Delaware Federal Writers Project Papers

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Volume 31

Part I - Section 4

George-Dean Vocational Education Act

Far-sightedness and generosity of national government leaders have been responsible, in large part, for the financial key without which Delaware's door to greater vocational education opportunities would have remained closed indefinitely for lack of funds. Passage by Congress, in 1917, of the Smith-Hughes law had unlocked gateways into broader fields of public training, but it was not till enactment, in 1936, of the George-Dean Vocational Education Act that sufficient funds were made available for practical cultivation of all of these fields and experimentation with others new to commerce.

It was on June 8, 1936, that Congress, through the George-Dean Act, provided for further development of vocational education in the several States and Territories, thereby considerably boosting Delaware's funds earmarked for that purpose. These new Federal funds, however, did not become operative in Delaware until the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 1937.

Hitherto, Delaware's appropriations from Washington had amounted to $30,000 annually, matched dollar for dollar by State funds; the new act provided an increase of $51,818 in Federal cash and an increase of $15,000 in State funds for the first year. Expenditures in the State for vocational training totalled $162,080.74 for the fiscal year 1937-1938. Provisions governing George-Dean

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appropriations to the State more than double future trade training funds if Delaware appropriates State funds in proportions stipulated by the Federal act.

Periodic increases in funds, to supplement those provided under the Smith-Hughes Act, assure the individual States, through the George-Dean Act, of means upon which to base future expansion of vocational training. The supplementary act's provisions for appropriations stipulate that the State must match 50 percent of the Federal allotments until June 30, 1942, 60 percent for the year ending June 30, 1943, 70 percent for the year ending June 30, 1944, 80 percent for the year ending June 30, 1945, 90 percent for the year ending June 30, 1946, and annually thereafter 100 percent.

As originally enacted, the George-Dean legislation set aside a fund that totalled $12,000,000 for apportionment among the States and Territories in aiding vocational education in agriculture, home economics, and the trades and industries. One-third of the State's allotment was required to be based on the proportion that its farm population bore to the entire farm population of the United States, according to the U. S. census last preceding the end of the fiscal year in which any such allotment was to be made. This one-third appropriation was to be used for salaries and traveling expenses of teachers, supervisors, and directors of agricultural subjects. Educators in home economics subjects were empowered to use a third of the appropriation, after allotment based on the proportion that the State's rural popula-

tion bore to the entire rural population of the Nation. On the proportion that the State's non-farm population bore to that of the entire U. S., one-third of the appropriation was to be alloted to further the work of the trade and industrial educators.

With release of additional Federal money for use in Delaware's vocational program, many undeveloped fields, particularly distributive occupations, experienced extensive cultivation. In addition to the $12,000,000 set aside under the George-Dean Act for salaries and traveling expenses of vocational educators, the legislation provided also a fund of $1,200,000 to be apportioned among the States for work in the distributive occupations. Allotments for this purpose were to be designated for use as salaries and traveling expenses of educators and the maintenance of teacher training in merchandising subjects. The appropriation to the State from this fund must be matched by the State in the proportion that its total population bears to the total population of the United States and Territories.

A third fund of $1,000,000 was set aside annually, under the George-Dean Act, for the preparation of teachers, supervisors, and directors of agricultural, home economics, and trade and industrial subjects. The law stipulates that allotments from this fund will be made to the State in the proportion that its total population bears to the total population of the United States and its Territories.

Broadening of opportunities for vocational training, expansion of teacher training facilities, and additions of more and better equipment for work in the fields of education dedicated to the primary aim of economic efficiency constitute the far-reaching results of more

Federal capital released to Delaware through operation of the George-Dean Act. The most important factor in obtaining public support for building of Wilmington's H. Fletcher Brown Vocational High School was passage of the George-Dean law. It was due to this act, supplementary to the Smith-Hughes legislation, that facilities were made possible in Delaware's chief city for instruction in hitherto undeveloped fields, including the metal trades, painting and decorating, industrial chemistry, beauty culture, commercial art, the foundry trades, merchandising, and radio maintenance, and expansion made possible in the skilled trades already offered in the Wilmington Trade School since superseded by the Brown School.

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G. Delaware. Department of Public Instruction. Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 1937. Dover, Del., State Board of Education, n. d. 331 p. p. 54-55, 85-86, 68, 261-290.

H. Delaware. Department of Public Instruction. Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 1938. Dover, Del., State Board of Education, n. d. 343 p. p. 13, 52-54, 74-75, 204-205, 262-299.

J. Delaware. Department of Public Instruction. Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 1939. Dover, Del., State Board of Education, n. d. 285 p. p. 37,45, 163-164, 244-251.

Q. United States. Congress, 74th Session, 1935-1936 Statutes at Large. Public Laws, v. 49, Part I. Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office, 1936. 2234 p. p. 1488-1490.

CURRENT FILE

DENTISTRY

Encyclopaedia File

B- Brown, J. A.

Philip C. Southard
May 5, 1939

Biography and History

John A. Brown of Wilmington, registered with the State Board of Dental Examiners, was the last dentist in the State to be registered without a dental college diploma. In his early practice Dr. Brown was associated with and had his office with Dr. Anderson, a dentist on Fourth St., between Popular and Walnut. He later moved and opened an office at 508 King Street. Dr. Brown was preceptor to Dr. Samuel H. Johns who, after graduating from dental school 1885, practiced with him and became his son-in-law. Dr. Brown was one of the few dental practioneers to see and use the many new and improved instruments, equipment, and methods of practice which were introduced during his long period of service as a dentist. He was progressive and interested in the educational facilities of his city and State. He was one of several prominent men in the community to organize and be a trustee of the Delaware State Normal University at Wilmington in 1866, and chartered in 1867. The charter however was revoked in 1871. His son-in-law, Dr. Johns, is still practicing, as is a nephew, Dr. J. Draper Brown, University of Pennsylvania, Class 1912. Both live in Wilmington.

CURRENT FILE
SCIENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY

6 B - Brown, J.P.

Vincent J. Bonner
April 20, 1939

J. Paul Brown, Photographer, 617 Market Street

"The largest and best known" is the title that should be given to the establishment of Mr. J. Paul Brown.

This gentleman has been engaged in this line for nearly a score of years. He opened an establishment of his own about thirteen years ago. From the inception, the venture has been an assured success.

The premises include a building twenty by one hundred feet, all of which is used except the first floor. The parlor on the second floor is furnished most beautifully. The operating room in the rear is about eighteen by forty feet. Every appliance that can be brought to bear on this work is used. A very good light is obtained by means of large skylights.

Six capable operatives are given constant employment. Everything in the photographic line is done, a specialty being made of groups and large pictures.

Mr. Brown has been a life-long resident of the city, and has always been prominent in promoting its interests.

Delaware's Industries, An Historical and Industrial Review, Philadelphia. Keighton Printing House. 1891. 5-157. #1 975.1. p. 124.

Vincent J. Bonner
April 18, 1939

SCIENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY

CURRENT FILE

7 B - Bucher, H.E.

Harry E. Bucher, Photographer, 720 Market Street.

There is perhaps not a better or more favorably known photographer in the city than Mr. H. E. Bucher. This genial and courteous gentleman established here about three years ago, and has since then increased his trade so much that the business is now second to none in the city.

The parlor, handsomely furnished with the operating rooms immediately in the rear. They are twenty-two by fifty feet with excellent light and fitted with the most improved appliances.

Four skilled assistants are employed. Photography is followed here in all its branches. Mr. Bucher is a native of the city and is known favorably in every sense of the word.

Delaware's Industries, An Historical and Industrial Review. Published in Philadelphia, Keighton Printing House. 1891. 5-157. #D 975.1. P. 96

CURRENT FILE

B - Buckingham, T. L.

June 25 A Delaware Professor.--Thomas L. Buckingham, M.D., an old and well known citizen of this city, has been elevated to the chair of Mechanical Dentistry in the new Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery. Professor B. is known as one of the best mechanical operators in his profession, having taken a premium at the World's Fair in 1851."

July 20 " H. Garrett
Dentist & Manufacturer of Artificial Teeth, No. 66 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware." July 16-6m.

Vincent J. Bonner
April 20, 1939

CURRENT FILE
SCIENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY

9 B. Cummings, J.R.

James R. Cummings

This is the oldest and one of the best photographic establishments in Wilmington, the proprietor before Mr. Cummings having been Mr. J. K. Sutterly.

Mr. Cummings is a native of Lancaster, Pa., but learned his profession in Wilmington.

The premises occupied comprise two commodious floors, excellently fitted up, and supplied with all conveniences for patrons. The operating department was equipped with the most improved apparatus, and employment is found for a staff of seven experienced assistants.

Photographic work in all its branches is given careful attention, portraits enlarged, amateur work finished, and pictures finished in oils, water colors, pastels, crayons, and India ink.

Perfect work is assured in every instance and orders are filled at reasonable prices without delay.

History of Commerce of Wilmington. New York. A. F. Parsons Publishing Company. 1894. 103 pp. p. 86

Vincent J. Bonner
April 20, 1939

CURRENT FILE
SCIENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY

10 B. DuPont

DuPont's Conbribution to Motion Pictures

As a consequence of the engagement of du Pont in the production of pyroxylin plastics, the Company was enabled to enter the motion picture film field in 1924, when the DuPont-Pathe Film Manufacturing Corporation was formed. The present name, however, is the DuPont Film Manufacturing Corporation. It is a large producer of film for the motion picture industry and also manufactures cellulose acetate safety film for home motion pictures and for X-Ray purposes.

It is an interesting fact that Admiral Richard E. Byrd's Expedition to the South Pole was pictorially recorded on DuPont film.

Industrial Relations Plans, September 9, 1938. V.J.B

Vincent J. Bonner
April 20, 1939

SCIENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY
CURRENT FILE

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B - Garret, E.

Wilmington's First Photographer

Perhaps the earliest daguerrotype machine in the United States was the one sent to Elwood Garret by English friends. A silver plate containing the name of M. Daguerre and the number eight showed it to be one of the first made by the inventor. Mr. Garrett had read of this invention and had made for himself a crude camera from a cigar box and the copper plate was sensitized by flattening out a silver quarter-dollar and then exposing it to the fumes of the proper chemicals. This, the first sun-made picture in Wilmington and possibly in the United States, was the fore-runner of the now commonplace and innumerable artistic and valuable snap-shots by amateurs and professionals.

Anna T. Lincoln, Wilmington, Delaware, Three Centuries under Two Flags. The Tuttle Publishing Company, Inc., Rutland, Vermont., 1937, pp. 11-377, p. 316.

Vincent J. Bonner
March 1, 1939

SCIENCE CURRENT FILE
PHOTOGRAPHY

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3-
Jones, N.

WILMINGTON'S FIRST MOTION PICTURE THEATER

It is surprising to think that it has only been thirty-one years since the motion picture made it's debut in Wilmington.

Nick Jones, Wilmington's pioneer exhibitor, was a restaurateur whose business had taken him from town to town in Pennsylvania. In Pittsburgh he went into the amusement field and after a moderate success planned a chain of theaters under his own management.

His first efforts to become established were made in New York State, but he was unable to obtain financial backing and finally came to Wilmington with the idea of opening only one theater. Jones was known in Wilmington, but there were probably only half-a-dozen Wilmingtonians who had ever seen a motion picture and he found it hard to get support for his venture.

He tried for some time to get a location on Market Street but every time owners were approached they naturally asked him how he was going to use the property. Then it was necessary to describe what motion pictures were like, and how profits were to be expected from them. Most property owners did not care to rent to him because there was a prejudice against the movies even before they became popular. Others believed that he could produce the movies but that such business was impracticable as a livelihood. Jones, however, was a man who refused to admit defeat, and when a trading stamp company left the building at 515 Market Street, he immediately approached the owner, the late George W.

Bright.

Mr. Bright did not have any particular prejudice against motion pictures but did not believe that the public would pay to see them in sufficient numbers to make the venture profitable. Jones, by citing examples of success in other cities and paying four months' rent in advance, finally convinced Bright and secured a lease on the building.

Now he had the task of altering a store building into a theater. He obtained a reasonably-priced projection machine in Philadelphia and installed folding chairs for seats. His chief trouble was in finding a competent operator.

Jones again encountered prejudice in the Wilmingtonians. They thought that since other stores showed their goods in the windows, it was odd that the new business man was boarding up, instead of decorating his windows. The suspicions caused by these "mysterious" actions almost ruined the new business and there are still some older Wilmingtonians who believe the movies to be the work of Satan.

On Saturday afternoon, June 8, 1907, Jones offered the public "The Great Train Robbery" at five cents admission. His audience of a dozen or so were hardly in their seats when the police entered and declared the place closed to the public. Jones naturally protested that there was nothing illegal in his business and that exhibiting of motion pictures was considered a legitimate business in most of

the larger cities. But the police were adamant. The city claimed he could not operate without a license, even though there was no license that would apply to his business.

Jones was determined to find the source of his troubles, and it took little effort to find that it was the neighboring business men who objected because they thought the movies were undesirable in a business section. This helped Jones considerably as he then knew who and what he was fighting.

His next step was to go to the City Hall and propose that he be allowed to pay a weekly license fee, with the city having the right to revoke the license at its own discretion. This plan was so very reasonable that the officials had to agree there were no grounds for objections.

Hopeful as ever, Jones reopened his Nickelodeon, as it was called because of its five-cent admission price. The new business, although it was not a brilliant success, steadied down and paid its own way. Jones was satisfied to run on a small profit until the public got the movie-going habit.

Although other theaters soon opened, Jones' Nickelodeon had gained a foothold and, still owned by Jones, it is being operated by Warner Brothers as the Savoy Theater.

atc

Philip C. Southard
September 23, 1940

V B - Le Telier's

DENTISTRY IN THE 1790'S

1793

The Delaware Gazette, Wilmington newspaper, of December 21, announces that John Le Telier, gold and silversmith of Wilmington, has his place of business opposite the Sign of the Ship Tavern at Third and Market Streets. His business as dentist, was carried on in conjunction with his other lines. He was shortly afterward located at Fourth and Market streets, wt which office he stated he would clean and plug teeth and set artificial teeth with enamel. He had then discontinued the gold and silver work except as it was used in dentistry. Later in the 1790's, another French Huguenot dentist, Henry Tonville, practiced in Wilmington.

1794

Daniel Neale a native of Camden, Delaware, is reported by the records of the State Dental Society to have been making porcelain teeth and also to have perfected a dental articulator. How long previous to this date he did dental operations is not known.

Philip C. Southard
May 20, 1941

Dentistry

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ENCYCLOPEDIA FILE

B-Physick, P.S.

Dr. Philip S. Physick

Dr. Philip S. Physick, known as the Father of American surgery, practiced for a time near Claymont, Delaware. He invented the needle forcep, inaugurated the use of catgut as a ligature for wounds, and is said to have been the first to use a stomach tube. He also invented the bougie-tipped catheter and the guillotine tonsilltone, and was nationally known as a lithotomist. Dr. Physick operated on Dr. James Tilton, the first President of the Delaware State Medical Society and first Surgeon-General of the United States Army. The operation was a leg amputation at the hip, before the time of general anaesthetics. In 1825, Dr. Physick was elected the first American member of the French Academy of Medicine. The Physick dental forcep was designed and made according to the idea of Dr. Physick.

OK R.C.S.

E. Thompson Walls
October 18, 1939

Arts and Crafts
Sculpture

17 B. Ritchie, Mrs. W.

CURRENT FILE

THE WILMINGTON SOCIETY OF THE FINE ARTS

Delaware Art Center Building
Park Drive at Woodlawn Avenue
Wilmington, Delaware

Officers

dwyn Evans, President
eorge P. Bissell, Vice President
. Sellers Bancroft, Treasurer
rs. Philip J. Kimball, Secretary
Greenville, Delaware

Director of The Delaware Art Center
Miss Constance Moore

Curator of The Pre-Raphaelite Collection
Mrs. Jessie C. Rockwell
- ------
Telephone 3-1508

Statue of Hon. Thomas F. Bayard

"Designed and executed by Effie Stillman, Mrs. William Ritchie. Effie Stillman was born in London, England, in 1872, and died there some forty years later. She was the daughter of William J. Stillman,- an American of Colonial ancestry, an artist and writer who served as American Consul both at Rome and at Crete,- and of Marie Spartali, daughter of the Greek Consul-General at London. Mrs. Stillman was an artist of note, a friend and model of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and others of the Pre-Raphaelite artists. Effie Stillman, therefore, was an American until her marriage in 1905 to William Ritchie, an Englishman.

She was chosen by the Bayard Memorial Commission to execute the statue of Mr. Bayard not only because of her reputation as a sculptor, but also because she had previously modeled Mr. Bayard several times,- the head which was used on the silver loving-cup presented to him by the American Society of London, considered an excellent likeness and a work of art; and also a bronze medallion head.

The exedra and pedestal of the statue were designed by Michael Stillman, a brother, and architect of New York. The statue was cast in bronze by J. M. Singer & Sons, at Frome, Somerset, England.

It was given anonymously by 'an American friend of Mr. Bayard's and Miss Stillman's' to the Bayard Memorial Association, with the assurance that they would furnish the pedestal and setting. The anonymous benefactor was Samuel Bancroft Jr., a close friend and great admirer of Mr. Bayard's."

The above was mailed to Mr. E. Thompson-Walls by Mrs. Henry Rockwell.

Edward File

B-1-6 Thomson C.

The

LIFE OF CHARLES THOMSON

Secretary of the Continental Congress and Translator of the Bible from the Greek

LEWIS R. HARLEY, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of History in the Central High School, Philadelphia; Author of "Francis Lieber: His Life and Political Philosophy."

Philadelphia
GEORGE W. JACOBS & CO.
103-105 South Fifteenth St.

Wm. H. Conner
Aug. 11, 1940

Education
Newark Academy

20
27

EARLY DAYS OF CHARLES THOMSON

Extract from Life of Charles Thomson. Lewis R. Harley, 1900. Phila. George W. Jacobs & Co. Pages 15-40 incl.

CHAPTER I.

Early Life

While the historian has done ample justice to the memory of the Fathers of the Republic, the patriotic services of Charles Thomson have been but slightly treated by even the most impartial writers. In every critical epoch of history there are two forces at work--the one attracting the admiration of the country by superior statesmanship or thrilling deeds of valor on the battlefield; the other a steady influence guiding the destinies of the State in the hour of peril. Charles Thomson is a representative of this latter force. To the hero worshipper, the Secretary of the Continental Congress might not prove a very inspiring subject. At the first casual glance, the clerk at his desk noting down the transactions of the Congress of the Colonies is too ordinary a personage to crowd himself upon the attention of the historian; but this was only a small portion of Thomson's services in our early political history. A finished scholar, he brought good judgment into public life; an ardent patriot, he labored incessantly to strengthen the sentiment for independence in Pennsylvania; a skillful organizer, he aided powerfully to hold together the discordant factions of the Continental Congress; in the retirement of private life, he made a valuable contribution to Biblical literature; of a vigorous constitution, he lived to see the struggling Colonies become a powerful Republic, and he died

at a good old age at the very time when Lafayette was making his tour throughout the United States.

Charles Thomson was born in the town of Gortede, parish Maharan, County Derry, Ireland, the first week in November, 1729. He was the son of John Thomson, one of the most respectable men of Ulster. The birth of our subject occurred at a time when Protestant emigration was robbing Ireland of thousands of her best people. More than twenty thousand left Ulster and settled along the Atlantic seaboard on the destruction of the woolen trade and the enforcement of the Test Act. Froude says:

> "And so the emigration continued. The young, the courageous, the energetic, the earnest, those alone among her colonists who, if ever Ireland was to be a Protestant country, could be effective missionaries, were torn up by the roots, flung out, and bid find a home elsewhere; and they found a home to which England fifty years later had to regret that she had allowed them to be driven."[1]

Most of these immigrants sought a home in Pennsylvania, attracted by the reports of its great natural wealth and by the fact that under the charter of Penn and the laws of the Province, they could enjoy civil and religious liberty. Before 1726, six thousand had arrived, while the failure of the crops of Ulster increased the volume of immigration to twelve thousand a year until 1750.[2] They were nearly all Presbyterians in their church relations and

> "they sought an asylum from Church and State intolerance and oppression, if it were to be had only in the wilderness of another continent."[3]

[1] "The English in Ireland in the Eighteenth Century," by James Anthony Froude, Vol. 1., p. 394.

[2] "A History of the Presbyterian Churches in the United States," by Robert Ellis Thompson, S.T.D., p. 23.

[3] "A Tribute to the Principles, Virtues, Habits and Public Usefulness of the Irish and Scotch Early Settlers in Pennsylvania," by a Descendant, p. 7.

This great body of immigrants aroused the fears of the colonial authorities, and in 1729, James Logan wrote:

> "It looks as if Ireland is to send all her inhabitants hither; for last week not less than six ships arrived, and every day two or three arrive also. The common fear is, that if they continue to come, they will make themselves proprietors of the province." [4]

John Thomson having been left a widower with six small children, William, Matthew, Alexander, Charles, John and Mary, determined to make a home for them in America. They set sail from Ireland in 1739, expecting to locate in Pennsylvania. The father was attacked with a violent sickness on the voyage, and dying within sight of the shore, was cast into the ocean near the capes of the Delaware. His expiring prayer was: "God take them up." The death scene was always very affecting to Charles, and referring to the occasion, he once said: "I stood by the bedside of my expiring and much loved father, closed his eyes and performed the last filial duties to him." The children were now left to the mercy of the sea captain, who embezzled the money which the father had brought with him, while they were turned on shore at New Castle. Their fate was a common one to thousands of immigrants at that time. The ordinary vessel of the eighteenth century was a pest-house of disease and misery. Mittelberger, in his "Journey to Pennsylvania in 1750," describes the sufferings that the Germans endured in crossing the Atlantic, as follows:

> "It is not, however, till the ship has raised its anchor for the last time and started on its eight, nine, ten, eleven, or twelve weeks' sail for Philadelphia that the

[4] In 1729, the year of Thomson's birth, 4,500 passengers and servants from Ireland, arrived at New Castle. See Holmes' American Annals, Vol. 2, p.123.

> greatest misery is experienced. Then there are heart-rending scenes! The filth and stench of the vessels no pen could describe, while the diverse diseases, sea-sickness in every form, headache, biliousness, constipation, dysentery, scarlet fever, scrofula, cancers, etc., caused by the miserable salt food and the vile drinking water are truly deplorable, not to speak of the deaths which occur on every side.
>
> "It is little wonder that so many of the passengers are seized with sickness and disease, for, in addition to all their other hardships and miseries, they have cooked food only three times a week, and this (it is always of a decidedly inferior quality, and served in very small quantities) is so filthy that the very sight of it is loathsome. Moreover, the drinking water is so black, thick, and full of worms that it makes one shudder to look at it, and even those suffering the tortures of thirst frequently find it almost impossible to swallow it."

This account is also true in regard to the sufferings and privations of the Irish immigrants. They were plundered and ill-treated, while the infamous redemption system reduced thousands to a miserable condition.

On landing at New Castle, the Thomson children were separated and it is quite possible that they were bound to serve as redemptioners.[5] According to some authorities, William drifted to South Carolina, and in the Revolutionary War distinguished himself by his great bravery. Alexander became a prosperous farmer near New Castle, and a number of descendants of his son, John, are still living in Newark, Delaware, and Philadelphia. Charles resided for a time with the family of a blacksmith at New Castle, who thought of having him indented as an apprentice. John F. Watson relates:

5 "Indeed, some of the most honored names in our history were redemptioners, such as Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress during the Revolution; Matthew Thornton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the parents of Major General Sullivan." -- Scharf's HISTORY OF MARYLAND, Vol. 1, p. 373.

"He chanced to overhear them speaking on this design one night, and determining from the vigor of his mind, that he should devote himself to better business, he arose in the night and made his escape with his little all packed upon his back. As he trudged the road, not knowing whither he went, it was his chance or providence in the case, to be overtaken by a travelling lady of the neighborhood, who, entering into conversation with him, asked him 'what he would like to be in future life?' He promptly answered, he should like to be a scholar, or to gain his support by his mind and pen. This so much pleased her that she took him home and placed him at school."[6]

6 "Watson's Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania," Vol. 1, p. 568.

Education
Newark Academy

SCHOOL CAREER

CHAPTER II.

School Career.--Dr. Francis Alison.--The New London Academy.--Becomes a Teacher. Business Pursuits.

The name of the lady who thus befriended Charles Thomson is unknown; but her act of kindness changed the whole course of his life. He was also aided in his education by his brother, Alexander, and he soon became a student in the academy of Dr. Francis Alison, at New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania. In a spirit of gratitude, Charles afterwards presented his brother with a farm in the vicinity of New Castle. When immigrants from the north of Ireland began to settle in Pennsylvania early in the eighteenth century, large tracts were purchased of the Penn family by companies, and the lands were disposed of to the settlers on easy terms. The London Company took up a large area in southern Chester County, from which originated the names of the townships, New London, London Grove and London Britain. A Presbyterian church was organized in New London township on March 26, 1768, composed of the northern members of the Elk River congregation. The first pastor was Rev. Samuel Gelston, a native of Ireland, who was succeeded in 1736 by Dr. Francis Alison. In his "History of the Presbyterian Churches in the United States," Dr. Robert Ellis Thompson[1] describes the character of the early ministers as follows:

[1] Dr. Thompson is himself a native of Ulster and came to this country in 1857. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, he was admitted to the Presbyterian ministry, and also became a professor in the University. He is at present the President of the Central High School of Philadelphia, one of the largest free colleges in the world.

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p. 7-8 Ludwig, 4/18/47

Declaration of Independence. The President of Yale College declared him "the greatest classical scholar in America," and he was frequently called the "Busby of the Western Hemisphere." [5] He loved the sciences as well as the classics, which may be seen in the following letter to President Stiles, of Yale, after an unsuccessful effort to discover a comet:

> "As I hope with more certainty and less trouble to acquire this kind of knowledge in the next stage of my existence, if it be necessary, I have determined to give myself no farther trouble till I be allowed to converse with Newton, Halley, Whiston and Flamstead, and some others of the same complexion, if these names be allowed to shine in one great constellation in heaven. Yet I am far from blaming you for your careful and accurate researches; they may make you more useful here, and form your taste to examine the works of God with a higher satisfaction in the coming world."[4]

In 1752, Dr. Alison purchased a tract of land in New London village and erected a large brick mansion for the use of the academy; but before it could be occupied he resigned to accept the rectorship of the Academy of Philadelphia. The New London Academy passed into the hands of Rev. Alexander McDowell, who removed it to Newark, Delaware, where it became the foundation of Delaware College and Academy. The connection between these two institutions is clearly shown in the charter granted to the Newark Academy in 1769 by Thomas and Richard Penn:

[5] Richard Busby was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1606. In 1628, he graduated from Oxford, and in 1640, he became headmaster of Westminister school. His reputation as a teacher soon became so great that many of the noblest families entrusted their children to his care. He, himself, once boasted that sixteen of the bishops who then occupied the bench had been birched with his "little rod." Among his students were South, Dryden, Locke, Prior and Bishop Atterbury. He died in 1695, in his ninetieth year.

[4] The Life of Ezra Stiles, D.D., LL.D., by Abiel Holmes, A.M., p.68

"Whereas, the Rev. Messrs. John Thompson, Adam Boyd, Robert Cross, Francis Alison, Alexander McDowell, and some others, about twenty years since, erected a public school in the province of Pennsylvania, for the instruction of youth in the learned languages, mathematics, and other branches of useful literature, and to qualify them for admission into colleges and universities; which school they supported with much care and expense, to the great advantage and benefit of the public: And whereas, the said school, so as aforesaid, originally in the province of Pennsylvania, hath been removed and is now kept in the town of Newark, in the county of Newcastle."

Dr. Alison was elected Vice-Provost of the College of Philadelphia in 1755, a position which he held until the time of his death in 1779. In his funeral sermon Dr. Ewing thus referred to him:

"All who knew him acknowledge that he was frank, open and ingenuous in his natural temper; warm and zealous in his friendship; catholic and enlarged in his sentiments; a friend to civil and religious liberty; abhorring the intolerant spirit of persecution, bigotry and superstition, together with all the arts of dishonesty and deceit. His humanity and compassion led him to spare no pains nor trouble in relieving and assisting the poor and distressed by his advice and influence, or by his private liberality; and he has left behind him a lasting testimony of the extensive benevolence of his heart in planning, erecting and nursing, with constant attention and tenderness, the charitable scheme of the widows' fund, by which many helpless orphans and destitute widows have been seasonably relieved and supported; and will, we trust, continue to be relieved and supported, so long as the Synod of New York and Philadelphia shall exist."[5]

While a student at the New London Academy, Charles Thomson frequently gave manifestations of his ardent zeal for knowledge. On one occasion he got hold of some loose leaves of the "Spectator," and admiring its style, he so longed to possess the whole work that he walked all night to Philadelphia and returned the next day in time to be present in his classes. He was charmed with the study of Greek, and he actually

[5] "Annals of the American Pulpit," by William B. Sprague, Vol. 3, p. 76.

walked to Amboy for the purpose of visiting a British officer there who had the reputation of being a fine Greek scholar. His relatives and friends urged him to commence the study of theology after having finished his academic course. For this purpose they recommended to him the reading of certain theological works. It is related that he at once inquired from whence these writers drew their religious knowledge? His relatives answered: "From the Holy Scriptures, most assuredly," and seemed to be surprised at his asking such a question. "Well, then," replied young Charles,"if they whom you so highly recommend as models drew their religious instruction from the Scriptures, I shall apply directly to the same source, instead of taking knowledge at second hand."[6] Although he had no intention of preparing for the ministry, he at once began a careful study of the Bible, and laid the foundations of that intimate knowledge of the Scriptures which he displayed in later years.

From the most reliable evidence at hand, it appears that on leaving the New London Academy, Charles Thomson at once became a teacher. He made his home for a time in the family of John Chambers,[7]

6 "The Friend:" A Religious and Literary Journal, Vol. 1, p. 230.

7 John Chambers married Deborah Dobson in the county of York, England, April 13, 1699. They came to Philadelphia with a certificate from Friends in England in 1713, and two years later, they settled along White Clay Creek, in New Castle County, where they took up twelve hundred acres of land, a part of which, has always been known as the "Hopyard." This property has been in the Chambers family for nearly two centuries.

who resided on a large farm, on the edge of New Castle County, about one hundred yards from the Pennsylvania line. Thomson opened a subscription school in the cooper shop that stood on the Chambers farm, and Sarah Black Chambers, the chronicler of the family, who died in 1898, at the age of ninety, often remarked that he was considered the best teacher in all that region.

While a student at the New London Academy, Thomson made the acquaintance of Dr. Franklin, and frequently sought his advice in regard to the prospects of a suitable vocation in Philadelphia. Being President of the Board of Trustees in the new Academy of Philadelphia, Franklin made use of the opportunity to secure a position for Thomson in the school.[8] The Trustees of the Academy held a meeting on December 20, 1750, and the minutes contain the following notice in regard to Thomson:

> "Mr. Charles Thomson having offered himself as a Tutor in the Latin and Greek School, and having been examined and approved of by the Rector, is admitted as a Tutor in the Latin and Greek School at the rate of sixty pounds a year, to commence on the seventh day of January next."

The same day, David James Dove was elected master of the English School. Dove soon resigned his position and opened a school in Germantown, where he led an erratic career as a teacher.[9] He substituted disgrace for corporal punishment, and generally stuck the birch into the back part of the collar of the unfortunate culprit,

8 This institution was founded in 1749, as an academy and charitable school. In 1755, it was chartered as the College, Academy, and Charitable School of Philadelphia, and after a series of troubles during the Revolution, it was finally incorporated in 1791, as the University of Pennsylvania.

9 History of the Germantown Academy, by Rev. William Travis, Philadelphia, 1882, p. 17.

who was compelled to take his stand upon the platform, with this badge of disgrace towering above his head. He also had a contrivance to secure regular attendance at school. This was to send five or six pupils after the tardy boys, with a bell and lighted lantern, and in this way they were escorted through the streets to school. Dove happened to be late on a certain morning, and he found himself waited upon in the usual fashion. He submitted to the ordeal, and following the lantern and bell, marched with great solemnity to school, to the gratification of the pupils, and entertainment of the spectators.[10]

Thomson began his duties in the academy on January 7th, 1751. His services must have pleased the authorities, for new responsibilities were soon added to his position. On July 14, 1752, the trustees resolved that

> "Charles Thomson, one of the Tutors in the Latin School, having some time since, at the request of the trustees, undertaken to collect and keep account of the school money, and having in pursuance thereof gathered in and paid the Treasurer upwards of five hundred pounds, be allowed two pounds, ten shillings per cent. on money by him so collected and paid."

