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GOVERNMENT

Rough Drafts

V.45

The first colony in Delaware, at Swanendael (Lewes), was set up under a "Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions" issued to certain merchants of Amsterdam by the Dutch West India Company, and ratified by the States General of the Netherlands on June 7, 1629. This charter granted large tracts of land to any member of the company, who as a "patroon," should bring over to New Netherland within four years "fifty souls, upwards of fifteen years old" at his own cost and risk. The charter granted to the patroon the exclusive "fishing, fowling, and grinding" rights; civil and criminal jurisdiction; power to appoint all magistrates and other officials of his colony. The settlers sent out by a patroon were bound to him as subjects for a term of years. This modified form of feudalism existed for only a year on Delaware soil, ending when the colony, established in 1631 at the site of Lewes, was wiped out by the Indians.

In the Swedish settlements on the Delaware, founded under the charter and privileges granted in 1637 to the New Sweden Company by the Swedish Crown, a military form of government was established under instructions of a council of prominent shareholders in Sweden. The governor, appointed by the council, was given complete administrative and judicial powers, supported by his officers and soldiers. He was instructed to dispense justice according to Swedish law and to use his own discretion in all circumstances not covered by the council's rulings.

NA In the rudimentary courts, the governor acted as judge (and sometimes also as plaintiff), assisted by a body of about twelve men chosen by him from the "principal and wisest" members of the colony, with whom he heard the evidence and decided the case, punishing by fine, imprisonment, or death. Until almost the end of Sweden's control of the Delaware, the people had no voice in the government. The last Swedish governor, Rising, called the ablest men together for drawing up and adopting the ordinances his instructions authorized him to effect concerning trade, agriculture, hunting, preserving the forests, and other matters.

When the Dutch took possession of the settlements on the Delaware in 1655, they set up at Fort Casimir under a vice-director, Jean Paul Jacquet, an administration subject to the director-general, Peter Stuyvesant, and his council at New Amsterdam. Stuyvesant and his council had executive, legislative, and judicial authority over New Netherland, subject to the approval of the directors in Holland and not in violation of the laws of that country. The instructions of the West India Company to Stuyvesant excluded any participation by the inhabitants in the selection of officers or in the determination of ordinances or taxes. Jacquet was given instructions by Stuyvesant accordingly. He was entrusted with "supreme command" over officers, soldiers, and freemen on the Delaware, but shared with a council of four -- the secretary, military commander, and two sergeants, or two of the ablest freemen if the case were purely civil -- the exercise of legislative and judicial power in petit affairs. All important cases and appeals were to be referred to Stuyve-

sant and his council at New Amsterdam.

After control of the settlement at Fort Casimir (over territory from the south side of the Christina to Bombay Hook) was transferred by the West India Company to the City of Amsterdam in the summer of 1656, Jacquet called the community together at the fort on several occasions, to nominate proper persons for tobacco inspectors and similar offices, and to consider ordinances. For inspectors, the people nominated four from whom the vice-director chose two, and in the adoption of ordinances the people seem to have had a determining voice.

When in April 1657, the City of Amsterdam's first expedition and new director arrived, the latter, Jacob Alrichs, put into effect the Amsterdam decree that the government and administration of justice in New Amstel should follow the Amsterdam model -- the officers to be a "schout" (who exercised the duties both of sheriff and of prosecuting attorney in the court), five or seven "schepens" (magistrates) appointed by the director from double the number nominated by the burghers, and three burgomasters, selected by the burghers from the "honestest, fittest and richest" Dutch settlers in the community. These large concessions toward self-government represented a policy adopted to win and hold desirable settlers in sufficient numbers to make the colony pay. Meanwhile the government under Stuyvesant was maintained on the rest of the river, with its center under William Beekman at Fort Altena. Beekman was customs collector for the West India Company and was required to go to New Amstel when ships arrived. After the formal transfer of the whole river to the City of Amsterdam, December 22, 1663, the West India Company's director withdrew and the New Amstel provisions were applied to the whole river. Though the colony suffered from the lack of judgment or neglect of duty of some of its officers, and from other causes, the form of government suited local conditions. Its representative character was emphasized at the close of Dutch control when the burgomasters signed, on behalf of

all the inhabitants, the articles of capitulation to the English.

By the Duke of York's instructions (under English control, beginning in 1664) the Dutch officers -- schout, burgomasters, and magistrates -- were continued in power under a military commander, ~~Sir Robert Carr~~, ^{Captain John Carr}, representing the Duke's deputy-governor, Richard Nicolls, at New York, and the Dutch method of government with its magistrates' court was little changed during the first decade of the Duke's period. The first trial approximating English form was of the Long Finn in 1669. English customs and English laws were ~~gradually~~ ^{more fully} introduced after 1673. In that year, during the brief return of Dutch control, three courts of justice were established: at New Amstel, Upland (Chester), and Whorekill (~~Hooenkill~~) ^(Lewes); the magistrates for each court to be chosen by the governor at New York from double the number nominated by a "majority of votes" of the inhabitants. Upon resumption of control by the Duke of York the following year, these courts were continued. In 1676, an ordinance and proclamation on the establishment of the "Duke of York's Laws" was sent to the Delaware for enforcement; the same courts were again continued. At this period the courts had a broad jurisdiction; in addition to civil and criminal cases, they granted applications to take up land, received returns of surveys, had transfers of real estate acknowledged before them, regulated church affairs, directed construction and maintenance of highways and fences, made provision for the care of the poor, recorded sales of the time of servants; even recorded brand marks of cattle.

Popular government in Delaware received impetus from William Penn's "Frame of the Government of the Province of Pennsylvania," although at first -- except in the council -- the powers of the people's representatives did not include the initiation of legislation. ~~According to Penn's Frame,~~ his first assembly, convened at Upland in 1682, passed the "Act

at New Castle with Andrew as the whole part

Joining the ^{lower} counties or territories (Delaware) with the Province;
of Union) ^{and} at Philadelphia in 1683, the "Act of Settlement"
and "The Great Law" were adopted. ^{These instruments} provided for civil and religious liberty, for representative government through an elective council and assembly -- the latter having the right to accept or reject but not to initiate legislation -- and for a humane code for the administration of justice for the three counties of Delaware to be governed "in union" with the Province of Pennsylvania.

Penn's government included a deputy or lieutenant governor appointed by him, and a council of advisers to the governor called the Provincial Council; the members of the council and of the assembly were elected by counties by the freemen; the franchise was limited to land owners, "or any inhabitant" who paid "scot and lot to the governor." All elections were to be by ballot. How this last provision was carried out in Delaware is shown by a statement of Griffith Jones, a member of the council from Kent County. In a debate in council at Philadelphia in April 1689, Jones said: "Balloting . . . at upland & in all the Lower Countyes (is) by black & white beanes put into a hatt, wch is a balloting in his sense, & cannot be denyed by the Charter, where it is demanded."

had
A Penn^{had} created a provincial court to sit in each of the counties during the year. By 1736 the local courts (developed by the separate assembly for the lower counties) were as follows: the county courts of general quarter sessions of the peace and jail delivery, the county courts of common pleas, and the supreme court of the counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex upon Delaware. The justices of the peace of each county formed the county courts; the supreme court consisted of three judges,

who were empowered to try all appeals from the county courts and all civil and criminal matters not determinative by the county courts.

In 1701, Penn issued a more liberal charter, called "The Charter of Privileges," which (although it removed from the assembly the right to originate bills/ enjoyed under "Markham's Frame" since 1696) gave the assembly the power to choose its own speaker and officers, and provided for the election of sheriffs and coroners by the freemen of each county. This charter also permitted the "Territories" (Delaware) to hold a separate assembly from the "Province" (Pennsylvania) if either desired.

As a conclusion to controversies and disagreements existing since Penn's arrival, the "three lower counties" separated from the counties of the Province of Pennsylvania in 1704, and set up their own assembly at New Castle. ^{and} They still ^{more represented in the Council of the province} acknowledged the authority of the provincial governor of Pennsylvania, who after 1703 ^{was to have a royal governor because his appointment had to be approved by the Crown.} ~~This was Delaware's first independent government, and~~ ^{By then been assembly and} ~~the Governor and Council of Pennsylvania~~ ^{the three} Delaware counties were governed until a constitution elected by the people adopted a separate constitution for the Delaware State in 1776.

Delaware has had four constitutions up to the present time: 1776, 1792, 1831, and 1897. The constitution of 1776 provided that the general assembly should consist of two houses, an assembly of seven members from each county and a legislative council of three members from each county, to be elected by the freeholders. Only those freeholders were enfranchised "who owned 50 acres of land, with 12 acres of it cleared and improved, or were otherwise worth 40 pounds lawful money." The President of the State was chosen by joint vote of the two houses. To advise the general assembly there was provided a privy council, composed of four members, two elected

Insert from P 5-6

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The Constitution of 1776 created
by each house. A supreme court, ~~was created~~, consisting of three justices, one to be chief justice; and a court of common pleas for each county. There was also ~~provided~~ a court of appeals to "have all the authority and powers heretofore given by law in the last resort to the King in Council, under the old government."

Article 26 of this constitution is of unique historic interest. It provided that "no person hereafter imported into the State from Africa ought to be held in slavery under any pretense whatever, and no Negro, Indian, or Mulatto slave ought to be brought into this State, for sale, from any part of the world." Both this provision and the one relating to suffrage, mentioned above, were omitted from the constitution of 1792.

Under the 1792 constitution, the government was considerably less complicated. The executive power was vested in a Governor to be chosen by popular vote; a voter must be free, white, and have paid a state or county tax. The Governor was given larger powers of appointment; the privy council was dropped; the legislature became the senate and house of representatives.

Radical changes were made in the courts. ~~The~~ The supreme court ~~and~~

The court of common pleas ~~were~~ ^{as well as} given State-wide jurisdiction. The justices of the supreme court, by virtue of their office, also constituted the court of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery. There was provided an orphans' court, a registers' court and a court of quarter-sessions of the peace for each county. The high court of errors and appeals, superseding the court of appeals, was set up as the court of last resort. A court of chancery was established, as a separate tribunal, presided

over by a chancellor.

The third constitution, that of 1831, made the meetings of the legislature biennial instead of annual; presidential electors were to be elected by the people. The most important change in the judicial system was the abolishment of the supreme court and the court of common pleas; in their places the superior court was created, with the jurisdiction of the two former courts.

The present constitution was adopted in 1897, after many years of agitation for revision. Changing conditions -- the abolition of slavery, the growing democratic spirit, the growth of population of the city of Wilmington -- made numerous *alterations* ~~changes~~ desirable. The new constitution reapportioned representation according to electoral districts and thus partly in proportion to population. The judges are appointed by the Governor for twelve years instead of for life.

The constitution of 1897 has, in addition to the usual requirements as to age and residence, a provision that prospective voters must be able to read the Constitution of the United States in English. Those who have been prevented from receiving an education through a physical handicap are excused from meeting this test. Delaware was one of the border States that permitted the ownership ~~and traffic~~ of slaves, and this literacy clause is a typical attempt to qualify the fifteenth amendment. ~~It was used chiefly for Negroes.~~

Delaware is the only State in the Union in which amendments to the constitution by legislative proposal or action of a constitutional convention do not have to be ratified by

the voters before becoming effective. Amendments become part of the constitution by passing both houses of the legislature by a two-thirds vote at two successive sessions.

The government of Delaware is divided into the traditional executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The Governor is elected for a term of four years and is ineligible for a third term. All the Governor's appointments must be confirmed by the senate, and his power to grant pardons is limited to those cases that have been recommended by the board of pardons. His veto power extends to separate items in appropriation bills, and a three-fifths vote of each house of the legislature is necessary to pass a bill over his veto. If he fails to sign or return a bill sent to him for his approval, such bill automatically becomes a law at the end of ten days, unless the general assembly shall, by adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not become a law without the approval of the Governor.

Other executive officers include the Lieutenant Governor, State treasurer, ^{attorney-general, insurance commissioner,} and auditor of accounts, all of whom are elected at the general election. The terms of these officers are four years, except the State treasurer and auditor of accounts, which are two years.

Many of the administrative functions of the State government are vested in various boards and commissions set up by the general assembly, whose members are appointed by the governor. The members of these commissions, mostly unpaid, perform a great amount of work, solve administrative difficulties, and save the State money, while enabling it to assume necessary

functions for the welfare of the people. The system has been carried somewhat to extremes, to avoid the so-regarded disproportionate overhead expense that exists in so small a State if all the functions of government should be carried by paid departments. Among its 61 State commissions, Delaware has no public utility commission, and no state planning commission.

In the legislative branch of the government, the senate is composed of 17 members (which is the smallest State senate in the country), and the house of representatives, of 35 members. There are ten representative districts in each county for the election of members to the house of representatives. The term of a representative is two years. The senatorial districts are likewise allocated five to each county, and, in addition, the city of Wilmington elects five representatives and two senators. The senators serve for four years. This division of the State for election purposes is without regard to the proportion of population in Wilmington. With approximately one-half the inhabitants of the State, Wilmington is given only two of the 17 members of the senate, and five of the 35 representatives. It So distinct is the city as a voting unit and in point of view, that it is customary to refer to the vote of Wilmington and rural New Castle County as being entirely separate.

The State retains the convention system of choosing candidates for State office. The substitution of the direct primary has never been championed by either major party.

There is no requirement in Delaware for an individual to put himself on record as being a member of any particular party. Consequently, in county elections persons of all shades of

political opinion may participate in the primaries of their adversaries. ~~this is often resorted to for the purpose of selecting the weakest candidates and the easiest to defeat at the election.~~

The constitution provides that "the General Election shall be held biennially on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, and shall be by ballot; but the General Assembly may by law prescribe the means, methods, and instruments of voting, so as best to secure secrecy and the independence of the voter, preserve the freedom and purity of elections, and prevent fraud, corruption, and intimidation thereat." The reference to "freedom and purity of elections" is interesting, in view of the fraudulent possibilities inherent in the lack of compulsory secret voting and in provisions which make it possible for ballots to be printed and distributed in almost unlimited numbers. ~~since the ballots need not be marked in the boxes, there is nothing to prevent influence being brought to bear on the voter through the use of money or intimidation to deposit a previously marked ballot in the box.~~

The third branch of the government, the judiciary, is patterned very largely after the ancient court system of England. Some forms of pleading long since discarded in England are still retained in Delaware. The judicial functions are exercised in the following tribunals: supreme court, superior court, court of chancery, court of oyer and terminer, court of general sessions, common pleas courts, orphans' courts, magistrates' courts, municipal court of Wilmington, juvenile courts, and the registers' courts.

With the exception of the registers of wills of the

various counties (elected), and the deputy judge of the Wilmington municipal court (appointed by the resident judge of New Castle County), all judicial officers of this State are appointed by the Governor. The major judiciary consists of the chancellor, the chief justice, and four associate justices. The term of all of these officials is twelve years and they are eligible for reappointment.

The judges of the courts of common pleas of New Castle and Kent Counties, of the municipal court of Wilmington, and the various magistrates, constitute the minor judiciary.

The supreme court consists of the chancellor, the chief justice, and the four associate justices. It is an appellate tribunal, designed to succeed and take the place of the court of errors and appeals, as established by the constitution of 1831, and as such, it is the State court of last resort.

The superior court is composed of the chief justice and the four associate justices. Usually the court consists of three of the five law judges, but no more than three of them may sit together. Two constitute a quorum. This court has jurisdiction over all causes of a civil nature, real, personal, and mixed, at common law. The superior court has appellate jurisdiction on appeals from the orphans' court, register of wills, and justices of the peace.

The court of chancery, or equity, is entirely separate from the law courts, and is presided over ^{by} the chancellor. Statute, which gives to the court of chancery its general jurisdiction, provides that "the Court of Chancery shall have full power to hear and decree all matters and causes in

equity."

The court of oyer and terminer derived its name from the English court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery, by which title our early court of high criminal jurisdiction was known. This court has jurisdiction of every crime punishable with death, of murder of the second degree, of the crime of manslaughter, and of the offense of being an accomplice, or accessory, to any such crime.

The court of general sessions (which is composed of the same judges as the superior court) is a county court of general criminal jurisdiction in all cases other than those exclusively cognizable before the court of oyer and terminer and justices of the peace. It acts also as a court of general gaol delivery, and for the purpose of indictment, commitment for trial, or holding to bail, has jurisdiction of crimes and offenses cognizable before the court of oyer and terminer.

A court in banc is the meeting of all the judges or such as may form a quorum, as distinguished from the sitting of the judges in the superior court, court of oyer and terminer and court of general sessions. The court in banc consists of the chief justice and the four associate judges, any four of whom constitute a quorum. This court was provided by the constitution to settle questions of difficulty and importance, where the law is doubtful.

The orphans' court in each county consists of the chancellor and the resident associate judge of the county. One of them constitutes a quorum.

The court of common pleas is held at Wilmington for New

~~Sussex~~
Sussex

Castle County, and at Dover for Kent County. This court has concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court in civil matters involving not more than \$1,000, and with the magistrates' courts in criminal affairs. *x Insert*

The register of wills court (probate court) is held in each county by the register of wills who is both judge and clerk of the court. All wills must be proved in this court. The register examines and approves the accounts of executors and administrators. Appeals from his decision are to the superior court, whose decision is final.

There are two juvenile courts in the State; one at Wilmington, whose jurisdiction includes Wilmington and rural New Castle County, and the other sitting at specified times in and for Kent and Sussex Counties. The judge of this court in New Castle County is appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. The judge of the court of common pleas of Kent County is ex officio judge of the juvenile court of Kent and Sussex Counties. The juvenile court has jurisdiction in all cases relating to children.

The justices of the peace, or magistrates, are State officers appointed by the Governor. They have jurisdiction in minor criminal cases and in civil cases in which the amount does not exceed \$500. By a law passed in 1935, the court of common pleas for New Castle County has the same jurisdiction and power in criminal matters as is now vested in justices of the peace for the county. The accused has the right to elect to have the case tried by the court of common pleas.

The municipal court of the City of Wilmington has juris-

diction over all cases involving violation of the city ordinances, and over all misdemeanors and the lesser grades of felony committed in the City of Wilmington.

Changes in the judiciary are embodied in a proposed amendment to the constitution which passed the general assembly in 1937 and will be adopted if again passed by the following general assembly. The major item is the formation of a separate supreme court, which will consist of three justices, one of whom shall be chief justice. The court of oyer and terminer, the superior court, and the court of general sessions of the peace and jail delivery are to be combined into a court of general sessions, which will have all the jurisdiction and powers previously vested in the former courts.

The elective governing bodies of the counties are the levy courts, the members of which, as provided for by the act of 1742, were first taken from three other county bodies: the justices of the peace, the grand jurymen, and the assessors. They met annually "for laying the levies," and to "settle and adjust the . . . money . . . to be raised yearly, to defray the charges of building and repairing court-houses, prisons, work-houses, or for destroying wolves, crows, and black-birds, with such other uses as may redound to the public service and benefit of the said counties. . ." Their present duties are to administer the financial affairs of the counties, to supervise the assessing of property, fix the annual tax rate, levy the taxes, and appoint various county officials -- the board of assessment, county engineer, constables, et al. County elective officials are sheriff, coroner, comptroller, receiver of taxes and county treasurer, register of wills, recorder of deeds, clerk of the peace, register in chancery and clerk of the orphans' court, and prothonotary.

The counties are subdivided into hundreds. This quaint political anachronism is still shown on all maps of Delaware, _____

although for purposes of government the hundred is no longer of great importance. The constitution of 1897 divided the state into representative districts, coextensive in New Castle County with the hundreds, and in Kent and Sussex with the hundreds or divisions and combinations of hundred areas. The jurisdiction of magistrates covers their own and adjacent hundreds. There is indication that the origin of the hundred system in Delaware dates from the Duke of York's period when the counties were divided into assessment districts; later this ancient political subdivision of the early Anglo-Saxons was confirmed by William Penn, whose charter from the British Crown authorized the dividing of his territory in America into hundreds.

Although the pillory was abolished in 1905, Delaware still maintains the whipping post in all three counties, dealing out from 5 to 60 lashes, "publicly by strokes on the bare back, well laid on," for robbery, assault, embezzlement, poisoning with intent to murder, arson, burglary, larceny, horse-stealing, wife-beating, and other offences. Women and prisoners of "tender years" are exempt from the lash. In justifying retention of this form of punishment, its proponents, pointing to the State's freedom from serious crime waves, claim that fear of the lash keeps out-of-state criminals away, and that a very small percentage of offenders require a second whipping.

In Delaware, urban places are not classified and there are no general laws for municipalities. The legislature has granted an individual charter to each of the fifty-two incorporated cities and towns. In the larger towns, the mayor is

chosen by the people. In the others, the town council or commissioners choose one of their number as presiding officer and he acts as the executive head of the town government. Dover, the capital of the State, Milford, and Harrington have the council-manager plan of government; Rehoboth Beach adopted it in 1937.

Wilmington received a borough charter from George II in 1739, granted in response to a petition of the inhabitants. It provided for the annual election of a chief burgess, second burgess, six assistant burgesses, high constable, and town clerk, and served until 1772, when the borough charter was amended by the general assembly to enlarge town boundaries and powers.

The present government of Wilmington is of the mayor-council type, operating under a charter from the State granted in 1832. In early days various committees of the council supervised the water supply, public safety, streets, and other facilities, but these functions were gradually turned over to the present boards, commissions, and departments. As is true of many of the towns of the State, a citizen must be a property owner in order to be eligible for the office of councilman. (For Single-Tax Colonies, see Arden.)

The Delaware Corporation Law has a pertinent relation to State financing. Passed in 1899 (amended 1903 and at several later times) its liberal provisions have drawn many corporations here for chartering. A recent modification of the corporation law adopted by the legislature in 1937, ^{closed the} ~~enlarged~~ ^{loophole by which} its provisions to include ~~the~~ Delaware corporations ~~which~~ had reduced the par value of their capital stock to lessen their

franchise tax. This amendment is expected to restore the declining income from corporation franchise taxes. Control by the Federal Government over the licensing of corporations operating in interstate commerce, would, if adopted, strike a severe blow at Delaware's annual revenue.

State and local revenues in Delaware come mostly from separate sources. The State secures its revenue chiefly from business and corporation taxes; income, inheritance, and estate taxes, the gasoline tax, and various licenses and fees. The county and town revenues are principally derived from real estate taxes, supplemented by various license fees. There is no personal property tax in Delaware (except a county property tax levied on live stock), no State real estate tax, no sales tax, no corporation income tax, and no tax upon intangible property.

In 1921, the budget system for all State departments and bureaus was adopted. The solvency of the State and an excellent financial rating may be attributed ^{in part} to the system of funds into which all State revenue is allocated. These funds come under the various headings of highway, school, general, and sinking fund. Income and corporation taxes are the chief support of the school fund; the gasoline tax and automobile fees, including licenses for both car and driver, build and maintain the Delaware road system through the highway fund. All other fees and taxes go into the general fund, which must maintain the various institutions and administrative functions not included under the school or highway department. All moneys in excess of \$100,000 received from the inheritance

and estate taxes are placed to the credit of the sinking fund.

The total assets of the State at the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1937, amounted to \$63,740,978.32. The bonded indebtedness was \$3,502,000.00. The expenditures for the fiscal year 1937 amounted to \$12,520,701.34 and the total income for the period \$12,937,692.40.

In recent years, Delaware has made rapid advance in the field of public education and in social legislation. Since 1919 the State school system has become modern in administration and facilities, including new, scientifically designed buildings.

The State Board of Charities began to function in 1919, to supervise the tax supported charitable and corrective institutions and services. The Industrial Accident Board was set up in 1917 to administer the Workmen's Compensation Law; the Mothers' Pension Commission in 1917, to furnish pensions to widowed mothers for support of children under sixteen; the State Old Age Welfare Commission (1931), to grant and administer the old age pension, and to administer the State Welfare Home; the Labor Commission (1915), to enforce the provisions of the Child Labor Law, the Ten Hour Law for Female Employees, and the Sanitary Law for Female Employees; the Unemployment Compensation Commission (1937), to administer a system by which Delawareans will receive compensation during periods of unemployment.

State institutions include the Delaware State Hospital at Farnhurst; the State Training School for Feeble Minded, Stockley; the Blind Shop, Wilmington; Brandywine Sanatorium (^{tuberculosis}white), Marshallton; Edgewood Sanatorium (^{tuberculosis}colored), Marshallton; Detention Home for Juveniles, Wilmington; Ferris Industrial School (for boys), Marshallton; Delaware Industrial School for Girls, Claymont; Industrial School for Colored Girls of Delaware, Marshallton; State Welfare Home, Smyrna.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RETURNS FOR DELAWARE BY COUNTIES, 1792-1940

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote
(A) v. 3 p. 15	1792	Washington	Fed.						3
"	"	G. Clinton	"						
"	1796	J. Adams	"						
"	"	T. Pinckney	"						3
(A) (1) v. 3 p. 16	1800	Jefferson	"						
"	"	J. Adams	"						3
(2)	1801	Jefferson	"						(House)
"	1804	Jefferson	"						
"	"	C.C. Pinckney	"						3
(A) v. 3 p. 17	1808	Madison	"						
"	"	C.C. Pinckney	"						3
(B) p. 104	1812	Madison	"				3221		
"	"	DeW. Clinton	"				4193	972	4

(1) The two highest candidates being tied there was no election in 1800.

(2) Jefferson elected President by the vote of State delegations in the house.

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote	
(B) p. 138	1816	Monroe	Fed.	1026	923	1627	3580	56		
. 139	"	R. King	"	1712	839	973	3524		4	
(B) p. 174	1820	Monroe	"	1682	989	1358	4029	111	4	
	"	J. Q. Adams	"	1005	913	2002	3918			
(B) (S) p. 211	1824	Jackson	No Party	844	1107	1436	3387	224	3	
	"	J. Q. Adams	"	1269	1194	700	3163			
" (4)	1825	Jackson	"	Legislature						
	"	J. Q. Adams	"							(House)
(B) p. 262	1828	Jackson	Jacksonian	1800	994	1553	4347			
	"	J. Q. Adams	Rep.	1475	1289	2005	4769	422	3	
(B) p. 301	1832	Jackson	Jacksonian	1715	1012	1378	4105			
. 302	"	Clay	Nat. Rep.	1335	1167	1174	4276	171	3	
(B) p. 336	1836	Van Buren	Dem.	1814	1039	1301	4154			
	"	Harrison	Whig.	1673	1205	1958	4736	582	3	

(S) No candidate having a majority of electoral votes there was no election.

(4) Election thrown into the house, vote by State delegations.

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote
(B) p. 379	1840	Van Buren	Dem.	2195	1095	1582	4872		
	"	Harrison	Whig.	2321	1593	2053	5967	1095	3
(B) p. 419	1844	Folk	Dem.	2678	1415	1877	5970		
	"	Clay	Whig.	2819	1583	1869	6271	301	3
(B) p. 481	1848	Cass	Dem.	2717	1537	1856	5910		
	"	Taylor	Whig.	3091	1497	1852	6440	530	3
	"	Van Buren	Free Soil	79	1	0	80		
(A) v. 3 p. 27	1852	Pierce	Dem.				6318	25	3
	"	Scott	Whig.				6293		
	"	Hale	Free Dem.				62		
" p. 28	1856	Buchanan	Dem.				8004	1829	3
	"	Fremont	Rep.				308		
	"	Fillmore	Whig.				6175		
" p. 29	1860	Breckinridge	Dem.				7347	3483	3
	"	Douglas	"				1023		
	"	Lincoln	Rep.				3815		
	"	Bell	Const. Union				3864		

(5) On July 9, 1850 by the death of Taylor, Fillmore became President.

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote
(A)	1864	McClellan	Dem.				8767	612	3
v. 3 p. 30	"	Lincoln	Rep.				8155		
"	1868	Seymour	Dem.				10980	3557	3
p. 31	"	Grant	Rep.				7623		
"	1872	Greeley	Liberal Dem.				10206		
p. 32	"	Grant	Rep.				11115	909	3
"	"	O'Connor	Dem.				487		
(A)	1876	Tilden	Dem.				13381	2629	3
v. 3 p. 34	"	Hayes	Rep.				10762		
"	1880	Hancock	Dem.				15183	1033	3
p. 35	"	Garfield	Rep.				14150		
"	"	Weaver	Greenback				120		
"	1884	Cleveland	Dem.				16976	3923	3
p. 36	"	Blaine	Rep.				13053		
"	"	Butler	Greenback				10		
"	"	St. John	Proh.				64		

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote
(A) p. 37	1888	Cleveland	Dem.				16414	3441	3
	"	B. Harrison	Rep.				12793		
	"	Fiske	Proh.				400		
(C) 1897 p. 429	1892	Cleveland	Dem.	10583	3720	4276	18581	498	3
	"	Harrison	Rep.	10565	3556	4144	18083		
	"	Bidwell	Proh.	--	--	--	564		
" p. 429	1896	Bryan	Dem.	9632	Kent not inc. in returns (6)	3792	13434		
	"	McKinley	Rep.	12263		4541	16904	3380	3
	"	Palmer	Nat. Dem.	778		99	877		
	"	Levering	Proh.	233		122	355		
(C) 1905 p. 451	1900	Bryan	Dem.	10640	3856	4362	18858		
	"	McKinley	Rep.	13642	3929	4958	22529	3671	3
	"	Woolley	Proh.	--	--	--	546		
	"	Debs.	Sec.	--	--	--	57		

(6) Kent County was not included in the returns because no certificate had been filed for that County according to law.

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Hjty.	Electoral Vote
(c) 1905 p. 451	1904	Parker	Dem.	11170	3780	4410	19360		
	"	Roosevelt	Rep.	13198	4601	5915	23714	4354	3
	"	Swallow	Proh.	339	117	151	607		
	"	Debs	Soc.	--	--	--	146		
	"	Watson	Pop.	--	--	--	51		
(c) 1909 p. 623	1908	Bryan	Dem.	12963	4093	5013	22071		
	"	Taft	Rep.	14987	4159	5870	25014	2943	3
	"	Chafin	Proh.	437	103	133	673		
	"	Debs	Soc.	--	--	--	239		
(c) 1913 p. 725	1912	Wilson	Dem.	13009	4071	5551	22631	6633	3
	"	Taft	Rep.	8340	3192	4466	15998		
	"	Roosevelt	Prog.	7090	567	1229	8886		
	"	Chafin	Proh.	--	--	--	623		
	"	Debs	Soc.	--	--	--	556		
(c) 1917 p. 782	1916	Wilson	Dem.	14894	4210	5649	24753		
	"	Hughes	Rep.	16166	3813	6032	26011	1258	3
	"	Hanly	Proh.	436	66	64	566		
	"	Benson	Soc.	480	0	0	480		

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote
(C) 1921 p. 688	1920	Cox	Dem.	24252	7211	8484	39911		
	"	Harding	Rep.	36600	6511	9747	52858	12947	3
	"	Debs	Soc.	--	--	--	1002		
	"	Watkins	Proh.	--	--	--	998		
(C) 1940 p. 773	1924	Davis	Dem.	17842	6935	8668	33445		
	"	Coolidge	Rep.	35427	6894	10120	52441	18996	3
	"	La Follette	Prog.	4562	192	225	4979		
"	1928	Smith	Dem.	22464	5727	7168	35359		
"	"	Hoover	Rep.	47641	8335	13010	68986	32217	3
"	1932	Roosevelt	Dem.	32872	8829	12618	54319		
"	"	Hoover	Rep.	39844	6598	10632	57074	2755	3
"	"	Thomas	Soc.	--	--	--	1376		
"	"	Foster	Com.	--	--	--	133		
"	1936	Roosevelt	Dem.	47315	9588	12799	69702	15688	3
"	"	Landon	Rep.	36859	6936	10219	54014		
"	"	Thomas	Soc.	--	--	--	179		
"	"	Lenke	Union.	--	--	--	442		
"	"	Browder	Com.	--	--	--	52		

Ref.	Year	Candidate	Party	New Castle	Kent	Sussex	Totals	Mjty.	Electoral Vote
(C) 1941 p. 773	1940	Roosevelt	Dem.	52167	9226	13206	74599	13209	3
	"	Willkie	Rep.	41508	8029	11853	61390		

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- (C) The World Almanac. Pub. by The New York World-Telegraph, 1895. 1897, p. 429; 1905, p. 451; 1909, p. 623; 1913, p. 725; 1917, p. 782; 1921, p. 688; 1940, p. 773; 1941, p. 773.

(74)

LOCATION - Delaware.

all

Submitted by - John J. Cunningham.

Date - April 27, 1936.

STATE

GOVERNMENT.

Delaware is governed by a State Constitution adopted in 1897 to take the place of that which had served almost unchanged since 1831. The new Constitution like those of 1776, 1792 and 1831, was promulgated by a Constitutional Convention without substitution to the people for ratification. Amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of each house in two consecutive legislatures, or by a Constitutional Convention of delegates elected by the people. Its character is distinctly democratic. It provides for absolute religious tolerance, for free and equal elections, for freedom of the press and for trial by jury.

General elections are held biennially on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November. Primary elections are held whenever necessary, usually before a convention of the party. Votes are cast under a modification of the Australian ballot system. The Legislature has passed several measures providing for the secrecy and the purity of the ballot. The elections are conducted under the Election Law of the State, which is a body of laws passed by the General Assemblies in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution on Elections.

Under a law passed during a Democratic administration all ballots must show the Democratic ticket in the first column on the left of the ballot. This was intended to give a psychological advantage to the Delaware Democrats.

Every citizen of the age of 21 years or over, who has been a resident of the state for one year next preceding an election, and for the last three months a resident of the county, and for the last thirty days a resident of the election district, in which he may offer to vote and in which he shall have been registered, is entitled to vote. Each voter is required to be able to read the Constitution of the State in the English language and to write his own name.

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state. His regular term in office is four years, and he is ineligible for a third term. All his appointments to offices must be confirmed by the Senate; all pardons must be approved by a board of pardons. He has power of veto, extending to parts and clauses of appropriation bills; a bill may be passed over his veto by a three-fifths vote of each house of the legislature and a bill becomes a law if not returned to the legislature within ten days after its reception by the governor, unless the session of the legislature shall have expired in the meantime. Executive officers include the Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, and Auditor of Accounts; all of whom are elected at the General Election. The terms of these officers are four years except the State Treasurer and Auditor of Accounts, which are two years.

The political division of the state into Senatorial and Representative Districts was provided for by the Constitution of 1897. There are ten Representative districts in each county for the election of members in the lower house for two years; and five Senatorial districts in each county for the election of members in the upper house for four years; in addition, the city of Wilmington has five Representatives and two Senatorial Districts. This division gives the city of Wilmington, with the largest population of Delaware's four political subdivisions, the smallest representation in the General Assembly. Detailed figures are shown here:

	Popula- tion 1930	Sena- tors	Representa- tives	A sena- tor for every	A Representa- tive for every
Wilmington	104,941	2	5	52,000	20,000
Rural New Castle Co.	54,394	5	10	11,000	5,400
Kent County	31,332	5	10	6,200	3,100
Sussex County	45,411	5	10	9,000	4,500

The organization of the judiciary in Delaware is similar to that under the old English system. William Penn inaugurated his government under a charter and code of laws, with a judiciary system patterned largely after that of the mother country. The English precedents are followed in Delaware in matters of pleading, practice, and procedure more closely than in most other states. The judicial powers of the state are vested in a Supreme Court, a Superior Court, a Court of Chancery, a Court of Oyer and Terminer, a Court of General Sessions, a Court of Common Pleas, an Orphans' Court, a Juvenile Court and a Registers' Court. There are six state judges, one of whom is chancellor, one chief justice, and the other four associate justices of whom there shall be at least one resident

in each of the three counties. The Chancellor, chief justice, and the associate justices are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The term of service is 12 years. The Superior Court, the Court of General Sessions, and the Court of Oyer and Terminer are composed of the chief justice and the four associate judges, who designate those of their number, not exceeding three at one time, who shall hold said courts.

The six judges together constitute the Supreme Court, which sits at Dover as a Court of Errors and Appeals from the courts held in the several counties of the state, and has jurisdiction to reverse error in all other state courts. The judge from whose decision appeal is made may not hear the appealed case unless the appeal is made at his own instance.

The Superior Court holds sessions in each county, has an extensive jurisdiction, and is the busiest court in the state. It has original jurisdiction in all cases of a civil nature, real, personal or mixed; and appellate jurisdiction in cases appealed from the Orphans' Court, Municipal Court of Wilmington, Court of Common Pleas, Registers' Court, and Justices of the Peace. It grants divorces and issues support orders and writs of "habeas corpus."

The Court of Chancery holds sessions in each county, but the Chancellor may hold court and give decisions at any time and place at his discretion. Delaware is one of the three states in the United States which still has separate Chancery Courts. The Chancellor is its judge.

The Court of Chancery has full power to hear and decide all matters and causes in equity in cases where sufficient remedy cannot be had by common law or statute before any other court. The Chancellor grants restraining orders and injunctions. This court handles a large number of cases of equity legislation involving some of the 50,000 odd corporations, operating under Delaware charter.

The Court of Oyer and Terminer has jurisdiction over all crimes punishable with death. This court has no regular sessions but is convened in either county, whenever there is a capital crime to be tried in that county.

The Court of General Sessions holds sessions in each county and has jurisdiction generally of criminal cases not of a capital nature, such as murder in the second degree, manslaughter, theft, housebreaking, etc.

The Court of Common Pleas is held at Wilmington for New Castle County, and at Dover for Kent County. It is presided over by one of the judges of the Superior Court and has jurisdiction over minor criminal cases and misdemeanors where the person charged with the crime enters the plea of guilty; and in civil cases where the sum involved does not exceed \$500.00. (In the City of Wilmington the Municipal Court handles the minor criminal cases and misdemeanors). In criminal cases trials in this court are without indictment or jury; in civil cases there may be a jury or referee, not exceeding five in number, at the option of either party in interest. Appeal may be made to the Superior Court in all cases where the sentence exceeds one month or a fine of over \$100.

The Orphans' Court holds sessions in each of the three counties at stated intervals. It has jurisdiction over the rights and property of Orphans. In most cases, appeal may be made to the Superior Court.

The Register of Wills' Court (Probate Court) is held in each county by the Register of Wills. The Register of Wills of each county is the sole judge and his jurisdiction extends over his county. His chief duty is in connection with the wills and estates of deceased persons. All wills must be proved in his court; he examines and approves the accounts of executors and administrators. Appeal may be made to the Superior Court, whose decision is final.

There are two Juvenile Courts in Delaware; one at Wilmington for Wilmington and New Castle County, and one for Kent and Sussex Counties. The latter holds sessions in the county seats of the two lower counties. The Judge of this court is appointed by the Governor for four years and serves without compensation. The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction in all cases relating to children, appoints probation officers and makes social and psychological studies of each case and its background. It has power to commit delinquent, incorrigible, or dependent children to the proper state institution for their care. The court acts in co-operation with several private and community organizations, among which is the Juvenile Court and Probation Association. This association furnishes the Court with a trained psychiatrist who makes mental and physical examinations of the children brought before the court. The principal objects of the Juvenile Court are to prevent the children from coming into contact with hardened criminals, to deal with each case without publicity, and as far as possible to correct instead

of punishing the child. Most cases are placed on probation.

The Justices of the Peace are state officers, appointed by the Governor and act in his name. Every Justice is also a Notary Public. There is one or more in each Representative district; they are paid by fees. They have jurisdiction in minor criminal cases, such as assault and battery, breach of the peace, violations of the Motor Vehicle Act, of the Fish and Game Laws, and of City and Town Ordinances; also in certain civil cases in which the amount does not exceed \$200. Appeals may be taken to the Superior Court.

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STATE GOVERNMENT

Reference
S-320
12-11-26
2000

A careful review of the situation shows the same underlying defects in all the administrative functions of Delaware state, county and city government. This common denominator includes division and overlapping of authority, confusion as to duties, and the absence of any fixed responsibility either to higher officials or to the people.

Briefly, the administrative functions of the State of Delaware are vested in 117 agencies or offices. The incumbents of only six of these are elected by the people. The incumbents of the remaining offices are appointed, and, therefore, not responsible to the people. Some are appointed by the governor (subject to the approval of the State Senate); some are appointed by judges of the superior court; some by boards which themselves, in turn, are appointed; some hold their positions ex-officio. In few, in any, of these instances, does the power to appoint carry with it the power to remove; so that, once in office, the incumbent is not answerable to the power which placed him there. Neither is he answerable to the people, not being elected. This is a flat repudiation of the principles of representative government.

In addition to this very serious fault, the duties of many executive offices are so loosely defined by the law which created the office and described its functions that the duties and authority of one agency frequently overlap and conflict with or duplicate the duties and authority of other agencies.

This situation is the cumulation of generations of legislation, most of it enacted to meet temporary demands; little of it enacted with a view of producing a harmonious, well-balanced administrative organization. As a result, the administrative functions of Delaware's state and county governments are a jungle in which the taxpayer and citizen, searching for the particular and proper agency which should perform a certain duty, or trying to fix responsibility for public duties left unperformed, is first bewildered and then lost. He is buffeted from one board or commission or official to another without getting any action or satisfaction.

(32 p.)

File S-300-330

57

LOCATION - Statewide

Submitted by Muriel B. Hull.

Date: June 15, 1936 *checked with July 8 copy & found to be a duplicate.*

GOVERNMENT

Delaware, because of its strategic location, was a potential power from the time of its earliest settlement. Its first claimant for colonization purposes, the Dutch West India Company, found buccaneering more profitable than financing settlers, and thereby lost its most able promoters. Among these was Usselinx who secured the backing of Sweden for the South River exploitation, and Peter Minuit. Usselinx drew up the charters which placed a heavy lien on material efforts but permitted freedom of worship and the right of local option, concessions meant to attract colonists. Minuit brought the first little band of settlers safely to these shores, helped them build a Fort and town and church on the banks of the river which they called "Christina," and left them.

Thus began, in 1638, Swedish authority. It lasted under various vicissitudes until Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam, took it from its last Swedish Governor John Claude Risingh, in 1655. Risingh left his impress on the colony by establishing, in 1654, the first court of law which were held in the Forts.

Stuyvesant established government for the "Colonies on South River," under a deputy, Jean Paul Jacquett and a regular Council. He fitted up a court room at Fort Casimir which was located on a point near the present city of New Castle, but has since been washed away by the river. A prison, stocks and dungeon were all located within the enclosure of the fort or block house, near a lane still called, Fort Lane. Here he also established, in 1658, the first tribunal.

Government under the Dutch West India Company and the City of Amsterdam lasted fitfully until 1664 when occurred the grant from King Charles II to his brother the Duke of York. That year it passed into possession of the English and for the following one hundred odd years it was governed under British law with the exception of the eleven months when it returned to Dutch control.

In 1664, Sir Richard Nicholls was commissioned to go to Delaware and form a military and civil government. He remained with the colonies for several years and left them in excellent shape. In 1672, a council held in New York prepared laws for the governing of this section. The town of New Castle was incorporated with a bailiff and six assistants. Captain Edmund Cantrell was appointed High Sheriff and Peter Alrichs was made Bailiff or Chief Magistrate for the town and River.

In 1669 occurred the first attempted insurrection against English authority, -that of the "Long Finn", weakly planned and easily suppressed.

The Dutch ~~against~~ controlled in 1673 and during their occupation three courts were established; one at Uplandt, one at New Amstel and the other at Whorekill. Upon the return of these possessions to the English, Governor Andros from New York continued the functioning of these courts and created three judicial districts. A Court house was built at New Castle with a jail in the rear, the first to be built on the Delaware, and this served until 1708. A petition was sent to Governor Andros in 1680 by the citizens of the southern part of the colonies, complaining of the "hazards and perils and long distances" required to reach the court, and asking that one be established on St. Jones Creek. Adros com-

plied, dividing the districts into New Castle, extending to the north side of Duck Creek; St. Jones, to Cedar Creek and Deale (Whorekill).

In 1682 the period of territorial Government under the colonial method ended and with the acquisition of the "Three Counties on the Delaware" by William Penn, the territorial government began. The Three Counties then became Proprietary colonies through deed of Charles II and the Duke of York. This section was thereafter governed under Penn's "Great Law," with certain changes brought about by their demands for self determination.

The Great Law provided for a Governor and a Council, both appointed by the Proprietor. The Assembly was to be elected by the people, had no power to prepare nor propose legislation, but had the right of vote. This was considered representative, but no universal suffrage existed. Property qualifications were required for all voters.

Under Penn, the Three Counties on the Delaware became New Castle, Kent and Sussex. One hundred and ten inhabitants took the oath of allegiance. In 1687, however, these counties had grown and were divided into hundreds for greater facility in local governing. These hundreds remained the unit of government in Delaware until the passage of the State Constitution in 1897.

Just why the "hundreds" should have been chosen as a basis for Delaware's early system of government has never been explained. Their origin dates back to ancient history when the Romans and Britons were divided into clans, curie and tribes. Each curie, called the century, had its division of land, its civil officers, its courts and methods of taxation. It was supposed to furnish one hundred men for military purposes when needed. The importance of

the hundreds, at its height about the tenth century, began to diminish at the close of the thirteenth century and they were almost extinct in England when the English came to America. The renewal of primitive conditions may have suggested the revival, since before there were any inhabitants to divide into many hundreds it was suggested that the "islands and land" be so arranged.

Penn had difficulty with the "Lower Counties," early in his Proprietorship. While the Delaware was the logical gateway to these Provinces, the trend of colonization was toward the north and jealousy on the part of the Territories grew until, in 1691, there was a movement toward secession. Early habits of independence had made control irksome and their own ways of living and thinking made amalgamation with the Quaker element of the Upper Counties difficult. Penn's absence in England left no peacemaker with recognized authority. The Territories declared that the union with Pennsylvania was a tax rather than a benefit and feared that the Quakers would not agree to the passage of laws to end piracy and restrain the Indians. This controversy continued until Penn submitted to the Council three methods of Government: a Deputy Governor, Five Commissioners, or by the Council. The Upper Counties chose the Deputy Governor, the Lower Counties preferred the Five Commissioners but would accept Government by the Council. Thus, hopelessly divided, the Five Commissioners was tried but failed within the year. The six Councillors from the Lower Counties finally withdrew, and, acting as a Body of the Whole, appointed the Judges for their three Counties. Penn, much against his will was forced to countenance this separate government and he appointed William Markham, the same who had preceded him in 1681, as Deputy Governor for the Territories.

This continued until Penn's Proprietary Rights were temporarily taken from him in 1693. The Government of this whole territory was given to Governor Fletcher of New York. Markham was made Deputy Governor of the whole Province which automatically reunited the "Territories" to the Upper Counties. When Fletcher's regime ended, and before Penn's return, Markham formulated another constitution which provided for two representatives from each County for the Council and four for the Assembly which was given the power to prepare and propose legislation, sit upon its own adjournments and committees and continue its sessions to redress grievances and impeach criminals. It was also provided that it could not be dissolved for the period for which its members were elected.

Penn was present at the session of the Assembly which met September 15, 1701. The representatives from the Lower Counties objected to the necessity for the ratification at Philadelphia of laws previously passed at New Castle. They contended that it placed them in the light of a dependancy and withdrew from the Assembly. Shortly afterward Penn sailed for England and for a time the Lower Counties prospered free from governmental interference. And from 1704 until 1776, the Lower Counties recognized one Governor for the whole Proprietary, but had their own legislative bodies.

In 1704, James Coutts filled the Speakers' chair in the Assembly of the Territories. Among the new acts passed was that seven years' possession of land ^{and} title thereto, except in certain cases. Oaths were prescribed attorneys and solicitors; weights and measures were regulated; the members of the Assembly were increased from four to six from each county. Governor Evans, living near New Castle, was heartily supported in his efforts to raise militia

by the Territories and opposed by the Upper Counties. This partisanship led to bitter controversy. Pennsylvania charged the Lower Counties were influenced by Maryland and the tension grew until, in 1709, they definitely separated from Pennsylvania and attempted to set up a separate government. The quarrel over Penn's legal ownership was renewed; an address was prepared for the Lords of Trade and Plantations in London setting forth their grievances. This petition was taken to London by Coutts himself but Penn was able to prevent any action in London. Coutts' attempted later to secure the control of the government of the Lower Counties but failed.

The difficulties between the localities in his Proprietary, and the continued troubles with Lord Baltimore over the boundary between Maryland and Delaware, so discouraged Penn that in 1712 he prepared to deed his holdings to the colonists. Before he could sign the papers, however, he became incapacitated from a stroke of apoplexy from which he never recovered.

The Assembly of the Lower Counties in 1719 grew active in enacting drastic legislation. The death penalty was prescribed for robbery, the concealment of illegitimate children; the disabling or maiming of persons, following the laws of England. Women convicted of felony might be branded and imprisoned; subordination of witnesses was punishable by a fine or imprisonment and the pillory. In this term of the Assembly the English "benefit of clergy" was first introduced. The only liberal law passed was that permitting the Quakers to affirm in the place of taking of the oath.

Patrick Gordon was made Governor of the Province in 1726. On June 28th he visited New Castle and held a meeting of the Council. He summoned the Assembly to convene on July 20th. On that date,

commissions were issued for legal officers including an attorney general and a Judge of the Supreme Court. Measures were also passed dealing with quarantine regulations. It was ordered that witnesses should be compelled to testify against the destructors of landmarks and construction of dams and bridges across rivers and creeks excepting in cases of mills; defacing or counterfeiting of seals or charters; inciting to riots or holding of unlawful assemblies. A special form of trial for negro slaves and debt legislation was also provided. Most important was the establishment of courts of law and equity which were to meet four times a year. The "General Quarter Sessions of Peace and Jail Delivery" was to meet over the same period at Lewistown, Sussex County, Dover, Kent County, and New Castle, New Castle County, and to be presided over by at least three justices to be appointed by the Governor. Cases not within this court's jurisdiction were taken to the Supreme Court of Oyer and Terminer. There was also to be a Court of Record held during the year in each County and to be known as the Supreme Court of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties on the Delaware, presided over by three Judges appointed by the Governor, one of whom was the Chief Justice. This was the Court of Appeals. A County Court of Common Pleas was to be held quarterly in conjunction with the regular court of General Sessions. The same justices who sat in Court of Common Pleas also presided over the Court of Equity, while the prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas was its registrar. This Court considered all matters which came under the Chancery Court.

By 1727, the Assembly of the Lower Counties had secured authority to elect its own speaker and other officers and to judge of the qualification of its own members. Two-thirds of its membership

was a quorum. All members were required to attest by a rigid oath their allegiance to the Crown, abhorrence of the doctrines of the Catholic Church, and belief in the Divine Inspiration of the Old and New Testaments. The Assemblymen received six shillings a day with three pence mileage provided by their several counties. The Speaker of the Assembly was paid ten shillings per diem. The qualifications for voters were: a subject of Great Britain, twenty-one years of age, a resident for two years and a freeholder within the Lower Counties with not less than fifty acres of land, twelve of which to be cleared and improved. If possessed of less than this quantity of land, he must have forty pounds in money. The religious test required loyalty to the Crown, detestation of Popery and belief in the scriptures.

Fundamental changes were made by an act regulating elections and members of the Assembly in 1734. Each County was entitled to six members to be increased when Assembly thought necessary. Voting was compulsory under penalty of a fine of twenty shillings.

In 1740 these early legislators struggled to maintain laws against smuggling, drunkenness, bribery, repeating at elections, illegal weights and measures, clandestine marriages, counterfeiting, Indians, pirates, vice, immorality and profanity. They had the solution of race problems, colonial defence, public improvements and religion, judicial administration and land titles to consider. There was also the money question, and difficulties over boundaries. Laws were passed regarding straying horses and cattle and a pound was erected. Regular markets were provided by law, a building erected at New Castle and a Clerk of the Market appointed and the sale of all commodities regulated. Extensive trade having developed in the importation of criminals and paupers it was made unlawful

tó continue the practice. Time for killing deer and the height of fences were also fixed. In 1742 laws were passed against duelling, horse stealing and burglary and an attempt was made to improve the jury system.

The method of raising taxes were changed in 1743. A Finance Board was organized for such County consisting of the justices and eight jurymen together with the assessors who were elected by the people. A local budget estimating the amount of expenses for the coming year was drawn up and the amount required to meet them. Lists of taxable persons and the amounts were than compiled and the assessments made.

Nothing more startling than discussions of road conditions, fear of privateers and efforts for raising the militia for defense occupied the attention of the Lower Counties up to 1750. In 1751 and 1752, the Assembly found itself once more faced with problems of importance. Provisions were made for a market at Dover similar to the one at New Castle. The General Loan Office for each County was established with important financial functions. Trustees were appointed and each was bonded at one thousand pounds. The office had power to reprint, exchange and remit new issues of paper money. Quarter Sessions Judges were empowered to appoint Overseers of Highways and Bridges in each Hundred.

"Willingtown," was without municipal government until 1736 when the citizens petitioned Penn for a borough charter in order to be allowed to choose burgesses and other officers "as may be found necessary for the encouragement of virtue and the detecting of vice, preserving the King's peace." It was granted November 16, 1739. Householders were permitted to decide by vote where to hold markets and fairs. The name was then changed to Wilmington

The Burgesses were to be Justices of the Peace. On March 31, 1740 the first jail was established in which to hold prisoners pending their removal to New Castle for trial. There was a cage, stocks and a whipping post. The first borough election was held Sept. 8, 1740 and the franchise was extended to all freeholders and all tenants paying a yearly rental of not less than five pounds who had resided in the town a years.

1742 saw the passage of the Jury Act which compelled the Sheriffs to summon twenty-eight of the most able and substantial men to serve as grand jurors and forty-eight as petty jurors. The Grand jurors were to be summoned in each County for the Court of Quarter Sessions.

An innovation at this time was the appointing of "wood-corders" in each town and village. Their duty was to measure every cord of wood offered for sale and certify that the dimensions were correct, they received six pence from the purchaser.

The French and Indian Wars kept the Assembly of the Lower Counties busy from 1754 to 1756 in providing aid for General Braddock, passing embargoes, and raising militia. In 1758 the Governor convened the Assembly at New Castle, stating that he would do all in his power to secure the passage of an act in Parliament to compensate the Territories for their aid during this war. In 1759 further financial measures were passed. Twenty thousand pounds in bills of credit were authorized to be issued through the Loan Office under the supervision of Speaker of the Assembly Jacob Kolluck with William Armstrong and Caesar Rodney. The bills were signed by William Armstrong of New Castle County, John Barnes of Kent County, and David Hall of Sussex County.

In 1780 the Lower Counties were still passing measures for

war time aid. The Supreme Court was reorganized under the name of the "Supreme Court of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties." This was to consist of the Chief Justice and three other justices. An agent was appointed to look after the interests of the Lower Counties in London and David Barclay, Jr., of London was chosen.

Changes were made in the election laws in 1761. Inspectors of elections and assessors were to be appointed by the qualified electors in each hundred. Better security was provided for the safeguarding of the property of orphans. In 1772, the Assembly came to the assistance of Wilmington and fixed its boundaries and the locality of its streets.

In 1775 the management of the poor was placed in the hands of overseers appointed by the Justices of the Peace. Service was compulsory; taxes for the maintenance were levied in each hundred.

The First Constitution favoring the formation of a separate government in each colony passed the Second Continental Congress following the adoption of the Resolution of Independence. The Assembly of the Three Lower Counties met at New Castle August 27, 1776, to frame the first State Constitution for the Delaware State. Thus ended the territorial form, and began the constitutional period of government.

The Constitution when adopted contained thirty articles. The first declared that the three counties should hereafter be called "The Delaware State." It further provided for a General Assembly to be called the "House of Assembly", to be made up of seven members from each county elected annually by the freeholders. The Upper Branch or the Council, was to be composed of nine members, three from each

county to be chosen at the time of the election for the Assembly, and were to be freeholders not under twenty-five years of age. They rotated in office, the Councillor receiving the fewest votes in his county served one year, the second served two and the one receiving the highest number of votes served three years.

The right of suffrage remained unchanged. All bills for finance originated in the Assembly, but in all other legislation the power of both branches were equal.

This first constitution also provided there should be no establishment of any one religious sect in preference to another and that no clergyman nor other preacher of the gospel of any denomination whatsoever, was eligible for a civil office while retaining his ecclesiastical position. In order to prevent trouble no armed person was allowed near the voting places and no company nor battalion could be mustered within twenty-four hours before an election, no muster of militia could take place on election day, nor could a company or any body of armed men be permitted within a mile of the voting places.

