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V. E. Shaw  
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Extract from:

LIBERALISM AND AMERICAN EDUCATION

In The Eighteenth Century

by

Allen Oscar Hansen

New York

The MacMillan Company

1926

Page 63-79

ROBERT CORAM'S "PLAN FOR THE GENERAL  
ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE  
UNITED STATES"

Purpose of the plan. In 1791 Robert Coram<sup>3</sup> of Wilmington, Delaware, brought out a plan for the general establishment of schools throughout the United States. He had a very definite

<sup>3</sup> Robert Coram was the author of several articles in the Delaware Gazette, under the signature of Brutus. He was a student of Indian life and customs, and of the French and Colonial policies. Some of the writers comprehended in his criticisms were Blackstone, Couget, Barbyrac, Titius, Locke, Grotius, Puffendorf, Priestley, Turneaux, Beccaria, Raynall, Fielding, Goldsmith, Macaulay, Swift, Addison, Gee, Rapin, Vanderbilt, Garth, and Dupaty. Coram understood the problems involved in making governments stable and, at the same time, progressive, and he believed that a most essential principle was that of the harmony of government with the nature of man. This harmony he thought was represented best in democracy because it was favorable to progress.

In reality the scheme presented by Coram in his treatise belongs to the same period as the one by Benjamin Rush, for Coram stated that he had had in mind to write this before Webster's essays appeared in the American Magazine. Coram, Robert, PLAN for the general establishment of SCHOOLS throughout the United States, p. 76. 1791.



philosophy of life and of democracy and saw the relation between education and the furtherance of democratic principles. The complete title of the work is: "Political Inquiries: To which is added a PLAN for the general establishment of SCHOOLS throughout the United States," but, in fact, according to the writer's own statement, the purpose was not the discussion of political theory but rather of the relation of political theory to education.<sup>1</sup> That the principles for which the revolution was fought were still valid, but few doubted. The chaos due to bad currency and worse sectionalism and class interests called for the establishment of some means of preserving the revolutionary principles intact. The contention for a national system of education upon a nationalistic basis was not a movement away from those principles, but rather a sensing that the problems of their preservation had changed. In the revolution monarchical control had been broken, and for the lack of something to take its place there had been developed a destructive individualism. Now this absolute individualism threatened the happiness and freedom of man. The "pronounced differences in the tendency of political thought" were not differences in viewpoint but a difference of means needed for the accomplishment of the same ends.

Mode of Education must be adapted to democracy. If substantial progress were to take place, the principles of

<sup>1</sup> Coram Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface. 1791.

democracy must be respected, for these had their basis in the nature of man and society. These principles are developed in the earlier part of the treatise, but it is stated that the "Work is intended merely to introduce a better Mode of Education . . . throughout the United States."<sup>1</sup> We shall find later what is meant by a "better Mode of Education."

Status of the public schools (1791). In viewing the status of the public schools of the period, one thing was obvious: Educational opportunity was very unequal in the country and in the city. Thus Coram devotes one chapter to the "Wretched State of the Country Schools, through the United States; and the absolute Necessity of a Reformation."<sup>2</sup> The author's description of the conditions as they existed at that time is so apt that it may be given at some length:

"The country schools, through most of the United States, whether we consider the buildings, the teachers, or the regulations, are in every respect completely despicable, wretched and contemptible. The buildings are in general sorry hovels, neither wind tight nor water tight; a few stools serving in capacity of bench and desk, and the old leaves of copy books making a miserable substitute for glass windows. The teachers are generally foreigners, shamefully deficient in every qualification necessary to convey instruction to youth, and not seldom addicted to gross vices. Absolute in his opinion, and proud of what he calls his European method, one calls the first letter of the alphabet aw. The school is modified upon this plan, and the children who are advanced, are beat

<sup>1</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface. 1791.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 94. 1791.



and cuffed to forget the former mode they have been taught, which irritates their minds, and retards their progress. The first quarter being finished, the children remain idle until another master offers, few remaining in one place more than a quarter. When the next schoolmaster is introduced, he calls the first letter a as in mat -- the school undergoes another reform, and is equally vexed and retarded. At his removal, a third is introduced who calls the first letter hay. All these blockheads are absolute in their reforms, and will by no means suffer the children to pronounce the letter as they were first taught, but every three months the school goes through a reform -- error succeeds error -- and dunce the second reigns like dunce the first." <sup>1</sup>

That Coram had given long and careful consideration to the problem which he discusses in his treatise is very evident. He had made himself acquainted with practically all of the writings on education and he knew the social and economic conditions that existed at that time.

Purpose of education -- means for independence. The nature of the school system depended upon the purposes to be achieved. The conclusion had been accepted that "to make men happy, the first step is to make them independent. For if they are dependent, they can neither manage their private concerns properly, retain their own dignity, or vote impartially for their country; they can be but tools at best."<sup>2</sup> By making men independent Coram meant that a different type of control must prevail, one not dependent upon external pressure. He concluded that the system recommended by Mr. Webster would be required.<sup>3</sup> As a necessary part of his scheme for making men independent we shall

<sup>1</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface. pp. 94-95. 1791.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., pp. 104-105. 1791.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp. 104-105. 1791.

find that he stressed the economic factor.

Schools to be adapted to American needs. A further consideration of making men independent was that it was "high time to check that blind adherence to transatlantic policy, which has so generally prevailed."<sup>4</sup> The transplanting of European institutions to America could in no sense meet the demands of the situation here. Schools must be "better adapted to the present circumstances in America."<sup>1</sup> As long as we followed blindly the customs of Europeans we could expect to suffer the miseries of Europeans. If we cherished the form of government that we had established it was up to us to preserve that form of government, which meant that we must provide educational means for its preservation. Upon this point there could be no doubt. The common experience as pioneers furnished what amounted to a tradition, but it was a tradition that had freedom and open-avenues-ahead as its essence. This is the trend of all of the plans suggested during this period.

Education in relation to civilization. The general conclusion had been reached that "In the savage state, education is perfect," while "In the civilized state, education is the most imperfect part of the whole scheme of government, or civilization; or rather, it is not immediately connected with either."<sup>2</sup> For this reason failure on the part of civilized society to use the

<sup>4</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface. pp. 88-89. 1791.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., pp. 88-89. 1791.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. vi. 1791.



most potent means for its development should be remedied, and the only way in which this could be done would be by education being "incorporated with the government, or regulated by it."<sup>2</sup> The failure on the part of the government to use education effectively grew out of the fact that education failed to progress with the development of society. Where mankind was ruled by an autocratic government, obsolete systems of education might exist without the government being destroyed, but the peculiar experiment being made in the United States demanded that this condition should be remedied, that government must be directly related to education, and that education must be made an instrument of government.

Social and economic basis of education - conditions in the eighteenth century. The Abbe Raynal is quoted as saying that throughout Europe

"In our provinces, the vassal, or free mercenary, digs and ploughs the whole year round, lands that do not belong to him; and he is even happy, if his labor procures him a share of the crops he has sown and reaped. Observed and harassed, by a hard and restless landlord, who grudges him the very straw on which he rests his weary limbs; the wretch is daily exposed to diseases, which, joined to his poverty, make him wish for death, rather than for an expensive cure, followed by infirmities and toil. Whether tenant or subject, he is doubly a slave; if he has acres, his lord comes and gathers them where he has not sown; if he has but a yoke of oxen, or a pair of horses, he must employ them in a public service; if he has nothing but his person, the prince takes him for a slave. Everywhere he meets masters, and always with oppression."<sup>1</sup>

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Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. vi. 1791.

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Ibid., p. 11. 1791.

Coram observed that under such circumstances man was but a machine controlled by his master and hence it was not surprising that education should be of a very limited sort and for the few, and scarcely at all fitted to promote progress.<sup>1</sup>

Here a very great percent were economically independent. They planned the development of their own resources. They were responsible for the utilization of all of the means that were available. Also here every man had political as well as economic responsibilities. He was a determiner of the government under which he lived. Very directly it would be he who could make possible the realization of that freedom which had just been purchased at so great a cost. Hence the immediate connection between the social and economic phases of life with education was very direct, and consequently education must be fashioned to meet the political and economic needs of democracy.

Equality -- artificial versus natural origin of government.

Issue was taken with the Abbe Raynal on the question of the origin of government. The Abbe believed that government had its origin in primitive inequality and was created for the lessening of these inequalities, but Coram believed that "the primitive equality" was "disturbed and broken by an external force, not by members of the same society opposed to each other, but by the conquest of one society by another."<sup>1</sup> Education, then, for the purpose of equalizing opportunity was not contrary to nature but was in accord with it. It would be but the means of bringing men again into the state of this primitive freedom. Without education no equality in government could exist.

<sup>1</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 11, 1791

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 92, 1791.



Relation of education to right of property. The general distribution of property in this country was at the basis of a successful working out of democratic principles. Economic slavery could be quite as harassing and hampering as political slavery. This principle was recognized very generally, as may be seen in the fight to do away with primogeniture. The writer felt that certain exponents of law in the eighteenth century were quite unable to readjust themselves to the demand that property should be divided generally and not concentrated in large estates. The author criticized Blackstone because he failed to show the injustice of the system that prevailed in Europe,<sup>1</sup> and Coram showed that a part of man's education in this country should be of such a sort as to overcome these conditions which kept man in slavery throughout Europe. He must be here educated to recognize that the earth was a gift "common to the whole race" and that a man "when lying on his death bed, and no longer to maintain possession, should (not) be entitled to tell the rest of the world, which of them should enjoy it after him."<sup>2</sup> This was a revolution in the conception of education in relation to the right of property.

Traditional basis of property a source of evil. The principle of "meum & teum, which principally receives existence with civil society, is but little known in the rude stages of natural liberty; . . . where all property is common."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 27. 1791.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 23. 1791.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 55. 1791.

In departing from this principle civilized man had brought practically all the miseries and vices to man, and Coram continued: "We have also demonstrated, that the civilized man has been unjustly deprived of his right to the bounties of Providence, and that he has been rendered, as much as human laws could do it, an abortive creature."<sup>3</sup> In order that the society newly formed in America would not continue the evils of this system, he said: "We will now inquire the best mode of alleviating his miseries."<sup>3</sup> It is not held that man should go back to the primitive state, in which there was not private ownership of property, but it would be necessary that man should be educated to recognize property as chiefly of social value, to be considered as a social trust to be used for the betterment of mankind and not for personal aggrandizement nor for the gaining of advantage over one's fellow men.<sup>3</sup> Hence the state must so regulate and control education that man will become an agent literally subservient to social welfare.

Education a state function -- both lower and higher must be universal and equal. There could be no other way out of the difficulties than that "Society should then furnish the people with means of subsistence, and those means should be an inherent quality in the nature of government, universal, permanent and uniform, because their natural means were so."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 55. 1791.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 56-57. 1791.



The only effective way for the realization of this general diffusion of opportunity and possibility of happiness would be through the state controlling education so that man might gain knowledge of the arts and sciences necessary for complete living, "that is, the education of children should be provided for in the constitution of every state. By education, I mean, instruction in arts as well as sciences. Education then ought to be secured by government to every class of citizen, to every child in the state. The citizens should be instructed in the sciences by public schools; and in arts, by laws enacted for that purpose . . . . Education should not be left to the caprice, or negligence of parents, to chance, or confined to the children of wealthy parents."<sup>1</sup> With a considerable degree of feeling the author declared: "It is a shame, a scandal to civilized society, that part only of the citizens should be sent to colleges and universities to learn to cheat the rest of their liberties."<sup>1</sup> Through a universal and equal education, both lower and higher, this evil could be remedied, and man be rendered truly free. Coram believed that the ideas of reform presented by Becarria would offer "a foundation whereon to erect a system, which like the sun in the universe, will transmit

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Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, pp. 56-57. 1791.

light, life and harmony to all under its influence -- I mean --  
A SYSTEM OF EQUAL EDUCATION."<sup>1</sup>

Education for social integration and intelligent control.

National education must solve the problem of social integration and control, for without universal education of the kind suggested, "What is the bond of society, but a rope of sand, incapable of supporting its own weight? A heterogeneous jumble of contradiction and absurdity, from which the subject knows not how to extricate himself."<sup>2</sup> Through education suited to the demands of democracy man would gain a knowledge of democratic principles, and loyalty to them would be established. National integration demands then, intelligent national control, and intelligent national control in a democracy depends upon the education of all, since all are the determiners of government. The duty of a government is to make all men better. This obligation could not be neglected without the ultimate destruction of the very principles for which democracy stands. This duty implies a nation-wide obligation for educating its youth.<sup>3</sup>

Education in order to know obligations to the government.

How else could a democracy continue unless by an education that would make each citizen aware of his responsibilities? "An education is . . . necessary, in order that the subject may know the obligation he is under to government."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, P. 54. 1791.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 57. 1791.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 79. 1791.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 65. 1791.



How far education in the three R's comes from being adequate is shown by an analysis and a realistic description of social conditions in England and on the Continent, and an analysis of the relation of these to inequalities in educational opportunities. He said:

"Mr. Noah Webster is the only American author, indeed the only author of any nation, if we except perhaps Montesquieu, who has taken up the subject of education, upon that liberal and equitable scale which it justly deserves. I had the present work in idea, sometime before Mr. Webster's essays made their appearance; and was not a little pleased to think that he had anticipated my idea."<sup>1</sup>

After quoting Webster at some length and after showing how it would be necessary for us to change our system of education both as to its nature and its extent, he quoted Webster further:

"It is observed by the great Montesquieu, that the laws of education ought to be relative to the principles of government. In despotic governments the people should have little or no education except what tends to inspire them with a servile fear. Information is fatal to despotism--in monarchies education should be partial and adapted to each class of citizens. But 'in a republican government,' says the same writer, 'the whole power of education is required.' Here every class of people should know and love the laws. This knowledge should be diffused by means of schools and newspapers; that an attachment to the laws may be formed by early impressions on the mind.-- Two regulations are essential to the continuance of republican governments. 'First. Such a distribution of lands, and principles of descent and alienation as shall give every citizen the power of acquiring what his industry merits. Secondly. Such a system of education, as gives every citizen an

<sup>1</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 76. 1791.

opportunity of acquiring knowledge, and fitting himself for places of trust. These are fundamental articles, the sine qua non of the existence of American republics.

"Hence the absurdity of copying the manners and adapting the institutions of monarchies."<sup>2</sup>

To overcome these inequalities of educational opportunity it would be necessary to have a national system of education that would provide equal educational opportunity for all, including the necessary economic provision for support of those who did not have sufficient means.<sup>1</sup>

That Coram had selected from Webster the passages that dealt most directly with nationalistic motif as the basis of education shows that he was in hearty accord with him. The system of government which he thought to be "a most glaring solecism in government" was the one in which "The constitutions are republican, and the laws of education are monarchial."<sup>1</sup> He continued to quote Webster as showing that "of such consequence is it to society, that the people who make the laws, should be well informed, that I can conceive no legislature can be justified in neglecting proper establishments for this purpose. Such a general system of education is neither impracticable nor difficult; and excepting the formation of a federal government, that shall be efficient and permanent, it demands first attention of American patriots. Until such a system be adapted and pursued; until the statesman and divine shall unite in their efforts in forming the human mind," no permanence could be assured to the American experiment.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 77. 1791.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 78. 1791.



In hearty accord with other writers of the period, he again said:

"America affords the fairest opportunities, for making the experiments, and opens the most encouraging prospects of success.' ... There is but one way to effect this important purpose — which is by incorporating education with government— This is the rock upon which you must build your political salvation!"<sup>2</sup>

Equal representation demands equal educational opportunity.

The principle was generally acknowledged that "An equal representation is absolutely necessary to the preservation of liberty."<sup>1</sup> Coram saw that there can never be equal representation until there is an "equal mode of education for all citizens."<sup>1</sup> So long as the economic inequalities existed, for instance, between the farmer and the merchant or the professional man, such as the lawyer, there could be no equality of representation in the government, for the sons of the farmer could not get the necessary preparation which would bring them into the positions of leadership in the nation, and hence the farmer would remain unrepresented in the councils of the government. We would still remain in the hands of class legislators who would continue the inequalities so characteristic of Europe. Even though the farmer might succeed in getting himself elected to the legislature, unless he had the necessary education to "speak with propriety in the legislature" his presence there would be but a deception of the people into a belief that they were being represented in government. The only

<sup>2</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 79. 1791.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 93. 1791.

remedy for this was that "education ... should be brought home to every man's door." Equal educational opportunity was at the root of equal representation in government, the principle for which the Revolution was fought.<sup>1</sup>

Equal opportunity in country and in town. To any fair-minded person "The necessity of a reformation in the country schools, is too obvious to be insisted on."<sup>2</sup> The evidences were so patent that "he that runs may read."<sup>3</sup> Whether or not the author was justified in feeling that the nation at that time was controlled entirely by the merchants, he certainly was right in saying that "the country should have as good schools as seaport towns."<sup>3</sup> The conclusion was well founded that "If education is necessary for one man, my religion tells me it is equally necessary for another."<sup>1</sup> He could see no reason for discrimination and disrespect. Democracy demanded an equality of opportunities in country and town. These could not be assured without equal representation in governmental affairs. This equal representation demanded equal educational opportunity.

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Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 93. 1791.

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Ibid., p. 97. 1791.

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Ibid., p. 96. 1791.

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Ibid., p. 96, 1791.



Nature of the curriculum. What should be the nature of the curriculum in such a system of schools? It must be of a broad and liberal character and obviously, "No modes of faith, systems of manners, or foreign or dead languages should be taught in those schools."<sup>2</sup> The curriculum must be adapted to American needs. We were not concerned with the existence of a certain faith or a certain mode of living, but we were concerned with an attitude of progress on a scientific basis. While American youth should be assured an education in democratic principles, it would be necessary to avoid the establishment of another system equally hampering to human thought as the systems of Europe.<sup>3</sup>

General tax for support of schools. There could be no general opportunity for a democratic education of this character unless schools were provided for by a general tax throughout the United States. At the root of any successful plan for the general establishment of schools in the United States there lay the question of general support. The objection that one man had to pay for the education of another's children was not valid because there was a solidarity of interests that made each person dependent upon every other person. Every citizen must suffer more or less for the failure of any one to meet the demands of democracy in this respect.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, p. 101. 1791.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp. 88-89. 1791.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 98. 1791.

Practicability of a national school system — estimated  
cost compared with the cost of private schools. A rough estimate is given of the cost of initiating such a system, and it is demonstrated that even with heavy expense at the beginning the cost would be less than one-half as much per pupil as was the cost in private schools. This was demonstrated in detail as follows:

"To demonstrate the practicability of establishing public schools, throughout the United States, let us suppose the states to be divided into districts according to population, and let every district support one school, by a tax on the acre, on all lands within the district. Let us suppose for argument's sake, six miles square, which will be 36 square miles — sufficient for a district for the mean population of the United States. The school house should be built of brick, and in the center of the district; it would be three miles from the school-house door to the boundary of the district. The building might be two stories, with a large hall on the lower floor, for the school room; the rest of the house should be for the master's family, and might consist of two rooms on the lower floor, and three or four in the second story, with perhaps an acre of ground adjoining. We will suppose the ground to cost £10, the building £800, the master's salary £150 per annum, and £50 for an assistant, with £50 for mathematical instruments; in all £1,060, of which £800 is for building the school-house; and as people enough will be willing to contract for building the house, to wait a year for half the money, we will suppose £400 to be paid the first year. Now in 36 square miles, are 23,040 acres, which is better than 4d. per acre; the next year's payment will be £660, which will be about 7d. more than the succeeding years, there will be the teacher's salary, £150, the assistant £50 & £50 for contingent expenses, books, etc., will be £250 per annum, which will not amount to 3d. per acre. Consider that such a trifling tax, by being applied to this best of purposes, may be productive of consequences amazingly glorious, can any man make a serious



objection against public schools? ... The common rate at present is 8s. 4d. per quarter, which is 33s. 4d. per year, which for 4 children is £6 13 4. Now if you hold 300 acres of land, you will pay toward the support of decent public schools, at 3d. per acre, 900d. or £3 15 per annum."<sup>1</sup>

Summary. Analyses of conditions convinced Coram that there was a need for reformation in education. He did not feel that the principles of democracy had failed, but he was keenly conscious of the necessity of making conscious provision for their fruitful operation. If democracy failed it would be because no provision had been made for education that would train for democracy. Schools were not so run as to produce intelligent citizenship. Both the private and public interests of persons in a democracy called for education peculiar to that form of social control. He believed that the system recommended by Noah Webster -- a system that would insure control from within the individual -- was altogether essential. Education must be incorporated as a part of the government. Hitherto, education had not been fitted to promote progress, but rather the very opposite. As long as educational opportunity was solely for the few, so long would these get higher education in order that they might exploit the many. Opportunity must be universal. Through education also must society be integrated. This problem of social integration and maximal individual achievement demanded a new type of education. The very nature of a representative government demanded equalization of educational opportunity. Hence, there should be a tax-supported national system of education, available to all alike.

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Coram, Robert, Plan for the general establishment of Schools throughout the United States, Preface, pp. 99-101. 1791.

LOCATION - State-Wide

Submitted by - Robert Campbell,

Date - January 4, 1936.

TOPOGRAPHY

The foothills of the mountains in Southeastern Pennsylvania extend into northern Delaware while the Delaware River is a tidal estuary to beyond the northern border of the State. As a result tributary streams in this section have an abrupt drop with many falls and rapids.

The highest point in the State (438 feet) above sea level, is just about a mile below the State boundary to the northwest of Wilmington, near Centerville.

Lower New Castle County has no hills rising over 100 feet above sea level and in the two lower counties there are no well defined hills the maximum elevation of Kent County being about 65 feet and of Sussex County 60 feet. The State as a whole slopes slightly to the South and more definitely to the East, although there are sections along the western border which drain west into the Chesapeake. With the exception of the Nanticoke in Sussex County none of these drain large areas.

Below Wilmington and Newark the streams are mostly sluggish due to the level nature of the land and although small are navigable for small vessels for some distance.

Many cities owe their location to early settlements at the head of navigation of such streams.



The only stream that is navigable to the Chesapeake is the Nanticoke on which small vessels may come as far as Seaford.

Bibleography:-

(A) A.T.M.Morrison of the U.S.Department of Agriculture,in co-operation with the University of Delaware Agriculture Experiment Station - Soil Survey of New Castle County,Delaware 1915 - Printed by Government Printing Office, Washington,1919- (30 pages) with accompanying map.

(B) J.E.Dunn and J.M.Snyder of the U.S.Department of Agriculture,and Elwood Hoeffcker of the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station,- Soil Survey of Kent County,Delaware, 1918 - Printing by Government Printing Office, Washington 1920 - (32 pages) with accompanying map.

(C) J.M.Snyder of the U.S.Department of Agriculture and John Gum and W. A. Gum, 3rd., of the Delaware Agricultural Experimental Station - Soil Survey of Sussex County Delaware 1920.- Printed by Government Printing Office, Washington, 1924 - (34 pages) with accompanying map.

### A DELAWARE LEGEND EXAMINED

Wilmington Brig Nancy, Locally Reputed To Have Been First Vessel To Hoist The Stars and Stripes In a Foreign Port (St. Thomas Island, West Indies) "On News of the Declaration of Independence," Was Totally Destroyed on June 29, 1776, a Few Days Before the Declaration Was Adopted, And Almost A Year Before the Stars and Stripes Was Authorized as the American Flag; The Continental Brig Andrea Doria Unfurled a "Grand Union Flag" at St. Eustatius (West Indies) on November 16, 1776, Which Is Generally Agreed to Have Been the First American Flag to be Saluted in a Foreign Port.



## ROBERT CORAM'S ESTATE - Addenda

Assets

"The accountants hereby charge themselves with the amount of the inventory as returned to the Register's Office \$304.70

Monies collected from sundry persons for subscriptions to the Delaware Gazette 258.35

Total assets 691.13

Bills

Funeral expenses (to Peter Davis and R. Buckingham) 12.33

Brynberg and Andrews, notes 200.28

Bonsall and Starr, account 326.39

Total debts 835.32

REGISTER OF WILLS, ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT: August 19, 1799; Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

Coram's household equipment, as revealed in the inventory, was extremely modest. It included merely small amounts of traditional furnishings, linens, clothing, and cooking utensils.

One curious fact is that he owned surveyor's instruments, smith's tools, clockmaker's, and carpenter's tools, in addition to his library. The inventory gives no suggestion as to whether he was still operating a school at the time of his death. A few weeks after his death, a year's rent bill (\$80.00) fell due to Vincent Gilpin, for which he levied on the estate.

V. E. Shaw  
January 4, 1940

Education  
History

23

Robert Coram's Estate

Extract from Register of Wills - O-1-154 - New Castle County.

MEMO - That letters of administration on the estate of Robert Coram, late of the Borough of Wilmington and County of New Castle, deceased, were granted unto Peter Brynberg and Vincent Bonsall, administrators (upon the renunciation of Rhoda Coram the widow). An inventory to be exhibited on or before the eighth day of April A.D. 1797. Given under the seal of the Register, the eighth day of April A.D. 1796. Bond in 1,600 dollars, Isaac Henderickson surety.

(signed) Jas. Booth, Reg<sup>r</sup>

Records of Administration of Intestate estates of this period have been removed to the Archives in Dover.



V. E. Shaw  
October 1, 1940

Education: 1710-1830 opaedia File  
Robert Coram

24

## CORAM FAMILY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### Notes on Pringle, Thomas Coram's Bible

Mr. Pringle's inference that only John Coram, the merchant, came to Charleston before 1769 is probably incorrect. It seems more likely that Mrs. Coram and the younger children accompanied him or followed soon, leaving behind the boys old enough to attend school. (This assumes that the date of 1769 is correct for Thomas' arrival). Otherwise, Robert's statement that he had lived all but three years of his life within the borders of the United States or abroad in its service makes it appear that merchant John brought a three-year-old baby along as a companion, leaving its mother in England. This possibility seems even more remote when we recall that Robert was a twin, and find no indication that his brother Philip did not live.

The genealogy lists the dates of death of the mother, the triplets, and Bathshua, Thomas, Francis, and Ann--i.e., those who died in childhood or who settled in Charleston permanently. Missing dates are those for the father, John Jr., Robert, Philip, and William. We know that the father was expelled from the colony during the Revolution, and that Robert died in Delaware. It seems most likely that Thomas, who made the genealogy, lost contact with these members of his family. This, in turn, suggests that the father never returned to South Carolina, and that John Jr., Philip, and William lived to

# Coram Family in South Carolina

manhood, and either accompanied their father when he left the colony or, like Robert, made their homes in other sections of the United States. The fact that Thomas, who was barely twenty-one, and who did not care to become a merchant, was left to settle his father's affairs instead of John Jr., two years older, implies that the older son shared his father's politics and his exile, or was a ne'er-do-well who could not be trusted with the task.

On the other hand, lack of entries between 1773 and 1811 may mean only that Thomas Coram lost interest in the chart once he had drawn it. Whoever added the last two notes may have been ignorant of, or disinterested in, information the older man had had about his father and brothers. None the less, appearance in the Bible of death dates only of the two we know died in Charleston, and absence of data about Robert and the father, who we know had left the city, argues that the others had also moved away. The fact that the Bible was sold out of the family in this generation or the succeeding one strengthens the supposition that few Corams settled permanently in the vicinity of Charleston.

Dates of birth and ages at death of the children of John and Ann Coram:

Triplets (one still-born, others, John, and Thomas, died in a few days Mr. 28, 1753

Bathshua (girl) Mr. 21, 1754-Feb. 27, 1755 (11 months)

John, born Feb. 28, 1755 Lived to manhood, for marriage is recorded.

Thomas, April 25, 1757- May 2, 1811 (54 years)

Francis, Aug. 19, 1758- Oct. 18, 1815 (57 years)



Ann, Sept. 25, 1759- Sept. 27, 1773 (14 years)

Robert and Philip, May 2, 1761 (Robert, d. Mar. 9, 1796--34 years) Philip, unknown)

William, May 31, 1762. Date of death unknown

This article, outlining the mother's ancestry, and others quoted elsewhere concerning the Corams, indicates that Robert Coram came, on both sides, of middleclass English stocks that had produced men of some distinction in business, scholarship, art, and seamanship.

### Negro Won Honors in Liberia.

William S. Anderson, son of Daniel B. Anderson, of Wilmington, was regarded as one of the ablest men of the colored race. As a young man after some schooling here he went to the Liberian Republic in Africa, where his abilities soon attracted the attention of native Liberians. He was a student of human nature and soon after reaching Africa in the middle of last century was promptly recognized as of the type sought for public administrative and executive service. Consequently he was elected speaker of the Liberian House of Representatives and at the expiration of his term was chosen as special envoy to England to negotiate a loan from \$300,00. This task quickly accomplished he returned to Wilmington for a visit to his kindred and friends. He was welcomed here by the people of his race with great acclaim and extolled as one of the very ablest Negroes of the country.

On returning to Liberia he dropped politics and public life to engage in commercial business, but was assassinated by a political rival in Monrovia, the capital of the Republic, just after the success of his business venture had been assured. Anderson came into the local picture much later than Paul Caffre, another Delawarean of the colored race who turned his attention to shipping to and from his home port, Wilmington, Del.

#### Reference:

Scharf, T.J. (ohn) Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia, L.J. Richards & Co., 1888. 2v. illus ports. P.1358.



Pote

28  
STATE DRAWER:  
folder:  
Years & Events.

Sarah Jane Bradley, a negro, was hanged  
at Georgetown, December 14, 1869.

She had been convicted of giving water,  
in which poison match heads had been soaked to  
a child, thereby causing its death.

She was a nursemaid and wanting the night off  
had used this concoction to put the child to sleep.

Found in Court of Oyer & Terminer Records at Georgetown.

ROBERT CORAM AS WILL WITNESS

(1787 - 1794)

0-1-28 to 30, October 10, 1794

William Shipley the elder. Witnessed by: Caleb Seal,  
Richard Buckingham, Robert Coram. Probated Nov. 26, 1794.

\* \* \*

N-1-269 to 271, April 5, 1792

John Springer. Witnessed by: James Lea Jun<sup>r</sup>, Frederick  
Craig, Robert Coram. Probated April 25, 1792.

\* \* \*

M-1-283, October 9, 1787

Ann Jaquett. Witnessed by: Arch<sup>d</sup> Alexander, Alex<sup>r</sup> Duncan,  
Robert Coram. Probated Oct. 24, 1787. All three witnesses  
appeared before the Register of Wills, Gun. Bedford, and  
acknowledged the will, Oct. 24, 1787.

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V. E. Shaw  
March 20, 1941

Encyclopedia File  
Coram: Copyright  
U.S. Records

30

1092  
20 Shaw

Notes Concerning Federal Copyright, Especially June 1790-June 1791

Records in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress deposited by the U.S. District Courts, 1790-1870, by Roberts, Martin A., in Bibliographical Society of America, Papers, Vol. 31, 1937, pt. 2, pp. 81-101.

There are only 33 recorded copyrights in the entire United States for the first year of the law's operation. Records for Delaware, Conn. to #115 (1804), and Virginia prior to 1865, are missing.

The earliest Federal copyright in the United States was issued in Pennsylvania June 14, 1790.

The extremely small number of copyrights applied for in the country as a whole supports the supposition that Coram's was the first for the Delaware district. Even the populous State of New York (not yet, of course, the largest) shows no registration until April 1791, two months after the registration of Political Inquiries.

Delaware was the only one of the original States to pass no copyright law of its own, further evidence that little material was written by its residents or owned by its very few printing establishments.

A check of the private laws indexed in Delaware Laws, Vol. II, (1700-1797) reveals no private copyrights.

Guy K. Browning  
El. Thompson-Walls  
October 7, 1938

WILMINGTON WHALING COMPANY  
SELLS LAND TO P.W.B. RR CO.

"Wilmington Whaling Company" a corporation of the state of Delaware to The Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Rail Road Company at Popular, Water and Front Streets, Wilmington, the land on which the Pennsylvania station now stands, for the sum of \$800.00 the deed being signed by Stephen Bonsell, President of the Whaling Company.

Information

Book N, Vol. 5, p, 41. Deeds Record Office for New Castle County, Wilmington, Delaware.

OK. E. J. Walls 10/14/38  
OK. G. K. Browning 11/4/38



J. F. Pote  
January 19, 1939

*Commerce* SHIPS AND SHIPPING 32

CURRENT FILE

WILMINGTON WHALING COMPANY

"Wilmington, Del. The people of this town have had a meeting to make preparatory arrangements to organize a whaling company."

Niles' Weekly Register, V. 45, P. 115, (1833).

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"The ship Ceres sailed from Wilmington, Delaware, last week, on a three years' whaling voyage to the Pacific. She has been purchased and completely fitted for this service by the whaling company recently formed in that town."

Niles' Weekly Register, V. 46, P. 191 (1834).

*J.F.P. 1/26/39.*

### Physical Characteristics (Visual)

The City of Wilmington is located on the Delaware River about 70 miles from the mouth of the Delaware Bay and 26 miles southwest of Philadelphia. It is situated on a series of low rolling hills, rising to a height of 250 feet with an average of 80 feet.

The business and older sections of the city are situated on a ridge between the valleys of the Brandywine Creek and the Christiana River. At the top of this elevation is a group of office buildings, some of which reach skyscraper proportions. The remainder of the city stretches in a semi-circle for about two miles.

Parks and recreational centers are found throughout the city, and the Brandywine Park, which also contains the Zoo, affords real scenic beauty.

Most of the manufacturing is done in the east side of the city along the banks of the Christiana, and as is the case in most cities with industry, the poorer residential sections and slums are near the factories. Here is the principal Negro section together with areas of foreign settlements. In the northern and western parts of the city are the residences of the office workers, a large part of Wilmington's population. Fringing the north and west of the city, and extending into the country, are the more pretentious dwellings of professional men and corporation executives.



V. E. Shaw  
Oct. 1, 1940

Education: 1790-1830  
Robert Coram

54

CORAM FAMILY IN SOUTH CAROLINA: COLLATERAL LINES

South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,

Vol. 23, p. 92: reproduces a militia list of March 27, 1756, which mentions Edw: Coram, and Wm. Coram. This indicates that others of the same name had settled in South Carolina before John and his family arrived.

South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,

Vol. 23, p. 156: Excerpt from marriage and death notices appearing in the City Gazette (Charleston)

Married, last evening, Mr. Francis Coram,  
to the amiable Miss Charlotte Mortimer, both  
of this city. (Friday, March 11, 1796)

Since Francis Coram was thirty-eight years of age at this time, his marriage to Miss Mortimer may have been his second. A curious coincidence is that it took place on the same day as his brother Robert's funeral in Wilmington.

JK. VES.  
10/7/40

35

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Hanney, S.M. History of the Religion of the Society of  
Friends ... 4 v.

289.6  
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Gough, John. History of the People Called Quakers.  
4 v.



Rotter

### Apples

One of the largest apple orchards in Delaware is nnear Bridgeville. It covers 1,000 acres and is one and one-half miles long and one-quarter mile wide, with about 60,000 trees. Many varieties of apples are produced and are shipped to nearly all parts of the world. Several buildings, including barracks, house the employes of the orchard, who number about 125. Negro men and women are busy in the picking season, with bags around their necks to catch the apples. Forty or fifty additional employes get the fruit ready for shipment at the packing house in Bridgeville..

A normal year's crop is approximately 200,000 busels, valued at \$300,000. A day's picking averages 3500 bushels. The inferior fruit is sold for cider and all that is decayed is destroyed with chloride of lime. A Federal inspector is constantly on duty at the packing house.

Reference:

The Delmarva Star, Wilmington, Del., Jan. 14, 1934.

### EARLY FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT

Among the forms of local entertainment fifty years ago were the lecturers. Some, like "Bob" Burdett, were humorists. "Sam" Small of Georgia spoke for the temperance cause. Looking back, it seems that the temperance forces were more aggressive then than today. It was in the days when the saloons were uncontrolled, and even children were often sent with a pitcher to "rush the growler." At the temperance meetings, a pledge in the form of a long sheet would lie on the table, and members of the audience, even if they had never "touched a drop" in their lives, would be urged to sign. Even the dramatic stage played its part in pointing out the evils of drinking, with the play Ten Nights in a Bar Room.

Ranking them all in the far reaching effect of his lectures was Dr. Russell Conwell, founder of Temple University, in Philadelphia. He traveled thousands of miles, and delivered his famous lecture, "Acres of Diamonds," hundreds of times. The proceeds of these lectures went to the maintenance and upbuilding of the college in the days when it was a "fledgling." Many of these lectures were given in churches, and a silver offering was taken up in lieu of an admittance fee at the door. Dr. Conwell would likely point out to his audience that their contributions would help determine the number of young people who would gain admittance to his college.

Reference: Personal Recollections.



ETHNIC GROUPSRacial groupsNationalities

Argentines  
Armenians  
Austrians  
Belgians  
Brazilians  
Canadians  
Chinese  
Costa-Ricans  
Czecho-Slovakians  
Danes  
English  
Estonians  
Fijians  
French  
Germans  
Greeks  
Guianans  
Hollanders  
Hondurans  
Hungarians  
Irish  
Italians  
Jugo-Slavs  
Lithuanians  
Maltese  
Mexicans  
Norwegians  
Peruvians  
Poles  
Porto-Ricans  
Portuguese  
Roumainians  
Russians  
Scots  
Spanish  
Swedes  
Swiss  
Syrians  
Turks  
Ukrainians  
Uruguayans  
Welsh

Conner, Wm. H.  
Dec. 5, 1938

Education **CURRENT** FILE <sup>39</sup>

Extract from The Delaware Gazette and General Advertiser,  
Oct. 3, 1789:

Evening School

The Subscriber proposes opening an  
Evening School on Monday next,  
at 10/ per quarter. Hours of  
attendance from 6 to 9.

John Thelwell.



Wm.H. Conner  
November 21, 1398

Education CURRENT FILE  
40

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Saturday, February 4, 1797

Education

Mrs. Chappell, having suspended her return to England, at the request of several persons desirous of her undertaking the Education of Young Ladies--This is to inform those who wish for such a Seminary, that she intends opening a School; if she meets proper encouragement; it is therefore necessary to make speedy application, or she will go as before intended.

Young Ladies may learn Paper Fillagre Work & Drawing, immediately, North-side Lower Market.

Wilmington, January 18.

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Cheyney  
1-27-37.

Paul Cuffee

Paul Cuffee was one of the colored Wilmingtonians to attain prominence among the men and women about town who had neither the prestige of education, statesmanship or a profession to keep him in the public eye. He was prominent in early maritime affairs. His ancestry was of mixed strains. The father, a former African slave, his mother a daughter of one of the Indian tribes of Delaware. Cuffee early adopted the sea as his vocation and soon became one of the most intelligent American mariners. He had a remarkable business capacity and soon after taking to the ships became the owner of a brig and later a larger vessel. He drew the color line in selecting crews and enlisted only men of his race which was an unusual precedent for those early times. His fine seamanship and general brightness as a trader made him known in every port entered by craft bearing the American flag. Cuffee after accumulating a satisfying competency spent the greater part of the later life in Wilmington where he was a member of a Quaker meeting, and not infrequently spoke at the major gathering of the sect - at Fourth and West Streets. He made a marked impression by the force of his advocacy favoring the colonization of the colored race in Sierre Leone. Throughout the country, Cuffee was recognized as one of the most intellectual leaders of the Negroes in this country.

Reference: Scharf. P.751, note 1.



Paul Cuffee.

A prominent and unique figure in the coasting trade was Paul Cuffee, whose father was an African slave and whose mother was an Indian. Paul adopted a sea-faring life at a very early age and developed unusual intelligence and business capacity. He soon owned a sloop and later became the possessor of a schooner, then a brig and eventually a large ship, with a crew of colored men; a novelty in that age. Later in life he became well known in American and foreign ports. He was frequently in Wilmington, where he stood high and spent much of his time. He joined the Society of Friends and sometimes "spoke in meeting."

Cuffee was an advocate of civilization among the Negroes although he owned slaves in Sierra Leone. He is known in history as a Negro mariner and philanthropist.

From Squillace 's Ships and Shipping.

WILLIAM COBBETT

These notes are taken from The Life of William Cobbett by  
G. D. H. Cole

William Cobbett was born at Farnham, Surrey, on March 9, 1763. Curiously, Cobbett regularly misstated his own age, under the impression that the year of his birth was 1766. However, 1763 is undoubtedly correct. Cobbett's father was a small farmer, who also kept an inn, the Jolly Farmer, on the outskirts of Farnham. His grandfather had been a farm laborer. He had little schooling and worked on his father's farm until he was twenty. During this time he ran away from home twice from pure love of adventure.

On May 6, 1783 Cobbett sailed forth to seek adventures. He arrived in London and finally enlisted in the army. He was twenty-one when he joined the army, stayed a year in England and then for more than six years served abroad, most of the time in New Brunswick. He became Sergeant-Major of his regiment. During this time he had the opportunity to acquire his own education, studying grammar and reading many works. In New Brunswick he also met Ann Reid, who became his wife after some years. He went back to England in November 1791 and was honorably discharged from the army. Cobbett and Ann Reid were married February 5, 1792.

The first thing he wrote for the press was a little pamphlet called The Soldier's Friend, written about 1792.



This had a large circulation. Before it appeared Cobbett had gone to France accompanied by his wife, intending to perfect himself in the French language. This was during the days of the Revolution. Cobbett took ship for America, his wife later on joining him.

*no - her letters show that she was with him on the ship - J.E.*

For more than seven and one-half years -- from the twenty-ninth to the thirty-seventh year of his age -- Cobbett lived in the United States. He landed in October 1792, visited Philadelphia and then took up his residence for a time in Wilmington. (The pages in Cole's biography bearing on his life in Wilmington have been typed and may be found in Sources.)

In Philadelphia Cobbett had a very stormy career. He issued many pamphlets which were vigorous and plain-spoken, and finally brought him into the thick of political controversy. A reviewer likened him to a porcupine. Nothing could have pleased him better, and "Peter Porcupine" he became. In 1795 among other pamphlets he issued The Life and Adventures of Peter Porcupine. Because his feeling was strongly Democratic, overwhelmingly anti-British, keenly pro-French, Cobbett Philadelphia's deliberately flouted all <sup>Philadelphia's</sup> most cherished views. In a shop he fitted up, in July 1796, he filled his shop window with every obnoxious picture and cartoon he could think of. A huge mob gathered and threats of violence were made; his audacity, however, made him famous in the United States.

In January 1796, Cobbett received a visit from M. Talleyrand, the great French minister ostensibly in exile, but probably an unofficial French agent in the United States. He asked for a meeting with Cobbett. He had no success with Cobbett

*See Clark  
Theriot  
1939*

who disliked him; what Talleyrand said he wanted was to be taught English. More pamphlets followed. In March 1797 Cobbett established a daily/<sup>paper</sup>- Porcupine Gazette and Daily Advertiser; in this he defended the Federalists and attacked the Democrats liberally. He ran afoul of Chief Justice Thomas McKean and their subsequent quarrels in court and elsewhere furnish interesting reading.

Finally Cobbett turned his attacks upon Dr. Benjamin Rush who was a devotee of bleeding and treating with "mercurial purges." In the end Dr. Rush entered a suit for libel against him. It was two years before the action came to trial. The result was a verdict for \$5,000 in Dr. Rush's favor. Within a few days, Cobbett's property in Philadelphia was sold up, and a whole impression of "Porcupine" works, lying in sheets awaiting issue, was sold as waste paper and destroyed.

Now Cobbett went to New York and continued his attacks upon his favorite enemies. On June 1, 1800 he sailed for England. In his homeland Cobbett became a publicist and pamphleteer. He began the publication of the Political Register, which was continued until 1838, two years after his death. The Register was a huge success. He lived in London from 1800 to 1804; in June 1805 he bought a farm between Botley and Curbridge. This was his residence until his bankruptcy in 1820.

In 1809 he attacked with tremendous vigor the flogging which went on in the British army. In a Register he attacked flogging without gloves and the attorney-general filed an assize against Cobbett for sedition. For many months no attempt



was made to bring Cobbett to trial. At last the case was tried on June 15, 1810, Cobbett pleading his own cause. His defense made a bad impression; the jury found him guilty in five minutes. Sentence pronounced was two years imprisonment in Newgate and a fine of one thousand pounds. He was at once removed to prison. When released July 9, 1812, his journey to Botley was a triumphal procession.

Cobbett continued the Register and his usual activities; he sailed for the United States on March 27, 1817. During his sojourn in America, two years in all, he lived in Long Island and then on a farm, "Hyde Park," near Hempstead. He printed during this time A Year's Residence in the United States of America. His house at North Hempstead burned down in May 1819 and he removed to New York. In October he took ship for England. It was on this trip back that he carried to England the bones of Thomas Paine.

From then to the remainder of his life Cobbett was a stormy petrel in English politics. He took the side of the workers in the strikes and opposed factory slavery. He also interested himself in the affairs of Ireland, becoming an enthusiastic advocate of Catholic Emancipation. In this cause he wrote his famous History of the Protestant Reformation in England, which is to this day among the most widely known and read, though not the best, of his books.

Cobbett continued his political activities and pamphleteering. From 1830 to 1832 he engaged in the struggle for Parliamentary Reform. In the riots that attended the Reform agitations many farms and homes were burned; nine of the rioters were

were hanged, many were transported and four hundred were imprisoned. An attempt was made to silence Cobbett by imprisonment. Trial was held on July 1831 with Cobbett again defending himself. He spoke for four and one-half hours. The jury was shut up all night and was dismissed in the morning when they returned a verdict -- six for acquittal and six against. The Reform Act was passed and after this Cobbett was elected to Parliament for Oldham. He remained in Parliament until his death in 1835.

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In Peter Porcupine, a study of William Cobbett, 1762-1835, by Marjorie Bowen, 1936, the table of contents indicates the stages of Cobbett's life as Farmer's Boy, Sergeant-Major, Bookseller and Pamphleteer, Government Man, Five Hundred Lashes-Five Men, The Rebel, the New World, Queen's Man, Englishman's Heritage, and Member of Parliament.

On his second trip to the United States this author notes that the farm named "Hyde Park" was on Long Island. He went on January 12, 1818 to Philadelphia. He notes what he saw in Philadelphia. He also was curious enough to seek out the house where he and his wife had set up their modest housekeeping. (Query - Was this Philadelphia or Wilmington?) He also went to Harrisburg and Lancaster -- no mention is made here that he visited Wilmington, but it would be interesting to read over his journal of A Year's Residence in the United States to see whether he says anything of visiting Wilmington or concerning the place. Bowen says "he returned



home part of the way by steamboat." Ann Cobbett survived William twelve years, dying in 1848.

The author says Cobbett is above all a journalist; he deals lightly with what were to him topical subjects; he addresses one particular audience. She also speaks of his style as being "clear, exact, and forceful." Cobbett once said "my nearly a hundred books," which indicates the amount of his literary output.

Reese Hammond  
April 27, 1938

Jefferson S. Coage (1876-19-- )

Jefferson S. Coage was born July 17, 1876 in Wilmington, Delaware, the second son of William Wesley and Mary Elizabeth Coage.

Young Coage's education began at the early age of five when he attended a pay school at Eleventh and Walnut Streets, Wilmington. A year later, he entered Howard School from which he was graduated at the age of sixteen. After working two years, Coage matriculated at Wilberforce University in Ohio, and finished the Classical Course on June 15, 1899. Honors won at the university included command of the cadet battalion and scholastic rating of fourth in a class of fifty-six. While at the institution, Coage did chores for the late Colonel Charles Young.

Returning to Delaware, he secured employment with Lt. Carswell, City Surveyor, and remained with him for a year, after which he was appointed clerk in the Twelfth U. S. Census at Washington, D. C. Of the twenty-eight clerks sent to Washington, Mr. Coage stood at the head with a percentage of ninety-six and one-half. He resigned the clerkship to enter business, in which he remained active until January 1924.

After a short respite from private business, Mr. Coage was appointed (1924) a Member of the United States Commission to investigate conditions in the Virgin Islands. His tenure on the Commission was one year. President Coolidge again took cognizance of Mr. Coage's ability and appointed him Second Deputy Recorder of



Deeds in the office of Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C. His brilliant record in this office resulted in his promotion to Recorder of Deeds by President Herbert Hoover, September 1930.

Under his administration, this office had its first surplus of appropriated funds. He invented a card system of incorporation recordation which was adopted for its improvement over the old method. Other noteworthy improvements during the nine-year tenure of Mr. Coage was a new patent receiving machine; a formula and system of income fees that placed the office on a remunerative basis; and plans for a new office building.

Mr. Coage has the distinction of serving in the office of Recorder of Deeds as an administrative officer longer than any other Recorder of Deeds. A bachelor, a much sought after speaker (member of the Republican National Speakers Bureau since 1904), he is writing a book on "Corporate Procedure in the District of Columbia." He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Wilberforce University. He is a trustee of Kittrell College and Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Washington, D.C. As member of the Northern Jurisdiction F.A. & A.M., 33rd degree, and Hercules Lodge, G.U.O.O.F., No. 3245, Mr. Coage enjoys full fraternal privileges.

When in Wilmington, he resides at No. 1118 B Street, from which place he registers and votes.

## Biographies

Pierre Samuel duPont (1739-1817)

Submitted by Reese Hammond

Pierre Samuel duPont de Nemours, political economist and statesman, ~~was~~ the progenitor of the internationally known Delaware family of du Ponts, was born in Paris, December 14, 1739. At the age of twenty-three he attracted the attention of Quesnay by clever writings in the field of economics.

The publication of duPont's first important book, <sup>1764,</sup> on the exportation and importation of bread-stuffs, established for him an intimate friendship with Turgot, then Intendent of Limoges.

As editor of the "Journal of Agriculture and Finance" in 1765, he ~~aroused~~ <sup>AROUSING</sup> such animosity that he was compelled to resign the next year.

Following this unsuccessful venture in the field of journalistic endeavor he turned seriously to authorship and gave the world his "Physiocratie" in 1767, and in 1768 assumed active editorship of "Ephemerides du Citoyen" the organ of the economists, in which he advocated a number of reforms, which incurred the enmity of Terray, anti-liberal French minister. Terray dismissed the militant editor and prohibited the publication of the "Ephemerides."

Although in bad graces at home the work of the young writer brought unsolicited honors from



the Margrave of Baden and the Kings of Sweden and Poland. In 1774 at the behest of the King of Poland DuPont went to Poland to organize a system of ~~U~~ational education but was recalled to France upon the ascendancy of Turgot to power. Again in France he took active part in the initiation of reform measures concentrating especially on financial matters. Upon Turgot's disgrace, DuPont was again banished from Paris in 1776 and interested himself in agricultural pursuits until 1778, when he was recalled to the French Capital by Vergennes to conduct secret negotiations in the treaty of 1783, by which the United States was formally recognized by Great Britain; and in 1786 he negotiated the commercial treaty between Great Britain and France, for which service he was appointed Councillor of State.

From this point in his life DuPont achieved a number of successes, among which was the adjustment of commercial difficulties with Jefferson, United States, Minister to France; and important radical fiscal changes. As Secretary-General of the Assemblies of Notables of 1787 and 1788 he aroused the ill feeling of the clergy by the proposal of still other reforms, and when Archbishop Brienne became Prime Minister was again ~~banished~~ banished from Paris.

At the beginning of the Revolution DuPont

---3---Pierre

was a member of the <sup>staff of the</sup> States-General from Nemours and was twice President of the Constituent Assembly, where he favored a consitutional monarchy. After the dissolution of the Assembly he was active in enforcement of the constitution and upholding the laws. Thus, August 10, 1792, the Legislative Assembly ordered DuPont's arrest for participation in the defense of Louis XVI at the Tuileries. He was hidden until July 20, 1794, when he was arrested and imprisoned in Paris. DuPont would have been guillotined but for the timely death of Robespierre, July 28, 1794. ✓

From the shadows of the guillotine he was elected to the Council of the Ancients in 1795 and became its President in 1797, but when the Jacobins overthrew the government DuPont was again sent to prison and narrowly escaped banishment. Two years later he emigrated to America, where he and his family were shown every consideration.

He returned to France in 1802 and helped promote the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803. Jefferson wrote DuPont on the first of November of that year: "The treaty which has so happily sealed the friendship of our two countries has been received here with great acclamation. For myself and my country I thank you for the aid you have given it and I congratulate you upon having lived to give



-----4-----Pierre

this aid to complete a transaction replete with blessings to millions of unborn men."

Napoleon's efforts to get DuPont to again hold office were fruitless for he was bitterly opposed to the great General. He accepted the Presidency of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and devoted his time to business and charitable pursuits.

He again returned to public life with the downfall of Napoleon and became Secretary of the Provisional which recalled King Louis XVIII. However, on Napoleon's escape from Elba he fled to American soil and rejoined his sons at the Powder mills on the Brandywine Creek, near Wilmington, Delaware, where he died, August 7, 1817.

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Scharf-History of Delaware- Vol#1-Pp#357

Coleman <sup>a</sup> DuPont (1863-1930)

Submitted by Reese Hammond

~~Thomas~~ Coleman <sup>d</sup> DuPont was born in Louisville, Kentucky, December 11, 1863, the only son of Antonine Biderman <sup>d</sup> DuPont and Ellen Susan Coleman. His early education was received through private tutors, who prepared him for Urbana University and Chauncey Hall School at Boston. In 1880 when he was not yet seventeen years of age he entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he remained for three years. On leaving school he began his industrial career as surveyor for the Southern Exposition at Louisville, in the summer of 1883. The next six years he spent as coal miner, street railway motorman, and mining engineer. During his tenure as engineer he acquainted himself with all the duties of mine operation and soon became superintendent.

In 1894, seeking a larger field of operation, he went to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, as manager of <sup>a</sup> steel company and soon reorganized its operating methods with an increase of output.

In 1902 Mr <sup>d</sup> DuPont purchased an interest in the E.I. <sup>d</sup> DuPont <sup>d</sup> de Nemours Company and was chosen ~~President~~ <sup>p</sup>. He immediately began a program of expansion and purchased more than a hundred of smaller rival concerns. The E.I. <sup>d</sup> DuPont <sup>d</sup> de Nemours Company expanded so rapidly under his regime that in 1907 the Federal government



XX

\*\*\*\*\*2-----Coleman

initiated a suit under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to disband the corporation. The suit was settled in 1912 by a ruling which set up three distinct companies. the parent corporation and two new ones.

From this point in his life Coleman DuPont was associated with one gigantic business success after another. Among the most notable of these was the erection of the Equitable Building in New York City, and the DuPont Building in Wilmington, Delaware. He also found time during this period to establish the DuPont-Boomer chain of hotels in the larger cities of the east. During the interim he was also closely associated with a number of banking institutions.

With all the major industrial activities of Coleman DuPont's life his greatest contribution was as a builder of roads and developer of communities. In his early years he built several highways of no small community worth but his paramount roadbuilding contribution was the two hundred feet wide DuPont Highway from Wilmington to the southern boundary of Delaware at a cost of \$4,000,000. This magnificent stretch of roadway was his personal donation to the State of Delaware, and as a result, the State has more miles of hard-surfaced highways per capita and per square mile than any other.

In 1921, after the resignation of Josiah O.

57  
-----3-----Coleman

Wolcott, Democrat, as Senator from Delaware, Mr. <sup>d</sup>~~du~~Pont was urged by the Republican Party to accept the appointment. Reluctantly he entered the Senate and served from July, 1921, to November 8, 1922. As candidate for reelection he was defeated. In 1924 he was drafted by the Republican Party and won the office with <sup>t</sup>the largest majority ever given a candidate in Delaware. He served his party diligently for four years, but upon the opening of Congress in 1928 tendered his resignation, giving his health as ~~xx~~ cause for his action.

Having already relieved himself of business connections he retired to his home in Wilmington where he passed away quietly in 1930, leaving <sup>one</sup>~~three~~ sons and <sup>three</sup>~~two~~ daughters.

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Vertical File, Wilmington Institute Library-  
Wilmington, Delaware.

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## Biography

Augustine Herman(born?-1686)

Submitted by Reese Hammond

Augustine Hermans, or Heermans, also Herman and Harman, was of Bohemian birth but came from Holland to New Amsterdam about 1647, in which year he was appointed one of the Nine Men, a body of citizens who assisted the government by counsel and advice. He came to this country as clerk to John and Charles Gabry.

At the behest of Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of New Amsterdam, Augustine Herman and Resolved Waldron went to Maryland to deal with Lord Baltimore concerning the proprietorship of the land "which lyeth under the 40th Degree of North Latitude." Herman and his shrewd co-worker found that only lands never before inhabited by Christians <sup>had been</sup> ~~were~~ granted to Baltimore, and ~~upon~~ this implication ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ so weakened the claim of Baltimore that the Dutch claim of ownership was <sup>more</sup> strongly established. Herman and Waldron predicated their argument on the settlement of this area by a group of Dutchmen in 1631 at Lewes-- before the charter to Baltimore was written.

In prosecution of the duties involved in settling this dispute Herman, a surveyor and draughtsman, drew maps of Maryland and Virginia. Lord Baltimore rewarded

-----2----- Augustine

HERMAN

*him* by a charter to found Cecil Town and County, and brought his family to Maryland. *on* June 19, 1662, he was granted further patents for 'a track of land called Bohemia Manor,' and one known as 'Little Bohemia,' situated at the junction of ~~the~~ Elk and Bohemia Rivers at the head of ~~the~~ Chesapeake Bay; to which was added in 1671 'St. Augustine's Manor,' including the territory east of *the* former, ~~xxx~~ between St. George's and Appoquinimink Creeks, to the shores of the Delaware.

Because of certain encroachments and attempts to invalidate Herman's title to Augustine Manor it was necessary for him to get a confirmatory license from Captain John Carr, Deputy Governor of Delaware under New York on December 16, 1672, at New Castle. He immediately placed his sons Ephraim George and Casparus on Augustine Manor in effort to preserve his claim.

A short time after the settlement of his sons in Delaware a road was built from Herman's ~~Manor~~ plantation to their residence near New Castle. This was probably the first road on the Manor. The west part of this road was on or near the track of the present road leading from St. Augustine(Md.) to Bohemia Bridge. For many years after ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Herman's death this road was called the old man's path. Its construction was a work of no small magnitude for it is thought to have been about twenty-two miles in length. This road was also known as Herman's cart-road.



-----3-----

Herman was married to ~~to~~ Janneken Verlett of Utrecht, at New Amsmsterdam in 1650. From this union five children were born: Ephraim George, Casparus, Anna Margareta, Judith and Francina. The second marriage of Herman, spoken of in Dankers and Sluyter's Journal cannot be authenticated. Herman died in 1686, leaving an immense estate that was for a number of years the cause for much legal bickering.

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La Mont

61

Wilmington drawn  
Folder; art  
(see State House  
Biography.)

DELAWARE ARTISTS

Hepburn, Cheretien Yeatman Pyle

The first woman artist of Delaware .

Born at West Chester, Pa.

Wife of the physician Dr. Joseph S. Pyle of Wilmington, Del.

Later married the U.S. Senator Hepburn of Idaho.

She is represented in the State House by a collection of portraits of Delaware statesmen and other distinguished sons; also by a canvas of James A. Bayard, great as a lawyer and political leader of the State. There are a number of floral and landscape pictures bearing her signature in the homes of the people of Wilmington, and it is said they are very much prized.

After she married the Idaho Senator, she resided in Washington, D.C. ~~she resided in~~ Washington or at her estate near Fox Chase, Del., just across the Delaware boundary in Pennsylvania. This estate had come to her through six or seven generations of her family and is still occupied by one of the same name, a kinsman.