Thomson remained as a teacher in the academy until July, 1755. From the meagre accounts of the school at that time, it appears that he was a most capable instructor. When he came to Philadelphia he was regarded as one of the best scholars in the province, especially in the classics. He carried this reputation into the school room, and gave to his classes the best results of his training under Dr. Francis Alison. Thomson's resignation is

10 Memoirs of a Life Chiefly Passed in Pennsylvania, by Alexander Graydon, p. 14.

officially noticed in the minutes of the trustees, as follows:

> "A letter to the trustees from Mr. Charles Thomson, one of the Tutors in the Latin School, was read acquainting them with his intention of leaving the academy within two or three months, having a design to apply himself to other business. Mr. Peters was, therefore, desired to assist Mr. Alison in providing another in his room. The trustees, at the same time, declared themselves well satisfied that the said Mr. Thomson had discharged the duties of his place with capacity, faithfulness and diligence."

Two years later, Thomson again became a teacher, having been elected to a position in what is now the William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia.[11] The minute books of the Overseers for "the twenty-seventh day of ninth month, 1757," state that Charles Thomson was engaged to take charge of the Latin School, it being

> "mutually agreed that he shall enter into service next Second Day morning, 29th inst., for one year certain, at the rate of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, and in case of any dissatisfaction arising on either side, six months' notice to be given before he shall be at liberty to decline the service or we to discharge him."

At the appointed time, Thomson was introduced into the Latin School, and his services having proved satisfactory, his salary was increased in 1758 to two hundred pounds per annum. At a meeting of the Overseers, held "2nd of 1st mo., 1760," there is minute:

11 This school was established under instructions from Wm. Penn in 1689. It was called at first the "Friends' Public Schools." It received charters from William Penn in 1697, 1701, 1708 and 1711. Among its prominent teachers in early times were George Keith, Thomas Makin, Charles Thomson, Robert Proud and Jeremiah Todd. It is one of the oldest secondary schools in the country. It is at present located on Twelfth Street, below Market, and is in a flourishing condition, in charge of Dr. Richard M. Jones, Headmaster.

"Charles Thomson now attending informed the Board that as he intends to enter into other business the next year, he has concluded to resign his place as Master of the Latin School at the expiration of the present year, and pursuant to the terms of our first agreement, he gives this timely notice of his intentions which remains under consideration."

On "6th of 10th mo., 1760," there is this minute:

"Charles Thomson attended the Board and made resignation of his charge of the School agreeable to notice formerly given; at same time he laid before the Board a Catalogue of the Library belonging to the Latin School and, also, his Account."

Thomson seems to have severed his connection with the School at this time, and after fruitless efforts to find a successor, the Latin School was temporarily given up, until September 5, 1761, when Robert Proud,[12] the historian of Pennsylvania, was elected teacher of the School, and it resumed operations.[13]

12
Robert Proud was born in Yorkshire, England, May 10th, 1728. About 1750, he went to London and made his home in a family of Friends. He devoted his leisure time to the study of medicine, but soon became disgusted with it. In 1759, he came to America, and two years later became a teacher, a vocation which he followed until 1790. In 1797, his History of Pennsylvania appeared, in the publication of which he was aided by some of his former pupils. He died a bachelor in 1813.

13
While teaching in this school, Thomson boarded for a time in the house of David J. Dove, his former colleague in the Academy of Philadelphia. He soon found that Dove and his wife were addicted to scandal and gossip, which became disgusting to his honest nature. John F. Watson says:"Wishing to leave them, and still dreading their reproach when he should be gone, he hit upon an expedient to exempt himself. He gravely asked them one evening if his behavior since he had been their boarder had been satisfactory to them. They readily answered, 'O, yes.' 'Would you then be willing to give me a certificate to that effect?' asked Thomson. 'O, certainly,' was the reply. A certificate was given, and the next day he departed from them in peace."

On leaving the Friends' School, Thomson next engaged in mercantile pursuits. For a while he was an importer, receiving large invoices of dry goods, hats, etc., from various London firms. He was following this business at the time of the passage of the Stamp Act, and in settling his accounts with the foreign houses, he frequently complained of the bad effects of the measure upon trade.[14] At the same time, he was also concerned in the Batsto furnace, near the junction of the Batsto and Egg Harbor rivers, New Jersey. This furnace was built in 1766, by Charles Read. It is mentioned in the Journals of the Continental Congress as "Dr. Coxe's iron works in the Jerseys." During the Revolution it was employed in casting cannon-shot and bombshells for the American army, and it remained in operation until after the middle of this century.[15] Thomson was successful in his business enterprises, and had considerable wealth when he became Secretary of Congress. As early as 1760, he subscribed liberally for the paving of Second street, between Market and Race, it being the first regularly paved street in the city.[16] Although his fortune was considerably impaired during the Revolution on account of his close application to public affairs, he was able, in 1780, to take stock to the amount of $15,000 in the new Pennsylvania Bank.

14 Collections of the New York Historical Society for the year 1878, p. 5.

15 A Concise History of the Iron Manufacture of the American Colonies, by J.B.Pearse, p. 34; also History of American Manufactures, by J.L. Bishop, Vol. 1, p. 649; also, History of the Manufacture of Iron in All Ages, by J.M. Swank, p. 120.

16 This street used to be very muddy, and one of the Whartons getting mired there, between Chestnut and High streets, was thrown from his horse, and had his leg broken.

GOVERNMENT IN DELAWARE, &c.

1. Patroonship under the Dutch.

(a) Brief reference to the Dutch East India Company, an imperium in imperio, which may be said to have furnished the model for all great chartered companies of later times. Include effect on America.

(b) Smaller ventures of later date, including the Northern or Greenland Company chartered January 27, 1614. Samuel Godyn was a director and his Captain Pieter Heyes went fishing.

(c) Dutch West India Company: reasons for charter of, charter of ("The West India Company from the first was intended to be an instrument of war. Its aims were buccaneering rather than commerce. There was no secret about its object; it was openly proclaimed. Its historian, De Laet (himself a director) wrote, ..."— Edmundson), influence on America of Amsterdam Chamber of (due to great wealth of Amsterdam).

(d) Freedoms and Exemptions of March 1628, result of drafting of, including purchase of Swanendael (west) for Samuel Godyn, President of Amsterdam Chamber (and a director since beginning), June 1, 1629.

(e) Freedoms and Exemptions of June 1629: Projection of patroonships on larger scale (include registration of purchases).

(f) Draft of shares in projects, February 1, 1630: A patroon with 2/5, plus 3 associates of 1/5; etc.

(g) "Agreement between the patroons," October 1, 1630; or, formation of a company. This is very important; it directly concerns Swanendael.

(h) December 1630: dispatch of the Walvis and the (yacht) de Salm, "with all kinds of material, such as ..., and over 80 persons. Etc., etc., etc.

(i) May 5, 1631: purchase of east Swanendael. July prosp. fort, brick house, etc.

(j) 1631: Appointment of Hendrik de Forest to take the place of Giles Hoset as Commis of Swanedael.

(k) 1632: Selection and dispatch of de Vries, with result (lodging hut of boards, purchase of 200 beaver and otter skins, etc).

(l) Sale of Swanendael, and result of its existence.

2. New Sweden

Johnson, Amandus, editor and transl., Instruction for Johan Printz, Governor of New Sweden (1643-53), &c. Philadelphia, Swedish Colonial Society, 1930. 287 p. Illus.
"'The First Constitution or Supreme Law of the States of Pennsylvania and Delaware'" — Title page!

Johnson, Amandus, Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, &c., 1638-64. New York, University of Pennsylvania per D. Appleton & Co., 1911. 2 v. Illus., maps.
The most exhaustive history of New Sweden, but the interpretation often is too pro-Swedish. /For example, compare his references to Rev. Johannes Campanius, both in the Settlements and the Instruction, with references to the same by Thomas Campanius Holm, grandson of Johannes, in his Description of the Province of New Sweden, as translated in Memoirs of the Hist. Soc. of Pa., III, and by Isak Collijn in his Notes appended to facsimile of Martin Luther's Little Catechism translated into Algonquian Indian by Johannes Campanius (Stockholm, 1937). Rev. Johannes Campanius was not the only clergyman in New Sweden when he applied for permission to return to Sweden, and his translation of the Catechism was not "completed and revised" until after he became pastor of Frösthult and Härnevia in the Diocese of Uppsala in 1649. For another instance, compare the uses made in three chapters of the Settlements of Johan Jonsson Rudberus, whose name in itself indicates that he was not one of the peasantry, and who evidently never set foot in New Sweden./

Myers, Albert Cook, editor, Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey and Delaware, 1630-1707. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912. 476 p. Map.
Contains reports of the Swedish governors and other contemporary records.

Odhner, C. T., "The Founding of New Sweden, 1637-1642" (Swedish ed., Stockholm, 1876), translated by Gregory B. Keen, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, III, 269-84, IV, 395-411, 1879.
"A good account." — Amandus Johnson.

Also see references for the following period.

ENCYCLOPEDIA FILE

DELAWARE FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT: (J. SWEENEY)

HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT IN DELAWARE

Bibliography (tentatively selected for periods up to 1682.)

1. Patroonship under the Dutch

De Vries, David Pietersz, Korte Historiael ende Journaels Aenteyckeninge, &c. 'S-Gravenhage, Martinus Nijhoff, 1911. 302 p. Illus., maps.
Contains copy of a chart of Delaware Bay region made in 1631-or-32. Pages of original edition of 1655 are given in margin of text, hence a way of checking the translations and many citations.

Edmundson, George, History of Holland. Cambridge (England), University Press, 1922. 464.
Gives economic and general background of Dutch--American exploration and colonization.

Jameson, J. Franklin, editor, Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909. 478 p. Maps, etc.
Includes what is historically useful (to American historians) in the works of de Laet, van Wassenaer, and various others.

Murphy, Henry C., translation of the parts of de Vries' Journal that concern America: Collections of the New York Historical Society, 2d series, III, 1-129; or, preferably, edition privately published under title Voyages from Holland to America, 1632 to 1644, by David Peterson de Vries. New York, 1853.
For revised section concerning the Delaware see Myers, Narratives (below), pp. 3-29.
Sections in the form of daily entries are valuable; the summary concerning the patroons, particularly the date and status of de Vries' association with them, conflicts with contemporary records in Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts (below).

"Penn Manuscripts: Papers relating to the Three Lower Counties" (Library of Historical Society of Pa.), 1629 and following.

Van Rensselaer (see next page)

37

1. Patroonship under the Dutch

Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts; being the Letters of (Patroon) Kiliaen van Rensselaer, 1630-1643, and other Documents relating to the Colony of Rensselaerswyck. Translated and edited by A. J. F. van Laer, etc. Albany, University of the State of New York, 1908. 909 p.

Casts more dependable light on Swanendael than all other available records combined. It includes (what are regarded as excellent) Dutch and English texts of the West India Company charter and the Freedoms and Exemptions of 1629.

ie W. Young
11 26, 1940

Encyclopaedia File

CHURCHWARDENS

The supervision of morals in New Castle County was delegated to ecclesiastical authorities by the magistrates of the New Castle Court prior to the arrival of William Penn in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

Although no provisions for the appointment of churchwardens were made in the laws of the Duke of York in 1676, it is likely that the office had its inception in New Castle County during that period. The first authentic reference to them is made in the records of the "Court for New Castle Towne and jurisdiction" on May 15, 1677, when two men were appointed as successors for a deceased churchwarden.

The court record for that date reads:

> "The Court further Conceidering that the Late X Church Warden Marten Rosemond being deceased, some fitt p^rsons ought to bee appointed to supply and administer the place of s^d X Churchwarden in this Towne of New Castle, have therefore thought fitt to Appoint M^r Hendrick Williams and M^r John harmens^n to bee Church Wardens In the Roome of the deceased, for and during the space of one yeare now next ensuing this date." (I-A)

No record is to be found of the wardens taking action until March 5, of the following year, when, in conjunction with the minister and church reader, they brought charges against a justice of the peace whom they accused of misusing his privileges to perform marriages by officiating at his own ceremony. The court record read:

> "M^r John Jeo M^r Emilius DeRingh M^r hendrick Williams & M^r Jan Hermsen, did p^rsent M^r Walter Wharton for marrying himselfe or being marryed directly Contrary to y^e knowne Lawes of this Province: The Court haueing heard the Relacon of Justice Gerret otto about y^e same doe order that M^r Wharton answer y^e breatch of y^e Lawe & his Contempt att y^e next Court." (I-B)

Jeo (or Yeo) was designated in the court records as a minister and DeRingh as a church reader.

The order to appear before the court, however, was continually ignored by Wharton, and since the laws of the Duke of York permitted a fine to be levied upon a justice of the peace who failed to attend court without a sufficient reason, Wharton was fined ten pounds, and the case against him was referred to Governor Edmund Andross, under whom he held his appointment. (I-C) It was felt by the magistrates that Wharton, as an official of the county, was setting a bad example for the other inhabitants.

The communication about the scandal sent to Governor Andross apparently was never answered, and the death of Wharton a short time later brought an end to the case, without the fine of ten pounds having been paid.

The above case was the only one presented to the court by Churchwardens Williams and Harmensen. The next appointments were not made until November 5, 1678, when the court record reads:

> "A nomination of Elders & Churchwardens being this day delivered in Court, the Court this day made the following election
>
> Mr John Moll (for Elders
> Mr Jean P. Jacquet (
>
> Engelbert Lott (
> Benjamin Gumry (for Church wardens
> Samuel Bercker (
> Will: Penton (
> John Smith
>
> (I-D)

The new churchwardens appeared in court early in January, when on the eighth

> "John Smith one of the Church wardens of this Towne of New Castle haueing prsented Mary the maydservant of Ralph hutchinson for haueing had on the 4th of this Instant Month of January a Bastard Chyld wthin this Towne of New Castle; and thereupon summoned and appearing in Court;

> The hereafter menconed woomen that were p^r^sent in hur Trauill, they being Examined and sworne did declare as followth viz^t^." (I-E)

Then followed the testimony of women who attended her when the child was born and their efforts to learn the name of the father.

Hutchinson was directed to produce the servant at the next session of court, but on February 5, 167$\frac{8}{9}$ the court was informed he had sold her and sent her out of the county. The magistrates directed that he should bring her back for trial (I-E), and on his failure to do so at the court session on April 3, he was fined 150 guilders.

In this case, the servant escaped the fate of Agnieta Hendricks, who was found guilty of a similar charge at the same session of court, and was given twenty-seven lashes at the fort gate, and also sentenced to serve six months as the servant of the woman who had attended her during her confinement. The court record failed to state, however, who had brought the charges against Agnieta Hendricks.

After presenting the case of "Mary the maydservant," the court on the following day, January 9, listened to

> "Engelbert Lott one of the Church wardens of this Towne of New Castle p^r^senting Evert hendricks fin at Crainhoek, for haueing two wyves now both alyve att Crainhoek."

The court ordered "that Evert hendricks bee summoned to appeare at the next Court." (I-G)

Hendricks obeyed the summons and appeared before the court on March 5, when he scored a victory over the churchwardens by producing proof from the governor that there was nothing questionable about his domestic status, and had his case dismissed. (I-H)

No further account of any appointment of churchwardens is found in the balance of the court records, nor of anyone being brought before the magistrates on their complaint.

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~~Route 10, N. Carver~~
~~July 21, 1938~~

3 1/2 42

UKRAINIANS

A small group of Ukrainians reside in South Wilmington in the vicinity of Heald and Lobdell Streets. The group consists of about one hundred families, numbering over five hundred persons, and most of them have made their homes in Wilmington not more than twenty years ago. Their place of origin was Galicia in ~~Austrian~~ Austria, near the Russian border, but, except racially, they are not identified with the inhabitants of the Ukraine in Russia.

Chiefly manual workers or skilled mechanics, they are viewed as desirable additions to the population of Wilmington. They have erected and maintain an Orthodox Greek Church, and have their own school and community house. The women are adept in embroidery , and all have a love for music that has been developed under the guidance of a professional choir-master. Religious instruction is given in their native tongue.

Frequent dramatic performances are given in the community house either in English or their ~~native tongue~~ own language, and both young men and young women take part. The marriage of the younger members of this group to native Americans is not infrequent.

Gordon Butler,

October 6,1936.

c.1831

In Tindal vs.Hudson, 2 Harr., wherein a free negro sought to hold his own child as a slave, the Chief Justice showed his hatred of slavery as an institution by refusing to permit negroes themselves to become slaveholders. The doctorine of the law relating to cattle, "partus ventrem sequitur," was brutally applied to a slave mother and this child, till bought by it own father. The opinion not only does credit to the judge's humane sentiments, but is also worth citing as a fine bit of reasoning in a case of first instance.

"Humanity forbids a father to own his own child in slavery. The natural rights and obligations of the father are paramount to the acquired rights of the master; and the moment the father purchased the child these obligations and rights blended in the same person, and the child is free. It is no more master and slave, but parent and child. Humanity revolts at the idea of a parent selling his own child into slavery. We think the petitioner is entitled to his freedom."

Conrad - 3: 950

Checked.
Butler

Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
July 15, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF OTHER DAYS

The modern mechanized fire department takes away some of the thrill of old days when the horses galloped down the street, but some of the oldtimers, before horses came into use, got a still greater thrill. Even a boy who could get a handhold on the rope, even if he did not carry much weight, felt himself a man. Nearly every boy owed allegiance to some fire company, even to the extent of fighting for his belief.

At the James Bradford Company fire in the winter of 1892, the driver of the Delaware Hook and Ladder Company ran over the hose of one of the steam companies, and the latter turned their hose on man and horses. The weather was so cold, that water froze the instant it touched an object. The next morning the Bradford building was a sheet of ice. The paid fire department of today is conducted with discipline, and such tactics would meet with a rebuke and fine.

References: Personal Recollections.

45
Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
June 1, 1941

EARLY WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS

Fifty years ago there were few of the various agencies for the care of the less fortunate that exist today. The Friends Benevolent Society, which did good work during the panic days of 1873, and the Provident Society both preceded the Associated Charities, the first organization to place its work on a systematic basis, and hire paid workers. The only two public institutions of that day now in existence were the Old Ladies' Home and the Home for Friendless Children, the latter to care for the orphaned children of Civil War veterans. Of the former, the story was told years ago of an old lady who applied for admittance. The officers went so far back in her life, looking for evidence of "moral turpitude," that in the meantime the old lady died.

Among the names that stand out in the early work of the Associated Charities, and the organizations that preceded it, is that of Mrs. A. D. Warner, Sr., who through the years has been a valued civic leader. The Associated Charities in its formative period had the counsel and advice of people from the larger adjoining cities who had experience in social welfare work. When John Massey of the Philadelphia Organized Charities was appointed the first paid superintendent, many who had done volunteer work in the earlier organizations were shocked, and called it un-Christian to employ anyone to do charity work. Later on, when the idea was broached of giving women sewing to do, in exchange for money advanced, the same people said "That is no charity at all, to make women work for what they receive."

From this organization have sprung other welfare groups, and ideas for the betterment of the less fortunate. Among these are the Visiting Nurses Association, the Tuberculosis Commission, The Prisoner's Aid Society, which agitated strongly for a new prison, the Penny Provident Fund, which taught the school children the principles of thrift, and the Home for Self-Supporting Women, which eventually led to the founding of the Y.W.C.A. When these various agencies, which were nurtured by the Associated Charities, were able to stand on their own feet, they became independent organizations.

As the widespread panics came in 1920 and 1931, the constituted authorities of the city and State assumed part of the burden of caring for those thrown out of employment, leaving the city's charity organizations, with their ever-expanding interests, to carry on in their specialized lines. In 1930, the Associated Charities changed its name to the Family Society, and with a corps of paid workers, and working hand-in-hand with those other social welfare groups, which years before were born of its enthusiasm, will cope with any situation. Among the other agencies working for a better social life were the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, the Law and Order Society, which kept the saloon in order and tried to control vice, of which Frank E. Haley, /society was agent, and the Wilmington Fountain Society, which supplied drinking fountains for man and beast. Horses were much in evidence on the city streets, and due consideration was given them, especially in hot weather.

1 From this group of welfare workers was born the idea of the Service Citizens, aided by a generous trust fund from Pierre S. duPont. Dr. Joseph H. Odell, who had for a short time been pastor

of Westminster Presbyterian church, was director, assisted by a committee composed of some of the State's leading citizens. Their program was of a varied nature, all tending to the social betterment of the State's people. It assisted financially any organization working for the common good, without seeking to interfere in its management. At the end of a certain period, such groups were either able to stand on their own feet, or were not successful and the support was withdrawn. Through an offshoot of the parent body, the Delaware School Auxiliary funds were provided for the building of schools throughout the State, for members of both the white and colored races.

At the end of the charter period in 1927, the original organization was disbanded, leaving the School Auxiliary to aid with engineering skill in the building of future schools. That the good work of the Service Citizens had been doing might go on, some of those on the original committee formed the Delaware Citizens Association.

During the hard times of the early 1890's, the unemployed were cared for largely by the churches and their own friends, and the effort, being more or less spontaneous, at times lacked system. Soup houses were opened and the needy were somehow tided over for the time being. The then Associated Charities, with an already full list, and depending on private means for their sustenance, were not in a position to cope with the new conditions.

Wm. H. Forbes
September 18, 1940

EARLY WILMINGTON DAYS

Before the present Pennsylvania Railroad station was built, the old one contained a restaurant on the track side of the building. It was customary for the through trains to stop, for at least ten minutes, during which time, the engine would take on water. The story is told by a barman, who worked there, that the two partners kept the money in a "gray topper" in lieu of a cash register, situated back of the bar. When one partner would want some money for his own use, he would reach in and grab a handful of silver, giving no accounting. A business conducted in such a loose way was bound to fail in time, which this one did eventually.

When the train bearing President Garfield's body back to Washington, from Elberon, New Jersey, where he died, in 1881, the old station was heavily draped in black. A large concourse of people was on hand to see the train.

Admiral Dewey

When ~~General Pershing~~ passed through Wilmington, on his way

Spanish American

to Washington at the close of the World War, the old station was still doing duty. The train did not stop, but slowed down. Charles Winkler, a local boy, climbed on the observation end to greet the General, who pressed a five dollar gold piece in his hand.

On New Year's Eve, 1876, occured one of the largest and most spectacular fires in the annals of the old Volunteer Fire Department. This was at the Beehive, so called because of the number of small concerns occupying the building, situated on the west side of Orange between Fifth and Sixth. It was snowing hard, and a strong wind carried the sparks over onto Market street. Those who

remember the fire say it was a beautiful sight. Because of the number of concerns engaged there, no insurance was carried, which entailed a complete loss to all concerned.

In the early years, the custom of calling on New Year's Day was more prevalent than today. In many homes a table would be loaded with things to eat and drink, wine and fruit cake being in abundance. With many new distractions, that friendly habit is not adhered to as closely. The du Pont family and collateral branches still observe the day among themselves; the hosts and hostesses are aided in receiving by other members of the family.

About 1887, Wesley Webb, a New Englander, published a weekly paper called The Farm and Home. He was, at the time of his death, secretary of the Department of Agriculture at Dover. The paper was printed on one of the city newspaper presses, and folded and addressed at 211 Shipley street, on the second floor, the work being done at night. The papers were then taken in mail bags on a wheelbarrow to the Post Office at Sixth and King Streets.

About the same time, the Christian Endeavor Society of St. Paul's M. E. Church, then located at Seventh and Market Streets, gave the cantata Queen Esther, which commemorates the deliverance of the children of Isreal, from the bondage of Egypt. The talent was all local, except the "King" and "Queen" who were from Philadelphia. John W. Todd, brother of George W. Todd was musical director. The cast contained over one hundred people.

This affair was given in the Grand Opera House, which was reputed to have the second largest stage in the country, exceeded only by the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. The role of Mordecai was taken by Robert Walters, and that of Haman by Fred. McCall, both

singers of some note in local musical circles. While these affairs entailed endless rehearsing, there was a social side, which made them delightful to have a part in.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
September 30, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

EARLY WILMINGTON DAYS

Wilmington homes of all grades usually had a grape arbor in the yard. If the yard were long, the arbor would run down the center, shading the walk, which very often led to the stable in the rear. Both white and dark grapes were in favor. One such home recalled, was that of Samuel D. Forbes, at 309 West Street. Mr. Forbes after the Civil War engaged in the wheel business, in which a number of firms supplied the carriage trade, the latter only making the bodies. His housekeeper, Mrs. Maria C. Hartman, will be remembered, for their frequent appearances in City Court, generally in connection with his extensive property holdings.

Next door, at 307, was the home of William Porter, of the firm of J. Morton Poole Company, and at one time a member of the Water Board. The family later on moved to the house at the N.E. corner of Eleventh and Adams, at present the site of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Mrs. Mary P. Whittaker and Mrs. Percy Darlington are daughters of Mr. Porter. Mrs. David Allmond, another daughter, died in 1938.

A householder living on Kirk Avenue fifty years ago could see the horse cars running on Delaware Avenue, many of the houses in between not having been built at that time. William B. Austin, at that time a contractor and builder, erected the row on Tenth Street, opposite the park, and later on founded the Security Warehouse, at Sixteenth and King. It was about fifty years ago that Cool Spring Park was laid out

and the trees planted. It had formerly been a lot, with an open sewer running across it.

On the N.W. corner of Tenth and Adams, George Williams had a drug store; and later on Clifford Mecannon had a drug store on the S.E. corner. He had formerly been with John M. Harvey, at Delaware Avenue and West. William R. Dare had a grocery store at the N.E. corner of Tenth and Adams. Howard M. Turner, now deceased, one of the brothers who control the Associated Laundries, came to Wilmington from his home in Woodbury, N. J., and worked for Mr. Dare, who was a relative. Later, he went into the laundry business with his brothers. He became a leading business man of the community and a director of the Industrial Trust Company. His older brothers had been glass workers in their home town. Isaac (Ike) Turner became one of the crack trapshooters of this locality. Howard M. Turner died in 1938.

Mrs. Alice B. Hoey conducted a laundry in an old house on Shipley Street, between Fifth and Sixth. Then she moved to the old Rogers Printing plant, on the S.E. corner of Sixth and Orange. She sold her business to the Turner Brothers, who were in that business. Later, she founded the Grand Laundry, occupying a portion of the old Arlington Mills property. It was said of Mrs. Hoey, or Alice Boyle as she was better known, that she would think nothing of donning rubber boots and an apron, and overseeing the work in the wet department. In 1915 she built a fine home at 1909 Baynard Boulevard, where she died in 1938. Her husband was associated with her in the management of the business.

Every community has its share of orators, one man usually standing out above the rest. It is recalled that during a rally at the Grand Opera House, in the campaign of 1904, Alton B. Parker, nominee of the Democratic party for President, addressed the meeting. When the meeting adjourned at a late hour, half of the people had left, when L. Irvin Handy was prevailed on to speak. Those who remained sat down, realizing a treat was in store. It was his lot to present the name of a fellow townsman, Judge George Gray, to the Democratic Convention of 1904 for the office of President. His eloquence failed to convince the Convention that the little State of Delaware should be granted that honor.

Wilmington has had a fair share of bank scandals. In 1892, when James P. Winchester took the presidency of the First National Bank, which was then at Fifth and Market, it was found that one of the tellers was appropriating the bank's funds to his own use. Twice in the last fifty years responsible employees of the Wilmington Savings Fund misused the trust imposed in them in the same way. In one of the latter cases, the matter was settled without a prison term. The First National Bank defalcator served a term in Kings County prison, Brooklyn; the other Savings Fund employee served at the New Castle County Workhouse.

Other minor defalcations have occurred since among younger and less noted citizens. In one of the early cases, the bank employee used stocks which passed through his hands as collateral to support a margin account with his brokers. The question was raised at the time if the broker were not equally guilty with

his customer in accepting collateral in which he must have known the customer only had a trustee's interest.

The Garretts, father and sons, were an interesting family. Harry and William practiced dentistry with their father at the home at Delaware Avenue and West. William lived at 1002 West, and was the father of Helen, who married the present Judge Leonard E. Wales. Harry never married, and after his father's death kept "bachelors hall" in the old home, along with Charles W. Gouert until shortly before his death. Another brother, the father of the present Dr. Ellwood Garrett, was more identified with the town of New Castle, and was not so well-known here. Arthur chose the leather business, and for some years was with William Bush at 114 Walnut Street, later going into business with William A. Barr on East Second Street in what had been a portion of the old Bush plant.

One of the sons was passenger agent of the Penna. R.R. at Norfolk, interested in the transfer of passengers at that point. Another brother was associated with the Franco-American Food Company at Indianapolis. A daughter, Katherine, married Dr. Darlington, who practiced at Concordville. Grandfather Garrett was a strong abolitionist, and formed a link in the "Underground Railway," which helped slaves escape to the North.

The old home was torn down, along with the house adjoining and the fine old buttonwood tree in the yard, to make way for a business block. To future generations, the family and the home will be but hearsay. When the sons were young, the family home was on Shipley Street, below Third, on the site of the present Jewish Synagogue.

Victor Bacon came up from the "Eastern Shore" nearly forty years ago, and started a small lunch room, with side arm chairs, at 829 Market Street. The Greek restaurants were not numerous at that time. He prospered at this stand, and then bought the property at 817 Market, and moved his business to that location. This building years ago housed the Robinson Ice Cream and Confectionery business, with an ice cream parlor on the second floor. George Robinson, who presided at the photographic supply counter at Baynards' for years, was a son of that family. While quite deaf, he was a jolly fellow and had a host of friends. He died at the Jones Hospital on Delaware Avenue in 1935.

William W. Bullock conducted a sawmill on Monroe Street, above Front, at the turn of the century. He was a member of Harrison Street Methodist Church, and a man of sterling qualities. In his younger days, he was struck on the leg by a log while at work. This accident never bothered him until his latter years, the doctor attributing his fatal case of rheumatism, (he weighed more than three hundred pounds) to the early accident. He was the father of a number of children, some of whom became quite prominent. Among them were Dr. Edgar Q. Bullock, one of the leading physicians of the city, and Elizabeth M., social editor of the Journal-Every Evening, and president of the local Quota Club.

Reference:

Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
September 27, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

Encyclopaedia File

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AN EARLY WILMINGTON FIRM

The E. R. Pusey Coal Company, which was later merged with the Diamond Ice and Coal Company, was founded by the man of that name. He had been formerly interested with his father, Jacob Pusey, in the management of the Consumers Ice and Coal Company, and at one time made artificial ice, under the firm name of the Hygeia Ice Company. At his location at Fifth and Church, he at first handled coal exclusively, but in 1914 added a line of building material. In that year he held the contract to furnish cement for the city for street paving.

In 1915 he furnished the material for the streets surrounding the new City and County building. In order to take care of his rapidly expanding business, he took over the coal yards, formerly occupied by the J. Milt Solomon Coal Company, at Front and Church. When he confined his business to coal, the margin of profit was small, many of the coal dealers carrying other lines, which showed more profit and filled in when the coal business was slack during the Summer months.

Those who cater to the general public often meet with ingratitude. Mr. Pusey related that during the long coal strike, during the winter of 1907, people who had not been his customers would beg him for even a portion of a ton of coal, saying they would never forget his kindness. In more than one case, it was the last he ever heard from them. In 1915 the price of coal started to advance, until it finally reached double the pre-war figure. There have been some recessions in latter years, but they have never reached their pre-war level.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
July 23, 1940

Encyclopaedia File
Cities and Towns
Wilmington

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EARLY WILMINGTON FIRMS IN VARIOUS LINES

Old concerns pass away, and are unknown by later generations. This fact is true of Wilmington. Among the firms which catered to daily needs over fifty years ago were several tailors, such as George H. Ash, on Market Street above Seventh, James McKeough, on Seventh just back of Market, and Connoly and Weller, on Market Street, near Eighth. If you wanted a hair cut orshave, Mart La Rowe, in the basement of the Law Building, at Ninth and Market, was a popular place to go. Mart is still in business, on Shipley Street, and has catered to more than one generation of Wilmington men and boys. Women were seldom seen in a barber shop in those days, unless to bring the children for a haircut; La Rowe maintains a separate department in the present shop, presided over by his wife, for women and children. The Preston Brothers on Market Street, neat Eighth, were an old firm, going back to the days when barbers cupped and leeched, and also made switches for women, the Prestons always having some of the latter on display in their window. Mr. Parker's shop, on Third Street near King, was a popular place, especially for business men in that neighborhood. Men usually had their own shaving mugs and brushes, some highly embellished with name and flowers.