The Executive office was vested in a Chief to be called the "President". He was to be chosen by a joint ballot of the two branches, the Speaker of the Council having the extra vote in case of a tie. His term of office was three years and he was not eligible for immediate reelection. He was to be aided by a Privy Council.

The twenty-sixth Article of this constitution prohibited slavery. It remained in effect until 1792 and its authorship is attributed to Thomas McKean.

No President of Delaware State was chosen during the Fall term of the Legislature, but a Council of Safety was elected by both Houses in joint session in November 1776. This Council was to exercise executive authority during recess of the Legislature. John McKinley who, in March 1775, had been chosen Colonel of a regiment of New Castle militia was made Brigadier General and in October 1776 he was elected a member of the legislature and Speaker of the House. He was elected President of the Council of Safety and in February 1777 he was chosen the first President of Delaware State. He served but a few months for the second night following the battle of the Brandywine he was taken prisoner, and after being paroled by Governor Clinton in 1778, he took no further interest in politics.

George Read who became Speaker of the Council and Vice-President after the election of McKinly, automatically became President upon McKinley's capture. In January 1778, he wrote to George Washington: "My situation is rather an unlucky one in a government very deficient in its laws, and those greatly relaxed in their execution, and a legislature not disposed to unite and give aid to executive authority."

In January 1782, the Legislature passed an act authorizing the taking of the first census of Delaware State. On February 2, Philemon Dickinson, Thomas McKean, Caesar Rodney, and Samuel Wharton were elected delegates to Congress for that year. These delegates were instructed to endeavor to maintain States' boundaries, and to keep strict watch on the stronger states who according to Read, "will endeavor to swallow up the smaller ones by addition, division, or impoverishment." George Read was an ardent advocate of the rights

of the small states and threatened on several occasions to lead the Delaware delegation from the floor if there were any change in representation for these commonwealths.

Delaware, from 1783 to 1787 struggled valiantly with the indebtedness incurred during the war. In June 1784, an act was passed repealing all permits for the holding of fair or "public marts," some of which were ancient charters or letters patent which had been granted by the Proprietor or Governors. In 1786 measures looking to the encouragement of Commerce were enacted. These established certain free ports within the State and gave to Congress the power to regulate commerce for the space of fifteen years. The State also established the Bank of North America, incorporating a "president, directors and company."

The British army in its march through New Castle in 1777 had carried away the seals of the county. As these seals had all contained devices unsuitable to the new status of the independent state an act was passed in February 1786 to authorize the devising of new seals for all officers in the counties. An act to prevent the exportation of slaves was passed at the same time. On the 24th of October 1787 the Legislature of the State of Delaware met and called a convention which assembled in Dover the first week in December. On the 7th it ratified the Constitution of the United States, the first state to do so. In the first election after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, John Vining was elected as representative to Congress from Delaware. He was succeeded by James Bayard, Sr., Gunning Bedford, George Mitchell and John Banning were chosen Presidential electors.

George Read and Richard Bassett were elected the first Senators from Delaware.

In January 1791, arrangements were made to fit up chambers in the new Court House in Dover for the use of the Legislature, and so Dover became the Capital of Delaware. Commissioners were appointed to purchase one hundred acres of land at a place called "James Pettijohn's Old Field," in Broadkill Hundred, to be used for building a Court House and prison for Sussex County. When completed the County seat was moved from Lewes.

During this session, lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets, pool selling and all forms of gambling were made unlawful. The General Assembly was prohibited from granting divorces. General laws were to be passed regulating estrays, ditches, school boundaries and roads. Two important changes were made in the judiciary. One additional judge was provided and the name of the highest court was changed from the Court of Errors and Appeals to the Supreme Court. A Court of Appeals was organized composed of judges who had not sat in the trial of cases in the Lower Courts. Six Judges, a Chancellor, Chief Justice, Associated Justices, were provided for, the Chancellor to preside over the Court of Chancery. An Orphans Court was established for each county. The Chancellor and four Associate Judges composed the Superior Court.

On September 8, 1791, the General Assembly of Delaware passed a resolution calling for a constitutional convention to form a new State Constitution. They met in Dover Nov. 29, of that same year. The new constitution was completed June 12, 1792. This constitution changed the name of the chief executive from President to Governor; his term of three years was maintained. Much broader powers were

delegated to him than to the "President," and the Privy Council was discarded. The Legislative power was vested in a Senate and House of Representatives. The former was composed of nine members, - three from each county; the latter of twenty-one members, seven from each county.

The judicial powers of the State were vested in the Court of Chancery, a Supreme Court, Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, a Court of Common Pleas, an Orphans' Court, a Register's Court, Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace for each County and in the Justices of the Peace. There was also provided a High Court of Error and Appeals, which was to consist of the Chancellor, judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Common Pleas, over which the Chancellor was to preside.

The Legislature of 1796 authorized the incorporation of the Bank of Delaware for a period of fifteen years, the first of its kind in the State. It also passed the first act for the establishment of a system of public schools.

Even as early as 1820 a change in the constitution of the State was agitated, but it was not until 1830 that the votes for and against a constitutional convention were counted. Finding the vote was for such a move, the General Assembly passed an act providing for the convention to be held at Dover, November 8, 1831. The delegates were chosen at the general election in October 1831. The final session of the convention was held December 2, 1831, a copy of the constitution as revised was read and passed unanimously and the convention adjourned. The constitution then became the law of the state without having been submitted to the people.

In 1851 the need for reforms brought again the demand for a

change in the State constitution. The people demanded the abolition of slavery, free suffrage without prepayment of tax, district representation according to population, non-property qualifications for holding of office, reform in judiciary, popular election of officials, executive veto annual elections and tax reforms. In 1850, a number of tickets bore the inscription "for a convention," and in 1852 the General Assembly provided for the holding of a constitutional convention. This was elected by the hundreds, met, but failed to agree on anything but the passing of several amendments to the prevailing constitution. In 1882 a constitutional convention was again agitated, but nothing came of it until 1897.

Previous to the passage of this constitutional convention which completed its work June 2, 1897, the Hundreds still remained the unit for all local government administration, and no one of the constitutions conferred direct government on the people. The constitutions were framed by conventions elected by the people. Registration and educational provisions were depended upon to exclude unfit electors.

The Constitution of 1897 which is still in force in the State, safeguards freedom of worship and provides that there shall be no religious test required for qualifications for office; guarantees general suffrage; trial by jury; freedom of the press; security of person and property against search and seizure and guarantees justice in criminal proceedings. The courts are open to all for remedy for injustice; suspension of law left to General Assembly.

Sections 11 and 12 guarantee regulation of bail in all criminal offices excepting in capital offenses, and the right of habeas

corpus. No attainder shall cause forfeiture of estate after death: freedom to congregate, to petition and protest redress of grievances granted. No standing army to be maintained without consent of General Assembly and the military is subordinated to the civil powers. The quartering of soldiers on citizens during peace times is forbidden.

Through a recent legislative amendment, members of the State Legislature per diem allowance has been increased to fifteen dollars, the presiding officers receiving seventeen dollars per diem. If a special session is called they receive the per diem rate for thirty days. Mileage is allowed at one hundred dollars for those within a radius of twenty miles, two hundred for those residing at a distance of not more than forty miles and three hundred for those living at a still greater distance.

Senate expenses for clerks, employees and attaches, limited to twenty-thousand dollars for regular sessions and six thousand for special sessions. The Senate is allowed eighteen thousand dollars and the House of Representatives nine thousand. No hereditary office, title or distinction is permitted to any citizen.

LEGISLATIVE

Article II covers Legislature which is vested in a General Assembly consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate has seventeen members chosen for a term of four years. New Castle County has seven Senatorial Districts; Kent five and Sussex five. For election of Representatives, New Castle County was divided into fifteen districts Kent County, ten, and Sussex County, ten.

In abolishing the Hundreds, the 1897 Constitution divided Wilmington Hundred into five representative districts. The other Hundreds were divided into ten representative districts.

The Hundreds then in existence as Governmental units were: New Castle County: Brandywine Hundred, Christiana, Mill Creek, White Clay Creek, New Castle, Pencader, Red Lion, St. Georges', Appoquinimink Blackbird and Wilmington Hundreds. For Kent County: Duck Creek, Little Creek, Kenton, East Dover, West Dover, North Murderkill, South Murderkill, South Murderkill and Mispillion Hundreds. Sussex county divisions included: Cedar Creek, Nanticoke, Georgetown, West Fork, Seaford, Broad Creek, Lewes, Rehoboth, Dagsboro, Gum-boro, Baltimore, Indiana River, Broadkiln Hundreds.

With the exception of Wilmington, the district lines follow very closely the divisions of the Old Hundreds.

Section 15 fixed the remuneration of members of the General Assembly at a per diem allowance of five dollars for all but the officers who received \$6 during the regular sessions. They were also allowed twenty-five dollars for stationary expenses. For an extra session, the members would only receive compensation for thirty days. For a longer period, they defrayed their own expenses.

Section 16 provided that no bill or joint resolution, except bills appropriating money for public purposes "shall embrace more than one subject which shall be expressed in its title." Lotteries are forbidden in Section 17 and gambling was prohibited. Eighteen deals with provisions for divorce and alimony. Nineteen forbids the General Assembly to pass local or special laws in connection with fences, straying of livestock; ditches; creating or changing boundaries of school districts.

Article III deals with the Executive who must be thirty years of age, an inhabitant of the State for six years, and twelve years an inhabitant and citizen of the United States. He is endowed with

the appointive power "by and with the consent of the General Assembly," and may also remove officials for cause. He may convene the Assembly by proclamation, adjourn it. His veto power extends to items in bills appropriating moneys. All matters, excepting that of adjournment must go to the Governor for signature and it requires a three-fifths vote to override his veto.

The Lieutenant Governor acts as President of the Senate and member of the Board of Pardons. An Attorney General and an Insurance Commissioner with terms of four years respectively. The State Treasurer and Auditor of Accounts have terms of two years and are elective. In Section 22, prothonotaries, Clerks of the Peace, the Register of Wills, Recorders and Registers in Chancery and Clerks of the Orphans' Court are chosen for four years. The Terms of Sheriffs and Coroners are for two years.

The Board of Pardons consists of the Chancellor, Lieut. Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Auditor of Accounts. The Governor's power of Pardon rests with the Board's recommendations.

JUDICIARY

Article IV deals with the Judiciary to consist of a Supreme Court, a Superior Court, a Court of Chancery, Orphans Court, Court of Oyer and Terminer, General Sessions, a Register's Court, Justices of the Peace and such other courts as the General Assembly may consider necessary.

Six judges are appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, for a term of twelve years. These are a Chancellor, Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. Their remuneration was fixed by the constitution at not less than three

thousand a year without fees and they must hold no other office of profit.

The six Judges together form the Supreme Court. This Court sits at Dover as a Court of Error and Appeals and has jurisdiction to reverse error over all the other State Courts.

The Superior Court which holds sessions in each County, has extensive jurisdiction, original in all matters of a civic nature and in cases appealed from the Orphans Court. The Municipal Court of Wilmington, the Court of Common Pleas, the Registers' Court and the Justices of the Peace. It may grant divorces, issue support orders and writs of habeas corpus.

The Court of Chancery, famous in England's judicial history is still maintained in Delaware, although abolished in England. Held in a tiny court room on the second floor of the County building, Chancellor Josiah Wolcott, now in his second twelve year term, sits in judgment over litigation which affects stockholders of many of the world's largest corporations. His decisions have involved hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Court of Oyer and Terminer has jurisdiction over all crimes which are punishable by death. It has no regular session but convenes in any County where such a case is to be tried. It still follows the ancient English customs of carrying the red stave precede and the black stave follow the accused of such crimes when he enters the court room for trial. If convicted the black stave precedes his exit.

The Court of General Sessions has jurisdiction in each County over criminal cases of a lesser degree, such a manslaughter, theft and house breaking.

The Court of Common Pleas is held in Wilmington and Dover and tries cases of a minor criminal nature and misdemeanors. It also has jurisdiction over civil cases where the penalty does not exceed five hundred dollars. Trials of criminal cases in this court are when the defendant enters a plea of guilty and are without indictment or jury. In civil cases a jury or not exceeding five referees may be chosen at the option of those interested. Appeal is to the Superior Court.

The Orphans' Court holds sessions in each of the three counties at intervals. The Register of Wills, or Probate Court, is held in each County by the Register of Wills who has sole jurisdiction in his County.

There are two Juvenile Courts in Delaware: one for Wilmington which covers New Castle County, and one for Kent and Sussex Counties. The Judge of this Court is appointed by the Governor for a term of four years and serves without compensation. This court has jurisdiction over all cases in connection with children, appoints probation officers and works in conjunction with social service and psychological associations, making studies of each case.

The English judiciary system has been followed more closely in the Delaware Courts than in any other place in the Union, especially in procedure, pleading and practice. All of its Constitutions have steadfastly maintained the Court of Chancery, the whipping post and the pillory. The pillory was abolished by law on March 20, 1905, but in 1935, the Delaware Legislature passed a law making it a criminal offense punishable by a fine of from five hundred dollars to one thousand dollars, or imprisonment of not less than three months for taking a camera near a Delaware whipping post.

Article V deals with the **subject** of elections; VI with impeachment, Article VII with Pardons and Article VIII with revenue and taxation. This last provides for uniform taxes and their origination in the House of Representatives. Article IX created the famous corporation law of Delaware under which over 50,000 corporations operate throughout the world; Article X the present educational laws; Article XI provided for the State Department of Agriculture and Article XIX created the State Board of Health. Article XIII gave the State Local Option and XIV prescribed the oath of office. Article XV treats of Miscellaneous subjects including provision for the Chancellor, Judges and attorney general to be conservators of the peace throughout the State and Sheriffs and Coroners throughout the counties; and XVI for Conventions, including a Constitutional Convention.

Amendments to the Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of each House in two consecutive legislatures, or by a Constitutional Convention.

The General election is held biennially. A modification of the Australian ballot system is in use and the Legislature has passed several measures in an effort to improve the ballot.

Citizens twenty-one years of age or over, resident of the State for one year next preceding an election and resident for three months of the District in which registered, able to read the Constitution of the United States in English, and to write his or her name, is entitled to vote.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Delaware is still divided into the "Three Counties on the Delaware," New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties, names easily reminis-

cent of their English origin. Wilmington is the County Seat of New Castle, Dover, of Kent, and Georgetown of Sussex County.

Certain governmental powers are vested in these county governments which cannot readily be handled by either the State or the cities. These include the assessment of taxes for county use, recording legal documents, preserving of the peace, care of the poor and management of the affairs of unincorporated townships or localities.

The County Boards consist of the Levy Court, Trustees of the Poor, County School Commission, Trustees of the Workhouse in New Castle County, and the Jail Commissioners in Kent and Sussex Counties.

The Levy Court, the most important executive board of the County, was the original Board of Finance established in 1743. Its chief duty gave it its name, and once a year it meets to assess property and determine the tax rate for the year. From time to time the General Assembly extended its powers until its control, especially in New Castle County, was extensive and important. Previous to the Legislative session of 1935, one of its duties was the building, and maintenance of all roads and bridges. The lawmakers, however, made all Delaware roads State Highways, thereby giving their entire control to the State Highway Department. This took from the Levy Court some four hundred employees from the Supervisor of Highways to bridge tenders and oilers. The Legislature then created three Levy Court Districts in New Castle County, thus reducing the number of the Commissioners from seven to three. Following the expiration of the terms of office of four of the commissioners, their positions will be abolished. No elections

will be held for Levy Courtmen until 1938 when one will be elected from the first district for a term of six years; one from the second district for four years and one from the third district for two years. No commissioner may be elected for successive terms.

Other duties of these Commissioners are: the removal of the insane from jails to asylums; approval of all county bills; erection and repair of all buildings. It appoints the Constables for each Representative District, the Trustees of the Poor. It appropriates moneys for the upkeep of institutions for the unfortunate,- the poor, sick and criminal. It oversees sewerage and the water supply. In Kent and Sussex Counties it appoints the Jail Commissioners and appropriates a sum sufficient to maintain the jails. With the consent of the Legislature, money may also be given to the Volunteer Fire Departments annually.

The Receiver of Taxes and County Treasurer has under him a Chief Deputy and two other deputies, two Delinquent Tax Investigators and four clerks, all of whom are under direction of the Levy Court Commissioners.

The County Income Tax which has been used for relief purposes, has also been handled by the Levy Court. This method of raising funds for this purpose is unique in this State. The rates of taxation were one per cent for incomes not in excess of three thousand dollars; two per cent for incomes from three to ten thousand dollars, and three percent for incomes in excess of a ten thousand dollar annual income. This tax was operative for only two years and the Levy Court had the power to reduce but not to increase it.

Each County has its Board of Trustees of the Poor. This supervises the County Almshouse and gives aid to persons outside of the institution. The term of service of its members is two

years in Kent and three in New Castle and Sussex Counties.

In New Castle County there are fourteen Trustees of the Poor. The Receiver of Taxes and County Treasurer acts as Treasurer for this Board.

The County Board of Education consists of three members and is elected for a term of three years.

The Trustees of the Workhouse of New Castle County are appointed for five years by the judges of the Superior Court and the Court of General Sessions in that county.

The Regional Planning Commission consists of seven members of New Castle County comprising the Chief Engineer of the Street and Sewer Department of the City of Wilmington; the County Road Engineer of New Castle County and five members. One of these is appointed by the State Highway Department; two by the Levy Court of New Castle County, and two by the Mayor of Wilmington. This commission has as its duties the coordination of highways, roads, public parks and buildings.

The County officials include: Clerk of Peace, Prothonotary, Register in Chancery and Clerk of the Orphans Court and a Recorder of Deeds: Fence Viewers, appointed by the Court of General Sessions, ten for each District in New Castle County and from three to five in Kent and Sussex Counties. These decided questions relating to boundary fences and they were paid one dollar a day by those who called upon them.

The Register of Wills, Comptroller, Receiver of Taxes and County Treasurer are elected for a term of four years at the General Elections. The Sheriff and Coroner are elected for two years at the general elections. The Assessor is chosen by districts on

election day. The term is for two years and he is paid by fees fixed by the Levy Court except in Wilmington where there are five, each of whom receives a salary and is elected for a term of four years.

The Justice of the Peace is really a State official with jurisdiction in the County, although he may practice only in his own territory. His appointment comes from the Governor for a term of four years, and he is also a Notary Public. Regarded as the judicial officer of his district, he holds his own court and acts as judge. He is empowered to call witnesses, issue warrants in criminal cases, and holds hearings, taking whatever action he deems necessary.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

In the matter of Towns, the General Assembly grants the privilege of incorporation when necessary because of public utilities which are not under the province of a district government. Power is given to those towns of sufficient population by the passage of "an act of incorporation. "

The act under which a town is governed states its corporate limits. It has its separate charter which states the number of officials permissible; their compensation; how to be chosen and the length of their terms of office. It fixes the rate of taxation, plans the opening of streets and alleys and otherwise regulates all of its powers. Its town officials are chosen by the people at the town election which is fixed by the charter or articles of incorporation. Time, place and manner of holding elections are fixed. In some towns, those who have paid the town tax and are twenty-one years of age or over are allowed to vote, In others

the only distinction made is the payment of the town tax.

The officials of the town are: a Mayor or President of the Council; Town Council or Town Commissioners; Board of Health, Treasurer, Clerk, Alderman, Assessor, Tax Collector and Constable.

In the larger towns, the Mayor is chosen by the people. In the others, the Town Council or Commissioners, choose one of their number as Presiding officer and he or she has the same powers as the Mayor. The Executive supervises the execution of all ordinances; hears complaints from citizens and issues all licenses permitted by the act of incorporation.

The Mayor of New Castle has the power to hold a court resembling a police court before which may be brought those who have violated the town's ordinances.

The Town Council or Commissioners are empowered to make ordinances for the government of the town. These include preservation of order, safety and cleanliness; opening of new streets and alleys and keeping of old ones in repair; laying of annual taxes used for meeting town expenses and has usually power of public utilities and appointive power over certain officers.

The Board of Health is appointed by the Town Council or the Commissioners, should be composed of not less than three nor more than seven members, one of whom must be a physician. The Town Treasurer, Clerk, Alderman and Assessor may be elected or appointed by the Council according to the option of the people.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

With two Senators and one Representative in Congress and three members in the Electoral College, Delaware has maintained her position in the National Government for which her representatives fought in the early constitutional days.

The Government maintains branches of its executive and judicial offices throughout the State. The present system of National Courts, created by the Constitution and the Judiciary Act of 1789, made provisions for the different Federal Tribunals, the number of their judges, and the places for holding their sessions. Delaware was made a part of the Third Judicial District which includes also Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The sessions of the United States District Court are held in Wilmington on the second Tuesdays of March, June, September and December. The Judge is an appointee of the President, confirmed by the Senate and his term of office is indeterminate. The Court has jurisdiction over both civil and driminal cases of a Federal character.

In the one hundred and forty-six years since this Court's inception, Delaware has had only eight United States District Judges. They were as follows: Gunning Bedford, Jr., appointed by President George Washington, September 26, 1789 to March 30, 1812. John Fisher, appointed by President Madison, April 23, 1812: Willard Hall, appointed by President Monroe, May 6, 1823 to December 7, 1871: Edward G. Bradford was appointed Judge, December 12, 1871 and served the U. S. District Court until Jan. 16, 1874. He had previously been appointed United States District Attorney first by President Lincoln and to succeed himself by President Johnson. Leonard E. Wales received his appointment from President Arthur, March 20, 1884 and served until February 6, 1897: Edward G. Bradford, 2nd, appointed by President McKinley, May 21, 1897 to May 2, 1918: Hugh M. Morris appointed by President Wilson, March 1, 1919, resigned June 30, 1930 and was succeeded by the present incumbent John P. Niels, whose appointment dates from July 14, 1930. Among the U. S. District Attorneys are George Read, 2nd;

George Read, 3rd, James A. Bayard, afterward United States Senator; William Horsey Rogers; Perry Sheward Johnson; Thomas F. Bayard, afterwards United States Senator, Secretary of State, and the first Ambassador to England; Daniel Moore Bates, afterwards Chancellor and Anthony Higgins, afterwards United States Senator.

From the Executive Departments in Washington, Wilmington has offices of the following: from the Department of Agriculture, branches of Bureau of Animal Industry; Meat and Field Inspector and a Tuberculosis Eradication Division. Two Bureaus from the Department of Commerce: Foreign and Domestic Commerce and Navigation. The Department of Labor maintains its United States Employment Service here and the Department of the Navy a Bureau of Navigation Recruiting Service. The Post Office Department with branches all over the State has offices of the First Assistant Postmaster General; Fourth Assistant Postmaster General and Chief Post Office Inspector in Wilmington. The Treasury Department has its Customs Service, Internal Revenue, Public Health Service and a Supervising Architect's Office. The Department of War has its Organized Reserves, Recruiting Station, Militia Bureau, and its Property and Disbursing Office. Of the Independent Federal Establishments there is a Regional Physician acting for the Veterans' Administration; a Civil Service Official and offices of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration; Home Owners Loan Association; Federal Housing Commission, the Rural Settlement and the Works Progress Administration.

United States Government agencies from the Executive Departments at Dover are: Agriculture; Bureau of Animal Industry, Meat and Field Inspection and the Tuberculosis Eradication Division, and the Agricultural Extension Service and the Plant Quarantine and

Beetle Control. The War Department has a Militia Bureau there and the Veterans Administration a Regional Physician. Delaware being under the Philadelphia Regional jurisdiction of this agency, this service also extends to Georgetown, Lewes, Middletown, Newark, Seaford, Smyrna and Townsend.

The Department of Agriculture also maintains a Bureau of Animal Industry and of Meat and Field Inspection at Bridgeville, a Tuberculosis Eradication Division at Smyrna and the Agricultural Extension Service at Newark and Georgetown.

The Lighthouse Service of the Department of Commerce is at Edgemoor. The Department of the Navy has its Communications Division at Lewes, as has the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department and the U. S. Coast Guard.

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in the village of Frederica

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Election Returns
Notification of Governor Clayton
Nanticoke Ferry
New Castle Ferry
Loan Office
Favoring Horse Racing
Election of John Vining
Bank of Delaware
Brandywine Canal
Adjournment
Election Returns
Bridge Commissioners
Abolition of Slavery--Bill
Abolition of Slavery--Publication
Mileage (1796)
Election of Latimer as Senator
Mileage (1797)

Senate

Sheep in Newark
Mileage (1798)
Election Returns
Mileage (1799)

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

(From Journal of the House of Representatives)

1793

January 8--12⁰⁰ Noon.

In the Senate Chamber, the Senate and House of Representatives proceed to open and publish the Returns of the Election for Governor, which was as follows:

"In New Castle County--For Joshua Clayton, 382. Thomas Montgomery, 819. George Mitchell, 1.

In Kent County--For Joshua Clayton, 945. Thomas Montgomery, 702. George Mitchell, 3.

In Sussex County--For Joshua Clayton, 882. Thomas Montgomery, 381. George Mitchell, 454.

For Joshua Clayton, total Amount	2209
For Thomas Montgomery, total Amount	<u>1902.</u>
Majority	307."

1793

A Committee of two members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives, deliver to Joshua Clayton "a Certificate of his having been elected Governor of the State of Delaware."

Messrs. Moore, Ridgely and Roche.

1793

January 15

A Petition from Betty Cannon, of the County of Sussex, Widow, was read, praying Leave to bring in a Bill, to vest in her, her Heirs and Assigns, an exclusive Right to keep a public Ferry over the River Nanticoke, at a place commonly known by the name of Cannon's Ferry." (Granted permission to bring in a Bill.)

Page 24.

Passed (Page 49) 1/26/1793 Betty Cannon and Isaac Cannon for 14 years.

1793

January 16

"A Petition from George Monro, James Monro, and James McCalmont, was read, praying Leave to bring in a Bill to vest them with an exclusive Right, which George Monro, the father of the said James and George, hath heretofore enjoyed, of keeping a public Ferry, across the Delaware, at the Town of New Castle."

Page 27.

(Referred)

1793

January 31

An Address from Robert Clark, dated the 29th Instant, was read, resigning his Office of Trustee of the Loan Office for the County of Kent."

Page 63.

1793

January 17

"A Petition from 116 Inhabitants of the County of Kent, was read praying the Repeal of so much of the "Act for the Suppression of Idleness, Vice, and Immorality," as prohibits Horse-Racing."

1793

January 19

"John Vining, Esq; having Eighteen of the Twenty-three Ballots put into the Box, was declared to be duly elected" United States Senator. (Richard Bassett's term expiring.)

Page 36.

1793

January 23

A Petition is presented to incorporate the Bank of Delaware.

Page 42.

1793

January 24

A "Canal and Lock-Navigaton on the Waters of Brandywine River, extending from Chester County in the State of Pennsylvania, through Part of New-Castle, County, to the Borough of Wilmington" is considered.

Page 44.

1793

February 2

"Whereas the Expences of this Session of the General Assembly have been very great; and as the Disagreement between this and Senate is such, that no other Business can possibly be done; and as the Senate will not comply with the Resolution of this House for an Adjournment, although they have been repeatedly requested so to do;

Therefore, Resolved,

That this House adjourn without Day.

It was then moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Monroe,
That the last Motion be postponed, in Order to introduce the
following, viz. That this House adjourn to Ten O'Clock on
Monday next;

Which passed in the Negative.

The Original Motion by Mr. Ridgely, seconded by Mr. Tilton,
then recurring;

On the Question to adopt the same, the Yeas and Nays being
called by Mr. Davis, were as follows

Yeas.

Messrs. Roche,
Hollingsworth,
Tatnall,
Tilton,
Johnson,

Yeas.

Messrs. Ridgely,
Stockley,
W. Lockwood,
Eatson.

Nays

Messrs. Monroe,
Davis,
J. Lockwood,
Sipple,

Nays

Messrs. Lewis,
Hayes,
Hazzard,
Townsend.

So it was determined in the Affirmative;

And the House adjourned accordingly."

Pages 81-82.

Absent--Messrs. Black, Raymond and Moore.

Page 62.

JOURNAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

1796

January 13

Results of the votes for Governor:

"In New-Castle county,

For Archibald Alexander, 845.

For Gunning Bedford, sen. 523.

In Kent County,

For Gunning Bedford, sen. 779.

For Archibald Alexander, 731.

In Sussex County,

For Gunning Bedford, sen. 1050.

For Archibald Alexander, 566."

Page 22.

Commissioners of bridges, roads and ferries, chosen Feb. 7, 1795, met at the Court House, in New Castle, Dec. 7, 1795:

Brandywine Hundred, John James, Esq.

New-Castle, James Booth, Esq. Chairman

Mill-Creek, Joseph Ball.

Whiteclay-Creek, Joel Lewis, Esq.

Pencader, William Cooch, Esq.

Redlion, James Monro, Esq. Secretary

St. Georges, John V. Hyatt.

Christiana, Jacob Broom, Esq.

Appoquinimink, Elias Naudain.

Pages 23-24.

Commissioners of bridges, roads and ferries:

Sussex County,

1796

Isaac Cooper, Thomas Laws, William Newbold, Landers
. Roberts, Robert Frame, William Vaughan, Isaac Beauchamp, Rhode
Shankland, John Collins.

Pages 33-34.

1796

January 19

"On Motion of Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Cooch.

That he have leave to bring in a Bill for the gradual abol-
ition of slavery; leave was accordingly granted.

Whereupon, he presented to the Chair a bill for that
purpose; which was read.

Ordered to lie on the table."

Page 46.

1796

February 4

In the Senate,

"Resolved,

By the Senate and House of Representatives, That the bill,
entitled, "An Act for the gradual abolition of slavery," be
published under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate,
for six weeks at least, in both the newspapers of this State,
for the consideration of the citizens, previously to the next
session of the Legislature."

Page 108-109.

1796

February 10

"The House then allowed the following accounts for the atten-
dance of the members, and for public services:

1796

	Dolls.	Cts.
To Stephen Lewis Esq. Speaker	94	77
To Elijah Adams, Esq.	79	20
To I. Wise Batson, Esq.	70	--
To Robert Burton, Esq.	70	50
To William Carlisle, Esq.	79	--
To Robert Clark, Esq.	74	--
To William Cooch, Esq.	80	30
To George Cummins, Esq.	75	20
To Nathaniel Hayes, Esq.	78	30
To James Henry, Esq.	75	20
To Joel Lewis, Esq.	80	20
Carried over, Dolls.	856	67
Brought over, Dolls.	856	67
To William M ^c Kennan, Esq.	79	50
To Robert Maxwell, Esq.	78	50
To Elias Naudain, Esq.	78	50
To Abraham Pierce, Esq.	75	20
To James Raymond, Esq.	75	10
To William Sorden, Esq.	72	--
To James Stroud, Esq.	74	50
To Nehemiah Tilton, Esq.	81	--
To Barclay Townsend, Esq.	23	--
To William Hill Wells, Esq.	77	20
To Stephen Sykes, Clerk,	141	50
To Joseph Harper, Assistant-Clerk	100	28
To David Davenport, Doorkeeper, and Serjeant-at-Arms,	62	73

1796

To James Wakeman,

Dolls. Cents

12 --

Dolls. 1887 68

Resolved,

That orders be drawn on the Treasurer, and signed by the Speaker, in favor of the several persons for their respective allowances.

The Speaker then adjourned the House, sine Die.

1797

January 5

Henry Latimer, by a vote of 16 to 6 is elected United States Senator.

Page 8.

1797

January 24

"The House allowed the following accounts for the attendance of the Members, and for services rendered to the state, viz.

	Day's attendance.	Mileage	Dols.	Cts.
Stephen Lewis, Speaker,	22	23	57	30
Robert Armstrong,	20	30	43	00
Robert Burton,	10	46	24	60
Manlove Emerson,	22	5	44	50
Joel Lewis,	15	41	34	10
Robert Maxwell,	14	24	30	40
William Morris,	22	7	44	70
Elias Naudain	22	24	46	40

1797

	Day's attendance.	Mileage	Dols.	Cts.
David Owens,	17	28	36	80
Samuel Paynter,	22	34	47	40
James Raymond,	21	10	43	00
Nicholas Ridgely,	22		44	00
Caesar A. Rodney,	22	50	49	00
William Sorden,	22	20	46	00
Thomas Sorden,	23	35	49	50
Woodman Stockley,	16	46	37	60
James Stroud,	12	44	28	40
Nehemiah Tilton,	22	50	49	00
William Warner,	22	3	44	30
William H. Wells	23	50	51	00
John Williams,		55	23	40
William Riley, as Door-keeper and Sergeant at Arms, and for sundry articles purchased for the use of the House			50	00
Stephen Sykes, Clerk of the last House			130	00
James Wakeman for a stove, putting it in chimney, and lime,			17	50
John Caldwell, for 22 day's attendance as Clerk, and for other services, and for money expended			<u>136</u>	<u>66</u>
			1209	56"

Page 56

FROM JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

1798

January 10

"A petition, signed by a number of the inhabitants of Newark

1798

and its vicinity, was presented and read, praying that a law may be passed, prohibiting sheep from running at large within the said village."

1798

Page 11

1798

January 27

The following allowances were then made, to wit:

	Dolls	Cents
To Isaac Davis, Speaker, for attendance and mileage	71	50
To Archibald Alexander, for do, and do.	60	50
To John James, for do. and do.	61	--
To Edward Roche, for do. and do.	23	--
To George Cummins, for do. and do.	51	--
To James Sykes, for do.	52	--
To Nathaniel Hayes, for do. and mileage.	54	30
To Woodman Stockly, for do. and do.	54	70
To John Fisher, for attendance as Clerk, engrossing, and for cash expended.	60	--
To James Wakeman, for attendance as door-keeper, bell-ringer, and wood furnished, &c.	78	66
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Dolls. 566	36"

Page 49.

1799

January 9

Returns of votes for Governor are:

"For Richard Bassett, Esquire,

New-Castle County,	497
Kent county,	882
Sussex county,	<u>1111</u>
	2490

1799

"For David Hall, Esquire,
 New-Castle county, 479
 Kent county, 742
 Sussex county, 847
 2068

For Barclay Townsend, Esquire
 New-Castle county, 000
 Kent county, 000
 Sussex county, 185
 185

Majority in favor of Richard Bassett,
 Esq. 422."

1799

February 2 1799

"The following allowances were then made, for the attendance
 of the Members, and for public services rendered the State, to wit;

	Dolls.	Cents
To Isaac Davis, Speaker of the Senate, for attendance and mileage.	85	3
To Archibald Alexander, Esq. for ditto and ditto	60	50
To John James, Esq. ditto and ditto	69	--
To Isaac Grantham, Esq. ditto and ditto	60	50
To George Cummins, Esq. ditto and ditto	67	--
To James Sykes, Esq. ditto and ditto	66	--
To Nathaniel Hayes, Esq. ditto and ditto	68	80
To David Owens, Esq. ditto and ditto	68	80
To John Fisher, for attendance thirty-three days as Clerk, engrossing, &c. and money		

1799

Dolls. Cents

expended for stationary, transcribing
 the Journal of January session 1798, and
 the Militia bill of the same session by
 order of the Senate.

126 52

To Samuel and John Adams, printers, for pub-
 lishing the Militia bill, of January
 session 1798, by order of the Senate.

12 --

To James Wakeman, Door-keeper and Sergeant
 at Arms, for thirty-three days atten-
 dance, wood, candles, &c.

92 36

Dollars

776 51"

Page 92-85 (sic)

Clyde W. Young
July 10, 1940

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D. 7 Government in Delaware
Present Government: County: Executive

II-B-1-8

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT

The Board of Assessment is one of the more recent additions to county government, first established in Sussex County in 1915, and two years later introduced into New Castle and Kent Counties.

Appointments to the Board of Assessment are made by the Levy Court. In New Castle County there are four members, each receiving a salary of \$3,000 a year. The members must be "suitable persons," of whom two are residents of Wilmington and two are residents of the rural sections; in both cases, the two must represent opposite political faiths. In Kent County, which has a three-member board, the salary is \$1,200 a year. No two members can be residents of the same senatorial district, and must not hold any other county or State office. Not more than two members may represent the same political party. The same qualifications also apply to Sussex County, which has also a three-member board. In Sussex County the salary is \$1,000 for the year of a general assessment, which is made once every six years, and \$500 during other years. In both New Castle and Kent Counties the term is for four years, and in Sussex County for six years. The appointments are made so the terms will be overlapping, which insures the body being continuous in character. Members

11-B-1-2

of the boards in New Castle and Kent Counties devote full time to their work, while only part time is given by the members in Sussex County. In Sussex County, they are assisted by a clerk receiving a salary of \$900 a year, who devotes full time to the work. The New Castle County board maintains a staff, including an engineer and draftsman, a field clerk, and three office clerks.

The duties of the Board of Assessment are to assess the property values within their respective counties at their correct worth so that the assessment lists can be prepared and taxation imposed. They must see that copies of the assessment notices are posted in "convenient places" in the various election districts. It is compulsory for the builder or owner to file a notice with the board within thirty days of any building that has been erected or any alteration made where the cost exceeded \$100.

Clyde W. Young
July 8, 1940

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Government in Delaware
County: Executive

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Encyclopaedia File

CLERK OF THE PEACE

The Clerk of the Peace performs a wide variety of duties and serves as a general factotum for the county. He is elected for a term of four years, and the office pays a salary of \$4,000 in New Castle County, \$2,000 in Kent County, and \$1,800 in Sussex County. In New Castle County he is assisted by two deputies and three clerks; in Kent County there is one deputy, but no provisions have been made for any assistants in Sussex County.

Among his duties is that of clerk of the Levy Court, in which he carries out the functions of a secretary. Each year he forwards to the State Auditor at Dover a copy of the minutes and proceedings of Levy Court, and also prepares for Levy Court the revised assessment lists and tax duplicates.

He also serves as clerk of the Court of General Sessions, and clerk of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, where he collects the various fines imposed upon defendants, and keeps accounts of these proceedings for the State Treasurer. At the direction of the Court of General Sessions he issues warrants to Fence Viewers for the performance of their duties.

The issuance of many State and county licenses is made through his office, including those for business establishments. He also issues marriage licenses.

Candidates seeking election to public offices must have their nominations certified by him prior to election dates, and it is his duty to prepare the ballot for the general election.

All bills approved by Levy Court must have the warrants for the money drawn up by the Clerk of the Peace.

Clyde W. Young
July 8, 1940

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Government in Delaware
County: Executive

II-B-1-b

Encyclopaedia File

COMPTROLLER

The Comptroller performs a service similar to that of an auditor for business concerns in checking the correctness of all county accounts before payments are made.

First established in New Castle County in 1892, the office has since been introduced into the local government of both Kent and Sussex Counties. In all three counties, the incumbent is elected for a term of four years. The salary is \$3,600 in New Castle County, \$2,000 in Kent County, and \$1,500 in Sussex County. The Comptroller of New Castle County appoints a deputy, in Sussex he appoints a clerk, but no provisions exist for a regular subordinate in Kent.

The duties of the Comptroller are to countersign all warrants for the payment of money drawn by the Levy Court Commissioners, the Trustees of the Poor, and the Clerk of the Peace. It is also his duty to inspect and audit the accounts of the Levy Court Commissioners and all other county officers, except those of the Receiver of Taxes and County Treasurer, although the accounts of the district tax collectors are subject to his audit. He must in addition, post all items of expenditure, warrants drawn, and contracts made.

In each county, it is necessary for the Comptroller to post a bond of \$10,000 before taking office.

Clyde W. Young
Aug. 19, 1940

Encyclopaedia File
GOVERNMENT IN DELAWARE
Present Government
County: Executive

II-B-1-b

COUNTY AUDITING

Unlike the State and City governments, the County maintains no such office as Auditor. To take care of this work, a public accountant, certified in Delaware, is appointed each year by the Resident Judge of the County. The name of the accountant is given by the Resident Judge to Levy Court, with directions for the latter to enter into a contract for the auditing of all accounts of the County.

The audit of the County accounts is made at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, and it is the certified public accountant's audit that is published as the Levy Court's annual report.

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

Clyde W. Young
July 23, 1940

II-B-1-a

COUNTY ENGINEER

The office of County Engineer, which first appeared during the regime of the Duke of York under the title of Overseer of Highways, has been greatly altered since the recent legislative act (1935), which turned over to the State Highway Department all public roads, highways, and bridges which had been under the care and management of the Levy Courts of the three counties, thus ending the original function of the County Engineer.

Under present regulations the County Engineer has the power, under direction of Levy Court, to widen, straighten, or alter the course of small creeks and runs. Operating under this phase of work, he is privileged by State law to enter upon any lands to make surveys. In Kent and Sussex Counties the drainage of ditches is carried on under his supervision, while in New Castle County the construction of sewers outside incorporated cities and towns by licensed plumbers must receive the approval of his office.

The County Engineer is appointed by Levy Court for an indefinite term, and may be removed from office at any time. In New Castle County it is necessary that he be a graduate of some reputable engineering school; in Kent and Sussex Counties attendance, but not necessarily graduation, at a similar school is required of the appointee. The salary is arranged by Levy Court but can "not exceed three thousand dollars."

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P. 311, 312.

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Wilmington, Del., J. Laurance Banks, Inc., 1931. v.37. P.383.

Clyde W. Young
July 3, 1940

Encyclopaedia File
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County

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THE LEVY COURT

In each of the three counties of Delaware, the administration of local government is carried on by the Levy Court, a body of men who perform functions that in the main are executed by County Commissioners in other States. Called together originally to levy taxes for the year, its powers have been enlarged to include other important duties. Like the term "Hundred," whose counterpart is the Township in other States, "Levy Court" is unique in respect to Delaware, since no other State uses these names. Levy Courts never had any judicial functions in Delaware.

This county body was first established in Delaware in 1736, following the passage of an act by the English Parliament during the reign of George II. Section 3 of this act provided that

"the Justices of the Peace of the respective Counties within the Government, or any three of them, at their respective county shall meet yearly and every year for the laying of levies, together with eight grand jurymen. . . and the assessors or the majority of them shall meet at the Court-House or Houses within the said counties. . . and then and there proceed to calculate and settle the public debts and charges of the respective counties, and settle and adjust the sums of money which ought of necessity to be received yearly to defray the charges of building and repairing the Court-Houses, prisons, work-houses, for destroying wolves, crows and black-birds, with such other uses as may redound to the public service, and with power to make good deficiencies and to collect and enforce collections."

This gave the Levy Court the right to set the assessment rate each year, and to make disbursements of the funds received in taxes in whatever manner seemed in the judgment of the commissioners would be most advantageous to the residents. In this respect, county government through the three Levy Courts of the State has undergone no change in principle. New duties have been added to meet current needs and obsolete duties have been abolished. Some of the duties earlier performed by the Levy Court have been established under separate offices, such as the receiving of taxes, arrangements for county elections, disbursements of funds in various branches, and the like, but all of these continue to remain under the direct control of the Levy Court Commissioners.

After the Revolutionary War, it was considered advisable to make membership in Levy Court an elective office, and a law to that effect was passed by the State Legislature on June 14, 1793. Under that law, elections to Levy Court were made from the various hundreds within the county, with the more heavily populated hundreds being granted two representatives. This enabled New Castle County to have a Levy Court composed of eleven members, while Kent County had nine members, and Sussex County ten members. Later, the Levy Court Commissioners were elected from the representative districts of Kent and Sussex Counties, and the senatorial districts of New Castle County.

The present system of Levy Courts is not uniform in the three counties, although they all serve the same primary purpose.

At the turn of the century, increasing duties of the Levy Courts made it necessary for weekly meetings to be held in New Castle County; in Kent County, monthly meetings were held, and in Sussex County, the body met monthly except during the summer months of June, July, August, and September. At that time, the Levy Court of New Castle County was composed of seven members, each serving terms of four years, and receiving an annual salary of \$1,200. Similar terms of office were being served in both Kent and Sussex Counties, where the courts were composed of ten commissioners each, having an annual salary of \$500.

In 1915 a reorganization was made of the Levy Court in Sussex County, creating the system under which it now operates. The membership was reduced to three, and the elections made from the county as a whole instead of from the representative districts. The term of office was increased to six years, and arranged on a rotating plan so the entire body would not leave office at one time. No change was made in the meeting dates nor in the duties of the commissioners, but the salary was increased to \$1,200 a year.

The success of a three-member board of Levy Court Commissioners was cited in various surveys made of county government as an example which New Castle and Kent Counties might follow, as it was claimed the informality of a smaller body tended to increase the interest of both the commissioners and the spectators who attended the sessions.

No action on the proposals for a change in New Castle County was made until 1935, when the State Legislature, on April

18, passed an act abolishing the system of having a resident from each hundred represented in Levy Court, and divided the county into what is called three Levy Court Districts. Membership in Levy Court was reduced to three commissioners, each a resident and property owner from the district that elected him.

Although the act did not become effective until January 1939, the Levy Court that existed at the time of the passage of the bill by the Legislature was ordered abolished at the General Election of 1938, when the first district sent to Levy Court a member for two years; the second district elected one for four years, and the third district chose one for six years. The act of the Legislature specified that after 1938 all elections should be made for a term of six years, and increased the salary to \$2,400 a year. No changes in the administration of county government by the three-member Levy Court were made, however, as the act stated they should "have the direction, management and control of the business and finances of New Castle County."

Although similar changes have been recommended for the Levy Court of Kent County, no change has been made there, and it continues to operate as a ten-member board elected from the various representative districts in the county.

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Clyde W. Young
July 8, 1940

Government in Delaware
Present Government: County: Executive

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Encyclopaedia File

PROTHONOTARY

The Prothonotary serves as the clerk of the Superior Court of his county, in that capacity performing varied duties. Chosen by the voters on general election day, he serves a term of four years. The salary is \$3,600 in New Castle County; \$2,000 in Kent; and \$1,500 in Sussex. The Prothonotary of New Castle County is assisted by a deputy and a clerk, and in Sussex County by a deputy, but in Kent County he has no assistant.

As clerk of the Superior Court of his county, the Prothonotary may issue process, take recognizances of bail, and enter the judgments of the court. He has the power to sign all writs and process of the Superior Court and to affix its seal; he also takes acknowledgment of the satisfaction of judgments entered on the records of the court, administers oaths and affirmations, and takes bail in pending cases.

The Prothonotary also serves as custodian of the election returns and the election boxes, which are returned to him the day after the general elections by the inspectors of elections in the various voting districts of his county. Two days after elections, he must deliver up to the Superior Court the complete returns throughout the county.

The sale of books pertaining to the codes and laws are made through the Prothonotary's office, as well as the distribution of legislative journals.

Clyde W. Young
July 8, 1940

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Government of Delaware
Present Government: County: Executive
Encyclopaedia File
II-B-1-b

RECORDER OF DEEDS

The Recorder of Deeds is elected for a four-year term in each of the three counties. In New Castle County a salary of \$3,000 is paid; in Kent the salary is \$2,000, and in Sussex \$1,500. The staff consists of one deputy and twenty clerks in New Castle County, while the two lower counties each have one deputy and one clerk.

The title of the office clearly defines the duties of the Recorder of Deeds, who must record in the books of his office a faithful copy of all deeds and documents brought to him. His record provides prima facie evidence of its validity. The documents recorded include mortgages, assignments, releases, agreements, and certificates of incorporation executed in his county.

The records of the office, which are carefully preserved, are open free of charge to members of the bar, but are not open to the public except upon payment of a small fee.

The large staff of the Recorder of Deeds in New Castle County is made necessary through the fact that all records are written in longhand and recording machines are not used. Deeds and other documents, now almost entirely printed and typed, are recorded in longhand in large books, which are employed mostly in tracing land titles.

Although the office carries a judicial function, no legal qualifications are demanded of those seeking nominations for the position at the general elections.

In addition to his work for the county, the Register is also responsible for the levying and collecting of State inheritance and estate tax. For this work the State pays a salary of \$400 in New Castle County, and \$200 in the two lower counties.

Clyde W. Young
July 9, 1940

Government of Delaware
Present Government: County: Executive

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Encyclopaedia File

REGISTER OF WILLS

The Register of Wills, whose office is sometimes known as the Register's or Probate Court, performs a combination of executive and judicial duties.

Elected in each of the three counties for a term of four years, a salary of \$3,300 is paid the Register in New Castle County; \$2,000 in Kent, and \$1,800 in Sussex. The staff consists of a deputy and two clerks in New Castle County, a clerk in Kent County, and a deputy in Sussex County.

The principal duty of the Register of Wills is to settle the estates of deceased persons. Sitting without a jury, he acts as judge in the granting of letters of administration to the executors of estates of the dead when the executor has been named in the will, or to an administrator appointed by him when no provision has been made by the deceased. Appeals from his decisions may be carried to the Superior Court.

All wills for probate are carefully copied into the records of his office. Accounts must also be submitted to the office by the executor or administrator of an estate, be passed by the Register, and entered in the records. Appeals from these settlements of estates can be carried to the Orphans' Court. The records of the Register on the settlement of an estate remain open for three months for the inspection of the heirs.

NOTES ON "WATCHMEN'S ADDRESS" OF DECEMBER 25, 1813

(A Circular)

At the close of the War of 1812, Wilmington had a population of 4,416. (A. T. Lincoln's Wilmington, page 197.)

The chief police officer was called the High Constable. It is most probable that the police force was called the Watch, and its members, Watchmen. Such names were used in early issues of Wilmington papers. On December 28, 1847, an item is carried to the effect that the Wilmington City Council had authorized the Mayor to appoint five Watchmen for the city with the High Constable as the Captain of the Watch. This item shows the use of the term Watchmen as late as 1847.

That police officers are meant by the term Watchmen in Watchmen's address, December 25, 1813, is shown by the context of the Address, where mention is made of "guarding," of "thief," and "midnight robber," of "drunken brawls," of calling each other by "a rattle," of "riots and robbers," of how the Watch the "lingering hours must call," of the Watchmen being "your defense," and how "we around our wards must go," in spite of rain and hail and snow. Further, the Watch "together must repair" to "the conflagration's breaking." They also carried "staff and rattle."

This circular appears to be a set form that could be used by watchmen anywhere, and contains nothing to identify it absolutely as of Wilmington, or any other place. If used by Wilmington

watchmen, it was probably secured from some larger city, or else printed locally and parroting some regular form. If Wilmington had but four Watchmen in 1847, and the population in 1840 was 8,452, the number of Watchmen in 1813 was probably half the number in 1847, or two. It would probably not pay two watchmen to have an address specially printed. And unless the doings of two or three watchmen of Wilmington are more definitely tied up with the Address in question, the historical connection would not seem worthwhile. That is to say, if two or three Watchmen of Wilmington (the whole force) presented this Address to the citizens of Wilmington in December 1813, and there is sufficient historical warrant back of it in some record or newspaper account, then all very well; but if the Address is a set form, applicable anywhere, and presumed to have been presented by them, on the ground that watchmen in other cities did so, and therefore why not in Wilmington, then the document would not seem worth purchasing as Delawareana alone.

OTWKC,

J. Bovis
Clipping
11-20-38
Star

FIRST POLES IN UNITED STATES.

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100

The first Pole to arrive in America after the insurrection of Nov. 29, 1830, was Major Joseph Hordynski, who landed in Boston, Nov. 22, 1831, as a stowaway, on the American ship Eliza Ann after he escaped from Prussia, where he was being held a prisoner.

Another arrival was Dr. Paul F. Eve, surgeon-Major in the Polish insurgent army, who wrote about the dreaded cholera that spread over Europe and had reached America.

The Austrian frigates Guerrero and Hebe, under the Command of Admiral Bandiera, arrived on March 31, 1834 with 235 Poles deported from Austria. The refugees each received forty dollars and some clothing from the Austrian government upon embarking for this country.

The people of United States, extended a warm welcome to these patriotic exiles. An intensive campaign was begun in all sections of the country to raise a fund to alleviate the hardships and poverty of the people from the land of Kosciuszko and Pulaski.

Many veterans of our fight for independence, who had fought under the command of our Polish heroes, took an active part in this drive.

On April 9th, 1834, a petition was presented to the Congress of United States by a committee, (who were: Ludwik Bonczakiewicz, chairman; Rev. Ludwik Jezykowicz, treasurer; Marcin Roszenkiewicz; Jan Rychlicki, Jan Hiz, Feliks Gwinczewski, and Joseph Kosowski; and Dr. Karol Kraitzir) for assistance.

The Austrian frigate Lipsis was on its way to U.S. with 60 more poles and three Prussian ships bearing 700 more were headed for New York, New Orleans and other ports in the states.

they were detained at Havre, France, and at Coves, and Portsmouth, England.

An appeal was made to President Andrew Jackson asking for asylum for 4,000 Poles, but this did not materialize.

The Polish exiles petition was presented in the House of Representatives by Congressman C.C. Cambrelang of New York, April 27, 1834 and it was offered in Senate by Senator Poindexter of Mississippi April 29. A bill called the "Polish Claim" was passed by Congress and signed by President Jackson, June 30, 1834, granting the Polish exiles 36 sections of land near Rock river in Illinois.

The Poles were unable to take advantage of this because of their economic conditions. Senator Poindexter sponsored an amendment to the law that would enable the exiles to borrow money on their grants of land. It was passed by the Senate Feb, 18, 1835, but failed to pass the House.

The Poles granted power of attorney to Major Ludwik (Baron) Chlopicki, and Jan Prechal to proceed to Illinois and survey the "Promised Land". Technicalities that covered a period of years caused the Polish Exiles a long delay ## to actual get possession of the ### "Polish Claim". In Jan. 1842 the law was reviewed by Congress and because of the many questions involved it was rescinded April 14, 1842.

In Dec. 1835, 235 Polish exiles, together with others # migrated. Many going to western cities, others to New England States and some settled as far south as Fredericksburg, Va; all earning their livelihood through manual labor.

Many of the exiles were aristocrats, highly educated possessing numerous cultural traits, who later became distinguished Polish-Americans.

Dr. Karol Kraitzir came to New York in 1833, he was graduate of the University of Budapest. In 1837 he wrote "the Poles in the United States". He also wrote "The First Book of English, Significance of Alphabet" (Boston 1846) Later he wrote "Glossology Being a Treatise on Nature of Language and on the language of Nature" (New York, 1852) He died May 7th, 1860 at Morrisania, N.Y.

J. K. Salmonski, another exile wrote "The Life of Countess Emily Plater" in 1842. The same year P. Sobolewski, wrote "The Poets and Poetry of Poland" also collaborated with Wyszynski and Spolka on "Poland- Historical, Literary, Monumental and Picturesque, in New York", in English.

"The recovery of Poland" was written by J.N. Kryczynski, and published in Philadelphia (1847) Henry Glowacki became a prominent attorney in New York. Ludwik Bonczakiewicz and others became professors at various universities.

The emigration of exiles to this country in the 1830'S established the idea of America as a land of opportunity for the Poles, and led to a flow of emigres in later years. Between 1871 and 1911, 430,000 Poles came to this country from Prussia and 856,000 came here from Austria (1884 to 1914). In 1890 there were 19,323 emigrants from the Congress Kingdom, and from 1901 to 1913, 596,950 Poles came to United States from Russia.

The 1930 census for Delaware shows 8,939 Poles residing in our state with the majority in the city of Wilmington. These Poles occupy the southwestern portion of the city known as "Polska" (Little Poland). Another group reside in the eastern part of Wilmington near Old Swedes Church. The Poles of Wilmington proud of their heritage and appreciate the opportunities afforded in the new country, are conceded to be excellent citizens.

POLISH NEWSPAPERS

Kuryer Wilmingtowski (Wilmington Courier)

This was the first weekly, printed in the Polish language, to be considered as a local newspaper. It was edited and owned by the "Patriota" press of Philadelphia where the weekly was also printed. Publication began in 1913. John B. Pietuszka furnished the local news, and was the weekly's correspondent for two years. Due to lack of advertisements, the paper ceased publication, in 1915.

SZTANDAR

In 1915, while Kuryer Wilmingtowski had a small circulation in Wilmington; Leonard Bochinski, who came here from Buffalo, N. Y.; set up a printing plant in this city, at 209 Maryland Avenue; and there began publication of Sztandar Weekly, which actually was the first Polish newspaper printed in Delaware. Leonard Bochinski was the owner and editor.

POLONIA WEEKLY

The United Development Company, a local Polish corporation, which has since been dissolved; bought the Weekly Sztandar from Leonard Bochinski, in 1919. The printing plant was moved to the company's own building, 900 Linden street, this city. The name of the paper was changed to Polonia Weekly. This paper had quite a large circulation, and did a lot of job printing. It was a paying undertaking. John B. Pietuszka was the managing editor.

