others, I believed the engagement was a part of a reconnoiter, in force; by kilpatrick, so as to feel the position of the Rebels. Later, however, in his official report, Kilpatrick says that the affair on July 13th was an attack made by the enemy, which was repulsed. In view of what followed during that night, and the next day, it is likely that this attack was made by some of Lee's forces to mislead and to cover the movements of crossing the river, which had already begun.

"Company T had advanced through the field, led by its captain and commissioned officers. The shells from the Confederate battery of seven guns luckily passed overhead.

"We kept advancing until we came to a natural outcropping of rockg, behind which we dropped. With Captain Dobson in advance we made another rush across the field, and reached a fence some hundred yards or so away, where we again halted.

"While we were in this engagement a young officer on horseback rode down the line encouraging the men to go forward. I afterward found out he was Ulrich Dahlgren, the son of the Admiral. He was an aide to General Kilpatrick, and was subsequently killed in a daring raid made at Richmond.

"The Blue Reserves, as far as I know, was the only regiment of the militia which acted with the Army of the Potomac, in an engagement of any sort. Small as it was, I still feel proud of the fact that we were in action with a portion of the famous 3rd Division of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac.

"As I have said it was probably a feint on a part of the Confederate line in order to withdraw attention from what was going on. That afternoon and evening Lee's army began to move rapidly across the river. Some by way of the rebuilt bridge, at Falling Waters, some by Pontoon bridges and boats, and others by fording at Williamsport.

"The night of the 13th was very dark, and the river was cold, as the result of the flood, and yet Lee succeeded in getting most of his men over that night and early the next morning.

"General Meade, in Special Order No. 190, from the headquarters of the army of the Potomac, complimented us for our action.

"On the morning of the 14th, the dashing General Custer drove the enemy into the river at Williamsport, not far from our skirmish of the day before. Custer's little scrape is sometimes referred to as the Battle of Falling Waters, although engagements of its size were so dwarfed by the great battles of the War as not to receive very much attention.

"After Lee had escaped across the Potomac, the Emergency of 1863 was over, and we started to get ready to go home. We stayed in camp, near Hagerstown until July 21st, when we marched to Green Castle. We stayed there for four days and then went to Chambersburg and entrained for Harrisburg. We reached Philadelphia on the 27th.

"When we arrived in Philadelphia the brigade was marched from the old Washington avenue station, up Broad street, and down Chestnut.

"The day of our return was a great occassion. I can still remember the march down Chestnut street, where we dropped the step of Carlisle and Gettysburg turnpikes and marched in our best form in col-

umns of four, with our old Springfields at right shoulder shift.

"After some formalities our company marched to the Falls where we were given a special village welcome before we stacked our guns in the armory in Dutch Hollow. During the parade through the town we had the old darkey, Nathan, the body servant of General Longstreet who was our particular trophy, perched on top of the baggage wagon.

"We retained our uniforms and arms until August 1st, reporting daily to the armory. On the first day of August we marched down Ridge avenue to the city, going to the U. S. Army headquarters at 11th and Girard avenue, where we mustered out, receiving our discharges signed by Captain John Dobson and the mustering officer."

And so ends the tale of one of our own local Civil War veterans.

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Germantown Press 6-28-28

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Glen Fern, the Ancient Home of Livezey Family

Down along the Wissahickon Creek, on the Germantown side of the stream, at the foot of Livezey's lane, stands "Glen Fern," the headquarters of a canoe club, but which originally was the home of the once well-known Livezey family.

Thomas Livezey, the progenitor of most of the Livezeys, so far as can be traced, came to America from Morton, in the County of Chester, England; it is believed in company with Captain William Markham, Penn's first lieutenant governor, May 1680. Livezey was one of the first purchasers of land from William Penn.

On March 4th 1680, King Charles II, granted to Penn, the charter for the Province of Pennsylvania, and in the following March, Penn conveyed 250 acres within the Province to Thomas Livezey, which conveyance was affected by deeds of Lease and Release, March 3 1681.

William Penn is described in these papers as of Worminghurst, in the County of Sussex, and Livezey, as of Morton, in the County of Chester, husbandman; under the lease Livezey covenanted to pay one pepper corn yearly, and five pounds is named as consideration for the Release.

The tract which Penn conveyed to Livezey was located on Dublin Creek in Dublin township. The Indian name of this creek was Pemapeck, (now Pennypack). The tract, as marked on Thomas Holme's map, and now in possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, at 13th and Locust streets, is a parallelogram in shape.

Thomas Livezey, in his will, dated June 12, 1691, bequeathed to his son Jonathan Livezey 200 acres of land during his life and after his decease to come to his son Thomas Livezey, and his heirs forever." The will indicates that he purchased additional land adjoining the original 250 acres and deeds of record show that upwards to 600 acres were embraced in the Livezey tract.

The original Livezey holdings were located about one mile east of Fox Chase in the 35th Ward of Philadelphia. A little over a mile southwest of Livezey's old home lies the ancient burial ground known as Oxford church, where the remains of Thomas Livezey were interred. He died about October.

Two sons of the original Thomas Livezey, came to the banks of the Wissahickon about 1749. These were John and Thomas, the second. The ground had been first sold by Penn to Robert Turner. When the father of John and Thomas first acquired title to the Wissahickon estate is not known, although is is known that he purchased the mill from Thomas Shoemaker on October 10th 1747.

Thomas Livezey, the third, was born August 30 1750. He was a prominent man in his day being a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society, which was founded by Benjamin Franklin. It was he who resided at "Glen Fern" on the Wissahickon, where he owned and operated the mill, and cultivated a large farm. He was also a large importer of foreign goods and a paper which described his activities shows that he sent 4000 Spanish dollars to Canton, China, by the ship "Pacific," for the purpose of purchasing China silk and tea.

Up and down the banks of the Wissahickon were scattered the vines of his vineyard and as was the custom of the day, he made his own wines. The late Horatio Gates Jones, in 1888, wrote the following concerning Livezey's wines: "No doubt it was good, for in 1768, Robert Wharton sent a dozen bottles to Dr. Franklin, who in a letter dated February 20 1766, wrote to Wharton as follows:

"Dear Friend: I received your favors of November 17 and 18, with another dozen of excellent

wine, the manufacture of the friend Livezey. I thank you for the care you have taken in forwarding same, and for your good wishes that accompanied them."

Mr. Livezey was a member of the Society of Friends and when the British were in Philadelphia and our troops used to go about seeking provender, he sunk a number of barrels of wine in his mill dam, in the Wissahickon, where it remained until the close of the war. Some of the wine was bottled and preserved by the late John Livezey, a grandson of the said Thomas Livezey, until a short time before he died in 1878. He gave me a small bottle of this Revolutionary wine, which I shall deposit in our Society." (Pennsylvania Historical Society).

John Livezey once said that General Joseph Reed and General John Cadwallader, on a trip through the country, on September 13 1777, called at Glen Fern. The Wissahickon miller thought they were British troopers and informed them that he had heard that Reed and Cadwallader was in the vicinity. He therefore suggested that the British soldiers go in pursuit of the American generals and offered them horses to expedite the search. The two Continentals left, with the horses, and promised to do their best to capture—themselves.

John Fanning Watson, the Germantown chronicler, wrote that in the Battle of Germantown, an American soldier of the Virginia line, named William Dolby, who became so nerve-stricken when a comrade beside him was killed, that he left the ranks, and fleeing into the woods, obtained refuge with the Livezeys. He stayed with the Tory Friends for some time, and his aversion to war, together with his associations with Livezey, influenced him to become a Quaker.

As stated before "Glen Fern" stands on the eastern side of the creek and the building consists of an original structure with two additions which were erected at different times. The oldest part of the house is probably one of the first buildings erected along the Wissahickon. It nestles in a most isolated nook and appears more deserted than ever, since the piers of a one-time bridge stand there as ghostly reminders of former activity. The house is reached by descending Livezey's lane, from Allen's lane, on the Germantown side, or by use of Shawmont avenue on the Roxborough side.

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Rox Times 7-5-28

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

SOME EARLY MISSIONARIES

In searching through some old papers we came across an old copy of "The Moravian," September 12, 1912, which contained an article concerning some early American missionaries and we noted with a certain amount of pride that some of the names mentioned had a decided local touch.

Statements have often been made that the first American missionaries were sent out by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1812, and the famous missionaries, Adoniram Judson and his wife, Ann Hathway Judson, were recognized as the first volunteers. This supposed fact passed into the missionary literature of our country and became a part of history. It was even commemorated in monumental form and appeared to be generally accepted and beyond dispute. However, Rev. W. H. Romig, who wrote the article in the old magazine, felt certain that there was some mistake. He remembered some lectures of Bishop Edmund de Schweinitz, D. D., while he was the professor of Church History, at Moravian College and recalled in particular his story of the life of John Antes. He returned, therefore, to call in question the statements of the well-known missionary writer, Belle M. Brain, in the Sunday School Times, to the effect that Adoniram Judson and his wife were the first American missionaries, and was naturally promptly challenged for proof.

This was hard to furnish, for although the historians gave the general facts, yet the dates and places of birth of the missionaries was not given. In this dilemma the searchers appealed to Rev. Paul de Schweinitz, D. D., Secre-

tary of Missions, and Doctor Joseph Mueller, D .D., of Herrnhut, Saxony, who furnished the names of six men and two women who had been born in America and who had served in foreign fields in the 18th century.

These names were published in the Argus and the Express of Easton, Pa., as the first American missionaries. This was on the supposition that Dr. Mueller had certainly included the first missionaries in his list. When this was published, Dr. John W. Jordan, the secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, challenged its correctness. He furnished the names of several American missionaries commissioned before 1769. This led to renewed investigation and by kindness of Dr. Jordan and Dr. Mueller, Mr. Romig was able to add several important names to the list. It is doubtful, however, whether the list is complete even yet. There may be others which should have been mentioned and there are many details of the noble lives of these first missionaries to be brought to light by further investigations.

Among the six men and two women who were mentioned are the names of Mrs. Susan Kaske, and John Levering and his wife, all of whom were born and raised in this immediate section of Philadelphia, and in whom we are most apt to be interested.

Susan Elizabeth Kaske, whose maiden name was Funk, was born in Germantown, on November 18 1721. She was converted under the preaching of Count Zinzendorf, in 1741, and removed to Bethlehem, Pa., in 1743. Here she married George Kaske a missionary to Berbice, British Guiana, on May 18, 1746. She served in this mission until 1763. She died at Bethlehem, July 28, 1804, having survived her husband by nine years.

To Mrs. Kaske, probably belongs the honor of being the first Protestant American missionary to foreign lands. If so, the honor goes to a woman whose life's story, so far as is known, has never been published. She went to the mission field sixty-six years before the time of Adoniram Judson and his wife, Ann Hathaway; and twenty-three years before the time of John Antes, who was supposed to be the first Moravian missionary.

Another early missionary whose family name has long been familar in this vicinity was John Levering, who was born in Roxborough, in December 1723. He was a grandson of Gerhard Levering, one of the pioneers of Roxborough, who had first come to Germantown, from Westphalia, in Germany. John Levering entered the home mission work in Pennsylvania. In June 1756, he was, with his wife, stationed in the Moravian school, at Nazereth. In February 1759, he sailed for Jamaica, West Indies, where he died after a short service in the mission.

John Levering was more than likely, the first American to go as an ordained missionary to the heathen of foreign lands. He belonged to the well-known Levering family, some of whom became internationally famous in legal, church and historical circles.

Levering's wife, was Sarah Bechtel, a daughter of John Bechtel, of Germantown, who united with the Moravian church, at the time of Count Zinzendrof's ministry. After John Levering's death she remained in Jamaica, and in 1761 married John Merk, a missionary who had come from Switzerland. They finally made their home at Bethlehem, Pa., where Merk died in 1796.

There have been many local residents who have gone abroad to further the interests of the American churches, and the list includes members of every denomination, but the two mentioned above were probably the earliest missionaries of which there is any record.

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formed of the newly discovered mine she wended her way back to Germantown. It was learned later that she had circulated the story far and near, that a gold mine had been discovered on the Wissahickon.

The entrance to the mine is once more hidden from view, by leaves and other dirt, and inasmuch as the ground is now Fairmount Park property it will more than likely be sealed forever.

The mining operations which took place at the cave were conducted it seems, by persons acquainted with the business, but who were the deceivers and who the deceived, it is impossible to say. What led to that place as a spot where mineral wealth could be had, does not appear from any documents which I have seen. However, there must have been some strong reason which induced a company as early as 1763-1764 to lease from "Thomas Livezey of Rexborough, in the county of Philadelphia, miller," five acres of ground for a term of ninety-nine years, and to begin operations, which were ultimately abandoned. The paper was dated the "second day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred and sixty four."

The articles of agreement, which formed the basis of the Roxborough Mining Company are a queer set of instruments. They contain, as a matter of course the names of all the participants: Barnard Gratz, Mordecai Moses Mordecai, Isaac Levy, Jr., Peter Righter, Conrad Joast, John Crout and John Stot; the latter four being from Germantown.

Crout did not have to pay his part of the expenses unless the company decided to quit operations, or unless they struck ore. In the event of finding minerals, his share of the expenses was to be paid from the time the minerals were found. John Stot was the miner and was not asked to pay his share until he had struck ore.

Each member of the company who lent any of his energies toward making a success for the concern was allowed to draw five shillings per day wages, for each day that he spent in the interests of the company.

The document was signed and delivered in the presence of Paul Isaac Vote and John Kirke, with John Stot's name being in German.

How long the work on Livezey's Hill was continued, I do not know, but more than likely the excavations were made over a period of several months. Several of the miners boarded at the home of John Gorgas, who lived near the old Gorgas grist mill on the Wissahickon.

One of the "Wissahickon Tales" of the late Dr. Fahnestock of Bordentown, entitled "Hidden Treasure, is based upon incidents concerning the Roxborough Mine.

A perusal of the agreement will satisfy anyone and the contracting parties were honest in their belief that some ore existed in Livezey's Hill. It would certainly be interesting to know the primary reason which led these men to dig the mine.

SCCAFF.

Germantown Press - July 19 - 1928

"Sccaff" Recites Some Queen Lane Manor Lore

When we see the changes being made in the grades of streets, the farmlands being cut up for building lots, and bridges being erected here and there in various sections of the territory which is served by this newspaper, we often wonder what this vast area looked like originally. And whenever we have the opportunity, we endeavor to satisfy our curiosity by delving into the past history of the field in which we live and work.

The right of the early settlers, as far as ownership was concerned, was taken by what was known as "Patents Granted." The claim of Garrett Garrett, the first known settler of the section now known as East Falls, was on the northwest extremity of what was known as Merion Township, in the District of Northern Liberties. Immediately to the northwest, and divided by what is known as Midvale avenue, began Roxborough Township. Among those who received grants from William Penn, about the year 1690, in Merion Township were Francis Newell, R. Vcarls, John Ashmead, William Palmer, and John Warner, while the whole township of Roxborough was granted by Penn, or his commissioners, to 12 persons in 11 different tracts of land, but it is doubtful if any of these patentees were ever residents. The lands were taken on speculation and were settled by second and third purchasers. Very little is known of these early settlers, but it is supposed that the first permanent occupiers of the land were the Leverings, Righters, Holgates, Rittenhouses, Robesons, Woods, Cooks and Morgans. Of the Rittenhouses, Wilhelm and Klaus settled on the Monoshone, which empties into the Wissahickon about three-quarters of a mile above the Schuylkill. Here they built the first paper mill in America. One of the partners of this early enterprise was William Bradford, the first printer of the Colonies.

About the same time—that is in 1690—the Robesons, Andrew and Rudman, built what was known as "The Wissahickon Mills," near the mouth of the Wissahickon creek. Their residence was in the wards which are now the building known as Barnett's Garden. Their stables stood on the west side of Ridge avenue, while farther down on the east side were the dwellings of the help of the plantation. Some of these are still standing but are in sad condition. Robeson's ground reached from the creek clear down to Midvale avenue. Within the memory of the writer, the ground now occupied by Gustine Lake was known as Robeson's Meadow.

We have mentioned Garrett Garrett, who settled in the Falls, and whose name was in reality Garrettson, he being of Swedish descent. Upon his death, title was taken to his property by his son, Marcus, who was born in the year 1707. The Garrett property at that time consisted of some 80 acres, to which Marcus added by purchases from Samuel Powell, until in 1743, the plantation comprised ninety-seven and one-half acres taking in all the land between Fox street and a point just west of Vaux street, and from Abbottsford avenue to Midvale avenue. The other pioneers who held the surrounding property at the time were John Ashmead on the east, William Palmer on the southeast, the Robesons on the northwest, and two parties Bishop Vicaris and Benjamin Morgan on the north. About this time application was made to the Courts, for a roadway to give access to the property of those west of the Garretts. The Court appointed John Roberts to take charge of the work. He made a draught of the proposed roadway, on which he planned to enter the Garrett property at a point east of the southern line, about what is now Henry avenue, and it cut in a diagonal line in a southwestwardly direction until it reached what is now the topmost point of Scott's lane, which was then called Palmer's lane. The draught was dated in 1744 and shows the junction of

Queen lane, which was Bowman's lane, and Scott's lane, as they appear today.

Pursuant to an order from the Court of General Quarter Sessions, Marcus Garrett was awarded damages to the extent of ten pounds, which the court directed the subscribers to the petition to pay, which they accordingly did, as the receipt signed by them and which still exists, proves.

The subscribers were Dirck Keyser (of Germantown fame), John Jones, William Palmer, Jr., Matthew Adams and John Johnson.

The road continued in a northeasterly direction from Scott's lane and Queen lane, to a point at or near Germantown and Chelten avenues, where in those days was a hostelry known as the King of Prussia. The host of this house married the hostess of another roadside inn which formerly stood at the present-day junction of Henry and Midvale avenues. This old house was the home for a number of years of Joseph Birkhead, who conducted a flour and grain store in East Falls. The last occupants of the place were Italians by the name of Delassio.

Previous to the beginning of the present century, the fields, which are now covered by the houses of Queen Lane Manor, were dotted with a beautiful flower of crimson hue, which was called "The Red Soldier." The legend concerning the flowers, said that they sprang from seed which had been dropped by the British soldiers when they frequented the neighborhood during the Revolutionary War. They appeared every summer and covered the meadows as thickly as the daisies today thrive in nearby fields. The flowers were never seen in any other portion of America, and continued to make their appearance until, as stated before, the beginning of the 20th century, when they suddenly disappeared without any apparent cause.

Marcus Garrett lived out his allotted three score years and ten, and died on February 17th, 1785, leaving his property to his son, Andrew.

When Andrew expired he left a will dividing his property into three equal parts, bequeathing that portion upon which buildings stood, to his niece, Prudence Warner. The will does not state who the other legatees were, but the instrument is signed by Prudence Warner, Samuel Garrett and Morton Garrett.

Prudence Warner was born June 29th, 1779, and married her cousin Samuel, the son of Andrew Garrett, in 1813. She died April 13th, 1829. There is little doubt that she was the daughter of the John Warner who lived along the Wissahickon and is mentioned in General George Washington's instructions to Armstrong at the time of the Battle of Germantown.

Away back in the 1800's there came to Philadelphia, a doctor by the name of Emanuel Krall. He came from Wurtenburg, Germany, where he had been born in 1795. It was he that took title to the property which is now occupied by the Queen lane Filtration plant, where he erected a substantial and handsome residence. At that time it was regarded as one of the finest houses in the vicinity. The foundations were built from boulders taken from the surrounding ground and cast into the foundation walls as Nature made them. The doctor had, among his family, two sons, Charles and Alexander. Alexander married Elizabeth Hansbury of Germantown and Charles was wed to Rebecca Hood, of Philadelphia. The sister of these two Kralls was named Julia Ann and she married into the fourth generation of the Garrett family.

The old Krall home was afterward occupied by a mill owner named Harrison, and following him by Rodney King, a shoe manufacturer, who already owned considerable property in Wissahickon. King was quite a character of the day, and was noted as a flower lover. Eventually he sold the property to the Philadelphia Rifle Club, which gave it the name of Scheutzen Park.

There are lots more that could be told of old time owners of the places in this vicinity, but the length of this present article precludes the telling of the tales, until sometime later.

SCCAFF.

Germantown Press July 26-1928

Early Printer Attracts Attention of "Sccaff"

It is Christopher Sauer, born in 1693, at Laasphe, Wittgenstein, Westphalia, who has always been given credit for starting Germantown's printing business, which has grown until now there are scores of print-shops scattered around the district.

Saur was a man of unusual and remarkable ability. In launching out in business in his homeland, he was first apprenticed to a tailor, at which trade he became very proficient. However in the course of time, he became an expert in thirty other vocations. He was a farmer, an apothecary, a surgeon, a botanist, a clock and watchmaker, bookbinder, an optician, a manufacturer of paper he drew wire and lead, and made all the materials for the books which he later printed. In old deeds he is called "a clock and mathematical instrument maker." He also imported German Bibles in considerable numbers.

His varied pursuits made him well acquainted with great numbers of people in and about Germantown and so, with his quick apprehension, perceiving the need of a vehicle of thought, he became a printer, and in 1729 issued his first almanac. This was printed on a press he imported from Berleburg. The first book he printed was "Zionitischer Weyrauchs Hugel oder Myrrhenberg" or in English the "Hill of Incense." The reader can use his own judgment on how much time was consumed in setting the type for a book with such a lengthy name.

In 1743 the Bible in German was printed by him, which was forty years prior to its appearance here in English.

He started a newspaper four years earlier, on August the 20th, 1739, under the following title: "Der Hoch-Deutsch Pensylvanische Geschicht-Schreiber, oder: Sammlung Wichtiger Nachrichten, aus dem Natur-und Kirchen-Reiche," which is to say "High German Pennsylvania Historian ,or collection of important news from the Kingdom of Nature and of the Church." Can you imagine that title stretched across the front page of a present-day periodical?

In the years 1726 to 1749 there appeared in the paper and in the almanac the interesting communications relative to the Iroquois and Delaware Indians, furnished by Conrad Weiser.

We recall an article which appeared in last week's issue of the Press, concerning two youthful bandits telling of the judgment passed upon them by Judge McDevitt, for highway robberies which they had committed. According to an item in Saur's old newspaper this means of obtaining money is by no means an original idea with modern badmen: The Sauer paper of September 1st, 1749, contains the following: "On last Friday, the 25th of August, in the evening about eight o'clock, were Jacob Sauter and Martin Funck (formerly living near Perkasie) with his boy, all on horseback, between Germantown and Philadelphia, in the neighborhood of Nugeli's plantation, and were taking what they had to market. A couple of rough characters came to them, rode along with them for awhile and had two pistols. They put the pistols to the breast of Martin Funck and Jacob Sauter, struck them and said they should give up their money and at the same time took hold of their pockets. The men were frightened and gave what they had. Then they let them go."

The paper had a circulation of four thousand in 1751. The following notice appeared in an issue of 1756: "Whoever is indebted for three years and over and otherwise had no regard to it, must not take it amiss if he receives a notice." In the works which he printed in English, the early Germantown printer anglicized his name to Sower.

Christopher Saur died on the 25th day of September, 1758, and was succeeded in business by his only son.

Christopher Sower, the second, in many ways resembled his father in his mechanical ability. He made his own type, the first being the first made in America; Frederick Fleckenstein's grandfather forging them for him on an anvil. In 1763, Sower printed a second edition of

the Bible.

In 1773 he built a paper mill on the Wissahickon creek, and in 1775 began to issue his paper weekly. It was in the latter year that the Convention of Pennsylvania met and passed a resolution praising him for his ingenuity. In 1776 he completed a third edition of the Bible, which consisted of three thousand volumes.

It has been frequently stated that the whole of this issue, except ten copies, was carried off by the soldiers at the time of the Battle of Germantown, and used as wadding and litter. But there is some doubt on this question, for more than ten copies are known to be in existence.

Sower continued the issue of the almanac and newspaper until 1778, and then it was published by Billmeyer under the title of "Die Germantauner Zeitung."

Some of the children of Christopher Sower, the second, were printers. During the occupation of the city by the English, Christopher, the third and Peter plied the trade and printed poems of Pastor Kunze who afterward became a professor in Columbia College, New York. After the King's soldiers had left Philadelphia, Christopher went to St. John's, New Brunswick and there issued the "Royal Gazette." Later on he made his home in Baltimore, where he died.

Samuel Sower, another son remained for a time in Germantown, but about 1790 went to Chestnut Hill, and there printed a paper in continuation of Billmeyer's, under the name of "Die Chestnuthiller Wochenschrift." From there he moved to the central part of what we now call "down town" and issue a paper called "Das Philadelphia Wochenblat," until 1795. In 1795 he went to Baltimore and established there a house for publishing German books.

David, still another son, was born in 1764. He printed some little things in Philadelphia and then went to Norristown, where he continued long as a publisher of books and a newspaper. David's son, also named David Sower, was born February 11th, 1794, and married Cecelia Chollet, a daughter of a French Immigrant of the era of the Reign of Terror. For many years he published the Norristown Herald.

In this family the trade of printing was carried on in an unbroken line for more than one hundred and forty years, and there are probably some of Christopher Saur's descendants, who still live in Germantown, who are proud of the fact.

Roy Times 8-2-28

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

ROADS

Roads are always interesting things because they go somewhere. With this thought in mind, the writer started to dig into the cobwebby past for the location of some of the old time highways.

School House lane, as far as can be learned was the second public road opened in Roxborough Township (Ridge avenue being the first.) It led "from the Market House in Germantown to Roberts' Ferry and Robeson's Mill, by William Palmer's."

So as to keep the records straight Roberts' Ferry was located on the Schuylkill river just above the falls. The petition for the opening of School lane was filed in March 1732. In early times it was much used by the people of Germantown to reach Roxborough and, by means of the ferry, Merion.

In 1848, the citizens residing on and near School lane, obtained a charter for a turnpike along the same course. The name was to be "The Manaiawna Turnpike," an appelation which was first suggested by an oldtime newspaper "The Manayunk Courier."

The project, however, fell through. The lanes original name was "Bensell's Lane," from Dr. George Bensell who lived on it at the corner of Germantown pike. "School House lane" was derived from the Germantown Academy, which is situated on the old thorofare at Greene street. The lane affords a most delightful drive and a number of beautiful mansions and modern apartment houses line its entire course from Wissahickon avenue to the Norristown branch of the Reading lines. The lane serves as the lower boundary of the 21st Ward and the upper boundary of the 38th, but in the early days, the lower Roxborough township line extended down

as far as Ogontz later in the neighborhood of Carlton.

Another old road was one which ran "from Germantown by Holgate's Ford to Ridge road at George Woods'." This road is no longer in existence, but some frequenters of the Wissahickon valley claim that traces of it may still be seen among the hills. It crossed the stream at Holgate's Fulling Mill, and entered Wissahickon avenue, on the Germantown side, on land which belonged to the Rinkers, but which later became a part of the Welsh estate, from whence it proceeded to Germantown proper. There is little doubt that the road was used mostly by those doing business at the Fulling Mill, but one of the late Rittenhouses stated that it connected with roads which formed a direct route from Baltimore to New York.

As early as 1729, a petition was presented to Court, setting forth that there had been for many years a road leading from the Ridge pike over Holgate's Ford, at the Wissahickon—"that the road was a great convenience to the people, but that it has been stopped of late to the great detriment of the neighborhood"—and thereupon praying the Court to appoint a jury to view and lay out a public road. In June, 1730, the jury reported in favor of a road, from the Ridge, "on the land of George Wood, by the line of land of Garrett Levering, now of Jacob Selser" running by the said line and thence on the same as a road dividing Germantown from Roxborough." When it was discarded is a fact which has not yet been learned by the writer.

The present Thomas Mill road, leading to what was Thorpe's Mill, was opened in 1737 and 1738.

The thorofare from the one-time Yorke & Morris Paper Mill, on the Wissahickon, was opened to Ridge road in 1742 or 1743.

Livezey's lane was laid out in 1744 and the road which is now called Roxborough avenue, was opened in 1761. This latter road has gone by several names, chiefly occasioned by the people who owned the mill which once stood at the bottom of the lane. Once it was called Milner's then Cares' from Peter Care, an extensive miller. Still later it went by the name of Longstroths', Garseds', Weests', and Conrads'. The latter name is what it was called up to the time it received its present name—Roxborough avenue—and was so called from Michael Conrad. On the Germantown side of the creek the highway is still called Kitchen's lane.

The road known as Gorgas lane was long used as a means of reaching the creek, but it was not until 1764 that it was laid out as a highway. Prior to that date the route was different from the present; at one time it crossed the breast of a dam, going up the ravine and coming out near a house which was occupied by a family named Flews. The lane was laid out 33 feet wide and was so confirmed, that being the usual width of nearly all township roads at the time.

The Red Bridge road—which was afterwards Rittenhouse lane, and finally Shurs lane was opened as a public road in 1767, and entered Germantown at what is now Rittenhouse street and Wissahickon avenue. At first it did not cross Paper Mill Run, as it now does at the mouth of the small stream, but near the old McKinney quarry the road branched off into the valley of the run and went up over the farms hill and struck the the Wissahickon a short distance below the Red Bridge. The distance is shorter by the present route of Lincoln drive and the Wissahickon road, and considerably smoother than it was when the old road was in use. The erection of the substantial stone bridge over Paper Mill Run and the Blue Stone bridge on the Wissahickon road were great improvements, and increased the facilities of traffic very much. When the Walnut lane bridge was constructed Rittenhouse lane, or Shurs lane, on the Roxborough side of the creek was abandoned but its route may still be traced up over the hill.

Green lane, which runs westward from Ridge avenue to the Schuylkill river was laid out as a private road over the lands of the Leverings, but in 1769, a petition was made to convert the road for public use. Its entire length from Ridge road to Levering's Ford—just below the present Green lane bridge—was one mile three and one-half perches. The route was surveyed in October 1769, by John Roberts and the return of the Jury gives the following courses and distances: "Beginning at the end of a lane on the west side of Plymouth road

the river stocked with members of the finny tribe. The agreement, however, was not lived up to, and as the backing of the waters encroached upon the properties of the fishermen, a suit in equity was instituted by Shronk, for himself and friends. The suit was carried to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which rendered a decision adverse to the fishermen. This decision was rendered by Chief Justice Tilghegman, and was referred to by Chief Justice Gordan in his decision against the Filbert street property owners in their suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad when the Broad street station was erected.

Some idea of the injustice apparently perpetrated upon the property owners at this time can be formed from the fact that on one occasion the owner of a farm having a river front and along which the Navigation Company had made, without asking his consent, a towpath, was one day dumfounded by being approached by an official of the company who fined him five dollars for driving his cattle over their towpath.

The building of the dam, as stated before, put an end to the run of shad and the failure to build the fish ladder entirely destroyed the business of the fishermen.

Old Godfrey was a German by birth, coming to this country when quite a young man, and settled at the Falls some time subsequent to the Revolution. The exact date is not known, but the fact is well established that after the rebuilding of Fort St. Davids, which had been destroyed by the Hessians, Godfrey Shronk was employed as the caretaker and it is from his statements that the exact dimensions of the old fort were procured. As well as being the caretaker he also caught the fish which graced the festive board of the fishing company, which often cooked as high as forty dozen catfish at a time. In the winter time Shronk, with his family, resided in the building and it was during the winter, while they were living there, that the building caught fire and was destroyed the second time. The fire, it is believed, started from some flax which a member of the family was spinning.

It was after this that he took up his residence next to the old fisherman's lane, and which was until very recent years owned by some of his descendants.

Charles V. Hagner, who wrote a volume of old time Schuylkill river history, recites that as a lad he watched Godfrey Shronk hauling in his seines. "On one occasion," he stated, "I saw him with one sweep, catch 430 fine shad while at the same time I saw many escape from the same seine."

An anecdote of Shronk is told wherein he came in contact with Dr. William Smith, the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who once resided at the Falls. The Doctor among other things was well known for his fondness of good dinners, and when, on the occasion alluded to, he attempted to reprimand Godfrey for fishing on Sunday, Shronk replied, "Well, Doctor, if your dinner laid at the bottom of the Schuylkill you would be very apt to fish for it, too." Godfrey Shronk was a familiar figure wherever he went, for with the ever-present German cap which he was wont to wear, he made an impression on people's minds which time failed to erase.

He was the father of a large family, whose descendants are now connected with some of the foremost families in Philadelphia.

Upon his death, the remains of Godfrey Shronk were laid to rest in Hood's cemetery, in Germantown.

SCCAFF

Roy Times 8-16-28

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

"ROXBOROUGH FACTORY"

Several months ago we stopped in at "The Temple of Knowledge," in West Manayunk, which has been spoken of before in this column, and while there, was shown a wage book, of Wagner and Brothers factory, one of Manayunk's pioneer textile mills, which was known as "The Roxborough Factory."

The book was shown to us by

C. A. Rudolph, the grand priest of "the temple."

Pasted on the inside of the front cover was an interesting letter of explanation as to why the book came into the hands of Mr. Rudolph. The letter was addressed to the West Manayunk man's father, Sebastian A. Rudolph, and reads as follows:

"233 Dock street,
Philadelphia, Pa. April 12th 1899
My dear Sir;

Knowing you to be one of the earliest settlers in Manayunk, I send you by way of railway express, prepaid, a Pay Roll of my father's from 1831 to 1833, thinking some of the names contained in it might interest you.

I well recollect Norman Keysel their teamster; E. Van Horn, watchman; Billy Ryan in the picker room and Martin Nixon, who was an apprentice.

Yours Very Truly,
G. W. Wagner.

Addressed to Mr. S. A. Rudolph, Manayunk."

Here are some of the names which were contained in the old wage book, of almost one hundred years ago: Sarah Ryan, M. Redefer, Sam Bilson, Susan Donner, Isah McNamee, Sarah Bonner, Maria Sherline, Nancy Donner, Sarah Cooper, Hester Hulp, Henry Johnson, William Harding, John Sutton, William Salt, Thomas Saunders, James Knight, Alex. Collins, Rachel Ryan, Isaiah Ryan, Eliza Dover, August Dover, John Welsh, Margaret Welsh, Ann Carpenter, Frances Reichert, George Gardner, Mark Nixon, Henry Nixon, Mary and Ann Bilson, Ann Cassidy, Louisa Hubbs, Eliza Strelsay, Charles McGee, Jacob Grossman, Rosanna Grossman, Eliza Grossman, Sam. Mary and Sarah Wood, Lydia and Alfred Wilfong, Christopher Bradley, Rose Dougherty, Sarah and Margaret Turner, William Keysel, Nehemiah Mulliner, William Brice, Sarah Johnson, Isah Craig, Mary Levering, Elizabeth Hommen, Margaret Fralzer, Charles Dabls, Sarah Cooper, Benjamin and Sarah Levering, E. Redefer, John and Hannah Cooper, Alex., John, Elizabeth and Mary Wells, Grace, Rosalie, Madeline and Walberger Reichert, Allen Hubbs, Emeline Hubbs, Nancy, Margaret and Ann Jane Bradley, Thomas and George Brooks, John and William Bilson, August, John Narbary and Catherine Grossman, Betsey, Mary and Hannah King, Adeline, Jane and Sam. Mulliner, Mary Strelsay, John Morrison, Hugh, Jane and Mary Dealy, Charles Johnson, Elizabeth Wilfong, Edw. Dover, Joseph Dawson, John Hayes, E. Van Horn, Joseph Heywood, Jos. Kruger, Harry Keysel, William Morrison, M. Groosman, H. Mullen, William Salt, Nehemiah Mullins, Hugh McVoy, James Neill, Hugh McHale, S. Jackson, A. Pickford, Alphrea Mummell, S. Bettinger, Charles Stockton, A. Plumbly, Mary Yale, Agnes Young, E. Swain, Sidney Valentine, Agnes Thompson, William Donalson, William Turner, C. Kelly, Ellen Devoe, James Cregg, William Ryanhard, Napoleon Mitchell, Mary Nine, Theodare Kessler, Jane Musket, Ellen Bolton, P. Sailor, James Holland, P. Mendenhall, P. McNamee, E. Goode, C. Burk, Joseph Echups, Sarah Echups, E. Clark, John Goodman, Sam Butcher, Jacob Ranipe, M. Altemus Sarah Gaughan, M. Pester, Nicholas Nixon, Jonas Bardoley and J. Ramp.

Family groups consisted of the following: Of the Hardings there were William, Thomas, George and Jonas, the Reichers were represented by the father and the children Walberga, Rosalie, Madeline, Frances and Grace; of the Morans there were George, Edward and Hannah. The Grossmans had Jane, Catherine, Barbary, Christine, Roxanna, John and Jacob in the mill.

Of the Gaughans there were Sarah, John and Charles. The Leverings were Mrs. Benjamin and her daughters, Sarah and Mary. Four Ryans were employed; they being Ann, Rachael, Isaiah and Francis. Mark and Nicholas Nixon were their family's delegation. Six Moody's were found on the payroll: Jane, Sarah, Eliza, John, William and James. Even in those days there were Smiths, but although Al's name was absent we found those of William, Sarah and Rebecca. William, John, Catherine and Phobe Pyfore were present when the paymaster came around. Four Thompsons: Jane, Joseph, Ann and Agnes, carried home Roxborough Factory pay bags, as did George, Thomas and David Brooks. There was Mrs. McDougal and her daughters Ann and Jane; the Priests, Mary, Hannah

and Jane, the Gilberts, Christopher, Ann-Jane and Margaret; the Bilsons, Mary, Ann, John and William, the Stretsels, Eliza and Margaret, and last but not least were the Dovers with Eliza, Emeline and August.