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SOCIAL WELFAREGeneral

Charitable organizations  
Hospitals  
Orphans' homes  
Hospital clinics and dispensaries  
Health clinics  
Health centers  
Socialized medicine  
Community centers  
Settlement houses  
Social agencies  
Benefits  
Bazaars  
Fairs  
Ticket selling  
Play grounds  
Recreation centers  
Swimming pools  
Day nurseries  
Vocational training  
Free libraries  
Civic organizations  
Camps  
Health resorts  
Foundations  
Popular subscriptions  
Homes for aged  
Widows pension  
Old age pension  
State emergency relief  
Federal emergency relief  
Forums  
Infant mortality  
Charitable institutions  
Soup kitchens

Organization

Visiting Nurses Association  
Birth Control League  
Salvation Army  
Shut-in Society  
Red Cross  
Blind Society (Braille books) Blind Shop  
Family Aid Society  
Boy Scouts  
Girl scouts  
Campfire Girls  
Boys Club  
Y.M.C.A.  
Y.W.C.A.  
Y.M.H.A.  
Y.W.H.A.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Organization (continued)

Delaware Citizens Association  
Needlework Guild of America  
Christmas Toy Distribution (10,000 toys annual)  
Delaware State Woman's Christian Temperance Union  
Delaware Colony, State Training School  
St. Michael's Home for Babies  
Washington Street Home for Babies  
French Street Day Nursery  
Florence Crittenton Home  
Delaware Anti-Tuberculosis Society  
The Nemours Foundation Hospital for Children (Crippled)  
Zoning commission

Catholic welfare  
Protestant welfare  
Hebrew welfare  
Negro welfare

Prisoners aide  
Parole Board

State Old Age Welfare Commission  
Mothers' Pension Commission  
Unemployment Compensation Commission  
Industrial Accident Board

Workmans' Compensation Law  
Child Labor Law

Works Progress Administration  
National Youth Administration

State Welfare Home  
State Training School for Feeble Minded

Travelers' Aid Society

Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation  
(distribution and their values)



SOCIAL WELFAREStatisticsBlind appropriation

\$24,000 each year by the state

Social security

90,486 enrolled in Delaware--according to Social Security Board

540 claims paid since program began--January 1st, 1937  
\$19,758 total payments in claims since program began

Unemployment compensation

\$2,138,466.14 collections received from employers  
109,925.21 expenses for past fiscal year--exclusive of equipment

Children's Bureau of Delaware

1,255 under-privileged and neglected children were served from 60 Delaware communities during past year

389 children in actual care

167 children in foster homes

Accepts children between the ages of 10 days and 21 years  
Costs about \$300.00 yearly to provide for each child

State Welfare Home

3000 now on roster

\$25.00 per month maximum allowance

\$10.81 average allowance

Health service and clinics

102 child health clinics

91 child health clinics in New Castle County

7 child health clinics in Kent County

4 child health clinics in Sussex County

14 agencies providing health service

20 field nurses in child health work

--mortality rate in Delaware

Free foot and dental clinics

SPORTSFish and Game LawsLicenses

The fishing license fee for non-resident citizens is \$7.50.

A short-term or tourist license, valid for six consecutive days from date of issue, is available at a cost of \$3.25. No license is required to fish in the Delaware River or Bay, and Atlantic Ocean, or Indian River Inlet. Children under 16 years and women accompanying a licensed fisherman require no license.

The resident license fee is \$1.25. Residents may fish in the Indian River and all tide waters without license. Occupants and resident owners of farms containing 20 acres or more may fish, hunt and trap on their farms without license. Aliens cannot fish, hunt or trap in Delaware except on a farm of 20 acres or more on which they reside.

The non-resident hunting and trapping license fee is \$15.50, but a short-term license good for five consecutive days from date of issue may be had for \$5.50. Children under 15 are exempt when accompanied by a licensed hunter. The resident hunting and trapping license fee is \$1.25. Licenses may be obtained from any Justice of the Peace; proof of citizenship must be furnished.

1938 Open Seasons and Bag Limits

	<u>Begins</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>
Frog.....	May 1	Dec. 31	24*
Squirrel.....	Sept. 15	Nov. 1	6
Rails (except coots) ...	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	15
Coots.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	25
Gallinules (except coots)	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	15
Sora.....	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	15
Dove.....	Sept. 1	Sept. 30	15
	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	
Fox, red.....	Oct. 1	April 30	
Raccoon and opossum.....	Nov. 1	Jan. 15	
Wild duck.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	10
Geese.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	5
Snipe.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	15
Woodcock.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 14	4
Pheasants (cock birds only)	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	2
Quail.....	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	12
Rabbit.....	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	6
Mink, otter, and muskrat	Dec. 1	Mar. 10	

(On embanked meadows in New Castle County muskrats may be taken until March 20th.)

\* Limit of 10 daily with fishing license.



Wm. H. Forbes  
September 9, 1940

Sports

66

### EARLY BASKET BALL DAYS

The first serious attempt to play basket ball in Wilmington was at the WEST END READING ROOM, in 1895. A few players went out there from the Y.M.C.A., where they had been playing the game among their own members.

In the early days, the floor was marked off, and the players had to stay within the marks. The foul tries were handled by one player, whereas today, the player the foul is committed on tries for the extra punt.

One coach who had experience in the early games considers them rougher than the games played today. Today, schools and industrial establishments, and other groups have their teams for competitive play, for which prizes are awarded at the end of the season.

Girls basket ball teams, have entered the picture, putting on a spirited game, if not so rough.

Reference: Personal Interview

LOCATION: Delaware

File No. 140

Subject: Geology

Submitted by: Jerry Euseby

Date: December 27, 1935.

IV, p. 4

The geology of the State of Delaware is grouped under four distinct ages of formation; which, beginning with the oldest, are called Archean, Cretaceous, Tertiary, and Quarternary or Modern.

III, p. 398 &  
IV, p. 6

Excluding a small area south of Newark, the Archean rocks underlie about one-twentieth of the State north of an imaginary and general line which starts at the state-line in the latitude of Elkton, Maryland, and runs northeast to where the Christiana River is bridged by the Newark to Delaware City branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, thence north to the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington (Or the Penn. R.R.) Railroad, and following this to Edgemore Station, about three miles north of Wilmington, where it turns abruptly east to the Delaware River. These rocks, together with the area they underlie, are often referred to by the general term Primary. They are part of the Piedmont Plateau range. - Incidentally they are the only notable exposures of rock in the State.

I, p. 10 &amp;

V, p's. 151  
to 152

I &amp; II

VI, p. 623

The Primary or Archean crystalline rocks are of both eruptive and sedimentary origin. The ~~former~~ <sup>latter</sup> consist of gneiss, mica schist, and limestone, and the ~~latter~~ <sup>former</sup> of granite, apophyllite, serpentine, and gabbro, with dykes of pegmatite and diabase. Of these groups it is found that



I, p. 10      gneiss, limestone, the schist and serpentine are stratified. Predominant amongst them is gneiss. Composed, as it is, of quartz, feldspar and mica, it embraces about three-fourths of the Primary region, and the mica schist occupies most of the remaining fraction.---The gabbro-granite, and gneiss from which feldspar is obtained, are most useful for commercial purposes.

I, p. 12      The sedimentary rocks can be viewed to advantage between Wilmington and Haaman's Creek, and the eruptive rocks are well exposed along Brandywine Creek.

IV, p's. 4  
to 8      The Cretaceous formation of the State lies between the southern boundary of the Primary or Archean and an imaginary line running from the mouth of Appoquinimink Creek in a southwesterly direction through the centre of Hoxontown Pond to the state-line. Thus it lies in a domain about eighteen miles wide and fifteen to twenty miles long. It is divided into a lower, middle, and upper series of structure. Beginning with the lowest, this series is further divided into plastic clays of the lower marl bed; red sand of the indurated marl bed; and the green sand, friable shells, and upper yellow or reddish sand of the middle marl bed.

The plastic clays ~~are~~ predominate in the series of Cretaceous subdivisions. They are seldom exposed to view, but the representative red clay can be examined along Red Lion Creek. --- It is supposed that this clay could be employed to manufacture terra cotta products.

The marl beds are <sup>located</sup> ~~found~~ principally in St. George's Hundred, New Castle County, and the accessory green sand is found along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, varying in distance from one-fourth to one mile from the latter. To deepen the canal, it is necessary to cut through the formation.

The lower marl bed extends along the C. and D. Canal. Its basic constituent is the sand mentioned above, with an admixture of siliceous sand and clayey matter. This is covered with a "shelly layer of about three feet in thickness," which in turn is superimposed by a black marl of "particles of quartz," green sand and several "minute scales of muscovite mica."

The indurated marl bed stretches roughly from a little way south of the C. & D. Canal to an imaginary line, which crosses the State in a southwesterly direction, from Port Penn via Middletown to the state-line. It consists of a reddish siliceous sand, some green sand, and an over-layer of hard marl, which has "a rusty green color when dry."

The middle marl bed takes in an area three and a half miles wide extending across the State parallel to the southern boundary of the indurated marl bed. It consists of a basic layer of pure green sand, overlaid with a stratum of friable shells to a depth of three to ten feet, followed by an upper sand of a yellow or reddish color. This, as well as all the other Delaware marls, is rich in silica, iron, protoxide, and potash; the latter in greatest quantity. Therefore, the marls make excellent fertiliser.



IV, p. 7      The Tertiary formation underlies the remainder of the State south of the marl beds, although the Quarternary or Modern deposits are dominant south of the latitude of Murderkill River. Both of these formations have been

IV, p. 8      ascribed, in order of mention, to the Miocene and Pliocene ages respectively. The Tertiary is chiefly a white plastic clay, about ten to twenty feet thick, <sup>which</sup> ~~it~~ extends over Kent County, and ~~it~~ can be seen along the creeks therein. South of an imaginary line which runs parallel to Murderkill River, the white clay is covered by a considerable stratum of white glass sand. This sand is in turn overlaid with a bed of blue clay which varies in thickness from three to ten feet, and is replaced by black bog mud in some cases.

IV, p. 8b      The Quarternary deposit covers all the formations already described, to the extent of quarternary-submersion, or about two hundred and ten feet above sea level. It has an average depth of approximately twenty-five feet. Its basic elements are coarse red sand and gravel in the northern part of the State, and fine white sand and gravel in the southern part. Mixed with the underlying clays, these constituents tend to produce a rich tenaceous soil.

IV, p. 4      The particularly modern bog clay is found along the marshes, and the shores of the rivers and bay.

IV, p's 4 to 8b, & VI, p. 629      Mining: The minerals of the State are of little value, when compared with those of other states. Some iron ores have been found in Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, on

VI, p. 629,  
V, p. 151  
to 152,  
IV, p's. 4  
to 5b.

Chestnut and Iron Hills, and also along the creeks in Sussex County. The quarries of granite or hypersthene-gabbro, in Wilmington and its vicinity, yield a stone which is excellent for road-surfacing and rough construction work. Kaolin is found chiefly near Rockessin, New Castle County, and a little limestone has been quarried along Christiansa Creek, a few miles from where it enters the State.

The net proceeds from the stone quarries exceed the combined returns from the kaolinic and terra cotta clays, and the glass sands.

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*J. D. Mearns*



File No. S-140  
LOCATION - STATEWIDE

Submitted by - Robert Campbell,

Date - January 4, 1936.

*Reference*

#### GEOLOGY

Almost the entire State of Delaware consists of ~~sedimentary deposits, the only exception being the~~ small area covering about a third of New Castle County lying for the most part north of a line drawn from Wilmington to Newark.

This section, known as the Piedmont Plateau, contains the only highlands in the state. It consists of primary rock chiefly of a type known locally as Brandywine Blue Granite, a beautifully veined stone that takes a high polish. The greater part of the area consists of rock containing varying proportions of quartz, feldspar, and mica.

The surface soil of the Piedmont Plateau section is classified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as "Chester loam," with "Chester silt loam," in the river bottom lands and "sassafras loamy sand," in the eastern portion directly to the north of Wilmington. These soils have been formed largely through decomposition of the underlying rock. The decomposition of feldspar has left deposits of kaolin particularly in the neighborhood of Hockessin. Rock formations of lesser importance in this section include serpentine rock of a striking green color and small deposits of limestone. The only important metallic ore is found at Iron Hill, an outlier of the Piedmont Plateau as is also Chestnut Hill.

The iron ore in Iron Hill was extensive enough to warrant mining by the open pit method in early times, but it has since been abandoned.

Streams in this section are old with well defined channels cut deeply into the rock.

The rest of the State is underlaid with layers of sedimentary deposits having a fairly regular slope to the south and east. The older deposits usually having the greatest angle of slope so the more modern formations tend to become thicker towards the south. This however does not apply uniformly.

With the exception of deposits of iron ore of the "bog" variety, which have been largely exhausted, there are no metallic ores found. There are, however clays suitable for brick and terra-cotta found in New Castle County and white plastic clay suitable for pottery underlays most of Kent County. Blue Clay is found in Sussex County, below which is a layer of pure white glass sand, but too deep for commercial utilization.

Southern New Castle and northern Kent Counties also contain marl beds of importance. These have been worked to some extent for the manufacture of fertilizer due to their potash content.

While the surface soil of the Piedmont Plateau region is predominantly loam, that of the coastal plain is predominantly silt.



The soil in general becomes more sandy to the East and south, well defined sand <sup>bars</sup> ~~leams~~ and dunes having formed along the shores of the bay and ocean. Tidal marsh borders on the Delaware River and Bay varying in width from one quarter to about four miles. Above this the nature of the surface soil depends largely upon drainage conditions, the amount of organic matter increasing with poor drainage, forming in some sections a soil of decidedly "peaty" character.

The streams flowing through flat level country have for the most part cut meandering paths through the relatively soft soil formations. Their channels have not been cut far below the general level of the land and through the tidal marshes they have no well defined banks.

The larger rivers are tide water streams for some miles from their mouths.

(Material supplied by Walter Kershner, and Jerry Sweeney.

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This copy  
corrected for additions  
+ Jacobusburg  
added.

~~S-112~~

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add 4 U.S. Dept of Commerce, Coast & Fisheries Survey  
 - Gulf of Cape Hatteras + Del. Inlandwater, no 79 1930  
 - " Del Bay no 1218 Inland to Paris 1930  
 - " River no 295 1932  
 - " " " , Domestic Hook to Lighthouse no 294 1933  
 Washington, D.C. Gov. B. off.

DR. WILLIAM BALDWIN

"The Potato. From the Delaware Watchman. Dr. Baldwin, late surgeon on the frigate Congress, has decided the controversy respecting the habitat of the potato. Solanum Tuberosum. He found this vegetable growing abundantly on the north side of the Rio de la Plata, in wild uncultivated situations, unknown to the inhabitants, who do not even cultivate this valuable plant, now so generally attended to in most parts of the civilized world.

It is found growing among the rocks on Monte Video, and in the vicinities of Maldenado, in the sand hills on the river shore, as well as in low moist situations, near streams of water. The largest tubers were not more than half an inch in diameter."

Niles' Weekly Register, V. 14, P. 392 (Aug. 1, 1818).

J. F. P. 1/26/39.



- "F.R.A. in Del is carrying out a program that means the eventual retirement of approximately 4968 acres from farm usage in the State., chiefly forest areas in Kent & Sussex Counties.
- "Worked out through the rehabilitation plan of the administration by which a total of \$22,443 has been loaned to 50 clients.
- "Farm debt reductions effected - \$45.184.
- "Options have been accepted at Washington on 88 percent of the 4968 acres to be retired and a fund of \$112,521 allotted to retire this submarginal land.
- "Cost of necessary land improvement is estimated at \$235,700.
- "Provisions provide for a recreational area, wild life sanctuary, reforestation; prevention of stream pollution & sea coast erosion. July 3, 36, 343 men were being employed in this phase of the work.
- "Clarence E. Keys is project manager.
- "This land is 60 percent wooded. Poor drainage was an important factor in the failure to farm the land. \$150 average annual cash income per farm there.
- "Delaware State Land Planning Consultants estimated Del. has about 33,000 acres in agricultural use which should be retired from such use in the best interests of the State's land resources."

W. H. Conner  
January 9, 1939

CURRENT FILE  
TRANSPORTATION

79

Extract from the Delaware State Journal (Statesman and Blue Hen's Chicken), Wilmington, Friday, May 29, 1857.

FOR PHILADELPHIA.

At 6.45 A. M. and 2 P. M.

ON and after MONDAY, May 4th, the steamers ZEPHYR and PIONEER will run as follows, viz:

Leave Wilmington at 6.45 A.M., and 2 P.M.

Leave Philadelphia at 8.30 A.M. and 3 P.M.

Stopping at Chester and Marcus Hook each way.

Fare between Wilmington & Philadelphia, 38 cents.

" for Colored Persons, 30 cents.

Return trip tickets, 60 cents.

Between Chester or Hook and Philad'a, 18 cents.

" for Colored Persons, 15 cents.

Return trip tickets, 30 cents.

Return trip tickets are good only for the day they are dated.

Freight taken at the usual low rates. Shippers are respectfully notified to send receipts, (properly filled up,) with each lot of goods and that all goods not receipted for will be entirely at the owners risk. Slip receipts can be procured at the office, in Wilmington or Philadelphia.

atc



Wm. H. Forbes  
November 25, 1940

Cities and Towns  
Wilmington

80

#### EARLY CAB SERVICE IN WILMINGTON

Before taxicabs made their appearance on Wilmington streets, passengers were conveyed to and from the Depot by horse-drawn cabs. This business was controlled by the Wilmington Transfer Company, which also handled the trunks and luggage. The cabs did not differ greatly from the taxis of today. The hansom cab, popular in metropolitan centers, was never adopted here. This was a high two-wheeled affair, the driver sitting on his high seat in the rear; the reins ran over the top of the cab, through a bracket on the front of the roof. That the driver might more readily communicate with his fare, a small trap door was in the roof in front of the driver. Two small doors closed in front of the passenger, about half-way up, with a curtain for the upper half in case of inclement weather. As is the case in all two-wheeled vehicles, there was a certain amount of jolting experienced.

This type of cab originated on the Continent, and has disappeared with the horse. The cabs rented out by the livery concerns for weddings and funerals were drawn by two horses, the driver perched on a high seat in front, nearly level with the roof of the cab. The old company, now known as the Wilmington Baggage Transfer, confines its business to the handling of baggage, the cab service being divided among several different taxi companies.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

igneous gabbros & hyperites  
(Brandy wine Blue Granite)

Soft micaceous gneisses and shists  
(micaceous slaty rocks which crumble  
into rich, loose, sandy loam)  
Hornblende, feldspar, kaolin

Southern (Azoic) / Archean (oldest) / Northern Proterozoic(?)

generally red  
sometimes mottled  
white, sandy  
and for terra-cotta

Small area of  
loamy yellow siliceous  
sand, 90 ft. deep

Plastic  
clays

Marl

from  
ish sand to  
bluish-black  
containing  
mica

Tertiary

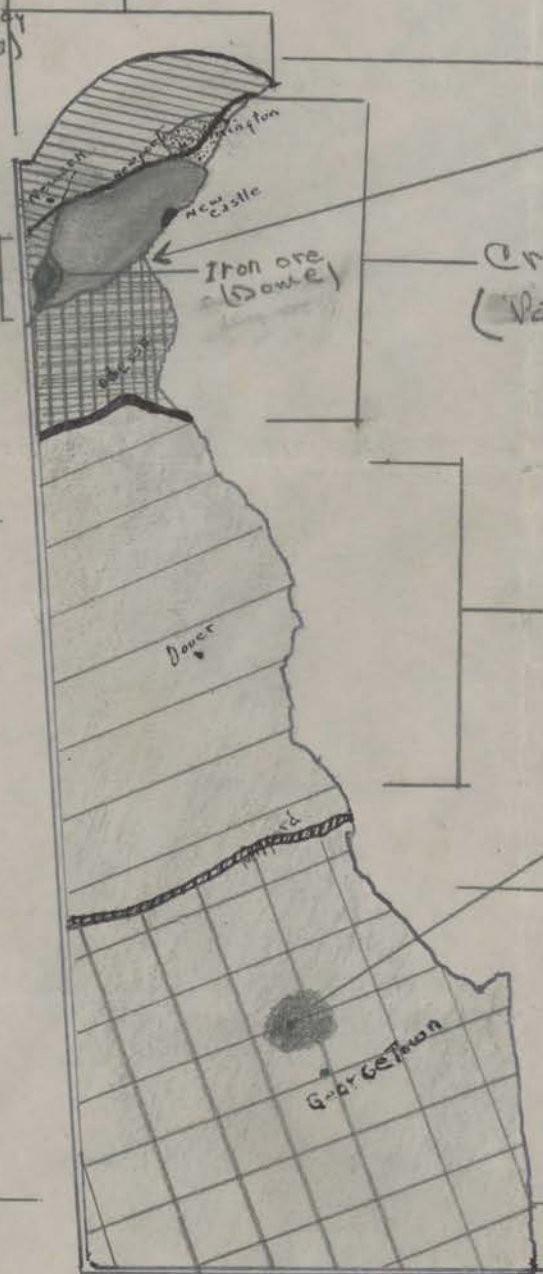
Cretaceous  
(Palaeozoic)

Drab (white clay)  
(Fine potters clay)  
(Pleozoic)

Iron ore  
(Lignite)

(Cainozoic)  
Quaternary  
(modern)  
Gravel & Sand  
clay

Blue clay  
(Mesozoic)  
underlaid by white glass sand





Family Society — Phil. & Welfare  
Needlework Guild — Hills.

Miss Mary Hynson.

(Mrs. Rogers Wilson)

School Foundation.

Mr. Newell  
Labor Relations

BIG CYPRESS SWAMP

The outstanding reminiscence of past ages that attracts attention in Delaware is the well-known Big Cypress, or Cedar, Swamp, an area of approximately 30,000 acres that lies mostly in southeastern Sussex County, Delaware, and to a smaller extent in Worcester and Wicomico Counties, Maryland.

This great wilderness, largely wet, is famed for the layers of cypress and white cedar which underlie the deep muck and rotted vegetation of the swamp bed. Successive fires, burning below the surface often for a year at a time, have destroyed most of the peat containing the ~~the~~ mummified logs, but small scattered areas remain. The logs are perfectly preserved by the chemical action of the peat in which they have been imbedded for thousands of years.

About 1850, the standing bald-cypress and white cedar timber was exhausted, and raising of the buried logs began. From that time until 1900, shingles were made (by hand as formerly) from logs raised in winter flood-time. Mining of cypress ceased when cheaper redwood and fir shingles were brought from the West.

The power for working the logs <sup>out to where men with cross-cut saws</sup> ~~was furnished by oxen~~ could cut them into sections of shingle length was furnished by oxen. The tools used were strange in modern aspect, and their names are stranger still--the riving frow, ~~the~~ bolting frow, riving maul, ramping stick <sup>and</sup> shingle-horse, in addition to mauls and draw-knives.

Most of the houses of early colonial days, and later, in the central Peninsula, were sheathed and roofed with these hand-riven cypress shingles, often 30 inches long. Houses of great age in Lewes, Millsboro, and Georgetown, as well as in Berlin, Md., bear original shingles from the Big Cypress Swamp. ~~Worn~~ Worn thin, they show no signs of ~~decay~~ decay, perhaps because they were split, or riven, with the grain, and not sawed as modern shingles are.



-4- (2)

Bears survived in the swamp until 1840, a century after their extinction elsewhere on the ~~Pen~~ Peninsula, and deer have been seen from time to time in recent years, though presumed to have escaped from Maryland preserves. All types of local wild life occur in the swamp, including ~~shay~~ snapping turtles of great size and the rare and beautiful wood duck (summer duck). Many species of flora distinctly southern in nature exist, including the southern bald cypress, white cedar, gums, hollies, magnolias, smilax, and others. Huckleberries grow extensively, and are in bearing in July.

As the headwaters of the Pocomoke River, the swamp water until the present time has always flowed 75 miles southwest to the Chesapeake Bay. In 1936, however, a canal was being built from the upper Pocomoke to a tributary of the Indian River, which flows into the Atlantic Ocean to the northeast, thereby taking ~~advan~~ advantage of the 30-foot natural elevation of the swamp floor which was separated from the Atlantic watershed by only three miles of intervening dry land. In contrast to the clogged, crooked and narrow channel of the Pocomoke, the new outlet will permit the swamp water to fall nearly 30 feet in five miles, and is expected to permit drainage of excess water to such an extent that several thousand acres of peaty ~~soil~~ soil, very rich, will be made <sup>available</sup> ~~available~~ for agriculture.

It may be said, in passing, that no fossil remains of importance exist in Delaware.

# DELAWAREANS IN REVOLUTIONARY NAVAL SERVICE

Among Delawareans who served with the naval forces during the Revolutionary War were Captain James Montgomery, a Scotchman, who owned a small vessel in the Continental service; Captain Henry Geddes; Captain Samuel Lovering, who was confined six months on the British prison ship Jersey; Captain Hugh Montgomery, of the brig Nancy fame; Commander Charles Pope, of the State Schooner Vigilant, and later of the State Schooner Delaware (for several years Delaware maintained a State Navy, with a complement of marines under Pope, who had also been Lieut. Col. of Col. ~~David~~ David Hall's Delaware Regiment); Captain Henry Fisher, Lewes pilot, who kept Washington informed of the movements of the British fleets; French Kellum, sailor in the Continental Navy (the sailor who fell down the well); and Jonathan Robinson, commander of The Pollies, a Wilmington brigantine.



## HARTFORD TIMES,

APRIL 27, 1946

A-5920—KIDD. Ref. "Capt. Kidd and His Skeleton Island" by Harold T. Wilkins.

"A Licence of marriage granted unto Capt. William Kidd, New York, Gentleman, of the one party and Sarah Oort, widow of Job<sup>d</sup> Oort, late of New York, merchant, deceased, the 16 day of May 1691."

The ancestry of Capt. Kidd is unproven; from various sources it seems probable he was b. Scotland about 1645.

A Captain Thomas Bradley of England had a daughter Sarah who married William Cox, alderman and merchant of New York; he was drowned off Staten Island. She married second John Oort, merchant and ship's captain; said to have been one of Capt. Kidd's officers.

She married Capt. Kidd, see license as above. They had daughters Sarah and Elizabeth; tradition says there was a son, but no mention is made of him in wills following.

Capt. Kidd was tried at Old Bailey and executed as a pirate, 1701. A Samuel Bradley who died in New York, 1702-3, left a will in which he named father Samuel Bradley, brother Henry Bradley; and "my loving brother-in-law, William Kidd" to be executor of this will.

Widow Sarah Kidd lived in "the comfortable and pleasant home of Captain Kidd at Liberty Square" in strict seclusion, with her daughter, until 1702, when on Nov. 4th Lord Cornbury grants a license to marry to Christopher Kinsley (Rousby) and widow Sarah Kidd. They lived for years in an old mansion of "the Bouwery." She was again left a widow and died 1744.

In her will dated Nov. 1, 1732, with a codicil dated Aug. 26, 1743, she named children Christopher, Henry, William Rousby; Sarah, widow of Joseph Latham; Elizabeth, wife of John Troul. The codicil states that Sarah Latham having died her share to go to her children.

It seems strange that among all the traditions given in this book there is no mention of the common one in New England about Mercy (Sands) Raymond, but the same story is given on p. 322 that a stranger who on a dark and stormy night begged shelter at Rye, N. Y., in the morning "filled the goodwife's apron with Arabian gold" etc.

That he was at Block Island is shown by several records and on p. 124, Sarah Sands of Shoreham, N. E. (Block Island) made deposition that Capt. Kidd with wife aboard ship was at Block Island in June, 1699. B. L. B.

A-5920. A. S. A. L., Feb. '8, 1946. KIDD - LATHAM. Joseph Latham of Flushing, L. I., and N. Y. city, b. 1674, d. 1748, mar. 1696, Jane Singleton. Their son Joseph was a shipwright of N. Y. city, d. 1731-2, mar. Sarah (—), dau. of Sarah Rousby of N. Y. city, who was widow of Christopher Rousby of New Jersey; she previously mar. Capt. Kidd and it may be possible that Sarah who mar. Joseph Latham was their dau. Ref. N. Y. Calendar of Wills, publ. by Col. Dames of N. Y., pg. 318. G. E. T.

A-5920. A. S. A. L., Feb. 16, 1946. KIDD - LATHAM. Sarah, dau. of Samuel Bradley, and wife of Capt. William Kidd, was mar. four times. She mar. 1st Apr. 17, 1685, William Cox, who was drowned Aug., 1689; she mar. 2nd John Oort and mar. third, May 16, 1691, Capt. William Kidd. After his death she mar. 1703, Christopher Rousby, removed to N. J., where she d. Sarah d. 1744, N. Y. city; had considerable real estate. She had no children by first or second marriages, but is supposed to have had daughters by Capt. Kidd. Her will probated N. Y. names five children: Christopher, Henry, Sarah Latham, William, Elizabeth Throop, wife of John Throop Jr. By a codicil in 1743 Sarah Latham having d. her share is left to her children.

Joseph Latham was a member of the pioneer shipwright family of N. Y. city; was prob. son of Joseph and Jane (Singleton) Latham. He d. 1731-2, leaving all to his wife Sarah; estate was insolvent. I. H. P.

A-5920. A. S. A. L., Feb. 16, 1946. KIDD - LATHAM. Have a Raymond record which states: "Richard (1) and Judith Raymond had a son Joshua (2) Raymond, who mar. Elizabeth Smith and settled in New London Co., Conn. Their son, Capt Joshua (3) Raymond mar. Mercy Sands of Block Island, heroine of a legend of Capt. William Kidd the Pirate." Have more data on Capt. Joshua (3) Raymond's desc. Would like to know about this Capt. William Kidd legend. H. J. K.

Henrietta Lovinger  
April 1, 1940

Encyclopaedia File 86  
Industry and Commerce  
Shipbuilding

#### SHIPBUILDING IN WILMINGTON, 1851-56

"Ship building in Wilmington.- The following are the number of vessels built in Wilmington for the six years, commencing in 1851 and ending June 30, 1856: In 1851 there were 9 vessels built, amounting to 1,752 tons, viz: 1 ship, 4 schooners, 1 sloop, or canal boat; and three steamers. During the same year there were 3 schooners and 3 sloops built in New Castle.

In 1852 there were 23 vessels built in Wilmington of 2,923, viz: 16 schooners, 5 sloops and canal boats, and 2 steamers.

In 1853 there were 33 vessels built, amounting to 4,435 tons, viz: 29 schooners, one sloop and 4 steamers.

In 1855 there were 37 vessels built of 5,477 tons, viz: 1 ship or bark, 30 schooners, 4 sloops and canal boats and 2 steamers.

In 1856 there were 31 vessels built of 4,385 tons, viz: 1 ship or bark, 1 brig, 18 schooners, 9 sloops or canal boats, and 2 steamers."

From the Delaware Gazette, April 30, 1858, p. 3, col. 2.



Wm. H. Conner  
June 20, 1941

History  
Revolutionary War

87  
ENCLOSURE 12 211

DELAWARE RECORDS TAKEN FROM  
THOMAS STROUD'S VESSEL

According to the Minutes of Council of the Delaware State, Page 947, the vessel which was captured by the British when they took Wilmington, and on board of which were valuable State papers, was owned by Thomas Stroud. Thomas Stroud's widow sought reimbursement for Stroud's losses from the State.

It seems that Thomas Stroud's vessel was taken or hired by the then President of Delaware State (John McKinly, captured by the British at the same time) to receive on board the Papers of the Central Loan Office of Delaware, the Records of New Castle County, and some valuable private property. (Although not mentioned in the Minutes, this private property included the funds of the Newark Academy.)

The vessel was taken by the enemy while under the guns of the fort near Wilmington on the morning of September 13, 1777. (This would have been Saturday morning.) The vessel was damaged £191-10 s., there was £ 15 for 5 days hire, in all £ 206 - 12 s.-10d.

Stroud's widow requested reimbursement. E. McComb, Auditor of Accounts, on June 3, 1785, thought that if an allowance of any kind be paid, it should be paid equally by the United States and the Delaware State.

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## Locality - HOLLYVILLE

Submitted by - Virginia F. Cullen

Date - March 5, 1936

Topic - General description

101- The little settlement of Hollyville, Sussex County, Delaware, derived its name from the abundance of holly indigenous to that locality and is seven miles east of Georgetown.

250- The community consists of a wide scattering of farmers' homes and a public rural schoolhouse.

A thriving industry on a cooperative basis has been built up here as elsewhere in Sussex County, by the farmers, who make holly wreaths and laurel ropes for distribution during the Christmas season. The farmers and their families gather at the various homes on late fall evenings and fashion holly wreaths and evergreen garlands to be sold to commission merchants.

Thousands of feet of laurel rope are sold at 1 cent per foot, and used almost exclusively in street and home decoration at Christmas. This lovely evergreen vine grows abundantly in that section. The inhabitants also furnish Christmas trees to be sold by stores in the Sussex County towns.

References: Lower Sussex farmers.



1125 Words

### STATE OBSERVANCES

The usual legal holidays are observed in Delaware, but the outstanding State holiday is Delaware Day, celebrated on December 7, the anniversary of the State's entrance into the Union in 1787 by signing the Constitution of the United States. This day has special significance because the Diamond State was the first of the colonies to sign the document and is therefore entitled to precedence of other States in parades and ceremonials. Flag Day, Arbor Day, and Constitution Day are also observed in the schools and by the general public.

Among the red-letter days of Delaware is "A Day in Old New Castle", held annually in the city of that name by the friends of Immanuel Church, built in 1703. The date is the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in May and the funds collected are utilized in paying for improvements to the church structure. The old houses in New Castle are thrown open to the public, and family heirlooms, including picture collections, pre-Revolutionary costumes, and house-furnishings may be viewed. The custom was inaugurated more than a decade ago. The price of admission is \$2 and visits may be made between 1 and 6 P.M., Advanced Time.

"Dover Day" is held annually by the Garden Club of Dover, on which occasion the fine old houses and gardens of the State Capital are opened to the public. The admission is \$1 and the proceeds are used by the Club for the beautification and betterment of the city. Christ Church, erected in 1734, is opened for the day, and the numerous antiques in



the old homes are offered for exhibit, as well as a map of Dover as it appeared in Revolutionary days . The date of the affair falls either on the 1st or 2nd Saturday in May, and visits may be made between 12.30 and 6.30 P.M. Advanced Time.

"Old Sussex Day" was held for the first time in Rehoboth Beach and Lewes, Del., on Saturday, June 29, 1935. It was sponsored by artists and Sussex countians interested in art. A number of the older houses as well as the churches were opened to visitors, and Indian relics, Colonial furnishings, and antiques of household and farm use were exhibited. Whether "Old Sussex Day" will become an annual institution has not been decided.

"Big Thursday" is a re-union day held annually at Bowers Beach on the 2nd Thursday in August. Many thousands from all parts of the State are attracted. "Big Thursday" has been observed for nearly a century, and had its origin in an old law marking August 10 as the first day on which oysters could be taken after the closed season. The Thursday nearest the date is chosen for the celebration; at present, picnics are held and major interest centers with the politicians and the mending of political fences.

The descendants of the Nanticoke Indians who live on the shores of Indian River and Bay, Sussex County, hold a Pow-Wow on each Thanksgiving Day. At the feast, held at Oak Orchard, the pipe of peace is smoked and ceremonials of various kinds engaged in.

Old Christmas, or Twelfth Night, is observed in Sussex County with exchange of presents and by church services.

In Wilmington, the observances are varied, with few of



them out of the ordinary. True, Halloween has always loomed large as a major mummers' night--for a number of years it took on the aspect of a veritable Mardi Gras, and thousands of visitors poured in <sup>to</sup> view the huge masked parades.

In Wilmington, <sup>also</sup> ~~too~~, the ~~Peoples~~ Peoples Settlement House holds an annual May Festival lasting three days, devoted to the drama, declamation, singing, and other exercises. The Women's College of the University of Delaware likewise stages a May Festival each year.

An interesting commercial bargain day, held <sup>each year</sup> twice in Wilmington by the Mercantile Section of the Chamber of Commerce, is known as Dollar Day, emphasis being laid on bargains at a dollar each. The days chosen are in February and March. Dollar Days have been held in Wilmington for a quarter of a century, and the occasions have won considerable reputation in the region surrounding that city. "Wilmington Day", another commercial sale-day, was inaugurated in 1935, and is held semi-annually, ~~February and~~ May and October.

An agricultural State in essence, Delaware was always noted for its State Fairs in the past. The ~~W~~ Delaware ~~Fair~~ State Fair, held in Wilmington for a generation, was reckoned as one of the most progressive in the East. It has been succeeded by the Kent-Sussex State Fair, held at Harrington, Del., since 1919.

In 1935, there was a total of 97,000 paid admissions to the grounds, which cover ~~50~~ 50 acres. It is marked by the usual agricultural exhibits, vaudeville attractions, fireworks displays, and harness horse-races. The fair grounds are used in the winter-time as a training track for racing stables. The Kent-Sussex Fair opens on Tuesday of the last week in July and closes on Saturday night. It is the first fair ~~in~~ in the East to open for the season.



The practice of rural volunteer firemen ~~in Delaware~~ in holding carnivals during the summer months has grown to be a custom in Delaware. At these affairs, the proceeds are used to purchase equipment, and inasmuch as the firemen offer their services free, the neighborhoods join liberally in support of these fund-raising carnivals. A week's carnival is held each year in June by Delaware Post, No. 1, American Legion, on the grounds of their Wilmington Home.

Mention must be made also of the Arden Town Fair, held at the Single Tax Colony in early September, and the Wilmington Automobile Show, which has been held for a week in Mid-winter for more than 25 years.

Carol Singing is engaged in at Wilmington by various groups in front of the Public Building each Christmas, and Easter Carols are sung on the same spot. Delaware has no organized State group for singing, but local groups exist in communities, among them the Wilmington Community Chorus, the Delaware Saengerbund (German) of Wilmington, and the ~~Orpheus~~ Capella Club and Orpheus Club, both of Wilmington, the latter a group of men singers organized in 1917.

In the several localities of the State, <sup>annual</sup> observances are ~~held~~ held of a historical, religious, and social nature, and a full Calendar of Delaware Days ~~is~~ may be found at the beginning of this Guide.

S. E. + *[illegible]*  
*[illegible]*  
*[illegible]*



(5)

240 280  
240  
3000

THE SWEDISH TERCENTENARY

An important historical celebration to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Swedes at Wilmington will be held in Delaware in 1638. The observance will be held jointly by the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Government has passed a resolution to invite the King of Sweden to attend and has appropriated \$10,000 to pay the ~~the~~ traveling expenses of the Old World visitors. The Swedish Government has already advised that Sweden will cooperate actively. In addition, it is planned to have minted a special commemorative half-dollar and to secure the issuance of special commemorative stamps.

The scope of the celebration, while large in <sup>aspect</sup> ~~aspect~~, has not been definitely determined upon as yet. Both Pennsylvania and Delaware have selected Tercentenary Commissions, the Delaware group being headed by George A. Elliot, president, with Dr. ~~the~~ George H. Ryden, general secretary; Miss Anna T. Lincoln, recording secretary, and Mrs. Alfred V. duPont, treasurer.

The central <sup>point</sup> ~~point~~ of the observance will be at ~~the famous~~ "The Rocks", on the Christiana River at Wilmington, which is the spot where the Swedes landed and made their first settlement in Delaware and in the New World. A movement is on foot for the acquisition by the State of Delaware of a plot of perhaps two acres embracing "The Rocks", and for the erection of an appropriate memorial. *there (1)*

#

V. E. Shaw  
Dec. 16, 1940

Education: 1775-1790  
John Webster  
98  
File

## AN EARLY WILMINGTON DRUG-STORE

Verbatim from the Delaware Gazette for Saturday, Nov. 5, 1791.

J O H N   W E B S T E R

HAS FOR SALE

At the Post Office, Market Street, Wilmington, a general assortment of genuine Drugs and Medicines, likewise sago, pearl and common barley, oatmeal, pot-ash, sugar-candy, sugar-plumbs, barley sugar, mace, cloves, nutmegs, raisins, figs, tamarinds, prunes & a variety of smelling bottles and fancy shaped snuff boxes, with a large assortment of chap books, Latin, Greek, and French Classics, Gunter's scales and dividers, good Writing paper, letter-paper gilt and plain, and a general assortment of dye stuffs.

\* \* \*

ibid. May 27, 1787.

"Patent medicines of all kinds sold by the printers."

(Craig & Co.)



Crowe, Donald  
March 9, 1937

*State 7-amer!* Industry and Commerce  
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99

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2-27-37: supplement. 48 p.

Wm. H. Forbes  
September 12, 1940

Cities and Towns  
Wilmington

100

115

#### A LOCAL ENTERPRISE

In the 1890's Wilmington had a hat factory, with a store for the sale of the product. This establishment was on West Seventh Street, and was conducted by Saltzgiver and Bupp, two young men originally from York, Pa. This was the first opportunity that local men had to buy a derby hat that would fit comfortably.

At the factory, size and shape of the head, registering every bump and dent, were taken by the use of a French machine, known as a "comformateur." Two grades, priced two and three dollars, were sold. An attempt was made to compete in the outside market with the larger and older hat concerns, but with little success. These efforts to spread out was eventually their undoing, and the business was discontinued about 1910.

Reference: Personal Recollections.



### Don Pedro, the Merino Sheep

Life of E.I.  
du Pont, Vol.

III, p.272. London, having in his charge four Merino rams, destined to America, two of which were consigned to Mr. Delessert's farm, at Rosendale, near Kingston on the Hudson River; one was intended for Mr. du Pont de Nemours himself, who then lived near New York and the other was to be presented to Mr. Thomas Jefferson. Mr. du Pont embarked in the ship Benjamin Franklin, which was delayed at London twenty days. His subsequent passage to the United States was long and boisterous, in consequence of which three of the sheep died and it was with the greatest difficulty that Mr. du Pont preserved the fourth. The ship arrived at Philadelphia on July 16, 1801.

This particular sheep, Don Pedro, is unquestionably the father of all Merino sheep in America today.

The ram was brought to Wilmington in July 1805, and taken to the home of Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, where he was placed at the head of the du Pont ewes. The only record of his death is contained in a letter from Gareches and Ravésies, of Philadelphia, written to E. I. du Pont, dated May 18, 1811, which states: "Messieurs, We wish to send you our compliments, congratulations and condolence on the activity of your cloth factory and on the death of Don Pedro."

The importation of this sheep was due to the desire of E. I. du Pont to improve the class of wool produced locally, he having started a woolen weaving plant here.

The raising of sheep was given impetus by the establishment of the woolen mills here, which was an important industry as

early as 1810.

arf, Vol 1,  
433

The weaving industry continued for a number of years, at one time there being five plants located here, which had a capitalization of more than \$350,000. Even as late as 1880 figures show that there were 21,967 sheep in the three counties of the state, the wool clip for that year totaling 97,946 pounds.

Sheep on numbers of farms became infected with footrot and the industry declined. The greater part of the soil of Delaware is sandy and inclined to dampness, whereas sheep thrive best at a high elevation and require a dry climate.

An engraving of Don Pedro is contained in the Life of Eleuthere Irenee du Pont from Contemporary Correspondence, translated from the French by B. G. du Pont. Don Pedro had been selected from 6,000 sheep sent to the French government by Spain in settlement of the Treaty of Basle, in 1800. He was of fine proportions, weighed 135 pounds, and had a fleece of superior quality.

Don Pedro became well-known throughout the young States, and Thomas Jefferson, also raising merino sheep at Monticello, wrote his regrets at hearing of his death in 1811. Du Pont had a wooden image made of Don Pedro, and Peter Bauduy, who had also gone into sheep raising on a large scale at Eden Park, had two images made at the same time. These, of wood and partly hollow, with provision for oil to be poured into the interior to preserve them, were set up at the entrance gates to Eden Park, New Castle Avenue and F. St., a recreational center, South Wilmington. Here they remained until early in the twentieth century, when, having become dilapidated, they were removed by Frank V. du Pont and the present ones, of concrete, were placed on the gate posts.



The correspondence as to Don Pedro, showing the desire of Eleuthère Irénée du Pont to improve the breed of sheep in this country follows:

Henry T. Bornaud wrote to Victor du Pont from Rosendale, July 2, 1803: "I have, as directed in your letter of June 29, sent to Pierre Thomas, the mulatto, the Spanish ram\* and the necessary provision for his journey. I hired a wagon and sent everything to the place you directed."

\*Probably the famous Don Pedro.

Peter Bauduy, addressing Victor du Pont, from Wilmington, on May 13, 1805, writes: "As Irene is still very anxious to have Don Pedro, see whether he is still for sale. Answer that in your first leisure moment."

R. Duplanty, in a postscript to a letter by Anthony Girard to E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, dated New York, May 30, 1806 adds: "I have been requested by the agent of Mr. de Lessert to ask Mr. Irénée whether the Spanish ram is still alive and able to return to Rosendale. I should like an immediate answer to this question. In the meantime, I salute you heartily."

Peter Bauduy to E. I. du Pont in a letter dated on Newport Packet, July 31, 1806, being enroute to Providence, R. I., says in part: "Please have taken to your place the four or five sheep which you told me you have bought for me, so that they will be with Don Pedro."

R. Duplanty writing E. I. du Pont from New York, June 22, 1807, asks: "Chancellor Livingston wants to know whether you have any sheep and a young ram directly descended from Don Pedro which you could spare to him. I promised to ask you and assured him in advance that you will do all you can to gratify Mr. L. and to help the improvements he has in view."

fe of E.  
du Pont,  
l. VI,  
239.

fe of E.  
du Pont,  
l. VII,  
136.

fe of E.  
du Pont,  
l. VII,  
239.

fe of E.  
du Pont,  
l. II,  
259.

fe of E.  
du Pont,  
l. II,  
308.

Life of E.  
du Pont,  
Vol. VIII,  
p. 40.

E. I. du Pont writing du Pont de Nemours in France, on April 12, 1808, in closing reminds: "I beg you not to forget my request that you send me some merino sheep. They would be very valuable for that industry (manufacture of cloth) and in any event would be profitable; people in this country are beginning to realize their value. I have sold one of Don Pedro's young rams for forty dollars. You may judge from that what a profit a flock of Spanish merinos would give. I will ask Jefferson\* to help me to get them here if you are unable to arrange it."

\*President Thomas Jefferson

Life of E.  
du Pont,  
Vol. VIII,  
p. 143.

E. I. du Pont in a letter to du Pont de Nemours, written Jan. 28, 1809, referring to sheep writes: "The flock of merinos for which I have use is very important. If your means do not permit it, ask Mr. Biderman\* to pay for them and I will repay him for all the cost, or if he prefers it, I will give him a share of the property and the profits. I cannot urge you sufficiently to do all that you can in this matter. I have now a rather good flock descended from Pedro, but he is very old now and we need a large number of sheep with fine wool to help in the expenses of our factory. Bauduy could keep 1,500 sheep at Eden Park, and Victor and I between us could feed 500 or 600, beside which the breed would increase in the neighborhood and improve the wool. Try, dear Papa, to send us at least a few rams and some sheep. I beg you also to send me the book on instructions for shepherds by Mr. Daubenton, Lasteyrie's work on Merinos and any other books on the subject that may be useful to us on the making of woolen goods.

\*Brother-in-law of E. I. du Pont.



Life of E.  
du Pont,  
Vol. VIII,  
227.

E. I. du Pont advises du Pont de Nemours in a communication on November 22, 1809, that: "We have very few merinos, but they are spreading all over the country with astonishing rapidity. Humphreys has imported two hundred, Livingston six, several others one or two; Pedro's descendants are all about us. Nevertheless, I much regret that it is impossible for you to send us any; there is nothing in this country that for beauty compares with Pedro."

Life of E.  
du Pont,  
Vol. VIII,  
261.

Wm. Thornton in a letter to E. I. du Pont dated at the City of Washington desires to know the price for one of the sons of Don Pedro. He says: "I wrote more than once to our worthy Friend Bauduy, requesting to know the price of one of your highest bred Lambs, but never having received any answer, I must trouble you with an earnest desire to know what you will charge me for one of the highest bred sons of Don Pedro. I would rather have one of yours than either Mr. Livingston's or Mr. Humphrey's or any stock in America, because I know I should not suffer from either an intention to deceive, or an inattention to the various crosses."

Life of E.  
du Pont,  
Vol. VIII,  
271-276.

In a letter dated Wilmington, June 15, 1810, addressed to James Means, Philadelphia, E. I. du Pont arranged for the publication of an article together with an engraving of Don Pedro. This article follows:

(From Archives, vol. 1, by James Mease, M.D.)

Until the present year the only original stock rams and ewes in the United States were those of Mr. du Pont, Mr. Delesert, Col. Humphreys and the Author's from Spain; Mr. Livingston's from France and Mr. Muller's from Hesse Cassel. Of these, the two first mentioned arrived in 1801. Col. Humphreys' and

Mr. Livingston's in 1802, the Author's in 1803 and Mr. Muller's in 1807. During the present year several have been imported into the United States from Spain and Lisbon. The flock of Col. Humphreys was the largest, he having imported upwards of one hundred sheep, from which and their descendants, many pieces of cloth have been made and sold from seven to twelve dollars a yard.

The particular history of Mr. du Pont's fine ram is as follows: Don Pedro was imported into the United States in the year 1801 and is believed to be the first full-blooded ram introduced into North America. Mr. du Pont de Nemours, then in France, had persuaded Mr. Delessert, a banker of Paris, to send to this country some of these valuable sheep, and he having been at the head of a commission appointed by the French Government to select in Spain 4,000 Merino sheep out of the number of 6,000, which by the Treaty of Basle the Spanish Government had stipulated to present to France, it is natural to suppose that those which he selected for his own flock were among the best. Four fine young rams were accordingly shipped, two were intended for Mr. Delessert's farm called Rosendale, situated near Kingston on the Hudson River; one was intended for Mr. du Pont de Nemours, who was at that time settled in the vicinity of New York; and the other was to be presented to Mr. Thomas Jefferson. Mr. du Pont embarked in the ship Benjamin Franklin, on board of which ship the four lambs were shipped and was unfortunately detained upwards of twenty days in England. His subsequent passage to the United States was long and boisterous, in consequence of which three of the sheep died and it was with the greatest difficulty that Mr. du Pont preserved the fourth. The ship arrived at Philadelphia on the 16th of July, 1801.



Mr. Delessert's farm called Rosendale, situated near Kingston on the Hudson River; one was intended for Mr. du Pont de Nemours, who was at that time settled in the vicinity of New York; and the other was to be presented to Mr. Thomas Jefferson. Mr. du Pont embarked in the ship Benjamin Franklin, on board of which ship the four lambs were shipped and was unfortunately detained upwards of twenty days in England. His subsequent passage to the United States was long and boisterous, in consequence of which three of the sheep died and it was with the greatest difficulty that Mr. du Pont preserved the fourth. The ship arrived at Philadelphia on the 16th of July, 1801.

In 1801 Pedro was with a flock of nine ewes at Mr. du Pont's place near New York. He was then sent to Mr. Delessert's farm and was with a large flock during the years 1802, 3 and 4. In the course of 1805 Mr. Delessert having determined to rent his farm and to sell all his stock, the progeny of Pedro were sold at public sale at reduced prices to the neighboring farmers, who had no idea of the treasure which was offered to them; being unacquainted with that breed of sheep they neglected those valuable animals, great numbers of which have perished in their hands or were sold to butchers; the rest would probably have shared the same fate had not Chancellor Livingston become acquainted with the existence of those sheep and purchased at advanced prices some of the ewes, which he put with his fine Merino rams of the Rambouillet stock. Pedro, like the rest of the flock of the Rosendale farm, was sold at vendue and Mr. du Pont's agent bought him for sixty dollars.

In July 1805, Pedro was removed to E. I. du Pont's farm situated in the state of Delaware, near the borough of Wilmington. That gentleman had a very small stock at that time but was anxious to see that valuable breed propagated in the country, and with a view to attain that end he offered the farmers of his neighborhood the use of his ram gratis; they could not be prevailed upon to think much of what was offered to them free of cost; the consequence was that very few ewes were sent to Pedro during three seasons and only by way of experiment.

In 1808, however, Mr. du Pont, with a view of increasing his own flock, purchased from the farmers, his neighbors, as many half-quarter or three-quarter blooded ewes of Pedro's breed as he was able to collect, which measure raised his character among the farmers. Since that time Pedro has served every year from 60 to 80 ewes; the vicinity of Wilmington will therefore be supplied with a large stock of fine woolled sheep and as Mr. du Pont and Co. are erecting works for the purpose, cloth of any fineness may be made.

Pedro is now ten years old, but very strong and active. He is stout, short and wooly, and of much better form than Merinos commonly are and even better than that of a ram figured in a superb engraving lately received by the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia from Paris. His horns are large and spiral, his legs short, and he weighs 138 pounds; his fleece, carefully washed in cold water, weighs  $8\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, is extremely fine, the staple  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and lying very thick and close upon his body; it is entirely free from loose coarse hairs called Jar.



Clyde W. Young  
August 19, 1940

Encyclopedia File  
Government in Delaware  
Present Government  
County: Executive  
II-B-1-a

109

#### COUNTY EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE

Employees and appointive officers in Kent and Sussex Counties are protected through insurance contracted for by the Levy Court of each County.

Under State law, the Levy Court in each of the two Counties is empowered to enter into contract with an insurance company operating in Delaware for a policy covering both injury and death of County employees while the latter are engaged in County work. The law, however, does not exempt the Levy Courts from the provisions of the Delaware Workmen's Compensation Laws. The Levy Courts are permitted to be the sole judges of the kind of insurance obtained and the amount to be judged sufficient.

No provisions for a similar insurance of New Castle County employees are made.

Source: Delaware. General Assembly. Revised Code of Delaware, 1935. Wilmington, Del., The Star Publishing Co., 1936. 1642 p. p. 277.

To Mr. Conner from L.A. Stearns, Entomologist, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Delaware.

"The 'chigger' should certainly be included in the Delaware Section of the American Guide.

"The common 'chigger', Trombicula tlalzahuatl (Murray) is the larval form of a harvest mite. This mite is known under the following common names: 'chigger', 'jigger' and 'red bug'. It is sometimes incorrectly called a 'tick'. This mite belongs to the order Acarina and is not a true insect; but on the other hand, is a member of the class, Arachnida, which includes the ticks, spiders, &c. This mite occurs generally throughout the State, especially on blackberries and occasions considerable difficulty in case of those who happen to encounter it while picnicking."



Poisonous Plants, Reptiles and Dangerous Insects:

The ~~following~~ potentially poisonous plants, reptiles, and dangerous insects known to occur in Delaware, ~~are as follows~~ with none present in sufficient abundance with the exception of poison ivy to occasion special precaution, are as follows: Poison ivy (generally distributed), malarial mosquito, black widow spider, American dog tick (responsible for transmitting the Eastern type of ~~Rocky Mountain~~ Rocky Mountain spotted fever), and the copperhead snake, present in the upper portion of New Castle County, rarely in Kent or Sussex, and never ~~occurring~~ occurring in abundance. *but nowhere*

Other information a stranger may need on entering State:

No theatres are open on Sunday.

The "chigger", also known as the "jigger" and "red bug", occurs generally throughout the State, especially on blackberries, and occasions considerable difficulty to picnickers. It is the larval form of a harvest mite, and is ~~a~~ sometimes incorrectly called a tick, although it is not a ~~true~~ insect, but a member of the class that includes the ticks, spiders, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: Information on poisonous plants, reptiles and dangerous insects, and special warnings regarding drinking water and malarial districts will be written when a reply to our letter to the State Board of Health is received.

As it is difficult to understand the distinctions made between coots, gallinules and rails, and the prohibitions relating to the use of poison, drugs, chemicals or explosives on fish, it is recommended that a copy of the "Fish and Game Laws (Digest)" be sent to Mr. Leonard K. Yerger, Pres. of the Board of Game and Fish Commissioners, 11 E. Third Street, Wilmington; or the Board of Game and Fish Commissioners, Dover, Del. for criticism.

J. Sweeney.

File No.W-340

LOCATION - Wilmington

Submitted by - J. F. Cunningham,

Date April 1, 1936.

*W-340*

GOVERNMENT

Wilmington has a Mayor-Council form of government, under a charter granted by a special act of the Legislature in 1832. The government is invested in "The Mayor and Council of Wilmington." The Mayor is the chief executive officer. He is chosen by a plurality of the votes cast at the bi-annual municipal election, and holds office for the term of two years. Aside from the responsibility for proper enforcement of the laws and ordinances on the statute books, the capacity of the mayor is chiefly advisory.

The principal executive officials are the City Treasurer (elected); the City Solicitor (appointed by the Mayor); the City Auditor (appointed by the Mayor); two Receivers of Taxes, one for the Northern District, one for the Southern District (both elected); and the Board of Assessment (the two members appointed by the Mayor).

The City Council, the legislative branch of the city government, is composed of twelve councilmen and a President of Council. The Councilmen are elected from and represent each of the twelve wards of the city. The President of Council is elected at large. Members of Council are elected for two years, their tenure being co-terminous with that of the Mayor.



Page No.2  
File No.W-340

The three most important powers of the Council are: to make ordinances for the government of the city; to borrow money for the use of the city; and to choose certain city officials including the City Clerk and Bailiff.

By provisions of the city charter, the functions of administration and accountability of the city are basically departmental. Commissions and boards to administer the following departments are appointed by the Mayor subject to the approval of Council; the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Streets and Sewers, Board of Health, Water Bureau, and the Board of Harbor Commissioners. The members of the Board of Education and the Park Board are appointed by the Associate Judge of the Superior Court resident in New Castle County.

There is no civil service in Wilmington for Municipal positions. All public servants are either elected or appointed. The Directors of the Department of Public Safety appoint the Superintendent of Public Safety and the members of the Police and Fire Departments.

The Municipal Court for the City of Wilmington was created in 1883 by an Act passed by the Legislature. The terms of the court commence on the first Monday of each and every month; the court holds sessions daily, (except Sunday) at 9 A.M., and on Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. night sessions are held to hear cases of traffic violations. The City Judge is the Magistrate of the Municipal Court. He is appointed by the Governor for a term of twelve years. The Deputy City Judge is appointed for a term of four years by the Associate Judge of the Superior Court resident in New Castle County.



The Municipal Court has jurisdiction over all misdemeanors and the lesser grades of felony committed in the City of Wilmington; and over the violations of any City Ordinance. The City Solicitor is, ex-officio, the prosecuting officer in the court, subject to the right of the Attorney-General of the State or his deputy to prosecute any person. An appeal may be made to the Court of General Sessions in all cases in which the sentence is imprisonment exceeding one month or a fine exceeding \$100.00.

By the State Constitution of 1897, Wilmington is divided into five Representative districts and two Senatorial Districts. The Representative Districts are subdivided into election districts for the convenience of the voters and to secure a rapid count of the votes. All elections in the city are conducted under the supervision of the Department of Elections, composed of five Election Commissioners appointed by the Governor for a term of five years.

Wilmington owns and operates municipally two public utilities, the Water Supply and the Port Facilities. The city has 1,250 employes(1935). The total amount of salaries and wages in 1934 was \$1,300,000. No salaries or wages were reduced during the depression.

References:

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The Municipal Year Book - Chicago, 1935

The Revised Code of the State of Del.1915  
and amendments to date.

Report of the Organizing Committee of the General  
Service Board of Del.1915.

Government of Delaware - Messersmith - N.Y.1908.



Location - Wilmington, Delaware  
Submitted by - Reese Hammond  
Date - February 24, 1936

File No. 300

115  
310  
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340

*city file*  
Government - Wilmington

Wilmington is governed in a unicameral manner by a Mayor elected at large and a Council of twelve members, representing each of the twelve wards of the City. Sessions of the Council are governed by a president, also elected at large.

Municipal elections are held bi-annually.

Commissions to perform the functions of government are appointed by the Mayor subject to the approval of council.

State offices located in Wilmington are the Attorney General's, Tax Collectors, Liquor Commission and a branch of Motor Vehicle Commission. These commissions and offices function in their respective fields in all matters concerning the State.

Also in Wilmington are the administrative offices of New Castle County. These functions are performed by the Levy Court of seven members, elected from the districts of the County, for four years. The president of the Levy Court is elected by the members of the body.

County officers in Wilmington are Sheriff, Coroner, Treasurer, Recorder of Deeds, Clerk of Peace and Comptroller. All officers, exclusive of the sheriff, are elected for four years. The sheriff is elected for a period of two years.

The Postoffice houses the offices of the United States District Court and Court rooms, the Collectors of Internal Revenue, United States District Attorney and the Postmaster. These offices are either appointive or under regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

Reference: Personal Observation

## DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY OF WILMINGTON.

of Elections  
The Department/for the City of Wilmington, established in 1909, consists of five (5) members, appointed by the Governor for a term of Six (6) years. Terms overlapping. Members must be residents of the City for not less than five years. Members cannot all be of the same political party.

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e.  
The department has jurisdiction over all elections held in the City, and has authority to appoint one Registrar and two assistants in each election district during the month of June in the years in which a general election is held, <sup>to</sup> prepare and furnish all necessary material for registration, to divide the City into election districts of not more than 500 voters, nor less than one hundred voters, to report all violations to the Attorney-General, to engage such employees as the board deems necessary and fix their salaries, but not in excess of \$2500. per year, to maintain an office in the City of Wilmington.

The board's secretary (member of the board) is paid a salary not in excess of \$3000. per year; other members are paid \$500. per year.

are  
All expenditures/paid by the Levy Court of New Castle County except the years when Municipal elections are held.