After the dissolution of the United Development Company in 1922, Jean Sobczyk, advertising manager of ~~the~~ Polonia Weekly; took over the publication and became its owner.

POLISH NEWSPAPERS

and editor to 1927. In that year, Raymond Strzelecki acquired the printing plant and the Polonia Weekly and became its editor and publisher. The name of the weekly was again changed; this time to Czas (Times)

CZAS (TIMES)

Raymond Strzelecki bought the Polonia Weekly from Jean Sobczyk in 1927. Circulation dropped, advertisements were hard to get, so the publication of the local weekly ceased about a year after its acquisition by the new owner.

For nine years (1928 to 1937) there was no local Polish newspaper.

WIADOMOSCI (NEWS)

Wiadomosci (News) printed in Philadelphia, and locally edited by Vincent J. Kowalewski, made its appearance in this city in 1937. Wiadomosci is gaining a wide circulation in Wilmington and vicinity.

Alco News

Alco News, a monthly magazine, published by the employees of the Amalgamated Leather Company, devotes one page, printed in Polish, for its Polish workers. This page is edited by Mr. Frank Siudowski, an employee in the stock room.

POLISH SOCIETTES, ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS

St. Joseph Society. Organized November 1, 1887. First Polish Society in Wilmington. After twenty five years, disbanded and affiliated with other Polish Societies.

St. Stanislaus Mutual Aid Society. Organized January 31, 1892.

Polish Library Association. Organized March 12, 1898.

Henry Sienkiewicz Society, group 136 Polish National Alliance.

Delaware Polish Beneficial Association of Mater Admirabilis. Organized October 25, ~~1908~~ 1908. (Notes, p.2)

Polish National Sick Benefit Society, group 431 Polish National Alliance.

St. Hedwig Society, group 11 of St. John Kanty Association

St. Stanislaus Kostka Benefit Society.

St. Anna Society, ladies group 149 of St. John Kanty Association.

Polish Falcons and Auxiliary, Nest 20. Organized July 12, 1902.

John Sobieski Society, group 291 Polish Union of America.

Liberty Society, (Ladies) group 1742 Polish National Alliance.

Kosciuszko Building and Loan Association.

Ladies Society of the Rosary.

Girls Sodality of Immaculate Conception.

Pulaski Legion, (formerly St. Hedwig Knights and Cadets) *(also* branch 98 Military Alliance of America.) Del. Unit No.1 Pulaski Legion of America.

Pulaski Legion Boy Scouts, Troop No. 7.

Society of the Sisters of the Rosary (St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish)

Polish American Veterans, Post No. 3257 V. F. W.

Veterans of Polish Army, Post 48.

Polish American Citizens Club.

Pulaski Legion Dramatic Association.

POLISH SOCIETIES, ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS

Wards,
The 3, 10, 11, 12, and Polish Democratic Club.

Council of Polish Societies and Clubs in Delaware. Organized February 11, 1938.

Polish Commercial Association

Note. Family Mutual Life Insurance Company. Although this is not a strictly Polish organization, it was the outgrowth of a factional dispute between officers in the Governing Body of the Delaware Polish Beneficial Association of Mater Admirabilis. As the result of that dispute, the Delaware Polish Beneficial Association of M. A. was divided, through court proceedings, in 1930; into two groups - one of original fraternal intent, the other; mutual life insurance business; which now is the Family Mutual Insurance Company. The main office is in the building, owned by the company, at Sixth and Shipley streets, (formerly Diamond State Telephone Building) this city.

Dr. Sigmund B. Pawlikowski is president. The company does business in other states besides Delaware. This is the first Life Insurance Company organized in Delaware by Americans of Polish descent.

Note:
The fraternal group is now named Mater Admirabilis Benefit Society.

James B. Cheyney
March 5, 1940

WRITERS NAME FILE
NEWSPAPER HISTORY 107
Anecdotes

Cause Celebre of Myra Clark Gaines

The prologue of the most notable of the outstanding suits in the law courts of this country (prolonged for four decades) was staged in Wilmington at Delamere Place, then the residence of Colonel Samuel B. Davis, and subsequently of Thomas F. Bayard. Through the courts, Myra Clark Gaines, the most famous of litigants, proved herself to have been born in wedlock and to have been the legitimate daughter of Daniel Clark and Zulime DesGardens, a ravishingly beautiful French Creole girl, and the heir to her father's fortune estimated at upwards of \$40,000,000. Clark was regarded as the wealthiest and most accomplished bachelor in the gay Crescent City, whither he came from Ireland to join his uncle and later inherited his great fortune and business. He died in 1805, ten years after Myra was born, leaving a will bequeathing his fortune to his mother who came with him to this country and established her home in Germantown, and twelve years after the coming of another daughter by Gaines and Zulime who was born out of wedlock.

The wealthy bachelor had never announced his marriage to the Creole and when the second daughter was born, in the home of his private secretary, she was turned over to the family of Colonel Davis, then a resident of New Orleans where he had accumulated a considerable fortune and had become prominent in politics, business and society. He accepted Myra into his own family and she became much attached to Mrs. Davis, a French lady whom Davis had married in that country while in the naval service of France. Myra regarded the three sons of the family as her brothers and deeply mourned the death of her pseudo-mother,

Mrs. Davis, in New Orleans.

While Myra was still in her pinafore age, Colonel Davis moved to Philadelphia where he was engaged in business and served in the Pennsylvania legislature two sessions. He had previously acquired a Summer home here in which he manifested his love for his native state by naming it "Delamore Place." He had seen and admired the site overlooking the Delaware River Valley, on the western suburb of Wilmington, when marching his military command to New Orleans from in 1812. He reached this city, on the journey, at nightfall and decided to camp on the pretty elevation. He declared that he would return at the first opportunity, buy it and erect a great mansion. Instead of marching to Louisiana, the soldiers were transported by steamboats down the Mississippi, but reached the Crescent City one day after peace had been restored between this country and England. He remained a short time in Louisiana and proceeding North he came back to Wilmington determined to purchase the property that he had admired a few months previous. On reaching here, he was chagrined to find that the land had been sold to a local buyer who was building a large house on the site. He, however, soon heard that the land and elaborated building had financially overburdened its new owner and Colonel Davis bought and took over the land and partially finished building, which became known as "Warner's Folly."

The youthful Myra was at once established in the Delamore home with her widowed "father," who at seventy married Sallie Jones, daughter of Lieutenant Jones, U.S.M.C., who was still in her teens. There were five children by the marriage; Harriett, the youngest daughter, was six years when her father died. Another daughter,

Victoria Elizabeth, was ten while New Castle Delaware Davis, the oldest son, was sixteen; Kent Delaware Davis, fifteen; and Sussex Delaware Davis was fourteen. (The children were all born after Myra had left the Davis roof tree to seek her father's fortune.)

With her remarkable beauty and social background, her accomplishments and vivacity, it was remarked as unusual that Myra had not been sought in marriage. After she had passed her twenty-fifth year, however, Colonel Davis was visited by William Wallace Whitney, of New York, who brought letters of introduction and who informed the hot tempered old soldier that he wished to pay court to Myra and marry her if she assented. Instead of being received as he had expected, the wooer was advised to quit Delamore Place forthwith, that he could not only not "address" his daughter, but if he came again to see her he would shoot him down on sight.

The brave young lover accepted the challenge and soon wrote that he would arrive at Delamore Place the next day, and Myra determined to intercept him and to elope to Philadelphia to marry him, sought to avert the possible danger of having him face her vitriolic father on his own "door step." Consequently, she packed a few articles of apparel in a small trunk and after being assured of the family coachman's cooperation, she waited for the midnight hour to launch her getaway. The coachman appeared at the stroke of twelve and quietly carried her trunk downstairs, Myra following and jumping into the carriage, the driver lashed his horses into top speed and fearing alarm or being reported to the Colonel, the team crashed the toll gate and the one enclosing the Delamore lawn. Myra, fearful that her

plans would miscarry, had a servant shut up the watch dogs where they could not see the midnight elopement in a downpour of rain.

(Myra's keen anxiety and fear lest her plans would fail and that she would be returned to her home, may have been explained by the fact that the sumptuous Delamore Place was provided with a cell - a dungeon - which neighborhood talk declared was resorted to correct the "misbehavior" of his daughter and later his wife.)

Arriving in Wilmington, Myra directed the coachman to the house of a friend, a girl confederate who agreed to lend her assistance to the elopement. A lighted candle in the front window, the signal that the way was clear, brought Myra into the house wringing wet and scared almost white. (She never again indulged herself with fright.) The two sat up all night and at daybreak hastened to New Castle to meet the steamboat from Baltimore on which Whitney was expected to arrive. He was not on the expected craft, and his sweetheart boarded the next boat to Baltimore where she hoped they would meet and be married. (At least prevent Whitney's proposed visit to again seek permission from her father to marry her.) The two had passed on the trip, but Myra returned by the next steamer and the couple planned an immediate marriage.

Colonel Davis, who had once declared to Whitney that he had other and more brilliant plans for Myra, finally assented to their marriage and offered his house for the ceremony and the marriage took place at Delamore Place in 1832. Myra at the time was twenty-seven. The Colonel seemed to have been

perfectly reconciled to the affair and was in a happy mood during the evening, chiefly perhaps because his beloved daughter did not elope - a serious breach in the decorum of the socially prominent in those times.

It is recorded that during the afternoon and evening of the wedding, rain fell in torrents and to the further discomfort of the bridal party no one had thought to obtain the requisite marriage license. A servant was ordered to mount the fastest horse in the Davis stables and dash to Wilmington for the permit, but in his rush he mounted a blind horse by mistake and it fell and threw him into a muddy ditch along the road. He proceeded on foot to the City and eventually succeeded in bringing back the license at ten o'clock, to the waiting party. It is also recorded that as the minister pronounced the couple man and wife the rain stopped, the clouds parted, and the stars shone as if in benediction on the happy couple. Possibly that was the happiest and only trouble-free moment of the long life of the beautiful, brilliant litigant.

The couple went to the Whitney home where they remained a few years and where their three children were born. (The story of the celebrated case of Myra Clark Gaines is an endless romance, but it was while under the roof of her pseudo-father that the threads were formed into skeins until they disclosed such seeming contradictions and lack of definite evidence, that made lawyers wonder if the beautiful Myra had not mesmerized the Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court and lesser judicial bodies and the American bar.)

The William Wallace Whitneys were back with the Davis

household in 1834 when Colonel proceeded down town to keep a business appointment. He had forgotten an important paper that he required and sent a fast paced servant to bring it without delay. He sent the request to Myra and with the key to his private desk which almost never was out of his possession. The dutiful daughter was delighted at the opportunity to browse through the drawers and pigeon holes of the old receptacle. After finding the desired paper and instructing the messenger to hurry with it, she indulged her long pent-up curiosity and rummaged through the documents and letters. She came upon a bundle of letters, brown with age, and bearing the postmark "New Orleans" which she eagerly opened and from the very first one she learned the truth about her birth. She had never doubted that she was the child of Colonel Davis, and his first wife, until she had read the letter which afforded the assurance that her father was Daniel Clark, whom she barely remembered as "Uncle Dan" who came to see her in the Davis New Orleans home and now and then found amusement in watching her play with the toys which he brought her by the arm load, and insisted in giving them with his own hands to the pretty little tot who laughed in delight over the beauty and abundance of her "Uncle's" beautiful dolls and toys.

Other letters of the packet confirmed the surprising information disclosed by the first, and she at once began the quest to prove that she was not born out of wedlock (as her sister had been). The legality of her birth established, she logically became the heir to the millions of her father. Almost forty years, and many hundreds of thousands of dollars

were expended in the successful pursuit of the objectives.

Myra and her husband at once embarked on the effort to prove the marriage of her father and her mother, prior to her birth. Two sisters of Zulime Des Gardens testified that Clark had conferred with them and obtained their consent to marry her; they had assented. They also insisted that Clark and Zulime had come to Philadelphia in 1803 - two years before the birth of Myra and that they had been married by a Priest - and that the couple went back home but did not announce the marriage. They practically lived together but each in a separate home. The same sisters also testified that three years before the alleged marriage, that Zulime had been sent to Philadelphia by Clark with a note to a business intimate requesting the latter to see to it that the Creole was properly cared for and supplied with all the luxuries and comforts possible during her approaching accouchement and convalescence. The expected infant was a girl, who eventually was brought to New Orleans but of her future history is silent (in those days, even in the most loose city in this country, a child born out of wedlock had no standing in court or citizenry. What became of her is not important to this narrative.

There was no documentary proof of the marriage, but it was affirmed that Zulime had deserted her former protector, Des Gardens to accept the homage of Clark, but that she had not sought a divorce. Consequently the marriage of Zulime and Clark was not recognized by courts until the sister further asserted that Des Gardens had a wife living in Paris and that despite the desertion he was not free to marry. Even the "wife"

was discovered by the faithful lynx-scented sisters. By that line of arguing and evidence, the marriage of Myra's parents was judged legal, thus establishing her claim legitimate as Clark's heir. Under a will, dated 1811, Clark had bequeathed his entire estate to his mother and much of the property had been bought and paid for by new purchasers.

Myra's investigation, however, disclosed that her father had written a will, dated 1815 a few months before his death, in which he bequeathed his \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 to Myra Clark, his daughter. There was neither the will nor a scrap of thereof to prove the claim, but a former nurse of the litigant came forward and testified that she had visited Clark a short time before his death when he had the (1815) will brought to him and he read it to her. She swore that it bequeathed the fortune of Clark to his daughter. Another decrepit and aged partisan of the daughter testified that he too had called to inquire for Clark's health and the patient had him wait while he recounted the fact that he had recently bequeathed all his property to Myra, his daughter.

It was further testified that following Clark's death, his partners had opened the former's strong box and therein found only the will recognizing Mrs. Clark, the mother, as his only heir. This claim was offset by the affirmation that the partners, custodians of Clark's private papers, had opened the receptacle of their own accord and that it was reported at the time (almost forty years before), that they had destroyed the last testament that acknowledged Myra as his daughter and heir. In support of the wealthy "bachelor" was advanced the theory

that the partners (both while this phase of the suit before the court had been dead for many years) had acted to conceal the proof that the wealthy accomplished bachelor had married a Creole with a past. In the midst of Myra's early and discouraging tribulations Whitney died leaving her almost without funds. His patrimony had gone to advance the cause and claims of his wife. They were in New Orleans in 1836 gathering evidence of the legitimacy of her father's marriage to Zulime Des Gardens, when yellow fever became epidemic and her husband was a victim. She was left alone without money, but she fought on and alone for three years when the widowed Myra Whitney married Brigadier General Edward Pendleton Gaines, who as a soldier had been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and after turning from the army engaged in the practice of law and attained much distinction. His entire time and his considerable fortune were devoted to furthering the claims of his wife, but his death in 1839, revealed that he had expended all of his holdings to meet the court costs and lawyer fees. The widowed litigant fought on for more than three decades alone. In 1874 the court had awarded her approximately \$4,000,000 but this soon was absorbed largely as fees to her lawyers which were regarded as princely, topping all such hitherto rewards for legal services.

Myra Clark Gaines was always able to replenish her exchequer when the bottom of it was reached. Friends who had faith in her claim, and great admiration for the beautiful brilliant vivacious fighter to establish her birthright, loaned her generous sums. Usurers also came to her rescue at times; they too seemed assured of the justice of her cause and when eventually the Clark

millions came into her hands they were repaid with such generous interest that at the time of her death at 88, she was possessed of but a small portion of the inheritance, which less than a decade before had brought to her the title, "The richest Woman in America."

The leniency and admiration of the judges and justices before whom her claims were heard were said to have revealed that they were great admirers of the litigant. They soon came to perceive that she knew even more than her brilliant attorneys of the wisest procedure and quoted generously from stated rulings and interpreted them from her side of the issue to the courts.

The first decision in the suit was totally adverse to the claims of Myra Clark Gaines. It denied almost all the points of contention that she had advanced, but from that time forward she had a succession of six favoring opinions from the Supreme Court of the United States, while all the judiciary of New Orleans courts at one time or another had upheld her side of the controversy.

After the final decision in 1874 establishing her right to the entire estate of her father, his daughter and only heir, Myra, sued the city of New Orleans to recover the value of her property as much of it had been sold and resold, perhaps three, four, or five times and the titles to the realty had never been questioned. She sought to avoid forcibly taking possessions of her 400 or 500 dwellings which the occupants had bought and paid for in good faith. The value of her inheritance in 1874 was estimated at more than \$12,000,000, but that appraisal had multiplied three fold or more during her lifetime.

Mrs. Clark's succession of court victories brought her great unpopularity in New Orleans, especially among those whose houses were at issue. Not infrequently she was hooted as she passed along the street or appeared in public. Upon one occasion a pistol shot was fired directly at her head, but only disarranged some of the trimmings on her hat.

During the process of her trial and a few months after she became the wife of General Gaines, she again visited Delamore Place and her "former father," the tyrannical old Colonel^{Davis}, and probably met the second Mrs. Davis, who then (in 1841) was a bride. She met her former social friends and introduced many to her husband of whom she was proud. She lectured in the evening in Town Hall on the "Horrors of War" and the General on "National Defense." The intake for admissions was turned over to St. Andrews P.E. Church which had been damaged by fire a short time before. Myra came to Delamore Place whenever her time would permit the relaxation, and doubtless recalled to the friends about her the thrills of her frustrated elopement with Whitney.

Myra Clark Gaines was regarded as the most astute, and persistent of American women. In addition she was a beautiful, accomplished, and a brilliant conversationalist. A contemporary who saw and spoke with her when she was sixty-five, left the record that she then retained the charm of a woman in her late thirties, and at her death in 1885, after she had passed her 80th birthday she had attained a maturity dignity without lessening her attractiveness. Obviously she had thriven on the turmoil and activity of her almost half a century fight

to prove to the world that there was no blot on her good name. It was often reiterated that no other American woman could have achieved the victories that came to the most famous litigant of her sex in the history of the jurisprudence of our country.

The aftermath of the disclosures was in accord with what we are taught overtakes the sensuously sinful and other evildoers.

Soon after Myra's birth Clark deserted Zulime, but for a time provided for her so that she could live comfortably but without the splendor provided for her while she was the mistress or the wife of the Irish millionaire. In 1806 he was elected to Congress and wrote to his discarded wife that he would spend much of his time in Washington. He felt assured that he could be reelected as long as he wished to serve. This was her last word of her former husband. If he wrote any more letters for her they were destroyed by his partners in whose care they might have been sent. She wrote frequently to Clark, but perhaps the letters never reached him.

After the elapse of a few months, she went to see him in Washington stopping on the way at Philadelphia, where she hunted up Clark's partner who had looked after her when in the maternity hospital four years before. She pleaded with this friend of her husband to let her have the proof of her marriage to Clark but he declared that there was no marriage and urged her to go home and forget it. It may have been significant that Clark stopped over two days in Philadelphia on his way to Washington and had a long "discussion" with the same friend and partner.

Arriving at the National Capitol, Zulime soon confirmed the report that had reached New Orleans of Clark's engagement to a Baltimore lady of social prominence. The discarded wife lacked

the courage and bravery of her daughter and swooned and surrendered upon hearing of her husband's proposed marriage and did not seek to talk with him again. However, a woman's curiosity to see the rival who had supplanted her took her to Baltimore where she learned of a reception at the home of her husband's fiance. She had the carriage driven close to the front of the house and her curiosity was soon rewarded as Clark, with the lady leaning on his arm, appeared on the piazza for a few minutes. Zulime's rage knew no limitation. She shouted her condemnation with all the fury of a scorned woman at the faithless husband, swooned again and was driven back to Washington from whence she departed next day for home. In New Orleans she found consolation in the affection of an obscure shopkeeper and the two were married and lived humbly and perhaps happily ever afterwards.

Clark, who found Washington and political life to his liking, planned to retain his seat as long as he desired to remain in Congress. He, however, had reached the apogee of his career and from that time his sun was setting. His constituents refused to renominate him as his own successor, which perhaps must have gratified his deserted psuedo-wife and father of his children.

Zulime and Clark occasionally met on the streets, but his salutation was scarcely more than the shadow of a smile while she, on the other hand, bowed and braced her beautiful figure upright and "looked her prettiest." They, however, never met in conversation again. She may have found consolation in the fact that the Baltimore belle had returned his engagement ring

and possibly found further cause for satisfaction when the Governor of Louisiana publicly declared Clark to be the "worst secret enemy of America." He continued to increase his great fortune which also was augmented by the expansion of New Orleans. After all he was only the ghost in the Celebrated Case of his illustrious daughter, for he had been dead almost twenty years at the beginning of Myra's revelations when the world was reading of his amours in the newspapers and possibly was shocked at the bestial immorality of New Orleans in the early decades of the last century.

Clark's fortune was not worth its cost. It had almost slipped away from the daughter before she died. It is presumed that Myra scarcely more than spoke to her sister even though she must have provided her with means of a livelihood. Her mother she did not know of until she began her search for the evidence to establish her legitimacy - she was then thirty years old. They perhaps met not infrequently after that time for it must be inferred that she provided for the comforts and many luxuries of life for Zulime and her household.

One of the Supreme Court justices declared when delivering the last majority opinion which established Myra's claims that some day a capable lawyer would write in detail this Cause Celebre and it would long stand as ^{one of} the most notable trials in the history of American jurisprudence.

After all, one cannot refrain from philosophizing and trying to reach the conclusion that it would not have been better for all concerned if Myra Clark had not assumed the role of heroine of romance and litigation.

While Myra Clark Gaines swept practically every obstacle out of her path, winning a long series of affirmations, there were not a few dissenting and interesting minority opinions of the court cited.

One expressed the doubt or conviction that Clark and Zulime had ever been married. In fact it was shown that Clark was not in Philadelphia on the date set by the sisters as the wedding day. The majority of the court notwithstanding insisted that the marriage had taken place and possibly the witnesses were mistaken as to the date.

The testimony that declared Clark's partners to have destroyed his last will was also sharply discussed. It was declared that the document was destroyed so that the marriage of the multi-millionaire bachelor would not be proclaimed to the world - his friends and New Orleans society. It was contended that the partners were honorable men and would have known of his marriage to the Creole had it occurred and would likewise have been cognizant of the legitimacy or the reverse of Myra. It was not shown that they had any pronounced regard for Clark's mother who was already rich in her own right, but on the other hand would likely have preferred Myra inheriting the fortune of the father. They doubtless would, it was claimed have preferred to have the will of 1815 probated rather than the earlier testament of 1811.

The legitimacy of Myra's birth was also questioned sharply by the minority on the ground that at the time of Clark's alleged marriage, Zulime was the wife of Jerome Des Gardens whom she

had deserted for the former. To offset this claim it was told by the sisters that the wife of Jerome had deserted him and was living in France. In furtherance of this testimony, a sister of Zulime discovered the "deserted" wife in New Orleans and on her complaint Des Gardens was arrested, tried, and convicted of bigamy, fined and sent to jail. It was asserted that through the connivance of politicians - notably the Governor of Louisiana, that he had been permitted (purposely allowed) to escape and boarding that same night a vessel bound for France, the "fugitive" never returned to New Orleans. Clark's powerful influence in political New Orleans and his ownership or control of almost innumerable sailing vessels was pointed out as having played an important part in the escape and disappearance of the ^{"ex-}husband" or "protector" of the mother of Myra.

It was also emphasized by the opponents of the daughter's claims that if Clark had made a will in 1815 ~~xxxx~~ he would have provided for his eldest daughter and her mother. Both were reduced to the humbler methods of life at that time; he also might have assumed the responsibility for the first child as she was a full sister of Myra.

Court records show that Myra was in high favor with a majority of the judges who passed on her claims. She was even accused of having exerted hypnotic influences. One of the ^{Justices} Supreme Bench/was referred to as maintaining a keen fatherly interest in her during the long years of her battles.

The same helpful sisters declared on the stand that Zulime did not abandon Des Gardens for a wealthy protector, but that after learning of her supposed husband's having another wife

living, she deserted and fled from the disgrace only to resume similar ~~but identical~~ relations with the wealthy rival of her absent "husband" who was in France when she departed from his home.

The dissenting views noted that at the time of the alleged marriage of Clark and Zulime Des Gardens in Philadelphia insisted that the former was not in that city and the only witnesses to testify were sisters of the alleged bride. This was explained that while Clark was not in Philadelphia at the time mentioned the marriage took place, the date may have wrong.

The will favoring Myra was given into the keeping of Clark's partners who were said to have carefully locked it up for safe keeping and later were accused by inference of destroying it, was also declared as subject to doubt. They were both honorable men and as Clark was dead there was no reason to further keep the secret that he had married a Creole, who had abandoned her husband to share the "protection" the wealthy bachelor provided.

The claim of marriage was further scouted in a minority opinion when it was declared that the reported bigamy of Des Gardens, the husband, was probably set up by Gaines. He was a power in politics of great financial resources and a shipping merchant. It was asserted ~~xxxxxxxixffxxxxxxxixxxx~~ that Des Gardens was arrested for bigamy (on the charge of another wife in France) convicted and jailed but through the connivance of the political higher-ups, was permitted to break jail on the eve of a vessel sailing for France on board of which he was permitted to return to his native country never to return nor trouble Gaines again. The trial and escape might have served

the prupose of the politically, powerful multi-millionaire whom the Governor of Louisiana once denounced as the worst secret enemy of this country.

The court minority also questioned the will on the ground that while Clark bequeathed his entire estate to his youngest daughter, Myra, without a mention of his first born daughter, whom he naturally must have loved quite as much as the younger sister even though the illegitimacy of her birth was not questioned and she in consequence outlawed by the state as having no redress. Another point discussed was the omission entirely of Myra's name in the will of 1811 which bequeathed everything he possessed to his mother for whom he had no especially marked fondness. But these were only "shallows" in the ruffled sailing of the litigant to victory.

There was further criticism of the fact that Zulime's two sisters furnished most of the evidence touching on her marriage to Clark. They testified that Clark came to them and talked of marrying Zulime before the Philadelphia ceremony; they also disclosed that their sister's abandonment of Des Gardens was to finally conceal her dishonor in having been the mistress of a married man. They testified that she did not quit the husband to accept Clark as her best friend. The same sisters were the first to discover that Des Gardens wife had suddenly returned from France and insisted that they resume marital relations as man and wife.

The authenticity of Myra's witnesses was "suspected" so that in addition to its being questioned it came from elderly and semi-infirm people who recalled the incidents of thirty

or forty years previous from memory.

Whether or not the testimony brought forward in behalf of Myra Clark Gaines was true or "manufactured" she cleared every "hurdle" and her victory has been regarded by lawyers and laymen as the fruit^{ful} reflection of her brilliancy and captivating personality.

Please give the sources of
information - for this article.

JE

James B. Cheyney
March 14, 1940

OK IBC

NEWSPAPER HISTORY
Anecdotes

Encyclopaedia File

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Delaware Sailors Ate Their Mate

Delaware and the rest of the civilized world was aghast when the newspapers of November 23, 1884, published the corroborated fact that two Delaware sailors blown far adrift in a gale were obliged to eat their mate as soon as he was dead in order to save their own lives. The shocking story was confirmed by the captain of the rescuing vessel with such revolting detail as to leave no doubt as to its authenticity. He even reported observing strips of human flesh from the dead sailor's back in the small boat from which he took the two survivors.

In a heavy November storm, in 1884, Marshall Bertrand, a Delaware pilot; Alfred Swanson, a Norweigan sailor; and Andrew Hanson, a Swede, pilot's apprentice, hurriedly embarked in the pilot boat "Turley" to put Thomas Marshall aboard a vessel off Lewes that had signalled for a licensed Delaware pilot to guide her to Philadelphia. The vessel indicated that she was anxious to get into the quieter waters of the river and bay as the weather was "dirty." In haste to respond, the three men jumped hurriedly into the pilot boat and steered straight for the waiting ship and Pilot Marshall was put aboard despite the gale and the high seas.

The three, Bertrand, Hanson and Swanson, then turned their small craft shoreward, but soon discovered that they had lost their bearings and were without a compass in the cold storm. Bertrand at once told his fellows that their lives were in danger, but the trio endeavored to keep up their courage and trusted to

a passing vessel to pick them up. In their haste to embark from the pilot station, they had neglected to provide water or food for an emergency. They had forgotten also to take any warmer clothing than their "oil skins" so they were becoming numb from the biting cold Northeaster. Indeed, their clothing soon became shrouds of ice.

While one man remained at the helm, the others worked with all their might and speed in bailing the water from their craft which had swept in from the high running seas. Entirely at the mercy of the cold and the mad waters, their suffering and anxiety was intense. The cold paralyzed their muscles as the rolling, plunging waters tossed their little boat on the crest of the waves as though it were but an egg shell. The "Turley" was first lifted high and then dropped down into the deep valleys of the ocean until all had abandoned hope of rescue.

After hours of intense suffering and fear, the companions of Bertrand became delirious and during the night threw overboard almost every moveable article on the little craft. The former declared that Swanson, who was wild from cold and hunger, drew a knife from his clothing and savagely shouted that he would kill him (Bertrand), eat his flesh and drink his blood. Bertrand, too weak to make any defense, closed his eyes and awaited the deadly knife thrust. Swanson, however, was too weak to attack his superior and after staggering a few moments he dropped dead in ~~frankxxx~~ the boat across the feet of his intended victim.

Soon after the death of Swanson, the storm ceased and the moon broke through the clouds reviving the hope of the two survivors, who, however, stood face to face with death, famished

with hunger and thirst. Unable to stand, they stretched themselves out along the top rail of the "Turley" and watched and prayed for a sight of a friendly sail. But hope had almost gone!

The body of Swanson, the young pilot, swarthed in ice lay sprawling just as he had fallen in death. With the breaking day it was obvious that their trials were not ended for a fierce storm again swept the sea and the little boat seemed to be sinking when Bertrand took off one of his gum boots and used it to bail the water out of the floundering craft.

The hunger and thirst of the two men made them desperate, and as they worked together to keep the boat afloat, while consumed with thirst and hunger, they turned their eyes wistfully on the face of their dead comrade. Hanson, frenzied with hunger, took a second inquisitorial look on the dead body as if pondering on the worst problem he had ever been compelled to face.

It was obviously expressed in his face that he knew that there lay the one chance for him and his comrade to escape death. Both knew that the end was at hand unless they had food and drink without further waiting. But the thought uppermost in their minds was so repellant that each turned in horror from it. Hanson roused Bertrand who seemingly was dying, fearful that he should reject the only alternative to death.

Hopeful and confident that they could keep the spark of life intact if they could hold out but a short time longer, Bertrand consented to the horrible alternative to death. Then came the supreme moment! Bertrand was fearful least the courage

of his comrade might fail at the last moment. They looked inquiringly at one another for a moment and then, at the same moment, pounced upon the body of their comrade, Swanson, and employing all their remaining strength, ripped the skin from the breast and shoulders of the torso; plunging knives into the carcass they eagerly drank the blood that came from the wounds.

The horrible draught gave them a slightly renewed strength but their hunger still intense, they sliced the flesh from the body and devoured it like hungry wolves.

Each ate of the body of their comrade, was the report as they narrated their terrible experiences. Bertrand later insisted that he ate very little of it, even though Hanson insisted that the former's life had been spared by the blood and flesh of their mate.

The two famished and partially crazed men paused at intervals as they ate to keep a lookout for a passing vessel that would rescue them. Eventually the schooner "Emma F. Engel" appeared on the horizon and took them aboard. They had been adrift in the cold storm more than sixty hours and were taken directly back to Lewes - a twenty-four hour voyage. (The captain of the rescuing schooner, upon information gathered from the rescued men, concluded that the famished sailors were about 85 miles southeast of Five Fathom Lightship when they availed themselves of the only alternative of death.)

The same captain reported that when Bertrand and Hanson had discovered that the schooner had sighted them and was coming to their relief, declared that the mess of human flesh

and blood in the pilot boat was a nauseating mess that sickened even his seasoned sailors. The strips of human flesh that remained in the boat, Hanson and Bertrand explained to the rescuing captain, had been retained for further emergency to keep them alive until finally rescued. They doubtless were kept from death by the blood and flesh of their dead comrade.

Philadelphia Press Telegram from Lewes, November 23, 1884;
Reprinted in Every Evening next day after having been confirmed
at Lewes.

Tribute to General Pulaski

The plot of ground bounded by Maryland, Oak and Harrison Streets, the Board of Park Commissioners has given the name Pulaski Place in honor of the Polish Patriot who distinguished himself as an officer in Washington's Army during the War of the Revolution. Prior to joining Washington's Army he was commander-in-chief of the Polish patriot forces. For his gallantry at the Battle of Brandywine he was appointed chief of dragoons with the rank of brigadier general.

In 1778 with the sanction of Congress he organized a corps of cavalry and light infantry which was named Pulaski's Legion. It was at the head of this force that he fought in the South where October 9, 1778 he was wounded. At that time he was in command of the French and American cavalry in the siege of Savannah.

Pulaski earned the esteem of the American people so it is fitting that our community should show its appreciation in the manner which has been done through the agency of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Ref-Clipping 8-17-39-Journal

Barbara Tracey 8-17-39

POINTS of INTEREST

Monuments

Caesar Rodney--Rodney Square--statesman, soldier and patriot.
Rode horseback from Dover to Philadelphia to
cast Delaware's vote for independence.

Soldiers and Sailors Monument--Delaware Avenue at Broome St.
Erected in commemoration of Delaware's Civil War
casualties.

Thomas Bayard Statue--Rockford Park at Woodlawn and Shallcross Aves.
Ambassador, Secretary of State and U. S. Senator.

Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont's Statue--Rockford Park near Tower
Road and West Nineteenth St. Civil War hero.

Todd Memorial--Eighteenth Street near Washington. Dedicated to
the memory of the Delaware soldiers and sailors
of the World War.

Josephine Fountain--North of Van Buren Street Bridge opposite
Rose Garden in Brandywine Park. Attractive
fountain, shrubs and rows of cherry trees provide
a pleasant setting.

Canby Seat--Rockford Park. The vista near the water tower,
commemorating the services of Wm. Canby, first
president of the Board of Park Commissioners.

The William McKinley Tablet--Park Drive and Van Buren Sts.
25th president, soldier, governor and member
of Congress.

James Garfield Monument--Jefferson St. and Concord Ave.
20th president, soldier, educator and member of
both houses of Congress.

Grand Army of Republic Memorial--Old Soldiers' Park. 16th and
Market Sts.

Swedish Monument--at the Rocks--foot of Sixth Street near the
Christina River. Commemorating the landing of
the Swedes in 1638.

Carillon Tower--Alfred I. DuPont estate, Rockland and Murphy Road.

POINTS of INTERESTCemeteries

Wilmington and Brandywine--703 Delaware Avenue. The first public cemetery in Wilmington.

Riverview--3300 Market Street.

Mt. Salem M. E. Church--2700 West Nineteenth Street.

Asbury M. E. Church--Cor. 3rd. & Walnut Sts. Allen McLane, noted Delaware soldier interred here in 1829.

Old Cathedral (Catholic) 725 West 12th Street. Adjoining Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery.

New Cathedral (Catholic) 2400 Lancaster Avenue.

Old Swedes--800 East 7th Street, cor. Church Street. The first known burial ground in this vicinity. Officially established in 1699.

Friends' (Old Quaker Burial Ground) Fourth to Fifth and West to Washington Streets. Graves of Thomas Garrett, Quaker Abolitionist; John Dickinson, noted statesman and author of famous "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania," founder of Dickinson College.

St. Andrews' P. E. Church--Cor. 8th and Shipley. Dr. John Lofland interred here. Poet and writer, known as "Milford Bard."

POINTS of INTEREST

Historical

Joseph Tatnall House--1803 Market Street. Built about 1760. Mad Anthony Wayne's headquarters during Revolutionary War. Washington and Lafayette frequent visitors. (Private)

Encampment of Continental Troops--Lovering Avenue and Broome Sts.

Delaware Academy of Medicine Building--Lovering Avenue at Union St. Original Bank of Delaware Building, located at Sixth and Market Streets, erected 1816. Moved to present site, 1932.

Old Town Hall--508 Market Street. Erected 1798. Historical Society of Delaware Museum. Collection of paintings, documents, relics, flags and other items of historical significance. Daily, except Sunday 10 to 6.

Site of Shipley House--Fourth and Shipley Streets, S.W. Cor. Mansion built in 1735 by William Shipley, one of the founders of Wilmington.

Site of Washington Headquarters--303 West Street. General Washington's Headquarters prior to the battle of Brandywine in 1777. (Private)

Site of Sign of Ship Tavern--Third and Market Streets, S.E. Cor. Famous tavern in Revolutionary War days.

Society of Colonial Dames House--Old First Presbyterian Church, Foot of West Street, Brandywine Park. Removed from church site at Tenth and Market Streets. (Not open to the public)

Banning House--809 S. Broome Street. Cor. of Oak Street. National Society of Colonial Dames. Organized here in 1892. (Private)

Latimer House--1700 Maryland Avenue. Fine old house of Colonial architecture. Erected in early days. (Private)

Bishopstead--Formerly "Ingleside", 14th & Orange Streets. Residence of P.E. Bishops of Delaware. Built in 1741 by Oliver Canby. (Private)

Old Academy Building---#5 Vandever Avenue. Built in 1798. An early English and Classical Academy in Brandywine Village. Now used as a branch library. (Daily 3 to 9)

Hilton House--S.W. Cor. 9th and Broome Sts. "Federal Hill," considered as site of National Capitol of the U.S. (Private)

Museum of the Society of Natural History of Delaware--N.W. Cor. 10th and Van Buren Sts. Adjoining Cool Spring Park. Open to the public 3 or 4 afternoons per week, from June to Sept.

J. B. Cheyney
December 21, 1938

FOLKLORE

CURRENT FILE

Taking Wild Honey

Early settlers in Delaware were taught by their Red neighbors the methods of gathering the fruits of the harvest of wild honey bees which long supplied them with sweets, otherwise not to be obtained. The Indians hunted the "lairs" of the wild bees in the autumn, when the "gathering" was over and the little workers had retired to subsist on their summer's accumulation of honey. Its great abundance made the quest brief, and enough was taken in a few raids to last the papoose of the tribe through the winter.

The custom of taking bee-trees was inaugurated therefore in pre-Revolutionary times, and still obtains, though to a lesser extent than the period when it was the most readily available sweet of the colonists.

Runaway bees are the wild honey-makers. In early days, before the bees came to be regarded as an economic factor in farming, or of specialists in honey, they were left to overflow their original home and find quarters perhaps in the hollow of a tree whose heart had rotted by age and weather. When crowded out of the parent hive, the queen called a council, and decision was made that they must find new quarters. Consequently, the younger queen and her subjects--all of the season's broods--gave the signal that the winged colony would soon embark on the hunt for another home. Their going was preceded by the departing bees assembling in an animated ball, hanging together until the signal to take off announced their departure. Together, in ~~compact~~ ^{form,} mass / they flew away under the commandership of their

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queen, proceeding with the droning noise from hundreds of the migrating colony. When they sighted a place that seemed desirable for a permanent home, the "colony" alighted on a nearby tree-limb or other vantage point, from whence they surveyed the outlook, and if satisfactory, found lodgment in some tree cavity or hole in a wall that assured them against attacks from their foes of the wild animal world, and where at the same time they could store their harvests out of danger from weather. After an inspection, the bees unpacked themselves from the huge animated ball and, if the location was regarded as desirable, began their investigations of the nearby country. Those remaining in the new natural home set themselves to the task of getting their house in order, and within the next few hours the workers had started their quest for nectar in the nearby fields and gardens.

These newcomers experienced a summer of good luck if they and their stores of honey escaped the detection of inquisitive farmers and hunters. When discovered, as they were almost sure to be in later times, the tree or wall wherein they were installed was marked down for raiding. After the busy season with the honey workers was over, their discoverer--in company with a group of neighbors--banded together to take the honey stores--usually after dark, when the workers were off guard.

The first step of the night raiders in the older times was to plug the entrance to the "honey chest" with a lighted rag, saturated with sulphur and other drugs that rendered the bees hors de combat--unable to defend their home and food. They were literally "smoked out." If, in a tree, the entrance to the sweet cache was expanded by saw or chisel and the combed honey--often

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as much as a tub full hastily taken and carried off by the invaders. Some of the discard/^{ed}held bees that had been stunned by the smothering process, and this may have been strewn about the ground under the tree or about the wall. Regaining the use of the defense weapon nature had supplied, they crawled up the trousers of the raiders and inserted their sting with such telling vigor that every now and then one of the party would shriek and jump in the air as the wild bee wreaked its vengeance and in consequence gave up its weapon and its short life. Taking a bee tree was a semi-neighborhood function in early times when it rarely failed to furnish liquor refreshment for the crowd as the fruit of the raid was divided among the active members of the gathering. Each was left with but small portions, and caused them inquiry if taking the bee-trees returned compensating profit--or whether it has attracted the crowd merely as a get-together function.

The stinging of the unsuspecting raiders furnished the comedy of "Faking Bee Trees."

Personal Recollections

Town

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE

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NEW CASTLE BOARD OF TRADE. New Castle, Delaware. Published New Castle Board of Trade, 1915. Old Court House, illus. and 1915 views of the town and description of New Castle with notation: Our fine Harbor, Modern Improvements, Natural Advantages, Free sites on rail and cheap sites on water front, Excellent trans.facilities, Easy access to large cities, Skilled and available labor, A low tax rate, climate.

Historic Buildings.

- LATHROP, ELISE. Historic Houses of Early America. New York. Robert M. McBride & Co. 1927. 464p. illus. P.405-New Castle, 6 miles south of Wilmington, and one of the oldest towns in America. Oldest house in New Castle built about 1665 stands as the wing of a larger one. The old portion is a typical Dutch cottage, story and half, steep roof, on window on each side of the broad old door. Amstel House, oldest, modern name for a residence built before 1730, since in that year it was advertised at a sheriff's sale. The first known occupant-Nicholas Van Dyke & Washington a guest at the wedding of his daughter, Ann, to Kensey Johns. House of fine example of colonial period, with paneled walls, beautiful woodwork and staircase, large room, and old doors with their original HL hinges. Its name given not many years ago, is appropriate, since New Amstel was one of New Castle's early names.
- P.406-At 3rd and Delaware Streets, is a square brick house with a long wing built in 1781 by Chief Justice Kensey Johns-fine old staircase, mantels, paneling, keyplates, and doorknobs, duplicates of those in Mount Vernon; great old fashion kitchen with Dutch oven; wallpaper made in 1804 in France, with the design of a lily, remained on the walls until 1910.
- P.406-407-Chief Justice James Booth, house occupied in 1790-beautiful mantels, panels, fine staircase with mahogany rails. George Read House, present one built in 1801 by the son of the signer. P.408-Palladian window, inner doorknob silver; doorway between diningroom and library showing beautiful fanlight; drawing room-carving supplemented by delicate ornamentation in London putty, showing a man at arms in a chariot drawn by lions, classic figures, arabesques. Dining Room-walls covered with paintings showing old New Castle, the landing of Penn, the old Court House, first Read House

Old Arsenal. See Journal-Every Evening.

Old Dutch House. See Kruse-Sketches, G. F. Bennett.

Old Presbyterian Church. See G. F. Bennett.

Old Town Hall. See Maitland Belknap; Albert Kruse; A.&G. Kruse-Sketches; Program, 1935; U.S. Dept. of Interior, Office of Nat'l Parks, Bldgs. & Reservations, Branch of Plans and Designs..

PROGRAM, 1935: "A day in Old New Castle, pub. May 18, 1935. Court House: built (east wing) before 1682, main building 1703; here Penn received the symbols of his ownership. Ernest duPont, resident built 1732. New Castle Academy, built 1798 and recently acquired by Immanuel Church to be used as Parish House. Immanuel Church, founded 1689, built 1703. Graves of many celebrated Delawareans in the adjoining graveyard. Old Presbyterian Church, 1707, now Church House. Presbyterian Church, 1654, on site of Old Dutch Church, founded 1657 by Rev. John Polhemus. Read House, 1801, perfect specimen of colonial architecture; exquisite woodwork, mantels and period furniture. Presbyterian Manse, on the Strand; built about one hundred years ago; property owned by Janvier family for about two centuries. Rodney Residence, 1831. Town Hall, built by Trustees of New Castle Common about 1825. Van Dyke House: 1799, woodwork, mantels. A Van Dyke House 1820, beautiful staircase. Kensey-Johns (Chief Justice) House erected 1789; fine staircase, mantels and panelling; kitchen as it was in olden times.

Read House. See Arts & Decorations Magazine; Maitland Belknap; G.F. Bennett; J. M. Hammond; A. & G. Kruse, New Castle Sketches; H. C. Wise and Beidleman.

Rodney House. See Program, 1935.

Stewart House. See J. M. Hammond.

Thomas (Chas.) House. See J. M. Hammond; G.F. Bennett, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Branch of Plans and Designs.

U.S DEPT. OF INTERIOR, Office of National Parks, Bldg. & Reservations, Branch of Plans and Designs. Kensey-Johns House: Survey Number 9-6, 4-26-34. Historical Amer. Bldg. Survey: Sheets 1-10 (10). New Amstel House: Survey number 9-3, 3-5-34; Historical American Bldg. Survey: Sheets one to six (6). Exterior elevation, interior plans, details. Old Town Hall: Survey No. 9-4, 2-10-34. His. Amer. Bldg. Survey: Sheets 1-5 (5). Van Dyke House: Survey number 9-5, 4-4-34. Hist. Amer. Bldg. Survey: Sheets: 1-8 (8).

Van Dyke House. See G. F. Bennett, Albert Kruse; A. & G. Kruse; Program, 1935; U.S. Dept. Interior, Branch of Plans and Designs; H.C. Wise and Beidleman.

Van Leuvenigh House. See A. & G. Kruse-Sketches.

Washington House. See H. C. Wise and Beidleman.

WISE, HERBERT CLIFTON. An architectural monograph: the George Read II house at New Castle, Delaware in The White Pine Series of architectural monographs, v.11 #6. - contains measured drawings from the George F. Lindsay collection of early American documents & reproductions of beautiful photographs by Kenneth Clark. - New York. R.F. Whithead. 1925c.

WISE, HERBERT C. & H. F. BEIDLEMAN. Colonial Architecture. Phila. London. J.P. Lippincott Co. 1924. 207p. A colonial town, New Castle, p.116 to 129 inc., pictures: Episcopal Church; Church House; Court House; Reed House and Doorways; Van Dyke House, 1799, in recent times, it has been divided and a second door on Delaware Street made nearly in the place of a former window, illus. page 122. Though built by Van Dyke it is known as the Amstel House, he having vacated it in 1765 for the Kensey Johns. Later when the Burnhams gave it up, business took possession of it and some of the rooms were divided by partitions. See Janvier.

JANVIER, ANNE R. comp. Stories of Old New Castle. n.p. n. d. P.35: Redemption of Amstel House: A tailor, followed by a grocer had rented the dining room; the parlor had been used for election; in each room, a different tenant; but the bricks, timber and most of the woodwork were unharmed; Bricks were dug up and windows restored, partitions removed, floors prepped in places, cornices replaced in part; but the wood, the brick, the window sashes and their old fastenings remain, as it was when George II was on the throne. The present owners having a loving regard for the past, have christened the house "Amstel".

WILMINGTON, DEL. EVERY EVENING. 3-31-1930:9 - New Amstel House. Dining room used as a public reading room; the house as a museum. 12-8-1931:4 - residents: Van Dyke, (at the daughter's wedding, 1764, George Washington was present; Dr. John Finney, (Revolutionary Days); Kensey-Johns. Colonial architecture, perfect panneling and woodwork.

WILMINGTON, DEL. JOURNAL-EVERY EVENING. 4-16-1936:2 - Old Arsenal 1805, to store gunpowder for American Navy, War of 1812. After the war second story and cupola added and the building was used as a school.

J. F. Pote
December 5, 1940

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Special Study
New Castle Town Library
Encyclopaedia File

TEXT OF LIBRARY CHARTER

Laws of Delaware - Vol. 4, Ch. CLXXXVIII.

An ACT to incorporate the subscribers of the New-Castle library company, their heirs and assigns.

Whereas it has been represented to this General Assembly, by the petition of the directors of the New-Castle library company, that a number of the inhabitants of the town of New Castle, and its vicinity, have associated together, for the object of establishing a library in the said town; and have, by their own contribution, collected upwards of one thousand volumes, and have yet remaining a fund, whereby the said library will be further enlarged about five hundred volumes.

And whereas the directors of the said library company have prayed, that the subscribers of the said institution may be the better protected, and more extensively advanced. And whereas the constitution has assigned it as a special duty to the legislature, to encourage and promote the arts and sciences, by legislative provision:

Sect. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, in General Assembly met, That the subscribers of the New-Castle library company, their heirs and assigns, be, and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, to 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.

Sect. 2. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,
That the New-Castle library company, shall and may forever hereafter, be authorized in law and equity to purchase, take, hold, receive and enjoy any messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments, in fee-simple, or otherwise, and also goods and chattels, rights and credits, to any amount not exceeding eight thousand dollars; and to grant, alien, demise, sell and dispose of the same, in such manner and form, as the said library company may deem expedient.

Sect. 3. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,
That the said corporation shall be able and capable, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in all courts of judicature whatsoever, by the said corporate name; and may hereafter have and use a common seal, with such device or devices, as the said corporation shall think proper, with the power of altering or changing the same, as may be thought proper.

Sect. 4. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,
That James Rogers, James R. Black, James Couper, junior, George Strawbridge, Thomas Stockton, Alexander Reynolds and George Read, junior, the present directors of the said library company, or their successors, shall and may make, alter, repeal, and again re-enact all laws, regulations and ordinances, which they may deem expedient or necessary, for the government of the said library company, or for enlarging the said library: Provided, That nothing herein contained, shall be construed to authorize them to exercise any powers repugnant to the constitution or laws of this State.

Laws of Delaware - Vol. 8, Ch. CXXIII.

AN ACT to re-enact and continue in force an act entitled "An act to incorporate the subscribers of the New-Castle Library Company, their heirs and assigns."

Sect. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met, That the act entitled "An act to incorporate the subscribers of the New Castle Library Company, their heirs and assigns," passed at Dover on the twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, shall be and is hereby re-enacted and declared to be in full force from and after the twenty-fourth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, for and during and until the period of twenty years thereafter shall be fully completed and ended; excepting so much of the said act as is altered in the second section of this act.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted, That nothing contained in the said act herein before re-enacted and declared to be in full force as aforesaid, shall be construed or taken in anywise to prohibit the said New Castle Library Company from purchasing, taking, holding and possessing books, papers, maps and charts to any amount, although the same may exceed eight thousand dollars.

Passed at Dover, January 24, 1832.

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This charter was again re-enacted on February 7, 1851 - Vol. 10, Ch. CCCGLXXVIII, P.472; and again re-enacted on April 8, 1873 - Vol. 14, Ch.484, P.1217.

Private Acts - E - 1-471-2. Recorder of Deeds office
New Castle County.

"An Act to Re-enact and continue in force an Act entitled
"An Act to Incorporate the subscribers of the New Castle Library
Company their successors and assigns." Be it enacted by the
Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in
General Assembly met (two thirds of each branch concurring):
Section 1. That an act entitled "An Act to incorporate the sub-
scribers of the New Castle Library Company their heirs and assigns,"
passed at Dover on the twenty seventh day of January in the year
of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, shall be and
is hereby declared to be in full force, from and after the pass-
age of this act for and during the period of twenty years there-
after. Section 2. That nothing contained in the said act shall
be construed or taken in anywise to prohibit the said New Castle
Library Company from purchasing, taking, holding and possessing
books, papers, maps and charts to any amount, although the same
may exceed eight thousand dollars. Section 3. Be it further
enacted that the body hereby incorporated, shall not be exempt
from taxation, but shall pay all taxes which may be assessed
against said corporation as fully and to the same extent as
taxes assessed against the property of individuals.

Passed at Dover, April 26, 1893.

J. Harvey Whiteman,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Chas. B. Houston,
Speaker of the Senate.

On April 4, 1913, the president and secretary of the New
Castle Library Company accepted the section of the State Consti-

tution pertaining to the regranting of charters. On the same date, the charter was again re-enacted. The acceptance and renewal are both to be found in Corporation Docket for New Castle County, the first in X-4-487, and the second in X-4-488.

LEGISLATIVE ACTS

(From Laws of Delaware, Vols. I, II.)

1790

January 29

Act passed setting the marriageable ages of males at twenty-one years, and females at eighteen years.

Vol. 2, Chap. CCKI, b, p. 972

1790

October 26

Act passed appropriating 5,250 pounds as operating expenses of the State for the fiscal year.

Vol. 2, Chap. CCKIII. b, p. 982

1791

January 29

Act passed allowing Justices of the Court of Quarter Sessions to appoint the constables for the various hundreds.

Vol. 2, Chap. CCKIX. b, p. 999

1791

January 29

Act passed for the removal of the County seat from Lewes to

"James Pettijohn's Old Field, in the central part of Sussex County." The commissioners appointed to arrange the transfer were: William Moore, George Mitchell, Robert Houston, John Collins, Nathaniel Young, William Perry, Rhoads Shankland, Woodman Stockley, Daniel Polk, and Thomas Batson. Vol. 2, Chap. CCXXII. b, p. 1002. A supplement act was passed October 26, 1791, giving the new county Seat the name of Georgetown.

Vol. 2, Chap. CCXXXVII. b, p. 1022

1791

January 29

Act passed ceding "Rheeden Island" to the United States Government.

Vol. 2, Chap. CCXXI. b, p. 1018-9

1793

February 2

Private act passed entitling Betty and Isaac Cannon the exclusive right, for fourteen years, to operate a ferry over the Nanticoke River, Sussex County, at a spot known as Cannon's Ferry.

Vol. 2, Chap. XV. c, p. 1085

1793

June 14

Act passed calling for the erection of the whipping posts and

pillories in Kent and Sussex Counties to be in front of the court houses.

Vol. 2, Chap. XXIV. c, p. 1097

1794

February 7

Act passed for a lottery to be held to raise \$12,000 for the purpose of erecting piers in the harbor of New Castle.

Managers appointed were: John Stockton, William Lees, James Riddle, Kensey Johns, Isaac Grantham, Archibald Alexander, and George Read, Jr.

Vol. 2, Chap. LX. c, p. 1189

1795

January 31

Act passed appointing Thomas McKean Thompson trustee of the Loan Office of New Castle County in the place of John Stockton, resigned.

Vol. 2, Chap. LXXV. c, p. 1202

1795

February 3

Act passed appropriating \$10,500 as operating expenses of the State for the ensuing year. Appropriation included \$4,500 for New Castle County; \$3,000 each for Kent and Sussex Counties.

Vol. 2, Chap. LXXVII. c, p. 1204

1795

February 6

Passage of "An Act more effectually to prevent the profanation of the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday," which provided that worldly employment on Sunday (works of necessity and charity only excepted) could be fined \$4 or 24 hours imprisonment. Stage coaches and other vehicles could be detained until the following day, and the driver fined \$8 or two days imprisonment. Fishing, hunting, horse racing and cock fighting on Sunday could be punished by a fine of \$4, or 24 hours imprisonment. Those who assembled to game, play, or dance could be fined \$4, or 24 hours imprisonment. All fines collected were to go to the benefit of the poor of the county.

Vol. 2, Chap. LXXVIII. c, pp. 1209-11

1795

February 7

Act passed directing prothonotaries, clerks of the Supreme Courts, registers of wills, clerks of the Orphans Courts, clerks of the peace, recorders of deeds, and sheriffs to maintain offices at the County seat and keep them open every day except Sunday.

Vol. 2, Chap. LXXX. c, p. 1212-13

1796

February 9

Act passed authorizing a lottery for \$3,500, the fund to be used to pay subscribers to the erection of the court house for Sussex County. The managers appointed were: John Wise Batson,

Wilmington in the 1790's
Chronology

Thomas Laws, Isaac Cooper, Nathaniel Mitchell, and John Collins.

Vol. 2, Chap. CIV. c, pp. 1295-6

1796

February 9

School fund act passed, directing that funds for the next 12 years from marriage and tavern licenses be diverted to the creation of a school fund.

Vol. 2, Chap. CV. c, pp. 1296-8

1796

February 9

Act passed appropriating \$7,000 for operating expenses during the ensuing year, of which New Castle County received \$2,666.67; Kent County, \$2,333.33, and Sussex County, \$2,000.

Vol. 2, Chap. CVI. c., pp. 1299-1303

1796

February 9

Bill passed making it compulsory for the parents of illegitimate children to post a bond of \$160 to guarantee the child's maintenance until it is seven years old.