As we looked at the amounts which were paid to these various employees, we smiled, for the wages for two full weeks, in most cases were lower than is now paid to unskilled laborers, for a day's remuneration.

When you're looking over the above list of names to see if your grandfather or grandmother was among the textile workers of a couple of generations ago, think of some of these wages which they were paid for two weeks work:

Wages From March 2 to March 15 1831

Sarah Ryan, 235 Reels at 2c	$4.70
Sarah Cooper 79 reels at 2c	1.58
Henry Johnson 342 laps at 1c	3.42
Wm. Harding (high salaried man)	$14.82
August Dover	1.09
Isaiah Ryan	1.87
Alfred Wilfong	1.09
Mary Levering	1.92

The above are only a few picked out at random, but showing a fairly general average.

And if anything was broken, or any rules disobeyed, the employee was fined accordingly. Read over these fines which were paid: Ben Levering was fined 5c for fighting. Alex. Wells was penalized 6c for having "ends down". George Brooks was docked 5c for breaking a window. Bill Bilson was the loser of 6c for "being out"; Margaret McBride was 6c shy in her envelope for "leaving early"; Isaiah Ryan's pay bag was lightened by 12c for playing marbles; Russell Briggs Brooke a roller rack and lost 50c, a deduction which must have been a heart breaker. Adeline Muller was soaked 50c for breaking a wheel on her machine; David Roberts, a piecer was fined 6c for socking a sweeper on the nose; E. Stretsel was "McDevitted" 6c for throwing a shoe sole about the room and Ann Jane Bradley got it in the neck for 12c for shouting out the window at passers-by.

A great number of the employees lived in dwellings which were owned by the factory proprietors and when rent-day came around the rent was deducted from the pay envelopes, without asking the worker's consent.

The wages paid for the [illegible] between March 16 and 29 of the year 1831 was lessened for Rachel Ryan, because of the $3.90 she had coming to her, the month's rent of $3 was taken out leaving ninety cents for two week's wages. What a blow that must have been.

Louisa Hubbs had rent of $3.38 to pay and only had wages of $2.50 coming. The remaining 88 cents was taken from her the next pay day. Alfred Wilfong had more rent to pay than he had wages to draw, and so did Emeline Muller. These are only a few examples of the fabulous salaries and the get rich methods our forefathers were up against.

Clip this tale out of the paper and the first time you begin to think of hard times, read it over add then consider yourself lucky that you weren't around in 1831.

SCCAFF

Roxt Times 8-16-25

14

Some New Lights On the Rittenhouse Paper Mill

The writer imagines that sufficient stories have been written concerning the old Rittenhouse Paper Mill, on Monoshone Creek, to make a fairly good-sized book, but with an idea that there might be some new facts disclosed, he types the following tale in reference to one of the locality's most ancient manufacturing plants.

The starting of this first paper mill in America does not seem to have been the result of any urgent call from the community. Rather it came out of the combination of the small needs of a single printer in Philadelphia, and the ambition of a newly arrived German papermaker; the printer and the paper maker making an ideal partnership for establishing an infant industry in a field that had not yet been entered upon.

er making an ideal partnership for establisihng an infant industry in a field that had not yet been entered upon.

Prior to this time it is probable that few, if any, of the new Americans, who were mostly from England and Holland, knew much about paper-making practically. France and Germany were the leading paper-making countries and neither the French or the Germans arrived in the colonies in any considerable numbers until the latter part of the 17th century. Printing had grown to more substantial business importance in Boston, than in any other colonial center, but even there the need of a paper supply independent of importation was not seriously felt; nor does it appear that paper-makers could have been found to run a mill even if one had been built.

The actual beginning of this new enterprise in Philadelphia was in September 1690, when Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tresse and William Rittenhouse entered into an agreement with Samuel Carpenter for the lease of a tract of land, of twenty acres, on the banks of the Wissahickon creek for a site. The mills were built the same year, but the title to the land was not passed until February 13th, 1706, by which time William Rittenhouse had become the sole owner. By the terms of the lease, for nine hundred and ninety years from September 29th, 1690, an annual rental of "five shillings sterling money of England" was to be paid. The mill stood in a little ravine on the banks of a stream called Moonshine Creek, or Paper Mill Run, which empties into the Wissahickon about a mile above the Junction of the Wissahickon with the Schuylkill river.

Bradford was the moving spirit in this enterprise. He had come from England to Pennsylvania for the express purpose of setting up a press in Philadelphia. In London he had been a skillful printer and his professional abilities and forceful personality made a man of prominence and influence to the colony until a falling out with the authorities, in 1693, led to his removal to New York, where he became preeminently the first American printer and publisher. In 1646 he printed his first book, "Kalendarium Pennsylvaniense." Once he started in business other books and pamphlets came from his shop and soon he felt the inconvenience of depending for his printng upon such paper as he could bring over from Europe. His position placed him in intimate association with the leading men in the colony and no doubt his representations were influential in bringing the necessary monetary support to the undertaking.

Samuel Carpenter and Robert Turner were men of wealth, extensive landowners and friends and advisers of William Penn. Thomas Tresse was a rich iron-monger.

Willem, or Wilhelm Ruddinghuysen, or Ritterhausen—in English William Rittenhouse—was born in 1644, near the city of Mulheim, on the River Ruhr, in the principality of Broich, which lay between the River Rhine and Westphalia. It is believed that he was the son of George Rittenhausen and Maria Hagershoffs. He belonged to a family of distinction, some of whose members were prominent in public and professional life. Several of his paternal ancestors were papermakers in Germany and Holland, and when he, in Amsterdam in 1678,

took the oath of citizenship there, he subscribed himself, "William Ruddinghuysen, van Mulheim, papermaker." At one time he was in Arnheim, where he probably followed his trade. With his sons, Nicholas (Claus) and Gerhard (Garrett) and his daughter Elizabeth, he came to America and was settled in Germantown, in 1688, though he may have been in the country before that date. He was a Mennonite, the first minister of that church in Germanown, and the first Mennonite bishop in America.

In a modest way the mill was a success from hte start. If it did not indeed "fill a long-felt want" it was at least promptly recognized as an interesting addition to the industrial life of the colony.

As he proctical man who was alone able to make the mill a success, William Rittenhouse ultimately became the sole owner, Robert Turner disposed of his quarter interest in 1697, Tresse in 1701 and Bradford in 1704, but the latter held a contract with the Rittenhouses to supply him with paper even after he had moved to New York.

In 1701 a freshet overran the banks of the Wissahickon and the paper mill was swept away. The biographer of David Rittenhouse wrote regarding this that he had seen:

"A paper in the handwriting of William Penn, and subscribed with his name, certifying that 'William Rittenhousen and Claus, his son, then owners of a paper mill near Germantown' had recently sustained a very great loss by a violent and sudden flood, which carried away the said mill, with a considerable quantity of paper, materials and tools, with other things therein; therefore, recommending to such persons as should be disposed to lend them aid, to give the sufferers relief and encouragement, in their needful and commendable employment, as they were dsirous to set up the paper mill again."

In the following year a new mill was built a short distance from the site of the old one. At that time here was a correspondence betwen Rittenhouse and Bradford concerning the transfer of the interest which the latter still held in the property, and in one of the letters, the value of the materials saved from the wreck—lumber, iron and press—was stated at 15 Pounds, 2 shillings and fourpence.

In 1706 William Rittenhouse deeded to his eldest son, Claus three-quarters interest in the mill and when he died intestate in 1708, the remaining quarter went to his son. Claus Rittenhouse, who thus succeeded his father and became the second paper-maker in the colonies, was born in Holland in 1666, and died in Germantown in 1734. Upon his death the mill became the property of his son, William, whose brother Matthias carried on the manufacturing there until 1780. In subsequent generations the building was reconstructed, in whole or in part, several times, but continued to be used for a paper mill. Finally, however, it was converted into a cotton mill. Later the site was incorporated in Philadelphia's great Fairmount Park.

Other members of the Rittenhouse family operated other mills along the Wissahickon creek, but the tale which you have just read covers the establishment which is known to historians as the First Paper Mill in America.

SCCAFF.

Rox Items 8-23-28

16

Cresheim Valley Creek, A Wissahickon Tributary

Just above the Livezey House, stands at the foot of Shawmont avenue, there empties into the Wissahickon Creek a little stream which bears the name of Cresheim. In the matter of tales which may be related concerning it, the smaller stream is almost as famed as the larger. The nature lovers of Germantown have long been acquainted with its romantic beauty and the folks of Roxborough who are wont to stroll along the Wissahickon are familiar with its history, but there may be others who cannot find the time or are physically unable to visit the spot who may be interested in knowing some of its old time lore.

It, like its mother flow, once gave motive power for a number of mills, but in recent years, since the Park Commission had been in control of the surrounding land, the conditions of Nature have partly resumed their sway.

There are no modern highways in proximity to the rivulet, except for a short distance close to Germantown avenue. However, if one follows the little footpath along its banks, he or she will be amply compensated for the trip.

The stream's name was derived from a principality in Germany from which some of the early German settlers had come. So far as picturesque scenery is concerned there is probably no place in the vale of the Wissahickon which will surpass it in loyliness. Valley Green, one of the old roadhouses still holds sway as an inn across from the mouth of the Cresheim.

Just above the confluence of the two streams is Devil's Pool, which to present day visitors might prove a disappointment, but the tales which are told of it are sure to hold anyone's interest. It is one of the most legendary sites of the vicinity. Great rocks form an immense hole 11 or 12 feet in diameter in which during freshets the waters seethe and roar, in a way which is really startling, though in ordinary times the pool is placid. Overhanging trees, woodbine and the dense underbrush which surrounds the place adds to the beauty of the picture.

In days which have gone, it is said, that the bottom was beyond the means of man to measure, but this must have been pure fiction, for the writer doubts if it can be more than 8 or 10 feet deep at the greatest point, although the lapse of years the Devil's Pool may have become filled with debris which is washed down the little stream when it is turbulent.

A rustic bridge has been built over the ravine just above the waters of the pool, and forms another touch of beauty worthy of the brush of an artist.

It is a long time ago when the Angels and the Devil walked the earth the pool received its appellation. It is said that there was a time when the Sheltering Angel was absent and that the Devil led the aborigine inhabitants of the valley astray. Upon the return of the Angel he located the Evil One at the edge of the rock-bound pool and threw the largest rock he could find at him. The rock striking the Devil, knocked him into the water and he disappeared down into the bottomless pit, making his way, according to the tale, to the nether regions where he dwells to this day.

The Devil's Pool was once used as a stage setting for a play, which was written by Henry Peterson in 1872, entitled "Pemberton." The novelist used incidents connected with Philadelphia's Revolutionary War history as the background of his romance. Another place which was mentioned in "Abbotsford," the old mansion at Henry avenue and Abbottsford avenue, which will soon be torn down to make room for the Greater Women's Medical College in East Falls.

"Pemberton," while of considerable interest locally, had little of real literary value, but in Centennial year, when everything concerning the cary days of the Nation was brought forth, the novel was dramatized and presented at a Philadelphia theatre.

When Dr. S. Weir Mitchell penned his justly famous historical romance "Hugh Wynne" at the Hermitage, on the Wissahickon Creek, which is now occupied by Mrs. Thomas S. Marvin, Secretary of the Fairmount Park Commission and

President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society; the doctor used the Devil's Pool scene with greater effect than Peterson.

At the time of the Battle of Germantown there was a little skirmish fought in the Cresheim valley. A Roxborough man named Ozias, many of whose descendants still live in the 21st Ward, in 1845 related a tale of the affair to Horatio Gates Jones, the historian. Ozias, at the time that the story was told, was quite an old man and was the last survivor of the Revolutionary War in the neighborhood. Ozias, who was connected with a company of militia which had been recruited in Roxborough, said that the command that he was with accompanied Armstrong's troops down Ridge avenue and descended to the Wissahickon by way of Livezey's lane, crossing the stream at Livezey's mill, and were detailed to a position on the Cresheim.

The aged militiaman continued his narrative by saying: 'Our brigade lay in a valley, and a company was ordered to advance up a hill and reconnoiter. The Roxborough company was directed to do this. When we reached the top of the embankment, the first sight we saw was a detail of British Infantry and Light Horse, who were in a field of corn. We were going to fire when they retreated, but they soon rallied and fired upon us. We returned the fire and sent them right on their rounds. Their grape shot did little damage, but it plowed up the dirt, which was thrown in our faces. Only one of our men was wounded. He was shot in the heel. Fearing they would cut off our communication with the main army, we hastened to make our escape and went up what is called 'The Swamp.'"

For nearly two hundred years grist mills, textile mills and paper mills obtained their motive power from the waters of Cresheim creek, between the Wissahickon and Germantown avenue. The first mill was erected by Gerhard (Garret) Rittenhouse, a son of William Rittenhouse, the original American paper-maker, and he like his father, was interested in the making of paper.

The beautiful grounds of the Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf and Dumb are located on the Cresheim, on the west side of Germantown avenue.

The romantic little stream is formed of the waters of two smaller runs, one of which rises in Montgomery County near the county line at Ivy Hill Cemetery, and the other has its source near Mermaid station.

SCOAFF.

Rep Times 8-30-25

18

Inland Waterways Offer Reduced Freight Rates

As one travels up the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys of New York State, from the city of Braggadocio to Syracuse, his eyes are attracted to the inland waterways system which is controlled by the solons of the Empire State.

Little tug boats can be seen, puffing pugnaciously along the rivers and up the canals with long strings of barges tied behind, enroute to the various well-kept stations which are located in every town of any size, including West Point, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Albany, Schnectady, Amsterdam, Utica, Rome, Oneida, Syracuse and beyond.

To a youthful Philadelphian it is a sight to which his eyes are unaccustomed, although those on in years can still remember the balmy days of our nearby Schuylkill Canal, which was one of the first in America.

It was just following a trip to the New York State capital that we happened to run across an account of the origin of the Schuylkill Navigation Company, which we think is well-worth passing along to our readers.

On the 9th of April 1807, Robert Kennedy, who was residing at the old Falls Hotel, which still stands at 4153 Ridge avenue, obtained from the Pennsylvania Legislature, an act, vesting in him the right of water power at the Falls of Schuylkill, on condition of building locks for the accomodation of boats which plied the Schuylkill river. The boats which were commonly used were long and narrow, sharp at both ends, and carried from 75 to 150 barrels of flour, or a similar cargo. They were generally manned with five men, but only could be used when there was a freshet or high water. Most of the boats came down the stream from Reading, hence they were called "Reading" or "long boats." They needed all of the five men to handle them, not for coming down, but for the difficult task of taking them back to their home port.

This job was accomplished by means of long poles, shod with iron, and was real he-man's work, even though the boats returned empty. Old folks tell us, that their fathers told them, that it was a beautiful sight to see the "Readings" descending the Schuylkill, which they did with great rapidity. Sometimes, it was said, they were almost lost to sight in some of the rapids, and the next moment they mounted high on the waves, and in some instances they were wrecked.

The Act procured by Mr. Kennedy was merely a speculation on his part, for he had no intention of erecting mills himself, and the right he had obtained was placed on sale, but in consequence of the risk and danger from ice, in the winter months, no one would venture to build a mill. There are still those who live along the Schuylkill which will tell you that the ice freshets in the old days were something fearful to behold. Before the present succession of dams were constructed along the river, the ice came down in immense large fields, with great momentum, and sometimes as much as from two to three feet thick. It has been said that nothing could resist its force. Naturally, with a condition like this, Mr. Kennedy's speculation seemed as though it would prove a failure. But he wasn't the man to give up too readily, and in the following year; on April 2nd, 1808, to be exact; in company with Conrad Carpenter, of Germantown, he obtained another Act of Legislature, incorporating a company to build a bridge across the Schuylkill, and so contrived its location, that the eastern abutment should effectually protect his mill-site, and he finally sold his water-power right to Josiah White.

Charles Valerius Hagner, who wrote a volume of Schuylkill river history, knew Josiah White intimately, and mentioned that extraordinary man in his writings, in a manner which indelibly stamps him as a progressive of the first water. No pun in here intended.

He was one of those who are

always pushing ahead of the age in which they live; not much education, but possessing a large amount of sound common sense, and enlarged views. Philadelphians are indebted to Josiah White for several substantial benefits which have long been enjoyed here. But we must go on with our story.

Shortly after White had purchased Kennedy's privilege, he proceeded to build a mill for rolling iron and making nails. Subsequently he acquired a partner by the name of Erksine Hazard, after which the plant included the making of wire. The mill was located at the eastern end of the Reading Railroad's Stone Bridge in East Falls.

The firm's business was very profitable and they soon discovered that their mill was too small, and they erected another much larger building in close proximity to the original factory. They continued to do an increasing business until, the structures were accidentally burned to the ground. Undaunted, the partners collected their resources and rebuilt their mills, and went ahead with the work they were doing.

White and Hazard were using bituminous coal in their rolling mill. Anthracite coal was not used in those days, for no one had discovered how to fire it. However, these two hard headed business men knew of the large body of anthracite coal which was located at the headwaters of the Schuylkill, and very early in their business life, commenced to experiment with it. They had some brought down by teams at an expense of one dollar per bushel—which if my arithmetic tells me right, amounted to $28 per ton—and afterward expended some three hundred dollars in experiments, but could not succeed in making it burn. The mill hands got heartily sick and tired of it and the "black stone," was about to be abandoned.

After the employees had been trying to make it burn without success, they became exasperated and threw a large portion of the "stone" into the furnace, shut the doors, and left the mill. It so happened that one of the firemen had left his coat in the mill and when he returned for it he found a tremendous fire in the furnace, the doors red with heat. That was how anthracite coal was first used and the trick was simply to leave the coal alone, instead of trying to stoke it as was required with the fuel of a bituminous variety.

On making this discovery Josiah White immediately began to make experiments with furnace grates so as to make anthracite available for domestic use, and in this he succeeded admirably.

With the knowledge thus obtained it became White and Hazard's plan to obtain a sufficient supply of this coal for their uses for it was soon discovered that it was far better for their purposes than the "soft" coal, in its effect on the iron and for making wire. They had various schemes in mind, one of which was curious. It was to build a series of sheet iron boats, not to draw more than ten inches of water. These boats were of various sizes, so that one could fit into the other, when empty, and thus be drawn up the river to the coal regions.

The iron boats were soon found impracticable and abandoned. White erected a sort of an ark and loaded it with coal and this plan worked out better than that of the iron boats.

But now to the canal system. Mr. White clearly saw that some method would have to be utilized to keep the water at a consistent level and thus was born the thought of building a canal channel in and along the Schuylkill river.

The Schuylkill Navigation Company, which was Mr. White's project, was chartered March 8, 1815. He was one of the commissioners named in the act of the company's incorporation. He was the father of the whole concern, and those affiliated with him could not have found a man better fitted to manage the concern, but at the election, held in Norristown they refused to name him under the flimsy pretext that he owned a mill at the Falls of Schuylkill.

While Erskine Hazard was White's partner in the iron and wire business, he had another partner, Joseph Gillingham interested in the erection of locks and mill seats. They finished the locks and canal on the western side of the river at the Falls and built two mills there—one a sawmill and the other for grinding white lead.

It was through newspaper articles under the name of "De Novo" that Josiah White started the idea of purchasing the water power at the Falls and erecting a dam at

Fairmount, which despite much opposition finally prevailed. Therefore, no other than Josiah White was the orginator of the great Fairmount Dam and Water Works, which was a criterion of municipally owned water systems for many years.

White and Gillingham received from the city, $150,000 for their water power at the Falls and now Josiah White, smarting under his treatment by the Schuylkill Navigation Company, and disgusted with the slow process that company was making, in company with Mr. Hazard and a German named George F. A. Hauto, procured from the Legislature, on March 20 1818, "An Act to improve the River Lehigh," out of which grew the Lehigh Navigation Company, with which he was one of the active managers until his death on November 14 1859.

As some evidence of how far the coal transportation grew after White, Hazard and Hauto procured their act to improve the Lehigh river, they had procured a lease for 21 years on all the coal lands in the vicinity of Mauch Chunk, a large tract of country for which they agreed to pay annually, if demanded, a rent of one ear of corn, and obliged themselves, after a certain time, to bring down to the city for their own benefit, 40,000 bushels of coal, less than 1500 tons. In the year 1854, according to a report of the Lehigh Company, there came through the Lehigh works, 1,246,-418 tons.

There are still millions of tons of non-perishable goods in addition to coal which could be shipped in Pennsylvania via the canal route and it is a crime to see the water routes going to ruin so that railroad companies may derive a higher freight rate.

New York state authorities are helping their people hold down expenses by maintaining first class inland waterways. What's the matter with Pennsylvania?

SCCAFF

Germantown Press, 9-6-28 21

Fisher Family Started Knitting Industry Here

Long before the Revolutionary War, Joshua Fisher established a line of packet ships which sailed regularly between Philadelphia and London. Fisher was a man of broad vision, in addition to being eminently practical, so that the sailing of packets was not his only undertaking.

In order to improve the port of Philadelphia, which task, by the way is still being pursued by some of the city's leading lights, Fisher, himself, in 1756, made a chart of the Delaware Bay and river, which was the one used by stream's pilots for many many years until the United States Coast Survey produced a better one.

One of Joshua Fisher's sons—Thomas—was among Germantown's early settlers, for the thorofare known as Fisher's lane takes its name from him.

Thomas Fisher was born at Lewes, Delaware, and, like his brothers, as a youth traveled through England and on the Continent. When he was twenty-one years of age, he was taken as a prisoner of war in 1762 and 1763 and carried to Spain. On his return home he became associated with his father in the shipping business and made his residence on Second street below Walnut. In 1771 he married Sarah Logan, who was a daughter of William Logan, of Germantown.

Driven from the city by the yellow fever epidemic, the young couple erected a stone cottage on the northernmost part of Stenton, which as their portion, had fallen to them.

They developed a deep-seated love for the locality and in 1795, built the house called Wakefield, which was named after the manor house of Fisher's maternal ancestor, Joshua Maud, in Yorkshire, England.

William Logan Fisher was the son of Thomas Fisher and Sarah Logan and was one of the community's earliest manufacturers. Besides being an author of some note, William Logan Fisher took a deep interest in manufactures and was no doubt a member of "The Germantown Society for Promoting Domestic Manufactures."

His mill buildings were scattered along the Wingbocking close to what is now Fisher's lane, and presented a most picturesque appearance. In an old English newspaper of 1830, the following item was found in print: "A number of framework knitters have emigrated to the United States during the last week or two, and others are about to follow them. Their place of destination is Germantown, near Philadelphia, where there is a large manufactory for hose, gloves, etc., carried on by a Quaker." The Quaker referred to was none other than our fellow townsman, Fisher.

Besides the knitting mills were woolen mills for broadcloth. The work of Fisher was but one of the phases in the process of textile development. The pioneers also made excellent linens. They were renowned for the fabric which was made for stockings, a fact which induced the National Bank of Germantown to use as its seal a representation of one of the town's early looms.

An English traveler, the Rev. Mr. Burnaby, once stated that the women of Germantown annually sold sixty thousand pairs of stockings of their own make. This number, however, was small when contrasted with the output of the Wakefield mills.

Besides the textile mills, Fisher erected, in 1832, a blast furnace, a rolling mill and a nail factory, at Duncannon, Pa., on the Susquehanna, above Harrisburg.

About 1870 a number of gentlemen devoted to equestrian exercise, established what was known as "The Hare and Hound Club of Germantown." The first meet was at Kenilworth, the place of Samuel Welsh, Jr., but soon afterward they met on the meadow at Wakefield. In this sport the "hares" armed with a tin horn, and large bags of torn paper on their backs, started across country a few minutes in advance of the "hounds," dropping paper, which was called "scent," as they passed along to mark their course. They were soon

lost to sight, but the sound of the horn could be heard in the distance, indicating which direction they had taken. Then, at a given signal the "hounds" would start after their "prey" at a fearful speed, some taking fences and ditches in their course, others finding a place in the barrier through which they could break. All were in hot haste, eager for the glory of capturing the horn, which the leader of the 'hares' carried. Along the route large numbers of spectators would gather to witness the brilliant feats of horsemanship, and these, by their enthusiastic applause betrayed an interest in the amusement equal to that felt by the gay participants themselves.

Adjoining Wakefield on the north, was Belfield, formerly a place of more than a hundred acres. About one hundred years ago it was the residence of Charles Wilson Peale, who founded the Museum of Natural History. Many of Peale's specimens were prepared at Belfield, and it is said that he had live elk roaming about the grounds.

Peale, however, had to leave the place, and sold it to William Logan Fisher. This gentleman's daughter, Sarah Logan Fisher, married William Wister who died on November 19th 1881.

Wister, too, had been engaged in the textile trades, for after his partnership with Thomas R. Fisher had expired, he established a print works at the mills north of Wakefield.

There were many other early families in Germantown, who were engaged in the manufacture of various other kinds of fabrics, chief among which was the Thorps, but the above article was taken from an old magazine which recently fell into our hands and emphasized the Fishers' activities.

SCCAFF

Roxborough Times, Sept. 13, 1928 23

Sccaff Takes Swim In Dunkards' Baptistrion

As we finished a particularly hot August day in the composing room, we were assailed with an uncontrollable desire to find some isolated pool where we might indulge in all the delights which we had experienced as a youth at "the ole swimmin' hole."

And we have not yet lived through enough years to be labeled as an octagenarian, we obeyed that impulse." First we grabbed off a couple of bathing suits and made a bee-line—for where do you think? Shades of the saints! Nowhere but to the much-fabled Baptistrion of the Wissahickon.

All true Wissahickon addicts are aware that the Baptistrion is a deep pool above Kitchen's lane bridge and is overlooked by the ancient building known as the Monastery. The history of the pool and of the religion-storied building are partically one.

There are many tales concerning the early religious enthusiasts which are brought to mind along the creek in this immediate vicinity, just as there are hundreds of legends relative to the rehmits' settlement nearer the mouth of the stream.

A little explanation is here necessary for the stranger in the vale.

The road which is called Kitchen's lane, on the Germantown side of the Wissahickon, comes out on the Roxborough side as "Roxborough avenue." New, let's go!

Just above Kitchen's lane, where the creek makes one of the most beautiful of bends, stands a big stone house known as "The Monastery," and is probably one of the best known specimens of colonial architecture to be found anywhere along the stream. It is three and a half stories high with a porch which formerly encircled the entire house. It is now occupied by an employee of the Fairmount Park Commission.

That the house was ever the dwelling place of an monastic order has not been proved to everyone's satisfaction, though it is known that there was an effort made to establish a religious hermitage on the spot, before the house was erected. The tale goes back to the early days of the Dunkards of Germantown.

The Dunkards are numerous among the Pennsyvania Germans, and also have assemblages all over the United States and Canada.

The sect originated in Schwarzenau, Germany, about the year 1708. Eight persons, who had been holding religious meetings together, decided to adopt a simple mode of worship, which they believed was in more accord with the teachings of Scripture than that which was practiced by the churches of that day. Baptism, by immersion, was the keynote of their doctrine, and they also declared against flashy clothes, the taking of oaths, and the bearing of arms in warfare. Ministers were to be chosen from the congregations and were to serve without pay. Alexander Mack, was one of the original members and was designated the first minister. The name Brethern was the only title which they claimed, but their German neighbors soon began to call them "Tunkers," which translated means "dipper." This, of course was from their manner of baptizing. The name clung to them and was afterwards spelled "Dunkards" or Dunkers."

By not conforming to the established order they incurred the displeasure of the government and church authorities, and in the course of time most of the followers of the faith found it better to emigrate to Penn's province of religious liberty.

In 1719 the first party settled in Germantown and within ten years the entire band of Dunkards had come to Pennsylvania. Alexander Mack, himself, came in 1720.

Peter Becker was the minister of the Germantown Brethern from the time of their settlement and for several years afterwards. The first services were held in houses of the

various members, until 1760, when a log church was erected. In 1770 a stone edifice was erected on the site of the first church and still stands on Sharpnack street. The building has had additions built, but that part which was constructed in 1770 is an integral part of the present structure. Alexander Mack, the founder, is buried in the churchyard.

While the first members of the sect came to Germantown in 1719, it was not until 1723, that they formally organized. On Christmas morning, 1723, seventeen of the Brethern who had been baptized in Europe, assembled in Peter Becker's weave shop. Becker was chosen an elder and after partaking of a meal, the little group set out for the Wissahickon, where six candidates for baptism were to be immersed. From Becker's shop to the Wissahickon was a distance of about one mile and a half and the Brethern are supposed to have followed a path on a line with Carpenter street and Kitchen's lane.

Johannes Gumre, one of the Brethern, owned the land on which the Monastery now stands, and it was to this place that the Brethern started. Along the greater part of the stream, the steep cliffs made it difficult to descend to the creek, but on the Gumre property there was a long narrow strip of practically level ground which bordered the stream. Thin ice covered the water. The candidates walked through this, until they were waist deep.

Becker immersed each candidate in succession. It is said that some of the hermits from the Kelpius colony witnessed this first baptism. After the ceremony the converts donned dry clothing in Gumre's house, following which there was a service of feet washing and communion.

For many years the Germantown Brethern continued their immersions at the spot and on the early maps of the vicinity the place was marked "the Baptistrion."

This, then, is the history of the cool little pool which we visited to take our swim, although we do not advise any of our readers to do likewise, for in addition to the danger from being apprehended by one of the park's guardians, the stream, at that point has in the lapse of years became a lodging place for about ten million rocks of all sizes and shapes. Or at least it seems so. It certainly is no place for a man with tender feet to go in bathing. That much we learned.

And besides, the task of disrobing and donning a bathing suit out in the wide open spaces with no shelter but a few blackberry bushes doesn't appeal as much as it did when we were boys. Flies and other woodland insects, and shoes and hoisery filled with sand add no attraction to the "open-air place of the bawth."

Nevertheless we can boast of a swim in one of Wissahickon's historical pools.

SCCAFF

Germantown Press 9-20-1928

Church of the Brethren Has Interesting History.

The organization of the Germantown Dunkards congregation was affected fifty three years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. After having written about the Baptistrion of the Wissahickon, last week, we became interested in the history of that old religious sect and discovered several facts which should prove of interest to the readers of these articles.

The history and development of the Brethren Church is interwoven with the history and development of the nation. Early members of the faith assisted in the conquest of the uninhabitable wilds and in the transformationof the primeval forests into the richest of God's acres of golden harvest fields. They passed through the national vicissitudes with sad experiences. They endured untold sacrifice and suffering in the cruelty of unrelenting war. It meant sacrifice, imprisonment, death, but finally triumph.

In the early days, none but the Episcopal, Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed churches were organized. Those who dared to dissent from these views were denounced as Pietists and presecuted. The movement inaugarated by the Pietists became the second Reformation. In these scenes of agitation and in this struggle for advancement in spiritual life, the Brethren Church was organized in Schwartzenau, Germany, in 1708. The members of the infant church, but eight in the beginning, rapidly increased in numbers, and as quickly persecution came. Driven from their homes and from province to province, they could nowwhere find a place of safety or security from the evil spirit of oppression. They were fined, they were imprisoned, they were tortured; but the schooling of eleven years of bitter experience only increased their faith and strengthened their devotion.

They welcomed the news of Penn's Province and they longed for the enjoyment of its religious freedom. They bade adieu to the Fatherland and their relatives with sad hearts, but the change ultimately proved to be their gain. The wild woods of the new world, with freedom of devotion to God, was better than the native home, with persecution.

In September 1719 about twenty families landed on the friendly shores of the United States, and four years later organized the congregation in Germantown, which was the first in Ameerica.

In 1797, slavery was forbidden in the church of the Brethren and all slaves emancipated by their National Conference, thus abolishing slavery sixty-six years before the Emancipation Procolamation came into being.

The peacefulness of the Dunkards is one of their greatest characteristics. They have always opposed war and advocated peace, and are committed to the belief that war can be averted by arbitration.

No communicant of the Brethren church is permitted to manufacture or sell liquor. Long and severe has been the prohibition question. In its civil and political phases the liquor problem is complex and difficult. The Brathren met the question in the domain of morals and settled it without compromise, as all moral issues must be settled, for in 1792 by a decisive and positive action the National Conference forever and ever barred the members of their church from having anything to do with intoxicating drinks.

About 1730 there occurred a schism among the Brethren when Conrad Beissel and a few other members instituted the observance of the seventh day as their Sabbath. Literal obedience to the teachings of the Bible was the basis of Beissel's belief that the seventh day was the proper one to observe. After the demise of Alexander Mack, the founder of the church, in 1735, the local congregation exhibited signs of disintegration, some of the dissatisfied members going to Ephrata in

Lancaster County, Pa. Beissel had founded a monastic community in that county to advance his ideas.

About the same time Stephen Koch, of Germantown, decided to seek the truth by taking up the the life of a hermit. This he did along the banks of the Wissahickon.

In 1737, Alexander Mack, the younger, and Heinrich Hoecker erected a one story log cabin along the Wissahickon, on a level spot close to the Baptistrion. They called the structure the "kloster," which I understand is the German word for cloister, and the name afterward developed into the English word "Monastery" which has remained ever since.

Mack and Hoechek held religious services in the Kloster and also traveled around the surrounding country on preaching tours.

Eventually both these early Pietists made their homes in the Ephrata colony.

Thereafter the Kloster appears to have served as a lodging place for members of the Ephrata brotherhood who came to Germantown to visit Christopher Sauer, the pioneer printer of the village, who was printing books for Beissel and his followers.

Joseph Gorgas, who sometime later owned the ground where the Monastery is located, sold his land in 1761 and with his wife traveled to Lancaster county. Gorgas had purchasd the property from Johannes Gumre in 1747.

SCCAFF

and religious purposes, previous to 1776, the British flag floated over our land, British subjects met within the walls, and discussed political affairs. When in 1776, war was declared, and the Roxborough soldiers were summoned to join the Continental army, citizens gathered in the old school house and very likely the walls re-echoed the words of independence, which Americans hope will never die.

The Roxborough School house was also a house of prayer for in it the Roxborough Baptists started their congregation, which now meets in the stately edifice diagnally across the street. The Roxborough Lyceum also had its inception in the old school building.

A furious tornado passed through Roxborough on April 12th 1855 and unroofed the school house, and made some section necessary to erect a larger and better building. Whereupon, on February 13th 1857, an Act of Assembly was obtained vesting the school house and property in the City of Philadelphia, to hold in trust forever, for the same purpose on which it was originally held.

A new building was at once started. This building which was erected in 1857 was sufficient for the needs of the community until 1873. Then, under the efficient care of Frank Boutcher, the school increased in numbers and the partition walls were re-arranged and the structure made to accomodate six instead of four teachers. Lyceum Hall opened its doors to take care of the overflow. And then came the new Fairview School to take care of some of the district's pupils. Mary F. Garner, who was elected principal on June 1st, 1883, succeeded Mr. Boutcher as head of the institution.

It is not definitely known who was the first teacher at Levering School, but the first reliable information seems to point to Mathias Maris, a nephew of William Levering. Curtis Gilbert, the first pastor of the Roxborough Baptist church and J. H. Hoffman were other early teachers. Then came Edward Poole, Henry Tahudy, John Omensetter and John Hucklns.

In 1847 the name Levering School was given to the old Roxborough School and in 1864 the Levering Unclassified School became the Levering Consolidated School.

In 1856 Moses Pierce was elected principal. He was succeeded by Edward Lateh, who in turn was followed by Frank Boutcher, and Miss Garner, to whom reference has been made.

Miss Emma V. Thomas, who afterward became Mrs. Emma V. Thomas-Tyndall was elected principal on September 24th 1886. Mrs. Tyndall went into retirement last year after 50 years of school teaching, the last sixteen of which was spent as principal of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High School.

In 1889 a four division school building was added and on Friday March 30th 1894 the school assembled in the new building. The erection of the structure was credited to Paul J. Kavanaugh, Joseph M. Adams and William Ring.

On the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Levering School, which was celebrated on April 2nd 1896, special exercises were held at which time Controller R. S. Walton presided. The speakers included Samuel B. Huey, Dr. Edward Brooke, Dr. James W. MacAllister, Paul J. Kavanaugh, Henry S. Edmonds, Esq., and Councilman Joseph M. Adams.

The teachers in 1898 were Misses Emma Wolfenden, M. Marion Bell, Mary N. George, E. Carrie Schofield, Lillie Young, Mlan. Heidinger, Josephine Janney, G. Agnes Andrews, Emily Woerner, Clara Janney, Mrs. E. Lockey, Eula M. Righter and J. Herbert Bowen.

William Ring was chairman of the school committee and to him, as well as the principal and teachers was due the credit for the celebration.

The "Philadelphia Times" of Saturday, March 7th 1896 stated that the Leveting Combined School, at the corner of Ridge avenue and Levering street—which must have been an old name—Roxborough, was inspected by the Building Committee of the Board of Education.