If one were looking for the colored water bottles, in the window which denoted a drug store was near, Z. James Belt's at Sixth and Market Streets was a well known place, having been conducted by one of the Bringhurst family before being taken over by Mr. Belt. It was said that at Belt's there were stacks of bindings containing prescriptions which no doubt went back to the early days of the city. H. R. Bringhurst, on Market Street below Fourth, was an old drug store, which maintained the atmosphere to the last, having gone out of business, only a short while ago. N. B. Danforth's wholesale and retail store at Second and Market Streets is the only business of its kind that has been carried over, from the earlier period. A few young men who started their careers at Danforth's afterwards went into business for themselves, among them T. H. Cappeau, at Delaware Avenue and Dupont, and Jeff Wier, at Fourteenth and Washington Streets.

If it were candy for the sweet tooth that was wanted, the Simmons Brothers store, on West Fourth Street between Market and Shipley, was a favorite place. They made a specialty of hard candies, consisting of nut bar candy, sour balls, and gum drops, the variety of chocolate-covered candy not being what it is today. George Ferguson and David Lemon were two other prominent candymakers.

If it were harness or trunks that were needed, Joshua Conner, Hiram Yerger, and Albert Jacquot were the leaders in this line. The place of the horse

has been preempted to such an extent by the motor vehicle, that the Conner firm is the only one listed today as making harness, and that mostly for show horses.

The Clayton House, on the present site of the Queen Theatre, and the Lafayette Hotel, on the site of the old Post Office, at Ninth and Shipley Streets, were the two leading hotels. Professor Bartholomew, who came to the Opera House with his troupe of trained horses, would board them at the latter's stable. Isaac Pyle was host at this hotel, and afterwards ran the Clayton House.

If one wished to build or have alterations made, the leading firms in that line were Wm. H. Foulk and Sons, The Tindall Brothers, the two Seeds concerns, and A. S. Reed and Brother. The latter concern is the only one in business today, carrying on under the management of A. S. Reed's two sons. Many of the city's buildings, both public and private, are testimonials to the skill of these firms and their workmen. Today the type of buildings and the methods used in construction have given rise to many new contracting firms. The digging and laying of foundations, as well as steel and cement construction, call for the use of a variety of machinery.

And, lastly, if you were looking for some one to bury a relative, there were John M. Simpers, John R. Kilmer, Luther W. Palmer, and Samuel J. Murphy, the latter being the only one living today, although having

retired from business for some years. To complete the tribute to the dead, a choice of tombstones could be found at the Davidson marble yards, at both Fifth and Ninth and King Streets, and at John L. Malone's yard, on Delaware Avenue, this place later being conducted by George L. Jones, now deceased.

In the early days, there were florists, who sold flowers direct from their hothouses on the outskirts of the city, but M. F. Hayden was the only one who had a store on Market Street, located near Seventh Street.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
September 20, 1940

EARLY WILMINGTON HOMES

The large house at 705 West Street was built and occupied for years by George W. Bush, whose well-known firm handled coal, and also had a freight line to Philadelphia. In latter years, it was the home of Nathan Levy, the pawnbroker at Seventh and Market. Being unoccupied for some time, it is fast going to decay; it was a fine home in its time. The large home at the S. W. corner of Eighth and West, vacated lately upon the death of the last member of the James family, has been, with its long yard and flower beds, a landmark in that neighborhood for years. Daniel James, the father, was not only one of the early hardware merchants, with a store on lower Market street, but he was interested in the lottery business, when lotteries were legal in Delaware. Two of his sons, Maury the lawyer, and Daniel, Jr., became prominent.

The large building at the N. W. corner, now used as a Catholic School, was years ago a boarding house conducted by a Mrs. Hance. It is recalled that Miss Hallie Rile, sister of Dr. J. Harmer Rile, one of the leading physicians of the city, fell from one of the upper windows of this house, and was killed. She was employed at the Post Office, and was also superintendent of the infant room at St. Paul's Church, at Seventh and Market Streets. At the S. E. corner was the home of Dr. Maull, one of the city's leading physicians. On the N. E. corner, in the large sqare house, lived Benjamin Nields, father of U.S. Court Judge Nields. Mr. Nields was for some time before his death president of the Security Trust

Company, and one of the leading lawyers of the city. This house, in the early years, had a side yard, with trees and flowers, which added notably to its appearance, About forty years ago, this property passed into the hands of William Fenn, who added the one-story building to take care of his drug business.

At 814 West Street, was the home of Nathan Lieberman, clothier at Fifth and Market. His daughter, Mrs.Esther Rothchilds, whose husband managed the clothing department at the New Castle County Workhouse until his death, is now living at 1910 Baynard Boulevard. At 815 was the home of Andrew E. Sanborn, the law partner of Levi Bird, whose law offices were at Eleventh and Market. At 817 was the home of the Sisler family. Mr. Sisler being of the firm of Harvey and Sisler, wholesale grocers, at Third and King.

At the S. W. corner of Ninth and West, on the site of the apartment house, was a large double house, the home of James Scott, leather manufacturer at Third and Madison. It was occupied later by Richard Patzowsky, another leathermaker, and before being torn down, was the home and funeral parlors of John B. Martin. In the block just described, there is only one family living there today, the Pattersons, who were there in 1905. Miss Zella Patterson's family moved there from the 700 block on King Street shortly before Doctor Patterson's death. The mother and other daughter ~~xxxixx~~ died in the last few years. These houses today are either apartment houses or rooming houses.

At 900 West street, now part of the Bell Telephone property, was the home of Henry F. Dure, of the early firm of Martin and Dure, grocers at Fourth and Orange. Mr. Dure had a number of sons, and a daughter, the wife of L. Scott Townsend, the latter, at the time of his death, an officer of the Security Trust Company. At 906 West was the home of A. A. Capelle, often spoken of as "Sandy," who, with his brother, George S. Capelle, conducted a hardware store on lower Market Street.

At 903 West, now the Church House, was the home of Z. James Belt, the druggist at Sixth and Market. Henry C. Robinson, the banker, and father of J. Norris Robinson, the bandmaster, lived at 905 West. At 907 lived Ephriam Walton, of the fertilizer firm of Walton and Whann, on West Front Street. At 1001 West was the home of George Remington, of the machine company of that name; next door was the home of E. H. Rumford, the hatter, of 404 Market Street.

At the N. W. corner of Eighth and Washington , what is now a musical studio was the home of Enoch Moore, whose family for more than one generation were shipbuilders in the city. At 800 Washington lived the Misses Millway, prominent dressmakers. A number of doctors lived in this block, among them Dr. Morgan, father of Norris C. Morgan, the organist, Dr. Ogle, and Dr. W. G. Winner. In this square lived Norris Fogg, who must have been a man of strong convictions, for after he joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church, who make Saturday their Sunday, he gave up a good position, at the American Vulcanized Fibre plant at Tenth and Wilson, as he would not work on Saturday. That workday, years ago, consisted of

eight and three-quarters hours, making the sixty hours for the week, a half or full day's holiday not coming until some time later.

In the next block at 911, now used as a Jewish Center, was the home of J. Winfield Scott, of the leather firm at Third and Madison, and later on, the home and office of Dr. J. Paul Lukens. The Doctor's son, Harry, was one of the early automobile owners, and a reckless driver, running afoul of the law more than once. At the N. W. corner of Washington, at Tenth, was the home of Rev. Alfred Scott, one of the early Bishops of the Methodist Church in this section, and the father of Henry and Harlan Scott bankers.

Years ago these houses were occupied and probably built by those who called them home, they were pointed out as the residences of leading citizens. Today, when they are either boarding or apartment houses, they have lost their identity, and are merely buildings.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm H. Forbes,
December 6, 1940.

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

EARLY WILMINGTON HOMES

The fine old home that stands at the N. E. corner of Lancaster Avenue and Monroe Street was built about 1855, and has been for seventy years the home of the Stewart family. Charles T. Stewart, father of Miss Katherine E. Stewart, now living in the home at the age of ninety-six, conducted a foundry on the site of the Kent Lumber Company from 1857 to 1884, when he died. That was the day when plants such as Harlan's did not have facilities for turning out the castings used in their work; a large amount of such work went to the Stewart concern.

The interior of this home is reminiscent, both in the square high ceilinged rooms, and its antique furniture, of a day long since past. Two elderly ladies, one a niece of Miss Stewart's, keep this home in "apple pie" order. What memories must come to this old lady, as she looks back over the seventy years since she came to this home a young lady. Memories of the days when the Bayard, Price and Bush families, who lived on South Clayton Street over fifty years ago, rode by in their fine "turn outs," Mr. Stewart sold to Charles Mullin the land on which he built his leather plant in 1883, and also the land on which Swift and Company built their meat plant. The Kent lumber yard has lately been supplanted by an oil station.

The old Ferris home that stood, until a few years ago, at the N. W. corner of Third and West Streets, was built about 1800. It was for ninety-six years the home of Benjamin Ferris, and members of his family. One daughter lived there for ninety-three years. The father was born and raised in a house that stood on the N. E. corner of Third and Shipley, now part of the Farmers Bank site. The boy

Benjamin would often look up the hill at the house on West Street, and wish he owned it; this he managed to do at the age of forty. One marked feature of this house is the deep slanting roof, with the eaves hanging far out over the upper windows. A one-story frame building was attached to the south side of the main building, and was used as an office. Benjamin Ferris was a writer of some note. One of his efforts was, "The Early Settlement on the Delaware."

The two houses at 701 and 703 West Street were both built at the same time, but the latter is the only one associated with the Ferris family. It had been occupied by one of the Tatnall family when bought by William Ferris in 1888. He died there in 1909. It is about the same age as the house at 301 West Street. When these two houses were built, the area on all sides consisted of vacant lots, with dirt roads for travel.

Another Ferris home stood on the west side of Tatnall Street, below Fifth. This was the home of John Ferris, who lived there for only two years, dying of smallpox in the epidemic of 1750. He was a tanner, and his tan-yard was on the opposite side of Tatnall Street from the house. With the removal of Miss Anna M. Ferris from the house at 703 West Street a short while ago, the last connection of the Ferris family with these old homes has been severed. Like many another old Wilmington home, in the future they will be occupied by people whose ways of life are alien to all they have stood for in the past.

The home at present numbered 107-109 East Sixth Street was originally the home of Thomas Coxe, and was built in 1801. Thomas brought his bride to this home, which at that time had only two rooms, one above the other, with a cellar underneath. His bride,

who had always lived in a rambling farm-house, was surprised at its size. He told her not to mind, that he would build her a larger house some day. He built a second house on the opposite side of Sixth Street, but died before it was finished. Thomas Coxe was not only a brickmaker, but a stone mason as well. His brick yard and clay pits were near his home at Sixth and French Streets.

Fifty years ago, the home was occupied by the Rumford family, and later on by the Dickersons, all descendants of Thomas Coxe and his wife. The house as it has stood for years, is an enlargement of the original home.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

EARLY WILMINGTON MUSICIANS

In the era before "canned music," made its appearance, it was thought essential that the girls of the family should become proficient on the piano, as one of their accomplishments. In order to make progress, a piano was installed in the home. The boys of the family did not always take kindly to the lessons, or practicing, much to the regret of many of them in their latter years. The teacher would very often make the rounds of her pupils' homes, arriving at a stated hour. When visitors would arrive, the "young hopefuls" would be requested to perform and show their skill.

Some of the early piano teachers were George Powick, Hettie Lawson, T. Leslie Carpenter, who is still teaching, and Elizabeth Johnson. Some were proficient on the organ as well as piano, and presided at the consoles in various city churches. George C. Maris was organist at Grace Church over fifty years ago. He was succeeded there later by Homer C. Ewing and Norris C. Morgan. Mr. Ewing, before his transfer to London by the duPont Company, played for the singing at the Rotary Club luncheons.

Noble F. Hadley, who conducted a shoe store at Third and King Streets, played the organ at St. Paul's Church, Seventh and Market Streets. T. Leslie Carpenter presided at the organ at Trinity Episcopal Church until a few years

ago. C. W. K. Bradford was for years organist at St. John's Episcopal Church. These musicians are now called choir-masters, as their function is to lead the choir, as well as play the organ. In the early years, the guidance of the singers was a work apart from that at the organ. The organ was pumped by hand, in a room in the rear. A string with a lead weight attached hung on the back of the organ, and denoted the amount of air in the bellows. Boys were generally engaged to do the pumping, and earned all they were paid.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
May 6, 1941

EARLY WILMINGTON RESTAURANTS

Fifty years ago, when the area of the city was far less than today, many of the men, especially those engaged in business, went home to lunch. Few women were employed in the offices. A. L. and A. H. Ainscow's, either in separate establishments or together, and Gardner's were the main eating places. A. L. Ainscow at 802 Market Street had a room on the second floor for ladies, which was well patronized for after the theater snacks. The small bar was in the rear of the first floor. Wallace Conly is remembered as a salesman for a nearby clothing store. When Wallace would sell a suit, he would bring the customer over to Ainscow's for a drink. When seen going towards the bar with a man in tow, one would say: "I guess Wallace has sold another suit."

It was so rarely one saw a married man eating his dinner downtown that one would say: "His family must be away." Joe Fullmer had a restaurant below the old City Hall, which antedated the others mentioned. There were oyster bars under the telegraph office at Third and Market Streets, and in the basement of the Mullin Building at Sixth Street. The atmosphere of these places was informal, and many a boy has delighted to sit on a high stool at the counter, and order fishcakes or baked beans, without benefit of menu.

It was a common saying that any family man who stayed out late at lodge or over a game of cards would feel it incumbent on him to take the "little woman" a box of ice-cream or fried oysters, according to the season. They were, no doubt the early "appeasers," the

treat taken home being known as a "pacifier." Many of the formal banquets were held at the Clayton House at Fifth and Market Streets. When the hotel was built in the 1870's, it was no doubt a source of pride to the citizens of that day. Age and the change in that section of the city caused it to be outmoded, and with the erection of the Hotel du Pont in 1913, it was torn down.

The writer remembers attending a banquet there in September 1900. While waiting for the first course, the guests amused themselves by putting their water glasses down on the water bugs which took possession of the table for the time being. This hotel, and the Lafayette Hotel at the S. W. corner of Ninth and Shipley Streets, were the leading ones of that day, the latter having its stables on the same grounds. There, the horses of Professor Bartholomew, who came to the Grand Opera House every year, would hold "open house."

Nothing has done more to increase the eating facilities of the business section, or to raise the standard of food and surroundings, as has the advent of women in numbers into the offices and stores which, coupled with the ever-widening area of the city, prevents many from going home to lunch.

The Hotel du Pont opened its doors on January 15, 1913, with a private showing and luncheon, attended by many distinguished guests. In order to familiarize the public with the hotel, a series of musicals were held on Sunday afternoons, when tea was served on the mezzanine floor. People flocked to these affairs, and were surprised and proud that Wilmington had acquired such a hotel.

Ernest S. Taite, formerly assistant manager of the Astor House in New York, was the first manager. In 1921 he was succeeded by Harry Harkins, a local boy, who had for some years been associated with the Clayton House. The hotel later passed to the control of

the Bowman-Biltmore chain, with C. W. Gibbs as resident manager. Later on, it came back to the original interests, with Frank Gregson as manager. In the pre-Volstead days, the bar was located on the present site of the Laird-Bissell and Meeds boardroom. Among those who have served the hotel since its opening are Miss Sarah Truax, secretary to the manager, and Mrs. M. T. Eastland, head housekeeper, whose husband served in different capacities before his death in 1939.

Among the banquets held there the first year, was that of the Delaware Motor Club, in the Grill Room. When the time came for speechmaking, some of the prominent citizens were "in their cups." After a few had responded in a muddled way to the invitation of the toastmaster, T. Allen Hilles, the latter arose, disgusted, to ask if any other drunk wanted to say anything. Another banquet recalled was that of the Retail Coal Dealers Association, held in one of the parlors on the mezzanine floor. One of the minor coal dealers, who was seldom sober, which was the case that night, was accompanied by his son, a lad of about twenty. When the waiter would put some eating utensils beside their plates, they would look at them in bewilderment. At last the father could contain himself no longer. He said to the man beside him: "Henry, they have a hell of a lot of hardware in this place, don't they?" For the first few years, the hotel maintained a small orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Dummig, which played on the balcony in the dining room, at both luncheon and dinner. This made dining doubly attractive, especially during the holiday season, when there would come numerous requests on Christmas Eve for "Silent Night." For

a number of winters, "tea dansants" were held in the main dining room on Saturday afternoons. When the law was passed stopping the sale of intoxicants at midnight, many patrons of the grill room would have their tables stocked with drinks before the time limit.

Encyclopedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
November 5, 1940

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EARLY WILMINGTON THEATRE DAYS

The Grand Opera House years ago was the mecca for many of the ranking players of the stage. One evening, at the turn of the century, winsome Maude Adams appeared as the star in "The Pretty Sister of Jose." While the main play was Spanish, the curtain-raiser, called "Op-O-My-Thumb," was decidedly English. The story was of a little London slavey who worked in a laundry. While her co-workers had their beaus, to take them out on holidays, she had no one.

A bundle of laundry had been there for some time, awaiting a claimant, around which she wove a romance. Some day a Prince Charming would come for the laundry, and take her out for a glorious time. One day when she was alone, a typical London cockney arrived for the bundle. Dressed in loud clothes, with large pearl buttons, "Solomon in all his glory was never arrayed like one of these." Rough in manner and speech, he was just the opposite to what she had dreamed of.

When the Academy of Music, afterwards styled the Avenue Theatre, was located at the N.E.? corner of Tenth and Tatnall Streets, the Gables, a family hotel, was on the N.E.? corner. When the actors and actresses from the nearby theatre, which had none too good a name, would register, some of the women who made the hotel their home would afterwards come to the desk and ask if they were married. The management would tell them that it would hardly be right to ask to see their marriage certificates before assigning them to rooms.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
October 18, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

OLD NATIONAL GUARD DAYS

Fifty years ago before the first Armory was built, the city companies of the State National Guard were located on one of the upper floors of the Masonic Temple. The uniform worn included a blue coat, blue and gray trousers with a broad black stripe down the side. The helmets with the yellow tassel hanging from the center of the crown suggested very much those worn by the soldiers in the German Army. Armon D. Chaytor, who at that time was a clerk in the post-office at Sixth and King Streets, was a prominent member. A cavalry regiment was also part of the State equipment. James Fields, better known as "Jimmy," son of William M. Fields, president of the Central National Bank, whose home was at Kentmere, was one of that aggregation. He could be found at times strutting around, all booted and spurred, a regular "show off." Later on, I. Pusey Wickersham came to the fore in guard circles, and was in command of the State troops at the time of the Spanish- American war.

On public occasions, when our State troops join with other States, Delaware heads the line of march. At the dedication of Grant's tomb in April 1897, General Wickersham led the troops, and Grantley Parke Postles was on the staff of Ebe Tunnell, then Governor of the State.

James Fields was engaged to the daughter of Henry C. Robinson the banker, and while the two were out for a canter, she was thrown from her horse and killed.

Reference; Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
October 15, 1940

EARLY WORKERS IN INDUSTRY

Years ago it was customary in some industrial plants, such as the Jackson and Sharp and Lobdell Car Wheel Companies, to let the work in some departments out on contract, the foreman hiring and paying his help. Some of these foremen became quite well off, by this method. Among the heads at Lobdells were Robert C. Tolmey, S. A. Hodgman and Andrew White, father of Josephine M. R. White, the woman doctor. Mr Smith, father of Darlington Smith, who for some years was in demand as an expert accountant, was at Jackson and Sharps.

John McLoed, of 500 West Street, was an executive at Lobdell's. His son John was fifty years ago office manager for Lewis P. Buck, fire insurance agent, in the Bayard building at Ninth and Market. He later became one of the executives of the Carnegie Company at Pittsburg, joining that group which the steel master called "My boys." When the Carnegie interests were taken over by the steel trust, Mr. McLoed's name was at the bottom of the list of stockholders, with an interest of one-sixteenth of one percent, which made him a millionare. Before he left Wilmington, he had resided at 803 North Van Buren Street.

When concerns engaged in the making of wooden passenger cars turned to the production of all-steel cars, many of the men who had spent their mature lives in this work found themselves at a disadvantage. Many were of advanced age, and either had to retire, or seek some other task.

Reference: Personal Recollections

THE EAST SIDE FIFTY YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago, when a large portion of the West Side was in vacant lots, the East Side was teeming with life. The descendants of families that were prominent at that time will now be found living on the West Side, or in the suburbs. Their old family homes are occupied by either foreigners or Negroes, and are much the worse for wear and age. The lots which abounded in the neighborhood of Eighth and Lombard Streets were the source from which the Coxe family, who had been brickmakers for years, got their clay. These lots were dug out below the street level, and usually contained water, which afforded a place for ice skating in the winter months.

Thomas H. Melvin, whose home was at 409 East Tenth Street, was instrumental in building several rows of houses in that neighborhood, houses which helped in a measure to redeem the section. Scott M.E.Church, at Seventh and Spruce, as well as Asbury, at Third and Walnut, largely drew their congregations ffrom that section of the city; these congregations were reputed to include many old-time "shouting Methodists." The complexion of the congregations changed with the neighborhood, so that it is hard to find today on the roster of their membership a name that was familiar in the old days. Their descendants will

most likely be found at Grace, McCabe, or some of the other Methodist churches on the West Side.

Such families as the Parkers, Genns, Springers, Schracks, and others who were prominent around Sixth and Poplar Streets, have for one reason or another passed from the scene. Isaac T. Parker, or "Tom," as he was more often called, was one of the popular conductors of the Delaware Railroad. He lived at 604 Poplar, and at 608 was the home of W. Bayard Genn, master boilermaker at the local Pennsylvania Railroad Shops. At the S.E. corner of Seventh and Poplar was the home and office of Dr. Thomas A. Keables. He had a son and daughter, Ray and Hortense. Victor R. Pyle, now in the coal and lumber business here, could be found there at times playing his flute, Hortense accompanying him on the piano. Mr. Pyle later on married Lillian Jackson, whose fine voice will be remembered in St. Andrew's Church choir. Their whole family are musical, and when they are all together, they make a small orchestra, each one playing a different instrument.

Adam Schrack, of 405 East Sixth, was a Civil War veteran, and at one time superintendent of letter carriers at the old Post Office at Sixth and King. He had two sons, Howard and Willard, both dead, and a daughter whose first husband was Curtis G. Bupp, the hat manufacturer on West Seventh Street. She later on married Dr. Clyde C. Neese, whose home and office are at the S. W. corner of Eighth and Adams. This was at one time the home of W.W. Pusey, brother of Charles W. Pusey, both executives of the Pusey and Jones Company.

On Poplar Street between Fifth and Sixth was the slaughter house of Gottleib Mammele, grandfather of the present Canby C. Mammele. There were a number of these plants scattered about the city, the owners generally having stalls in the market houses. The family home was around the corner on Sixth Street. At 503 Poplar Street was the home of the Flynn family. "Tom" Flynn, a son, for some years conducted a hat store on Market Street near Third. One daughter married John A. Montgomery, long identified with the fire insurance business, and another married Edgar B. Fell, whose drug store was at one time on the N.E. Corner of Ninth and Orange. His home and store when he died was at 600 Concord Avenue. Mrs. Katherine Fell, the wife, has gained some distinction as a dramatic coach, and is at present active in the Drama League.

At 425 East Sixth Street was the home of Aaron Sawin, one of the early bridge builders of the Penna. R.R. Company. He was the father of Miss Nellie Sawin who will be remembered as a teacher at the High School, and of Leroy Sawin the master blacksmith at Todd's Cut. Mr. Sawin served his apprenticeship at the old shops, opposite the depot, on Water Street, and was the father of Sanford W. Sawin, at present one of the chief engineers of the Du Pont Company, with offices in the building at Tenth and Market. He married the daughter of Winfield Quigley, who conducts a school for boys and girls, near Hockessin.

Many skilled workmen whose trades have practically disappeared from the city's industrial life lived on the East side. John T. Mortimer, of 305 Taylor Street was a good example. He was a

carriage body maker, and was employed both at Clymer's at Third and Orange, and McLear and Kendall's, at Ninth and French. Often carriage-builders would use their skill in making sideboards and other furniture for the home. Mr. Mortimer had two children, Martha and Walter; the former married Harry McKee, the butcher, who originally came from New Castle. Both the McKees are deceased. Walter Mortimer is master mechanic for the Woodlawn Improvement Company.

Another skilled workman was Samuel Dougherty, who lived at 319 East Sixth Street. Mr. Dougherty and his wife were typically English. He was employed as a puddler at the Diamond State Iron Company plant. That work was hard, and in high temperatures. One of the daughters married Benjamin Rawnsley, the cigarmaker, another married James B. Tucker, who years ago was a policeman, and also served as assistant chief of the volunteer fire department. As a second wife, Mr. Tucker married the daughter of William Simmons, who in 1891 was sheriff of the county, and was the father of Charles and Homer Simmons, both prominent in local political circles.

In the days when the services in the German churches were generally held in the native tongue, Rev. Paul Isenschmid was one of the prominent preachers of that nationality. He also practiced medicine to some extent. He had two children, Clara the widow of Edward R. Pusey, and Samuel, who practiced law in New York City, for some years. At the N.W. corner of Sixth and Lombard was the grocery store of Cann and Reed. These men were related, and Mr. Reed was the father of J. Warner Reed, who

married the daughter of Mr. Ringwalt, the harness maker at Second and Market Streets. He also commanded the 59th Pioneer Regiment, consisting of Delaware troops, in the first world war.

The portion of the old Wesleyan Female Academy which extends out on Sixth Street, between Walnut and French, has been for years, the meeting hall of German Societies. In the early years, the Germans, a good many of whom were born in the old country, brought with them a spirit of good fellowship which found expression in beer and song. Theirs was the Germany of Schiller and Goethe, and not the Germany of Hitler.

One of the old landmarks of that neighborhood is the Bethel A.M.E. Church at Sixth and Walnut Street. Upon the ruins of the fire in 1935, which practically destroyed the church, has been raised a more modern building. The colored churches were always noted for their choir singing, having good soloists.

At the N.W. Corner of Third and Poplar Streets was the grocery store of William Turner, father of Millard Turner, one of the minor executives of the Du Pont Company. The latter married the sister of Glen Beadenkopf, the leather manufacturer. On Third Street, between Walnut and Poplar, was the livery stable of Harry W.Lowe, who died in 1940. The business in those days consisted in boarding horses for families or business concerns, renting teams for business or pleasure, and renting cabs for weddings, funerals, and other occasions. Hearses were also furnished for funerals. Mr. Lowe was active in Masonic circles.

William Wallace is about the only old horseman left. He is over ninety years old, has a splendid memory, and loves to recount the days when harness racing was at its height. He is a brother of the late Howard T. Wallace, who was a noted horseman, and at one time president of the Diamond State Iron Company. Howard's fine home was at the S.E. corner of Tenth and Van Buren Streets.

The buildings occupied for some years by the B.F.Shaw Company, at Second and Lombard Streets, was years ago the plant of the Hare and Morgan Company, makers of nuts and bolts. Albert, the son of the Rev. Lafayette Marks, pastor of Hanover Presbyterian Church at Sixth and King, was a clerk in the office. Dr. Marks has a daughter still living in the city, the wife of Henry S. Pyle, son of a member of the old patent leather firm.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
September 17, 1940

Encyclopaedia File
Cities and Towns
Wilmington.

FRENCH STREET IN THE EARLY DAYS

French Street, a wide street, has always been popular as an artery of travel. When the sleighing was good, it was a favorite place for racing. Many prominent people lived on this street. The house at 205 was the Heisler home, whose cooper shop was around the corner on Second street. On the S. E. corner was the Green carriage factory, Mr. Green being the father of (Dad) Green. On the N.E. corner was the carriage factory of Mr. Hammond, whose son William conducted a pawn shop there in later years.

On the N. E. corner at fourth, was the Second Baptist Church, now at ninth and Franklin. On the N. E. corner of Fifth, was the cracker bakery of W. and J. Lang. Further on this side was No. 1 School, the High School until the erection of the school at Eighth and Adams about 1885. Next door to the school was the Delaware Hook and Ladder Company.

On the N. E. corner at sixth, was the home of Dr. Morrison, who conducted a drug store, at Second and King. Further on was the Wesleyan Female Academy, for some years afterwards used as a hotel. At 610 was the home of J. A. Hart, whose meat plant was at Fifth and Poplar, and next door was the home of Dr. L. P. Bush. These two houses are now occupied by the Democratic League. Dr. Bush was the grandfather of Christopher L. Ward. In the next block, at 718, was the residence of William Lawton, whose china store was on Market street, near Sixth. Mr. Lawton was struck and killed by an automobile while crossing the street in front of his store. Next door lived Samuel H. Baynard, jeweler at Fifth and Market. On the west side, at 707, lived J. K. Adams, the toy

store merchant, at Fifth and Market, and next door the Stidham family, father and son being auctioneers for years.

The large house at 710 was the home of Dr. Porter, who died in the early 1880's. He left a proviso in his will that a colored family named Wing, should occupy the house after his death, and they lived there in the basement rooms for some years. This no doubt gave rise to the idea,that the house was haunted, to any one thinking the house was vacant. The Porter house was razed within the last year.

At 906 French lived a fine old colored man, Robert Graves, a caterer. In the early years, this work was generally done by Negroes. A. L. Ainscow's restaurant was staffed by colored help. Wherever society gathered for a function, Mr. Graves would generally be found with a staff of waiters. Waiters who come from all over Europe have largely supplanted the Negro in this work.

Reference: Personal Recollections

J. F. Pote
July 25, 1940

FRENCH STREET SO-CALLED IN 1736-7

L-1-45 - 2/14/17 36/37. "Thomas Willing of Willingtown in the hundred of Christiana in the County of New Castle upon Delaware Cooper and Catharine his Wife on the One part And Joseph Steel of the Province of Maryland Yeoman and John Mc. Arthur of the Province of Maryland aforesaid Weaver and John Richardson of the Province of Pennsylvania Yeoman on the other Part --- Beginning at a Corner Stake Standing in the North West Side of French's Street thence --- intersection of French's Street and third Street ..."

Reference:

Deed Record L-1-45.

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Wm. H. Forbes
November 12, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

HARD TIMES IN THE EARLIER YEARS

With hard times still pressing upon us, and all the government agencies working to lift the burden that comes from unemployment, the thought often arises as to what was done in former hard times. During the hard times of the second Cleveland admininstration, many suffered for the want of the necessities of life. Soup kitchens were opened all over town. Many no doubt were carried along by their corner grocers. A dollar went further then than it does today; while wages were low by today's standards, the cost of clothing and foodstuffs was in keeping. A man could buy a fairly good suit for ten dollars, or even less. A derby hat could be bought for two dollars. Chain shoemaking firms made fine ladies' shoes that retailed for three and four dollars. Men faired equally as well in that respect. One colored man, dealer in second-hand clothing, complained only a few years ago that he could'nt sell his line. The rising generation of colored people want up-to-date things.

The housewife could fill a large sized basket with food for the table for one dollar. People of limited means, even when they were employed, were contented with the simpler things in the way of recreation. There were no luxuries like the automobile, radio, and phonograph. In the warm weather,

people sat on their doorstep in the evening and gossiped with the neighbors. The temptation to retire early was great, as industries started work at seven, and six in the evening was quitting time.

A noted English lecturer went home from the States, and told his people "That the automobile had kept America from going Bolshevik. It had enabled the man of moderate means to take his family out for a ride in the country, away from the sordid surroundings of their neighborhoods, and gain strength for another day's work."

Reference: Personal Recollections

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Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
September 20,1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

TENTH STREET IN THE EARLY YEARS

West Tenth Street, which extends from Market to Tatnall, presents an entirely different appearance from what it did years ago, all the changes being for its improvement. On the site of a portion of the Du Pont Building, and facing Shipley Street, was the Friendship Engine House. On this approximate site some years later, George Ward erected an apartment house, which had the first automatic elevator installed in the City. Colonel E. G. Buckner, one of the executives of the Du Pont Company, occupied the whole top floor until he moved to his new home at 1308 Delaware Avenue.