MCK

File No. W-240

(1)

Submitted by-J. Barton Cheyney  
Rewrite-E. Knight

### Springer Heirs-Celebrated Case

The City of Wilmington provided the location for one of the most peculiar and interesting claims on the part of heirs of old settlers ever encountered in the United States. For many years the celebrated case of the Springer Heirs continued providing the city with thousands of lines of newspaper publicity throughout the nation.

The name of Charles Christopher Springer is known to the students of early Wilmington history as the agent for the leasing and selling of property which was owned by Old Swedes Church; 500 acres having been give to the church by Mrs. Anna Stalcop wife of one of the largest landowners in the section. But to many others the name had a different signifigance. It was to them a ~~mean~~ means of laying claim to a large section of the City of Wilmington most of which is now occupied by the business section of the city. Originally begun by persons who felt that they had an honest claim to the property the claimants were eventually banded together by a group of shrewd promoters who saw in the unsuspecting persons a target for one of the widest spread confidence games in the country.

Special Features  
Wilmington.

J. Barton Cheyney,

January 11, 1937.

Edited by K. A. Horner

*Wilmington Press  
Folder: Springer Heirs*

Springer Heirs

Wilmington was the locale for one of the most peculiar and interesting claims on the part of heirs of old settlers ever encountered in the United States. For many years the celebrated case of the Springer Heirs provided the city with thousands of lines of publicity in newspapers throughout the nation.

The name of Charles Christopher Springer is known to the students of early Wilmington history as one of the agents charged with leasing and selling property owned by Old Swedes Church. Five hundred acres had been given to the church by Mrs. Anna Stalcop, wife of one of the largest landowners in the section. To many others the name had a different significance. It provided them with a claim to a large section of the city of Wilmington much of which now covers the business section of the city. Originally begun by persons who felt that they had an honest claim to the property, the claimants were eventually banded together by a group of shrewd promoters who saw in the unsuspecting persons a target for a huge wide spread confidence game.

The Springer Heirs came into existence about the end of the Civil War and continued their efforts until about 1929, building castles and making claims for the land which was reputed to have been given to Charles Springer, prior to his death in 1738, under a grant from William Penn. The supposed grant occupied a tract of some 1900 acres of land, 228 of which ran through the center of Wilmington. The promoters elaborated on the scheme, held



meetings and talked of an estate which ran from \$80,000,000. to as high as \$150,000,000. The interest of the victims was kept alive by constant increases in the estimated value of the estate and the adding of fictitious tales such as one relating that Springer had been a Swedish Baron and that there was \$100,000,000. in treasure deposited in a Stockholm bank.

The scheme flourished in spite of many setbacks on the part of the "heirs" who were of great number and had been recruited from all sections of the country. Meetings were held and large sums of money extracted from the prospective millionaires to prosecute the claim, but to no avail. Court records proved conclusively that Charles Springer had not been a landed member of the original settlement and that the land attributed to have been his was actually the property of Old Swedes Church through the gift of Mrs. Stalcop.

The "heirs" continued their efforts for many years and it was not until a Chicago judge had refused to allow a meeting of the clan and one of the promoters had confessed his part in the scheme that the activity of the group was discontinued.

Even today letters are received asking when the claims of the "Springer Heirs" will be settled.

Renzetti, Marcus Aurelius.

Art + artists. 120  
(in Arden folder)

Born

Pupil of J. Liberty Todd, G. Dovato, Milioni and Charles Grafley.

Work: "Illusion." "Nymth Centaur." Portrait of Mr. E.T. Stotesbury. "Ascendency of Spirit over Matter" owned by Mr. G. A. Lippincott. Portrait of Frank G. Stephens. Portrait of Mr. Robert Guggenheim. Portrait bust of Mr. W.W. Ayre. "Mother and Child," owned by Mrs. E.T. Stotesbury.

Prizes: Two Traveling Scholarships to Europe.

Taught in Wilmington Academy of the Fine Arts, Towerhill School, Wilmington; Graphic Sketch Club, and School of Industrial arts, Philadelphia, acting instructor in the last two places.

Has a studio in Arden, Delaware, as sculptor and painter.



G. L. Butler,

Points of Interest

April 21, 1937

Sculptor of Rodney Statue.

Kelly, James Edward, Sculptor, Born in N Y in 1855, studied art National Academy of Design; studied wood engraving in 1871. Illustrated for Scribner's, St. Nicholas, Harper's etc., until 1881; ~~since then he has~~ <sup>he then</sup> worked exclusively as <sup>a</sup>sculptor. Died May 26, 1933.

Prominent Works: Monmouth Battle Monument, including Molly Pitcher, 1885; Paul Revere, 1890; equestrian figures of Gen. Sherman, Col. Roosevelt at San Juan Hill; busts from life of Admiral Dewey, Admiral Sampson, Lt. Hobson, Admiral C.E. Clark, President Roosevelt, and Count Rochambeau at Southington, Conn. War memorial to soldiers and sailors, Kingston, N.Y., 1919. Was one of the founders of the Art Students' League. Address, 318 West 57th St., N.Y.

Dictionary of Am. Painters, Sculptors and Engravers. P 196

November 16, 1938

(Abstract)

Intersection of the Boundary Lines of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Message from Governor of Maryland, Philip F. Thomas, containing the report of Lt. Col. Graham. Gideon and Co. Wash. 1850.

Page 20

Mayor, Recorder and two Regulators (appointed by the city to lay out lots and regulate water courses in the streets), accompanied the Commissioners appointed in 1760 and Mason and Dixon to show them where southernmost point of the City of Philadelphia was located. (Commissioners proceedings at Philadelphia, Dec. 3, 1763.)

Page 25

A post marked  $\frac{M}{XII}$  had been planted at the extremity of a line traced for a radius west from the court house at New Castle; and two other posts, one marked  $T$  and the other  $TP$ , had been planted  $XII$  at the northern extremities of lines traced for a tangent. Each of these posts was supposed when planted to approximate very near to the true tangent point.

Page 27

Of the work of their predecessors, Mason and Dixon accepted as completed and not to be rerun the running of the due east-west line from Cape Nenlopen to the termination midway between said Cape and the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, the trace and measurement of the radius of 12 miles from New Castle court house, and the determination of the tangent point in the circle.



T. C. Morris

BOUNDARIES

123

November 16, 1938

CURRENT FILE

(Extract) History of Delaware County. John Jordan  
Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York. 1914.

Vol. I, p. 180  
The temporary line of 1739

To run this line, Lawrence Growden and Richard Peters were appointed Commissioners on the part of Pennsylvania and Col. Levin Gale and Samuel Chamberlaine on the part of Maryland. Benjamin Eastburn surveyor on the part of Pennsylvania and William Ramsey on the part of Maryland. At the end of the south line of  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the latitude of the southernmost point of the city of Philadelphia owing to sickness and death in the family of Col. Gale, the joint Comm. was broken up. Beyond the Susquehanna "to the top of the most western hill, of a range of hills called Kittocktinny," distant from the place of beginning about 88 miles (statute). The line was run ex parte by the Pennsylvania Comm. because Col. Gale's colleague refused to go on without him. The only object of running westward from Philadelphia (31 miles) before measuring the  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles south was to avoid the large streams of water (the Brandywine and Christiana creeks).

124

United States Department of The Interior  
Bureau of Biological Survey  
Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge  
Smyrna, Delaware

August 24, 1939

Mr. Reese Hammond  
Federal Writers' Project  
909 West Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Reference is made to your letter of June 7, 1939, addressed to Lieutenant Peirce, Commanding Officer, CCC Camp, Leipsic, Del., in which you request information concerning the work being done by personnel of the above mentioned camp.

The Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge is one of 257 wildlife refuges comprising a total of 11,650,358 acres located at strategic points throughout the United States and Alaska. On each of these areas there is usually a considerable amount of development necessary to attract and accommodate the maximum amount of all forms of wildlife particular to the sections of the country in which each refuge is located. The amount and nature of this development work of course, depends upon the ecological status of the individual area.

On a great many of these areas the Bureau of Biological Survey has used E.C.W., P.W.A. and C.C.C. Funds to assist in carrying out a well balanced scientific program. At this time there are 33 CCC camps engaged on work of this kind on Wildlife refuges throughout the country.

The Bombay Hook Refuge was established primarily to afford protection and natural propagation facilities for migratory waterfowl, and correlated with this program is the opportunity to extend the same aid to all forms of wildlife, with special attention being given to those species which are most in need of protection.



One phase of the development work being undertaken by the camp in question, is the construction of various types of water-control structures, such as dams and dikes, which will properly stabilize the water-tables on certain given areas within the refuge boundaries. With the water-tables thus stabilized, one section of the refuge will include large impoundments which will actually be shallow freshwater lakes. This type of habitat is highly attractive to waterfowl, and incidentally does not occur to any extent in this vicinity. On other sections of the refuge, the stabilizing of the water-tables will provide the most suitable environment for the maximum amount of salt and brackish-water food plants.

In connection with the establishment of fresh-water lakes on the refuge, it is necessary for the camp enrollees to clear and otherwise remove timber and brush from a section of wooded swamp upon which fresh water is to be impounded. This swamp area is practically useless in its present condition, since its soft muddy character makes it inaccessible without expending sums greatly in excess of the proceeds which could be realized from the swamp by private individuals or concerns. The timber which is being removed is the swamp varieties, and not at all suitable for lumber. Certain portions of this material will likely be sold to the highest bidder for firewood. Other portions of it are being used in the construction of roadways and water-control structures, where the materials will be below the surface at all times. Also the enrollees will arrange some of this material, particularly the stumps and roots, in large heaps within the impoundments, and cover them with earth and mud to a certain height. The object thus formed will be an island, and, experience has taught us that islands make very suitable nesting locations for waterfowl, since, for one reason, they are inaccessible to many of the predators. The islands will be fairly small, and situated so as to reduce any surface motion,

such as wave action. This action can be very detrimental to the banks, and on areas of this type, with a mud bottom, the action tends to roil the water, making it dark and unfit for the propagation of certain beneficial aquatic plants.

A system of truck trails and service roads are being built by the enrollees, in order to facilitate the construction program now in progress. These roadways will also be a permanent fixture, for use in the future management of the refuge.

Four strand barbed wire fences will be erected along all of the upland boundaries, with appropriate gates and markers. The enrollees will perform the post cutting as well as the erecting of the fences.

Incidental to the stabilizing of the water-tables, the enrollees will plant vast areas of marsh and swamp with new plants which will furnish food, nesting and protective cover for birds and mammals. In many cases it will be necessary to rid certain areas of undersirable plant life by periodical hand cutting, another phase of the enrollees' work.

A large well drilling machine was moved about on the marshes by the enrollees last winter. Two wells were drilled, and an artesian flow obtained from each. These flows empty upon small marsh areas that are devoid of vegetations, and become dry and cracked in the summer. Now, these areas have been converted into permanent fresh-water pools, surrounded by salt marsh. Even now, certain varieties of fresh-water plants have started to occur in the vicinity of the wells. Certain species of ducks seem satisfied to rest and even feed on salt marsh pools, but they prefer fresh-water for drinking purposes.

As mentioned above, upland game and songbirds have not been neglected on the refuge. Inconspicuous shelters, provided with food space, and numerous small patches of mixed food grains are located



throughout the upland area. During periods of ice and snow, a mixture of small grains are placed in the shelters, and the numerous patches of mixed grain are left standing for upland game food under normal conditions.

A complete system of fire breaks will be installed by the enrollees, so that small areas can be burned for ecological studies, and, fire, can be stopped from entering the refuge from adjacent lands.

A complete set of administration buildings is essential on most of the Bureau's refuges. Here at Bombay Hook, the camp enrollees are assisting skilled workmen in the construction of two small dwellings, a patrol cabin, one large service building with an office room, one equipment shed, a boathouse and an observation tower. These buildings are necessary in order to provide storage space and quarters for the machinery and personnel necessary to properly maintain, protect and patrol the refuge.

Through the efforts of the Bureau of Biological Survey, heavy machinery was obtained for use on the camp project. A large dragline and floating dredge were supplied for the construction of the dikes, pile drivers and barges for the construction of dams and retaining walls, trailbuilders (Bulldozers) and graders for the construction of roads and trails, scrapers, cable and tractors for clearing pool and lake areas, a well drilling machine, and a concrete mixer, together with covered trucks, stake body trucks, pick-up trucks and dump trucks. Since a large amount of the work being performed by the camp is on areas completely surrounded by water, the Bureau has arranged for the camp to be supplied with both open work boats for summer water travel, and closed cabin boats for winter travel.

With the exception of the dragline, dredge, and well drilling machine, enrollees have been trained to operate all machinery. Many of them become very proficient, and some carpenters' helpers have shown an aptness for the trade.

All of the above mentioned types of work are now under way, and each type receives attention during the period in which the most favorable weather conditions prevail. For instance, during dry periods all efforts are concentrated on work in the swamps, and as rains occur, the crews are moved to work on higher ground. For this reason, the status of the projects change from day to day.

You and any of your staff are cordially invited to visit the refuge, and I will show and explain to you, each phase of the development work which is now under way, or has been completed before your arrival.

Very truly yours

John F. Herholdt  
Refuge Manager



(COPY)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 31, 1936.

Mr. Anthony Higgins, Managing Editor,  
Delaware Writers' Project,  
Professional Projects Building,  
1301 Market Street,  
Wilmington, Delaware.

Dear Mr. Higgins:

The waterfowl refuge near Woodland Beach on the Delaware Bay, to which you refer in your letter of July 16, is called by the Biological Survey the "Bombay Hook Migratory Waterfowl Refuge." At the present time, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved the purchase of some 8,700 acres on which we have secured options; but it is probable that the refuge will contain at least 10,000 acres when it is completed.

Although the Bombay Hook Refuge may not be so large as some of the other Atlantic Coast refuges, such as the Lake Mattamuskeet Refuge in North Carolina and the Cape Romain Refuge in South Carolina, it is extremely important as a feeding and resting area for ducks in a region where such sanctuaries are badly needed, especially for teal, black ducks, and pintail, which remain there each year until the ponds freeze over. In addition, the refuge services a great number of nesting black ducks and blue winged teal. It is also used extensively by brant and snow geese. *Spartina alterniflora*, called by the natives "cow-grass," is the chief salt-marsh food of these birds.

Considerable development work is planned for this refuge, including the digging or blowing out of ponds, the dredging of channels, fencing and posting, the erection of nesting islands, food and cover planting, providing foot bridges across many of the channels, improving the road to the headquarters, the construction of a boathouse, and general clean up work around the headquarters which will probably be established at the north end of Raymond's Cut. A resident refuge manager will be assigned to the area, who will be assisted during the hunting season by such additional patrolmen as are necessary to give the refuge the protection it merits.

I trust that the above information will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,  
(S) J.D. S.  
J. Clark Salyer II  
In Charge  
Migratory Waterfowl Division

Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington.

That his portrait might be known in the city in which his name had endured, the Society of Colonial Dames of Delaware and the Delaware Society of Colonial Wars have presented this portrait to the City of Wilmington. The original was done by Sir Godfrey Kneller, a brother member in the Kit Kat Club with Compton, and is now in the possession of H. Clinton Baker, a descendant of a third member of the famous club. This copy was made by M. M. Ayoub.

Spencer Compton (1673-1743), prominent in England during the reigns of George I and George II, the first Lord of the Treasury under George II, made first Earl of Wilmington and Knight of the Garter, the star of this order appearing in his portrait. During his life the site of the present city of Wilmington was known as Willing's Town, so called for Thomas Willing, who controlled much land here. Since this gentleman was considered not wholly admirable, the name was changed to Wilmington probably because of the friendship existing between William Penn and the Earl of Wilmington.

**Note:** The gift of the Colonial Dames is a copy of the original by Godfrey Kneller.



V. E. Shaw  
Sept. 25, 1795

Encyclopedia 131  
Education: 1792-1830  
Robert Coram

JAMES WILSON, BOOKBINDER

Extract from Scharf, p. 451, footnote:

"James Wilson was born August 24, 1764, in Harford County, Md. He learned the printer's trade in Wilmington, with Mr. Craig, publisher of the Delaware Gazette. Soon after starting the Mirror he opened a bookstore at what is now 417 Market Street, then known as "The Sign of Shakespeare," and also had a bookbindery on Shipley Street. He died in 1741, at the age of seventy-seven years. His son, Alfred, succeeded as proprietor of the book-store. It was later owned by another son, E. A. Wilson, and Joshua T. Heald. One of his daughters is Mrs. Joseph C. Seeds, of Wilmington."

In the column above Scharf states that Wilson began publication of the Mirror of the Times in 1799, using a fine grade of white paper, a great novelty at the time. He states that the Mirror was a Federalist paper, supporting the administration of President Adams. In her chapter on the Press in Delaware, Miss Lincoln says it was anti-Federalist (later Democratic) during its entire history. This seems more likely, for Wilson was associated with Robert Coram as late as the close of 1795, and was one of the agents handling subscriptions to the Gazette under his management. Scharf finds him a militant anti-Federalist in 1812-14. Mr. Wilson may of course have gone through a period of conservatism, as many once-ardent republicans did after they were shocked by the excesses of the later phases of the French Revolution, and later returned to <sup>his</sup> original convictions.

LOCATION - Wilmington.

*Wilmington*  
*Jan. Section*

Submitted by - Reese Hammond.

Date - January 23, 1936.

*Revised Jan. 27*

Big Quarterly.

The saga of "Big" Quarterly would not be complete without a mention of the background from whence developed this colorful institution.

During the waning years of the Eighteenth Century and the pre-Emancipation years of the Nineteenth Century the custom developed among certain slaveholders of the Eastern seaboard to grant their slaves a day of freedom to worship or visit as they pleased. Ofttimes the slaves were loaned carts and oxen to make the trip to a common gathering place or to their destination.

These meeting places were located at various parts of the Eastern seaboard. Some became famous and were attended over a great period of time. Others were soon forgotten because of inaccessibility and other reasons.

At Wilmington in 1809, a disgruntled group of Negroes led by Peter Spencer withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church and established a small temporary structure in a grove on the West side of French Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets.



The little band withstood internal dissension and branded the new venture, The Union Church of Africans. Subsequent splits resulted in the formation of several other missions of the same denomination.

The same basically and religiously, the missions and the parent church decided to hold quarterly meetings for joint worship.

To these joint meetings, friends came and quarterly meeting day became a day to meet friends and renew acquaintances. The August Quarterly meeting day, last Sunday in the month, became the more popular of the days because of weather conditions.

Thus it developed that to meet in Wilmington on August Quarterly Day was the proper and fitting thing for every Negro in traveling distance to do. This trend of thought resulted in August Quarterly becoming the "Big" Quarterly.

The first definite record of "Big" Quarterly is in the year 1812. This meeting was held in the grove on French Street and overflowed into the streets nearby. As the meetings were held the attendance increased until the entire area between Sixth and Ninth Streets on French, Walnut, and King Streets were thronged with a milling mass of Negroes that reached a high of 15,000.

The van of the attendance begins to reach Wilmington Saturday morning. (This has recently been discontinued and currently a person arriving Saturday

night is considered an early arrival.)). From Saturday until mid-forenoon, Sunday, every type of drayage possible was pressed into service to convey persons to the meeting. Yoke oxen, spavined mules, horses and wagons, and even saddle horse was often the means of transportation in the early history of the event.

Attendance at quarterly meeting is composed of Negroes from Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Records show that some persons travel several days in order to be present on "Big" Quarterly Day.

Those unable to secure other means walked in family groups or community groups. All along the route of travel they shouted and sang Negro folk songs and plantation ditties. Certain liberal minded whites would grant the tiring travelers the privilege of resting under their trees, sleeping in their barns or encamping on their farmlands. These "stations" became widely known and were often the depots for a number of the transient groups. Ofttimes these temporary stops afforded the opportunity to dress in "Sunday" clothes for the miscreant had stolen away bringing his clothes in a bag.

To the casual observer the "Big" Quarterly is a kaleidoscopic mass of humanity, vari-colored in dress and hue of skin, - sleek, slender, buxom and fat.



A milling, throbbing, pulsating mass of primitive folk gathered for the prime purpose of worship and unrestrained comraderie. Thousands and thousands of underprivileged persons FREE to shout, sing, pray and give general vent to their unbounded enthusiasm.

There is no effort at decorum or dignity. Only a reckless abandon that is the result of knowing no master for a day. Those of more serious mein attend services in the church which begin and run continuously from 6 A. M. until after 11 P. M. The services are conducted by visiting preachers of the denomination, and consist of testimonial meetings, love feasts, revivals and praying and singing bands after preaching.

The principal business of the day is eating. Both sides of the restricted area and along the contiguous streets are phalanxed with tables and concessionaires of varied and sundry types. Tenants on these streets make eateries of their homes and when not so interested rent same to highest bidder. The feast starts upon arrival and consists of a menu in part of fried chicken, chicken potpie, ham and cabbage, hot corn pone, greens and side meat, frankfurters, soft drinks, vari-colored ades, pig feet and dishes of private origin.

Kerosene and gasoline stoves are employed to keep the meals hot. Barkers loudly shout the virtues of their wares.

No effort is spared to inveigle the interest of the prospect.

A picturesque and bizarre effect is given to the general mass by the presence of fakers who reap large sums of money for nostrums for ailments of various description. At the time of this writing police have formed a policy of chasing all persons of shady repute or practice from the grounds.

Within a limited area immediately in front of the church and nearby are assembled itinerant preachers, missionaries and "Singing Bands", evangelists, religious outcasts from other denominations and a galaxy of nondescript exhorters. A stooped old man with long greenish black frock coat, top hat, be-decked in soiled linen, with cane speaks reapingly of the need for religion. At the conclusion of a rambling discourse the top hat is passed into which a few gullible bystanders drop coins.

The field of religious exhortation is by no means restricted to the male members of the Race. The next group of persons may be held by the mellifluous oratory of a buxom female dressed in tight fitting black with yellowish white trimming and a small bonnet perched precariously on her head. She is assisted by a corps of other females all of the same sect if identity of dress can be taken as a criterion. In many instances the preaching is done to a chant of "Praise De Lawd" and "Amen".



Instrumental accompaniment is provided by the guitar and tambourine. This group collects its offering in the latter of the musical instruments.

"Singing Bands" usually consist of a number of men and women who together travel from campmeeting to campmeeting and end their season at the "Big" Quarterly. The group is composed of persons whose voices blend beautifully together and several additional persons who provide a falsetto.

Upon an agreed upon signal the alto may launch into a song or plaintive wail to be joined in part intonation by sopranos, tenors and basses at intervals. A high falsetto of unusual beauty interwoven throughout the theme of the number often provides especially fine singing. These bands do excellent with Negro spirituals but are unusually adept in their singing of improvisation.

Students of Negro music and folk lore would do well to witness a performance of one of these untrained groups of a native folk. Their natural interpretation of ditties and southland melodies have a warmth and pathos that has inspired a number of the Nation's composers and authors.

Another feature of the day is the ballad singer. This person accompanies him or herself upon the guitar or tambourine and offers in most instances free verse renditions of original composition. The phrases are cleverly arranged to present word vignettes of world disasters.

At the conclusion of each ballad copies are offered listeners for five cents.

In the early history of "Big" Quarterly local horseowners did an amazing turnover by conducting excursion tours through Brandywine Park. These short jaunts enabled the visitors to see Wilmington without fear as well as the swain opportunity to enjoy his lady fair without the parental eye. Until recently the trip was continued in cars but has ceased within the last decade.

With the coming of "Big" Quarterly Day merchant and house owners made preparation for the influx of the mob. Stocks were increased and sleeping and eating accommodations were enlarged. Taxi companies and draymen (in early years) increased their transportation facilities. A decided increase in revenue is one of the beneficial results of the "Big" Quarterly.

Recently agitation among the more sophisticated members of the Race has arisen against the holding of "Big" Quarterly. Those opposed contend that the persons attending and their "antics" cast the Negro in an unfavorable manner. The would be reformers also express the idea, rather subtly, that the Quarterly goers is not true American Negro. The agitators point to the event as an anachronism but to liberal thinkers it is an atavism.



Inspite of any adverse criticism the "Big" Quarterly shows no inclination to die of its own accord. Today the influx is for a shorter period but equally as great in number.

Delaware is fortunate in that it alone has the greatest single day gathering of Negroes in the United States currently. This meeting could be utilized as a laboratory for sociological and psychological and moral analysis of the Negro.

Bibliography -

History of Delaware: J. Thomas Scharf; Vol., #2:  
Pp 729-731.

Alice Dunbar Nelson, Every Evening: 8/27/32.

Consultant -

Rev. A. D. Hammond, pastor of Mother A.U.M.P. Church,  
Wilmington.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Office of Education  
Washington

Release:  
Thursday, November 5, 1936

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK BROADCAST ON NEGRO EDUCATION

To focus Nation-wide attention on major problems affecting the education of Negroes, the Office of Education, U. S. Department of the Interior, will sponsor the seventh annual radio program on education of Negroes, Friday, November 13, it was announced today by Dr. John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

A contribution to American Education Week, the program to be broadcast over a coast-to-coast network of the National Broadcasting Company, from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, will include an address by Dr. Bruce R. Payne, President of George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, music by the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers, of Fisk University, a brief talk by Mrs. Willa C. Burch, President of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, and remarks by Dr. Ambrose Caliver, U. S. Office of Education Specialist in the Education of Negroes, who will act as master of ceremonies.

In keeping with the general theme of American Education Week, "Our American Schools at Work", this special broadcast will emphasize vocational education and guidance for Negroes, a survey of conditions concerning which is now being conducted in the Office of Education. Facts will be presented showing the educational level achieved by Negroes in the United States at the present time, the amount and quality of school facilities available to them, and other facts of interest, in an endeavor to create widespread interest in the solution of Negro educational problems.

Schools, colleges, and other institutions observing American Education Week this year, from November 9 to 15, are urged to give consideration to Negro Education.



## NEGRO DIGEST

R. L. Hammond  
Date

Three hundred years ago in 1639 the first Negro, Anthony, a morian or Angoler, set foot upon what is now Delaware. Enslaved somewhere in the West Indies and brought here as the sole booty of a Swedish freebooting expedition to the islands, one year after the Swedes landed in Delaware, he is felt to have served in several capacities finally as personal servant to Governor Printz, who came in 1643. Anthony remained in the colony until 1654 when there is record of his having made several purchases from the Company store in New Sweden. (Johnson, Amandus, Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, Philadelphia Swedish Colonial Society, Philadelphia, 1911, Vol 11 p. 722) From this year the records fail to show the whereabouts of Anthony and it is believed that he died here during the next decade.

Few, if any Negroes lived here during the Swedish regime for slavery was disallowed by the Swedes. (Steven, Dr William Bacon, History of Georgia, Vol 1, p 286) However the early records of the colony list the presence of Lars (black) Swartz in 1654 and indicate that he may have been a Negro. It is reasonable to assume that Lars Swartz was Negroid as the use of the word (Swartz) was identical with that identifying Anthony.

The influx of Negroes began with the Dutch whose success with slaves in New Amsterdam motivated their bringing Negroes to the new settlement as slaves. As early as 1644 (O'Callaghan, Colonial History of the State of New York, p. 154.) the Dutch recommended the importation of as many Negroes as could be disposed

of at a fair price. In 1664 the Commissioners of New Amsterdam requested that fifty Negroes be sent to the colony (ibid vol 2, p. 213-214.)

Later in the same year of the 280 slaves arriving at New Amsterdam one-fourth were consigned to New Amstel. (Scharf p.180)

The presence of Negroes, as slaves, in Delaware is also established by the fact that at the capture of New Amstel by the English in 1664 the eleven slaves of commander Peter Alrichs were taken by Ensign Arthur Sock, who later made Alrichs a present of his captured Negroes. Hazard's , Annals of Pennsylvania, pp 331-332 and 456.)

From this stage in the development of the colony on the Delaware River slavery increased slowly as settlers from Maryland and Virginia came here with their slaves. However, the early Negroes of Delaware were scant in numbers.

The first record of a free Negro in the State is that of "Dick" from Philadelphia, who mixed the mortar for Joseph Yard in 1698 during the construction of the Old Swedes Church. (Records of the Holy Trinity Church, Wilmington Delaware, translated by Horace Burrs, 1697-1773.) The presence of any great number of free Negroes until the middle of the Eighteenth Century is doubtful.

Figures on the number of blacks in Delaware prior to 1790 are without basis. Assuming that some of the estimated 2,500-5,000 Negroes in Pennsylvania around 1721 were in the Three Lower Counties there was possibly 500 Negroes here. Of this number undoubtedly the greater proportion was slaves. In 1790, available figures show that there were 12,786 Negroes in Delaware, 3,899 of these being free Negroes.



## #3 Digest

The number of Negroes present in the State and the feeling pro and con slavery gave rise to factional activities. Objections to slavery had been manifested almost from the beginning of the colony. Penn's Charter to the Free Society of Traders, 1682, specified that slaves be set free at the end of fourteen years. Benjamin Curley proposed that slaves not be held more than eight years. Similar proposals were numerous and led to a movement among the **Progressive Friends** that eventually resulted in the emancipation of their slaves. (**Negro in Pennsylvania**)

This anti-slavery sentiment took root in the Three Lower Counties and in 1776 the State Constitution declared, "No person hereafter imported into this State from Africa ought to be held in slavery under any pretence whatever, and no Negro, Indian, or Mulatto slave ought to be brought into this State, for sale, from any part of the World." Although this clause was deleted from the **1792** Constitution anti-slavery activity throughout the State caused a decrease in the number of slaves.

The Delaware census of 1790 disclosed the presence of 12,786 Negroes of which 8,887 were slaves and 3,899 were free. Ten years later the figures had changed to 6,163 slaves and 8,268 freemen. Figures for 1830 showed an even greater swing to freedom for in that year there were 15,585 free Negroes and 3,292 slaves. At the start of the Civil War of the 21,625 Negroes in the State a meagre 1,798 were in bondage a startling decrease in view of the lack of legislation prohibiting slavery within the State.

#4Digest.

The practice of liberating slaves had become so general that it was necessary to pass laws designed to hinder it. The fear that the freed Negro would become a charge promoted the legislation and accordingly it was necessary for anyone desiring to free his slave to post security in amount fixed by law. Without this no slave could be considered free. This law was passed in the Lower Counties in 1739.

Objections to slavery in Delaware was primarily the result of the lack of economic need for slaves. The nature of the agriculture of the colony demanded few slaves. Then too some of religionists of the colony saw in slavery the greatest evil of the time and exhorted continually against the practice. Not stopping with exhortation some members of the Society of Friends went to the expense and trouble of risking their lives in the effort to stifle slavery. Other groups of citizens formed societies and thus came into being the Delaware Abolition Society, January 10, 1802. Thomas Garrett, famous abolitionist, was a member of this society and took active part in its program. Garrett is reputed to have helped more than 2,700 slaves to freedom.

Anti-slavery sentiment had grown to such proportions in 1820 that a meeting of New Castle County citizenry was held in Wilmington, January 16, 1820 at which resolutions opposed to the practice of enslaving men were passed. In the same year the general assembly passed and sent the following resolution to Congress:



#5 digest

RESOLVED: By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, in General Assembly met, that in the opinion of this General Assembly, the future introduction of slaves into the territories of the United States, and into such new States as maybe hereafter admitted into the Union, ought be prohibited by Congress. (Scharf, p. 305-306.)

The Federal Census figures for 1930 show the presence of 32,602 Negroes in Delaware or 13.7 per cent of the total population. Of this number 18,471 are in New Castle County. Within the County the largest concentration of Negroes in the State live in Wilmington where 12,080 make their homes.

The Negro population of Delaware is strangely a heterogenous mass from all parts of the country. It is generally assumed that the majority of Delaware's Negro population is from other States. Of the number at home few have achieved positions of outstanding prominence or worth. Negroes of the State in responsible positions are in almost every instance from other soil. This can be the result of the native Delawarean's distrust of his fellow race member, or it maybe an inherent tendency to follow the dictates of others in the struggle for leadership.

Of the native born Delawareans that have risen to places of merit in the national and racial firmament the most outstanding are Bishop Edward T. Demby, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Jefferson Coage, former U.S. Recorder of Deeds and Commissioner to Haiti; Richard Allen, co-founder of African Methodist Episcopal Church; and William Spencer Anderson, Liberian colonist.

The economic plight of the contemporary Delaware Negro is decidedly less than bright. Essentially a working population there seems little if any thing for Negroes to do within the last

## #6 Digest

decade. The future picture offers nothing at this time which indicates any great upturn in demand for Negro labor of ability. Three fields of endeavor employ approximately 90 per cent of all employable Negroes. These are agriculture, manufacturing-labor, and domestic- personal services. Excepting agriculture the current economic upheaval has eliminated almost entirely the need for Negro labor in the other fields. Thus he is without visible means of support and has had to turn to local and federal agencies in order to subsist.

In effort to check the percentages of race members receiving local and federal assistance in Delaware appeal was made to agencies responsible for this type of work. No authentic data was forthcoming inasmuch as each agency reported as not possessing data from the viewpoint of races. Social workers venturing information without the possession of factual data estimate that 60 percent of employable Negroes of the State are without visible means of support. Another 20 per cent are being taken care of on work relief projects sponsored by the national government, and the remaining 20 percent is distributed evenly among agricultural workers and domestics.

Only a sharp upturn in labor and construction will make any perceptible change in the Negro laborer's position. Since apparent indications are to the contrary the economic picture of the Delaware Negro is factually filled with pessimism.



## #7 Digest

In halycon days of plentiful work the Negro enjoyed work opportunities in nearly all the major industries of the State. In some instances he was paid identical wages as whites for identical labor, but most cases his job was restricted to the lower types of work in the lower income brackets. Few industries had a promotion scale for Negroes inasmuch as they seldom tried them in jobs from which they had traditionally been excluded.

Personal and domestic services formerly offered work opportunities to 36 percent of the males and females of the Race. Drastic curtailment of budgetary allowances for work of this type among groups affording such has caused a huge slash in Negro employment in this group. Nordic maids and butlers have supplanted the Negro. In the textile industry as in leather the Negro has been shunted almost completely from the picture and foreign born whites employed. Perhaps only in the steel and foundry jobs has the Negro held his own and this for his ability to perform well in the high temperature jobs.

In agriculture the Negro has also lost ground. According to the Federal Census figures for 1930 of the 17,341 agricultural workers in Delaware, 3,659, or 21.1 per cent were Negroes. Negroes workers employed on farms today has decreased by fifty per cent for two reasons, namely, loss of ownership and lay-offs. Of the 7,182 farms in the State with acreage of 20 to 175 acres: 827 were owned or tenanted by Negroes. The decrease in farm ownership in the State has also affect the Negro totals as it has the general figures. Negroes tilling farms today are only raising a variety of truck and light growths for immediate marketing along Wilmington's curb markets.

## #8 Digest

On the whole the Negro's economic position in Delaware is a precarious one. The fact that he has been unemployed in large numbers for years is less startling than the fact that in the future there seems no place for him in the forthcoming readjustment. Several groups have urged upon him the idea that that trade union affiliations will better his unemployment ills. Thus he is in the midst of an effort to become a factor in labor activities but this has succeeded only to the point where he is accepted in the outside labor unions. He still cannot be a milkman, fireman, or office worker.

The one bright feature of the Negro's economic plight is the gain made by his professional group. Included herein are his doctors, a lawyer, teachers, editors, beauticians, nurses, chiropodists, undertakers, dentists, a commercial artist, clerics, social workers and writers. This group has made some progress in numbers and materially. It has suffered less than any of the Negro populace..

Accurate data about the small Negro business enterprises is wanting. They own no major portions of large public concerns as they never seem to be able to muster enough capital to buy into these concerns. Their businesses are confined to neighborhood enterprises which infrequently are limited to the following types of business: grocery, confectionery, tailoring or dry cleaning, beauty shops, printeries, sign shops, brick, masonry, and carpentry jobbing, lunch rooms, employment offices, plumbing and electrical repairing, express and light drayage.

Even this little group has suffered from the present



## #9 Digest

economic choas sharply. Of the few that one time earned a lucrative livelihood many are today without work or hopes of anything in the near future.

Proportionately the number of Negroes affected directly by unemployment is greater by far than that of other groups. He finds little to hold him on the job and nothing to do after lay-off. Estimates are that pro-rata there is three times as much unemployment among Negroes as among other groups.

With little or no work the Negro turns to social agencies for succor. He is startled to find that in many instances he cannot get assistance and persons in other groups in identical stages of want are aided. This puzzles him to no end and results in some cases to downright belligerence and repulsive actions.

The truth behind the scene is that with the exception of federal social agencies the majority of local agencies are operated upon funds donated by private individuals. At the head of this agencies are persons not so much selected for their ability as social workers as for their ability to make friends with the powers that be. Consequently there is in many cases biased and prejudiced person directing the affairs of that agency. In some agencies the apparent willingness to help the Negro is a sham and is the fear of pressure being brought to bear because the agency accepts government funds to some extent. Others make no "bones" at turning away its Negro applicants.

## #10-Digest

Some few of the social agencies headed by the more liberal of the group have worked out a plan whereby Negroes are allotted ten percent of the funds available for assistance. In some cases this fund may exceed ten percent and there is an instance where the Negro case load is determined by the white case load at a ratio of ten to one. One agency head avered that we assist Negroes if it is necessary but their requirements ~~aforn~~ living are not as high as others so Negroes receive less proportionately from this bureau.

The entire Social service from the standpoint of aid to Negroes is in need of a hypodermic. He can get little if any consideration at the best from most of the social service agencies in the State.

Establishment of Negro churches throughout Delaware has done much to uplift the group. Discrimination and prejudice have forced him out of the broad public life and he has found it necessary to develop his church if he would the intercourse and privileges of social and public life. Consequently his church in Delaware is his greatest institution.

During the early years of slavery the need of the Negro for religious sustenance was evidenced by Rev Hugh O'Neill of the Dover Episcopal Church, who reported, "But what gives me greatest concern is my poor negro flock....." in 1750. This concern for Negro religion was evidenced at Barratt's Chapel near Frederica also for here pews were set aside for Negro worshipers in the early years of Methodism. Asbury M.E.



## #11-Digest

Church, Wilmington, permitted Negro worship in the rear of the first floor auditorium.

From these early opportunities to worship God and from the deep native religious tendencies of the Delaware Negro sprang the first Negro controlled church in America. Disgruntled by treatment accorded them at Asbury M.E. Church a band of Negroes organized the Union Church for Africans in 1805. From this group developed the present day United American Methodist Episcopal Church.

Any reference to the religion of the Delaware Negro would be incomplete without mention of Richard Allen, ex-slave, reared near Dover, who later became famous where ever Negroes gather as the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Allen also has the honor of being the first Negro to preach in Wilmington to a mixed congregation and this on September 13, 1783. As reward for his fine preaching on numerous occasions Bishop Asbury ordained Allen a deacon in 1799. He 1786 he went to Philadelphia where he conceived and executed the plan of organization for the A.M.E. Church.

Religious tendencies of the Negro in Delaware are again indicated by the annual August Quarterly, a religious festival held the last Sunday in August for more than a hundred years, to which thousands of worshippers and curious come from as far north and south as New York and Georgia.

Agitation among the "modern" Negroes against the holding of August Quarterly has developed yet there seems no inclination of the motivating spirit of the occasion to permits its death.

## #12-Digest

August, 1938, had the largest attendance in the history of the event when 18,000 persons attended. (Police Estimate. City of Wilmington.)

Churches of every denomination exist in Delaware. The more elaborate edifices are Bethel A.M.E. Church (rebuilt 1938), Ezion M.E. Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Saint Joseph's R.C. Church, Whatcoat M.E. Church at Dover, and lesser churches in the reaches of the State.

Negroes of the State attend their churches regularly and contribute a disproportionate amount of their income for church support.

Opportunity for the Negro during the early days of Delaware to become familiar with reading, writing, and arithmetic was limited. There was no general educational facilities to permit erudition in numbers. Kindhearted slaveowners in rare instances permitted the slave to study with his children. An instance of this type enabled Adoniram Abrahams, born in Seaford Hundred, 1686, who lived with a Quaker family to become one the most intellectual of the Race.

Negro schools existed in Delaware as early as 1814. These one room schools were supported by whites who felt that Negroes should be educated and provided funds for that purpose. In spite of this interest the growth of Negro educational facilities was slow, and as late as 1866 the seven Negro schools in Delaware comprised three in Wilmington, two in Camden, one in Odessa and Newport. The largest of these was in Wilmington on Orange Street



## #13-Digest

near Tenth.

Education for the Negro staggered on slowly until the Freedmen's Bureau and organizations of this type began to arouse the public to the needs of Negro education. In 1866 a group of citizens met at the home of William S. Hilles, in Wilmington, and organized the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of Negroes. Within six months fourteen schools were opened with an enrollment of more than 700 students. Negroes in the communities boarded the teachers and provided for the incidental expenses incurred in operating the schools. Students had to pay a small tuition fee.

The General Assembly, in 1875, passed an act taxing Negroes for the support of their schools. This proved a hardship and the future of Negro education seemed dark. Support from private sources and taxes from Negroes had increased the number of schools for Negroes to 67 with an enrollment of 4,000. Here the program seemed destined to falter and die because the sum derived from Negro taxes was far inadequate.

The erection of the first Negro high school in the State was effected through the Delaware Association for Moral Improvement and Education of Negroes and the Freedmen's Bureau. The building was dedicated September 20, 1869, at Twelfth and Orange Streets, Wilmington. Two years later the City of Wilmington contributed \$1,000 to the Negro schools of the City. This was the first municipal contribution toward Negro education in the State.

## #14-Digest

The act taxing Negroes for support of their own schools failed to provide sufficient income and in 1881 a contribution was made to Negro school from the State treasury. Additional sums were appropriated in 1883 and 1891. In 1883 the State superintendent of schools was given supervision of Negro schools, and in 1895 county superintendents were made responsible for funds received under the act of that year. In this year (1895) the apportionment to Negro schools was increased to \$15,000 annually.

In spite of State help great handicaps remained that prevented a full development of Negro education. In 1917 a commission for study of schools made recommendations for a school code disclosed the appalling condition of the Negro school system. Agitation for better schools for Negroes resulted in an act requiring the State Board of Education to maintain separate but schools of uniform equality for Negroes and whites.

Fortunately, for Negroes, Pierre S. duPont offered to build and equip schools for Negroes throughout the State and launched the program immediately. The result was that 87 modernly equipped buildings, including a new Howard High School, have been provided for Negro school children.

The only institution of higher learning admitting Negroes is located three miles north of Dover on the du Pont Highway. It was created in 1891 by an act of the State Legislature, which seems to have forgotten it since. The plant consists of 13 buildings and 200 acres.

Courses in teacher training, agricultural and industrial



## #15-Digest

arts are offered. A bachelors degree in elementary education is offered also, but the same is not recognized in public school systems other than Delaware and the deep south. The faculty and administrative staff number 25 persons.

There are no facilities for pursuit of graduate study in Delaware for Negroes. Many undergraduate courses of study cannot be had by Negroes. Pre-professional courses, nurse training, music, or professional courses are not to be had by Negroes in Delaware.

The recent ruling of the United States Supreme Court relative to restriction of Negroes from educational institutions in states failing to provide equal facilities may react in such a way as soon enable Negroes to attend the University of Delaware. Contemplated steps along that line have not been taken yet.

**Insurance** is a drain upon the Negro population of the State for there seems to be system of malpractices among agents that is widespread. Flagrant violations of insurance laws occur frequently in Negro neighborhoods. Included in these are: issuance of policies with trick phraseology; collecting of premiums on elapsed policies; misrepresentations as to death indemnities and weekly sick benefits; and writing of uncollectible policies.

The amount of money mulcted from Negroes by insurance agents is stupifyings but not so much so when one realizes the gullibility of Negroes for insurance protection. Many of them never reach the financial independence of bank accounts and feel ably protected when the holder of an insurance policy of

## #16-Digest

any type. This peculiarity of the group has made it easy for the dishonest insurance man to gouge out their weekly earnings.

Even the Negroes that have been fortunate enough to have purchased bona fide insurance pay much for insurance protection than their incomes would warrant. It seems that from the amount of insurance carried in comparison with their incomes Negroes prepare to die rather than to live.

**The Health** of the Delaware Negro has improved greatly during the past decade. A cursory study of the report of the City of Wilmington Board of Health for 1935 shows that one Negro died from typhoid, no whites; 25 Negroes from Tuberculosis, 37 whites; 10 Negroes from syphilis, 6 whites; 2 of each race from bronchitis; homicides among Negroes numbered 7, among whites 3. Total deaths in Wilmington for 1935 were 1346, a little more than one per cent of the population. Of these Negro deaths totaled 20.5 percent and whites 79.5 percent. The percentage of deaths among whites was 1.023, and among Negroes 2.3. Negroes had a higher percentage of death in all the three counties; namely, 1.70 per cent against whites for New Castle County outside of Wilmington; 1.999 percent against 1.56 percent for whites in Kent County; and 1.77 per cent against 1.22 for whites in Sussex County. Total population percentages show that the Negro comprises 13.7 of the State's inhabitants throwing his death rate to approximately three to one.

Much of deplorable health attributed to Negroes can be traced to his poor living conditions, hard labor, and mal-



## #17-Digest

nutrition. The average Negro family is housed in quarters unfit for human tenancy. Here amidst the squalor of unlighted, poorly ventilated, sanitationless homes, dependent on his physical or mental resistance to his plight, Negroes live or die.

The fine work of health agencies and a sheer delight in living has enabled the decrease in the Negro death rate.

The problem of adequate and proper housing for Delaware Negroes is one that has long gone unnoticed and uninvestigated. The new awareness to conditions resulting from poor housing throughout the nation has focused the eyes of white Delaware on the dire need for corrective housing legislation among the Negroes of Delaware. Whether anything will come of this consciousness is problematical, yet recognition of the evil is the first step toward its elimination.

To look at housing among Negroes in Wilmington one finds that Negroes pay more rent for less than any other group in the City. Houses with water in cellars, unheated, without bath or running water, outdoor privies, community drinking spigots, no sewage disposal and kindred ills are merely part of the evils borne by the Negro house renter.

There seems to be an unwritten law preventing Negro inhabitation of property until it has become blighted. The few able to purchase seldom find the price low enough to ever enable complete ownership, thus the <sup>home</sup>ownership percentage among <sup>urban</sup>Negroes is low. On the contrary rural Negroes purchase ideal homes at attractive figures.

## #18-Digest

**Socially** the Delaware Negro is curiously trapped. For many reasons it behooves him to be a northern Negro and for equally as good reasons prudence would warrant his being typically southern.

He has the assurance that he will not be maligned if he takes the front seat in a public vehicle, but also knows that he cannot attend a decent picture show. He can purchase garments that do not rest on his skin, but dare not in many instances attempt to buy articles that need fitting before purchase. He can parade with his white brethren but only at the end of the procession. He neither can participate fully in the life of his State nor is it expedient for him to keep wholly without.

The **New Negro** has struck a third line of action in effort to obtain a measure of the things of life from the powers that be. His ancestors followed one of the two following courses: dealt entirely within his own group and sought comparable solace for the things he could have gotten from the broader contact ; or developed after study a keen understanding of the white man desires and bartered with him on terms ,seldom beneficial, if possible. To prosecute the first plan successfully the Negro needs money and the self sufficiency that money brings. He has neither. The second plan was repugnant to many for it involves the loss of character and the cringing acceptance of less than a man's share.



## #19-Digest

The new Negro is attempting to find a **middle** road whereby he can accede as the evidence warrants and lash out bitterly as the situation demands.

The political scene reveals the Negro in his most pathetic light. From the viewpoint of capabilities and achievements there is no comparison. Strategically, located so that he could demand consideration from all sources he accepts a mere pittance and fails to use the unlimited power latently his.

Not strangely, he has been named to several high sounding positions, honorary, and ignored in positions that paid lucrative returns. He has accepted the high sounding but powerless and ignored the powerful but "filthy lucre."

Fate maneuvered the Delaware Negro into a conspicuous position in the political life of the State at the National election of 1936 only to have him ignore his fine possibilities in future political warfare. Today he has been relegated to his former insignificant position in the political picture of Delaware.

K. A. Horner  
July 20, 1937

160

### Legal Status

Delaware was not recognized as a separate State until 1776. Prior to that time it had been part of the Province of Pennsylvania, although after 1704 a separate general assembly met and passed laws for the government of the people of the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware. Penn's Governors held jurisdiction over the counties and laws passed by Pennsylvania for the welfare of the entire province were in force in Delaware.

For this reason it is necessary to refer to the laws of Pennsylvania to find the first statutes enacted in reference to the Negro in Delaware. From these records it is found that during the Colonial period a long series of laws were passed, the first being that of 1700 when a duty of twenty shillings was imposed on each Negro slave brought into the province. About this time a strong adverse sentiment arose against slavery due partly to the activity of the Quakers, partly to the objections of laborers and workingmen, and thirdly, because of an insurrection of slaves that had occurred in New York. This sentiment became so strong that it was determined to prohibit slavery entirely and in 1712 a law was passed imposing a prohibitive tax or duty of twenty pounds on each slave imported. The preamble of the bill states:

The Amer. Slave Trade Page 95 "Whereas divers Plots and Insurrections have frequently happened, not only in the Islands, but on the Mainland of America, by Negroes, which have been carried on so far that several of the inhabitants have been barbarously Murthered, an instance whereof we have lately had in our Neighboring Colony of New York," etc.

This law was immediately repealed in England.

N.B. - Horner — No law passed in Del after 1704 was sent to England for approval.



In 1715 a more moderate duty of five pounds was imposed, but again the English authorities interposed, repealing it in 1719. An act to continue the duty was passed in 1717-18, and apparently this act was not submitted to the Crown. In 1720-21, the five-pound duty was again imposed, and again it apparently was not submitted to the Crown. In 1725-1726 the five-pound duty was imposed again, and in the same year five pounds extra was placed upon every convict negro brought into the colony. This became law by lapse of time.

Because restrictive legislation concerning slavery had been frustrated, encountering not only the disapproval of certain classes in Pennsylvania, but also the powerful opposition of the African Company in England, which could count on the decisive interposition of the Lords of Trade, such laws were passed for short periods of time. The assembly, controlled largely by the Quakers, submitted them to the Crown only after a lapse of time and made new laws before the old ones had been revoked. In 1729 the duty was reduced to two pounds. By 1750 importation had nearly ceased.

The French and Indian War and the efforts made to recruit soldiers among the white indentured servants, caused a large number of the latter to desert their masters and join the army. This brought about a demand for negroes and the next ten years saw an increase that was said to have been alarming. In 1761 restrictive legislation was again tried when the duty was made ten pounds. In 1768 the act was renewed and it was made perpetual in 1773, this time with the duty raised to twenty pounds.

However, these laws were not passed solely for the purpose of prohibiting slavery. The raising of revenue was also an important consideration. Slavery was placed in the same category as that of



liquors. It was recognized that no one colony could stop slavery; as a necessary evil it could be used to raise revenue and the treasury of the province was enriched by many thousands of pounds because of the duties imposed.

### Laws in Delaware

The first law passed in the Three Lower Counties in reference to Negroes was that of 1726-1727 when the counties were under the governorship of Patrick Gordon. This law provided for a special form of trial for Negro and Mulatto slaves. Two Justices of the Peace were to be "particularly commissioned by the Governor for that service within the respective counties thereof, and six of the most substantial freeholders of the neighborhood." This court was to try Negroes and Mulattoes "accused of committing murder, manslaughter, buggery, burglary, robbery, rape, attempts of rape, or any other high and heinous offences." Section 3 of the act provided that in case a slave be sentenced to death, the master of the slave was to be paid two-thirds of the appraised value of the slave. Section 5 provided "That if any Negro or Mulatto slave within this government shall attempt to commit a rape on a white woman or maid, they shall be tried in manner aforesaid, and shall be punished by standing four hours in the pillory at the Court-House on some court day, with both his ears nailed to the pillory, and before he be taken down from the same, shall have both his ears cut off close to his head."

That the fear of insurrection still remained with the law-makers, is seen in section 7 of the act, as follows: "And be it further enacted .. that if any Negroes, above the number of six in one company, not belonging to one owner, shall meet together, and upon no lawful business of their masters or owners, and being convicted thereof, by the view



of one Justice of the Peace, or the testimony of one credible witness, such Negro or Negroes so offending shall be publicly whipped at the discretion of one Justice of the Peace, not exceeding twenty-one lashes, each Negro." This Act continued in force until February 3, 1789.

In 1739 the following law was passed by the General Assembly:

1767  
608  
Sect. 10-And whereas it is found that free Negroes and Mulattoes are idle and slothful, and often prove burdensome to the neighborhood wherein they live, and are of evil example to slaves; Therefore be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any master or mistress, shall, by will, or otherwise, discharge or let free any Mulatto or Negro slave or slaves, above the age of thirty-five years, or decrepit or infirm, he or she, or his or her executors or administrators, at the next respective County Court of Quarter Sessions, shall enter into a recognizance with sufficient sureties, to be taken in the name of the treasurer of the said county for the time being, in the sum of Thirty Pounds, for each slave let free, to indemnify the county from any charge they or any of them may be unto the same, in case of such Negro or Mulatto's being sick, or otherwise rendered incapable to support him or herself; and that until such recognizance be given, no such Mulatto or Negro shall be deemed free.

(1838)  
A hundred years later, this law was the basis for a suit against the heirs of Richard Cooper of Kent County, who by will set his slave Hannah free. She became a charge and the trustees of the poor sued Cooper's heirs for the sum of \$168.00 to reimburse them for supporting and later burying her. The suit was decided in favor of the Trustees. (Harrington's report, p. 265, Vol. 2, 1836) — ? another article says p. 363, 1838.

The resolution, Article 26 of the State Constitution of 1776, did not actually prohibit the importation of slaves, and it was not until 1787 that a law was enacted definitely prohibiting such importation.

Section 7 of that law reads as follows:

" ... And be it enacted, that if any person or persons shall, after the passing of this act, bring any Negro or Mulatto slave into this State for sale, or otherwise, the said Negro or Mulatto slave is hereby declared free to all intents and purposes, and the person or persons bringing the said Negro or Mulatto slave into the State as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay the sum of Twenty Pounds, to be recovered in any Court of Record in this State ..."



The act also prohibited the exporting of free Negroes and Mulattoes without a permit. Freed slaves were not considered the equal of the white man, or to have voting privileges. This was expressly stated in the same act:

"Section 8: ... No slave freed agreeable to the laws of this State shall be entitled to the privilege of voting at elections, or being elected or appointed to any office of trust or profit, or to give evidence against any white person, or to enjoy any other rights of a freeman, other than to hold property, and to obtain redress in law and equity for any injury to his or her person or property."

On February 3, 1789, an Act was passed of which Section 3 reads:

"And whereas it is but just and reasonable that Negro and Mulatto slaves should receive a trial by jury in capital cases, Be it therefore enacted, That all Negro and Mulatto slaves, after the passing of this act, shall be tried, for all capital offences, in the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the several counties, where the same offences shall be committed, by the usual mode of proceeding in the said courts for the punishment of crimes against the state, now cognizable in said courts."

Section 5. And be it enacted, That so much of an Act, entitled, An act for the trial of Negroes, as gives to two Justices of the Peace, and six freeholders, the power of trying, determining and convicting, any Negro, Mulatto, or other slave, and punishing the same with death, for any capital offence whatsoever, be and the same is hereby repealed and made void.

The same law prohibited the fitting out or sailing from Delaware of any ship to engage in trade or traffic of slaves from any European Country, Asia or Africa. In 1793 an act was passed to prevent the kidnapping of free negroes or mulattoes, "under penalty of being whipped with thirty-nine lashes on the back, well laid on, and to stand in the pillory one hour with both ears nailed thereto, and to have the soft part of both ears cut off."

Disputes arose as to the status of children of slaves that had been manumitted, their terms of slavery to be effective at a later date. The will of George Vincent, dated May 12, 1797, specified that "I give



to my daughter Betsy my negro girl Rhoda, until she arrives at the age of thirty years, then to have her freedom from slavery." In this instance the slave Rhoda gave birth to a child, who years later claimed that he was free born. Governor Truitt, who recommended legislation covering this subject, voiced the opinions of the time when he said, "So many negroes are now in this situation that it is a matter of great importance to ascertain what their condition is; for if it is slavery, the issue of female parents are necessarily all slaves; on the contrary, if it is freedom, the issue at the moment of their birth are free and owe no service to the master. And is the master, having no right to command their services for a single moment, bound to maintain them in their infancy? The mother cannot; and must the public be burdened with the expense?"

The Act, passed in 1810, provided that "the children of any such female negro born with<sup>in</sup> the said term of service, shall be in like manner deemed and taken to be slaves; the males until they arrive at the age of twenty-five and the females to twenty-one."

The rapidity with which negroes were manumitted and the inability of many of them to properly take care of themselves led to the passage of several acts to protect the commonwealth: One such act provided that no free negro should be allowed to come into the State, and that any free negro leaving the State for a period of six months or more should be considered as a non-resident and prohibited from returning. Persons employing, hiring or harboring such free negroes were subject to fines of \$5.00 per day for each and every day such negroes were employed, hired or harbored.

Under a law passed February 4, 1811, justices of the peace and trustees of the poor were empowered to bind out as apprentices the



children of free negroes and mulattoes who in the opinion of two justices or trustees were unable to properly maintain and support such children, the children to remain as servants or slaves until they reached the ages of twenty-one for the male and eighteen for the female.

When ~~the~~ Missouri in 1819, applied for admission to the Union, as a slave State, the Legislature of Delaware passed a resolution, which was transmitted to Congress, opposing slavery, and advocating the right of Congress to prohibit the admission of a State to the Union as a slave state.

In 1819 another act to prevent kidnapping was passed and in 1826 still another act of the same kind became a law.

In 1832, following an uprising of slaves in Virginia, in 1831, the Legislature enacted a law to disarm free negroes and mulattoes and to prevent them from holding religious or other meetings of more than twelve persons, except under the direction of three responsible white persons, and forbidding non-resident free negroes from preaching or holding meetings without a license.

The problem of the run-a-way slave was one that vexed not only the master, but many of the people whose sympathies were with or against him. Property rights were paramount, however, and the Legislature, in 1826, passed an Act relating to "fugitives from labour." Penalties for "hindering seizure, removal of fugitive or aiding in rescue of fugitive, etc." provided for a fine of not more than \$500 with from three to twelve month's imprisonment. A similar penalty was provided for transporting fugitives out of the state by water -- \$500 to owner, or \$500 fine and three to twelve months imprisonment. If a negro, fine and punishment, or 39 lashes.

An Act in 1837 provided for the punishment of any person enticing



or aiding a Negro or Mulatto to escape, and, if a negro, to be sold to the highest and best bidder for a term of seven years. In 1849 this Act was amended and the penalty for a second offence was raised to \$1,000 fine and six months imprisonment, and in 1852 the law was again amended to apply to any person who shall "advise, promote, or aid the running away of any slave, etc," and also provided that the owner of the slave should receive \$1,000 instead of \$500. Another amendment in 1857 made the Act applicable to persons in "charge of railroad trains."

A bill was introduced in the general assembly February 19, 1847, for the abolishment of slavery, but it failed in the Senate by one vote, that of the Speaker. Another bill, introduced the same month, committing the State against the introduction of slavery into the territories, was adopted.

In 1851, the Legislature enacted a law, after reciting in the preamble that the increase of free negroes in the State is "a great and growing evil, injurious and corrupting to the resident negroes, therefore, no free non-resident negro or mulatto "shall come into the State."

*When* In November, 1861, President Lincoln *considered* ~~conceived an idea~~ for the emancipation of slaves through compensation to the owners by the United States Government, hoping by this means to "bring the Rebellion to a peaceful close," Delaware at the time was the smallest slave-holding State, having only 1798 slaves, and the President consulted with Hon. George P. Fisher, Congressman elect from Delaware, relative to his plan. The proposition, in substance, was that the Government would pay to the State of Delaware the sum of \$500 for each slave, payments being made at the rate of ten percent each year for a period

of ten years, and that the State should pay to the slave-holders the value of the emancipated slaves.

Congressman Fisher agreed to submit the plan to the Delaware legislature and a bill was prepared in accordance with the plan of President Lincoln. Before it was introduced it was decided to ascertain whether sufficient votes could be pledged to pass it. It was found that the Bill could not be passed, and it was not introduced. (Powell p. 262.)



169  
p. 220

J U D I C I A L   C A S E S

concerning

AMERICAN SLAVERY AND THE NEGRO

Edited by The late

HELEN TUNNICLIFF CATTERALL  
(Mrs. Ralph C. H. Catterall)

With Additions By

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Cases from the Courts of

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DELAWARE  
INTRODUCTION

I.