The building is two stories high of gray Holmesburg limestone, and takes up 119 feet on Ridge avenue, with a depth of 70 feet. The contractor was Charles M. Byrons and the plans were prepared by Joseph D. Austin, architect of the Board of Education."

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'Carlton' on Queen Lane Full of Historical Lore

In the course of our work last Friday, we drove along Queen lane enroute from Germantown to Queen lane Manor and as happens every time we pass Stokely street, we glanced into the grounds at the interesection to gaze at the beautiful Colonial structure which graces the place.

It is known to local historians as "Carlton," and is owned by members of the late Cornelius S. Smith.

Carlton is said to have been named after an English castle which was at one time one of the favorite residences of good Queen Bess. The present estate is only a portion of the large tract of ground originally deeded by William Penn, the proprietor of Pennsylvania, to John Lowther, and Ann Charlotte Lowther, jointly and comprising 5000 acres. In 1731 this was sold by the Lowthers to one Joseph Turner, and by him sold to John Ashmead. A piece of land was then cut off this estate and sold, and from time to time other portions found different owners, considerably reducing the original tract.

The records of ownership are confused until the beginning of the last century, when we learn that Thomas Lee, brother of Bishop Lee, the then presiding dignitary of the Protestant Episcopal church, became the proprietor of the estate and named it "Roxborough." In order to keep the records straight, the reader should know that beyond School House lane to somewhere in the neighborhood of the present Queen Lane and that Carlton—or "Roxborough" as Thomas Lee called it—stood just over the boundary of North Penn Township.

It is said that visitors to Carlton may still observe a pane of glass in a rear window on which appears evidently scratched with a diamond, the signature "M. R. Lee, 1827, Roxborough." This is the name of the Rev. Lee's daughter, Mary, and it seems, indeed, a strange freak of fate that they words, traced probably, in an idle moment, have been preserved on their tablet, while she who traced them has long since been dead.

Passing from the hands of the Lees', the estate became the property of John C. Craig, who married Miss Jane JJosephine Biddle. The place was then sold to Cornelius S. Smith, in May 1848, whose descendants are still owners of it.

Visitors may also note the wall of the barn, standing just within the grounds, near the Midvale avenue side, a large stone on which is carved a sheaf of wheat. This stone at one time occupied a place in the front of the old Fifth Street Market, upon the destruction of which Mr. Smith claimed or purchased it for preservation. A sheaf of wheat is the crest of the Smith family.

At the time of the Revolutionary War military organizations and measures were not favored by the Friends, and one of the consequences was that the colony of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia was ill prepared to resist foreign ships and troops. Benjamin Franklin proposed a scheme of associations for defense, these to depend upon subscriptions. Eventually those signing the Associator papers numbered many thousands. Among the Associators were to be found the names of members of the Fort St. David's Fishing Club, which was located along the Schuylkill river, where the present Port Richmond branch of the Reading railroad crosses the stream. Henry Hill, who owned Carlton was one of the members of Fort St. David's and in 1776 was a captain and later a colonel of the Associators.

"On Monday August 4th 1777," says Edward W. Hocker, in a series of articles entitled, "On the Trail of Washington's Army," which was published in the Germantown Independent Gazette, in 1927, "Washington joined his army at Falls, making his headquarters

in the house of Henry Hill.

"Mr. Hill was a rich Philadelphia wine merchant, who dwelt here upon a large estate, partly in Roxborough township and partly in Penn township. Mr. Hill was a leader in the community, as is evident from the fact that he was a justice of the peace, a member of the original First City Troop, a colonel of a regiment of Associators, or militia, and a member of the American Philosophical Society. In 1780 he subscribed five thousand pounds sterling to the Pennsylvania Bank, which was organized to procure provisions for the Continental Army. He was one of the original subscribers of the bank of North America and a director and he also served in the State Assembly and in the State Executive Council."

In addition to these he served in the Carpenter's Hall Conference, and in the Constitutional Convention of 1776.

The house which now stands, is not the one in which Washington made his headquarters, for the present one was built by Mr. Hill in 1780, although it occupies the site of the original structure.

The Revoluntionary cannons which surround the marker at the junction of Fox street and Queen lane, are in memory of the camp which was established by Washington previous to and after the Battle of Brandywine, at which time he had his headquarters i n Carlton, nearby.

The army encamped near Carlton was the Second Continental Army that had been raised and numbered in the neighborhood of 11,000 men, according to the estimate given in the papers of the Marquis de Lafayette, who is supposed by some to have joined dthe American Army, when it was camped along Queen lane.

The Rt. Reverend Monsignor W. J. Walsh, the late rector of St. Bridget's church, in whose parish the old camping ground and Carlton was then located, was the writer of a history of the locality and in it states:

"One day, while the troops were quartered in these now familiar places, they were joined by a slim boyish-looking, eager-eyed stranger who bore about him the marks of French origin. He made his way along a ravine which is now Midvale avenue, to a little house where General Washington had his headquarters. And after he came out, it became known that he was the Marquis Lafayette, and that he had journeyed thither to offer his sword and his fortune to the men who were struggling for American Independence."

It will be remembered that Lafayette received his first wound in the first battle in which he fought. This occurred five days after his 20th birthday, at Chadd's Ford, in the Battle of Brandywine and lends the weight of authenticity to the Monsignor's statement.

The campsite was a most strategic one for it lay close to the three fords of the Schuylkill river. These were the Robin Hood Ford, at the foot of the Nicetown lane, the Levering Ford in Manayunk and the Matson Ford in Conshohocken.

Thoughts of the military actions which occurred in the vicinity of Queen lane always arise in our minds when we pass the conspicuously white building which is known as "Carlton."

SCCAFF

Roxbury Times Oct 11-1928

Sccaff Sings in Praise of Roxborough's Medicos

Physicians are peculiar individuals who have delved into books, listened to lectures, and studied anatomy, diseases and psychology for an indefinite period from seven years up, and then launched out into hospital or private practice shrouded with a mantle of mystery which we ordinary mortals never really penetrate.

The ethics of this particular set of professional people, which prevents them from advertising themselves, always held us in a certain kind of awe until it fell out lot to "write up" a ball game in which the medicos of this northwestern section of Philadelphia participated; and, stealing a little thunder from Rudyard Kipling, we learned about doctors from them." We don't believe there is a finer set of medical men in any other like section of the hemisphere than those who labor in the district surrounding the Memorial Hospital.

Once each year the doctors steal a brief half-day off and lite themselves out into the country on a pretense of being youthful and stage what they term a "ball game," but confidentially, it's a farce. True enough, they don the gloves and mask and swing a bludgeon ala Babe Ruth, but that's all it amounts to. The score is usually something like 55 to 42, in favor of the side which is fortunate enough to have some former member of the college baseball team in its lineup. We know, for we do the same thing ourselves occasionally and all we do is go through the motions and then make frequent and groaning applications of the fluid contained in a liniment bottle. In which procedure the medical men have us at an advantage.

However, their modesty is an attribute which is worthy of emulation by the rest of us, whose work is not so essential to the life of the community. For instance, here is an article which appeared in a class record book, in 1923, concerning a local doctor, the names being purposely changed so as not to embarass our friend the physician, who wrote it for the information of his classmates, each of whom did likewise, so that they might keep in closer contact with each other:

"On account of the hounding of Willie Silvercoin at unearthly hours, I am compelled to write something to you in order to get some rest. I am still practicing in Roxborough with a fair amount of success. Have not succeeded in making enough money to retire, but am struggling along in my 'joo' and managing to save a little. Am still connected with the Memorial Hospital——————.

"Was in the late war and enjoyed the experience immensely. It was a revelation to me. Entered as a 1st Lieut and came out as a Major. I had rather an unusual experience for a medical man, but had lots of company. Was first assigned to the Base Hospital at Camp Devens, Mass., and certainly enjoyed it. Had my own quarters and was assigned to the surgical staff at the Hospital. After serving there three months I received orders to report to Camp Greenleaf, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and being so green I thought, of course, I was to go to the Base Hospital and into comfortable quarters, but on arriving I had a terrible awakening. I was assigned to the Medical Officers' Training Camp, 2nd Battalion, Company C, a barracks of about 50 cots, all occupied. My baggage hadn't arrived from Devens so I was directed to the Quartermasters' Department about 9 p. m. From there I lugged a cot, blankets, etc., to my barracks. I neglected to say the first thing happened to me was that I had my insignia of Captain removed and I became a buck private, except week-ends, when I could put on the bars to spend the week-ends in Chattanooga. On awakening the next morning, I was making fair progress in the bath, when the top-sergeant yelled, 'Where are you going?' I said, 'To wash.' He said 'Carry your cot out and air your blankets.' At 7 a .m. started for the drill field and drilled for two hours, then came back for setting up exercises, then

a couple of lectures, then dinner, then study hour, then a quizz, then field drill for two more hours, then back for review. On Friday my name was called out for inside detail. I didn't know what that meant, but soon found out. I helped scrub the barracks floor, blackened stoves, brought in wood and coal, and the following Friday my name was again called for inside detail and this week we sprinkled wet sawdust over the floor and picked up cigar and cigarette butts, quids of tobacco, paper, etc., in and around our barracks. After two months of this I rose to the dignified position of top-sergeant of Co. "C." At the end of three months I was ordered to the Base Hospital, Camp Meade and then to Camp Dix to mobilize, then abroad with Evacuation Hospital No. 19. Was sent to a hospital center of 10,000 beds at Allery, France, had some work to do and enjoyed it. After the Armistice, we were ordered to Trier, Germany, where we took over Evacuation Hospital No. 3 and stayed there for three months. Was ordered home July 1919.

I neglected to say that when I arrived at Devens, the thermometer was 23 degrees below zero and besides being cold, was scared because I did not know how to salute, and did not know whether to keep my hat on or take it off. Was saved considerable embarrassment by the adjutant who was acting for the commanding officer. He was a regular army man—Major Thinner—and being an ex-resident of the _____ Hospital, he knew me, reached out his hand and said, "Jones, what are you doing here?" Considerably relieved, I produced my credentials.

"After returning home on the Leviathan, I found my practice shot to pieces and had to start rebuilding it. Lost considerable money by being in the service, but enjoyed it and would do it again."

All of which, dear readers, proves that these serious faced old doctors of ours are regular fellows.

SCCAFF

Rox. Times - Oct-18-1928

Population and Growth Of Ward Cited by Sccaff

Horatio Gates Jones, who served prominently with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, wrote practically everything of interest concerning the origin and early happenings of Roxborough, and later-day historians, including "Yours truly" have been following trails which were originally blazed by Mr. Jones. Only occasionally do the 1928 delvers into local history unearth some small detail which the distinguished attorney and churchman failed to mention.

In an old directory, issued in 1882 we ran across an article penned by Mr. Jones which contained some items which were new to us, and which may be new to the readers of tales of the "then of things, hereabouts."

Practically everyone knows that the whole township of Roxborough was granted by William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, or by his Commissioners, to twelve persons in eleven different tracts of land.

The original patentees, beginning at boundary which skirts the 28th Ward, were Robert Turner, Richard and Robert Vicaris, John Jennett, Philip Taiman, who was often called Philip Th'Lehman—Francis Fincher, James Claypoole, Samuel Bennett, Charles Hartford, Richard Snee, Charles Jones and Jonas Smith. It is doubtful whether any of these patentees ever made their residence in Roxborough, for the land was taken for speculation and was settled by second and third purchasers.

The first settlers are supposed to have been the Leverings, Righters, Rittenhouses, Robesons, Holgates, Woods and Cooks. Of these families, the Leverings, Righters, Rittenhouses and Holgates are still represented, and some of them occupy the very lands which their ancestors purchased while Father Penn was the proprietary of Pennsylvania.

The Holgates, in 1698, bought the Jennett tract, and erected a fulling mill—one of the first in Pennsylvania—on the Wissahickon Creek, a short distance below the present Roxborough avenue. The walls of some of those old Holgate buildings were observed by the writer and a companion, only last Sunday, while taking a hike through the park. With the trees being robbed of their leaves and the dense undergrowth beginning to thin out, by the frost and winds of autumn, the walls, which had previously escaped our eyes, were discovered. Nearby, on either side of the stream, there are rocks which still display the chiseled grooves in which huge logs were fastened to form a rude sort of foot-bridge.

Wigard Levering bought the Fincher patent, which comprised about five hundred acres of land, extending from the Schuylkill river to Wissahickon avenue, and from somewhere in the neighborhood of Gerhard street to Fountain street.

The Righters occupied a part of the Vicaris patent, which included all of what we now know as Wissahickon.

The ground on which the new addition to Levering school is to be erected, was property of Charles Thomson Jones, a brother of Horatio Gates Jones, and the house which was torn down was occupied by the former. In an earlier article we told of how William and Hannah Levering in 1748 granted the land on which Levering School stands. The original school building was enlarged in 1735, and in 1857 was entirely demolished and a new building erected. It was at a still later date that the present Holmesburg granite building on the corner of Ridge and Monastery avenues was built.

In 1855, there were in Roxborough, four schools, with eight teachers and six hundred and thirty scholars. There were three hundred and thirty-nine boys and two hundred and ninety one girls.

In 1857 there were five schools, and an additional teacher, with six hundred and thirty-nine scholars, of whom three hundred and thirty-six were boys. In 1874 there were but the same five schools, although the teaching staff has been aug-

mented by five additional tutors. There were 832 scholars, of whom 405 were boys and 427 girls.

The first post-office in Roxborough was established June 23rd, 1823, and was called "Roxborough" and Aaron Levering was the first postmaster. Owing to the fact that there were other postoffices of the same name, the local office was changed on November 9th, 1831 to "Leverington."

The population of Roxborough until the last few years has not increased very rapidly, chiefly on account of its inaccessibility to the central part of the city.

Back in 1880, the upper portion of the community was chiefly farm land, and the lower part being on a ridge, was difficult of access by railroads. A horse car line ran along Ridge avenue from Wissahicken station to Barren Hill, a line which is now served by trolleys of a more or less dependable nature. The horse car line was first operated in 1875. The major part of the inhabitants for many years owned either small farms, or lots of ground ,attached to their houses.

Time 1880: quoting Horatio Gates Jones: "There is a populous settlement on the north side of Ridge road between Leverington avenue and Cemetery avenue—Congrove street—and on the south side between Martin street and Leverington avenue, and also near the Wissahickon Station."

The population of Roxborough, at different periods of its history, has been as follows: In 1741, it was about 175; in 1753, about 290; in 1779, about 600; in 1788, about 700; in 1799—the year George Washington died—about 1000; in 1810, about 1400.

In 1859, it had 2660 residents, composed of 1331 white mn and boys, 1316 white women and girls, 2 colored men and 10 colored women. In 1858 the population had leaped to 4000.

In 1870, Roxborough and Manayunk, as the Twenty-first Ward of corporate Philadelphia had a population of 13,861, of whom 9,565 were native born and 4,296 were of foreign birth. In 1880 the ward's population was 19,699.

The 1920 census shows that the 21st Ward consisted of a trifle more than seven square miles of ground, with 38,194 inhabitants and 7,841 dwellings. In the last eight years these figures have been greatly increased, the population being in the neighborhood of 42,000 and the dwellings now totaling something over 9,000.

And when the community's leaders have seen the completion of plans for the ward's improvement, there will be an influx of new residents which will place Roxborough in a position of being a city in itself. Speed the day!

SCCAFF.

Roxborough Times Nov. 1st 1928

Wissahickon Roadhouses Once Drew Huge Crowds

The Wissahickon Drive, after having been closed for vehicular traffic for several weeks due to repair work which was taking place, was once more thrown open to the public on Thursday of last week.

In many respects the lower Wissahickon region is now more sylvan in its aspects than it was back in Civil War days. All of the mills and hotels, and practically all of the dwellings that once stood in close proximity to the creek have been removed. The exceptions are the Salaignac House, the Hermitage on the west side of the stream, and the Wissahickon Hotel, which stands at thet corner of the Drive and Gypsy lane.

True enough, it is but a short distance to the homes and industries of East Falls, on the southeast, and on the heights of the northwest are the streets of hilly, old Wissahickon, which run to the borders of the park, a stone stairway rising 125 feet to the foot of Freeland avenue. But down in the ravine there dwells the spirit of rural calm, especially in the fall and winter months when picnic parties do not come to dispel it.

Of the old-time roadhouses but one survives, and even it is no longer used as a hotel. This is the Wissahickon Hall, or Lippens' Hall, as some may remember it. It is the first building along the Drive above the Reading Railway bridge and "Dead Man's Curve." The latter name was given to the sharp angle in the road, caused by the projection of a huge boulder, many years ago. So many collisions of carriages and sleighs occurred there that the Park Commission found it necessary to widen the drive; but as the proposition to blow up the picturesque rock caused a storm of opposition, a retaining wall had to be bbuilt whereby the roadway encroached upon the bed of the creek. This work was done in 1899 and 1900, at a cost of $25,000. Since then a large part of the rock has been removed, either by a slide or at the hands of a contractor. And when one considers the number of speeding automobiles which pass there every day, it is a good thing that the road is wider than in the old days.

Besides Wissahickon Hall there were two other resorts along the creek, between the railroad bridge and the Great Bend of the Wissahickon, at Lincoln Drive. The three roadhouses were situated within a distance of less than a mile, and for a long time each had a large patronage. They catered, however, to three different strata of society. The aristrocracy frequented Wissahickon Hall. Next was the Maple Springs Hotel, where the so-called "middle classes" were wont to stop for refreshments. Some distance farther on was the Log Cabin, which derived its revenue from persons who traveled afoot, and whose greatest indulgence was a five-cent bottle of spruce beer. Waffles, catfish and coffee constituted the features of the menu both at Wissahickon Hall and Maple Springs Hotel.

The grounds on which the Log Cabin was built once belonged to Nicholas Rittenhouse, of Roxborough. Five Rittenhouse boys, Martin, James, Nicholas, Jr., Charles and George, and a cousin, William Umstead, built the cabin. It was intended for headquarters of a political club in the Presidential campaign of 1840, when William Henry Harrison was essaying an Al Smith.

After the election, John Cully conducted the cabin as a resort for picnics and dance parties. Volunteer firemen of the city had festivities of various kinds there, and sometimes pugilistic encounters were a feature. The place gained its greatest fame under the management of Thomas Llewellyn, who succeeded Cully. He sold spruce beer in big stone jugs for five cents a jug, and ginger cakes at one cent each, while those who sought diversion other than that of appeasing the sense of taste, could hire row boats on the creek. The Fourth of July and Whitsuntide were notable occasions of the year, when great throngs spent the day in the neighborhood of the Lob Cabin.

As his business increased, Llwellyn enlarged the building, and he also procured several monkeys and bears for the amusement of his patrons. One of the performances that delighted the crowds was that of having the bears pull corks out of spruce beer bottles. It is said that occasionally Llewellyn

had some of the bottles charged with an extra allowance of carbonic gas, so that when the wire securing the cork was released there was a loud pop and the frothing beer deluged the bear. It is said that Llewellyn's collection of wild animals was the forerunner of our present great Zoological Gardens.

The man who succeeded Llewellyn failed to maintain the prestige of the Log Cabin. Then, too, rival resorts were opening in the neighborhood. These two factors were instrumental in the decay of the Log Cabin, and when the park was created in 1869, the resort was torn down.

The William Leonidas Springs Fountain now marks the spot where the Log Cabin stood. This is a stone memorial which Miss Jeannette C. Springs erected in memory of her father, William Leonidas Springs, who, during the later years of his life spent most of his time in the valley, usually stopping to rest at the place where the fountain now stands.

"The Hermitage," a resort established in 1844 by "Pop" Benson, on the western side of the creek at the foot of Hermit lane, was one of the most popular picnic resorts along the creek. It was reached by a frame truss bridge, which once stood opposite the Springs Fountain, but which was blown down in a storm several years ago.

Sometime, if the opportunity ever presents itself, this Wissahickon lover will attempt to write a tale of the mills which once lined the banks of the stream, but inasmuch as editors seem to take a keen delight in using the scissors on articles which have been stretched out to the length of this one, it behooves me to leave the telling of anything further to a future narrative.

SCCAFF.

Independent Gazette, Nov. 1st 1928 37

Politics Rife Among Old Time "Smoke Eaters" of '85

Since the days of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican's have always, more or less, outnumbered the Democrats, as far as Presidential campaigns are concerned. Of course, there have been a few exceptions, but these, as the old adage has it, simply go to prove the rule.

However, we were somewhat surprised when we happened to run across an old copy of The Annual Almanac, which was published in 1885 by the Germantown Independent, to find that the Republican members of our local fire companies also held a majority over their ancient political foes. Remember, we are talking of 1885, not 1928, in which year the greater part of the municipal jobs are held by the party which has been in power for so long a time.

This article is not intended to boost the stock of the party which has as a symbol the mighty elephant, nor of the one whose members are boastful of the persistance signified by the sign of a donkey, but is a tale of the "then" of our local fire fighters.

In 1885, there were but two companies, No. 9 at Germantown avenue and Carpenter's lane, and No. 19 at 31 East Chelten avenue. Company No. 9 was composed of all Republicans, under the foremanship of Ambrose Pullinger. The members of the company were William B. Crout, George Freas, Jacob Geyer, Isaiah Sheppardson, Simon Abey, Jacob Kephart, Edmund Wright, Charles Fisher, Lewis Roop, Samuel Drakely and Charles Righter.

Company No. 19 had a Democratic foreman, one John Whiteman. The other "dimmycrats' were Charles Whiteman, Allen Hillman, Daniel Manning, Michael Howard, Michael Cody, William Bennett and James J. Conner. The company had three Republican members in George W. Taylor, George W. Cochrane and Frank Cooley, and we can imagine what a lovely time they must have had around that fire house when election days rolled around.

Let's tell you more about the "blaze boys" of the olden time. The old Almanac says: "Alarms sound in every engine house in the city when sent from the central office, and the men are compelled to make ready for a run every time, which is frequently not pleasant during sleeping hours. The firemen are sometimes called out of bed as often as four or five times a night. If the fire is out of the district the horses are put away and the men retire."

Foreman Pullinger, of Company No. 9, reported the total number of alarms answered in 1884, as 440, and inasmuch as both companies always responded Company No. 19 had the same record.

The territory covered by Engine 9 on first alarm included all the Twenty-second ward and Roxborough. Second alarm fires took in Manayunk and Falls of Schuylkill; third alarm, the boundaries were Fifteenth and Cumberland streets, Nicetown lane, Seventeenth and Allegheny avenue, Tenth and Germantown avenue and Broad and Lehigh avenue. Fourth alarms took the men to Germantown avenue and Baker street, and to Broad street and Germantown avenue. When Engine 19 went to Manayunk, Engine 9 covered all of the ground covered by the former on first and second alarms.

Company 19 was provided with a steamer built by J. S. Chapman, of Philadelphia, with two single-acting pumps. The weight of the apparatus drawn to the fires was 6200 pounds. It also had a hose carriage which had been built by the department, which with 900 feet of hose, had a total weight of 3600 pounds. It also had a hook and ladder truck carrying five ladders. The expenses of the company in 1883 were $12,454.58.

Company 9 had the same apparatus with the exception of the hook and ladder and its expenses for 1883 were $11,935.88.

Here's a peculiar item concerning the old fire laddies which strikes the writer as amusing: "There are sixteen fire alarm boxes affixed to telegraph poles in every section of the ward, from which fire alarms may be sent by procuring the keys as points designated below. The key after alarm is sounded cannot be removed except by an authorized agent from police headquarters. Each key is numbered and stamped, and at once identifies the person from whom the key is procured. Besides the points mentioned below, each police officer carries one and alarms may be sent from the police stations at Chestnut Hill, Germantown and Olney, or from the Jewish Hospital. The location of the boxes and the points at which the keys are kept are

as follows:

"Box No. 138, Chelten and Magnolia avenues, key, Scatchard's Mill; 251, Main and Wister streets, Jones' Mill; 252 Main and Walnut lane, Button's Mill; 253 Locust and Chew streets, Gen. Wagner's; 254 Miller and Wister streets, Allen's Mill; 256 Mill and Cedar streets Jewish Home; 257 Branchtown, Russell's Store; 258 Wayne Junction, Wayne Station; 259 Chelten avenue, Engine 10; 261 Wister and Godfrey streets, Bardley's Mills; 263 Wayne and Rittenhouse street, O'Byrnes Lehman and Wayne streets and George Edwards' 264 Main street and Carpenter's lane, Engine 9; 275 Fisher's Station; 351 Manheim and Wayne avenue, L. Rauman's; 354 Mount Airy avenue, drug store, and 375 at Cumberland street, Spencer's Mill.'

We now have Truck 8 at Germantown avenue and Bringhurst street to assist 9 and 10. All are motor-equipped and the veriest child knows that the fire alarm system is as near perfect as men's wits have been able to make it.

Still one may get a laugh by reading how they worked things in the old times, when a fireman was as apt to be a Democrat as he was to be a Hooverite.

SCCAFF.

Independent Gazette 11-8-1928 39

Sorber Family Traced to Early Days of Community

Several months ago the writer happened to meet a Germantown lady whose family name was Sorber, which is a historical one in this northwest section of Philadelphia, who stated that she would like to know more of the past lore of her family. Since the time that we met her we have been on the trail of the Sorbers, and here is what we have gleaned. We know that the story will prove of interest to all of the family, which is a large one and scattered all over our field, and hope that others who will be glad to see the tale in print.

Most of the information contained herein was found among the writings of Bernard Dowdall, who once wrote a history of the Falls of Schuylkill, and which appeared in "The Weekly Forecast," published by the Carwardines, in East Falls.

To start with ,the Sorbers can date their ancestors among the first settlers of Germantown. It was in 1732 tha Joseph Sorber and his brother arrived in Germantown from Sweden. The brother, whose name we have yet been unable to obtain, decided to throw his fortune with Canada, and therefore, went to the Dominion.

Joseph Sorber, the original of the family in this section, remained in Germantown, and earned his living as a carpenter. It was he who built the first cupola on the Germantown Academy. How old Joseph Sorber was when he first came to America, we do not know, but he lived in Germantown for thirty-five years before he died in 1787, on Queen lane. On the ground adjoining the house in which he passed to his reward, his son Joseph E., afterwad built the first brick house in Gemantown, it being an addition to the old home.

Joseph E. Sorber, the son of the pioneer, married Elizabeth Kirk ,of Lower Merion. Miss Kirk's father was a Revolutionary character who bore the name of "Fearnaught.' It is told of Fearnaught, that he was a spy under Washington, and that during the terrible winter at Valley Forge, he came to Philadelphia seeking information of the enemy's activities, and while returning to Washington's camp, he encountered one of the British pickets in the neighborhood of Ridge road and School House lane. Feeling that escape would be impossible, if an alarm was given, he crept up on the unsuspecting Redcoat, until he could touch him, then suddenly he sprang, wresting the gun from his foe, and clubbing him, knocked him insensible, and finally reached the American camp in safety.

Joseph E. Sorber—Fearnaught's son-in-law, moved to the Falls of Schuylkill in the year 1803, occupying a house on Ridge avenue east of Queen lane, which still stands. The house in Revolutionary times was known as Palmers' Tavern. Sorber built an addition to the original building which was used in the writer's time as a dwelling. The structure housed the first grocery store in the Falls. It was also the birthplace of the plumbing business of Edward Foster. In addition to the store, Sorber also operated the noted Sorber Fisheries, on the west side of the Schuylkill river, at the end of the present Strawberry Mansion trolley bridge. The "west river" property remained in possession of the Sorber family until a few years previous to the time when the Fairmount Park Commissioners gained control of it. In the interim it was owned by a man named Jones who had bought it from Charles K. Sorber, who died a decade or two ago.

But to get back to Joseph E. Sorber, the son of the pioneer. Sorber in addition to his other industries erected a building for the manufacture of carriages, which remains to this day, he having had considerable experience in that line. (During the Revolution, while a resident of Germantown, he had made gun carriages for the use of the Colonial troops). This venture proved very successful and his plant afterward became widely known.

The wife of Joseph E. Sorber was a neighborhood nurse, and widely known for her kindness to the poor of the community. An incident in connection with her charitable services is mentioned relative to a call from the Mifflin family to attend the wife of the Governor. The carriage was sent and was at the door and waiting to carry Mrs. Sorber to the mansion, but she had given her word to a poor woman that she would attend her about the same time, and the carriage returned to the home of the Governor vacant.

Of the family of Joseph E. Sorber,

there were four sons, Jacob, Charles, Joseph, 3d, and William H. Jacob became engaged in the carriage business with his father while in his teens. Charles, the second son, died from the effects of a tumor when about 27 years of age. The third son, Joseph, was a doctor, and married into the widely-known Potts family, after which the city of Pottsville is named. Dr. Sorber was a resident of Pottsville for many years, building up a large and successful practice, and finally died there. A number of his descendants are now scattered throughout the State of Illinois.

The fourth son, William H., also stayed with his father in the carriage building trade. All of the Sorber buildings on Ridge avenue were erected there by the first Joseph E. Sorber who moved from Germantown. He also built on the property the first building used for school purposes at the Falls. It was erected shortly after he arrived in the community. It still stands, although in a fearful state of dilapidation, on the east side of Queen lane, just above the junction with Ridge avenue. Joseph E. Sorber died when he was 62 years of age, in 1827, being survived by his widow until 1846, when she died at the advanced age of 87 years.

At the death of the father the carriage business was conducted uninterruptedly by Jacob and William H. Sorber, until 1854, when Charles K. and Joseph, the 4th; the two sons of William H. assumed control.

William H. Sorber had married a Mary L. Dewey, of Germantown. It is on ground once owned by this family that was built the well-known Henry House, opposite the Hood Cemetery, in Germantown. William H. Sorber, was known far and wide as "Squire Sorber," an honor which was given him, and which he held up until the time of his death, which occurred in 1865. And incident is told of William H., relative to the privilege of holding services in the Old Academy, which was erected on Queen lane, in 1813, and to the fund for the building of which his father was a contributor. William H. Sorber was liberal in his views and believed in justice to all. In the case referred to the believers of a certain creed wished to hold services in the academy. Opposition manifested itself, but the Squire decided that there would be no controversy over the matter, and therewith on the day on which the meeting of the trustees of the building were to meet to grant the privilege, he called in a "well-known resident of the Falls, at that time, one John Mettinger, a German, and a good-natured character in general. Mettinger was informed that at the meeting to take place that evening, at a signal from the Squire, he was to put out the lights. He volunteered no answer, but silence; knowing that when the Squire directed an order it was necessary. That evening, when the question was opened, the Squire quietly presented the books containing the rules governing the privileges of the academy, which he read, supplementing them with the names of the contributors to the building fund. The creed of the names mentioned was known to all, and successfully silenced all the opposition argument, and rendered the fulfilling of the Squires's orders to Mettinger unnecessary.

Members of the Sorber family have always been prominent trustees of Falls of Schuylkill Association, which still controls the destiny of the Old Academy. The old Squire died at the age of 65 years, and his title or official position descending to Charles K. Sorber, who is well-remembered by the writer. The first Squire's wife survived until 1865, when she passed away at the age of 82.

Charles K. Sorber married Virginia Madison, of Germantown, to whom was born one daughter, named after her mother. This daughter became the wife of the late Charles L. Dykes, who served with particular merit in the Select Councils of Philadelphia and as president of the State Board of Undertakers of Pennsylvania.

Charles K. Sorber's only son, Harry M. Sorber, was a very popular young man, who, after graduating from the old Forest School, which we now know as "The Samuel Breck School," took a business course and in 1891 became a notary public and conveyancer. In the midst of a successful clientage, which promised a bright future, he was stricken with typhoid fever and died.

Joseph Sorber, the 4th, had married Elizabeth Stace, a daughter of Jacob Stace, a Revolutionery neighbor of Henry Hill, of Carlton. Joseph lived in a house on Queen lane, just below the Falls of Schuylkill Y. M. A. He was the father of three daughters, Miss Kate Sorber, Mrs. Harry Conover and Mrs. Zachariah Potter. The only son, William H., 2d., who learned the trade of carriage painting continued in the carriage building business with his uncle, Charles K. Sorber. In 1897, the latter retired from the carriage business and devoted the remainder of his life to notarial and conveyancing which work he had taken up at the death of his own son. William H. Sorber, 2d, had a short business career, for about a year after assuming own-

ership he succumbed to an attack of lead poisoning. He left a widow, and three children, one girl and two boys. These two boys, since the death of their uncle Charles are the last of the male line of the original Sorber, who settled in the Falls in 1803.

Joseph Sorber, 3d, fell a victim to the small-pox epidemic of 1872, after which the carriage business was conducted by C. K. Sorber. The term of Charles as Squire expired in 1872, when the position became elective under the official name of magistrate. Mr. Sorber did not desire to be a candidate. He was also postmaster at the Falls for a number of years, being appointed by Postmaster Snowden, under President Grant, and retiring in favor of John Cruice, during Postmaster Harrity's term expiring in 1882.

A sister of Charles K. Sorber's married Robert Scott, at one time a large property holder in this section, after whose death she became the wife of Dr. John Conry, of Manayunk, who was a noted Civil War character.

The Charles Sorber, referred to as having died from the effects of a tumor, at 27 years of age, our manuscripts tell us, married Julia Young, the daughter of the then proprietor of the old Falls Hotel. Young established a private school of languages in Roxborough. Charles, at his death, left a widow and two sons, William and George Y., of whom the latter learned the blacksmithing art in the old shop at the corner of Queen lane and Ridge avenue. George Y. Sorber afterward married Mary C. Shingler, of Schuylkill county, Pa. This couple had seven children, three sons and four daughters. Of the girls, Emma, the eldest, married George W. Wooley, of Trenton; Sallie A., married Robert G. Foster, who was well-known as a plumber in East Falls; Susan E. became the wife of Dr. L. W. Moyer, of Schuylkill county, and Ida M., became Mrs. Benjamin F. Stamm, of Schuylkill county, but who afterward moved to the Falls.

Charles F. Sorber, a brother of the above named women, followed the trade of machinist, and married a Pottsville girl named Sarah Noll. John Sorber, another brother, married Miss Kate Brierly, of Orwigsburgh, Pa., and afterward took to farming at Summit Hill, Pa. The other brother for many years conducted a drug store at the corner of Nineteenth and Fitzwater streets, in Philadelphia.

There are still a great many of the descendants of Joseph E. Sorber living in and near East Falls, and in Germantown, but they probably could add to this little history, but the printing of any additional facts will have to be left for another edition.

SCCAFF.

Roxborough Times, Nov. 22nd 1928 42

Sccaff Discusses Lesser Known of Early Settlers

We have often told of the Leverings and other old settlers of Roxborough, but there are several of whom we have never been able to obtain any lengthy information, until a few days ago when we ran across an old document which referred to some of those who dwelt in the township in the early days of its existence.

First we'll tell you what we learned about Matthew Holgate. This man whose name is variously spelled Houlgate, is said to have emigrated from England. He settled on the tract of land which William Penn had granted to John Jennett, and at an early period, erected a large stone house on Shurs lane, which was once known as Rittenhouse lane. The house was afterward owned by George Markle. Holgate was a fuller by occupation, and that art appears to have been kept in the family for several generations. Along the banks of the Wissahickon, just below Kitchen's lane bridge, may yet be seen the walls of an old mill, whose existence was remembered by citizens of Roxborough up to about 1840. In the huge boulders along the creek at that point, one may still see the indentions made to sustain a rude log bridge which once crossed the stream there.

This was the location of Holgate's Fulling Mill, and there is every reason to believe that it was the first fulling mill established in this section of the country.

On the 8th of December, 1720, Matthew Holgate, of Roxborough township, yeoman, and Sarah, his wife, conveyed 100 acres of land,' as also the fulling mill," to M. Holgate, Jr., and this deed recited that he had purchased the land from John Jennett, on the 16th of May, 1698. So that it is probable that the Holgates settled in Roxborough as early as this date. Matthew Holgate, the younger, on the 20th of January, 1762, granted the fulling mill to his son, John, who, on the 19th of February, following, conveyed half of the mill to Christian Schneider, of Germantown, a skin-dresser. The fulling establishment was bought in 1782 or 1783 by William Rittenhouse. John Holgate had five sons: Matthew, Samuel, John, Cornelius and William. The latter did some service in the Revolutionary War and in papers relative to that momentuous time in America's history, his name has often appeared.

Henry Frey appears to have settled in Roxborough about the year 1692. He was a son-in-law of Wigard Levington, and bought 100 acres of the Phillip Talmun patent from John Jennett. What became of him is unknown but on the 9th of March, 1729, he sold his property to John George Wood, who was a German, and who had anglicized his home from Hans Yorick Hultz.

Wood built a large stone house on the Ridge road, near what is now Roxborough avenue, and it was afterward owned and occupied by a man named Shur. In its day it was, no doubt, much in advance of its age, although most of the houses erected in Roxborough at that period were large and substantial. The structure was graced on the north and east sides with a pent roof, which, over the door, was enlarged so as to increase the beauty of architecture. During the Revolution the house and property belonged to Andrew Wood, a son of the above named, John George Wood, and here, in the winter of 1777-78, the massacre at Wood's Barn occurred.

The writer has always wanted to obtain a list of the residents of Roxborough who lived in the vicinity in its earliest days, but beyond the year 1763, nothing seems to be available.