On the south side of Tenth, from Market to Shipley, was the Salfner building, Mr. Salfner having a flour and feed store on the Shipley Street end. On the third floor, Miss Mary Mahaffey had a private school around 1880. When the Ford building was erected, a number of firms had offices on the first floor. Gilpin and Company were there for some time; when Millard Davis felt the time had come to leave his old stand on Second Street, he took over a portion of this floor, with his son Ellwood in charge, although he retained the old store for a while.

A foundry located at the N. E. corner of Orange was used some years afterwards as a bicycle riding academy. On the north side of the next block, in the early years, was a blacksmith shop, and a marble yard, but in the early 1900's, Dr. Harris, the dentist, built an apartment house, and a group of local men took over the business of Robert R. Banks, one of the pioneer

automobile men, and erected a fine large showroom which is being partly razed to make way for the addition to the Nemours building. On the site of the foundry, at Orange street, the Y.M.C.A. erected their first building, moving there from their old home, in what had been the Ebbett House, on Market street, opposite the Court House.

Along Tenth Street from Market to Tatnall, were the usual supply of saloons. On the S. E. corner of Tatnall, on which site had been a livery stable for years, was erected the one-story building standing there today. It was first used as a restaurant, and was known as the "Globe." What old buildings are left along this street are hidden by new fronts.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
November 28, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

TWO LOCAL BOYS THAT MADE GOOD

Two Wilmington boys, after their apprenticeship here, made good elsewhere in a big way. William H. Todd is the better known, because he kept in closer touch with his native city. The family home was in the four hundred block on East Fifth Street, and they were communicants of Scott M. E. Church. What seemed to urge the young boy to advance in work was the effort to ease the burden of the mother and father and a large family. The father was handicapped by a "club foot," which made standing at his work doubly hard. William left the employ of the Pusey and Jones Company, where he had gone to work at the age of fourteen, to work as a "butcher boy" on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Finding no great chance for advancement, he went back to the Pusey plant at greatly reduced wages. After passing through the different departments of the shipbuilding, he entered the employ of the Robbins Ship Repairing Company, of Brooklyn. After a stay there of a few years, his employers decided to sell the business. Mr. Todd offered to buy, but this involved a matter of seven million dollars, not a cent of which he had. After listening to Todd's plan, the younger Robbins urged that his offer be accepted.

As an old member of the Reliance Fire Engine Company, he always kept in touch with the local firemen, and they often went over to Brooklyn as a group, and enjoyed his hospitality. The Todd Memorial at Eighteenth Street and Baynard Boulevard, erected in memory of his mother, will also keep the story of

the poor East side boy fresh in local minds.

The other local boy was Charles T. Schoen. Born in New Castle County, he came to Wilmington at an early age, and worked in a plant making steel car springs. While making only twelve dollars a week, and with a wife and children to support, he gave up his job here, and went to work for a concern in Philadelphia making railroad appliances. At the end of the first year, he threatened to quit unless they gave him an interest in the firm, which they promptly did.

Before the age of forty, he conceived the idea of a freight car, made from pressed steel. After a few years, the idea was adopted for passenger cars as well. At the peak of his business, the plant, which was in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, had a capacity of three thousand cars every twenty-four hours, and employed about forty thousand men. After his retirement for a few years, the urge to be busy again resulted in a plant for the making of forged steel car wheels. This was such a departure from the old car wheels that the Pennsylvania Railroad tested some of them at the Altoona shops for a year before adopting the idea.

His home at Rose Valley, near Media, Pennsylvania, was a show place in that section. As a young man here he married Lavinia North, who as a girl sang in Asbury Church choir. Mr. Schoen was related to the numerous family of Martins in this city. Through his invention of the pressed steel car, and car wheels, as well as other inventions of railroad appliances,

Mr. Schoen is given credit for the greatest contribution to safety in the annals of American railroads.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
October 15, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

TWO WELL KNOWN WILMINGTON MEN

Those who have been identified with local business concerns will remember the bill collectors for the different transportation companies. Harry Graham was first with the Warner Company, later on with the Bush Line, and finished his career with the Wilson Line, covering a span of about fifty years. Captain Taylor, as he was always known, who gained his title from service on Maryland waters, was for some years collector for the Wilson Line. He retired a few years before his death because of failing eyesight. In a spirit of good fellowship, he joined the Men's Club of an Episcopal Church, although he bore all the earmarks of an old-time Methodist. One meeting night the discussion centered around the best night of the week, for the club's meetings, and Mr. Taylor ended the discussion with the remark: "Most any night would suit me, except Saturday. That is the night when I take my bath."

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
September 18, 1940

Encyclopaedia File
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TWO WILMINGTON CITIZENS

When the Physicians and Surgeons' Hospital was laying its plans for the campaign to raise $750,000 in 1925, Edward R. Pusey of the coal and building material firm, was prevailed on to take the chairmanship of the men's committee. Mr. Pusey had all his plans laid to take a trip to Florida in his power boat, but deferred the trip at the earnest request of the hospital committee.

When the campaign was concluded after a matter of a month, his thoughts again turned to the trip. His first choice as a sailing companion was Clarence Walker, a local man, who at that time was associated with the Burden Ice Cream Company in Philadelphia. His greatest difficulty was that he wanted two weeks for the trip, while his employers would grant him but one. Mr. Pusey's second choice was William G. Taylor, vice president of the Delaware Trust Company.

The start was made, and off the Carolina coast, an explosion and fire took place, leaving no trace of men or boat. A search was made in all towns along the coast, Governor Buck sending one of his aides Major H.B. Van Sciver, to join in the search. The belief of those who had sailed with Mr. Pusey was that his habit of storing the reserve of gasoline under the deck, where the fumes had little chance to escape, caused the explosion. Mr. Pusey was survived by a wife, the daughter of the Rev. Paul Isenschmidt, for years pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, and a daughter Katherine, noted in aviation circles.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

A LOCAL AMUSEMENT ENTERPRISE

The late William L. Dockstader played a large part in local amusement circles. Coming to Wilmington in 1893, he first located his cages of monkeys and snakes, under the name of the Wilmington Musee, at 309 Shipley Street, on the present site of the Sunday Star building. The prices of admission were ten and twenty cents, and while this was a poor beginning, it gave him a chance to get acquainted, and sense the needs and tastes of the local theater-going public. After two years there, he leased the old carriage factory of the First and Allmon Company, at Seventh and Shipley Streets. There he gradually substituted stage acts for the earlier features. Vaudeville was then coming into its own throughout the country, and the week's show, made up of different features, would present a gamble, both to the management and audience. Later on, vaudeville drew some fine talent from the legitimate stage.

In 1903 Mr. Dockstader opened his new theater, the Garrick, on Market Street, above the Masonic Temple. As a local man, he felt more interest in supplying his patrons with the best at the price asked than would have been the case if the enterprise had been controlled by outside parties. If a patron would say: "Dock, you have an awful show this week," he would agree, making it a principle never to argue with a customer. Rather, he would explain that a man in his class

could not command the talent like the larger houses, with their higher prices for seats. It was his purpose to furnish a show which any member of the family could safely attend, and he would closely watch the new show on Monday afternoon, for anything off-color.

In his more prosperous days, Mr. Dockstader built a fine home at 1306 Market Street, where he died in December 1921. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. R. W. Trapnell, Rector of St. Andrew's P. E. Church, and the lodge of Elks. His wife, Mrs. Emma L. Dockstader, who actively shared with him in the management of the theater, died at the Market Street home May 11, 1931.

It is hard to speak of Dockstader's Market Street theater with out some mention of the "candy man." No matter how inclement the weather, nor how late the hour, his cry, "Candy man!" would greet the crowd, as it poured out of the theater. His white suit was his "trade mark." At this writing, he is still serving the theater-going public on Market Street.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

UPPER MARKET STREET IN THE EARLY YEARS

The upper portion of Market Street presents a much different aspect than it did fifty years or more ago. Nathan Leiberman had a clothing store on the present site of the Central Bank, and next door was Mrs. Rossiter's gents' furnishing store, Mrs. Rossiter taking this business over from her late husband. Then came the Union National Bank, Peoples' hardware store, the old Morning News Building, and the Christy cigar store on the corner, where many weighty subjects were discussed, by the Christy Senate, who would move their chairs out to the curb when warm weather came. The same custom prevailed at Hawkins' cigar store in the Smith Building in the next block. On the east side at the corner of Fifth, was the Clayton House, the most pretentious hotel in town, with the First National Bank in the corner of the first floor. Next came Adams and Brothers' toy store, which many a boy grown old will remember, Ferd Fullmer's oyster bar, the City Hall, which dominated the block, containing all the activities of the city Government. Mullin's store was on its present site, with an oyster bar in the basement. Another oyster bar was under the Western Union offices at Third and Market Streets. These bars specialized in oysters and fish cakes.

On the N.E. Corner of Sixth and Market was the Bank of Delaware, somewhat of a Quaker institution, and always associated in the public mind with the "Big Frank McCoy robbery." In those days, the cashier, or other official of the bank, would often live on the premises. Cashier William

Floyd's family were in the back of the bank at dinner at the time for the robbery. A young lady slipped out and notified the police, which was the robbers' undoing. Just above the bank a few doors was the office of Gilpin and Company, insurance, from which the present firm of Montgomery and Company grew, John Montgomery working for the earlier firm as a boy.

On the N.W. Corner at Sixth and Market Streets was Z. James Belt's drug store, taken over from an earlier druggist, Mr. Bringhurst. Next Door was Mr. Wyatt's gents' furnishing store, and farther on Wm. Lawton's china store, then J. Paul Brown, the photographer, on the first floor of whose building were Burns and Monaghan, who had a reputation for their custom-made shoes, ready-made shoes, like clothes, not having reached the perfection of today.

Wm. Kennard Co. had been at their present site only for a short while. On the N.W. corner of Seventh and Market, was the Beetem drug store; it seems that before Beetem was the Smith and Painter Company, who had a plant at eleventh and Church Streets for the making of syrups, for soda fountain use. Next door was the first Market Street store of the D.B. Jones Company, who later moved to 841 Market. Next came St. Pauls Church,now on Tenth and Jackson Streets; then came George Ash, one of the city's leading tailors, Mearns the gents' furnisher, Mulhausen's music store, and on the S.W. corner of Eighth and Market, the John P. Allmond grocery store.

On the east side of Market at the corner of Seventh was the office of Joshua T. Heald, who did much by building to help the city's growth. The block of houses on the north side of Delaware Avenue, between Adams and Jackson, is a monument to Heald's endeavors. On the east side of Market Street, above Seventh, were Dr. Burr and Dr.Quimby, the latter like many pioneer inventors, being looked upon as eccentric, because in his early years he had launched a flying machine, from one of the upper floors of his home without success. His experiences, however were not much different from those of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk many years later. Further along on this side of Market was Harry Robelen's piano store, still there today although none of that name are in the management of its affairs. Garrett's photograph studio was afterwards taken over by Harry E.Bucher, later by J. R. Cummings, who still conducts the business.

On the S. E. Corner of Eighth and Market was the home of the Wilmington Savings Fund before moving to their present location. Just above the corner of Eighth, on the east side of Market Street, was A. L. Ainscow's restaurant; the old Colonel in later years did not take an active interest in the management, Clarence Young, who married the Colonel's daughter, being in charge. The old gentlemen had a home at Binstead where he could sit and watch the boats go up and down the river. He owned more than one fast motor boat. In the center of that square, was the Masonic Temple, which contained the Opera House, to which came leading stage plays, and was managed for years by Jesse K. Baylis. A number of merchants had stores on the first floor, among them Pentecost

Allen, piano dealer, who also did piano tuning, and the Worral Carpet Company. Further on were the homes of John G. Baker and Mr. Crawford, the latter a quaint-looking man, with his black stock and old-fashioned beaver hat. Along there, too, were the law offices of Anthony Higgins and Judge J. Frank Ball. A number of these houses were vacated to build a movie house, which flourished for a while, but is now replaced by stores.

On the west side of Market, at Eighth, was the Institute building, which housed not only the Library, but Goldey College, and numerous merchants. It might be well to stop here, and say something about this Commercial College which has sent so many young men and women out into the business world. H. S. Goldey, after ventures in other lines, and a term as teacher and executive at the Bryant and Stratton business school in Philadelphia, started this college in 1886. Mr. Goldey was a rather frail man, but had that dynamic energy which enthused both the staff, and the student body to make them and the college successes. Six years after its founding the enrollment was nearly four hundred from over a hundred different localities. Among the citizens who taught or lectured on different subjects were Rev. W. L. S. Murray, William A. Reynolds, Henry C. Conrad and Miss Mary Lacklen. Today the College is a part of the City's life; it finds positions for its students when they are ready to enter business life. The auditorium on the second floor, was used for public gatherings, among which were the wrestling matches. John Y. Cooper was the most prominent local entrant. Among the merchants on the Market Street front

were Mrs. Taggart, who conducted a notion store, and whose husband had an express service to Philadelphia, and Herbert K. Watson, the druggist, whose soda fountain was the mecca of those who wanted a cool refreshing drink.

Farther up the street were the Robinson ice cream parlors, next door the Opera Hotel, started by John A. Boers in 1891, and later called the Hotel Wilmington; then Miss Strange's umbrella store. David Lemon's candy store, which had moved up from down Market street below Second, was next; this store afterwards was occupied by Moystin and Brown, and is now the home of the Millard F. Davis jewelry firm, formerly on Second street between King and Market. Mr. Davis was a jovial man and liked to entertain his friends, having living quarters in both of the stores. He was a good cook, his specialty being snapper soup. He loved to play jokes, and one of his favorites was to offer water to a guest in a cut glass tumbler with holes concealed near the top, and laugh when the drinker couldn't understand why he was spilling so much.

At 841 Market Street was the D.B.Jones ice cream and confectionary store, which later on conducted a full-fledged restaurant. Miss Edith McConnell took over this business from the children of the founders, and in 1939 moved the business to 218 West Ninth Street, after being on Market Street, over sixty years. On the S. W. corner, at Ninth Street, was the Law building, built by Charles B. Lore and containing numerous law offices, on the first and second floor. Mart La Rowe, the barber, was in the basement. The top floor was used as lodge rooms by the A.O.U.W. Industry lodge, of that

order, had among its membership Henry C. Conrad and Herbert H. Ward, lawyers, Wm. H. Foulk, contractor and builder, and Wm. A. Reynolds, teacher and expert accountant.

On the N.E. corner of Market at Ninth was the old Bayard home, afterwards used for offices. Next door on Market Street was the home of Ann Semple, and next above, the residence of Casper Kendall, of the carriage building firm of McLear and Kendall. The First Presbyterian Church, and the little Church in the graveyard, along with the house on the corner of Tenth and Market, completed that side of Market street between Ninth and Tenth.

On the N.W. corner of Ninth and Market, on the site of the Equitable building, was the home and cigar store of Mr. Righter. Further up was Dr. Tantum, the dentist, who can best be remembered for his attractive daughters. The only business concern in that block, carried over to this period, was the Condon shoe store, which only went out of business a few years ago. Further up near Tenth, was one of the early Canby homes, which was torn down to make way for the addition to the Ford building.

Reference: Personal recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
September 20, 1940

Encyclopaedia File 102

WEST NINTH STREET A HALF CENTURY AGO

As the years pass, Ninth Street becomes more and more of a business street. About 1885, William M. Francis, father of Theodore Francis, had a grocery store at the N.E. corner of Ninth and Orange, and S.F.Blackiston had one at the S.W. corner. David W. Harlan's home was at 207; he was for years Superintendent of the Wilmington Public Schools. At 210 was the home of Joseph Fullmer, a music teacher; at 218 lived Abram P. Beecher, the photographer on Market Street, below Fourth. On the site of the Goldey College building was the Quaker Meeting House, with its yard and trees, a restful place. Back of here, at 902 Tatnall, lived Charles Baird, the leather manufacturer, and for years President of the Board of Public Education.

Grace M.E. Church has for years looked down on the changing scene. Among the earlier members of note there were J. Taylor Gause, Job H. Jackson, Charles B. Lore, Henry C. Conrad, and a host of others. At 506 West Ninth was the home of George H. Ash, one of the leading tailors. On the North side of the street, in the 600 block, is a row of houses, "dubbed" years ago, "prison row," no doubt on account of the drab appearance of the houses. At 605 was the home of Philip H. Wood, the druggist, and a little later on, Herbert H. Ward, a struggling young lawyer just from his Vermont home, lived in one.

These side streets, while widely traveled, are not considered good business streets, compared with Market Street.

Many of the people seen there are on their way to or from some other point.

What has been reconstructed into an apartment house at 822 Adams was years ago the Children's Home, now on North Market Street. Miss Mary Crouch was head matron for some years. As the row of houses on Ninth Street down to Monroe, was not built, that ground was the yard, connected with the home.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
November 25, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

EARLY CAB SERVICE IN WILMINGTON

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

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

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
January 14,1942

THE BOY OF THE EAST SIDE FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Life on the east side of town was not what it is today. Our neighbors were mostly English, Irish and German, and they kept their homes neat and clean both inside and out. They were mostly people one could mingle with socially, and likely attended the same church. There was the Dougherty family, the elders typically English, the father a puddler in the rolling mills, and the three daughters girls of refinement and taste.

I recall Leroy Sawin who when I was a small boy, was learning his trade of blacksmith, at the old Penna. R.R. shops, across the tracks from the depot. Up to his last days he retained that springy walk, which I remember as a boy, when he would hustle up Poplar Street, to dinner at noon. There was Bayard Genn who was in the boiler making department at the same shops, later on to become head of his department. They were members of Asbury M.E. Church, and the father and mother probably never missed a meeting through the week, as well as on Sunday.

There was Tom Parker a popular conductor of the Delaware R.R. and another Asbury man. All down the list were people of this type, and the corner grocer and druggist were known to all, and their stores the centers for gossip of the neighborhood.

We boys were busy with our games, on the few vacant lots, or in the streets, during the Summer, and with our sleds on the long hills, when snow lay on the ground. One big chap named Seth Feaster had a bob sled in keeping with his size, and when he would throw it down at the top of the hill, it would sound like a clap of thunder. The girls would be busy with their dolls, hoops and jacks, and if a boy was seen playing much with them, he was stamped a "sissy."

The boy showed the same interest in horses, as the boy of today does in automobiles, and as many had an express wagon, would delight to hitch one or two of his playmates with improvised harness, each taking turns at driving.

The boy of the east-side fifty years ago.

The harness might be some a boy or girl had knit, which only required a spool with a few pins stuck in one end, around which the different shades of yarn were twisted, to come out in tubular form at the other end of the spool. There was much knitting of mittens and socks in the home, and the boy was not considered feminine who could knit a pair of reins.

Many boys from good families served papers, both morning and evening, which meant he always had a few cents, which would permit of such extravagances as an evening at the Odd Fellow's Hall at Third and King, where the show would be in keeping with the admission fee, which was likely ten cents. Many went from there at the close, to sit on a stool at the oyster bar, under the Western Union Telegraph Office at Third and Market, to order fish cakes or oysters in some style. At the Hall would be such simple entertainment as ventriloquists, magicians, Punch and Judy shows, and once is remembered a company of glass blowers, whose product could be watched in the making, as well as bought.

The balcony or gallery the latter often refered to as "peanut heaven" were favorite places at the Grand Opera House, to watch Herman and Kellar, unfold their magic, Professor Bartholomew with his trained horses, or the various minstrel companies in black face.

When Sunday rolled around, it was observed in a quiet way, and lacking the radio or comics, the boy turned to select reading to while-away the time. As Methodism was strong on the East-side, Asbury, Scott and St Pauls' would have their quotas at all the services throughout the day, and it was then the family would put on their best " bib and tucker," to be taken off as soon as they came home.

If there were sisters in the family, they seemed by right to be assistants of the mother, in the control of the younger children, and would often assume a bossy attitude. Because children were thrown much together in games, friction would arise, and sooner or later one boy would be ringing the others door bell, and claiming "Your Willie hit me." Or as a last resort,

if one boy's father was a policeman, he would threaten the other boy with, "my father is a policeman, he will arrest you." The boy with a bag full of marbles, good tops or a kite either home made, or the kind made of colored paper, bought at the store, felt proud of his posessions.

The boy if he did not live to far away, soon learned to be a weather prophet, and could tell when it was going to rain, by the closeness of the bells and puff puff of the engines at the depot on Front Street.

The east-side had its characters, some black, some white, and the children would delight to tease them. There was the old rag man, at whom the boys would yell, " Old Ned Kelly, with the India rubber belly," and Joe the itinerant ice cream dealer, who when the boys would ask him what he did, when his mother licked him, would cry, " I scream." The neighborhood Chinese laundryman would come in for his share of teasing. They seemed to bear no ill will, and when Fourth of July came, would often give the boys fire crackers, supposed to come direct from China, and once I recall a full rigged ship, made of fire crackers, roman candles and sky rockets, which when the fuse was lit, would go through the ship, firing each in its turn.

The slaughter houses at Fifth and Sixth and Poplar, were great breeding places for rats, and when the large cage was full, would either be placed in a tub of water, or set down in the middle of the street intersection, while the dogs stood around to catch them, as they were let out one at a time. A dog known as a "rat and tan" terrier, had the reputation as a good rat catcher.

The fire engine companies houses ranked as one of the social centers of the neighborhood, and even some who were not bona-fide members of the company, made them their hangout. Boys had their allegiance to the company of their neighborhood, which they were willing to defend, even with blows.

The Public Schools were numerous on the East-side of town, with No 7 at Fifth and Pine, No 13 close to St Mary's Church, at Sixth and Pine,

No 6 at Third and Walnut, No 5 at Twelth and Walnut, and No. 8, at Seventh and Spruce. The Howard School or No 16, at Twelth and Orange, was the only school set aside for colored pupils.

If the boy had a paper route on the sparsely settled West side of town, he would use the paths across the lots, to serve his scattered customers. When it was dark with the paths covered with snow, he would use the familiar houses as landmarks, to guide him.

Some boys had their own routes, which ranked them as business men, while others sold at random, or served for George Geisendorfer, who had over a thousand customers. When New Years came, greeting were sold to the news boys, at a small sum, which their customers bought, within their means, glad to favor those who had served them through the year.

THE EARLY CITY GOVERNMENT

Until the new City Hall was completed in 1916, the departments of the city government were located in the old City Hall at Sixth and Market Streets. The jail was in the rear, with a yard extending to King Street. When the Hall failed to meet the needs of the expanding city, the tax office was removed to East Sixth Street, in what is now part of the Mullin Building. The Street and Sewer Department took up quarters in a building at the S.W. corner of Sixth and King. The police locker room was moved across the area to a building on the present site of the Arcadia Theater.

Some of the officials of that day were Mayors Austin Harrington, Dr. John P. Wales, Henry McLear, and Dr. John C. Fahey. J. Frank Ball was Judge of the Municipal Court, followed by Philip Q. Churchman and Edwin R. Cochran, Jr. Henry Clay Turner as City Solicitor was in great demand as a speaker at volunteer firemen's gatherings. John S. Grohe was Registrar of the Water Department. William Y. Swiggett was Chief of Police.

In case of fire, the box number would be struck on the bell in the tower of the City Hall, and could be heard over a large portion of the city. The volunteer fire companies seemed like private clubs, and received little if any financial aid from the city. The drivers and firemen of the several companies were the only paid members of the company. The Chief and his Assistants had bells in their homes to call them to service, especially at night. The rank and file were allowed by their

employers to leave their work, and join their companies at a fire. There were more men to a company than now, and as volunteers, they lacked the discipline of the paid department. Jonathan P. Aydon was for years Superintendent of the Fire and Police telegraph systems. Cards were issued showing the location of the different boxes throughout the city. Now and then through the years Wilmington has experienced major fires. That of the so-called Beehive on Orange Street, between Fifth and Sixth, on New Year's Eve, 1876 is remembered by the oldsters of today, largely for the scene created, since it was a cold snowy night, with high wind that carried the sparks over to Market Street. In the Wilmington Leather Company's fire in the winter of 1920, local firemen fought the fire for twenty-six hours. About 1900, the market-house building at the S.W. corner of Eighth and Orange was the scene of a large fire, after which the old market disappeared, and the first floor was divided into stores.

In the early years men from prominent families were members of the different volunteer fire companies, especially in the days when the town was small, and the apparatus was drawn by ropes. When even a boy could get a handhold on the rope, in hauling the apparatus to a fire, he felt he was playing a man's part. The latter method disappeared over fifty years ago. James C. McComb, son of Henry S. McComb, who worked in his father's tannery at Third and Orange, belonged to the Friendship Company. When an alarm of fire would ring, he would dash from the factory, sometimes forgetting to remove his greasy apron. People would yell at him, thinking it a great sight for a rich man's son. He enjoyed the company of the men at the firehouse better than that

found at his father's home, where were gathered many celebrities from out of town, drawn by his father's eminence in financial circles.

The volunteer department was about evenly divided between the Combine and Anti-combine factions, and great rivalry existed among the two, which at times found expression in underhanded methods. At the fire of the James Bradford Company of East Third Street, in the winter of 1892, the driver of the Delaware Truck drove over the hose of the Washington Engine Company. There had long been bad feeling between these companies. It was a bitter cold night, and the water froze on any object it touched. There would also be keen rivalry to get hooked up with the nearest fire plug, which at times interfered with the fire fighting.

The Police Department was under the direct control of the Mayor and Chief of Police. The policeman, dressed in a frock coat, his headdress a helmet, with a brass knob on top, covered his beat on foot. He carried a club, with loop and tassel to hang on his arm when not in use. He might use it at times to rap on the curb for help when he had an unruly prisoner. Police booths, with call box on the inside of the door, were placed at points throughout the city, where the prisoner might be locked up while awaiting the police patrol.

"Red Letter Days" stand out in the annals of the department. On March 23, 1910, a man from the South, on his way to a New York hospital for treatment, becoming incensed at the colored porter, shot him dead, and later on, the Pullman conductor. After exchanging shots with the police when the train arrived here, he was at last cornered in the end of the car, and given the coup-de-

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grace, dying on the way to the hospital.

Another active day for the police, was September 28, 1913, in what was known as the "Battle of Baxter's Corner." Homer Wiggins, an escaped convict from the Eastern Penitentiary, had robbed the office of the local street railway company at Delaware Avenue and du Pont. He had taken lodgings on one of the upper floors of the building at the S.W. corner of Fourth and Shipley. From the window he exchanged shots with the police deployed about the intersection. He finally shot himself with his own revolver, killing himself immediately. At another date, word reached the police that robbers were about to rifle the office of the Clover Dairy, at the N.E. corner of Twelfth and Orange. With the police nicely arranged inside and out the building, some officer made a misstep, and the robbers were scared off.

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

CURRENT FILE

J. F. Pote
March 17, 1939

Second Street Market.

"To All People to whom these presents shall come I Elenor Menzies of the Borough of Wilmington in the County of New Castle upon Delaware widow only Child and Heir of Thomas Willing late of the Borough and County aforesaid Cooper deceased, Send Greeting Whereas the s^{d} Thomas Willing and Catherine his wife by their Conveyance or Instrument in writing duly Executed under their Hands and Seals Granted and conveyed unto Samuel Scott, Joseph Way, Thomas Tatnall, Simon Edgell & David French, a certain Lot or piece of land, Situate in the Borough of Wilmington then called Willingtown & called the Market Square being thirty feet front on Market Street, and Sixty feet front on Second Street, for the use of a Publick Market place, under the yearly Ground rent of one Shilling currency Pr Annum continually payable to the said Thomas Willing his heirs and assigns forever: as by the said conveyance bearing date the first day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and thirty Six and now delivered up to me appears. And Whereas the said Samuel Scott, Joseph Way, Thomas Tatnall, Simon Edgell, & David French, are all deceased, Now Know Ye that I the said Elenor Minzies for and in consideration of the sum of Two Pounds Sixteen Shillings current money of this Government to me in hand paid or secured to be paid by Calib Way, and Thomas Shipley of the Borough & County afs^{d} & also the better to enable them the said Calib Way & Thomas Shipley to lay out a more convenient Lott for the said Market Place and to extend the same from Market Street to King Street" ..... "Dated

the fourteenth day of the Tenth Month in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and seventy one."

In the presence of us Elenor Minzies
Nicholas Way Jno Stapler.

Recorder of Deeds X-3-25.

J.F.P. 3/21/39.

Wm. H. Forbes
February 19, 1941

Cities and Towns 113
Wilmington

SOME EARLY READING

Some years ago George Barr McCutcheon, author of Graustark, contributed an article to one of the magazines entitled "Books Were Men Once," meaning that books were written around the episodes in men's lives. The works of two English authors that appeared around 1894 to some extent refute that idea. One of them, Arthur Conan Doyle, was the originator of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes, who, along with his friend and collaborator, Dr. Watson of Harley Street, London, solved many of the problems of theft, murder, and suicide that were presented to them.

Holmes at times made some novel deductions. He would decide how long a man stood in one place by the amount of ashes on the ground flicked from his cigar or cigarette. If the pads of one of his visitor's fingers were flat, he would deduce that the party played the piano or organ. The works of Conan Doyle and H. G. Wells appeared at the same time in the Harper's Weekly of 1894, and both had a large following among the reading public. Conan Doyle's detective stories, a complete story in each issue, were soon followed by several full length novels, among which were The Hound of the Baskervilles and A Study in Scarlet. The demand became so great for the Holmes stories that their chief character became sort of anemesis, and Doyle was compelled to destroy him by having him shoved over a cliff. The author said afterwards that if he had not killed Holmes, the detective would have killed him, Doyle, from overwork.

The work of the other author, Herbert G. Wells, was of another type. He dealt with the visions of things to come. In his When the Sleeper Wakes, and The Shape of Things to Come, he pictured things of the future which at that time seemed like figments of the imagination, such as flying through the air, and great metal frameworks of buildings, with men crawling around. In the years since then, many of his prophecies have come true. Conan Doyle has been dead for some years, and before his death turned his thoughts to the realm of mysticism, along with that other Englishman, Sir Oliver Lodge, of a kindred mind.

H. G. Wells is living at this time, and in the years since those early works has been a prolific writer. Who knows but what he may be scheming to write another book on England at war, as he did in the first World War in Mr. Brittling Sees It Through. This one would be more interesting than the last, for the war of today has been brought home to the "tight little island."

Ships That Pass in the Night, by Beatrice Harraden, was another book of that time which held the attention of the reading public. It was a story of English family life which centered largely around a disagreeable old father. There was both an English and American edition. The output of current novels was not as great then as today, and when a "best seller" did appear, it was in great demand. People's attention in those days was centered more on the works of Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, William M. Thackeray, and the other early writers. Their works held a prominent place in the library of the home, many of them in costly bindings. Even if these latter books were not extensively read in the home, their mere presence gave the library a

more intellectual atmosphere.

About 1898, General Lew Wallace's Ben Hur made its appearance, and two years later it was dramatized. Staged at the Chestnut Street Opera House in Philadelphia in 1900, there was talk of bringing it to the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, the stage of which would have been well suited for such an elaborate production, as it was one of the largest in the country at that time. Ben Hur carried eight carloads of scenery, including the horses for the chariot race. The cost of tearing up the stage floor to insert the threadmills for the chariot race, as well as the cost of moving the production here for a short stay, was prohibitive, and the idea was abandoned.

The prologue was impressive, showing the gathering of the "Wise Men" in the desert. It was a rule of the house that none should take seats until it was concluded. The horses on the threadmills were apparently going at a terrific speed, the illusion furnished by the rear scenery, showing the grandstands filled with cheering people, while the scenery was run on perpendicular rollers.

Another stage play that Wilmington people were privileged to see by going to Philadelphia was the Wanderer, staged in 1925 by Morris Gest, son-in-law of that master of stage craft, David Balasco. It showed at the Grand Opera House at Broad and Columbia Avenue. It was based on the Biblical story of the Prodigal Son, the prologue showing the son as a shepherd, bringing the sheep and goats down through the hills toward home at eventide.

The story was told at that time that these animals were

trained at Mr. Belasco's estate on Long Island, by the simple expedient of the shepherd having a bunch of carrots hung underneath his tunic. The understanding was that when the company was disbanded these animals were to go back to the Belasco estate to live the balance of their lives in luxury.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

John Cuningham
Oct. 6, 1941

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

SILAS DEANE VIEWS WILMINGTON IN 1775

The following extract is taken from "Correspondence of Silas Deane, Delegate to the Congress at Philadelphia, 1774-76," at Pages 256-7-8, in Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, Vol.II, Hartford, 1870:

(In continuation:)

Tuesday, June 6th, 1775.