Vol. 2, Chap. CVIII, c, pp. 1304-7

1797.

January 13

George Hazzard appointed by Legislature as trustee of the Loan Office of Sussex County in place of Dr. Joseph Hall, deceased.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXX. c, pp. 1319-20

1797

January 18

Act passed regulating the manumitting of slaves, making it necessary for all agreements to free slaves be in writing and witnessed, and security posted so the slave would not become a public charge.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXXIV. c, pp. 1321-5

1797

January 21,

Act passed appointing Jacob Brocm, Major Peter Jaquett, and William Stedham as commissioners for a ferry across the Christina River at Wilmington, with the right to rent it out for operation by others.

1797

January 21

Act passed appropriating \$12,000 as operating expenses for the ensuing year, of which amount New Castle County received \$3,575.42; Kent County, \$4,000, and Sussex County, \$3,428.58.

Wilmington in the 1790's
Chronology

Vol. 2, Chap. CXXVII. c, pp. 1343-7

1797

January 22

Act passed appointing James Booth, John Clayton, and Edward Roche as commissioners to adjust the differences between the State and the estate of Caesar Rodney. The appointments were made by agreement with Thomas Rodney, executor of the estate.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXXIX. c, pp. 1347-8

1797

January 24

Act passed for the appointment of a physician at Wilmington, New Castle, rural Kent County, Lewes, and an undesignated spot on the Nanticoke River to prevent persons with contagious diseases from coming into the State.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXXXIV. c, pp. 1354-58

1797

June 3

James McCallmont appointed by Legislature as trustee of the Loan Office in New Castle County to replace Thomas McKean Thompson, resigned.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXXXVII. c, p. 1362

1797

June 3

Act passed authorizing Jacob Broom to conduct a lottery for \$4,000, the funds to be used for replacing his cotton manufactory on the Brandywine, near Wilmington, which had been destroyed by fire.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXL. c, p. 1366

1797

June 3

Act passed appointing James Booth, George Read, Jr., Nicholas Van Dyke, Archibald Alexander, and John Crow as commissioners to make a survey and fix the boundaries of New Castle, and "lay out, open, and regulate, the streets, lanes, and alleys." Provisions made in the act for the election of new commissioners each year, starting the first Tuesday in May, 1798.

Vol. 2, Chap. CXLI. c, pp. 1368-76

1798

January 17

Law passed against erecting booths and selling liquor at polling places during elections. The law did not apply to inn and tavern keepers. Provisions were also made in the law for the punishment, by a fine of \$2, for servants, slaves, and apprentices, not residents of the town, to be near polling places without written permission of master or mistress. Free Negroes were also subject to the same fine for loitering near polling places.

Vol. 3, Chap. III, pp. 7-12

1798
1798 January 23

Law passed prohibiting aliens from voting, unless previously naturalized; and carrying a fine of \$50.

Vol. 3, Chap. IV. pp. 12-14

1798
1798 January 24

Act passed for increasing the number of Justices of the peace in Sussex County to "not more than 16."

Vol. , Chap. XI, pp. 31-2

1799
1799 January 19

Act passed allowing George Read, as administrator of the estate of George Read, Esq., a grant of \$946.67 as payment for the latter's revision of the laws of the State in preparation for publication.

Vol. 3, Chap. XXVI, p. 65

1799
1799 January 30

Act passed appropriating \$12,000 for the ensuing year as operating expenses. Amount included \$4,571.42 for New Castle County; \$4,000 for Kent County, and \$3,428.58 for Sussex County.

Vol. 3, Chap. XXXV, pp. 76-7

1799

February 1

Bill passed allowing free Negroes to testify in court when white witnesses to a case could not be found. The act, however, excluded Negroes from testifying against a white man in a paternity suit.

Vol. 3, Chap. XXXIX, pp. 80-81

1800

January 15

Act passed appropriating \$10,500 as operating expenses for the ensuing year. The amount included \$4,000 for New Castle County; \$5,500 for Kent County, and \$3,000 for Sussex County.

Vol. 3, Chap. XLIII, pp. 119-20

1800

January 21

Act passed appointing John Armor, John Crew, and William Aull as commissioners to operate a ferry across the Christina River at Newport. The act allowed them to rent out the ferry to other operators.

Vol. 3, Chap. XLIX, pp. 123-7

FOLKWAYS AND CUSTOMS

Inquisitive man, dwelling in a small corner of the earth, has always been curious to know what lies beyond his charmed circle and in what way he and his kind differ from other peoples who at intervals rub elbows with him and know him as not of their own clan, as he knows they are not of his. As for himself, he feels no conscious difference except this -- that his own ways are right and just and hallowed, and in fullest consonance with the teachings and traditions of his forebears. Ploughman Burns voiced this familiar theme when he wrote

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us."

A Delawarean, it may be said, tritely enough, is a Delawarean-- but how and why and wherefore? There are those who aver they can distinguish a Delawarean from the mass of other Americans, but when specific proof is demanded, the distinctions set forth seem to peter out into not unusual characteristics, such as a meditative tempo of speech, though never a drawl; a dignified reserve of manner and difficulty of making friends quickly, although thorough warm-heartedness arises when the ice is broken; and the many idiomatic expressions employed. An Episcopal Bishop of Delaware, born in Ohio, quoted a Delawarean as saying in all seriousness: "You might be born only half a mile over the Maryland border, be brought into Delaware at the age of fifteen minutes, and stay here all your life; but every one here would know you were not a true Blue Hen's Chicken."

Admitting the possibility of identifying a true Delawarean, upon what is the conclusion based? Is it because the native is accustomed to use flat "A's," or that he fails often to aspirate his "H's" in such words as "Where" and "When" and "What"? The difficulty of telling whether he is talking about "wine" or "whine"? Or perhaps in other hidden tricks of speech? Some such were noted by the late George Morgan, author and loyal son of Sussex County, when he caught a few phrases uttered by a loquacious trolley-car conductor in Philadelphia and asked: "You're a Delawarean?" "Yes." "Sussex County?" "Yes." "Northwest Fork Hundred?" "Yes."

Identification is possible, of course, when the native habitually refers to his homeland softly as "Del'-a-wur," instead of the outlander's harsh "Del-a-WARE'," or when unconscious habits of speech and mannerisms handed down through the grandfathers are marked enough to make him seem a character out of Shakespeare. And it is true of many a Delawarean of ancient lineage that a mien of confident independence, a great deal of personal dignity, and an unhurried speech marked by solecisms and unfamiliar words handled fluently and appropriately, set him apart in any present day group.

Traditions and customs that exist in Delaware are not in general the reminiscences of early Swedish or Dutch settlers, nor of the aborigines they supplanted. Rather, they are overwhelmingly British, whether Anglo-Saxon, Scotch-Irish, or Welsh; or else, more modernly in Wilmington, the transplanted folklore of continental Europe.

It is close to two hundred years since the last of the Nanticoke tribesmen left Sussex County, bearing their dead with them,

and at least as long since the last of the Delawares of the north trekked westward. Behind them they left ~~many~~ Indian names, such as Appoquinimink, Naamans, Kiamensi, and Missillion, but few legends or tales that may be classed as essentially Delaware Indian lore.

It is true that the Indians believed the Rev. John Campanius traveled overland to his native country, Sweden, and there are lesser tales, few of them peculiarly Delawarean. It seems almost as if Indian folklore vanished with the Indians themselves and there was no one left to preserve their traditions. John Lofland, the Milford Bard, collected some Indian legends of the Brandywine Creek and wove them into his romantic stories of the early nineteenth century; but no one today may discover where the legends end and Lofland's vivid imagination begins. On the banks of the Brandywine, one will look in vain for the names of Manitoo, the Indian beauty, and her lover, Wild Harry, of Wilmington, although Lofland says they are engraved in a secret pocket of the large flat rock "just opposite the upper dam." The lovely Manitoo, according to Lofland, leaped from the top of the rock into the Brandywine on hearing of the perfidy of her lover, but miraculously reappeared beside Wild Harry when he was in need. There is an extraordinary number of rocks of all shapes and sizes along the Brandywine, all well-fitted to be the scenes of romantic Indian legends, but if there were such, no trace remains today.

Far down in Sussex County, at Oak Orchard on Indian River Bay, a few descendants of the once powerful Nanticokes who had

preserved a few customs, now through the interest of Dr. Frank G. Speck, of the University of Pennsylvania, hold an annual pow-wow on Thanksgiving Day, at which time the dances, chants, folk arts, and customs of their ancestors are demonstrated in tribal ceremonies.

The Swedes and the Dutch were absorbed, leaving a solid enough imprint upon the history and genealogy of Delaware; but of customs and traditions that were theirs, almost none remain.

Of the English customs and folklore, the solecisms of speech betray an Elizabethan origin, and the games of youth are such English favorites as "Johnny's Not Home From the Fair" and "London Bridge Is Falling Down." Generations of insularity and self-sufficiency, because lower Delaware lay off the beaten track, were sufficient to imbed these English customs and habits strongly, although at this day the radio, the motorcar, and modern education have worked havoc with the best of them.

In Sussex County, where the impact of other peoples has been slighter, many habits of speech at variance with accepted usage may be heard, such as "karn" for corn, "kaint" for can't, "aiout" for out, and "housen" for houses. Among friends and neighbors, "our folks" is the local usage corresponding to the "you all" of the South. The question: "Our folks going somewhere today"? means "are you (singular or plural) going somewhere today?" "You" would be used to a stranger. A Delaware professor in a New England college has long been known familiarly as "Hank" by his students because he once asked an undergraduate to get him a hank of rope. And until recently, a mill owned locally in western Sussex was known as "Mung-em's Mill" because it was

owned "among them" by a group.

Much of the local lore has its counterpart elsewhere, doubtless because of the common British background. There are hosts of signs and portents which occur in every walk of life and in every household. They range from death warnings, upon which grim tales are hung, and the planting of crops in the moon's signs, to the abundant household superstitions, such as that dropping of a knife, fork, or spoon, signifies respectively the coming of a male, a female, or a child visitor. The vast and complex recital of what is lucky and what is unlucky at weddings would make a chapter in itself. In some parts of the State, the family Bible and the salt-shaker are the first items to be carried across the threshold of a new house. And as in Indian days, the plaintive cry of the whippoorwill is regarded to be the wailing of an uneasy spirit, mourning over things left undone in life, or at failure of the living to render due respect to his memory. Indeed, some persons aver that whippoorwills are not birds at all, but disembodied spirits that can never be caught.

Along the eastern shoreline of Sussex, it has from ancient times been customary to "burn a bad weather witch." This happens when boats have long been delayed by unfavorable weather conditions. The witch, an effigy constructed in conventional form, is first attacked with knives and guns, and then is burned. Throughout the ceremony, strict seriousness and solemnity are preserved. The rite was given wide public attention in 1935 when the treasure-seeking ship, Liberty, was kept from its salvage work at Lewes by continued storms, and a "bad weather witch" was burned.

Buried treasure hunts are staged from time to time, often secretly. Pirates who long plied their trade along bay and river --

Captain Kidd, Blackbeard, and Blueskin -- are supposed to have buried their ill-gotten gains along the ocean shores and those of Indian River Bay. The tales of shipwrecks, of which there have been many off Lewes, almost always include belief that fabulous sums were carried down to Davy Jones' locker.

To aid in treasure-hunts, "gold-finders," guaranteed guides to wealth, have been sold secretly about Delaware, the price reaching as high as \$100. Wells are often located by divining-rods of hazel, or peach wood. Animals, the belief often runs, are able to see things invisible to human beings. Even the humble pig is reputed to be able to see the wind, the proof being that he squeals before the blast strikes him.

Herb cures form part of Sussex County folklore, and queer concoctions are brewed. Among the Negroes, their efficacy is undoubted and some white folks are said to place faith in them. The root of "Rasling Jack" is chewed to cure "risin's and miseries" of the stomach, otherwise colic or plain stomach ache; if the leaves are masticated, the chewer is given great strength and power in wrestling-bouts. "Conquerin' Tom," when rubbed on the body, assures success in courting girls. "Old Field Balsam" is utilized for chills and fever, and "Horse Mint" cures fevers. "Yawl weed" and "Pipsiduary," thickened with resin, forms a popular salve for sore joints and sometimes quells the "risin's." Burdock root is used for quinsy and the leaves are a panacea against boils.

Safety against spells as well as protection while traveling is secured by curative herbs tied in a heart-shaped bag made of red flannel. Even in Wilmington, Negroes are sold amulets to wear about the neck to drive bad luck away, and sums of \$5 to \$25 are

paid for the talismans. Secretly treated and incanted over by the voodooist, they are depended upon to keep the owners out of police clutches, and if they should face the judge, to insure that his Honor will dismiss the case. There are those also who believe a tarred rope bound about the patient's neck will stop nosebleed, and a bracelet of copper wire or of dried eel-skin will cure rheumatism. Voodooism was long practiced at Belltown, an all-Negro settlement near Milford. The cult whose devotees were known as Devil Worshipers has now passed out of existence.

The stories of Fiddler's Bridge, of Patty Cannon, of the Moors, and of ghosts and haunted houses are told in other sections. Patty Cannon, Delaware's most notorious kidnaper of slaves in ante-bellum times, "could stand in a half-bushel measure and lift five bushels of grain, weighing 300 pounds, to her shoulders." Her story, founded in fact of the most gruesome quality, has been so enlarged and expanded in its many tellings that it has become a veritable folk-tale. There are as many versions of her final demise as there are of the death of John Wilkes Booth.

In no characteristic is the Delawarean so conspicuous as in his gregariousness. The reunion habit, in a thousand forms, is so universal as to be a folkway. At every possible opportunity, Delawareans congregate to gossip about the past, the present, and the future. The earlier expressions of ^{this} appetite were husking-bees, barn-raisings, moving days, farm sales, quilting parties, sewing circles, and country dances at which the fiddler was king. Such customs were, of course, common elsewhere, but the Delawarean still clings to any form of reunion and insists upon celebrating

it with a feast. Every summer, scores of large family reunions are held in various parts of the State, those present being descendants of some common ancestor of prominence. The attendance at these reunions often reaches into the hundreds.

Church dinners and suppers have always been popular in Delaware, and are well attended to this day. Many of these meals have a history running back over a century and a half or more. Harvest homes, carnivals, fairs, turkey shoots, and the fall hog-killings add to the list. A Sussex hog-killing is almost a social event. In several parts of the State, but especially in Sussex, the neighbors of a section go "Sunday-visiting." The folks of the community, sometimes numbering as many as fifty men, women, and children, gather at the home of one of them on Sunday to partake of a huge dinner and to inspect the crops and livestock. The following Sunday, the visit is paid by the group to another neighbor, until the circuit is completed.

Camp-meetings, almost the sole form of vacation in the earlier days of the nineteenth century, still hold much favor, especially in the lower part of the State. Return-Day in Sussex County, a trek to Georgetown after the biennial general election to hear the returns, used to be the occasion for a monster reunion in Georgetown. The larger reunions at the present day are the time-honored celebration at Bowers Beach, attended by thousands, and the Kent and Sussex Fair at Harrington, successor to a long line of State Fairs. Even the colored folk have their picturesque reunion at the August Big Quarterly in Wilmington.

Wilmington itself is not immune from the ~~reunion~~ habit, and nothing bewilders outsiders more than the impromptu reunions held in the midst of busy Market Street traffic, when old friends and

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neighbors meet. Resolutely resisting pressure from hurrying crowds, the meeting continues until conversation is exhausted; meanwhile traffic flows to the right and left of the group. And the centuries-old curbstome markets of Wilmington are thronged as much with gossipers as with those seeking bargains.

Many old Delaware customs have died out. One that is still tenacious, though feebly celebrated, is the Old Christmas of Sussex County. Observed on Twelfth Night, and formerly as the real Christmas, but now as a supplementary celebration, it represents the sturdy resistance of many families of old English descent, to the change in the calendar made by Pope Gregory.

Whether a Delawarean is such because of his habits of speech, his customs, and his ways, is open to question by the doubting Thomases. There can be no doubt whatever that an intense State-consciousness exists in Delaware, the result of its small and compact size, its rather sparse population, and the unwillingness of the older native families to regard as families of consequence those entering the State in recent times. Perhaps that same observant Episcopal Bishop, mentioned above, was close to the truth when he said:

"The ideal Delawarean is born in Sussex County, has Rodney and Burton grandfathers so that he is related to everybody, marries a Ridgely of Dover for his first wife and a Corbit of Odessa for his second, lives and practices law in Wilmington, eventually becoming Governor of Delaware or a Judge of the Supreme Court."

FOLK-LORE

Before the automobile and the good roads that followed, which brought rural and urban sections closer together, Delaware was composed of two distinct classes, those in the agricultural districts and those in and near Wilmington, the State's only metropolitan district.

Because of this the customs of the two were distinctly different. Dependent solely upon the railroad and horse and wagon for transportation many residents of rural communities seldom left their immediate environs and spent their entire lives near the place where they were born. The metamorphosis of the rural sections had its beginnings, undoubtedly, with the phonograph, the first of the inventions that brought the sound of the voice of the foreign world to the ears of the home folks. There followed the moving picture, the radio and finally the talking picture. Good roads and the automobile not only permitted the rural people to get away from their immediate environs but also brought to them the people of other cities and States, living examples of how others lived, talked and thought.

The State is now in effect, one large community, with very little to distinguish the residents of southern communities from those of the north. It would hardly be possible, today, for a former resident of Delaware living in Philadelphia, to identify the birthplace of a Sussex-countian by the inflexion of his voice, as actually happened some years ago.

It should not be presumed, however, that in a single generation

Shelley

the rural Delawarean has changed to a modern sophisticate. There are still thousands of Delawareans who seldom leave their farms and other thousands in the cities whose outlook upon life remains the same as it did many years ago. Superstitions, customs and habits are not changed so easily and many retain the habits and beliefs of their forefathers.

For example, many farmers consult the almanac religiously before doing their spring planting. Vegetables that grow under the ground, root vegetables, must be planted in the dark of the moon to produce good yields. If planted on moonlight nights there will be more vine than roots. Vegetables that grow above ground, or grains, must be planted on a waxing moon. Hogs, cattle or sheep must not be butchered when the moon is waning, as this will cause the meat to wither when it is being cooked.

Many farmers adhere to the example of their ancestors and cut off a generous section of the tails of pigs. Tradition ascribes the saving of at least a bushel of corn for each pig whose appendage has been removed, to bring it to a proper fattening stage.

Signs and portents have changed but little. The persistent crowing of a rooster near the house portends a stranger's visit; the lowing of cattle presages a change in the weather; bitter cold weather may be heralded by a pig carrying a small piece of wood in its mouth. The pig is making its bed for the cold spell. Swine will cavort about the pen when a wind storm is approaching, as they are able to "see" the wind.

Certain tokens foretell the approach of death. A vulture perching on the roof or chimney is such a sign. The howling of a dog at night is another. Many believe that individuals can see

apparitions that presage their death or hear a "token" sent to warn them that death is approaching. Such tokens consist of hearing the rattle of wheels, the creak of leather harness, the opening of doors of the old horse-drawn hearse, footsteps in empty rooms and similar ghostlike sounds.

The dead were buried in the early days strictly according to custom. The body of the deceased was usually "laid-out" by friends before the arrival of the undertaker, and as little was known of the art of embalming, bodies were preserved with ice or by some natural method. It was necessary to keep constant vigil over the bodies and cloths soaked in brandy or chemicals were applied to the face to prevent discoloration. In the room where the body rested all mirrors were turned face to the wall or covered with a heavy cloth. A clock was stopped or removed from the death chamber.

Beliefs regarding death and burial are many and well understood. "Blessed are the dead upon which the rain falls." This omen of rich blessings for the departed was gathered from the Scripture and is held sacred. No effort is made to have the rain fall directly on the corpse but a shower at the time of burial is looked upon with pleasure. The grave must be dug due east and west and the body placed facing the east, so that on the morning when Gabriel sounds his trumpet and the dead arise, all will be facing the rising sun.

"A broken shoe string means bad luck" is a phrase coined when it was not possible to buy strings at all stores or from peddlers, and it was necessary to use a substitute for the genuine article. Often the leaf from silk grass was split and made into temporary strings. Because of the strength of this plant it was sometimes called "Devil's Shoestring." If the clock runs down it is a sign of bad luck, but if it topples to the floor it is a sign of a future death

in the immediate family. Such an event seldom occurs for all are careful to make secure the clock and guard it against making such predictions.

"Married in black, you'll wish yourself back" was one of the first marriage superstitions, and few have been the occasions known when this superstition has been violated. It is considered an unusually bad omen for the bride's hat to blow off at any time during the marriage ceremonies. "Something old and something new, something borrowed and something blue" must be worn by the bride.

To see the moon over the right shoulder presages good luck, while a money purse shaken toward it will insure against loss during that phase of the moon. A dead snake suspended from the limb of a tree will bring rain.

It is bad luck to carry a shovel, rake or hoe through the house and the raising of an umbrella indoors is a sure sign of misfortune.

The table cloth should never be shaken after dark as it will scatter the riches of the family. Dropping a comb indicates disappointment, and burning a broom will bring a wind storm. A person taken ill at a funeral will never survive, and no one should ever make new clothing for a person who is ill in bed.

The conjurer who causes warts to disappear still holds sway and performs his or her incantations whenever requested to do so by persons embarrassed by the presence of such growths. Seldom is any charge made for this service, as to make a charge causes the conjurer to lose his power. Superstitions which refuse to die include the carrying of a white potato that has been stolen as a sure cure for rheumatism. A mole's foot around a baby's neck will make the teething period painless. A silk cord or black silk string around

the neck of a child is positive preventative of croup, and chickens flying over the head of a child with chicken pox will cure that disease.

The custom of table manners and that of serving food varies, but the usual custom is to have the folk gather around the table and seat themselves with the head of the family at the head of the table and the younger members seated around it. The meal is usually "graced" by the head of the family. In some families the platters are filled by an elder member; in others the food is passed to each person to help himself to such portions as they may desire.

Local to the lower part of the State are such expressions as, "Gosh-durn," "By-Gosh," "Dad-Burn," "Dod-Deem," used as expletives. "Mong you" is used more than the southern "You-all", or the backwoods "You-uns." "Our folk" indicates members of one's own family. No reason has even been advanced for the use of the word "no" instead of "not" in such expressions as "I don't know whether I will or no", or "I am not certain that he will or no." Some still used the word "gwine" for "going." Infrequently the words "rid" and "clumb" are used for "rode" and "climbed." "Fit" is also heard as the past tense of "fight." "Right smart" is still heard to indicate a superlative degree.

Throughout Kent and Sussex counties are some of the commands to animals which are not heard in other communities. The horse and the ox are taught to obey a command of "shoa" for stop, but the mule, with only a few exceptions doesn't recognize the word, for he has always been taught the short and snappy command, "yea." "Gee" means to turn right, and "huther" or "whoa-back" to turn left. Mule driving demands a more extensive vocabulary, and the tone of the voice indicates largely what is to be done by this long-eared animal.

For instance he is told to turn right by a long drawn out "baaack," and he could also be made to reverse and back up by the curt "back." "Haut," "gee," and "gee-back" are commands to turn right, while "petty-whoa," "haw," and "whoa-yea" are used as a turn-left command. Instead of the usual "gid-dap" a command given to horses and oxen, the mule is told to "ep" when the driver wants him to move forward.

Gambling with cards or dice is a favorite pasttime among many Delawareans, and if luck is against the player at cards he may be able to change it by rising and walking around his chair. Good luck may be brought to the crap shooter by picking the dice up in a certain manner, blowing upon them, using such expressions as "hot-diggety," "treat-me-nice, baby," "seven-come-eleven," "get hot, dice--baby needs a new pair of shoes." Before throwing the dice the player may drop a dollar bill on the floor and ask "who wants a piece of that?" One may answer, "I'll take two bits worth," or another may cover the bill with the remark that "you're faded." Seeking his point, the player will call Lady Luck with such incantations as "Come on, four!," "eight me, dice!" "don't forsake me, five," and similar expressions.

Delawareans are deeply religious. Agnosticism and skepticism are practically unknown. Churches, meeting houses, and missions are to be found in great numbers. It is doubtful if any community or State will show more places of religious exhortation per capita than this the second smallest State in the Union. Roman Catholics are most numerous in Wilmington, while the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists predominate throughout the rest of the State. To these the Bible is the absolute Word of God, the second coming of Christ is eagerly awaited, and revivals are held at regular times in

practically all the churches. With the exception of four Quaker Meeting Houses, there is in the entire state only one liberal church, the Unitarian, with a very small membership.

Among the entire nineteenth century religious bodies met outdoors in the summer time, and the camp meeting, attended by thousands, were events in the lives of the inhabitants, but late years have seen their decline until only a few hold forth at present. For the most part they were held early in August, after the crops had been harvested, and they came to be a ten days' holiday among the worshippers of the various denominations. Formerly they were plain and simple. The congregations gathered under the great trees in nature's temple more in adoration of the Father than may have been in the inspiring aim of more recent assemblages. Preachers in the first camps read their texts by the light of blazing pine knots, which also furnished the pretense of illumination of the grove wherein little lean-toos of brush, storm shocked logs or old timber offered shelter against sun and rain and provided sleeping quarters for the faithful. Leaves might have been the first bed, later came straw from the newly threshed wheat for overnight visitors. In the morning curling clouds of smoke bespoke the cooking of breakfast over open fires. Fallen timber afforded seats for the congregation and a temporized pulpit lifted the preacher above the level of worshippers. The closing of the camps was the most solemnly dramatic feature of the sessions. After the usual prayers, preaching and singing, the minister and church dignitaries headed almost the entire camp assemblage, and marched around the semi-circle of seats singing some of the favorite hymns. There perhaps had been "experiences" earlier in the evening and at preceding meetings in which penitents and the newly fledged Christians

exultantly cited in proud tones what Christ had done for them. The recitals invariably brought voluminous echoes of "God be Praised," "Bless the Lord," "Hallelujah!" and "Amen" among those who had found the way.

There was an angle to the meetings which was highly important, that which brought the youth, the lads and lassies, together in social intercourse. The Camp Cupid had played a fond role and was the precursor of many weddings the ensuing winter. "The country youth picked up courage hitherto unknown to them (the camp-breaking night was their testing time) and invited a young woman to join him in the promenade. Then, probably for the first time in his life he experienced the novel feeling of a young lady's hand resting lightly on his arm. Thus coupled they marched round and round and later in the season perhaps sought the camp meeting preacher to unite them with silken bonds."

Throughout the entire State the people enjoy meeting and talking with friends. On Saturday afternoons and evenings almost everyone may be seen in the towns and cities doing their marketing for the week, making purchases and spending considerable time conversing with friends and acquaintances. Merchants depend upon that one day for their week's profits and a stormy Saturday means red ink figures in their account books. Family reunions have become popular in the rural sections and get-together or home coming meetings are held annually. Meetings of the granges and parent-teachers associations, church suppers, firemen's carnivals, and similar events are largely attended. Quilting parties, corn-husking bees, apple-butter making parties, hog-killings, wheat-thrashings bring together the households of nearby farms and provide social relaxation.

Governor's Day at the Kent and Sussex County Fair, Politician's Day at Rehoboth, Big Thursday at Bower's Beach, and Return Day parades at Georgetown, are days set aside for the discussion of politics. Return Day parades had their beginnings many years ago when the absence of newspapers, the radio and other means of communication made it necessary for the farmers to visit the county seat after the election to obtain the official tabulation of results. It is held on Thursdays following the November national and state elections, and the winners invariably form a parade and make merry at the expense of the losers.

Tales of spirits back in the early days brought fear to the hearts of the citizens and in many instances caused timid ones to hire those who claimed to be possessed with supernatural powers to protect them against the machinations of the Evil One. The souls of departed persons were supposed to haunt the living and to taunt them with hardships or ill luck, bad dreams and other inconveniences. Certain individuals possessed the power to "lay" these spirits, and for a certain sum of money would do the job. The wise ones would tell their clients that the spirit had been "laid" in the trunk of a tree, in the bottom of a well, or in some other place.

Witches were supposed to be women with evil minds, whose association with cats was for the purpose of using the meat of the pets as a part of the menu of the wicked one. While the old lady was supposed to be haggard and weazened with a long chin and a hooked nose, she could sometimes appear as genteel and could approach a gentleman with the greatest of diplomacy. Her powers were seldom used for a good purpose, but she would call forth curses to satisfy her own wrath or to even up a grudge for some other person if paid for the service. It was within her power to invoke bad luck upon her victims,

to cause them to suffer illness, to cause cattle to pine away or crops to be a failure. As a means of transportation they used the horses of farmers, and sometimes even bewitched individuals, making them assume the form of horses upon which they would ride over the country, through briars and brambles and hedges. Evidence that one had been ridden by a witch was the appearance of thorns in the flesh of hands or feet or a tired feeling upon arising in the morning. A tangle in the mane of a horse indicated that the witches had been riding it during the night.

Strangely enough, the subtle power of a witch was weak when compared with the power of persons who did not follow the trade. To destroy the power of the witch, it was only necessary to load a musket with bits of silver, draw a picture of the supposed evil one and use it for a target to fire the bits of silver into. This would wound her at the same spots where the silver bits hit the likeness. A broom across the doorway would keep her away, as she would never walk over a broom. A horseshoe placed over the door was also a preventative.

Old coon hunters tell of "hants" that gave the dogs long runs but were never "treed," and were never visible to the hunters. "Grave yard rabbits" in many localities gave the dogs fast chases and caused hunters considerable worry because it was impossible to kill the "rabbit."

Lewes, a town where seamen have gathered since the early days of the seventeenth century, has many quaint beliefs regarding the waters bordering that section. One which has been handed down since the days of Captain Kidd is that at certain stages of the moon a phantom ship may be seen sailing up and down Lewes Creek. It is

supposed to be that famous pirate seeking a place to bury his loot, which even today, many believe lies hidden in the capes east of the town.

Never turn a ship across the sun when starting out on a cruise, is a command that all Lewes mariners obey. To break the jinx that will inevitably follow, the ship must be put back to port and re-start its voyage. In many cases disregard of this precaution has caused great loss and several of the present captains are very careful to obey this injunction when putting out to sea.

To burn a "bad weather witch" has often happened when boats have been subjected to continuously unfavorable weather conditions. This ceremony is performed by making an effigy of a witch and by attacking it with knives or guns and then by burning it. The ceremony is carried out with the utmost solemnity and seriousness. When the treasure-seeking ship, Liberty, was kept from her salvage work in 1935 by persisting bad weather this rite was carefully observed.

When ships were built 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.

K. A. Horner,
December 10, 1937.

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Folklore

Witches and Ghosts

Witches and ghosts were real to the people of Delaware in ye olden times. While some openly scoffed at the idea that the dead could rise and "haunt" the community, their scorn was changed to fear after they had actually met the specter of one who had departed these earthly shores.

Every town and community had its haunted house; stone dogs and wooden rams barked and bared at midnight; ghosts had actually been seen by many inhabitants, and it is related that on one occasion the town people of Dover, after burying the body of one of their fellow citizens found it necessary to bury his ghost.

The ghost was that of Samuel Chew, who had been a prominent man in lower Delaware. He had served as Chief Justice and discharged his duties with ability. He lived in a house that stood just south of the old State House, and in the rear of the yard surrounding it was a large poplar tree. Samuel Chew died and was buried. Everyone knew he was dead as practically the whole countryside had attended his funeral, but about a year after his death he began to be troublesome. He was seen one moonlight night standing beneath the tree apparently in deep meditation. The simple rustic who saw him fled precipitately to the nearest farm house where, quaking and breathless, he related his strange story.

Just at dark sometime later a miller trudging along towards home, took a short cut across the field that led by the old tree. Suddenly he felt the presence of something strange and uncanny. Casting his eyes in the direction of the old poplar he was amazed to behold Samuel Chew standing there. As he gazed for a moment, trembling

with fear, the figure beckoned to him, but the miller took to his heels, and could not be persuaded to pass that way again after nightfall.

At that time there was but one road leading into Dover from the east, and when the story of the ghost became circulated throughout the neighborhood, not a farmer ventured to come to town or to travel the road after dark. This affected the trade in the little town and the merchants took counsel as to how the trouble might be remedied. After much discussion it was determined that the only way to get rid of Chew's ghost was to bury it. Accordingly, notice was sent out through the neighborhood that on a certain day, at high noon, the burial of the ghost would take place beneath the poplar tree.

On the day appointed the town formed itself into a funeral procession and proceeded with slow and solemn tread, to the old poplar. Arriving there, with uncovered heads they listened to the reading of the burial service, while with the toll of the bell and all the ceremony of a well appointed funeral the ghost of Samuel Chew was buried. Tradition tells us that the burial was effective. The ghost was never seen again.

An impressive witch story is that told of Absalom Cuff and Betty Pollen. Various persons in Dover had been the victims of a series of annoyances and misfortunes. The leaves of Benjamin Shurmer's apple tree, the pride of his garden, had withered one night in June, and the tree, upon examination was found to be perfectly lifeless. The next night his kitchen chimney fell down with a crash. A few mornings later his horse was found lying in the stable, its mane and tail plaited, and the animal bearing every evidence of having been ridden almost to death. As others had suffered similar misfortunes

it was whispered that there was a witch in the neighborhood. Suspicion pointed to Betty Pollen, a forlorn old woman, who lived alone in a little tumble-down cottage close by. Just why it should point to her no one was quite able to say, but the community was positive that Betty Pollen was the witch that was doing all the mischief. Nothing was done, however, until Absalom Cuff opened his eyes one morning to find his vision deranged. Every object in the room appeared double. Rubbing his eyes vigorously, he raised the window curtain and looked outside. Every object that met his gaze looked like two. Absalom was puzzled, but presently something seemed to dawn upon him and the puzzled look vanished from his face. Stamping his foot indignantly, he exclaimed,

"Conjured--bewitched!"

Hastily dressing himself, he seized his gun, and cutting up a silver coin, with which he loaded it, went out to the barn. With a piece of chalk he drew on the barn door a likeness of old Betty Pollen. Stepping back a few paces he raised the gun, and taking the best aim he could with his impaired sight, he fired. The shot hit one of the feet of the picture. Instantly his eyes became perfectly adjusted. He set out at once for old Betty's cottage, about half a mile away. Sure enough, he found her nursing her foot, the very same foot he had shot in the picture. He accused her of being a witch and warned her that if she cut up any more of her devilish antics he would make his aim higher next time. Nothing more was ever seen of Betty Pollen from that day. She vanished as completely as though the earth had swallowed her and Dover was once more free from its annoyances and misfortunes.

Early in the Nineteenth Century there lived in the northern part of Brandywine Hundred an old woman by the name of "Old Granny"

Eastick, upon whom the stigma of witchcraft had been fastened. The woman was a familiar figure along the roads of the hundred as she hobbled with the aid of a crooked home-made cane from farmhouse to farmhouse begging for alms. On a nearby farm a certain cow began to behave in an un-cowlike manner, such as attempting to stand on her head, sitting down like a dog, rolling her eyes and uttering peculiar sounds. The local cow-doctor was called, took a long look at the animal and decided that it had been bewitched. He advised that the cow's ear be cut off, stuck full of new needles and boiled in spring water. As the water came to a boil the witch, tormented by the needles, would appear, whereupon the water was to be poured upon her and the cow would be cured. His instructions were carried out, and as the water was coming to a boil, who should knock at the door, seeking alms, but "Old Granny" Eastick. She was duly scalded, ran screaming from the doorway and the cow got well.

An odd bit of folk-lore, told by oldtimers who heard it from their fathers' fathers, relates that near Bethel, which lies on the Faulk Road, not far from the northern arc of Delaware there once existed an huge rock shaped like an armchair with arm rests and back and covered with mysterious symbols. In the back of the chair was a cloven hoof, carved deep in the stone, and the rock was known far and wide as the Devil's Seat. Similar rocks have been seen in other parts of the country and are undoubtedly monuments erected by a pre-historic people which inhabited the shores of North America long before the coming of Columbus.

Early settlers, steeped in the superstitions and folklore of their native countries, were positive that the rock and the ground surrounding it was unholy haunted by the Powers of Darkness, and that the

rock was a throne of Satan who held "court" in the Brandywine Hills with his witches, hobgoblins, and demons. Woe to the luckless soul who trod this haunted ground at the witching hour of midnight.

Its uncanny reputation caused the settlers to avoid the rock after nightfall. It was said that hunters had detected the odor of burning brimstone and had seen ghostly lights playing above the head of the grim "seat."

"Booth" Mousely was just as superstitious and as imaginative as his fellow men, but he was an inveterate hunter and took every opportunity to gratify his love of the chase. Coon hunting was his speciality, and one night he had been unusually fortunate in the number and size of the game he and his dogs had bagged. He was in a happy frame of mind as he wended his way home. A beautiful harvest moon flooded the earth with silver. But suddenly the earth beneath his feet trembled; the face of the moon was blotted out by a spectral shape; there was a peal of thunder, an unearthly flash of light, and there upon the rock, seated as if upon his throne, Mousely beheld the Devil. Unwittingly he had stumbled into the forbidden field.

The Devil yawned. Sulphurous tongues of blue and yellow flame shot from his mouth and nostrils. He glared with eyes that were veritable balls of fire. His body was red as blood, and his forked tail twitched ominously. And with it all, blinding flashes of lightning illumined the heavens.

Dumb with terror, Mousely dropped his bag of game; his favorite hunting dog grabbed one of the coons, ran pell-mell toward the rock and leaped into the Devil's mouth. The other two dogs followed. A grotesque owl flapped from its perch in a tree nearby

and hovered hooting above the "seat." His Satanic Majesty eyed the owl knowingly and broke into an unearthly "Ha! Ha! Ha!" with which he vanished amid a clap of thunder and dense brimstone fumed.

The dogs were never seen again. Mousely gave up hunting. Never as long as he lived, could he be induced to travel even within sight of the dread Indian field. The rock has long since ceased to exist. It was destroyed by the farmer who owned the field, who, it is said, hoped to find a pot of gold. It is doubtful that his quest was successful, but he succeeded in blasting away all hope of deciphering the intriguing hieroglyphics that covered the only stone that provided a link between modern Delaware and its pre-historic past.

Even atmospheric conditions in Delaware are peculiar. The very air which the people breathe, mixed with such elements as sunlight, moonshine, and even thereflected lights of automobile lamps, is extremely potent. There are those living on the Philadelphia Pike, near Holly Oak, where the road makes a sharp turn, who can point out the spot where the reflected lights from thousands of automobile lamps, constantly hitting the stone wall, have completely disintegrated the granite and caused the highway department to renew the wall from time to time. Moonbeams, striking the rocks in the Brandywine, have bored holes in them and cut gullies through which the water has been able to seep.

Even glances from the eyes of people of Delaware are powerful. Editors and writers busily engaged at their typewriters while looking through the windows for inspiration, have discovered to their amazement and chagrin that their constant staring has worn the glass so thin that the slightest breeze is able to break it. Even the voices of the people have a similar puissancy. The telephone

company finds it necessary to replace diaphragms and wires of their phones periodically due to the tendency of the raucous voices of users to wear away the vibrating discs and wires.

Hard liquor can be consumed in huge quantities and it is rather difficult to determine when a Delawarean is actually intoxicated. The matter was under discussion at a trial in a Delaware court, and a witness was asked to explain how he was able to distinguish between a man who was sober and one who was intoxicated, to which he replied: "When I see a man prone on the ground, and holding on to the roots of grass to keep from falling upwards, I would say that he was drunk."

A group of people who lived in Sussex County in the vicinity of Kenton and Hartly, a century or more ago were called Foresters. They lived in a very primitive manner, something like the mountain Whites of Kentucky. It was said that God gave them web feet so that they could stand barefoot in the mud.

James B. Cheyney
April 23, 1940

DELAWARE "PEACH PLUCKS"

In the half century when Delaware was the center of the peach belt of the United States, tramps and hoboes poured into the State from all quarters of the North and East, and saved the crops of orchardists by picking this fruit and getting it safe and sound in the Northern markets as it ripened, through the six or eight weeks of the midsummer season. The hegira began late in June of each year and brought hundreds of "peach plucks" as they were called. The railroads, to expedite their progress to Delaware, withdrew the watch for "ride stealers," in or on the rods of freight cars and for the same purpose, towns and cities withdrew their ban against hoboes and permitted those headed for Delaware to pass unmolested to their destination, even keeping them overnight in the town gaol, and starting them off in the morning after breakfast. The railroads, of course, understood that getting the peaches picked and freighted to the Northern markets, meant an increase in their revenues. ~~while town officials waived the barrier against hoboes to encourage them to work~~

These armies were mostly made up of "nee'r-do-wells" of cities and towns, recruited from the masses of people to whom success was a stranger. They had made a failure of life and were dispirited and content to follow the Biblical injunction to live for today only. Their misfortunes were attributable to their love of strong drink and distaste for work.

The unkempt, unwashed, unshod, ragged army was regarded as a pestilential nuisance, but tolerated during the peach season for the reason that they saved the fruit from loss, for want of

pickers. The fact that the "plucks" spent their money over the bars of neighboring hotels further made their presence tolerable. And, too, they were not "choosey" as to where they slept or how they ate, providing the food supply was abundant. They, however, preferred to be at home in the barn, carriage house, or any vacant outbuilding unless they could find a camping site under shade trees beside a running brook or spring.

Plucks of Noble Birth

In this conglomerate army were many aliens, the Britons outnumbering the other foreigners. It was noticeable that there were very few Negroes in those migrations to the orchards. Many of the aliens had wondrous stories of their past to relate to the natives. Some declared that they were second sons of old distinguished ~~English~~ families, but had been euchred out of their rights and sent to America to make their fortunes. Some insisted that their noble birth entitled them to coronets, while the whole battalion sang of "better days"; luck had been against them and turned them into "peach plucks" to keep body and soul together.

Many of the group maintained themselves - that is, set up their "own lares and penates" - in some old building, or a camp, and took the farmers' fences to cook their food and provide light for dark nights. If mosquitoes or other pests attacked them, they complained not, for they experienced the discomforts of life as part of humanity's schedule.

The "plucks" were paid the equivalent of eight or ten cents an hour for picking the fruit, and as the days began at dawn and continued until dark and work was continued through the Lord's Day, they had a rather tidy sum to turn over to the bar-keepers of adjacent towns. Occasional fights promoted by the

liquor were overlooked by country and town constables for the orchardists depended on this army of tramps to get profit out of their fruit trees. Back to Old Haunts

The exit of the "plucks" from Delaware began in August, the crowd gradually melting away as the season advanced to its end. The "plucks" then turned tramps again and walked forth from Delaware with little or nothing but a heavy coat of tan to show for their midsummer outings. Those from the big cities seemed unable to resist the impulse to return to their former "stamping grounds," putting themselves on the charity of the municipality and resorting to various means (known to hoboes of those times) to keep body and soul together until the next peach plucking.

Many of the tramps came again and again to these annual Delaware adventures, which afforded them an abundance of country food with all the luscious peaches they could eat. They, however, ceased coming to Delaware after "yellows," - an epidemic, had spread gradually through the orchard sections of Delaware blighting the trees in the closing days of the last century.

Negroes Lent a Happy Note

Comparatively few of the native Negroes found their way into the peach orchards to harvest the fruit. They were chiefly busied in driving the teams conveying the peaches to the railroad trains for shipment. Many black women, however, served in the orchards or in the canneries as did not a few of the younger lads of the peach belt. The colored folks lent a light, picturesque setting for the peach harvest - strongly contrasting with the white pickers who seemed to have been recruited from the very lowest

strata of the human family. The blacks enlivened the community and withstood the intense heat of July and August, while the whites were almost prostrated by the torridity and humidity of the weather and somber.

A contemporary writing (1875) of the Negroes of the peach country gives interesting glimpses of their life and amusements declaring that "they were always ready for fun and never weary so long as there was some excitement to divert them. Their ceaseless chatter, sallies, loud guffaws, and their melodious camp meeting ditties enlivened every group of handlers of the golden fruit with red cheeks.

"Long before the wagon hove in sight one might hear the driver singing some familiar spirituelle or calling 'gee, whoa,' or 'haw, buck!'" urging his drowsy team to quicken steps in shipping the perishable fruit to market"(fruit picked when ripe was preferred for it had attained that perfection and splendid that characterized Delaware and Maryland peaches above all others).

Merry Black Romeos

"In the crowd there was always a merry Black Romeo who strutted and prided himself upon his home-made 'smocksins,' a half side of leather tied about his ankles and feet with leather thongs. He was regarded as the beau ideal by the 'cullied ladies' to whom he addressed many complimentary observations in high-flown words."

Only at the dinner table was the color line drawn between the "white trash" and the "niggers," which was prompted by both sides. The former had been imbued with the idea that the black folks were not fit to sit at the same board with them, while the

latter protested that they would not break bread with such disreputable herds recruited from the flotsom of humanity.

Consequently when the dinner bell sounded, the whites marched to the dining room, perhaps the kitchen, or some outdoor shed of the farm, where they were seated. The blacks rushed to the same place when they heard the summoning bell or horn and seated themselves on the outside of the building on boxes or crates and happily ate like famished ^{mortals.} Dinners, as a rule, consisted of huge chunks of salted fat pork with liberal helpings of Johnnie-cakes and perhaps vegetables. Peaches were brought into requisition as dessert. Indeed they were the mainstay in counteracting the overloadings of the fattest cuts of the hog - sometimes described for no known reason as "Old Mud Lark."

All Colors Dance Together

In the evenings there were parites and dances with blacks, whites, and all intermediate colors. Some of the "plucks" would have a violin and the remnants of ~~country~~ brass bands supplemented time marked by the fiddlers. The "musicians" seated on the dinner table "troubled" their fiddle strings until they approached the desired point of harmony and then the dancers and their partners took their places in "sets" and awaited the nod of the first fiddle.

The party was on! Everybody danced with vim and delight unmindful of the day's hard toil under the Summer sun. After a time there would be a shout to the orchastra "faster" and this appeal came from everyone on the floor until the party became a wild whirling dance that would have drawn the envy of "howling dervishes." The party continued - a perspiring (sweating)

aggregation of mixed races - until the farm horn sounded the bedtime blast and the wearied dancers then went hurriedly to their sleeping quarters, perhaps in barns, wagon sheds, or out in the open under the stars, ~~where for most of the six harvest weeks they were feasted upon by mosquitoes.~~

The Negro "peach plucks" were paid less than their white co-workers. They made scarcely more than sixty cents a day, with board or partial upkeep, which was the basis of their wages. They usually chose dinner, if the board was only partial, and the one hearty meal might be supplemented by fruits or things from their little gardens.

They quite well understood that the finest and best peaches grew at the top of the trees where they attracted the most sunshine and the high branches of orchards usually bespoke that this secret was understood by pickers.

Colored Women Brought Babies

Many colored women aided in harvesting the crops, especially in prolific seasons, and were to be met trudging along the road to the orchards by "sunup" often carrying one infant with other children following at "heel." The mothers left the babes in the care of the elder children; returning to them occasionally through the day that they might have food from the maternal fount.

The distilleries were chiefly manned by whites but never failed to draw a crowd of loafers. Some of the more intelligent of the blacks, however, were the handiest men about the transformation of waste, green and otherwise defective fruit into alcoholic liquor to which time imparted power ^{likened} ~~equal~~ to the kick

of a mule. There were innumerable such stills in the peach belt of those times and a decade or more later.

Colored women were employed in the canneries where the peaches were pared, cooked and canned. But white women were preferred for such work.

Three canneries at Dover (1875) put up 250,000 cans of peaches in the two months of the season and boasted of the achievement. In addition they made their own cans and were the first industrial plants in Delaware to turn to air conditioning (in crude form) by having huge fans powered by steam which made it possible for the women to work in the same building where the steam from boiling fruit permeated every cranny.

The boasted output of the three canneries sixty-five years ago would be but a morning's "stunt" for many of the great preserving factories of the Pacific coast States. The same speed would can the entire peach crop of the year 1940 in two weeks.

William C. Lodge (Claymont) in Harper's New Monthly Magazine,
New York, June, 1875.

Deputy U.S. Marshal Gove S. Lynch, Georgetown; the late Edwin R. Cochran, of Middletown, one of the extensive orchardists of upper Delaware.

Personal Recollections.

Newspaper files.

James B. Cheyney
July 9, 1940

articles

"DOC" JESTER, STREET VENDOR

Joseph R. Jester was a notable vendor of Wilmington in the late years of the 1800's. As a fakir he had remedies for almost all the ills that beset the human family and when buyers of his medicines slackened he turned to powders for the preservation of the teeth. He exercised a mysterious, uncanny influence on those who found evening amusement when he mounted the "podium" at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets. His small rostrum was lighted with flaming coal oil lamps and large gatherings, mostly of men and elderly women, surrounded the "wizard" of cure-alls. He could crack a joke, jest with his auditors or sing a song with equal nonchalance and the auditors listened and laughed inordinately. His ventures into the jesting domain were not always welcome to polite ears, had there been any in his crowds that flocked under his garish torches. He obviously did not aim to reach the cultured folks. It is recalled that his jests were properly modulated and would have gone over acceptably in almost any performance of vaudeville actors.

It was his custom to follow up a joke with a plea for the crowd to buy some of his medicines, assuring them that it would cure anything from "blind staggers" to "belly aches" as soon as his remedies reached the seats of discomfort. After a busy half hour selling his bottled remedies he would take up his banjo and play and sing the best that his untaught talent permitted. During the musical interlude a new crowd would assemble and in a few minutes they too would be busy

buying his cure-alls. He was a pastmaster of his craft and perhaps sold more stuff than any of his rivals who rarely faced him, but knowing that this was a profitable field through Jester's cultivating, came to Wilmington and opened their sales while the Great Jester was "doing" another city.

Jester's absence was rarely of longer duration than a month, when he returned unannounced and resumed his trading at once. The news "Jester's back" brought out his old crowds again to his favorite corner and they listened to his low comedy for a while and then responded to his request to buy before the stock of his medicines was used up. When the community seemed healed of physical ills, Jester brought forth his famous tooth paste and powder which seemingly had a great popularity.

On such occasions he wore a dark skull cap and dark coat bedecked with human teeth which he regarded as not only lucky but as emblematic of his profession. When tooth powder business lagged and the crowd became "static" Jester would inveigle a lad to the stand upon some pretext, catch him and hold him while he cleansed the victim's teeth employing so much force that the protesting lad, after unwillingly undergoing the brushing process, was given a nickel or perhaps a dime to tell the crowd that the cleaning process was not only pleasant but extremely enjoyable and promising as he left the "doctor" to return soon again for another oral clean up.

The vociferous Jester obviously was not a disciple of the cult that wasted time on antiseptic, oral surgery for he never took the trouble to wash his brushes after employing

them on one victim before taking on another. There were never complaints against the fakir on that score. He, too, seemed to have immunity from police interference and only when his gatherings became noisy in merriment over his jests did the police intervene and warn the offending auditors to be quiet. His performances were regarded with much favor by his auditors and as there were no movies nor similar diversions in Jester's day, his crowd enjoyed the high jinks of the fakir more perhaps than they did the side shows of a four ringed circus, for his exhibitions were fresh of their kind. His jokes, jests and ribaldry seemed inexhaustible; he rarely repeated them unless indeed they were especially appreciated and reiteration demanded by his group of amused listeners.

Possibly Jester's greatest weakness was manifested in his inability to stand prosperity. During his evening performances he occasionally received a "bogus note" or "call" and then he announced his absence for a few minutes until he had treated a sick friend or patient. Those whose eyes followed his goings and comings, envisioned his short, fat figure entering and departing a building withswinging doors and the "Doctor's" subsequent merriment and his unsteady gait furnished convincing evidence that his genial temperament had led him to where heavy brass railings faced a long mahogany counter, known as a bar. Even after his generous libations, he would return to his podium and sing, play and inveigle another lad to give him the chance to cure his tooth aches or nerve exposure and in fact all the ills that teeth are heir to.
Personal recollections.

James B. Cheyney
April 16, 1940

FIRST SIT DOWN STRIKE IN DELAWARE

Upon the establishment of the county capital of Sussex at Georgetown and the building of county edifices there, the great problem that threatened the dignity of the town was how to keep pigs and other live stock from running at large and rooting a livelihood on the streets.

It was eventually decided to impound all the hogs and transform them into sausage, scrapple, hams and chops and turn them over the sheriff who was instructed to use the meats to feed the few men in the jail. The culprits at first considered the prison fare as a gift from above. But at last they tired of pork and went on a sit down strike, demanding a change in "chow." They declared that the steady pork diet was injuring their health and refused to eat any more of it and stuck out their demands until other meats were provided. Obviously there were many stray porkers thus captured and butchered and few culprits to dispose of the flesh.

It was the early custom of Delaware town folk to keep pigs for their own butchering and to permit them no other chance against starvation than rooting along streets and in yards.

It may have been the success of the strike against too much pork that emboldened slaves of Delaware to make the most forceful protest recorded against their masters who obliged them to eat terrapin three times a week or even oftener. The explanation of the too much terrapin objection was based on the fact that the present day precious diamond backs were sold by the cartload - at fifty cents - in the early decades of the last century.

James B. Cheyney
February 29, 1940

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Uncle Tommie Cochran

Thomas Cochran, ("Uncle Tommie" to his Middletown neighbors and kindred) was a Delawarean of the so-called "Old School," lacking perhaps in cultural refinement ~~about~~ for which his personality brought ample compensation. Of a prominent Delaware family "Uncle Tommie" enjoyed a peninsula-wide popularity, and indeed was a prime favorite of the Democratic leaders of his day. His language to his everyday companions was interlarded with expletives, but to his social friends and ladies his conversation lacked only polish; his voice was velvet-like and always assured him of eager auditors.

After repeated invitations, or the standing assurance of a welcome to the Delamore Place, home of Senator Thomas F. Bayard (the elder), he dressed himself in his very best (a late Nineteenth Century Delaware cavalier, indeed he was in very truth) to visit his great friend, then a member of the upper Chamber of U. S. Congress. Mr. Bayard was away from home, but the Misses Bayard who knew of their father's attachment for the big stalwart Middletown farmer, insisted that he have luncheon with them. He finally accepted their invitation and entertained his brilliant young hostesses as he partook of the mid-day feast - composed of the most dainty comestibles - a superfine feast.

Soon after he bade his hostesses good-bye, and proceeded to the home of George Gray, where professional matters were put aside while "Uncle Tommie" related his experiences about the ---- little lunch at Tommie Bayard's. After an exchange of greetings, Mr. Cochran told of his visit to Delamore Place and emphasized the luncheon in his own inimitable way: "Georgie," he said addressing

Mr. Gray, "I got up early this morning to go and see Tommie Bayard. He had been at me many times to come and have dinner. I reached there about noon and Tommie's daughters certainly made me welcome. After talk they invited me to come out to luncheon and although I expected to stay for dinner, I accepted and when I went to the dining room I was disappointed, but we sat down to table and do you know, Georgie, that I ate all the grub myself. There was a little of this and a little of that and --- --- Georgie I could have eaten the whole d---- luncheon or whatever they called it, in three minutes. I eat breakfast at six o'clock every day in the week, including Sunday, and when the clock strikes noon I am as hungry as a bear. I guess the luncheon as they called it was all right but --- when twelve o'clock comes I want dinner --- a good big one."

"Uncle Tommie's" distressing hunger report brought the cook of "Georgie's" household to the relief of their caller and she afterwards told Mr. Gray that she never knew any man could eat so much as did the old gentleman they all called "Uncle Tommie."

"Uncle Tommie" occasionally came to Wilmington and usually he was greeted affectionately or admiringly on all sides. It is recalled that during the progress of the suit of a neighbor, whose husband was killed while driving across the Delaware Railroad tracks at Frogtown (near Middletown) Mr. Cochran attended every session of the court and not infrequently, vociferously voiced his determination that the widow and her children should be awarded a verdict approximating the \$50,000 asked.

He frequently corrected witnesses in such a naive and unusual way that the court and jury often joined in the laughter that spread hysteria among the habitues of the Chamber of Justice.

He had attended school with Chief Justice Joseph ^{P.} Comegys who presided at the trial, and this head of the bench felt impelled to smilingly and kindly remonstrate with some of "Tommie's" outbreaks. On one occasion he replied to the Justice: "You know, Joe, Mrs. Parvis is a neighbor of mine, a fine lady, and her husband was my doctor and -- --- I am going to get her \$50,000 damages, whatever happens!"