The line which the English mathematicians, Mason and Dixon, drew to the north and east of Maryland in 1763-1767, to settle the boundary dispute between Lord Baltimore and William Penn, divides Maryland from Pennsylvania (which then included Delaware) like a T-square, or rather like a letter Z, whose lowest member is embryonic. Actually,<sup>1</sup> the present state of Delaware lies wholly outside the traditional "pale" of the slave states, yet she was not free. Her air was not too pure for a slave to breathe, nor did her soil impart freedom to the slave who set foot thereon; but the atmosphere was kindlier to him there than in Maryland and further south.

A vital distinction was, that in Delaware a negro was presumed to be free, while in the other slave states he was presumed to be a slave. The first enunciation of the doctrine in the Delaware Reports appears in 1840 in the case of the State v. Dillahunt,<sup>2</sup> though it had been so held prior to that case.<sup>3</sup> A colored woman was objected to as a witness "because she was not proved to be a free woman, though it was proved that she acted as such. The court held her competent on two grounds. At the common law there was always a strong presumption in favor of freedom. In the first settlement of this country, the fact of the existence of the negro race in a state of bondage to the whites, and a large majority of that color being slaves, was considered sufficiently strong to outweigh the common law presumption, and to introduce a legal presumption that a colored person is prima facie a slave. Yet that state of things has changed; and cessante causa, cessat et ipsa lex. There are in this State about 20,000 persons of color; of whom 17,000 are free, and 3,000



slaves. A large majority of all persons of color in the United States are free. In point of fact, therefore, there is no reason to presume slavery from color; in opposition to the strong common law presumption, that every man having the human form is a freeman. And such has been the decision of this court on several occasions. But additionally, it has always been the practice to take reputation as proof of freedom."<sup>4</sup>

The contiguity to Maryland and the large numbers of free negroes offered a great temptation to kidnap them in Delaware and to carry them into slavery in Maryland. In 1793 an act<sup>5</sup> was passed providing that "every person who shall feloniously kidnap, take and carry away from this state, into any other state, any free Negro or free Mulatto, or shall aid or assist . . shall be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes well laid on, and shall stand in the pillory for the space of one hour, with both of his or her ears nailed thereto, and at the expiration of the hour, shall have the soft part of both of his or her ears cut off."

In 1826 "a fine of not less than one thousand dollars nor more than two thousand dollars" was added; the lashes were increased to sixty; the ears were left free; but the act provided that the person convicted "shall be imprisoned, in solitary confinement, for a term of not less than three nor more than seven years and at the expiration of said imprisonment shall be disposed of as a servant to the highest and best bidder or bidders for the period of seven years; and every person . . so offending a second time, upon conviction of such second offence, shall suffer death."<sup>6</sup> The Act of 1841 reduced the lashes again to thirty-nine, and the term of imprisonment to not less than one year nor more than two. For a second offence, the fine was increased (\$2000 to \$5000), and exile was substituted for death.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless the temptation to kidnap was too strong to be resisted, the profits of the business overbalancing the fear of punishment, as the numerous kidnapping cases testify.<sup>8</sup>



Even slaves could not, by the Act of 1787,<sup>9</sup> be carried out of the state for sale, or sold for export, without a license, on pain of forfeiting one hundred pounds for each offence; and an additional penalty was inflicted by a clause in the kidnapping act of 1793,<sup>10</sup> declaring such slaves free.

About 1799 one Hicks removed eleven of his negroes to Maryland. In 1801 one of them, Amelia, "escaped from the service of Hicks," and returned to Delaware. "Subsequently she was found in the possession of Andrew Allen, who claimed and held her as his slave in this state for nearly thirty years, . . . It was alledged that he purchased her of . . . Alston, but this fact was not established, . . . It was in evidence, however, that this Alston was a negro trader from one of the southern states, and that Hicks actually sold all of the other negroes which he took from this state, to the traders, after he had taken them to Maryland." Amelia's three children, born after her return to Delaware, and her grandchildren, petitioned for freedom, under the act of 1793.<sup>10</sup> The members of the court were "unanimous in the opinion, that the petitioners are entitled to their freedom;" that such exportation did, ipso facto, establish Ameilia's freedom; and that the "right and title to freedom . . . attaches the moment the offence is committed, which is prohibited by the statute."<sup>11</sup> It was held in 1849<sup>12</sup> that "a prior conviction (of the master) is not requisite; . . . proof of the fact of exportation, contrary<sup>to</sup> the act, confers freedom."

Conversely, by the Act of 1787, a slave became free if brought into the state, "for sale, or otherwise,"<sup>13</sup> Even a slave sent by his master in Maryland to haul wheat to sow on his Delaware farm,<sup>14</sup> or to plow on his farm there for a few days,<sup>15</sup> was decreed free.<sup>16</sup>

The kidnapping cases together with some cases of assault and battery on free negroes produced one beneficent result: they gave rise to an in-



terpretation of the rules of evidence as to the admission of the testimony of free negroes in cases where a white man is a party, which gave the free negro a bulwark for his rights not vouchsafed him in the other slaveholding states. The statute of Delaware, passed in 1787,<sup>17</sup> provided that no free negro "shall be entitled . . . to give evidence against any white person, or to enjoy any other rights of a freeman, other than hold property, and to obtain redress in law and equity for any injury to his or her person or property." In 1793 a white man was indicted for an assault and battery on Phillis Miller, a negro woman. She was offered as a witness for the State, and admitted. "Negroes are allowed the same redress for injuries to their persons as whites."<sup>18</sup> Indictment is one mode of redress for an injury to the person, principally useful where the party injured is the only witness of the fact necessary to be proved. The act giving to negroes this right of redress must be construed to allow the means absolutely necessary to obtain redress. . . . we do not mean to say that a negro is a witness between two white persons; nor, in cases like the present, where other proof can be procured; but only in the case where justice must otherwise fail."<sup>19</sup> Justice would usually have failed in the kidnapping cases if negro testimony had been excluded.

In 1799 an act<sup>20</sup> was passed admitting "free black persons and free mulattoes" to give testimony "in all criminal prosecutions, where it shall appear to the court . . . that no white person or persons competent to give testimony, was or were present at the time when the fact charged is alledged to have been committed, or where such white persons who were present have since died, or are absent from the State and cannot be produced as witnesses," except "against any white man, to charge such white man with being the father or reputed father of any bastard child." In 1840 the negro kidnapped was allowed to give evidence, though there was a white person present who was "implicated" in the crime, but not



indicted: "the act (of 1799) contemplated, in excluding negro testimony where a competent white witness was present, not the mere case of competency on the part of the witness, but the sufficiency of his evidence under ordinary circumstances, to produce conviction."<sup>21</sup> In an assault and battery case, in 1842,<sup>22</sup> the negro assaulted was permitted to testify, although there had been two white persons present and "both knew that a blow was struck," but "one of them was drunk, and the other did not see the whole of the fight." (575) "The law of humanity is in favor of the old decisions, . . . Otherwise there will often be a failure of justice, and wrongs may be committed with impunity." (Read, C. J.) As late as 1867 the old act of 1799<sup>23</sup> was relied on to exclude the testimony of a negro man against a white man indicted for assaulting him, there being a competent white witness present; but "the fact that the negro called as a witness, was the person on whom the assault and battery had been committed, having come to the knowledge of the Court, the Chief Justice remarked that his testimony was admissible under the rulings of the Court, on the ground of humanity and necessity, although there was a white witness present,"

The Delaware court agrees with that of Maryland<sup>24</sup> in holding that a slave born during the continuance of a life estate in the mother, belongs to the legatee for life: "He who supports the child of the slave in infancy, ought to be justly remunerated for his expense and trouble by its services, and the expectation that he will be so remunerated will insure greater care and attention to the wants of the child. . . the maxim (*partus sequitur ventrem*) is misapplied when it is used to direct us not as to the condition of the issue, but as to the person entitled to the ownership of that issue."<sup>25</sup>

The maxim, as applied "to the condition of the issue," comes up for interpretation in those cases where a female slave is to become free in



futuro, and she gives birth to a child or children before the end of the term of intermediate servitude. The Virginia interpretation was generally followed in the slave states:<sup>26</sup> that as the mother was not actually free till the future date, her offspring born while she was not actually free, but a slave, were slaves; and so it was held in Delaware, in the case of *Jones v. Wootten*, in 1833.<sup>27</sup> Judge Harrington dissented: (84) "By the act of manumission (in futuro) the mother acquires a vested right. . . The child follows the condition of the mother. At its birth the mother is not in the condition of absolute slavery, but only of limited slavery, owing services for a limited period; if the child be in the same condition it is that of limited slavery, measured by the term of its mother's servitude. . . (86) I regret that I have not been able to bring my judgment into coincidence with that of the other members of the Court. I think the petitioner . . is entitled to his freedom." But in 1849 the judgment "of the other members of the Court" was overruled in the case of *Elliott v. Twilley*<sup>28</sup> and Judge Harrington's opinion in *Jones v. Wootten* was followed.

Delaware differed from the other slave states in another particular, unique in the line of reasoning followed by the court and in the conclusion reached. In other slave states there were many cases of free negroes who bought slaves, usually members of their own families, and generally in order to set them free if the law so permitted.<sup>29</sup> In Delaware a free negro who had been "legally married" to a slave and had purchased their son Isaac when he was an infant, bequeathed him to Tindal "until he should attain the age of twenty-five years," and on Tindal's death, his executor sold Isaac to Hudson. It was held (in 1838)<sup>30</sup> that Isaac was "entitled to his freedom." Judge Clayton, in delivering the opinion of the Court, says: "we observe one . . pervading feature (of slavery), that the black is the slave to the white man; . . this court . . will not extend slavery



beyond what it has been heretofore, . . . to give the free negro a right to hold slaves, would be to institute another and a dangerous species of slavery hitherto unknown.<sup>31</sup> . . . the negro is not such a freeman as to extend protection; he is . . . almost as helpless and dependent on the white race as the slave himself; . . . We think, therefore, that neither usage, policy, nor the necessary relations of master and slave, will permit free negroes in this state to hold slaves. . . . also . . . we ought not to recognize the right of a father to hold his own children in slavery. Humanity forbids it. The natural rights and obligations of a father are paramount to the acquired rights of the master; and the moment the father purchases his child and these rights become blended in the same person, the lesser rights and obligations are merged in the greater, and the child is free. . . . (443) Humanity revolts at the idea of a parent selling his own children into slavery."

## II.

The judicial system provided for the Delaware State by the constitution of 1776 comprised a Supreme Court consisting of three judges, one of whom was to be chief justice, and a Court of Appeals consisting of a president and six other judges. The constitution of 1792 separated equity jurisdiction from that of the law courts, and instituted a chancellor and a Court of Chancery. The sessions of the Supreme Court were to be held by three or four judges, one of whom was to be resident in each county, and one of whom was to be chief justice. Appeals from it were to go to the High Court of Errors and Appeals, consisting of the chancellor, the judges of the Supreme Court, and those of the Court of Common Pleas.

The constitution of 1831, under which most of the cases which follow were heard, provided instead of the Supreme Court a Superior Court with four judges (one of them to be chief justice), but required that,



of the associate judges, there should be one from each of the three counties of which the state consisted, and that no associate judge should sit in the county in which he resided. The chancellor and Court of Chancery were retained. Appeals were to be heard by the Court of Errors and Appeals, which in the case of appeals from the Superior Court was to consist of the chancellor, the associate judge of the Superior Court who had not sat in the case below, and one of those judges of that court who had so sat, while in the instance of a case brought up from the Court of Chancery the appeal was to be heard by a court consisting of the chief justice and his three associates. Criminal cases were heard either by the Court of Oyer and Terminer or by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Jail Delivery, composed variously of the chief justice and associate judges. From these two criminal courts there was no appeal to any other court.



## DELAWARE

## INTRODUCTION

## I.

## FOOTNOTES

1 Though not figuratively.

2 3 Harrington 551.

3 State v. Jeans, 4 Harrington 570 (1845): "it has been repeatedly decided that as a mere presumption, the inclination is in favor of freedom. It was so held prior to the case of Dillahunt, though that is the first case reported."

4 As in Maryland.

5 Act of June 14, 1793, ch. 22. c. sect. 1 (2 Del. Laws 1093). This act also contained a section (sect. 4) declaring slaves free, who were carried out of the state for sale, or sold for export without a license. The act "was intended to prevent the crime of kidnapping; to restrain the traffic in human beings, and gradually to abolish slavery in this state."

Allen v. Negro Sarah, 2 Harrington 434 (1838).

6 Act of Feb. 8, 1826, Rev. Laws 1829, 131.

7 Act of Feb. 18, 1841, ch. 346, sect. 1. Sess. Laws 1841, 400. For further modifications see Rev. Stat. 1852, 473 (ch. 127, sect. 12).

8 State v. Whaley, 2 Harrington 532, 538 (1836 and 1837); State v. Whitaker, 3 Harrington 549 (1840); State v. Griffin, *ibid.* 559 (1841); State v. The same defendant, *ibid.* 560; State v. The same defendant and Wilson, *ibid.*; State v. Jeans, 4 Harrington 570 (1845); State v. Updike, *ibid.* 581 (1847); State v. Harten, *ibid.* 582 (1847).

9 Act of Feb. 3, 1787, ch. 145. b. sects. 1, 2. 2 Del. Laws 885.

10 Act of June 14, 1793, ch. 22. c. sect. 4. 2 Del. Laws 1094.

11 Allen v. Negro Sarah, 2 Harrington 434 (1838).

12 Anderson v. Thoroughgood, 5 Harrington 199.

13 Act of Feb. 3, 1787, ch. 145. b. sect. 7. 2 Del. Laws 886.

14 Negro Guy v. Hutchins, 5 Harrington 103 n.

15 Negro Abram v. Burrows, *ibid.* 102 n. (1804).

16 The Act of 1827 obviated this difficulty: "any person . . . occupying a farm . . . through which the line of the State runs, may lawfully employ his . . . slaves upon every part of such farm . . . and pass and repass them over said line for that purpose;" Rev. Laws 1829, 154.

17 Act of Feb. 3, 1787, ch. 145. b. sect. 8. 2 Del. Laws, 887.

18 *Ibid.*

19 State v. Bender, p. 217, *infra*.

20 Act of Feb. 1, 1799. 3 Del. Laws 80.

21 State v. Whitaker, 3 Harrington 549. Affirmed in State v. Griffin, *ibid.* 560; "at the time he was kidnapped, there were white persons present aiding and assisting in the crime."

22 State v. Cooper, *ibid.* 571.

23 "the eighth section of which was re-enacted in 1852." Rev. Code, ch. 107, sect. 4.

24 In the other slave states, the child belonged to the remainderman.

25 Smith v. Milman, 2 Harrington 497 (1839).

26 Maria v. Surbaugh, 2 Randolph 228 (1824).

27 1 Harrington 77.

28 5 Harrington 192.

29 See the extraordinary case of the Guardian of Sally, a Negro v. Beaty, 1 Bay 260 (1792).



30 Tindal v. Hudson, 2 Harrington 441.

31 The Act of Va., Oct. 3, 1670, provided that "noe negroe or Indian though baptised and enjoyned (enjoying) their owne Freedom shall be capable of any . . purchase of christians, but yet not debarred from buying any of their owne nation." 2 Hening 280.

## DELAWARE CASES

Robinson v. Adams, 4 Dallas xii, September 1788. Will of Thomas Bagwell, dated 1690: "I give to my son John, one negro woman."

Negro Brister v. Dickerson, 5 Harrington 102, 1792. Petitioner was decreed free because he was sold with intent to export.

Collins v. Hall, 3 Harrington 574 n., November 1793. "Upon the trial of this cause (between two white persons (2)), ... one Levin Thompson, negro, was offered as a witness. Thompson was a free-man; that his mother and grandmother had been free; and that they lived in, and he came from, the State of Maryland."

Held (576) "The witness is incompetent and must be rejected." "There is no doubt but this man must be taken for the issue of a slave; and, though he were made free by the laws of Maryland, he is clearly within the spirit of the act of 1787." (3)

State v. Bender, 3 Harrington 572 n., December 1793. "The defendant, a white man, was indicted for an assault and battery on Phillis Miller, a negro woman. Phillis Miller was offered as a witness for the State," (574 n.) "Per Curiam.-Witness admitted." (573n.) "her credit to be left to the jury... Negroes are allowed the same redress for injuries to their persons as whites. Indictment is one mode of redress for an injury to the person, principally useful where the party injured is the only witness of the fact necessary to be proved. The act (4) giving to negroes this right of redress must be construed to allow the means absolutely necessary to obtain redress... we do not mean to say that a negro is a witness between two white persons; nor, in cases like the present, where other proof can be procured; but only in the case where justice must otherwise fail." (Bassett, C. J. Rodney, J., concurring- McDonough, J. dissenting.)

State v. Farsons, negro, 3 Harrington 576 n. May, 1794. "Indictment for an assault and battery upon... a white man. David Hutt, a free negro man, was offered as a witness for the defendant... Hutt was the only witness present at the transaction."

Held: "We consider him incompetent" "The witness is not seeking redress, and therefore not within the clause of the act of assembly (5) relied on by the court in The State v. Bender." (6)

Negro Isaac v. Ferguson (7) 5 Harrington 102, November 1794. Petitioners were decreed free because they had been sold with intent to export. (8)

1. Wilson's notes 168
2. State v. Bender, infra
3. Act of Feb. 3, 1787.
4. Act of assem. Feb. 3, 1787, 2 Del. Laws, 887, sect. 8
5. Feb. 3, 1787.
6. Supra.
7. Cited from Wilson's notes.
8. Negro Jemina v. Ross, 5 Harrington 102 (1796)



Negro Guy v. Hutchins, 5 Harrington 103 n., 1803 (?) (104 n.)  
 "Guy was sent by his master with a cart load of wheat to sow on his farm in Delaware. Decreed free." (1)

Cedar Swamp Case, 5 Harrington 104 n. (c 1804). "The negro was hired by a person living in Maryland, near the line, of his mistress, who resided in Maryland also. He kept him in the swamp at work; and at one time kept him to work in Wells' Swamp repairing bridges for the space of two weeks; but slept in Maryland, and carried his dinner with him. Petition (for freedom) discharged." (Judge Rodney's MS, notes.)

Blacksmith's Shop Case, 5 Harrington 104 n. (c.1804). "Perhaps negro Tom v. Banks. The slave worked frequently, say five or six days in the Blacksmith's shop, in which his master was a partner; but did not sleep in Delaware. After argument the court discharged the petition (for freedom). His domicile appeared to be in Maryland and no intention to elude the act of 1787 appeared to the court." (Judge Rodney's MS. notes.)

Negro Abram v. Burrows, 5 Harrington 102 n., November 1804.  
 "Abram was the property of Edward Burrows, who resided in Maryland and had a farm in Delaware, on which his brother Lewis lived as a tenant. Abram was sent to plow several days, two or three, and also to save fodder two or three days, in the years 1802-3." Lewis "returned work to Edward for it; that he came with his master's plows and horses; ... Burrows lived three miles from this farm." Held: "amounted to a hiring or sale; and therefore is a bringing into the State, under the act (2) so as to entitle negro Abraham to his freedom." (3)

Negro Beck v. Holiday, 5 Harrington 101, November 1805. "Petition for freedom. Mrs. Wood-I heard Edward Holiday say he did not buy Beck for life, but would not tell her so...Beck had been in possession of Edward Holiday five years. George Clow-Hasheard Edward Holiday, the elder, say he bought Beck of John Cloud for life. Holiday gave £30 for her and her child...Cloud lived in Maryland. Cloud said he took a bond from Edward Holiday, that Beck was to be free in six or seven years." Witness for defendant: "Cloud told me he sold Beck for life." "Cloud lived in Delaware when he sold." The court adjudged negro Beck free. (4)

State v. Johnson, cited in 3 Harrington 549, 1822. Held: "The person (free negro) kidnapped was a competent witness, though an accomplice (white) in the crime, and present at its commission, was also examined."

Burton v. Derrickson, 1 Harrington 7, spring 1832. "an action of trover brought for four negro slaves... Burton married the daughter of Capt. Wm. Derrickson, who gave these negroes to the wife of Burton. The negroes went into the possession of Burton and remained in his possession after the death of his wife and during all his life. After his death, they were taken back by Capt. Derrickson." His administrators "have sold them as a part of the estate of Derrickson."

1. Judge Rodney's MS notes
2. Act of 1787.
3. Judge Rodney's MS notes.
4. Judge Rodney's MS notes.

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Davis' Case, 1 Harrington 17, spring 1832. Note: (19) "Form of Indenture of a coloured boy" by the father. It differs from the form for a white boy in the following particulars: I. "a negro (or mulatto) boy," instead of "a white boy"; II. "servant" and "servitude" instead of "apprentice" and "apprenticeship"; III. "at the regular expiration of his servitude, to furnish him with two suits of clothes suitable to his condition, and also to pay to the said Y.Z. the sum of--dollars in lieu of schooling, it being inexpedient to stipulate for education in reading and writing." The white apprentice must be given "reasonable education in reading and writing, to wit: -- years and -- months schooling during his said apprenticeship;" Forms of indenture are also given "of a poor coloured boy under ten years old, by two justices of the peace; or two trustees of the poor; or a justice and trustee" and (20) "of a poor coloured boy, over ten years old."

Gordon, 2 Harrington 528, 1832. "Judy Gordon petitioned for freedom on the ground that her master had sold or exported her to Maryland. The court . . . made an order that the master should enter into recognizance in \$500, with sufficient surety, conditioned for the forthcoming of the petitioner at the hearing, and to pay her wages if her freedom should be decreed; and, if he declined doing so, that the petitioner should be allowed to give a like recognizance on her part."

Negro Ben. Jones v. Wooten, 1 Harrington 77, April 1833. Petition for freedom. (79) "George Vincent by his last will, dated May 12th, 1797, bequeathed as follows:-- 'I give to my daughter Betsey my negro girl Rhoda, until she arrives to the age of thirty years, then to have her freedom from slavery.' The petitioner Benjamin (now of the age of twenty-seven years,) is a son of Rhoda and was born in 1805, after the death of George Vincent and before his mother attained the age of thirty years, and claims to be free under the act of 1810."

Held: (84) "he was not born free for his mother was then a slave-- of course therefore he was born a slave, and that slavery was and is for life, so it is not limited to a shorter period by any valid law which applies to his case, or by the will of Mr. Vincent the master of the mother." (Black, J.) Petition ordered to be dismissed.

Harrington, J. dissented: "By the act of manumission the mother acquires a vested right . . . The child follows the condition of the mother. At its birth the mother is not in the condition of absolute slavery, but only of limited slavery, owing services for a limited period; if the child be in the same condition it is that of limited slavery, measured by the term of the mother's servitude. This is the view I take of the question as it stood before the act of 1810. The principal (sic) is no doubt prejudicial to the master and imposes a great hardship on him of maintaining the infant children of his manumitted slaves; but it . . . is a consequence of his own act of manumission. The injustice of such a case as it regards the master was probably the origin of the act of 1810. . . . This act was passed on the recommendation of Governor Truitt; and it seems probably, from the terms he uses in bringing the subject to their notice, that the legislature proceeded rather on the ground of extending the time of service as a compensation to the master than on any idea of restricting any rights that he possessed . . . (85) It is true that slavery is tolerated by our laws;



but it is going too far to say that this kind of property in slaves is precisely like every other species of property. The spirit of the age and the principles of liberty and personal rights as held in this country are equally opposed to a doctrine drawn from the ages and countries of despotism, . . . in many, perhaps in most, of these United States it has either been done away or provisions has been made for its prospective abolishment . . . there now remain in (Pennsylvania) . . . as appears from a statement lately made by a committee of their legislature, less than one hundred slaves with a certainty of the speedy extinction of slavery there . . . (86) I regret that I have not been able to bring my judgment into coincidence with that of the other members of the Court. (1) I think the petitioner, being now 25 years of age, is entitled to his freedom."

Lockwood v. Burton, 1 Harrington 138, spring 1833. "Replevin for a negro boy . . . valued at \$200 . . . as there was no proof that . . . the first administrator . . . ever paid debts to the amount of the boy or any part of his value, he therefore was not administered, but remained in specie as the property of William Brinkloe and liable to the execution"

Eaves v. King, 1 Harrington 141, spring 1833. "Replevin for a negro woman and two children . . . The def't offered evidence of the freedom of the negroes, but it was rejected by the court . . . the freedom of the negroes cannot be tried in this proceeding."

Murphy v. Countiss, 1 Harrington 143, spring 1833. "The pl'ff was claimed as a servant by . . . Townsend, and the def't being a constable, arrested and put him in prison as such servant . . . it turned out that Townsend had no valid claim to the pl'ff. Whereupon he brought this suit (for trespass, assault and battery, and false imprisonment) . . . The plaintiff had a verdict."

Morris v. Cannon, 1 Harrington 220, fall 1833. "Replevin for a negro boy; an apprentice . . . 'The negro boy . . . was, on the 2d of April, 1830, bound as an apprentice to Margaret Hudson, her heirs and assigns; at the time and before the binding he was a free negro; Margaret Hudson afterwards, became the wife of William M. Morris, who took possession of the said negro apprentice . . . After his death his executor took possession of the boy and hired him to the def't. The negro boy was duly inventoried and appraised in the estate of William M. Morris." (222) "Judgment of non suit," "Replevin will not lie for a free man;" "the court intimating an opinion that the pl'ff was nevertheless entitled to the unexpired time of the apprentice."

Chandler v. Ferris, 1 Harrington 454, fall 1834. The will of Thomas Chandler "bore date the 24th May, 1833, and was made when the testator was in his 73d year of age . . . in the hand writing of Benjamin Ferris, who was constituted an executor and trustee. It contained a great number of small bequests, amounting in the whole to about seventeen thousand dollars, most of which were to the testator's relatives;

<sup>1</sup> The judgment "of the other members of the Court" was overruled in 1849. Negro Ann Elliott v. Twilley, p. 234, *infra*.



and it then disposed of the rest and residue of his estate, real, personal and mixed, in the following manner. 'And whereas it hath frequently occurred to my mind that the African race or descendants of African natives in the United States, are in a deplorable degraded condition, and considering that neither the federal government nor any other institution has made adequate provision for their improvement in education, morals and industry I have thought that a great and permanent benefit might accrue, not only to that people but to the white population of our country, if a foundation could be laid, though in a small way, of a fund to be appropriated to the promotion of these important ends. With the hope therefore that benevolent individuals who may survive me, may be disposed to aid in this concern, and contribute towards its accomplishment, until a fund may be raised sufficient to commence an institution to carry into effect the views before expressed, so far at least as to educate male children of the African race, so as to render them useful to themselves and the community by a course of instruction in morals, science and productive employment, agricultural, mechanical or otherwise; I do hereby give, devise and bequeath to John Clark, . . Benjamin Ferris . . all the rest and residue of my estate, . . in trust, . . (456) And it is further my will and a condition of the afs'd devise and bequest to my trustees as afs'd that the estate so given to them in trust shall be appropriated and applied to the uses and purposes afs'd within seven years after my decease; and if within that time no such institution shall be established or commenced, and no other funds raised for the purposes of such establishment, then and in such case all the said residue to my estate shall go to and be equally divided among all the children of my nephews and nieces . . Excepting nevertheless out of such bequest the sum of five hundred dollars, part of the said residue, which I do hereby give and bequeath to the African school society of Wilmington, incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Delaware, for the purpose of instructing the descendants of the people of Africa,-- the same to be paid to the said society on failure of the said institution and not otherwise.'" He adds an outline of the plan of the proposed institution: "children should be admitted at seven years of age and older, as pupils from any section of the United States, but those from the State of Delaware to have the preference in all cases when it may be necessary from the state of the school to make a choice. Fourth. When pupils arrive at fourteen years of age, having had a competent share of learning to fit them for business, they should be permitted, if they so choose, to be apprenticed to suitable persons at the discretion of the managers, to learn trades, agriculture or other business, in which they may be useful to the community and of advantage to themselves-- otherwise they may at the discretion of the managers, be kept on the farm or in the workshops under the care of the institution, until they arrive at the age of twenty-one years. Fifth. The pupils should be maintained and educated without other charge of compensation than their own labor, and should be found in food and good plain clothing during their residence in the institution. Sixth. The course of instruction should include reading, writing, arithmetic and English grammar--and



(222)

where inclination and capacity on the part of the pupils are manifest, the course of instruction should extend to the higher branches, particularly those that may be most useful in practice, such as navigation, surveying and the necessary preliminary acquirements...

(457) The farm ought to be managed in the best manner, and according to the most approved system of agriculture, so as to be a proper model or pattern for others. All the labor should be performed by the students, which should be so regulated that each pupil should do his proper share of labor and have his fair proportion of literary instruction daily. Ninth. As the funds and resources of the institution may authorize, workshops should be built and mechanics employed to teach the pupils in their several branches, such as smiths, shoemakers, cabinet-makers, turners, etc., seeing that the elevation of this class of people much depends on their usefulness as members of the community." The estate "amounted to between thirty and forty thousand dollars." Witness for the defendant testified that "The execution took place at the house of Benjamin Ferris, who was a scrivener by profession. This witness gave a very decided opinion as to the sanity of the testator. The idea had never occurred to him, nor had he ever heard it suggested by another, previous to the death of Thomas Chandler, that he was not of sound mind." (458) "Copy of a letter from William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the Liberator, to Benjamin Ferris (was read in evidence). The first page contained printed 'proposals for establishing a school on the manual labor system for the education of colored youth,' and a printed plan for such school, in substance similar to the one contained in Chandler's will. The manuscript was as follows: 'Boston, Feb. 16, 1833. Respected Friend; I presume the enclosed plan for the establishment and government of the manual labor school for colored youth will be acceptable to you and your benevolent friend. The managers of the anti-slavery society deem it unnecessary to urge upon either of you the importance and need of the contemplated school. It is desirable that whatever is done, should be done speedily. Subscriptions have been commenced, in this quarter, under very favorable circumstances. Your friend, we trust, will add his name to the list of donors. We are cheered in view of the progress of the anti-slavery cause in this country. The example, so long given by the society of friends, is beginning to have its legitimate influence. Your humble friend, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.'...The instructions given by Thomas Chandler to Benjamin Ferris for drawing his will "were" in the hand writing of Thomas Chandler...(464) Verdict setting aside the will."

State v. Minos, 2 Harrington 529, October 1834. "Purnel Minos, a free negro, was convicted, under the instruction of the court, for stealing the slave of Charles Polk, although that slave was the wife of the defendant."

State v. Shockley, 2 Harrington 531, October 1835. Held: "In an indictment against a free negro for larceny, if there be no proof of his being free, or having acted as a free man, he must be acquitted."



State v. Gray, 2 Harrington 531, April 1836. "Nutter, a free negro, had been convicted of larceny, and sentenced to be whipped and 'disposed of as a servant to any person or persons residing in this state, for the highest sum that can be obtained for such term as shall be necessary, in order to raise the restitution money, and all costs, or any balance that may remain after such payment as he may be able to make.' J. S. Gray was indicted for exporting Nutter. In the indictment the words in italics were omitted. The variance was ruled to be fatal, as Nutter could not be sold under the order of the court, if he paid the restitution money and costs."

State v. Whaley, 2 Harrington 532, 538, October 1836, April 1837. "John Whaley, was indicted for aiding...in kidnapping and taking from the state into Maryland, Robert Records, a free negro." (539) "the boy was kidnapped in Kent county and carried into Sussex, and from thence directly on into Maryland,...Judgment against the prisoner."

State v. Buckmaster, 2 Harrington 533, October 1836. "Ruled, that an indictment for an assault and battery on a slave could be sustained, such having been the decision and practice under chief justice Booth in the Court of Quarter Sessions; and that the rule there adopted would be recognized as the law of this state."

Saxton's Case, 2 Harrington 533, October 1836. "Sam Saxton, a free negro, was indicted for breaking and entering the store of J. H. Stevenson, in the night time and stealing the goods of J.H.S."

State v. Morris, n., 2 Harrington 534, April 1837. The prisoner, "though not indicted for a second offence, had been convicted of larceny in this court and sold as a servant to pay the restitution money and costs. Before the expiration of his term of service he committed larceny again, and was convicted thereof...The indictment was drawn in both cases charging the prisoner generally as a free mulatto." The act of February 8, 1826, sect. 5, (1) provides (537) "that a felon convict, during his servitude, shall not be deemed to be a freeman."

Held: convict free negroes or mulattoes are not embraced in this section of the act. (536) "distinction between a 'free negro' (2) and a 'freeman' in this state... (537) If, then, the legislature... can be supposed to have declared that such a convict, if a free negro, shall not be deemed to be a free negro during his servitude, they have exempted such negro convicted from all punishment during the term of servitude for every second or subsequent offence. For being thus held to be neither free negroes nor slaves, they would be quite out of the pale of the criminal jurisdiction of any judicial tribunal in the state... (538) In this case, as the indictment does not in terms describe the felony as a second offence, we shall not order the prisoner, under the circumstances, to be sold to any person residing out of the state." (Clayton, C.J.)

Rowland v. Burton, negro, 2 Harrington 288, fall 1837. "The plaintiff below (Burton) was sworn on the voire dire to prove his books; when he produced as his book of original entries a small stick, cut and notched in a variety of ways, by which he undertook to prove an account running through two or three years, and consisting of a number of items. He was fully examined on his book, and the accuracy of his entries tested by an account made out from it some time before. They corresponded with the exception of one item; and it was afterwards ascertained that one of the

1. Digest 144

2. Act of Feb. 3, 1787: "the charter of their rights in this state."



notches had been defaced by the breaking of the stick...1 day working in garden; self...(\$).75...3 days work of boy, at .25,(\$).75" The whole amount was \$25.40. "The court permitted the stick to go before the jury, with the party's oath that the notches were made at the time the work was done, and the plaintiff had a verdict."

Rice v. Simmons, 2 Harrington 309, 417, fall 1837. "Action on the case for a libel...following paper...posted by the defendant at the market house in Wilmington. 'The public are hereby cautioned against receiving from Washington Rice(a white man), or John Agnes, a black man, any papers relating to my business, as sundry papers hath been purloined from my store and fell into the hands of said W. Rice, who hath endeavored to put some of them in claim against me,viz:-bills and receipts for grain I had bought and paid for," Counsel for plaintiff: (418) "the association of Rice with Agness (sic), who was proved at the trial to be a very low and worthless negro, was designed and calculated to degrade and disgrace Rice." Judgment for plaintiff.

Phillips v. Short, 2 Harrington 339, spring 1838. "trover for a negro boy, Jerry...Hopkins, by his will in 1807, bequeathed the mother of this slave to his daughter, Nancy Short, wife of Wingate Short, for life: (340) On the marriage of Wingate Short with Nancy Hopkins several years before the death of her father, Bet, mother of Jerry, then a little girl, went into the family of Wingate Short... Short, by his will made in 1818, bequeathed Jerry to his wife for life, and after her death to his son, Leonard Short, the defendant....a bill of sale was produced for one-half of Bet and her issue, in consideration of \$500...the verdict went for the plaintiffs."

In the matter of Negro Hannah a slave of Richard Cooper, 2 Harrington 365, spring 1838. The trustees of the poor had incurred expenses, to the amount of \$168, "in support of negro Hannah, a slave of said Richard Cooper, discharged from his service after she was thirty-five years of age; and for funeral expenses of the said slave. At the hearing, the order was resisted, on the ground that no one but the master or mistress was liable under the stature,(1) but the court, on the equity of that act,...ordered that the ...widow and administratrix, and the ...children of Richard Cooper, who were also his devisees and legatees, should ...reemburse them"

Allen v. Negro Sarah, 2 Harrington 434, June 1838. About 1799 Hicks brought an action of replevin against the administratrix of his father-in-law,"and recovered Amelia, with ten other negroes, whom he afterwards removed from this state to the State of Maryland;...In 1801, Amelia escaped from the service of Hicks, and returned into this state. Subsequently she was found in the possession of Andrew Allen, who claimed and held her as his slave in this state for nearly thirty years;... It was alledged that he purchased her of...Alston, but this fact was not established;...It was in evidence, however, that this Alston was a negro trader from one of the southern states, and that Hicks actually sold all of the other negroes which he took from this state,to the traders,



after he had taken them to Maryland. Amelia had three children, after she returned to this state, to wit: Sarah, Grace and Bayard, three of the petitioners; the other petitioners were children of Sarah and Grace." (440) "The members of this court are unanimous in the opinion, that the petitioners are entitled to their freedom," 1. (437) "such exportation did, ipso facto, establish her freedom; and that a judicial adjudication upon the facts, was wholly unnecessary to enable her children, born after the exportation, to their freedom...The right and title to freedom...attaches the moment the offence is committed, which is prohibited by the statute." (1) LL The act of 1793 is constitutional. (439) "This act was intended to prevent the crime of kidnapping; to restrain the traffic in human beings, and gradually to abolish slavery in this state...The slave has rights. He is under the protection of the law, and it was for his protection, as well as for subserving the principles of humanity, that the law of 1793 was passed." (Layton, J.)

Isaac Tindal v. Hudson, 2 Harrington 441, fall 1838. "Petition for freedom. The petitioner's father, George Long, was a free negro, legally married to Phoebe, the mother of Isaac, who was the slave of a certain Conoway. Isaac was born while his mother was a slave; and whilst an infant he was purchased by his father...His father never manumitted him; but, on the contrary, by will bequeathed him to Minos Tindal, until he should attain the age of twenty-five years. Minor Tindal took possession of Isaac; who, at the death of his master, was sold by the executor to Daniel Hudson."

Held: Isaac is "entitled to his freedom." (441) "we observe one... pervading feature, that the black is the slave to the white man;... (442) this court...will not extend slavery beyond what it has been heretofore...to give the free negro a right to hold slaves, would be to institute another and a dangerous species of slavery hitherto unknown. The free negro cannot, in this country, base his right to hold slaves upon the principle of conquest...The negro is not such a freeman as to extend protection; he is...almost as helpless and dependent on the white race as the slave himself; he has few civil rights, being merely protected in his person and property by the law, and being allowed in some cases to give his evidence in a court of justice....We think, therefore, that neither usage, policy, nor the necessary relations of master and slave, will permit free negroes in this state to hold slaves...also...we ought not to recognize the right of a father to hold his own children in slavery. Humanity forbids it. The natural rights and obligations of a father are paramount to the acquired rights of the master; and the moment the father purchases his child and these rights become blended in the same person the lesser rights and obligations are merged in the greater, and the child is free...(443) Humanity revolts at the idea of a parent selling his own children into slavery." (Clayton, C.J.)

State v. Milman, cited in 3 Harrington 549, 1838. "the negro was examined though Robert Houston, a white person, was present not at, but after, the kidnapping and taking out of the State, and saw the boy in prisoner's custody in Maryland."

1. Act of 1793, 2 Del. Laws 1094, sect.4



Prettyman v. Dean, 2 Harrington 494, spring 1839. "The plaintiff charged a violent entry of her house" by (494) "the defendant, Steel as the sheriff's officer, and the others as his posse, in executing a writ of replevin...for two negro slaves." (495) "and an aggravated assault and battery."

Stephen Smith, negro, by a next friend, v. Milman, 2 Harrington, 497, spring 1839. "Petition for freedom. Rachel Marvel by will, dated 27th August, 1791, bequeathed the mother of petitioner, Hussy to her daughter Ann Smith for life; and, after her decease, to her grand-daughter Nancy Smith, her heirs and assigns forever. And if the said negro Hussy should bear children, she gave to her grand-daughter, Sally Smith, 'the first child that she bears, to be hers and her heirs forever.' After the death of Rachel Marvel, the negro girl Hussy went into the possession of Ann Smith and bore children, the first of whom was either dead born or lived but a few minutes...and the second was the petitioner, Stephen. Stephen was held by Ann Smith, and sold by her to Sally Smith for a term of years, and manumitted in the bill of sale to be free after she (he)?attained thirty-one years of age. Sally Smith lived with Elisha Evans, (husband of Nancy Smith, the legatee over) and died in his family, directing verbally in her last sickness that Evans should have the use of Stephen during the remainder of his term of servitude. On the death of Ann Smith, Hussy passed into the possession of Elisha Evans," who "in his lifetime, sometimes claimed Stephen as his slave for life, at others declared he had no right to him; and in 1816, by an instrument under seal, declared that he was free. Before that time, however, Evans became embarrassed in his circumstances, and Stephen was levied on by execution process as his property, and was sold...for a small sum to...Robinson...who had never taken possession of him." Decree "for the freedom of the petitioner." I. If (498) "the petitioner was the first child negro Hussy bore...he was the property of Sally Smith... If we...credit the respondent's witnesses, who say that negro Hussy was the mother of a child before the petitioner was born, then he was the property of Ann Smith, the legatee of Hussy for life, having been born during the life of Ann Smith;(1) He who supports the child of the slave in infancy, ought to be justly remunerated for his expense and trouble by its services, and the expectation that he will be so remunerated, will insure greater care and attention to the wants of the child. If Stephen was the slave of Ann Smith, then is he clearly free by her deed of manumission...The maxim (partus sequitur ventrem) is misapplied when it is used to direct us not as to the condition of the issue, but as to the person entitled to the ownership of that issue." (Clayton, C.J.)

State v. Pettyjohn, negro, 3 Harrington 548, October 1839. "the defendant was indicted for selling liquor by the small measure, and in the indictment he was alledged to be a 'free negro' which the State neglected to prove...The court said: The criminal code makes a distinction between white people and free negroes or mulattoes, only in the cases of larceny and receiving stolen goods...the punishment being different.

(549) We incline, therefore, to the opinion, that the averment in this case was unnecessary, and need not be proved;...The defendant was acquitted, and the question was not again stirred."

1. Delaware follows the Maryland doctrine in this respect.



State v. Whitaker, 3 Harrington 549, April 1840. In an indictment against a white man for kidnapping, the negro kidnapped was allowed to give evidence, though there was a white person present who was "implicated" in the crime, but not indicted. (551) "the act(1) contemplated, in excluding negro testimony where a competent white witness was present, not the mere case of competency on the part of the witness, but the sufficiency of his evidence under ordinary circumstances, to produce conviction." (Bayard, C.J.)

State v. Dillahunt, negro, 3 Harrington 551, April 1840. "Indictment for the murder of William Frisby Green, negro. Charlotte Green, a colored woman, was called as a witness for the State, and objected to because she was not proved to be a free woman, though it was proved that she acted as such. The court held her competent on two grounds. At the common law there was always a strong presumption in favor of freedom. In the first settlement of this country the fact of the existence of the negro race in a state of bondage to the whites, and a large majority of that color being slaves, was considered sufficiently strong to outweigh the common law presumption, and to introduce a legal presumption that a colored person is prima facie a slave. Yet that state of things has changed; and cessante causa, cessat et ipsa lex. There are in this State about 20,000 persons of color; of whom 17,000 are free, and 3,000 slaves. A large majority of all persons of color in the United States are free. In point of fact, therefore, there is no reason to presume slavery from color; in opposition to the strong common law presumption, that every man having the human form is a freeman. And such has been the decision of this court on several occasions. But additionally, it has always been the practice to take reputation as proof of freedom. The defence in the case was insanity...Verdict of acquittal."

Chase v. Maberry, 3 Harrington 266, fall 1840. "The defendant was a constable of Kent county, and had, together with plaintiff arrested a runaway slave from Maryland, for which a reward of \$60 was offered. Having obtained from a justice of the peace a permit to take the slave home, Chase left him with Maberry until he should visit the master and negotiate an increased reward, which he effected, the master agreeing to pay \$100, on his delivery in Maryland. Chase expressed his fears to Maberry that the boy would escape, and wished him lodged in jail; but Maberry said he would take care of him and be responsible for him. He placed him in the garret of his house, from which the boy escaped during Chase's absence and was not again retaken...The plaintiff had a verdict for \$40.00."

Henry Wilson, (negro) v. Waples, 3 Harrington 270, fall 1840. "Petition for freedom...Harry Wilson, the father of petitioner, a free negro, after the birth of Henry the petitioner, bought his wife, petitioner's mother, then and at the time of Henry's birth, a manumitted slave; and took an assignment of the bill of sale of his said wife. That Harry Wilson the father, afterwards, 7th January, 1826, bought the unexpired service of his son Henry, (being a slave until twenty-five years old,) and took a bill of sale for him from his master, George Frame. Having become indebted to Dr. S. K. Wilson in \$20, Harry the father, to pay this debt, sold Henry the son to Dr. Wilson, and on the 5th of May, 1829, assigned the bill of sale which he had received from Frame.



Dr. Wilson died, and the boy Henry was sold to Mr. Waples, and the same bill of sale assigned by Wilson's executor. The boy was now eighteen years old...The court decreed the petitioner's freedom."(1)

State v. Warrington, negro, 3 Harrington 556 October 1840. "Indictment larceny. The defendant was indicted as a 'free negro,' and proved to be a free mulatto, according to general reputation. The Court said it made no difference. The punishment is the same. The law distinguishes between white persons and free negroes or mulattoes in the punishment of larceny, but not between negroes and mulattoes...In point of fact this distinction of color between negroes and mulattoes would not be susceptible of proof in many cases. In the case of the present defendant it could not be proved. The color of his skin, made lighter by confinement, places him between the two; while his hair is that of the negro race, and his features those of the mulatto. The defendant was convicted."

Elliott, negro v. Morgan, 3 Harrington 316 Spring 1841. "Turner, negro, had been summoned as a witness by the plaintiff below(Morgan)," Held: "Negro testimony is always received in the courts of our State, in cases between negroes or against a negro."

William Hooper's Case, 3 Harrington 320, spring 1841. "William Hooper, negro (insolvent), applied to be discharged from imprisonment; ...the Court said...that they must proceed with the hearing of his petition...and that apart from any fraud they would, on a proper case appearing, adjudge him to serve his creditors. The petitioner was discharged."

Trustees of the Poor v. Hall, 3 Harrington 322, spring 1841. "Richard Howard...owned a negro slave. Anthony who was blind, when his master died in 1822, and has ever since been a charge on the estate." Howard's (323) "land was divided...and assigned in thirds...The heirs at law supported this slave...at their joint cost, until recently, when the heirs of Robert Howard sold their third to the defendant, H.F. Hall; and on his refusing to contribute to the expense, the slave was sent to the poor house, and this application was made to charge him under Dig. 416." Held: (329) "Hall is not bound to pay or contribute any part of the expense of keeping or maintaining the aforesaid slave Anthony;"

State v. Griffin, 3 Harrington 559, April, 1841. "Indictment for kidnapping Maria Coursey, a free negro woman. Adjudged that the presumption of law is in favor of liberty, and no presumption to the contrary arises from color. A negro called as a witness is prima facie free. (Layton, J. dissenting.) Adjudged, that the allegation of freedom, as contained in an indictment for kidnapping, is a substantive allegation and must be proved. Verdict--not guilty."

State v. Same (Griffin), 3 Harrington 560, April 1841 (?) "Indictment for kidnapping Peter Howard, a free negro. Peter Howard was sworn on the voire dire without previous proof of freedom; but on his stating that he was born a slave, the court held that proof of his freedom must be made aliunde. This was done; but it appeared that at the time he was



229.

kidnapped, there were white persons present aiding and assisting in the crime, the point ruled in Whitaker's case (1) was again raised. Chief Justice Booth and Judge Milligan affirmed that decision. Judge Layton dissented. The prisoner was convicted."

State v. same and Wilson, 3 Harrington 560, April 1841. "The defendant, Wilson, (the only one now on trial) was indicted with Jacob R. Griffin, for exporting from this State to Virginia, two negro convicts, Emory Hand and James Hickman, contrary to section 17, of the act... (2) Emory Hand was called as a witness, and objected to, on the ground that he was not a freeman." Held; a convict servant is a free man for the purpose of giving evidence, as well as of punishment. "The defendant was acquitted."

State v. Ann Dobson, negro 3 Harrington 563, April 1841. "Indictment (t) for larceny of bank notes,... The state proved... the confession of the prisoner that she stole them... The defendant was acquitted."

State v. Conover, negro, 3 Harrington 565, April 1841. "Indictment for enticing away a negro indented servant to leave the service of her master, contrary to the act of 1837." (3) The act of 1827, (4) ...authorizes the binding negroes either as apprentices or servants... The girl alledged to have been enticed away by the prisoner, was bound under the provisions of this act as an apprentice, to learn the art, trade and mystery of housewifery."

Held; The act of 1837, which is a highly penal act, ought not to be enlarged so as to embrace apprentices, it being in the terms confined 'to negro or mulatto slaves or indented servants.' The prisoner was acquitted on this ground."

State v. Negro Bill Jefferson, a slave, 3 Harrington 571, April 1842 "The prisoner was indicated for an assault and battery with intent to murder. He shot at a negro girl with a gun loaded with shot, and within shooting distance. None of the shot hit her... said that he meant to cripple but not to kill." Held; "The intent must be proved as well as the assault," (1)

State v. Cooper, 3 Harrington 571, April 1842. "Indictment, assault and battery on John Oney, negro. John Oney, n. was called to prove the assault and battery and objected to, on the ground that there were white persons present, competent to give testimony... They ruled out the evidence of the negro; but, it afterwards appearing that though there were two white persons present, one of them was drunk, and the other did not see the whole of the fight, though they both knew that a blow was struck; the court now admitted the testimony of the negro." (575) "The law of humanity is in favor of the old decisions, and we now go so far with them as to hold that even though white persons were present at the commission of a crime, if they were not in a situation or position to see the act, and did not in fact observe all that happened at the time... the person upon whom the crime was committed, though a

1. 3 Harrington 549 (1840)
2. Digest 148
3. 9 Del. Laws 184
4. Digest 34



negro, is a competent witness to prove it. Otherwise there will often be a failure of justice, and wrongs may be committed with impunity." (Read, C. J.) (2) The defendant was convicted.

Conoway v. Piper, 3 Harrington 482, fall 1842. "Edward Short... devised as follows... To Hannah Piper, my daughter, and Naomi West my negro Jinn,... that my son Isaac Short, should have my negro Frank,"

Thorn v. Laverty, 5 Harrington 102, October 1842. Cited. "petitioner was decreed free because <sup>he</sup> had been sold with intent to export."

Davis v. Marshall, 4 Harrington 64, fall 1843. Wilson "was the owner of a sloop... of which one Jerry Jeffers, a coloured man, was master, trading from Slaughter creek. Jeffers sailed the vessel for a share of the freights."

Redden v. Spruance, 4 Harrington 217, spring 1845. "The plaintiff proved that his man 'Jerry,' reputed to be his slave, ran away from the service of W. Jones, to whom he was hired, on Saturday afternoon, May 25th, 1839, and was afterwards seen in Philadelphia, but was never recovered ... Azael Stevens, sworn-Drove defendants', stages from Milford to Camden in the spring of 1839. Has frequently taken up passengers on the road; the route from Milford to Smyrna is a night route. One night about that time took up a colored man or boy... He called to me; said he wanted a passage; said he was a free man named Peter Clayton; offered me a paper which he said was a pass, which he got from Squire Redden. It was dark and I could not read it. I took him on the box with me; after we passed Canterbury, he offered to sell me a pistol. He said he wanted money to pay his fare. I told him if he had no money he must get off, and I turned him off... (218) There was nothing like a runaway about the negro; no concealment. I had no suspicion he was a runaway... (219) The Court granted the nonsuit on the ground that there was no proof that the defendants carried the slave off with knowledge that he was a runaway slave."

Dawson Dulany, negro, v. Green, 4 Harrington 285, fall 1845. "Petition for freedom.... (286) Jesse Green, jr., bought Clansey and her son, the petitioner, in 1831, at public sale, as slaves for life, for \$201;" (285) "being about to leave the State, on the 9th of July, 1833, (he) executed his deed of manumission... Nor therefore, know all persons, that for and in consideration of her the said negro's good conduct and behavior towards me, I do hereby discharge her the said Clansey, negro, from me and all persons claiming by, through, or under me after I shall leave this State, to be free, and to enjoy all the privileges of other free negroes, according to the laws of this State, in like cases, and that the said Clansey is to have the said Dawson, her son, until such time as I shall call for him, and to be delivered to no other person or persons, neither to be the property or any other person or persons except I myself, in person; and if I should not receive the said boy, for him to be free as his mother aforesaid, according to the laws of this State; which deed of manumission was signed, sealed and acknowledged by the said Jesse Green, jr., before a justice of the peace ... and was afterwards... recorded" Green died without claiming Dawson;

1. "The act of assembly provides, that if any negro or mulatto slave shall, with violence make an assault upon another, with the intent to commit murder, he shall be guilty of a felony."

2. 3 Harrington 575n.



231.

but his widow claimed him, maintaining that the man's mission (286) "was made in a drunken fit, and to defraud creditors." Petition dismissed.

State v. Peter Frame and David Frame, negroes, 4 Harrington 569, October 1845. "Indictment, larceny of forty bushels of Indian corn in the ear; ..the defendants were acquitted" on a technicality in the indictment.

State v. Jeans, 4 Harrington 570, October 1845. "The defendant was indicted for imprisoning, with intent to kidnap, a certain Betsey Bungy; she being a free negro. It was argued on the part of the defendant, that the prosecuting witness was incompetent to prove her freedom against a white man;...(571) it was argued by the prosecution, that the law presumes every person to be free until the contrary is proved."

Held: (571) "It was originally considered, though it does not seem to have been adjudged, that in this State, persons of color were presumed to be slaves; the presumption being founded as it has been said on the fact, that a large majority of persons of color were slaves. But the fact has long since changed; and it has been repeatedly decided that as a mere presumption, the inclination is in favor of freedom.(1) It was so held prior to the case of Dillahunt,(2) though that is the first case reported...According to these decisions a person of color is presumed to be free for the purpose of being a witness, but this presumption cannot supply full proof of a material fact...(572) a fact necessarily averred in the indictment; necessary to be proved affirmatively by the State, and yet a fact which Betsey Bungy, whether free or slave, is not competent to prove against a white man, it being susceptible of other proof which is unobjectionable and competent." Verdict, not guilty.

State v. Burchinal, 4 Harrington 572, October 1845. "He was in the habit of selling liquor, and permitting it to be drank in his store, about which, there was frequently collected a crowd of persons, black and white, particularly on Saturday nights:"

Webb. v. Pindergrass, 4 Harrington 439, fall 1846. "The administratrix, who was a colored woman, was offered to prove a book of original entries, kept by her for her husband, showing the number of bushels of ashes sold and delivered to B. Webb. Her testimony was objected to; 1st as a person of color; "Held: (440) "We think this woman competent, under the act of 1787, and from necessity."

State v. Updike, 4 Harrington 581, May 1847. "Indictment, kidnapping William Hogans, negro...the jury being unable to agree, after being up all night were discharged...It now came up again before another jury, and the defendant was convicted."

State v. Harten, 4 Harrington 582, October 1847. "On the trial of James Harten, who was indicted with Jacob R. Griffin and others, for kidnapping one Peter Howard, a free negro, with a count for aiding and assisting Griffin to kidnap, it was ruled, 1st. That the record of Peter Howard's discharge on a petition for freedom filed against his former master for selling him out of the State, was sufficient evidence of his being a free negro.

1. Not so in most of the slave states.
2. State v. Dillahunt, p.227, supra.



2d. That the general reputation of Jacob R. Griffin as a kidnapper might be given in evidence, to show the intent with which the defendant aided him in binding and carrying off the said Howard. The defendant was convicted.

State v. Burris, n., 4 Harrington 582, October 1847. "Indicted for enticing and aiding slaves to run away." Change of venue denied: (584) "we have every confidence that whatever may be the sense of this community in relation to the offence of aiding the escape of slaves, the sense of justice in the people generally, and particularly in the jury present, is much stronger, and will insure a perfectly fair and impartial trial of any one accused of this offence, however humble he may be." (Booth, C.J.) "The defendant was afterwards acquitted on this indictment, and convicted on two others, for a similar offence.

Sarah Thoroughgood, Negro v. Anderson, 5 Harrington 97, October 1848. "The petitioner belonged to John Thoroughgood, as a slave for life. He purposed to set her free at twenty-eight years of age; and in the mean time sold her to Thomas McIlvaine, and took his bond in \$200, obliging him to free her at twenty-eight. She was actually sold to that time, with the understanding of all parties; though the bill of sale was general, without specification or limit as to time. McIlvaine sold her to one Stewart, he to Warren and Warren to James Anderson, as it was alledged, to be free at twenty-eight; but the transfer was by endorsement on the first bill of sale, which was general. Thomas McIlvaine, executed a manumission in pursuance of his bond on the 20th of March, 1844, some time after Sarah had attained twenty-eight. She filed a petition for freedom on the 18th of November, 1845, against James Anderson, who transferred her to Caleb B. Sipple, his son in law, on the 21st of November. Mr. Anderson appeared to the suit on the 24th of April, 1846, and disclaimed title. The plaintiff filed a petition for freedom against Sipple on the 23rd of October, 1846, and he re-transferred her to Anderson on the 24th, and on the 26th, appeared to the suit and disclaimed title. The plaintiff also filed a petition for freedom against John M. Rawlins, another son in law of Anderson, on the 23rd of October, 1846. He appeared on the 25th and disclaimed title. Pending these proceedings the petitioner was taken to Baltimore, to remain, as was alledged on the one side, in the family of a friend temporarily; on the other, for the purpose of evading the judgment, and for exportation and sale." (103) "The Court entered a decree of freedom on the proof of exportation; from which an appeal was taken". The judgment was affirmed. (1)

Sipple, Negro v. Adams, 5 Harrington 149, spring 1849. The defendant, Sipple, was discharged from custody. Held: a commitment under the statute against non-resident negroes, (2) must show the offence, and the judgment in pursuance of the statute.

Page v. Vandegrift, 5 Harrington 176, spring 1849. Action under the statute of January 19, 1826. (3) In October 1848, William Clensy, said, in the declaration, to be the slave (4) of Mary Page (177) "skulked on board" the steamboat Zephyr (of which, Vandegrift was captain) "and hid himself from the knowledge and observation of the captain and crew;"

1. Anderson v. Thoroughgood, p. 234, infra.

2. Act of 1841, Digest 410

3. Digest 291.

4. He "was not only not a slave, but could not be a slave. He was an Indian; since given up by the claimant as such." Vandegrift v. Page, p. 236, infra.



and was carried out of the state. Verdict and judgment for plaintiff: "the captain was bound to know every body on board." The judgment was reversed in 1854.

Taylor v. Horsey, 5 Harrington 131, April 1849. Trover "Thaddeus (a boy eight or ten years old) was the slave of...Kinney, and as such was bound by execution process in the sheriff's hands against Kinney... before the levy, Kinney sold and delivered the boy to...Horsey, who had no knowledge of the execution. The boy was afterwards levied upon and sold by the sheriff to ...Jefferson, who immediately transferred him to plaintiff, who was a son in law of ...Knowles, a negro trader, and who had until recently lived in the State of Ohio. Jefferson was not present at the sale; and soon after left the State. A witness was asked if Jefferson also was a negro trader; which, though objected to, was allowed; and the answer was that he bore that character."

Held: (132) "On the question of the intent with which a person bought a slave, his general character as a negro trader is relevant, and admissible in evidence."

Collins v. Bilderback, 5 Harrington 133, April 1849. Action "under the statute of 1826, (1) against a steamboat captain, for carrying a slave out of the State...(135) the plaintiff's daughter, proved that the negro slave Alice left her father's house on the 11th of August, 1847, in company with her mother (Mrs. Collins), and went to Leweston; and on Friday morning, August 14th, she went to Philadelphia, on the steamboat Portsmouth, Captain Charles Bilderback. She had been held by plaintiff as a slave." Mrs. Collins "was taking Alice up with her to Philadelphia...with the intention of staying;...Alice was in her (sic) six years old then." Verdict for plaintiff. Held: (138) "The act imposes the penalty, although the act of transportation is done without knowledge or notice that the negro...is escaping from the owner's service." "The law is severe, and it is the only one that makes a party criminally liable, without a criminal intent." (Booth, C.J.)

Negro Ann Elliott v. Twilley, 5 Harrington 192, June 1849. "four cases of petitions for freedom...will of George Moore,...admitted to probate...1805:- 'Also I give to my wife...one negro man called Isaac, and one negro woman called Bett, to serve her during her natural life, and after that time to go free.' The petitioners were the issue of Bett, all born after the death of George Moore, and during the life of his widow,...The court below gave judgment, (without argument) dismissing the petitions, in conformity with the case of Negro Ben. Jones vs. Wootten(2)...these appeals were taken from that decision." Decreed in each case that the petitioner is entitled to freedom (overruling Jones v. Wootten).