Among the names of early residents prior to 1753 there are those of Henry Frey, Johannes Gumre, Samuel Guldin, Michael Pelsner, Samuel Savage, John Linderman and his sons, John, Henry, Abraham, William, Christian, Samuel and Zachariah; Henry Snider, George Jacob and his sons, Henry, Jacob, Peter and Matthews; Thomas Reese and Isaac Linglow, of L'englois; Benjamin Morgan, Bartle Righter and his sons, John, Jacob, Peter and Bartle; George Geiger and John, David and Henry Shellenberger.

There were other residents ,many of which were included in a list of taxpayers, which are recorded in the Court of Common Pleas. This list includes the names of taxpayers in Roxborough township in 1758, and as one of the earliest records relating to the township, it is given entire, the only change

being the alphabetical arrangement of the names.

Abraham Levering was the tax collector. The Roxborough citizens who paid him "A tax of Three pence, in a pound, and nine shillings per head, laid on the estates of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Philadelphia, for repairing and enlarging the prison, and discharging sundry debts of the county, and destroying wolves, foxes, crows and other exigencies of the county" were:

Adam Alt, Aacob Amos, James Angnas, John Bouler, Daniel Barndollar, George Barkman, Jacob Blade, Frederick Black, John Bold, Jacob Bold, John Butterwarke, George Calege, Isaac Cooke, Jacob Cooke, Isaac Cooke, Jr. John Colton, Conrad Coret, Jacob Crawford, Frederick Coon, Thomas Daves, Arnold Fight, Caspar Fight, John Gruber, Isaac Gruber, Isaac Hanney aMtthew Holgate, John Holgate, John Holgate, Henry Kile, Joseph Keekler, Andrew Lees, Abraham Levering Benjamin Levering, Jacob Levering Septimus Levering, Benjamin Levering II, Wickard Levering, Jacob Levering William Levering, Thomas Livezey and for the mill: Phillip Marewine, Henry Markle, Michael Moyer and for the plow: William Morgan, George Page, Thomas Page, Jacob Pancake, David Person, Frederick Plankhorne, Thomas Price, Thomas Reese, George Righter, Michael Righter, Peter Righter, Jacob Rincker, William Rittenhouse, Michael Rittenhouse, William Rittenhouse, II, Nicholas Robin, Adam Schaffer, Jr., Henry Shellenberger, Adam Schaffer, George Shurr, Nicholas Shortaile, John Stanaland, Conrad Star, Andrew Wood, John Wood, Peter Wood, Adam Yager and Henry Zeiner.

Some of the above names may be misspelled, on account of the tax collector using his own judgment, for I have seen the names of John and Jacob Bold spelled as "Bald"; and Nicholas Robin was very possibly Nicholas Rapine.

Who and what became of Nicholas Shortaile and Jacob Pancake, I have never been able to learn. The names of Holgate, Righter, Levering, Rittenhouse and Moyer can still be found among the tax payers of the Twenty-first ward, which represents the entire old township of Roxborough.

The occupations of the old-time residents were various. They were mostly farmers, millers, paper-makers, carpenters or blacksmiths, and in some cases one man was apt to be a jack-of-all-trades. Everyone, at that time, had something to do, and no one was ashamed of his occupation. All were industrious and before their stalwart blows the forests soon disappeared. Their farms yielded them a full supply, and as the clothing of the day was of homespun, they felt, perhaps, more than you and I, quite independent of the world around them.

SOCAFF

The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of a women. The foundation of political happiness is faith in the integrity of a man. The foundation of all happiness, temporal and eternal, is faith in the goodness, the righteousness, the mercy and love of God.

Cherish patience as your favorite virtue. Always keep it about you. You will find use for it aftener than for all the rest.

Many people who boast of being "frank" and "blunt" speakers are merely coarse and boorish. Such persons are constantly inflicting wounds which neither time nor medicine can heal.

Independent Gazette 11-29-1928

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Ancient Journal Shows Things, Not Men, Change

Some sage, we've forgotten who it was, made the statement that while the world changes each year, the actions of its human inhabitants are controlled by the same emotions which Father Adam and Mother Eve experienced: Love, Hate, Sorrow, Jealousy, Envy and Ambition.

When a copy of "The Business Circular," printed by John J. Holcombe, at 5656 Main street (Germantown avenue) on Saturday, September 28, 1873, recently fell into our hands, we found some measure of corroboration in it relative to the forgoing paragraph.

We, of this age, are proud to think that as far as wisdom and wide-awakeness is concerned, that we are "a mile ahead of our forefathers," but after reading through the columns of the aged Germantown weekly, the old ego is given a jolt which brings us back to our senses.

For instance, the youth of today is apt to think that Gertrude Ederle, who startled the world a year or so ago, by displaying her ability as a mermaid by crawl-stroking it across the English Channel, was a product of the modern age. But glance over this item culled from the "Business Circular" of fifty-five years ago: "A swimming match took place on Saturday last, in the Harlem River, N. Y., Miss Gobbess, of Philadelphia, winning the prize."

Miss Gobbess, if still alive, is now more than likely, a staid old grandmother, who, after hearing of Trudy's feat, launched out into long recitals of the achievements of her girlhood days.

Again, we read our local and metropolitan papers and deplore the number of robberies which take place upon the streets of our community. The police, which are now being criticized so adversely, had their own troubles in the old days, too, as the following indicates: "A cowardly attack was made upon a young woman, on East Walnut lane, on last Saturday night, when she was compelled to surrender her money. The scamp escaped." Sounds perfectly up-to-date, doesn't it?

We noticed a paragraph which told of "the prosperous congregation of United Brethern, at Mt. Airy," which "laid the cornerstone of their new church on Mt. Airy avenue, on Sunday last, with appropriate ceremonies." Churches, it seems, have been being erected since the beginning of things, and are still being raised for the benefit of men's souls, with "appropriate ceremonies."

Even the Phillies and Athletics were having their annual series for the city championship. Here it is, read it for yourself: "The sixth game of baseball between the Philadelphia and Athletic Clubs was played on Monday afternoon, at Twenty-fifth and Jefferson streets, resulting in the following score: Athletics, 5; Philadelphia, 6. Time of game—1 hour and 50 minutes."

The writer, who frequently pauses in this world of care to let some male acquaintance know that he thinks the "A's" are the best ball club on the hemisphere, read of the victory of the Phils with some degree of chagrin. A Phillie rooter of today is just as ardently loyal to the Bakermen, as his granddaddy was in 1873. They, like everything else, haven't changed a bit.

Germantowner's took a keen delight in the entertainment furnished by several amateur theatrical organizations. Nowadays, we have three large theatres, with more than a dozen smaller playhouses, most of which are devoted to showings on the silver screen. At present, one of the local palaces of amusement is featuring a stock company, which although the policy is far from new, is daily and nightly drawing large audiences.

The old newspaper which lies before us contains the announcement that "The Philadelphia Dramatic Combination gave a splendid entertainment at Parker's Hall, on Saturday last, to a very respectable audience. Their orchestra discoursed some very excellent and appropriate music between the acts. The plot was good and the characters well rendered. Solon Shingle, in his character as teamster, was received with great applause."

When you went to register so that you might cast your vote for Herbie or Al on the 6th of November, it was necessary for you to exhibit a tax receipt before you could exercise your

franchise. Those who used a poll tax receipt obtained one from one of the clerks at the polling place on Registration Day.

A half century ago, Germantown voters found it was a requirement to have a poll tax, but, however, there were regularly appointed tax collectors. These in 1873 were: William Dunlap, William M. Gilbert, William H. Kline, George W. Bessan, John Eastburn, Charles H. Longbine, John Jones, Daniel Buddy, Oscar Bolton and William Hopkin.

The 18th Amendment was unknown, but the forerunners of those who finally had it made a part of the Constitution were active, as is shown by the following news item: "A new Section of Cadets of Temperance was organized on Friday evening last, (September 19, 1873), in Stokes Block, under the name of Liberty Section No. 17. It was organized under very flattering promises of success."

Yes, there were street accidents then, as well as now. Peruse this: A wagon of Messrs. Freas and Nallor, Chestnut Hill, was badly damaged on Wednesday last, by the horses running away. It appears that the driver left the wagon while he delivered some goods. During his absence the horses took fright from a passing vehicle." This vehicle, we can solemnly assure our readers, was not a product of the famed flivver factory of Detroit.

So after this, when a feeling of conceit arises to make us believe we are far superior to those pioneers who preceded us down the road of life, we're going to hesitate a moment to think of the wise men's words: "There is nothing new under the sun."

SCCAFF

Roxborough Times - Dec 6th 1928

46

Causeway Over Schuylkill Is Monument To Builders

We marvel at the beauty and strength of the new bridges which have been erected in this northwest section of Philadelphia recently, but give little thought to the manner in which concrete and steel have been developed for the convenience of the bridge-builder.

Very few persons among the thousands who daily use the East River Drive to reach the center of the city have any conception of the engineering feat which was accomplished three-quarters of a century ago, when the Reading Railroad Company's Stone Bridge at the Falls was thrown across the Schuylkill River.

The structure was started in 1852. The company receiving the contracts were held strictly to the specifications, and realizing that their bid was too low, they, after completing the western abutments, threw up the contract.

The work was then placed under the direction of Christian Swartz, of Pottstown, who at that time was the superintendent of masonry for the Reading Company. Swartz immediately moved to the Falls of Schuylkill where he would be near his work, and for a number of years resided on James Street. This thoroughfare is now familiar to us as Stanton Street.

Swartz had as an assistant Peter Rankin, a Scotchman, who resided at Limerick, near Pottstown.

The "boss" stonecutter was an Englishman named Sidney Hanley, of Manayunk, who despite a lack of theoretical education carried his work through to a successful completion. Each and every stone used in its construction had to be marked and Hanley, used his own ciphers. Once, when Hanley was confined to his home with a temporary illness, it was found necessary to send a carriage to his home in Manayunk and bring him to the operation, so that he might point out the next stone which was to be used.

The carpenter work was taken care of by Edward Heilig, a German who lived in a house on the site of the present Parkview Laundry, at 4138 Ridge Avenue. He was assisted by his brother, John, who resided across the river in Cooksockie.

The chief engineer was J. Dutton Steel, of Pottstown, and Antus Snyder was his assistant.

The form of the bridge, at the time it was built, was entirely different from anything ever before attempted in any part of the world, and was known as a "skew," or twisted, bridge, being a succession of single arches which formed a whole, each line or circle of stone being independent of the other, and no tieing in was done. The theories of those old engineers have been proved beyond argument, and their work has been copied in the building of similar bridges since that time. The more weight that is placed on such structures the stronger they become. At the time of the construction of this bridge, Messrs. Dutton and Snyder had their idea patented, and some 30 years ago their heirs had the matter in Court to decide which of the two families were the owners of the patent.

In building the abutments, coffer-dams were sunk, but it was impossible to keep the water out by pumping, and they brought the old-fashioned diving bell into use. At first a square chamber was used, but afterward a more improved pattern was utilized. Eight men formed a gang, but two being able to work in the bell at one time, and two and a half hours being considered a day's work in it. They worked in turns, and those not engaged in the bell were occupied on the scow to which it was attached and did the hoisting of the dirt, rock and mud taken from the bottom of the river.

On one occasion, just at dinner time, and as the bell was about to be hoisted, the rope broke and it was several hours before the imprisoned men could be liberated, it being necessary to attach a new rope. The men who were left in the dangerous plight were James McCabe and John Curran. Fortunately the air connections were not broken, but notwithstanding this face, great excitement prevailed for some time.

All the framework for the arches was made at Pottstown, loaded on cars and afterward put together on the ground, each piece being marked as to its position. The stone used in the bridge's construction was taken from a nearby quarry, along the present East River Drive, just below the bridge, and was known in those days as Stoever's, or Scott's Quarries.

The only fatal accident which occurred during the erection of the bridge happened to one of the employees of the first contractor, and happened while he was eating his lunch, a small stone from a blast in the quarry hitting him on the head and killing him instantly.

A young lad named James Kane, an apprentice stone-cutter, while working about a derrick, had his leg so badly crushed that it had to be amputated. He afterward and for a number of years was engaged in the tobacco business in Manayunk.

The stonecutters received the highest wages of any of the mechanics. They worked piecework, and averaged from $4 to $5 per day. Carpenters were paid $2, foremen $1.75 and laborers received from ninety cents to a dollar a day.

At the time the Reading Railroad first opened the Port Richmond branch, which began in 1839, the laborers received as low as 75 cents a day, and it is said the majority of them were more interested in the number of "jigs" they were to receive than in the monetary rewards. A "jig," be it noted, was a term used to designate liquid rations. Some contractors handed six drinks while others would give seven or eight.

One of the contractors was a man named Bernard Riley, of Pottsville. He was afterward a Judge and a Congressman. His son, James B. Riley, was also a Congressman from Schuylkill County.

The stone work of the bridge was completed in November of 1855, and the railroad tracks laid and connections made in the spring of 1856, under the direction of Eli Schuck, of Pottstown, with "Squire" Nice (after whose family Nicetown is named) acting as foreman.

From the time the bridge was started until its completion there was not one moment's delay in the transmission of trains. There were 30 trains each way daily, beside the shifting and drilling of them, but the work went on.

As the new arches raised higher and higher the old supports were cut away and replaced with what were termed screw-backs, and the masonry built up around them.

Christain Swartz was afterward killed at Exeter, near Reading. He had just stepped out of the way of one train, when he was struck by one coming in the opposite direction.

James Swartz, who is president of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University, and at present lives on West 44th Street, in New York City, was the timekeeper during the erection of the entire work. Young Swartz, though but a boy, showed the ability to take care of the duties imposed upon him that has characterized his actions through his life, and fitted him for the position of honor and trust which he afterward occupied with the International Merchantile Marine Company.

Some others who worked on the bridge were: Thomas Woods, Edward Finigan and William P. Dowdall. John MacDonald was the day railroad despatcher at West Falls. The night despatcher was Thomas Clemens, and the superintendent of the road, up as far as Norristown was John Binkin.

The shifting engines employed at West Falls in those days were wood burners and worked double shifts. Among them was "The Atlas," with [illegible] Lowe as engineer and John Major as fireman. "Bladge" Riley was the engineer on the other shift, with and John Kerns and John Brady as stokers. The "Perry" was throttled by John Lowe and the "Baltic" whose Charley Evans as fireman. Then there was the "Hercules" with William Campbell and Joseph Quigg as engineers. destinies were guided by Joe Cunningham. In addition there was an extra engine named the "Dauphin."

But more about the railroad men later.

SCCAFF.

Roxborough Times - 12-13-1928 48

Sccaff Tells Tale of Last Of Wissahickon Hermits

Most frequenters of the Wissahickon Valley are acquainted with the story of John Kelpius and his band of hermits, with their strange beliefs and practices. Kelpius, who came to America when quite a young man died in his 36th year and then the group of men who lived along the banks of the Wissahickon disintegrated.

The last of the hermits of whom any reliable information can be obtained is John Seelig. He was, probably a German, and was 26 years of age when he landed in this country with Kelpius, in 1694.

He appears to have enjoyed in a high degree, the confidence of his distinguished leader, and is often mentioned in the Latin Journal which was written by Kelpius. He also corresponded with his friends abroad, and one of his letters in German is preserved in a manuscript letter-book.

Seelig occasionally wrote on the subject of mystic divinity, for in a letter to a Mr. Momfort, Kelpius, when referring to the "Reformation and Revolutions in this last Age," says: "As my beloved brothers and faithful fellow-pilgrim in the Wilderness state, Seelig hath written."

From the data which is available, this scribe is disposed to the belief that Seelig was an ascetic of the first water, if the application may be permitted, and was a believer in Boehme's Teutonic Mysticism; for the Chronicles of Ephrata state that after the death of Kelpius, when many of the Society married, Seelig kept true to his principles, clothed himself in rough, coarse garments and avoided the fellowship of men; and among his literary treasures were no less than ten of Jacob Boehme's books. The probability, therefore is, that when his mentor died—which is supposed to have been in 1708—Seelig remained along the banks of the Wissahickon with another Pietist, Matthias, and such others as were not overcome with the charms of the maidens who lived in nearby Roxborough and Germantown; until as years advanced upon him, and the desire of his soul was not satisfied, he was led to remove from the valley's rugged hills to the vicinity of kind friends in Roxborough.

This is rendered very probable from [illegible]tion which Horatio Gates Jones [illegible]n a very aged lady, whose early life was passed near the creek, that Seelig, the Hermit, lived for some years and died on the farm of William Levering, the oldest son of Wigard Levering, Roxborough's first settler.

The same lady said that the Levering abode was in a valley in the rear of the present Leverington Cemetery.

What the precise relationship which existed between Levering and the hermit will never be known, but it was a close and intimate friendship. The acquaintance was doubtless formed at the period of Kelpius' settlement along the Ridge, when the Rittenhouses, Holgates and Leverings were about the only residents of Roxborough, and the hermit was probably assisted and visited by William Levering. It is known definitely that they were close friends in 1735. It was in that year on the 17th of September, that Seelig made his will. It began as follows: "I, John Seelig, of Roxborough, in the county of Philadelphia, Gentleman, being in good health of body and mind, do make this my last will and testament."

The most of his estate he bequeathed to "my friend, William Levering, Sen'r, of Roxborough." The presumption therefore is, that at the time the hermit was living either at Levering's house, or on his farm. His death is recorded in the family Bible of Wigard Levering in the following words: "John Sealy, Hermit, died April 26, 1745, aged 77 years."

As Mr. Levering was his legatee and executor, he no doubt superintended the funeral of his aged friend, and although there is nothing to prove the fact, it is very likely that his remains were buried in the Levering family lot, where the previous February, Wigard Levering, the pioneer, had been interred. This graveyard, which occupied the ground in the rear of the old Roxborough Baptist Church is now a part of Leverington Cemetery, and is beautifully located on an elevated knoll which affords a view of Germantown and the romantic valley of the Wissahickon.

Of Conrad Matthias, who has frequently been designated as the last of the hermits, nothing is really known. He, too, according to John Fanning Watson, died in 1745 - - the year of Seelig's death, but Watson's authority for

this statement is not given.

The hermits who were undoubtedly pious and devoted men passed away, one by one. They sought refuge among the rocks and vales of Penn's woods, preferring the dangers of the ocean, the exposure of savages, the wants and trials incident to exclusion from society, to the pleasures of social intercourse, that they might become better fitted to enter upon "the Divine Life." They dreamed of the millenium dawn, and it has probably come true, but not on this earth as they fancied, and though their names are almost forgotten here, it is earnestly hoped that they will be found on the Great Book of Life.

SCCAFF

Reptownship Times 12-20-1928

Sccaff Tells of Old Route New York to Washington

Two weeks ago this column was devoted to a story of the construction of the Reading Railroad's Stone Bridge over the Schuylkill, and ended by telling a few facts concerning the local men who handled the throttle and fired the old-time locomotives in the early days of the Reading. At the time the article was printed we promised to relate more facts relative to the railroad men.

Here there are: In the early sixties the different railroads formulated plans and agreements whereby direct connections relative to passenger traffic could be made between New York and Washington. This necessitated the building of connecting branches between the different roads.

The Trenton and Philadelphia, which came into Philadelphia at Front and Berks streets, connected with the Richmond branch of the Reading at Trenton avenue. The Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, came into Broad and Prime streets, and connected with the Pennsylvania near the old round house of the latter company in West Philadelphia, and to complete the circuit a branch beginning at Belmont, connected the Reading and the Pennsylvania roads.

As the trains came in from New York, on the Trenton road, a Reading engine carried them to West Falls, where a Pennsylvania locomotive would be in waiting to take the train to West Philadelphia, and then the P. W. & B. would take it in charge.

At first but two trains a day were employed. This was afterward increased to four. The running of these trains by way of the Richmond branch made it necessary to erect a signal tower at a tunnel which formerly went under the Norristown branch of the Reading, near the present Tasty-Cake factory. Owing to the width of the passenger cars, the old tracks could not be used, as the tunnel was too narrow, and it was found necessary to lay a track for this special purpose in the middle of the road, or between the east and west-bound tracks. When it was time for these trains to pass this point, all other traffic on that branch between Richmond and the Falls, was halted.

Harry Swartz, telegraph operator, had charge of their direction, and a tower for that purpose was located at Nicetown, or as it was known to the old-timers, "The Summit," it being the top of the grade.

The first of these trains to pass over the new route was hauled over the Reading division, by an engine called "Niagra," with Engineer Robert Carter, of Richmond, on the right-hand side of the cab. This took place on October 13, 1863, Superintendent of the Road John Binkin, having charge of the signals at the tunnel, and William P. Dowdall turning the switches.

The old tunnel was built of brick, with a facing of stone. The switch-tender's box stood on the lower side of the track at the eastern end of the tunnel, while the signal station stood

above on the Norristown branch, and was located some distance below the tunnel so that the signals could be seen by the engineers of the trains bound westward, before they reached the sharp curve at the old Peltz crossing, at the present Fox street.

At first the tunnel was manned with but one crew, William Dowdall, having charge of the signals, and James Sturges tending to the switches. After a few months, Augustus Binkin took charge of the day signals and had as switch-tender, Patrick McCarthy. McCarthy, at the time, had just finished a term of service in the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Sturges was afterward succeeded as switch-tender by John Miller, who had formerly ran a line of lime boats on the Schuylkill, and who had married into the Shronk family of the Falls. He was succeeded by Samual Harper, who, at that time, had arrived home disabled from the Civil War, having served as a member of the 40th New York Regiment, known as the Mozart Regiment. He and a Falls of Schuylkill comrade, Robert Peel, Sr., being the only two of their company who survived the terrible slaughter of the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Dowdall was succeeded at the switches by his son, Joseph Hennessy, and Harper had charge of the night shift until the latter was replaced by Andrew McLaughlin, of Nicetown.

In the spring of 1867, the Reading officials determined to widen the tunnel, and for that purpose began removing the dirt on either side. They did not think that enough material had been removed to weaken the arch and, therefore, had not taken any precautions to place in position the supports necessary for the alteration.

On the Tuesday following Easter, 1867, the night crew had just gone on duty, and a coal train passed through the tunnel, when Hennessy and McLaughlin, who were preparing their lights for the night, heard a loud crash. They instantly thought had some of the coal cars had piled up, which was a somewhat regular occurence on the down grade. They rushed down to the Richmond division tracks and were dumb-founded to find that the tunnel had caved in. The signals of danger were at once set, and Hennessy and McLaughlin notified Superintendent Binkin of what had occurred. The engineer of a Norristown branch passenger train, which was flagged, was highly indignant over the fact that his train had been halted, for he could still see the tracks clear ahead of him. The rails hung unsupported over the chasm left by the tunnel's collapse, and after he found out the cause of his being stopped, he was exceedingly grateful to the two men who warned him of the danger.

With the accident ceased the usefulness of the old tunnel and it was never rebuilt. It was replaced with a bridge, which was many years was known to everyone in the locality as "The Hanging Bridge." Superintendent Binkin placed his two sons, Augustus and John, in charge of this structure after it was completed. Even this old bridge is now no more, for it has since been superseded by the present bridge which is known as a Howe Truss.

Just about the time of the caving in of the old tunnel, a number of moneyed men interested in transportation systems, formed a company to build what at that time was called "The Connecting Road," now the New York Division of the Pennsylvania which crosses the Schuylkill at Girard avenue. A large part of the stock was owned by those interested in both the "Pennsy" and Reading lines, and it was intended that the new road would be a short cut between New York and Washington. When it was completed it formed a junction with the Trenton road, which had been purchased by the Pennsylvania, and all the passenger trains that formerly came by was of West Falls used it. The Courts finally had to decide the ownership of this railroad, and the Pennsylvania promoters holding the controlling interest, it was decided in their favor.

And for the time-being, so much for the railroads.

SCCAFF

Roxborough Times - Dec 27, 1928.

City's Great Park Started To Preserve Water's Purity

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

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

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

When the Water Works had been established upon a scale, at that time, of unexampled magnitude and excellence, the good taste and judgment of the projector and life-long superintendent promoted the adorment of the grounds by planting shade trees and covering the rugged cliffs with shrubbery and vines. All the surroundings were at that time rural. The view up the valley of the river brought in sight the elegant country seats of Lemon Hill and Sedgeley, on the east bank, and Solitude and Egglesfield and Lansdowne, on the west. The factories of Manayunk had then no existence; and no town or cluster of houses bordered on the stream, with the exception of the Falls of Schuylkill, until it reached the village of Norristown, fifteen miles distant.

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

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

No sooner did this suspicion take a tangible shape than the men of action urged prompt measures to put away the incipient evil, but with them, as with most other pioneers in social progress, the great difficulty was, not in doing the things they had liberally devised, but in getting clear of the hindrances ingeniously set up by the obstructive members of the community. But preservance brought success.

An opportunity offered itself for buying the estate known as Lemon Hill, containing 46 acres, lying nearer to the forebay of the Water Works than any other large parcel of open land, and so located as to pour its surface waters directly into the current that supplied the city reservoirs. In Revolutionary times it was the country seat of Robert Morris, the patriot financier; there he hospitably entertained many of the most eminent of his contemporaries; and there in later life, when financial ruin overtook him, he kept out of reach of the sheriff's writs. At the close of that century, this fine estate passed into the hands of a successful merchant and man of liberal tastes, under whose embellishment it attained that beauty which made Pratt's Garden the pride of Philadelphia. Mr. Pratt sold it in 1836, for $225,000, to men who intended to use it for investment purposes. While in their possession much of its adorment fell into ruin, but its natural beauties and many of its noble trees remained. A slump in the real estate market depreciated its value to one third of the price which had been paid for it.

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

In 1855, in an Ordinance of Councils, approved on September 28, it stated that the ground would be "de-

ed and dedicated to public use, as park, the Lemon Hill estate, to be known by the name of Fairmount Park."

Councils were induced in 1856 to make a small appropriation for the improvement of Hunting Park, a tract of forty-five acres, situated near the southwestern corner of the Twenty-third ward, which had been bought in 1853 by a number of citizens and generously tendered in 1854 to the newly consolidated city, free of cost.

In 1857, by concerted efforts, subscriptions amounting to $60,000 were obtained for the purpose of buying and presenting to the city, the estate known as "Sedgeley," containing some 94 acres, situated between Lemon Hill and the Spring Garden Water Works, the price of which was $125,000. The land was bought and tendered to the city subject to a mortgage for the balance of the purchace money.

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

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

In 1718, the commissioners of William Penn sold 1084 acres of this land, which lay north of the present Fairmount avenue, and west of Ridge avenue, to Jonathan Dickerson, who, by his will, devised the same to his son by the name of the "Vineyard." In 1768, Tench Francis became owner of 400 acres of the "Vineyard" and 1770 sold to Robert Morris several parcels of land, including with others, Sedgeley and Lemon Hill.

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

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

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

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

Pennypack Creek is the latest addition to the park's territory, and the commission also has control over numerous small spaces located in various parts of the city.

It is now planned to extend the Wissahickon section up into Montgomery county as far as Militia Hill, which lies just west of the Skippack Pike.

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

SCCAFF

Vol. 1 No 1. The Suburban Press Feb. 7th 1929

Sccaff Bows Himself in With Talk of Wissahickon

There is little doubt concerning the fact that the Rittenhouse Paper Mill was one of the earliest, if not the first, mill built along the banks of the Wissahickon Creek or its tributaries.

When or where the next mill was built in Roxborough Township, cannot be ascertained, but it was more than likely the grist mill close to the mouth of the creek, known as the Robeson Mill. The Duke de la Rochefoucault, when writing in 1795, about the Robeson Mill, said, "it is said to be the first that was built in America." The distinguished Frenchman no doubt heard the statement from some one, and it is to be regretted that he did not give his authority.

Grist mills had long been in existence in other parts of the country, and John Fanning Watson, in his "Annals" asserts that the first grist mill in Philadelphia County was built in Germantown, and commonly known as the Roberts' Mill. It was erected by a Quaker, named Richard Townsend, who came over with William Penn, aboard the "Welcome" in 1682.

In telling of this mill, Townsend said in 1727, that after his arrival, "he set up a mill on Chester Creek," which had been fabricated in London and brought over in sections and which "served for grinding corn and the sawing of board," and he added, "as soon as Germantown was laid out I settled by tract of land which was about one mile from Germantown, where I set up a barn and a corn mill, which was very useful to the community around. But there being but few horses, people generally brought their corn upon their backs, many miles. I remember one man had a bull so gentle that he used to bring the corn upon his back."

It is very probable that this is the foundation of Watson's reference concerning the locality of this grist mill, but some authorities claim that a certain Richard Townsend, millwright, as early as 1686, became interested in a tract of 50 acres of land in Roxborough, and that he built a mill at this place in that year and at a spot "about a mile from Germantown." Whether he was the same Townsend, or not, cannot be definitely settled. There is no doubt that the excellent water power furnished by the Wissahickon soon applied to the practical purposes of life.

Sumac Park, which embraced 501 acres of land, was patented by William Penn to Robert Turner, on the 24th day of June, 1684. On the 19th day of June, two years later, Turner leased fifty and one half acres of his tract to Joshua Tittery, for 101 years, and he entered into a partnership with Richard Townsend, millwright, "for the said term, upon said fifty and one half acres of land, to equally pay the rent and equally to bear the charge of building the mill or mills or other improvements."

On July 11th, 1691, Turner conveyed the whole tract to Andrew Robeson, and in that deed there appear several recitals by which it appears that Tittery and Townsend had also taken into the concern John Tysack, of London, and had conveyed to him a third of the land, "houses, saw and corn mills." The date of the conveyance was March 25th, 1689.

November 8th saw Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders buying Tittery's share. On the 5th of October, 1703, Sarah Saunders, widow of Charles, and guardian of her son, conveyed all of her late husband's interest in the property to Andrew Robeson, thus making him the sole owner.

It is thus seen that the Robeson Mills were established as early, if not before, the Rittenhouse Mill, and only three years after the supposed date of the Roberts' Mill at Germantown.

Other early mills of the Wissahickon may be named as follows: At an early date Adam Hogemoed built a grist mill along the creek a few hundred yards northeast of the foot of Gypsy lane, the walls of which stood for several years previous to the Civil War, and the re-

mains of an old mill dam at that spot, as well as a couple of old millstones were visible several years after that historic conflict. This mill was subsequently owned and carried on by Martin Rittenhouse and John Vandaren, who at one time lived at Robeson's Mill, but when Robeson's upper dam was constructed the one above Gypsy lane was rendered useless, for the stored-up water covered it.

The next mill was built about 1749, by one of the Rittenhouses, and was a grist mill. Roxborough's thorough historian, Horatio Gates Jones, stated that Nicholas Rittenhouse used to say that it was currently reported that this mill was built without the use of horses and carts, all of the materials having been carried to the site by manual labor.

On Paper Mill Run, or the Monoshone, as some call it there was always some kind of a mill, and when the second paper mill was destroyed another was built a short distance below the site of the first one, and it was conducted for many years by Jacob Rittenhouse, the first of that name in Roxborough.

Near the confluence of the Run and the Wissahickon was William Rittenhouse's Paper Mill, subsequently converted into a textile [illegible].

The Red Bridge, or Shur's lane Mill was built, it is believed by Henry Rittenhouse, and was afterwards owned by Abraham Rittenhouse, then by Enoch, and finally by Nicholas Rittenhouse, Jr.

Half a mile up the Wissahickon from the Paper Mill Run, stood Holgate's Fulling Mill, erected at a very early date, probably several years prior to 1720, and afterward owned by Matthew Holgate and Christian Snyder. It was finally bought by Abraham Rittenhouse, the owner of the Red Bridge Mill and on account of raising his dam the fulling mill was rendered impractical. Access to this mill was had through and across the hills of the region by a road which in some places can yet be traced.

The Monastery Mill, once owned by William Kitchen and Son, was built about 1747, by Jacob Simon, Michael Pelsner and John Gorgas, and was at first a grist mill.

The next mill in the "valley greene" was one owned by a Mr. Weighley, and later became the cotton wadding factory of Jacob D. Heft. It was erected at an early date, very possibly about 1750, by John Gorgas, of Germantown. Gorgas bought on the 22nd of August, 1746, two tracts of land from John Bald, one containing 43 acres, and the other 42 acres. In the deed there was mention of a stone messuage on one of the tracts, but there is no reference to any mill.

The land extended from the Ridge Road to the Wissahickon, and was bounded on the lower side by Levering's land, which later became the property of Horatio Gates Jones. The mill was occupied for many years by the Gorgas family, and at a later date Jacob Wise carried on an extensive flour business there, and finally it was converted, enlarged and used for various purposes. While the building was owned by a Mr. Hendricks it was totally destroyed by fire.

Charles J. Crease had a chemical works in a little valley where the Oil Mill Run empties into the Wissahickon. The little stream was called "Oil Mill Run" an account of a vegetable oil mill which occupied a site in the neighborhood that was afterward covered by the cotton wadding factory of Matthias Gorgas. The date of its erection is not known except that it was some time before 1746.

John Bald was a cordwainer and only held his property on the northeasterly side of Ridge road from 1738 to 1746. The oil mill property was bought by John Gorgas, in May 1777, from Michael Bergendollar—later spelled Barndollar. The mill was apparently carried on by Benjamin Gorgas, but subsequently was turned into a grist mill and operated by John Gorgas, Jr. It eventually became a cotton lap factory, conducted by Joseph Carr, who afterward ran a mill on the Cresheim, and finally into the cotton wadding factory of Matthias Gorgas, as has been stated. It is remarkable that this mill was carried on by members of the same family for 113 years.

The only other mill on the Wissahickon, within the limits of Roxborough Township, was Livezey's. It was originally a grist mill, and was built about 1745— 6 according to local historians, but at a recent hike of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, the writer heard one of the members of the Valley Green Canoe Club state that he had once unearthed the date stone and that it bore a date some 20 years earlier. This statement does not agree with any previous record. The Livezey Mill was built by Thomas Shoemaker, who conveyed it with

about 23 acres to Thomas Livezy on the 10th of October 1747. Shoemaker had purchased the property from John Hammer.

This list covers all of the older mills along the stream, although up to and after the Civil War there were textile mills scattered all along the creek, there being about 23 mills in all. The Megargee Paper mills was the last of the great Wissahickon Mills to be abandoned, this being done in 1884, after the Fairmount Park Commission had obtained control of the territory.

SCCAFF.

Phila Inquirer 5/13/29

55

WFI—STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER—
535 M.: 560 KC

8.15 A. M.—Health Exercises.
9.45 A. M.—News of the Day.
9.50 A. M.—Market Reports.
10.00 P. M.—Housekeepers' Chat, under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture.
10.10 A. M.—Florence Haeule, violinist.
10.30 A. M.—Ten-thirty Tidings.
1.30 P. M.—Market Reports.
1.40 P. M.—Radio News Service.
3.00 P. M.—Compositions of Sir Arthur Sullivan in Commemoration of His Birthday. Played by Loretta Kerk; Soprano Solos by Anita Menardel; Readings by Sarah Boardman Nickel.
3.30 P. M.—Talk, "The Lower Wissahickon," by Mr. A. C. Chadwick, Jr.
3.45 P. M.—News of the Moment.
6.05 P. M.—Radio News Service.
6.15 P. M.—Late News.
6.30 P. M.—Talk under the auspices of the Progress Fund.

Suburban Press, 2-14-1929

Capitol at Harrisburg Attracts Local Historian

The writer recently made a trip to Harrisburg with the Philadelphia Citizens League, which traveled Capitolward to introduce itself as a body to Governor John S. Fisher and to members of the State Legislature.

The group was made up of business men, politicians, clergymen and private citizens who make up the League. In the party were several who had never before been inside the beautiful Capitol buildings, and some of them, knowing of the scandal attached to the "per square foot" method of buying the furnishings for the structure, ignorantly called the attention of others to, what they considered, the poor condition of the floor, just inside the entrance.

These critics never stopped to think for a moment that the paving of the hall, which consists of baked tiles, was laid that way purposely and that it is in reality the work of an artist.

The tiled pavement extends throughout the rotunda and principal corridors on the street level. The ground color is a rich red, interspersed with a number of medallions and tablets, each containing a separate design in dull-toned hues. At once we are struck with their richness of color and the quaintness and vigor of their character. They were made in the manner of the pottery tiles, introduced into Pennsylvania by the early Moravian settlers, and reproduce the character and feeling of the old designs.

The latter in some cases may have been a translation into colored pottery of the wood-cuts of the chap-books which were peddled through the country. But, whether this be so or not, they were similar in style of subject and quality of treatment, and had, moreover, what was seldom seen in the chap-book woodcut, a certain rude decorativeness. The same qualities appear in more modern tiles at Harrisburg, made by Henry C. Mercer, at Doylestown, Pa.

Let us study these tiles. In the first place, they have the earmarks of what is hand-made under primitive conditions. The tiles which compose the groundwork are of uniform size, but have irregular outlines. They have not the symmetry and clean-cut edge characteristic of modern machine-made tile we are accustomed to seeing. On the contrary, they exhibit a rudeness of touch and intention that separate them from skillful craftsmanship. They suggest the work of men who were primarily concerned in making a thing of practical use for the covering of floors and fireplaces, but who at the same time had an instinct for beauty, and, willy-nilly, must put some of it into the work of their hands. They had brought with them also, from their Austrian homes, that pictorial instinct

shared with the Germans and the Dutch, for putting things into visible form, and the further instinct for giving a touch of beauty to their homes.