George Gray, one of the counsel for the railroad, and Charles B. Lore, for the widow, engaged in frequent verbal "spats" and "Uncle Tommie" always took the plaintiff's side in such controversies. Upon an occasion when Mr. Gray had expressed surprise that Mr. Lore had lost his temper, "Uncle Tommie" came to the rescue with the exclamation, "You needn't talk, Georgie, you were mad as ---- when Charlie objected to your doin's yesterday." No one else in Delaware could have so daringly disregarded the dignity of our courts and gotten off with laughter which convulsed the bench, bar and jurors. Uncle Tommie's cussing never seemed profane nor did his words ever leave a sting, no matter how he phrased them.

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Encyclopaedia File

"Uncle Tommy" Giffin, (the beloved of all men and children) when deputy sheriff and warden of the jail, in the Seventies when New Castle was the county seat, used to relate with certain amusement his experience in trying to have the jail "trusties" return in time to be locked up so that he could go to bed by nine o'clock.

One of the men serving a long sentence was the worst violator of the rules. He had established cordial friendship with a widow living in the town and came back to the jail invariably late. "Tommy" had warned him again and again, until one night the sheriff-warden was obliged to sit up until almost midnight waiting for his belated prisoner. Eventually when the man put in an appearance, "Uncle Tommy" was a trifle peeved and sternly informed the culprit that hereafter unless he was back by nine o'clock, he would be locked out all night.

The tardy offender, as if just realizing the enormity of his offending, turned with terror stricken eyes and pleaded: "Oh don't lock me out Sheriff; I have nowhere else to go." The man had been imprisoned so long that he regarded the four stone walls as his ^{home} permanently. It may be added that he was never again late in the nine o'clock homecoming.

"Uncle Tommy" was a living breathing encyclopedia of the laws as applied to the sheriffalty, having served as deputy for more than half a century under a succession of sheriffs of both political parties. His services were so indispensable that his politics were never considered in filling the office. As deputy sheriff at New Castle, he was also warden of the jail, always helping to make the "roads" of his wards easier.

Warden Giffin

~~He~~ used to recall that a colored man in the jails under a life sentence for killing another of his race (in self defense) made many appeals for pardon. He was a trusty and useful about the big prison. At length a pardon was granted him, when rejoicingly he went to "Uncle Tommy" suggesting if he gave him a recommendation he could get a job as coachman to a family living in another State.

It was rather a perplexing situation but after a few minutes "Uncle Tommy" took up the pen and wrote: "To whom it may concern: I have known ----- more than fifteen years and have found him honest, a man of his word who is dependable, In all my long acquaintance with him I have never known him to be out of the house after nine o'clock in the evening or in bed after 6:30 a.m." (the jail schedule). The letter bearing the signature "Thomas Giffin" won for the pardoned prisoner such a job as he sought, but the ex-prisoner often regretted that he had not stuck to the jail life with its liberties and abundance of supplies and the fellowship of fifty or more fellow prisoners.

Personal Reminiscences told by "Uncle Tommy" to James B. Cheyney

James B. Cheyney
March 6, 1940

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The late Edwin R. Cochran was the host referred to, but I would suggest that names be omitted.

In the Golden Days of Delaware peaches, that brought rich rewards to the growers, the landed aristocracy of the State owned large plantations, but after the War they resided in the towns and one may say lived in style and luxury. They were often given to sports and it is recalled that one farmer of many acres, who lived in a fine colonial mansion at Middletown, entertained extensively, especially the clergymen when they came to conduct Summer services in the local church.

Upon one occasion a youthful seminarian was appointed to preach there and was entertained at the home of the wealthy peach orchardist. In the morning the host sent his black servant to the guest's room with a glass of milk and the suggestion that it would brace him for the pulpit later.

Obviously the dominie enjoyed the refreshment and suggested that he would be glad to be still further fortified against "pulpit fright." During breakfast the cleric referred again to the delicious stimulating milk and inquired how it was obtained. The explanation that it was the product of the one "black cow" of the dairy, brought the offer to buy it. The host, however, declared that he would not part with the source of such rich milk, for any money, whereas the clergyman asked the privilege of buying the first heifer calf of the black "sookey." At church the youthful preacher found the services less embarrassing than he had thought, and after returning to the Middletown residence, repeated his desire

for a calf that could be raised and would give such rich milk as the mother.

The jesting host afterwards admitted that the "Black Cow's Milk" that won the inner applause of the youthful preacher was "milk punch" concocted by the host, of his best brand of John Barleycorn. Unaccustomed to the cheering cup, the guest did not understand the ease by which he passed through his first experience in a pulpit.

Related by Edwin R. Cochran to J. B. C.

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James B. Cheyney
March 14, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY
Anecdotes

Delaware Bishop A Pilgrim

The Rt. Rev. Leighton C. Coleman, second bishop of the Delaware P. E. Diocese, (1888-1907) was perhaps regarded as one of the most devout leaders of his denominational faith. Stout, swarthy in fact, with long beard touched here and there with grey, he was known to all Delawareans, and in fact to all Eastern Shore families, of Maryland and Virginia.

In early Summer Bishop Coleman would prepare for Summer pilgrimages which extended throughout August. Before embarking he stopped at an evening newspaper office to leave his proposed itinerary so that he might keep pace with the happenings of his friends and neighbors. He was then on his way! He wore knickerbockers, a wide hat, and a shirt of flannel and on his back carried a large knapsack - affected by tourists - which presumably held his linen, his Bible, and other books. He eschewed all carriage transportation (before the coming of the automobiles, and after) and perhaps would tramp fifteen or even twenty miles a day.

The Bishop had an amateur's understanding of tools and carried with him little "gadgets" which he employed chiefly in mending balky time pieces. His pilgrimages taught him that the cost of setting clocks going again, was burdensome to budgets of the humble. Consequently, hesitating time pieces were left awaiting his coming. Perhaps too, the Pilgrim would help the farmer hosts harvest or cultivate their crops and explain a better way of marketing them.

He was not a habited bishop on those jaunts, simply a

man interested in the material and spiritual welfare of people. Obviously he had read up on topics that would interest his hosts for he advised mothers on how to raise, educate, and start their children in life. One might have likened him to the Apostles. He seemingly suggested St. Paul in erudition and his tireless efforts to uplift the spiritual understanding of the humble. He, however, laid aside "preachments" and met his farmer hosts and their families on familiar grounds. His entertainers were not all of his religious faith, and possibly he was welcomed as cordially as a Godly man than as the head of a church.

He rarely spent more than a night and a part of a day in the same country home, but kept on his travels and covered as much of one section as possible during his month's holiday.

All parts of the country looked eagerly forward to welcoming the Bishop. He rarely retraced his trips over the same path until the lapse of two or three Summers. His return was always welcomed, the brevity of his visits deplored, and when he resumed his tramp, usually early in the morning - after breakfast - farm work was suspended while the family waved him an adieu from the porch, or perhaps someone walked with him part of the way to the next stop. Their offers to take him by carriage to his next stand were always rejected.

There were many homes on the Delmarva Peninsula who long recalled with great satisfaction the Bishop sharing their humble home, asking blessings on their food, and leading prayer at the close of the day, the last event before bed.

When the vacation was ended^{and} the Bishop returned to his home in Wilmington and his ecclesiastical mission, he was almost disguised by a heavy coat of tan for the sun and weather had visited itself on the "just as well as on the unjust."

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James B. Cheyney
March 1, 1940

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Genesis of Roost Robbery

An apt narrative attributed to a lower Delawarean who owned a flock of fine-bred chickens and noted the gradual lessening of his flock, may explain the origin of chicken thievery in this and nearby Southern states. Noting the gradual decrease of his choice birds, he decided to watch and learn the cause and source of their disappearing. He was at last rewarded by seeing one of his slaves stealthily enter his hennery and after waiting a few moments, he approached the coop and shouted lustily: "Come out of there, you chicken thief!" which brought the trembling response: "There ain't none in here!"

In the earlier times, it is recalled that chickens and all domestic fowl were so abundant that the absence of half a dozen or so would not be noticed or commented on. The slaves were assured, to their own satisfaction at least, that they were entitled to a share of whatever they had helped to grow or raise, consequently they felt that "what is master's is ourn." The owners winked as they noted their chicken flock decreasing and probably shared a little of the same opinion as their Negroes in relation to the ownership of what is produced with the aid of their labor. Perhaps the only rebuke under the circumstances would be a twist of the black ear or nose, or possibly a kick. In aggravated cases, or where the master was rough and vengeful, the blacks caught in the act of robbing the roosts might be flogged.

Others of the race found the easy method of renewing

food supplies quite worthy of attention and they joined in the raids of hen houses until the depredations became so general that farmers were always deeply concerned for their fowls. In contra-distinction to the food values of the chickens, there was a thrill of fear, ~~in the excitement~~, of being arrested and hurried to the tortuous whipping post, and obviously they regarded a sporting chance worth while.

Delaware gradually emerged from her primitive farming and proved that chicken farms could be operated for a good profit and the State later became the fowl raising and egg center of the United States. The expansion of the business attracted larger and more experienced gangs of chicken thieves who carried on extensively on the peninsula. Their operations were methodically planned, almost like preparations for robbing a big bank. Watchers would acquaint themselves with the habits of the family whose fowls were marked for vanishing; the automobile offering safe means of silent approach, quick and fast "get-aways." Even the silencing of farmer's watch dogs was provided for; rarely did the plans of these wholesale thieves miscarry. Their car would carry a hundred or more chickens and rush them to a large city, where stripped of feathers and other possible clues of identification, they were sold and distributed possibly before their real owners had become aware of their absence. There was little to be gained in trying to follow the thieves who had sold their booty to a dealer and "scamped."

Thieves received comparatively small rewards for stolen fowls. Dealers were not willing to take the risk of being entangled in the law which forbids the buying or selling of

stolen goods. The "stealers" themselves were rarely arrested for it is obvious that their systematic planning reduced the probability of apprehension to the lowest minimum.

The one-man roost raider, however, follows his old methods, and not infrequently does he face the cat with its nine biting thongs of heavy leather. He conducts business with a big, strong bag into which he drops his hens and "biddies" as he wrings the neck of each in quick succession to prevent any alarming squawking. With loaded pack over his shoulder he takes the nearest across-the-fields-cut to his home where, if wise, he immediately denudes his "catch" of all feathers or other marks by which it might be known by its owner. The family, in consequence, is assured of two, or perhaps three, chickens in the pot for the next succeeding Sunday. They may also invite friends to the feast and it may be intimated upon whose poultry hosts and guests are feasting, but such dinner table confidences are rarely imparted to others, unless, indeed, there might come a disagreement between the two parties and that would almost surely lead the stealer to the post and cell.

Those individual raiders are more active in Winter than other seasons. They perhaps are unemployed, and the family larder running low, they are forced to "bring home the bacon" or a pair of fat roosters. The approach of Christmas holidays always awakens those of easy conscience to bestir themselves so that the family may worthily observe the fete with a chicken dinner even if they are obliged to break the eighth commandment.

The State courts have always cooperated as fully as possible to check the growing of the custom of chicken stealing. They try, so far as the law and their judgment permits, to make

the punishment fit the crime. If they have succeeded in lessening that form of lawlessness, it is not noticeable to the eyes of laymen for chicken stealing, like gambling, becomes a fixture in the man who has once tasted free broiled fowl or chicken pot-pie. Perhaps that explains why not a few of the roost robbers that have been flogged and imprisoned are sent back for further corrective punishment. The fully developed chicken thief, it has been said, just can't be reformed and his thoughts and desires turned to honest endeavor, except possibly for a time, when relapse is almost sure.

It was formerly for many years the custom to suspect the black race of looting Delaware henneries, but since the turn of the present century white brains and planning are responsible for the wholesale thieving.

Related by Daniel Burton of Sussex County and chicken farmers of that section.

James B. Cheyney
July 2, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

anecdote

FAMOUS DIVORCE CASE

The suit instituted in New Castle County courts by Mrs. Bourke Roache of New York for a divorce from the second son of an Irish baronet turned the eyes of the rest of the country on the divorce laws and practices of Delaware. The plaintiff was the beautiful daughter of Frank Work, an admirer and driver of fast road horses who was one of the wealthiest New Yorkers of that day - the mid-eighties. Mrs. Roache engaged Levi C. Bird to pilot her suit through the courts before a trio of hostile jurists and to establish a year's residence in Delaware, rented a modest house in Madison Street (nominally and legally) and installed her family in the little home. There were three children - two sons and a daughter who were to be seen occasionally with their mother and their colored nurse in semi-public places. Their apparel and the beauty of the children marked the group as something apart from Wilmington.

Occasionally they attended performances at the Grand Opera House, possibly just to be seen and identified as residents of Wilmington. Mrs. Roache came and went but spent most of her year in New York. When the case came before the three judges of the court it was known that two of the trio were opposed to granting the plea, fearful that the precedent would bring many divorce seekers to Delaware and make it a nineteenth century Reno.

nobleman Bourke Roache
Even though the Irish ~~lord~~ did not contest his wife's plea for separation which was politely based on what is the

present day mental cruelty. The judges at once manifested a very strong inclination to negative the plea of the beautiful New Yorker social belle and heiress. This opposition was so tenaciously rooted in the court ~~that at the~~ ~~last moment~~ Thomas F. Bayard (the elder), United States Senator was brought into the case at the last minute and in his summation almost defied the judges to refuse the pretty plaintiff's plea. He argued that Mrs. Bourke Roache had complied with all the legal requirements (one year's residence in the state), was a bonafide citizen of Delaware and in consequence eligible for any office - had women's rights prevailed - and that the courts could and should not so far outstep their province as to refuse a divorce because of any personal hostility to granting a decree to any one who was not a native born or a long time resident. Mrs. Bourke Roache had meantime intimated that she intended continuing maintaining her residence here and the judges unwillingly granted her the requested divorce.

Obviously the divorcee understood that payment of rent for her Wilmington home for a period of a year would validate her promise for she removed her family back to New York later the same day and at the end of six months her local habitation was vacated. The Mrs. Bourke Roache divorce was the most notable of all similar cases coming before the Delaware courts. Frank Work reopened his New York mansion to his daughter and grandchildren but his hatred for foreigners ready to trade their titles for an American heiress never abated as was shown by his last will which forbade the Bourke Roache sons from even crossing the Atlantic Ocean or visiting a foreign country.

Their mother's two sisters, however, overcame the financial impediment to their niece and nephew (twins) marrying and living in England by accepting the terms of the will and returning their mother's share to her and her children. The heroine of the domestic drama, several years following her legal release from her Irish baronet, married again. Her husband was an expert horseman and had driven a public coach and four in suburban New York.

Newspaper files.

Personal recollections.

James B. Cheyney
June 27, 1940

Alice Oates

FOREIGN DEBTORS CASE

Alice Oates, a light opera singer, or musical comedy star, was one of the early actresses to please Wilmington patrons of the music and the drama. Far back in the seventies she played here in a repertoire of light operas, and in order to make up some shortcoming in the ticket office borrowed a considerable amount of money from one of the young men about town. Alice had an appeal that served her well in such emergencies. She gave her personal note for the loan before removing to another city for a series of stage performances. Meantime she married Tracey Titus, a popular manager, but had been divorced in the usual brief period required by most of the profession to learn that matrimonial bonds were irksome. However, the holder of Alice Oates' note evidently had kept track of the star and knew of her marriage and subsequent separation, so when Titus came to Wilmington again he was arrested and held on the foreign debtors claim. That is a non-resident of Delaware could be arrested for debt in Delaware ^{of his wife} and held in durance vile until he met the obligation with cash.

There were years between the making of the note and the arrest of the husband. Meantime she had faded from Titus' mind and when served with a warrant here he had almost forgotten that Alice Oates had ever been his wife. The claimant, however, was obdurate. In addition to the loss of the money loaned the light opera star, he felt that Miss Oates had not satisfactorily responded to his favor and that she was an ingrate. Titus explained that he had not seen Alice Oates

to speak with for several years and that she had almost passed out of his memory. The explanation, however, did not soften the wrath of the complainant who insisted on his "pound of flesh." The case directed attention to the existence of a state law that was overcharged with penalties; under the ancient act the debtor could be sent to jail indefinitely /^{even for his wife's debts} unless his debts were paid. It was originally enacted to prevent debtors from running away - out of the small state - to avoid paying their debts.

Titus who was without ready cash and without friends he could appeal to consequently found his going to New Castle jail seemed assured. Fortunately, however, the creditor eventually relented and the divorced husband of the popular idol of musical comedy was released on his own recognizance and the suing claimant undoubtedly felt that he was sufficiently revenged for the affront - not for the money advanced to enable Alice Oates to get out of town and shift to the next city when funds again ran low and the company was disbanded. The custom of advancing a stranded opera company to continue tours in the event of its being headed by a woman so handsome and chic as Alice Oates was not unusual. Money thus advanced usually was a total loss. In later days no such offensive laws were invoked when a man was unable to pay his creditors.

Personal recollections.

James B. Cheyney
March 21, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY
Anecdotes

Golf's Debut in Wilmington

The ancient and honorable game of golf made its informal debut in Wilmington under the sponsorship of J. Danforth Bush, (subsequently Lieutenant Governor of Delaware) who had been traveling in Europe and had stopped in Scotland to witness the game at St. Andrews. He became so enamored of the sport that he brought a set of clubs, probably not exceeding five or six in number, home with him. Hailed as a man of sound understanding, his friends were led to doubt the stability of his mental processes, as he "chased little white pills over the terrain" facing the Kennett Pike where eventually he established three or four holes. With friends, likewise affected by the contagion, he practiced with drivers and putters in order to acquire skill in "holing." The date of Mr. Bush's venture is not recorded, but it is fixed at approximately the first years of the 80-90 decade of the last century.

Soon after, however, golf outlived the original derision it had created and there was every indication among prominent citizens that the hostility had been transformed into real admiration. It was soon recognized as the sport that met every hygenic need of the busy man or woman.

Mr. Bush and a few enthusiastic companions went still further and laid out a nine-hole course facing Lancaster Pike at Clayton Street (on the tract bounded by Rodney, Clayton, Oak and Cedar Streets). From this point, the fever spread and the Delaware Field Club, the successor of the Young America

Cricket Club and of the Delaware Cricket Club, heartened by the insistence of members and laid out a course adjacent to its grounds at Elsmere. The land was obtained by rental through a realty company. The first hole was on the club grounds and the other eight scattered among the houses just erected on the tract. It was long recalled that the eighth hole provoked so much "off side" complaint by reason of the difficulties presented, that it was regarded as a hindrance to the growing popularity of the game.

In addition to other besetments, the streets of the land company were embedded in slag that had been freighted down from Coatesville, Pa., and made walking anything but a pleasant diversion. It, however, continued thus until 1901 when the members became insistent for more and better links and the Delaware Field Club resolved itself into the Wilmington Country Club.

After wide-range hunting for larger available grounds, the present site of the Wilmington Country Club was finally selected and approximately 190 acres were leased for a term of years. Here was laid out a nine hole course under the engineering of Henry L. Tatnall, Jr. but before its completion and readiness, the members demanded greater speed in the building, and a second nine-hole course was begun and completed in a short time. To further the interests of members, a professional golfer was established at the club and taught the neophytes how to shoot.

The golf infection spread and spread and within a comparatively short time the two nine-hole links were expanded

into 18 holes, and through constant betterment, the course is rated high in the world of golf.

The first games were played on the Country Club links in 1902 or 1903, since which time it has held annual and semi-annual contests which engage the star men and women amateur golfers of the neighboring states. Courts for tennis players also attract many of the outstanding wielders of the racquet of the Eastern and Middle States.

The early irresistible yen for the Scottish game brought forth nine-hole courses on the farm of General J. H. Wilson, "Stockridge," and Henry P. Scott set aside a tract at Lexington, his country estate near Delaware City for nine holes. Henry Haskell and Charles Copeland laid out links of five or six holes on their estates adjacent to Wilmington. Private courses, however, lacked the social interest of country clubs and the galleries that assembled when skilled shooters were playing.

Subsequently, Pierre S. du Pont laid out nine holes on his Longwood Gardens estate near Hammorton, Pa., while the 18-hole course of Henry B. du Pont on his great estate is reputed to be the finest individually owned link in this country. Mr. du Pont's entertainments for golfing guests are proverbial for sumptuousness. (These annual or semi-annual gatherings bring together more perhaps than a hundred players who enjoy the hospitality of the great chateau of "Guyencourt" with its ^{scores of} ~~more than half a hundred~~ guest suites.)

Since the establishment of the Wilmington Country Club and its golf links,^a similar club has been established on the North side of the Brandywine, and is known by the name of its donors - the du Pont Country Club. Its original nine holes

have been expanded into eighteen while the public municipal course, Rock Manor, on the grounds adjacent to the Porter Reservoir, known as the Municipal Golf and Tennis Club, offers accommodations for several hundred players especially on Sundays.

Country Clubs, making a specialty of golf have been of recent years organized at Dover, Rehoboth, Newark, Kennett Square, West Chester, Painter's Cross Roads (Concord Country Club), Spring Haven, Penna., whose members not infrequently meet with golfers of Wilmington on one another's links.

So securely and deeply has the Scotch game dug in with Delaware players and those of the entire country, that it is supposed it will never fade as an intriguing diversion. Golf, according to historians, came to Scotland from the Dutch countries more than four centuries ago, and such a reliable authority as General J. E. Smith, is responsible for the statement to the writer that its antecedent is referred to in biblical history.

The game has been very materially refined in the last half century and from the four or five clubs that Danforth Bush brought to Wilmington, the complete complement comprises nineteen. Instead of the earlier ball of chicken feathers, enclosed in a leather cover and sewn, the hardest of gutta percha is required to withstand the blows of drivers, mashies, mid-irons, brassies, putters and others of the golf family.

The Scotch royal game has completely eclipsed the English cricket in this entire country and the "cuss words" usually employed by drivers over abortive shots may be heard in every New and Old World language.

While golf was played in Scotland prior to 1592 ~~when~~ the Edinburgh Town Council forbade the play on Sundays. British

Sabbath desecration.
 Parliament in 1457 also protested against its ~~abuse~~. It was centuries crossing the Atlantic Ocean and not until 1894 that four clubs organized the U.S. Golf Association. In 1936, 42 years later, there were 200 golfing clubs in the United States with a membership of 750,000.

The Scotch game has also reduced the acreage of lands devoted to agriculture very largely and consequently lessened the glut of almost all kinds of food stuffs in American markets. It has also provided employment for thousands of "caddies" - boys to mark down the golf ball, and carry the clubs and experienced to know which of the clubs is required to meet the "lay" of the ball.

James B. Cheyney
March 4, 1940

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Anecdotes

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Encyclopaedia File

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Professor Hermann, the Mystic Star

During the decade of the eighties, "Professor" Alexandree Hermann, internationally known as the King of leger-de-main, frequently appeared on the Grand Opera House stage and mystified the spectators with his performances. On his last visit here he exhibited a magnificent double-barreled gun that had been presented to him by the ~~xxxx~~ Czar of Russia. Told that there was fine duck shooting on the Susquehanna flats, he gladly accepted an invitation to try out his gift on the difficult wild fowl. Leaving Wilmington after the evening performance, he landed with three other Wilmingtonians at Havre de Grace, where he was taken aboard a sloop which sailed down the bay to choice ducking haunts. After he had demonstrated his unerring aim and the marvellous shooting qualities of his fowling piece, the sink boy from which he shot was overwhelmed by heavy breakers and the magician tumbled into the cold November water. He was hastily rescued and taken aboard the sloop where he stripped off his wet clothing and hung it to dry in the craft's rigging.

Not keeping trace of the flight of time, he discovered at four p.m. that he must be off instantly to take the train back to Wilmington in time for an evening performance. Rushing for his clothing, he found it frozen stiff as sheet iron, and was obliged to don some of the discards of the captain and crew of the sloop. These were topped by a new silk hat and an overcoat of Alaska seal, while his feet were encased in high rubber boots of ancient vintage. Arriving at the Clayton House, a Wilmington hotel, his wife at first refused him admission fearing that a robber was hunting her diamonds.

After the performance he invited two or three friends to the restaurant of Joseph Fullmer, almost adjoining the hotel, where the proprietor had cooked the canvasback ducks and set the table to be worthy of the guest and the menu. Two star waiters were detailed to serve the party, but as "Professor" Hermann entered, their eyes denoted dread or fear and when the "Professor" took the dishes one by one and made them disappear by tossing them up, the Negroes turned almost pale and bolted downstairs. One sought escape so eagerly that he fell part of the downward leap and was taken to the hospital. When the "Professor" had returned the missing tableware, Mr. and Mrs. Fullmer were obliged to serve the party. No other man on the service staff had the courage to venture into the second floor dining room that night or even next day.

During the dinner, one of the guests admired a gem studded ring on the mystery man's finger and was told to take it off and keep it as a gift. Unable to resist the temptation, however, he found the ring had disappeared while all eyes were upon it.

At times during his week of his professional visits to Wilmington the "Professor" found diversion and publicity by going to the King Street curb market and buying eggs which he broke as the sellers watched, and extracted five or ten dollar gold pieces. A live goose yielded a double Eagle which suggested that the farmer-owner examine the rest of the flock at home and extract the golden treasure from their crops, (The sleight-of-hand "Professor" however, overtook the farmer and spared the home flock from an untimely end.)

[Harry Keller, another magician of the eighties, likewise found much profitable publicity in his mystery tricks on the

farmers in King Street Market until eventually he became known, after exhibiting in Wilmington a number of years in the eighties. He brought to humility a skeptic who thought that he had fathomed the mystery of the disappearing watch. One such timepiece, Keller would borrow from an auditor and shoot it out of a huge pistol, and later take it out of the pocket of some one on the stage. An eager investigator sought to expose the performer and intimated that the watch shot into the air was not the same one as borrowed from and returned to the lender. Keller invited him to come on the stage and "see how it is done." He selected the watch of another of the audience and had the suspecting, auditor shoot it from the pistol. As the watch did not immediately reappear, there was much speculation which, however, ended when the prying gentleman turned and revealed the gold timepiece pinned tightly on the back of his coat. There was a little hasty and wrong thinking until Keller had explained how he had fastened the watch where it was found. It removed all suspicion that the "wise" investigator was not guilty of an attempt to possess the timepiece permanently.

Follow last p

Personal recollections of writer, J.B.C.

[Lulu Hurst, also known as the "Georgian Wonder," had Wilmington by the ears, figuratively speaking, in 1888 when she came here and gave public exhibitions of her "marvellous" strength before crowds in the Opera House - including business men and industrialists - and mystified every beholder. The so-called "unsophisticated" young woman, for example, would have two men grasp a billiard cue and by simply laying her hand on the wooden shaft it would bound out of their grip and onto the floor. The auditors also were amazed when she invited one of the weightiest of Wilmington industrialists to sit on a chair and had another heavyweight "prober" seated on his lap or knees. By gently touching the chair back both men were raised several inches and then dropped. The strength requisite for the feat broke the chair and the courage of the two investigators to further effort to expose the trick of the Southern girl, whose manner and attire suggested that she was of the "cracker" class. [During a subsequent exhibition by Miss Hurst in New York, the secret of her power was made public by an artist who explained that the "Wonder" simply applied the power of lever and fulcrum and repeated the act, but she ~~continued~~ continued her "trick" until she had acquired a fine Southern estate and married her astute manager. A writer reviewing her performances declared "it is a phenomenon of stupidity how willingly people will be fooled and with what cheerful asininity they will help on their deceivers." The "Georgian" was the talk of the country during the latter decade of the eighteen eighties, even after her trick had lost its wonder.

James B. Cheyney
March 14, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY ²⁴⁰
Anecdotes

OK JBC
International Romance
OR
An Offside Marriage

Encyclopaedia File

The marriage of Maurice du Pont to "Tottie" Fitzgerald, when a barmaid at The Queen's Hotel, Queenstown, England, was the preeminent social surprise and sensation of the last year of the preceding century. This son of Irene du Pont and brother of the late A. I. du Pont, after finishing at college started on a world tour accompanied by a brother and an aunt and her two or three daughters. They debarked at Queenstown, where passengers and tourists were relayed to other vessels or forwarded to London. At the end of two weeks, Maurice informed his party, all ready to depart for the continent, that he would remain at Queenstown, as he had no desire to see any more of the Old World than he had already visited. The rest of the party after waiting ten days, proceeded on their journey leaving the handsome and wealthy cavalier at Queenstown -- as he desired. He passed his time fishing, sketching, and photographing, but mainly before the Queen's bar where the pretty, vivacious Irish girls served liquors to the patrons of the "pub" - especially to sailors and passengers of steamers calling at the port.

Obviously they all held "Tottie" in high esteem. They all regarded the beauty from Cork as a young woman who strictly observed the social proprieties, and who endeavored to make the hotel worthy of the patronage of the many wealthy Americans who came ashore for a draught of bitter beer or English ale. When not engaged in serving patrons, she found time to enjoy smart little chats with the young collegian from the States. His almost constant attendance on the barmaid soon attracted

interest and the attention of her friends in Queenstown and they smiled their approval on the young millionaire American scion of the house of du Pont known throughout the world even half a century ago.

"Tottie" had achieved a reputation as a Irish beauty while serving at a Cork bar and the patrons drank her health and emphasized that she had been well born. P. Fitzgerald, of Ichimore, Brosna County, Kerry,^{was} a one time landed proprietor, who when misfortunes swept away his wealth, was obliged to assent to Margaret "Tottie" accepting a position behind a bar and thus assist her father in the effort to regain his losses.

It soon became evident that "Tottie" was in love with the handsome youth from overseas. He sat about the Queen's Hotel almost constantly and joined the barmaid when she was at leisure. The community came to emphasize the fervor of the attachment, but were a trifle skeptical about the sincerity of Maurice's demonstrations of affection. On his sweetheart's afternoons out they drove about the country in an Irish car, going early in their ramblings to Blarney Castle where they kissed the famous stone that traditionally imparts a sweetness and constancy to all who touch it with their lips. The two drove almost everywhere in their typical Irish pleasure car until everyone wondered if the youthful millionaire was sincere in his attentions to the Queen's barmaid. They perceived that "Tottie" was deeply in love with her rich and devoted suitor, and they congratulated each other on the circumstance that such a wedding would place "Tottie" again in the economic social circles where she belonged.

On August 15, 1889, Maurice took his barmaid sweetheart to the Queenstown regatta, a socially swell function, and as her aunt accompanied them the occurrence warranted the reports that the rich American was earnest in his courtship. There was some further doubt, however, regarding the suitor's return to this country when he sailed nine days later for New York and proceeded to Wilmington and informed his family of his intention of marrying Margaret Fitzgerald, the most beautiful girl in all Ireland, and not forgetting to add that she was barmaid at the Queenstown Hotel that appealed especially to American tourists. Also that she was of a fine old Irish family and educated in a convent.

After informing his family of his intentions ~~and gaining~~ ~~their assent~~, he quickly returned to his waiting sweetheart who had quit the hotel and gone to live with her aunt in Dublin. There he hastened and outfitted her with a costly trousseau and made her rich gifts, perhaps beyond the beauty and cost of anything she had of late dreamed of possessing.

The bride, being a Roman Catholic, was granted a dispensation in order to marry Maurice du Pont. She was twenty-two at the time. After the marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice du Pont went to Switzerland where reports declared the bride was schooled in the usages of polite society, and after a brief period of instruction, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice du Pont came to Wilmington where they were cordially welcomed by most of the members of the exclusive, wealthy clan.

The du Ponts had planned a family reception for the same evening of their arrival here but a series of powder mill

explosions wrecked a large section of the company's plant with the loss of several ~~of the~~ lives of workers, ~~the~~ ~~the~~ and in consequence, the welcoming fete was postponed until a more fortuitous time and the couple made their home with the father of the bridegroom in Breck's Lane. The former barmaid was reported to have noted a disinclination to receive her as a member of ^{Irish} her distinguished aristocratic/family, and Mr. Maurice du Pont was transferred to the headship of an executive post in the du Pont Company's business on the Pacific coast.

Those who met the Irish beauty in Wilmington, or had seen her riding a fine saddle horse, in Delaware Avenue were convinced that the commendation of Queenstown neighbors and friends regarding her beauty and her life among them was fully well founded and that she was a highly bred young woman forced through circumstances to turn to what Americans regarded as menial, ^{rebuild} compromising work to support herself and her father's fortune.

Eventually, Mr. du Pont retired from active business and he and his Irish wife made their home in New York. She is scarcely known here except to the E. I. du Pont branch of the family. They were on terms of brotherhood with the late Alfred I. du Pont, who added materially to wealth in the distribution of his enormous estate.

The du Pont-Fitzgerald marriage was only superceded in general interest and amazing sensational conditions by one other of the same family in the social history of Wilmington.

Every Evening, November 4, 1889.

James B. Cheyney
March 4, 1940

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Judges Meet the Chorines

Escorting the Delaware judiciary behind the scenes - back stage - during the intermission of a musical comedy performance revealed that the dignity of the Court unbends when outside the seat of justice, It is recalled that the head of the court was a handsome gentleman of the old school whose grave face belied the fact that he liked such little excursions into new experiences.

One evening a newspaper writer who reported courts invited Chief Justice Joseph P. Comegys to go to the Grand Opera House, and also asked Associate Justices, John W. Houston and Edward W. Wootten to accompany him, and all occupied the manager's box which connected with the stage.

While the honorable court seemingly enjoyed the singing and dancing, they promptly assented ^{to} the invitation to explore the mysteries back of the curtain. As the party proceeded back stage, they found the merry chorus girls playing leap frog or something of the "jumpy" kind, but seeing the dignified gentlemen ~~of the old school~~ in their domain, they halted and directed their efforts to the entertainment of the visitors.

The dignified Chief Justice appeared to appeal more strongly to the youthful maidens who danced about him and did some of their high kicking. (It should be remembered that in the eighties the chorines and dancers were always clad in silk tights.) One pulled at the coat tail of the Chief Justice and even sought to tickle him under the chin, but his height spared him that embarrassment, and when the bell sounded all take their places for the third act, the hosts assured the guests

that they were glad to have had the opportunity to joke with such distinguished gentlemen back stage.

The host of the party was assured that the Chief Justice had enjoyed his little peep into the other world that he never before had seen. He expressed the desire to see the stage set for a drama and meet some of the notable players. This wish also was gratified. Perhaps the kernel of the incident is found in the way the justices took it. That is to say, that while their experiences were embarrassing they did not disclose that they were ruffled in the least.

Personal recollections, J.B.C.

James B. Cheyney
June 26, 1940

Encyclopedia File
NEWSPAPER HISTORY

Poisoning
Anecdotes

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MODERN BORGIA POISONS DOVER FAMILY

The ^{poisoning} ~~murder~~ of Mrs. John P. Dunning and Mrs. Joshua Deane, daughters of Hon. John Pennington of Dover, former member of Congress from Delaware, held the front pages of American and European newspapers for many days in August, 1898 and again later when the discarded inamorata of the former's husband was twice brought to trial in San Francisco within a few months of the tragedy.

Determined no doubt to remove the wife of the man to whom she lavished her illegitimate affections, Mrs. Cordelia Bodkin, a beautiful California woman known at the time as the "tailor made woman" and a mirror of fashions, married and the mother of a well-grown son (also known as a woman who bestowed her amorous favors beyond her own family circle) met John P. Dunning, a handsome, youthful correspondent of the Associated Press (news service), a former Wilmington newspaper reporter and - in the last years of the nineties - assigned to California where there was a likelihood of important news happenings.

Dunning was riding on his bicycle in a San Francisco park and while patching a tire the enchantress, faultlessly attired, purposely strolled by and stopped to inquire of the handsome wheelman if she could be of any service in aiding him to patch the "bike." That was the beginning of an acquaintance that almost landed both on the gallows.

With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Dunning was advanced in the news service and assigned to Porto Rico

Encyclopaedia File

to report the fighting and incidents of the strife. He came directly from San Francisco to Dover where his wife and young daughter were living in the family of her father. After a few days there he hurried on to Porto Rico and it was reported that his brief visit to his family quite aroused his consciousness to a realization of his moral shortcomings and disregard of his duty to his wife and daughter. Consequently soon after reaching his new post he wrote to Mrs. Bodkin: "The war will soon be over and I am going back to my wife and child. I will ask you to write me no more, but to forget that you ever knew me."

Following the receipt of the "quit" letter, one evening in August 1898, Mrs. Dunning, her sister and daughter were sitting in the shade of the front porch of her father's house on Dover's main street when a brother returned from the post-office with a beribboned box that was securely packed and bore the post mark "San Francisco." It was addressed to Mrs. John P. Dunning, and after a few minutes wondering who had sent the gift, the box was opened and on top of the cream chocolates was a pretty little handkerchief, bearing a name card signed with the initials of a San Francisco woman who Mrs. Dunning had known intimately when she formerly lived there with her husband. Otherwise the box was filled with the chocolate candies and these were passed to the friends who had paused at the Pennington porch and exchanged local gossip with the daughters of the former Congressman. The mystery of the gift seemingly was explained by the note and handkerchief and there was general approval of the courteous gift supposedly from the lady's name on the card. The box was passed among

the party and all but one of the group ate one or more of the candies. He was the son of the Pennington household.

After the few callers had withdrawn and gone home to bed, they were seized suddenly with a violent illness and hurry calls were made for Dover doctors. Not suspecting what later was learned as the real cause of the patients' violent sufferings, the doctors diagnosed the illness to be due to eating too much fruit, some of which might not have been ripe.

The deaths, within the next day or two, of Mrs. Dunning and Mrs. Deane brought a coroner and postmortem examination which revealed the cause of death to have been poison. The young daughter of the former who had eaten freely of the chocolates suffered terribly for several days, but finally recovered.

An examination of the remaining candy in the box showed that the top sections of the chocolate had been lifted with a knife, part of the cream extracted and the space filled with arsenic. The substitution had been very deftly accomplished and was not seen except through careful inspection. All these revelations were confirmed by the circumstance that young Pennington, who had declined to eat any of the candy, was the only member of the group on the porch to escape the illness that brought such terrible suffering to all the others.

Dunning, at the Spanish-American War front, was notified of the death of his wife and illness of their daughter by telegraph and immediately returned to Dover. He carefully scrutinized the writing on the box and the chirography on the handkerchief card and immediately declared that Mrs.

Bodkin was guilty of the crime which might have claimed half a score of Dover victims. A Wilmington detective was called to solve the mystery and at once, through the manufacturers of the candy box and the San Francisco store dealing in chocolate, the bungling murderous courtesan was immediately arrested and in her belongings were found the additional evidence that fastened the crime upon her own insane jealousy and her determination that she would destroy all rivalry for the love of her handsome newspaper man and lover.

California has or had always decided that a murder planned or originated in that state should be tried in her courts. The ruling/cost ^{and trial} the state more perhaps than \$30,000 for the fares of a carload of witnesses and friends of officials who liked the experience of a free trip to the Pacific coast and availed themselves, on one or another pretext, of the opportunity - plus accommodations at leading San Francisco hotels. The trial, a few months after the tragedy, convicted Mrs. Bodkin on an indictment that brought a life sentence in jail. The court, however, granted a new trial on some slight technical ground and free transportation, etc. almost filled a car again with witnesses and Delawareans out to enjoy the generous hospitality of California. The same testimony and the same indictment brought the same result - a life time sentence in prison.

Upon the announcement of the sentence, Mrs. Bodkin broke forth into the wildest paroxysms of shouting and cursing until she was forcibly removed from court on a stretcher. It was recalled by witnesses from Delaware that neither the prisoner's

husband nor son had appeared in court nor saw her during the trials. Neither had visited her during her imprisonment, which was brief as she died a few months after her second trial.

Even the atmosphere of the penitentiary or the fact that she would pass her life in a cell failed to steady her vanity nor to suppress her assurance that her luring influence over men was overwhelming. Frequently while she was behind bars, the penitentiary's top personnel and legal officials engaged in hand and fist encounters to establish their amorous preference in her favor.

Dunning's involvement with the courtesan brought his career to an early end. He, however, had won world-wide praise for a brilliantly graphic article published under his name in which he described the disastrous tidal wave in Samoa which wrecked warships and drowned scores of sailors in the harbor at Apia.

Perhaps the brilliant and youthful journalist may have realized that he and his beautiful inamorata were spared from the gallows by the note he had written from Porto Rico in which he told the "siren" that he would never see her again; to forget him. The woman had preserved the missive and it was recovered when she was arrested. The fact that he had written that he would never see her again cleared him from any complicity in the death of his wife and at the same time it had the indirect influence on the jurors in regarding him as ~~partially~~ ^{in no way} responsible for the crime. ~~But such was one of those indefinable mental operations that brings criticism to the American jury system.~~

James B. Cheyney
April 12, 1940

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WILMINGTON'S ARTISTS - TONSORIAL

None of the minor industries of Wilmington has experienced so nearly a complete metamorphosis as the barber and his shop or "parlor." The invention and utilization of the safety razor was a solar plexus blow to the "voluble artists" and atop of that "slap down" of the business came the mechanization of the entire process of enhancing the facial beauty of the male population.

In earlier days before the arrival of the "safeties," there were upwards of two hundred barber shops in Wilmington, while in every town and many of the cross road communities were tonsorial artists ready, waiting, and anxious to cut your hair, or shave the bearded stubble from the face.

The latter, however, confined their services chiefly to removing surplus hair from the touseled head of neighborhood folk. There was always in every community, however small in population, one individual who kept sharp shears and often spent the greater part of succeeding Summer Sundays shearing his neighbors out under a tree. His compensation was largely in verbal thanks, which often was overpayment for all except the willingness to perform neighborly service.

The original barbers of Wilmington and other cities maintained leeches which they applied to the blackened eyes of patrons (a sort of holdover reminder) or extracted blood from victims of abnormal pressure. They also bled patients and generally administered to them as a sort of sub-doctor. This feature of the business long ago faded out and the barber stuck to his razors and shears.

in fact).

There were innumerable reflecting mirrors before which men posed with feminine vanity to learn if the hair cuts had added to the facial "looks." A deep wash bowl, usually in the rear of the shop, was utilized to complete the process of shampooing when^{ce} the patron hastened with tightly closed eyes to keep out the foaming soapy cleanser. He sat on a stool while the barber washed his head and finally wrung out the masses of hair and rubbed it with towels until it had dried.

The men also retailed the gossip of the community, and there being only apologies for Sunday newspapers in those times, they took home with them all the city and neighborhood Saturday news. If the barber shop delay was more prolonged than usual and the waiting customer's wife was not entirely trustful of her other half, it was the custom to carry home "half a dozen frys and crackers with pickles" for the patient helpmate which allayed all incipient suspicion, especially if the oysters were fried as well as mother used to fry them. Perhaps with the waits on Saturday nights and those of the midweek shaves, one whole evening was spent weekly with the barber.

The barber was affable, genial and above all voluble. He was dressed well and wore a long white fender against dust and dirt getting into his clothes. Often he carried the comb he used on patrons tangled safely in his own hair where it was convenient (that of course was long before the days of the stern antiseptics).

Late in the afternoon he would have learned all the news of the city and community - the deaths, births, fires, and scandals - and this he did not hesitate to pour into the ears of his belathered victims. After the shaving or hair cutting, he would insist mildly that for five or ten cents extra he would apply a tonic to the head that would restore baldness or prevent it. Likewise the patron was told that bay rum, lavender, or violet waters on the face would impart a beauty touch and perfume to his phiz. After paying for the service, with its extra tonics and scented waters, a Negro lad with a whisp broom finished the visit by carefully brushing all dust from the man's attire. Then a "tip" to the boy, and exit.

Came the safety razor twenty years ago and the waiting Saturday night jams no longer assembled. The patrons shave themselves but come for beautification, hair cuts and such valeting. Their cost is scarcely less, if not greater, than in the older times when not one man in ten could use an open bladed razor without cutting his cuticle. Instead of the vocal entertainment of the barbers, a radio features a football or baseball game, or you may listen to Grand Opera while shorn of excess hair. Everything utilized is sterilized and kept in super-heated containers against the possibility of contagion or infection. Lather comes in tubes ready for application, and hair brushes and combs are kept in sterilizers instead of in the barber's hair.

But the modern developments have deprived the shops of their old time atmosphere. The radio has supplanted the tonsorial artist's persistent talking, increased the dignity of the calling, and silenced the old time glees when barbers and the patrons got in huddles and sang some of the old, old melodies with discords

that one recalls as terrible. They seemingly favored the sentimental ballads like Stephen Foster's "Down on the Swanee River," "Shine Silvery Moon," "My Gypsey Sweetheart," "Down by the Old Mill Stream," and later the popular compositions that they learned through musical performance.

In earlier times a barber began his career as a shop boy, and after long apprenticeship and watching the methods of his superiors, he made the grade and was assigned a chair to which were directed the less desirable of customers on whom he worked until he finally became a "jour" (journeyman). Now the aspirants for tonsorial artistry reach the same goal (in the cities) after a few weeks tuition in barber schools.

Originally colored men were held in high regard as barbers, but they side-stepped the calling since the turning of the last century, except in shops maintained for the accommodation of their own race. In the Slavery Days the black male house servant functioned well as barber and valet. The Negro, it may be said, was literally crowded out of the trade in cities through more sumptuous shops (or parlors) than they could maintain, and their places have been filled largely by thrifty sons of Southern Europe, now naturalized American citizens.

Women barbers in vogue in "sporty" barber shops many years ago never took well to shaving, hair cutting, or whisker trimming. Two or three served for a time in a Wilmington shop but turned their attention to the beautification of their "sisters." In 1938, sixty were licensed and recorded as heads of beauty parlors in Wilmington alone, while the barbers listed for the same year numbered 160.

A Wilmington barber in the last decades of the past century and the early years of the present, eliminated the dislike of children to submitting to sitting in a stiff barber chair while having their locks shorn. He fitted up a section of his shop as a child's playroom and filled it with interesting toys, pictures, and games and youngsters with their mothers or nurses wore a path to his door. The shop was their ideal of the staging of a happy visit, if they were obliged to wait long for their turn they did not complain.

James B. Cheyney
February 29, 1940

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Negro Enoch Arden in Reverse

The double romance of Sarah Elias of Wilmington and William Moore 87, and 27 years his wife's senior, is recorded in an old scrapbook noting that the couple were remarried in Wilmington in June 1888. The black bridegroom was born a slave on the plantation of Bennett Taylor, Bullskin stream, Jefferson County, Virginia, in 1801. Just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Moore came north with the daughter of his owner who became the wife of Moncure Robinson, of Philadelphia. Moore, who had previously married, was separated from his wife, who later was sold "down the river." Her husband after trying in vain to get word of her or of her fate concluded that she was dead and married Sarah Elias who entered upon an agreement that in the event of the first wife returning she would waive all rights to her husband, William Moore, "His affections, companionship and support." [It was not regarded as even possible that the first Mrs. Moore would ever be heard of again, until soon after the marriage a letter from her to her husband declared her intention of coming to him as soon as possible. Faithful to her promise Sarah Elias stepped aside, upon the arrival of wife No. 1 at the Moore home in West Chester, Pa., and returned to her former home in her native city, Wilmington. Almost a quarter of a century later the first wife died and the venerable widower renewed his attentions to his second wife, and Sarah Elias soon became the bride of the aged William Moore for the second time. She returned to her former home in West Chester where she had gone as a bride and the couple lived there together happily, the scrapbook says, for the rest of their days.

James B. Cheyney
March 18, 1940

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Encyclopaedia File

Many-Sided Editorial Genius

The many-sided George W. Humphrey was the most picturesque editor that ever penned an article on tariff, the Celestial Heavens, or reported a whipping at the New Castle post. He was known as "Judge" Humphrey to everyone except his immediate family. Tall, sturdy even brawny, with huge cranium, grey moustache and hair "billowed" on the top of his head by his hands which he ran through it at intervals as if aiding him in thinking or fortifying his wonderful memory. The "Judge" began life as a clerk in a small store and later served as a member of a whaling crew and again as a frontiersman of the far West. Coming to Wilmington before middle life, he tended a grocery store and at intervals when not delivering purchases to customers, he studied stenography, a system that (in the seventies) was as difficult to master as three or four European languages.

He occasionally wrote for the "Every Evening," a newspaper of prominence (1876-1933) and eventually was engaged as city editor of that paper. His work arrested the attention of the public as it had a quality that bespoke the writer to be well informed on whatever topic he aimed with his pen. As a legislative correspondent, he became known to every Delawarean and his printed articles were not infrequently utilized to check up on the accuracy of the Journal of House and Senate.

In the eighties "Judge" Humphrey was shifted to the editorship of the "Every Evening" and it was perhaps in that post that he won his reputation as a journalist. "Protective

Tariff" or "Tariff for Revenue Only" were the paramount political issues of those times. Being a Democrat and "Every Evening" being independent-Democratic, "Judge" Humphrey's editorials on the latter side of the question attracted widespread interest and were quoted by metropolitan newspapers because of their compelling interest and thorough understanding of the issue, a lack of which confused many of the outstanding writers. Arrayed against him was the editor of a rival Wilmington newspaper, a graduate of Yale, and a former editorial writer on the staff of the leading cosmopolitan newspaper. The "Judge" ~~consistently~~ "out batted" his rival at every "settoo" until the latter turned his back on editorial newspaper debate.

Through self study and observation, the "Judge" acquired a knowledge of astronomy that won him high standing in the science. He built a tower on his house and there erected a telescope of his own manufacture (except the lens) and his articles on the heavens and their portent brought him additional commendation for his self-acquired scholarship.

In addition to his achievements "Judge's" habits or custom of regularity in his daily routine were in the foreground. He reached the newspaper office precisely on the stroke of eight o'clock after a mile walk from his home. Precisely at noon he left his desk and sprinted home for dinner and unfailingly returned as the clock tolled one.

Notwithstanding his numerous other undertakings, he studied German and Volapuk (an artificial language for international uses) in what he might have called his leisure, in preparation for a long anticipated trip to Oberammergua,

Bavaria, where he eventually realized his great desire to witness the "Passion Play" of the peasantry in the eighteenth ^{era.} eighties/ He had decided that he would make the tour for \$150 but his newspaper associates added \$10 to the budget. He purposely went steerage to ascertain at first hand if the lowly passage was quite what the liners advertised it to be. In those days complimentary passage to newspaper writers was not infrequent as "quid pro quo" for write ups, but the "Judge" declined such courtesies and obviously enjoyed the voyage and commended the steerage for its excellence - if not exclusiveness.

Arriving in Germany, Mr. Humphrey proceeded afoot (a la Bayard Taylor, with knapsack and staff) to the scene of the great religious drama. As he tramped along the main roads he stopped overnight at the homes of country families, and since he spoke German they were anxious listeners as he told of this wonderful land of ours -- America. Frequently they set back their retiring schedule to hear the wonders and prosperity of the new world and arose with ^{him} early and after a typical German breakfast he was on his way. All offers of pay for the supper, bed, and breakfast were refused by the hosts who regarded his talk with such interest that they invited neighbors in to share the wonderful story of the American who spoke German.

Not having made arrangements in advance for entertainment at the town of the great Decennial Dramatic Festival, he found every house filled and overflowing. He accidentally contacted ^{Antonio} Andrew Lang, the "Christus" of the cast who took the "Judge" into his own humble home and they slept in the same room for

almost a week. The star of the "Passion Play" would not accept any money from his guest, but handed the persevering American traveler a pretty gift as the latter started to retrace his steps homeward.

The "Judge" found the steerage so much to his liking and offering opportunity for his further study of German that he recrossed below decks as before.

His home-coming in the office was unmarked by any demonstration of welcome. The returned traveller came to his desk, as per old schedule, and took up his pen as though he had not crossed the Atlantic twice in six weeks and been the companion of the hereditary "Christus."

The "Judge" showed that he had made the round trip so well within the \$160, that he was able to buy and bring back gifts for his wife and three children.

Soon after the "Judge's" return his wife died and at fifty years, convinced that he would live to mark his one hundred and twentieth birthday, he remarried, gave up the editorial tripod to Merris Taylor, a worthy successor, and lured to Florida with its promises of restful and successful opportunities in orange growing. He invested in an orchard but during his second winter came blighting cold weather that destroyed his trees. His own fatal illness soon followed and he passed on. His ashes rest near Orlanda, Florida. Plans to have them returned to the Delaware that he loved and served so well were necessarily abandoned as there was no marker to the burial spot of the versatile "Judge" George W. Humphrey.

Personal Recollections

James B. Cheyney
March 4, 1940

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Sam Townsend, of Townsend, Delaware, a man of strong personality and substance, outspoken, large property owner, who swore hectically without being profane, used to tell how he staved off defeat in a debate on War and Peace. He told that his antagonist from "Down East" had the best of the argument in a Dover barroom and in citing influences for peace, he referred to the mothers of Greece who sacrificed their sons in battle rather than have them "show the white feather." The crowd warmed to the visitor and his Greek examples of heroic mothers.

Mr. Townsend afterwards explained, "I looked into the faces of the crowd and saw that they were carried away with the heroic talk of the ----- Yankee speaker and I knew that unless I made a strong immediate reply the argument was lost to me. After a minute of hard, fast thinking, I threw up both arms explaining in loud voice: 'I'm done! I'm done, when a man goes to compare modest American women with those damned stark naked Greek women, I'm done!' The crowd cheered me, and the Yankee left the barroom as the hearers hooted after him."

Delaware and the Eastern Shore, Edward N. Vallandigham, 1 vol.
p. 262. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia and London.

C. G. Thompson
December 16, 1938

CURRENT FILE

State Superstitions, Customs, Traditions, and Legends.
(SECTION "A")

- | Title | Length | Writer |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Game Cock Fighting in Delaware | 5 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>The sport of cockfighting, a carryover from England, was engaged in by the soldiers under General Washington to relieve the long nights of idleness. The Delaware soldiers had a strain known as the "Blue Hen's Chickens" that was very successful. Through this, the men of Delaware became known as "Blue Hen's Chickens."</p> | | |
| Add Friday Thirteenth | 4 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>The thirteenth day of the month, as well as Friday, is regarded as bad luck for any new adventure. In Delaware there are numerous tales of the evil that followed the breaking of this superstition. Ships were lost at sea when they started a cruise on Friday, hunters followed phantom foxes, persons were sentenced to be hanged on Friday.</p> | | |
| Muzzling Slanderers | 1 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>The presence of the "osier withe" in one's pockets prevented persons from gossiping about the carrier. A withe is a small flexible willow twig.</p> | | |
| Moving the Cat | 3 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>The cat, the symbol of spirits, was regarded with suspicion. It was necessary, therefore, to treat her differently from the rest of the animals. How that was done is disclosed in this story.</p> | | |
| Wishing of the First Star | 2 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>Upon seeing the first star in the evening one would repeat "Star, Star in heaven so bright; The first Star I've seen tonight" and make a wish. It was supposed to be granted.</p> | | |
| Lord Percy at Birmingham | 3 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>When Lord Percy came to fight for the British in the Revolution, his father entrusted a package to him, to be given to an Indian woman, should he meet her. He is killed in the battle of the Brandywine by a half-breed Indian, who later turns out to have been his half-brother. The half-breed, whose Indian mother Percy's father had lived with years before, returns at night to bury Lord Percy.</p> | | |
| Keeping Home Fires Burning | 2 pp. | Cheyney |
| <p>Without modern equipment, this was not an easy task, for matches were not in use. If one's fire went out, it meant going over miles of country roads to procure live coals or wood with which to start it over again.</p> | | |

OK
A. C. Thompson

Title	Length	Name
Playing Cards and Almanac	2 pp.	Cheyney
. A private soldier insisted on preaching in church, not by the Bible but by a deck of playing cards. He was arrested, the judge heard his sermon, and acquitted him.		
Early Funeral Customs	3 pp.	Cheyney
Funerals in the early days of the last century were accompanied by feasting and were regarded as semi-holidays for the neighbors and public in general.		
"Ripening" Wild Game		
The method of conditioning wild game before the day of refrigeration was brought from England and was in use for a number of years.		
Love's Divinations	2 pp.	Cheyney
How a maid's fortune was told by apples		
Clothes Do Make a Difference	2 pp.	Cheyney
Thomas Clayton, United States Senator, and Chief Justice of Delaware, had one vice - he would swear like a trooper. While visiting his friend Cowgill, a Quaker, a storm came up. Friend Cowgill loaned him his coat with one request: "While thee is wearing this coat I want thee to promise not to use profane language." Upon the return of the garment, Cowgill ask if he had kept his promise. "Sure I did," said Tom. "While I was wearing the coat I did not even have an inclination to swear, but I did have a damned hard time telling the truth."		
John M. Clayton's Terrapin.	2 pp.	Cheyney
Secretary of State under President Jackson, John M. Clayton won distinction with his Sunday night suppers when he served diamond back terrapin soup, of which the President frequently partook. Terrapin were so common they were appraised at one dollar a cart-load, and no slave was obliged to eat terrapin more often than once a week.		
John M. Clayton's Home Coming	1 pp.	Cheyney
When Clayton came home from Washington, he delighted in ox roasts, much dancing, and the playing of the violin by himself. The parties lasted till early morning.		
Rain from Cloudless Skies	2 pp.	Cheyney
On the King's Highway, near New Castle, stood a young oak tree, about 19 inches in diameter at its base, upon which rain had descended for fourteen consecutive days. In no other places in the same field or vicinity did it rain. There was no scientific explanation for it.		