Anderson v. Thoroughgood, negro, (3) 5 Harrington 199. June 1849. Held: (200) "a prior conviction(of the master) is not requisite; .. freedom is not the consequence of conviction, but is by virtue of the act of assembly, (4) and results from the fact of exportation...proof of the fact of exportation, contrary to the act, confers freedom." Judgment below affirmed. (Johns, Ch.)

- 1. Digest 291
- 2. P. 219, supra.
- 3. For facts see Thoroughgood v. Anderson, p.232, supra.
- 4. Digest 154



234.

State v. York, (Negro), 5 Harrington 493, 1850 (?) "The defendant, an indentured servant, was running away from his master; and, to make good his escape, mounted a horse which he found hitched on the road, and after riding him to Wilmington, put him at a livery stable, and abandoned him." Held: not larceny. "he ought to be acquitted."

State v. Anderson, negro, 5 Harrington 493, December 1850. Anderson was indicted for the murder of Joseph Williams, convicted and executed.

Lord v. Horsey, 5 Harrington 317, spring 1851. "Trove for a negro girl slave."

State v. Winsor, 5 Harrington 512, June 1851. (520) "He said he had got Milford Saunders (negro) to conjure for him to get his wife back, but he couldn't succeed;"

Burr's Case, 5 Harrington 351, fall 1851. "Habeas corpus to the jailer of Sussex county. The prisoner was committed..for non-payment of a fine of \$50, imposed on him, on the information of George Harris, charging him,..Burr, free negro, with being a non-resident and being in the State of Delaware, contrary to the statute...The Court discharged the petitioner, on proof that he did not come into the State after the passing of the act of 1851;"

Simpson v. Warren, 5 Harrington 371, fall 1852. "two negroes ran away from the defendant; that he offered \$300. for their arrest and return, or \$150 for either one; and that plaintiff arrested and returned one of them. On the 15th of September, 1850, negro Robert Carlisle fled from his master, Samuel Warren, and embarked on Captain Errickson's vessel, in Murderkill creek, where he represented himself to be a free boy. Before they got out of the creek, Capt. Errickson heard that the boy was a slave; and, giving him in charge of the mate, he started to see Samuel Warren. This was early in the morning of the 16th. On the road he learned that Samuel Warren had gone to Dover, to advertise the boy. He then returned to get him, and take him to Samuel Warren's house; but in his absence, the plaintiff came to the vessel and took the boy away. In the meantime, Warren had notices advertising the reward printed and posted in Dover." Verdict for defendant.

Proctor, negro, v. State, 5 Harrington 387, fall 1852. "the complaint of Major W. Allen stated, 'that Elisha Proctor, a free negro, hath come into this State, after a voluntary absence of more than sixty days from this State; and that the said Elisha was not at the time engaged in any occupation of mariner or waterman, nor was he absent as a wagoner or messenger in the actual employment of a citizen of this State."

Judgement against Proctor, "for the sum of fifty dollars fine, and one dollar and fifty-five cents costs, one-half to be paid to the said State of Delaware and the other half to be paid to the said Major W. Allen, the informer; and the said defendant was ordered to give surety in the sum of fifty dollars, that he would leave the State in five days from this date, and on his default in both the payment of the fine and costs, and the giving of the security he was committed to the public jail."



235.

Judgment reversed (388) "on the ground that the record did not show at what time the offence was committed; nor against what law, whether the act of 1851 or the Revised Code of 1853."

State v. Turner, 5 Harrington 501, 1853 (?). "The defendant was indicted for exporting a slave; Daniel Webb...Turner, his master, took him out of the State by night, and confined him in a private jail, at Salisbury, from which he escaped. Suit was instituted for his freedom, founded on these facts; and a decree of freedom entered, from which the master took an appeal, which was still pending. The negro boy was called as a witness and objected to. The witness was rejected. "A judgment lawfully appealed from, is for the time removed...the consequences flowing from it for the time avoided. The effect of this judgment, therefore, in establishing Webb's freedom cannot be, at present, to make him a witness." Turner was found guilty.

State v. Brown, 5 Harrington 505, 1853. "Isaac Nathans, (negro)...I have had fifty-one children, by three wives; fourteen by the first, fifteen by the second, and twenty-one by the third, all born alive."

State v. Johnson, free negro, 5 Harrington 507, 1853. Johnson was tried "for breaking and entering a store house and stealing certain goods therefrom." His confession was admitted in evidence.

Vandergrift v. Page, (1) 5 Harrington 439, June 1854. "The plaintiff (Mary E. Page) had a verdict for \$500 and judgment;" Judgment reversed: "the declaration was materially defective, for want of an averment that the plaintiff was a citizen of this State."

Union Church of Africans, 1 Houston 100, June 1855. "In the year 1813 certain free colored people residing in...Wilmington, associated themselves together as a religious society,...and....proceeded to elect ..trustees" (for the purpose of taking care of the temporalities (2) who "upon their election took upon themselves the name of 'Union Church of Africans,' ... (104) in process of time, other societies were... formed in the States of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut, in connection with the original society in Wilmington, .. (105) Your petitioner...became a member of one of the societies of said African Union Church; ...at Christiana,...about the year 1815; that, soon afterwards, he was duly licensed as a preacher in this church; that, in the year 1835, he was chosen by the elders of his said society to the office of deacon, and was thereupon ordained to said office by Peter Spencer, then elder minister in said church, agreeably to the provisions of the Discipline thereof; that he continued to preach as a deacon in the said African Union Church until the year 1846; in the month of April of which year he was nominated, according to the usage of said church in such cases, by a Yearly Conference, (3)... to the office.

1. For facts, see Page v. Vandegrift, p.233, supra.

2. Act of Assem. Feb.3, 1787.

3. (137) "The respondent's position rests on the repeated use of certain expressions in the Articles of Association and Discipline, requiring the consent of the congregations to the induction of a preacher, and showing a fixed opposition to the appointment of preachers over them by a Conference or any independent power. On this ground they seceded from the Methodist Episcopal Church, which claimed and exercised this power over them, as it still does over all its own societies. The answer to this..is this: That the Conference, against whose power they were then contending, was a body which was not a part of their own church organization; it was a body composed of white ministers, in which they were not represented;



235 a

that, while they threw off its authority, they provided for a similar Conference as a part of their own organization, composed of their own official members, but without defining its powers; that, by constant usage from the beginning, this body nominated the elder ministers; leaving it still to the congregations and ruling elders, after trial, to accept or refuse the person nominated; and that the expressions so often repeated, that no preacher should have the right to preach, except to those who were willing to hear him, have reference to a settled and recognized distinction, always existing, between licensed preachers, deacons, and elder ministers."



236.

of elder minister...and...ordained..by Isaac Barney, then elder minister in said church..That the said Barney, residing in the city of New York, assumed more particularly the charge of the northern societies in said church; and that the southern societies, including the said original society in Wilmington, fell under the immediate charge and superintendence of your petitioner..He has//been forcibly excluded from said church,.. prays...a writ...of mandamus, directed to the said Union Church of Africans, commanding them to admit your petitioner to preach in the said Union Church at Wilmington whenever he may see proper so to do, and to administer the ordinances and discipline thereof, and to exercise a pastoral charge over the same, or to show cause to the contrary." (127) "the judgment of the Superior Court, ordering the peremptory mandamus, ought to be reversed and declared to be of no effect."

Socum v. State, 1 Houston 204, spring 1856. Held: Section 2, chapter 52, of the Revised Code, (1) does not apply to non-resident free negroes or mulattoes, who were residing in the state at the time the Code went into effect.

Doe d. Short v. Prettyman, 1 Houston 334, spring 1857. Will of Edward Short: "My will and desire is, that my son Isaac should have my negro Frank." The date of the will is not given, but the context shows that it was earlier than the fall term of the Court of Chancery. 1835.

King v. Phillips, 1 Houston 349, spring 1857. "Replevin for a negro slave, bequeathed by Spencer Phillips to his wife," during her widowhood.

Horsey v. Horsey, 1 Houston 438, fall 1857. Will of Thomas C. Horsey: "I give, devise and bequeath...to my beloved wife...one negro woman, named Emeline, until she shall arrive at the age of thirty-four years, which will be on the 25th day of August, 1850, and then to be free." "to his daughter...a negro girl, named Mary, to serve to the age of twenty-eight, and then to be free, and to his son...a negro boy, named John, to serve until the age of thirty years, and then to be free."

State v. Jones, Houst. Cr. Cas. 21, October 1857. Jones, a colored man, was indicted and tried for the murder of Ralston, another colored man. They, with four other colored men, were employed by "a farmer of the county...while they were all up stairs, a quarrel arose...about a lamp,"..The deceased was stabbed. "Verdict--Guilty of manslaughter."

State v. Anderson, Houst. Cr. Cas. 38, April 1858. "Anderson, negro, was indicated and tried for murder...of...Emery, negro, in the month of August, preceding. They had met at the camp-meeting near Camden, and having had a quarrel, Anderson told Emory that if he would follow him of the camp ground he would give him satisfaction," Anderson stabbed him with a pocket knife. Verdict--"Guilty of murder in the second degree."

State v. Downham, Houst. Cr. Cas. 45, April 1858. "Downham was tried on a bill of indictment found against him...for the murder of a



237.

negro man...in the forest of Murderkill hundred....1852....(48) Pompey Tribbet (a mulatto) was...called and sworn as a witness," Held: by the act of 1799, the prisoner's confession of the crime, committed when no white person was present, may be proved by a negro witness. Verdict--"Not Guilty." (The negro who was murdered had previously shot at the prisoner.)

Windsor v. Boyce, 1 Houston 605, fall 1858. "an action of replevin for a negro slave."

State v. Newcomb, Houst. Cr. Cas. 66, October 1858. The deceased said that he would "kill that man (the prisoner), if he was the last man in the world, and a d--d nigger too."

Doe v. Barton v. Wright, 2 Houston 49, spring 1859. (51) "The counsel for the plaintiff endeavored to impeach and invalidate the marriage of the defendant with Walter Wright, who were both negroes, or mulattoes and for this purpose he called to the stand Robert Clark a negro, as a witness."

Held: (52) a "negro or mulatto...is competent to testify against a negro, or mulatto in all cases." But witness was rejected on the ground that "if he was the husband of the defendant, he was incompetent for that reason to testify either for, or against her" as "the wife is a party to the suit." (53) The counsel for the plaintiff then called another witness who had known the defendant for twenty-five years... he was present at her marriage with Robert Clark about twenty years ago at her father's house. They were married by Rev. John T. Hazzard, a minister in full standing in the Methodist church, and then rode the circuit in that section of country. She was then very young, only about fourteen years of age. When the marriage ceremony was about to be commenced, she did not appear to come forward very willingly, nor stand very easy during it. Her waiter conducted her up before the minister and she hung back considerably. She and Clark stood up together, however, but when the minister told them to join hands, she would not do it, and when he told them to salute each other, she would not do it. To the questions put to her by the minister in performing the ceremony, she made no answer and the minister afterward said to him, the witness, that he did not know what to think of it, that he had never seen such a case before and that he could hardly call them married; and that he did not remember that he heard the minister pronounce them man and wife. But witness attributed her conduct at the time to her diffidence and modesty, rather than to aversion, or disinclination to marry Clark. That she did not retire with him that night, nor did they live together for some time; after a while, however, they commenced living together, but soon parted and never lived together afterward....(54) The defendant's counsel then called Rev. John Rogers as a witness...did you, as a minister of the Baptist Church, unite in marriage, Walter Wright, since deceased, and Elizabeth Wright, the defendant in this suit?... (55) The witness... proved the marriage of the defendant to Walter Wright, and that she passed at the time by the name of Elizabeth Clark."



Brinkley v. Jackson, 2 Houston 71, spring 1859. "The proceeding below was at the suit of Jackson against Brinkley, on the provision of the Act of Assembly, Rev. Code, 46 Sec. 18 "in regard to free negroes or mulattoes, "not residing within the limits of any town where an election shall be held," who "shall be found within the limits of such town..on the day of such election."

State v. Owens, Houst. Cr. Cas. 72, April 1859. "Mary Owens (n) was indicted for aiding the escape of an indentured servant girl from her master. She was the mother of the girl and had bound her to the master by an indenture of servitude."

State v. Burrows, Houst. Cr. Cas. 74, April 1859. "Mary E. Burrows, a negro(of a very weak and imbecile mind), was indicted and tried for arson in setting fire to the dwelling house" of her step-mother. "verdict of not guilty."

State v. Oliver, 2 Houston 585, fall 1863. In 1855 "Oliver, a free negro, was indicted and tried for murder...of David Burton. A son of the prison(er) had been duly bound as an indentured servant to a brother of the latter, and in his absence from home, the prisoner went to his house and took his son away from his service, and while on their way from his house, the deceased met them on the public road...took his son away from him and sent him back to his brother's residence. In the meanwhile, first an altercation and then a collision ensued" Burton struck Oliver "twice upon the head with a piece of fence rail, and...the same day..made a complaint before a Justice of the Peace that the prisoner had drawn a dirk knife upon him on the occasion and threatened to kill him, on which he issued an informal precept...to...a deputized constable...to apprehend the prisoner" who shot Burton from an upper window of his house, when the posse, which included Burton, came to arrest him. Verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree.

State v. Gardner, Houst. Cr. Cas. 146, May 1864. "Rosannah R. Gardner, negro, was indicted and tried for the murder of Martha Ann Segreave, negro...the parties were friends...Both had been drinking ...(150) Verdict---Guilty of murder of the second degree."

State v. Brister, Houst Cr. Cas. 150, May 1864. "John Brister, a negro boy about fifteen years old, was indicted and tried for the crime of arson in setting on fire the dwelling house of James Davis...He had been sent by his master, James Williams, to whom he was indentured as a servant, to Mr. Davis to work for him on his farm, who had whipped him for not working as he should, for which he ran away a few days afterwards," witness(153) "told him (Brister) several times during the night that he must set fire to it. He however said he did not, but the next morning after Mr. Hayes (for whom Brister had been working) had whipped him, he asked him if he did not set fire to the house, to which he replied that he did---" He was "dragged soon after with his hands tied behind a horse and carriage to Middleton before the Magistrate,..Verdict--Not guilty."



239.

State v. Frazier, Houst. Cr. Cas. 176, May 1865. (191) "a colored woman testified that she had lived all her life a servant in the family of the deceased."

Cannon v. Stuart, 3 Houston 223, spring 1866. (224) "Habeas corpus case...Mary Cannon (n) was a minor...and was unlawfully restrained of her liberty by...Stuart, by virtue of...binding by indentures of apprenticeship"(1) (225) "the constable who gave the information required under the act, and upon which the two justices of the peace proceeded to bind the petitioner, gave no notice whatever...to the mother of his intention to do so, unless she provided a suitable home for her with some respectable white person in the mean while; and...the to justices of the peace...proceeded at once to bind the petitioner without delaying it until five days after their hearing of the case, to afford the mother an opportunity of indemnifying the county against the petitioner becoming a charge upon it, as was also required by the act." Held: "the petitioner is hereby discharged from the said indentures of apprenticeship, and from her servitude to the respondent."

State v. Rash, Houst. Cr. Cas. 271, October 1867. Rash "was indicted for an assault and battery committed on Samuel Derry, a negro man... The first witness called was a negro man, named Berry (Derry). He took his place at the witness stand ready to testify, when the counsel for the defendant objected to his competency, on the ground of the Act of Assembly of February 3, 1799, the eighth section of which was re-enacted in 1852 " (2) (272) "There was a competent white witness present at the time the alleged assault...occurred," The Attorney General" claimed that the evidence of the negro was admissible,...insisted that the civil rights bill(3) was the supreme law, and as such, was binding on all courts whether state or federal."

The Court, Gilpin, C. J.: (280) "in so far as the civil rights bill assumes to compel, regulate, or control the admission of evidence in the Courts of this State, it is inoperative, unconstitutional and void. The fact that the negro man called as a witness, was the person on whom the assault and battery had been committed, having come to the knowledge of the Court, the Chief Justice, remarked that his testimony was admissible, under the rulings of the Court, on the ground of humanity and necessity, although there was a white witness present."(4)

State v. Draper, Houst. Cr. Cas. 291, April 1868. "Jesse Draper, a deaf and dumb man, was indicted for the murder ...of...Dickerson ... (292) the prisoner, who was a negro, about thirty years of age, and deaf and dumb from his birth, had been living for the last seven years in the family of the father of...the deceased, working on the farm...and had long evinced a strong and peculiar partiality for the whole family, and had never before manifested any disposition to injure any member of it, or fear any of them, except the deceased, who was the only member of it capable of mastering him, and who had

1. Under Rev. Code of 1852, 245, ch. 79, sect.3

2. Rev. Code, ch. 107, sect. 4

3. Act of Congress.

4. State v. Whitaker, p. 227, supra; State v. Cooper, p. 230, supra.



sometimes had occasion to conquer and chastise him, when in his violent and angry moods actual force was required to overpower and subdue him! In such an encounter the prisoner stabbed the deceased (293) "in fifteen different places with a sharp pocket-knife.... although the prisoner had never been able to speak or hear, and had never received any instruction or education in the alphabet or language of signs taught in the schools of mutes, he had signs of his own by which he could readily communicate his ideas to and converse with such persons as were familiarly acquainted with him, on many ordinary matters and things, and was possessed of a good deal of intelligence and mechanical ingenuity, and was not only a good hand and workman on a farm, but could make well any article he tried to make that was required upon it, and knew the boundaries of it and the adjoining tracts in the woods better than the owner of it, and knew the difference in the value of our national silver coins, as well as our smaller bank notes, and could be sent to the stores in the town to buy many ordinary articles required on the farm or in the family; and although he had never received any religious instruction, he seemed to have some conception of a future state of rewards and punishment, and to believe that there is a heaven above for the good and a hell beneath for the bad, indicating by appropriate signs that those who shout at religious meetings will go to the former, while the bad would descend to the latter. He also in like manner could make known that he knew the public jail and the whipping post and pillory, and what they were for in Georgetown, and that people who stole were there whipped and imprisoned for it. His previous character had been good, and though evidently conscious of what he had done, he made no effort to escape or attempt to deny it, but seemed apparently to exult over it....(302) The verdict of the jury was, not guilty by reason of insanity, or want of criminal responsibility."

Handy v. Clark, 4 Houston 16, spring 1869. "Assumpsit for work and labor...The plaintiff was a colored woman and had been owned and held as a slave for life by the defendant for many years prior to the adoption of the thirteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States, and afterward voluntarily remained in his service and continued to work and labor in his family as a domestic servant until the 10th day of April 1868, when she voluntarily left it without any complaint or demand of wages, and without any objection, or effort on the part of the defendant or his family to prevent her leaving or to induce her to remain in it. It further appeared that he had never said anything to her, nor she to him, in the meanwhile, in regard to the abolition of slavery or her freedom under the operation of the constitutional amendment, but he knew from her deportment that she was well aware of the fact that she was free, for she left and returned to his house at her will and pleasure, and without saying anything to him about it, which she had never done before, and without any complaint or remonstrance on his part, for he had never requested her to remain, or not to go, but had ever since considered her at liberty to leave his house and service entirely, whenever she pleased. He had in the meantime, however, clothed and maintained her and paid for medicine and for the attendance of physicians upon her when she was sick, the same as he had before when she was his slave.



The sum demanded by her in the action was at the rate of two dollars per week for one hundred and forty two weeks. In addition to the defendant who was called and examined as a witness for the plaintiff, a daughter and a sister of hers were also called as witnesses for her." Counsel for the defendant objected to their competency "on the ground that they...were not admissible under the statute of the State (1)..But the Court overruled the objection on the ground that the amendment of the constitution and the act of Congress, entitled the 'civil rights bill,' had removed the disability imposed upon them.. (18) by our statute, and rendered them competent witnesses in the case." Charge to the jury: (19) "The law would imply a promise on his part to pay her for the services as much as they were reasonably and justly worth...but it would be subject to a proper deduction for the clothes furnished and the expenses incurred by the defendant for medical attendance and medicine on her account during the time she was so serving him...The plaintiff had a verdict."

Morris v. Morris, 4 Houston 414, June 1872. Will of Elijah M. Morris, executed 1861; (416) "I give and bequeath unto my son, William.. the unexpired term of the indentured servant, John W. Pratt, (negro).....unto my son, James...the unexpired term of the indentured servant, Alfred Pratt (negro)." Appealed from Delaware Court of Chancery. See Warren v. Morris, 4 Del. Ch. 289.

1. Rev. Code, ch. 107, sect. 4

This important function of government is organized differently in Delaware than in other States, Delaware does not now have a seperate supreme court, and there are no county or district# courts supported by minor civil divisions.

The Court of Chancery,,the Department of Justice, and Courts of Common Pleas in New Castle and Kent Counties are all supported bt the State. The Court of Common Pleas in Kent County was only authorized by the Assembly of 1931.

The Assembly of 1934 assumed the burden, now amounting to almost \$400 per year, of paying for bonds for the various justices of the peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The office of the attorney general in Delaware is somewhat similar to that of the judiciary in that there are no prosecuting attorneys supported by districts or counties.

In addition to being the legal advisor to State officials the attorney general, has a special assistant for each county, is the prosecuting attorney for the State.

The expenditures for this office consist of salaries, clerical assistance, etc., in## addition a sum amounting to something less than \$1,000 per year\$ for requisition expenses.

At irregular times an extraordinary additional burden of defending the State's interest is thrown on this office, as in the Delaware-New Jersey suit. When such an occasion arises the Assembly makes additional appropriations.



SECRETARY OF STATE.

The chief expenditures of the office of the Secretary of State consist of hire of clerical assistance in handling the large volume of work in connection with the extensive charter business and with the Secretary's activities as motor vehicle commissioner.

From 1924 to 1934 a part of the expense of registering motor vehicles was drawn from the auto titling account. In 1935 the Assembly provided that these expenses should be borne by the revenues of the State Highway Department, but since there is no # continuous clear separation of these expenses, ###.

\*\*\*\*\*

ASSEMBLY.

The expenditures for this function of government consists not only of the expenditures of the Assembly while in session but also the cost of several related activities such as the # Committee on Uniform Laws, a periodical revision of the Code, and the expenses of commissions appointed to recommend changes in laws.

The payments incurred every Assembly is the largest item. the expenditure of the Committee on Uniform laws is provided for by an annual appropriation of \$250, but usually not all this is used. The current revision of the code is the first since 1915.

The expenditures for commissions to recommend revisions of laws are irregular and come only at times at which those commissions are appointed.

Governor

The expenditures for the office of governor now consists of \$7,500 for salary (since 1929), except during 1933, 1934 and 35 when it was reduced 10%, \$2,500 for expenses, and since 1926 from \$3,000 to \$3,500 every second year for compilation of the budget, and generally \$100 for attending the conference of Governors.

The irregular expenditures consist of those of an inauguration every four years. There are also other occasional miscellaneous expenses.

\*\*\*\*\*

State Revenue Collection

The collection of the States' revenue is not only done by two offices whose titles would indicate that that was their function, but also by many other offices.

The Secretary of State collects the revenue from the new corporations taking out charters, and fees from those # corporations filing annual statements, and as Motor Vehicle Commissioner collects the motor vehicle and drivers' licenses.

The Liquor Commissioner collects the revenue connected with the dispensing of alcoholic beverages. Also many other offices of the state, such as the Fish & Game Commission and Oyster Revenue Collector, whose duties are more regulatory than fiscal in nature, collect revenues pertaining to their own departmental activities.

The first of the two offices now under consideration whose duties are to collect the state revenue is that of State Collector, an office established before the present development of the state's collection system. It consists of one man whose salary is normally \$1,800 per year with an allowance of \$600 per year for expenses. Some times this amount is not all spent, owing to the office not being filled all the time.



The principal tax collecting agency of the state government is the State Tax Dept. One of its functions is that most difficult of all a governments fiscal activities, the collection of the income tax. Another is that of collecting the franchise tax levied on Delaware corporations; a third, assigned to it by Assembly of 1935, is that of assessing and collecting the inheritance and estate taxes, formerly ##### administered by the Registers of Wills; and a fourth, also given it by the 1925 Assembly is that of collecting the State business and occupational licenses formerly collected by the Clerks of peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Elections

The State's expenditures for elections consist of part-payment of the salary of the secretary of the election board in Wilmington a contribution every second year towards defraying the expenses of the elections in the counties, every fourth year an expenditure of \$40 for the presidential electors, and a special contribution when an extraordinary election is ordered such as that of 1933 in which the liquor question was voted upon.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Undistributed General Government.

Undistributed general government consists of the expenditures which cannot be allocated to any one office or function efficiently. They are divided into two groups, general office overhead, and maintenance and insurance on buildings. Under general office overhead is placed the payments for bond premiums for State officers, and the expenditures for office supplies incurred by the State Board of Supplies.

The maintenance and insurance of State buildings at Dover have increased greatly in the last decade. Because of new buildings.



Protection to Person and Property.

This protection function of the state consists of the activity in preventing violence, as well as guarding its citizens against the unscrupulous. Maintenance of the National Guard, the Highway Police, and the support of the local fire companies comprise the first division of this function. The second is composed of boards and officers whose function it is to enforce the state laws in regard to banking, insurance, labor conditions, professional qualifications, and protection to Agriculture.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Protection from Violence

National Guard.

The expenditures for the support of the National Guard have shown a tendency steadily to increase. A \$5,000 expenditure for armory repairs in 1932 accounts for unusual cost in that year.

\*\*\*\*\*

State Highway Police.

Four years after the creation of the State Highway Department in 1917 that arm of the State Government was charged with enforcement of Highway laws. Since then the growth of the traffic has required an increased number of officers.

An additional item of expenditure was incurred in 1935, 36, 37 when the State contributed toward the cost of the highway safety campaign.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fire Companies

For some years prior to 1924 it was the custom of the Assembly to make small appropriations, from \$100 to \$250 to the support of the volunteer fire companies in towns where state owned considerable property. By 1924 this expense amounted to \$850. The Assembly of 1925 enacted a law requiring all fire insurance companies writing policies on property outside of Wilmington to remit two per



cent of the annual fee to the State Insurance Commissioner, which revenue was to be placed in a special fund and paid over to the fire companies. It amounts to about \$25,000 per year#.

In addition the Assembly of 1931 increased the direct ##### appropriation to \$20,500, that of 1935 to \$21,500.

\*\*\*\*\*

Protection from Fraud.

The second sub-division of the states function of affording protection to person and property comprises its activity in protecting its citizens from being preyed upon by a minority of individuals who would take advantage of the good name of their professions to victimize the unknowing. The officers coming under this activity are: the State Insurance Commission, the State Bank Commission, the Industrial Accident Board, the Labor Commission, the Board of Boiler Rules, and various bodies charged with the duty of examining into the qualifications of persons to practice a profession.

,\*\*\*\*\*

Board of Boiler Rules.

This board was authorized by the Assembly of 1925. The original appropriation was \$2,500. The appropriations were reduced to \$750 by the Assenbly of 1929, but increased to \$4,500 in 1931. It now spends a little over \$5,000 per year,

\*\*\*\*\*

Labor Commission.

For a couple of decades before 1924 the state undertook to supervise various labor activities by means of hiring an individual to enforce a particular ### law. Accordingly, there was at various times a cannery inspector, a ten hour inspector, and a child-labor inspector. In 1915 the Assembly authorized the creation of the Labor Commission, although it did not immediately eliminate other offices.



For decades the state has required that those practicing the medical profession, and lately those professions closely # allied with it, should prove their training and character to a board composed of their fellows.

Between 1924 and 1931 other boards of examiners were set up, allowed to charge fees for examining candidates, and use those fees to pay their officers, but not required to make any accounting to the State. The Assembly of 1931 required these boards to deposit their receipts in the State Treasury, and made appropriations for the support of the boards.

\*\*\*\*\*

Inspection Activities of the State Board of Agriculture.

For the protection of agriculturists from unscrupulous feed and fertilizer manufactures, and to insure that the farm products sold by the producers shall be as represented.

Another inspection of the state is performed in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in the control of the Japanese Beetle. The expenditure started in 1926 and amounted to \$8,861. It rose to \$11,501 in 1931, but now is less.

)\*\*\*\*\*

Protective Boards and Commissions.

The ##### state has several boards and commissions whose duties it is to protect its citizens against the unscrupulous and to administer its laws. The State Housing Commission, established in 1933, studies the housing situation, particularly in relation to the lower income groups and makes recommendations in regard to improvement of housing conditions. The Liquor Commission administers the liquor laws; the Mosquito Commission bears part of the expense of draining the marshes; the Milk Commission arbitrates disputes between producers and distributors; and the Weights and Measures Commission inspects the weights and measures used in trade.



Another phase of this function is the expenditures for the support of the Industrial Accident Board. Until 1931 the board was supported by a tax on the premiums paid the insurance companies, which was set apart in the State Treasury as a special account and the expenditures of the board paid from this fund. It is now spending a little less than \$19,000 per year#.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Development and Conservation of Natural Resources.

This function has to do with the development and conservation of the natural resources of the state. The State Board of Agriculture, all the administrative expenses of the board and its executive officers are classified under this function.

The classifications of the expenditures of this function are as far as possible, according to the work performed, and secondly according to the agent performing that work.

The expenditures are those for agricultural experiments, and demonstrations, administered by the University of Del., agricultural administration and pest control of the State Board of Agriculture, the expenditures of the state Department of forestry, of the Game and Fish Commission, of the Oyster Revenue Collector, and the irregular expenditures for opening inlets.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Agricultural Activity of the University of Delaware.

The first activity considered is the non-resident educational activities of the University of Delaware through its Extension Dept. of the school of Agriculture, and the expenditures for the support of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

The first consists of two appropriations, the larger of which is to off-set a portion of the Federal appropriation known as Smith-Lever funds.



The second is a small appropriation now amounting to \$675 per year for the purpose of giving annually several days instruction in agriculture# and home economics to the most promising of the members of the 4-H Cl#ubs of the state.

The appropriations of the Agricultural Experiment Station are used to promote inquiry into the agriculture of the State to seek remedies for undiserable conditions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
State Board of Agriculture

The state board of Agriculture is charged with the administration of the laws relating to the animal, fowl, and plant disease, and administers the funds appropriated to fairs and asocations for encouraging the production of high-class agricultuarl products.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Diseases of Livestock

Another activitie of the Board of Agriculture id the control of diseases of livestock,. Inaddition to employing technival workers to render this service it expends money for two specific services <sup>for</sup> eradication of tuberculosis and Bang's disease in the dairy herds and the <sup>vaccination</sup> ~~vaccinating~~ of hogs against cholera.

One of the most important agricultral industries of the sttate is the growing of poultry. The State appropriates funds to the Board of Agriculture ## for the study and control of these diseases, for prizes for egg-laying competitions, and poultry shows, as well as to the U. Of D. for carring scientific information to the poulbrymen.

Another acitivity of the board is that of funds to be used to prevent plant diseases. For this purpose it empolyes a plant pathologist on a cooperative basis with the U.of D.



B. Tracey  
J. Bovis  
12-13-38

State Government  
State Forestry Department.

-9-

215

Development of its natural resources is the State Forestry Department. Up to 1926 no expenditures for forestry development or protection were incurred, but in 1926-27 a small appropriation was made to the State Board of Agriculture for that purpose, and the 1927 Assembly authorized the establishment of the State Forestry Department and an appropriation of \$5,000 for its support. The 1931 Assembly increased the support by providing \$5,000 fund for the control of forest fires. From time to time appropriations were made to construct permanent improvements or to purchase land for forestry purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Game And Fish Commission.

The conservation and development of natural resources is the Game And Fish Commission. The state has been spending small amounts of money on fish propagation, until 1925 the state made very substantial efforts in that direction. Until 1932 the commission was supported by fines, licenses, and permits collected and placed in a special fund.

The Assembly of 1931 discontinued this method and directed all funds be placed in the general fund, and appropriated funds from the general fund for its support, but the Assembly of 1933 re-instated the special account system.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oyster Revenue collector.

Is to see that the laws in relation to maintenance of the shell fisheries of the state are enforced as well as to collect revenue from taking oysters. The expenditures have doubled in the time under consideration. From 1924 to 1931 the expenditures rose from \$4,015 to \$5,260, but 1932 to 1936 have seen a larger increase.



The State had a health department for years but in 1925 it spent \$50,000 per year for this function. Now the state appropriations are only classified into three groups: that for general administration of the Board, the appropriation for pathology and bacteriology, and since 1932 for oral hygiene.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Hospitals

Three hospitals are included in this function: Brandywine Sanatorium for white consumptives, Edgewood Sanatorium for colored consumptives, and the Delaware State Hospital for mentally ill.

The State makes appropriations to other hospitals, but since they are not State Institutions and the appropriation is only in partial payment for treatment to indigent persons, that expenditure is not classified under hospitals but under "Charity".

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Brandywine Sanatorium.

This institution was founded as a private effort to assist tubercular people of the lower income groups to overcome their disease. It was later contributed to by the New Castle County Levy Court, and later taken over by the state. The appropriations in 1924-25 were \$35,000 per year, in 1926-27 were \$40,000 with a supplemental appropriation of \$20,000 each year. The expenditures of this institution have grown to over three times what were in 1924-25.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Edgewood Sanatorium

The History of this sanatorium is the same as the Brandywine. Its expenditures have not been as large as those of the Brandywine but the trend is similar.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Delaware State Hospital

This institution has increased both in usefulness and cost of maintenance far beyond anticipations entertained for it when it was founded.



Charities

State Board of Charities

The expenditures up to 1934, consisted of the salary of a secretary and some clerical and office expense. The Assembly of 1933 increased the appropriation to \$5,500 enabled the Board to increase its activities by the employment of additional assistance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Charity to Children

One of the main charitable expenditures is that for charity to children. This is divided into two kinds of assistance, that to defective children, and that to children of people of the lower income levels.

\*\*\*\*\*

Defective Children

Two kinds of expenditures occur: first those for the education and care of the deaf, dumb, and blind who are sent to # special schools at the expense of the State; second for the support of Delaware Colony at Stockley, an institution for backward children of both sexes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Charity to Aged.

Until 1932 the state gave only \$4,00 towards the maintenance of two homes for aged colored. Beginning in 1930 Mr. A.I. duPont initiated a private old-age pension system, which in 1931 was replaced by a State system. Assembly appropriating \$200,000# for the purpose, also for the construction of a home to replace the three county almshouses, and provided that one half of the operating cost of maintaining the inmates from each county should be paid by that county. The cost of maintaining the home is about \$65,000 per year.

The Welfare Commission is also charged with the duty of dispensing outside relief, an appropriation of \$15,000 for this # Purpose.

Another contribution of the State is that of assisting in the expense of burying men who have served in the American Armed



B. Tracey  
J. Bovis  
12-13-38

State Government  
Charities (Cont)

-11-

218

burying men who served in the American Armed Forces. Up till 1931 this annual contribution did not amount to more than \$700, but in 1935 it was almost \$4,000.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mothers Pension

This activity is only partially supported by the State., the state paying for the hire of the personnel and their expenses and up to 1937 one-half of the pensions granted to widows, the counties paying the other half. Beginning with the fiscal year 1937 the federal government has shared in this burden, contribution \$46,469 as its first years' assistance.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Corrections

Delaware is unique in that it does not have a state penal institution for adults. Adults sentenced for any considerable period are confined in the New Castle County Workhouse, and for them a per diem charge is made against the Levy Court of the county from which the commitment was made, hence these expenditures are not considered here. The state's only correctional institutions are for minors, institutions originally founded as private enterprises for the rehabilitation of the inmates, but later supported by the Levy courts and finally taken over by the state.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Ferris Industrial School

The Oldest of these institutions is the Ferris Industrial school to which delinquent boys, both white and colored, are committed, as well as a minority of indigent boys.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Industrial Schools for Girls

This school has the same history as the Ferris Industrial school, except that it has not yet been taken over by the State.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Industrial School for Colored Girls

The school has the same history as the Ferris Industrial, it was taken over by the State in 1921.



## Parole Board and Board of Pardons.

The Expenditures of these two boards are about \$3,200 per year, and the amount is not increasing. The chief expenditure is the salary of the Parole officer while that of the Board of Pardons is for the salary of the Lieut. Governor.

\*\*\*\*\*

#####

## Commemoration of Historic Events.

Beginning with 1923, the state appropriated \$500 annually for the purpose of purchasing portraits of the Governors, this money has not always been used. In 1929 the Assembly provided funds for the observance of the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Lewes, Delaware, and since then has provided for the maintenance of the building commemorating that settlement. The Assembly of 1931 appropriated funds for the commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the chartering of Wilmington as a city.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Donations to ex-Service Men's Organizations

For some time the state has made contributions of \$1,000 a year to the G.A.R. to assist in the commemoration of Memorial Day. In 1925 it began to contribute to the American Legion, in 1927 to the Spanish War Veterans, and in 1929 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The State is contributing five times as much now as in 1924.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Schools.

The State has only appropriated money for school building construction since 1927. In that year it appropriated \$1,000,000 thereby inaugurating the school program. Since then the school expenditures have been the heaviest.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Unemployment Relief

In 1933 the state found it necessary to appropriate funds for the relief of the unemployed. The special session of the Assembly in 1932 appropriated \$2,000,000 for the purpose and set up the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration.



B. Tracey  
J. Bovis  
12-14-38

State Government  
Unemployment Relief(Cont)

-13-

It obtained one-half of the money by diverting from the school fund \$1,000,000 of ~~the~~ the yield of the franchise tax and appropriated \$1,000,000 from cash in the general fund \$700,000 of which was replaced by a transfer from the sinking fund. In addition to the State appropriations, the federal government appropriated funds supplementing the state funds, and also set up organizations such as the Civil Works Administration to assist in ameliorating unemployment conditions. The expenditures of the Civil Works Administration on State projects, went through the State Treasury, and hence are accounted for here. The life of the T.E.R.A. was only two years. At the end of that time, both the afore-mentioned method of financing relief and the organization for administering it were discontinued because the two houses of the Assembly could not agree upon a method of continuing. The succeeding Assembly levied an income tax on the citizens of New Castle County to raise funds for the relief of its citizens, but the income from this act did not go through the State Treasury and hence is not accounted for here.

The other two counties had no official relief. The county income tax levied was collected by the State Tax Commission but the cost of the collection was deducted from~~the~~ the proceeds of the tax.



Total Receipts and Disbursements  
1924 and 1937

	1924		1937
Current Income	\$5,406,852	Current Income	\$10,528,303
Extraordinary Inc.	3,755,134	Extraordinary Inc.	2,411,905
Total	9,161,986	Total	12,940,208
Current Expenses	3,926,418		9,552,640
Extraordinary Exp.	3,981,966		3,058,272
Total	7,907,384		12,610,912
Opening Balance	1,747,625		4,417,286
Additions, receipts exceed expenses	1,254,602		329,296
Reductions, expenses exceed receipts			
Closing Balance	\$ 3,002,227		\$ 4,746,582

\*\*\*\*\*

Gross Current Expenditures, Classified by Function  
1924 and 1937

	1924	1937
General Government	\$ 276,345	\$ 812,696
Protection	123,055	501,686
Development and Con- servation of Natural Resources	133,633	258,895
Health & Sanitation	49,113	166,932
Hospitals	249,893	576,770
Charities	96,021	916,604
Corrections	70,423	209,120
Highways	177,832	989,697
Higher Education	199,000	931,800
Libraries & Historical Associations	12,618	21,228
Free Schools	2,189,856	3,722,854
Interest	337,237	388,698
Miscellaneous	10,392	55,660
Total	\$3,925,418	\$9,552,640

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B. Tracey  
J. Bovis  
12-14-38

State Government

-15-

222

Cost of General Government  
1924 and 1937

	<u>1924</u>		<u>1937</u>
Assembly	\$ 221		\$ 260,717
Governor	7,750		12,653
Judiciary	57,254		81,158
Attorney General	23,913		31,896
Secretary of State	54,768		139,068
Financial	61,521		180,545
Elections	2,450		,34,380
Undistributed	68,477		71,779
	<u>\$276,345</u>		<u>\$812,696</u>

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Ref: Studies in Taxation in Delaware  
By M.M. Daugherty, Economist



SCIENCEGeneral

Cycle of Growth and Maturity  
Hypothesis, Phenomena  
Historical Facts  
Service and Expansion  
Technological Fields

Scientific Institutions (Their names)

Lectures and Instructions  
Research  
Experimental Laboratories  
Agriculture Experiments

Inventions

Mechanical Improvements

Industrial DevelopmentUtility Expansion

Gas and Electric

Civic Advancement

Water Purification and Filtration

Subjects

Medicine and Surgery  
Control of Disease  
Medical Contributions  
Associations and Societies  
Hospitalization Advancement

Engineering

Chemical (Physical, Organic, Inorganic)  
Civil  
Electrical  
Mechanical  
Automotive

(State Encyclopedia)

30

SCIENCE (Continued)

Subjects (Continued)

Botany  
Horticultural Collections

Physics

Biology

Astronomy

Geology

Archeology

Ethnology

Aeronautics

Dentistry  
Oral Surgery  
Operative  
Prosthetic

Haskell Laboratory--(toxicology)

Entomologists



SOCIETIES

(see index file)

Patriotic

Delaware Society of the Daughters of the Colonial Wars  
 Henlopen Post #5, American Legion  
 Henlopen Post Auxiliary

Service clubs

Kiawanis  
 Quota  
 Exchange  
 Recess  
 Lions  
 Rotary  
 Monarch  
 American Business

Frankford New Century Club  
 Selbyville Community Club  
 Georgetown New Century Club  
 Laurel New Century Club  
 Lord Baltimore Women's Club  
 New Century Club of Delmar  
 The Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth  
 The Zwanendael Club of Lewes  
 Kent-Sussex Counties Dental Society

Fraternal

SPORTSGeneral

Bowling  
 Fishing--Surf and stream  
 Golf--Private and public courses  
 Hunting and trapping  
 Sailing  
 Swimming and bathing  
 Horse races--saddle and harness  
 Flying  
 Base ball  
 Foot ball  
 Tennis--private and public courts  
 Canoeing  
 Hiking  
 Motor boating  
 Boxing  
 Trap shooting--clubs and meets  
 Riding--cross country and horse show  
 Badminton

Annual event

Mens' bridge tournament--Wilmington Whist Club  
Golf invitation tournament--Rehoboth Country Club  
Delaware breakwater regatta--Cape Henlopen  
Tidewater shoot revolver match (State Police)  
Foxcatcher hounds race meetings  
Eastern Beagle Club meet--estate of S. Hallock DuPont  
Delaware State Trap Shooting Championship  
Delaware clay target events

Organization

Lewes Yacht Club  
 Lewes Yacht Club Auxiliary  
 Lewes Anglers Association  
 United Farmers and Sportmen of Delaware (various chapters)  
 Brandywine Archers Club

State agency

Board of Game and Fish Commissioners  
 Chief Game and Fish Warden  
 Fish patrol boat

Game seasons

Types and dates--experimental area--Woodland Beach--1000acres  
Protective units--organization and function



SPORTSHorse Racing

Honors for outstanding achievements on the turf in 1938 have been awarded two Delawareans.

Mrs. Marion DuPont Scott, owner of "Battleship," the only American-owned and American-bred horse to win the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree, England.

William DuPont, Jr., owner of the famous Foxcatcher Farm's Stable.

SPORTSFish and Game LawsLicenses

The fishing license fee for non-resident citizens is \$7.50.

A short-term or tourist license, valid for six consecutive days from date of issue, is available at a cost of \$3.25. No license is required to fish in the Delaware River or Bay, and Atlantic Ocean, or Indian River Inlet. Children under 16 years and women accompanying a licensed fisherman require no license.

The resident license fee is \$1.25. Residents may fish in the Indian River and all tide waters without license. Occupants and resident owners of farms containing 20 acres or more may fish, hunt and trap on their farms without license. Aliens cannot fish, hunt or trap in Delaware except on a farm of 20 acres or more on which they reside.

The non-resident hunting and trapping license fee is \$15.50, but a short-term license good for five consecutive days from date of issue may be had for \$5.50. Children under 15 are exempt when accompanied by a licensed hunter. The resident hunting and trapping license fee is \$1.25. Licenses may be obtained from any Justice of the Peace; proof of citizenship must be furnished.

1938 Open Seasons and Bag Limits

	<u>Begins</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>
Frog.....	May 1	Dec. 31	24*
Squirrel.....	Sept. 15	Nov. 1	6
Rails (except coots) ...	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	15
Coots.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	25
Gallinules (except coots)	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	15
Sora.....	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	15
Dove.....	Sept. 1	Sept. 30	15
	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	
Fox, red.....	Oct. 1	April 30	
Raccoon and opossum.....	Nov. 1	Jan. 15	
Wild duck.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	10
Geese.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	5
Snipe.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 28	15
Woodcock.....	Oct. 15	Nov. 14	4
Pheasants (cock birds only)	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	2
Quail.....	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	12
Rabbit.....	Nov. 15	Dec. 31	6
Mink, otter, and muskrat	Dec. 1	Mar. 10	

(On embanked meadows in New Castle County muskrats may be taken until March 20th.)

\* Limit of 10 daily with fishing license.



## Baptist Churches

Shiloh Baptist, Twelfth and Orange Streets, Wilmington, was founded in 1875 at the present location. Original building is still being used for worship. Rev A.R. James present pastor has filled the pulpit for six years.

Membership of four hundred includes non-active list of one hundred-fifty persons.

No definite church budget but has full time pastor. Congregation owns edifice. Largest Baptist church in the state.

Eighth Street Baptist Church, Eighth and Scott Streets, was founded during the first decade of the current century.

Congregation of approximately two hundred persons. Has a full time pastor.

Pilgrim Baptist Church in Newark, Delaware, has small membership and half time pastor. This church is of recent origin.

Calvary Baptist Church, Dover, is the second oldest Baptist Church in the state. Has full time pastor and owns building. The church budget is not known nor is the number of communicants available.

According to Rev James there is currently active an association of Baptist churches in the state. The dearth of datum is the result of lack of funds to make compilations.

There are a number of baptist churches throughout Wilmington and the state of rather dubious status. The larger of these churches is located in Middletown. Several others of this nature are at Dover, Milford and Georgetown.

No official data as to number, condition and ~~budgetary~~ budgetary expenditures other than from Rev James is available.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

## WILMINGTON

*see Sept. 1 revision*

- ✓ 1. Rodney Square
- ✓ 2. Public Building
- ✓ 3. Wilmington Institute Free Library
- ✓ 4. DuPont and Nemours Buildings
- ✓ 5. First and Central Presbyterian Church
- ✓ 6. U. S. Post Office, Court House and Custom House.

NORTH MARKET STREET

- ✓ 7. John Marot Houses--1203-1205 Market St.
- ✓ 8. Joseph Price House--1301 Market St.
- ✓ 9. Gibbons House--1311 Market St.
- ✓ 10. George Gray House--14th and Market St.
- ✓ 11. Jacob Starr House--1310 King St.
- ✓ 12. Samuel Canby House--1401 Market St.
- ✓ 13. Brandywine Bridge (N. Market St.) including Lea Mills and the Brandywine.

BRANDYWINE VILLAGE

2 Brandywine Village  
 Insets by J. F. Cunningham  
 7-20-21

- ✓ 14. Derickson House--1801 Market St.
- ✓ 15. Joseph Tatnall House--1803 Market St.



- ✓16. Edward Tatnall House--1807 Market St.
- ✓17. William Lea House--1901 Market St.
- ✓18. William Smith House--1905 Market St.
- ✓19. Grubb's Store--1916 Market St.
- ✓20. St. John's P. E. Cathedral, <sup>Concord Ave. +</sup> ~~2013~~ Market St.
- ✓21. Jacobs House--2114 Market St. "Cobbler Shop"
- ✓22. Old Brandywine Academy--5 Vandever Ave.
- ✓23. Price Run Pool--23rd and Church Sts.
- 24. ~~David W. Harlan School--36th and Jefferson Sts.~~
- ✓25. Pierre S. duPont High School--34th and Van Buren Sts.

SOUTH MARKET STREET

- ✓26. Delaware Trust Building--9th and Market Sts.
- ✓27. Wyeth Mural, Wilmington Savings Fund Building--9th & Market Sts.
- ✓28. Site of John Dickinson House--NW. corner 8th & Market Sts.
- ✓29. No. 606 Market
- ✓30. Old Town Hall--512 Market St.
- ✓31. Sign of the Ship Tavern--SE. corner 3rd and Market Sts.
- 32. South Market Street Bridge and the Christina

EAST SIDE

- ✓53. Thomas Mendenhall House--225 East Front Street.

- ✓34. William Welde House--102 Walnut St.
- ✓35. Robert Pierce House--NW. corner, 2nd and Walnut Sts.
- ✓36. Samuel Bush House--211 Walnut St.
- ✓37. Jacob Sharp House--213 Lombard St.
- ✓38. Asbury Church--SE. corner, 3rd and Walnut Sts.
- ✓39. Dr. Simms House--NE. corner, 4th and King Sts.
- ✓40. Samuel Newlin Houses--423-425 French St.
- ✓41. Ann Newlin Houses--108-110 East 5th St.
- ✓42. Thomas A. Coxse Houses--107-109 East 6th St.
- ✓43. German Hall--205 East 6th St.
- ✓43A Dr. Didier House -- 613 French St.
- ✓44. Emma Strauss House--625 French St.
- ✓45. Lloyd House--105 East 7th St.
- out 46. ~~Joseph A. Gray House--107 E. 7th St.~~
- 47. Old Swedes Church--Foot of 7th St.  
✓ *Supplementary - Pote.*
- ✓48. Site of Fort Christina--Foot of 6th St.

SOUTH WILMINGTON

- out 49. ~~Third Street Bridge~~
- ✓50. Marine Terminal
- ✓51. Alrichs House



- ✓ 52. Eden Park
- ✓ 53. Site of Cranehook Church

WEST SIDE

- ✓ 54. Farmers' Bank Building--9th and Shipley Sts.
- ✓ 55. St. Andrews' Church--SW. corner, 8th and Shipley Sts.
- ✓ 56. Site of the Shipley House--SW. corner, 4th and Shipley Sts.
- ✓ 57. Washington's Headquarters--303 West St.
- ✓ 58. Friends Meeting House--NW. corner, 4th & West Sts.
- ✓ 59. St. Peter's Cathedral--SE. corner, 6th and West Sts.
- ✓ 60. Woodward Houses--701-703 West St.
- out* ✓ 61. ~~Grace Church--NW. corner 9th and West Sts.~~
- ✓ 62. Cool Spring Park--10th and Jackson Sts.
- ✓ 63. Society of Natural History--10th and Van Buren Sts.
- ✓ <sup>65</sup> 64. Cool Spring Reservoir--10th and Van Buren Sts.
- <sup>64</sup> ✓ 65. First Church of Christ, Scientist--park Place and Van Buren Sts.
- ✓ 66. The Rodney Oak--11th and Franklin Sts.
- out* ✓ 67. ~~Fletcher Brown House--11th and Broom Sts.~~
- ✓ 68. Tilton House--9th and Broom Sts.
- ✓ 69. Rodney Reservoir--8th & Rodney Sts.

~~out~~ 70. ~~Armory--10th and DuPont Sts.~~

~~out~~ 71. ~~Westminster Church--Penna. Ave. and Clayton St.~~

✓ 72. Swedenborgian Church--Penna. Ave. and Broom St.

✓ 73. Soldiers and Sailors Monument--Delaware Ave. and Broom St.

~~out~~ 74. ~~Trinity Church--Delaware Ave. and Adams St.~~

✓ 75. Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery--Delaware Ave. and Madison St.

✓ 76. Washington Memorial Bridge.

77. ~~Encampment Continental Troops--Lovering Ave. and Broom St.~~

✓ 78. Banning House--809 S. Broom Street

✓ 79. Latimer House--1700 Maryland Avenue

#### BRANDYWINE CREEK TOUR

80. Bishopstead

81. Colonial Dames House (Old First Presbyterian Church)

81A. Old Barley Mill

82. Old Ford Across the Brandywine

83. McKinley Memorial

84. Josephine Garden

85. Rose Garden

86. ~~Monkey House and~~ Zoo

87. Picnic Grounds



- 88 Encampment Continental Troops -- Lovering Ave. + Broom St.
- ~~89~~ 89. Augustine Paper Mills
- ~~90~~ 90. Delaware Academy of Medicine--Old Bank of Delaware.
- ~~91~~ 91. Home of Merciful Rest
- ~~92~~ 92. Burnet House--Park Drive
- ~~93~~ 93. Art Center
- ~~94~~ 94. Bayard Statue
- ~~95~~ 95. Bancroft Mills
- ~~96~~ 96. Rockford Park
- ~~97~~ 97. Canby Memorial Seat
- ~~98~~ 98. Rockford Water Tower
- ~~99~~ 99. Tower Hill School
- ~~100~~ 100. DuPont Statue--Rockford Park.
- 101- Other Points--  
Delaware Place, etc.

## LOCALITY - State Wide

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheney<sup>4</sup>

Date - December 18, 1935

"Diamond State": Delaware's nickname, was applied because of the small area of the commonwealth and by reason of her prominence and importance, according to an encyclopedic explanation. The latter relates to the leading part Delawareans took in the early days of the formation of the federal and state government - the adoption of the federal constitution when other less courageous states faltered; her part in the action of the Continental Congress - including Caesar Rodney's heroic hasty ride from Lewes or Dover to Philadelphia, arriving in time to vote "aye" on the resolution of Independence and bringing the state into the group favoring our breaking from the "mother country." Delaware was outstanding in the Revolutionary War sending a larger number of soldiers in proportion to her small population, than any of the other colonies. Important by reason also of the fact that a larger percentage of Delawareans of the first rank of statesmanship participated in the early national councils than served from any other of the sister colonies.

References - Harper's Encyclopedia  
Scharf - and news clippings



To the Swedes it was New Swedeland Stream; to the Dutch, Judy (or South River) while the Bay was Godyn's, named for Samuel Godyn a Dutchman, who received a grant of land ten years after the discovery by Hudson.

The logical conclusion that the state took the name from the Bay, consequently, the "Delaware" came from the early legal official designation of the "Three Counties on the Delaware." It was thus referred to in legal papers and official declarations by William Penn. Presumably when the state adopted its first constitution in 1776 the "three counties on the ---" were dropped and Delaware alone remained as the name of the First State.

References - Scharf, Conrad and Majestic Delaware  
and newspaper clippings - the Journal.

File 8-101

## LOCATION STATEWIDE

Submitted by Robert Campbell,

Date - January 2, 1936.

## NAME

The name Delaware comes directly from the title of Sir Thomas West, Lord de la Warre, although there is no evidence that he himself ever visited the bay bearing his name. He came from England as Governor of the Virginia Colony early in 1610 and on August 27th of that year Captain Samuel Argall in the "Discovery" entered the Bay. He was just one day less than a year after Hudson but actually thinking himself the discoverer he called it, "My Lord de la Warre's Bay."

That the bay was thereafter commonly called by this name in the Virginia Colony is confirmed by the account of his visit to Virginia in 1633 given in deVrie's Journal.

The Dutch knew it as the "South" River and Bay in contradiction to the "North" River at New Amsterdam, but with the political and economic predominance of the English the English name prevailed and with the elision of time the name became "De la Ware's Bay" and finally Delaware Bay and River.

The three counties comprising the State were not a part of the original grant to William Penn and he took separate possession of them. Therefore while the three counties were governed as part of Pennsylvania.



Page No.2

File No.S-101

They were separately designated in countless legal documents as the "three lower counties," or more commonly the "three counties on Delaware," or "New Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware," This naturally evolved into "The Delaware State," and later "The State of Delaware."

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(A) Francis Burke Brandt - The Majestic Delaware (The Nation's Foremost Historic River) - Published by The Brandt and Guinnere Co., Philadelphia, Pa. 1929 - (192 pages)

(B ) David Pietersz de Vries, Journal of - Translated from the Dutch by Henry C. Murphy - Printed by Billin and Bros, New York - 1853 - (199 pages)

(C) Israel Acrelius Provost of the Swedish Churches in Wilmington, Delaware(Translated from the Swedish) - History of New Sweden, or The Settlements on the River Delaware - Published under the joint auspices of the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and Delaware by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 829 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 1874.

Pote  
1858 February 25

The Delaware Republican cites the following:

240  
"An Unfortunate Vessel-The ship Diamond State, was destroyed by fire on Saturday last, while laying in the river Delaware, at Camden, N. J. - The history of this vessel is full of misfortune. She was built in this city, by the Messrs. Thatcher, some three or four years ago, according to a model furnished by Capt. Horace Ray, and was christened James Ray. Mr. Fisher while engaged in rigging her fell into the hold, dislocating his shoulder and a report prevailed at the time that he had been fatally injured. While laving at the bridge in the Christiana, the horse of Charles Bush took fright at her, and becoming unmanageable, Mr. B. was thrown out of the carriage and killed, and we thus lost one of our most enterprising and useful citizens. On being completed she was taken to Philadelphia, and freighted with flour and grain for Liverpool. On her trip down the Delaware she sprang aleak, or so crank as to be considered unseaworthy, when it was deemed best to return. Her cargo was removed, alterations made, and she was reloaded. In the meantime the crew determined to leave her, when there was much difficulty, and several of the men were arrested and imprisoned. All things being ready, the crew were got on board and the destination of the vessel we believed was changed from Liverpool to Rio. On her way out however, she suffered badly from a heavy storm, but finally reached Savannah, Ga. After much delay the cargo was sold at this port. Repairs are made, and her name was afterwards changed to the Diamond State. She made several voyages, and her last was to, New Orleans, Genoa, and Leghorn. At the time of her destruction, she was owned by D. S. Stetson & Company of North Warves, and was insured to the amount of \$45,000 and valued at \$60,000."



March 20, 1937

Please sign if  
taken away.

LOCATION: DELAWARE

Submitted by: J. Sweeney

*See folder - Name: Drawyers  
J. Sweeney's*

Subject: Place names' origin and meaning; Drawyers Creek

p.124  
pp.139  
p.140  
p.147

The theory that Drawyers Creek derived its name from Anders Kristiansson Dreijer gets some support from the fact that surnames similar to Dreijer assumed a more simple spelling after the British began to rule Delaware. For instance, in 1667 the surname Booijr was spelt Boeyer, and in 1669 Reijner Vander Cooley was spelt Reyner Vander Cooley. Two years later, in 1671, the present Drawyers Creek was recorded as Drayers creeke. Therefore analogy shows that a Dreijer's Creek would be Anglicised to Drayers Creek or Drawyers Creek or something like that.

## Bibliography:

Original Land Titles in Delaware, Commonly Known as The  
Duke of York Record, 1656-1679. Wilmington, Delaware:  
Sunday Star Print (for the General Assembly of the State),  
1903. 190p.

242  
STATE DRAWER:

Folder: Names &

Please Meanings.

sign if take from file

SUPPLEMENT TO "ORIGIN OF THE NAME DRAWYERS (CREEK)."

Submitted by J. SWEENEY, April 11, 1936.

"April y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1667.

SURVEYED for Garret Otto a parcell of Land Situate and being on the West side of Delaware River Between the two Maine Branches of a Branch of Appoqueminin Creeke Called the Drawers Creeke being bounded as followeth BEGINNING at a Corner Marked White Oak Standing by the Western Maine Branch att the North East syde of a small Branch Called the Little Beaver Dam Branch & from thence Running North West Seventy and Six Perches bounded with the said Branch to a Corner Marked Hickory Standing in a dry Valley above the Head of the s<sup>d</sup> Branch from thence North & by West by a line of Marked Trees Two Hundred Fifty and Six Perches to a Corner Marked Red Oak standing on a levell from thence East by North by a line of Marked Trees One Hundred and thirty four Perches to a Corner Marked White Oak Standing at the syde of the Northern Maine Branch on a Point by the Mouth of a small Swamp and from thence along the Several Courses of the said Main Branch to the Place of Beginning Conteyning Two Hundred Seventy & two Acres of Land.

"This is a true copy taken from the Original the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of July 1676." (= p. 25)

A confirmatory patent dated February 26, 1671, from Governor Francis Lovelace, Fort James, New York, to "Garret Otto" was for 180 acres on the north side of Appoquinimink Creek, "being bounded on the South East with the said Creeke on the North East with a lyne of Marked Trees dividing this from the land of Hans Hanson (al<sup>s</sup> Miller) on the North West with the Drawers Creeke and on the South West with a lyne of Marked Trees Dividing this from the land of John Sherricks Together with a Proportionable Tract of Marshland below the Draw-yers Creeke for Provision for his Cattle Now for a Confirmation unto him the said Garret Otto." (= p. 24)

"Deed A. Vol. I": Ms. of 106 pages in Recorder's Office, County Building, Wilmington, Delaware.

Collated by J. S.