After finishing the inclosed on Saturday, and missing the conveyance, I took up my horses and in company with Col. Dyer, Father Cushing and Mr. J. Adams, made an excursion as far as Wilmington in the lower Counties, twenty eight miles from this place, down the Delaware. Unfortunately, the rains, (which I hope you have had plenty of) prevented our viewing critically as I could wish this charming country, which is hardly exceeded by my beloved standard, Connecticut River.

Wilmington is situated on a small river called Christiern, running to the south of it through a rich, beautiful and extensive meadow. This little river is navigable up about two miles above the town to a bridge called the Christiana, and empties into the Delaware about three miles below, or to the east of the town, tho' one immense body of (fine) meadows, in which there is scarce a single tree to intercept the view of every vessel sailing up and down the Delaware, became very

wide at this place.

The town is compact; has as many houses as Hartford; descends towards the river Christiern and the meadows east, in much the same manner; is well built with brick; has two Presbyterian, one Quaker, and one Swedish church in it; and the quantities of flour manufactured there would render it a large place, were it not too much in the shade of Philadelphia, to which they ship all that article, at least forty miles by water, to be re-shipped by the merchants there. To give you an idea of the greatness of this business, a gentlemen at Wilmington told me, that one coaster, carried annually thirty thousand barrels to Philadelphia. How many such they have, I know not; but their Mills are thick as a little town, and large as meeting houses; larger indeed, than most. We returned yesterday, thro' the rain, which has prevented their review for the present.

This instant I have a letter from brother Barn[s] at Albany and from Col. Porter of the 1st instant, by which I hope matters will go right at last. The Congress are now out on Committees, by which I hoped for leisure, but am forced on one of them,* from which I have slipped a minute, to write this morning, having (set) up with them almost the whole last (night) on business. Hope soon to be able to give the public an agreeable account of our proceedings, and alleviate the fears and distresses of our parsimonious Senators, by exhibiting to them specimens of Continental firmness, union, and spirit, on the present occasion.

I am, my Dear, as ever, Yours, &c.,

S. D.

The affair at Hogg and Noddle Islands, coming on the back of the expedition to Grape Island, gives our people a high character here.

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*In Congress, June 3d, "Mr. Washington, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Deane, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Hewes," were appointed a Committee "to bring in an estimate of the Money necessary to be raised." This Committee brought in their report, Wednesday, June 7th.--Journal of the Congress.

Wilmington is the spot where the New Haven people landed in 1640, and began a settlement, but were afterward drove off by the Dutch and Swedes. The posterity of the latter are still here, and the River and bridge bear the name of Christiern and Christiana, after the King and Queen of Sweden at that time. I could not help sighing to think what a country we lost at that day, but all is right.

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DELAWARE

Unincorporated places.

County	Name of Place	Population 1930
Kent	Lebanon	101
	Rising Sun	50
New Castle	Ceders	250
	Marshallton	345
	Stanton	98
	Wooddale	50
	Yorklyn	195
Sussex	Lincoln City	203

File W-683

LOCATION - - Wilmington

Submitted by John E. Bero,

Date April 1,1936.

Reference

Public Swimming Pools, Tennis Court,
and Other Recreational Centers.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Five parks operate with a staff of about twenty-five guards, attendants and instructors. Total attendance in 1935 was 266,070.

PRICE'S RUN POOL Located at Twenty Third and Locust. Admission mornings 10 A.M. to 12 Noon, Free.

Adults, afternoons and evenings, 15 cents
Children, " " " 10 cents
Spectators, " " " 10 cents
Sunday, Afternoons, 25 cents to all.

The pool deepens gradually permitting the use of the pool by children. Yearly attendance 87,047.

CANBY POOL: Located South Clayton and Oak Streets, size 75 x 165 feet, 18 x 40 feet x 6 in.play pool for small children. Diving Pool, seven foot depth to 10 foot.

Admission free in Forenoon between the hours of 10 A.M. and 12 Noon.
Afternoon and Evenings, children 10 cents.
" " " adults, 15 cents.
" " " Spectators 10 cents.
" " " Sundays, 25 cents to all.

Yearly attendance 92,767.

KRUSE POOL: 14th and Poplar Streets.(Colored)

Admission as above, wading pool for small children, size 64 feet x 110 feet. This is the latest pool built in the city. Yearly attendance 38,606.

KIRKWOOD SWIMMING POOL: Thirteenth and Pine Streets.

Hours: 10 A.M. to 12 Noon,- 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Monday,- Men
Tuesday,- Women
Wednesday,- Men
Thursday, - Men
Friday, - Women
Saturday - Men,

Admission is free at this pool. Yearly attendance 32,544.

BRANDYWINE POOL: Park Drive and Adams Street.

Hours:- 10 to 12 Noon, 2:00-5:00 P.M. 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Following schedule prevails.

Monday	AM	Pay	Women,
	PM	Free	Women,
	Eve	Pay	"
Tuesday	AM	Free	Men
	PM	"	"
	Eve	"	"
Wednesday			
	AM	Pay	Women
	PM	"	Women
	Eve	"	Men

Attendance 15,106.

Admission is 10 cents.

Thursday	AM	Pay	Women
	PM	Free	"
	Eve	"	"
Friday	AM	Pay	Men
	PM	"	"
	Eve	"	"
Saturday			
	AM	Free	Men
	PM	"	"

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS

Townsend Playground	A.& Townsend Streets (Colored)
Recreational facilities	Swings, aand bins, etc.
Eden Park	New Castle Avenue, South of Boston Ave.
13.43 acres	Playground facilities and wading pool
Scott Playground	Between Scott and Lincoln Street, from Howland to Tenth Street, 3.75 acres, for colored children. Has wading pool and other play facilities.
Thirtieth St. Park	Thirtieth to Thirty-Second, 9.5 acres. Has facilities for recreation and play.
Delamore Playgrounds	Located between Broome and Franklin, south of Maple, 7.08 acres, Playground facilities.
Playground at West and Third Streets	.18 of an acre, wading pool and shower
Price's Run Park:	located from Thirtieth and Market Streets to Vandever Ave. and Linwood Streets. Total acreage 38.5 acres. Has various playing facilities.
Coyne	Located at Heald and Davis Street, .37 of an acre. Has playing facilities.

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS (Additional)

Kirkwood Park:-	Eleventh and Kirkwood Sts. 7.24 acres Has facilities for recreation and play.
Brown Park:	Eighth Avenue and Duncan St. Has wading pool and other recreational facilities.
Lincoln Park, Scott Park,	Tenth and Lincoln Sts. for colored Adjoining Lincoln Park for white. Both have recreational facilities. Acreage 3.75
Woodlawn Park,	Fourth & Ferris Streets. Necessary recreational facilities. Acreage 3.71
Clayton Park,	Second and Dupont Sts. Playground facilities acreage 3.01
Stapler Park,	Sixteenth and Union Streets. Recreational facilities acreage 2.87
Third and Madison Playground	Third and Madison Sts. Recreational facilities and wading pool. Acreage .74
Tatnall Playground	24th & Tatnall Streets. Recreational facilities, acreage .58
Pine Playground	Fourth and Pine Streets. Recreational facilities and wading pool. acreage .59
West Playground	West and 3rd Streets. Wading Pool and recreational facilities. acreage .18
American Legion Playground,	Beech and Anchorage Sts. Playground facilities.
Walnut Playgrounds	In Howard High School Yard, Recreational facilities.

HOCKEY FIELDS:

North Brandywine Park Eighteenth Street between VanBuren and Franklin Streets(One must call up Park Board for permits and then call at their office in Public Building for permits. There are two such fields in this park. No admission is charged)

Rockford has one such field and the same conditions apply as above mentioned.

SOFT BALL DIAMONDS:

North Brandywine Park	5
Eden Park	2
Conrad "	1
Price's Run	2
Rockford	2

BASEBALL FIELDS

North Brandywine Park	4	Price's Run	1
Rockland(?)	1	Woodlawn	1
Kirkwood	1	Lincoln	1
Eden	1	Brown	1
Clayton	1		
Christiana	1		

FOOTBALL FIELDS

North Brandywine	Christiana
Rockford	Price's Run
Eden	Woodlawn
Clayton	Brown

TENNIS COURTS:

Eight Courts at Gilpin Avenue and Rodney Street,
Four courts at Lovering Avenue & VanBuren Street
Two " " Park Drive at foot of Adams Street,
Two " " Rockford Park,
Four " " Twenty-Third and Thatcher Sts.
Three " " Twenty-Sixth and Spruce Sts.
Two " " Canby Park,
Two " " End of Union Street.
Two " " Thirtieth Street Park
One " " (nr) Kruse Swimming Pool.

BASKET COURTS(Indoors)
Basket Ball League consists of
Junior Playground,
Senior Playground,
Junior Park
Senior Park
94 teams, 12 members to each team, totals 1128 boys and young men,
95 games are played each week, average attendance 25,000 per month.

Basket Ball Courts(indoors) continued

Games are played at Madison House, 3rd & Madison Sts. Settlement House, Neighborhood House, Warner School, Wilmington High School, Bayard School and Palmer School.

Miss Jennie M.Weaver is the Supervisor of Recreation for the Park Commission.

BRIDLE PATHS:

North Brandywine

South Brandywine

Rockford,

Alapocas

PICNIC FIRE PLACES

2 at North Brandywine

2 " South Brandywine

2 " Rockford

2 " Canby

Athletic Track, North Brandywine

NOTE:

Anyone is permitted(the use of the fields and places for recreation, but must surrender them to those who first applied and received a permit.

Kenneth A. Horner
Government
October 7, 1936

TAXATION

The people of Wilmington have endured for years an obsolete taxation system that is decidedly inequitable, and which has been a matter of concern to many of its citizens. Of late some progress has been made toward correcting the inequalities, yet either because of a lack of understanding of the fundamental principles of taxation, or because of a desire to follow an established precedent the city continues its present antiquated system, which burdens the owner of real estate unjustly and excludes from taxation the income of many individuals who, justly, should pay a larger portion of the city's expenses.

It might be observed that Wilmington is a municipality existing by and with the consent of the State of Delaware. As such, the State has a prior right to tax its citizens and the city must secure its income from sources not already taxed by the State. As a part of three separate taxing divisions - the city, county of New Castle and the State - its citizens are compelled to contribute to the support of all three divisions, and the total taxes are unnecessarily high.

The principal revenue of the State, other than franchise taxes which are paid largely by corporations, both within and without the State, is received from the income taxes, from the taxes on gasoline, and through liquor, mercantile and automobile licenses. The income of the County is received from taxes on real estate, and during the years 1935 and 1936, from an additional State income tax. The revenue of the city is derived principally from taxes on real estate, from water rents, and from licenses on business, on the professions and on manufacturers. In the year 1934, 79.4 per cent of the city's revenue was secured

from taxes on real estate and 20.6 per cent from other sources. In the same year the average of 94 other cities in the nation with a population of 100,000 or more was 66.2 per cent from real estate and 38.8 per cent from other sources.

Efforts to reduce the taxes on real estate in the city have been partly successful, while such efforts in the County have met with almost unprecedented success. In 1924 the rate on county taxes which had reached the sum of $1.50 on the hundred dollars of assessed valuation was reduced to $1.35. Since that time, due to transferring some of the expenses of the county to State Departments, and providing new forms of taxation, the rate has been steadily reduced until in 1936, it was set at 35¢ on the hundred dollars. The reductions were made possible through the enactment of a State income tax, the proceeds of which are used for school purposes, by increasing the State gasoline tax rate, the proceeds of which are used for highway and road purposes and by an extraordinary increase in the valuation of county property due largely to the desire on the part of the urban population to move into the suburbs and country.

City and school taxes in Wilmington were also under fire and in 1929 the tax was reduced from $1.90 on the hundred dollars to $1.80. In 1933 it was reduced to $1.65 and in 1935 to $1.60.

These latest reductions were made possible partly through various government activities, such as PWA, WPA, and HOLC. The first organization erected schools and highways and furnished funds to pay labor, in addition to making outright grants. The second furnished large sums to the city for road building, park improvements, harbor enlargements, and other activities. The third, the HOLC, through the refinancing of mortgages on real

estate in the city and county paid into the city treasury the sum of $106,701.82 as taxes on real estate, and into the county treasury the sum of $99,972.83. While these sums would, in all probability, have been paid in time, the enrichment of the two treasuries by such sums improved the financial condition of both to a considerable extent. The many thousands of dollars in improvements by the PWA and the WPA, likewise aided in reducing expenses considerably.

The County of New Castle is now able to show a balance sheet, that compares favorably with that of most counties of the nation. Its tax rate is exceptionally low. It has a bonded indebtedness of only $4,104,000.00 and adequate funds have been in its treasury for years. The bonded indebtedness of the city, $13,550,650, is rather oppresive since it requires 38 per cent of the tax payers dollar for interest charges and amortization. This however is much below that of many other communities of similar size.

While the situation respecting real estate taxation has shown decided improvement, the city and State still impose taxes upon its merchants, business and professional men that are entirely out of reason and which are in many instances almost confiscatory. Of the license tax, a commission investigating the government of the State in 1920, said,

"Such a tax should arouse resentment. It violates all the fundamental principles of taxation. Taxes should be fair and equitable. They should be levied upon wealth and not upon opportunity. The license tax is a violation of this fundamental principle. It is not a tax upon wealth but a tax upon opportunity to create wealth. It is a relic of feudalism when the lords and

barons made their subjects pay a tax for the privilege of earning a livelihood."

The report recommended the abolition of license taxes and urged taxation upon intangible property, such as money in the bank, stocks and bonds, mortgages, etc., stating, "There can be no defense of that system which permits one man to keep $20,000. in the bank free of all State taxes, while his neighbor who takes $20,000. and invests it in land or property is immediately penalized by being compelled to pay a tax. In other States, taxes are levied against such wealth as money in the bank, securities, mortgages, etc. In other States the taxes raised from this source constitute from 15 to 25 per cent of the total taxes."

Almost half of the income of the citizens of Delaware comes from sources that escape State taxation. The annual report of the State Tax Commissioner for 1935 shows a total income of the citizens of $64,883,585.54. Of this amount 22 millions were received as dividends, 5 millions as capital gains on stocks and bonds, and 3 1/2 millions as interest. The exact figures total $30,723,698.96 being 47% of the total. With the exception of the State Income tax, which is used for school purposes, none of this income is taxed.

Despite the commission's report nothing has been done to reduce the amount of taxation on merchants, business and professional men. Instead, at the 1935 session of the Legislature, the Governor recommended that such taxes be placed upon other small business and professional men, who might be escaping them. Such a law was passed.

The State taxes manufacturers the sum of $5.00 and 1/40th of 1 per cent of the aggregate gross receipts received during the year last past. Exemptions are made to producers of steam, gas,

or electricity and producers of farm products.

Merchants are taxed the sum of $5.00 and one tenth of one per cent of the aggregate cost of all merchandise purchased for sale during the year last past. Exemptions are allowed to merchants on the first $5,000. of goods purchased.

Taxes imposed upon business and professional men include such occupations as circus exhibitors $500.00, amusement park operators $250.00, advertising agency $25.00; Barbers $5.00 for one chair, and $1.00 for each additional chair, bottlers $25.00; contractors $25.00; eating house keeper $10.00; hairdresser, $5.00 for two chairs, $1.00 for each additional chair, but not to exceed $10.00. Junk dealers, laundry operators, photographers, sea-food dealers, and others are included in the list.

Architects, attorneys and other professional men are taxed at the rate of $10.00 annually for the State and 50 cents for the county.

The City of Wilmington also imposes similar license taxes upon practically all business firms. Under ordinances passed by "The Council" in 1920, such taxes as the following were imposed:

For selling flour and feed at retail $10.00,
wholesale $25.00.
For selling sporting goods, $15.00
For selling butter and eggs $10.00
For conducting a millinery store, $10.00
For conducting a delicatessen store, $10.00
For conducting a department store, $50.00, etc. etc.

In the same year the Council passed an ordinance imposing taxes on manufacturers of practically every kind. These license taxes range from $25.00 to $100.00 annually.

Previously the Council had imposed license taxes upon attorneys, physicians, dentists, druggists, boot black stands, barbers and others, ranging from $5.00 for a cobbler to $50.00 for a broker.

Individuals or companies engaged in almost every other kind of business not mentioned in the preceeding and succeeding ordinances, such as painting contractors, lumber merchants, plumbers, cleaning and dyeing establishments, operating a fruit stand, were taxed from $5.00 to $50.00 per annum.

There are no State or city taxes on personal property, income of corporations, checking or savings accounts, earnings of industry, stock dividends, corporation, or mortgage loans.

Most firms and individuals who pay license fees use automobiles or trucks. They pay a tax of 4 cents per gallon on gasoline to the State and 1 cent per gallon to the Government. This is a heavy expense and gives the chain store and the cash-and-carry outlets an advantage that the independent business man who "delivers" finds difficult to overcome.

For example, an independent wholesale grocer in Wilmington, in 1936, paid a State License tax of $740.17 and a city license tax of $50.00; The firm pays approximately $200.00 per year for State Gasoline Taxes.

A wholesale commission house paid a State tax of $131.46 and a city license fee of $15.00. Its gasoline tax is severe, as the firm uses its trucks to bring produce from the country and adjacent cities. In 1935 this tax amounted to approximately $800.

CITY AND COUNTY RECEIPTS

For the year ending June 30, 1936, the county received from taxes and miscellaneous income a total of $1,432,708.84 disbursing during the year the sum of $1,552,068.28, leaving a balance on hand of $431,747.12. The principal item of receipts was that of county and poor taxes on real estate, amounting to

$1,156,583.90, a capitation tax of $6,135.00 and miscellaneous receipts of $269,989.94. These latter consisted of payments made into various departments such as Clerk of Orphans Court, Register in Chancery, Recorder of Deeds, Prothonotary, inspection fees, etc.

The city of Wilmington received for the year ending June 30, 1936;-

figures to come.

J.E.E. 5-3-1935:1

SOURCE OF REVENUE (1934-35)

CURRENT REAL ESTATE TAXES	$2,217,868.
WATER DEPT.	465,000.
STREET & SEWER	300.
MUNICIPAL COURT	25,000.
BUREAU OF POLICE	5,000,
OIL INSPECTION	600.
MARKET RENTS	4,000.
BLDG. INSPECTOR	1,500.
BOARD OF HARBOR COM'S.	10,000.
FINES JUVENILE COURT	100.
CITY LICENSES	60,000.
BOARD OF EXAMINERS STATIONERY ENGINEERS	100.
FIRE PROTECTION, WESTOVER HILLS,	950.
FRANCHISE TAX	9,000.
BUREAU OF FIRE	1,000.
GARBAGE COLLECTION, SUBURBAN	750.
WIL. INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY	2,000.
DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES	210,000.
MISCELLANEOUS	5,000.
TOTAL	$3,018,166.

In 1934 the U. S. Bureau of Census published a bulletin of the 94 cities in the U. S. having a population of over 100,000. It found that the various sources of revenue were:

GENERAL PROPERTY TAX	66.2%
OTHER SOURCES	38.8%

In our city which is one of the ones included above the percentage area

J. E.E.5-3-1935

HOW TAXPAYER'S DOLLAR IS SPENT BY CITY.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS AND LOANS	38.0¢
POLICE & FIRE	20.8¢
PUBLIC WORKS	14.0¢
WATER DEPT.	8.7¢
SCHOOLS	7.7¢
PARK AND LIBRARY	4.2¢
SALARIES	2.4¢
ALL OTHER EXPENSES	4.2¢

H.IV. 5-3-1935:1.

BUDGET REQUEST AND CURRENT GRANTS FROM 7 DEPTS.(1935-36)

STREET & SWER	$353,690.
PARK COM.	81,755.
B-PUB. EDUCATION	250,000.
WATER DEPT.	310,000.
DEPT. OF PUB. SAVETY	----
BUREAU OF POLICE	345,001.
BUREAU OF FIRE	331,685.
PUB. BLDG. COM.	47,250.
HARBOR COM.	10,000.
TOTAL	$1,729,381.24
TOTAL EXCESS OVER THE LAST FISCAL YEAR	$ 202,482.73
THE TOTAL BUDGET GRANTED FOR THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 WAS	$3,018,166.02

GENERAL PROPERTY TAX 79.4

OTHER SOURCES 20.6

Our second largest income is our water revenue.....16.2 Our only City owned utility.

J.E.E. 5-29-1936:1

BUDGET (1936-37)

CITY BOOST BUDGET $ 276,783.

School Teachers are denied pay increases as council approve Budget of $3,161,592

Wm. H. Forbes
September 23, 1940

Cities and Towns
Encyclopaedia file
Wilmington
140

WILMINGTON IN THE WORLD WAR YEARS

Activities in Wilmington during the first World War, especially after America entered the conflict, were duplicated in dozens of communities. The canteen located in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, on Market street, between Ninth and Tenth, was a busy place. Word would be relayed there that a troop train, probably on its way to some port to embark the men for oversea service, was due at one of the stations, and soup, sandwiches, cigarettes, chocolate bars, etc. would be prepared. Telephones would be busy calling those doing duty at the trains; no matter the time of day or night, willing hands were found to do the work.

Women, when they found an idle moment, would take up their knitting, either in public or private places. A scene is remembered of a platoon of "rookies" lined up in front of the Public Building at Tenth and King. A Deputy Judge of the Municipal Court left the bench, after adjournment of Court, and took his place in line, ready to serve. The term "fifth columnist" is not remembered in the first World War, but a careful watch was kept at all strategic points. Anyone having business on the water front, was required to have a pass, with a small photo attached.

Every State developed its Council of National Defense, usually headed by the Governor. At a rally held by the Delaware Council at the Playhouse, Governor Townsend called from the wings his Secretary of State, Everett Johnson, of Newark, who made one of his characteristic speeches. Before our entrance into the war, men fresh from the conflict abroad were touring the country, bringing the scenes to the people by word of mouth. A parade of those engaged

in defense work, such as munition and shipyard workers, was also held. Pierre du Pont, who at that time was president of the Du Pont Company, was one of the leaders of the parade.

The various Red Cross drives added to the call to serve; all of them went "over the top." At a rally of Red Cross workers, held in the dining room of the hotel, Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, addressed the assemblage. A quantity of wool was auctioned off, the proceeds going to the fund. All the industries were organized, with one of the force handling subscriptions in his plant.

When the Stars and Stripes would be shown on the screen, and the National Anthem played by the orchestra, people would stand, some a little hesitant at first, looking around to see if others were of the same mind. One local man who went to France, and served in more than one capacity, was Dr. William C. Speakman, the dentist. Aided here by his wife who was a native of France, he was able to relay to the people here the needs of both the army and civilians.

War may be what Sherman said of it, but it has another side. To the stay-at-home, it offered the chance for another kind of service, arousing a spirit of patriotism that lies dormant during the years of peace.

The aftermath of the war meant for the employer merchandise at prices never since attained; for the employee, the end of high wages. Some of the latter were wise enough to save; others spent it in riotous living. Many stories are told by city merchants of the demand for ten dollar silk shirts and other extravagances. Men who worked in the shipyards, especially at night, testified

afterwards, that they would spend part of the time asleep in the hold of the vessel. Their employers were not the losers, as they received cost, plus ten percent, on all government work.

Reference : Personal Recollections.

HK
H-H-J.
10/10/40

Wm. H. Forbes
October 15, 1940

WILMINGTON IN THE WORLD WAR DAYS

During the first World War, the efforts of the Du Pont Company to meet not only the demands of foreign governments for powder, but at the same time extend their facilities, brought men from all over the country. The office building was also used to its full capacity. The engineering department under Major W. G. Ramsay worked night and day. The office building, which is well guarded on all floors in normal times, was doubly guarded.

A story is told of a minor executive of the company who had returned from South America, on company business. A small swarthy man, made more so by his sojourn in the south, he was found hunting for Mr. Pierre du Pont, at that time president of the company. The guards were notified, and there was a great scurrying around to find this mysterious man. Major Richard Sylvester, former chief of the Washington D.C. police force, was in command of the company police force throughout the country.

Numerous stories were told by those working at Carney's Point of time bombs being found on ships loading powder for foreign governments. About six o'clock one winter night in 1915, a pile of powder there flared and lit up the whole sky. The atmosphere being heavy, the light held in the sky for some time, causing some apprehansion among the people.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
November 26, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

WILMINGTON INDUSTRIES OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

Concerns which today are of lesser importance, offered employment fifty years ago to thousands of artisans. The Harlan and Hollingsworth Plant and the Jackson and Sharp Company are two whose product then would greet the traveler in all parts of the country. On a trip to northern New England years ago, when the Boston train reached Jersey City, it would be placed on the Steamer Maryland, used in Civil War days to transport troops, and the train then ferried around the city and under Brooklyn Bridge, and put ashore at the Harlem River. Look in the engine room, and there was the name plate of the Harlan Company on the engine. The name of the Jackson and Sharp Company would be found in the end of the cars that took one to northern Maine. The same might be true, no matter in what direction one traveled. This made one feel that he came from no mean city.

Before the first World War, one leather concern sent its product, which was all-black leather, into all parts of the world. Most of the larger leather firms also send a portion of their product abroad. Today, new vast enterprises have sprung up to take the place of the old concerns whose names were household words in many local homes.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Encyclopaedia File

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

Wm. H. Forbes
July 12, 1940

OLD ELECTION DAYS

During the Garfield campaign of 1880, a riot occurred at Ninth and French Streets, Wilmington. A Democratic parade passing through this Negro section, ran into trouble, the fight continuing well into the night. In the morning, the street was strewn with bricks and other missiles.

The story was told by a man who was in the parade (along with his brother) whose father kept the hotel at Ninth and Shipley Streets at that time, that when the fight started, he made tracks for the hotel. Some one was back of him, running just as hard. When he finally reached the lobby of the hotel, he looked around, to find his pursuer his brother, with the same objective of safety in view.

Any election precinct, where the Democrats and Negroes both predominated, there was sure to be a fight before the polls closed. One uptown polling booth, noted in that respect, was at the corner of Tenth and Orange Streets. Often people riding by on the old horse cars on election day would have to lie down on the floor to escape the flying bricks. It seems the two groups get along better today, possibly because the Negroes' loyalty to the Republican party doesn't run as deep as formerly, the opposition having wooed many of them from their former allegiance.

Personal Recollections.

W. H. Conner
November 3, 1939

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

CURRENT FILE

Extracts from: Robert Proud. The History of Pennsylvania in North America from the Original Institution and Settlement of that Province, under the first Proprietor and Governor William Penn, in 1681, till after the year 1742; with an Introduction. Philadelphia, Zachariah Poulson, Jr. 2:254, 255, 283, 284.

"From the head of Elk river, where shallops may come from the upper part of Chesapeak bay, in Maryland, the portage is twelve miles to Christeen bridge, in Newcastle county; from which place Christeen creek is navigable, by the south side of Wilmington, to Delaware river; and is capable of sea vessels of above one hundred tons burden several miles above Wilmington; a little below which place before it enters the Delaware, it is joined by the Brandywine; a creek, which has its course on the north side of Wilmington, distant about a mile from Christeen, and extends into the interior parts of Chester county, in Pennsylvania. This creek is not navigable above the rocks, or falls, two or three miles distant from its mouth, and nearly opposite to Wilmington, where it has a good bridge over it, on the road to Philadelphia, distant about twenty-seven miles; but this stream is not the less useful, in this corn country, for the many excellent grist mills, situated upon the sides of it, especially near Wilmington, called the Brandywine mills; where the tide, with convenient shipping, come up to the very doors of divers of them.

This creek and that of Wissahiccon, which runs into Sculkil, a little above Philadelphia, are noted for the best, and most numerous grist mills, either in this province, or any other part of British America, within the same extent of country; and which, perhaps, are not inferior in quality to any in the world."

Pages 283, 284

"Wilmington, in Newcastle county, which appears to be no older than about thirty or forty years (anno 1772) is now next to Philadelphia, in trade and populousness, on or near the Delaware; and in late years, has far exceeded Newcastle, which has long seemingly been on the decline, though the courts &c. are still held at the latter place; from which it is only six miles distant, northward, and about twenty-eight south west from Philadelphia. It is situated on an elevated and hilly declivity, descending to Christeen creek; which so far, at least, is navigable for vessels of two hundred tons burden, and runs into the Delaware at a small distance; from whence, to a spectator, passing on the said river, this town, by reason of its particular and elevated situation, exhibits a pleasant appearance."

Note: Wilmington was first laid out, for a town, and settled principally by the Quakers, &c. of whom, in the year 1738, I find, William Shipley, Joshua Way, Thomas West, David Ferris, Joseph Hews, Edward Tatnal, and others, had a religious meeting fixed here. MS.

The large numbers of Europeans, which have flocked into Pennsylvania, who had been used to towns, especially from Germany, seem to have been one cause of so many considerable towns suddenly starting up in this province of late years; but they are less adapted to agricultural employment, than to that of manufacturing; hence they generally here either soon decline, or cease to increase; except upon navigable waters; and supported by foreign trade, or manufacturing, &c.

Wm. H. Forbes
January 14, 1941

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

THE HOME OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

The children of fifty years ago were supposed to be seen and not heard. If any confidential matter was discussed in their presence, you were caustioned with the remark: "Little pitchers have big ears." Or maybe, to conceal the meaning, "Hog Latin," a distortion of words, would be used. The switch, or some equivalent, was used both in the home, and in school. The phrase, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," was translated literally. The noon meal was termed dinner, and the evening one supper. The table was ladened with good wholesome food, corn pone or "Johnny bread," corn starch pudding, home made preserves, and the old standby--pies. Brown sugar was used whenever possible, as white sugar had not attained its present status, and was expensive. Much of the food was procured from the grocery store, and was wrapped in brown paper, made of straw, sulphite, rosin and water. The manila and kraft papers in common use today were scarce and expensive. Salads played little part at the family table. The minister would likely be invited for a meal at least once a year, and the children were given a special course, in behavior.

The mothers and fathers of that day often had a more serious childhood than their own children, and had little sympathy with their devoting too much time to play, and needlessly wearing out their clothes and shoes. There were

no playgrounds, and the children played in the streets, or on vacant lots, of which there were more in the city than today. Sunday was a trying day for the young, as there were no comics nor radio, and outside of church and Sunday School, they were supposed to read good books, such as Swiss Family Robinson, Robinson Crusoe, Stanley in Africa, or even Peck's Bad Boy. Any lower order of reading was done by stealth.

Even the styles in dogs change, and the varities multiply. Years ago the "Pug Dog" was popular among the smaller species, and the mastiff, St. Bernard, and Great Dane among the larger ones, along with the different breeds of hunting dogs. There were no kennel shows held to improve the breeds, and encourage their ownership. If a man had puppies to sell, the demand might be so poor that he would likely give them away to a relative or friend. The Dalmatian or spotted coach dog, because of his fondness for horses, would be found in evidence around the fire engine houses, and joined the men and apparatus in a run to the fire.

If one had a telephone in the home (and they were scarce in those days), one would likely be imposed upon by the neighbors, and often find them more of a nuisance than advantage. The long box which contained some of the equipment found today in the central exchange hung on the wall, and the connection was made with central by turning a small crank on the side. The service would be considered slow by today's standards, but was in keeping with the tempo of those days.

In the early 1900's the Delmarvia Telephone Company,

of which a local man, Thomas McCorkle was the head, entered the field, and introduced two innovations. They provided the first dial phone, and offered the facilities of a public phonograph. All that was necessary was to phone the exchange, and a connection would be made with a small machine in the home, independent of the telephone. The added expense of two telephones in the home, or place of business, retarded the growth of the new company, and they were eventually absorbed by the Bell System.

The almanac was a necessary adjunct of the home, and was generally supplied by the druggist. It contained information regarding the weather and the movement of the moon and sun, and the calendar for the year, as well as recipes for home remedies for the sick. The advertisements it held are reminicent of a day when the family resorted to home remedies to cure the minor ills. For a cold, to soak the feet in hot mustard water, and to place a mustard poultice on the chest, with nitre to curb the fever, were considered sufficient. The doctor was called in only in the most urgent cases. His fee at that time was half what it is now.

The boy of the family during his school years, would be apt to serve papers, or find work during the summer vacation in a store or industrial plant. Two or three dollars a week was the most he could expect. Money was scarce in the family, and it gave him a feeling of independence to have some of his own. The young girl of the family would not fare as well, as there were few opportunities for her to find remunerative employment at her age.