They were careful about color, and had ambition to make pictures of their tiles. They had neither skill nor license to paint little pictures on the separate plaques, but combined a number into a larger design with the necessary seams between the parts.

It is these characteristics which Mr. Mercer reproduced. In the picture panels he has represented sea-gods, birds and beasts, human figures engaged in various occupations, and objects of old and modern use such as the stage-coach and the automobile; thus summarizing the earlier and the later conditions of life in the State.

Particularly interesting are those [illegible] since the primitive nature of the subject seems to best accord with this particular method of representation. It should be noted, also, with what skill and frequent originality the seams have been made to contribute to the character of the subject, and, in the happiest examples, to the decorative pattern of the composition.

One may compare with this [illegible] way in which the [illegible] of stained glass windows secures the advantage from his lead lines.

Let us assure our readers that the Roxborough, Manayunk and Falls representatives who were in the party did not make the wise-crack about the "rotten flooring" of the Capitol.

[illegible] us tell you more about the building.

The first impression one gets of the vast rotunda leaves him ignorant of details. It is the immensity of space and height that will enthrall him. He may be conscious of the ponderous mass of supporting columns, of a generous sweep of stairway, next of broad pilasters, standing proudly strong, of a circling crown of ornament set upon their heads; finally of a vista mounting upwards, offering here and there a vantage point of gallery for human tread; then soaring higher and yet higher, bird-like with over-arching wings, until the eye only can follow its ascent and the sight loses itself in an ultimate vault of star-besprinkled blue.

Around the frieze of the upper and lower cornice is an inscription. It commences on the upper cornice, on your left, as you face the stairway, continues around the rotunda and is resumed at the lower level again upon the left. The utterance was William Penn's: "There may be room there for such a holy experiment. For the Nations want a precedent. And my God will make it the seed of a nation. That an example may be set up to the Nations. That we may do the thing that is truly wise and just."

The staircase rises twenty-five steps to the level of the entresol. As one reaches the level he turns to the right and enters the State Senate chamber, and this is where our party made its way, only to receive a rebuff when it was learned that the worthy legislators had convened ten minutes before our train arrived in Harrisburg. Which proved that some of our State leaders are still simply politicians without vision.

In the South Wing, on the second floor, is the Governor's suite. While there are several entrances, the one which we entered is situated at the west end of the corridor. It leads into a waiting-room, which at once proclaims the character of the decorative treatment maintained throughout the apartments. In style, it is English Renaissance; a product of grafting Italian forms on the Gothic trunk. The architect has reproduced the design and feeling of such rooms as may be found in the old English mansions of the Jacobean or early Seventeenth century period.

The murals, on the walls of the waiting room, painted by Miss Violet Oakley, stand out as the chief feature of the room. The subject of the series of paintings embodies "The Foundation of the State of the Liberty Spiritual."

Another detail of the structure, which attracted our eye, is the capitals of the columns in the corridors leading from the rotunda on the ground floor.

As one enters the vast dome, the capitals, facing us, one of each side of the front of the arch, contain the head of Franklin, wreathed with oak. The next pair, at right angles to them, adorning the first capitals within the corridor commemorate the Scottish element. The portrait is that of George Keith, a clergyman born at Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1638.

In the following capitals, the shamrock proclaims the Irish influence and the head is that of

James Logan, a statesman and author. The English come next, with the portrait of Daniel Boone, the Pennsylvania pioneer who gained his fame in the southern states; Heinrich Melchoir Muhlenberg proclaims the German element. He was the organizer of the Lutheran Church in America. The French influence is suggested by the head of a physician and surgeon, Daniel Hayes Agnew, who was of Hugenot descent. The Swedes, too, have a place, and is represented by Gustavus Hesselius, the earliest painter and organ-builder in America. The Welsh people and Roxborough residents particularly feel proud of the head which represents their people, for it is none other than David Jones, the progenitor of the Jones family which is so well known in this section. David Jones was a noted clergyman in the early annals of the Baptist Church in this country. He was born in White Clay Creek Hundred, Newcastle County, Delaware, in 1736. Twenty-six years before this date his grandfather had emigrated from Cardiganshire, Wales, and settled at Welsh Tract, Delaware. His first regular charge was the Freehold Baptist Church, New Jersey, which he held for nine years. But [illegible] obnoxious to the Tories he removed to the Great Valley Baptist Church, with which the rest of his life was identified. He served as chaplain to the Third and Fourth Pennsylvania Battalions in the American Revolution, and in 1777 became chaplain of General Wayne's forces, with whom he remained to the end of the war. He died in 1820.

The Dutch represntation, too, brings us right back to our home, for on a pair of capitals decorated with tulips there is a head of David Rittenhouse. Famous as an astronomer and mathematician, he was born in 1732, at Paper-Mill, Roxborough Township, near Germantown, where as everyone hereabouts knows, his great grandfather, William Rittenhouse established the first paper mill in America.

In the south court the Indian portrait is that of Tedyuscung, whose granite statue stands looking out over the waters of our own Wissahickon.

By this time the reader has probably came to the conclusion that no matter what subject this writer starts out on, he inevitably turns out to write a little local history of the territory in which he lives, and in this case I beg to be pardoned, inasmuch as the fathers of our grand and glorious old State of Pennsylvania have seen fit to perpetuate some of the glories of our district in enduring marble at Harrisburg.

SCCAFF.

Suburban Press 2-28-29 58

Old Mills of Schuylkill Have Interesting Story

About the year 1800 there was a great deal of talk devoted to the subject of domestic manufacturing and a real effort was made to become independent of the nations of the Old World, so that in case the United States would become embroiled in another war, the citizens could avoid the difficulties they had experienced during the Revolution. Thomas Jefferson, who draughter the Declaration of Independence, and who afterward became President of the United States, was a personal friend of Philip Hagner, who lived at the Falls of Schuylkill, and imbued Hagner with the manufacturing fever to such an extent that the old German, who had emigrated to America in 1745, procured some antiquated machines for spinning cotton. This machinery was previously used for making candle-wick, which was at that time in great demand.

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

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

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

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

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

Old deeds, show that as early as 1668 a "corn mill" was operated at the mouth of the Wissahickon, and that in 1689 there was "saw and corn mills." Andrew Robeson ac-

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

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

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

At the time of the War of Independence, John Vandaren, or Van-Deering ,operated the Wissahickon Mill, but this must have been under lease, or possibly the family sold him the mill and then repurchased it from him, for it is recorded that in 1730 Jeter and Jonathan Robeson, two brothers, were the owners.

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

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

But more of the mills, anon.

SCCAFF.

Suburban Press 2-28-1929 60

Notable Anniversaries To be Celebrated in 1929

Large Number of Local Institutions, Lodges and Organizations Will Celebrate During Present Year

A snowstorm recently spoiled an anniversary we wished to celebrate and so we trudged disconsolately home to cogitate upon these annual occurrences. And these are a few "birthdays" that our thoughts dwelt on.

St. David's Church in Manayunk celebrates its 98th anniversary this year. St. Timothy's congregation will glory in the fact that its church is sixty-nine years old. Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal was organized in 1827, and that is 102 years ago. Ebenezer M. E. came into existence in 1857, some 72 years back; Ridge Avenue M. E. is 71 years old; Roxborough Central M. E. was started in 1871, and is 58 years of age.

Roxborough Baptist is the most venerable of all, having records which reach back 140 years. Falls Methodist will celebrate its 74th anniversary this October. First Baptist of Manayunk was organized May 22, 1851, seventy-eight years ago; Falls Baptist has a record of longevity of 91 years. The Fourth Reformed at Manayunk and Monastery avenues is 102 years old.

St. John th Baptist in Manayunk will celebrate a century of existence two years hence; St. Mary's has eighty years to her credit; the German Evangelical Lutheran has eighty-four; St. Bridget's in the Falls has seventy-one years, and the Falls Presbyterian, seventy-four.

Hetty A. Jones Post of the G. A. R. was organized in December, 1866, and therefore has its 63rd birthday this year.

The Odd Fellows of Manayunk held their first meeting in 1830, some 99 years ago. The Roxborough Lodge was started 11 years afterward in 1841. The Falls Odd Fellows' anniversary is shrouded in doubt, but we know that it is getting to be in the venerable class. The Encampment at the Falls was organized on May 7, 1867.

Roxborough Lodge No. 135, A. Y. M., is now in its 114th year, and Palestine Lodge is 59 years old. Camp 50 of the P. O. S. of A. will, on May 28th, celebrate 71 years of activity. Redmen were known in Manayunk as far back as February 26th, 1866, when Wawatam Tribe was instituted. Four years later Manaiung Tribe was born.

The Knights of Pythias started Cicero Lodge on April 28th, 1868, which you know was not yesterday, and St. John's T. A. B. Society of Manayunk was launched by a group of local residents on August 6th, 1873. St. Bridget's T. A. B. came into existence in March, 1874.

The Fifth Mutual Building and Loan Society was organized in 1869; the Independent Saving Fund and Loan Association in 1872, and St. Timothy's B. and L. Association in March, 1874.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-four was a good year for B. and L.'s for in that twelve-month the Franklin B. and L. and the Roxborough Building and Loan Association came into being.

Another aged association which bears the lengthy name of the Falls of Schuylkill Building, Saving Fund and Loan Association, was organized in January, 1867, and so is across the three-score mark. The Laurel Hill B. and L. started in 1869 and the Wissahickon, of East Falls, came in during September, 1873.

The Philadelphia Gas Works started in Manayunk on April 20, 1853, quite a little spell ago; and on the corner now occupied by J. Raymond Turner, Roxborough's popular furniture dealer, there was the Roxborough Police Station in the year 1883.

Although Joe Richart was not around the 21st Ward had a band, in 1860, it being the Independent Cornet Band, which met at Gardner's Hall, "corner of Cresson and Chestnut streets, Manayunk."

The new Green lane bridge takes

(continued on page two)

the place of a structure which crossed the Schuylkill at that point, the owners of which were organized as a company in 1832.

The Manayunk-Quaker City National Bank under the shorter name of "Manayunk Bank," was opened August 14, 1871, so you see the financial men of this district will celebrate a 58th birthday this year.

"The Dinkeys" are but two years younger than the bank, for as the Manayunk and Roxborough Inclined Plane and Passenger Railway, the old line was started on December 31, 1873.

One of our contemporaries rounds out sixty years of existence this year and the singers of the neighborhood were banded together as the Harmonie Singing Society during August, 1856.

Now if all those dates and facts don't start some brains to working or at least a few arguments, then all my date-chasing will have been in vain.

Anyhow, anniverseries always interest me, for some day I intend to celebrate a real one myself.

SCCAFF.

March 7, 1929

Sccaff Compares Present With 25 Years Ago

We hear a lot from people who have traveled long distances along life's highway, about the "good old times," and at other times are told that "there is nothing new under the sun."

Without any comment whatever, we are herewith submitting a few articles ,copied from the files of the "Weekly Forecast," a local newspaper which was published in East Falls, dated April 21st, 1904.

"The Wissahickon ravine, on the line of Walnut lane, where it is proposed to build a bridge to connect Germantown and Roxborough, was visited Tuesday by the members of City Councils, Finance and Survey Committees. An ordinance to appropriate $250,000 to build a bridge was introduced in City Councils several weeks ago. The length of the bridge as designed will be 480 feet. It will be of stone and iron, with the centre span 109 feet above Wissahickon Creek.

"The main arch will have a clear span of 225 feet between abutments. It will be the largest span of its kind, Chief Webster, of the Survey Bureau, says, of any bridge in this country. The site is one of the most picturesque of any in the rugged Wissahickon Valley. The width over all will be sixty feet. This will include a driveway forty-two feet wide between the curbs and two seven-feet wide sidewalks. The bridge will bring Roxborough and Germantown into immediate communication. At present a detour of about five miles must be made to go from one section to the other.

"The Councils' committees were driven to the Roxborough terminus of Walnut lane overlooking the Wissahickon Valley. The Councilmen were then driven to the Germantown end of Walnut lane. At the Manheim Club, Germantown, dinner was served, and citizens of both sections made speeches urging the

speedy passage of the ordinance providing for the erection of the bridge."

After reading that we perused the following editorial, entitled, "Is the Falls Still on the Map?"

"Now that preparations are being made for the convening of the new Councils and the distribution of the $16,000,000 loan, residents of the different portions of Philadelphia are up and awake as to the necessities of their districts. This is evident from the activity of the people's representatives in seeing that the wants of their constituency are being brought forcibly before the public. Yet, while all this hustling is going on, and we hear of 'the plums that are going to fall,' when those millions are divided, of the proposed new school houses, bath houses, new bridges and sewers, there is one fact that strikes the anxious resident of the Falls, and that is the absence from the list mentioned of any improvements at the Falls.

Some one is certainly accountable for this condition. There is not aggressiveness enough displayed on the part of those who have control of the "favors', which should be coming this way, and our people are now forced to admit, although, be it said, that many appreciated that fact before his lamented death, that the Falls is sadly in need of another H. W. Sherlock, to champion their cause. The people have been asking for a bath house for several years, yet while a bath house at this place is still hanging fire, we can hear of other wards securing similar favors at the first asking. And again, it is but a year ago since the question of connecting Germantown and Manayunk can seway of a bridge at Walnut lane, was first agitated, yet we see that matter so far pregressed, that it is proposed to erect the structure in the near future at a cost of $250,000. Think of it! Then ponder—Germantown and Manayunk ca secure a bridge nearly a quarter of a million dollars, while the Falls cannot secure a measly nine thousand for a bath house, nor even the money to place sewers on Clearfield or Calumet streets, for which ordinances were passed long ago. But why elaborate further on omissions, the cause of which is apparent to all. The hope and promise was held out that with the passing of the loan bill, the panacea for alleviating all local troubles would be t hand. Let our people still live in that belief, as the millions have not yet been divided, even if they are being apportioned, or else get together and find out just what they are going to get."

And in the sporting columns we noticed the following:

"'Doc' Walker, manager of the Roxborough team, has secured the Toronto Eastern League team for the attraction on Saturday at the Roxborough's ground.

"The team is rapidly getting in form, and no doubt will make it interesting for the Canadians.

"Leary and Schilsky will be in the points for the Roxos, while Toft and Mills will be the battery for Toronto."

Another item in the old paper, which interested us was this: "One hundred additional men were set to work at the Pencoyd Iron Works, West Manayunk, Monday, preparing for the complete re-opening of the big plant. Three furnaces were started up last week and another was put into operation Monday.

"After being closed for several months it is now definitely announced that the works will be started up in every department next Monday. It is expected that 2000 men will be given employment at the plant, many of the former workers having returned from Ambridge, and other iron works, whither they went when the Pencoyd plant was shut up. It is said they have been given promise of steady employment here.

"One element that decided the American Company officials to reopen the plant was the receipt of a big order from the Japanese Government for fifteen steel bridges, to be erected on lines of the Imeprial Railway of Japan. Other large orders for structural steel have been coming in lately, and it is admitted by the officials that it would be a mistake to keep the Pencoyd works closed any longer. The work now in prospect will alone keep the plant busy for many months to come, and the workers are delighted that their vacation (?) is over."

In the following week's edition, dated April 28th, 1902, an editorial appeared which stated that "Councilman Charles L. Dykes, at the meeting of Councils on Thursday last, again introduced an ordinance for a bath house at the Falls of Schuylkill ,and also another ordinance for a bridge to continue Cresson street over Midvale avenue."

We also observed that Pencoyd only hired 250 men when the plant reopened, instead of the 2000 which was expected to be hired.

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The Toronto team of the Eastern League defeated Roxborough by the score of 4 to 1, with Leary and Beard twirling for the locals, and Fisher catching. Currie pitched and Toft caught for the Canadians.

And there you have three subjects: municipal improvements, employment and sport, on which you may try to figure out whether such activities have changed very much within the past quarter of a century.

SCOFF.

March 7, 1929

The Shawmont School

"I will teach thine infant tongue
To call upon those heroes old
In their own language, and will mold
Thy growing spirit in the flames."
Shelley

We wandered back the the school house, last Friday—not the old-fashioned, one-room building of our grandfather's time, which was painted a hideous red, which sentimentalists rave over—but, to the most modern structure which has been erected by Philadelphia's Board of Education—the new Shawmont Public School. And what a monument it is! To the people who shoulder the task of educating our children and to the mechanics who constructed it!

The newest addition to the city's growing number of buildings, is located on West Shawmont avenue, facing the northwest, on a hill which slopes down to the "Hidden River," of the ancient Dutch and Swedish settlers.

It is built of yellow mess bricks, with a stone trim, rising three stories high, and is fashioned along architectural lines which show a decided leaning toward the beautiful Gothic structures of history.

The building is shaped like a huge square-letter "U," an auditorium, with a seating capacity of 400, projecting itself into the hollow portion of the letter up to the heighth of two floors. This huge assembly room is on a par with any hall in any of the newer high schools, and is beautiful in its decorations and arrangement. The woodwork, in this room, differs from the oak of the remainder of the school, for it is finished in mission style, with the coloring being of a silver-gray tone.

But we are ahead of our story! As one mounts the granite steps to the entrance of the school he cannot help but pause to admire the gracefully-graded lines of the sodded terraces which face Shawmont avenue. The main doors, in themselves, are worthy of attention, in that they show positive Gothic lines and the upper portions are provided with leaded glass, which adds a beauty which mere words cannot portray.

After entering the vestibule, a stairway, of magnificent proportions, leads one to the level of the first floor. We turn to the right and enter the main office of the principal, Miss Blanche L. Heidinger, who is known and loved by thousands of residents of the 21st Ward, as having been, either, their preceptress, or friend. This is a large room where all of the clerical work necessary to properly conduct the school is taken care of, and is presided over by M. Edna Dorsey. An interesting part of the equipment of this room is the large clock which automatically controls

the bell-ringing apparatus of the school, and which, in case of emergencies, can also be manually operated.

Leading off from the larger office, is a door which gives entrance to Miss Heidinger's private office, and our impression as we enter the smaller cubicle is that "here is the nerve center," of the whole huge machine.

And then, with the most gracious of conductors we start off on our tour of the buildings. We are first shown the beautiful auditorium, its wonderful arrangements, and its concealed heating and ventilation provisions, all of which must be wonders to anyone, with the possible exception of an engineer.

But the phone rings, and Miss Heidinger leaves us in the hands of Mabel C. Wilde, the kindergarten teacher, who conducts us around to the east corridor, to show us her own department. We are told it is the largest and best equipped kindergarten in Philadelphia, and after seeing it there isn't any room for doubt. And if there is one person in all this world who is proud of the place where she works, that one is the "teacher of tots" at "Shawmont." And let me tell you, dear reader, her pride is justified. One glance around that room and we wish we were a "kid" again. With the proviso that we could attend the Shawmont school, in which there is miniature furniture to suit its tiny oc-

cupants. Tables, chairs and blackboards which they can use with the utmost comfort; and low closets in which to place their hats, coats, lunch baskets, toys and so forth. Then look across there and see how thoughtfully the wash-basins and drinking fountains have been placed near the floor, for the convenience of the smaller children. Even the toilets are entered from this room, so that the kiddies are within the sight and sound of their teacher at all times. Growing plants, pictures, and snowy window curtains are in keeping with the proper training of the child.

No provision for the comfort and development of these little children who are just entering school, has been overlooked at "Shawmont."

and it is little wonder that the lady in charge of the kindergarten beams as she conducts her visitors around.

And now Miss Heidinger returns. We are shown the room, sparsely furnished in spotless white, which is the sanctum sanctorum of the doctors and nurses, who according to law, make periodical physical examinations of the pupils.

We descend to the basement to converse technically of heat, light, sanitation and kindred subjects with Chief Engineer, Thomas J. Mooney and the fireman, William Moulds.

Mr. Mooney explained in detail the mechanical contrivances used to circulate the clean, fresh air, through the school, and the method of washing it, to once more send it through pipes to the various rooms and corridors of the building. We are shown the air intake, the ever-spurting sprays of water which purify the air, and crawl through a three foot door to inspect the five-foot fan which takes care of the circulation. It is quite a feat for a fat man, too! We see the dynamo for generating the electricity for the lights and motors, and are are told how, in emergencies, the current can be obtained from an outside source. Fireman Moulds then takes us in charge and leads us into the boiler room, explaining the water and coal capacities of these huge condensers and shows us the hydraulic hoist for disposing of the accumulated ashes.

Time forces us to leave the heat of the mechanical department to see the "gym," the shop-practice room, with its loom, and individual work-benches, the sewing room and the lunch room. This rom is practically a necessity at "Shawmont," for a large portion of the children come from a distance and bring their own lunches. The room alloted to them for dining purposes, with its tables and benches, makes a pleasant place for them to eat their food.

Immediately over the principal's office, is the teacher's room, and on the third floor, directly above this, is the teacher's dining room. And this has a has a tiny kitchen which would delight the heart of any modern housewife.

The building has twenty-one class rooms, in addition to the others mentioned, only twelve of which, however, are used at the

present time, for the Board of Education has wisely considered the future growth of the surrounding territory.

Each pair of rooms has folding doors which can be thrown open, for assemblies, and a remarkable instance of the foresight shown in planning the seating arrangement is shown by the fact that the sunlight strikes each child's desk from the left hand side. We must have been dense, but when we were first told this, we couldn't understand how the problem was figured out, until we were shown that on different sides of the building, the teacher's desk faced in a different direction. Simple, isn't it? Yet how thoughtful of the retention of the good vision of the pupils!

The walls of the halls throughout the school are of marble to a height of five feet, and above this they have been completed with a beautiful two-toned wax finish.

Each of the stairways which have wired-glass doors opening into the corridors, forms a huge fire-tower and is a safety factor in case of a conflagaration, an occurance which is almost impossible for the building is fireproof throughout.

The staff at "Shawmont" is made up of the following: Principal, Blanche L. Heidinger; Clerical Assistant, M. Edna Dorsey; 6th Grade Teacher, Margaret Oliver; 5th Grade Teachers, Agnes Johnson and Mirian Wetherill; 4th Grade Teachers, Mary R. Holcomb and Blanche W. Ehly; 3rd Grade Teachers, Christine D. Rambo and Mae B. Rauenzahn; 2nd Grade Teachers, Lillian Mahjoubian and Elizabeth Beatty; 1st Grade Teachers, Anna R. Anderson and Alice B. Jewson, and the teacher of the kindergarten, Mabel C. Wilde.

We have always held a deep respect for the folk who spend their lives educating children. Workers in other occupations and vocations feel a certain pride in their finished work, because it can be seen and handled; but the teacher rarely sees the result of her labor. They are building temples and cannot always point to the thing they have wrought in the souls of men and women. But, nevertheless, there are rare moments, when they must be thrilled to the finest fibre of their being, by some evidence that their tasks have not been in vain.

Before closing our tale we might state that this wonderful educational institution was built by P. H. Kelly, who is known personally by hundreds of the readers of this newspaper.

In addition to Chief Engineer Mooney, and Fireman Moulds, there are three women who work four hours a day, and one who labors two hours of each twenty-four, to see that everything in the building is spotless for the little students.

If you are one of those whose work prevents, or for some other reason cannot visit this modern school, we hope that our little word-picture will give you some idea of the beauty, comfort and usefulness of the Shawmont Public School.

SCCAFF

April 11th 1929

When Thos. Drennan Was In Charge of Laurel Hill

The first superintendent of the Laurel Hill cemetery was Thomas Drennan, who was born in Queens County, Ireland, in the year 1793.

Coming to this country when quite a young man, he finally settled at the Falls, being employed for a number of years by the original Hugh Scott.

Drennan was married twice, his first wife being Ellen Farren, to whom he was married about the year 1834, and by whom he was the father of four children, one girl and three boys.

While employed by Scott, Drennan resided in a cottage which was on Ferry road, at a point about where the eastern abutment of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bridge now rests.

Upon securing of the charter for the Laurel Hill cemetery, the first man to be hired was Thomas Drennan. His duties were multiple. He was not only superintendent, but he was the chief grave digger, he being the first man to turn a sod in this now much noted cemetery. He was

also clerk and paymaster, and his ledger in which he made the first entries, when the first interment was made, is still in a fair state of preservation.

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

Shortly after becoming superintendent, he moved with his family, which at that time consisted of himself, wife and one son, Joseph, into the dwelling to the left of the entrance of the burial grounds, where he resided for some time, afterward occupying what was once called the old Seminary Building, which was near the southern line of the property, on the rise of the hill; after which he resided until his death, in the cottage which stood next to the chapel, which stood almost in the center of the cemetery. The chapel and the cottage were torn down about 1885.

When Drennan first assumed charge of the cemetery, the burials for a time, were few and far between, and help was only hired when an interment occured, with the exception of boys, who were employed in its early history, at a small stipend, to keep goats, which abounded on the high granite quarries of Hugh Scott, from over running the burial ground.

But it was but a few years until, the reputation and beauties of Laurel Hill became known throughout Philadelphia and its surroundings. Brennan's duties increased accordingly, and several additions were made to the laboring forces, and the superintendent became supertendent in reality.

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

In the year 1848, the Harleigh property, with its famous old yellow colored mansion, was acquired by the cemetery company and named South Laurel Hill. The old building was left standing for some years, but was finally torn down to give room for more graves. The owners of the property were loath to part with their beautiful and quiet abode and it is doubtful if there would have been a South Laurel Hill, had it not been for the prevalence of the gue, chills and fever in the locality following the backing up of of the Schuylkill, by the erection of the Fairmount Dam, making a residence on its banks not so desirable.

Superintendent Drennan was given charge of the newly acquired ground and men were taken into the employment of the company, among them being Jermiah Whalen, Edward Delaney, Michael Nolan, and Michael Dollard, over whom John Dunn was made foreman.

Drennan's second wife, Margaret Whalen, presented him with five sons, and one daughter. Catherine, Thomas, Jerome, Edward, Michael and William.

Drennan continued as superintendent of Laurel Hill, until his death on July 16th 1857, at which time he was 59 years of age.

At his death his oldest son, Joseph, who had assisted his father, was appointed superintendent of North Laurel Hill, and John Dunn, whom we have mentioned, was made superintendent of South Laurel Hill.

It was not until 1863, that the cemetery company acquired the Pepper property, and named it Central Laurel Hill, over which John Hart became superintendent, being superseded within the year by James Carroll, of Germantown.

John Dunn, who assumed the supertendency of South Laurel Hill, at the death of Thomas Drennan, was one of the old-time empployees of thecemetery company, who ever retained the confidence of his superiors and the men who worked under him. He resided in the old mension in South Laurel Hill, until his death in 1872, and in which his son and two daughters remained until 1876, when it was torn down. One of Dunn's daughters, Maggie, married a man named Fitzpatrick, of West Maneyunk. John Dunn, Jr., succeeded his father as superintendent of South Laurel Hill.

SCCAFF

4-18-29

Is Sixty Four Years Since Lincoln Was Assassinated

Although his memory is loved and respected by all Americans, probably but few people, other than the few surviving Civil War veterans, who live in this vicinity know that last Sunday marked the 64th anniversary of the shooting of Abraham Lincoln.

Before me lies a copy of The New York Herald, dated Saturday, April 15th, 1865, with its queer 1-8 of an inch column rules, denoting that the publication was in mourning over the death of the beloved president. One of the articles, appearing in it, consists of press despatches, from Washington to New York. It proved so interesting to me, that I am reprinting it in full, for the benefit of those who would get a clearer idea of just what happened on that momentous time in America's history.

"Washington, April 15th—1.30 A. M.

"President Lincoln and wife, with other friends, this evening visited Ford's Theatre, for the purpose of witnessing the performance of 'The American Cousin'.

"It was announced in the papers that General Grant would also be present; but that gentleman took the late train of cars for New Jersey.

"The theatre was densely crowded, and all seemed delighted with the scene before them. During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious, until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming, 'Sic semper tyrannis!' and immediately leaped from the box, which was in the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, making his escape, amid the bewilderment of the audience, from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse, fled.

"The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing towards the stage, many exclaiming, 'Hang him! Hang him!'

"The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and of course there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance.

"There was a rush towards the President's box, when cries were heard:—'Stand back and give him air'—'Has anyone a stimulant?'

"On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above the back of the temporal bone and some of the brain was oozing out.

"On an examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking chair on which the President had been sitting, also on the partition and on the floor. A common single-barreled pocket pistol was found on the carpet.

"A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed. An immense crowd was in front of it and deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible.

"At midnight the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Colfax and Farnsworth, Judge Curtis, Governor Oglesby, General Meigs, Colonel Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon General Barnes and his immediate assistants were around his bedside.

"The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible, and breathing slowly. The blood oozed from the wound in the back of his head.

"The surgeons exhausted every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone.

"The parting of his family with the dying President is too sad for description.

"The President and Mrs. Lincoln did not start for the theatre until fifteen minutes after eight o'clock. Speaker Colfax was at the White House at the time and the Presi-

Suburban Press, April 25th, 1929

Act of Assembly Created Managers of Poor in 1832

In the issue of the Suburban Press, dated April 18th, there appeared a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Roxborough Poor House. At the bottom of the statement were the names of the following officers and auditors: George E. Dorwart, president; H. A. Markley, treasurer; J. Stanerück, acting secretary, and Hart P. Harlan, Robert A. Kelly and Homer Parsons, auditors.

The issuance of the figures called to mind some of the early history of the local Poorhouse, which we think is interesting enough to pass along to our readers.

The managers of the poor of Roxborough were incorporated by a special Act of the Assembly passed in 1832.

On June 15th, 1833, they bought a house and farm in the township, containing about 21 acres, the building being situated just below the sixth milestone on Ridge avenue. This building still stands at the corner of Ridge avenue, Righter street and Hermit lane. The house was in early times knows as the "Plow Tavern" and as such, in 1753, was conducted by Michael Moyer. It was erected by Michael Righter and a stone in the wall still shows his initials.

For many years the old tavern sufficed as an abiding place for the public charges, but there was no accomodations for the sick and very infirm, or for insane persons. One of the early stewards of the Poor House was John Roberts and he was succeeded by Robert Moyer.

In 1847 Manayunk and Roxborough were separated. The 5th section of the Act of March 3rd 1847, provided as follows: "That from and after the passage of this Act, the incorporated part of the township of Roxborough, in the County of Philadelphia, called the Borough of Manayunk, shall be no longer connected with the unincorporated part of said township, in the levy and assessment of taxes for the relief and employment of the poor, or for the opening and keeping in repair of roads or for any other township purpose whatever."

Section 8 of the same Act provided for the proper distribution of the funds by the Auditors of the Township, and Section 10 authorized the sale of the Poor House and farm, or plantation, and directed that the proceeds should be equally divided between the managers of the poor of Roxborough, and the Town Council of Manayunk.

Subsequently the Poor House and farm were bought by the Borough of Manayunk for the sum of $7600, and used by the residents of the riverside section until 1854-1855, when the Manayunk people availed themselves of the Act of Consolidation and became subject to the poor laws of the City of Philadelphia. Their poor are now kept in the regular institutions of that nature, controlled by the city.

From 1847 to 1850 the Managers of Roxborough boarded their poor at the Manayunk Poor House, as it then became known.

The land connected with the poor house extended from the Ridge Road to the Schuylkill river, and the greater part of it was available for agriculture, although it was very hilly. Near the large rocks, just below St. John's High School for Boys, at Mitchell and Seville streets, close to a small woods, there was a burial ground for the poor.

It was finally deemed necessary to secure a farm and house for the separate use of Roxborough, and on May 15th 1850 the Managers of Roxborough bought from Benjamin Shourds, a fine farm containing about 40 acres, situated on Livezey's lane, between the Ridge road and the Wissahickon Creek, for the sum of $3700. Just when the present property was purchased I have no data, but this is a fact which can easily be obtained by anyone interested in the Poor House.

Among those who have been residents of the establishment were several persons of somewhat remarkable character. One of these, in the early days, was Billy Curley, whose real name, however, was William Loar, or Logue. He was a native of Ireland, a thick-set man with a grizzly beard, gray eyes, round face and a rather pleasant

Cursed this Deponent and his Assistants. That one James Starr knocked this Deponent in the River with a large Clubb or Stake, after which several of the Men Attack'd this Deponent & Company with lar Clubbs & Knocked the s'd Robert Smith, the Constable, as also several of this Deponent Assistants; that one John Waenright, in company with this Deponent was Struck down with a Pole or Staff & lay as Dead with his body on the Shoar & his feet in the River. That this Deponent & Company, finding that they were not able to make Resistence, were Obliged to make the best of their Way in order to save their Lives.

"As they came near Parkyooman Creek they found another set of Racks, which were guarded by a great Number of Men, that this Depon't & Company Refused the s'd Men to let them go down the River & if they would Suffer them to pass, they would not Meddle with their Racks, upon which the s'd Men absu'd & Cursed this Depon't in a very Cross Manner, telling the s'd Depon't & his Company that they should not pass by them. That one of the s'd Men called aloud & offered Five pound for Timothy Miller's head, the s'd Timothy being one of the Depon't's assistants, and another of the s'd men called out to the s'd Timothy to make haste away. And afterward tht s'd men pursued this Depon't & company, who for fear of being Murthered made the best of their way with their Canoes to the mouth of the Parkyooman Creek & there went ashore & left their Canoes there with several Cloths, which Canoes are since Split in Pieces (as Reported & several of the Clothes turned a drift on said River."

Dr. Thomas Lynch Montgomery, libarian and corresponding Secretary of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, who is also a member of the Board of the Free Library of Philadelphia, tells me that the weathervane on the Falls of Schuylkill branch of the library, is formed of the figure of a catfish, and that the design of a waffle iron can be seen in the windows to commemorate the old fishing village of Fort St. David's, which was once located at what is now East Falls.

Poulson's Advertiser, an early Philadelphia newspaper, dated January, 26, 1829, has this to say concerning Manayunk, the Schuylkill River's famed mill town:

"MANAYUNK—This thriving manufacturing village is situated on the Schuylkill Canal in Philadelphia county, five miles from the city. The water power here is very great and is contributing to the wealth of the industrious and enterprising individuals who make use of it. Nearly two miles above the village, and in sight from the Flat Rock Bridge a dam is erected across the Schuylkill, which flows the water back a considerable distance, and conducts it by the canal through the village on a high bank. Between the canal and the bed of the Schuylkill is the location of several superior manufacturing establishments which, for excellent machinery and the quality of the boods made, will probably vie with any in the State, perhaps in the Union. Every convenience is afforded by the canal for the receipt of the raw material and the removal of the manufactured fabric. The fall of the water and the hum of the spindles and spools is music to the ears of the friend of the best interests of his country. Here new buildings are rising, the streets are improving, the road from Flat Rock improving the road from Flat Rock Bridge to the Ridge turnpike will be McAdamized, new mills and factories are progressing towards completion, industry meets a due reward and a banking institution is expected to afford facilities for the extension of business. The following is a list of the establishments in Manayunk.

Richard Rush and Co.'s, cotton factory. It employs 115 hands.

Grist mill belonging to Smick and Gorgas—5 hands.

Mr. Rowland's mill for granding and polishing saws—9 hands.

C. Hagner's mill for grinding drugs, carding and spinning wool, etc.—20 hands.

Mr. Darrach's mill for making wool for hats—55 hands.

Mr. Rising's cotton mill—75 hands.

Mr. Brooke's woolen mill—12 hands.

Mr. McDowell's paper and cotton mill—45 hands.

Borie, Laguerenne and Keating's cotton mill—215 hands.

Wagner and Brother's cotton mill 100 hands."

So when you wander down to the banks of the murky old Schuylkill, think of these past glories of the old stream.

SCCAFF

Press 5/9/29 "The Samovar" By. Ellwood Barratt

73

Hear Yez! Hear Yez!

Radio-fans, sharpen the edges of your storage batteries, and see that your extra tubes are in condition—the Editor is going on the air. In a series of talks sponsored by the Philadelphia Riders and Drivers Association, A. C. Chadwick, Jr., much respected editor of the SUBURBAN PRESS, will tell the world through the air something about the wonders of our Wissahickon. The first of the series is scheduled for Monday, May 13th, at 3.30 p. m. The topic will be "The Lower Wissahickon." Then on Friday, May 17th, Mr. Chadwick will talk on "The Wissahickon from Lincoln Drive to Livezey's Lane." Further topics are scheduled for May 20th and May 24th, all going on the air through WFI (Strawbridge & Clothier Store), at 3.30 p. m.

* * *

Mr. Chadwick, you know, is the eminent Historian of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. By his studies and experiences over many years he is thoroughly qualified to bring forward the story of the Wissahickon. The Samovar, always appreciative of real cultural effort, implores the local Radio reception committee, to receive with due respect, and to insist upon Hubby and the Kids tuning in. Don't forget the dates—Monday and Friday, at 3.30 p. m. Station WFI.

* * *

Suburban Press, 5/20/1929 74

Schuylkill River Islands Once Bore Strange Names

We recently ran across a reference to the islands of the Schuylkill river, which was written some eight years before we were born, and as we found it informative, we are going to pass along to those of our readers who take an interest in such things.