Remarks: Notice how "Draw-yers" was recorded in the foregoing patent as it was divided between the ending of one line and the beginning of another.

Compare the foregoing survey and patent with pages 20 and 21 of the "ORIGIN OF THE NAME DRAWYERS (CREEK)," &c. (manuscript) By J. SWEENEY, 1937.



From the Swedish Settlements on the Delaware Their History and Relation to the Indians, Dutch and English 1638-1664 With an Account of the South, The New Sweden, and The American Companies, and the Efforts of Sweden to Regain the Colony. Volume 1 By Amandus Johnson, Ph.D. Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania Secretary of The Swedish Colonial Society, member of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, etc.  
University of Pennsylvania D. Appleton & Company, Agents, New York 1911, (Foot-note on PP 171)

33 The author of the Besch. van Virginia, etc. (Amsterdam, 1651) p. 38 says: "waer dese naem (Hoere Kil) van gekomen is weten wij niet." The Dutch generally called it Hoere Kil. (De Vries, Korte Historiae, p. 165, 175, 184, etc.) In Swedish documents it is almost always called Horn Kil. It has been suggested that the name Hoere Kil is a mistake for Hoorn Kil (named after Cornelis Jacobsen May of Hoorn in Holland), but it is difficult to explain why De Vries should call it Hoere Kil for it would seem that he had opportunity to know. It seems unlikely that Cornelis May should name an insignificant stream like the Hoorn Kill after his own name. If he wished to perpetuate his name he surely could have done so more effectively by naming some large river, say the Schuylkill, after himself. The writer has adopted the Swedish form of the word or name for the river (Horn), since this form is found in almost all the Swedish records, referring to the stream and since it agrees with the English form as well. That the name was well known and that questions concerning its origin arose as early as 1648 to 1651 can be seen from the above quotation. If Hoere was a mistake for Horn it would seem that the author of the Besch. would have suggested this explanation. Horen Hook was a place near New York (Watson's Annals, I 7). Concerning an explanation of the origin of the name Hoere Kil see Van Sweeringen, Md. Arch., V. 411 ff.

\*"\*

-2-

34. They built a brick house "inside of palisades." Cf. Doc., II.

50; G. Thomas, W. Jersey, p.14; Brodhead, Hist., I.206.

35. The bay was called Godyn's Bay in honor of Samuel Godyn.

36. "Who was left over in Swanendael." Van Renssellaer B. Mss.p.223.

De Vries says that 32 men were killed. Col.of N.Y. Hist., So., 2d S., III.

17. Hence there must have been 33 men in the colony.



LOCATION: State of Delaware

March 1, 1937

Submitted by: J. SWERNEY

Mark : Final

Subject : Place-names origin and meaning; when and why did Jones or St. Jones Creek get its name?

Jones or St. Jones Creek got its name in 1671 through a Robert Jones' being granted land in its vicinity.

-----

Proof: In April 1671 the commander in Delaware, Captain John Carr, to his government at New York, "relates the desire of many families to come and settle below New Castle, at Apoquinimy and Bombay Hook; to be considered of. The most eminent amongst them are Mr. Jones, Mr. Wharton, Mr. Whale. A letter is to be written to some of them about the settlement." - New York Council Minutes, vol. 111. p.57; Hazard's Annals of Pennsylvania, p.383.

Soon after relating the desire of the prospective settlers, Captain Carr and his aides granted land in Delaware to Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. Walter Wharton, and Mr. George Whale. Consequently, on June 17 (old style), Governor Lovelace confirmed to Jones and Whale patents for their lands, and two days later he appointed Walter Wharton surveyor-general on the west side of the Delaware; a position which explains the absence of a final patent to Mr. Wharton.

When Mr. Jones and Mr. Whale were first granted land along its northeasterly bank, Jones or St. Jones Creek must have been an anonymous stream, because the final patents respectively described their properties as being on the north and northeast side of "a creek now called St. Jones his Creeke, being about a myle above Murder Creeke," and there is other evidence to show that the stream had lost its earlier names at this time. So which of the grantees caused the new name to be given to Jones or St. Jones Creek? Not Mr. Whale, he never settled on his newly acquired land, and why should he dedicate the creek to St. Jones? So, yes, of course, it was Mr. (Robert) Jones, he settled on his land, and a few years later he and six others stood "Justly indebted unto y<sup>e</sup> Estate of Capt<sup>n</sup> John Carr deceased; each of them two Bevers for Pattents by Capt<sup>n</sup> Carr heretofore upon their desires brought from New York." - Records of N.C. court, 1676-81. p.381.

The writer hopes that he has given sufficient proof for his statement that Jones or St. Jones Creek got its name in 1671 through a Robert Jones being granted land in its vicinity; and, as a good soldier never uses more ammunition than is necessary, he presently advances to that no man's land where Mr. Jones and St. Jones battle for the perpetuation of their names.

O! eternal Joneses, you surely must have found the elixir of life, if you have waged this war for 236 years, and how can one soldier decide the outcome, if it is true that intelligent persons have fought for you. You know not, but you will agree to a truce? Good; as a prospective recruit I shall study your respective chances of winning before enlisting with either of you.

#### CHANCES OF ST. JONES

1. Robert Jones may have called his creek St. Jones, just as Augustine Herman may have called his creek and land St. Augustine.
2. St. Jones his Creek may have evolved from sd Jones his Creek, because of the gross inaccuracy of the provincial writers and because the patents were issued at New York.
3. St. Jones County was created out of the Whorekill in 1680, nine years after the grant to Mr. Jones.

#### CHANCES OF ROBERT JONES

1. Soon after the final patent was issued to Mr. (Robert) Jones, there were references to Jones his Land and sd Jones his Line of marked Trees.
2. Mr. Jones should have valued his estate as much or more than the creek flowing by it, so why did not he call it St. Jones?
3. In the 1370's some streams in Delaware were referred to as St. Augustine and St. Georges, and there were tracts of land referred to as St. Gileses and St. Martins; not St. Augustine his Creek or St. George his Creek and St. Giles his Land or St. Martin his Land.
4. To the best of the writer's knowledge and belief St. Jones his Creeke is a unique mistake.
5. Mr. Jones may have liked the mistake and adopted the wrong name.
6. When first mentioned, in a copy of the Duke of York Record, the stream in question was referred to as "a creek now called St. Jones his Creeke," and when next mentioned it is referred to as "a creek now called St. Joans his Creeke."



7. The following is extracted from an authoritative copy of the Duke of York Record: "Laid out for Barnard Hodges a parcell of Land called Hodges Deserts & now called James his Valley" in 1679.

8. The following is extracted from J.T. Scharf's History of Delaware: "July 5, 1679, this land was granted to Barnard Hodges, who had then occupied it for eighteen months, and it became known as 'Hodges' Desert,' and 'Jones his Valley.'"

9. Why is there a confounded tendency to dedicate land and water to Jones and St. Jones?

10. St. Jones appears in the original handwritten record of that court held in 1680, but when first written the abbreviation looks like S, cross and colon, whereas the t in the other abbreviations is conventional; thus S. Jones mentioned in Hazard's Annals of Pennsylvania is accounted for.

11. The cross (+) mark was used by many of the early settlers instead of their signatures and of course it was inserted before their surnames, therefore the evolution of St. Jones his Creeke may possibly be explained thus: St. Jones his Creeke.

12. The Province of Pennsylvania in 1682 was divided into three counties, Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester, and the territories into New Castle, Jones, and Whorekills, alias Deal. The names of the two last were again changed in December of the same year: Deal to Sussex, and Jones to Kent.

13. During the third day's convention of Penn's Assembly at Chester in December 1682 "A petition is presented for an act of union betwixt the freemen of the three lower counties, New Castle, Jones, and New Deal, and the freemen of the province of Pennsylvania." Consequently the Act of Union for annexing New Castle Jones and Deal to the Province of Pennsylvania was read three times before the assembly, approved by that body, and signed by William Penn. Thus eleven years after Mr. Robert Jones was given his patent, the freemen of Jones' County proposed and voted for Jones, rather than St. Jones, and the result of their action was written into the carefully-enacted and carefully-written "Great Law." Lastly, it may be well to remember that William Penn and his secretarial assistants were men of letters, who would not depend on assumption to form a sound base for the boundary of his newly Penn's, acquired land in America.

FROM THE PRECEDING EVIDENCE AND FROM ANALOGICAL EVIDENCE, unwritten here, THE WRITER IS CONVINCED THAT ST. JONES OF DELAWARE IS A MYTH, that has no just claim to its creek, neck, school, and former county, in Delaware.

tional Bibliography: Kent County, Delaware, Court Record A 1680-1682 Bar Marks to 1704; being the original handwritten manuscript bound in 1 v. of 162 p.  
Handwritten copy of the Duke of York Record.  
Turner, C.H.B. Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware. Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott, 1909. 367 p.

### St. Jones River

The small river—a tributary of the Delaware Bay—was named by some early Welsh settlers who located in Kent County, adjacent to the site of the present state capital, after their home parish, St. Johns in South Wales. The stream was at one time navigable to Dover for boats of very light draft. It is at present chiefly notable as being one of the two streams of water in this country in which the yellow Egyptian Lotus grows. (tradition) St. Jones is a misnomer blamable on the pronunciation of the early Welsh immigrants. The modern spelling accords with the pronunciation of the first settlers on its banks. The river is spelled St. Johns as well as St. Jones, in the official records of the counties and State. St. Jones it is likely to remain, irrespective of the fact that it was named ~~for~~ <sup>and spelled</sup> St. John, *as was the former county near Kent.*

Former Chancellor John A. Nicholson, who, to assure himself on the origin of the name visited St. Johns parish, South Wales, in quite recent years, and thoroughly established the truth of legends that had been handed down through five or six generations of Kent countians. The late Chief Justice Comegys also contended that the St. Jones River was actually the St. Johns. Some documents that came before the court, while he was the presiding justice, confirmed the traditions that St. Jones River was so spelled and pronounced because of the semi-burr in the Welsh pronunciation of English names.

Interview with John A. Nicholson.



J. Barton Cheyney,

Folk Customs.

February 25, 1937.

Polly Drummond's Hill.

While Polly Drummond's Hill was perhaps one of the best known of earlier highways in Mill Creek Hundred, it required great effort for researchers to ascertain who was the youthful widow from whom the hill took its name- after having been known for more than a century earlier as Meeting House Hill. In the "Little Known History of Newark" the author explains that Polly was avariant of the name Mary who kept the hotel that she and two others had bought from Robert Graham about 1834 for \$750. The coming of the railroads had curtailed travel by stage coaches and Graham perhaps was glad to dispose of his public house and goodwill even at the low price stated.

Molly Drummond and her partner obviously found the patronage of the inn to have been dispersed and they seemingly devoted the greater part of their attention to the bar. It is recorded that Polly Drummond fed the soldiers (doubtless the guard of United States soldiers) in the autumn of the early fifties of the last century. There is no report that ~~of~~ the widow, who was the mother of a large family, was suspected of other misdeeds than overselling whiskey to patrons. There is a tradition that one of her "guests" died in the hotel from over indulgence in strong drink and that when the undertaker came for the body he almost made the grievous mistake of taking another patron of Molly Drummond's to the cemetery instead. The latter was so overcome with strong drink that to the man of funerals he seemed dead, and was <sup>at first sight</sup> mistaken for the man whom he had been engaged to bury.

Polly Drummond's Hill is in the extreme northwest corner of New Castle county in close proximity to "Kowner Ketch" at the juncture of two old Mill Creek Hundred roads not far from the circular northern boundary of Delaware.

Reference; - Little Known History of Newark, Delaware - Cooch, 1936, p.215

File No. 101

Reference File

## LOCALITY - State Wide

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheney

Date - December 18, 1935

"Diamond State": Delaware's nickname, was applied because of the small area of the commonwealth and by reason of her prominence and importance, according to an encyclopedic explanation. The latter relates to the leading part Delawareans took in the early days of the formation of the federal and state government - the adoption of the federal constitution when other less courageous states faltered; her part in the action of the Continental Congress - including Caesar Rodney's heroic hasty ride from Lewes or Dover to Philadelphia, arriving in time to vote "aye" on the resolution of Independence and bringing the state into the group favoring our breaking from the "mother country." Delaware was outstanding in the Revolutionary War sending a larger number of soldiers in proportion to her small population, than any of the other colonies. Important by reason also of the fact that a larger percentage of Delawareans of the first rank of statesmanship participated in the early national councils than served from any other of the sister colonies.

References - Harper's Encyclopedia  
Scharf - and news clippings



harm and clippings  
addition and personal  
knowledge.

Blue Hen's Chicken: The title applied to a Regiment of Delaware soldiers in the Revolutionary War, and occasionally to an individual, courageous fearless and brave, originated in the boastful language of military camps. It is recorded as an historical fact that when regiment was marching off to war from Dover that many of the men in packing their "old kit bags" found space in which a fighting cock could be bestowed. The officers probably anticipating the diversion of the cock-pit are said to have closed their eyes to the heads of the fighting birds that must have peeped out of many knapsacks, and their ears to the crowing of the scions of the famous Blue Hen and her fighting ancestors. Officers too were unable to resist the temptation of taking their best fighting birds to war with them. Pitted against the game chickens of other troops in camp, cocks of the Blue Hen strain invariably won, and the title came to be applied in cases of triumphant game bravery. But the fighting cocks were not braver than their regiment; in one of the late important battles of the Revolutionary War, the regiment in question fought with such heroism that it was highly commended by the commanding officer of the Colonial Troops. The men in the uniform of Delaware themselves came to be known as Blue Hen's Chickens and eventually the title came into general use in praising an individual achievement that required fearlessness and daring combined with capacity to best an antagonist in any contest where safety of life and limb were at stake. The term is almost entirely obsolete these latter times.

Locality - Wilmington

Submitted by - Robert Campbell

Date - December 7, 1935

WILMINGTON - (Wil - ming - ton) - Originally Willingtown from Thomas Willing who laid out lots along the Christian River in 1731 near the present site of Market Street bridge. Corrupted into Wilmington, possibly through similarity in sound to the name of Lord Wilmington.

CHRISTINA RIVER - (Cris - tee - na) - Commonly but incorrectly called Christiana. Was first called Minquas Hill by Dutch explorers from the Minquas Indians living in the neighborhood. Named Christina by the first Swedish settlers arriving in 1638 in honor of their Queen Christina.

BRANDYWINE RIVER - (Bran - dy - wine) - First called Fiske Kill or Fishkill by early settlers. Later known as Brantweins' Creek, corrupted to Brandywine.

SHELLPOT CREEK - (Shell - pot) - Name was originally Skylpaddly of Dutch origin. Corrupted by the English first to Skillpaddle and then to Shellpot.

References: Wilmington and Christiana - Scharf's History of Delaware.

Brandywine -

Shellpot -



## Names, Pronunciation, Origin, Meaning.

In the beginning were Indians, then came Swedes, Dutch and English, but when they left they left their names. Delaware Bay and River received its earliest name from Indians.

Indians names were such as Foutaxat, Mariskiton, Makerish-Ricken or Lenape Whittuck.

Historians are settled on that it was named after Lord De La Warr by a Captain Samuel Argall who was on a ship that had set out from England to Virginia where De La Warr received a grant of land. Driven out of his course by a storm toward Cape Cod and as belated vessel passed Delaware Capes, Argall sighted the bay and named it "Delaware" in honor of Lord De La Warr. There is no record that Lord De La Warr ever sailed into Delaware Bay but some historians say that De La Warr touched the Bay during his passage to Virginia in or about 1610.

From this incident of the storm came the naming of our Bay and River and finally our State Delaware.

## Swedes and Dutch Names.

When Swedes came in 1638 they named the body of water, Delaware River -- New Swedeland Stream and the Dutch named it Zandy or South River and Delaware Bay they called Godyn's Bay. Godyn's Bay was named after Samuel Godyn a Dutchman who had received a grant of land in 1620.

Bay has also some names given by a Captain Cornelis May.

DELAWARE--Pronunciation

Del - a - war

Reference

Revised Copy

International Book of Names by C. O. Sylvester Mawson

T. Y. Crowell Company, New York, 1933.

The Winston Universal Reference Library. The John C. Winston Co., 1933.

ǎ as in ǎm, Jǎpǎn, cǎt

ǎ as in ǎsk, Belfǎst

â as in dâre, wâre, râre

NOTE:

The general pronunciation by Delawareans is

Del - á - wur

but no written authority can be found for this.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Delaware's greatest natural resources rest in its fertile soil, so admirably adapted for the growing of all types of fruits and vegetables and the raising of grains, and its water facilities, which include frontage on river, bay, and ocean, and the <sup>tide</sup> ~~low~~ water of streams. The former has brought emphasis on agriculture, while the latter has promoted trade and manufacturing.

MINERALS

The mineral resources, however, are extremely limited, as might be presumed from its generally low and sandy surface. In the past, iron ore was mined at Iron Hill and Chestnut Hill by the open pit method, but both have long since been abandoned. Iron Hill was worked off and on for more than 150 years, Chestnut Hill for a much briefer period. Bog iron ore was discovered near the headwaters of the ~~Nant~~ Nanticoke River prior to 1763, and a number of furnaces ~~were~~ established, though all of these had been discontinued by 1804, save one, which was closed in 1850.

The deposits of kaolin near Hockessin have likewise been worked from time to time, but are not now in operation. An excellent quality of porcelain-ware was the final product. The state clays have also been used for pottery, for brick, and terra cotta. In the St. Georges section, extensive shell-marl beds, containing a high percentage of potash, were worked for use in fertilizers, but, in <sup>general</sup> ~~general~~, ~~this~~ this has been dropped.

Quarries near Wilmington produce granite and limestone for local needs, ~~the notable stone being~~ the Brandywine Blue Granite. <sup>is</sup>  
the most notable stone.



FORESTS Of the 1,250,600 acres which make up the State area, it is estimated that not more than 350,000 acres may be classed as woodland. The Brandywine Forest, in New Castle County, the Ellendale Forest in the ~~east~~ coastal area of southern Kent and northern Sussex Counties, and the big Cypress, or Cedar Swamp, in southern Sussex, are the most arresting. Every evidence exists that the whole of the State area was originally heavily forested, and the three sections noted above show three distinct types of growth.

The larger portion of the New Castle County woodland lies on Chestnut and Iron Hills, and in the southwestern section from Townsend, Del., to Massey, Md., bordering the railroad branch. Another area of woodland lies between Kirkwood and Glasgow along the sources of Belltown Run. Each of ~~these~~ these forms several hundred acres of continuous forest, while other wooded tracts range from twenty to one hundred acres in extent.

The remains of the Brandywine Forest, with interruptions, borders ~~the~~ the Brandywine Creek from within the city limits of Wilmington to the Pennsylvania State Line, a distance of about seven miles. This strip of forest has a maximum width of one mile, and follows the banks of the stream to cover steep and rocky slopes. Much of this has never been cleared, little cutting has been permitted in the last fifty years, and virgin conditions exist more nearly here than anywhere else in the State.

The Ellendale Forest is the largest densely forested area in Delaware. Extending southward of Felton in Kent County, it spreads over approximately 245,000 acres. Considerable softwood is now intermingled with the hardwood.

At the south central extremity of Sussex County is to be found



the noted Big Cypress, or Cedar Swamp, which has already been noted specifically.

WATER RESOURCES Little water-power is available in Delaware, save in the northern hilly section of New Castle County, where mills and plants have long existed beside the Brandywine, the Christiana, and the White Clay Creeks. In olden times, the Brandywine, a rocky stream affording power through a series of dams, was lined with ~~fl~~ flour, cotton, and paper mills--now, ~~x~~ a single mill of importance ~~util~~ utilizes the water-power.

However, Delaware streams, and more particularly the Delaware River with its bay, play a large role in the state's commerce. Ocean vessels ply bay and river, halting at Lewes and the Port of Wilmington; other vessels not only sail the Delaware, but ascend the smaller streams which are navigable for ~~x~~ distances to smaller towns and support their commerce.

Fisheries also form a part of the water resources. Shad and sturgeon are the larger fish caught, but many other <sup>salt</sup> ~~salt~~ water varieties are taken. Fisheries are extensive at Lewes, where not only edible fish are landed in large quantities, but non-food fish, like the menhaden, are seined and turned into fertilizer, chicken food, and oil. Oysters and clams are likewise taken in quantity. Along the Delaware marshes, an extensive muskrat industry has developed.

Delaware waters, too, offer advantages from the recreational side. Bathing, boating, and fishing are enjoyed, the many ponds in the State are stocked with fresh-water gamefish, and Bowers, Little Creek, Slaughter's, Lewes, and Rehoboth are favorite salt-water fishing grounds and recreational spots.



the <sup>well-known</sup> ~~water~~ Big Cypress, or Cedar, Swamp, noted specifically on a preceding page.

The forest areas of importance are second-growth in character. Throughout the State, with the exception of the extreme northern section, one finds forest growth rather rapid, and trees reach merchantable size at an early age.

STATE FORESTS Delaware established a State Forestry ~~Department~~ <sup>Department</sup> in 1927. In the following year, the State Forest Tree Nursery, south of Milford, <sup>and</sup> four acres in extent, was purchased, as well as the Appenzellar Tract of 45 acres, lying between the Nursery and Ellendale Crossroads. The Nursery is devoted to the production of forest planting stock; the Appenzellar Tract is used as an experimental and demonstration forest. In 1934, the Redden State Forest, near Redden, Del., a tract of 1133 acres in Sussex County, was secured.

In addition, the Ellendale Forest, a tract of woodland owned by the State Highway Department, which <sup>comprises</sup> ~~comprises~~ 40 acres, was turned over to the State Forestry Department in 1932 for maintenance and operation.

It seems likely that forestry in Delaware will be given a decided impetus through the activities of the Resettlement Administration of the Federal Government. It has been proposed to purchase six thousand acres of unproductive farm land in Kent and Sussex Counties, and convert it to forest use, using government funds. From time to time newspaper articles have appeared, stating that plans <sup>have</sup> ~~have~~ been approved, and intimating the area would be turned over to the Delaware State Forestry Department for administration. Delawareans hope the proposals will go through as indicated, and that land thus unsuited for farm purposes, will be added to the forest area of the State. *If added by the State*

*Forestry will be benefited*



LAND RESOURCES Scarcely 200 square miles of Delaware's total land area of 1974 square miles ~~can~~ can be deemed non-adaptable for cultivation. This includes a small area of sand beach of perhaps 10 square miles, swampland totaling 60 square miles, and the balance tidal-marsh land--even from the latter item, marsh hay is harvested from higher and drier sections. Thus nine-tenths of the 1,263,360 acres comprised in the land area of Delaware is tillable.

The swamp land is almost entirely in Kent and Sussex County, <sup>see</sup> and it lies for the most part at the heads of sluggish streams. It is, in general, easily drained, and even the higher parts of the tidal marsh land may be utilized by cutting drainage ditches. Much of this tidal marsh land belongs to the State, and units of the Civilian Conservation Corps have cut ditches through it. This work has as its primary object the extermination of the mosquito, but since the land is improved for agricultural purposes, it may also be referred to as reclamation. The work of reclamation in the Big Cypress Swamp has already been ~~is referred to.~~ *noticed*

Submitted by M. Margaret Moor  
January 26, 1937.

260  
160  
State Drawer  
Chronological Arrangement

Middletown Newspapers.

1868      The Middletown Transcript was the first newspaper established in Middletown by Henry Vanderford. The paper has changed many hands since its first issue. It is Republican in its politics and Thomas S. Fouracre is the present Editor and Publisher.

Lewes Newspaper

1871      The Breakwater Light was first issued by Dr. I.H.D. Knowles. It was the only newspaper published in the town of Lewes.

Delaware City Newspaper

1887      The Delaware City News was published by the News Publication Company and was edited and managed by Chas. W. B. Marshall.

Harrington Newspapers

1883  
7-7      The Harrington Enterprise was conducted by B. Howard Johnson, and established by Joseph E. Horney and Robert Downs.

1913      The Harrington Journal established in 1913 with J. Harvey Burgess as Editor and Publisher. Now published.



Submitted by M. Margaret Moor.  
January 26, 1937.

*M. Conner*

161  
261

Newark Newspapers.

1876  
2-11

Saturday Visitor was established by J. H. Rowlinson, who moved from Centerville, Maryland to Newark late in 1875 and made the most remarkable newspaper venture recorded in the history of the State Press. It is said that he had but thirty-five cents in his pocket when he hit the town. Only a few numbers of the Visitor were issued when the name was changed to the Record. A little later the name changed to the Journal, by a new management. Changing hands again the name also changed to that of the Newark Ledger. Since that time it has not been changed in name, but holds a high place in the Press of the State.

1887

The University of Delaware Review, is issued by the College during the academic year with the Students of the University of Delaware as the Editors and Publishers.

1910

The Newark Post, was established as an Independent newspaper, by the Post Publishing Company.

Submitted by - M. Margaret Moor.  
January 26, 1937.

162  
Mr. Conner 262

Smyrna Newspapers

- 1832      The Delaware Star was Smyrna's first newspaper.  
Mr. Mitchell was the owner, and was discontinued  
after a short time.
- 1839?C      The Smyrna Telegraph was started by Samuel L. Jones  
1849?S      and was discontinued two years after starting.  
Abraham Poulson bought the type and presses.
- 1847?C      The Delaware Herald and Peninsula Advocate owned and  
1851?S      published by a temperance advocater Abraham Poulson.  
On March 22, 1854 he sold the paper to his son Thomas  
L. Poulson and Robert D. Hoffecker, and in July of the  
same year Mr. Hoffecker purchased the interest of his  
partner and changed the name to that of the Smyrna  
Times.
- 1854      The Smyrna Times, with Robert D. Hoffecker as the  
owner, was established as an independent paper. Later  
he sold the paper to his brother Joseph H. Hoffecker,  
in 1877 Robert D. Hoffecker again assumed ownership of  
the paper. The paper is still published in Smyrna.
- 1881      The Smyrna Record was started by F. S. Phelps, who sold  
it in 1886 to Gilbert S. Taylor. In 1889 Taylor sold  
the plant to John B. Book, who moved it to Clayton and  
established the Clayton Call. In 1897 the plant was



bought by the Delawarean Printing Company and removed to Smyrna, the name of the paper being called the Smyrna Call. Not being published now.

Reference:-

Scharf - p. 450-470

Conrad - p. 1085-1116

Check List of Union Newspapers.(1935)

Ayres - Newspaper Directory, p.136 -137

"Every Evening" which merged so many of its earlier contemporaries was doomed to share a similar fate, and accord-with a previous announcement it was purchased by the owners of its younger contemporary and its issue of January 1, 1931 was under the hyphenated title "Journal-Every-Evening" with a circulation approximating 50,000 copies every week-day afternoon. So the "Journal" moved into its rivals' finely appointed new building. Its editorial page names, George Carter and K. A. O. H. Grier, editors, under the executive editorial direction of William Maple.

The Christiana Improvement Company, later the News' Journal Company, the new owners of the "News-Journal Publishing Company", is headed by Charles H. Ten Wieges as President and controlled by "duPont Interests."



"The Sun" made an heroic but unavailing stand for the patronage and support of the Wilmington public continuing the fight against adverse conditions for more than six years. It was established in 1898 by Clement G. Cogdon of "The Philadelphia Record" and came forth from a defunct printing plant in East Sixth Street. Cogdon, however gave up the effort to further compete with the already well established daily newspapers in the city and sold paper and plant at public sale and it came under the editorial direction of George W. Roberts - a former writer on the staff of the "Morning News" - and an active local politician of radical Republican views. A new office was established at 623 Shipley Street from whence it was issued until finally abandoned as a daily - in 1904 to be continued only as a semi-weekly issued on Sunday.

Submitted by M. Margaret Moor

Date -- October 22, 1936

State 266  
Folder: Newspaper  
Re in New Castle

### New Castle Newspapers

James Adams, who established the first newspaper in Wilmington, died in 1792, and bequeathed his business to his sons. Two of them, Samuel and John, established a press at New Castle. An edition of the Delaware Laws, published in 1797, bears their imprint and that of the town.

In 1836, Enoch E. Camp established the first newspaper, called The Gazette. The Diamond State and Recorder was moved from Milford to New Castle by James B. and George W. Mahan in 1859. Both of these newspapers were short-lived, neither continuing for more than a year or two. Sometime later, the New Castle Star was founded by Joseph C. White.

The New Castle News, a successor of a long line of short-lived predecessors, was the last newspaper in New Castle. It was discontinued about 1900. A monthly, The New Ansel Magazine, made its debut in October of the same year, and continued to January 1912. It was sold to The Delaware Magazine, which was published in Wilmington.

Reference -- Scharf - page - 451-461-462

Conrad - page 1212

Mr. L. Rogers

"James Adams" - D. L. Hawkins - page 54.



Seaford Newspapers

- 1869      The Seaford Record was established by Donoho and Stevens with neutral politics. When Stevens retired his place was taken by his son, who with Donoho changed the name of the paper to the Sussex Record. In 1872 the paper was sold to a Mr. Kavano of Maryland, who in turn made two changes in name --- first The Sussex Democrat then to the Seaford Democrat. The enterprise was not successful and was soon abandoned.
- 1878      The Seaford Enterprise was started by Joseph F. Pennington and in that same year it passed into control of Thomas N. Williams and J. B. Clark, who changed the name to that of the Sussex County Index, continuing the publication until 1881. In 1881 during the summer, the Rev. John Teasdale revived the Seaford Enterprise, and in the fall of 1882, disposed of it to first one and then another, but like the proverbial bad penny --- kept reverting to him. He finally moved the plant to Vienna, Maryland.
- 1886  
July      The Delaware Weekly Review was begun publication at Harrington, by J. E. Griffenberg who finally at the end of seven weeks transferred the office to Seaford. Not in publication now.
- 1889      The Seaford News, is democratic in politics with W. D. Stevens as Editor and Publisher.

1928      The Seaford Leader, an independent paper with Wright  
Robinson as Editor and Publisher.

References;

Scharf- -age 463

Conrad - page - 1114

Historical Society

Wilmington Library

Check List of Union Newspapers.



*Kenschnur*

Subject: Conventions.

As a rule each party holds a county convention in each county every two years for the purpose of choosing candidates for the various county offices to be filled and also of selecting delegates to the State Convention. The State Convention of the party follows the county convention. It formulates a platform and chooses candidates for the various State elective offices to be filled. This system is followed in Kent and Sussex Counties. In New Castle county the majority of the candidates are chosen by primary elections.

J. F. Pote  
January 29, 1940

Agriculture  
Organizations

270

### The First Grange in Delaware

"On Friday night, J. M. Barr, Esq., Deputy Master for the Delaware Peninsula organized at Newport, the first Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry in Delaware. It is known as Diamond State Grange, No. 1."

From: - Delaware Republican, Wilmington, Delaware, March 4, 1874.



Newark - Reference Notations  
 in Wilmington Library  
 found in the Cabinet Catalogue  
 File: State Drawer: Bibliography

Origin of Name:

S.S. between 1916 & 1926.

" First Quakers in Delaware:

About the year 1682 families of Friends arrived and settled on the east side of the Brandywine, in New Castle Co. Among them were Valentine Hollingsworth, William Stockdale, Thomas Conoway, Adam Sharpley, Morgan Druitt, Valentine Morgan, and Cornelius Empson.

In 1684 a survey of 986 acres of land was made for Valentine Hollingsworth, on Shellpot Creek. The surveyor in making his return named the tract "New Worke." The owner of this land 11th month 7, 1687, gave one-half acre for a meeting-house and a graveyard. This was named the Newark Meeting.

Another explanation: (Library notation).

The first settlers said "Here we set up a New Ark." Many old records and maps have the name printed as two words " New Ark."

Scharf: 2:942-48 - Name and places; boundaries in 1772; brief acct.

Newark and a Lincoln Story (rebel pardoned for going home to see his mother.

Culture center forges ahead. S.S. 5-31-1931.

Stern. McFarlan & Stern Families. 1885. P.56. D929.2 qS83

Newark Business - B. of Trade Journal 7:13 F 1906. D381QW68

Conrad's History - 2: 497-500 1908

"Looking Around Delaware." M.N. 11-2-1935:9

Newark and Delaware City Railroad

" " Pomeroy R.R.

Newark Brick Company - see Industries: Brick

Newark Country Club Wilm. 5:44 Je 1930 D)51 qW69 v.5

Newark Female Seminary - see Schools : Private

First Presbyterian Church of Newark - see churches: Presbyterian Church

Newark Foundry - see Foundries

Newark Grange, no.5 - See Patrons of Husbandry

Newark Hotel

Newspapers: Newark Ledger ; Newark Record

Independent Order of Good Templars - Newark Lodge no.3

Newark Meeting. Newark M. E. church



-2-

Newark National Bank - see banks & banking  
" New Century Club

National Society of Colonial Dames. A Guide to some Historic Points.  
in Delaware, 1916 D 975.1 N21

Newark

"Settled about 1694.

British Army passed through Sept. 11, 1777, before Battle of Brandywine.

Northwest of town, stone marking the point on Mason & Dixon's Line  
where boundaries of Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania intersect.

Delaware College 1834, originally Newark Academy, 1767. Chartered  
by Penns 1769.

Deer Park Hotel. On this site stood St. Patrick's Inn 1750; a  
famous hostelry.

Head of Christina Church, 1708, rebuilt 1858.

White Clay Creek Church, 1720; rebuilt 1853.

Revised 1925:

no different information.

Harland - nothing

Wise -(Some Mansions of Delaware- nothing)

Newark

The Charles Madison Company. Art Work of Delaware. pub. in 12 parts.  
1898.

Part 5: Illus.; Delaware College, Newark

Part 8: Illus.: Old Academy, Newark

Part 9: p.15- Newark is the seat of Delaware College and of the famous  
Newark Academy, established in 1741, which sent forth so many educated  
contributed to public usefulness. The town has a picturesque situation in  
a thriving agricultural region, and abounds in Revolutionary reminiscences  
connected with military movements prior to the Battle of Brandywine.  
The business of the town largely pertains to the wants of the students;  
in addition it has a brickyard and factory for making hammocks and gauze  
goods. It has several societies, together with a library association.  
Population about 1,200.



Mary Mazzeo  
Feb. 15, 1940

## Education in Delaware

From the Delaware Gazette, Sept. 3, 1841.

## Newark College

The board of trustees of Newark College will hold their semi-annual meeting on Tues. Sept. 21 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The Trustees of Newark Academy will meet at the same time and place.

The public examination of students will commence on the preceding Friday.

\*\*\*

From Delaware Gazette, Oct. 16, 1840.

## Newark College

Dr. Mason, president of the College, having resigned at the close of the summer term, the trustees met on Mon. 12th, to elect a successor. Report says that the Rev. E. W. Gilbert of this city has been elected. It is understood that in case of his acceptance the lottery will be abolished and the institution will again pass to Presbyterian hands. It is also understood that the new school portion of that denomination or "Constitutional Presbyterians" as they are called in Pennsylvania and Delaware will give their united patronage. As they are a numerous and powerful body, and at present have a college of their own, there is fair prospect of its speedily taking a conspicuous place among the colleges of our land.

\*\*\*

From Every Evening, Feb. 21, 1879

Delaware College Bill

President Purnell and Professor Jeffries of Delaware College were here today (Dover, State Senate), and last evening the two houses listened to speeches from Judge Houston and others in support of the bill reported on by the committee on education. The bill will be somewhat modified so as to subject the candidates for scholarship to a competitive examination before the State Board of Education. The speeches last night were very forcible and did good service to the bill. The measure is very well received throughout the state and petitions are coming in from all sections in its favor. Therefore it is not supposed that it will meet with much objection in the legislature. The success of the bill will give an impetus to education in our public schools, that they never had before.

\*\*\*

From Every Evening, Feb. 24, 1879.

Delaware College Bill

Of four or five important issues at Dover the Delaware College free education bill will receive the most attention. Saturday's down state papers discuss the latter with much spirit.

The Newark Ledger reviews it at length under the head of a good proposition.

The Milford Chronicle endorses it heartily.

The Peninsular News says that the measure is well enough in every respect but one, that is the likelihood that politicians may make unfair appointments.



Sussex papers unanimously support it, The Sussex County Index calling upon the legislature to remember how, "it is vitally concerned with best interests of the state."

The Dover Sentinel heartily approves it.

The Delawarean which has fed so long on pap of all kinds until it has grown to be dyspeptic is mum on the subject.

Sam Townsend, war horse, with his organ, the Wilmington Gazette, are alone arrayed in a small ungrammatical but intensely profane opposition.

\*\*\*

Every Evening, Feb. 22, 1879. P.2 col. 3.

#### The Delaware College Bill

A long letter of approval was sent to the editor.

\*\*\*

From Every Evening, Mar. 3, 1879, page 1.

The original charter of Newark Academy (now known as Delaware College) was granted by Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, governors of the state of Pennsylvania, in 1769, signed by Lieutenant Governor John Penn. The original document is in a good state of preservation and the style of penmanship will compare favorably with that of the present day.

Wm. H. Conner  
December 15, 1938

Education

276

Encyclopaedia File

Extract from the Delaware and Eastern-Shore Advertiser, September 19, 1799.

Notice

The Trustees of Newark Academy are notified, That the third Wednesday (the 18th inst) of September, is the day appointed for the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees -- at which time the Members are requested to attend.

Sept. 7.



W. H. Forbes  
Aug. 13, 1940

### MILL STONE ON BRANDYWINE DRIVE

The Mill Stone on the Brandywine Drive at Adams Street was for more than one hundred years in a grist mill, at what is known as Barley Mill Dam, near the foot of Jackson Street. The mill property was owned by the Canby family from 1746 to 1883; in the latter year it was purchased by the City to become a part of Brandywine Park.

Reference: Board of Park Commissioners.

# LEGAL STATUS OF THE NEW CASTLE LIBRARY COMPANY

According to research made by the Writers' Project, the New Castle Library Company is at present without a charter, and has been without one since April 4, 1933. The first charter, granted on January 27, 1812, was on condition that it should

"have continuance by the name of the New-Castle library company, for the term of twenty years, from the passing of this act, and no longer."

This charter was reenacted January 24, 1832, with no change except that authority was given to exceed \$8,000 as the amount of property to be held by the company. The charter was to extend

"for and during and until the period of twenty years thereafter shall be fully completed and ended."

The charter, with no changes, was reenacted February 7, 1851; and once more on April 8, 1873.

On April 26, 1893, the charter was again reenacted

"for and during the period of twenty years thereafter."

A change made was that the corporation should thereafter not be exempt from taxation.

The New Castle Library Company's charter was again reenacted on April 4, 1913, without any change, thus renewing the charter for another twenty years. On the same day, the Library Company formally accepted the section of the State Constitution pertaining to the regranting of charters.

Since the twenty years for which the charter was re-granted on April 4, 1913, expired on April 4, 1933, and the charter has not been renewed, the New Castle Library Company has at this writing no legal existence as a corporation of the State of Delaware.



## NOTES

Reference to the charter will show that it was entitled "An Act to incorporate the subscribers of the New-Castle library company, their heirs and assigns." The body of the Act states the same - "That the subscribers of the New-Castle library company, their heirs and assigns, be, and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate.....". In other words, "the subscribers of the New-Castle library company, their heirs and assigns," would seem offhand to be the ultimate owners of any property that was owned by the corporation at the time the charter ran out.

Motor Vehicle Laws (Digest): Maximum speed, 45 mi.; in thickly populated sections of cities and towns, 25 mi. Minimum age for operators, 16 years; for chauffeurs, 18 years. No license required of non-residents who carry valid licenses from their home state or country. Unlicensed non-residents may lawfully use their motor vehicles in this State for 30 days in a year, if their home state or country does not require licensing of operators or chauffeurs, if they carry registration card evidencing valid registration in their home state or country and if their vehicles display the number plate or plates issued in their home state or country. Every person driving a motor vehicle is required to carry the registration card thereof, or be able to produce it within twenty-four hours under penalty. Two auxiliary driving lamps and two spot lamps are permitted.

Pass to left of all vehicles except trolleys; always pass trolleys to right when a travelable highway passage exists thereat. Give audible warning to driver of vehicle about to be passed outside business and residential sections. Keep to right when passing intersections of highways, or highways and railways. Stop at "thru-highways." Stop at least ten feet behind trolleys discharging or taking on passengers and do not proceed until every passenger has either boarded or reached a sidewalk, except at a "Safety Zone," where a full stop is not obligatory, passage may be effected at a speed not greater than ten miles per hour and with due regard for the safety of pedestrians. Use hand signals -- and regard all traffic signs and signals. When leaving motor vehicle unattended set the brakes, stop the motor and turn front wheels to curb or side of highway. Stop at scene of accident, give proper identification and reasonable assistance to any or all other persons concerned, and within 24 hours report accidents resulting in personal injury, or property damage of \$50 or more, to the nearest State Highway Police Station; or, if in Wilmington, to the Dept. of Public Safety.

Do not coast with gears in neutral. Do not park on highways. Do not pass another vehicle at a curve or upon the crest of a grade, except when the highway is visible for 500 feet ahead, or there are two or more lanes for the movement of traffic in your direction. Do not use a "muffler cut-out." Do not allow any person on the front seat who might prevent safe driving. (For local traffic regulations see Information on Wilmington, p. \_\_)



State Laws:

Fish Laws (Digest); Game fish of fresh-waters are defined as bass, brook trout, carp, crappie, eel, pickerel, pike, shad, sturgeon, sunfish, and yellow neds. Game fish of tide-waters are defined as carp, eel, herring, rock, shad, sturgeon, and trout or weak fish. OK

Open Seasons for Fishing in Fresh-waters (dates inclusive):  
Shad and sturgeon, Mar. 1-June 10; brook trout, April 16-Aug. 15; bass, June 25-Feb. 1; pickerel and pike, June 25-Mar. 1; carp, Aug. 10-June 1; eel (with net in Kent Co.), Sept. 16-Nov. 29; eel (with hook and line), crappie, sunfish, and yellow neds, no close season.

Open Seasons for Fishing in Tide-waters (dates inclusive):  
Herring and shad, Mar. 1-June 10; trout or weak fish (with net), July 1-June 10; rock (with net), Nov. 1-May 1; carp, eel, and sturgeon (with net), no close season. Board of Game and Fish Commissioners may shorten or close fishing seasons.

Licenses: Non-resident, full term, \$7.50; for six consecutive days from date of issue, \$3.25. No license required of persons under age of 16, and women accompanied by person who is legally fishing. No license required to fish with hook and line in Delaware River, Delaware Bay, Atlantic Ocean and Indian River Inlet. Licenses may be obtained from any justice of the peace; proof of citizenship is required.

Limits, Daily: Bass, brook trout, pickerel and pike, 6; crappie, sunfish, yellow neds, 12. No brook trout less than 6 inches; no bass, pickerel, pike, rock (with net), and trout or weak fish (with net) less than 10 inches; no eel less than 12 inches; no sturgeon less than 4-1/2 feet.

Prohibited: Possession of more than twice the daily limit— of game fish. Taking rock fish weighing more than 20 pounds. Fishing with hook and line not under immediate observation. Setting or placing any fyke, net, seine, or trap or other similar device in any fresh-waters, except those subject to regular tide and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Net fishing on Sunday.



Game Laws (Digest): Game animals are defined as fox, frog, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, and squirrels of the black, fox, and gray species. Game birds are defined as cock pheasants, coots, dove, gallinules, geese, quail, rails, snipe, sora, wild duck, and woodcock.

Open Seasons for Hunting Animals (dates inclusive): Frog, May 1-Dec. 31; gray squirrel, Sept. 15-Nov. 1; fox, hunting with dog only, Oct. 1-April 30; opossum and raccoon, Nov. 1-Jan. 15; rabbit, black squirrel, and fox squirrel, Nov. 15-Dec. 31; mink, muskrat, otter, and skunk, Dec. 1-Mar. 10, but on embanked meadows in New Castle Co., the close of the muskrat season is Mar. 20.

Open Seasons for Hunting Birds (dates inclusive): Gallinules, rails (except coots), and sora, Sept. 1-Nov. 30; dove, Sept. 15-Nov. 1 and Nov. 15-Nov. 30; woodcock, Oct. 15-Nov. 14; quail, Nov. 15-Dec. 31; cock pheasants, Nov. 16-Nov. 21; coots, geese, snipe, and wild duck, Nov. 26-Dec. 25. Board of Game and Fish Commissioners may shorten or close hunting seasons.

Licenses: Non-resident, full term, \$15.50; for five consecutive days from date of issue, \$5.50. No license required of persons under age of 15 when accompanied by person who is legally hunting. Licenses may be obtained from any justice of the peace; proof of citizenship is required.

Limits, Daily: frog, 24; rabbit, black squirrel and fox squirrel, gray squirrel, 6; cock pheasants, 2; coots, dove, gallinules, quail, sora, 12; geese, woodcock, 4; rails (except coots), snipe, 15; wild duck, 10.

Limits, Possession: Geese, rails (except coots), snipe, wild duck, woodcock, same as daily limits; frog, rabbit, black squirrel and fox squirrel, gray squirrel, \* cock pheasant, quail, sora, twice the daily limits; coots, gallinules, 15; dove, 20. \* Not more than six cock pheasants may be taken in a season.

Permitted: Coots, ducks, and geese may be taken from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Standard Time. Dove, gallinules (except coots), rails, snipe and woodcock may be taken from 7 a.m. Standard Time to sunset.

Prohibited: Entering upon someone else's land to shoot game or take muskrats without permission. Taking dove and water-fowl with the aid of bait or live water-fowl decoys. Taking migratory game birds, except with a shot gun not larger than



~~Page 8~~

No. 10 gauge, and capable of holding not more than three shells. Taking beaver, deer, brant, bufflehead duck, canvasback duck, redhead duck, ruddy duck, summer duck, wood-duck, Ross' goose, snow goose, plover, yellowlegs, reed bird, swan, and wild turkey -- at any time. Selling or shipping a fox or fox hide. Hunting with firearms or dogs on Sunday.

Required: A "Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp" is required of every person over age of 16 hunting ducks and geese.

Liquor Laws (Digest): Intoxicants are sold in three classes of licensed establishments; those which may sell from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight for consumption on the premises only, those which may sell from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. for consumption off the premises only, and those which may sell from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight for consumption both on and off the premises. No intoxicants are sold on Sunday, Christmas Day, and polling time of an election day. Except beer, no intoxicants are sold on July 4, Labor Day, Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day.

Prohibited: Sale of intoxicants to minors. Consumption of intoxicants while standing in a licensed public establishment.

Other laws affecting tourists: "Any person who shall wilfully, negligently or maliciously cut bark from, cut down, uproot, injure, destroy or remove a tree or trees, shrub or shrubs, or any part or parts thereof, growing or standing upon the land of another, without the written consent of the owner, or shall wilfully, negligently or maliciously do or cause to be done any other act to the damage of said land or trees or shrubs growing thereon shall be guilty of a misdemeanor." It is unlawful to "sever a limb or branch from any holly tree or cedar or other evergreen trees or saplings of any kind, growing or standing on lands owned by another, without the consent of such owner." It is unlawful to set fire on someone else's property, without permission. Whipping posts are retained to punish some criminals, and a camera or picture-taking device is prohibited "at or near" them.

*Sussex County*  
LOCATION - Laurel.

Submitted by - W. T. Bennett.

Date - June 5, 1936.

Regarding the camp meetings: Delmarva Camp, two miles north of Laurel, opens August 15th and will continue until September 2nd. Arrangements have not been completed for management, and entertainment features.

James' Camp will be opened from August 1st to 10th. The grounds are near Mitchens' Cross Roads, and the circle of cottages are nestled in a grove of beautiful oaks of virgin growth. This is one of the oldest campmeetings in this section and was the last one to modernize. A half-dozen years ago light was furnished by gasoline torches and by fires burning lightwood knots (heart of pine). The ground has been wired and current is furnished by a portable electric farm lighting plant. To reach the camp, turn right 4.6 miles from intersection at Laurel, going east on the Laurel-Georgetown highway. Turn right 7.5 to the grounds which are 7.8 from the starting point indicated above.



## ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS READ IN WILMINGTON

- Il Popolo di Italo. (Printed in Philadelphia.)
- Il Progresso. (Italian and American paper printed in Philadelphia. Main office in New York.)
- Il Fuco. (Printed in Wilmington.)
- The Observer, "L'Osservatore"

## CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Sons of Columbus.
- St. Anthony's Newman Club, consisting of boys and girls attending Wilmington High School.
- St. Anthony's Catholic Club.
- Construction Committee Club. (Mr. di Sabatino and Agostino Fortunati. Meetings are held at St. Anthony's Hall.)
- Holy Name Society.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Miraculous Medal Society.
- Chain Club.
- Sons of Italy.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE GROUPS IN THE WILMINGTON LABOR UNIONS

The Italian Sons of Labor is the only organization of its kind in Wilmington, although the Masons Union is composed mostly of Italians. The organization meets at Sons of Columbus Hall, 1715 West 4th Street, and the secretary of both groups is Mr. A.S. Bernardino. The Italians also can be found in the Bricklayers Union and the Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Union. Women of this group, employed in the shirt factories, are members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The Polish Group can be found predominately in the Leather Trades. The Leather Workers Local No. 69 meets at Polish Library Hall, Maple and Vanburen Streets and the other, the National Leather Workers Association meets at the Polish Hall, Chestnut and Adams Streets. The women of this group can also be found in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.



James B. Cheyney  
March 1, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY 287  
Anecdotes

OK 3/16/60

Encyclopaedia File

Early in the Reconstruction Days following the Civil War, a large delegation of ardent Delaware Republicans hastened to Washington to urge upon President Lincoln their views regarding the future of the Negro, and the importance of appointing administrative federal officials from the ranks of stalwart Republicanism. Joshua T. Heald was the outstanding member of the delegation and its spokesman. In formally presenting the views of the delegation to the President he concluded with the statement: "It should be remembered, Mr. President, that we are the representative men of the State - the 'heavy weights.'"

President Lincoln, obviously not impressed with the importance of the request or being in entire accord with the objectives of the Republicans of Delaware, smilingly, and with a twinkle in his eye, responded: "But aren't you gentlemen afraid that with all Delaware's heavy weights absent at one time that the little State will tilt or overturn?"

The delegates, expecting an affirmative response to their appeals, looked wonderingly at one another and bowing themselves out of the White House, silently proceeded to the Railroad depot and took the first Delaware bound train.

James B. Cheyney  
March 4, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY  
Anecdotes

188

Encyclopaedia File

Stealing was defined by Jerry to Hercules, his fellow-slave on a Delmarva plantation, in the explanation that the theft of a turkey from "Mars' Jimmy's" apple tree was justified by the fact that the same master owned the turkey and the "niggers." Jerry's ruling on the question is ingenious: "Dar's Mars' Jimmy's turkeys up in de apple tree. You an' me is Mars' Jimmy's niggers, belong to Mars' Jimmy. If you and me eat one of de turkeys what harm be that to Mars' Jimmy? What he lose from the apple tree he gains in the health and strength of we boys, don't he. Turkey still is his'n ain't it?"

Methodism on the Peninsula, Rev. Robert W. Todd, 1 vol. p. 175.

Methodist Book Concern, Philadelphia. 1886.



James B. Cheyney  
February 29, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY  
Anecdotes

289

OK JBC  
Encyclopaedia File

Soon after his first inauguration President Abraham Lincoln summoned George P. Fisher, Delaware's representative in Congress, and Benjamin Burton to the White House to discuss his plan for the purchase and liberation of all the slaves in the State with the view of inducing the States in the entire South to immediately adopt the same policy and thus abolish slavery without resort to arms, which was already impending.

While deeply absorbed by the plan, the President's youngest son, Willie, nicknamed "Tad" (who died in 1862) burst into the Executive office to display to his admiring father his new shirt, the first one with a tail that he had worn. The tail signified then when the boys of those times had put aside their swaddling clothes and were well on their way to manhood.

After expressing his approval of the appendage, the President turned to his callers and informed them with a chuckle and a smile: "Tad," ~~my son~~ here thinks his wearing for the first time a shirt with a tail is of greatly more importance than my plans for the abolition of Slavery, and I am sure that you gentlemen from Delaware will add to my boy's happiness if you inspect his shirt tail."

They each viewed it as "Tad" was exceedingly proud as an emblem of his attaining the age of real boyhood. After this cursory examination of the shirt tail which "Tad" had displayed by drawing it carefully above the top of his pants, the beloved son of President Lincoln bowed himself out of the room after kissing his father who fondly hugged the lad, who soon was called by death.

As told by Daniel Burton.

Location - Lewes, Sussex County

Submitted by - George R. Carey

Date - February 21, 1936

Topic: FOLKLORE

TOWN FILE

Lewes, having always been a town where seamen have gathered, has many quaint beliefs regarding the waters bordering this section. One which ~~has been~~ handed down since the days of Captain Kidd ~~is:~~ At certain stages of the moon a phantom ship may be seen sailing up and down the Lewes Creek. It is supposed to be that great pirate looking for a place to bury his loot. Even today, many believe that part of his treasure lies hidden in the capes east of the town.

Another superstition is to never turn a ship across the sun when starting out on a cruise. To break the jinx that will surely follow, the ship must be put back in port and re-start the voyage. In many cases disregard to this precaution has caused great loss and several of the present captains are very careful not to cross the sun when going out.

To burn a "bad weather witch" has often happened when boats have been subjected to continuously unfavorable conditions. This ceremony is done by making an effigy of a witch and to attack it with knives or guns and then burn it. It is carried out with the utmost solemnity and seriousness. When the treasure seeking ship, Liberty, was kept from her salvage work by persisting bad weather, this rite was carried out in 1935.



During the days of ship building in Lewes, it was considered necessary to put silver or gold money in the step of a mast. This is the block of wood that holds the heel of the mast in the ship. That precaution insured the masts or ship from coming to grief in a bad blow.

A strong belief that the movement of the tide can be determined by observing a cat's eyes, holds among many of the fisherman. When the pupils are small it is low water. It is said that the cause of increasing and decreasing is the "power of the moon."

During the times that wells and springs were used for supplying water, all types of dippers for drinking were available but none had the charm of the "left-handed" conch. The conch builds a spiral shell that twists to the right in most all cases. Rarely does the shell turn to the left. Water taken from such a shell is the purest in the world and gives long life and health. This idea probably arose from the fact that the ones with the right turn are unsuited for holding in the right hand.

The older farmers in this vicinity carefully study the stages of the moon before attempting to carry out many of their labors. To plant seed or butcher are two of the main duties for which vigilance is needed. If any animal is killed on the decrease of the moon, the meat will decrease while cooking. Likewise it will swell if killed on the increase. Seed planted will come to the top if on the increase and will go down if on the decrease of the lunar body.

Many ideas for control of the weather have been practiced. To burn an old shoe would cause the wind to change, but for a sure rain, a broom is burned. Burning a broom is supposed to have much more power than to hang a snake on the fence after being killed.

Breaking a mirror has no more horrors than to bring a hoe in the house. Families have moved to another residence when this incident has happened. Farmers have been known to rush to shelter with their hoe, not realizing what they had done. All mishaps afterward were blamed on that terrible act.

When hominy is made, to burn the cobs from which the corn was taken is a certain way for the hominy to become scorched while cooking. Corn cobs have always been used as a help for fuel but the hominy cobs were thrown away.

The horse shoe, a symbol of good luck, has no strength if hung with the caulks turned downward. That allows the luck to drain from the shoe. It must be placed with the caulks upward to retain the luck.

Among the roots and herbs that give strength and magnitude to the possessor, the two greatest are known as "Rasslin' Jack" and "Conquorin' Tom." The negro believe that to chew on "Rasslin' Jack" and have it in the pockets would enable them to throw all opponents at wrestling. To plait the roots and carry it in their pockets for immediate use was practiced. "Conquorin' Tom" was a root that guaranteed sure results for the young man who wished to "spark" a certain girl and had little encouragement. It must be chewed and rubbed on the body. These roots have been practically lost to the knowledge of those living in this locality today.



An old phrase, "if you want 'em to come back, get a stick and turn their track," was often used by those believing in the power of directing others by thought. If someone left you and it was against you will, all you must do is to reverse the print of the right foot without disturbing the dirt in which it is made. This was done by digging under it with a thin board like a shingle and replacing the imprint in the opposite direction. If the left track is turned, you may never see the object of your thoughts again.

✓ The old custom of "roasting eggs" has occasionally been done in recent years. The younger folks form a party to go to an abandoned house, reputed to have a ghost, to roast the eggs. A fire is built in the fire place and the eggs placed in a row along the hearth. The party then sits in the far end of the room away from the fire. It is supposed that the future mate will come in the house and turn the egg of one of the group.

The best cure for warts or skin blemishes known to the "old folks" is "ooz water." This is the water collected in a hollow stump. We get the full benefit of the treatment and for a sure cure, after washing, one must never look back when leaving the stump.

It was a common belief from earliest times that the Finns possessed particular powers of performing supernatural things. In Sweden, they were looked upon as masters in the art of witchcraft and sorcery and their reputation followed them to America. Lasse, the Finn, and Karim, the Finnish woman, were accused of witchcraft and separated from the main settlement during the time when Printz was Governor. Some of these customs show much imagination against those who practiced witchcraft in Puritan colonies.

#### Some Superstitions

If a Psalm Book should be placed beneath the head of an infant, it would prevent it being exchanged for an elf child by the evil spirits.

When a cow was sold, a bunch of hair was taken from her and preserved to prevent good luck from leaving the house with the cow.

If milk were spilled into the fire, salt should always be thrown in to prevent misfortune.

To prevent rain from falling during harvest-time, read the Lord's Prayer backwards. A cross should be cut into the broom to prevent witches from riding on it. If a spinning wheel were kept going after six o'clock on Saturday evening, the sheep would not prosper. A little of each course from the Christmas table should be taken on Christmas morning and given to the cattle to preserve them against witchcraft.



3. Williams 295-  
Folkways

WITCHCRAFT

- Bevans.

Belief in witchcraft was prevalent and superstition played a large role in the life of the settlers. It was believed that at midnight, the hour of the birth of Christ, the flame of a candle was split in two, the cattle in barns would rise up and have the power of speech for a short time but no man could dare be present.

A Danish farmer who tried to see this was roughly handled.

— by whom?

LOCATION - State Wide.

*State Report*

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney.

Date - April 8, 1936.

## THE "UNDERGROUND RAILROAD"

Thousands of Negroes escaped from bondage to Southern planters during the half century antedating the Emancipation of Slaves by President Lincoln in 1863, and even to this day a mythical railway to freedom retains its not inept name, although it is a misnomer. This safe route from the slave states to Canada received its name from pursuing Southern sheriffs and law officers in the days when Columbia, Pa., was the haven of those who deserted brutal masters for the boon of freedom. Officers from below the Mason and Dixon line were mostly able to trail their fleeing quarry up to that Susquehanna Valley town, but here they lost the "scent" and in their amazement declared that the Negroes had boarded an "Underground Railroad" and continued their flight to freedom.

The "Underground Railroad" was entirely mythical and nonexistent, instead fugitive slaves were able to evade their pursuers through the methodical planning of abolitionists - mostly Quakers in Wilmington and the southern Pennsylvania counties - Chester and Delaware. The God-fearing Friends hesitated not in the least about <sup>stretching</sup> ~~violating~~ the provision of the Constitution legalizing slavery and acts of Congress to the same intent, and their program, which cared for, fed and concealed the runaways from their pursuers was so well carried into effect that it is little wonder that non-plussed Southern



sheriffs reach the conclusion that escape was by "Underground Railroads". It is <sup>not surprising that</sup> ~~little wonder~~ that was the way they accounted for their quarry disappearing almost as soon as he had crossed the boundary between the North and South.

Runaway slaves were obliged to travel by night in order to avoid detection and arrest. They followed the North Star for guidance which every black man or woman in the South knew pointed the way to freedom. It was the celestial beacon, the modern pillar of fire that guided the <sup>e</sup>inslaved Africans out of the hands of the Southern Pharaohs. Indeed this illumination from on high was so hated by slave owners that the brilliant <sup>?</sup>star would have been torn out of the skies had it been possible.

The outstanding station in this section of the main stem of the "Underground" was in Wilmington with branches in all directions - to Kennett Square, Longwood, Concord and through the Toughkenamon Valley of Penn's domain. In fact it networked the entire State of Pennsylvania, and states bordering on the Mason-Dixon line, where houses or barns were open to the men and women who fled the persecutions of owners or slave drivers. To more definitely locate the Wilmington Station it might be said to have been under Thomas Garrett's hat. He was the conductor and those blacks who came creeping into Wilmington fearing every moment that they might be betrayed, <sup>but</sup> always knew where to find the Great Abolitionist. They had been given his name and address through some mysterious grapevine process that was miraculously accurate in detail, and they knew that one under his protecting benevolent care their freedom was assured.