The apprentice system, whereby a boy was indentured to a firm for a period of three or four years to learn a trade, is now largely controlled by the labor unions. The boy would start with a small weekly wage, which was increased at stated times, and the interests of both parties safeguarded by a contract. When his term of apprenticeship was ended, he became a journeyman, and received wages accordingly. This system was prevalent in England in the early years, the boy often living in the family of the man to whom he was apprenticed. If he ran away, he could have him brought back to finish his course, the status being somewhat of a chattel.

Red flannel underwear was in common use, especially among men who worked in extreme heat. It was noted not alone for its warmth, but for its ability to absorb perspiration. It also had qualities which caused its use to bind around the neck in case of sore throat. Herbs were also used to make teas for different ailments. Many of these old-fashioned remedies are laughed at today, but the city people of fifty years ago, especially among the older generation, were of country origin, and were compelled to fend for themselves in case of sickness. The country doctor covered a wide territory, often under adverse circumstances. Even in the city the telephone was not in general use, and if the doctor was needed, it might be a question of going to his office to notify him of a home call.

The first type of phonograph in the home, was a small affair, with a cylinder record, resembling those used in offices today for recording dictation. Music was interspersed with comic anecdotes. "Cal" Turner is one remembered who played the

"hayseed," and told funny stories of his experiences in the city. Fifty years ago, instead of numerous dealers in the city, an agent would control the sale in the whole Peninsula. He would carry some blank cylinders, on which one could sing or talk, and it was more of a novelty than would be the case today. A horn or ear phones were attached to the instrument, the better to hear.

The apartment house was not in evidence fifty years ago. About 1900 General J. Parke Postles, the leather manufacturer, built the Park, at 835 Jefferson Street, to be followed later by the Grantley, Marion, and Wilmington and Brandywine. This was following the trend in other cities. The mode of living gave rise to the funeral parlors, which afforded a more convenient method of burying the dead. George Ward built an apartment house on Tenth Street, opposite Shipley Street, on part of the present site of the Du Pont building. It contained the first automatic elevator in the city.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
July 19, 1940

~~Cities and Towns~~
Wilmington

EARLY NEWSPAPER DAYS

The customs of a city change, and new generations coming along take it for granted that things have always been done the same way. Fifty years ago, there were very few magazines, and they were mostly high-priced, such as Harper's, Scribner's, Atlantic Monthly, Scientific American, etc. Some of these came through the mail, direct from the publishers; others were supplied by subscriptions from such firms as E.S.R. Butler, a stationer on Market Street, between Third and Fourth. Trucks speed around town today delivering Philadelphia and New York papers to stores and corner stands, but years ago, boys delivering these papers were compelled to go to the Pennsylvania Station, to receive their allotment. Butler's also controlled the distribution of these papers.

The evening city papers were distributed by boys having their own routes, or who worked for George Geisendorfer, who had over a thousand customers. Early days around the newspaper offices presented a different scene from those of today. At the plant of the Daily Republican, at Third and King Streets, the old press was partly a hand affair; the open sheets were laid on two slanting tables on top, the operator thumbing them down on to the rolls, and paper coming out and being laid on a low broad table by a series of fingers or slates. The paper was taken and folded by hand.

George Vernon, the proprietor, was a tall, thin man, ably assisted in the management by numerous sons, since he had

married three times. Miss Mabel Vernon, the noted worker for women's rights, was one of his children. This press was run by a small gas engine, and the chances were that before many papers had been off the press would break down. Mr. Vernon would come tearing our into the press room, he and the son who ran the press raring at each other, with some profanity mixed in, all the time the old gentleman's Adam's Apple running up and down in his throat. About 1890, this press was replaced by a modern one.

The Every Evening was at Fifth and Shipley Streets, and George Geisendofer's boys folded their papers in the rear of Florrie McCall's cigar store, which was in the same building on the corner of Shipley, from which point they made the rounds of the City.

The Sunday Star, published byJerome B. Bell, has maintained its place since that day, giving not only current news, but a summary of the week's happenings. Today the local papers use trucks to distribute their wares, supplementing the work of the individual carriers.

Papers both local and outside sold for less than today, but with the high cost of newsprint, coupled with the increased cost of other materials and wages, many old-established papers have been compelled to merge with others, or go out of business.

Reference: Personal recollections.

File W-810

Location - Wilmington, Del.

Submitted by - Kenneth A. Horner

Date - March 10, 1936

Work File

AUTO TOUR NO. 2

Auto Tour number two begins at Rodney Square on King Street facing Eleventh with the City and County Building on the right and Rodney Square on the left.

The City and County Building occupying a complete block east of Rodney Square was built in 1914, and combines the City Hall at the south end and the New Castle County Building at the north end. And at the left, may be seen the statue of Caesar Rodney, erected in memory of his historic ride from below Dover to Philadelphia in time to cast his vote for independence July 2, 1776. Across Market Street is the duPont Building, which houses the offices of the well-known duPont Company and other large corporations, Wilmington's Playhouse, and the Hotel duPont.

Passing down King Street left turn is made up Eleventh. At the northwest corner of Eleventh and Market Streets stands the First and Central Presbyterian Church, the architect of which received first prize in 1930 for designing a medium-sized church "for its excellence of design and its fulfillment of its purpose.

Here a right turn is made passing down Market Street past the Wilmington Club, the Darling, and Waverly apartments on the left and the new Postoffice Building on the right. Notice how wide Twelfth Street is between French and Market Streets. In the early days large market houses

were erected at various places in the center of the streets. One was on West Fourth Street, another at Second and Market Streets and another on Lancaster Avenue, and one at Twelfth and Market Streets. The market house here was taken down about a century ago and a number of fine shade trees planted, which remained until a few years ago when they were destroyed to make room for a parking place for automobiles. At the foot of the hill at Fifteenth Street may be seen the Old Soldier's Park, a gathering place for old soldiers. Turn right into Sixteenth Street; on the left is the City Water Works, located on the banks of the Brandywine Creek from which the city obtains most of its water supply through a canal, or race, from a point a mile west. The water is filtered and pumped into the city's water mains at the rate of sixteen million gallons daily.

At the end of Sixteenth Street pass over the bridge and up Jessup Street, bearing left. Do not take the new roadway on the right. At Vandever Avenue turn left passing the Brandywine Branch of the Wilmington Library. This building at 5 Vandever Avenue was built in 1798 on land which was donated by John Dickinson, President of Delaware. A bell in the cupola was rung in greeting to Lafayette in 1824.

Vandever Avenue was formerly called Marsh Road; it then ran from the "Wilmington-Philadelphia turnpike to Shellpot Dam." The name was changed by act of the General Assembly January 18, 1866.

At the end of Vandever Avenue at Market Street stands St. John's Episcopal Church. Here turn left down Market Street. At number 1803 Market Street is the old Joseph Tatnall House built in 1770. During the Revolutionary War, when the British were in Delaware it was used by Mad Anthony Wayne as his headquarters and here Washington conferred with General Wayne, Lafayette and other American officers, prior to the Battle of the Brandywine. After the battle and the retreat of the Americans, it was used by the British. It was remodeled in 1840 by Joseph Tatnall's son but it remains substantially the same as it was in the days of the Revolutionary War, with its high studded rooms, heavy doors and the old stairway.

On the left may be seen the ruins of old buildings running along the creek. These are the remains of Wilmington's greatness during the Revolutionary War, when this was the milling center of the Nation, grinding wheat and other grains and shipping flour, corn and oatmeal, to all points on the Atlantic Coast and even foreign ports. Huge mills then stood on both sides of the Brandywine, and they were credited by General Washington with having saved his army from starvation at Valley Forge.

Passing over Market Street Bridge a right turn is made into the Park Drive along the Brandywine.

At the left on the hill is the "Bishopstead," a large house with two gables, residence of the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Delaware, which was built in 1741 by Oliver Canby who also built one of the first flour mills on

the Brandywine. The Bishopstead was formerly known as "Ingleside." Just beyond at the foot of West Street is the original First Presbyterian Church, a brick building with shingle roof built in 1841. It is now the Colonial Dames Home. From this point a good view may be had of the Washington Memorial Bridge. At the foot of Adams Street at the end of the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery the King's Road forded the stream. Prior to 1724 there was a ferry across the Brandywine at French Street which gave way in 1764 to a bridge at Market Street.

Passing along Park Drive to Van Buren Street a right turn is made over the bridge to the Zoo. Here various animals may be seen in their cages along the creek. Turn sharp to the left around the pavilion and take the road up through Baynard Field.

Coming out of the park a right turn is made on Eighteenth Street to the Emalea Pusey Warner Junior High School. Follow along Eighteenth Street to Baynard Boulevard where a right turn is made. On the opposite corner stands the Hanover Presbyterian Church, founded 1772. The present building was erected in 1922.

In the triangular park stands the Todd War Monument erected in 1925 and dedicated to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of Delaware who served in the World War. On a bronze tablet is inscribed the names of those from Delaware who died in the service of their country. Passing down Baynard Boulevard by the Pavilion at the east entrance to the Zoo, Washington Memorial Bridge is crossed. This Bridge dedicated May 30, 1922 to the heroes of the World War is 720

feet long and 72 feet wide. A large bronze tablet was placed on each of the pylons.

Proceeding up Washington Street which until 1846 was called Pasture Street, the first building passed on the right is the Delaware Hospital, and at the corner of 11th Street stands the Y. M. C. A. Building built by popular subscription at a cost of $1,350,000. Turn right on 11th Street and bear right up Delaware Avenue past the Brandywine Cemetery. Across the street is the Wilmington High School and on the corner of Adams Street stands Trinity Church. On the opposite corner is Loew's Theatre. A short distance beyond at 1014 Delaware Avenue is the New Century Club. At Van Buren Street by the traffic light a right turn is made. Between Shallcross and Lovering Avenues stands the Homeopathic Hospital founded in 1888 and built in 1905. The new south wing was completed in 1931. At the foot of the hill a left turn is made into Park Drive. There on the corner in a rustic park setting is the McKinley memorial. At the top a bronze bust in relief of President McKinley and below a tablet shows Sergeant McKinley serving coffee and rations on the firing line at Antietam, September 17, 1862. A short distance beyond is a fountain presented to the National Humane Alliance in 1909 and removed from Sixteenth and King Streets in 1929 to its present location.

Coming out of the Park Drive on to Lovering Avenue a right turn is made but instead of passing under the railroad tracks just ahead another right turn is made under the B. & O. R. R. stone railroad bridge and highway bridge. The building in the valley by the Brandywine is the Jessup and Moore paper mills. From the Park Drive the route is along

Auto Tour No. 2

Lovering Avenue at the end of which and at the junction of Shallcross Avenue stands the monument to Thomas F. Bayard, Senator, Secretary of State, and first ambassador to the Court of St. James. This vicinity is one of the beautiful residential sections of Wilmington.

Continuing along Red Oak Road a right turn is made at Riverview Avenue into the Park Drive and along the crest of the hill to Rockford Water Tower. The ivy-covered stone tower was erected in 1900. Within it is a huge steel water tank encircled by a stairway to the balcony on the top from which point a splendid view of the city may be obtained.

Coming out of Rockford Park the statue of Rear Admiral Samuel Francis duPont is passed on the left. Cross Nineteenth Street into Tower Road. On the right is the Tower Hill School at Pennsylvania Avenue a right turn is made. Along Pennsylvania Avenue may be seen some of the beautiful duPont residences. On the right just before the bridge over the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad is reached is the Alexis I. duPont School, Cross the avenue and enter Westover Hills on Hopeton Road.

Westover Hills is a new suburban development of many beautiful homes. Turn right into Brandon Lane and left into duPont Road. Turn left at cross road; to Westover Road following straight through to where Westover Road turns to the left and continue to the Avenue.

At the end of the road turn right again into Pennsylvania Avenue and continue to the Wilmington Country Club which is entered by a private road. After making the loop in front of the Club House and coming out on Pennsylvania Avenue continue

Auto Tour No. 2

along Pennsylvania Avenue to the blinker at the entrance of Wawaset Park. Wawaset Park is an exclusive and highly restricted residential section of attractive homes and streets lined with elm trees. It was formerly a race track and the two principal streets, Nottingham Road and Blackshire Road follow the course of the old race track. As the park is entered take the right fork of the road, Nottingham Road, and follow through to the circle at the end where a left turn is made into Blackshire Road. This road continued to the end brings the motorist out again at Pennsylvania Avenue where a right turn is made.

Continue down Pennsylvania Avenue under the B. & O. R.R. tracks. Turn right at duPont Street; between Tenth and Eleventh on the right is the new State Armory erected in 1927. Continue on duPont Street to Ninth Street where a left turn is made. At this corner may be seen the St. Anthony's Catholic Church which is fashioned after churches in Italy. It is the Italian Catholic Church of Wilmington. At the top of the hill stands Rodney Reservoir with its tower in the center.

The site on the southwest corner of Ninth and Broome Streets was owned by Bancroft Woodcock, a silversmith in 1765, and was called Bancroft's Hill. Dr. James Tilton bought the land in 1792 and in 1802 built the original house. In 1852 the property was acquired by Charles W. Howland, who, four years later added the tower, porte cochere and porches. He named the place, "Hilton."

The site, known in 1789 as Federal Hill, S. W. Cor. of Ninth and Broome Streets, came within one vote of being the national capital of the United States.

Auto Tour No. 2

After the colonists achieved independence, a commission of nine men were appointed to select a site for the national Capitol. Wilmington was one of the places considered with the Capitol Building to be located on Federal Hill. However, it was rejected by a vote of four in favor and five against.

A block beyond on the southeast corner is the Second Baptist Church. Here a left turn is made on Franklin Street. The large body of water on the right is Cool Spring Reservoir. At Pennsylvania Avenue a right turn is made and another right turn at the traffic light on Van Buren Street. On the right at the entrance to Cool Spring Park is the First Church of Christ Scientist. Continue straight through the park to Tenth Street. On the right hand corner is the Society of Natural History and on the other side across the Park at Tenth and Jackson Streets stands St. Paul's M. E. Church built in 1911. St. Paul's was an offshoot of Asbury Church. In 1845 a church was built on Market Street just north of Seventh and remained an old landmark until 1911.

Turn right at Tenth Street and left at Harrison Street. On the Southwest corner is Friends' Meeting. Continue along Harrison Street to Eighth Street and turn right. The park on the left is Eighth Street Park, a gift of Dr. Norris, a large landholder. At Broom Street a left turn is made. Cross Fourth Street. On the southwest corner is Olivet Presbyterian Church and a block west is the Bishop Coleman Memorial Church - a fine granite structure - while on the southeast corner of Third and Broom is the First United Presbyterian Church.

At Chestnut Street a right turn is made. On the left occupying four city blocks is the Wilmington General Hospital built on the site of "Tusculum" the home of Jacob Broom who drew a map of the county for Washington before the Battle of Brandywine. Broom's Map is now in the Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia. Tusculum was once the residence of Thomas Read. Here Lafayette was entertained. The square house on the right facing Lancaster Avenue, the grounds in the rear of which are enclosed by an old board fence, was the old boarding school for girls, which was burned, and on this site which was already landscaped, the Late Philip Plunkett built his home.

Turn left on Clayton Street. On the right is the beautiful new Bayard School. On the left opposite the Bayard School is the site of "Delamore" the home of Thomas F. Bayard, U. S. Embassador to Great Britain, which was burned a few years ago. The dilapidated old mansion on the left inclosed by an iron fence is the Bush place (Greystone). To the right is Canby Park with its new swimming pool. Here a left turn is made on Cedar Street from which point is an excellent view of St. Elizabeth's Parochial School, one of the fine modern parochial buildings which are being erected in the Catholic parishes in the city, and another left turn at Broom Street. The building on the left setting back from the street is the old Banning residence, and on the right St. Elizabeths' Catholic Chapel and Convent. Further along on the right is Delamore Park, part of which was given to the city by Mr. Bayard, and named for his home near by, Delamore.

Auto Tour No. 2

Continue along Broom Street passing the Wilmington General Hospital and turn right on Lancaster Avenue. Just beyond where Maryland Avenue comes into Lancaster Avenue turn left on Jefferson Street and right on Second Street. On the right between Washington and West Streets are the Ferris Houses (two small brick dwellings).

At West Street a left turn is made. A century ago this was one of the residential sections of Wilmington and many fine old homes may yet be seen. The Jacob Bennett house at 301½ West Street was Washington's headquarters while in Wilmington prior to the Battle of the Brandywine. The building has a bronze marker on the outside.

Crossing Fourth Street the building on the northeast corner is Friend's School, one of the oldest private schools of the city. It was founded in 1748 by the Society of Friends. Across the street from the school and occupying the entire block is the Friend's Meeting House and Cemetery. John Dickinson, signer of the Constitution and author of the famous pre-revolutionary "farmer's letters," is buried here, as is Thomas Garrett, the Quaker abolitionist. The original meeting house was built in 1748. The present one was built in 1816.

In 1846 a building for girls was erected. In 1883 more room was needed but so great a love for the antique prevailed that the old building was enlarged at a cost of $14,000.

At the northwest corner of West and Fifth Street is the site of the Thomas West house built in 1736.

Auto Tour No. 2

West was a kinsman of Lord de la Warre. Turn right at Fifth Street. At the northeast corner of Market and Fifth Street on the present site of the Queen Theatre stood the Queen of the Otaheite (later the Indian Queen) built prior to 1789 and named by a crew of a ship just returned from the South Seas. In 1872 the old tavern was torn down and on the site was erected the Clayton House, and the most modern hotel between Philadelphia and Washington remaining as such until about 1913. Turn right on Market Street. At the southeast corner of Market and Third Streets is the site of the old tavern, "Sign of the Ship," which was later called "Happy Retreat," and used by Lafayette as headquarters. Washington, Jefferson, Anthony Wayne, Aaron Burr and Commodore Perry lodged there occasionally. John Adams and Louis Phillippe - King of France, when a resident of Wilmington often dined there.

Continue on Market Street to Second Street where a left turn is made and another left turn at King Street, King Street is one of the city's curb markets for retail produce. At Fourth Street a right turn is made. This section of the city is devoted to wholesale produce. Turn right on Walnut Street.

The Asbury M. E. Church at Third and Walnut Streets was built in 1789. In the burial ground is the grave of Col. Allen McLane of the Revolution. Just beyond on the east side of the street is the Goodwill Industries, whose motto is "Not Charity but a chance." At the foot of Walnut Street is the Pennsylvania Railroad Station. Here a left turn is made on Front Street past the Pusey and Jones Shipbuilding Company. Pusey and Jones are builders of yachts, ships, barges and paper machinery.

At the end of Front Street is the Municipal Pier and the Christiana River. Turning left on Church Street the baseball grounds are passed on the left and the Pennsylvania R. R. Athletic Field on the right. Turn right under the railroad bridge on to Fourth Street and right again to Christiana Avenue. The Wilson Line docks may be seen on the left. Pass over the Third Street Bridge and continue straight ahead on Christiana Avenue.

On the left is the transformer station of the Delaware Light & Power Company, the Delaware Floor Products Company, the Pyrites Company, Lobdell Car Wheel Company and the Tannin Corporation. On the right the plant of the Cork Insulation Company.

A right turn is made over the railroad tracks to the Ferry Road. On the left along the Christiana River is the Wilmington Marine Terminal. In the vicinity on the right is the site of the Crane Hook Church built in 1667. At the end of the road turn left to Ferry Dock.

Here, where the Christiana enters the Delaware, occured the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War, between two British frigates, the Roebuck and the Liverpool, and a number of long boats or row-galleys which then with the exception of one frigate comprised the entire Continental Navy. The battle continued for three days May 8, 9, and 10, 1776, when the English frigates retreated down the river. Thousands of spectators lined the banks of the rivers to witness the battle. Captain Houston, of Philadelphia, was in charge of the American forces. *

* Life and Correspondence of Geo. Read by William Thompson Read.

It is related that in the heat of the engagement the attention of the spectators was diverted from the spectacle of a naval combat by a militia major riding at full speed among them, who threw himself from his horse, and entreated to be put on board one of the galleys. He persuaded two men to put off in a boat with him. He steered for the galley nearest the enemy, and as soon as he set his feet aboard, he stationed himself at a gun, "The cartridges failed, cartridge-paper was called for to make more cartridges, but it was all expended: the gallant major instantly pulled off his boots, filled them with powder, and rammed them into the gun. When he returned home, he bragged that he had not only been in the battle, but that he had fired his boots at the enemy."

It will not be necessary to retrace the route back over Christiana Avenue and Third Street Bridge to Fourth Street where a right turn is made directly under the railroad bridge to Church Street. At Church and Seventh Street is Old Swedes Church and Cemetery. Old Swedes Church was built in 1698. The first stone was laid May 28, and it was formally dedicated Trinity, Sunday, May 1699 and named Trinity Church. Here proceed to Seventh Street, turn right and continue under the railroad tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad and past the old plant of the McCullough Iron Company to a point where the ship-yards of the American Car and Foundry Company are located. Here at the point where the Christiana River makes a sharp turn, the Swedes in 1638 built their little fort, Christina, and back of it Christinahamn, the first permanent settlement on the Delaware River. To the right, near this point, were the rocks a natural wharf upon which the Swedes landed and from which their progeny quarried the granite to build Old Swedes Church.

Auto Tour No. 2

The quarry was filled when the McCullough Iron Company occupied the ground in 1875 and built the Minquas Iron Works. In this plant the first galvanized sheet iron ever manufactured in America was made. The American Car & Foundry Company was formerly the Jackson & Sharp Company. Here magnificient railroad cars were built and shipped to all parts of the Americas. In 1876 this plant built a special car from Dom Pedro, then Emperor of Brazil, who visited the plant in company with President U. S. Grant, to the amazement and joy of the citizens of Wilmington.

Turning back on Church Street to Sixth Street a right turn is made. At the southwest corner of Sixth and French Streets is the Adas Kodesch Congregation, occupying the site of the first public school in Wilmington, and at the southeast corner of Sixth and King Streets is the Old Federal Building which housed the first Wilmington Postoffice.

Turning right on Market Street just around the corner at 606 Market Street is the site of the town house of Gunning Bedford. During the Revolution it was used as quarters for French officers. Mary Vininglav, Belle of the Revolution entertained there. Market Street is the retail business section of the city. At Eighth Street a left turn is made past the Union National Bank and St. Andrews Church. Turn right at Orange Street and again at Ninth Street.

The United States Postoffice building is on the right. At Market Street turn left by the Delaware Trust Building on the northeast corner.

Auto Tour No. 2

The Delaware Trust Building is the second largest building in Delaware. During 1929 two wings were added, one along Market Street and the other along King Street. These wings occupy the site of the Old First Presbyterian Church, in the burial yard of which were the graves of Dr. John McKinley, first President of Delaware, Gunning Befdord, signer of the Constitution, and James, Adams, first printer of Delaware.

At Tenth Street turn right past the Wilmington Institute Free Library. A left turn at King Street ends the trip in front of the Public Building as the speedometer reads 21.9 miles.

DR. HARRISON W. HOWELL

When the first sections of the du Pont building were built, a ballroom was provided on the eleventh floor for public gatherings. Some of the early hospital campaigns were centered there. An organization known as the City Club, composed of prominent men of the city, also used this room for large gatherings. The Board of Trade, as the Chamber of Commerce was then known, held its luncheon meetings there. About 1912 plans were laid for a campaign to increase the membership, and Mayor Harrison W. Howell was prevailed on to take the chairmanship of the campaign committee, and give them his answer at one of the luncheon meetings. He talked to them "right from the shoulder." He said he had asked a number of men to serve on his committee, and their answers where mostly the same: "Old man, I would be glad to help, but really, I am so busy I would not be able to do any actual work.' I came to the conclusion at last, that I was the only one in the city who had nothing to do." He promised to serve, but told the meeting that if he failed, he was coming right back, and tell them why.

Dr. Harrison W. Howell was born in Trenton, N.J., in 1873. Upon the death of his father, when the boy was eight years old, he came to Wilmington to make his home with his uncle, Dr. Leonard Kittenger, one of the leading physicians of the city. As a boy, Howell was employed in the office of the Pusey and Jones Company. Later, he entered Hahnemann

Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1894. His office was first located in a house, since torn down, at 315 Delaware Avenue, but soon he moved to the house at the S. E. corner of Delaware Avenue and Washington Streets. His office, when he retired from practice because of ill health, was at 824 Washington Street.

In 1900, he was married to Lucy, the daughter of Samuel Biddle, at that time an official of the Pusey and Jones Company. She died in 1917, and some time later, he married the sister of Harold S. Schutt, who was associated with the local gas company. In 1911 he was elected Mayor of the city on the Republican ticket, and reelected for a second term, with the largest pluralities ever given a Mayor in the city's history.

Dr. Howell belonged to many organizations, both fraternal and professional. He was the first president of the local Rotary Club, and was reelected for a second term. Upon America's entrance into the World War, he enlisted in the Medical Corps of the army, and was assigned to the base hospital at Hoboken, N. J. The only complaint he had to make of army life was that one wore the same type of clothes, and the only thing one could change was the collar.

The Doctor was a man pleasing in appearance and manner. One of his woman patients was heard to say in his office one night: "I tell the folks home I feel better just as soon as Dr. Howell comes in the house." After a long illness of heart trouble, during which he spent most of the time in Florida, he died in July 1935. A framed verse is remembered as hanging

in the doctor's waiting room, as it no doubt does, in many another:

"God and the doctor we both adore,
At the point of danger, not before,
The danger passed, both alike are requited,
God forgot and the doctor slighted."

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
October 28, 1940

AN IMPORTANT CIVIC CENTER

The Hotel du Pont opened its doors to the public on January 15, 1913 with a private showing and luncheon, attended by many distinguished guests. In order to familiarize the public with the hotel, a series of musicals were held on Sunday afternoons, when tea was served on the mezzanine floor. People flocked to these affairs, and were suprised and proud that Wilmington had acquired such a hotel.

Ernest S. Taite, formerly assistant manager of the Astor House in New York, was the first manager. He served until 1921, when the management was taken over by Harry Harkins, a local boy who had for some years been associated with the old Clayton House. Harkins was popular with local people and the traveling public. The hotel later on passed to the control of the Bowman-Biltmore chain, with C. W. Gibbs as resident manager. During the last tenure, many local people felt, no doubt, the hotel had ceased to be a local institution. In time it passed back into the control of the original interests, under the management of Frank Gregson. In the pre-Volstead days, the bar was located on the present site of the Laird-Bissell and Meeds boardroom.

The hotel, as well as the office building, are under the control of the Du Pont Building Corporation, which is part of the Service Department. Among those who have served the hotel since the beginning are Miss Sarah Truax, secretary to the

manager, and Mrs. M. T. Eastland, head housekeeper, whose husband served in different capacities before his death in 1939.

The du Pont Hotel has come to play such a part in the daily life of the citizens that wonder is how Wilmington got along without such facilities, although the old Clayton House in its time served the local people and the traveling public well. Many of the older generation recall numerous social events attended there, but in time it became outmoded, and the progress of the city northward spelled its doom.

Among the banquets held in the Hotel du Pont the first year was that of the Delaware Moter Club in the grill room. When the time came for speechmaking, some of the prominent citizens in attendance were "in their cups." After a few had responded in a muddled way to the invitation of the toastmaster, T. Allen Hilles, the latter arose disgusted to ask if any other drunk wanted to say anything.

Another banquet recalled was that of the Retail Coal Dealers Association, held in one of the parlors on the mezzanine floor. One of the smaller coal dealers, who had the reputation of rarely being sober, which he wasn't that night, was accompanied by his son, a lad of about twenty. When the waiter would put some eating utensils down beside their plates, they would look at them in bewilderment. At last the father could contain himself no longer. He said to the man beside him; "Henry, they have a hell of a lot of hardware in this place, don't they."

For the first few years, the hotel maintained a small

but talented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Dummig, which played on the small balcony in the dining room at both luncheon and dinner. This made dining doubly attractive, especially at the holiday season, when there would come numerous requests on Christmas Eve for "Silent Night."

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
May 20, 1941

THEATRE ATTRACTIONS

Before the advent of moving pictures, theatrical attractions were simple and varied. The Grand Opera House, which held a premier place, would be dark at times, as is the Playhouse today. It has been the scene of the acting of Booth and Forrest of the early years, down through the days of Henry Dixey, the Boston Ideals, Maude Adams, and Francis Wilson. Generally under local management, it was the aim to give the local theatre-going public the best to be had at a time when roadshows were more numerous than today. Among the special features of those days were the minstrels, of whom Carncross & Dixey and Dockstader are the best remembered. The first act would show the company lined across the stage, in satin short clothes, with jokes exchanged between the interlocutor and the end men, interspersed with solos by members of the company. The second act would be a farce comedy, in which some of the men would take female parts.

Professors Herman and Kellar, famous magicians of that day, would mystify the audience with their sleight-of-hand tricks, and perhaps invite some one from the audience to come to the stage, there to be made to look foolish. Professor Bartholomew's trained horses were popular, and the chance to visit the horses at the Lafayette stables at Ninth and Shipley Streets, an added treat.

At that time, living pictures became the rage. A group of girls in flesh-colored tights would be posed within a brightly-lighted gilt frame on the stage, ~~which~~ the resembled an oil painting. "The Black Crook," a musical extravaganza, would be considered tame by today's standards, but likely, at the time many young ladies blushed behind their fans at the girls in spangles and tights.

When Francis Wilson appeared here in a revival of "Erminie," one of the repertoire of the Boston Ideals shown here at an earlier period, his publicity manager ~~told of~~ answered a woman who wrote Mr. Wilson asking if it would be safe for her daughter to see his play, ~~Mr. Wilson's reply was:~~ as for cows; "We have tried to eliminate all the objectionable features of our play, until today we feel that for safety it stands on a par with Mellen's Food."

The minor attractions, such as Punch and Judy shows, ventriloquists, glass blowers, etc., were to be seen at the Odd Fellow's Hall at Third and King Streets, or the auditorium of the Institute Building, at Eighth and Market.

The building called the Auditorium, on West Eleventh Street, was ~~built~~ erected for musicals, ~~as~~ and its acoustics were considered well adapted to that form of entertainment. Through the years, it has been the site of varied gatherings. About 1885, Moody and Sankey, the evangelists, held a series of meetings there. Later on, when the craze for roller-skating developed, it was used for that purpose. During the campaign of 1896, William Jennings Bryan spoke there and drew the largest crowd, both inside and out, that had ever assembled in one place in the city. William Hammond, who succeeded to the business of Waddington Bradway, used it for his

steam laundry. It has been the scene of boxing and wrestling matches, and and at this writing another evangelist is holding forth there.

When vaudeville made its appearance in the larger cities, the performance was continuous from noon until late night. William Dockstader, who came to Wilmington with his cages of snakes and monkeys and first located at 309 Shipley Street, later on moving to Seventh and Shipley, gradually discarded those features for stage acts. His new theater on Market Street, above the Masonic Temple, was well patronized by the local public. In his more prosperous days, Mr. Dockstader built a fine home at 1306 Market Street, where he died in 1921; his wife, who ably assisted him in the management of the theatre, died there in 1931.

The Avenue Theatre, at Tenth and Tatnall, which under other names had been the home of burlesque shows, and had that reputation to live down, was taken over by Conness and Edwards, with an excellent stock company. There were some who never missed seeing every week's bill, and those who met the members of the cast socially found them equally interesting. Margaret Pitt and Marc McDermott, the latter often seen in Edison pictures, were among the favorites both off and on the stage. They wound up the season of about twenty-five weeks with a performance of "As You Like It" in the open air theater on the Samuel Bancroft estate of Rockford Park. Miss Pitt returned here later on with her own company, and occupied the Garrick Theatre after the season there had closed. "The Girl of the Golden West" and "Mrs. Dane's Defense were the only attractions. The company

finally disbanded because of poor houses.

Moving pictures, the first of which were rather crude affairs and shown in converted store buildings, played to crowded houses, even in those days. Slot machines or cabinets, called "peep shows" were placed in the entrance, ~~and were termed "peep shows",~~ if music were furnished, ear phones were attached. During the showing of the pictures, a pianist would accompany with selections suited to the picture. During the intermission, while the reel was being changed, a soloist would render ballads. Billy Anderson in rough riding Westerns, Maurice Costello, whose daughters have since become famous, John Bunny, and Flor Finch are among those remembered. As they were silent pictures, captions would be thrown on the screen during the showing, to keep the audience posted as to the action. One of the early types of talking pictures was a small phonograph set on the front of the stage, and synchronized with the picture. One of these is recalled at the Grand Opera House in connection with an Edison film. The Savoy is the only movie house whose layout resembles those of the pioneer days.