- Delaware's Egyptian Lotus 2 pp. Cheyney
 Tradition says these lotus lilies in the St. Jones River were brought from the River Nile. However, they are also found growing in rivers of the south and west.
- Callithumpian Serenaders 3 pp. Cheyney
 The bride and groom are given a noisy reception by their neighbors with pots and pans and noise-making implements.
- Stereoscope Cupid's Early Aid 3 pp. Cheyney
 As an aid to love, the young folks would sit in the parlor and look the stereoscope pictures over.
- Prices Put On Delaware Wolf Scalps 2 pp. Cheyney
 Officials under the reign of George III offered a generous reward for killing wolves, which destroyed the live stock of the farmers along the Delaware Bay and the Christiana Creek.
- Witchcraft and Superstition 2 pp. Cheyney
 The supernatural "powers" of the Finns, early settlers on the Delaware, led them to be known as witches. They would read the Lord's Prayer backwards to avert heavy rainfalls.
- Peter Jacquett's Vision 2 pp. Cheyney
 Major Jacquett, Delaware soldier, became very sad, believing he was to be hanged. He had a peculiar dream, and found happiness thereby.
- Secretary Clayton's Bootless Ride 1 pp. Cheyney
 Clayton would ride about the State with his boots off, feet on the dashboard.
- Superstitions of the Finns and Swedes 1 pp. Cheyney
 A number of pet superstitions that were popular in 1654 with the Swedes and Finns in the New World are recounted.
- Bluebeard and Bull Frogs 2 pp. Cheyney
 The evil spirit of Bluebeard was supposed to inhabit the frogs, and Jack O'Lanterns guarded the caches of stolen treasure.
- One-Room Sussex School-house 8 pp. C. Ennis.
 Rogers School served a district which embraces a sparsely settled territory, four miles in length and three miles in breadth, in Sussex County. It was a building about 20 by 30 feet, with a door in one end of the building, three windows on either side, and housed about sixty pupils, ranging in age from five years to twenty-one. This deals with the conditions of early days.

- Sussex Treasure Hunts 3 pp. Bennett
 "Digging for money" was a hoax played in the rural sections of Sussex County. The party digging hoped to find a buried treasure, but what happened was just the reverse.
- The Notorious Patty Cannon 6 pp. Cheyney
 A modern Borgia, who killed and robbed her victims and sold them into slavery. Arrested and brought to trial, she escaped punishment by dying a natural death.
- Combatting Witchcraft 2 pp. Cheyney
 Superstition of the Swedes and Finns regarding Christmas, the birth of children, cows, and spilling of milk, brooms and witches, and the safeguarding of cattle.
- Friday "Jinx" Kicked Back 2 pp. Cheyney
 Isaac Harvey, a Wilmington shipping merchant, built a ship on Friday, called it Friday, and sailed it on Friday for the maiden voyage. Mrs. Harvey told her husband he was "flying in the face of fate," but being a man of determination, he went ahead. After leaving, the boat Friday was never seen again, or any of her crew.
- Legend of the Missing Teeth 8 pp. Burslem
 In addition to this legend, there is included those of A Procrastinating Presbyterian, A Revival Meeting, Christmas in Kent County Seventy Years ago, and One Shall Put a Multitude to Flight, a collection of legends of Kent County.
- The Poison Candy Case 10 pp. Cheyney
 This notorious case, in which two Dover women were poisoned by eating chocolates sent through the mail, is told in full.
- Sussex Superstitions 5 pp. Bennett
 In this group of superstitions are those that the birth of the new baby should be in a room of refined atmosphere; before teething a mole's foot was placed in a small bag and strung around the baby's neck; a baby should not be given a comb as a plaything or else he will stammer in after years; for the cure of chicken pox,, place the youngster in the chicken-house doorway for the chickens to fly over; burning the marrow from a hog's jaw bone was a sure cure for the mumps; burning a broom causes a wind storm; sneezing at the breakfast table is a sure sign of death; a crumb dropped from the mouth while at the table is a sure sign of the death of a relative.

Strange Beliefs 1 pp. Cheyney

The belief that one may bewitch another is pointed out in this article.

West Sussex 12 pp. Bennett

A collection of strange beliefs. Never wear a new hat out of the store; the crowing of a rooster near the home is a sure sign of a stranger's visit; the perching of a vulture on the roof or chimney of a home is a sign of death; the rattle of wheels, the creak of leather foretell funerals; hunters follow will-o'-the-wisps till exhausted, and suffer death; animal language; and other subjects.

Hulda the Witch Coon 2 pp. Cheyney

A grizzled raccoon for years roamed the streams of Brandywine Hundred, eluding all attempts at capture. She would attack dogs and escape, and was believed a witch.

Greased Pig Racing 2 pp. Cheyney

The pursuit of shoats, the captor taking the porker, was a sport in early Wilmington. How they were captured is told herein. The climbing of the Greased Pole is also explained.

Ground Hogs and Their Shadows 2 pp. Cheyney

The ground hog as a weather prophet. The superstition goes back to the early Romans, who in February celebrated the great festivals with expiation and purification. If Feb. 2 was clear, stormy weather was to follow; if cloudy, clear weather would follow. The ground hog legend was brought by immigrants from Southern Europe. The scientific name of the ground hog is arctomys Monax.

Child Chants 1 pp. Moor

"Fools and Children tell the truth."

Customs of the People of Delaware 3 pp. Allen

Moving Day in Delaware in rural districts is March 1. This has been made a State regulation. The people of Delaware are great lovers of sport, yachting, fishing, funning, golfing, swimming, hiking, and horseback riding.

Legend about the Delaware Indians 1 pp. Moor

The Lenni-Lenape were called "Grandfathers," and had traditions of having lived in the West before coming to Delaware.

Husking Bees 2 pp. Cheyney

The husking bees had their inception in garnering the crop of a neighboring farmer who, because of illness or other misfortunes, was unable to get his corn in the crib as winter approached. Today it is more of a lark in which the young people enjoy themselves.

Delaware and the Eastern Shore 4 pp. Burslem

A collection of legends under the titles of a Great Man in His Stocking Feet; (John Clayton). He could Not Be Shup Up, (The Story of a Negro); In The Absence Of The Chaplain, * (Sleeping Judges (Judges were appointed for life, and frequently outlived their usefulness); and The Judge Pays The Fine (The Judge who bought Corn Liquor, and how he paid the fine).

* (The Story of a Senator not being able to remember the Lord's Prayer)

William T. Smithers' Stories of Dover Green-14 pp. Burslem

William T. Smithers' stories include the following: A Sunday Dinner On The Green, A Wedding On The Green, Court Day On The Green, The Tavern On The Green, The Ghost By The Poplar Tree, Witches On The Green, A Tragedy On The Green, and A Bonfire On The Green.

Delaware's Distinctive Dialect 3 pp. Cheyney

The Delaware dialect may be traced back to Colonial days.

Hog's Jowl and Turnip Greens 2 pp. Cheyney

The jowl is the lower jaw of a pig, and the greens are the young sprouts of the turnips. It was once used by the hungry slaves, but today is a popular dish in Delaware.

Columbia, Sussex County and Community Dinners 5 pp. Bennett

The true spirit of brotherhood seems to thrive in Columbia, Sussex County. Each farmer is interested in his fellowman and his welfare. After the week's labor is finished, they gather on Sundays for dinners, and it is not unusual for 40 or 50 men, women, and children to dine at a friend's house. Each Sunday a different farm is visited, and dinner served.

Wilmington Grand
Folk Customs

J. Barton Cheyney,
November 16, 1936.

Folklore and Legends

Wilmington's First Umbrella

The display of the first rain screen in Wilmington aroused as much curious interest as later did the coming of the bicycle and quite as much ridicule was visited upon the heads of those who sought shelter under the green silk umbrella of cumbersome size and homely proportions. It was brought hither from the West Indies by Captain Bennett on one of his ships that traded between the Islands and Wilmington. So far back as 1770 umbrellas were only seen on rare occasions even in the large cities and one coming to Wilmington was viewed with great interest. Mrs. Bennett was the envy of the town when she brought forth her silk umbrella and, undeterred by rain or snow, walked to church or meeting without getting hat or cloak spoiled.

The Wilmington public was again treated to another subject for tea table talk when the second umbrellas were brought to Wilmington by the same vessel owners for Mrs. John Ferris and another for his son. The two new rain screens reawakened the curiosity and talk of how ridiculous were those great clumsy things, meant to "shed" moisture from the skies. The son admitted that he was almost too modest to appear on the streets when the weather brought the maternal umbrella from the cupboard. He felt that it made him too conspicuous for his Quaker upbringing and he invariably walked several steps ahead or behind his mother whenever she walked ^{went} aboard when the rain was falling.

Of his own umbrella he recalled that his school companions came to see the odd thing, but he exacted as a return courtesy that they handle the new contraption with great care and tenderness so that it might not be damaged. The children, of course, had never seen an umbrella

Page No.2
Folklore and Legends,
Wilmington's First Umbrella.

before, and they viewed it with curiosity, if not with envy. None of the other boys expressed a desire to possess a similar rain protector. The latter were brought here in 1787 or 1789, as their utility became recognized others followed, but it was four or five decades later before there was an umbrella in half the Wilmington homes. They were huge almost big enough for a family of four or five, and as ungainly as they were copious and useful.

REFERENCE: Harper's New Monthly Magazine for January, 1881.

Location - Wilmington

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney

Date - February 20, 1936

WILMINGTON'S TOWN CRIERS

The "crier" was an important personage in the organization of a town government in Wilmington as elsewhere in the last century and earlier. They were the forerunners of the daily newspapers and were looked to for all the happenings of a community, as well as outstanding events of the country in general. Authoritative records make clear the fact that they carried on even before Wilmington had dropped the early original title of Willington. There are no statements to the effect that one of the publicity men were on hand to announce the arrival of William and Hannah Shipley as they rode into the village from over Brandywine hills followed by their lares and penates possibly in rough carts. But the coming of the distinguished Quakers needed no "press agenting" for they were the very outstanding residents as soon as they established their home between the Christiana and Brandywine Creeks.

Just when the first town crier was chosen to preside over the humble bureau of local information, there seems to be no records earlier than 1773, when such an official is reported as assembling the councilmanic body for the enactment of serious administrative business---perhaps to regulate the use of paths along the sides of streets so that human pedestrians could hold right away over

pigs, cattle and honking geese. The town publicist in the early days seems to have combined many functions under the one official heading, for at the period mentioned, he looked after chimneys to safeguard the few homes against fire, and kept the town passably clean. He was supposed also to see to it that youths and their elders deport themselves to accord with eighteenth century standards of decorum. That was his most difficult task. He however, reported conditions to council, and it usually put his recommendations into action---ordinances.

John Thelwell is the first town crier of whom there is definite available record to show that the post was not without thorns. It is reported that John discovered a "farmerette" in the curb market selling twelve ounces of butter as a pound. He informed her that her print was just four ounces under weight, and was proceeding to confiscate all her offerings when she resented the challenge of her honesty by attacking him with a cube of butter, banging him in the eyes with the fatty missile. Before Thelwell regained his vision, the courageous Amazon had disappeared and escaped the vengeance of the market clerk.

Thelwell, be it understood, was a man of dignity and understanding. In addition to being the town crier and market clerk, he was a school teacher and one of the founders of Asbury M.E. Church and an exhorter of much convincing force. He was regarded as an efficient instructor of the youth of Wilmington. His public service

covered a period of more than three decades, but there is nothing to show that he ever again attempted to accuse a woman marketer of shortweighting the public.

Presumably, Thelwell, as town crier, summoned the citizens of the town to the open air memorial services for the father of his country at Cool Spring, the favorite outdoor resort for gatherings of the kind in the very earliest days. Washington had passed on in death in December, 1799, but Wilmington waited until his birthday two months ahead before eulogizing the patriot and mourning the demise of the first president of the nation. Academy woods, Eighth and Market Streets, was also a favorite outdoor assemblage place.

It is not unlikely that in those days when money for public service was not plentiful, that the town crier combined also the duties of night watch and that the overworked public servant was somewhat negligent in calling out the passing of the time of the day and early night; for the distinguished Joseph Tatnall was impelled to supply a public time piece that would get people to church for service. Consequently, he purchased a town clock of excellent European workmanship, which he presented to Wilmington, and an accompanying letter, expressed the hope that "it may accelerate the punctual meeting of the religiously disposed at their places of worship, and be of service to those who think themselves as not able to purchase time pieces." Clocks and watches were luxuries that only the rich could afford. He gave \$200 with the clock to buy a large bell and paid for mounting the

time piece in the tower of the then new city hall, where it rang out every hour of the days and nights more than half a million times. There it remained from 1798 until 1866, and now, while out of service, its voice could be restored if so desired.

Peter Mason was quite as much of a personage as his predecessors. He was bellman for half a century, high constable for a decade and a half, and bailiff of council for a quarter of a century, from 1832 to 1857. It must have been Mason, who as town crier apprised the people of their peril during one of the conflagrations at the duPont powder yards which threatened the destruction of the city. Fortunately, such a disaster was averted. He perhaps again apprised Wilmington of the danger from a similar source which seemed so unavoidable that people remained indoors awaiting what "seemed" inevitable. That was the "darkest Sabbath" in the history of the city.

The town crier or bellman was indeed a busy official, even though humble and not exalted. It was a successor of Mason who cried up and down the street that the confederate raiders had reached the Susquehanna River in Civil War days, and were possibly bound for Wilmington; and it was the same bellman, who announced the raid of the Southern troops up the Cumberland valley collecting ransom money and burning towns.

The welcome news that the Northern Army had prevailed at Gettysburg in July, 1863, came through the bellman and ended three days of agonized watching, waiting and praying.

The fate of the nation was thus made known to Wilmington through the stentorian voice of the bellman in notes of rejoicing. A town crier first advised the citizens that the Brandywine was flooding all the adjacent country, sweeping away bridges and damaging mills in 1838, as it had sixteen years earlier. The assurance that the danger was past also came through the bellman. There are those who remember the town crier's saddest of messages, on April 14, 1865, when he announced the attempted assassination of President Lincoln and of the later sobbing statements that the stricken Chief Executive had passed to his reward. The shocking news that Charlie Ross had been abducted-kidnapped had scarcely the familiar usage it has since attained, came through the town crier. It is remembered, too, that Wilmingtonians awaited many days with anxious expectation and hope that the announcement of the return of the missing boy would be shouted from the street corners, but those hopes were not realized.

George Jackson was the last of the town criers of Wilmington's long list. He retired his deep-toned, burnished, cooper "ringer" after telling the public that a dramatic company advertised to perform at the opera house in the mid eighties had been snow bound in a blizzard and the performance deferred. But long before that, the bell was taken from its closet only at long intervals for the daily newspaper had supplanted the archaic service with quicker action. Jackson, like his predecessors, found the job's financial rewards inadequate, and he pieced out his income with bill posting. Publicity men

were paid much less than in later times.

The crier's activities were by no means confined to big news announcements. Indeed, it was the lesser calls that brought the best fees. Public or private sales, lost cattle, dogs, or sheep, the summoning of pursuers of horse thieves, loss of jewelry or other articles of value were all grist to the bellman's mill. So were announcements of picnics, excursions, church fairs, or suppers, and such semi-religious functions. Of all things that set the bell clapper going fastest and getting the most attention was the call from the street corners that a child had been found---perhaps just wandered from home, unable to find its way back and too young to talk understandingly---to tell its name. The fear was emphasized many fold after the abduction of little Charlie Ross, and mothers would hie off for home at once to ascertain if their own children were safe within their doors.

Almost uncanny was the sureness and rapidity with which announcements from the street corners spread throughout the city. Jackson strided along proud of his business, parading himself and his bell only on the main streets---Market and King---stopping at the corners and giving his tocsin a few strong swings, he would take from his pocket a copy of the announcement that he was to make and proceed to repeat it and then after a moment's pause, he would march off to the next corner and reiterate his message. The bellman was always sure of auditors, for there were not many diversions those days, and even

the busiest of business men took time out to stop and listen, and perhaps get a topic for supper table talk.

One can but compare the promptness with which happenings are reported in the present time with the town crier methods of 1836. While one might wait four or five days for the report of London news, on January 28, 1936, the writer while typing the above comments, heard distinctly and immediately on the instant, the impressive services in London at the obsequies of George V, the singing of Westminster Choir, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's committal of the soul to God.

Reference:

History of Delaware, Thomas J. Scharf, A.M.; LL.D. vol. 2; L. J. Richards & Company, Philadelphia, 1888, 2 vol. Newspaper clippings and personal recollections.

FOLKLORE

August 10, 1936

new Chayney.

F. C. Bishop

HAUNT OF OLD SWEDES CHURCH

At 8 o'clock on two successive evenings, the bell of Old Swedes' Church on the Christiana tolled ^{mysteriously} ~~dismally~~ with no apparent human hand to cause it. The citizens of the Swedish village of that period before the Revolution were in great fear on the third night and gathered in a body to await the dreaded tolling, but it failed to materialize until they were all on their way to their homes after the hour had passed. Suddenly ^w the bell sounded its doleful note across the village's pointed roofs. Panic was near as the villagers vainly sought the cause.

Adding to this manifestation of an evil being in their church, ^{two} young girls passed by the church and one left her bag in the bell tower. They went on to the river to enjoy some sports and the one girl returned for her bag. It was almost dark and she screamed, swooning to the floor of the church. ^{It was a week} ~~a week~~ before she ^{could tell} ~~told~~ a grisly tale of having seen a human body rise up from the bushes and uplifted human hands ^{sever} ~~with~~ the head from the body.

The village was wrought into a terrific state until two small boys came forward to confess they had been cutting fishing poles the evening of the "apparition" and one had raised a skeleton of a horse's head on a stick. The other had sliced at a

2 - Haunt of Old Swedes Church

willow wand with his knife and the head had toppled from the pole at the same time. They, however, denied ringing the bell, which was never explained. The church today, with its old world atmosphere and huge shade trees, lends an atmosphere of rest and peace denying any rumors of "spooks" — (See Page - - -)

...f30b..

Location - Wilmington
Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney
Date - February 20, 1936

Reference File
2/21/36

WILMINGTON'S NIGHT WATCHMEN

One lone individual bearing proudly in his hand a pike staff, not unlike the arms of the followers of the Knight of old, was the sole keeper of Wilmington after the day had passed and left the village in darkness. A crude lantern constructed of parchment gave out a suggestion of the feeble flame within from a home-dipped candle, and furnished illumination for the Night Watchman who appears to have passed and left no records preserving his name nor that of his successors. Wilmington was still Willington when night watchmen first were called into service as the entire police force---chief and patrolmen rolled into one. His long staff was sharp at one end, and it served as defense against physical danger. It lifted aloof his dim lantern so that its light could be seen at a greater distance than had he held it in his hand.

There was a note of rejoicing among the citizens, after some eighteenth century Edison had invented a better and brighter lantern light, by substituting a tin lantern with candle inside, whose illumination seeped ^{through} innumerable small holes. This presumably was hailed with as much pride as the discovery of the electric bulb which seems to represent the ultimate in lighting.

The Night Watchman's duties were varied and of sufficient number to keep him busily occupied from dark until dawn. A feature of his service included escorting women home if they were out alone after nine-thirty or ten o'clock, and a no less important task of carrying or helping home a gentleman who had lingered too long over the flowing bowl was his. He would perhaps go further and unlatch the door and see that his charge was landed within his own domicile, out of the reach of storms, cold or highwaymen.

The Watchman was supposed to keep alert and going all night, but small watch boxes aimed as a harbor in time of stress, often lured him within their narrow walls of pine, where exhausted, nature unkindly lured him to sleep. Playful young men often reminded him that the booths were not places for sleeping, fastening him in and turning over the box itself. The Watchman was a prisoner until eventually he was found, released and scolded by his superiors for neglect of duty--- asleep at his post. He was the target for much of what was regarded as practical jokes, and his job was no sinecure from any point of view.

His more serious duties was to call out the hours; time pieces were comparatively few in those early days. More emphasis was perhaps laid on the midnight hour than other periods of the night, and the Watchman would raise his voice as he called "Twelve o'clock, and all's well," which was interpreted to mean that there had been no disturbances or any other untoward happening. If,

however, it happened to be raining or snowing, that fact was added to his apprising outcry. And, too, if news of any unusual important happening reached his ears, he would include it in his hourly calls. He, too, would report the death of a prominent citizen if he happened to learn of it while patrolling his beat. He repeated his informing calls at all the corners of the then small village. He was possessed of the avidity of a modern newspaper reporter in telling the late news, of which, however, there was little 200 years ago.

A wide awake night watchman knew everybody in the village and when one of his fellow citizens turned up the worse of liquor, he knew exactly where the "steamed" gentlemen lived. Consequently, he never delivered a tipsey Wilmingtonian at the wrong door---always at his own. The man with the pike pole and lantern knew of all the irregular happenings of the community, but these in a village of Quakers and Swedes were almost nil unless strangers came to town and indulged in unbecoming conduct.

The night watchman was, indeed, an important link in the community government, and even though he occasionally and unpremeditatedly took time out for a stolen nap in his box, he must have earned greatly more than the small stipend allowed for his irksome tasks, which exposed him alike to the furies of the elements and to the ribald pranks of youthful townsfolk. The watchman and his pike staff and tin lantern were aside almost before Wilmington had climbed the Market Street hill to Second Street.

CURRENT FILE

Wilmington Customs and Traditions

Title	Length	Writer
Sat up with the dead	2 pp.	Cheyney
<p>Death in a family called for feasting as well as mourning. The women would cook large dinners. After the burial party left the cemetery, the mourning neighbors would race their horses home. At the funeral of one prominent Delawarean, as many as 500 persons sat down to dinner.</p>		
Delaware's Stage Coaches	11 pp.	Cheyney
<p>Wilmington was the hub of travel for stagecoaches between New York and Washington. The first post route was operated by William Penn in 1683. King William of England strengthened the service in 1791. Horses were changed every twelve or fifteen miles and the average speed was about seven or eight miles per hour. Fare from Wilmington to Philadelphia was \$1.50 and the schedule called for four hours.</p>		
Cigar Store Senates	6 pp.	Cheyney
<p>The cigar store was long the popular meeting place for the discussion of politics and other current topics in nightly assemblies.</p>		
Wilmington Curb Markets	11 pp.	Cheyney
<p>Three curbstone markets supply Wilmington with farm and dairy products. Until the early sixties, the chief market was on Market Street, but later moved to King Street. It is estimated that the 534 curbstone farmers sell \$1,250,000 in goods which sum in turn goes directly to local stores.</p>		
Phanton Dragon of Iron Hill	2 pp.	Cheyney
<p>This is the legend of the white rider of Iron Hill. A British soldier dressed in white rode the lines of the Colonials, and succeeded until one sentinel, braver than the rest, shot the "phanton," thus ending the mystery.</p>		
Sandy Flash and Folly Woods	2 pp.	Cheyney
<p>Sandy Flash, the bad man of Bayard Taylor's <u>Story of Kennett</u>, is portrayed in the role of Robin Hood. He terrorized men and maidens who drove or walked through Folly Woods, near Newport. He was later hanged.</p>		
Wilmington Ukrainians' Christmas	3 pp.	Cheyney
<p>Christmas is celebrated on January 6th, and the observance lasts three days. Colorful details are here supplied.</p>		

OK.
C. G. Thompson.

Local Customs 9 pp. Cheyney

The life and home interest of early Wilmingtonians are described. There is that vending of hot corn, crabs, and baked sweet potatoes, the old night watchman and his duties, the first town crier, (John Thelwell), and others.

Folk Lore and Folk Ways 2 pp. Ramsey

Story of the "Big Wind" on June 5, 1846. Here is also told how India muslin was printed at the Barley Mill on the Brandywine by Archibald Hamilton Rowan, why Rowan came to Wilmington, and his departure to Ireland. The history of barrel-making and the stories told of the old coopers who lived on the Brandywine are also set out in detail.

Crabs and Hot Corn Vendors 6 pp. Cheyney

Before the advent of the "cocktail hour," the afternoon was enlivened by the hot corn vendor, and the seller of fresh cooked crabs. Our leading citizens would buy hot corn and eat it on the street corner.

Wilmington's Town Criers 7 pp. Cheyney

Before Wilmington was adopted as the town's name, instead of Willington, the town crier, John Thelwell, whose duties were to give local information, and to regulate the use of the paths along the sides of street so that pedestrians could hold right-of-way over cattle and honking geese, looked after chimneys to safeguard the houses against fire, and helped to keep the town clean. He was a man of dignity, being the market clerk, school teacher, and one of the founders of Asbury Church. Joseph Tatnall purchased a town clock for the tower of the Town Hall, and also paid \$200 for a large bell to ring out every hour of the day and night. The story of Peter Mason, a town crier. The result of the Civil War battles as told by the last of the town criers - George Jackson.

Show Beef Day 3 pp. Cheyney

One day each year was set aside for Show Beef Day in Wilmington. The finest cattle were butchered and sold to the public. The custom is no longer observed.

Springer Heirs 3 pp. Cheyney

Mrs. Anna Stalcop gave a tract of 500 acres of land to Old Swedes Church, but the heirs of Charles Christopher Springer believed they had a honest claim to the property. Later shrewd promoters tried to make it a confidence game. Needless to say, there is no such claim.

-3-
Wilmington Customs and Traditions
Key to Folklore Stories

Fireman as "Groundhogs" 2 pp Cheyney

On February the first, for many years, a member of the Volunteer Fire Department would be selected as groundhog. He was imprisoned in the cellar of the company, and fed very sparingly. When evening came on the second day of February, they would release him.

New Arrivals From Sweden 2 pp. Cheyney

February 15, 1643, was a day of rejoicing, for two ships arrived from Sweden. They were met by the populace amid much rejoicing. The next day Commander Ridder turned over the administration to Governor Printz.

Betty Montgomery's Best Seller 2 pp. Cheyney

Miss Montgomery's book, Reminiscences of Wilmington, was so popular that a second edition was required to satisfy the demand.

Customs 10 pp. Cheyney

The history of clothes and the changes in them from the early period to the present time.

The Ticking Tombstone 1 pp. Cheyney

John Evans' grave (told of in George Alfred Townsend's Tales of the Chesapeake) at last gives up its secret. The ticking sound coming from it for a century is found to be water dripping from a spring.

"Crown Prince" of Christeen 1 pp. Cheyney

The son of the last rector of the Swedish Church, John Adolphus Girelius, was such a dandy that he was called the "Crown Prince of Christeen."

"Old" Joan Hugall 2 pp. Cheyney

George Hugall, an English army officer, had a dream, in which he visioned he was to be married to a Negro. It played so upon his mind that he gave up his commission in the army, and came to Wilmington. There he saw a Negro woman, proposed to her, she accepted, and the result was the birth of a deformed mulatto who became a town character.

Beloved by All Wilmington Children 2pp. Cheyney

Michael Wolf, a vendor of molasses candy to the children, gave a great deal of pleasure to the poor and rich alike. Early marketing of produce and oysters is told of in detail.

Passing of the Wooden Indians 2 pp. Cheyney

Until 1890 the symbol of the cigar store was the Indian; today cigar store Indians exist only in the memory of the oldest inhabitants.

Key to Folklore Stories

Early May Day Festivities 1 pp. Cheyney

May Day heralds the coming of spring, and so is celebrated by old and young alike.

Early Day Dress and Diversions 4 pp. Cheyney

What the well-dressed ladies and gentlemen wore in the early eighteenth century.

Maiden Pall Bearers for Spinsters Cheyney

Miss Molly Vining, Delaware belle of the Revolutionary period, was the last spinster to be buried with spinsters as pall bearers. She was buried from her residence, "The Willows," and laid to rest in Old Swedes cemetery.

Wilmington's Night Watchman 3 pp. Cheyney

When Wilmington was known as Willington, before the time of street lights, or police force, the citizens were protected after dark by the lone night watchman. His duties are described in this article.

Quaker Costumes Amazed Swedes 1 pp. Cheyney

The plainness of the Quakers who came with William Penn to visit the Swedes at New Castle was a contrast to the usual dress of the early period. The Indians went on strike for more presents and higher prices for their skins.

Watchers for Fires 3 pp. Cheyney

In early Wilmington, before the modern fire department, watchers were provided for fires. Persons would sit in the cupola atop the then new City Hall, from which point they could survey the entire city, and constantly ring an alarm on a bell that would awaken the soundest sleeper.

Rum an Early Aid at Harvest 3 pp. Cheyney

The Swedish farmers of Delaware were the first citizens of the New World to give their hired harvest hands rum and other strong liquors while gathering the crops. The custom later spread to all the Colonies. The average amount of liquor used by a hired hand was one tumblerful five times a day. This article treats of the dress, and of the amount of food consumed by the people of this period.

J. Barton Cheyney,

January 18, 1937.

Custom
FOLKLORE-

Wilmington Delaware ²⁸⁷
Folk Customs

(Section 1)

Early Wilmington Christmas's

The great religious festal day's observance sixty years ago was far less ostentatious in Delaware than the Christmas of the present decade-especially of 1936. The church services of the seventies of the last century were more largely attended than those of the latter dates and it would seem that the worship was more of a feature of those celebrations than is the case of later years.

Old Swedes Church was the notably high point for community Christmas observances - at least it made more outstanding demonstrations than its religious neighbors. The grave yard of the church furnished evergreens, holly, arbor vista for church decorations and for weeks before the Nativity eve the adults of the congregation had rehearsed the exercises. The carol singing and services for Christmas morning when ancient Old Swedes would be filled with joyous happy congregation who listened to the service with that attention and interest that bespoke their devotion and earnestness. Other churches held similar services but those in the oldest church on the Delaware with its ~~tower~~ and setting of tall trees, especially when the Christmas was white with snow, imparted the feeling of a real Yule-tide.

Wilmington housekeepers prepared for the festival weeks in advance, baking cakes and probably mince pies which were rarely without exhilarating "sticks" (brandy or other spirits). These were the prelude of sending cakes to friends in different parts of the city or adjacent states - which brought the courteous response of other cookies from the recipients of yours.

After the children had gone to bed the father and mother, who perhaps secreted the cedar Christmas Tree in the cellar brought it forth and mounted it on a wooden base and getting the trimmings from their secret cache where they had laid since the year before were

J. Barton Cheyney,

fastened on the limbs of the trees to serve again to decorate the tall evergreen which perhaps was taller than the parlor where it was invariably displayed and shown to all visitors until it was finally dismantled and consigned to the back alley prior to Candlemas Day.

The decoration of the tree, for the most part, were colored balls of thin glass interspersed with gee gaws which served to load the branches to their carrying capacity. Small candles of different colors with tinsel and articles of "silver" metal gave the ensemble the real atmosphere of the holy day.

Clustered at the foot of the tree were the gifts for the children - skates, sleds, gloves, usually a toy lamb, or a doll, that when lying down closed it eyes and by a gentle pressure on the stomach voiced forth a sound which was taken to express "Mama"- though it might have been almost anything. There were gifts for every member of the household, father and mother receiving some useful practical gift, which suggested that they had been shopping with Good Old Santa when he selected their presents.

Section-2.

Wilmington bakers decorated their windows, inviting the public to come in and buy horse cakes or funny looking ginger bread men with their features suggested by pink or white sugar icing. The artistic skill of the decorator brought him ^{praise} ~~commendations~~ as a wonderful designer or sculptor, and created an obstinate impulse to own and eat. There were pound cakes and fruit cakes all decorated but Christmas Plum Pudding had not attained the national importance of today, ^{nor was it} ~~and~~ canned.

Confectioners displayed candy toys of sugar red or yellow and what was designated as mixtures which would havr re starding in even the modest of Wilmington homes. France was just demonstrating the superiority of her candies.

J. Barton Cheyney.

Bonbons were so fine and costly that few of them were sold in Wilmington in the early seventies.

~~Section 2~~

Sixty years ago even the sons and daughters of the rich were not presented with automobiles or yachts, railroads or for the younger children automatic toys that simulated in appearance and action that of their models ^{that period} ~~that~~ was forty years from the gilded age of extravagance (in the slow seventies) when, indeed, the country was reviving slowly from a depression which was popularly designated as a panic. Perhaps the total value of the Christmas gifts of those days represented not more than two per cent of the presents exchanged in Wilmington in 1928.

Immediately after the Christmas tree had been inspected and the gifts approved, and church services over, the lads and lassies appeared with their sleds and skates for an afternoon sport on the hillsides or on the ponds. ~~These owing their presence to the~~ pockets in the brickyards made by digging out the clay for bricks. These being shallow eliminated danger of drowning from breaking in. The elders when the sleighing was good harnessed their horses to the cutter and the resounding of the bells added an element of merriment to the picture of a Christmas afternoon, or a moonlit ^{night} ~~evening~~.

The Christmas dinner the great feast of the holiday occurred about mid afternoon. Wilmington - nor the rest of this country had transformed the suppers into dinners in the seventies. The center piece of the dinner was turkey roasted to a delicious brown-tender and richly flavored. There perhaps was diamond backed terrapin. Oysters of course - often in a pie - with most of the vegetables that are

J. Barton Cheyney.

Page 4
Folklore -
Early Wilmington Christmas's
Section 3

indigenous to the rich garden spot between the two bays. Mince pie divided the honor of the dessert with home made plum pudding neither of which were without a dash of brandy in their composition to add to the spirit of the feast. The demi-tasse had already arrived and those who had dined delux had formed the habit of burning brandy on top of the little cup of coffee.

No white bearded white headed Kriss Kringle stood at the market street corners and rang bells beside a great make-believe chimney inviting eager children to tell him of their Christmas hopes in voices loud enough for the anxious mothers also to be informed. But instead Kriss rosey and rubicund garbed in a costume that was emblematic of the patron saint came to King Street below Fourth ready to ^{hear pleas} ~~take orders~~ for gifts from those who had no hesitation on shouting their Christmas present wants from the street in tones loud enough to be heard a square away, by all the assembled boys and girls and their parents. If Kriss nodded his head and kicked his feet and climbed up an went down a dummy chimney it was taken for granted that the presents sought would be left under the Christmas tree or in their stockings. No child ever went to bed on Christmas until assured that hir or her stocking was hung beside the chimney where Kriss could find it upon his descent down the chimney, and fill it with gifts. Of all Christmas features none exceeded the thrill children got when next morning they awakened early and hastened to see what Kriss had ^{put} ~~put~~ in their stocking. He never disappointed the little ones, no matter how insistent was the poverty that obtained in the homes, there was always a way for Good Old Santa to make all children happy Christmas morning and for days and days thereafter.

James B. Cheyney
April 23, 1940

Encyclopedia File
NEWSPAPER HISTORY
Folklore

291

Barn Raisings

Most of the stable, substantial old barns that spot the rural sections of Delaware are survivors of the post Revolutionary period when such structures were hewn out of the oak timber that abounded on the lands of the Diamond State. Previous to the last decade of the Nineteenth Century farm barns were home-made, built and equipped from the timberlands of the farming sections of the State and erected with such durability and excellence of timbers that very many of those early structures are still affording efficient storage for harvest crops and shelter for live stock.

The preliminaries for building barns were usually gotten underway at least a year before the venture had taken form. The proposed builder, with a man skilled in handling pole and broad axes would spend^a winter in the woods and after carefully marking the most sturdy upright oaks, felled them and hewed them four square with such smoothness that could only be excelled by the later day saw or planing mill.

The felled timber was worked up into beams, rafters, flooring plank, and similar material requiring great strength to bear the weight of heavy loads and strains of wind and weather. These timbers were drawn to the barn site usually on a sled and piled so they would be seasoned by time and exposure.

When eventually the timbers were fit and ready for use, the farmer would announce, via the crossroads, country storekeeper, that he was planning to raise his barn on a certain day and hinted that the assistance of neighbors and their helpers would be welcome and appreciated. Came the raising day and men from all parts of the

community arrived early in order to assure the completion of the undertaking before the sun sunk below the Western horizon.

They set to work without "todo" under the direction of a carpenter or one experienced in barn raising. The huge square oak timbers were set in place, requiring the exercise of super-muscular strength. To bear them thirty or forty feet from the ground was no easy task, but the workers, implemented with stout pike-like poles headed with iron spikes, furnished the main power in the taxing work. Gradually the frame work of the barn grew and took on form and after the various joints were securely united with wooden pins (not iron spikes) the structure had taken shape and the raisers were proud and happy, especially so if none of their co-workers had made a misstep and fallen or if none of the oak timbers had fallen on and crushed anyone.

The raising had advanced to 60 percent of completion when the family dinner horn summoned the raisers to table which as was the customary phrase noted, "literally groaned with good things." Even though the men had enjoyed a bite at ten o'clock, their eagerness at dinner in serving themselves left no doubt that they were again ready and anxious. Barn raisers were never mistaken as dillitancies when "parked" before a good country dinner.

The lower section of a barn was of stone walled up by an old time mason whose work was almost indestructible. The stone portion enclosed the stables and kept the stock cooler in summer and warmer in winter than would the frame work. Often, however, in earlier times the barns were built of stone but the interior required "raising" just the same for its timbers were big and heavy.

With the invitation for men to come to the raising there was a suggestion that they bring their wives to lend a hand in cooking

the midday meal which invariably was prepared with proper observance for quantity as well as quality. Hungry men eat fast and quickly and in half an hour the workers had resumed barn raising (raising the frame work) and by midafternoon they had washed up, taken a swig of liquor and mounted their horse or drawn the lines in their buggies and started for home. They were always conscious that innumerable, inescapable chores waited their return and loomed between them and bedtime.

There was much to be done before those barns were ready to receive live stock and crops. Walls of weather-boarding were required, a roof needed, doors and windows, in addition to the interior appointments were requisite. The final touch was the setting up of the weather vane which topped most old time stabling, which by the nose of a metal horse or a game cock, told from which quarter the wind was coming and guided the farmer in planting and gathering his crops.

In the earlier times, when diversions were infrequent, barn raisings were followed by dancing in the evening to which the younger women of the vicinity repaired in their best party dresses. One fiddler marked the tempo on his old instrument and the festivities continued well into the night or until the country gallants felt obliged to hurry home, exchange best suit for overalls and boots and begin another day's work. Barn raisings in those early times were incubators where many romances were hatched, and the young couple married.

Many of the still serviceable old barns have been supplemented with huge circular tube-like silos filled with green food, ensilage as it is designated, for dairy herds in winter.

In the last half century comparatively few barns have been built for or by farmers, unless to replace one that is burned, but the large rich country estates have great new buildings for stock and crops in which the before mentioned silos are always conspicuous.

The derrick or crane has given way to hand power in barn building, and the oak that was the pride of our farmer forebears has attained such high commercial value that such hard woods have largely given way to less expensive timber. In many of the old barns there are discovered today, oak beams and crosspieces harder and better today than when first built into the frame work of a Delaware barn a century or more previous.

Personal Recollections and reading.

Subject: "Population Study" Data

By : J. SWEENEY, *his copy.*

September 6, 1938

The following list of taxables for the year 1677 in that part of Delaware between the approximate parallels of the present Bellevue* and Leipsic is adapted from the list in the Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware 1676-1681 (Lancaster, Pa., 1904), published by the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania; pp. 159-61

Where the race or nationality of any person named on the list is indicated by the Records the page number or numbers of such indication will be found in parenthesis after the name; thus with the aid of the Records, II, and B. Fernow's Documents, XII, it should be possible to ascertain the race or nationality of virtually all persons named on this list as well as certain other lists, for when the birth-place or nationality of one person is given, that of another may be learned from analogy, and, of course, the race or nationality of a great many is obvious.

Note: * In 1678 both the courts of New Castle and Upland — Upland became Chester a few years later — agreed upon Bellevue Creek (then Stony Creek) as the boundary between their respective counties. — Records of the Court of New Castle, 1676-81, p. 262

Adams, John, _____	1
Aldretts, Evert, _____	1
Anderson, Juns, (<u>full name is on page 244</u>) _____	1
Andrews, <u>see</u> Andries	
Andries, Claes, _____	1
" Eskell, _____	1
" Hendrick or Hendrik, _____	1
" Jacob, (<u>full name is on page 258</u>) _____	1
" John or Jan, and 2 sons, _____	3
" Justa, _____	1

Andries, Lace or Lasse, (probably a Swede, cf. pp. 59, 428, 482— "Laers andriessen Loccinus" on page 482 apparently is none other that Lace Andries) <u>Justice, p. 282</u>	1
" Roelof, _____	1
Andriessen, Andries, _____	1
Anter, John, _____	1
Arentsen ("Arianson, Ariensen, Arentse"), Jan, _____	1
Arskin, John, and one son, _____	2
Atteway, John, _____	1
Aukes, Seger, _____	1
3 Backer (Baker?), Ambrose, _____	1
Barentsen, Jan or John, _____	1
(Bareuls) Barnes, Christopher, _____	1
Beekman, Mathias, _____	1
Berker, John, _____	1
Bisk, Jan or John, (probably a Frenchman, see pp. 149, 170, 264, 394) _____	1
Block, Albert, _____	1
Boatsman, Jurian, and one son, _____	2
2 Bosley, John, (Symon Gibson's servant, pp. 60, 197) _____	1

	Boyer, Jan or John, _____	1
	(Aubriuk)	
	Brink, Peter, _____	1
	Broer, <u>see</u> Sinnexe	
ε	Bryant, Antony or Anthony, _____	1
ε	Burnham, Joseph, _____	1
	Can ("Kan"), John, _____	1
ε	Carr, Patrick, _____	1
7.	Chevalier, Philip, _____	1
	Claessen, ^{Peter} Hendrik, and 2 sons, _____	3
?	Clarke ("Clercq"), Henry, _____	1
	Clements ("Clemmens" etc.), Jacob, _____	1
	" " " Oele, _____	1
	"Cooxen" (Cookson or Coxson?), Joseph, _____	1
	Courter, William, _____	1
ε	Crawford, James, <u>(came with Sir Robert Carr)</u>	1
	" James, Doctor, <u>(Drotsky 276) Same?</u>	1
ε	Currier, William, _____	1
	Daniells, Claes, _____	1

ε	Davis, Thomas, _____	1
	Degan (De Gan or De Gam), Moses, _____	1
	De Haes, Johannes, _____	1
	De Ring, Mathias, _____	1
	De Vos, <u>see</u> Mathiassen and Jansen	
	De Witt, Peter, _____	1
	Dikes (Dix or Dixen), Augustine, _____	1
	Dirksen, Gysbert or Gisbert, _____	1
ε	Dunsten, _____, Mr., (John Dunston, p. 107) _____	1
ε	Eaton, John, (a tailor) _____	1
	Ellegart (or Ellegert), _____ (a smith), _____	1
?	Erskin, <u>see</u> Arskin	
	Eskell, Symen, _____	1
	Evertsen, Hendrik, _____	1
ε	Foster, John, _____	1
	Fransen, Hendrik, _____	1
	" Oele, and one son, _____	2
	Gerritsen, Barent, _____	1

Gerritsen, Jan or John, _____	1
" Martin, and one son, _____	2
£ Gibson, Symon or Simon, _____	1
£ Gilbert, Thomas, _____	1
£ Grant, William, _____	1
£ Hamilton, William, _____	1
Hand, Joseph, _____	1
Harman, <u>see</u> Herman <u>and</u> Hermansen	
Harris, Thomas, _____	1
Hayles (Hales <u>in</u> Records, II, 235) _____	1
Hendriksen, Evert, (Captain, p. 506; a Finn, p. 289) _____	1
" Huybert, _____	1
" John or Jan, _____	1
" Peter, _____	1
Herman, Caspares or Caspar, _____	1
Hermansen, Jan or John, _____	1
↙ Holding, Joseph, _____	1
↙ Homes (Holmes?), Robert, _____	1
Huggan, Philip, _____	1
Hudde, Rut, _____	1

Hulk, Jan, _____	1
ε Hutchinson, Ralph, <u>(Irish)</u> _____	1
" Robert, _____	1
Hutt, Mathias, _____	1
Jacob, Swart, and 2 sons, _____	3
Jacobs, Thomas, and 3 sons, _____	4
Jacquet, Jean Paul or John Paul or Jan Paul, _____	1
" Paul, _____	1
" Peter, _____	1
Jansen, Aert, (Cf. "Arent Jansen Vandenburg, p.356) _____	1
" Cornelis, _____	1
" Gerrit, (a smith, pp. 175, 474) and one son, _____	2
" Herman ("Harmen"), _____	1
" Sybrant, see Sybrants, Sybrant Jansen	
" Symon, _____	1
" Walraven, (Walraven Jansen de Vos, pp. 353, etc.) _____	1
"Jeacox" Jeanx , William, _____	1
ε Jefferson, Richard, _____	1
Jegou, Peter or Pieter, _____	1
ε Jones, Thomas, <u>Irish</u> _____	1
Jost, Cornelis, _____	1

Juriansen, Jurian, (a Finn, <u>see pp. 11, 20</u>) _____	1
Kittle ("Kittley" etc.), Humphrey or Humphry, <u>Irish?</u> _____	1
Laersen, Paul or Poull (Powell?), _____	1
Laurens, <u>see</u> Lourens	
Lemmens, Hendrik, _____	1
Link (or Linke), Thomas, _____	1
ε Liston, Morris, _____	1
Lott, Engelbert, _____	1
Lourens (or Laurens), Dirk, (<u>Gf. Records, II, 238</u>) _____	1
" Huybert, _____	1
" Markus, (a Dane, from Holstein, p. 163) _____	1
Maeslander, Peter, _____	1
Mathews, John, _____	1
Mathias, Johannes or John or Jan, _____	1
Mathiassen, Mathias, ("Mathias De Vos" etc., pp. 228, 230, etc.) _____	1
" Peter, _____	1
Matson ("Mattson"), John, _____	1
Measur, Rodger, _____	1
Moensen, Foul, Poull or Pouel (or Powell? <u>See</u> "Peter mouns a sweade" on p. 59) _____	1

Moore ("More"), George,	<u><i>Irish? associated with the Grifiths</i></u>	1
Morton, Robert,	<u><i>Swede - see Penna hist.</i></u>	1
Muller, Hans,	_____	1
Myer, Stoffel Michael,	_____	1
Σ , Nettleship, Job, (an Englishman, p. 142)	<u><i>See New Castle Court Records -</i></u>	1
Nealson ("Nielsen" etc.), Hendrik,	_____	1
" " Neals or "Neeles or Niels"	_____	1
Nicolls, Humphry,	_____	1
Nummersen, Jan or John,	_____	1
Olesen ("Oelsen"), Lase or Lasse,	_____	1
" " Oele, and 2 sons,	_____	3
Σ , Ogle, John, (an Englishman, see B. Fernow, Documents, XII, 531)	<u><i>& Gov. Ogle of Md.</i></u>	1
Osborne, William,	<u><i>(Scotch)</i></u>	1
Pattison, William,	_____	1
"Peers" (Pears, Piers?), John,	_____	1
Peters(en), or Pietersen, Adam,	_____	1
" " Carell,	_____	1
" " Samuel, and one son,	_____	2

Pietersen, Hans,	_____	1
" Jan,	_____	1
Poulsen (Powellson?), Justa,	_____	1
" Moens or Mounes,	_____	1
" Oele, and his brother,	_____	2
Rambo (or "Raynbo"), William,	_____	1
Roode, John,	_____	1
Saddler, Thomas,	<i>Irish</i> _____	1
Σ Salisbury, Evan,	_____	1
Σ Sandford, William,	_____	1
<i>(Scaggin)</i> Scaggs, Richard,	_____	1
Scott, John,	<i>Irish</i> _____	1
" William,	_____	1
Σ Sempill, William,	_____	1
Shearer, William,	<i>Irish</i> _____	1
Sibrants, <u>see</u> Sybrants		
Siericks ("Sierics, Sierix" etc.), Jan or John, (a Dane; born at Holstein, p. 256)	_____	1
" Jurian,	_____	1
<i>Prince, see Sibrants</i> Slobe ("Slobbe, Slobee"), Peter Oelesen,	_____	1

	Snelling, Thomas, _____	1
Σ	Spry, Thomas, Doctor, _____	1
Σ	Stanbrooke, Henry, _____	1
	Stiddem, Tymen, Doctor, and 4 sons, _____	5
	Still, William, _____	1
Σ	Street, John, _____	1
	Swindell, Edward, _____	1
	Sybrants (or Sibrants), Hendrik Jansen, _____	1
	" " Jan or John, _____	1
	" " Sybrant Jansen, _____	1
Σ	Tallent, Robert, _____	1
Σ	Taylor, John, _____	1
	Tayne (alias Lapiere), Isacq or Isaac, (a Frenchman, pp. 149, 394) _____	1
	Till ("Tille"), Andries or Andrew, _____	1
	Tilly, <u>see</u> Till	
	Toersen, Oele, _____	1
	Vandenburgh, <u>see</u> Jansen	
	Van der Coelen, Rymer, Rynier or Reynier, _____	1

	Van der Veer (Vandevere), Jacob, and 2 sons, <u>Dutch</u>	3
	Viccory, James, _____	1
	Volckerts, Peter, _____	1
Σ	Walker, John, _____	1
	" John, Senior, _____	1
Σ	Walliam, James, _____	1
	Wallis, John, <u>Scotch</u>	1
	Walraven, Gysbert, _____	1
	" Hendrik, _____	1
Σ	Watkins, John, _____	1
?	Wayman, Lace or Lasse, <u>Son of Englishman and Swedish or Dutch wife</u>	1
	Wessels, Hermanus, _____	1
	White ("Whyte"), John, _____	1
	" " Robert, _____	1
Σ	Williams, Dirk, _____	1
	" Edward, _____	1
	" Hendrik or Hendrick, _____	1
	" James, _____	1
Σ	Young ("Joung"), Jacob, <u>Dutch</u>	1

?	, Charles, (a Frenchman), _____	1
?	, George, (George Courtier?) _____	1
?	, Jacob, John Arentsen's mate, <u>see</u> Jacob Andries	
?	, James, (at Jan Siericks) _____	1
?	, Juns ("y ^e Smith"), <u>see</u> Juns Anderson	
?	, William, _____	1
?	, Doctor, probably a repetition of another name, as there are some repetitions. _____	
	Total ...	

Servants:

Peter Alrichs' man, Peter, -----	1
Christopher Barnes' one -----	1
Peter Claessen's boy -----	1
James Crawford's one -----	1
Symon Gibson's man, <u>see</u> John Bosley	
John Hendriksen's man, Broer (Broer Sinnexe?) -----	1
John Hermensen's man -----	1
Robert Hutchinson's cooper -----	1
Morris Liston's two -----	2
John Ogle's one -----	1
John Wallis' one -----	1
Hendrik Williams' man, Sybrant, -----	1
Jacob Young's one -----	
	Total ...

Negroes:	Peter Alrichs' 1
	John Moll's 1
	Jacob Young's 3
	At Appoquinimy $\frac{3}{8}$

This list of taxables includes about _____ Danes, _____ Dutchmen, _____ Englishmen, _____ Finns, _____ Frenchmen, _____ Swedes, _____ unidentified servants, and 8 Negroes.

P.S.
S.S.

Census of taxables under the jurisdiction of the court of New Castle on the New Jersey side of the Delaware in 1677, adapted from the above Records, p. 161:

z Arnold, Thomas, _____	1
Baron, Machiel (Michill, etc.), and 2 sons, _____	3
Bartelsen, Mathias, (a Finn, pp. 11, 20) _____	1
Chammies, Edward, _____	1
Cornelis, John or Jan, _____	1
Dodwell, Thomas, _____	1
Ellegart, Markus, _____	1
Enloos, Abraham or Abram, _____	1
Eriksen, Jan or John, _____	1
Fuller, John, _____	1
Gilyamsen, Gilles, _____	1
" William, _____	1
Goodchild, William, _____	1
Guy, Richard, _____	1
Hedge, Samuel, _____	1
Hendriks, David, _____	1

Hendriks, Jan or John, _____	1
" Lace or Larence, (a Finn, pp. 11, 20) _____	1
" Peter or Pelle, _____	1
Hermensen, Jan or John, (from "Krull"; p. 161) _____	1
Huggings, Rodger, _____	1
Jansen, Arent or Aert, ("Arent Jansen Vandeburgh"; p.356) _____	1
" Claes, _____	1
Jurians, Erik, _____ <i>(a Finn, pp. 11, 20)</i>	1
Juriansen, Stephen, (a Finn, pp. 11, 20) _____	1
Lacroix ("Lacroix"), Jan, _____	1
" ("Lacro"), Machiel, Junior, _____	1
" ("Lacroa"), Machiel, Senior, _____	1
Lafever, Hipolet, _____	1
Matsen (or Mathiassen), Mats or Mathias, _____	1
Mink ("Minck"), Paul or Poul, _____	1
Moestersman, William, _____	1
Nealson ("Nielsen" etc.), Mathias, _____	1
Nicolls, John, _____	1
" Samuel, _____	1
Page ("Padge"), Anthony, _____	1

Petersen, Lucas, and 2 sons, _____	3
Pledger, John, _____	1
Roelofs, Peter, and one son, _____	1
Savoy, Isacq, _____	1
Schier, Hans, _____	1
Smith, John, <u>Schmidt?</u> _____	1
Tingell, John, _____	1
Van Immen, Gerrit, _____	1
" Johannes, _____	1
Reckert, Peter, _____	/
Σ Watson, Thomas, _____	1
Wilkinson, William, _____	1

Total...

Servants:

Edward Chamnies' one -----	1
Thomas Dodwell's one -----	1
Richard Guy's three -----	3
Erik Jurians' one -----	1
Hipolet Lafever's one -----	1
Mathias Nealson's man -----	1
Fop Jansen Outhout's two -----	2

Total...

Negroes: Samuel Hedge's 1

This list of taxables (on the New Jersey Side) includes about ___ Danes, ___ Dutchmen, ___ Englishmen, ___ Finns, ___ Frenchmen, ___ Swedes, ___ unidentified servants, and one Negro.

J. S.

(see next page)

Note: The following persons are not listed in the foregoing census of taxables under the jurisdiction of the court of New Castle in 1677:

- Desjardins, John, Doctor, of Cecil County, Maryland, inherited property of his father-in-law, Isaac Tayne, in Delaware, in 1677 (see pp. 269, 102, 149, 150), and died either in December 1677 or in the early half of 1678 (see pp. 269, 216). He was a Frenchman (see pp. 394, 150, 216).
- Domenick, John, Doctor, died in Delaware in 1681 (see p. 517)
- Huff, Peter, from St. Martin's in the Fields, Middlesex, England, died in Delaware in 1676 (see pp. 26, 27, 34).
- Hunter, Richard, a tanner, from Dublin, Ireland, died on the New Jersey side of the Delaware in 1679 (see p. 346 ff.).
- Jansen, Wybreggh, married Barent Hendriks and upon being widowed married Jan Siericks, and was in Delaware at least between 1676 and 1678, inclusive. She was "Borne att ditmarsen" (see pp. 255, 256)
- Moensen, Swen ("Swen moensen Lom") was mentioned in the Records of 1680 and probably was a Swede (see pp. 482, 428, 59).
- "Prints (als) Papegay, Jussrow armegerant," in 1677 (p. 53).
- Swensen, Swen, probably a Swede; 1677 (p. 59).
- Wells, Daniel, Doctor (came to Delaware on the ship Martha from Hull in 1677? pp. 145-46), was in Delaware in 1678 (pp. 146, 180, 250).

Collated by J. S.