League Island, which is situated in the Delaware river and stretches eastward from the mouth of the Schuylkill is laid down upon Peter Lindestrom's map of 1654 in size nearly as large as it is at present, but has no name assigned to it on the Swedish cartographer's drawing. This island was granted in 1699, to the London Company, which ten years afterward conveyed it to Thomas Fairman. It was simply called in that deed an island, but in the deed of 1671, it was called League Island, supposedly because it contained about one league of land.

Long Island is in the Schuylkill opposite Sweet Briar Mansion, or as most present-day readers will know it, below Columbia avenue bridge, on the western side of the stream.

Manasonick Island, as it was known of old, is at the south end of that part of the city, between the Delaware and Schuylkill, fronting on the Schuylkill and extending as far as the west point of League Island, bounded by the Schuylkill, the Back Channel and Hollander's Creek.

Hog Island, which is one of the many islands which serve to hide the mouth of the Schuylkill river, is in the Delaware and was originally called by the Indians, "Quisteonck," a fact which Mrs. Woodraw Wilson considered when she named one of the huge fleet of ships which were built there during the late conflict with Germany. On Lindestrom's map he labeled it Keyser Island, or Isle des Empereures. It lies at the end of Tinicum Island, opposite Andrew Boone's Creek, and east of the mouth of Bow Creek. It was bought by Ernest Cock, of the Indian proprietor, in 1680.

Mud Island, which is also situated in the Delaware, in front of a portion of the old State Island, and between Hog Island and the mouth of the Schuylkill, appears on the early Swede's map, without a name. In January 1762, after war was declared between England and Spain, the Assembly of Pennsylvania made an appropriation of five thousand pounds for the erection of a fort on Mud Island, to be mounted with twenty cannon. The fortification was called Mud Fort, and it remained one of the defenses of the Delaware at the breaking out of the Revolution. It was defended in 1777 by Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Smith, Major Simeon Thayer and other commanders against the British fleets, and batteries erected at the mouth of the Schuylkill, from September 27th to November 10th. Two hundred and forty-three guns were brought to bear against the work, which was defended at the time when the garrison was the strongest by not more than three hundred men. The bombardment was terrific; two hundred and fifty men were killed and wounded. The palisades, block houses, parapets and other works were knocked down and the guns disabled by the enemy's attack. Major Thayer set fire to the barracks and ruins, and with fifty men safely crossed the Delaware to Red Bank, on the night of November 16th. The fort was afterward rebuilt and named after General Thomas Mifflin, officer of the Revolution who afterward became the first governor of Pennsylvania under the Constitution. Mifflin lived for may years at the Falls of Schuylkill.

Musk-Rat Island was in the Schuylkill near the eastern shore, opposite Sedgeley Point.

Peter's Island, which is familiar to lovers of boat races still forces the Schuylkill into two courses just above the Columbia avenue bridge. It received its name from the Peters family, who lived at

Belmont.

Sayamensing, in the Schuylkill, near the mouth of the river, was between Mulberrykill and Sayamensingkill, and was granted by Governor Lovelace in 1671 to Baers Peterson. It contained three hundred acres. It is north of Schuylkill Island, and bounded by the Schuylkill, Minquas Creek and the branch of Boone's or Church Creek, which flows into the Schuylkill.

Yokum and Chambers Neck rose from a marsh on the west side of the Schuylkill, just above Inckhornskill or Creek, which ran into the Schuylkill on the west sde of the bend and north of Penrose Ferry. It is now a part of the main land.

There was in Manayunk an old island, in the rear of the Main street properties which face Grape street, an island which was used by shad fishermen in the days before the building of the canal drove the members of the finy tribe to find a newer and more available spawning ground.

The Schuylkill Navigation Company was responsible for the forming of Venice Island, in Manayunk, which is bounded by the Canal and the Schuylkill.

So much for the islands of the Schuylkill. In a later tale we will try to tell you of some of the old-time ferries.

SCCAFF

Penn 6/6/27

76

"Hidden River's" Old Time Ferries Attract Sccaff

The Schuylkill river has not always been as easy to get over as it is in this age of bridges. Ferries and fords were once the only means of crossing the stream. We can picture one of the old farmers driving up to Jones' Ferry, which carried passengers from the east to the west bank of the Schuylkill, above Penncyd, at the lower end of Manayunk, and saying, "I'll get by as long as I have you!" which phrase is now popular with radio soloists.

The Jones' Ferry was marked on Hill's map of 1808.

Mendenhall's Ferry, was "at the ford reaching from the end of Ford road, in West Fairmount Park, south of Chamonioux, which ran to the steamboat landing at the lane which runs to the Ridge road, between North and South Laurel Hill Cemeteries." A person named Mendenhall kept the ferry tavern on the west shore for many years after 1800, and the place was at one time a fashionable resort for pleasure parties, and for those who indulged in the epicurean vogue of catfish and waffles.

The Middle Ferry was established over the Schuylkill at Market street, almost from the founding of the city. One Philip England seems to have stationed there, but did not discharge his duties satisfactorily. In May, 1685, the council ordered him to "expedit a sufficient ferry-boat for horses and cattle to pass to and fro over the Scholkill, also to make the way on both sides easy and passable, both for horses and man, to Loe-water mark, otherwise ye Council will take care to dispose of it to such as will perform ye same."

Rope Ferry, so called many years after the beginning of the 19th century and sometimes Penrose's Ferry was first known as Province Island Ferry, and after the Revolution as State Island Ferry. It crossed the Schuylkill from the lower part of "the Neck" to Province Island, just about where the present Penrose Ferry Bridge is built. Province Island was purchased for public use, by the Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1743 and a "pesthouse" or hospital for emigrant and quarantine service built there. The ferry was necessary as a convenience, as soon as the Lazerette buildings were finished. Penrose was the keeper of the ferry tavern at the beginning of the last century. The name of Rope Ferry was given because a stout rope, or chain, was stretched across the river, by means of which the ferry-boat—a sort of scow—was drawn over. When vessels passed up or down the stream, the rope was lowered and sunk in the water, so that the craft might pass over it.

The Lower Ferry seems to have been established before 1696, and was called Benjamin Chambers' Ferry. In the latter year, a road was ordered to be laid out from that ferry to come into the southermost street of Philadelphia. This street is now known to thousands as Grays Ferry Road.

The Upper Ferry, was established on the Schuylkill a short distance above the upper boundary of the old city of Philadelphia. It was set up by William Powell, in 1692, at the request of the grand jury. But Philip England, who then kept the Middle Ferry, made complaint to the governor and council, which declared that the grand jury had no right to authorize him to set up such a ferry. William Powell then carried on the business in the name of Nathaniel Mullinax, who with Powell was brought before the council. Both them were ordered to desist, and threatened with imprisonment. But, there being a great remonstrance from the people who were accommodated by the ferry, it was agreed that the boat should remain, and that travelers might transport themselves across the ferry, they paying no toll. This trouble was subsequently ended by the proprietary taking possession of the ferry right and issuing licenses to ferry-masters.

SCCAFF

Suburban Press 7-4-29

77

Graduations Recall Tales Of Family of John Conway

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shortly after their marriage, Conway and his young bride, took up farming at a place which is now traversed by South Third street in Philadelphia. Sometime later they drifted to the West, being located at Leechburg, beyond the Alleghenies, which in those days was "the West" indeed. Afterward they returned to this city, where Conway obtained a position as town crier, which position he filled for some time, before he received an appointment in the Custom House, but being a Whig, he lost out when a change of administration took effect.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

of John Conway, joined her mother and sister.

Of the other girls, Kate was married to James Tourish, a carriage maker. She died in 1880. Margaret married Mark Prim, a foreman in the Reading Railroad, and who was one of the regiment raised in Ireland, during an early Papal uprising; Hannah, who died in 1896, married William McManus, a machinist; Louisa M. was the wife of John Denby, who with the exception of a few years spent in Kansas farming, was the foreman of the spinning department of Dobson's mill for most of his married life. Mary Conway never married, but spent the most of her time between her sister, Mrs. Denby and an uncle, John Pagney, at Corez, Delaware.

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

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

When the split came between the North and South, he was engaged in erecting a railing in New Orleans and in order to reach home he took passage on a blockade runner bound from New Orleans to a Northern port. The vessel was captured and young Conway, along with the crew was imprisoned at Fort Delaware. After a short imprisonment, he with two others, succeeded in eluding the inner guards and attempted to make their escape, the only means being the swimming of the Delaware. Into it they plunged and of Conway's companions nothing was afterwards heard, and his remarkable escape seems almost like fiction. The waters were patroled by guards in boats, and as refugees arose to th e surface these guards would knock them on the head, and it is supposed that the others, soon or before reaching land, succumbed to this treatment. However, Conway, who was an expert swimmer, remained under water almost the entire distance, only coming to the surface once or twice for his breath.

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

The elder Conway was one of the employes of the Laurel Hill Company, who were known to have been pensioned off, he retiring twelve years previous to his death, which came about through old age, in 1883. But for these twelve years there was not a month which passed that the faithful old servant did not receive his envelope containing a full month's salary.

All of these tales was brought to mind by an old time resident of East Falls.

SCCAFF.

July 11th 1929

79

"The Pennsylvania Pilgrim"

Back in the New England town of Amesbury, in May 1872, John Greenleaf Whittier, sat down and wrote a sketch of Francis Daniel Pastorius, the founder of our neighboring community, in explanation of his writing his great poem, "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim."

In words which openly display his admiration for the German pioneer, Whittier wrote: "The beginning of German emigration to America may be traced to the personal influence of William Penn, who in 1677 visited the Continent, and made the acquaintance of an intelligent and highly cultivated circle of Pietists, or Mystics, who, reviving in the 17th century the spiritual faith and worship of Tauler and the 'Friends of God' in the fourteenth, gathered about the pastor Spener, and the young and beautiful Eleanor Johanna Von Merlau. In this circle originated the Frankfort Land Company, which bought of William Penn, the Governer of Pennsylvania, a tract of land near the new city of Philadelphia.

"The company's agent in the New World, was a rising young lawyer, Francis Daniel Pastorius, son of Judge Pastorius, of Windsheim, who at the age of seventeen, entered the University of Altorf. He studied law at Strasburg, Basle, and Jena, and at Ratisbon, the seat of the Imperial Government, obtained a practical knowledge of international polity. Successful in all his examinations and disputations, he received the degree of Doctor of Laws at Nuremburg, in 1678. In 1679 he was a law-lecturer at Frankfort, where he became deeply interested in the teachings of Dr. Spencer. In 1680-81 he traveled in France, England, Ireland and Italy with his friend Herr Von Rodeck. 'I was,' he said, 'glad to enjoy again the company of my Christian friends, rather than be with Von Robeck feasting and dancing.' In 1683, in company with a small number of German Friends, he emigrated to America, settling upon the Frankfort Company's tract between the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers. The township was divided into four hamlets, namely, Germantown, Krisheim, Crefeld, and Sommerhausen. Soon after his arrival he united himself with the Society of Friends, and became one of its most able and devoted members, as well as the recognized leader and lawgiver of the settlement. He married, two years after his arrival, Anneke (Anna), daughter of Dr. Klosterman, of Muhlheim.

"In the year 1688 he drew up a memorial against slave-holding, which was adopted by the Germantown Friends and sent up to the Monthly Meeting and thence to the Yearly Meeting at Philadelphia. It is noteworthy as the first protest made by a religious body against Negro Slavery. The original document was discovered in 1844 by the Philadelphia antiquarian, Nathan Kite, and published in 'The Friend.' It is a bold and direct appeal to the best instincts of the heart. 'Have not,' he asked, 'these negroes as much right to fight for their freedom as you have to keep them slaves?'

"Under the wise direction of Pastorius, the Germantown settlement grew and prospered. The inhabitants planted orchards and vineyards, and surrounded themselves with souvenirs of the old home. A large number of them were linen-weavers, as well as small farmers. The Quakers were the principal sect, but men of all religions were tolerated, and lived together in harmony. In 1692 Richard Frame published, in what he called verse, a "Description of Pennsylvania," in which he alludes to the settlement—

'The German town of which I spake before,
Which is at least in length one mile or more,
Where lives High German people and Low Dutch,
Whose trade in weaving linen cloth is much—
There grows the flax, as also you may know
That from the same they do divide the tow,
Their trade suits well their habitation,—
We find convenience for their occupation.'

"Pastorius seems to have been on intimate terms with William Penn, Thomas Lloyd, Chief Justice Logan,

Thomas Story, and other leading men in the Province belonging to his own religious society, as also with Kelpius, the learned Mystic of the Wissahickon, with the pastor of the Swedes' church and the leaders of the Mennonites. He wrote a description of Pennsylvania, which was published at Frankfort and Leipsic in 1700 and 1701. His 'Lives of the Saints,' etc., written in German and dedicated to Professor Schurmberg, his old teacher, was published in 1690. He left behind him many unpublished manuscripts covering a very wide range of subjects, most of which are now lost. One huge manuscript folio, entitled: 'Hive Beestock Melliotropheum Alucar, or Rusca Apium,' still remains containing one thousand pages with one hundred lines to a page. It is a medley of knowledge and fancy, history, philosophy, and poetry, written in seven languages. A large portion of his poetry is devoted to the pleasure of gardening, the description of flowers, and the care of bees.

"Professor Oswald Seidensticker, to whose papers in Der Deutsche Pioneer and that able periodical the "Penn Monthly," I am indebted for many of the foregoing facts in regard to the German pilgrims of the New World, thus closes his notice of Pastorius:—

'No tombstone, not even a record of burial, indicates where his remains have found their last resting place, and the pardonable desire to associate the homeage due to this distinguished man with some visible memento cannot be gratified. There is no reason to suppose that he was interred in any other place than in the Old Friends' Burying Ground in Germantown, though the fact is not attested by any definite source of information. After all, this obliteration of his last trace of his earthly existence is but typical of what has overtaken the times which he represents; that Germantown, which he founded, which saw him live and move, is at present but a quaint idyl of the past, almost a myth, barely remembered and little cared for by the keener race that has succeeded.'

"The Pilgrims of Plymouth have not lacked historian and poet. Justice has been done to their faith, courage, and self-sacrifice, and to the mighty influence of their endeavors to establish righteousness on the earth. The Quaker pilgrims of Pennsylvania, seeking the same object by different means, have not been equally fortunate. The power of their testimony for truth and holiness, peace and freedom, enforced only by what Milton calls 'the unresistible might of meekness' has been felt through two centuries in the amelioration of penal severities, the abolution of salvery, the reform of the erring, the relief of the poor and suffering—felt, in brief, in every step of human progress. But of the men themselves, with the single exception of William Penn, scarcely anything is known. Contrasted from the outset, with the stern, aggressive Puritans of New England, they have come to regard as a 'feeble folk,' with a personality as doubtful as their unrecorded graves. They were not soldiers, like Miles Standish; they had no figure so picturesque as Vane, no leader so rashly brave and haughty as Endicott. No Cotton Mather wrote their Magnalia; they had no awful drama of super-naturalism in which Satan and his angels were actors; and the only mentioned in their simple annals was a poor old Swedish woman, who, on complaint of her countrywomen was tried and acquitted of everything but imbecility and folly. Nothing but commonplace offices of civility came to pass between them and the Indians; indeed, their enemies taunted them with the fact that the savages did not regard them as Christians, but just such men as themselves. Yet it must be apparent to every careful observer of the progress of American civilization that its two principal currents had their sources in entirely opposite directions of the Puritan Quaker colonies.

"It will be sufficiently apparent to the reader that, in the poem, (The Pennsylvania Pilgrim) I have attempted nothing beyond a study of the life and times of the Pennsylvania colonist—a simple picture of a noteworthy man and his locality. The colors of the sketch are all very sober, toned down to the quiet and dreamy atmosphere through which its subject is visible. Whether, in the glare and tumult of the present time, such a picture will find favor may well be questioned. I only know that it has beguiled for me some hours of weariness, and that, whatever may be its measure of public appreciation, it has been to me its own reward.

J. G. W.

Amesbury, Fifth Month, 1872."

The first three stanzas of Whittier's poem has always interested the writer, inasmuch as they give a picture of Philadelphia in the early days:

"Never in tenderer quiet lapsed

th' day
From Pennsylvania's vales of spring away,
Where, forest-walled, the scattered hamlets lay

Held the sky's golden gateway. Through the deep
Hush of the woods a murmur seemed to creep,
The Schuylkill whispering in a voice of sleep:"

Or farther on:
"In such a home, beside the Schuylkill's wave,
He dwelt in peace with God and man, and gave
Food to the poor and shelter to the slave."

And Wissahickon's hermit is not forgotten, as is proved by the following lines:
"Or painful Kelpius from his hermit den
By Wissahickon, maddest of good men,
Dreamed o'er the Chiliast dreams of Petersen.

"Deep in the woods, where the small river slid
Snakelike in shade, the Helmstadt Mystic hid,
Wierd as a wizard over arts forbid

"Reading books of Daniel and of John,
And Behmen's Morning Redness, through the Stone
Of Wisdom, vouchsafed to his eyes alone.

"Whereby he read what man ne'er read before,
And saw the visions man shall see no more,
Till the great angel, striding sea and shore,

"Shall bid all flesh away, on land or ships,
The warning trump of the Apocalypse,
Shattering the heavens before the dread eclipse."

It seems strange that one who dwelt in the distant places of New England should have come to this section to write an epic of the men and things of the neighborhood; a tale which will live as long as the the printed record remains.

SCCAFF

Ledger July 18th 1929

82

Will Lay Corner Stone of Baptist Church School, in East Falls, on Sunday

James S. Swartz, LL. D., Donor of Building, Will Officiate With Trowel in Exercises at Structure Being Erected to the Memory of His Parents

DONOR OF BUILDING

JAMES S. SWARTZ, LL. D.
Above is pictured the President of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University, who will lay the cornerstone of the new Christian and Eliza Swartz Memorial Church School, of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church on Sunday morning.

Next Sunday will be another red-letter day in the history of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday School, for at 10:30 a. m. exercises will be held for the laying of the cornerstone of the Christian and Eliza Swartz Church School Building on Midvale avenue, above Ridge avenue.

The building will stand as a memorial to the parents of James S. Swartz, LL. D., the president of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University, and who for twenty-five years served as superintendent of the Falls of Schuylkill religious school.

This new structure will be the second monument in stone which will recall the life of Christian Swartz. The Stone Bridge, on which the tracks of the Reading Railroad Company cross the Schuylkill river, at Ferry Road, was erected by the father of the donor of the new Bible school, when he was employed as master mason for the railroad company. Over this bridge, night and day, rumble the long black trains that bring coal from the mountains to the seas, carrying comfort to millions of homes and energy to numberless wheels.

The program, as arranged for the placing of the cornerstone, will be in charge of Rev. William J Hayes, pastor of the church, and Mr. Swartz with Miss Martha Adams being the organist and Weldon Eisenhart leading the singers.

The first part of the services will be held inside of the church, after

which the congregation and friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist church and Sunday School, will assemble outside on the Midvale avenue front of the building.

Responsive reading will precede the actual laying of the stone, which will be made by James S. Swartz, LL. D.

The exercises will be as follows:

Prelude, "Tavanory;" Doxology; Invocation; Hymn 54, "Holy, Holy, Holy;" Scripture; Choir, "The Earth is the Lord's;" Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response; Announcements and Offering; Offertoire, "Prayer;" Prayer; Hymn 394, "The Church's One Foundation;" Sermon, "The Rejected Stone Now Head of the Corner," Rev. Wm. J. Hayes, Pastor; Prayer of Application; Recessional Hymn 294, "How Firm a Foundation;" Here the congregation will follow the minister and choir to the site of the new building. Presentation of the Trowel, John Wyatt, Senior Deacon; The Laying of the Cornerstone, James S. Swartz, LL. D.; The Declaration by the Pastor, "We lay the cornerstone of a house to be erected and devoted to the service of Almighty God and the religious education of youth. Other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Prayer of Dedication, "To Thy Glory, O God, Who art the Refuge and Home of Thy children in all the generations. We beseech of Thee to prosper this work which Thy servant our friend has undertaken for the upbuilding of Thy Kingdom. In deep reverence and holy joy we lay this stone, and humbly pray that through the influence of this building which shall be dedicated to the spiritual nuture of youth—that Thy light and truth will find a home in many hearts, until at last the wide earth shall be as none other but the house of God and the gate of heaven. This we ask through Him Who is our Saviour and Him Who taught us when we pray to say: People, Our Father which art in heaven;" Doxology; Benediction.

A brief history of the life of the donor of the building presents the following facts:

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

When about two years of age his family removed to Lawrenceville, which is now known as Parkersford, in Chester County, Pennsylvania. This is the first place of which Mr. Swartz has any recollection.

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

In 1854, his family moved to the Falls of Schuylkill, and James, then fourteen, was put to work at $20 per month, to earn his own living. At the end of two years he was sent to the public schools of this city, and then to the Central High School, which he left early in 1858 to take a position as clerk and telegraph operator in the Reading Railroad Company's Pottstown office.

On March 21st 1858, he was baptised in the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, of which he is still a member at the end of nearly seventy-one years.

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

One of his most eventful years was in 1862, when about the middle of the year he responded to the call of Governor Curtin for volunteers to protect Pennsylvania from rebel invasion, and as a member of Captain John Dobson's Company "I" of the Blue Reserves, remembers riding all night with J. G. Walker, who afterward became a Baptist minister of note, on top of a freight car of a troop train from Harrisburg to Chambersburg to join the regiment from which they had become separated. The car was filled with troops among whom was A. J. Rowland, a boyhood chum, of Lawrenceville, who had enlisted as a chaplain.

On December 10th 1862, he was initiated as a member of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 186, F. and A. M., of Philadelphia, and probably at this date is the oldest member of the Lodge.

Sometime in the same year, after returning from the brief military campaign, as he was taking a street car to go into the city to accept an offer of storekeeper and clerk at a coal mine in Pennsylvania, the accidental and seemingly trival incident of meeting a friend changed the whole course of his life and led to the following occupations: Clerkship with Leech & Company, Eastern Agents of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Cashier of the Star Union & National Union Fast Freight Lines of the same road; Treasurer of the Empire Transportation Company, and its subsidiary, the Empire Pipe Line. For the latter the Standard Oil Company subsequently paid som emillions of dollars.

He was afterward President and Treasurer of the Erie and Western Transportation Company, a lake and

tail line. This company owned a large fleet of steamers on the Great Lakes. Later Mr. Swartz held the position of treasurer of the Connecting Terminal R. R. Company, and also of the Western Warehousing Company.

In October 1877, he was selected treasurer of the International Navigation Company of Pennsylvania, and a few years later of its successor, the International Navigation Company of New Jersey, which with greatly increased capital became the International Merchantile Marine Company in 1902 and the owner of several other large trans-Atlantic companies, such as the White Star, the Atlantic Transport, the Dominion and Leyland Line. He continued his connection with this company until October 1st, 1907, when he resigned.

On October 29th 1868, William F. Leech died, leaving a large estate in trust. As the trustees were absent much of the time, Mr. Swartz was left in charge during their absence and was always treated as one of the family until it became extinct by the death of the last member, S. Josephine Loftus, on August 1st, 1921. She was the daughter of Mr. Leech and his name appears as one of the benefactors of Bucknell University.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Swartz is a member of the City Club of New York, the City Mid-Day Club of New York and has been a member of the Union League of Philadelphia for the last 22 years.

He has been chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell since his election thereto in 1917.

On his 85th birthday which occurred on March 21st 1925, three of his closest friends, Rush H. Kress, W. W. Kelchner, and E. F. L. Potts, provided for a permanent endowment of the James S. Swartz Professorship in honor of his service to the institution.

The erection of the building on Midvale avenue concludes a plan which Mr. Swartz has had for many years of perpetuating the memories of his parents, and gives to East Falls a structure for which its residents will always feel grateful.

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BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY RECALLED BY LAYING OF CORNER STONE

When the corner stone of the new building for the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday School, is placed in position next Sunday, another epoch in the life of that institution will have taken place.

And, as it is the intention to place copies of the Suburban Press, in the repository of that stone, it seems an appropriate time to tell a few of the interesting facts concerning the establishment of the first church in the Falls of Schuylkill, which was that of the Baptist denomination.

After the termination of the Revolutionary War, a very diversified population might be found occupying the region known as "the Falls," and its surroundings. As was almost every occupation exemplified in the industries pursued by the people, so was there worshippers of different creeds, or members of different religious sects.

From time to time this religious spirit manifested itself in the appearance of some devoted servant of God, who would come to preach among his scattered brethern. Among those heralds of salvation was the Reverend Horatio Gates Jones, well known in his time in all this vicinity and the surrounding towns. This was about the year 1810, and is the first notice of evangelic work in this vicinity. Later and down to the time of the Constitution of the Falls Baptist Church, which occurred in 1838, Reverend Robert Crompton was devoted and self-scrificing, in labor, co-operating with a small but consecrated band of brethern to fix a center of spiritual life. The Rev. Crompton continued his efforts with the Falls Baptist church until about a year after it was constituted, being then called to mission work in another field.

Prayer meetings were held, in 1821, in the home of Mrs. Margaret Roberts, in the old stone row of buildings which formerly stood beside the road, on the west side of the Schuylkill river in the long-gone village of Cooksockie. This old home was demolished at the time of the building of the Reading Railroad. However, the regular services, each Sunday afternoon and evening, were continued in Mrs. Roberts' dwellings, she having moved to another house in the same row.

Among those zealous in establishing prayer meetings may be mentioned Sarah McLellan and Ann Hansell, who were members of the Blockley Baptist Church. Among the names of the pastors of the Blockley Church, at that time, we find those of William Ashton and Joseph Kennard.

About this time a young man of Irish birth, Hugh Gilmore, with his parents, located at what was at that time called the Three Mile Stone, on Ridge road, in the neighborhood of the present location of Strawberry Mansion. He had a medical education and his intelligence was soon appreciated. He attended the Blockley Church and under the teachings of Levi Tucker was converted. He took a warm interest in the prayer meetings at the Falls, and became one of the leaders in them.

Meetings were also held in the home of Mrs. Rice, in Scott's lane. The site of this old home is now covered by Dobson's Mills. Likewise, were meetings held in the home of Mrs. Sarah McAdam, on the Old Ford Road, in West Falls (Cooksockie) and in that of Mrs. Susan Garrett, near the river on the same road.

In the year 1835, William Simpson, a devoted man and a faithful Baptist, came to the district of the Falls to dwell. He and his son began the business of calico and silk printing. Their mills were located on the west bank of the Schuylkill river, directly opposite Midvale avenue, where a great many traces of the buildings and dams still remain. Two of the latter are now known as the Chamonioux Lakes, in Fairmount Park.

Simpson soon became active in the Baptist meetings and spent much of

his time in visiting and encouraging the few scattered Baptist families, then to be found in this neighborhood. Meanwhile the meetings had taken on a more public form, being now held in the Old Academy building, on Indian Queen lane. Among those preaching here, about that time being: Horatio Gates Jones, D. D., Robert Crompton, Lansing Burrows, Thomas Winters, D. D., Charles Tucker, Mr. Gieddel and other gospel ministers.

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

At one of the meetings, held in the month of April, it was decided to call a council of the Baptist church and invitations were issued on the 7th of June, 1838 and following that action the council met in the Old Academy. The church was then constituted under the advice of the council, and consisted of 17 souls.

The original call for the meeting of the council held in the Academy Building, was as follows:

"Falls of Schuylkill, May 29th 1838

Dear Brother:

Several members of the different Baptist Churches, residing in this vicinity, have resolved to call a council for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church, believing that the destitution of religious privileges loudly calls upon us to adopt some more efficient measures than heretofore, that the standard of the Cross may be raised in this, too long, neglected spot. The neighborhood is densly populated; and there is no church of any denomination for several miles around. There will be nine or ten members from other churches to join us, which together with those recently baptized will make the number 16 or 17 strong, and we believe that others are on the way and will soon be constrained by the grace of God to yield obedience to the requirements of the gospel.

We have appointed Thursday, the 7th of June, for the meeting of the council and the constitution of the church. The council will meet at Brother Simpson's, at 1 o'clock p. m. and the other services will commence at 3 p. m.

You are hereby affectionately invited to attend on the occasion as one of the council.

Please notice the intended meeting to the people of your charge and give an invitation to attend.

Yours affectionately,
ROBERT CROMPTON
WILLIAM SIMPSON
HUGH GILMORE
Committee

Rev. R. F. Young."

The church continued to worship in the Old Academy, on alternate Sundays, until Sunday morning, March 21st 1852, when the lecture room of the church building, which adjoins the new structure being erected, was first occupied.

With the occupancy of the church building, dated the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Sunday School, which, although practically a Baptist School, had for many years been known as the Union Sunday School.

From the time the church was constituted the Falls Baptist congregation has been served by the following pastors:

Missionary pastors: Rev. Robert Crompton, Rev. Samuel J. Cresswell, Rev. J. S. Eisenberg Rev W. M. Collom and Rev. Joseph Sharp.

Supply Pastor, Rev. Emerson Andrews.

Stated Pastors: Revs. Mark R. Watkinson, N. Judson Clark, Charles S. Steinman, William R. McNeil, John Enoch Chesshire, Isaac Ferdinand Stidham, Alfred Free, Henry W. Jones, Thomas A. T. Hanna, Oliver B. Kinney, Isaac Ferdinand Stidham (second pastorate), Charles L. Seashcles, D. D., B. F. Bray, Edwin Saylor and the present eloquent and well loved pastor, Rev. William J. Hayes.

If, in writing this article concerning the history of the Falls Baptist Church and Sunday School, I have in any way served the interests of the group of people who work for furtherance of God's work in this vicinity, I feel more than amply repaid.

SCCAFF

We Visit The Seashore

After enduring the heat of several days, in writing the weekly installment of the serial story of life in these Northwest communities, with the editing of copy completed, the last headline written, the final correction made, and the forms of the Suburban Press locked up and on the bed plates of the Goss Comet, we paused to think of where we would spend our day of rest, which in the case of your local scandalmonger, falls on Thursday.

While we don't exactly desecrate the Sabbath, we usually find that it is our busiest day, for thoughts and news items must be placed on

paper while the idea or fact is available, and inasmuch as collecting the "brain children" and stories takes up most of our time during the week, there is but little time other than Sunday in which to write our articles. Hence when the paper comes off the "ink spreader" we can relax for a day, and it so happens that the day is Thursday.

After that rather lengthy explanation we will now return to our story, which happened to be at the point where we paused to decide where we would spend our holiday.

We've written so many paragraphs, for local excursion committees, concerning the joys of the seashore that we have almost exhausted all of our thoughts on the subject.

So why not emulate the men who go down to the sea in ships, so that we might hear what the sad waves have been repeating for countless ages? And a thought, with a newspaperman, is synonomous with action. The requirements of the profession make this so. And Thursday of last week, found us speeding eastward to Atlantic City.

Somehow, or other, we like that ride from Philadelphia to the Playground of the World. It is just about long enough not to get tiresome. We traveled electrically, which consumed a little more time than the steam train and a little less than the bus, but which was considerably cleaner than either of the latter means of transportation.

Personally, we wouldn't live in South Jersey, for more than a few days, for any amount of money. It seems desolate anywhere away from our Schuylkill Valley hills. Scrub oak, scraggily pines and sand as a regular diet would give anyone the heebie jeebies.

Our nostrils informed us when we were nearing the ocean. There is a tang to the salt air which is invigorating.

We have hardly stepped from the train and tak'n a few strides along Atlantic avenue, when we were greeted with the salutation, "Hello there, Sccarf!" and turned to see our old friend "Tom" Boyer and his shadow "Mac" McConnell. We exchanged the usual courtesies, told of the way things were going in Roxborough, Manayunk and Falls, and said "Goodbye" to proceed Boardwalkward in order to feast our eyes on the blue of the Atlantic.

Bathers, everywhere—in suits which must have taxed the dye mixer of the rainbow to the limit, providing hues for the colorings—freak suits minus backs, some of the vintage of 1896, beach pajamas of 1929, and coats that made one feel as if he had suddenly been transported to some futuristic hemisphere—all kinds of anatomical abnormalities—fat, slim, perfect, ridiculous—brown, black, pink and white. The latter being the pallid derm of the one-day bathers like ourselves.

Kids, laughing and playing in the sand—Kids, crying and yelling for "Ma!"—kids, splashing in the water—kids, eating lunch on the beach—kids, kids, kids, everywhere. It seemed like some sort of celestial sphere for children. We subconsciously made a wish that all kids would have an Atlantic City at home, for their continual enjoyment.

Wheel chairs, singly and in long queues, rolling along the huge wooden esplanade. Filled with folk, mostly of maturer years. We hesitated for a moment to watch one dusky son of Ham, who had been assigned to push a portly person of the male sex, who must have tipped the beam somewhere around the 300 mark. We thought that the round boy should have had a horse to pull him.

We ran into "Jim" Anderson, of Upper Ridge avenue. He was walking along the Via Plank, with his wife and saluted us with a hearty "Howdy!" Jim and the frau are staying down there for a week.

Stopped long enough at Richard's baths to don a bathing suit which we hope was of modest cut, but about which we have our doubts. This latter reflection comes to us when we view the sunburn deadlines on our most personal rotundity. It must have been skimpy.

Into the breakers, with a gasp, for the first entrance took our breath away. As we popped our head up over the first big roller, we gazed right into the grinning face of none other than "Johnny" Shaw, the Municipal Court officer, of East Falls, who has apparently assumed that the ocean is on probation and therefore, spends as much time in, or near it as possible. Another Falls chap, named Calhoun, was with the truant officer, besides a party of other friends, whom we didn't know, and feeling like an intruder, we soon left them.

Walked up and down the beach to see if we knew any more of the users of America's community bathtub. Saw "Andy" Butshall, of Terrace street, but lost him in the crowd before we could reach his

side.

Lounged around on the sand for an hour or two and then decided to "go places and see things." Satisfied the inner man, in a sea-food restaurant, and window-shopped along the Walk. Watched the Beach Athletic Director with his calisthenics class. Strolled down to see "Doc" Stehle at the Municipal Auditorium. Then up again to Steeplechase Pier, where a couple of gaudily-dressed clowns with moaning saxophones coaxed us out on the pier. Here we ran into another group of friends from the "Hills." Received a lot of fun observing the youngsters and their young-feeling parents sliding around in wooden bowls and down the inclined ways.

Went back to keep an appointment with "Tom" Boyer and then returned to the Boardwalk, in time to get rained on. The sky grew dark and most of the bathers disappeared as if by magic. The rain continued for about an hour before it subsided. Just about the time it ended we again met our friends from the heights of Roxborough and concluded we might be of some assistance in helping them home with the children. Here we applied the newspaper maxim, which has been previously recited.

Arrived home about 9 p. m., tired, our face and back a flaming red, but nevertheless glad that we had gone down to the shore for local color for coming writeups.

And we're going to go again, sometime in the near future.

SCCAFF.

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Romance of Jas. Buchanan Discovered in Laurel Hill

To the average person, a cemetery would probably be that last place to look for romance, and yet it was on the green clad slopes of North Laurel Hill, up from the banks of the Schuylkill River, that we unearthed a story, as tragically romantic as any we have ever seen on the silvered screens of the modern moving picture houses.

Almost opposite the point where North 35th street joins Ridge avenue, and a short distance back from the roadway, rests the remains of Elizabeth Colman, the sweetheart of Pennsylvania's lone occupant of the Presidential chair, James Buchanan.

The spot is marked by a monument surmounted by the figure of a young girl leaning on a pedestal. The lot was formerly recognized by the presence of three large pine trees, but in recent years these have gone.

The story of Buchanan and his early love is very touching, and presents in a true light the character of a man who was made fun of and ridiculed to the extreme on account of his bachelorhood. In the campaign for his election this fact was used against him. They called him "Ten-Cent Jimmy" and said that no bachelor was wanted in the White House.

It was at this time that the youthful romance of the to-be President was first published, and although it was suppressed as much as possible, yet it was responsible to a considerable extent for the re-action of the public feeling.

When Buchanan was about 24 years of age, he was a rising young attorney, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was engaged to be married to an estimable young lady of that place, named Elizabeth Colman, a member of a noted family, whose connections owned the finest coal mines in the State, known at that time as "the Buck Mountains," in Lebanon County, including nearly all of the town of Cornwall, where the Colman's carried on an extensive iron business, and having also a railroad which ran between Cornwall and Lebanon.

Young Buchanan had made arrangements with the young lady who was to be his bride, for attending a dance which was to take place on a certain specified evening. A few of his professional friends sent a request for the transaction of some important legal business. As the time designated was the same of his appointment with his sweetheart, the situation caused the young attorney some embarrassment. He did not wish to refuse his friends the permission asked, nor did he wish to deprived his fiancee of the anticipated evening of pleasure. He was in a quandary for if he gave a favorable reply to his friends it would require his presence in the office. So he made up his mind to escort Miss Colman to the dance, after which he would do the usual courtesies to his lawyer friends.

He called upon Miss Colman and explained the dilemma he was in and stated his intentions. She refused to leave pleasure interfere with his business engagement and decided to remain at home.

When the evening of the appointment arrived, Buchanan was in his office, awaiting the coming of his friends. He waited until 9 p. m., but they did not put in an appearance. He was wondering at their delay, when the janitor asked him if he had received the letter they had left for him. He said that he had not—although it was upon his desk before him. He opened the missive at once, and found that its contents informed him that the intended meeting of his friends had been called off. He was chagrined. He had disappointed the dearest being on earth, to him, and had wasted the whole evening besides.