Those who have lived through the last fifty years, and have seen the moving pictures, automobile, radio, phonograph, and flying machines developed to their present status, have a fund of reminiscences.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

William H. Forbes
May 15, 1941

Wilmington Fifty Years Ago

EARLY THEATER ATTRACTIONS

The Masonic Temple, which contains the Grand Opera House, was erected in 1871 and, until taken over by the moving picture interests in 1906, was the focal point for the local theater-going public. The great and near great of the early years, such as Booth, Forrest, Minnie Maddern Fiske, Maude Adams, as well as the stock companies of the day, on whose rosters were young players who afterwards became famous in their own right, appeared there. Francis Wilson, who was a member of the cast of the Boston Ideals, making regular yearly visits to Wilmington, returned here about 1900, in a revival of Erminie, in which he had appeared at an earlier date. A cautious lady wrote him, asking if it would be safe for her daughter to see his play. His answer was: "We have tried to eliminate all the objectionable features of our play, and as regards safety, feel it stands on a par with Mellon's Food." Maude Adams appeared here in a Spanish play The Pretty Sister of José, with a curtain raiser, Hop-o-My-Thumb, which was decidedly English. Henry Dixey in his play Adonis was a favorite, and today is remembered for that vehicle more than any other. Professor Bartholomew and his trained horses were yearly visitors, and the added treat was offered of seeing the horses at close range at the stables of the old Lafayette Hotel at Ninth and Shipley Streets. Professors Herman and Kellar were the master minds in the field of magic, and would hold the attention of the audience with their various tricks. Generally someone from the

audience would be invited to the stage to be made to look and feel foolish. Corse Payton and his company in a week's repertoire of "thrillers," and Al Leach with his Three Rose Buds, with its "deestrict schule," both furnished many a laugh.

The Grand Opera House in its day, for size of stage, ranked second in the country, and the parquet circle afforded those on the sides a better view of the stage. In 1906 this civic center, which had catered to more than one generation of Wilmington theater-goers, passed in to the control of the moving picture interests.

Among those who appeared at the Grand Opera House in the 1880's and left a lasting impression, not only for her acting but also for her beauty of face and character, was Mary Anderson. Hailing from Louisville, Kentucky, she early showed an interest in Shakespeare's works, a bent encouraged by her stepfather, who was a student of the Bard. She started to read Shakespeare at the age of ten, and when seventeen, made her debut in the role of Juliet, and later appeared in an extensive repertoire of Shakespearean plays. In October 1890, she retired from the stage, and married Antonio de Navarro, spending the time until her death at Tunbridge Wells, England, and appearing only occasionally in benefit performances in London.

On type of entertainment that found favor with the people was the minstrel show. Dockstader's and Carncross and Dixey were the most prominent. The first act consisted of the company lined up across the stage, in satin short clothes, with banter exchanged between the interlocutor and the end men, and the second act was

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a farce comedy, with some of the men taking female parts.

The curtain was drawn up by hand, and a bell in the nearby saloons notified those there of the end of the intermission. It was customary for the ushers to pass down the aisles between the acts, serving ice water to the patrons from glasses carried in a tray.

The Auditorium on West Eleventh Street was erected primarily for musicals, the accoustics being well adapted for that type of entertainment. Since its erection, it has been put to many uses. In the early years Moody and Sankey held their revival meetings there; later, William Hammond used it as the site of his steam laundry. It has also held many political gatherings, William Jennings Bryan speaking there in 1896. Housewives have assembled there for cooking schools, and it has been the scene of many wrestling and boxing matches. At the present time, another evangelist is holding forth there.

William L. Dockstader came to Wilmington in 1893, and first located with his cages of monkeys and snakes at 309 Shipley Street, under the name of Wilmington Musee. This was a small beginning, but it gave him a chance to get acquainted and to sense the needs and tastes of the local theater-going public. After two years there, he moved to the old carriage factory at the N. W. corner of Seventh and Shipley Streets, and there he gradually substituted vaudeville acts for the earlier features.

In 1903 he built his own theater, the Garrick, on the west side of Market Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets. As a local man, he was interested in supplying his patrons with the

best at the price asked, and when a customer would charge him with having a poor show, he would be quick to admit it, if such were the case. Rather, he would explain that it was hard for a man in his class to pick and choose from the talent offered. With the appearance of the moving pictures, a short reel would be shown as part of the show.

With the death of Mr. Dockstader in 1921, this business, which had grown to be part of the city's life, closed its doors. Mrs. Emma Dockstader, who had actively assisted her husband in this enterprise, passed away in 1931. During their more prosperous years they built a fine home at 1306 Market Street.

No mention of "Dock's" would be complete without reference to the "Candy Man." Dressed in a white suit, white cap, and white gloves, and wearing leather leggings, the "Candy Man" would appear outside the theater, regardless of the weather, and sell his candy from a tray supported by a band around his shoulders. His peculiar cry aroused attention, and the peculiar rhythm of the cry remained in one's ears after he had passed. He would repeat "Candy Man" twice, the first time with "man" as a question, the second time with "man" as a declaration, thus: "Candy Man? Candy Man!"

Shortly before World War No. 1, the Playhouse was opened, but the older generation feel it will never find the place in their affections ~~as did~~ held by the Grand Opera House. The new house has been dark for a large part of the time, because of the lack of road shows. Select moving pictures were tried for a while.

From time to time, high class talent of the stage has appeared there: Beerbohm Tree as "Cardinal Woolsey" in Henry the Eighth; John Drew in The Cat Bird, and Julia Arthur in A Modern Magdalen. Plans were discussed there at an open meeting, in the latter 1920's whereby the house could be made to serve the local theater-going public better.

During a showing there of the Song of the Flame, about 1928 shortly after the evening performance had started, the weight of the scenery caused the supporting girders to fall, injuring several of the cast. A disappointed audience filed out of the Playhouse. The contrast between the men and women who gathered at the old Grand Opera House and those of today is most striking; the women in particular, more different with their old style hairdo, long skirts and bustles, ~~with the accompanying~~ and matching or contrasting basques, some of which styles we have lived to see return, ~~to style~~, along with the changes in architecture of the theaters themselves, ~~as evidence of the changing times.~~

The Avenue Theatre, which stood at Tenth and Tatnall Streets, under other names had been the home of burlesque shows, and had that ~~a~~ reputation to live down. In 1912, the house was taken over by Conness and Edwards with an excellent stock company. There were many people who made it a point to attend every week's show, and those who met some of the members of the company, socially, found them equally interesting. They wound up their stay of about twenty-five weeks with an outdoor performance of As You Like It, on the grounds of Samuel Bancroft's estate at Rockford.

The next season a stock company, under new management and with a new cast, played the season there, but did not find favor with the public as did the first company. In the early 1890's,

an itinerant musical company gave a repertoire of the old operettas, which included The Bohemian Girl and Erminie, in the open down near Folly Woods, on South Union Street. The price was low, so one could not expect very much.

When the circus would come to town, which was, as it is today, a harbinger of Spring, it would be heralded for weeks on the billboards, with pictures and all the adjectives in the dictionary. The show unloaded at Third and Pine Streets and the trip to the grounds at Front and Union Streets afforded the people along the way a preview of what was to come. A parade was held at noon through the central section of the city, and this further whetted the appetite of the people. Jumbo, the largest elephant in captivity, and Tom Thumb, the midget, were household names. P. T. Barnum was a natural-born showman, and had Tom Thumb and Mercy Warren Bumpus married at Grace Church in New York with a great fanfare. Barnum and Adam Forepaugh were leading showmen, later to be merged into one show, along with the Bailey circus, which was the forerunner of the Ringling Show of today. Barnum felt the people loved to be fooled as well as entertained. On his farm in Connecticut, which was within sight of a railroad, he had an elephant, painted white, drawing a plow, and advertised it as the only one of its kind.

The moving picutres, with their variety of subjects, seem to fill the needs of the Wilmington public for entertainment so well that the speaking stage has found it hard to maintain its old place as a major attraction. The early moving pictures, ~~like all pioneer endeavors, were~~ crude affairs, The first showings ~~were~~ in converted stores around Fourth and Market Streets. Cabinets known as "peep shows" were at the entrance, and if

it was music, ear phones were attached. There was considerable flicker in the picture, which was hard on the eyes. A pianist would accompany the picture with music suited to the changing scene, and a ballad was sung while the reels were being changed. Billy Anderson in rough riding westerns, Maurice Costello, a matinee idol of that day, Mary Fuller, Flora Finch, and John Bunny were some of the early screen players.

David Wark Griffith as a director brought to the screen a new technique, with his Birth of a Nation and Intolerance. At that time, the picture industry passed from the adolescent stage to something that made an appeal to people of culture and refinement. About that time, Charley Chaplin made his first appearance in America with a picture entitled A Night in a London Music Hall. Many of those girls who early appeared at the studios looking for a chance to act had no other claim, than that they needed the money. The Gish sisters and Mary Pickford were given their early chance by Mr. Griffith in the old Biograph Company. As the pictures improved, so have the movie houses, and gradually moved up town, the Warner and Aldine a far cry from the days of the Bijou and Hyrups theaters of other days. The Savoy Theatre is the last of the old style houses.

The early moving pictures coincided with the styles in large hats for women, and many a patron has felt constrained to ask the lady in front of him to remove her hat. Some did it with good grace, while others resented the request. At times this request would be thrown on the screen.

Another source of entertainment in those years were the lecturers. Some, like "Bob" Burdett, the humorist, and "Sam" Small, who spoke for the temperance cause, ~~were humorists~~ Looking back it seems that the temperance forces

were more aggressive then than today. It was in the days when the saloons were uncontrolled, and often children were sent with a pitcher to "rush the growler." At the temperance meeting, a pledge in the form of a long sheet would lie on a table near the entrance, and members of the audience, even those who had never touched a drop, would be urged to sign. Even the speaking stage played its part in pointing out the evils of drinking with the play Ten Nights in a Bar Room.

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

There were minor attractions, such as the Punch and Judy shows, and the ventriloquists, which were to be found at the Odd Fellows' Hall at Third and King Streets, the Institute at Eighth and Market Streets, or at the church fairs. The city has always been favored with good talent, both musical and dramatic, so the people of those early days never wanted for entertainment, no matter how simple it might be at times.

File No. 100

LOCATION - Wilmington

Submitted by - Robert Campbell

Date - December 30, 1935

Reference File 2/19/26

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The City of Wilmington is located at the confluence of the Delaware, Christina and Brandywine Rivers, about 70 miles from the sea. It is located ~~(about 30~~ 26.6 miles (F) below Philadelphia on US 13 ~~and US 40~~ highway. It lies in latitude 39° 45' N and longitude 75° 33' W and is in the Eastern Standard Time zone. It has an incorporated area of 15.77 square miles or 10,092.8 acres of which 3,034 acres are water. Much of this water area is the Delaware River, the city limits extending entirely across the river to the New Jersey state line at the low water mark on the eastern shore.

Wilmington, pronounced Wil'- ming - ton, was called originally Willing's Town after Thomas Willing who laid out lots on the north bank of the Christina River in 1731 near the present site of the Market St. Bridge, about a mile above the old town of Christinehambn (A) which was soon absorbed by the faster growing community.

The name was changed to Wilmington by George Thomas, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania at the time of granting a charter, March 17, 1739, in honor of the Earl of Wilmington, who had charge of the appointment of Governors and agents of the British Government in the colonies and who was therefore deserving of special consideration. (C & D)

The main business section lies mostly upon the southern and eastern slopes of the ridge separating the Christina and Brandywine Rivers, its altitude varying from tide water to 255 feet at the Rockford Water Tower. The average elevation is eighty feet.

Both the Christina and Brandywine Rivers are navigable, the latter only to Market Street above which are rapids and falls having a total fall of one hundred feet within four and a half miles.

Christina River (Cris - tee - na), commonly but incorrectly called the Christiana, was known as Minquas Kill by the early Dutch explorers, taking its name from the Minquas Indians living in the vicinity. Its present name was given it by the Swedish settlers arriving in 1638 in honor of their Queen Christina.

They called the Brandywine the Fiske Kill or Fishkill, but it was later known as Brantwein's Creek which became corrupted to the Brandywine.

Within the present city limits and north of the Brandywine lies a small creek called the Shellpot.

This is a corruption of the Dutch word for turtle "schildpadde". Early English settlers often called the stream "Turtle Falls" but the Dutch name predominated. (B & C)

CLIMATE - Lying at a low altitude a little less than forty degrees north of the Equator the climate is temperate with moderate rainfall distributed rather evenly throughout the year but slightly heavier in July and August and lightest during the winter months.

Prevailing winds in the winter are Northeast and Northwest, in the summer Southwest. Wind velocities are moderate storms severe enough to cause serious property damage being practically unknown.

We give below data on temperatures and precipitation based upon the representative period of 1925 to 1935 inclusive, based upon records of the United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau in the City Registry Office.

In addition to the usual table of mean minimum and mean maximum temperatures given in the first two columns, we give in the third and fourth columns the normal temperature range that may be expected each month. Between November and April inclusive during the above eleven year period there have been ten occasions when the temperature went more than five degrees below the minimums given. Between May and October inclusive it has gone more than five degrees above the maximums given but seven times.

WILMINGTON, Del. - Temperatures and Precipitation

Temperatures in degrees Farenheit.

	Mean Minimum Temp.	Mean Maximum Temp.	Normal Temp. Range Between			Precipitation IN Inches
Jan.	26.24	42.23	6.8	and	59.0	3.14"
Feb.	25.33	42.92	8.5	"	58.5	2.57"
March	31.53	51.10	15.4	"	70.6	3.33"
April	39.46	63.17	28.5	"	78.0	3.57"
May	50.82	72.63	39.1	"	87.0	3.47"
June	60.40	80.94	47.2	"	92.1	4.06"
July	65.49	85.42	53.4	"	94.8	4.56"
Aug.	63.50	82.83	52.8	"	91.9	5.41"
Sept.	58.67	77.75	43.2	"	89.5	4.05"
Oct.	45.85	65.44	31.4	"	79.8	3.46"
Nov.	38.02	54.24	18.6	"	70.3	3.54"
Dec.	27.59	42.81	10.5	"	59.6	2.50"
			YEARLY Total Precipitation (Average)			43.66"

Normal Temperature Range - 88 ° F

Absolute Temperature Range - 117° F

Absolute Minimum - February 9 1934 - - 15° F

Absolute Maximum - July 21, 1930, 102° F

Material supplied by -

Robert Campbell - 101

Walter Kershner - 110 - 120

Gordon Butler - 130

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* Consultant -
United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, City Registry office, 10th & King Sts., Wilmington, Del.

* F - Delaware Automobile Assn., Wilmington, Del.

LOCATION - Wilmington.

Submitted by - Kenneth A. Horner.

Date - April 1, 1936.

Wilmington in 1875.

In 1875 Wilmington had grown to a community of 35,000 persons. Joshua L. Simms was the mayor and there were ten wards, two councilmen being chosen from each instead of the three mentioned in 1845. The city then had a Chief of Police, two special policemen, two sergeants, one for the Western and one for the Eastern districts, and 18 policemen, three for each of six districts. They were appointed by the mayor.

There were 8 volunteer fire companies, 17 public schools, 4 daily newspapers; the Daily Commercial, at 5th & Market Streets; the Delaware Gazette, at 416 Market Street; Every Evening, 510 Market Street; Delaware Republican, at Third and King Streets. The Weekly Advertiser, the Delaware Pioneer, The Wayside, Delaware Tribune and Delaware State Journal were published weekly.

A stage route still ran to New Castle, leaving Grubbs Hotel at Front and Market Street daily. The steamer Felton left French Street wharf, one trip daily, to Philadelphia, stopping at Marcus Hook and Chester. Boats of the Wilmington Steamboat Company left Wilmington for New York, three days each week, returning the following day.

There were 4 national banks, one state bank, and 2 savings banks.

Forty-two churches looked after the religious needs of the city. Five Baptists, 5 Catholic, 5 Episcopal, 9 Methodist, 2 Friends, 1 Lutheran, 1 Swedenborgian, 1 Unitarian and 6 colored.

Lodges and secret organizations flourished. The city directory of that date numbers many such organizations, several pages being required to list them.

There were 37 lawyers, 4 auctioneers, 6 basket makers, 2 bell ringers and bill posters.

Three large market houses were located downtown, one at Second Street between Market and King; another at Third and King Streets and the third at Eighth and Orange Streets. Forty-two butchers had stalls in the first; twenty-three in the second and twenty-five in the third.

The manufacture of carriages and coaches flourished, the directory listing seventeen manufacturers; fifteen blacksmiths shoed the horses and repaired the wagons; there were thirty-two hotels, and although the teaching of temperance and the formation of temperance societies had been encouraged since the city had come into existence, in 1875 there were 131 liquor and lager beer saloons doing business.

Those were the days when women wore long dresses and several petticoats. Seventy dressmakers are listed in the 1875 directory, and 42 dry goods stores catered to their needs. Seven firms sold sewing machines. There were eleven rag and junk dealers; seven persons engaged in the whitewashing business, four sold lamps and oils.

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There were 21 music teachers. Of 49 physicians, 29 were Allopathic, 3 Electric, 10 Homeopathic, 6 Hygienic and one Indian. The Western Union Telegraph office was at 300 Market Street and the Atlantic and Pacific at Fourth and Market Streets.

Wilmington in 1890.

The growth of the city had been so extensive during the decade of 1880-1890 that the newspapers of the day freely predicted that the census figures would show a population of at least 68, or 69 thousand. Estimated figures were 68,543, and the "city boosters" were chagrined to learn later that the actual count showed only 61,431.

Nevertheless it had been a fast-growing community, new streets had been opened, the city limits extended, rows upon rows of brick houses had been built to provide living quarters for the thousands of iron workers, car and shipbuilders that had come to the city. In the year 1889 alone 519 such houses and other buildings had been erected.

There were then 25 public schools, 60 churches, an increase of 31 during the decade. The value of real estate for assessment purposes had increased 10 millions of dollars from 20 million to 30 million. Firm alarm boxes had been placed at stragetic places and a test signal was sounded every morning at 9:00 A. M. (This was later changed to 8:45 to enable school children to arrive at their desks on time). The city now had 12 wards and one member was elected to Council from each.

Members were paid according to the number of meetings, regular and committee, they attended. During the month of December, 1889, some of the members attended as many as 36 meetings. Austin Harrington was mayor. Nineteen letter-carriers were employed to provide satisfactory postal service, and the post office opened at 6:30 A. M. for all business. There were 117 boarding houses listed in the 1890 directory, and 32 hotels did a flourishing business. Saloons had increased to 147, and one man advertised that he sold typewriters and did typewriting.

The making of milady's garments still remained an arduous task and 234 women were engaged in that business. Dry-goods ~~sales~~ stores had increased to 122. There were even four ladies hair-dressers, although three persons dealt in human hair. Eight stores sold ice cream. Although there were 17 undertakers (cabinet-makers) there were also three layers-out-of-the-dead. There was one oculist and five opticians. Twenty-seven milliners, 59 lawyers, and 11 artists.

There were 13 harness and saddle makers, 9 hay and straw dealers.

Foo Laon, Ham Loo, Hing Hong, Lee Ho, Key Wah, Lee Hing, Lee Ho, Lee Hop, Lee John, Lee Sing, Lee Lue, Lee Tom, Quong Sing, Sing Sam and Wah Hong took care of the heavily starched stiff bosom shirts, removable cuffs and collars of the thousands of workers.

There were four daily newspapers and two Sunday papers. Five weekly and monthly publications were in existence.

The new fangled telephones were beginning to be used and the Delaware and Atlantic Tel. and Tel. Company had their exchange at Fourth and Market Streets.

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People were beginning to "take" to the electric trolley cars, although the overhead wires which were beginning to appear throughout the city were the objects of complaints. An editorial in the Every Evening, in 1890, remarked, "The overhead wire nuisance still continues, but there are indications that its days are numbered."

LOCATION - - Wilmington.

File No. W-100-200

Submitted by Kenneth A. Horner,

Date March 26,1936.

Wilmington, Delaware.

Pop. 1930; - 106,597; US 13
E.S.T.-Daylight Saving Time,May to Sept.
Penna.R.R.Co.
B.& O.R.R.Co.
Bus Lines.

Wilmington, the metropolis of Delaware, aptly called the First City of the First State, lies on the Delaware River approximately 70 mi. from the Atlantic Ocean, 28 mi. below Philadelphia. At the head of the rich, fertile farmlands of Delaware, the eastern shore of Maryland and the two lower counties of Virginia, it stands as the gateway to the Delmarva Peninsula.

The Piedmont district, a series of low hills between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, occupies the upper part of the State in which the city is located, and as it has been built on rolling lands rising from tidewater to an elevation of 255 feet, with an average of 80 ft, since early times it has been referred to as "The City on the Hills."

Prior to the beginning of the twentieth century it was one of the formost industrial communities of the Nation. Its location at the confluence of the Brandywine Creek, Christiana and Delaware Rivers, providing ample water communication; the railroads which traverse this section with Wilmington as a center, the highways leading from it in all directions; its close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and various rivers and bays; a location that permitted it to

escape the extreme vigors of hot summers and cold winters, an ample rainfall and absence of hurricanes, floods, and the acts of an unrestrained nature, make it a natural industrial center, appreciated and inviting to its inhabitants.

The same rainfall and the nearness to large bodies of water, however, is responsible for a very disagreeable humidity, which sometimes makes the warm days of summer and the cold days of winter extremely unpleasant, despite the fact that the thermometer seldom rises to more than 90 degrees in summer or falls much below the freezing point in winter.

In later years many of the large manufacturing industries which formerly employed thousands of mechanics and laborers either discontinued business or moved to other localities and new industries have not arrived in sufficient numbers to take their places.

The growth of the large powder companies whose executive offices are located in the city brought about the erection of several large office buildings and gave employment to clerks, bookkeepers and a large number of "white collar" workers.

Quite recently the city attracted the executive offices of a number of other corporations whose officers and clerks took up residences and brought about the erection of many fine homes and apartment houses.

The absence of slum districts, cleanliness of streets, educational facilities, splendid water, fire and police protection were among attractions that brought new residents to the community for years. But like many other industrial communities, Wilmington suffered from the disastrous effects of the financial depression. Lack of employment, low wages and long hours of labor for those fortunate enough to be employed, created class distinctions, pauperized thousands, curtailed opportunity for youth and business men and completely changed the economic status of the inhabitants.

As a result the city, with the exception of the newer sections, has become unkempt, squalid, and uninteresting, unless views of slums, rows of unkempt, dirty brick houses, and the knowledge that persons are compelled to live amid such surroundings can be called interesting. Occasionally groups of citizens motivated by sincere desires to improve the city's appearance and provide proper shelter for unfortunates formed better-housing committees, held meetings, passed resolutions and announced "clean-up" campaigns, but they soon tired of their efforts and the slums remain. All attempts to eradicate them have been frustrated by owners and mortgage holders, as generally, rents for such dwellings are high and are collected by the week, providing rich profits to the lessors.

ARCHAEOLOGY:

The city covers land occupied before the coming of the Europeans by the Lenni-Lenape Indians. That laying between the Christiana River and the Brandywine Creek, was the site of an extensive village known as Hopokohacing. Chikihoki, another village, lay at the junction of the Delaware and Christina Rivers where the Marine Terminal and adjacent manufacturing plants are located.

About thirty years ago a number of implements, arrow heads and artifacts, were dredged from the river muck about twenty feet below the surface near the mouth of the Christiana River. The find occasioned much interest among archaeologists who were of the opinion that they evidenced former occupation by prehistoric inhabitants. It is now believed, however, that the site did not date back more than a few hundred years, and that the finds were deposits that had been covered by former dredging and filling operations. Most of the relics found are now in the Peabody Museum University, but several are in the hands of local collectors.

INDIANS:

A description of the Indians who inhabited this section, will be found under "State"file.

HISTORY:

For three hundred years the community has been an important one among those located in the Delaware River Valley.

Its early history goes back to the year 1638 when in the latter part of March a Swedish expedition landed at "The Rocks," on the Christiana River near the foot of Sixth Street. A small monument erected in commemoration may be seen on the property of the Wilson Line, Fourth Street and Christiana River.

The expedition consisted of two ships, the "Kalmar Nyckel" and "Griffen," and was under command of Peter Minuit, who from 1626 to 1632 had been governor of New Netherlands, the territory in America claimed by the Dutch. Minuit had fallen into disfavor with the directors of the Dutch West India Company, under whom the post of New Amsterdam(now New York City) had been established and, four years later, had transferred his services to Sweden.

In the early part of the seventeenth century Sweden, under Gustavus Adolphus, had become the foremost nation in Northern Europe. Following his death, Sweden's importance was continued under Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna. Seeking new markets for its copper and noting how Spain, following the discovery of America by Columbus, had enriched its treasury with gold and precious metals from the new lands, and how Holland, then the foremost mercantile nation in Europe, had established trading posts throughout the entire world, Sweden determined to follow the example set by them.

At a point near where they landed, The Swedes built a fort, which they called Christina Skauts, and back of this a small settlement, called Christinahamn. This was located approximately half way between the Seventh and Third Street bridges on the north side of the Christiana where the neck of land between the Brandywine Creek and the Christiana River is narrowest. Marsh lands nearly surrounded it and the waters at front and back gave them protection from wild beasts and Indians should the later prove warlike.

Here the Swedish colonist held religious services, dispensed rude justice, and nearby began tilling the soil, and established ~~so that the first permanent Swedish colonies, and therefore,~~ the first permanent settlement in the Delaware River Valley ~~were begun~~ on the site now covered by the City of Wilmington.

In 1651 the Dutch who from their New Amsterdam colony had looked upon the Swedes as intruders and who had fought them economically, erected a small fort or outpost at Fort Casimir(New Castle). Johan Casson Risingh, a newly arrived then Swedish Governor captured the fort on Trinity Sunday, May 21,1654, ~~which brought upon the Swedes the wrath of the Dutch, who~~ a year later the Dutch recaptured Fort Casimir, and took also Fort Christina, which they named Fort Altena. ~~New Sweden, as a sovereign power in the Delaware valley, disappeared.~~

The control of the community by the Dutch continued until 1664 when it was taken by the English under the Duke of York, and Altena was permitted to go to ruin. In 1673, the Dutch again came in to possession of the land, but under the treaty of Westminster, February 19, 1674, the land was returned

to the English.

Under English rule the inhabitants of all Dutch and Swedish lands were asked to file claims ~~for the lands they occupied~~, ~~submitting proofs of ownership or occupancy~~. Due to ~~hardships and privations~~ many of the ~~former~~ owners ~~of lands in and around Wilmington~~ had moved away and only a few persons ~~made~~ claims of ownership of lands. The territory now embraced in the limits of Wilmington was mostly in five large tracts that came into possession of Johan Anderson Stallcop, Dr. Tyman Stidham, Jacob Vandeveer, Jean Paul Jacquett and Peter ~~Adrik~~ Alrich.

It is related that Stallcop came from Holland as a cook aboard a vessel. ~~He wore a woolen cap, and instead of wiping his greasy hands on a towel or apron, he used the cap which became soiled, greasy and glossy. For this reason the sailors nick-named him Staelkappe, afterwards Stallcop. In the deeds which he executed he signed his name Johan Anderson, and later Johan Anderson Stallcop.~~ His descendants ~~called themselves~~ Stallcop.

Stallcop's land, roughly, covered most of Wilmington south of about Seventh Street, to the Christina river. ~~Dr. Tyman~~ Stidham owned the land north of Seventh Street to the Brandywine Creek, ~~Peter~~ Vandeveer the land north of the Brandywine and the section over the Church Street bridge. Jacquette's land extended south of Market Street bridge, upon which he built his home, "Long Hook," one mile south of the bridge on the duPont Highway. ~~Peter~~ Alrick owned much of the section on the south side of Third Street Bridge.

A portion of Stallcop's land was sold and ~~later~~ came in possession of Charles Pickering, and later in the hands possession of the congregation of Old Swedes Church, who in 1736, appointed Charles Springer trustee. He with Jacob Stilly and Garet Garrison, and their successors, were granted power to "lease and demise for a term of years or forever, in small lots, any part of said church lands."

Another portion of Stallcop's land eventually came into possession of Thomas Willing, who had married Catherine Justis, a daughter of one of the Swedish settlers. Willing ~~decided to lay~~ laid out a town on ~~the~~ land ~~which lay~~ near the foot of Market Street along the Christina River. He called it Willingtown. Here, from Ridley, Pennsylvania, in 1735, came William Shipley, a Quaker, the "Father of Wilmington," who purchased small tracts of land from Willing and others.

A curious and well authenticated story is told of the coming of the Shipleys to Wilmington. While living at Ridley, in 1730, Mrs. Shipley had a dream. In it she was travelling on horseback along a high road, and after a time came to a wild and turbulent stream, which she forded with difficulty, beyond the stream she mounted a long and steep hillside; when she arrived at this summit a view of unsurpassing beauty spread out before her. The hill whereon she stood melted away in the distance into a savannah, treeless and covered with luxuriant grass. On either side ran a stream upon one a wild water-course, upon the other, a snake-like river that wound sluggishly along in the sunlight. Then, for the first time she saw that a guide accompanied her, and she spoke to him.

"Friend, what country is this that thou hast taken me to?"

"Elizabeth Shipley," answered he, "beneath thee lieth a new land and a fruitful one, and it is the design of Divine Providence that thou shouldst enter in thereto, thou and thy people, and ye shall be enriched even unto the seventh generation. Therefore, leave the place where now thou dwellest, and enter into and take possession of this land, even as the children of Israel took possession of the land of Canaan." He finished speaking, and as she turned to look, the guide vanished, and she awoke.

A year passed and Elizabeth Shipley, who was herself a preacher in the Society of Friends, received a Divine call to go and preach at a meeting of the Society of Friends held in the peninsula that lies between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. After a journey of sixteen or eighteen miles over the old King's Highway, she came to a roaring stream that cut through tree-covered highlands, and came raging and rushing down over great rocks and boulders. As she hesitated on the bank before entering the rough-looking ford, marked at each end by a sapling pole to which a red flag was fastened, the whole scene seemed strangely familiar to her. After she had crossed the stream she began ascending a hill up which the highway led. At the top of the hill she came to a clearing in the forst where an old Swede had built a hut and begun to till the soil. Here the woods unfolded like a curtain and beneath her she saw the

hill melt away into level meadows that spread far to a great river sparkling in the sunlight away in the distance. Upon one hand ran a sluggish river curving through the meadows; on the other the brawling stream she had just crossed. She sat in silence looking at the scene, while the little barefoot Swedish children gathered at the door of the hut, looking with blue-eyed wonder at the stranger; then clasping her hands she cried aloud," Behold, it is the land of my vision, and here will I pitch my tent,"

With the coming of the Shipleys began the growth of ~~Wilmington~~ the community. Their influence brought other Quakers to ~~the community~~, who purchased land, erected dwellings and small factories, ~~establishing~~ a Meeting House, and entered generally into the social and economic life of the town. Here for the first time ~~we read of~~ is noted such well known personalities as David Ferris, Joshua Way, Thomas West, Edward Tatnall, Joseph Mendenhall, Samuel Pennock, Thomas Hollingsworth, Robert Read, and others which stand out in the history of Wilmington and Delaware.

Shortly after his arrival, William Shipley erected ~~at his own expense~~ a market house in the bed of Fourth Street near Market. This was an economic advantage to those living in that vicinity, but which met with the disapproval of those who had planned to have the market house erected at Second and Market Streets. The resultant controversy which lasted for four years ~~finally~~ led to a request on the part of the inhabitants for a Borough Charter and a change of name for the community. The petition was granted by the Governor of

Pennsylvania, November 16,1739 which gave the inhabitants permission to erect another market house at Second Street, and provided that the market days should be decided by vote, A compromise evidently was affected, as it was determined to have two market days, one to be held on Wednesdays and the other on Saturdays. That custom so early begun continues to this day.

The Governor gave the name of the Borough of Wilmington, in honor of Sir Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, through whose patronage the ~~governor~~ was indebted for his position.

The charter also permitted the election of a chief burgess and burgesses. The first chief burgess ~~to be elected~~ was William Shipley, who received sixty-one votes. ~~It is estimated that at the time~~ The borough contained about 120 families, or approximately 600 inhabitants. Five years before the number of families ~~did~~ had not exceed more than thirty.