The runaways <sup>must have had</sup> ~~would have~~ the route outlined in another mysterious way, and by keeping watch of the star, they rarely failed to reach their goal unless their disappearance was discovered prematurely and blood hound set on the trail. Traveling all night they reached a friendly shelter where they were supplied with food and bed and their torn clothing repaired or cast aside for other garments. They would be off again at nightfall provided with parcels of food and possibly new shoes. They would reach another safe haven before <sup>daylight</sup> nightfall, and, if the way was not clear, would hide in bushes until dark when they came to the house they sought, and through some token, spoken or written words, they found a welcoming helpful family ready to take them in. This procedure was continued day and night until they got beyond the dangerous points, when life assumed a less hectic aspect and they enjoyed rest and repose. Many continued the flight across the Canadian border, but many that took the "Underground" limited in Wilmington remained in Pennsylvania and New York, where they served their rescuers as field hands or indoor servants. To avoid the possibility of imposition from other Negroes, the runaways were provided with notes which might have read - "I am forwarding four sacks of prime black wool" (if there were four Negroes together), or another note might read: "Here are two pieces of fine Ebony for you", naming the runaways.

When the fugitives came in groups (they usually preferred to avoid the isolation and loneliness of the adventure) they were separated into smaller parties and distributed at once through the homes of that section in order that if their pursuers came upon them they all would not be recaptured.



The Wilmington "Underground" railroad attracted runaways from Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas in addition to Lower Delaware and the Eastern Shore. The conductor was immediately apprised that some fugitives had reached town, and he at once provided for their safety. It is related, to illustrate the shrewd and quick thinking necessary, that some runaways drove to Wilmington and were turned over to the stationmaster who had their horses hitched at a public place while they continued the journey in another wagon. Officers watched the team knowing it to have been stolen until after the danger of arrest had passed the conductor appeared and suggested to the sheriffs that the horses should be fed in a nearby stable at his expense. Instantly they saw Mr. Garrett they knew that they had lost their fugitives through his quick wits.

The main line of the Wilmington Underground extended to Longwood and Kennett Square and northwards to Coatesville also to Phoenixville. At Longwood, Isaac and Dinah Mendenhall well grounded in the doctrines of Elias Hicks, were conductors and they passed innumerable blacks on to freedom and happiness. They were super-Abolitionists and to their influence was accredited the founding of the Longwood Progressive Friends' Yearly Meeting, which might have been regarded a rebuke to ultra-conservatism of the established meetings of the sect. The Mendenhall house was never closed to the runaways nor were the homes of their friend and neighbors.

Utterly opposed to slavery or all suggestions of it, some of the black women they had rescued were so fond and faithful in their gratitude that they were willing to serve freely such kind considerate masters. There were innumerable similar reactions on the part of other freed men and women. The post of "Underground" Conductor required truthfulness as well as finesse. One slave who had reached Longwood via Wilmington was especially sought by a southern sheriff and his posse. The station agent built ~~him~~ a concealed little room in his huge wood pile, and when the pursuers arrived <sup>and</sup> ~~they~~ inquired for their runaway, the truthful Quaker replied "he is not in my house." In response to the further question - what about the barn? He replied, "he is not in my barn." The officers rode on without their quarry; they knew the broad brimmed Quaker would not tell a lie.

It required great courage to be known as an active Abolitionist before President Lincoln proclaimed the Negroes to be free or even after that eventful pronouncement. Those who expressed friendly and Christianly interest for them and their freedom were almost outlawed among friends and neighbors. Even though Delaware had but few Negroes in bondage - less than 400, in 1863 - mostly owned in Sussex county - it was a firmly established institution and while most of the people regarded the enslavement of labor essential to the success of the individual and the state, many slave owners had liberated the bondsmen as an economic move. They had concluded that the same work as done by a slave could be performed at less cost through payment of the then prevailing wage for unskilled workers.



However, in almost every discussion on the question of slavery the sympathy was very largely with the slave owners and to have been known as an "Underground" conductor almost challenged even the rabble to brick-bat expressions of indignation. Indeed if the speeches of some of our leading statesmen and lawyers prior to the abolition of slavery were to be voiced in the courts or from the political rostrum today they would cause a riot. In courts it was contended that the Negro was an inferior race to be treated by the whites as the latter chose - that they simply were the property of all peoples of the Anglo Saxon blood.

It is recorded in the experiences of runaway slaves, that they became homesick as soon as the excitement of the trip had given them a sense of security and freedom - until they had readjusted themselves to the new conditions and surroundings. Sons had left mothers behind; husbands had parted from their wives and children in the hope of later buying their freedom and bringing them North. Many never again heard from or of their kindred back home, but their optimism, and the confident faith and belief that their happy hopes would be realized sustained them until absorbed by the wider, broader life of freedom; they looked back on the cruel days of their slavery and thanked the Father that He had delivered them from bondage.

[Those at least who came North have long ago demonstrated the fact that the fable of the Negro being better off under conditions of slavery is unworthy of even utterance, while the log of the "Underground." discloses that <sup>while</sup> there <sup>were</sup> some good,

hugane masters among the owners of Delaware plantations, as a group they were but a trifle better than the average of their prototypes of the deeper South.

References: History of the Underground Railroad R. C. Smedley West Chester; Lancaster Journal, Lancaster, Pa., 1883; The Underground Railroad, William Still, Porter and Coates, Philadelphia, 1872. Wilmington Daily Commercial, Jenkins and Atkinson, January 23, 1871. Newspaper Clippings.



Harrington 240  
Tom file

## THE MYSTERY OF MORDINGTON MILLS

-1-

Do you believe in ghosts? No? Well, neither do I, but evidently Mrs. Holcomb does.

The old brick house encased with fir trees does have a ghost-like appearance, but no one ever thought that any of the tales told about it were true. This old house has large chains fastened into the cellar walls where slaves were fastened. Several other slave quarters have recently been torn down to make way for more modern buildings. Last year this house was bought by Mr. Holcomb and hearing her tell of her experiences in this old haunted house, which is known as Mordington Mills.

One evening Mrs. Holcomb was at home with two servants. She retired at an early hour and did not go to sleep immediately. Later she heard light foot-steps in the hall. Thinking it was her maid she did not become alarmed. The door opened and Mrs. Holcomb spoke without turning her head.

"Come in, Nancy."

"I am Tom's daughter," came a faint reply from the figure in the doorway.

Mrs. Holcomb sat up in bed and gazed at the beautiful mulatto girl before her. Thus she sat, unable to voice her emotions, while the girl wandered aimlessly around the room repeating, "I am Tom's daughter."

Finally Mrs. Holcomb got control of herself and ran from the room, calling the servants. Upon their return to the room, they found it empty.

Mrs. Holcomb immediately set to work looking up old records of the house. In one record she found that a rich young slave-trader had once occupied the house and carried on slave trade with England. He had bought a lovely mulatto girl who was the daughter of Tom Butchman, a valuable old slave of the South. The young master was overcome by Flossie's beauty, and tormented her with his incessant love-making. He molested her so much that she ran off.

Flossie roamed about the country for two weeks, trying to get to the South to see her father, but she was captured and brought back to her master, who had chained her in the cellar. After a week of punishment she was again set at liberty. Her master asked her if she would willingly submit to his affections, and she became so infuriated that she tried to kill him. He locked her for two days in a bedroom where she had neither food nor drink. The next morning she was found lying on the ground under her bedroom window with a broken neck.

"Well," said Mrs. Holcomb, carefully folding the record, "What do you think of that?"

"It is a puzzling affair," answered her husband, "but yet ----Say, here is an idea! It's only a hunch, but it does sound reasonable. You know we were planning to remodel that fireplace in your room? Well, maybe she hid something in there and came back to warn us not to disturb it. How does that sound to you?"

Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb retired to the latter's bedroom with trowel and hammer. The searching continued until the late hours of the night.



"Oh, the devil!" exclaimed Mr. Holcomb, throwing down the trowel with disgust, "We should have had more sense than to start this in the first place."

Mrs. Holcomb lay in bed long after her husband had left the room. When everything became quiet she slipped from the bed, lighted a candle, and kneeling before the fireplace, took up her trowel and began to work. So absorbed was she in her work that she did not hear the long black car that drew up the long drive under the trees that shaded the lane.

Three men climbed stiffly out of the car and made their way silently up the lane, concealing themselves behind a boulder of rock in the dark shadow of a willow. From their position they could watch the house without being seen.

Shivering in the cold, they watched the light in the upper window. One of them, restless, slapped his hands together to restore circulation in his cold fingers.

"Can that!" hissed the warning voice of the leader.

"Say, Bill, a'int this sorta risky? You know the fireplace is in the lady's bedroom. Suppose you get caught?"

"Shet up.! I'm runnin' this shebang! If I get caught I'll grab the dame and bring her along. If a ghost couldn't run 'em out we'll see what 'Slick Bill' can do. You stay here while I goes up and looks over the lay."

The window shades were partly up, and at one of the windows he carefully raised himself above the sill and cautiously peered within.

Mrs. Holcomb was about to give up in despair when her trowel struck something hard. She reached down into the ashes and drew forth

her hand holding a large leather bag.

"My Heavens!" exclaimed Mrs. Holcomb, "I do believe I have found a---" She said no more, for a large hand was clapped over her mouth while another hand snatched the bag from her trembling fingers. Why was the room rocking in such a crazy fashion? Who had blown out the candle? Why was everything so---so dark?

When Mrs. Holcomb regained consciousness she found herself lying upon the floor in a corner of a cabin. She knew that much by the rough beams above her head and the log walls. She lay quietly upon ~~xxxx~~ her back, staring intently at the roof. Her head ached dully and her brain was in a whirl. It was as if she were dreaming. Wearily she closed her eyes and turned to relieve the ache. A stab of pain that shot through the top of her head brought a groan. Tears sprang to her eyes, but she turned away to hide them, because someone was opening the door.

"Here's some coffee, Lady." The man came in with a cup of steaming brew. He slipped his arm beneath Mrs. Holcomb's head and raised her while she drank the coffee.

Later in the day the man came back with food. It was a rough fare, but he persuaded Mrs. Holcomb to eat something which seemed to give her strength and stop the whirling of her brain. The man refused to talk and would not allow her to ask questions.

She was much improved in the morning, but still too weak to think of leaving her blankets, so she contented herself with thinking over the situation in which she found herself.

"Why did they take me away? They won't tell me. They say they won't hurt me if I don't make trouble, and they say that I can go in a few days. I'm too closely guarded to get away by myself.



I can't figure it out," thought Mrs. Holcomb aloud. What good keeping me a prisoner would do anybody is more than I can see. They haven't said anything that would give me a hint."

Mrs. Holcomb must have fallen asleep with her thoughts, for she suddenly became aware that someone was in the room with her. As she turned to look into the rough features of the man beside her he said, in his most gentle manner, "Sorry to disturb you, Lady, but we got to be leavin' this place. I hope you feels better now, 'cause we are going to take you home."

"Well, that is a pleasant surprise I must admit. But let me tell you one thing. Although I am a poor weak woman I will not leave here until you tell me why I was brought here in the first place."

"Well, Ma'am, things like this happen to folks who don't mind their own business."

"Do you mean to say I was not minding my own affairs? I was just peacefully in my own home and I am sure I was doing nothing to bother you."

"No, Lady, but you moved in on us kind of sudden like."

"Moved in on you? Stop telling riddles and explain this to me before I die of suspense."

"Well, you see, we didn't know the old house had been bought and we--- well, we sorta had a hide-out in the old place. Me pal and me buried that sack that you dug up in the fireplace, and---"

"What was in that sack I found, I would like to know?"

"It was money, Ma'am. Money we got from --- well, it's none of your business where we got it."

"You need not tell me that, but I know you did not get it honestly. Proceed."

"Well, you dropped in one day when we wasn't exactly 'spectin' company, so we vamooseed, intending to come back for the money. When we decided to go back and get it there you was, holding it up and ~~gla~~ gloating over it. Wasn't nothin' to do but grab you along with the money 'till we could hide it in a safe place."

"Well, I am beginning to see light, but I don't understand about--about the ghost. Do you know anything about that?"

"Oh, sure, Lady," he said with a broad grin. "That was a right clever idea, even if it did start you searchin' in the fire-place. You see, while we was stayin' there we found that record. When we had to go leave the money we thought maybe we could scare you off and we could come back to the house again. That ghost you saw was the daughter of the cook here in this shack what's been cookin' your meals fer you."



LOCATION - Sussex Co.

SUPERSTITIONS

Hogs must be killed on the "light of the moon" or the meat will shrink.

Everything that is put into the ground must be planted on the "dark of the moon" or it will not produce a good crop.

If there are bushes or weeds that are in the way, cut them on August the thirteenth and they will never come up again.

Cut wood on September the twenty-third and worms will never get into it.

The shores of Delaware Bay <sup>have been</sup> ~~were~~ searched again ~~and~~ again for the treasures that Captain Kidd was supposed to have cached deep in the ~~sands~~ <sup>sands</sup> at some conjectural points along the western ~~bbb~~ waterway. The occasional plowing up <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ spots of old coins on ~~New~~ farms revived the hunt which perhaps will go on for years to come. Tradition that the piratical Kidd had secreted his treasures along the Delaware Bay was further upheld by the circumstance that he made many raids on vessels in the bay and had robbed them down to their last item of worth. The hunt, however, ~~still goes on~~ has never been entirely abandoned but is spurred to ~~new~~ renewed effort by the finding of money along the west shore of the bay bearing dates, *connecting* with the ~~visits of the~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~manrauding pirate~~ visits of the manrauder. Captain Kidd's last visit to Delawares was with a ship laden with valuable plunder from New England. After anchoring his craft ~~far off~~ off Lewes, he went ashore and induced some of the citizens to buy largely of his stolen cargo and after they had sold their shares of the treasures they were apprehended by William Penn's officials, charged with promotion of illegitimate trade. Soon after the terror of the seas made the Lewes deal he was captured and taken to England where he was hanged protesting his innocence.

Paddy Dabney <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ Oyster Point, Md., declared that ~~in 1836~~ he met the Diabolical Sea wolf's ghost as he was going home from the village tavern on night in 1836, 135 ~~year~~ years after Kidd had been put to death in England. Paddy ~~had~~ <sup>recalled</sup> recognized the ghost after viewing ~~as Kidd's~~ <sup>as Kidd's</sup> ~~from a~~ portrait, he had seen years before. He followed the vision which lead him into a wooded tract where ~~he~~ <sup>Kidd</sup> he saw him playing at bowls, with a party of devils. Dabney was fully convinced that the pirate had sold himself to the devil.

Newspaper clippings;

Myths and Legends of Our Own Land, Charles M. Skinner, 2 vols 4th ed. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1896



## Taking The Cat

Delawareans of earlier days acted upon the traditon that it was sure to invite misfortune if the <sup>house</sup> family cats and their kittens were not taken along when families removed from one home to ~~another~~ a new one. The same superstitious belief was general throughout the colonies, and later the states. Leaving <sup>a</sup> Pussey behind is supposed to arouse some occult form of retaliation in the feline nature. The desert ion of black cats

was supposed to bring the most fearsome aftermeth, for tradition declared that the black cat had the power to transform itsself into an abode for witches whose spells it was empowered to turn loose ~~when~~ at any moment especially to avenge any wrong that had been inflicted upon the <sup>species</sup> family mouser. Pussy was also believed to have some mysterious guft as weather profit and it was not doubted that ~~the cat~~ <sup>a</sup> cat washing it face was an unfailing token of an approaching rainstorm. In later days <sup>accuses</sup> pussy has been stripped of all power for evil and ~~whenever~~ is very apt to be left behind when ~~her owners~~ her owners move to ~~a new~~ <sup>a</sup> new ~~homes~~ homes.

Newspaper Clippings.

Louis Tredenick, the first saloon keeper along the ~~Rehoboth~~ <sup>of Delaware Bay</sup> Rehoboth section was accused by a ~~Delaware~~ statesman of national prominence to have been the number 1 pirate of the little state. Before coming to Delaware, about the middle of the last century, ~~he~~ <sup>Tredenick</sup> had been an animal trainer and followed the "big top" a few years, ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> he found the ~~shore~~ a strip of seashore on the Southern coast of Delaware ~~there~~ a site that seemingly met with his full approval. He erected thereon a shack which was chinked with ~~tin can~~ <sup>old</sup> ~~metals~~, and opened a bar. Patrons were often treated to demonstrations of his control of animals, especially a mare that followed his commands as if she were human. He would put her through the paces and have her walk lame. Everybody was astonished, but he did not inform them that at night in times of severe storms he strapped a lantern around the horses neck and had her limp up and down the coast for hours. The light was supposed to have been a friendly invitation to a place of safety, but ~~the~~ <sup>ships</sup> captains that followed its guidance to shelter found their vessels hard and fast on the Hen and Chicken Shoals from which none escaped. After the craft had been lured to her destruction the mare was recalled and Tredenick waited for wind and water to sweep the timbers ~~and~~ of the wrecks and their cargoes up in front of ~~Tredenick's~~ <sup>his</sup> front door. Perhaps the most sought for articles ~~are~~ this salvaged by the crafty pirate were the casks and cases of wines and liquors, ~~and~~ which brought to the squatty little cabin on the bare sands near Rehoboth the reputation of serving the finest liquors to be bought over a bar in this country.

Personal Recollections;

Interview with Secretary of State Thomas F. Bayard  
while bathing in front of Tredenick's ~~home~~ <sup>groggery</sup>



Smothering the victims of hydrophobia, bitten by a rabid ~~a~~ dog or cat was long regarded as the only humane method of putting an end to their awful agonies. In such cases the sufferer was placed between two beds and neighbors piled upon them until the patient's life was over.

An old historian records that in 1818 Shadrick Cannon, of Seaford, was bitten by a rabid cat and hydrophobia developed in a few days when his sufferings became so horrible that three neighbors acting, under the sanction of the attending doctor, smothered him to death. The case cited was that of a Seaford storekeeper but the same treatment for hydrophobia victims was administered in other sections of Delaware until a noted ~~was~~ French scientist in late years discovered the method of nullifying poison inflicted by rabid animals.

History of Seaford, 1799-1856, Robert B. Hazzard.

# Old Christmas Still Observed.

A comparatively small group of Christians in lower Delaware and ~~others~~ of the Eastern Shore of Maryland still observe January 6th - the final day of the feast of, ~~Epiphany~~ Epiphany as the true day for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The custom which antedates the middle Ages is also observed by the Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in Wilmington. The Negroes of the same sections, perhaps more liberal in their religious convictions, celebrate both the new and the old Christmas and observe them as holiday-~~festal~~ festal occasions. The superstitions attached to Old Christmas in the earlier days have almost entirely disappeared, but some of them have retained their hold on the credulity of very few Delawareans.

The older traditions ascribed to the January 6th ~~celebration~~ Nativity - ~~Twelfth Night~~ Twelfth Night, that animals lose their fear of man; Even foxes come out of their dens and bark throughout the night unafraid of human molestation, and that ~~hounds~~ hounds refuse to trail a fox during Old Christmas ~~and~~ season. Geese huddled ~~in~~ about the senior gander and <sup>to</sup> chickens ~~were~~ were ascribed the ~~habit~~ impulse to cackle or crow from sundown until midnight, during the week of January 6. Old Housewives busy themselves the day before Christmas Day - ~~the~~ Twelfth Night) cakes of flour, ~~flour~~ honey, ginger and ~~pepper~~ pepper into which was placed a ~~small~~ small white bean. According to the traditions ~~to the effect~~ super good ~~fortune~~ fortune attended those who got the bean. Pupils of Georgetown High ~~School~~ School in quite recent years ~~reenacted~~ for the public's information, the Old Christmas Celebration of their Delaware forebears. The menu, conformed to the viands of the long ago (borrowed from the English custom), included raust braun, right savory, mustard, withal frementie (wheat grains) peacock pie, and magipan. The procession of lords and ladies and their attendants was headed by the latter bearing aloft a ~~flaming~~ flaming boar's head.

Interviews and Newspaper Clippings.



*Many* Farmers in lower Delaware still observe the custom of their forebears and cut off a large portion of the tails of hogs that ~~have~~<sup>they</sup> have set apart for fattening and butchering. Tradition ascribes to the detailing of porkers a saving of one half bushel of corn for every inch sliced from the rear appendage of ~~porkers~~<sup>pigs</sup>. The old belief ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> that the hog slaughtered in the dark of the moon he will lose several pounds in weight between the killing and his final dissection into hams, shoulders and sausage. Consequently the full moon period is preferred by a number of Sussex county farmers who still hold to the traditions of the ancestors. Not a few of the Delaware ~~farmers~~ farmers in planning to cure their meats for winter, set a brooding hen, or plant trees or shrubbery, look ~~head~~<sup>head</sup> skywards for directions as to the best time for their undertakings. Those out of the zone of daily newspapers ~~say~~ declare they can ~~predict~~<sup>by</sup> predict the coming weather conditions by reading the signs outlined ~~on~~<sup>by</sup> the clouds even as accurately as the ~~weather~~<sup>weather</sup> Government bureau can fortell rain ~~or~~<sup>or</sup> sunshine a day or two in the future. Such ~~weather~~ weatherwise men declare that nature rarely misleads them after they have acquired the methods by which to interpret her moods.

*1 Newspaper Clippings*

Maiden Pall Bearers for Spinsters.

The burial services for Miss Mollie Vining, the Revolutionary belle ~~and~~ heiress<sup>is</sup> was, the last recorded observance, of the early custom of summoning unmarried women as pall bearers for the ~~hhh~~ spinsters. Upon that occasion there were six maidens wearing segments of white linen ~~drawn~~ drawn over their bonnets, fastened under their chins, with long ends hanging loose. The bearers were daughters of well known families and perhaps had never seen Miss Vining in life and possibly were prompted by a curious interest to ~~see~~ <sup>glimpse</sup> the noted eccentric beauty, who rarely went out of her home unless in a carriage. They attired themselves after arriving at the funeral house (Tenth and Market Streets, Wilmington) and evidently enjoyed the experience. ~~They were~~ They placed the coffin at the waiting grave in Old ~~Swede's~~ <sup>Swede's</sup> burying ground ~~where~~ <sup>which</sup> It seemed almost beyond human understanding to know that almost every trace of the Dover Revolutionary Belle, was destroyed or lost. The marker on her grave has disappeared and almost all her personal belongings were lost in ~~the~~ the destruction by fire of ~~afreind's~~ <sup>Freind's</sup> house where they were stored.

[Data through Mrs. Charles Ridgely, Dover and Reminiscence of Wilmington Elizabeth Montgomery ~~pp~~ pp. 103, 310, Johnson and Bogia, Wilmington Del, 1872



### Early Marriage Customs.

Soon after the establishment of English control in Delaware the earlier Swedish marriage customs became shattered, and brides of the Swedish denominational beliefs manifested and indulged a marked preference for the newly ~~an~~ a code as adopted by the Church of England. Under Swedish control brides were required to announce their prospective marriages for three successive Sundays when they were rather sharply interrogated by the minister of the Old XSwedes congregation. This part of the preliminaries they shunned but observed until they had recourse to the customs of their successors as rulers of Delaware. The Church of England Ministers were usually called upon by Swedish prospective brides and bridegrooms for the marriage service. They thus avoided a long drawn out ministerial discourse on the sacredness of wedlock. But turning to the English custom they did not forfeit allegiance to their own church, but when obtaining a marriage permit they were obliged to ~~wed~~ marry immediately. If by chance the license was ~~obtained~~ secured at night they were obligated to hunt up the minister at once and ~~then~~ the marriage ceremony was performed-instantly. Neither night nor storm was permitted to delay the marriage. Only a few perhaps of the more prosperous and worldly-minded of the Swedish Colony prepared feasts or entertainments for the newly wedded couple. Dancing and similar gaiety were looked upon as loose and disreputable diversions.

History of New Sweden, Israel Acrelius, p. 257, Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, 1872.

Under the Swedish rule in Delaware marriages were rather embarrassing to modest brides who were obliged by the code, to appear three successive Sundays and reply to all questions submitted by the preacher, and officials of the Old Swedes Church. The announcement of the prospective wedding gave opportunity for the minister to inquire into the fitness of the couple. With the coming of English rule on the Delaware the former Swedish custom was set aside and the Church of England ministers were usually called on to perform the ceremony-even though the bride and bridegroom did not surrender allegiance to the faith of their fathers. When an English license was obtained immediate marriage was one of the conditions under which it was <sup>granted</sup> ~~obtained~~. These ~~were added~~ required, even though obtained at night, the clergyman was obliged to perform the ceremony, ~~then~~ Swedish brides preferred the marriage ceremony of the Church of England to their own which required them to sit through and listen to long doctrinal ~~sermons~~ discourses before they were called to the altar ~~and~~ with the bridegroom. Only a few-perhaps the most prosperous of the Swedish Colony celebrated the marriage with feasts or entertainments and those who did ~~not~~ frowned on dancing as a loose disreputable diversion as were plays and similar forms of entertainment.

History of New Sweden, Israel Acrelius, p 257, Pennsylvania Historical Society Philadelphia, 1872.



The natives of Finnland who came with the Swedes to Delaware in 1638 brought many of the uncanny superstitions with them to the New World.

Their prophesies <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ tragical legends kept the first colony in a constant state of apprehension and the Indians were likewise fearful lest the white man was in ~~conf~~ communication with the devil and could unloose almost, and calamity on the settlers and the aboriginies. So deep seated was the conviction ~~in the colony~~ that Lazzie, the Finn and Karin the Finnish woman were holding intercourse with the evil one, that Governor Printz was ~~obliged~~ obliged to sequestrate them to prevent an outbreak and possibly a riotous demonstration against them.

The early Finns were insistent on the actual and literal <sup>translations</sup> ~~translations~~ of their traditions <sup>entering</sup> ~~being translated~~ into their everyday lives. For example they insisted that the head of a newly born baby could escape kidnapping by evil spirits, and an elfin infant given its place, only by placing its head ~~over~~ in the Scriptures open at the Psalms of David. Unless the farmers could repeat the Lord's Prayer backwards without halting, growing crops would be ruined by downpours, and in fact destroyed. They believed that cutting a cross on a broom, would bar witches from riding upon them; while disaster to the sheep flock was sure to follow the running of the spinning wheel after six o'clock <sup>Saturday</sup> ~~of~~ evenings. They held that a cow sold to even the next neighbor took with her the good fortune of her former owner unless the latter thought to secure and keep a some <sup>her</sup> of ~~its~~ hair. Another of the firmly embedded traditions of the Finnish emigrants was to the effect that by feeding the farm stock with a tiny portion of each of the Christmas Dinner dishes their cows horses and ~~she~~ <sup>and</sup> would be immunized against all disease or misfortune for a year.

Perhaps the greatest of all their obsessions was cleanliness or, bathing in houses that were heated to an almost unbearable temperature where they passed many hours undergoing the different stages of the

*W. B. Lynch*

For two hundred years the people of Lewes and of adjacent Sussex County have been celebrating Easter Monday with egg rollings and picnics at the sand dunes and "petrified forrest" on the shores of Cape Henlopen. These "frolics" are glorification over the end of Winter weather. Curio seekers are numerous in the gatherings-often of 2000 people-for the tides bring in many rare articles like the teeth of sharks and pieces of wrecked vessels that may have come from the other side of the world. Of late years the ruins of Old Cape Henlopen Lighthouse has added to the attractions. It was one of the oldest in this country but was undermined and crushed by the sea after a century and almost a half of service.

U.S. deputy Marshal Lynch of Georgetown  
Lewes correspondent of the Morning News

*B.*



Location: Delaware

SWEENEY J.  
Dec. 1937.

*Not Edited*

# RACIAL ELEMENTS, FOLKLORE AND CUSTOMS

Outside metropolitan Wilmington, a bird's-eye view of Delaware reveals a sort of landed aristocracy, possessing in not a few cases the same estates that were granted to their ancestors during the administrations of the second Duke James of York and William Penn. True, a few Scandinavian and Dutch families continued to reside in Delaware after British rule began, in 1664, but after one hundred years of Colony and State (about ninety years ago), the greater part of the white inhabitants were immediate descendants of those colonists from the British Isles, mostly English and Welsh, who settled all over Delaware before 1700 and immediately afterwards. A group of French refugees, fleeing from political disturbances in France and Santo Domingo,<sup>1</sup> established themselves in Wilmington during the 1790's, but these and a subsequent trickling of immigrants from Europe and other States are not credited with having materially altered the racial status quo before famines in 1845-1846 started the "great exodus of the Irish race."<sup>2</sup>

The Federal census for 1860 showed 9,165 foreign-born persons in Delaware, of which number 5,832 were from Ireland, 1,581 from England, and 1,263 from "German States." These figures were still remarkably the same in 1880, notwithstanding an addition of 34,392 to

1 K. A. Horner, "Contemporary Scene," October 1936.

2 C. R. Taylor (Edit.), The World Wide Illustrated Encyclopedia (New York, 1935), II, 2660.

the total population; hence, as the Germans as well as the English and Irish became quickly assimilated with the older inhabitants, any noteworthy changes in the long-standing racial strains were destined to occur during the past half century.

The total population of Delaware was 146,608 in 1880, or less than one-half the 238,380 population in 1930 — and an estimated 259,000 in 1936.<sup>3</sup> During these fifty years the population of the city of Wilmington increased from 42,478 to 106,597, so that through a noteworthy increase during the past five years it is at present almost one-half that of the entire State and exceeds by approximately 30,000 the combined population of Sussex and Kent Counties. Figures for these two counties are still nearly the same as they have been for several decades; therefore, it follows that a large number of persons have entered New Castle County in general and Wilmington in particular during the past fifty years, and that these persons constitute the salient racial elements other than non-white and descendants of Colonial and early State inhabitants.

Construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad through the northern part of the State (1883-86),<sup>4</sup> plus increased building and industrial advancement attracted 1,527 Poles and about 300 each of Swedes and Russians and raised the foreign-born Italian population from 43 to 1,122 between 1880 and 1900. The same period marked the arrival of over 1,000 Germans, and an almost stationary continuation of other foreign-born figures of pre-Civil War compilation.

<sup>3</sup> D. Crowe, "Delaware Today," February 1937.

<sup>4</sup> K. A. Horner, "Contemporary Scene," October 1936.



The 1930 census shows 16,885, or 7.1 percent of the total population, foreign-born whites, and 33,785, or 14.2 percent, native-born whites of foreign or mixed parentage. In both of these categories the countries represented with more than 500 persons are: Italy, 10,285; Irish Free State and Northern Ireland, 9,648; Poland, 8,939; Germany, 5,560; England, 4,199; Russia, 3,488; Scotland, 1,380; Austria, 1,192; Canada, 1,146; Sweden, 718; Greece, 604; and France, 543. All other countries -- and there are more than a dozen -- are represented with only 2,698 whites.

Subtract from the foregoing groups the peoples from the British Isles and Germany who quickly adopt American manners, and little remains besides Italians and Slavs. Huge majorities of the two latter groups are located in Wilmington and it may be said that all of these Slavs are alike, hence a few words about the Italians and Poles of Wilmington should illustrate the progress of foreign and semi-foreign peoples in Delaware.

The Italians have come from both North and South Italy, so while it is impossible to portray them in one typical picture it can be stated that they do not retain the wide differences in character which exist between the natives of Milan and Palermo, for instance the long-head, dark Calabrians and Sicilians from South Italy appear to have overcome their violent inclinations. "Little Italy," with an area of twenty small city blocks, contains more than one-half the Italian population of Wilmington, and this representative "colony" is extremely American compared to the New York "Bowery Colony of Italians" described in Old World Traits Transplanted by Park and Miller, 1923.

With homes and styles of dress as clues it is doubtful whether Sherlock Holmes could find "Little Italy," for on the surface it does not appear any different from other average sections of the city. Unlike those in other State communities the Italians in Delaware are not fired with the desire of acquiring enough wealth for the purpose of returning to Italy to stay, and this spirit of contentedness together with family responsibility tends to assist the State program of Americanization. While Italian women are chiefly concerned with home and church, the men are employed mostly as barbers, building contractors, cobblers, confectioners, quarrymen, stonecutters, and tailors. Some of their fruit and vegetable stores in Wilmington are operated on a wholesale or commission basis, but if it were not for a few druggists, policemen, and lawyers, they would scarcely occupy any professional positions of responsibility. Many of the younger generation are being given higher education than is offered by the ordinary public schools and it is presumed that they will give a final Americanizing touch to "Little Italy," where even in this year several young men politely answered "I don't know; I'm American," when asked some questions pertaining to Italy.

Of medium stature, with clear complexion and wide expressive mouth, the Poles of Wilmington occupy crowded rows of modest homes, generally neat on the exterior and immaculate in the interior. Indeed, the fastidious attention to neatness by these Poles from West Prussia<sup>5</sup> is comparable only to that of the Ukrainians from Polish

5 Franklin Pote, "Ethnology," February 1936.



Galicia,<sup>6</sup> and inasmuch as it does not conform to the general picture of these Slavic peoples it is thought to be an item worthy of record. The Poles were agriculturists before coming to Delaware, but it is now difficult to find a Polish family looking to the soil for a livelihood. Instead, the men are employed in shipyards and such mechanical industries, the women work in textile shops, and large numbers of both toil in morocco factories. They also own and operate many stores and barrooms. A stranger by race who enters a Polish home may find the parents secluding themselves in a state of introversion, but should he impress them favorably he may find that he is surrounded on all sides with a delightful air of congeniality and that he is as welcome as Thaddeus Kosciuszko. The men and even many of the women like to indulge in small games of chance and to some extent in intoxicants, nevertheless the Poles "pay their way," most of them own their homes, and the men in general treat their women very well. Polish men are not concerned with the deportment of feminine members of their families as Italians are; they feel that their women and girls are capable of taking care of themselves. Through hereditary skill and experience in textile shops, many of the women especially the grown girls make and alter their own clothes in accordance with current styles and embroider articles of sheer intricate beauty for the home. In general, the Poles worry little about political and governmental doings, still they maintain an association which offers

<sup>6</sup> Alex Ramsey, "The Ukrainian Community," July 1936.

to its circle recreational facilities and urgently-needed social assistance, and textile workers express a wish for new Federal legislation along the lines of the NRA. The Poles possess a pleasing racial pride. Every year they honor Casimir Pulaski and the greater countryman of theirs who organized a revolt against the "Benevolent Despots,"<sup>7</sup> after assisting George Washington in America.

In Delaware, as elsewhere, a common problem among the foreign-born groups is disagreement between parents and children, for being better educated and disposed to rebel against the strict home rules of Europeans, the children consider themselves superior to the parents in every respect — especially those of them who were born in America. This and a variety of other problems are being greatly decreased from year to year and the situation of the foreign-born in civil and social American life reflects credit on the Division of Adult Education and the Service Bureau for Foreign Born People through the agencies of which the State conducts an elaborate program designed to weave the foreign-born into a network of domestic and communal harmony and to make them immensely more useful to the country than citizens on paper.

There <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ only <sup>a total of</sup> 84 Chinese, Mexicans, Filipinos, Japanese and Indians in Delaware when the 1930 census was taken, hence the foreign and semi-foreign element seems small when the total population is 13.7 percent Negro and 65.00 percent native white offspring of parents who were themselves born in the United States.

During the past few years an uncounted number of persons have come to reside in Delaware in order to continue in the employment of

7 J.H. Breasted and J.H. Robinson, History of Europe, Ancient and Medieval, &c. (Boston, 1920), pp. 612-623.



companies who enter to take advantage of low terms of taxation. Most of these newcomers from other States live in and about Wilmington, and besides increasing the population they are not noticeably altering the racial picture, which when briefly exhibited, is: Cosmopolitan Wilmington radiating its influence over the northern part of New Castle County, while the remainder of the State — predominantly agricultural, without a town of 5,000 population — shows "Mayflower Americans," with the inherent independence (now mostly political) of their ancestral plantation princes.

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Population figures have been collated with their sources-JS

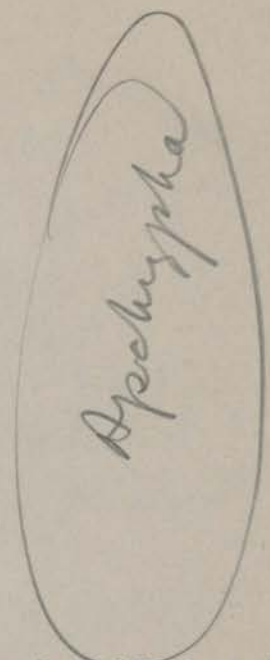
FCBISHOP

July 29, 1936

Story - With Tour 17

BRIDE AND GROOM TREES

(In Lewes)



The Coleman property along King Street still has the old family dwelling, a rambling house with its dormer-windowed ell, which is known to this day as "The House of the Bride and Groom Trees." Originally planted to shade the carriage gate into old King's Highway by Miss Margaret Coleman, they were intended to celebrate her marriage.

Her engagement to a young cleric, James Hargis, had been announced and, as was the custom of that time in many parts of the United States of 120 years ago, she planted two cypress trees as symbols of enduring love. But <sup>misfortune</sup> cast some unknown and unexplained spell and the cleric disappeared into obscurity, while Miss Coleman <sup>married another</sup> lived to a ripe and useful old age, ~~unmarried~~. ~~However~~ The trees, today, tall and strong, stand as a testimonial to ~~the touching faith of~~ youthful idealism.

...f30b..



*Burlington Transcript* 319  
*Customs*

J. Barton Cheyney.

Biographies

January 27, 1937.

Interesting Incidents.

"Woman Lawyer"

One of the picturesque but not interesting personages of the last century was the first woman to practice law in the city and county also in adjacent Pennsylvania Courts. She is recalled by the name of Mary Johnson. Wearing a man's hat, carrying a long staff and clad in a coarse petticoat and short dress she was a regular attendant on the courts at New Castle. She had read and imbibed the law, its terms and phraseology and was ready to match all the quirks and quibbles of her fellow attorneys. Involvement in law suits was a mania with her. As a landholder she was often counsel and defendant or plaintiff and came into court with the confidence and assumed dignity of a supreme justice. She met the ablest lawyers of the then powerful Delaware Bar and <sup>rarely</sup> ~~never~~ lost a worthy case. Her ability was enhanced by her wide understanding and originality.

Wilmington Delaware  
Customs 330

J. Barton Cheyney  
February 26, 1937.

"Crown Prince" of Christeen.

Perhaps no one of the Christeen colony was so <sup>royally</sup> ~~gaily~~ attired as John Adolphus Girelicious, the son of the last commissioned rector of the Swedish Church in Wilmington. The lad of nine or ten appeared for semi-formal functions-when company or visitors came-with his flaxen hair powdered and in a long cue tied with black ribbon, a ruffled shirt and cambric stock pleated fine and fastened behind with a buckle set with stones. His vest and breeches were of buff with knee and shoe buckles, white silk stockings and black slippers, the buckle on the latter covering his instep. A top coat-long tailed-of scarlet or blue broadcloth and a three cornered cocked hat topped the ensemble while a gold headed cane was supposed to add a touch of dignity and splendor to the strutting youngster whose pastoral parent thus attired him in a miniature <sup>of the</sup> dress affected by the nobility <sup>to be</sup> worn at formal Swedish court functions. It is nowhere recorded as to how the Indians were impressed with the costume of this psuedo crown prince of Christeen.

Newspaper clippings.



J. Barton Cheyney  
February 19, 1937

Wilmington 2nd  
Customs 331

### Early May Day Festivities

The first day of May was generally observed to welcome the arrival of Spring during the three or four decades that intervened between the close of the War of Independence and the second conflict with England - in 1812. It has never been explained why dealers in fish and shad fishermen observed May Day - the time of flowers and blossoms, but they did. Other Wilmingtonians gathered at inns and taverns and danced and made merry throughout the day - or until interrupted by a belated April shower. The preferred custom among the more conservative young men and women was to rise early in the morning in time to see the sunrise and spend the day in fields and woods-plucking if they desired, the early Spring blossoms.

The central feature of Maying parties was the pole gaudily decorated with ribbons about which young men and women, or younger children gathered and marched and sang songs perhaps welcoming the return of the season of flowers and the rejuvenation of all out doors.

In later years may parties have been chiefly confined to school children who enjoy May Pole dancing and singing.

Newspaper Clipping.

FCBISHOP

July 30, 1936

Story - With Tour 17

Betsy Patterson, beautiful Baltimore bride of Jerome Bonaparte, once came ashore at Lewes from one of Stephen Girard's ships, and was entertained at the home of Peter Maull, shipbuilder residing in Pilot Town. Her temperamental conduct still is legend among the people.

It is said that she insisted <sup>upon a</sup> ~~a~~ messenger <sup>being</sup> ~~be~~ sent to the ship for her silver candlesticks before she would be seated at a table spread with roast goose and other Delaware delicacies. It is presumed that the soft candle light enhanced her beauty.

Girard, incidentally, who was a Philadelphia philanthropist and merchant, at one time was forcibly detained in Lewes under the old English debtors' law in the prison at Second and Market streets, site of the present Chambers' Drug Store.

..f30b...



FCBISHOP

July 29, 1936

Story - With Tour 17

(Mau11 House Insert)

## FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

(Near Lewes)

*the* *Lewes*  
 Lewes's older inhabitants still point with awe  
 to a centuries-old spring on Pilot ~~Town~~ Road opposite the Mau11  
 property, where they and their forefathers for 250 years secured  
 drinking water *of a life-giving quality.*

Efficacy of the water was greatly increased, so  
 they will tell you, by the type of drinking vessel used. They  
 recommend a "left-handed conch shell" and no other vessel can  
 take its place for it: was believed this water, drunk from such a  
 shell, was the purest in the world. The conch builds a spiral  
 shell that twists to the right in most cases. The idea that  
 left-handed shells were the best probably evolved from their  
 rarity and the fact that water drunk from a shell spiralling to  
 the right was likely to run off the edge in the wrong direction  
 instead of into the mouth.

..f30b...

(State Encyclopedia)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS (Dated October 14th)

ARCHITECTURE

Residential Building Operations

Types

Colonial  
Semi-colonial  
English  
Early American  
Regency style

Locations

Bellevue Manor  
Riverside Garden Development  
Edgewood Hills  
Bellefonte Heights

REGIONAL PLANNING

Statistics

Estimated building program (money value)  
Number of homes involved  
Acres involved

Civic Construction Program

County Engineer (Levy Court)  
Paving construction  
Electric light contracts

RELIGION

Organization

Epworth League  
Wilmington Bible School

SOCIAL WELFARE

Statistics

14 agencies providing health service  
102 child health clinics  
91 child health clinics in New Castle County  
7 child health clinics in Kent County  
4 child health clinics in Sussex County  
20 field nurses in child health work  
-- mortality rate in Delaware

Free foot and dental clinics



(State Encyclopedia)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS (Dated June 24th)

EDUCATION

Organization

National Pharmacy Week  
Wilmington Garden Club

State Schools

Home Economics (Exhibitions)

RELIGION

Organization

Delaware Bible Society ✓  
Female Bible Society ✓  
Distribution to the poor

ARTS, The

Painting

Rehoboth Art League ✓  
366 members

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

Industry

Private utility ownership (Seaford)

(State Encyclopedia)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS (Dated November 4th)

✓ SOCIAL WELFARE

Organization

- ✓ Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation ✓
- ✓ Distribution and their values
- ✓ Delaware Citizens Association ✓
- ✓ Needlework Guild of America
- ✓ Christmas Toy Distribution (10,000 toys annual) ✓

EDUCATION

✓ Organization

- ✓ Lalor Foundation ✓
- ✓ Fellowship grants ✓
- ✓ Awards for chemical research
- ✓ Delaware Commercial Teachers Association ✓

✓ LABOR

Wage-Hour Law (U. S. Department of Labor)

INDUSTRY

Business (Chamber of Commerce)

- Net retail sales
- Cummulative sales
- Index rating

✓ GOVERNMENT

- ✓ Taxes on gasoline
- ✓ Revenue from charter business
- ✓ Fines collected for motor violations
- ✓ Safety statistics
- ✓ Valuation of building permits issued



(State Encyclopedia)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS (Dated November 7th)

EDUCATION

Organization

The Delaware Physical and Health Education Association  
Home Economics Association  
Delaware State Teachers' Association

Statistics

155 schools built in Delaware since 1919 ✓  
96 one-room schools now in Delaware ✓  
26 schools have two teachers ✓  
23 schools have less than six teachers ✓  
New schools represent an investment of about \$19,000,000 ✓  
Decline in school revenue during last few years ✓

ARTS, The

Music

Wilmington Music School ✓  
Originated 14 years ✓  
180 students now enrolled ✓  
Special classes held at People's Settlement ✓

Painting

Delaware Festival of the Arts ✓  
National Art Week (Annual Event) ✓

Exhibits at Rehoboth Beach Club ✓

SPORTS and RECREATION

Organization

Eastern Beagle Club (*Annual event*) ✓  
(Located on the Estate of S. Hallock DuPont)

Greenwood Community Fair  
Greenwood, Delaware (Annual Event)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

✓ COMMERCE

Rivers and Harbors

\$2,307,700 allotment for new work and maintenance  
on rivers and harbors in and near Delaware by  
War Department  
\$123,000 allotment for Indian River inlet  
\$100,000 allotment for new work on Chesapeake and  
Delaware canal  
\$582,000 allotment for maintenance on Chesapeake and  
Delaware canal  
\$7,300 allotment for Northeast River  
\$58,000 allotment for Rock Hall harbor  
\$58,000 allotment for Nanticoke River  
\$137,000 allotment for Wilmington harbor

✓ Chesapeake and Delaware Canal

Construction started in 1804 and opened in 1829  
Cost \$2,201,864--1/4 of a century to build  
\$13,000,000 has been spent by the Government to-date

✓ ARCHITECTURE

Buildings

The Historical Society Building was originally  
the First Presbyterian Church, erected in 1740

✓ GOVERNMENT

Militia

749 officers and men in regular army at Fort DuPont  
934 officers and men in Delaware National Guard  
350 reserve officers  
Forts--Saulsbury, DuPont, Delaware, Mott  
Armories--Wilmington, Dover, Newark, New Castle, Milford,  
Georgetown, Laurel

✓ AGRICULTURE

The Delaware Production Credit Association has made more than  
1260 loans to farmers to upwards \$634,000 since its  
organization 4 years ago

✓ SCIENCE

Haskell Laboratory (toxicology) entomologists



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

RELIGION

Statistics

Census (Various church groups are now compiling figures) ✓

POINTS of INTEREST ✓

Longwood Gardens (125,000 visitors last year)

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

Textiles

Anticipated \$7,000,000 DuPont Plant near Seaford

SPORTS and RECREATION

Organization

Brandywine Archers Club ✓

SOCIAL WELFARE

Organization

Delaware State Woman's Christian Temperance Union  
National Youth Administration  
Delaware Colony, State Training School

EDUCATION

Organization

American Association of University Women  
Home and School Association of the Friends School ✓

SOCIETIES--fraternal and patriotic

Patriotic

Delaware Society of the Daughters of the Colonial Wars ✓

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

EDUCATION

Statistics--of physical examinations given to pupils in city public schools by school doctors and nurses:

Last year	16,146	pupils	received	medical	examinations
"	"	4,818	"	"	prophylactic treatments
"	"	3,535	"	"	special examinations

A permanent record is kept for each child who attends kindergarten to grade 12.

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Statistics--Soil Conservation Service

42,000 acres in region of erosion control  
65 square miles in the Christina River watershed  
55 per cent increase since this service started

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

Industry--Leather (tanning and dressing of morocco)

Statistics

14 leather factories operating in 1867  
-- " " " " 1938  
30 per cent of state industrial activity in 1920  
was tanning of goat skins  
85 per cent of all the kid leather produced in  
United States during 1929 came from Delaware

The Rhoads family have been in the leather business here since 1712--the second oldest in United States

GOVERNMENT

Organization

Public Archives Commission (Hall of Records)  
Delaware Safety Council



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

FINANCE

Organization

Wilmington Chapter, American Institute of Banking  
(Monthly meetings)

SOCIAL WELFARE

Statistics--State Welfare Home (State Welfare Commission)

3000 now on roster  
\$25.00 per month maximum allowance  
\$10.81 average allowance

EDUCATION

Organization

Peninsula Horticultural Society (Annual exhibition)  
Delaware Library Association

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

LABOR--Organization

Labor Non-Partisan League of Delaware  
Unemployment Insurance  
U. S. Employment Service

COMMERCE

Statistics (Chesapeake and Delaware Canal)

18.6 feet minimum depth  
19 feet main channel  
27 feet anticipated future depth  
Vessels between 235 feet and 425 feet in length --58 foot  
beam and 18 foot draft may navigate the canal

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

GOVERNMENT

Statistics (Board of Park Commissioners) Created in 1883

734.75 acres in their care  
525.32 acres or 71.25 per cent donated to their care  
270.15 acres or 36.6 per cent was donated by the  
late William P. Bancroft former member of the  
Board of Park Commissioners  
209.43 acres purchased outright  
133.41 acres additional consist of the following:  
8th Street Park (City Council)  
Cool Spring Park, Porter and Rodney Street  
reservoir tracts (Board of Water Commissioners)

Alapocas Woods consisting of 5.65 acres recently offered  
to the commission by Woodland Trustees

AGRICULTURE

Tenant Farmer Groups

Allocation of purchase loans from Farm Security  
Administration for current fiscal year \$29,085

SOCIETIES--fraternal and patriotic

Service Clubs

Kiwanis  
Quoto  
Exchange  
Recess  
Lions  
Rotary  
Monarch  
American Business

SOCIAL WELFARE

St. Michael's Home for Babies  
Washington Street Home for Babies  
French Street Day Nursery  
Florence Crittenton Home  
Delaware Anti-Tuberculosis Society



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

✓ INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

INDUSTRY (Business)

Insurance (Statistics)

\$547,503, 593 life insurance in force beginning 1938  
4,002, 731 paid out to policyholders or beneficiaries  
446, 379 policies in force  
83 companies licensed to sell insurance  
Group insurance started 26 years ago

✓ AGRICULTURE

Dairying

Holstein Cows in Delaware rated highest in U.S. in 1937  
" " " " " " second " " " 1936  
Most famous herds come from Winterthur Farms

GOVERNMENT

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association

✓ 46 fire companies  
\$500.00 appropriation granted each year by state

City Tax Rates

✓ Current rate for school purposes 15 cents per \$100.00  
Ten years ago it was 34 cents per \$100.00

✓ Current rate for city purposes on real estate is \$1.45  
per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. In 1921 the tax  
rate was \$1.73 per \$100.00

✓ Delaware Corporation Taxes

\$2,490,000 paid by corporations in 1937 for franchise taxes  
24,000 active corporations  
86 per cent of this amount paid by 15 per cent  
of Delaware corporations such as DuPont Co.,  
General Motors, Chrysler Motors, Bethlehem  
Steel, etc.  
60 corporations organized by Federal Government

✓ SPORTS and RECREATION

✓ Lewes Yacht Club (Founded 6 years ago)  
United Farmers and Sportsmen of Delaware (Various chapters)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

EDUCATION

Statistics (KINDERGARTENS)

349 pupils enrolled last year in Wilmington  
8 kindergartens (6 for white--2 for negroes)  
\*\*\* attendance

SOCIAL WELFARE

Children's Bureau of Delaware (Statistics)

1,255 under-privileged and neglected children were  
served from 60 Delaware communities during past year  
389 children in actual care  
167 children in foster homes  
Accepts children between the ages of 10 days and 21 years  
Costs about \$300.00 yearly to provide for each child

Travelers' Aid Society  
Delaware Citizens' Association  
Children's Home (Summer camps)

RACIAL GROUPS

Pulaski Day (Annual event)  
Polish National Alliance of America

ARTS, The

Press (Newspapers)

Every Evening established 1871  
Evening Journal established 1888--merged with Every  
Evening in 1933  
Sun started in 1898--discontinued in 1904  
Freie Presse established in 1881  
Sunday Star established in 1881  
Labor Herald  
Weekly papers which are now defunct; The Delaware Farm  
and Home, Conference Worker, Wilmingtonian, The  
Cathedral Chronicler and many others  
13 newspapers in Milford since 1848--current newspaper,  
The Milford Chronicle

Retail Associations

Del-Mar-Va Press Association  
Independent Retailers Association



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

AGRICULTURE

Annual Event--Delaware Poultry Tour

Statistics--Estimated \$12,790,000 business in crops and dairy products each year  
Estimated \$11,000,000 business in poultry activities each year  
Estimated 15,000,000 broilers shipped each year--mostly from Sussex county

EDUCATION

University of Delaware

Statistics--\$4,145,495 plant net investment  
353,525 ground value  
2,765,731 building and dormitory investment  
1,055,239 library investment

Special Schools

Delaware School for Deaf Children  
Friends School--191 years old  
Delaware School of Music--7 years old

GOVERNMENT

Road Building--Delaware will receive \$1,437,000 in the highway appropriations bill just passed by Congress

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Nemours Foundation Hospital for crippled children

SPORTS and RECREATION

— Foxcatcher Hounds Race Meeting(Annual Event)

RELIGION

Old Drawyers Church (near Odessa) opened in 1773

INDUSTRY

First cannery was established in Smyrna in 1867

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

EDUCATION

Public Schools

Savings system in existence 16 years  
22 local public schools participating  
9 rural " " "  
23,100 active depositors  
\$240,830 deposited end of last school term  
\$1,250,000 deposited in 16 years

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Funds Expended for Liberation of Game

\$11,709.95 end of fiscal year  
21,173 rabbits released last 3 years  
4,795 quail " " "  
2,794 pheasants " " "  
The above liberation cost \$41,000  
17,883 bass released last year  
337 crappies released last year  
38,000 perch and catfish released last year

GOVERNMENT

Birth and death registration (Board of Health)

HISTORY

First christian clergyman in Delaware--Rev. Reorus Torkillus,  
who arrived here in 1640 on the Kalmar Nyckel

Delaware's important part in the framing and ratification  
of the Constitution. Philadelphia Convention in 1787  
attended by delegates John Dickinson, George Read,  
Richard Bassett, Gunning Bedford, Jr., Jacob Broome.

ARTS, The

Gustavas Hesselius, Swedish painter and organ builder

Delaware Art Center cost \$250,000--funds raised by the public



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Security--Statistics

90,486 enrolled in Delaware according to Social Security Board  
540 claims paid since program began--January 1st, 1937  
\$19,758 total payments in claims since program began

Unemployment Compensation--Statistics

\$2,138,466.14 collections received from employers  
109,925.21 expenses for past fiscal year--exclusive of  
equipment

MEDICINE and PUBLIC HEALTH

Who's Who

Dr. J. E. Wallace Wallin, director of mental hygiene work  
in the Delaware schools, grouped among ten famous living  
American psychologists in current book "Psychology in  
Every Day Living"

EDUCATION

Public Schools--Wilmington and State

School Buses (Statistics)

17 years without a fatality  
10,531 pupils transported in buses at public expense--1936-37  
9,262 pupils transported by contracts  
1,269 pupils transported by private conveyances

Old School

Forwood School (Silverside Road) built in 1799--attendance 6

Wilmington School Library System

University of Delaware

Donations--H. Fletcher Brown--his gifts to the university  
Chemistry building cost about \$400,000

Private or Special School

Faith Theological Seminary

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

SPORTS

Annual Event--Tidewater Shoot Revolver Match (State Police)

FOLKLORE

Devil worshipping cult--Passing of "Si" Maull, negro of Belletown, Lewes, severs link of band once active in Delaware

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Rural electrification extension service specialists--provided from the University of Delaware

SOCIETIES

Service Clubs in Sussex County

Frankford New Century Club  
Selbyville Community Club  
Georgetown New Century Club  
Laurel New Century Club  
Lord Baltimore Women's Club  
New Century Club of Delmar  
The Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth  
The Zwaanendael Club of Lewes

POINTS of INTEREST

The Zwaanendael Museum at Lewes

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Conservation--45 acre tract of forest land presented by the Delaware State Federation of Womens' Clubs to the state. This land known as "Charles Richards Farm" lies on the highway between Greenwood and Ellendale--to be cared for by the State Forestry Department.

RECREATION

Annual Event--Big Thursday--Oak Orchard, Georgetown, Delaware

Delmarva Camp--known as Laurel and Bethel camp, at Broad Creek--one of the oldest camps on the peninsula

Annual Reunions--The Tunnell family



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

SPORTS

Annual Event--Delaware Breakwater Regattas (Cape Henlopen)

Lewes Yacht Club  
Lewes Yacht Club Auxiliary  
Lewes Anglers Association

Cape Henlopen Beach--at the end of Cape Henlopen

MILITIA and NAVY

Navy--Lewes Coast Guard Station (Chincoteague, Virginia is the headquarters for the district) Overfalls Lightship

POINTS of INTEREST

Henlopen Lighthouse--functioned for 162 years--second oldest in United States. Toppled into sea on April 26, 1926.

"Great Dune" rising 80 feet skyward

Sunken British sloop of war "De Braak" - lost millions in Spanish gold

SOCIETIES

Patriotic--Henlopen Post #5, American Legion  
Henlopen Post Auxiliary

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Firetower--at Laurel--State Forestry Department

HISTORY

Lewes--307th anniversary of its settlement (first town of first state)

INDUSTRY, FINANCE, COMMERCE and LABOR

Commerce and Industry

Lewes--Chamber of Commerce

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

RECREATION

Fifth Annual Event--home-coming celebration of Milton, Sussex County

Annual Event--Bowers Beach and Oak Orchard (2nd Thursday in August)  
Big Thursday--Slaughter Beach (3rd Thursday in August)

Annual Event--Rogation Day--Lewes (Prayers for abundant crops)

Annual Event--Friends Centenary--Mill Creek Friends Meeting House

Various reunions of families, clans and generations

ARTS and CRAFTS

Art Center--Paynter House in Rehoboth--located on Henlopen Acres--  
150 years old

TRANSPORTATION

Airport--Rehoboth Beach-145 acres

Rehoboth Flying Club

RECREATION

Dewey Beach and Indian Beach--adjacent to Rehoboth Beach

Annual Golf Invitation--tournament held at Rehoboth Country Club

SOCIETIES

Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach

Kent-Sussex Counties Dental Society

RELIGION

Delaware Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal  
Church



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

SOCIAL WELFARE

State appropriates \$24,000 a year to the blind

EDUCATION

Public Schools--Wilmington schools named for leading citizens:

Pierre S. DuPont High School  
Thomas F. Bayard School  
Willard Hall Junior High School  
George Gray School  
William P. Bancroft School  
Charles B. Lore School  
Emalea P. Warner Junior High School  
Mary C. I. Williams School  
David W. Harlan School  
Evan G. Shortlidge School  
Wollaston School  
Howard High School  
Samuel G. Elbert School  
John Palmer School

State schools--90 per cent of school children in Delaware are housed in new and modern buildings.

In 1918-19 the schools of Delaware stood 33 among the states of the Union in accordance with the Ayres Index. Recent comparison shows Delaware stands among the first 10 states.

TRANSPORTATION

Airplane pilots--58 licensed in Delaware  
Aircraft--55 in Delaware

HOUSING

Procedure of planning--engineer-consults-recommendation to owners by government regional planning commission.  
Surveyor-prepares tentative plans  
Engineer or surveyor-files tentative plans  
Planning commission acts on plans and adopts  
Levy court approves-passes on to recorder who records final plot

RECREATION

Annual event--Mens' Bridge Tournament-Wilmington Whist Club

ARTS and CRAFTS

Collections of Spackman and Bancroft

Influence of late Howard Pyle

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

EDUCATION

Wilmington Public Schools

Statistics--Per pupil cost has been reduced \$1.63 since 1930.  
Per year cost for the entire average net enrollment:  
\$94.08 in 1930-31  
96.41 in 1931-32  
94.74 in 1932-33  
85.11 in 1933-34  
85.80 in 1934-35  
92.45 in 1935-36  
Analysis of the 1936-37 budget shows that of every dollar spent--\$86.92 went for salaries and the remaining \$13.08 went for text books, supplies, fuel, light, etc.  
School experts usually regard per pupil cost tendencies as one of the best indices of determining whether available funds are being used in the most economical and effective way.

Wilmington and State Public Schools

Statistics--Delaware public school system (including colleges) will receive \$3,921,847 for the 1938-39 year from the State Board of Education and the federal government.