State Superstitions, Customs,
Traditions, and Legends.
(SECTION "B")

CURRENT FILE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Writer</u>
Caesar Rodney and the Tory Maiden	1 pp.	Cheyney
The traditional story of Caesar Rodney's alleged infatuation for Sarah Rowland and how she nearly prevented his important ride to Philadelphia to vote for Independence.		
Progressive Delaware Farming	1 pp.	Cheyney
Growth of farming from 1676 to present time.		
Old-Time Hog Butcherings	3 pp.	Cheyney
To early Delaware the dressing of hogs was a major December event in which the whole community took a part. The women made it a social event.		
The General Store	3 pp.	Cheyney
Business is done today much as it was a century ago in Delaware country towns — there is still barter — and the store is the center of gossip for the surrounding country.		
Shooting for Holiday Turkeys	2 pp.	Cheyney
The sporting element of Delaware would shoot at turkeys in a box at fifty cent a shot — if a good marksman, he got a cheap bird; if not, it frequently cost much more than to purchase one.		
Curing Warts	3 pp.	Cheyney
The cause and cure of warts as practiced in Delaware.		
The Legend of Mosquitoes	1 pp.	Cheyney
Upon the shooting of the White Wolverine by the Indians a woman old and decrepit sprang from it. She promised the Indians plenty of hunting, if she were given the choicest part of all game killed. For a while the Indians complied with her request, but one evening, upon the killing of a fat deer, ^{when} she took the best part for herself, they slew her. Long after, they came upon her skeleton, one of the Indians kicked the skull, and from it came a cloud of insects known as mosquitoes.		
Prayed for Fish and Found Them	1 pp	Cheyney
The Moors could not find fish, so they prayed, and then caught more fish than they could possibly use.		
Superstitions of Delaware	9 pp.	Cheyney
Contains a list of the superstitions of Delawareans.		
Cutting Off Pigs' Tails	2 pp.	Cheyney
By removing a part of the pig's tail, a bushel of corn is saved, By butchering pigs in daylight they do not lose weight.		

<u>Title</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Writer</u>
Superstitions of the Delmarva Peninsula	4 pp.	Cheyney
Superstitious beliefs among the people of Delaware and the Eastern Shore are detailed.		
Love and Matrimony	5 pp.	Cheyney
Deals with the customs of marriage, what the bride should wear, and other traditions of the bridal day.		
"Old Christmas" Customs	3 pp.	Cheyney
The 6th of January still continues to be celebrated in the lower part of Delaware. On this night wild animals lose their fear of men. The food eaten in this period is likewise noted.		
Tokens in Domestic Life	3 pp.	Cheyney
The part that the broom plays in the household, and other superstitions.		
The "Old Horse Doctor"	2 pp.	Cheyney
The treatment of animals before the advent of the modern veterinary.		
The Stuff out of which Dreams of Early Delawareans were made	42 pp.	Cheyney
The interpretation of dreams at length.		
How Indians came to Delaware	4 pp.	Cheyney
Long before Columbus discovered the New World, the Lenape Indians were roaming the hills and plains of the Eastern Shore. Their mythology tells of Nanbush, and the creation of their race.		
Giants	1 pp.	Pote
On the banks of the Delaware a race of people lived whose stature was enormous. They acted as carriers of the smaller persons across the river; their pay maize and skins of animals.		
Fox Hunting in Eastern Sussex	2 pp.	Cheyney
The method of hunting the fox on foot is a sport in vogue at the present time. The fox is not shot.		
Folklore of Lewes	4 pp.	Carey
Beliefs regarding ships, wells, and roots, and how the people followed them.		
Folk-Lore	11 pp.	Horner
The superstitions and beliefs of the early Delawareans, told at length.		

<u>Title</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Writer</u>
Whip-Poor-Wills	1 pp.	Pote
After the Europeans killed a great number of Indians in battle, whipporwills appeared, and the aborigines concluded they were the souls of those who had been killed. It is said they are reincarnated Indians.		
Folk Customs of Eastern Sussex County	8 pp.	Cullen
A collection of customs including hog-killing, old folk's Christmas party, community dances, Little Christmas, church ban on music, blue laws, Milton home-coming, Big Thursday, and Laurel decoration.		
Delaware Day	2 pp.	Browning
Delaware being the first State to ratify the Constitution on December 7, 1787, this day is therefore a legal holiday in the State.		
Legends of Halloween	4 pp.	Cheyney
October 31, set apart for the spirits, is described as it is observed in this section of the country.		
Big Thursday at Bowers Beach	3 pp.	Cheyney
The second Thursday in August was set apart for general celebration at Bowers Beach. It marked the beginning of the season for taking oysters in Delaware. Large crowds came from the lower counties.		
The Celebrated Case of Myra Clark Gaines		Cheyney
Myra Clark Gaines, who once lived in Delaware, contested the will of her father, Daniel Clark, a wealthy business man who resided in New Orleans in 1813. Her first romance with William W. Whitney, of New York, is also told. Later she married Gen. E. P. Gaines. Myra was a ward of the well-known Col. S. B. Davis, of Delaware Place, Wilmington.		
Boneless Baked Shad	1 pp.	Butler
Recipe for broiled and baked shad.		
Delaware Cuisine	11 pp.	Butler
Wilmington was famous for its cuisine, and such men as Lincoln, Greeley, Seward, Sumner and Daniel Webster made frequent trips here to partake of it. Reed birds, wild ducks roasted in champagne, terrapin, and other items, were enjoyed. There are about twenty recipes for popular Delaware dishes.		

OK
get

J. Barton Cheyney
February 5, 1937.

Washington

Early Funeral Customs

Funerals in the early days of the last century, and before, were deprived of their sadness and sorrow somewhat by feasting-eating and drinking. If the bereaved family's grief was not lightened they had the satisfaction of knowing that they had not departed from the recognized and established custom observed in burying the dead. The vogue among families of substance and importance was well understood and when a man of high rank or position in the community died the body was kept lying in state several days for the public and neighbors to view. The delay also gave time for relatives and friends living at a distance to come to make the journey.

Invitations on black bordered cards, were sent to friends, and as they were generally accepted; the burial might be postponed until they finally arrived. Such visitors or guests had to be entertained and this form of hospitality soon became a custom. Dinner and often liquid refreshments were provided for all who chose to come and eat. Even though they may have been uninvited or ^{had} never known the deceased person, ~~they~~ knew there would be no interference if they designed to share the feasts. This came to be the general custom, however, obscure and humble or lacking in means the family of the deceased might be. Indeed the practice became so general that a funeral in a country neighborhood was regarded as something in the nature of a holiday. It formerly was the standard by which the popularity of the deceased citizens was held by his neighbors and the public in general.

There are records showing that funerals of prominent

Delawareans were attended by as many as 600 or 700 people, and the circumstance that 200 or 250 carriages conveyed kin and friends and neighbors to the cemetery. This possible would also mean that as many as 500 men and women had partaken of the dinner. The funeral feast was something of a function; it was also a triumph in home cooking. It included almost all kinds of fresh and salt meats vegetables, pies, cake. Indeed it was more like marriage spread. There was liquor for the men-in abundance and it cannot be denied that the sight of mourners under the influence of home distilled whiskey or brandy was not unusual. Women in those times knew not the taste of alcoholic drink-nor the meansing of "cocktail hour" had there been such a time designation for strong drink. The custom of feasts at funeral survived the Civil War period but had been discarded ^{soon after} ~~before~~ the coming of the present century.

There was a set schedule by which the early funerals were conducted. If the deceased was a man, the preacher walked before the bearers who preceded the mourners and the men followed them, with the women last. If the deceased was a women the position of the men and women was reversed. There were services at the house or cemetery or both. Some of the invited friends from a distance were expected to remain with the bereaved family for a time until the ^{ir} sorrow of the ^{latter} ~~bereaved~~ had softened.

In 1773, or thereabouts, it became the custom that the bearers of the body of an unwed, maid or young girl, should be carried to the grave by some of her most intimate girl companions.

The practice of early Quakers was different. They took the body direct from the home to the graveyard and buried it in solemn silence. Then the gathering reassembled in the meeting house where there were speaking and prayers. Early in the Eighteenth

century the Friends decided that the burial of members should be as plain and simple as possible - and in harmony with their sentiments so they resolved that the tomb stones be abandoned and that those that had already been set up removed, neither pomp nor grandeur can add worth to the deceased, was their conviction. The Meetings endeavored to abolish tomb stones was disregarded. The Quakers were the first sect to discontinue dispensing whiskey at funerals. There is a minute in a meeting affiliated with the Wilmington Friends meeting that condemn the practice of Friends drinking whiskey at funerals until intoxicated.

The modern funeral has been robbed of much early festivity, especially the eating and drinking. The attendance of friends and neighbors is not regarded as essential in demonstrating sympathy. Even the flowers that are often piled high above the body are being discarded as a formality that in many instances has come to be regarded as a meaningless gesture.

History of Delaware. Scharf.

JHos. Scharf. A. M., L L D. (2 Vols) Vol 1. - p 123;

L. J. Richards + Co., Phila, 1888.

G. C. Thompson
December 16, 1938

CURRENT FILE

Title	RELIGION	Length	Name
Early Camp Meetings		5 pp.	Cheyney

These meetings were held in August and lasted for about ten days, and during this period thousands of men, women and children renewed their faith in the word of God. They were more common in the early part of the eighteenth century, but today there are but two or three. The early form of worship was to meet in a woods; later were built bungalows around a tabernacle seating twenty-five hundred persons. Meetings were held every night during weekdays, and all day Sunday.

Modern Camp Meetings at Laurel		8 pp.	Bennett
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One of the largest and most complete camp meetings is held two miles outside of Laurel. There are sixty-five cottages of two-story frame construction, and a hotel with twenty rooms which is operated on the American or European plan during the meetings. The younger set is represented, and forms the bulk of the attendants.

Quakeress' Prophecy Fulfilled		4 pp.	Cheyney
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Elizabeth Shipley, a leading preacher of the Society of Friends of the early period, was gifted with the second sight, and was reputed in close touch with the saints. On her death-bed, she prophesied the country would be delivered from the hands of the oppressor, and it was. She had a vision of the beautiful Brandywine Hundred country, and urged her husband to move from Upland to Wilmington. This he did and he built a fine and sumptuous mansion at Fourth and Shipley Streets.

Quakeress, Abolitionist Stoned in Smyrna		4 pp.	Cheyney
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A few months after Pennsylvania Hall in Philadelphia had been fired by a pro-slavery mob (1857), Lucretia Mott spoke at a meeting in Smyrna. After the meeting, which was well attended, Daniel Neall and his wife and Mrs. Mott were stoned, but escaped injury. Arriving at her host's home, a man asked to see Mr. Neall, saying he was "wanted to answer for his dangerous doctrines," but Neall refused to accompany the man. Thereupon several other men appeared and forced him to go with them. He was tarred and feathered and forced to walk two miles to his residence. Her next visit to Wilmington was to attend the funeral of Thomas Garrett, known as the "Moses" of the Delaware Negroes. Mr. Garrett's coffin was carried to the grave on the shoulders of six colored men.

Early Wilmington Christmas		4 pp.	Cheyney
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Old Swedes Church was the center for community Christmas observances. Housekeepers prepared for the festival weeks in advance by baking cakes and mince pies. Homes were decorated with holly and evergreens. Weeks were spent making toys for the Xmas tree. It was the custom to visit the neighbors, break cake, and have a glass of wine.

G. C. Thompson, OK.

Mistletoe and Holly 6 pp. Cheyney

The mistletoe and holly which grow abundantly in Delaware, and the Delmarva Peninsula, are treated of from their symbolic standpoint as Christmas decorations. Holly is given detailed treatment.

The Yule Log 2 pp. Cheyney

From Scandinavia comes the burning of the Yule Log which was a custom adopted by the early Delawareans. Its burning was supposed to bring good luck, and protection for the coming year.

First Christmas in the New World 3 pp. Cheyney

Governor Bradford rebuked gay young men who came to New England for making merry on Christmas Day. The ceremonies were largely religious and lasted for seven days. A list of superstitions is also given.

The Swedes' First Christmas 3 pp. Cheyney

There are no authentic records to show when Christmas was first celebrated in Delaware. Pastor Hesselius, minister of Old Swedes Church, forbade singing in harsh voices lest it be mistaken for "calling the cows."

Prayed for Fish and Found Them 1 pp. Cheyney

A Delaware Moor at the point of starvation prayed for food. A vision of Indian River was his answer; thereupon he cast his net into it and found plenty of fish and crabs.

Hogshead of Wine Drunk At Communion 1 pp. Cheyney

Sermons at Old Swedes frequently lasted four hours, and at communion services it has been handed down that an entire hogshead of wine was drunk.

James B. Cheyney
April 17, 1940

NEWSPAPER HISTORY ³¹⁹
Folklore
Encyclopaedia File

FIREMEN ELECT "GROUND HOGS"

By electing one of their members "ground hog" for Candlemas Day, fire companies served a double purpose of amusing their members and of forcefully making the outstandingly unpopular "laddie" understand that he must sweeten his disposition - or else.

Such targets for discomfort were selected the night before the exploitation. When the victim, unconscious of his fate, arrived next morning he was taken in hand and bound, if too obstreperously protesting, then conveyed to the inky-dark basement of the engine house and locked up with only a chair upon which to relax.

At noon he is provided with bread and water and by afternoon, instead of growing more mellow by this disciplining he is infuriated by the "abusive" treatment. Just after sundown in the afternoon (of February 2d), he is brought from his dark cellar and is taken to a banquet table which "groaned under the weight of choice viands" as the saying used to go. The surprise of the shift from gloom of the cellar to the bright lights of the festive chamber usually dissipated his anger and after the dinner he was quite ready to forgive his "rough necked" conferrees. Thus the Candlemas Day sun was not allowed to cast his ill-favored shadow.

The "ground hog" for a day became conscious of the fact that his selection as "ground hog" was equivalent to the admonition to mend his ways, to stop knocking, scolding, and perhaps swearing.

. Thus penalizing the non-companionable undesirables became recognized as a most successful method of reforming "grouchers" and "growlers" and is continued semi-subrosa, when perhaps the paid department chief has turned his back pruposely. It seemingly gives an offensive member a close-up of himself and furnishes his fellows with a peculiar type of questionable enjoyment.

Fire chief at Engine House, Tenth and Washington Streets,
Wilmington, Del.

LOCATION - - Wilmington *Frank's Customs*

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date July 8, 1936.

FIREMEN AS "GROUNDHOGS."

For many years during the long period when the fire department was manned by volunteers, who served without pay, the members found divers avenues of diversion.

"Candlemas Day," they unfailingly observed with great zest for the program of "Ground Hog Day furnished amusement sufficient to keep all but one in the companies, smiling from February second, all of the Summer. The men in simulation of the pestiferous rodent selected, one of their number to play ground hog for the day. He was bound with stout cords, taken down into the basement of the fire house and tied securely to post or pillar. The custom required him to remain in total darkness the entire day supplied with just sufficient food and water to keep the inner man from protesting. After the sun had disappeared in the West the human ground hog was released and permitted to rejoin his comrades. The victim of the practical jests were "elected" by the members because of the ^{or} irritability or self-importance or other temperamental peculiarity, and if he was not already in a furious state of mind over the humility he surely lost all mental restraint when he read in the evening papers his full name and experiences as the fire company's "Ground Hog."

well

If one forgave the harsh jokers before the arrival of the following autumn his reactions were more quickly responsive than the average of the "Ground Hogs."

Page No. E
File No. 240

Just what the foolishness meant no one seems to know, unless it be that the "man ground hogs" eccentricities would not be reflected on to his fellows if he were kept out of the sunlight on Candlemas Day and thus would cast no shadow. The publication of the ground hog's name brought the greater part of the resentment; it publicly branded them as at least a little bit queer. The paid fire department honors the ancient ground hog day custom by failing to observe it. The men of today obviously turn to some more rational form of entertainment during this off hours from their serious business ~~outing~~.

REFERENCES: Personal Reminiscences.

"Status of Archaeology in Delaware"

In spite of some researches within recent years, the archaeology of Delaware proper and of the Delmarva Peninsula remains a question mark. No organized effort at excavation of likely locations had been made prior to the founding of the Archaeological Society of Delaware in March, 1933. Several individuals had investigated a number of obvious Indian locations and all had made efforts to publish their findings.

Francis Jordan, Jr., of the Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, described in the Every Evening, newspaper of Wilmington, in the issue of September 27, 1883, his discovery and investigation ^{of} the remains of an Indian village at the site of the present town of Rehoboth, and of the investigation of shell heaps on the sand flats in front of the town of Lewes, both places being in Sussex County on the shore of the Delaware Bay. It is interesting to note that both locations have been destroyed, that at Rehoboth by the encroachments of the summer resort village and that at Lewes by the encroachment of the Delaware Bay, which, within the memory of older residents, has come inland more than half a mile.

Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth, of Wilmington, excavated a burial site a mile and a quarter south of Rehoboth Beach, in company with Rev. C. C. Morhart, of Cleveland, Ohio, who discovered the site after severe storms had bared portions of a skeleton. Mr. Wigglesworth has reported his find in Vol. I, No. 1, of the Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Delaware. He does not say what disposal was made of the remains.

Between 1880 and 1887, Dr. Hilborne T. Cresson, special assistant of the Peabody Museum at Cambridge, Mass., investigated pile structures just inside the mouth of Naaman's Creek, north of Claymont, New Castle County, Delaware. These structures he determined to be the remains of Indian fish weirs. He removed those which did not collapse to the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, and reported his find in "Pile-Structures in Naaman's Creek," a paper of the Peabody Museum, published in 1892. This site, too, has yielded to the expansion of the white man's industry, and has been completely obliterated by the Worth Steel Co., of Claymont, Delaware.

Until the Archaeological Society of Delaware was organized, no other efforts at excavations were made.

The Society enlisted the assistance of Dr. J. Alden Mason, curator of the American Section of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, and of Dr. D. S. Davidson, of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Pennsylvania, and under their guidance considerable progress has been made in excavating refuse pits at a large village site along the southern shore of Slaughter Creek in a section of Sussex County known as Prime Hook Neck, about 10 miles south east of Milford, Delaware, to the north of the State Highway running between Milford and Lewes.

At various times members of the Society have opened the so-called "kitchen middins", and have recovered numerous objects. Lack of funds has prevented continuous effort and the absence of a museum in the State to house the objects recovered has hampered the individuals interested, who have limited storage space available.

The location, as judged from surface indications, was an extensive village at least a mile in length and a half a mile in depth. Several years ago the making of a county highway along Slaughter Creek brought to light numerous refuse pits, and skeletal remains are reported to have been carried home as souvenirs by some of the workmen.

The pits ranged in size from three feet in breadth and eighteen inches in depth to nine feet in breadth and five feet in depth. There was no indication of humus lining the walls, so that it is safe to assume that the pits were dug and were not simply natural declivities into which the occupants of the village threw their refuse. Such refuse consisted for the most part of uncounted thousands of clam, oyster, and conch shells, together with the accumulations of waste attendant upon any village site.

Seven pits have been excavated, objects recovered, fragmentary pottery restored and five burials have been carefully photographed in situ. All work has been reported in detail in various issues of the Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, and Dr. Davidson published in Vol. I, No. 2, of American Antiquity his "Burial Customs in the Delmarva Peninsula and the Question of their Chronology."

The faunal remains consisted of conch, clam, oyster, blue-crab and *anguispira alternata* shells and the bones and teeth of squirrel, wild turkey, racoon, deer, black bear, and numerous small animals. Remains of the shells of box turtles, painted turtles, and diamond back terrapins were found. No floral remains except the shells of black walnuts were evident.

Few stone objects have occurred in the pits, though numbers

of arrowheads of chert, flint, quartz, quartzite, chalcedony, and argillite and the chippings incident to their manufacture have been found on the nearby surface. A few broken arrow-points, three flint stones, an incised flat pebble, and a broken gorget have been located in the pits.

Bone objects recovered have included thirty-six polished bone awls, a flaking tool, a fragmentary knife made from the long bone of a deer, and three flat perforated needles, all of which had been broken at the perforations. An awl made from the stem of a conch shell, and a clay pipe stem were also discovered.

The pottery fragments are perhaps most interesting to the archaeologist. Conclusions at this time must be tentative, but seem to indicate a pre-Columbian, post-Iroquoian, Algonkian occupation. Stratification has not been found and the pits seem uniform in the nature of their deposits. The pottery varies from the heavy, crude, seemingly porous, cord-marked Algonkian ware to a finer, thinner, seemingly non-porous texture with rims heavily incised in straight line and chevron designs. No complete vessels have been recovered, but partial restorations indicate that sizes varied from small cup-shaped vessels to large cooking pots which would contain perhaps five gallons. Bottoms were pointed, rounded, and flat. No heavily lipped fragments and only one clay object resembling a handle occurred. Semi-circular or circular designs were totally absent and the rectangle appeared only once.

A chemical analysis of the potsherds is in progress at present and will be reported in a coming issue of the Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Delaware. The ware was tempered

heavily with pulverized oyster, clam and conch shells, or with sandy gravel and varied in thickness from one-eighth to a half an inch, the heavier being un-incised and cord-marked, the thinner being heavily incised.

From the pottery fragments and in view of the fact that no trade objects have been found either in the pits or on the surface, it seems safe to infer that the occupants of this village were Algonkian people, affected somewhat by the encroachments of the Iroquoian influence.

It is of interest that in one pit were found four burials, three in a bundle and one in a flexed position. Near a second pit was found a fifth burial in a nearly extended position. No objects of any sort were found in connection with any of the burials, but of note was the fact that the flexed burial in the first pit seemed to lie in a bed of *auginspira alternata* shells. Few inferences, if any, as to the burial customs of the aboriginal occupants of Delaware can be made from these discoveries.

A thorough study of the cranial remains was made by Mr. John A. Noone, of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Pennsylvania, and published in mimeograph form by the Archaeological Society of Delaware. It is available to research students upon application.

The largest part of the material recovered from the Slaughter Creek site is in the possession of H. Geiger Omwake, Hockessin, Delaware, and Archibald Crozier, near Kennett Square, Penna. The skeletal material is available at the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology.

No other organized efforts to erase the question mark of Delaware archaeology have so far been made. Numerous individuals

have amassed private collections of Delaware artifacts, most notable of which are those of Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth, 204 Lore Ave., Hillcrest, Wilmington, Del.; Mr. William O. Cabbage, near Wyoming, Del.; Mr. Archibald Crozier, Willowdale, near Kennett Square, Penna.; Mr. Ralph E. Beers, now of Wilkesbarre, Penna, but formerly of Bethel, Del., and whose collection is in the possession of Mr. Harley Hastings, Bethel, Del.; Mr. Harold Purnell, Georgetown, Del., and Mr. H. Geiger Omwake, Hockessin, Delaware.

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Note

One further item which might have significance at a later date is the fact that two Folsom type arrowpoints have been found on the surface in New Castle County, one by Mr. Archibald Crozier, the other by Mr. H. Geiger Omwake. The former has been reported to the Archaeological research department of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, and has been sketched. The latter has been reported to, and photographed by Dr. Neil M. Judd, director of the Division of Archaeology, United States National Museum. (Smithsonian.)

Submitted by W. T. Bennett,

November 2, 1936.

Subject: - "Fox Hunting."

"Back in my pappy's day" said Roland R. Collins, "They used the long eared coon dogs for fox hunting, and the way them old dogs could run would almost make you leave the saddle, when the pack come across the field."

"There weren't any red coats or top hats in the gang that went after the old fox, but here was a plenty rivalry between dog owners, as to who's dog had the most speed or endurance."

"When it come the day for a fox hunt there weren't any organization of the pack of hounds, everybody who owned one or more come along and put the dogs in the pack. Hosses and mules under the saddle carried men in their old work clothes, and there weren't any rules about the dogs packing, although a dog that was 'cutting' got some cuss words throwed at him. You know, a cutting dog is one that won't pack, but will cut across fields and woods to head out the pack and fall in ahead, run for awhile and then cut again. He jest aint honest, and they used to ride him out of the race."

"Pap had an old hound named Danel Boone, that always lead the pack in the hunts around home; and when it come to stayin with 'em until the last howl, old Dan always held his own. Dan was the father of several of the dogs that run almost every race with him, but most of the time they would get throwed out of the pack before the race was over, and leave it to Danel to finish up."

"I'll never forget the time one of the neighbors sent down in Kentucky and got a pair of what they called 'red boned coon hounds'

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that was said to be faster and tougher than any breed that ever chased a fox or coon. Everybody in the neighborhood went over to see the hounds, and lots of the fellers that owned dogs and was jealous of pap's old Danel Boone, said the red bloods was gwine to show us a thing or two about chasing foxes and coons. The furrein hounds were taken out for short runs several times, so that they could get the lay of the land and be ready for fast company when the day for the big chase come around."

"In them days they was lots of grey foxes around, and the old greys would not give much of a chase, kase they would just run around in a two or three mile circle. The red fox was the critter that give us the fun, and whenever that old boy found good times was getting skace, he just hung out and took 'em for a ride crost the county and may be into another state. Somebody fetched a big old red fox down from York state and planted him in our neck of the woods, and he always hung around waitin for a race. The boys called him "Old Jim" and they liked the old boy so well that several times when the dogs 'holed' him a long ways from home, they would catch him and carry him back to where they jumped him and set him loose."

"Old Jim knowed the game purty good, and could take care of hisself in a pinch. Sometimes farmers would take their young dogs out for a little practice run, and old Jim would just lazy along ahead of them never getting over a mile from home. When the folks all come along for a big chase and they jumped Old Jim, they knowed they was in for a good long chase."

"I started to tell you though about old Danel Boone and the 'Kaintuck hounds' as they was known in the neighborhood.

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Course they was lots of em jealous of Old Dan, so they was bettin on the other dogs, and nobody could hardly wait for the day to come when the big hunt was to come off. Pap used to talk to old Danel and tell him what was comin off, but of course he didn't know just whether Dan understood everything he said."

"I'll never ferget that day; it was on Tuesday, and pap chained up old Dan on Sunday, to keep him from runnin in the woods and gettin his feet full o' briars and thorns. The folks was all to meet down in pine thicket, right on the edge of the old big swamp. They was goin to start at sun up. Pap called me out a bed bout daylight, and when I got up he was greasin old Dan's feet with tallow. Dan eat a good breakfast and pap and I saddled the horse and mule. Course I rode the mule. When we got down to the thicket, bout twenty men and boys was there and about forty dogs, includin the Kaintucks. Most of the dogs was not tied up and they was nosin round sort o' huntin for a trail."

"Course everybody was tellin bout what the Kaintucks hounds was goin to do, when one of the dogs sounded off down in the edge of the swamp and every dog that was not tied started for the trail, and soon as all the dogs was loose they was cryin on a hot trail. 'They got im goin' and Rattler's leadin spoke up Rattler's owner."

"Down to the first clearin we rode and everybody was lookin for the pack to cross the field. Well sir when they did, old Rattler was leadin, and the Kaintucks was right at his heel. Old Danel Boone was fetchin up the hind ranks and singin as purty a bass solo as you ever heered. One of the neighbors rode over to pap and said: "Captain Collins, old Dan's sick aint he'?"

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He said it sort o'slurring like, and all pap said was "He'll be well fore the race is over."

"The pack had gone well outa hearin down in the swamp and crost to the cripples and marshes, when somebody said 'here they come back'. 'Twernt long afore they was tonguin it back right with the wind, and somebody said 'yon he goes:' But it twernt Old Jim, for the critter was grey as a goslin. When the pack come outten the woods old Dan was just lopin long and fetchin up the bass notes for the pack, and never botherin bout puttin his nose to the ground. The Kaintucks was well back in the pack and workin hard."

"Bout two more doubles was all the old grey critter made, and the pack picked him up out in the open field. The owner of Old Rattler claimed the brush, and everybody seemed willing, but nobody thought the race was worth a fox's tail, and everybody was wishin they could jump old Jim."

"Jim usually hung out round on tother side of the swamp, so some of the men reckoned we better ride around that way and try to get him up. On the way round the swamp I cantered the mule up longside pap's horse and said to pap: 'what's gone wrong with old Dan?' 'Nary a thing' said pap, 'he's just waitin and restin for old Jim.' Made me feel better, for I was afeared Dan wasn't feelin quite so well, or was mad cause them dogs had come all the way from Kaintucky to show him how a chase should be run."

"Bout one circle round the high woods and down in the swamp a piece the dogs struck a hot trail, and purty soon they had him goin', but it didn't run much like old Jim, for he made two or three circles

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on tother side o' the swamp and come back on our side, afore he straightened out for a long chase. Guess he seen twern't no use to be foolin then, for he lit out straight way from home, and when he come acrost the field twern't no guessin'--it was old Jim. The dogs knowed it too, and when they hove out in the open they was packed like nobody's business, with Danel Boone leadin the pack, singin his bass and takin it easy. The Kaintuck hounds was comin up just ahead o' the pack and workin hard as ever."

"Boy, was that a race? All through the day they chased that fox and all through the day pap rode to see the hounds, Bout middle of the afternoon the Kaintuck hounds quit the race, but old Dan was still leadin the pack and still cryin his bass.

"When the riders decided they had rode enough for one day, they called their dogs off, and some of them said to pap, 'Ain't you goin to break old Dan off?' and pap said: 'Not till he gets tired runnin.'

"We went home that night and left old Dan still runnin, and pap said 'guess he'll come home sometime to get a bite to eat, but when we went to bed Danel hadn't showed up. That night I woke up and went to the window to see if I could hear old Dan, and when I didn't hear him I said to myself: 'He's just got all fired tired and laid down in the woods to take a nap.'

"Next mornin pap got up afore I did and was out feedin the pigs when he heard a hoarse bass yelp in the edge of the woods and figured it was old Dan. When pap got down to the open field a fox broke outen the woods, and bout four paces behind him was old Dan. The fox was old Jim, and he and Dan were both walkin."

WINGS OVER DELAWARE

by Victor Thaddeus.

June 28th - 1940.

make mention of the modes of study, including banding, by which the fly-raup of the species have been charted.

WINGS OVER DELAWARE

Introduction.

1. The Refuge on the River.
2. Need For The Refuge.
3. Guests At The Refuge.
4. Where The Waterfowl Come From
And Where They Go.
5. The Atlantic Flyway.
6. Why Waterfowl Migrate And How
They Find Their Way.

VICTOR THADDEUS
ARDEN, DELAWARE

WINGS OVER DELAWARE.

by Victor Thaddeus

Far away you see them, tiny moving shapes black against the sunset. Nearer they come ^{glad} nearer ^{heavy} growing ever larger until with jubilant cries and a rush of wings the great birds descend to the water. The Canada geese have arrived!

Their home in Delaware is the Bombay Hook Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, one of the most important sanctuaries on the Atlantic Flyway, and attracting many thousands of migrants in fall, winter and spring. To it come not only Canada geese but snow geese, many kinds of ducks, and also whistling swans.

also Sussex areas

The Refuge On The River.

The Bombay Hook Migratory Waterfowl Refuge is situated on the Delaware River just where it opens into the Bay, at a point where a sudden sharp bend in the shoreline is the only indication of Bay's beginning or River's end.

Four miles wide on an average, it extends along the water for twelve miles, and comprises fourteen thousand acres. Most of the refuge is marshland, ^{part of it} separated from the mainland by narrow winding Old Duck Creek, but there are several hundred acres of highland for raising food crops. Dykes built by negro CCC labor have created new ponds.

Need For The Refuge.

The waterfowl of America were once ^{far} more numerous than the buffalo. It seemed impossible that they could ever become

extinct. But only intelligent conservation and protection in recent years, ~~and~~ coming at a critical moment, have prevented the ducks, geese and swans from going the way of the buffalo and the beautiful wild ^{carrier} pigeons.

In the New World the ~~great~~ ^{vast} eastern marshes were once a Paradise for uncounted millions of waterfowl. This was in the days when the land was mainly wilderness, with a very small human population. Today great cities, the cultivation of the land, ^{and} a system of highways which makes every part of the country accessible, have crowded the birds ^{almost} out of existence. The rapid rise in the human population in the last century has brought about an even more rapid decline in the waterfowl population.

The Bombay Hook Refuge was established in 1935 as ^{a result} part of the national resolution not to permit the American waterfowl to be exterminated, ^{as} like the buffalo so nearly, and the pigeons actually, were. In 1869 one town alone in America sent eleven million pigeons to market; the last ~~big~~ carrier pigeon died in 1908. The extermination of the egret and the white heron in some States brought about the plumage acts of 1913. Only sanctuaries like that at Bombay Hook make it possible in some measure to protect the waterfowl against a fate as inevitable, when the march of ^{an unfeeling} civilization is too rapid to think of the welfare of birds.

Guests At The Refuge.

Since they come to the refuge it might be more fitting to call them refuges, but let us call them guests instead.

They are surely guests when ^{so much} we want them to come---
 these fine swift-winged birds who live ^{so vigorously} between sky and
 water!

Who are they by name? The larger and more impressive
 birds---the Canada geese, snow geese, and whistling swans---
 have already been mentioned. These are all common at
 certain seasons. And ducks abound. We all know that ducks,
 geese and swans, though they may vary in size and plumage,
 have something in common in their appearance. Since this
 is the case, and they do ^{have a relationship} belong to the same family, it
 might be interesting to know the name of this ^{important waterfowl} family
 which visits Delaware.

Ducks, geese and swans belong to the Order Anseres
 and the Family Anatidae. If you like longer names they
 are known as the Lamellirostral Swimmers. For they all
 swim as well as fly, and we remember them ^{usually} mainly sitting
 on the water. The Family Anatidae is not a small one. It
 contains 200 species, and is represented in all parts of
 the world, and includes 5 subfamilies. These 5 subfamilies
 are: the Mergansers, or Fish-eating ducks; the Pond or
 River ducks; the Bay or Sea ducks; the Geese; and the Swans.
 Members of every one of these 5 subfamilies come to Bombay
 Hook.

The Mergansers, called also Shell-drakes, have narrow
 bills notched like a saw so that they can hold on to the
 fish they catch under water. All three species ~~species~~ of
 Mergansers have been seen at the Refuge. The River ducks

seen are the Canadian black duck, the mallard, the pintail, the teal, the blue wing teal and the beautiful wood duck. They feed in shallow water by dabbling or "tipping" as you have seen the domesticated duck on park ponds and lakes doing. The bill of the river duck has gutters which act as strainers when the duck wishes to swallow the small mollusks, crustaceans and seeds of aquatic plants he has picked up from the river bottom, but not the mud that came with it all---he gets rid of the mud by the simple act of ~~closing~~ his bill and forcing it ^{out} through the strainers which retain the food.

The Bay or Salt Water ducks are deep divers. Where a river duck dabbles in shallow water only, the salt water duck may go ~~down~~ to bottom a hundred and fifty feet ~~deep~~, down. The Salt Water Duck can always be told from the river duck by a flap or lobe on the hind toe which the river duck lacks. ~~River~~ Salt Water Ducks seen diving at the Bombay Hook Refuge are the redhead, the ring-necked duck, the canvas-back, the greater scaup, the lesser scaup, the American goldeneye, ~~and~~ and the ruddy duck.

Where The Waterfowl Come From and Go To.

The Canada geese ~~knk~~ to which Delaware plays the host for part of the year may nest in Maine, New Brunswick, Quebec or Labrador, and they may go as far south in their fall migration as the west coast of Florida, being especially abundant on the St. Marks Refuge in that State. Two of their favorite wintering areas are also Mattamuskeet Refuge in North Carolina and Cape Romain in South Caro-

lina. They follow the coast in their flight, descending by preference to a habitat that includes fresh and brackish marshes.

Like the Canada and snow geese, most of the ducks that come to Delaware nest in the north. Nests of three kinds of river duck have been found in the Bombay Hook refuge--- the black, the wood duck, and the blue wing teal. Ducks and geese for the most part make use of the sanctuary as a feeding ground at the time of year when their work of raising families in colder climes is over. For whistling swans Delaware is usually the northernmost part of their journey.

All of these waterfowl in their travels ^{back and forth to Bombay Hook} follow a great and complex invisible road which is known ^N as

The Atlantic Flyway.

The Atlantic Flyway for waterfowl has a number of migration routes, ^{some} ~~but most~~ of the birds follow ^{ing} the extreme eastern one which leads ^S directly down the coast ^{and} has as its northern origin the eastern Arctic islands and the coast of Greenland, while others come from interior points.

From these breeding grounds in the north ~~xxx~~ come the ducks and geese, ^{some of them} stopping off at Bombay Hook before continuing the journey south to winter quarters in the great bays and sounds of Virginia ~~and~~ and North Carolina. But most ~~xxx~~ of the Canada geese and black ducks which follow the extreme eastern route ordinarily do not travel very far south of Long Island Sound, and so never get to Delaware at all. The ones that are guests at Bombay Hook have

mysterious overland
made a ~~roundabout~~ trip fascinating to contemplate.

For some reason not known to us ~~ducks and geese~~ ^{waterfowl} starting from the same point on the shores of Hudson Bay proceed southward by totally different directions. It is those which take the roundabout route that ^{mainly} reach Delaware. They first fly westward through the province of southern Ontario. On the western end of Lake Erie they are joined by birds bred in Michigan. Now they turn abruptly to the east, making a cross-country flight over Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia to the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays on the Atlantic coast. This is the general course taken also by the diving ducks, coming from the great interior breeding grounds.

The most interesting migration route tributary to the Atlantic Flyway is the one used exclusively by redheads. Its starting point is in the Bear River Marshes of Great Salt Lake, Utah. Ducklings start their fall journey from here by first flying north across southeastern Idaho and northwestern Wyoming, then they turn eastward across Montana, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, where they join other redheads ^{ing} coming from the Prairie Provinces of Canada, the united ^{flocks} ~~band~~ then flying to the Atlantic coast and some ^{of} the great ^{our} band of beating wings making their way to ~~the~~ refuge of Bombay Hook.

The big bluebill, or greater scaup, is a diver who comes to Delaware by a route of the Atlantic Flyway lead-

also
 across Canadian territory but otherwise not yet well understood. Blue-winged teals and ringnecks come into the Atlantic Flyway from the northwest via the Mississippi Flyway which they leave in the vicinity of St. Louis, Mo., striking across the mountains to the coastline of the Middle Atlantic and Southern States.

So the Atlantic Flyway Waterfowl Flyway is really a complicated system of migration routes by which the birds travel between their breeding grounds and their winter quarters, some of them returning always to their Delaware home at Bombay Hook.

Why Waterfowl Migrate
 And How They Find Their Way.

In a world that science seems to be banishing the unknown from more and more, the ^{whole} subject of bird migration still remains wrapped largely in delightful mystery. There is nothing else quite like it on earth. Think of it---thousands of species, millions and millions of birds, ~~are~~ constantly beating the air with their wings as they journey ^{about} ~~somewhere~~, for at all times of the years some movement is in progress! The paths crossing and crisscrossing, yet individual birds accurately ^{ely} finding the exact spot of their former homes on returning often from halfway around the world.

How to explain this periodic urge for movement which the waterfowl share with all birds? We cannot know, only guess. To say that the birds fly in search of food or to escape the winter is not enough, for they often go much

· further than they have to and leave before it is necessary. Another wonderful thing which we cannot explain is how the young birds, making the long trip for the first time, find their way. The immediate answer to ~~this~~ is that their parents guide ~~them~~ ^{them}, but the facts go completely contrary to this, since it is known that young and old ~~never~~ ^{seldom if ever} make the flight together but in separate flocks, starting south at different times.

We ~~must go~~ ^{must go} for explanation to the riddle of instinct. Far back in the past some great climactic change which was a critical event in the history of birds seems to have been the compelling cause for ~~their~~ migration. In those days vast glaciers were moving over the face of the earth ^{and} turning warm sunny lands into wintry icebound deserts. Many animals must have perished then, but the birds ^{with their wings} were able to fly away from the glaciers to lands of more pleasant climate and more abundant food. Today instinct compels the birds to an annual repetition of this migration even when ^{it is} not necessary, so strong is the force of inherited habit. For instance, though the waterfowl have food, cover and protection at Bombay Hook, they still fly north when the spring comes; and there have been cases of wild geese caught and domesticated by farmers which one day hearing the cries of a flock of geese migrating overhead have risen from ^{the} barnyard to join them.

Geese and ducks migrate by night as well as day, their calls being often heard from darkened skies. All over the world, since history began, these waterfowl flying abreast

or in angular formation have been accepted as portents of changing seasons. It used to be thought they made their long journeys at vast heights where the rarified atmosphere ~~made~~ allowed them to fly at a speed of far more than a hundred miles an hour, but airplane observation has proven definitely that waterfowl travel usually less than 3000 feet above the earth, the average speed of geese being from 42 to 55 miles an hour, and that of ducks 44 to ~~4~~ 59. Only seldom does an airplane meet a duck or ^agoose above 5000 feet, though once in a while a lone traveler is met as high as 10,000 feet.

These facts we know, but our ignorance of bird migration still remains immense. How do waterfowl direct their course on these long ~~xxxxxxx~~ journeys? The theories include hereditary memory, some magnetic sense, observation like the mariner's of the heavenly bodies, telepathy, guidance from regular winds and television. We know that no living creature has the keen eyesight of the bird, but when we think of the great distances that waterfowl cover by night, flying over a dark earth where man's use of electricity is constantly changing the position of lig^hts, then we can realize how wonderful is their flight.

Then also, besides the accuracy with which the waterfowl find their way, there is the mystery of the unfailing regularity of migration. The ducks and geese at Bombay Hook often arrive just on the average day when expected, and always within a range of a few days. There are ^{no} few human

beings who without the aid of a calendar and a clock have such a marvelously exact sense of time. Even when we have for convenience divided the year up into months and ~~days~~ weeks and days we often have to stop to remember what day of the week it is. The birds somehow keep track of the whole year of 365 days in their small heads, and without the help of dates or timetables make the long trip between Canada and Bombay Hook exactly on schedule!

The waterfowl you will see now if you go to the Refuge are the descendants of those which centuries ago made the trip to a very different Delaware. Now there are towns and roads, and factories and farms, but in those days the Delaware river was the only highway, and the only people were the Lenape Indians travelling in their canoes or making their way along forest paths. Later the ducks and geese, as they winged southward, saw the Dutch and the Swedes in Delaware, and William Penn's colonists. Perhaps they saw Captain Kidd, the pirate, burying his treasure at Woodland Beach, as one legend says. After the Civil War, looking down with their keen eyes, they would see the brilliant ~~ly~~ decorated steamer Republic sidwheeling to Cape May, across the river, and excursionists from Philadelphia enjoying themselves on Delaware Bay. They saw also the building of Delaware's first railroad, long since obliterated. So through the years the waterfowl have ~~seen~~ continually watched the face of the land below them change.

Wings over Delaware! After the canoes and clippers and steamboats on the River came the railroad, after the rail-

road came the hardsurfaced highways with their countless
automobiles, and now the ^{waterfowl in their flight see the} great searchlights of landing
fields sweep ⁱⁿ the sky of the Delaware of Tomorrow.

James B. Cheyney
April 17, 1940

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NEWSPAPER HISTORY
Folklore

Encyclopaedia File

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY MARKETS

The custom of displaying the finest and fattest beeves
February 22nd,
in Wilmington markets, was observed for more than a century until
the feeding and butchering of cattle in the East gave way to
the train loads of meats that came in daily from the great
slaughter houses of the Mid-West three or four decades ago.

The custom is ascribed as a compliment to George Washington,
the planter and farmer whose live stock on his Virginia estates
was declared almost unexcelled in this country.

In earlier times, when local farmers fattened steers into
beeves, they engaged with butchers to apply the dieting process
to certain of their most likely cattle, and through adding grain
to his other feed, they became beefy monsters. Early in Summer
they were set apart from their fellows and given especial food
and gorged until the butcher came and drove them to the ^{February}shambles.
The steers were dressed to best reveal their great fields of fat,
and to add a decorative feature and lessen the thought of bloodshed,
berries of red or flowers were trailed over the fatty interiors
of the defunct beeves.

The butchers themselves regarded Washington's Birthday as
a red letter date in their business and usually demonstrated
their pride in their business and in their offerings by such
dressed-up appearances as to make them barely recognizable.
Usually they appeared on February 22 in a dark suit, recently from
the tailors almost buried under the folds of a huge, white and

stiffly starched apron, and topped with a glossy, silk, high hat, probably just from the hatters - they were a study in contentment, happiness and pride.

None of the killers of steer forgot the trade value of a smiling face and our markets passed the day without a frown. The butchers were hosts and greeted every man, woman, or child who came within their province the entire day. They would point with glowing pride to their exhibits of fattened meats, but hesitated about cutting any of their display into roasts or steaks until the rush of visitors was over. Householders usually stuck to their regular butcher and might engage a cut of the steer to be delivered later. This was noted on a small slip of paper and an 1,800 pound bullock would thus be sold while still a whole carcass.

Washington's Birthday was never properly observed in earlier times without the aid of a brass band which played almost constantly during the day in the covered market houses. Over the mountains of fat beef, mutton or pork would be graceful trails of light colored paper or some vines; the day was a holiday in Wilmington, the State, and throughout the East. For the very choice cuts of the fatted beeves there was a slight extra charge to the consumer, for the well-fed bullock had cost the butcher a considerable per pound advance over the less super-fed beef.

Perhaps it was the atmosphere of the holiday that was so impressive, for one fails to remember any demonstrations of bad humor on those annual beef displays. There was no other business anniversary so resplendently observed as the Twenty-second of February each year for a century or more.

Perhaps in no other anniversary did the participants demonstrate so much pride over the objects for sale. In many instances the self-sacrificing wielder of the butcher knife would partially obliterate self and proclaim the name of the farm and the hundred in which the steers had fattened and had yielded the huge roasts and delicious steaks that enabled them to serve patrons with meats of unsurpassable excellence. Indeed the buyers of the meats always manifested as great an interest in Washington's Birthday as did the butchers and if the weather permitted hung their meats until served at family and kindred gatherings the next Sunday.

While other features of February 22 have faded from memory, the sturdy redfaced butcher, all dressed in black or blue, freshly barbered, covered with a white apron that almost enveloped him, above which was revealed the smiling face of the man of the knife with a black crown of shining black, silk plush will ever be remembered by those who walked through Wilmington markets when they were paying their annual compliment to Washington, the farmer.

Personal Recollections.

DELAWARE LAKES and PONDS

Andrews Pond	(K.Co.)
Betts' Pond	(S.Co.)
Blackbird Pond	(N.C.Co.)
Burton's Pond	(S.Co.)
Cedar Creek Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Chipman Pond	(S.Co.)
Clendaniel's Pond	(S.Co.)
Collins Pond	(S.Co.)
Concord Lake	(S.Co.)
Coursey Pond	(K.Co.)
Craig's Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Cabbage Pond	(S. Co.)
Davis Pond	(S.Co.)
Derby Pond	(K.Co.)
Duck Creek Pond	(K.Co.)
Dyke Pond	(K.Co.)
Ellis Lake	(S.Co.)
Fresh Pond	(S.Co.)
Garrison's Pond	(K. Co.)
Goose Pond	(S.Co.)
Gordon Lake	(S.Co.)
Green's Pond	(S.Co.)
Griffith Lake	(on line of K. and S. Co.)
Haven Lake	(S.Co.)
Hearns' Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Hearn's Pond	(S.Co.)
Hendricks Pond	(S.Co.)
Hitch Pond	(S.Co.)
Horseys' Pond	(S.Co.)

Lakes and Ponds (con't.)

Hudson Pond	(S.Co.)
Ingram Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Ingram Pond	(S.Co.)
Jensen's Pond	(S.Co.)
Killen Pond.	(K.Co.)
Lake Como	(K. Co.)
Lexington Mill Pond	(K.Co.)
Little Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Lum's Pond	(N.C.Co.)
Marshall's Pond	(S.Co.)
Massey's Pond	(K.Co.)
McColley's Pond	(K.Co.) (as per Del. Guide)
McGinnis Pond	(K.Co.)
Millsboro Pond	(S.Co.)
Milton Pond	(S.Co.)
Moore's Pond	(N.C.Co.)
Moore's Pond	(K.Co.)
Moore's Pond	(S.Co.)
Morris Pond	(S.Co.)
Morris Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Mud Mill Pond	(K.Co.)
Noxontown Pond	(N.C.Co.)
Old Furnace Mill Pond	(S.Co.)
Patrick's Pond	(S.Co.)
Paynter's Pond	(S.Co.)
Pepper Pond	(S.Co.)
Portsville Pond	(S.Co.)
Prices Run Pond	(N.C.Co.)

Records Pond	(S.Co.)	
Red Mill Pond	(S.Co.)	
Reynolds' Pond	(S.Co.)	
Salt Pond	(S.Co.)	
Salt Pond	(K.Co.)	
Shallcross Lake	(W.C.Co.)	
Sharp's Pond	(S.Co.)	
Silver Lake	(S.Co.)	Rehoboth
Silver Lake	(S.Co.)	Milford
Silver Lake	(K.Co.)	
Silver Lake	(K.C.Co.)	
Smalley's Pond	(K.C.Co.)	
Sunset Pond	(K.C.Co.)	
Swiggett's Pond	(S.Co.)	
Terrapin Pond	(S.Co.)	
Trappe Pond	(S.Co.)	
Trussee Pond.	(S.Co.)	
Tub Mill Pond	(S.Co.)	
Voshell Pond	(K.Co.)	
Waples Pond	(S.Co.)	
West Pond	(S.Co.)	
Wiggins Mill Pond	(K.C.Co.)	
Wileys' Pond	(S.Co.)	
William's Pond	(S.Co.)	
Wilson Lake	(K.Co.)	
Wyoming Lake	(K.Co.)	

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LOCATION - - Wilmington *Drawer: Customs*

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date July 7, 1936.

Prodigals Reformed on Whalers.

The first reformatories open to convivial ^{Wilmington} youths who had developed an unconquerable thirst for alcohol were the whaling ships which on three ^{year} cruises gave the young men time to forget about the love of the cheering cups. Sons of the "heirs" of well-to-do families were affectionately turned over to the captains of craft equipped and provisioned for ^{three} ~~three~~ ^{like} ~~year~~ ^{long} cruises. These "sons," were enrolled as members of the crew and perhaps performed more hard work tasks in that three years absence treatment than in all their lives before. The captains' middle names might have been "discipline," as their charges soon come to realize and whether the ship was without liquor or not these youths were not permitted to even smell alcohol. They were assigned to some of the duties of harpooning whales, landing them and transforming them into whale bone and oils, - until they came to like their experiences. After they had filled their ships with oil and bone the crafts turned their prows Wilmington ward and the shot from a gun on the water front announced the arrival of the craft with its list of hopeful sons, brothers, and fiancées.

Half the town turned out to wave a welcome to the incoming vessel, for in addition to bringing home the long absent prodigals, the cargo was valuable and brought ⁱⁿ such money to Wilmington - which perhaps was soon spent by the open-handed sailors.

Following "the return," there were parties in honor of the youths who had overcome their love for drink, and families rejoiced

over the regeneration of those former devotees of Bacchus. Good resolutions were renewed on shore and the reformers stood fast in their determination to make their healing permanent. Many early youths were thus saved from the fate that seemed in store for them while others liked the whaling experience so well that they stuck to the sea for their vocation.

In the early days of Wilmington when the town was a port frequent super cargoes of rum and liquors were landed here on vessels carrying our exports of flour and meal to the West Indies. The quality of the seductive beverages was excellent, which fact coupled with public sentiment of those days ^{much} did not frown on the cheering cup may have accounted for the number of Wilmington youths who found whale hunting thrilling and they themselves materially rebuilt the experience that long period of abstention.

References: Generally Known Legend.

Confirmed by Reminiscences of Wilmington,
Elizabeth Montgomery.
1 Vol. pp.19, Second Edition,
Johnston and Bogia, Wilmington, Del. 2nd Edition, 1872.

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date July 8, 1936

W- State

THE WITCH'S HOLLOW.

Betty's Hollow was once the habitation of an aged witch so reported Wilmington boys who went to skate on the Brandywine in the early days of the city. To avoid the danger of a spell the boys detoured around Betty's shack in the hollow when walking from the old barley mill to their skating ice on the Brandywine. Possibly Betty's unkempt appearance and tatters of clothes with the utter dis-regard of the cleansing effect of water won for her the unenviable sobriquet for there was never any formal charges that she had bewitched any person or had put a spell on any animal or object. Her small tumble down shack with her personal repulsiveness perhaps brought the charges of witchery from the boys, for she must have fit in rather nicely with the accepted mental pictures of witches that were accepted a century or more ago. ~~as a consequence~~. Betty told fortunes and earned a pittance by reading the future for "venturesome, inquisitive and impatient Wilmington girls and women, but her big flocks of chickens and ducks were supposed to have maintained the poor old woman.

It used to be hinted that the money from her poultry would have been sufficient to maintain her in very far more comfortable conditions than surrounded her and it is probable that she might have been suspected of passing on the earnings of her chickens and ducks to an evil one, although no trace of her hold communications with an unwholesome abhorred personality was ever uncovered

Later years seemed to modify Betty's offense to lack of observing the customs of cleanliness, and it was later concluded

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that by chasing the boys away from her fowls and threatening them with dire vengeance that the boys called her a witch, when in fact she was only a poor old woman ignorant of more modern customs and unmindful of what the annoying boys and her neighbors may have thought of her. However, Betty the Witch of Betty's Hollow a low bit of terrain wherein her shanty had been built- was believed to be a real to hold intercourse with the evil one.

References: - Oft Repeated Tradition confirmed History of Delaware. By J. Thomas Scharf, (2 vols. pp. vol.2 pp L.J.Richards & Company, Philadelphia, Pa. 1888.

File No. 240

Location - Wilmington

*Wilmington, Customs
Reference File
2/1/36*

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney

Date - February 19, 1936

CIGAR STORE SENATES

LIVERY STABLE FORUMS

The early forums of Wilmington long ago succumbed to more interesting forms of diversion, and the old Cigar store Senates have gone the way of all discarded customs. Until the coming of the movies and sports of various types, men of Wilmington forgathered of evenings in cigar stores and there debated the issues of the day from Free Silver and Protective Tariff to which is the worse sparrows in the garden or mice in the cellars. There was sufficiently wide diversion of views, whatever the topic, to assure forceful explosions of oratory and at times, the disputations became so animated that the orators grew red-faced, and the proprietor-referee would feel obliged to come from behind the cigar counter and apply oil to the troubled tempers of debaters. For the most part, however, the orators maintained their poise unless someone introduced a political problem for discussion. But theology and partisanship, if they came to the fore, were discussed with gloves on, so to speak.

The Singerly Senate and the Hawkins Senate were perhaps the most prominent of all these self-instituted forums. The former was at the southwest corner of Sixth and Market, and the other in Hawkins' cigar store on Market Street above Seventh. There were others---many of them---but the two named were the most important of these centres of dessein-

ating wisdom until the end of the last century. The assemblages were interesting, or rather amusing, even if not instructive.

If one of the attenders was absent for more than one "meet" it was a matter of concern; if he remained away for a week without previously so expressing his intention, volunteers would go to his home to inquire if he were sick. The Senate was accused of jarring many marital ties---not divorces, for Reno was not then on the map, and decrees had not become popular. It was the custom of the tobacco "Senators" to eat supper, and even before the dishes had been removed, to yawn out the information that he thought he would go around and get a cigar. The wife's rejoinder, perhaps, was "Hurry back, you have been away all day while I have been alone." If he got back before ten, it was a short evening; debates had been draggy and stupid. If he was too much interested to leave earlier than 11 or 11:30, he carried home half a dozen fried oysters with a few crackers and a pickle in a neat box. A wise Senator did not venture home empty-handed near midnight. The restaurants put up what they designated as "pacifiers" which rarely failed of their object. Wives were more forbearing in the eighties and sleepily waited for the return of their mates, until they were overcome by morpheus and retired wearily and cheerlessly to bed. It is not necessary to hint how the similarly neglected wife would meet the situation today.

The husbands, or the majority of the "Senators" were able to reconcile their other "halfs" by going with them to church on Sunday morning as a penance, with obvious discomfort, when viewed in stiff collars and starched shirts. There were scarcely any other diversions these days than these gatherings after the day's tasks were done.

Livery stables were other places where there assembled nightly considerable numbers of men and they, too, talked long; but most of it was "Hoss." They came directly after supper in winter and summer. In the warm season, they brought the chairs out to the sidewalk and tipping them against the wall to give them a comfortable lounging angle, they would review all recent town tattle, talk over the races and recite the ills or freaks of the local animal kingdom. Usually the health and advice was discussions was lead by one of the party who had gained prominence of being called "Doc" even though he might not have ever known there were veterinary schools in the country. There were few of standing in those times. The "Doc" would explain the danger to horses from infection, of contracting some epidemical ailment and would assert how easily he could cure such equine afflictions. The doses he administered to horses and cattle were monstrous in size, and if he had prescribed the wrong or too much medicine it was just too bad.