It was too late to retrieve the condition of affairs. He would not ask Miss Colman to go at such a late hour, and yet, it was too early for he, himself, to go to bed. He thought he would take a stroll through the town before retiring.

His peregrinations took him past the hall wherein the dance was being held, and without a thought of remaining longer than to see how the affair was progressing, he passed in.

As he entered the place he spoke

to a couple of lady acquaintances who were also just going in. He remained but a few minutes, and then went home and retired, but it is supposed that some one who saw him entering with the ladies, at once carried word to his sweetheart at her home, that her intended husband had escorted another woman to the dance, for on the following morning, Miss Colman failed to appear for breakfast. A servant was sent to her room, only to find her cold in death, with an empty laudanum bottle beside her.

It is supposed that when she heard of her lover's faithlessness, she became disconsolate and ended her life. Her body was brought to Laurel Hill, and the monument, before mentioned, was erected over her grave, although it does not bear her name. For many years her resting place was visited by Buchanan, and her immediate family, but after a time they moved to Kentucky, and the grave was taken care of by other members of the family.

It was this sad incident of his early days that perhaps soured the disposition of the Bachelor President. He remained true, until death, to his lost love and never married.

This, then is the little romance that was uncovered by taking a stroll through the city of the dead in the Falls of Schuylkill, where dozens of prominent men in the history of the Nation lie awaiting the trumpet call of the Angel Gabriel.

SCCAFF

9/22/29

We Visit Ocean City

In trying to console ourselves over the fact that duty prevented us from attending the Roxborough Business Men's excursion to Wildwood on Wednesday morning of last week, we went to Ocean City, as soon as we were through that evening.

Wednesday, as we have explained before, must be spent at "the plant," looking after the "make-up" of the Suburban Press, and so Thursday is our day off.

As soon as we had seen the printing press turn out its first hundred copies of your favorite paper, we hurried home to "doll up" and board the train for the shore.

We traveled via the Reading to Atlantic City, and from there by bus, over to Ocean City, the seashore's most restful resort.

Atlantic City has an appeal for those who seek diversion, but Ocean City is the place where one goes for a vacation. That is, if vacation means relaxation and rest.

A boardwalk, which has not a superior in construction, if it has in length, if found at Ocean City. The type of visitors are different from those found at other resorts, with the possible exception of Asbury Park.

Arriving at midnight, on Wednesday, our first thought was for shelter, and when the smiling clerk, at the Strand, told us that the place was filled, we asked his advise as to where to find a temporary habitation. He sent us around to a cottage on Central avenue, off Ninth street, where a most hospitable hostess, who had just been in the act of placing an empty milk bottle on the doorstep, took care of us. We're going to bless that hotel clerk for the rest of our days!

Morpheus, aided by a delightfully comfortable bed, soon transported us to the Land of Nod, only to be brought back suddenly—in fact within the hour—by one of the most violent thunderstorms which has struck the coast this year. The rain came down in torrents, as the old ship captain would say, and the force of the electrical battle of the heavens shook the house to its supporting timbers, forcing us to rise to close the windows. However, the spatter of the rain soon lulled us back to sleep.

Six o'clock Thursday morning found us out on the Boardwalk working, or rather walking, up an appetite. We were apparently the only person about, except a "nut" who had a fish pole pointed out toward the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, from the farther-most end of the Ocean City Fishing Club's pier, at 14th street.

At seven, we dined at Ryan's. Now there's an experience worth writing about. If you haven't dined at Ryan's place in Ocean City, as an epicure, "you don't know nothin'." Alacrity and courtesy seem to be inborn qualities of the waitresses at Ryan's. And the food! Well, if you can imagine the perfection of the manna sent to the old-time religious characters, you may have some idea of how the food tasted after an hour of the salt breeze of the Atlantic. Quantum Sufficit!

Now for a hike up the beach.

Horseback riders—ninety-nine per cent feminine—municipal beach combers, cleaning up the previous day's collection of discarded newspapers and other rubbish—sandsnipes foraging for their breakfast in the ripples—a gray-beard taking a morning constitutional plunge—life guards going on duty—and ice men, delivering their wares, along the walk, sans shoes and stockings.

We are handed a copy of W. F. Hetrick's "Ocean City Daily," an eight page twin to "The Suburban Press," and notice that the business and hotel men of the seashore resort realize the value of advertising.

A great spiritual feast was being served at the Boardwalk Tabernacle of the Moody Bible Institute, and feeling an inward craving we entered to hear Evangelist H. A. Ironside presenting some Good Book expositions from Leviticus, which were followed by portions of Revelations, in broken English, by Pastor Dolman.

Back to Ryan's for sea-food—but why go into rhapsodies again.

Along the Walk to a bath house to don a suit, only to run into Mr. and Mrs. George Levering of Roxborough, the moment we stepped out on the beach. Chatted with Mr. Levering for a while before entering the surf. Water proved to be perfect as to temperature.

Walked up to Beach Patrol Station No. 1, where we met Jack Frazier, 3rd, the Radnor High School boy who is spending the summer saving silly souls from suddenly sinking in the seas.

Frazier was born out at Wayne, Penna., and intends to enter Yale upon graduating from Radnor, after which his parents hope he will become a distinguished legal light, for they impress him with this line of reasoning, "So's you're old man!" But we leave the prospective attorney to continue our bathing.

While lazily sunning ourselves, in the sand, we see Miss Emma Ferris, the librarian at the Falls of Schuylkill branch of the Free Library, passing with a girl friend. We sing out, "Hello," but the Queen Lane Manor miss fails to hear our shout of greeting.

Supper time—and Ryan's again! We had just finished consuming a large portion of Lobster a la Newburgh, as Manayunk's ever-busy little realtor, Francis E. McGill and his family come in to dine. He, too, it is evident, knows good food and where to find it.

Promenading the Wooden Way, until nine, a bus to Atlantic City, and home again to the weekly round of snooping about for little secrets of hope, sorrow, smiles and tears, which make up Life's little weeks, in the section covered by the Suburban Press.

SCOAFF

8/22/29

YOU NEVER CAN TELL!

As the chill days of autumn slowly, but nevertheless steadily creep up on us, the person who circulates around ever so little is blind indeed, if he hasn't noticed the keen interest being shown by sport lovers, in all sections of Philadelphia, as it begins to seep into the innermost recesses of their brains that Connie Mack's old "A's", are going to cop the gonfalon in the American League.

By the time October and the World's Series rolls around, we expect that the fervor of "baseballitis" will have raised the temperature of the average Philadelphian to a fever heat, and that Mrs. Philadelphia will think that her husband has gone cuckoo.

All of which leads us up to a question. What is it, about America's grand old game, that holds the interest of the male sex, from the time they are first able to swing a bat over their shoulder until the creaking old limbs prevent them from climbing up on a rickety grandstand? Why some of the Rip Van Winkles in this neighborhood still have the hardihood to go down to Broad and Huntingdon streets to watch the Phillies. As if that isn't loving baseball, then we don't know anything about the standards of affection. Anyone who can endure nine innings on the Baker Bowl bleachers, and then come home to extract 15,000 splinters from the seat of his trousers, is some lover of the National game, and we don't mean maybe. And yet there are those who do it with consistent regularity.

But this tale is not written simply to "pan" the Phillies, but as a sort of an explanation as to why baseball is popular. We believe it is the unexpected element of the game which attracts the fan to the games day after day. And in defense of our argument we would like to present a few facts upon the

subject.

How many times have we seen a collection of ball players who looked "like a million dollars," as the saying goes, as they held their opponents to a minimum of runs, and then in the very next game, with the identical players, witnessed the victorious team getting a walloping from the club, which they defeated the day before? Even Babe Ruth has his off days. We remember one game, in the days when the White Elephants were getting their bumps from every team in the league, that Freddy Heimach, twirling for the Mackmen, struck the Bambino out three times, and made him fly out to center, twice in the same game. The contest went into thirteen innings, with the Yanks and A's being tied at one-all, and Connie Mack pulled the big left hander to let a pinch-hitter bat for him. Harris, the Lean One, relieved Heimach, only to have Babe Ruth double and score the winning run on Pipp's single. Everybody crowded out to Shibe Park the next day to see the Yank's drawing card strike out again, or maybe to hit a homer, but he did neither, for in his four trips to the plate against Walberg, the next day, he walked twice, and was thrown out by the shortstop on the other two occasions. What might have happened—drew the crowd.

But let's cite another incident of the peculiarities of the game. And this one a local tale. It was back in 1922 when Harry Haigh, (yes the same one) was captaining the Dobson team for Bobby Calhoun. The contest was between Dobson and North Phillies. The odd part of the game was that in two different innings the same batters did exactly the same things that they had done in an earlier round, but in one case they obtained 6 runs, while in the other only three runs came across the rubber.

Here is how it happened. Trautwein started off the first inning by reaching first base on an error of the third baseman's. Roussey singled to center field. Sharp struck out. Jhamy Carlin singled, scoring Trautwein; Wood singled, scoring Roussey; Billy Ryan walked, filling the bases; "Bo" Moyer flew out to the third baseman, and Haigh came up and whaled out a home run, driving three runs in ahead of him. Plitt was caught out on a fly to right field, ending the inning in which six runs had been scored. Now here's the joker in the deck.

In the sixth inning Haigh started the batting and again socked a homer, very naturally scoring one run; Plitt flew out to right field; Trautwein was given a life when the third baseman erred again; Roussey singled; Sharp fanned; Carlin singled, scoring Trautwein; Wood singled, scoring Roussey; Ryan ambled, and again Moyer fell a victim to the third sacker's glove, completing an inning, in which every man had duplicated his feat of the first inning, but the team, however, only securing three runs. In each inning but four hits had been made, three singles and a home run. The only difference being, in the fact that the batting order started off in a different place in the score book.

These examples of the unexpected happened in the days when youths were ambitious to don long trousers and before the era of full-grown men garbing themselves in knickers to appear like boys, but the same little old element which attracted fans to the game still holds sway in the hearts of baseball lover.

in the hearts of baseball lovers.

SCCAEF.

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Learning The Code

A Short Story
BY SCCAFF

Her father was a land proprietor in one of the Russian provinces. The peasants of the neighborhood, who mostly had formerly been serfs, and not so many years liberated were uneducated, and it seemed to her—who was but twenty, then—that the first thing to do to better their condition was to teach them to read and write, for they were only fitted for a grade of labor but little above what was performed by the beasts of the field. Indeed, they were treated by the government officials as cattle. She tells me, that she has seen a man go into a clamoring crowd with a stout whip and scatter them as he would so many steers.

Her father forbade her to do anything for the poor creatures that was not permitted by the government, knowing well that by doing so she would get into trouble. But her sympathies were so strong that she consented to teach them "sub rosa," or under the rose bush, as the French say it. She found it easier to teach the children, and used a rear room in a peasant's cottage for a school. She had not been long at work before the government found out, and one day the officials broke into the room while the school was in session, and she was caught red-handed in her act of rebellion.

In telling her story, she passed over the dreary march to Siberia, for it has nothing to do with this tale. This begins on the first night of her arrival at the prison at Komsk. She was lying on a cot in a not-over clean cell, overcome with that dreadful feeling of being locked in and wishing that death would relieve her from the suffering in prospect for her. She does not know whether it seemed bleaker inside the jail, or out, now that she was in the prison. So unendurable were her thoughts that she tried to turn them to the home she had left, her father, mother and sisters. But they, too, were suffering on her account, and thinking of them gave her no relief.

However, dark as the prospect was, deep as the gloom in which she was plunged, there came something that turned her thoughts away from her misfortune. A heating pipe entered the cell at the floor and ran perpendicularly up along the wall to the ceiling. Suddenly a sound passed over the pipe, as when the steam is first turned on in a radiator. It was but one tiny tick, such as would be made by the pipe being struck by metal. It was immediately followed by another tap, then a short interval, then a third. Next three taps came together, followed by two.

This was sufficient to indicate that the sounds were not made by the expansion or contraction of the pipes from heat or cold, but that someone was tapping on them, with what she did not know. The girl listened for some time, during which she realized that a message was being despatched, but not knowing the code, she could not interpret it. When it ended another series of taps commenced, and there was a difference in the key, indicating that the latter series was produced by a different instrument than the first.

What a relief it was—something to think about—something to puzzle over! Messages were being transmitted through the room, over the heating pipe. She was at once interested in reading them. Probably it was the Morse Code? But then she wasn't acquainted with the secrets of the code. The Morse code, as we all know, is composed of dots and dashes. This prison arrangement consisted of taps and intervals. For instance one tap might mean the letter "A"; two taps "B", two taps and an interval "C"; the two an interval and two taps "D," and so on.

The imprisoned girl did not learn a single letter of the code that first night, although two persons talked over the pipe for some time. All communication ceased a quarter of an hour before the last visit of the guard, and re-commenced a quarter of an hour after the round had been made, the persons continuing to communicate for half an hour, when they ceased, giving her the first clue to their code. The last two divisions, or words—as she took them to be—were tapped after a short silence, and the same taps and intervals were repeated by the persons who received

them.

Our little Russian prisoner had by this time learned to separate letter from letter and word from word. These last two words, tapped and repeated, were composed the first of four, the second of five letters. She listened for some time more, but heard nothing, and it occurred to her that the words spoken were intended for a closing of the conversation, like "goodbye," indicating that nothing more was to be said. Immediately it flashed upon her that the words spoken were "goodbye," but the second word of goodbye is composed of three letters, whereas, as we have said the second word of the last message was made up of five.

"I have it," she said. "The message was "good-night."

So ended the first evening of the little prisoner's life in jail, but small as the distraction from her troubles was, it was enough, worn out as she was, to bring on sleep. She passed into unconsciousness, thinking that probably the message would start again on the nextday, and she should have something to do to read the messages, for if her interpretation of the two words was correct she was in possession of the secret of seven letters of the alphabet. Surely that would be quite enough to give her the others in time, although she states that she remembered them imperfectly and would have to hear them again.

Patience was needed, for it was not until the following night that she heard them again. Slowly, but surely she picked up a few more letters, which added to her knowledge of the code. The letter "I" was used quite often by itself, as was also the letters "A." Besides when a conversation was ended, during the daylight hours, the last words were of two letters, which she soon interpreted as "goodby." This gave her nine letters, or a third of the entire alphabet. Within a few days she had it all, but it required practice to read. As to telegraphing herself, she practiced sending messages to herself by tapping with her finger on the wall of the cell, and soon be came quite proficient.

As soon as the girl learned to read readily, she determined to take part in the dialogues. Two men, both jailed for political crimes, were the communicants, the one a young man who had been sent to Siberia from a university; the other had been implicated in an attempt to assasinate a minister of police. The latter was much older than the former—at least from the tone of his tapped conversations, this seemed so—while the student was full of hope and enthusiasm. He was discussing with the other, plans for escape, which his correspondent discouraged as impossible and said they would bring down more horrors on those who attempted them.

The call signal was learned at the outset. It was three taps at intervals until the party to be called responded. When the young woman became sufficiently practiced to hold a conversation, she gave the signal. A reply came.

"What is it, Paul?"

The girl replied for herself. She told that she was a political prisoner, a young girl; that she had heard their conversations on the pipe and had interpreted their code. She would be pleased to talk with them when they were not engaged in chatting with each other. Paul, the university man, asked her how long she had been learning the code, and when he was told, complimented her on her perception. She asked him if he were not afraid of the prison authorities becoming aware that he was communicating, to which he replied that the prisoners knew the hours when the guards were due, and were careful to refrain from tapping when they were making their rounds. He added that the latter were a stupid lot and, if they heard the tapping and suspected a code, could never learn it as she had done.

Doubtless the principal deterrent from insanity among the prisoners was planning escape. Paul, who it was learned, was in the cell directly below that of the girl, was full of these plans, which he had been proposing to Nicholas, who was in the cell above her. After she came into the trio Paul consulted her rather than Nicholas, as to the practicability of his plans, but the girl had not been there long enough to have any knowledge of the prison or of the habits of the guards and was of little use to him. Nevertheless he finally laid a plain intended for her escape, with the assistance of the other two, which Nicholas pronounced feasible, though not very probable. No escape could be made without bribing the guard, and this could not be done without his being able to make it appear that he was innocent. A woman, Maria, had charge of the cells for the women prisoners, and the girl succeeded in winning her sympathy. Indeed, she became so fond of the little feminine prisoner that she would willingly aid her in getting away, providing that she should not suffer for negligence or abetting the younger woman in her escape.

Paul's plan was for the girl to ef-

feel a change of clothing with him, to pretend illness, be sent to the hospital and trust to luck to get back into woman's attire and go out as an unidentified prisoner. There seemed to be no way to carry out the first part of the scheme, until she proposed to do her clothes up in a bundle that could be put through the window bars and let down to Paul on the floor below. Then she would haul his clothes up by the same means. She planned to make a cord by tearing certain articles of her clothing into strips.

The clothing was exchanged without any difficulty, and the next morning when Maria came around, she found the girl in a man's dress. The little prisoner offered, if Maria would help her, to send her a thousand rubles from home. This the matron declined, but agreed to assist the girl because she pitied and loved her, though she would be obliged to leave the jail and Komsk as well, if she did so. She went away, leaving the cell unlocked, the girl agreeing to give her a couple of hours to get away. At the end of that time, the prisoner walked out into the corridor until she saw a jailer approaching, when she fell upon the floor. Running up to her he picked her up, thinking her to be ill, sent her to the hospital where she was put in bed.

The nurses were men, and the girl had no opportunity to appropriate women's clothing. But at midnight, arising in her night clothes, she went into the jail yard, where she was picked up by an official and upon being found to be a woman, was taken to the woman's hospital, the man supposing her to have come from there. Before morning the girl had stolen the uniform of a nurse and in this disguise succeeded in making her escape.

She had an appointed rendezvous with Maria and took the older woman with her to Berlin, where she communicated with her father, and came to America.

All of this happened more than forty years ago, and Maria, who is nearing 85 years, has been in her service ever since.

The girl heard sometime after leaving Komsk, that Paul had made his escape, and he too, had come to America. Whenever she reads in the newspapers of the terrible things that happen in her old homeland, she is tempted to return to help "the cause," but the prospect of the horrible prison life deters her.

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THE OLD LOG CABIN

Above is a sketch of the famous old Log Cabin, which was conducted by Thomas Llewellyn, on the site of the William Leonidas Springs fountain, on the Wissahickon Drive, below Hermit lane.

Aged Pedestrian Tells Tale Of Ancient Roadhouses

Recalls Youthful Days Spent at Log Cabin, Tissot's and at Arnold's In This Section

A recent trip "back the Creek," brought us in contact with an aged man who was in a reminiscent mood. He was seated on a tree-stump, near the site of the former Log Cabin, and his thoughts went back to the time when that well-known holstelry was in its heyday.

The remarks that the old graybeard made were so interesting to us that we are going to submit them to the readers of The Suburban Press, as near as possible to the way he uttered them.

"In the 'good old days,' when Philadelphia was a small and compact town, before the electric trolley car had annihilated the suburbs, only to again place them further out; in the days when the modern pleasure park, or motor car had not been thought of; when horse racing, cock fighting and similar diversions, still dear to the heart of the true sport, were only possible to men of means—in those days of flourished the roadhouse, an institution of great importance, and of which Philadelphia had her share. Many of these old-time resorts, the fonts of stirring memories and innumerable good stories, have passed away, though some still stand, their old glory waned, but landmarks still of the old order of things.

"Among the most noted of these places were the Blue Bell, on Woodland avenue; Turner's, on Penrose Ferry Road; the Punch Bowl, at Broad and Diamond streets; Keller's at Broad and Lehigh avenue; The Fashion, at Broad and Westmoreland streets; "Mom" Scott's, at Broad and Germantown avenue; Mt. Vernon Cottage, at Wissahickon avenue and Hunting Park avenue; The Abbey, on

Wissahickon avenue below School lane; The Log Cabin, Lippens' and the Indian Rock, on the Wissahickon Creek; the Lamb Tavern, on old Summer Road; Tissot's and Arnold's, at the Falls and Hamil's at York road and Rising Sun Lane.

"Nearly all the old-time bonifaces have mixed their last decoction and are laid away in the nearby cemeteries.

"George Cole operated the Mt. Vernon Cottage, which afterward, under the management of Matt Ifell, snitched the name of The New Abey. It was located close to Nicetown lane, on Wissahickon avenue, and in its palmiest days, under Cole, was the most popular roadhouse in the city. Everybody went to Cole's after visiting the Wissahickon, or when they took a spin along the river road, at the Falls. Cole was a large man, a first class provider, and had the ability to retain his guests once they reached there. He kept the place for several years, and then sold out to Al Brothers, who was in turn succeeded by Martin Booze, William Morris, and finally by Matthew Ifell, who had formerly conducted the Washington Lane Hotel, in Germantown.

"Everybody knew the Old Log Cabin, which stood here where we are now resting. Old timers, invariably, stopped here to see Tommy Llewellyn and to quaff his liquors, feed his monkeys and bears and enjoy the catfish and waffle suppers. Llewellyn was succeeded by John McCrystal, who ran the place as a roadhouse, and museum of old relics, until the Park Commission took possession and demolished the old landmark.

"Tissot's at the Falls, still remains, although the Betz Estate erected a new building in front of the old structure, and it is now known as the Cafe Riviere. Arnold's is better known as the Falls Hotel, and is occupied by a family named Whalen, who conducted it as a roadhouse until Prohibition forced them out of business.

"These old roadhouses are what really induced the Park Comm'ssion to build the wonderful East River Drive and Wissahickon Drive, for before the Commission's existence, the people had been accustomed to driving out this way to enjoy the scenery and the hospitality of the innkeepers."

SCCAFF

The Suburban Press – 10-24-1929 98

Roxborough Baptist Church Marks 140th Anniversary

Last Sunday evening Rev. J. Foster Wilcox, pastor of the Roxborough Baptist church Church, at Ridge and Lyceum avenues completed a series of sermons covering incidents and changes—physical, moral and religious—which have taken place since the church was organized one hundred and forty years ago, and, the writer, feeling that the history of this local place of worship should interest the readers of the Suburban Press, searched through documents in his possession and brought forth the following facts concerning Roxborough's early Baptists and their church.

When the first Baptist clergyman held services in Roxborough, is a fact which is now lost in antiquity, but from old records of the Pennepek, or Lower Dublin church, which was organized in 1698—the present-day location of which is on the Krewstown road, in Bustleton, and is the oldest Baptist church west of New England, with the single exception of one that started in South Carolina—the local worshipers started religious services in March of the year 1762.

According to the old manuscript, containing the origin of the Roxborough Baptist church, whose writer is unknown, a few Baptists in Roxborough, in 1754 invited the Rev. Peter V. Van Horn to preach to them at certain definite intervals, in the old Roxborough Schoolhouse. Another who came occasionally was the Rev. Morgan Edwards, of the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia. Brother George Eaton was the supply pastor at Pennepek Church and was called every third Sunday to preach at a place called "the Ridge, near Germantown."

The first Baptist who lived in Roxborough, as far as can be ascertained was Catherine Standeland. Services were held in the old Roxborough School house—as mention before—on the site of the familiar Levering School, in an old building which was erected in 1748, on land which had been presented to the residents of the town by William and Hannah Levering; or in the homes of the members of the congregation. Among the early preachers were William Rogers, D. D. and the Rev. Thomas Usick, A. M., of Philadelphia; Samuel Jones, D. D., of Pennepek; the Rev. David Jones, A. M., of Great Valley, and the Rev. James McLaughlin, of Hilltown.

One of the chief places where religious services were held was at the house of Abraham Levering, in an isolated part of Old Roxborough, but which is now the congested section known as Manayunk. Worshipers also met at the residence of Nathan Levering, which stood on the site now occupied by the new Roxy Theatre.

Among the early members of the church were Abraham and Anna Levering, Jacob Levering, Samuel Levering Nathan and Sarah Levering, Hannah Levering, Cornelius Holgate, Wickard Jacoby, Sarah Stearn, another Sarah Levering, Margaret Levering, Mary Levering and Elizabeth Jerret.

As stated before, the Pennepek Church was organized in 1698. The First Baptist Church of Philadelphia began in 1746 and most of the early Roxborough Baptists belonged to that congregation.

The records of the Philadelphia church contain the following: "August 3, 1789. A request from our brethern and sisters of Rocksburrow for a dismission in order that they may be constituted a church, being delivered to this church, July 12, last, after communion, it was read and the church agreed that they be dismissed. Brother Usick (the pastor) to draw the letter."

Accordingly on Sunday, August 29, 1789, the following persons met at the Roxborough Schoolhouse: Abraham Levering, Anna Levering, Catherine Standeland, John Levering John Righter, Nathan Levering, Sarah Levering, Cornelius Holgate, Mary Holgate, Samuel Levering, Rebecca Levering, Hannah Coulston, Sarah Mathias, Mary Levering, John Howell,

Elizabeth Howell, George Sinn, Margaret Sinn, Dorothy Sinn Wicks, J Jacoby, Michael Conrad, Jane Conrad, Elizabeth Yerkes, Charles Nice, Sarah Stearn, William Holgate, a second Mary Holgate, and another Sarah Levering. Sarah Lobb and Mary Stout.

The first of the constituents who expired was John Righter, on February 6, 1790. The last was Saran Stearn, who afterward married John Gorgas, of Germantown. She died in her ninety-first year, on May 13, 1862.

Having invited Samuel Jones, D. D., of Pennepek, the Rev. Thomas Usick, A. M., of Philadelphia, the Rev. Thomas Ainger, of Wilmington, Delaware, and the Rev. James McLaughlin, of Hilltown, Bucks county, the ministers proceeded according to Baptist custom and daily constituted the above named thirty-two persons into a church. The record states: "The Church of Jesus Christ, on the Ridge road, Roxborough Township." Therefore, the organization of the church took place in the old schoolhouse on August 23, 1789. There is little doubt that it was a happy day for those early worshipers, happier perhaps, than this year's celebrations, for the present day members of the church mourn the loss of loved fellow-members, who have gone to their reward, while those pioneers had only a future of spiritual fellowship to look forward to.

The Rev. Thomas Ainger, of Wilmington, supplied the church from 1789 until, 1791, when the first regular pastor was appointed. Since then the Roxborough Baptist Church has been served by Curtis Gilbert from January 27, 1791, to April 22 1792; Thomas Fleeson, from 1800 to 1821, and from 1822 until 1827; Henry Keeling, from September 22, 1821 to October, 1822; Samuel Smith, from November 1827, to April, 1831; Dyer Aylesworth Nicholas, from December 24, 1831, to April 16, 1837; Simeon Seigfried, from August 19, to April 1, 1838; Thomas Winter, D. D., from 1840 to 1863; David Spencer, D. D., from 1865 to 1877; James Willmarth, D. D., L. L. D., from 1878 to 1901; Dr. Orlando T. Steward, from 1901 to 1909; the Rev. John P. Champion, 1910 to 1915; the Rev. John Gordon, D. D., 1915 to 1916; the Rev. William C. Richardson, from September 1, 1916 until his death, March 21, 1917; the Rev. Johnson L. Miner, from September 9, 1917, until he, too, died on December 21, 1922.

The present pastor, the Rev. J. Foster Wilcox, has been in charge since September 1, 1923.

Mr. Gilbert was a teacher in the Roxborough School and was later ordained. He died at the age of 23 years and was buried in the rear of the original Roxborough Baptist Church, in Leverington Cemetery.

The second pastor, Thomas Fleeson, had an affliction of the eyes—was probably blind, for he was unable to baptize members and had to depend upon other pastors to perform that service. He had a remarkable memory and could repeat whole chapters of the Bible, and when hymns were announced they were probably read by his aged deacon, John Levering, who stood in front of the pulpit for that purpose. Mr. Fleeson lived in a dwelling on Ridge road, below Fountain street, which was afterwards known as "the Shalkop house." He was an early riser and every pleasant spring morning he would walk along the path in front of his garden, with cane in hand, humming over some familiar tune. His hair was white and he wore it long. This, with knee breeches and topboots, which he continued to wear as long as he lived, gave him a venerable appearance. Mr. Fleeson was also buried in the rear of the old church.

The church has occupied several buildings on practically the same site and the same ardent enthusiasm which was present at the organization is still shown by its members, and particularly by its pastor, who has few peers as a church leader.

SCCAFF

From "The Church Messenger" Roxborough Baptist Church October 27-1929

We are indebted to the Surburban Press for a fine historical article on the history of our church, which occupied much space in the current issue. The article was written by "Seeaff" and was highly complimentary. Our members should read this interesting account of our history.

Press 11-7-1924

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Footprint Makers

By Sccaff

George Tappen, one of Manayunk's early merchants, was born in Duchess County, New York, on May 5th, 1809, and was the son of Matthew Tappen, one of the old knickerbockers of New York, a cousin of whose, named Johanna Tappen, married Governor Clinton, of New York.

The family, like so many of New York, was of Dutch ancestry, and descended from one of four brothers of that name, who left the kingdom of the Netherlands sometime about the middle of the 17th century, and emigrated, one to England, and three to the United States; one of these, the grandfather of the above, settled in Poughkeepie, N. Y. His father, the great-grandfather of George Tappen, was surveyor to the King of Holland, who gave him a grant of land in New York State, which embraced the city then called Athens. Tappen Bay, formerly Tappen Zee, on the Hudson, and the town of Tappen, received their names from this family. A number of families settled on parts of this property as time progressed, and, in order to prevent their right being questioned by his descendants, an ancestor of Mr. Tappen's caused the deeds to be destroyed on his death-bed.

George Tappen began his business life as an apprentice to a hatter (named Knower) and, at the expiration of his "prentice days" started business on his own, in Philadelphia, about the year 1840, on 2nd street, between Race and Vine streets, he and another, named Ross, being the first two hat manufacturers in the city. This trade had been that of Tappen's father and grandfather while living in New York.

In 1846 Mr. Tappen removed his business to Manayunk, and opened a small store here. He continued the business successfully for many years, extending his facilities, as the business increased, and gradually becoming the leading merchant in his line of trade.

He died on the 14th of December, 1889, and his son afterward conducted the store.

George Tappen was married in 1843, to Miss Mary Buckley, of Philadelphia, and their family consisted of six children, three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Tappen, while a most active man of business was a prominent factor in political affairs of Manayunk and took great interest in the local issues of the time. He was a staunch Democrat in politics, until 1861, when he joined with the newly-established Republican party, and continued to act strongly with that party thence onward. He never held or sought any political preferment, being content to leave the care of office to others, and being only desirious of executing the duty of a citizen in securing the election of the best man.

* * * .. ..

John Bigonet Moyer, of Roxborough, was born on Saturday, December 10th, 1808, being the son of George Moyer, a prominent builder, merchant and farmer of Roxborough, and Elizabeth (Bigonet) Moyer, who was descended from a family of French Huguenots. The elder Mr. Moyer was born in 1782.

John Bigonet Moyer received his early education in private schools of Roxborough, and on leaving school, learned the trade of carpenter and builder, of which, in those days, undertaking was a part; and, about the year of 1830, commenced business in that line on his own account. At that time the iron trade was being largely developed, and he became engaged in building a number of iron furnaces in Schuylkill County, and subsequently, as the textile industry began to assume larger proportions in Manayunk, he was also occupied in building many of the older mills and factories in that community.

In 1830, he purchased a mill on the Wissahickon, which he adopted to the purpose both as a grist and cotton mill, and in this building, he combined the business of a miller and flour dealer, together with that of the manufacture of cotton laps and wadding, conducting both very successfully until about 1847, when he sold this property and engaged in the lumber trade. This he carried on for twenty years, develop-

ing very extended and remunerative connections, until 1867, when he finally retired altogether from active business.

The latter period of his life was devoted principally to the care of his real estate interests in Roxborough and Manayunk, and other places, and also to the management of various decedents' estates, of which he was the executor. He was also officially connected with a number of building associations, in the 21st Ward, and, being a thorough and experienced accountant, and also versed in commercial law, was extremely efficient in that capacity.

Mr. Moyer took an active interest in the local affairs of the Ward, and for many years discharged the duties of School Director, Overseer, of the Poor, and the like, being always willing to assist in any public-spirited movement tending to the benefit of the section in which he lived.

He died on April 1st, 1891, at the advanced age of 83 years. He was related by marriage to the well-known Levering family of Roxborough and Manayunk.

Mr. Moyer was married in 1823, to Miss Margaret Streeper, daughter to George Streeper, a prominent farmer of Montgomery County. She was born December 10th, 1810, being exactly two years younger than her husband. Mrs. Moyer died on May 28th, 1889, aged 79. Their family consisted of two children; a daughter, Lavinia Elizabeth, born September 29th 1844, who married Joshua Clayton, of Mount Pleasant, Delaware, and a son.

* * * * * * * *

Benjamin Robert Marley was born in Vine street, near the Schuylkill river, on August 4th, 1814. His father, John Marley, was a native of Kent County, in Maryland, a coach maker by occupation, and his mother was Ann (Sorber) Marley.

After receiving a limited education he was apprenticed to John Derfey, with whom he learned the carpentering business in all its branches. In 1840, having settled with his parents, on the west side of the Schuylkill river, near Belmont, he started a carpentering business at the Falls of Schuylkill where he became extensively known as a reliable and conscientious master builder.

Shortly after coming to the Falls he became interested in religious matters and was baptized into the fellowship of the then struggling Falls of Schuylkill Baptist church, and at once took an active part in church and Sunday school work, and soon after was elected to the office of deacon. By the removal of Hugh Gilmore to Arkansas, and the death of William Simpson, the proprietor of the Washington Print Works, in West Falls, the two original deacons of the church, he became senior deacon, an office which he filled with fidelity throughout his useful life, never missing a meeting unless compelled to do so through illness.

Mr. Marley was never married. After the death of his parents he made his home with his brother, Marcina, with whom he lived until the death of his brother's wife, when he went to live with his cousin, Miss Margaret Morrison, on Bowman street, where he breathed his last.

By his maternal ancestors, the Sorbers, he was connected with the early settlers of Germantown. His funeral, which occurred some time in the "Eighties," was largely attended, the services being held in the Baptist church, and conducted by the pastor, Rev. T. A. T. Hanna, and the Rev. J. G. Walker, D. D., of Mantua Baptist church. Both clergymen made addresses eulogistic of the departed. At the conclusion of the services the remains were interred in the Hood Cemetery in Germantown. The pall bearers were: Charles F. Abbot, Jacob Hoffman, John Binkin, Sr., Charles K. Sorber, R. C. Revell, and Edwin Singer. Among those who were present were Judge Michael Arnold, Peter Bechtel, Henry Wiend, Esq., Dr. J. S. Rutter, Samuel Harper, Edward Foster, DanielB. Ruffner, Daniel Hickey, John Roy, Rodney Morrison, Samuel Stewart, William Stehle, Henry J. Becker, Franklin Snyder, Henry Pretty, Samuel J. Abbott, and Joseph Johnson.

Press 11-14-29

Footprint Makers

By Sccaff

James Shaw was born in New York City, December 12th, 1807, and was the son of Thomas Shaw, who was a native of Wakefield, England, and who served as captain of Artillery in the war of 1812, and died in 1836.

James Shaw, left the metropolis

when quite young, and removed to Philadelphia, where he learned the business of woolen manufacturing. In 1832 he commenced this business for himself, in Germantown, where he remained until 1835, when he came to Manayunk, and started manufacturing in the Darrach Mill, on the Canal opposite what was then Center street, in partnership with Peter Erben. This partnership was dissolved after about twelve years, Mr. Shaw continuing the mill but turning its production into broadcloth.

After a few years he again removed, occupying a mill at the Falls of Schuylkill, on Scott's lane, which he conducted in conjunction with John Dobson, until his final retirement from the manufacturing business in 1856.

He was very active in the local affairs of the Borough of Manayunk, of which he was the Burgess for many years. He was a School Director of the section for a long period, and took a most prominent part in everything connected with public education.

He was married in 1828, to Miss Catherine Foster, who was also of English birth, and came to this country about 1819. Their family consisted of four sons and four daughters.

Mr. Shaw died in Manayunk, on February 24th, 1885, aged 78 years. His wife died in 1887.

John Richter Jones was born on Sunday, October 2nd, 1803, in Salem, N. J., where his father, the Rev. Horatio Gates Jones was pastor of the Salem Baptist church. About 1805 his father settled in Roxborough, taking up his residence in a house which had been built by one of his paternal ancestors, who were of German descent.

John Richter Jones obtained his early education at the Levering Public School, and also at Germantown Academy, on School lane, Germantown, being accustomed to walk from Roxborough to the latter school. He afterward entered the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1821.

In 1827 Mr. Jones was admitted to the Bar of Philadelphia, and in 1836 he became one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County. He built the first Elizabethan cottage in Roxborough, on part of his ancestral ground, which cottage was afterwards sold to D. Rodney King, who subsequently sold the same to Dr. William Camac.

This place is familiar to present day residents as "The American Bridge Club," on Manayunk avenue.

His term of Judge expired in 1847, and, his family being greatly affected by a robbery which took place at his house, in which he almost lost his life, he concluded to move to Lycoming, and afterwards to Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, where he owned an estate of five thousand acres of land.