ARTS and CRAFTS

Painting

Contemporary artists--N. C. Wyeth, Peter Hurd, Mrs. PeterHurd, Miss Katharine Pyle (also author) Stanley M. Arthurs, Frank E. Schoonover, Gayle Hoskins, Mrs. Ellen B. T. Pyle, David Reyam, Orville H. Peets, Robert Robertson, Charles A. MacLellan, Harvey Dunn, Clifford W. Ashley, Leslie Thrasher, Douglas Duer

ARCHITECTURE

Architects

Contemporary architects--G. Morris Whiteside, II, Gabriel Massena

GOVERNMENT

Federal--United States Mail and Postal Service



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

Biographical Sketches

✓ Robert H. Kirkwood--Delaware army officer during the Revolution.

✓ John Lofland--literary editor and poet--known as the "Milford Bard." Former native of Milford, Delaware. Buried in St. Andrew's grave yard at 8th and Shipley Sts., Wilmington.

Points of Interest

✓ Largest tree in Delaware--oak tree at Bowers Beach on Warren Hall property--300 years old. Largest white oak tree in the East.

Conservation and Reclamation

✓ Bird sanctuaries--Silver and Comegys Lakes--Sussex County.

Archeology

Indian names

✓ Hopokchacking--the present site of Wilmington.

Amimenipaty--now the site of DuPont Co., Edge Moor, Del.

Menmankitonna--the present site of Claymont, Del., on Naaman's Creek.

Chikohoki--the former principal town of the Unalachtigs Delawares on the west side of the Delaware River near its junction with the Christina River. (According to Bulletin #30 of the Bureau of Ethnology.)

This village was no doubt located on the tract where the Swedes later erected their first church.

The site is marked by a monument erected by the Historical Society of Delaware.

Thousands of Indian artifacts have been found on this site over a period of years.

Flora and Fauna

✓ Climate--under normal conditions Delaware has abundant rainfall.

Temperature is moderate and the heaviest rains are in the growing season.

Average growing season of 186 days.

Average date of last killing frost in spring is April 20th.

Average date of first killing frost in fall is October 23rd.

Average temperature for summer months is 74.2 degrees.

Average temperature for winter months is 36.8 degrees.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

Recreation

Tourists Camps

Holly Oak Cabins--6 miles south of Laurel

Free Camp Sites

Chipman's Trap--Tresham Ponds--Records Lake.  
Ellendale wooded area--cleared and opened in a delightful grove with drinking water, benches, toilets, fireplaces and other conveniences to travelers.

Swimming Pools  
Tennis Courts  
Foot ball fields  
Base ball fields  
Parks  
Zoo  
Supervised play grounds  
Basket ball floors  
Golf Courses

Industry, Commerce, Finance and Labor

Commerce

Marine Terminal--158 steamships docked there during the fiscal year of June, 1937 to June 1938.  
Average length per day of the boats was 682 feet.  
Net tonnage handled at the port last year was 482,120 tons.  
Each ship averaged 3,051 tons.  
Gross tonnage for the fiscal year was 785,342.  
Cargoes of these ships contain raw materials, woodpulp, chemicals, oil, lumber, ore, cork, potash, licorice root, etc.

History

Delaware's Part at World's Fair of 1893

George V. Massey of Dover--one of the Commissioners.  
Mrs. Caleb Churchman and Chief Justice Lore very active.  
Delaware expended about \$20,000 on her State Building and furnishings.  
In the interior of the building were antique furniture, pictures of famous Delawareans, ancient clocks, illustrations by Howard Pyle, paintings by Clawson S. Hammott and etchings by Robert Shaw. Miss Montgomery also contributed a reminiscent volume about Wilmington.



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

Government

Parking Meters add about \$90.00 daily to City Treasury.  
Revenue used solely to govern traffic in meter area.

Agriculture

Dairying--a gift of \$45,000 to the University of Delaware to carry on special research in diseases of cattle, made by Harry G. Haskell, has just been announced by the trustees of the university.

Farm Income in Delaware for 10 months of this year (1938) from sales of products and government payments was \$12,424,000---\$2,751,000 below the same period in 1937.  
(According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture)

Industry, Commerce, Finance and Labor

Commerce--the untiring efforts of Delawareans for more than half a century to gain a permanent opening of Indian River Inlet, near Lewes, Del., has just been rewarded when the \$443,000 improved waterway was reported ready for use yesterday (12/9/38) by the U. S. Engineer's Office. The reopening is expected to yield a \$400,000 annual gross revenue to the seafood industry of Delaware.

Recreation

Picnic permits--8000 persons picnicked from April until the middle of November in the city parks during the past year, according to Edward R. Mack, superintendent of parks.

Playground League--has organized a total of 96 basketball teams for the winter season.

Social Welfare

Boy Scout Troop #2 of Old Swedes Church--28 years old--the first scout troop in Delaware--one of the oldest in United States.

Biographical Sketches

Historical--Commander Jacob Jones--born near Smyrna in March 1768. Served with distinction during War of 1812. Buried in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

Industry, Commerce, Finance and Labor

Finance

44 banks in Delaware carry 146,000 accounts.  
143,000 or 97.6 per cent were \$5,000 or less, for the period of May 16, 1936 to Sept. 21, 1938--according to the Federal Deposit Insurance corporation at Washington, D. C.

History

Delaware's Part at the World's Fair--1893

Delaware constructed a high building of iron and steel--this structure was completed by Delaware engineers of the Edge Moor Iron Co. Scientists from all over the world came to study the huge edifice and dubbed it the greatest glory in a scientific sense the exhibit had to offer.

It was claimed that all the churches in Chicago could be set down under its expansive dome and to these might be added the Cathedral of St. Peter's at Rome. The floor space comprised of some 40 acres.

Everyone who attended the Fair recalls the Ferris Wheel. This invention was the brain child of G. W. G. Ferris, a member of the old Delaware family of that name.

Points of Interest

Society of Natural History of Delaware--the society was founded in October 1891 by 18 enthusiastic people of natural history, who held their first meeting in Friend's School.

The society was established for the purpose of cultivation and study of natural science by establishing and conserving a permanent collection of natural objects.

On October 24, 1910 the present museum was acquired and since used for a free museum open to the public three or four afternoons a week from June to September, inclusive. The building is of one story brick construction and is part of Cool Spring Reservoir pump plant building. It is situated at the N.W. Corner of 10th and Van Buren Sts.

The Museum has a collection of about 30,000 plant specimens.

Walter D. Bush, the first vice president, was the only scientific ornithologist in Delaware in his day.



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSPenologyDelaware's Whipping Post

In days gone by the whipping post down in Kent County stood out brazenly in the open courtyard of the county jail, not far from the old State House. It looked like an old time octagonal pump without a handle. It had a slit near the top of it in which the equally old-time pillory boards might be inserted when needed for punitive use. There also were iron shackles for holding the prisoners while they were being whipped.

The whipping post was painted red from top to bottom and Negro residents bestowed upon it the name "Red Hannah". Any prisoner who had been whipped at the post it was said "He has hugged Red Hannah."

Since those days the pillory has gone out of use in Delaware but the whipping post still exists in a more modern form at the New Castle County Workhouse at Greenbank.

Government

State--Costs of general government and protection rose from \$886,845 to \$1,573,277 during ten year period from 1927 to 1937.

Costs of health and sanitation during same period rose from \$597,375 to \$1,869,426.

Highway maintenance rose from \$240,800 in 1937 to \$989,697 in 1938.

Biography

Miss Emily P. Bissell--pioneer of Christmas Seals.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSConservation and Reclamation

Delaware in the past three years has spent more money in wild life investment per square mile than any state in the country. The report of the Game and Fish Commissioners show the rate of \$7.60 per square mile during each of the past three years.

Expenditures

1936	Ending June 30.....	\$ 8,725.09
1937	" " ".....	11,709.95
1938	" " ".....	20,575.28

\$3,584.18 spent on game fish during fiscal year of 1938  
9,587.09 spent on game animals during fiscal year of 1938  
7,404.01 spent on game birds during fiscal year of 1938

Sports

Horse Racing--Honors for outstanding achievements on the turf in 1933 have been awarded two Delawareans.

Mrs. Marion DuPont Scott, owner of "Battleship," the only American-owned and American bred horse to win the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree, England.

William DuPont, Jr., owner of the famous Foxcatcher Farm's Stable.

Industry, Commerce, Finance and LaborIndustry

In 1926 a survey was made in Delaware of the Holly Industry to ascertain the volume or value. It showed a value of \$400,000.

The Forest Department estimated the value of this business to the state was \$220,000 and gave employment to 8,500 persons.

Since this survey was made the business has decreased nearly 54 per cent due to destructive harvesting in cutting down the tree instead of the branches.



INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSIndustry, Commerce, Finance and LaborFinanceWilmington Clearing House Association

1937	Bank Clearings	\$193,180,000
1938	Bank Clearings	<u>185,650,000</u>

A deficit of ..... \$ 7,530,000 over the preceding 12 months.

The Wilmington Clearing House Association celebrated last year a half-century of active financial service. It is a member of the Federal Reserve district of Philadelphia and serves eight member banks.

The clearing house, a voluntary organization, was begun on October 1, 1887, with a total of six banks.

At the present time the member banks of the clearing house are:

Union National Bank  
Farmers' Bank  
Central National Bank  
Equitable Trust Company  
Security Trust Company  
Wilmington Trust Company  
Delaware Trust Company  
Industrial Trust Company

The member banks not only clear their own checks and banking records through the clearing house, but in addition, each individual bank acts as a clearing house for other institutions not affiliated directly with the clearing house.

The office of the organization works smoothly with member banks rendering a daily service in the matter of clearing checks and negotiable instruments for financial institutions in this city.

Agriculture

Crops--A drop of nearly \$2,000,000 in Delaware's income from crops for 1938 from the figure of the previous year is reported by C. E. Burkhead and Paul L. Warner, agricultural statisticians of the U. S. Bureau Agricultural Economics.

The estimated value of last year's yield is placed at \$8,978,000. The Delaware Crop Reporting Service reported 368,000 acres harvested in 1937 compared with 356,00 acres harvested in 1938.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

Government

Board of Park Commissioners

✓ 70 years in existence.

Control 760 acres of park land.

Per capita acreage--1 to every 122 persons.

The layout comprises:

North, South Brandywine and Delamore Parks, purchased by the city in 1886.

Kirkwood Park, acquired in 1887.

Rockford Park, donated by William P. Bancroft in 1869.

Eden Park, purchased from the old Garasche estate in 1890.

Old Soldier's Park, acquired in 1903.

Canby Park, the gift of Pierre S. and Irene DuPont.

Rodney Square, Price Run and Sellers Park.

William P. Bancroft elected to the Board of Park Commissioners in 1904--served for 18 years. He donated generously toward planting of trees along Rockford Park Driveway--also developed Baynard stadium.

First swimming pool opened in South Brandywine Park, at the foot of Adams Street in 1897.

Today the Wilmington Board of Park Commissioners control:

- 28 baseball and softball diamonds
- 23 supervised playgrounds
- 32 tennis courts
- 6 football fields
- 5 swimming pools
- 2 soccer fields
- 2 hockey fields
- 6 wading pools and showers
- 13 fireplaces
- 6 picnic grounds

1938 attendance at playgrounds and indoor centers-506,047 persons.  
1938 attendance at swimming pools-254,336 persons.

Other tracts--Bringhurst Woods  
Alapocas Woods  
Thirtieth Street Park



INFORMATION FROM "WHAT TO SEE IN AMERICA"

by Clifton Johnson

Flora and Fauna

Geography

Length of Delaware--100 miles  
Width of Delaware-- 10 to 35 miles

Highest point--Centerville--440 feet above sea level

Comparison--The three smallest states in the Union are Rhode Island, Delaware and Connecticut-- Delaware is about twice the size of Rhode Island and half the size of Connecticut.

Elevation--Mostly low and level

Swamps--great cypress swamps at southern end of state and Maryland covers 50,000 acres.

History

Origin of the name of Delaware--Delaware bears the name of an early governor of Virginia, who sailed up the river in 1610.

Called "Diamond State" because it combines smallness and importance.

"Blue Hen's Chickens"--A single regiment of Delaware soldiers fought in the Revolution and rendered valiant service.

They carried a number of gamecocks, said to have been the brood of a blue hen. Hence the soldiers themselves were dubbed the "Blue Hen's Chickens."

Thomas Kenney  
June 14, 1939

## GOLF

Golf is one of the more recent games to come into favor in Delaware, and America, but it is interesting to note the first use of the name in a Delaware book. Elizabeth Montgomery in her Reminiscences of Wilmington (1851) writes as follows, the time being approximately 1798 or 1799:

"Many can recall hours pleasantly spent at the old Barley Mill, sliding and skating; groups of young persons and schools assemble here to enjoy the healthful exercise. Those of riper years, too, have had their hours of recreation. In days gone by A. H. Rowan (Irish refugee) and two Scotchmen, John Fleming, long a worthy townsman and proprietor of the mill, with his friend William Key, have played a game called "GOLFING." They drew a circle on the ice, and had a stone round, but rather flat on one side, in size and shape much like an old fashioned roll of tobacco; in this a handle was placed, by which it was pushed over the ice, something like pitching Quoits. This game has long been forgotten, like those who took delight in it."

This of course was not golf, but the other popular Scotch game of curling.

The first known set of golf clubs in Wilmington were owned by J. Danforth Bush, who bought them in Edinburgh, Scotland, while touring the British Isles about the year 1885. The first golf played in Delaware was on pasture lands south of the Lancaster Pike near Clayton Street. According to available descriptions of the lay-out, it was far from ideal. The course, which consisted of nine makeshift holes, sprawled over an area of approximately twenty acres, made up of numerous marshy brooks. Here and there grew stubbly trees and bushes, and the fairways



were composed of sparsely-sown grass, quite a bit of it being of orchard grass varieties, which gave the fairways an irregular growth. The greens were of bare earth, which made putting more dependent on luck than accuracy. This course was abandoned about seven months after it was started.

About 1890, some members of the Delaware Field Club, who had become interested in golf, laid out a nine hole course at their grounds at Elsmere. A peculiarity of the course was that it extended beyond the club property, which consisted of less than seven acres. Presumably, permission had been obtained from neighboring residents to run the course through and around their properties.

Although cricket and tennis were at that time the games played mostly by the younger members, it was only a matter of time before golf gained popularity with the members who did not choose to engage in the more strenuous forms of recreation. Golf did not call for vigorous physical strength, and it could be played by members of all ages. Naturally, it did not take long for the game to become accepted as an ideal pastime by them.

As Elsmere was becoming more peopled, owing to a real estate developing <sup>ment</sup> about that time, the golf playing members of the Delaware Field Club deemed it advisable to seek new and more spacious fields upon which to lay out a better golf course. After having considered many proposed sites, negotiations were entered into in 1900 with William du Pont, which resulted in a long term renewable lease on lands situated on the Kennett Pike near Rising Sun Lane. The site chosen was a natural layout for a course, for it was well drained with but one brook coursing through its fields. The tract contained in excess of 120 acres,



what had heretofore been grazing ground for dairy herds now became an 18-hole golf course.

Where the Delaware Field Club leaves off and the Wilmington Country begins is purely a matter of conjecture; however, it is logical to assume that the latter was born of the former. The Delaware Field Club was incorporated in 1885 and the Wilmington Country Club organized in 1900 and incorporated in 1901.

As to the accepted dress for golf in that period, many now elderly people recall having seen "men in odd looking clothes, swinging funny sticks at a little white ball and invariably accompanied by a boy carrying some kind of a long bag, suspended from his shoulder by a wide leather strap." The style of dress was distinctly English, or modeled on English lines. The garments for golfing gentlemen consisted of spiked shoes, heavy woolen hose, knickerbocker breeches or plus fours, loose fitting Norfolk coat, four-in-hand or bow tie, and a soft cap with a stiff peak to shade the eyes. It is needless to dwell upon the evolution of the styles of dress for golf; time and the lessening of the conventions in dress, for comfort's sake, have taken care of that.

#### References:

Montgomery, Elizabeth. Reminiscences of Wilmington, (Del.).  
Familiar Village Tales, Ancient and New. Philadelphia,  
T. K. Collins, Jr., 1851. 367 p. pl.

News Items: Sunday Star, Wilmington, Del.:Sept. 28, 1936,  
p.6, magazine section; June 23, 1935, p.1, ~~mag~~  
magazine section;  
Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. History of  
Wilmington. F.F.Smiley Company, publishers.  
New York, New England Co., printers, 1894.  
279 p.



### From Cricket to Golf

To speak of Golf and Cricket in close relationship may seem incongruous. They are distinctly different games, but, according to past records, are found to have been once closely associated; one a forerunner of the other, indirectly paving its way to popularity, the former long ago relegated to the realm of athletic memories in this vicinity.

Cricket, or a variation of that game, had been played on improvised creases in Wilmington between the years 1850 and 1874. In 1876, an organization was formed known as "The Young America Cricket Club." Although the Club's team consisted of eleven or more players, only three of their names are available: W. Harold Smith, -Captain, Arthur H. Smith, and J. Ernest Smith, all brothers. Most of their games were played on a vacant lot at 8th & Adams Street and at the old Scheutzen Park, 9th & Woodlawn Avenue.

The young America Cricket Club was later disbanded and many members absorbed by "The Delaware Cricket Club," organized in 1882. Listed among its playing members were: Tilghman Johnston, H. L. Tatnall, J. Ernest Smith, Edward B. Downing, Walter H. Hayes, Dr. Charles R. Jefferis, Wm. S. Hilles, Wm. Homewood, Fontaine LeMaistre, Dr. Joseph P. Wales and Dr. H. R. Wilson. In 1883 the Club purchased a plot of ground in the 9th Ward bounded by 23rd, 24th, Washington and West Streets and thereupon erected a small clubhouse, laid out a Cricket crease and six or more Tennis courts.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Golf began its rise towards popularity. The connection between Cricket and Golf now becomes apparent since members of The Delaware Cricket

Club, which was merged into The Delaware Field Club in 1885, were the first to take to and play Golf locally.

Golf, from the date of its acceptance here, was more or less a private sociable pastime as is clearly shown in the neglect or absense of golfing items in the newspapers. Available press data on the subject of Golf prior to 1907 is scant.

Mr. J. H. Whigham, writing an article on Golf and Golf Courses in The United States in 1899 says -- "and now that colleges are turning out year after year, a whole host of golfing men into the country; it is perfectly safe to assert that the game which only a short time ago was hardly alluded to in the press except for the sake of sarcastic comment, will in a short time become one of the most important of national pastimes."

Those who were the first to play Golf here in Wilmington experienced difficulty in winning proselytes to the somewhat novel, although by no means new, game. A reluctance, akin to a mild prejudice, had to be overcome in the gaining of new, eligible members. It took more than a walk around the links to convince a gentleman that the game would become a really enjoyable pastime after the technicalities were understood or mastered. But in a short time the gentlemen who had ignored or ridiculed the game were now won to it by the inducement that it was a health giving exercise.

In a sympathetic sense, it probably would have been amusing to have watched the antics of portly Captains of industry, bankers, brokers and prominent business men, who had prior to their acceptance of Golf, taken but little physical exercise



over a period of years. One can imagine the sound of the grunts,  
that  
groans, and epithets/accompanied their first swings at the ball.

References:

- S.S. 10/28/36 p. 6 (mag. sec.)
- S. S. 6/23/35 p. 1 (mag. sec.)
- E.E. 1874 to 1907 inclusive
- Laws of Del., V. 17 Ch. 710.
- Article by Gen. J. Ernest Smith in C. of C.'s "Wilm" June, 1930.
- Verticle File, Public Library
- The Book of Golf & Golfers by Horace G. Hutchison. Longman's  
Green & Co., New York. 1899.

## GOLF

History of Golf in Wilmington

According to legend Golf was originally a Dutch pasture game. It appears in Scottish history as early as 1457, at which time the Scottish Parliament decreed that "Golf be utterly cryit doune and nocht usit" so that the Lieges instead of spending their spare time indulging in the folly of Golf, should better spend their leisure hours practising Archery; because battles were fought with arrows, swords and maces, not with Golf clubs and Balls.

James VI of Scotland, who later became James I of England in 1603, is recorded as having appointed William Mayne of Edinburgh "Clubmaker to his Hienes" for life. Fifteen years, a law was passed against the importing of Golf balls from the Continent; the King appointing James Melvill to have the monopoly of Golf ball making in Scotland for twenty-one years. The price of the balls was not to exceed four shillings apiece, each ball was to be marked with the maker's own crown stamp and "all ballis to be maid within the Kingdome found to be otherways stamped sall be escheated." The word Golf itself, is a derivation of the old Netherland word "Kolbe" or club.

## Reference:

"The Game of Golf" by Horace Hutchison (History of the Game). The Lonsdale Library, Volume IV. Seeley Service & Co. 196 Shaftesbury Ave. London, England. 1931.



The Rock Manor Golf Course

The Municipal Golf Course is a testimonial to the popularity of Golf in this vicinity. Nine holes were laid out in 1920 on land belonging to The Water Department of the City of Wilmington, situated at Porter's Reservoir on the Concord Pike atop McKee's Hill, one mile northwest of the City.

Wilfrid Reid, then Golf Professional at the Wilmington Country Club, acted as advisor in laying out the holes.

The Golf Course itself is operated by The Municipal Golf and Tennis Association; the Water Department permits the use of the grounds and the Association defrays the expense of Course maintenance.

The course was formally opened on Labor Day, 1921.

The Association's initial fund of \$10,000.00 was obtained through private subscriptions and by voluntary donations. The first officers of the Association were: President - William S. Taylor; Vice President - William Corey; Secretary and Treasurer - Charles F. Ernst. Mr. Ernst, an able organizer and an eloquent speaker did much to make the Municipal Golf Course possible.

The Association Committeemen were: R. R. M. Carpenter, Frank H. Mason, William T. Metten, Charles Topkis, Thomas W. Harris, William A. Hannigan, and Louis B. Harris; Grounds Committeemen: L. B. Harris, Edward R. Mack, Robert McLellan, William Bradford, and John Morris.

For the first few weeks after the opening, the public was allowed to play golf free of charge, later as play increased, a nominal greens fee of 50¢ per individual player(non members) was charged to help defray expenses (incidentally, this fee remains to date unchanged with the exception of a \$1.00 fee

## Golf (continued)

charged on Sundays and Holidays. The first known Golf Professional at the Rock Manor course was Alexander Brown, reported to have had one of the thickest Scottish brogues ever heard in these parts. He stayed for only a short while; after a time, during which there was no instructor, he was replaced by the present "Pro," Alex Douglas.

After a few years the original nine holes became inadequate to accommodate the increasing number of golfers. It was deemed advisable by the Board of Directors of The Association to enlarge the course to its present 18 holes.

The links are ideally located on flat, rolling ground atop McKee's Hill on land that was formerly, in years past, a part of the old "Weldin Tract." It is high enough to overlook the city and it commands a fine view of all the surrounding lowlands. Here also can be seen in the distance the Delaware River and the New Jersey shoreline for many miles. Comparatively cool breezes, that somehow seem to ignore the surrounding low country, favor this spot on hot, humid summer days.

A few of the earlier noticeable features of the Course were the absence of artificial hazards, namely bunkers, sandtraps and rough. At first the greens were made up of ordinary lawn grass mixtures, which proved unable to endure the heavy and frequent traffic of players. They were later succeeded by the hardier Poas and Continental bents. Although the Course has but few natural hazards, it does have a formidable one to the left of one of its holes -- 'The Porter Reservoir' -- and woe betide those



## Golf (continued)

golfers who are inclined to slice their drives. Every now and then the reservoir is drained and the balls that have sunk to the bottom are gathered by the bushel.

The number of daily players is meager compared with the numbers that frequent the course over the week-ends and holidays. The adjacent Weldin Farm, a natural lay-out and well adapted for golf course construction, could well accommodate the overflow of <sup>players.</sup>

It is interesting to note that the Municipal course is more like the Scotch links, not so much in the geographical lay-out, but in the fact that it creates that indefinable something "gemütlichkeit" that is so noticeable on the links of golf clubs in Scotland. Here, men of all walks of life engage in their common pastime, consciously disregarding the differences in income, possessions, professions, crafts or trades. These differences are all forgotten in the sheer enjoyment, that is theirs, while playing the game.

The course is municipal only in the sense that the public is permitted to play for a small fee. Most of the players are members of the club or association and they pride themselves on the condition and the popularity of the golf course. It is a civic asset to the municipality. Countless visitors to Wilmington, having no entrée to other golf clubs, have found enjoyment and relaxation on the Rock Manor Golf Course.

Reference: J.E.E. "Morgue" Files 1919 to 1939.

GOLFWilmington Country  
Club

The Wilmington Country Club is one of the show places of the Wilmington vicinity. The clubhouse, as it stands today, arose from the ashes of the old clubhouse that was burnt to the ground on January 12th, 1924. Although much has been written concerning the fire, the real reason will probably never be known. According to local legend, it was started during a dance by a burning cigarette dropped on the floor into some confetti. The old clubhouse which was also Colonial in design, was composed mostly of wood; erected in 1901, it was then the "last word" in country club architecture.

Westward from the metropolitan area of the city, approximately at Pennsylvania Ave. (Kennet Pike) and Mt. Vernon Ave. is the private road leading into the Wilmington Country Club's grounds. The clubhouse viewed from the surrounding residential districts, Wawaset Park, Westover Hills and Westmoreland, resembles a large, isolated, country mansion; only the green sward of the golf course denotes its character and purpose.

The Colonial type building is two-and-one-half stories high and rectangular in shape; the lower wall is of red brick, the upper walls are mortar dashed brick. A stout, pillared arcade enhances the attractiveness of the main entrance. The road, or private driveway, continues on to the parking lot and an upper road connects with the entrance road facilitating the parking of incoming and outgoing automobiles. On either side of the main entrance are smaller doors leading to the ladies and men's locker rooms. The interior is lavishly furnished and decorated. Fire-proofing is dominant in the present building, which, except for the furniture, upper lounge stairway, balcony and floors



### Golf (continued)

is built of brick, steel and concrete.

Leading from the main arcade entrance is a flight of stairs, of imported marble, at the top of which marble flooring extends for twenty or more feet; forward, is the lobby, to the left is the gentlemen guests' checkroom and entrance to the lavatory, to the right are the accounting office, telephone switchboard and the entrance to the lady guests' checkroom and lavatory.

The lobby or central room opens into the main dining room on the left, the main lounge on the right and forward on the veranda. The attractive furnishings of the lobby consist of two long lounges with deep, upholstered, resting chairs to match, numerous other upholstered chairs, each with small ornate tables in front of them and in the far corners of the room two electrically illuminated show-cases containing loving cups and other trophies won by individual members and the club's golf and tennis teams. The furniture is nicely arranged around a long, rectangular table of mahogany and teakwood construction, an antique of unknown origin. Prominently displayed on the same table is the "Elmer Mitchell Invitation Golf Tournament" trophy, a large bowled silver loving cup on which is inscribed the name of each year's winner. At times in the past the "Davis Cup," emblematic of international tennis matches, has rested on this table. The wall-like doors separating the lobby from the main lounge and main dining-room are retractable; when occasion demands they can be withdrawn to make these three rooms one spacious ballroom.

The main lounge is the largest and most attractive room in the clubhouse; an uninscribed large colonial type fireplace in the far wall of this room recalls the old Clubhouse. Facing

the fireplace is a long, low, deep upholstered lounge and several comfortable chairs; here also are several other sets of matched chairs near a big circular table upon which are magazines and periodicals. A large carpet matching the floor covering of the lobby and main dining room covers most of the floor space. The walls, from the floor to a height of about eight feet are boarded with walnut paneling finished in bronze fresco. The lighting fixtures, imported from France, consist of a suspended candelabra, candlestick type wall lamps and several floor lamps shaded with old parchment maps whose slightly illegible Latin legend are covered with a protective transparent varnish. A flight of hardwood stairs connect this room with the lounge balcony and the upper lounge.

The doors on either side of the main lounge fireplace open into the sun parlor whose large, continuous windows are covered with Venetian blinds; the floor is laid with large, square, red tiles set with mathematical exactness; the furniture is appointed and comfortable. This room is illuminated at night by many types of floor and table lamps, and four tavern lamp style fixtures are suspended by chains from the ceiling. This being an end room it is often favored for banquets, card parties, etc.

The main dining room is quite different from commercial restaurants; here the tables are arranged to give the room an uncrowded appearance. Adjoining it on the veranda is the outside dining room; this corner of the veranda, screened in with the finest mesh wire with a temporary canvas roof, becomes in the summertime a cool inviting spot, more frequented than the main dining room. From the dining room one passes through a small, vestibule-like room into the cocktail lounge, a room of singular



attractiveness. (Prior to the repeal of the 18th Amendment this was called the dining porch.) The atmosphere here is somewhat like that of an exclusive metropolitan night club, the furniture typifying the trend in current design to combine beauty with comfort and utility. In the center of the floor are four concave shaped lounges encircling a low, glass topped table capable of seating twelve or more persons; a three sectioned lounge a pillowed wicker settee and numerous easy chairs make up the rest of the seating furniture. The room is illuminated at night by many ornate floor, table lamps, and ceiling lamps. The cocktail bar, with its high, soft seated stools is semi-circular in design. Floor length Venetian blinds with low sweeping drapery curtains partially covering them decorate the continuous windows. The floor is covered with linoleum, of <sup>sea</sup>green hue, waved and polished to a high lustre.

The kitchen is modern and completely equipped, well lighted and ventilated. The floor is laid with pale straw colored ceramic, the walls painted with washable enamel. The trained staff prepare and serve dishes, both native and continental.

The grille room on the ground floor has entrances leading from the parking lot and putting green; hallways and stairs connect it with kitchen, dining room and locker room. The atmosphere here is somewhat like an English gentlemen's club; women members and their guests are discouraged from entering or using this room. The floor is laid with red tile, the walls are partially covered with walnut paneling and the heavy walnut tables with round backed club chairs are nicely spaced. Easy access is had to the bar via a connecting door.

## Golf (Continued)

The bar is probably the only one of its kind in these parts; the overhead beamwork is composed of stout timbers which might have been taken from some old sailing vessel. The bar counter is of mahogany. The floor is laid with large, irregular shaped flagstones, ranging in color from a slate grey to a dull reddish brown. The windows are chalet type with leaded glass panes. The atmosphere is continental.

The large men's locker room on the ground floor contains more than one thousand individual lockers arranged in long rows. The lockers, more than six feet high, contain a top compartment for sundry articles, ample space for hanging clothes, and a bottom compartment for shoes, etc. A unique feature is the ventilation system; in the bottom of each locker is a small suction cap which draws air through the slotting on the top part of the locker door, a system which minimizes offensive odors. The floor is laid with soft but durable light green rubber tile. The sheen of the floor, the luminous grey color of the lockers and the whiteness of the ceiling make this room soothing and pleasing to the eye, particularly if one has just returned from the golf course or tennis courts on a sunny day. The men's shower room consists of eight marble and tile walled private stalls; the floor is laid with small, immaculately white, hexagonal tiles.

The men's wash room floor, of white tile, contains four large bowled sinks, four private booth toilets and four vertical stall type urinals that are connected with a continual flushing system. The walls from the floor to a height of five feet are set with small, rectangular, vitreous faced, white brick. The young men's wash room is similar to the men's wash room with the exception that



it contains two stall showers. The two above mentioned rooms are aired by an independent electrical ventilator; the locker proper is ventilated by numerous windows and on warm days by four large vertical breeze blowing fans. Here in three places, where locker space permits, are tables and chairs of cane or split bamboo construction; the tables have tops of thick, black onyx, the chairs are softly pillowed, their inviting appearance suggesting ease and comfort. Arranged in continuous rows in the aisles are darkly varnished benches for members to use when dressing and undressing. The locker room has three entrances.

The ladies' locker room is much smaller than the men's, contains about 300 lockers, a shower room, dressing room, make-up booth, rest room and lounge. A ventilating system is used.

The veranda, rectangular in shape, is long and wide. The floor is laid with the red tile dominant throughout the building; a heavy, white painted, wooden railing consisting of stout balusters girdle its edges and descends the flight of wide, red brick stairs that lead to the putting green. On the veranda are pale green metal tables, circular in design with chairs to match. In the middle of the veranda is a lofty, gable roofed portico supported by four massive pillars. Continuous French doors open on the veranda from the sun parlor, main lounge, lobby, main dining room and cocktail lounge.

On the ground in front of the veranda and partially surrounding the clubhouse are many and varied cultivated bushes planted in 1925, some bearing seasonal flowers others perennial. They are now high enough to almost obscure the lower red brick wall.

## Golf (continued)

The upper lounge sometimes used as a banquet room is on the top floor and is reached by the main lounge stairway. The floor is laid with small, rectangular, hardwood blocks, and is covered with a carpet similar to that in the lobby. The furniture is somewhat like that of the lobby and includes as well a large radio and phonograph set for impromptu dancing. Wall length windows open above the veranda and driveway. On the same floor, on either side of the service hallway are the manager's office, manager's apartment, housekeeper's room, a bed room, linen room and a strong room. The attic is used for storage.

Underneath the kitchen is the employees mess hall and pantry and close by are the ice cellar and wine room. About thirty telephone extensions throughout the building connecting with the central switchboard. The heating and water heating plant, situated underground beneath the driveway, is connected by a tunnel with the men's locker room and the squash racket court.

Reference: E.E., E.J., M.N. & J.R.E. from 1907 to date and from memory.



379  
April 1, 1941

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHY

LIST OF

WRITERS' ARTICLES

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

Copies filed in "Biography" first drawer

See second list of verbatim copies  
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in second drawer, Biography File.

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Asbury, Francis, Bishop



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Barrett, Philip  
Bassett, Richard  
Bates, George Handy (1845-1916)  
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(x Ref.)  
Bauduy See "G" - Garesches and Bauduys  
Bayard, Thomas Francis  
Baynard, Samuel H.  
Beard, Duncan (Clockmaker)  
Bedford, Gunning Sr.  
Bedford, Gunning Jr.  
Beekman, William  
Bird, Robert Montgomery  
Bissell, Emily P.  
Black, James R., Judge  
Black, James X. (Signer)  
Black, John Janvier, M. D.

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Bush, Family, The  
Bush, Samuel



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Campanius, Holm, Johanp, Rev.  
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Cannon, Patty  
Cannon, William  
Cantwell, Edmund, Captain  
Carey, Joseph Maull  
Carr, Robert, Sir  
Chandler, Elizabeth Margaret  
Chandler, Swithin  
Clayton Family, The  
Clayton, John Middleton  
Clayton, John Middleton (Described by his Yale Professor)  
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Clayton, Thomas (1777-1854)  
Christina, Queen of Sweden  
Clifton, John W., Dr.  
Cochran, Family The  
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Coleman, Leighton, Bishop  
Comegys, Joseph P. (Chief Justice)  
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de LaGrange, Arnoldus

De La Warr, Lord (Lord Delaware)

de Segur, Louis Phillippe Comte

De Vries, David Pietersen

Dickinson, John Middleton

Duff, Thomas

Du Pont, Family (Includes: Alexis Irene; Charles Irene; Henry;  
Henry Algernon, Ireneem Lamot, Pierre S.  
(1739-1817); T. Coleman; Victor Marie;  
William; Eleuthere Irene; De Nemours)

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(X Ref.) Earl of Wilmington. (See Compton, Spencer)

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(F)

Fabritius, Jacobus, Rev,

Ferris, Family The

Finley, William H.

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Gilpin, Family The

Godyn, Samuel

Gray, Andrew C.

Gray, George (Chief Justice)

Grier, G. Layton

Grubb, Family The

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Haslet, Family, The

Herman, Augustine & Sons

Hilles, Family, The

Holcomb, Family, The

Hollingsworth, Family, The

Holt, Rives

Hopkins, James A., Dr.

Hudson, Henry

Hunn, John (Governor)



Ingersoll, Robert G.

" J "

Jacquett, Peter, Major

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James, John

Janvier, Francis De Haes

Johns, Kinsey, Sr. & Jr.

Jones, Griffith

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Killen, William, Judge

Kirkwood, Robert, Major (1756-1791)

Kollock, Shepherd

Kollock, Family, The

Kruse, Edwina B.

Kelly, James Edward (Sculptor of Rodney Statue)

"L"

Latimer, James

La Motte, William O., M. D.

Latrobe, Benjamin Henry

Lee, Family, The

Lindestrom, Peter Martenson

Lock, Lars Carlson

Lockerman, Nicholas

Lofland, John, "The Milford Bard"

Lore, Charles B. Lowber, Alexander, Dr.



MacDonough, Thomas, Commodore

McKean, Sally

McKean, Thomas (Delawarean)

McKinly, John, M. D.

McLane, Allen & Louis

"M"

Marin, Charles

Marquard, John P.

Maxwell, Solomon

May (Mey), Cornelius J.

Messeramith, George

Miller, Edward, Dr.

Minuit, Peter

Moll, John

Montgomery, Elizabeth

Morris, Hugh M.

Nealson, Hendrick  
Nicolls, Richard, Sir  
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"O"

Ogle, John

"P"

Papegoja, Johan  
Penn, William  
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Pioneers in Wilmington's Upbuilding  
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Printz, Arnegot  
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Pusey, Joshua, Esq.  
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Pyle, Howard (Artist)



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Reade, Charles

Read, George

Redfield, Edward Willis

Reeves, Marian Calhoun Legare

Renzetti, Marcus Aurelius

Reybold, Philip, Major

Ridder, Peter Hollender

Ridgely, Family, The &

Ridgely, Nicholas, Hon.

Rising, Johan Classon

Rodney, Caesar (1728-1784)

Rodney, Daniel

Rowan, Archibald Hamilton

Sanders - Saunders Items

Saulsbury, Family, The

Schoonover, Frank Early

Scott, Henry P.

Scott, Levi

Senators from Delaware to Washington, List of

Shaw, Robert

Shipley, Elizabeth

Shipley, William

Signers of U. S. Constitution (List of names)

Smithers, Nathaniel (Memoir of)

Smyth, Thomas A., General (Thos. A or Thos. B.)

Spencer, William

Springer, Family, The

Stallcop, John Anderson (Stalkofta) (Johnson & Scharf)

Starr, Family, The

Stidham, Tyman (Tymen?)

Stuyvesant, Peter

Stillman, Effie (Mrs. William Ritchie)

Stockley, Charles S. Governor



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Thomas, George (Dictionary of American Biography )

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Thomson, Charles

Tilton, James

Tom, William

Torkillus, Reorus, Rev.

Townsend, Family, The

"U"

"V"

Van de Vere, Jacob

Van Dyke, Family, The

Van Leuvenigh, Zackariah

Van Sweringen, Gerritt

Vining, Family, The (John, Mary, Phebe & William H.)

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

396

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Washington, George

Wattson, Thomas

Way, Nicholas, Dr.

Wertmuller, Adolph Ulrick

White, Samuel & Thomas, Judge

Willing, Thomas

"X"

"Y"

"Z"



J. B. Pietuszka  
Victor Miller  
Sept. 27, 1940

Wilmington in the 1790's

397

RIGHTS OF ALIENS TO HOLD PROPERTY (1798)

(From the Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware)

"Wednesday, A. M. January 10, 1798.

"A petition of Thomas Magens, of the town of New-Castle, was presented and read, representing that he is a native of the island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, subject to the Crown of Denmark - That he emigrated from thence to take up his residence in the United States of America, within which he hath resided eight years and upwards; five years of which time he hath resided within this state - That since his residence within this state, he hath purchased eighty-seven acres and an half of land in the county of New-Castle - That he intermarried with a native of this state, who was seized in her own right of two messuages and three lots in the town of New-Castle, subject to the dower of Ingeber Lefever, her mother- That his wife is since dead, by whom he hath issue, two children - That since the decease of his wife he hath purchased the dower of Ingeber Lefever, in consideration of a rent charge by him, to her, granted - That at the time of purchase and the proceedings aforesaid, he had no knowledge that he was to be deemed an alien until naturalized within the United States - That he has been admitted a citizen of the United States, agreeably to the provisions

of the naturalization act of Congress, passed the twenty-ninth of January, in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-five; and praying the Legislature to relinquish the claim of this state to the aforesaid property, by a law for that purpose; and to vest the same in him, his heirs, and assigns, agreeably to his conveyances therefore.

"Also the petition of John Mundall, representing that he is a native of the city of Edinburgh, in the kingdom of Scotland, and emigrated from thence to the United States, ten years ago, and upwards; seven years of which time he hath resided within this state - That since his residence within this state, he hath purchased a lot of ground in the town of New-Castle; on which he hath made considerable improvements - That he made said purchase without knowing, that by the laws of the land he would be deemed an alien until legally naturalized within the United States - That he hath recently been naturalized agreeably to the provisions of the naturalization act of Congress passed on the twenty-ninth day of January, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-five; and praying the Legislature, for leave to bring in a bill relinquishing the claim of this state to the aforesaid property, and vesting the same in him, his heirs, and assigns, agreeably to his assurances in the law for the same.

"On motion of Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Sykes.

Resolved, That the petitions of Thomas Magens and John Mundall be referred to a Committee of three.



"Mr. Alexander, Mr. Cummins, and Mr. Stockly are, the Members of this Committee.

Thursday, A. M. January 11, 1798.

"Mr. Alexander, of the Committee to whom were referred, the petitions of Thomas Mogens, and John Mundall, reported.

"That it is the opinion of the Committee, that each of them have leave to bring a bill, agreeably to the prayer of their respective petitions.

"Whereupon the said bills were laid on the table, and read.

"On motion of Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Sykes.

"The bill, entitled, "An act to prevent the issuing of warrants for the location of land," was read the third time by paragraphs, and

Passed the Senate.

Friday, A. M. January 12, 1798.

"On motion of Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Sykes.

The bill, entitled, "An act to vest certain lands in New-Castle county, in Thomas Mogens, notwithstanding his being an alien, at the time of purchasing and taking the same," was, by special order, read the second time by paragraphs, and

Passed the Senate.

"On motion of Mr. Sykes, seconded by Mr. Stockly.

The bill, entitled, "An act to sell a certain lot of ground, in the town of New-Castle, in John Mandall, notwithstanding his being an alien at the time of purchasing the same," was, by special order, read the second time by paragraph, and

Passed the Senate.

"Ordered, That the aforesaid bills be sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

Extracts from the Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware, 1798, pp. 10, 11, 12, 13.



v. 47

Biographies

~~Van Dykes~~

Submitted by Reese Hammond

Oct. 1, 1937

The Van Dyke Family

The Van Dykes, ~~were~~ one of the first families to come to America from Amsterdam, ~~and settled with others~~ at New Amsterdam in the early years of the seventeenth century.

The first record of the family's arrival on the Delaware is ~~that stating~~ <sup>states that</sup> Gregorius Van Dyke resided at Elfsborg and was sheriff there between 1644 and 1661.

Little is known about the development of the family between 1661 and their appearance in Saint George's Hundred about 1715, when they purchased land in "Dutch Neck" called "Berwick." Four years later a tract of two hundred acres on "Doctor's Swamp" was bought from John Vanhelke, which tract had originally been "patented" November 5, 1675, to Ann Whale. It was at "Berwick" that Nicholas Van Dyke, Sr., was born at ~~that place~~, September 25, 1738.

Nicholas Van Dyke, Sr., is known to have been admitted to the Philadelphia bar in 1765 and is ~~thought~~ <sup>believed</sup> to have been admitted to the Delaware bar at an earlier date.

Van Dyke Sr., was twice married and fathered three children, a son Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr., and ~~and~~ two daughters, Nancy, the <sup>oldest</sup> ~~eldest~~, who married Chief Justice Kensey Johns, and ~~and~~ Dorcas Montgomery ~~who~~ married Charles I. du Pont at a wedding ceremony in the presence of General Lafayette.

Nichlas Van Dyke, Sr., served in a number of







Van Dykes #3

houses are in a fine state of preservation and are visited annually by ~~thousands~~ <sup>hundreds</sup> of people.

His political life began in 1799 when he was elected to the Legislature, this success being followed by his election to the House of Representatives in 1809, to the Senate of Delaware in 1815, and to the United States Senate in 1817~~81~~ in which body he was serving when he died May 21, 1826.

His remains are thought to be interred in the Presbyterian Churchyard at New Castle.

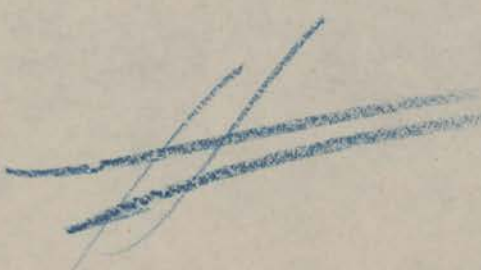
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## Biography

Ephraim Herman

Submitted by Reese Hammond

Ephraim George Herman was born the oldest of five children of Augustine Herman and Janneken Verlett Herman at New Amsterdam. He was baptized September 1, 1652. ~~He was educated at the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam.~~

~~At the age of 16 he married again to an English woman. He was educated at the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam. He was educated at the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam.~~

Ephraim went into business and settled in New Castle with his oldest sister as housekeeper. ~~He was educated at the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam.~~ For a number of years Ephraim had sought the hand of the daughter of Johan van Rodenburgh in marriage and succeeded in his ambition, September 3, 1677, when Elizabeth van Rodenburgh became his wife.

Mrs Herman was possessed with a quiet disposition, fine education, and great respect for the work of God. She bore her husband four children; namely, Augustine, Augustina, Samuel and Ephraim.

Mr Herman changed from an artful, hypocritical youth to sober, industrious pursuits and acquired much land on the South river both from his father and by his own initiative. He became widely known for his trustworthiness and won the respect of his fellow citizens for his honest and Square dealing.



---2---Ephraim

Like his father he was a surveyor and served in this capacity at New Castle. In addition to this office, he filled other positions of trust. He was clerk of court at New Castle and Upland, clerk of permits, entries, and clearings of customs on the Delaware, and receiver of quit-rents within the jurisdiction of the New Castle courts. In 1679 he was sent to New York in company with Mr John Moll and Captain Cantwell to present grievances to the governor.

Ephraim was high in the favor of his father for the elder Herman gave portions of his vast holdings to each of the other children but made Ephraim, owner for life, of the greater part. Elder Herman also empowered Ephraim to hire or sell any part as he saw fit.

In later years Ephraim connected himself with the Labadist movement and by doing so incurred the wrath of his father. One of the credos of the order made abstinence a virtue. Ephraim left his wife but, repenting, returned to her. His father wrote a codicil to his will making three of his neighbors his executors, assigning as his reason for the change fear that Ephraim might proselyte his brothers and sisters out of their holdings and the Labadists come into possession of the lands.

Ephraim Herman died within two years after his association with the Labadist, first suffering a protracted illness, and then his insanity, thus fulfilling his father's prediction of his male diction.

----3---Ephraim

that he might not live two years after joining the sect.

----30---

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Clyde W. Young  
July 30, 1940

Wilmington File 407  
GOVERNMENTS IN DELAWARE  
Present Government  
County: Public Health

II - B - 2-c,3)

#### COUNTY AMBULANCES

Ambulance service, through direct management or appropriations for their private maintenance, is provided by the Levy Courts of all three counties in Delaware.

Under an act passed by the General Assembly on May 15, 1939, the Levy Court of each county can "make appropriations to each and every fire company in their respective county outside the limits of the City of Wilmington, furnishing an ambulance for the benefit of the residents thereof, the sum of Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars to be used in the maintenance of ambulance service." (1)

Prior to the passage of the act, the amount granted by Levy Court to the fire companies for ambulance service ranged from \$250 to \$500. A double appropriation is granted the Carlisle Fire Company, of Milford, as it operates its ambulance in both Kent and Sussex Counties.

The fire companies receiving the appropriations from Levy Court are: New Castle County: Claymont Fire Company, of Claymont, and Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company, of Newark; Sussex County: Laurel Fire Company, of Laurel; Frankford Volunteer Fire Company, of Frankford, and Seaford Volunteer Fire Company, of Seaford. Aside from the

Carlisle Fire Company, of Milford, no fire companies are listed for Kent County. (2)

In addition to the fire companies, ambulance service is also given in Kent County by the David C. Harrison Post No. 14, American Legion, of Smyrna, and the Sussex Post No. 9, American Legion, of Georgetown. An appropriation of \$500 is paid the David C. Harrison Post by the Levy Court of Kent County, while the Levy Court of Sussex County pays an appropriation of \$250 annually to the Sussex Post. (3)

In New Castle County, in addition to the ambulance service given by the volunteer fire companies, Levy Court maintains two ambulance under its direct management, serving both the City of Wilmington and the rural sections of the county. This service was placed in operation on October 1, 1939, following action by City Council on September 21 in authorizing approval of an agreement for Levy Court to take over this phase of service which had been carried on by the Department of Public Safety. (4)

Under the agreement, which remained tentative from October 1, 1939, to July 1, 1940, the City pays \$9,000 annually to Levy Court. In addition, the City also turned over to Levy Court all ambulances and equipment to be sold, the funds being used in defraying expenses for new ambulances and equipment. The agreement between the City Council and Levy Court is for a period of five years. (4)  
(5)

Through the agreement, a twenty-four hour service is given the public, with two ambulances in operation during the day, and one at night. During the day one ambulance



is reserved for city use and the other for duty in the rural sections of the county, while at night one ambulance serves the entire county. A staff of twelve is maintained, including six attendants who act as drivers and stretcher-bearers, a male nurse, a female nurse, and three clerks who keep records of all calls at the ambulance headquarters in the Public Building, Wilmington.

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C. H. H.  
8/12/40

Clyde W. Young  
August 2, 1940

GOVERNMENT IN DELAWARE  
Present Government  
County: Public Health  
II-B-1-C, 3

#### INDIGENT SICK

Hospital care for the indigent sick in all three counties in Delaware is provided through annual appropriations made by the Levy Courts. The largest appropriation is made in New Castle County, where \$60,000 is granted for this work. (1) In Kent County \$15,000 is appropriated, while in Sussex County the amount set aside is \$25,000. (2)

In all three counties the appropriations are divided into quarterly amounts, and, under State law, no expenditure can exceed the quarterly allotment unless funds are left over from the previous quarter. The hospitalization of indigent patients is limited to forty-two consecutive days, but extensions of time can be granted upon application of the hospital and the attending physician.

Slightly different regulations govern the expenditure of funds in the various counties. In New Castle County, the indigent sick may be received at any hospital, but an allowance of \$3 a day is the maximum that can be charged against the County for the patient. Hospital authorities are required to fill out a form prepared by the Comptroller, and must submit it to him on or before the fifteenth of each month. The form sets forth the number of patients admitted during the month and the length of their hospitalization. The Comptroller has the right to make any investigations of both



the report and the patients he feels are necessary. (3)

In Kent County an allowance of \$4 a day is made to the hospitals for the care of each patient admitted. Reports of the hospitals must be submitted to Levy Court, together with a statement showing the name, address, and ailment of the patient, as well as the date of admittance and discharge. (3)

More stringent regulations govern the indigent sick of Sussex County, where an allowance is also made of \$4 a day. All hospitals and institutions admitting patients at county expense must be approved by the Medical Council of Delaware before filing a claim for services with the Levy Court. It is necessary for the patient to have been a resident of Delaware for six months and of Sussex County for three months before treatment can be obtained at county expense. A certificate must also be obtained by the patient from the attending physician before a notary public setting forth the need for medical aid and an inability to personally bear the expense. (In such cases, the notary is limited to charging a fee of ten cents for each affidavit) The Levy Court appoints an investigator at a salary of \$125 a month to examine all such cases. The investigator holds office at the pleasure of Levy Court. (2)

To care for patients suffering from contagious diseases not admissible to other hospitals, a separate appropriation of \$10,000 is made by the Levy Court of New Castle County for the Doris Memorial Contagious Hospital unit of the

Wilmington General Hospital. This appropriation is divided into monthly payments of \$833.33. To prevent overcrowding of the hospital with county patients, the institution is not obliged to care for more than twenty-five patients at a time. It is not compulsory for the hospital to admit persons suffering from smallpox. (3) No special provisions for the treatment of contagious cases is made in the two lower counties.

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ESSAY MATERIAL for AGRICULTURE AND FARM LIFE

HOLLY WREATH MAKING AND THE HOLLY INDUSTRY

The general story on holly was originally in MILLSBORO, but was taken out of there by the Washington office to be put in the essay on Agriculture and Farm Life.

Thanksgiving Day in Lower Delaware is celebrated by feasting, as elsewhere, but the thoughts of hundreds of farm families on that day run ahead to the making of holly wreaths, which starts by custom the next day and continues until the middle of December. In 1936 there were shipped from Millsboro and other points more than 2 million holly wreaths, a large quantity of other evergreen decorations, and 6,000 cases of loose holly branches, at a total value of \$185,000. This figure, however, marked a ~~sharp~~ decline from \$400,000 in 1927, the peak year, when Delaware was the greatest holly-producing State in the country, following the decline of New Jersey holly. The center of the industry is moving down the coast; in 1936 Maryland was the leading producer. Vandalism and crude harvesting methods are given as the reasons for the sharp decline in Delaware since 1927. Wanton or thoughtless butchery of holly trees has resulted in annual campaigns by the Forestry Department and garden clubs to explain proper methods of harvesting and to persuade wreath-makers and buyers not to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Because of the decline of wild holly the ~~State~~ Forestry Department has started the raising of English holly, considered superior

commercially to American holly (see STATE FORESTRY NURSERY: Tour 2).

The Delaware holly industry began in the 1890's when William Buell of Milford shipped 3,000 cases to Chicago at one dollar a case. Previously scorned by farmers and timber men, holly thenceforth developed into a major Delaware crop. A single family may make \$200 in a season -- money long anticipated for Christmas shopping and winter clothes for the children.

~~By December 10 every farmhouse kitchen stays bright with coal-oil lamps far into the night. Inside there is a cosy, busy, and sociable gathering: men, women, and children working in a green-and-red littler of twigs and berries~~

From Thanksgiving on, entire families, ~~white, black and yellow~~ white and Negro, take to the dark and misty pine forests to cut the holly twigs and berries and the limber gum switches to make hoops. Singly or in groups -- often singing when not trespassing on pasted land -- they seek out every holly tree with berries or leaves good enough; the twigs go into one "grass sack" (burlap bag), the berries into another. Twigs and berries are then stored in cool dark places in farmhouses awaiting the wreathmaking.

By December 10 every farmhouse kitchen stays bright with coal-oil lamps far into the night. Inside is a cosy, busy, and sociable gathering, men, women and children working in a green-and-red litter of twigs and berries, deftly wiring them on 10-inch gum or wire hoops, laughing, talking, laying wagers about the number of wreaths ("reefs") they will make that night. Flying fingers are gloved against the sharp prickles of the leaves. Wreaths with natural berries bring a higher price than those with the artificial berries furnished by the buyers. But in late years, the berry crops being poor, artificial berries are used more and more.



By day the scores of holly buyers and agents travel the back country, visiting every farmhouse and purchasing stacks of finished wreaths for four to eight cents each, depending on quality. Roads are full of pick-up trucks -- "tote-and fetches" -- loaded with six-foot cylinders of wreaths on poles to be taken to the markets in the towns.

In the face of the difficulty in supplying the increased demand for Christmas greens, there has appeared a tendency to use plants and trees previously ignored in the region. In some sections the red cedars that decorated the landscape for years are now forlorn skeletons, stripped bare of foliage. The more accessible trees along the roads suffer ~~xx~~ most. There is yet no concerted public opinion in the region against despoiling natural ~~beauty~~ beauty. Few Sussex-Countians have wished to protect the roadside cedars for any reason other than their future use as fence posts. In spite of the depletion of marketable timber, the farmers, consciously or unconsciously, still regard trees as enemies waiting to recapture farmland that was laboriously cleared a generation or two ago. Any Sussex field left untilled for five years is covered with five-foot loblolly pines, scrub oak and baby cedars.

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# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

Old Town Hall, Wilmington 24, Delaware

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*Assistant Librarian*

Mr. W.D.Lewis,  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware

My dear Mr. Lewis,

This is to thank you most sincerely on behalf of the Society for the index to the 1851 edition of Betsy Montgomery's Reminiscences of Wilmington. As you doubtless know, the Library here made one of the 1874 edition, so we are now all properly in order.

It was very kind of you to think of us, and in return I am enclosing some notes on Brown and Hynson, who wrote "Our Delaware," the State Song. I also have photographs, and can lend you the negatives, if you care for them. It was surprisingly hard to find out about Brown, Mrs. Charles T. Brown had a scrapbook with undated clippings, and we finally got his burial and death from the sexton of St. Peter's Cathedral. We never did find his birth, or what his initials Will M.S. Brown stand for. In the course of the chase, I penetrated the Red and Blue Masonic Lodges, and the Delaware Saengerbund Library. They tell me that they have "the oldest books in Delaware, "

You were good to send us anything, when I have never replied about joining the library special association which you wrote me about. (Never end a sentence with a preposition) . I have been intending to look into it further.

With best regards and thanks again,  
Sincerely yours,

*Gertrude Brinckle*  
Librarian.

May 13th, 1948.



*417-418*

Composers of the State Song, "Our Delaware" written in 1916, formally made the State Song by Act of Legislature, 1925.

Will M.S Brown composed the Music, George B.Hynson wrote the words.

Photographs of both men, attached.

GEORGE B. HYNSON

George B.Hynson, born April 3, 1862 near Milford Delaware, died Dec 6, 1926 in Philadelphia. Buried in Milford. For Biographical note, see "Delaware Historic Events" by Edward W. Cooch, 1946, p.145.

WILL M.S.BROWN.

Will M.S.Brown, ( 1860, - Oct 22, 1917) composer of religious music both vocal and instrumental, the son of James and Emily Ferguson Brown, was born in Wilmington. His father, an English printer, was with W.D.Maxwell printer, 110 West 12th St, Wilmington.

The Browns were staunch Baptists, and Will M.S.Brown's first position was organist at the Delaware Ave.Baptist Church, at the age of 14, for 11 years. This began a long series of positions as organist; Five years at St.Patrick's Church, 9 years at St.Mary's, 4 years at St.Paul's, and some time at the West Presbyterian. It is not known at what time he went to Germany to study, but he received a musical education at Leipsic. In 1888 The Wilmington College of music was organized by Dushane Cloward, and Will M.S.Brown was instructor of piano.

From 1906 to 1917, he formed the business partnership of Brown and Edwards, publishers of music, with Mr. Charles T.Edwards, himself a composer.

For forty two years Brown was identified with musical activities in Wilmington, composing and publishing many anthems and several oratorios, which were given here; "Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath" "The Story of Christ" "The Sixty Sixth Psalm Lazarus". These were presented in the West Presbyterian Church under the direction of Jacob T.Clymer with a chorus of eighty voices, called the Philharmonic Chorus. Each performance was attended by a capacity audience. He also composed a biblical Opera, which was produced by the Elks and ran for a week, entitled "King Solomon."

Brown was a member of the "Manuscript Club" of Philadelphia, one of the most exclusive musical organizations in the country, of which he was later chosen president. In 1894 he was director of the Columbian Glee Club. He was popular with local musical organizations in the state.

In 1916 the award for a State Song was given to Brown and Hynson for "Our Delaware". It was made the official state song by act of legislature after Brown's death.

His last composition was "Let not your heart be troubled". His partner brought him the published music just before he died, but he was then too weak to speak. This anthem was sung at his funeral, at St.Peter's Cathedral, attended by throngs. His many friends in all denominations were well represented; the Saengerbund volunteered to sing; Delaware musicians were his pallbearers; Charles T. Edwards Choir leader of the Delaware Avenue Baptist Church; George E.King, Epworth Methodist Church, Jacob T.Clymer, West Presbyterian Church; T.Leslie Carpenter, Trinity Episcopal Church, William T.White, McCabe Memorial, and Herman Gossen, baritone, who often sang Brown's compositions.

He was survived by his sister, Miss Jane Brown, and his wife, the former Mary E. Burns, whom he married in June 21st, 1887. They had no children, but his wife's nephew, John McGough, of whom Mr.Brown was very fond was his musical heir.

On Nov.25, 1917, a memorial concert was given in his honor at the Garrick Theatre, attended by 1400 friends. Mayor Lawson in a tribute to W.M.S Brown on this occasion, said "More of his works are sung in the churches of the United States on the average Sunday, than the work of any other American" composer.

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*not published*

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Librarian

RUTHANNA HINDS  
Assistant Librarian

May 20, 1948

Dear Mr Lewis

Will you make a correction in  
the Broom - Lynam Material just sent  
you? Mr John McGough, nephew of  
Mr Broom, living at Oxford Pa  
has just sent Father Corrigan a  
Scrapbook: — (W.M.S. Brown)

His correct name was William Mears  
Simpson Brown and he was born  
May 16th 1860 and his Mother's  
name was Luily Simpser - (not  
Terguson)

With best regards

Gertrude Brinckle