The livery stable Senators---many of them---would whittle with sharp pocket knives, straight knotless pine, and when they were not cutting curling shavings they

"jest set and thought" or perhaps, "jest set" as the saying goes. These remarks need not be taken as condemning the mental agility of the men of fifty years ago in Wilmington, but as suggesting that existence then for a man over forty was drab and likely to be even more so as he grew in years. There were almost no amusements then for the middle-aged, and they had nothing that afforded them such complete mental and physical relaxation as the companionship afforded by cigar abore and livery stable Senates, and similar hangouts.

Before the days of the country clubs almost everybody came down town at frequent intervals, but wealth and love of luxury, and grouping of the well-to-do, automatically set the line of demarkation between classes and masses.

But those democratic days have passed long ago--- to never come back. The man in the street finds better use for his talents, and most of the popular type of old time cigar stores have put up their shutters, while the last livery stable has gone so long ago that they are almost forgotten. They have given place to garages, but the latter are too much rushed to invite sessions of an old time forum, even if there were an abundance of debaters. The chain tobacco stores and the automobile have the implements by which these old time Senates were forced to adjourn sine die.

The decline of blacksmith shops is another note of changing business conditions. In 1891, the number of smiths and farriers had declined to 20 from 30 three years

before, and dropped to 16 in 1922, some of whom were wheelwrights and horse shoers; in 1935, there were only five in business---one a horse shoer. In 1891, thirty-one stables offered accommodations for horses or hired them for driving or working uses. The number had declined to six in 1922, and the zero of the livery stable had been reached before 1935.

One wonders what became of those monstrous funeral cabs of forty years ago, and of the drivers, as much of misfits for the service as were their funeral toggery topped by a high silk hat, battered and worn, and sizes too big for the small heads they almost buried. Gloom was written on the carriages and on the drivers---or most of those who thus served in such emergencies. Not worse---indeed, not so sinister-looking were the carriages as was the stately hearse and its draping and black miniature columns, death written over every feature of the cumbersome car,---depressing beyond words.

Both the carriages and the hearses were usually owned by the liverymen who hired them to the "undertaken" before mortician was pushed into the lexicon of funerals, who was accused of getting a cut of the lure, and was further declared to urge as many as he could to join the cortege to the cemetery. The passing of the horse has modernized burials and robbed the funerals of much of the earlier gloom. With the cortege propelled by gasoline the "last mile" takes on a brighter and pleasanter aspect.

Consequently if moderns have lost the cigar store
Senates and the wisdom it reflected, or if the automobile
has closed the livery stables, locked the door and thrown
away the key, man has been benefitted for, with the shifts
in habits and customs, men and women should be thankful,
for existence has been robbed of much of its drabness,
and is sure to lose more of the so-called atrophy of the
age of contentment. Looking backward fifty years or so,
man can laugh at the lack of sophistication on the part
of his forbears.

References:

From personal recollections and clippings from
newspapers and the reminiscences of the late Merris
Taylor, one time Editor of Every Evening.

J. F. Pate

Wilmington Draw 366
Folk Customs & Interesting
Incidents.

1852 September 10

The Blue Hen's Chicken cites the following:

"Singular Old Lady-A correspondent of a contemporary of Barbary McDonald, thus speaks whose desire to be in jail leads her to break windows so as to get in again a notice of which has before appeared in this paper.

'Old Barbary,' who has been an inmate of our prison for 22 years, left here last Thursday for Philadelphia to visit her daughter residing in that city. The history of this woman is a singular one. She formerly resided upon the Brandywine at a place then called 'Siddall's Bank.' In the year 1830, some difficulty having taken place between her husband and Mr. Siddall. Barbary commenced an attack upon the Factory and broke a number of windows. For this offence she was committed to New Castle goal, where she continued for some time. Upon her dismissal from prison she immediately returned to the Factory and repeated the offence, by breaking all the windows, within her reach. She was again committed and served another term; which when ended and she was dismissed, the windows again suffered and Barbary was sent back. Thus things went on, Barbary never being absent from the gaol but a very few days at a time. Of late years she would not take the trouble to walk all the way to the Brandywine to make her assault upon the windows, but as soon as she found she was turned out of prison she would commence operations upon the windows of the court house or gaol, and never ceased breaking until she gained admittance. She occupied a little room in the main prison which she kept very tidy and clean. Here she slept every night, but during the day went at large, though generally assisting the family of the sheriff in the kitchen or some other domestic operation. She considered herself responsible for the good government of the prison and on leaving wept bitterly, and

informed the sheriff that he must try to get along without her for a short time; but it would not be long before she would be back to her little room, and to the performance of her duties."

J. Barton Cheyney
February 23, 1937.

Customs & Peculiar Incidents

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Wilmington, Delaware

Stereoscope Cupid's Early Aide.

The ^{double} ~~big~~ eyed stereoscope participated more successfully and frequently in the last century in the conquests of Cupid than any other object of household ornament ^{or} utility. One or more were the treasured possession of most well-to-do families in Delaware—in fact of the whole of the United States. It aided in the entertainment of callers and encouraged reticent beaux to unlimber their affections and ask the question that brought them into blessed area of holy matrimony.

The stereoscope was invariably displayed on the front parlor table and beside it were stacked the mounted pictures it magnified and to which it gave atmosphere by bringing the details of the photograph out from the card-in bas relief. It served not only when the beaux came to spend the evening with eligible daughters, of the family, but it was equally ^{dependable to} ~~serviceable in~~ interesting the minister when he paid pastoral calls on members of his flock.

In the earlier days the pulpit and pew were engaged in diverse vocations that gave them little in common, and here the ^{visaged} double-eyed scope came to the relief of ~~the embarrassment~~ of shepherd and flock. Logically the parson could not supposed to be interested in the small tattle of the community or congregation, while the family were perhaps not profoundly interested in the themes uppermost in the mind of the ^d ~~domine~~. How welcome was the scope and pictures. Together they occupied the hour or so allotted for the visit and when the time for departure came each could truth fully say he had enjoyed the call.

But it was as the accelerator of Cupid that the scope was called on to perform its greater service. ^{It} ~~They~~ brought the backward beau and belles into closer unison than they might have attained

through any other agency. Viewing the pictures required the young miss to sit close by the gallant and explain the different ^{new} pictures which broke the ice of reserve until soon they ventured to sit comfortably and enjoyably on the parlor sofa.

A Wilmington lady, now a grandmother, recalls the aide that came to spur the courage of a backward beau. She would not fail to put Niagara Falls under the powerful lenses ^{at which} when he seemed to take new interest in the call and eventually perhaps propounded the fateful query - "Wilt thou".

When Niagara and its roaring rapids seemed to have lost their interest, Washington was put under the glasses and admired and discussed. The comely bride might intimate that the capital of the nation was such a wonderful place that she would like to see it and spend a day or two sight-seeing. If this line of suggestion failed to bring the desired denouement the courtship seemed to have reached the stage of final extinction. Rare very rare, indeed, could the girl venture further in a love quest - for the woman who proposed in those times seemed almost as much of an oddity as a crowing hen.

When there were two eligible daughters in the same home there ^{might} ~~would be~~ two stereoscopes as there were, in many instances, two parlors where each daughter could receive her beau-and there were often two stereoscopes and a double complement of pictures.

The old time parlors also displayed "what-nots" or ornamental side shelving where were shown the family treasures in bric-brac also stimulated conversation between the bashful beaux and pretty hostesses. Some of the objects of the collection were changed not infrequently and thus enlived the fading interests of the couple.

No one perhaps would be bold enough to insist that the parlor was purposely set to invite a proposal of marriage, but only to make it as attractive and interesting as possible. If the beaux accepted the ^{lure} bait all well and good; if not the lady might console herself with the adage that there are as good, or better, fishes in the sea than have every yet been hooked.

The stereoscope which was originally two lenses fitted into a scoop like frame over the forehead and eyes, with a sliding stand for the pictures-enabling an adjustment of focus. It was succeeded by a tall box like device into which the viewer peered ^t as the pictures shifted with the turning of a small knob.

In later years the talking machine took the place of the "scope" and the former in turn gave way to the radio which by the way offers not the opportunity for courtship (in winter) that was afforded through the silent stereoscope.

The photograph album another social helper aided the scope until it was banished from the front parlor, now to be observed coming back on the wave returning antiques, from banishment to the garrett or upstairs closets. The stereoscope however topped all aides in the acceleration of wooings.

Personal reminiscences.

J. Barton Cheyney
February 25, 1937.

Customs Peculiar Incidents

Wilmington Journal 371

Beloved by All Wilmington Children

Writers of the last century agree that Michael Wolf, gave more real happiness to the children of Wilmington than any men who ~~lived~~ ^{of} either before or since his demise. It was an early custom that children of the poorer households used to carry about molasses candy stuck on a board which they tried to induce children of the rich to buy for a penny. This was the only commodity peddled from door to door in those early days.

At that time benign and portly old Michael Wolf came on the streets with a great cake board on his head, piled up with hot ginger bread, glossy light cakes, and sweet rusks. His biographer says that "he gave more heartfelt pleasure to Wilmington boys and girls than any other man of his time; gave more smiling faces to the little ones in an hour than some persons do in a life time." His cheerful face amusing aspect, and kind tones of his speech inviting the children ^{to} come and partake of his good things made him long the best beloved man among children and parents.

The cash and carry system of modern merchandizing perhaps had its model in the early days of buying. People went to the stores or markets, bought, paid for and carried home their purchases. ~~Even~~ The arrival of a boat load of oysters was proclaimed by the town bellman, hired by the captain of the oyster vessel. He took up his loud mouthed ^{to} ~~bell~~ and after ringing it vigorously at the corner of intersecting streets would pause as if regaining breath and in a moment would proclaim the arrival of the bivalves. He announced the wharf where the boat was tied up, gave the price after lustily calling: "Oysters, Oysters, Oysters!" three times. He then resumed his way to other parts of the city. The public thus informed hastened

to the oyster boats and came home with filled baskets of buckets. Oysters could be bought for a few pennies a bushel-very excellent ones. Soon after those days however trade customs changed when wagons and carts "huckstered" food stuffs- especially farm produce at front doors.

A History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware. Benjamin Ferris (1 vol.) pp. 276-278, Wilson & Heald, Wilmington, 1846.

J. Barton Cheyney,
March 12, 1937.

Local Customs, *Intercity Incidents*

Drug Stores' Colored Lights Out.

The drug store of former times was no more complete without great or lesser jars of gaudily colored liquors in its windows than was the tobacco shop sans a wooden Indian. The globes of yellow, red or green, or whatever color fitted the fancy of the druggist occupied commanding places in the display windows so that all might see if they could not read where healing medicines were sold. At night a lamp or gas jet behind these gaudy bottles made them visible for long distances. There is a legend that the colored bulbous containers came into use before the coming of street and store night illuminations and thus aided hurried messengers in finding the place to have doctor's prescriptions quickly filled for the sick patient at home.

In those times when colored bottles in the windows served as advertisements drug stores were for the sale of medicines only, and it was not brought to mind that the colored waters were occupying the most valuable of advertising spaces. The change of drug stores into bazaars snuffed out the red and yellow from the window. If any remain to shed their colored rays into the street it is because there remain pharmacists in perhaps the smaller towns who adhere to ancient customs and insist that drug stores are literally places for dispensing and selling medicine only.

The drug store lights also were welcome sights of night, before the times of electric lighting to the public especially to travelers who found their colorful beams helpful to guide them in the dark - possibly the only bright light in towns.

Reference:- Personal Reminiscences.

J. Barton Cheyney,

Local Customs. *Inter 5 Incidents*

March 16, 1937.

"Ghosts" Guarded The Chickens.

A "wierd ghost in white" found an useful stage for its nightly exploits and meanderings on the porch of a former distinguished Delawarean on French Street between Tenth and Eleventh in the ~~early~~ *late* eighties of the last century. The great house was notable among its neighbors for the recumbent figures of two greyhounds, one on each side of the entrance to the front porch. On the western side a broad piazza extended into the shaded yard. It was there that the lady of the house, a semi-invalid, repaired after the evening meal, when the darkness had fallen, and walked smartly up and down the piazza for exercise.

The neighborhood was one that was infested with chicken thieves who had hesitated not a moment in yielding to the temptation to take fowls where-ever found. The poultry yard in question was the only one in that section that had escaped invasions by nightly marauders. It had been commented on frequently that those chickens seemed to have a charmed life to safeguard them against landing in ~~the~~ *a contraband* soup or stew, but no one ventured to solve the mystery, ~~at least~~ until after the passing of the lady of the house when it was recalled that in her evening exercise along the porch, she had wrapped herself in a long white shawl that matched her hair, and to those who viewed with longing the fat pullets and roosters of the ~~white~~ flock, the lady in white was nothing but a ghostly object.

Consequently none of the superstitious neighbors dared to cross the path of a spook.

It was not until the lady had ceased to make her evening exercise that the chicken roost robbers discovered that they had

Local Customs.
"Ghosts" Guarded the Chickens.
Cheyney.

allowed themselves to be deceived, and that the vision was the aged
invalided woman in white only.

The ghost "fear" protected the chickens so effectually that
not one was stolen. The old ~~manor~~ mansion, the home of the ghost
occupied a site at the centre of the County-City public building.

Reference:- Personal Recollections.

J. Barton Cheyney
February 18, 1937

Wilmington 2/18/37
Customs

Just

Bootlegging in "Wilmington."

Before Wilmington had graduated from a village to a town, bootlegging was rife and had many devotees. The river inlets about Wilmington and New Castle provided the necessary secretive background for the law breakers who illicitly brought whiskey, tobacco, jewelry, and articles of personal adornment into Delaware without having paid the excise tax. The contraband goods were brought to Philadelphia in ships, and the crew improving the opportunity to earn extra money smuggled them to Wilmington and New Castle. Possessing easy money the sailors themselves "made Rome howl" selling whiskey to everybody with the money in hand.

The prices of liquor were low and was sold to slaves and hobos. There were many of the latter and the Saturday night orgies under the stimulation of cheap grog seriously dislocated the peace and good order of the village. The single peace officer was unable to check the hilarity of the mob. Once when he tried to do so and arrested a leader of the gang his fellow sailors marched from the Foul Anchor and broke open the "Smoke House" ^(jail) in Market Street above Third and bore the freed prisoner away on their shoulders in glee at their triumph over the law.

Wilmington long was without a prison wherein to temporary lock up offenders over night, until they could be taken to New Castle jail. The "cage" which served as a temporary "lock-up" was without a fireplace and the penalties for being imprisoned there in Winter were quite as severe as the cat o'nine tails or stocks in front of the "smoke house." The lockup took its name from

from the smoke that arose from a dish of burning coals used occasionally to heat the building which was eighteen feet square divided into two rooms - one for men another for women. Unless the night was very cold the prisoners had to endure the pangs of frozen ^{limbs} members, as best they could - not infrequently sustaining serious damage to their physical welfare.

Bootlegging went on for many years in the early days of the Eighteenth century, until the city was incorporated as a town, officers elected and a ~~peace-officer~~ or constable installed to safeguard the community against drunken sailors and vagabonds which increased in numbers until they became one of the biggest problems that faced the new borough of Wilmington.

Newspaper clippings.

J. Barton Cheyney
May 10, 1937

Old Customs

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Wilmington Times

Exit the Busybodies

The triangular mirror contrivances that used to reflect neighborhood happenings and personages into the second story front rooms of the abiding places of our parents and grandparents have passed and are forgotten in Wilmington. They were more popular, and useful in larger semi-sophisticated cities like Baltimore and Philadelphia, but they didn't miss Wilmington when the vogue was on. They were of more effect on streets with homes flush with the sidewalks like French, King, Washington and West streets, and especially on Market Street of the seventies-eighties era of the last century. New Yorkers pretended to smile at the unsophistication, but at one time they were more numerous there than elsewhere.

In the days when woman's work kept her tied to the home she found not a little diversion in taking her knitting or darning to the second story front and there, through the window, watch the coming and going of neighbors as reflected in the busybody. They were the moving picture films of those days, registering accurately every happening on the street, and revealing who might be coming and going from a neighbor's house by day. Seemingly they showed the personage plainly if the caller was out of the "regular". Stockings grew as if by magic on the needles as knitters watched the panorama on the face of busybodies. Especially diverting were these triangular mirrors for shut-in invalids, who were the last group in Wilmington to discard them.

They had an equally important mission when set to reflect the comers and goers on the front door step. When a ring at the bell announced a caller it required but a glance to learn whether the waiting individual was a bill collector, the butcher, the baker, or the candlestick-maker, a talkative bore or some other persona non-grata

to the household. The busybodies had their drawbacks when the door-bell brought not response for it created a suspicion that the hostess had intentionally administered a snub. This was especially applicable to a social climber, left to cool their heels on the front steps.

The erection of porches and setting homes back a few paces from the street would have doomed these inquisitive devices had not modern pace quickened, and more interesting items offered than the comings and goings of neighbors. But while their hey day lasted one never could allow himself to forget that as he walked quietly along the streets he was perhaps on view from a score of front windows and perhaps discussed by gossippers, if he were strong enough in the spotlight to be worth talking about. One usually regarded those employing busybodies with a sort of tolerance and pity-regretful that they could find no more uplifting diversion for their leisure than to watch for reflections in mirrored busybodies.

Personal reminiscences.

NEW YEAR'S CALLING

The vogue of formally calling on ladies at New Years, so long a social custom of Wilmingtonians, and, in fact, the residents of all American cities and towns, passed into disuse with the approach of the Twentieth Century. Just prior to the eighties of the last century the custom was almost universal. Practically every young woman of marriageable age - or who had made a debut into society, adopted the custom of meeting their men friends on January 1. It was a pretty social gesture and had the advantage for each young woman to enlarge her number of men friends and admirers - beaux.

Previous to the coming of the New Year ^a coterie of young unmarried women arranged to keep "open house" on the opening ~~day~~ of the New Year. Each maiden so notified her intimate men friends that she would receive ~~her~~ ^{them} friends at her own or at a girl friend's residence from two till six o'clock in the afternoon. Here possible four or five young women, attired in evening gowns under a dimly lighted chandelier assembled - at their best. The room would be decorated with flowers or bits of bright color and prominently on a large table, dressed in the finest family napery, rested a large punch bowl of various potencies, flanked with cake and tempting confections. At ~~all~~ ^{the} homes, however, non-alcoholic punch was served and there were many such open houses in the New Year's calling era, but they perhaps were less popular than those who dispensed stimulants in the cheering cup.

The young men callers who perhaps had grouped themselves into parties of threes or fours often had their names engraved on

New Year's Calling

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the single calling card. They paid their calls in a cumbersome carriage of the type used for funeral and in fact for most all occasions. The man on the box was mostly out of accord with the occasion for he wore an ill fitting silk hat that had perhaps long before been discarded by its original owner, while the coat and rest of the livery was in keeping with the chapeau of the coachman. This, however, does not, of course, apply to the very well to do who used their own driving outfits for the function.

After a greeting the callers and introductions to members of the visiting trio or quartet - for the calls included ^{there to} the intimate young women friends of the group - the punch was passed in small glasses - if of alcoholic content: there would be a nibble of cake or more substantial delicacies - like chicken salad - and the call was over. ^{for the} The next visit to a young woman, perhaps living across the street, the New Year's gallants would ^{re-}embark in their waiting carriage and drive in proud semi-state to call at the "open house" over the way. Here the ceremony would be repeated with some variations in detail and possibly these formal calls would be extended to thirty or forty groups of receiving young women.

It required the entire afternoon for a group of popular young men to visit ~~each~~ of their intimate girl friends. Usually there had been a large ball or dancing New Year's eve, which with the fatigue, late hours, the next day's stimulating social diversions, the New Year's callers were about fagged out by January second.

The friendly rivalry of the young women in providing entertainment to callers at New Year's expressed itself in the increasing alcoholic content of the punch which brought many next day headaches, until eventually the custom of "open house" by young women in their homes was discontinued. It was pushed overboard by other social events usually centered at the Country Clubs - dances and

receptions and general merry making. New Year's calling had almost reached the ridiculous stage, was stifled by formality and other handicaps, and it was generally conceded that the punch or wine of the entertainment occupied ^a too prominent place in the functions that appealed especially to youths. *so it was largely discarded.*

General James H. Wilson was perhaps the last of the Social veterans to keep "open house" for his male friends on New Year's Eve. It was long regarded as one of the most delightful surviving old time customs in Wilmington. An invitation to these functions swept aside almost all other social affairs, and the memory of the Great Civil War Commander's "apple toddy" still remains as a fragrant memorial of these annual events which brought the most prominent men of the city to join in welcoming the New Year.

The large family group of the duPont clan still observes New Year's day, with informal open houses which brings the ^{members} clan together. The clan has become so numerous in recent years that the functions while entirely informal bring together ^{large} ~~the~~ family groups, even though most of the members meet very frequently during the social seasons of Wilmington. The New Year's function has been a fixture in the social calendar of the "dynasty" almost constantly since the coming of the duPonts from France about a century and a quarter ago.

Location - Wilmington

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney

Date - February 20, 1936

Reference file
2/20/36

WATCHERS FOR FIRES

Even before the establishing of a modern fire department---modern for the Eighteenth Century standards--- after various provisions had been vainly attempted to call into service the leather bucket brigade hurriedly at night, Fire Watchmen were stationed on the present Old Town Hall on Market Street below Sixth and kept on duty from dark until morning. They were "staged" in a cupola atop the then new City Hall from which point they could survey the entire city and instantly ring an alarm on a bell that would awaken the soundest sleeper. The number of strokes would indicate approximately the location of the fire and so direct the volunteers to the scene. Two watchers were always employed and always worked together in order to provide against the probabilities of one's being overcome by sleep. A second man was always on duty to see to it that his partner did not go into the land of "nod." The job could be likened to a long sentence in prison, but there was never a loss for men willing to spend half their lives in the old city hall tower.

Possibly the greatest drawback to complete happiness in the "exalted" post came from the spirit of revelry among the youthful Wilmingtonians which frequently demonstrated itself. When seeking a bit of excitement,

they would set a match to some light inflammable material and watch the sport from the side lines. The bell would ring and hand engines and pumps would rush to the scene; but before they had reached the fire, the flames had spent themselves and they found themselves the victims of what later came to be known as a "monkey run." In those days, not only the firemen responded to the alarm, but practically all the people hurried half-dressed from their beds, and sad would have been the fate of the prankish youths could they have been caught at the scene of the flaming shavings. A spar maker was glad to rid himself of the shavings that accumulated in his shop in East Seventh Street, and these provided flames, which lasted long enough for the Watchers in what came to be known as "Rice's Marten box" ---the observatory on Old City Hall, to get into action. How the miscreants laughed as they saw the firemen and the crowd of citizens dash down the street, puffing and sweating and swearing--- after they reached the scene of the blaze to find that they had been duped---were the victims of a practical joke.

To further ruffle the temper of the disappointed throng, the usually dim street lights were never burning when the almanacs proclaimed there would be moonlight, and it was with difficulty that the disappointed firemen pulled their heavy apparatus up the long hill, scarcely able to see a foot before them. The would-be spectators were likewise indignant and equally perplexed over having to group their ways home in the stygian blackness of the

night.

While the fire watchers were perhaps satisfactory in the days when Wilmington was small, the efficiency of the service came into question as the buildings increased in number and value, when an electrical fire alarm system was substituted, and the nightly vigils of the drawsy men atop City Wall ended. Meantime, the city had shifted its fire fighting apparatus to fine steam engines drawn by horses, and for many years these afforded property owners satisfactory security against loss, but as the buildings increased in height and valuation the excellent Volunteer Department gave way to a paid department equipped with motor-driven apparatus and all modern devices for preventing and extinguishing flames.

year old grand-daughter. While at the present time the feminine dress comprises anything from pap girdle and loin cloth of the savages to full masculine attire. What the future holds in feminine dress challenges even the optimism of the most reckless speculators.

The forms of recreation have also undergone many changes. Horseback riding, one of man's oldest methods of transportation, was given a set-back with the advent of the bicycle as a new kind of recreation in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The custom became so general that great crowds of bicyclists could be seen in the evenings and on Sunday riding out the highways or through the parks.

While bicycles are used to a considerable extent at the present time, they are employed more in business pursuits than for pleasure or recreation. Before the automobile came into general use, most large industrial establishments maintained a room or shed for parking of the employees' bicycles, but today "wheels", as they are most frequently called, are seldom seen at the shops, and the bicycle shed has given place to the garage or parking space for motor cars.

Customs and styles, like the seasons, operate in cycles; so "old Dobbin" now appears to be staging a come-back after a few years in oblivion, and horse-back riding is being indulged in more frequently by the youth and many grown-ups. Numerous riding schools have sprung up in recent years which maintain grounds where the riding enthusiasts, with their fancy boots and large coats, can go for a ride around a cinder track, or to jump over some low hurdles in an imitation fox chase.

The livery stable has become almost extinct, and the blacksmith with its hitch racks have now been converted into filling stations and auto repair shops.

What used to be nice landscaped farms along the highways are now given over to camping sites, with piles of old tin cans, boxes and rubbish to mark the site for the weary tourist. The highways leading into the city are crowded with lunch stands, more commonly known in the present day language as "Hot dog stands".

The horse and buggy today are as uncommon on the streets and highways as were the automobiles the first few years of the present century. The hay-wagon ride, so often indulged in a few years ago as a method of recreation, has, for the most part, given way to the truck or bus excursion to some beach or resort. The sleigh and the bob-sled have made their demise, and only rarely in the winter do we see the old fashioned sleighing parties. The motor cars are now operated the entire year, while, in the early years of the present century, the auto was usually stored away with the appearance of the first frosts of the season. The attire of the motorist of early days is quite a contrast to the methods of dress for motoring at the present time. In those good old days it cost about as much to fit the family out in motoring togs, as the motor car cost. The ladies had to have special hats, veils and wraps, and the gentlemen had to have special caps, goggles, gloves and etc., all had to wear dusters, a sort of a linen outer garment that probably derived its name from the several layers of terrim deposited on it during a short motor trip. Today, however, most any attire from greasy overalls of the shop workers to their Sunday "best" is considered proper in a motor car.

A few of the early vocational activities have almost disappeared in recent years. The debating societies, which flourished in almost every community in the latter part of the nineteenth century, have, since the turn of the present century, become almost extinct;

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Customs - Allen

their demise being attributed to lack of interest brought about by the introduction of new forms of recreation.

While there may be some people who bemoan sadly the passing of those legendary old days of oratory, others are just as apt to give three whoops of joy, and wish for an early funeral. Fortunately, or unfortunately, as the case may be, it seems that the race of public speakers is slowly dying out in Delaware; most of the old-time stumpers are passing, and there are few coming on to take their place.

There were days when the literary and debating societies occupied the same relative position as the country club, or the Greek letter fraternities, hold today. Every town, no matter how small, had its coterie dedicated to the proposition "that all men enjoy hearing speeches". Hours were given over to practice, usually before a mirror. Striking an attitude before the glass, father would straighten his huge wad of ascot, pass a tentative hand over his hair that had been slicked back in pigeon-wing fashion and bellow:

"Friends, Romans, and countrymen".

Then, warming to his subject, in a silver-plated voice he has nurtured into a fierce parabola, he declares, "I come he-er NOT to praise Caesar, but to bur-rey him". He pats his ascot lovingly.

Thus was the orator at about the turn of the present century.

But back in the more seemly days than these, time was devoted to literature, the classics, and the forum, and the debating society filled a distinct niche in the horizon of man. Private groups such as the Hamilton Debating Society, in Wilmington, waged

rhetorical warfare on the rostrum and argued the pro and con of weighty affairs. From its ranks have come eminent barristers, staid judges, doctors, statesmen, and others.

The society was organized late in the fall of 1884, with four members, and on March 10, 1885, resolved to increase its membership and perfect a permanent organization. The Coterie grew slowly as care was taken to include only those who could deliver something of intellectual value rather than merely being a good fellow. It flourished for about twenty years, then suddenly went to pieces.

The spelling-bee has also gone the way of the debating society, although efforts have been made from time to time to revive the ancient vocation. These occasions of recreation held the attention of the people for approximately half a century. Aside from being educational, they furnished much amusement for those who attended, and there were seldom any dull moments at these social functions. The people, old and young, who desired to take part in the exercises were divided equally under the leadership of two captains; the persons chosen captains were generally considered to be the best spellers in the community, but occasionally, in order to put a little spice in the affair, the teacher or the presiding officer would toss peanuts and the first two persons catching a peanut in their mouth were to be captains. The next procedure was to decide who would have the first choice, and this was accomplished by tossing a stick to one of the leaders and each grasping it hand over hand until they came to the end of the stick, the person getting the last handhold was to have first choice of the contestants. Each selected one person in turn until all had been chosen; occasionally, in order to liven things up a little more, they departed from the regular routine and chose the contestants in a unique fashion.

After the captains had been chosen, a curtain would be

stretched across the room and those desiring to be chosen would gather behind the curtain. The leaders would then choose their sides from the shadows on the curtain, which sometimes turned out to be a small child who had been placed on a chair and dressed in an older person's coat. Such was the spelling-bee in the gay Nineties and earlier.

Just as marked changes have occurred in social functions and the forms of recreation, there has also been a radical departure from the early customs of home life. A decade or so ago, saw the home as the center of family life, and where the old and young gathered for a joyful time around the fireside in the evenings. The mothers and daughters vied with one another for supremacy in knowledge and skill in culinary arts; and house-wives, following the example of their husbands in protecting their trades by guilds, formed guilds to protect their home arts. Imagine, if you can, what success a "Dish-washer guild" would have in this age of collapsible drinking cups and paper plates.

But, however, time has brought changes, and the present era is sometimes referred to as "the tin can age"; a time when most everything is prepared in canning factories, and the house-wife can buy chickens, meats, vegetables, fruits, and pastry all ready prepared and need only the operation of a can opener to prepare the food for serving. Even the bread comes sliced and the old saw-toothed bread knife, for the most part, has been relegated to the junk heap along with a lot of other obsolete household equipment. Things have been made so convenient and domestic duties have become so simple, that a "can opener" is about all the equipment a young married couple needs to start housekeeping.

-7- . Social Life and Community Activities
Customs - Allen

Every storm usually leaves some damage in its wake, so the change in customs has also had a rather detrimental effect on the home life of today. Father spends much of his time at the club, or on the golf course, and at other places which he sometimes refers to as "directors meetings"? while mother attends the afternoon tea, the bridge or bingo party, or revels in the night life at some cafe. The children are taught to use the "can opener" in very early life and thereafter are able to look after themselves; they are let run the streets, or are sent to the movies, so as to relieve the parents of their care. Private homes are being made into apartments, and the apartments are becoming smaller all the time. The advent of the collapsible bed, a sleeping contrivance that folds into the wall when not in use, makes one room serve as a living-room and bedroom, and because of the ready prepared foods the kitchen has almost been eliminated.

The farmer has taken cognizance of the changes in the customs and manners of our urban dwellers and vie with the industrialists in delivering his products to the city consumer in an up-to-date style. A pronounced change has been made in the manner in which milk was formerly delivered and the methods in use today. A score or more years ago, the rural dairyman brought his milk to town in large cans from which he dipped out the contents with a gourd or dipper and poured it into the jars, pitchers, pans, or buckets which the house-wife brought for the milk. Some of the more enterprising farmers had cans with spigots whereby the milk was drawn from the can. He usually announced his approach by ringing a bell, and occasionally the harness on the horse had small bells attached.

-8- Social Life and Community Activities
Customs - Allen

If two or more milkmen passed along the same street, the customers had to train their ears to the tune of the bell of the man with whom they were dealing. Billing machines were unnecessary in those days as the accounts were kept by tickets. The house-wife usually obtained enough tickets for a week or month, based on the time that "hubby" got his pay. The tickets were good for "one pint" or "one quart", and were used as money.

Today, however, the house-wife seldom sees the milkman, unless she and her husband are rather late getting in from the night club. The milk is usually delivered in the wee hours of the morning, but with "old Dobbin" shod with rubber shoes and drawing stream-lined pneumatic tired vehicles, the slumbering Wilmingtonians are not awakened by the "clop", "clop" of "Dobbins" feet on the pavement. The milk comes in sealed bottles with the cream already raised and ready to pour into the coffee, while in early times, especially in the hot days of summer, the cream sometimes had already been churned into butter.

While radical changes have been made in practically all phases of the life of the people, the political life seemed to have experienced the least change, and politics has remained on about the same level as they were a half century or more ago.

"Now is the time for all good citizens to come to the aid of their party" is the Olive branch held out to the people by the politicians a few weeks before the election. These people, who have not had any consideration from the government for a biennium, are now urged to "keep the political party in power" in order to save a

democracy they never had, or to defeat some "ism" with which the political party is at odds. If they have a weak candidate, or a weak platform, or both, they wrap themselves up in the American flag and hide behind the Constitution.

The political situation is usually left in the hands of a few party leaders who devote the few weeks prior to the election to mud-slinging and muck raking, because it is a part of the political gospel "that if there is muck to be raked, it should be raked just before an election". The Democrat and Republican parties are the dominant parties in the city, as well as in the State, and the ballots at the election seldom contain any other than the above referred to parties. But, occasionally, the political machine jumps a cog, and a disgruntled party leader breaks away from the fold and with a few followers forms a new party, which, like the dew of the morning, soon disappears and every thing becomes quiet on the political front.

The same hands that manipulate the political wires of the State also manipulate the political wires of the city government, and each succeeding administration, under its guiding hand, devotes more time to repair and building up of its party machinery for the purpose of perpetuating itself in office, than to looking after the interest of its citizens. The people, aside from being burdened with heavy taxes for the upkeep of the city government, are forced, indirectly, to pay the campaign expenses of the Grand Old Party. When the party chest begins to show bottom, those in high political circles begin to look around to see if they have not got some old marsh land, or worn-out hillsides, which they can persuade the city

to buy at Broadway prices, thus leaving considerable revenue above the price of the land with which to buy ammunition for the next campaigns.

The low level of politics in the city can be attributed largely to the lack of interest on the part of the people in the affairs of the city government. They will walk out of a meeting where public questions are being considered in order to attend their lodge or fraternity, and it is easier to get a crowd to listen to someone discussing the fine points of a cross-word puzzle than it is to get a crowd to listen to a proposal for more efficient government at a saving to the tax-payers. The politicians are aware of this fact and their campaigns are generally conducted along every line but politics. But, however, the results of the recent elections have indicated that the people are beginning to take their politics more seriously and not as a matter of course, as heretofore.

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"A Half Century of Clean Sport". Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware. June 23, 1935. (Mag. Sec.) Page 2.

Hamilton Debating Coterie. Sunday Star. Wilmington, Delaware. July 16, 1933. (Mag.Sec.) Page 12.

Interviews with older residents.

Personal observation and experience.

Submitted by James R. Allen,

Date June 4, 1936.

Customs of the People of Delaware.

In general, the customs and manners of the people of Delaware do not vary much from the customs of urban and rural districts of other states. But, there are a few customs that might be attributed only to Delaware.

Moving Day is a common term in cities, in many sections of the country, but when we speak of "Moving Day," in rural districts we can think only of Delaware.. March 1, as the agrarian moving day, has attained in Delaware, all the aura of an institution: as fixed on the year's run as Christmas or July 4th. So the date has become firmly entrenched in the annals of farming, a date noted in the almanac or ringed upon the kitchen feed store calendar. This contribution to folklore is no less apparent in this day of grace than in former days. In early times the tenant farmer who was dissatisfied with the farm on which he was living usually on the first signs of spring, obtained new lands on which he put out his year's crops, and the first part of March was considered a very desirable time to move. In later years a State law regulating regulating the length of time for making leases attributed to the continuance of the custom. All leases are made for one year and March 1 is the date the leases expire.

Delawareans are recreation lovers. Almost every man and a large number of women have an especial form of out-of-door recreation which they cherish very seriously. There are a great many sportsmen and sportswomen who have such a deep regard for their peculiar indulgence that they travel many miles and spend

much money to satisfy their desires.

In the metropolitan centers are numerous associations and organizations of sportsmen and sportswomen, each representing some particular branch. They include yachting clubs, fishing clubs, gunning clubs, golfing clubs, swimming, hiking, and horseback riding groups. While a majority of the citizens following out-of-door sports generally accept Spring and Summer as their out-of-door recreational period, during eight months of the year, one or more of the principal forms may be indulged in. Delaware's location, and its liberal gaming laws have made possible a variety of sporting privileges within one recreation period. Salt water fish may be taken from the ocean off the Delaware Coast, and by a journey of eight to ten miles up some of Delaware's beautiful streams, fresh water fish may be caught, ducks may be shot on the marshes and rabbits or quail on the uplands.

The mania for taking chances is another peculiarity more imbued in the customs of the people of Delaware than it is in the customs of people of the other states. This trait makes the people easy marks for all kinds of swindling games, and carnivals with all sorts of chance games are operated by churches, clubs, patriotic organizations and firemen's associations, during the summer months. The people gather at these carnivals by the thousands and place their nickels and dimes on numbered boards or buy tickets for a lottery drawing. The promoters of "blue sky" propositions have found a fertile field in Delaware to dispose of their worthless securities.

The people are not very quick to take advantage of proposals to improve their condition in industrial life. The people have been content to labor for low wages and under poor working conditions, therefore strikes and labor troubles have not been very

prevalent in the State. In the rural districts, many of the farmers still cling to antiquated farming tools and methods in carrying on their profession. Those near the urban centers devote most of their farming operations to raising of vegetables and fruits which they dispose of on the curb markets of Wilmington and other nearby cities; while those farther away devote their time to general farming, dairying, and fruit raising.

The "Quilting Parties," which continue into our own day, typify a friendliness and a penchant for combining social intercourse with necessary work, that is a part of the creed of an American farm. It is full of color, and it is here that true America may be found.

Bibliography: Wilmington, June 1930 issue, Chamber of Commerce publication. Page 10-11, "Recreational Del-Mar-Va" by Edwin C. Totten.

Sunday Star, February 23, 1936, Magazine Section Page 4, Title; "Moving Day in Rural New Castle."

Chamber of Commerce Bulletin, April 1928. P.7.

Personal Observation.

J. Barton Cheyney
February 25, 1937

Customs Peculiar 399
Incidents
Wilmington Delaware

"Old" Joan Hugall

The mulatto daughter of George Hugall, once an English army officer, was perhaps the most miserable of all dwellers in Wilmington in the latter days of the Eighteenth Century. Weakness with a malformation obliged her to stagger about supported with a cane in each hand. Her habitations were deserted sheds or shacks, and her penchant was for crippled furniture and household utensils which had been disabled and sent to the village dump. Joan insistently collected all such discards, carried them to her shed and stored them carefully, all the time gloating over her treasured possessions. Broken down tables, crippled chairs, iron pots with holes in the bottom were included in her collection. She neither sought to sell or use any of her "rummage," but piled it high in her shed, even when it threatened to crowd out her and her small bed. She was a miser in holding fast to the ownership of worthless encumbrances.

For a livelihood Joan depended largely upon the charity of her neighbors and the public, and her appearance at the back door of any mansion was in itself a plea for something to eat or for a swill for her beloved pig. She was more fond of her porker than of any other animate thing, and the pig was so grateful to Joan that if they met anywhere about town-^{it} the ~~porker~~ was privileged to go where he listest; it was happy. If its indulgent mistress was carrying her swill pail nothing would prevent the pig from following her about town at her very heels and to their abiding places. They did not live under the same roof. Obviously the porker was provided with more comfortable quarters than was its spinster mistress.

The zero hours of Joan's annual grief came when it was necessary to kill piggie to replenish the larder against Winter, but the grief over the passing of the little ^{pinker} pig was somewhat assuaged by the visions of sausages and scrapple into which it was to be transformed. Even as it was squealing in the agonies of death, Joan shared its grief at the parting, but she felt that there was a measure of compensation to be derived from the circumstance that her pet ~~parker~~ had fattened to a delightful plumpness on refuge they together had salvaged from the kitchen swill tubs.

Every contemporaneous Wilmingtonian knew Joan and had learned of her mixed parentage and the dream that brought her English soldier to the matrimonial yoke with her Negro mother, the servant of a family of Swedish family living just above the mouth of the Christiana.

Joan was one of a large family. Her father, when in the army in England dreamed that he had seen a black woman in a vision and that it was ordained that he was to marry one of the race. The fear of the prophecy grew upon him until he gave up his commission disposed of all his effects and endeavored to run away from the scene of ^{his} dream. Boarding a vessel bound for Philadelphia he landed there and proceeded to further try and dodge fate by coming to Wilmington. Soon after leaving the boat he saw a young Negro girl working in the field, and concluding that he could no longer dodge the fulfillment of his ^{vision} ~~dream~~ he approached her, proposed and they were married. The miscengation created much talk and criticism in Wilmington and the white bridegroom and the black bride settled in Brandywine hundred where they lived a few years until Hugall built a log home on Fourth Street below Walnut. Joan despite the poverty and squalor and unsanitary surroundings lived until she was 85.

A history of the Early Settlements on the Delaware, Benjamin Ferris, (1. vol.) pp 260-261, Wilson & Heald, Wilmington, 1846. Newspaper clippings.

BASKETBALL

Basketball has the unique feature of being the one popular sport played in this country which is truly American in its origin. The game was invented in 1891 by John Naismith, an instructor at the YMCA Training School in Springfield, Mass. Mr. Naismith wished to provide a game which would furnish active exercise during the winter months, when the majority of outdoor sports were unplayable. The game was found to be so practical that it was soon being played in schools, colleges, athletic clubs, and industrial organizations, and a modified game for women became equally popular in girl's schools and colleges. Although it remains primarily an amateur sport for young people, it has been estimated that more people watch and play basketball than any other sport in the United States.(1)

Basketball in Delaware started in the early 1800's. About 1890 there was a team at Pyle Cycle Academy in the old YMCA building, which at that time was located at Delaware Avenue and Orange Street. Another well-known team at that time was the West End Reading Room Team at Delaware Avenue and Scott Street, where the First Independent Church is now located.(2)

From 1907 to 1916, Brownson Hall was the center of Wilmington basketball. The five men who made basketball history for the Brownson Library Association were Johnny Burke and

"Doc" Haney, who played the position of forwards, Mark McDonough, who played center, and Larry Rigney and Leo Walsh, who were guards, with Charlie McDonough always a very able substitute. The YMHA, then located at 3rd and King Streets, was another mecca for basketball lovers, and many thrilling games were witnessed here. (3)

The University of Delaware from 1919 through 1920 set quite a mark for the future teams to equal or better, with a record of thirteen wins against three losses, defeating such teams as Navy, Catholic University, Stevens Institute, Lafayette, Virginia Poly, Ursinus, Haverford, Franklin and Marshall, Muhlenberg, Dickinson, Swarthmore, and a second defeat for Franklin and Marshall. The three losses were a forfeited game to Catholic University, loss of a heartbreaker to Penn 27-21, and lastly, the only decisive defeat, a score of 40-26, by powerful Georgetown. This impressive record has now held for twenty years. The players of this remarkable team were: Coach H. Burton Shipley, Gray Carter and H.B. Alexander, who played the position of forwards, "Sank" McCaughan, who played center, and Bayard Carter and Frank Wills, guards. The reserves were Joe Rothrock, Twoes, Keith, Granville, Robinson, and Aiken. (4)

The finest professional team of Wilmington was the Wilmington Blue Hens, who were playing in 1929. This organization was always well up in the Eastern League, and for several years were called the champions. The team was broken up, however, because of lack of support.

Since its introduction in this State, basketball has made great progress in the sport realm. Delaware now has teams in its colleges, high schools, industrial leagues, church leagues,

suburban leagues, park and playground leagues. At the end of each season, the junior and senior tournaments are held and from these games are selected the All-State players.

The YMHA, now located at Sixth and French Streets, is a member of a league that plays teams from all YMHA's along the eastern seaboard. From all indications, there is a possibility of another good professional team being organized in the near future.

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1. Dictionary of American History. Edited by James T. Adams. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940. 5 v. v. 1.
2. Personal Interviews
3. Newspaper clippings
4. Sunday Star, Wilmington, Del., 2-18-40
5. Morning News, Wilmington, Del., 3-15-40

Submitted By

LOCATION--Wilmington

~~Assigned to~~ Earl F. McGinnes

Date-January 23, 1936

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Pocket Billiards--Jimmie Caras;
World Champion.

Jimmie Caras, won the World's Pocket billiard championship from Erwin Rudolph, of Cleveland in New York City in 1934, by a score of 125 to 53 in a sixteen inning play-off, bringing the title back to Wilmington and Delaware for the second time.

Ralph Greenleaf, formerly of Wilmington, but now living in New York was the first to bring the title to Wilmington, after having had won it at the tender age of 16.

Caras's billiard life started in his early life, when on December 17, 1910, his father, Spiros Caras moved from Scranton, Pa., to Wilmington. His father, after having been here for a brief time opened and manage several billiard halls along Market street.

Jimmie's introduction to the game started when he was six-years-old, when he was presented with a minature pool table. This little table facinated Jimmie so much that he kept after his brothers to "play a game with him". The result: Nineteen years later, he was crowned the World's Champion pocket billiard player.

He was entered in the Eastern Sectional tournaments, of 1929, 1930 and 1931, but did not meet with success until 1932, at which time he defeated his opponents in the divisional and sectional tournaments and since then was a leading contender for the World Title.

BASEBALL--Eddie Cihocki;
A promising Major League player

Eddie Cihocki, of Wilmington, is a member of the Syracuse Chiefs, of the International League and at one time a member of Major League baseball, performing with the Philadelphia Athletics.

Eddie left the sandlot to join Harrisburg, of the New York-Penn., League and from there went to the Athletics under Connie Mack, who at the time was manager of the club. He was released by the As' and signed by the Chicago Cubs, who farmed him out to Syracuse.

Cihocki was a star guard for the Defience Bulldogs basketball team in the city basketball league several years ago.

STIDHAM "TUT" TALLEY, a former Wilmington High School lad who made good in professional baseball is now a pitcher for the San Antonio Club, of the Texas League. He started his semi-pro career with Vanaver A. C., in the All-Wilmington League several years ago. from Vandaver he joined the New Bedford, Mass., club of the Northeastern League. The St Louis Browns of the ^{American} ~~International~~ League purchased Talley and farmed him out to San Antonio, on which team he holds the position of pitcher.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS; Boxing and wrestling is under the jurisdiction of the Delaware Boxing Commission, of which C. B. Hallam, Managing Editor of the News-Journal paper, is chairman.

The professional shows are held one night a week at the Auditorium, Eleventh and Madison streets. The admission to these shows is fifty-five cents, including State tax and for the reserved seats, \$1.65 is the top price.

Legalized boxing and wresting in Wilmington was passed by an act of the State Legislative in Dover, Del., in March 1930. The bill was introduced by Senator J. B. Green.

GOLFING; Alex G. Tait, Professional at the Wilmington Cpontry Club is well in demand to those who wish to learn the game. His services are daily at the club.

This information came from the following sources:

- Ben Greenstien, Sports Editor, Journal-Every Evening,
- C. B. Hallam, Managing Editor, Journal-Every Evening and
- from Jack McGowan, Public Building, all of Wilmington, Del.

LOCATION: Wilmington.

Submitted by - J. E. Bero.

Rewritten by E. Knight.

Date - July 17, 1936.

latest revision

Professional and Seasonal Sports.

The geographical location of the city of Wilmington provides a natural setting for numerous sports. The nearness of water makes fishing and yachting possible. The surrounding hills and countryside provide splendid facilities for hunting and riding and the parks which are numerous around the city have facilities for tennis, baseball and other outdoor sports.

Amateur

The amateur sportsman may find many fields of activity in which to indulge. The Municipal Golf and Tennis Association conducts a public golf course at Rock Manor, which is on the Concord Pike near Wilmington. The links, which are an 18 hole, par 70 course, are open to the public all the year round. Green fees are \$.50 per player on week days and \$1.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Yearly memberships are \$25.00 for seniors and \$7.50 for juniors. At the present time the course is 5300 yards in length but it is being lengthened to 6500 yards and will be completed by next year. The longest hole is 525 yards. Fishing may be done in the Brandywine or any of the other creeks within the city and also in the Delaware River. The Y.M.C.A. provides indoor sports of all kinds from billiard and ping pong to gymnasium work and swimming, and is the local point for most amateur sports

in the city. There are many semi-professional and amateur baseball clubs in the city which play their games on the various fields around the city and during the fall there is the same activity in football. Baseball is played on most week-nights during day light saving and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the season. There are a few leagues in existence in the city but the membership of the leagues changes from year to year. Football is usually played independently on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the fall season.

The Brandywine and other parks afford delightful scenery for walks and hikes and there are fine bridle paths which lead through rustic and picturesque sections of the parks.

At the present time there are 5 public swimming pools operated by The Board of Park Commissioners, which also provides for recreational purposes 30 tennis courts. The only restrictions in the use of the courts is that the players must obtain a permit from the Park Board and furnish all equipment including nets, etc. Playing time is limited to one hour. Hockey, Soft-ball, Baseball and football fields may be found in the various public Playgrounds and Parks.

Professional Sports.

There is a little activity in the professional sport field in the city. There is no professional baseball, or football club operating in the city. Wrestling matches are held in the Auditorium at 11th & Madison Streets on Monday evenings during the winter, and occasionally boxing matches are also held.

Admission to the shows range in price from fifty-five cents to one dollar and sixty-five cents.

The State of Delaware legalized Boxing and Wrestling under an Act of the Assembly in 1930 and all activity in this field is under the direct supervision of the Delaware Boxing Commission.

Horse racing is legal in the State, but there has not as yet been any race tracks opened.

Mrs. Henry Ridgely, President
 Dover
 Mrs. Francis De H. Janvier, Vice-Pres.
 New Castle
 Frank S. Hall, D.D.S., Secretary
 Dover
 James E. Goslee
 Stockley
 Miss Laura S. Richards
 Georgetown
 J. Ernest Smith
 Wilmington

George H. Ryden, Ph. D., Litt. D.
 State Archivist

Leon DeValinger, Jr., M. A.
 Assistant State Archivist

STATE OF DELAWARE

THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Dover, Delaware

August 20, 1940

Miss Jeannette Eckman
 Federal Sponsored Projects
 909 West Street
 Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Miss Eckman:

I have just received a reply from my correspondent in South Carolina regarding Robert Coram. A Mrs. Middleton published an article on Thomas Coram, the engraver and painter, in the June 1936 issue of "Antiques." Another article on the same subject was published by Mr. Ashmead Pringle in the November, 1936 issue of the same magazine.

From these same people my correspondent obtained some supplementary information, which will be of interest to you. In an article entitled "The Frigate South Carolina," by Lewis F. Middlebrook, Essex Institute, 1929, page 21, there appears the following:

"Adm. Muster Bk. 9655 (P.R.O. London)
 H. M. "Astrea."

SOUTH CAROLINA

20 Dec: 1782
 Thos Fitzgerald 3rd Lt
 Robt Corham 4th Lt

List of Prisoners
) Discharged
) 1782
 27 Dec
 Prison
 Ship
 New York"

Miss Jeannette Eckman

August 20, 1940

It appears that the Coram Bible is owned by Mr. Pringle and that in his article he gives the following Bible records:

Ann Browne (died Nov 21, 1770) married John Coram (b. Aug 14, 1726)
They had issue

John and Thomas (and another son born dead) b. March 28, 1753
Bathshua, 1754-1755

John, b. 1755, mar. Ester Hart

Thomas, b. 1757, d. 1811 (the engraver)

Francis, 1758-1815 (married Charlotte Mortimer)*

Ann, 1759-1773

Robert and Philip, 1761-

William, 1762-

*South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, vol 23, p 156

From the Office of the Probate Court (presumably in Charleston, South Carolina) Book, 1765-1769, page 1 shows the following:

"James Wilson, John Harford both of the City of Bristol Merchants are held and firmly bound unto John Coram of the same city for the sum of two thousand pounds.... the said James Wilson and John Coram do agree to go to Charles Town in the Province of South Carolina.... to take a store or stores for the joint concern and as near the place as possible to fix on a proper Spot for the erecting a Snuff Mill." June 1st, 1765.

Lists of bounty grants to Revolutionary soldiers recorded in the 4th volume of Bounty Grants in the office of the Secretary of State and published in the "South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine," volume 7, page 218 there appears the entry "200 acres to Coram, Lieut. Robert, S.C.N. 211."

The "South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine," volume 10, page 80 contains a letter of Commodore Gillon which may refer to Robert Coram. It is the following: "Gentlemen: As I flatter myself it will give you some satisfaction to hear ye prospect of ye Navy Officers of So. Carolina I take ye liberty to acquaint you that Capt Robeson with Mr. Lindworth Morant and Coram arrived here ye 31 Dec in ye Snow Gustave of this port that put in distress into ye

Miss Jeannette Eckman

August 20, 1940

Havana. Written from Nantes, France, dated March 5, 1779 and addressed to the delegates from S. C. at the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. 7"

Hoping that this information may be helpful to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Leon deValinger, Jr.

LdeV/u

Extract from Peter Porcupine, A Study of William Cobbett, 1762-1835 by Marjorie Bowen.

Page 62-64:

In October, 1792, William Cobbett landed again in the New World. He resided in a hired house at Wilmington on the River Delaware, more than twenty-five miles below the Quaker city of Philadelphia. From this vantage ground the young man, whose wife had just given him a son, looked round for the means of livelihood. He thought of farming, but had not the capital to undertake this in a new country; he found that politics, which hitherto he had rather avoided and disliked, were as lively in the New as in the Old World, and that the clashes of the French Revolution had roused some strong echoes in the United States.

The Federalists, under George Washington, were in power, and were all for "law and order"; popular opinion in America was however on the side of the French revolutionaries. The Democrats, led by Thomas Jefferson, even wished for an open alliance with the French people, who had helped them a few years before in their own fight for independence. Political controversy was rife everywhere. Washington's Government, which was one that would have been called "Tory" in England, was accused of wishing to shape the new Republic on the lines of the Monarchies of Europe, and they, in their turn, accused Jefferson and his followers of violent revolutionary principles likely to lead to anarchy.

However forceful, industrious and enterprising the young emigrant was, he did not at first see how he was to make a career under the conditions which he found in the United States, but he soon discovered that two of his self-taught accomplishments would stand him in good stead. He knew English and French grammar, and America was beginning to be full of French emigrants, mostly moderate Republicans, who had fled from France at the fall of the Gironde in May 1793. To these men it was essential that they should know the language of the country which was to be their home, and it was not easy to find an American with a sufficiently thorough knowledge of French to teach them.

William Cobbett came forward, and not only undertook to teach these Frenchmen a sound knowledge of English, but wrote for their benefit a grammar. The conditions of his life were not easier than they had previously been, not only luxuries, but comforts were still far beyond his reach.

The first child died, despite the devotion of father and mother, but Ann Cobbett contrived to keep a home that perfectly satisfied her husband. He wrote afterwards:

"Never, in my whole life, did I live in a house so clean, in such trim order, and never have I eaten or drunk, nor slept nor dressed in a manner so perfectly to my fancy as I did then. I had a great deal of business to attend to that took me a great part of the day from home, but if ever I could spare a minute from business the child was in my arms. I rendered the mother's labour as light as I could--any bit of food satisfied me; when watching was necessary we shared it between us, and that famous grammar for teaching French people English, which has been for forty

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years, and still is, the great work of this kind to all America and every nation in Europe, was written by me in hours not employed in business, and in great part during my share of the night's watching over the sick, and then only child, who, after lingering many months, died in my arms."

The business that Cobbett refers to in this extract was his teaching of English to the French emigrants, for long his sole occupation. This was sufficiently successful to permit him to move to Philadelphia, where he wrote Le Tuteur Anglais, an English grammar written in French for the use of his pupils.

He found that he was once again being successful in a career which had been chosen almost at random. By his teaching and translating he was earning three hundred and thirty pounds a year, a handsome sum, largely owing, as he noted with justifiable pride, to his own industry and diligence.

The happiness of his married life was clouded only by the death of a second child at birth, and it seemed as if William Cobbett might have gone on for the rest of his life teaching English to French emigrants in Philadelphia.

He made many friends among the French emigrants, but he did not greatly like the Philadelphians, whom he described as a "cheating, sly, roguish gang." Nor did the country greatly appeal to him. He was considering the West Indies or a return to England when chance directed his attention to politics.

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- Bowen, Marjorie. Peter Porcupine, A Study of William Cobbett, 1752-1835. London, New York, Toronto, Longmans, Queen & Co., 1936. 312 p. P. 62-64.

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 Philadelphia.

W. H. P.

Philadelphia

... ..