On the outbreak of the Civil War, while still residing in Sullivan County, he raised, in 1861, the 58th Pennsylvania Volunteers, of which he was commissioned the Colonel. The regiment had its headquarters at first on East Leverington avenue, on the property where now stands the Gorgas Home for Women. It is said that one of the beforementioned robbers became a member of that regiment, stating to an officer that he wished to be in a group commanded by a man without fear of death.

While observing some of the Confederate forces, on May 23rd, 1863, a Southern sharpshooter, recognizing him as a colonel, and commander of the attacking forces, shot him through the heart, from behind a chimney. He was the only one of his command who was killed. His death was universally lamented, and his body was enbalmed and sent to Philadelphia, where it lay in state in Independence Hall. He was buried in Leverington Cemetery, with the largest military funeral ever seen in Roxborough.

Out at the University of Pennsylvania, on the soldier's roll of honor, placed by the Alumni Association in the University Chapel, his is the first name inscribed.

He left a widow, Mrs. Anna (Clay) (Laussat) Jones, daughter of Hon. Joseph Clay, M. C., of Philadelphia, and widow of Anthony Laussat, Jr.

Their children were a son, Horatio Morgan Jones, and three daughters, Estella, wife of C. Geyelin; Anna H., married to Daniel Rodgers, of San Francisco, and Virginia Clay, married to Henry C. Walton, who had one child.

Judge Jones devoted a great deal of time to the study of the Welsh language, as being descended, on his father's side, from Welsh parentage. An ancestor of his was a celebrated Welsh preacher named Morgan Ap Ryddarch Ap Dafydd Ap Grufydd.

* * *

Charles F. Abbot was born in

Boston, on April 5th, 1821, the son of Samuel and Abigail (Spear) Abbot. When he was seven years old the family moved to Leominster, Massachusetts, and made a home there.

His first steps in education were taken in Boston, where he was sent to a private school at the age of six; he afterward had the training given in the public schools of Leominster and of Boston, and was also under private tutors.

Leominster continued to be his home until he was seventeen years of age when, in the year 1838, he went to Richmond, Va., to live with a brother, who was in business in that city.

Mr. Abbot's sojourn in Richmond lasted until August 1340, when he went back to Leominster. In January 1845 he removed to Philadelphia, and united with the Roxborough Baptist church, which he served as one of the trustees of church property for two years.

In 1847, Benjamin R. Marley, whose name was mentioned in this column last week, persuaded Mr. Abbot to move to the Falls of Schuylkill, where he resided until his death.

In April, 1848, he was married to Elizabeth Evans, of Philadelphia, who was of Baptist lineage and profession.

He was a deacon of the Falls Baptist church, and a faithful and exceedingly useful citizen. In the Civil War, when Pennsylvania was invaded, he volunteered and was a soldier in one of the regiments hastily gathered to meet the terrible emergency which culminated at Gettysburg. He was a member of the Philadelphia Board of Public Education.

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Footprint Makers

By Sccaff

Rev. Francis J. Martersteck, who served as rector of the church of St. Mary of the Assumption, in Manayunk, for thirty-one years, was born on April 29th, 1844, in Weichtendonk, Germany, of which his father and brother were Mayors. After receiving an elementary education in his native town he entered the high school at Lennip and also took a course in the pro-gymnasium. He then went to the University of Cologne from which he graduated in 1863. After graduation he entered the theological seminary at Muenster, Westphalia, an institution which has furnished the Philadelphia diocese with a number of excellent priests. On June 6th, 1868, he was ordained to the priesthood in the chapel of St. Mauritz, Borro Maum.

The newly ordained priest came to Philadelphia and was assigned as assistant at St. Boniface church. Later he was transferred to St. John the Baptist Church at Haycock, Bucks County, where he labored successfully until the summer of 1873, when he was assigned to the rectorship of St. Mary's of the Assumption, succeeding the late Rev. Rudolph Kuentzer.

The silver jubilee of his ordination and twentieth anniversary of his pastorate in Manayunk was celebrated on June 5th, 1893. The school children inaugurated the exercises, with an entertainment, that afterward was followed by an address by the late Archbishop Ryan.

Father Martersteck went to his well-earned reward on July 2nd, 1901, and was interred in the Rector's Vault, in the little cemetery beside the church in which he labored so faithfully. Two nephews still survive him: Frank Martersteck, dwelling on Wilde street, near Dupont, in Manayunk, and Hugo Martersteck, making his home at Sharon, Pennsylvania.

* * *

T. Mason Mitchell, the man for whom Mitchell street was named, was for more than fifty years a resident and property owner of Roxborough. He was born in Philadelphia on Friday, December 3rd, 1813. When he was about sixteen years of age, his father died, and he was thrown upon his own resources. In addition to this his mother, not being left in altogether independent circumstances, the duty of aiding her also devolved upon him. He became employed in a conveyancer's office, and eventually established himself in that line, carrying on the same for many years very successfully. He was also largely interested in real estate operations, especially in Roxborough and Manayunk, and at the same time speculated extensively and profitably, in mining property in the Pennsylvania coal districts, and in other places. He

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finally retired from active business life about 1864.

In religion, Mr. Mitchell was a Presbyterian, and at one time conducted missionary work at the Falls of Schuylkill, preaching and carrying on Sunday School work. His work here was very acceptable and proved him to be a talented man, and able orator.

Mr. Mitchell was married twice, his first wife being Miss Anna Eliza Safford, who died about 1850. One son of this morriage, T. Mason Mitchell, Jr., made his home in Buffalo, N .Y. On July 14th, 1859, he was married to Miss Virginia Morrison Egbert, the only surviving daughter of Dr. William M. Egbert, a very prominent physician and a highly esteemed resident of Manayunk, who died of tuberculosis in 1841, at the early age of thirty-four. The marriage took place at 4417 Main street, Manayunk, with the Rev. Levi Janvier, an East Indian Presbyterian missionary, performing the ceremony. Eight children were the result of this union.

Mrs. Mitchell died after a protracted illness of tuberculosis, in the Adirondacks, whither she had gone for her health, on the 9th day of September, 1884, and is buried in the churchyard at St. Timothy's. She was a lady of great beauty and refinement and an earnest member of the Episcopal Church.

Mr. Mitchell continued to live in Roxborough until sometime in the 90's when he too, was claimed by death.

* * *

Rev. Dr. Joseph Beggs, who guided the congregation of the Falls Presbyterian Church, from April 28th, 1859, to April 17th, 1894, was born near Duncannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, on September 14th, 1830. He graduated from Lafayette College in 1851 and from Princton Seminary in 1855. He served as pastor of the Roxborough Presbyterian Church from March 24th, 1855, to April 22nd, 1868. From April 12th, 1859, until April 22nd, 1868, Dr. Beggs served both the Roxborough and Falls Churches, but after the latter date gave all of his time to the last named place of worship.

In 1882 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Lafayette College, and an LL. D. from Washington College, Tennessee, in 1893. He also served as stated clerk of the Presbytery from 1869 until 1891.

Dr. Beggs, after retiring from active ministery, removed to Germantown, where on April 14th, 1899, he expired.

Footprint Makers

By Sccaff

Martin Nixon, the paper manufacturer, one of the proprietors of the Flat Rock Paper Mills, was born in March 1818, being the fourth son of Daniel Adams Nixon and Susannah (Rittenhouse) Nixon, who were married in 1806. The family came originally from Virginia, Daniel A. Nixon being a descendant of John Adams of that State. His mother's ancestor was Wilhelm Rittenhausen (Rittenhouse) who established the first paper mill in America along the Wissahickon Creek, in the fall of 1690. The paper made in the Wissahickon Creek mill of the Rittenhouses was marked with a water-mark consisting of a clover leaf and the initials "WR." William Rittenhouse was the first Mennonite bishop in America and lived at the corner of what was once Main and Herman streets in Germantown.

The family of Daniel A. and Susannah Nixon, consisted of six sons, Charles, William, Thomas, Martin, Henry M. and Nicholas. The sons were all apprenticed to trades, one only—William—being indentured to the paper making business, although all of the brothers eventually became connected with that line of work.

The eldest son, Charles Nixon, learned the trade of baker; the second, William, became a paper maker; the third, Thomas, was a blacksmith; the fourth, Martin, was a cotton-spinner; the fifth, Henry Morris, a machinist; the sixth, Nicholas, being like his elder brother, a baker. Henry Morris Nixon, who was born in 1820, died in August, 1857. He became a paper manufacturer, in 1846, on the death of his brother William, when he assumed his interest in the mill. He married Mary Ann Borie, of Frankford, and had five children. He was a burgess of Manayunk, before the consolidation of the city, and was prominent in the local affairs of the day.

The widely known paper mills at Flat Rock, were originally start-

ed by G. F. Feinour and William Nixon, under the firm name of Feinour & Nixon. William Nixon died in 1846 and his interest in the firm was continued by his brother Henry M. Nixon. In 1847, Mr. Feinour died, and in 1857, H. M. Nixon also died, after which the business was carried on by Martin Nixon; the old firm name being carried on until 1861, when Martin Nixon's name was substituted. In 1879, on the admission into the firm of William Henry Nixon, the name of the house became M. and W. H. Nixon, which, in 1888, when the firm was made a stock company, became "The M. and W. H. Nixon Paper Company."

Martin Nixon was at first apprenticed to the trade of cotton spinning, which he learned at Duval's Mill, which stood at the lower end of Manayunk. In 1843 he commenced the paper business in Cincinnati, Ohio, in conjunction with his brother Thomas; carrying on a mill in Mill Grove and a paper warehouse in Cincinnati, in Ohio. In 1860 he sold his interest in the Ohio firm, and devoted his interest to the business in Manayunk, so continuing until his death.

Martin Nixon died on June 13th, 1888, at the age of seventy years, and lies buried, together with his second wife, in old Laurel Hill cemetery. He was a man of domestic tastes, and all through life eschewed any kind of public or political preferment.

Nixon was the first paper maker in the United States to successfully introduce the manufacture of white paper from straw. He started this process at first in 1854, in the following years developing it into a completely successful industry. Though not trained to the paper business in his youth, he yet became a thoroughly practical and experienced paper manufacturer, and in a great many ways improved the trade, infusing vitality into the details and largely increasing and extending its capacities; and to his wise and energetic management may be greatly ascribed its ultimate expanded growth.

He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Matilda Brown, of Cincinnati, who died during the cholera epidemic in 1849. In 1852 he was married to Miss Alice Feinour, sister of George T. Feinour, of the original paper firm. Mrs. Nixon died on January 17th, 1879. He had four children; one, a daughter Martha B. Nixon, by his first wife; and a son, George F., and two daughters, Alice F. and M. Martine Nixon, by his second wife.

* * * *

Thomas Wood, Sr., who died at the Falls of Schuylkill in December 1903, was born in Dublin, Ireland, on June 14th, 1819. He came to this country in 1844, and after a brief stay in Rhode Island, came to the Falls and worked on the erection of the old stone bridge, after which he worked at his trade of block-printer at William Simpson's Washington Print Works, in Cooksockey, for many years.

Mr. Wood was among the first to locate on the western side of the Schuylkill, below the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bridge, which incidentally was not then in existence. The place was known as "Wood's Landing," it being a landing place for the steamboats which plied the river.

After the print works was discontinued, Mr. Wood went into the business of house painting, from which he retired in 1880. He was one of the original members of St. Bridget's church, and helped to dig the cellar of the old church on Stanton street. At one time he was proprietor of the Continental Hotel, at West Falls. His wife died in 1884, after which, until his death he resided with one of his daughters, Mrs. James Reardon, on Clearfield street. He was survived by eight of his twelve children, thirty grand children and eight great-grandchildren. He was buried in North Laurel Hill.

Press 12-5-1929

Footprint Makes

By Sccaff

John Jacob Foulkrod, the first cashier of the Manayunk National Bank, now known as the Commercial National Bank and Trust Company, was born in Frankford, on Thursday the 26th of July, 1849, being the son of Levi Foulkrod, who was the representative of Philadelphia County, in the Pennsylvania State Senate, and Jane Adams (Barnhurst) Foulkrod, who was of English descent. Levi Foulkrod died in 1854.

The family, on the paternal side,

came originally from Germany, and settled in Frankford, locating on the Foulkrod farm homestead, on the Oxford Pike, between Fox Chase and Frankford, where several generations of the family passed their lives. In Cedar Hill Cemetery are the graves of six or seven generations of the family, whose name is also perpetuated by a street in the Frankford section being called after it.

The earliest American ancestor was the great-great-grandfather of the bank cashier, George Foulkrod, whose son was Jacob Foulkrod, who was in the Colonial army, in the Revolutionary War. The third descent, the grandfather of John J. Foulkrod, was John Foulkrod, who was also a representative of this county in the State Senate, and served in the War of 1812.

John Jacob Foulkrod received his education at the Philadelphia (Central) High School, graduating in 1867. On leaving school he became a clerk in the National Bank of the Republic. In 1869 he transfered his services to the Second National Bank, remaining there until 1871, in which year, on August 14th, he removed to Manayunk, to assume the office of cashier of the Manayunk National Bank.

Mr. Foulkrod was married June 15th, 1871 to Miss Anna Krewson, daughter of Leonard Krewson, a prominent builder of Frankford.

He was a member of the Leverington Presbyterian Church of Roxborough, president of the Board of Trustees of the church and a teacher in its Sunday School.

He was also the treasurer of the Roxborough Lyceum, trustee of the Penny Savings Bank of Manayunk and a member of the board of trustees of St. Timothy's (Memorial) Hospital.

* * *

Seville Schofield, the Manayunk manufacturer, was born in Lees, near Oldham, England on August 13th, 1832. His father, Joseph Schofield, brought his family to the United States in 1845, and settled in Manayunk, where they engaged in manufacturing.

After some time spent at school in Norristown, he assumed charge of his father's mill, and later purchased the mill of William McFadden, and transferred his business there. Joseph Schofield died in 1857 and his son carried on the business without change until 1859, in which year, having married, he and his brother Charles, formed a partnership as S. and C. Schofield. The business of the firm increased continually, and in 1862, they started to make blankets for the U. S. Government. In the following year Charles Schofield retired with a competency. The trade continued to increase greatly, and other mills were added, which, after a complete equipment, were ready for work, when, in March 1867, the whole plant was destroyed by fire, the loss aggregating nearly a quarter of a million dollars. In 1868, he again started, and continued his former successes, becoming gradually one of the largest individual textile manufacturers in Pennsylvania.

The mill buildings of Seville Schofield comprised several structures, and were among the largest in Manayunk. The products of the plant included blankets, broadcloths, cassimeres, worsteds, and woolen carpet yarns. The full number of employees was about 1600.

* *

Walter P. Benham, the father of William J. Benham, secretary of the Board of Revision of Texas, was born at Gynsford, Kent County, England, on March 5th, 1857. He was the son of George and Eliza Benham.

Coming to this country in 1872, he secured a position at the Washington Print Works, owned by William Simpson, at West Falls, after which he became connected with the firm of John and James Dobson as superintendent of one of the principal departments, continuing in that position until 1904. Following this he managed a mill in Manayunk.

Subsequently he became superintendent and general manager of the Philadelphia Carpet Company, at 5th and Columbia avenues, and held this position until the time of his death, which occurred on November 26th, 1916.

His widow, who previous to her marriage was Miss Eliza Crooks, survived him. The couple were the parents of the following children: George, William J., Aubrey, Robert, Mrs. Russell Hill, Mrs. D. I. Fulton, and Mrs. S. C. Fish.

Walter Benham was a member of Palestine Lodge No. 470 F. and A. M., Keystone Chapter, No. 175, R. A. M., Mary Commandery K. T., president of the William J. Benham Building and Loan Association and a director of the Square Deal

Building and Loan Association and connected with many other organizations.

His funeral took place from his last residence, in Logan, on December 1st, 1909, and he was interred in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Press 12-26-1924

Footprint Makers

By Sccaff

William Bell Stephens, manufacturer, of Manayunk, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on Tuesday, May 21st, 1816, and was the son of Alexander Stephens, who was originally from Elgin; in the north of Scotland. His mother was Christina (Bell) Stephens, whose family belonged to the city of Stirling.

The elder Mr. Stephens, with his wife and three young children—Janet, James and William Bell—left Scotland in June 1818, and sailed in a brig, from Greenock, for New York, where they arrived in September, having been on the ocean for thirteen weeks. They settled in Philadelphia, where their daughter, Janet, died in 1821. The boys—James and William Bell—attended a private school for a time, and, in 1827, entered a classical academy on 4th street, near Arch, where they remained three years. On leaving school, both boys were placed in their father's factory, which was then occupied with the production of ginghams, handkerchiefs, and ingrain carpets. The work was at that time all done by hand-looms, of which there were two hundred in the factory. In 1837, the sons, being of age, they were admitted into partnership with their father, under the firm name A. Stephens and Sons.

Early in the following year—1838—the firm purchased the "Henry Clay Cotton Factory," on the Brandywine River, in Delaware, the management of which was given to the elder son, James Stephens, the younger, William Bell Stephens, continuing with his father in Philadelphia.

In the fall of the same year, Alexander Stephens, and his wife, removed to Delaware, leaving their younger son in charge of the Philadelphia factory, where he continued until 1843, when the business in this city was closed.

In May of 1843, William Bell Stephens married Miss Caroline Achsah Gebhard, daughter of Dr. Lewis P. Gebhard, a prominent physician of this city, who had been in continuous practice for more than fifty years. The doctor resided at 216 Race street. Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Stephens removed to Delaware, remaining there until 1846, when he retired from his father's firm, for the purpose of joining James Whitaker in partnership, and starting a cotton factory in Manayunk. This was done the same year, and the firm of Stephens & Whitaker was established in the Arkwright Mill, along the Schuylkill near the Nixon Paper Mill, where he continued manufacturing for several years with great success. The products being ginghams, bags, cottonades, and etc. During the War of the Rebellion, great quantities of shirts and flannels for the United States Government were made. The firm was dissolved about 1866.

William B. Stephens was a member of the firm of A. Campbell & Co., and was the executor of Mr. Campbell's estate, after the death of that gentleman in 1874.

In religious affairs Mr. Stephens was an Episcopalian, being a member of St. David's Church and for many years, both Accounting Warden and Secretary of the Vestry. His memory is perpetuated by the William B. Stephens Memorial Library on Krams avenue, a reference library, which is highly esteemed by those who avail themselves of the educational advantages it offers.

Mr. Stephens died very suddenly, on July 1st, 1886, of heart failure and lies buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery, up above the community which he so faithfully served.

* * *

John M. Delaney, an old resident of the Falls of Schuylkill, who served in both branches of Uncle Sam's service, died April 3rd, 1916. His funeral took place in the same week with High Requiem Mass being celebrated at St. Bridget's Church with the interment being made in St. Mary's Cemetery, in Roxborough.

Mr. Delaney was born on board the vessel which was carrying his parents, who were of Irish birth, to

America. His father found employment in the coal fields of Pennsylvania, near Minersville, where the family lived for many years.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, young John Delaney, who was still in his boyhood, enlisted in Company "G," 68th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and remained in the army until the close of the conflict.

He was in the front line of some of the more important battles of the War of the Rebellion. He had the second finger of his right hand shot off in one of the engagements, and at Petersburg, he was one of four volunteers to relight the fuse of a mine in the face of the foe's attacks. At Vicksburg, he was captured, but after a short imprisonment, made good his escape. He is reported to have been in thirty-two battles.

After the cessation of hostilities, he enlisted in the United States Navy, and was with Farragut on his famed European cruise. In 1869, when his first naval service expired, he re-enlisted for an additional four years. He was the possessor of honorable discharges from both branches of the Nation's armed service.

After completing his military career, he returned to Minersville, where he was married to Miss Elizabeth Walsh. In 1891 he and his family moved to the Falls of Schuylkill where he continued to live until he was claimed by death.

Footprint Makes

By Sccalf

Charles Conrad Schneider, who once lived over the river, in Pencoyd, was born in Apolda, in the Duchy of Saxony, Germany, on Monday, April 24th, 1843. He was the son of Julius Schneider, and Emile (Bengel) Schneider. His father and grandfather were textile manufacturers in Apolda, the earlier generations of the family, however, having all been members of the learned professions.

He received his preliminary education in his native city, and, at the close of his school days, was placed as an apprentice in a machine shop, where he acquired the practical knowledge of the details of ironworking. Having learned this branch thoroughly, he began the study of civil and mechanical engineering, in which he took a full preparatory course, receiving a diploma as a graduate of the Royal School of Technology, at Chemnitz, in 1864. Afterwards he engaged for some years, in active professional practice in Germany, as an engineer.

In 1868 he came to the United States and for three years was employed as draughtsman in the Rogers Locomotive Works, at Paterson, N. J. He then accepted the position of assistant engineer of the Michigan Bridge and Construction Company, at Detroit, remaining there until July 1873, when he became engineer in charge of the general offices of the Erie Railroad Company, in New York City.

For some months, about the close of 1876, and the early part of 1877, he was engaged in connection with the Board of Engineers of the New York and Long Island Bridge Company, in preparing designs for the proposed bridge across the East River to connect Blackwell's Island with the city, which was not, however, carried into effect. For a year after this he was the engineer of the Delaware Bridge Company, of New York, and then established himself independently as a civil engineer in the metropolis, making a specialty of bridge building and designing. During this period he became the constructor of some important and famous bridges, such as, among others, the Fraser River Bridge, on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, which he designed under instructions from the Canadian Government; the Niagara Cantilever bridge; the Marent Gulch Viaduct, on the Northern Pacific Railroad; and the Stony Creek Viaduct, which latter was at that time the highest viaduct built in this country. He was also the designer, in 1886, of the Manhattan Bridge across the Harlem River, in New York, for which he was awarded the first prize by the Bridge Commissioners.

In May 1886, Mr. Schneider became the chief engineer of the Pencoyd Bridge and Construction Company, at the large iron works on the west side of the Schuylkill river, opposite the mouth of the Wissahickon.

He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the German Society of Engineers

of Berlin. In 1886 he was accorded the "Rowland Prize," by the former corporation, for his description of the Niagara Bridge.

Mr. Schneider was married on January 8th, 1880, to Miss Katherine Clyde Winters, daughter of John J. Winters, one of the oldest residents of Paterson, N. J., and a well known merchant in New York City.

* * *

Fergus Peel, of the Falls of Schuylkill, who died on December 1st, 1916, at the age of seventy-five years, was born in Huddersfield, England, on October 3rd, 1841, and when 18 months old was brought to this country by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peel.

The father was a calico block printer and came to this section to work in Simpson's silk handkerchief works. The family resided for many years on the west side of the Schuylkill River, in a little stone building a short distance above the Falls Bridge.

Fergus and his brother, Washington, fitted up an athletic park on the site now occupied by the Montrose Boat Club, and there taught their boy friends boxing and other stunts, at which the Peels' were experts.

Fergus at one time was offered tempting inducements to train pugilists for the prize ring, but declined the offer. He and his brother were also skilled in rowing.

In his youth Fergus learned the profession of butchering, which he carried on until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Union Army, and served four years, most of which was in the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry. His father, Robert, and his brother, Washington, enlisted in the Mozart New York Regiment of Infantry, in which Washington was, for heroic conduct, promoted to a lieutenancy, after which he died from wounds received in battle.

After the war, Fergus, resumed the butcher business, and in 1872, was appointed to the police force, by Mayor Stokley, and was assigned to the 22nd District, where he served until the 39th District was established, when he was transferred to the local station. He remained on the police force for a long time, until but a few years before his death.

In his early manhood, Fergus Peel married Miss Elizabeth Harper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Harper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Harper, of West Falls,. Mrs. Peel died in June, 1913, at her residence in Tioga.

Mr. Peel was a member of the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church, and of Palestine Lodge, No. 470, F. and A. M. His remains were laid to rest in Leverington Cemetery.

1/16/30

Footprint Makers

By Sceaff

John Lang, paper manufacturer, was born at Laufen, in Wurtemberg, Germany, on Tuesday, May 8th, 1832, being the son of John Lang, and Maria (Werner) Lang. The members of the family were paper makers for four generations, his great grandfather having been engaged in that line of business. He learned the paper trade under the tuition of his father, and on his emigration to the United States, in 1850, became at first employed in the paper warehouse of Irwin Megaree, in Philadelphia, and afterwards at the paper mill of William Garrett, in Chester County.

He subsequently worked at other paper mills, in various parts of the country, and, finally, in 1866, assumed the management of the late W. W. Harding's paper factory in Manayunk, where he continued until 1873, when he went into business on his own account at 24th and Vine streets.

Mr. Lang was a member of the Manufacturer's Club of Philadelphia and of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

He was married in December, 1858, to Miss Francis Wood Fritz, daughter of Henry Fritz, a paper maker, of Philadelphia. His family consisted of two daughters, the eldest—Viola Theresa, married E. H. Morris, carpet yarn manufacturer, of Manayunk—and the second—Lilla Florence, being the wife of Horace E. Jones, builder of Textile machinery, also of Manayunk.

* * *

Patrick F. Dever, who died on Sunday, February 5th 1905, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dever, and was born in Ireland in 1850.

When a child his parents brought him to Manayunk. He exhibited rare qualities as a speaker when but a

schoolboy, and on the advice of friends chose law as his profession.

He studied in the office of General William McCandless, and was admitted to the bar in 1874. Mr. Dever soon became prominent as a criminal lawyer and built up a large practice.

He was for many years a leading figure in Democratic political circles. He was orator of the old Americus and Randall Clubs, and as a speaker was heard in various parts of the State. He was a leader in politics in the 21st Ward and prominent in Catholic religious work, being connected from his childhood with the Church of St. John the Baptist.

Several years before his death he removed to 2025 Columbia avenue and became a member of St. Elizabeth's Church. His wife was Elizabeth Hoffer, of Manayunk, and three sons, Dr. Francis K. Dever, John Dever, and Joseph Dever, and two daughters Marie and Elizabeth, were born to the marriage.

The funeral of Patrick Dever was held on Thursday morning, February 9th, 1905, at St. Elizabeth's Church. The celebrant was Rev. Bernard Dornhage, and he was assisted by Rev. Thomas McCarthy, formerly of St. Elizabeth's and by Rev. Hugh Murphy, of St. John the Baptist Church.

* * *

Edward Howard Preston, for forty-four years connected with the Manayunk National Bank—now the Commercial National Bank and Trust Co.— the last seventeen of which he was president, died on Monday, December 9th, 1918, at his residence, 106 Rochelle avenue, Wissahickon.

Mr. Preston was born in Manayunk. He attended a private school conducted by Miss Esther Hoffman, in Manayunk, and later attended Central High School, after which he entered the Manayunk bank as clerk. In 1897 he was made cashier, and in 1901 its president. He was chairman of the finance committee of St. Timothy's (Memorial) Hospital, and at one time president of the Manayunk Business Men's Association.

As a banker he gained wide recognition, which may be evidenced by the unprecedented growth and substantial standing obtained by the bank of which he was head during his administration. The United States Government authorities, on various occasions during his incumbency, commended the Manayunk banking institution upon its excellent management and adequate resources.

Mr. Preston was married, early in his life to Miss Ella Rile, of Norristown, Montgomery County. Their daughters were Mrs. Paul Lum, and Mrs. H. Tudor Morsell. The sons were Lieutenant W. Preston, U. S. N. and Edward H. Preston, Jr.

At the time of his funeral, which occurred on December 12th, 1918, the services were conducted by Rev. Daniel Martin, pastor of the Cynwyd Presbyterian Church. The interment was made in Westminster Cemetery.

The honorary pall-bearers were Gwynne Sheppard, T. Rawlins Adams, Joseph Kenworthy, John Flanagan, George Flint, Wilbur Hamilton, and Frank P. Hill.

The active pall-bearers were Charles J. Cole, Oliver S. Keely, George C. Bowker, Edward D. Hemingway, John J. Foulkrod, Jr., Thompson Littlewood, R. Bruce Wallace and Edward H. Morris.

* * *

William MacIndoe, a longtime resident of the Falls of Schuylkill, was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland on December 8th, 1833.

Mr. MacIndoe came to America in 1885 and settled in the Falls and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in the 7th Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers.

He served three years in the army and fought in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, better known as the Battle of Shiloh, his regiment being the only Pennsylvania regiment in the field. He also served through the ardous campaign in Kentucky, and the terrible battle of Stone River, where he was mentioned for bravery and was elected a member of General Rosecran's body guard—a body of men selected for special bravery on the field.

He was severely wounded at the Battle of Liberty Gap, in Tennessee and was finally mustered out at the end of his term of enlistment.

After the war he returned to the Falls, where he lived the remainder of his life. He died on March 30th 1904, leaving a wife, whose girlhood name had been Miss Fannie Wood. Three sons, four daughters, and six grandchildren also survived him.

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SIMPLEX NOTE BOOK

Cover No. 3808

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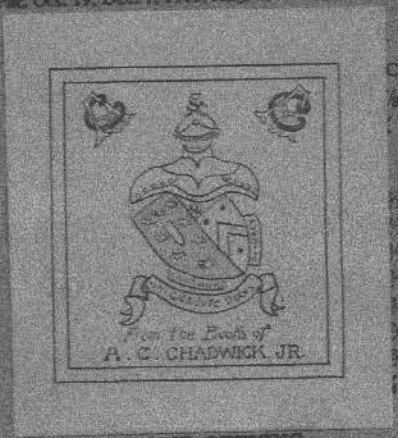

Center

	END OPENING	
3871	4½ x 7¼	2¼
3873	5⅛ x 8½	3¼
	SIDE OPENING	
3878	8½ x 5½	5½
3874	9½ x 7½	6
3876	10½ x 8	6
*3876½	10½ x 8	6

*One inch rings † Three rings

NATIONAL BLANK BOOK CO.

Factory: HOLYOKE, MASS.

NEW YORK CITY CHICAGO, ILL.

MADE IN U. S. A.

"Is City in Itself" Says Stranger in Germantown

"Why it's a city in itself!" Thus spoke a visitor to Germantown as he stood waiting for a car at the junction of Chelten and Germantown avenues, one morning last week.

And so it is. One smiles as he looks around and sees the closely crowded stores and other business places which line both thorofares in this immediate vicinity, and then recalls historical articles, which tell how the original town lots were laid out and apportioned to the early immigrants. This is especially so, if he has perused former Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker's article on the Settlement of Germantown.

The little group of early immigrants, each with his passport elegantly written with golden ink on parchment, as they passed along the old Indian trail, and crossed the boundaries into Germantown, more than likely were charmed with the appearance of the country and probably their hearts swelled with gratitude to God and William Penn, when they reached the place where they were to dwell, and then founded the town which was from the very first, always spoken of with respect.

They determined to build the town of stone. Of a material that would endure! Some of them muttered, it is said, because there was no navigable stream in the vicinity. But they decided to stay and Oldmixon, the historian, in 1700 said, "The whole street, about one mile in length, was lined with blooming peach trees." And so, some hundred and twenty-eight years ago, Germantown consisted of but one street. There has been a great many steps taken since those days! And how!

Peter Kalm, the Swedish traveler, came here in 1784, and thus spoke of the place: "After a ride of six English miles, we came to Germantown; this town has only one street, but is near two English miles long. It is for the greatest part inhabited by Germans, who from time to time come from their country to North America, and settle here, because they enjoy such privileges as they are not possessed of anywhere else. Most of the inhabitants are tradesmen, and make almost everything in such quantity and perfection, that in a short time this province will want very little from England, its mother country. Most of the houses were built of stone which is mixed with glimmer, and found everywhere towards Philadelphia, but is more scarce further on. Several houses however, were made of brick. They were commonly two stories high, and sometimes higher. The roofs consisted of shingles of white cedar wood. Their shape resembles that of the roofs in Sweden, but the angles they formed at the top were either obtuse, right-angled or acute, according as the slopes were steep or easy. They sometimes formed either the half of an octagon, or the half of a dodecagon.

"Many of the roofs were made in such a manner, that they could be walked upon, having a balustrade around them. Many of the upper stories had balconies before them, from whence the people had a prospect of the street. The windows, even those in the third story, had shutters. Each house had a fine garden. The town had three churches, one for the Lutherans, another for the Reformed Protestants, and the third for the Quakers. The Baptists have likewise a meeting house. The inhabitants were so numerous that the street was always full."

And the modern youth, who reads this, is apt to say, "Now isn't that a lot of bologna? I wonder what Pete would say if he came back and had to wait for our traffic cops to turn their signs?"

Silas Deane, of Connecticut, in 1775, reminded the world that Germantown "consists of one street, built entirely of rough stone, two miles nearly in length, and the houses correspond to the appearance of the inhabitants, rough

children of nature, and German nature too."

There's another individual who would have a lot to learn if he saw us as we are today.

In 1797, the Duke de la Rochefoucalt-Liencourt stated, "Germantown is a long village near two miles and a half in extent. The houses, to the number of three hundred, are all built on the side of the highway."

It seems that we stretched out at the rate of one-half a mile in the twenty-two years which elapsed between the visits of Deane and the Duke. Not much progress in those days.

We gained another half mile by the autumn of 1804 when Alexander Wilson, the Scotch ornithologist, hiked along Germantown road. In this poem, 'The Foresters' he burst out with the following:

"Till through old Germantown we lightly trod,
That skirts for three long miles the narrow road;
And rising Chestnut Hill around surveyed,
Wide woods below in vast extent displayed."

We still have Germantown avenue, but is is losing the prestige it once had of being the town's one street. Hundreds of other thoroughfares cross and parallell the original highway and it does not even retain the right to be called the town's one business street, for Greene street, Chelten avenue, Maplewood avenue, and dozens of the side streets have commercial houses scattered here and there along the courses which they run.

Office buildings, gigantic apartment houses, theatres, motor agencies, factories, the legion of churches, and the number of its banks, and schools are true criterions that Germantown has emerged from the town state and is now a full grown city.

We glory in the pride which we hold for all of history of the one-time village and, also for the suburban atmosphere of thousands of our homes. But greater still is our feeling of elation over the rapid strides made in the commercial development of Germantown.

With the stranger who phrased his surprise, we sometimes stand in amazement and say, "Why, it's a city in itself."

SCCAFF.

Roy Jones 7-12-28

ALONG THE SCHUYLKILL With SCCAFF

THE MINES ON GORGAS LANE

Before me, as I write there lies a little pile of native garnets which were gathered at various places along the Wissahickon Creek. These jewels of the hills have little commercial value, but to lover of the vale, they always seem to hold a fascination.

Anyone who has ever visited the banks of the Wissahickon will remember that there are numerous large fissures and some caves in the large masses of rocks which are plentiful there. The most remarkable of these caves is situated on Gorgas Lane, below the old cotton-wadding factory of Mathias George, just off the Wissahickon Drive, in what was formerly known as Livezey's Woods. The rocks at the mouth of the cave are about 18 or 20 feet high, and on the northwest side are much broken. Large trees, of several species are growing on the summit. The cave, or excavation extends into the solid rock about 30 feet. It is five feet high and five and one-half feet wide at the mouth; while at the back of it a person can almost stand erect.

The cave-rock can be easily seen from the road as you pass by. A short distance to the northeast of the rock there used to be a deep hole in the hill, but apparently without any connections with the cave itself.

Many are the traditions concerning the cave in this rock, varying no doubt according to the temparament of the narrator. Some say the Indians used to live in it; others, that a band of robbers who infested the region in days gone by, had this place as their rendezvous—while others have said that during the Revolutionary War when the Hessians carried off everything they could some of the neighbors selected this cave as a place unknown to the enemy and hid in it large quantities of grain. A one-time resident of Germantown, Joseph Gorgas, once said that his family was accustomed to keeping fowls in the cave and that it was known as "The Chicken Rock." He also stated that there was a tradition that the persons who dug the cave were seeking saltpetre.

In the year 1845, Samuel Gorgas, who was born in the vicinity in 1776, while speaking of the cave said that when he was young he recollected that he had seen a door at the mouth of the hole.

It was Horatio Gates Jones, I believe, who finally discovered in an old chest of papers a time-worn document, which upon opening, proved to be the "very agreement which had been entered into by the parties who dug the mines!"

Jones, with the aid of an assistant, proceeded with a pickaxe and spade to the site of the mine, and after digging for more than an hour on the top of the hill, they struck a stone which gave back a hollow sound. This they removed and a slight opening appeared. They finally made the hole large enough to enter, but found that the root of a buttonwood tree ran across the entrance, almost closing it up. After cutting this off, they procured a light and entered the mine. The passage branched off about 15 feet from the entrance, one chamber going straight on and the other diverging to the left. The length of it was gauged at about 35 feet. The hole in the hill below the rock was now susceptible of explanation. It was no doubt designed as a shaft, and was intended to meet the horizontal mine. The rock through which the mine extended was micaceous sandstone, and so soft that the water from the hills percolated through it. As the discoverers made their way through the dark and narrow passage they philosophized on the days and weeks of useless labor which had been expended within the mine. "Hope had more than likely animated the hearts of the miners while heaps of glittering gold or silver appeared t otheir imaginations, but the beautiful visions had quickly disappeared and the excavations were the monuments of their folly."

Jones has said that as he emerged from the mine ,covered with dirt, he espied an old woman—"a sort of a Meg Merriles"—at the roadside, busily watching his movements, and after being in-