The charter, granted the burgesses authority to "arrest and punish rioters and other disorderly persons breaking the peace,", and the first ordinance passed provided for the purchase of land, erection of stocks, a whipping post and cage, ~~in which to committ offenders~~. The cage or jail house was erected on the northwest side of Market Street a few doors above Third Street. In front of the "cage," at the outer edge of the pavement, stood the stocks, "in which was often seen some unlucky vagabond, who thus paid the penalty of his transgressions." The penalty consisted

not only of public exposure, and the cramped position of ~~his~~ legs and arms, but also in the gratuitous infliction of divers punishments, i.e. not mentioned in the statue. They were inflicted by the rude spectators of his confinement, of their own mere motion and desire to aggravate the miseries of the culprit. He was often covered with the contents of rotten eggs and other offensive materials, designed to cause him to keep out of the fangs of a law which exposed him to such odious infliction. In addition to such punishments he was sometimes "drummed out of town."

In defense of the community it is only just to remark that the rivers and creeks nearby provided excellent spots upon which pirates and smugglers could land their cargoes without coming in contact with or paying the duties imposed by the authorities at Philadelphia.

Several inns and taverns provided places at which the sailors could quench their thirst, and drunkeness and disorder often led to arrest and punishment. ~~There is little or no record of residents having been confined to the stocks.~~

In the year 1740 William Shipley, David Ferris, Joshua Way, Griffith Minshall and others built the first vessel for foreign trade that ever belonged to this port. It was a brig and named "The Wilmington."

Religion was of prime importance to the inhabitants of the village. The Swedes early had erected a church at Crane Hook, near the present Marine Terminal, which had been replaced by the Old Swedes Church at Seventh and Church Streets.

in 1698.

The Quakers had held their meetings in the home of William Shipley, ~~but had~~ and in 1738 they erected their first meeting house at Fourth and West Streets. Two years later the First Presbyterian Church was built near what is now Tenth and Market Streets on a site now occupied by the Wilmington Institute Free Library. The community gradually increased in size and importance, but being off the beaten track, away from the main arteries of travel, there was little except the waterways to attract new settlers, and for a century the community had a very slow growth.

Despite its size, however, the descendants of the Quakers, Scotch Irish and Swedish were thrifty, industrious and zealous for the public welfare. The practice of baking bread and offering it for sale was an early one and some of the bakers evidently were guilty of profiteering. In order to protect the citizens against exhorbitant charges and short weights, in 1744, an ordinance was passed regulating the size of the loaves of bread and the price to be paid for it. This ordinance might prove rather naive to the individualistic-minded twentieth century economist, as it prohibited price raising, but took care of the baker by permitting him to increase or decrease the size of the loaf depending upon the price of wheat.

~~The bread was separated into three classes;~~ Three kind of bread were sold: white, wheaten and household. The price of each was a penny a loaf. With wheat selling at three shillings the bushel, the white bread must contain eleven ounces; the wheaten bread 17 ounces,

and the household bread 25. 4 dwt. ounces When wheat increased in price to six shillings, six pence, per bushel the size of the loaf decreased to 5.5 dwt ounces for white bread, 9.15 dwt ounces for wheaten and 13.3 dwt ounces for household bread.

~~The loaves were computed in~~ troy weight. For those who were in the habit of using avoirdupois, the law specified the size of loaves in that measure also, hence the reference to pennyweights in the avoirdupois measurements.

A circulating library was established ~~in~~ 1754. In the local library is a receipt presented by Miss Matilda Ferris, descendant of the original Ferris family who located in Wilmington in its earliest days showing that Joseph Tatnall had made a payment for dues, it being "the 9th Annual Payment," and is dated November 12, 1763. Signed by Benjaming Ferris, it was stamped with the seal of the library bearing the inscription "Wilmington Library, 1754.

Matthew Crips started a pottery in 1760 making cups and saucers and sold them in Delaware and nearby colonies.

2.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

The inhabitants of the village ~~were very much excited regarding~~ viewed the with mixed feelings the Revolutionary War. The Quakers, as was natural, opposed it, but others enthusiastically joined the ranks of the army and navy along with other Delawareans. Dr. John McKinley, the first President of Delaware was appointed a Brigadier General. Gunning Bedford was a Lieutenant Colonel, and James Tilton was appointed a surgeon, later becoming Surgeon General of the Continental Army.

The first naval engagement of the war was fought off the mouth of the Christina River. Two English frigates, the "Roebuck," and the "Liverpool," engaged in battle with the Continental Navy under Captain Houston, a Philadelphian, which consisted of a number of long boats or row galleys. The fight continued May 8th., 9th., and 10th., 1776, when the English frigates retreated down the River.

When Lord Howe decided to attack Philadelphia, having disembarked at the head of Chesapeake Bay, Washington started south. He halted for a short time in Wilmington and encamped on the high ground in the western part of the city. He made his headquarters at the "Happy Return," on Market Street near Third. After the battle of the Brandywine, in which the Continental forces were defeated, the British sent a detachment of troops to Wilmington, September 13,1777.

The leading Whigs and patriots of the town, who were pointed out by the local Tories, were made prisoners, among those taken being Dr. John McKinley. The British made their headquarters in the old Abijah Dawes home, Market Street above Sixth, and some of the soldiers were quartered in the Old Swedes Church.

In 1739 the population of the community was 610. At the opening of the Revolutionary War it had increased to 1172 whites and 57 colored. ~~In 1790~~ The census figures of 1790 showed a population of 2335. ~~In 1791~~ An insurrection of negroes in SanDomingo, 1791, drove hundreds of the French families from the island to the United States, a number of them settling in Wilmington. The population was further increased in 1793 when refugees fleeing from the yellow fever plague in Philadelphia ~~bought~~ found homes in Wilmington. In 1795 and 1796 and again in 1798 Philadelphia ~~again suffered from~~ had a recurrence of the disease and some of the refugees coming to Wilmington brought it with them, which occasioned great suffering and many deaths among the inhabitants.

In 1798 a ~~new~~ city hall was erected on Market Street between Fifth and Sixth, which is still standing. In 1809 the boundaries of the city were extended by legislative enactment to include the land lying between the Christiana River and the Brandywine Creek, and extending out the Brandywine to the Old Ford which crossed at Adams Street.

The western boundary followed the Old King's Highway which crossed the city in a southwesterly direction from Adams Street to Lancaster Avenue near Broom.

In 1800 the population was 3,241-;In 1810 the ~~population of the community~~ it was 4,416; in 1820,-5,268 in 1830, 6,628 and in 1840, 8,452. ~~The community~~ it was now an incorporated city,having received a charter in 1832. Railroads had come into existence and Wilmington was an important depot. Steamboats were competing with sail.

~~Realising the danger of fire,~~ The Friendship Fire Company had been instituted in 1775, and they perhaps were responsible for the passing of an ordinance to prevent chimney fires dated September 7,1793. The ordinance provided that if a chimney caught fire within thirty days after being swept, the sweeper was to pay one dollar to the Friendship Fire Company.

"And be it further enacted and ordained that no person shall exercise the business of a chimney sweeper, until he shall be approved, and be licensed by the aforesaid fire company, nor shall any such sweep charge more than thirteen cents for sweeping a two-story chimney, nor more than nineteen cents for sweeping a three-story chimney."

On October 1,1809 an ordinance was enacted providing a fine of fifty cents for each swine running loose in the Borough of Wilmington, and on April 8, 1822, it was provided that "swine must be ringed and yoked if at large in Borough,". Seventy Five cents was the fine if the swine weighed more than fifty pounds, and twenty-five cents if under that weight. Swine not ringed and yoked were to be taken into custody, after which the bellman should "ring the bell and announce the sale."

After three hours should the owner fail to appear the swine were to be sold ~~under an~~ this was dated ordinance of May 3,1824.

In the year 1845, the growth of the city having materially increased "more than three hundred houses having been built during the past few years," a special census was taken by the city authorities, which showed that the ~~community had grown~~ population was to 10,639, of which 1,815 were colored. It was an important shipping point and boasted of 2,500 tons of shipping. The principal article of export was flour, although cotton, wool, paper, iron castings and powder were manufactured and shipped. Within ten miles of the city were at least 100 important manufacturing establishments ~~rendering~~ marking it "the largest manufacturing district on the Atlantic seaboard south of Philadelphia."

From this time on Wilmington was to become an important manufacturing community, and the products of its factories and iron mills were to be found in every part of the United States as well as foreign countries.

"There were four printing offices, publishing four newspapers, three semi-weekly and one weekly. A new rolling mill had recently been established as well as an extensive paper mill and the building of iron vessels had been successfully prosecuted by an enterprising firm. The old paper mills on the Brandywine were about to be revived as cotton mills," said a local historian.

There were seven volunteer fire companies. Sixteen hotels, one a "temperance hotel," catered to the travellers and the general public. The Railroad Hotel(opposite the depot) informed all and sundry that "meals will be provided for their accommodation on the arrival of each train of cars." The Indian King Hotel, on Market Street between Front and Second, advertised that "stages leave daily except Sunday, for New Castle, St. Georges, Cantwell's Bridge, Smyrna, Dover, Milford and Georgetown." The Lafayette Hotel, formerly the old Black Bear, was located on Ninth and Shipley Streets, where the old post office now stands.

Sixteen churches ~~took care of~~ provided for the religious needs of the community; three Methodist, two Friends, three Protestant Episcopal; two Baptist; two Presbyterian, one Catholic and three colored.

Thirteen physicians had established themselves in the city, of whom two were homeopathic, and one botanic, and there were, in addition, three "cuppers and leachers," of whom two were women. There were eleven lawyers, two judges, The Honorable Willard Hall, U. S. District Judge, and Honorable John J. Milligan, Associate.

David C. Wilson was Mayor, Wm. C. Whitely, Alderman and George Buzine, High constable. There were four city constables.

The city contained five wards, and three councilmen from each ward were elected.

The Board of Health consisted of twelve members in addition to Dr. Lewis P. Bush, Port Physician, and T. Booth Roberts, Secretary of the Board.

The Custom House was located on Water Street between Market and King. The Postoffice was on Third Street between Market and Shipley and the U.S.Arsenal on Pasture (Washington) Street between Eighth and Ninth.

Of interest are the occupations of the inhabitants. In addition to those of today, we find that a century ago employees earned their living by being employed as

Iron founders, potters, cordwinders, (there were a number of these) melters, watermen, coopers, chair painters, millers, pilots, victuallers, tinman, basket-makers, tanners, cotton spinners, carpet weavers, toll keepers, carters, turners, coach trimmers, bellmen, express riders, drovers, mantuamakers, saddlers, whitewasher and chimney sweep.

Abraham Alderdice was listed as a wire weaver, fan factory, flour store, Front and Orange Streets.

L. S. deBobary, historical portrait painter and engraver, Seventh Street between Lombard and Pine.

Stephen Boddy, Justice of the Peace and Saddler, King and Fourth Streets.

Here we read for the first time in Delaware history of "Patent Medicine," as dispensed by Dr. Simms, Botanic Doctor, no charge for office advice, and John Yphs, Boot manufacturer, advertised "Terms liberal", Was he the forerunner of the "Easy Payment Plan," which increased the purchasing power of the American public by billions of dollars in the years prior to 1929? ~~The manner of numbering houses from 1 up to 230, covering a city block~~

~~Readers may note the numbers of the houses on the foregoing list. This~~ old method of locating the places of business and residence continued until March 24, 1859, although on December 31, 1835, by city ordinance the names of the streets had been changed.

Under the ordinance,

High Street was changed to Fourth

Queen Street to Fifth Street.

Hanover to Sixth Street,

Broad to Seventh Street,

Kent to Eighth,Street.

Wood to Ninth Street,

Chestnut to Tenth Street,

Elizabeth to Eleventh Street.

Dickinson to Twelfth Street.

Franklin to Thirteenth Street.

Washington to Fourteenth Street.

Stidham to Fifteenth Street.

March 12,1846 Pasture Street was changed to Washington Street.

July 24,1862 Mill Street was changed to Sixteenth; Franklin Street between Front and Second Streets and between Jefferson and Madison Streets was changed to Christiana Street.

January 18,1866, Marsh Road running from the Wilmington-Philadelphia turnpike to Shellpot Dam was changed to Vandever Avenue

The numbers on Market Street run as follows:-

Water to Front,	1 to 12 inclusive,
Front to Second	13 to 36 "
Third to High	37 to 64 "
Fourth to Queen	85 to 110 "
Fifth to Hanover	112 to 128 "
Sixth to Broad	129 to 158 "
Seventh to Kent	159 to 185 "
Eighth to Wood	191 to 214
Ninth to Tenth	215 to 230

230 is the highest number listed in the 1814 directory.

This was called the decimal or block system.

File Wil-250

Location - Wilmington, Delaware

Submitted by - Franklin Pote

Date - March 17, 1936

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

"The portion of the city most distinctly marked by the old homes of the manufacturers and builders of ships and houses is where the Swedish village of Christinehamn and the village of Willingstown lapped over and encroached upon each other. The Swedish village had crept around the creek banks from Old Swedes Church to Walnut and French Streets, and the English village had grown toward it, until they met and united at the streets named. The only Swedish houses of consequence remaining are several high-stooped brick edifices on the west side of Walnut Street near Second. This colony of houses extends from French Street east to Pine, and between Front and Fifth Streets; the better part of them, or those which were considered the fine houses of the town up to 1850, are between Poplar and Walnut Streets and Front and Fifth Streets. These were the homes of the shipbuilders, carpenters and ironworkers. From this section of the city, in which stands Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, the city grew west and north, with Market Street as a central thoroughfare, from creek to creek, as the exponent of the mercantile growth of the city. Coming toward the city, the millers of Brandywine village built the commodious old-fashioned houses along Market Street from Twelfth Street to the Brandywine Bridge. In front of these houses, and under the trees, was the famous Brandywine

walk. Here were the homes of the exclusively fashionable folks of the town. How strong and lasting were the influences created in this part of the city is shown by some pretentious modern dwellings erected on the edge of the charmed sistrict after the city had started westeward, by men who had in early life looked upon that chosen location as the home of the best and most favored people."

Reference:

Compiled by "Every Evening" - History of Wilmington. Press of Moss Engraving Company, New York, 1894. 276 pp.

Wilmington

Contemporary Scene.

Streets & Avenues.

The streets of Wilmington are laid out on the gridiron plan, numbered streets running from east to west and named streets running from north to south. Streets that run diagonally are the avenues, which in most cases are much wider than the other thoroughfares.

The first few streets running North to South, west of Market Street, were named for prominent families that settled in the vicinity during the city's early years. Examples are: Shipley, Tatnall and West Streets. Continuing west, the streets were named for the ex-presidents of the United States until Harrison, after which no general plan is used.

East of Market, the streets running parallel are named in honor of the King,(King Street, French Street, for a number of French settlers that lived along this street, and for various species of trees: Walnut, Poplar, Lombard, etc.

Market Street, the main artery, runs North to South, through the entire city. It is straight except for curves at Fourteenth Street and at its southern extremity where it joins the causeway.

Baynard Boulevard begins at Washington Street Bridge and runs northwest diagonally across Concord Avenue to the city line.

Concord Avenue begins at Twenty-first and Market Streets and contrary to public opinion runs due north across Baynard Boulevard into the West Chester-Philadelphia highway.

North East Wilmington has two streets that deviate from the block system, Vandever Avenue and North East Boulevard.

The former begins at Twenty-first Street and continues east across North East Boulevard to the city line.

Hammond- Horner.
Feb.12, 1937.

Wilmington
Contemporary Scene

Street & Avenues.

North East Boulevard begins outside of the city limits and runs through the South East section of the city, in order, as Heald Street, New Castle Avenue, Third Street and Church Street across Vandever Avenue and continues in northeastern direction toward Chester and Philadelphia.

The southwestern section of the city has three avenues that run diagonally. The most important of these, Delaware Avenue, begins at Tenth Street near Tatnall and runs in a northwestern direction to the city line.

Pennsylvania Avenue starts at Delaware Avenue and Van Buren Streets, and runs west into the Kennett Pike.

Mayland Avenue opens from Front and Monroe Streets and continues southeast through Richardson Park, Newport toward Newark.

Lancaster Avenue is a continuation of the Lancaster turnpike and ends at Front and Madison Streets, where it becomes Front Street. Lancaster Avenue is the single exception of Avenues running crosswise the city as its course is parallel to the numerical streets of the section of the city in which it lies.

Source:

Police Department - Ellen Samworth

Personal Observation.

Submitted and rewritten by: J. Sweeney File No. 622

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLDG.
now COLONIAL DAMES' HOUSE,
Brandywine Park SE. of the
junction of the park drive
and West Street.

(Not open)

This building consists of walls of brick, with red sides and dark vitrified ends, laid in the Flemish bond style.* It was formerly located on the east side of Market Street just south of Tenth Street, where it was built in 1740, when the Presbyterian Church desired to erect its first house of worship in Wilmington. In 1840 the original building was not large enough for the congregation, so it was used as a parochial school w hen a new church was erected slightly farther south on the same lot. The Delaware Historical Society made the original building their headquarters in 1878, and used it as such until 1912 or 1914. In 1919 a committee of the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the American Revolution had it removed to its present site, and it is now called "The Colonial Dames' House." Besides being one of the oldest buildings in Wilmington, it still is in practically the same condition as it was when first built almost 200 years ago.

* Weston Blake, architect

File No. 622

LOCATION: Wilmington and vicinity.

Boro

(1e in Pts. of Interest)

Submitted and rewritten by: J.Sweeney.

Date: April 28, 1936.

POINTS OF INTEREST: Historic houses, not open to the public.

BISHOPSTEAD MANSION, formerly "INGLESIDE."
off S. side of W. Fourteenth Street at
Orange Street.
~~(Not open) to the public~~ Private Residence

The original form of this dwelling was built in 1742 by Oliver Canby, who obtained possession of the old Timothy Stidham mill and carried on an extensive flour milling business. (The Stidham mill stood on the south side of the Old King's Road, now Adams Street and was the first mill on the creek west of Market Street) After Oliver's death, his son, Samuel, lived at "Ingleside" until 1800, when he moved to his new home at the NW. corner of Fourteenth and Market Streets. In 1841 the property was sold to the Right Rev. Alfred Lee, DD. LL.D., first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Delaware. Bishop Lee remodeled and ~~modernized~~ enlarged the stone masonry residence, and it was purchased in 1887 by the diocese of his church. It has since been the residence of the Protestant Episcopal Bishops of Delaware, hence the name "Bishopstead." The quaint little private chapel of red brick which adjoins the mansion was erected in 1890.

K.A. Horner.
November 1, 1936.

Points of Interest.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMINGTON

"The committee for the fund met, and overtured, that pursuant to the supplication of the undertakers of the meeting-house at Wilmington, viz: Captain Chambers and Captain Hutchinson, representing the difficulties that attend defraying the charges of that meeting-house, the sum of ten pounds to be given out of the fund for the aforesaid use, and that the Synod lend to said use upon sufficient security, the sum of thirty pounds, if said sum can be had next fall, free from interest for three years, and that the same to be repaid at ten pounds a year. And in case no money come into the Synod's fund, that the Synod agree to pay the interest of fifty pounds for five years if required.

Presbyterian Church Records
"Minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia" June 2, 1741 Page #159.

Synod met in Philadelphia, May 27, 1741.

LOCATION - Wilmington.

Submitted by - Gordon Butler.
Date - March 3, 1936.

St. Andrews Cemetery.

St. Andrews (Protestant Episcopal Church) Cemetery established in 1829. The burial ground is a very small one which has only a few old tombstones to indentify the graves. It is located on Shipley Street on the South side of the church which is on the corner of Shipley and Eighth Streets.

Among those interred here is Dr. John Lofland. He was a poet, and writer on several newspapers. In 1847 he was associate editor of the "Blue Hens Chicken" and wrote a great many stories and sketches for that paper under the pen name of the "Milford Bard". He was born in 1798; and died at Wilmington January 21, 1849. The Milford Bard was perhaps Delaware's greatest poet. His poems and stories were collected in several additions and is now a collectors item.

Bibliography
Generalogical History of Del.
Conrad - History of the State of Delaware
Personal investigation.

THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

The FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, Fourth and West Streets, is one of the most picturesque buildings in the city.

The Quakers first settled Wilmington in 1736 and immediately after set up their first place of worship. The first meeting house was erected on the site of the present Wilmington Friends School and the meeting house now in use was built in 1817.

The building reflects the character of the early Quakers who erected the building. It is plain with four stone walls of brick and cedar. The interior of the church is likewise plain in all respects with plain oak benches and undecorated walls and ceilings.

Adjoining the church is the graveyard in which is buried some of the important personages of the early days of the city. Here may be found the tombstone of John Dickinson, one of the most famous men of the Revolutionary War period and a Wilmingtonian. His grave is marked by the letters J. D.

File No. 622

Submitted and rewritten by: J. Sweeney

FRIENDS' MEETING
off W. side of
West Street be-
tween W. Fourth
and W. Fifth
Streets.
Open for Services only

The Friends' Meeting was erected in 1817 to replace another meeting-house that had stood on the same site since 1748, when the original meeting-house directly opposite across West Street was converted into the Friends' School after ten years of existence. It is built of red brick with a ridge roof, and it is typical of the meeting-houses of this locality. Its interior is especially interesting, having vertical sliding partitions to permit separate worship for men and women. * Regular services are held in the meeting-house on Sundays at 11.00 A.M. and its interior may be examined on such occasions. On other days it may be entered by appointment with the secretary of the Friends' School, during school hours.

* Weston Blake, architect

WILMINGTON - - Location

File W-601

Submitted by Edward C. Rotter,

Date May 11,1936.

GRACE M. E. CHURCH

Ninth & West Streets.

One of the finest and handsomest religious edifices in Wilmington is Grace M. E. Church, at Ninth and West Streets. It is of English decorative Gothic type, imposing on the exterior, with an interior that is harmonious as to coloring and restful to the eye. The walls are of serpentine stone from quarries near Chadd's Ford. The base courses are of brown stone and the dressings of Nova Scotia drab stone.

A main tower, with belfry and spire, is on the south,or Ninth Street,side of the church in an angle formed by the edifice and the chapel, and is 186 feet high to the top of the spire. The smaller spire,at the northeast corner of the building, is about 120 feet in height. Since the dedication of the church in 1868 various improvements have been made from time to time. The chapel is two stories high and is well equipped for Sunday School and other uses.

The main entrance to the church is by three wide doors. A gallery is in the east end, over the entrance. The auditorium is 63 by 92 feet between walls. The pews are of fine carved dark walnut, with solid backs; they are comfortable,with ample space for kneeling. Eight arches, starting on the upper part of the walls, run across the ceiling and are finished in walnut hue to match the woodwork of the pews.

Between each arch, on the ceiling, are three rows of panels, each panel in old ivory hue and surrounded by a small brown border. The chancel arch is decorated with clustered columns finished in gold and with rich foliated caps. The color scheme of brown and old ivory also is used in the vestibule of the church. The side walls are finished in iridescent autumn shades, deep gold to orange. The seating capacity is about 1,000.

The original organ contained 2,056 musical pipes. In 1916 it was rebuilt and enlarged, combining five complete organs, swell, choir, great, echo and pedal. The instrument contains 53 full scales of pipes, the largest pipe having 32 cubic feet of vibrating capacity.

In 1913 and 1914 twenty-one memorial windows were placed in the church and in 1915, the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of Grace, the women of the congregation presented a mosaic pavement, which was laid in the vestibule.

The belfry contains a chime set, of 16 bells, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Melville Gambrill. The total weight of the bells and mountings is about 25,000 pounds. They were dedicated in 1920. Their operation is controlled from the organ console. In the early part of 1924 a stained glass window, presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Gambrill, was installed in the recess behind the pulpit. The scene portrayed by the window is entitled "Come unto Me."

It contains more than 18,000 pieces of glass and weighs approximately 4,200 pounds. About the same time, also through the generosity of the Cambrills, decorations and improvements were made to the auditorium.

Grace Church was organized by members of St. Paul's M. E. Church, who felt there was need at the time for further church and Sunday School accommodation. The first meeting in relation to the formation of the new congregation was held November 17, 1864, and the legal organization was perfected January 27, 1865.

The lot at Ninth and West Streets, then on the outskirts of the city, was purchased. Ground for the church and chapel was broken April 27, 1865. Dedication of the new church took place January 23, 1868. Final completed cost, including price paid for the lot, was $801,216.

Muriel B. Hull
May 18, 1937
Aug. 16, 1937

~~Washington Square~~

not on Delft list

72. CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (SWEDENBORGIAN), Pennsylvania Ave. and Broom St., was organized in 1857, and the first church dedicated in 1858. This building of severe Gothic design erected on the corner of Delaware Avenue and Washington Streets, was constructed of Brandywine blue granite. In 1917, it became necessary to remove the church because of the widening of Delaware Avenue. The stone of the old building was utilized in building the new and larger edifice. The same architectural design, Gothic of the Middle Period, has been followed.

Wm. H. Conner
May 24, 1937
Revised Aug. 16, 1937

R grave

55

~~54~~ ~~55.~~ ST. ANDREW'S P. E. CHURCH, SW. corner, Eighth and Shipley Sts., a two-story building (the ground floor four feet below the Shipley Street level) of local stone later stuccoed and lined off to appear as large blocks, is noteworthy for its tiny churchyard, the only burial spot remaining in the central business section. Here the remains of Dr. John Lofland (1798-1849), better known as "The Milford Bard", Delaware's chief poet, (see p.), lie in a forgotten and unmarked grave. Lofland was buried a few feet away from the grave of his sister, Mrs. Corry Chambers, but the exact location is unknown. The inscription on Mrs. Chambers' tombstone has been obliterated by time, but the white marble slab is identified as hers through a church record book. St. Andrew's Church was built in 1829, but was totally destroyed by fire January 25, 1840. A new church built on the site was dedicated in October of the same year. This is the present building except in so far as it has been enlarged and remodeled. Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware (1841-1887), in addition to his episcopal duties, served as Rector of St. Andrew's from 1845 to 1887, the year of his death.

Burton
Re-written by Sweeney

FRIENDS' CEMTERY
Between W. Fourth,
W. Fifth, West and
Washington Streets.

This cemetery, an old Quaker burial ground, is one of the oldest in the city. The first permits for interment date from 1824, but the grounds were used long before permits became necessary. More than 3,000 interments are known to have been made in this cemetery, and it has been little used since 1900. Many noted Quakers or Friends were buried therein. The grave of John Dickinson,(1732-1808) is at the SW corner. Near it may be seen a commemorative bronze tablet, placed by the Historic Markers Commission of Del., which reads: "John Dickinson." Nearby is the grave of John Dickinson, Lawyer, Scholar, and Statesman. Member Colonial Assemblies of Delaware and Pennsylvania and Legislative Council of Delaware State. Delegate from Pennsylvania to Stamp Act Congress. Representative in Continental Congress from Pennsylvania and Delaware, and President of both States. Signer for Delaware of Articles of Confederation. Member from Delaware and Chairman Annapolis Convention. Delaware Delegate to Federal Constitutional Convention, and Framer and Signer of Constitution. Judge Delaware Court of Appeals. President Second Delaware Constitutional Convention. Rendered military service in Revolution. Author of "Famous Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania'. A founder of Dickinson College. Lived in Kent County and at Eight and Market Streets, Wilmington." Other noted citizens buried here include: Samuel Canby (1751-1832), a miller on the Brandywine who was considered the richest man in Wilmington at the time of his death;

Joseph Canby (1795-1867), also engaged in the milling business on the Brandywine; and Thomas Garret (1789-1871) a noted Quaker abolitionist and leader in the "underground railroad" slave movement of Civil War days. When Garret died the local Negro leaders drew the hearse bearing his body to the grave, as a sign of appreciation of his valiant service to their enslaved people. A peculiarity of the Friends' Cemetery is the absence of large tombstones; none is more than eight inches higher than the ground in which many have almost completely sunk. A number of large maple and oak trees together with an old elm and a Japanese ginkgo tree gives the cemetery a peaceful appearance. A large oak continues to grow over the grave of Thomas Garret where it was planted shortly after his burial. The cemetery may be entered on West Street halfway between W.Fourth and W. Fifth Streets, and between the Friends' School and Meeting. The entrance is always open.

Pt. of Interest
239

File No. 622

(11)

LOCATION - Wilmington and vicinity

Submitted by- Jerry Sweeney

Rewritten by- Jerry Sweeney

Date - April 28, 1936.

BISHOPSTEAD MANSION, formerly " INGLESIDE"
off S. side of W. Fourteenth Street at
Orange Street.
Private Residence

The original form of this dwelling was built in 1742 by Oliver Canby, who obtained possession of the old Timothy Stidham mill and carried on an extensive flour milling business. (The Stidham mill stood on the south s ide of the Old King's Road, now Adams Street and was the first mill on the creek west of Market Street.) After Oliver's death, his son, Samuel, lived at "Ingleside" until 1800, when he moved to his new home at the NW. corner of Fourteenth and Market Streets. In 1841 the property was sold to the Right Rev. Alfred Lee, DD. LL. D., first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Delaware. Bishop Lee remodeled and enlarged the stone masonry residence, and it was purchased in 1887 by the diocese of his church. It has since been the residence of the Protestant Episcopal Bishops of Delaware, hence the name "Bishopstead." The quaint little private chapel of red brick which adjoins the mansion was erected in 1890.

Inside: Historical Dates 1638-1930

HOLY TRINITY (OLD SWEDES) CHURCH
Wilmington, Delaware

Consecrated Trinity Sunday, 1699

The First Church in the First City of the First State
Delaware

Historical Sketch

1638 Arrival of the first Swedish Colony in America on the Western bank of the Delaware River, landing at the Rocks in the Christiana River. Regular services instituted in Fort Christina. The burial ground for the fort being part of the present church yard.

1655 Fort Christina besieged by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant, one of his batteries of three guns being placed on site of present church.

1667 Building of the wooden Church at Cranehook, near the mouth of the Christiana River.

1698 May 28. Laying of the cornerstone of the present Church building.

1699 June 4. Trinity Sunday. Consecration of the Church. The Church, when completed, consisted of the four walls and roof, without porches, gallery or tower. The west-end gable was like the present east-end.

1750 (about). Erection of the south porch and the two additions on the north to prevent further spreading of the side walls.

1774 Erection of the gallery with outside stairs thereto.

1777 Two companies of British soldiers quartered in Church.

1802 Erection of the tower and belfry.

1830 Services discontinued, the congregation having built a church at N. E. Corner of Fifth and King streets.

1842 Church repaired and reopened for worship, pews removed, except in the gallery, wooden floor laid.

1899 Renovation, Restoration and Bi-Centennial Celebration. Belfry rebuilt and new roof put on. Staircase to gallery, pews in accord with original design and arrangement, and brick aisles, restored. Pulpit replaced to its first position, and new marble Altar erected, enclosing the original one.

1916 Presentation of $50,000 as an addition to the Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church Permanent Fund.

1924 June 15, Trinity Sunday, celebration 225th anniversary.

1927 Gift of a vicarage by the late William duPont.

1930 New lights, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Thompson.

Historic Houses not open to the public:

The Old Presbyterian Church Bldg. (now or Colonial Dames' House) is located in Brandywine Park SE. of the intersection of the park drive and West Street. This building consists of walls of brick, with red sides and dark vitrified ends, laid in the Flemish bond style. Built of red brick with a gambrel roof, it was formerly located on the east side of Market Street just south of Tenth Street, where it was built in 1740 when the Presbyterian Church desired to erect its first house of worship in Wilmington. In 1840 the original building was not large enough for the congregation so it was used as a parochial school when a new church was erected slightly farther south on the same lot. The Delaware Historical Society made the first building their headquarters in 1878 and used it as such until 1912 or 1914. In 1919 a committee of the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the American Revolution had it removed to its present site where it is preserved as a historic house by the Colonial Dames.

The Bishopstead Mansion, formerly "Ingleside," is situated on the south side of W. Fourteenth Street at Orange Street. It was first built in 1742 by Oliver Canby, who obtained possession of the old Timothy Stidham mill and carried on an extensive flour milling business. The Stidham mill stood on the south side of Brandywine Creek at the Old King's Road, now Adams

(brick with red ends and black vitrified ends laid in the Flemish bond method, and a gambrel roof)

Street, and it was the first mill on the creek west of Market Street. After Oliver Canby's death, his son, Samuel, lived at Ingleside until 1800, when he moved to his new home at the NW. corner of Fourteenth and Market Streets. In 1841, Ingleside was sold to the Right Rev. Alfred Lee, DD. LL.D., first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Delaware. Bishop Lee remodeled and modernized the stone masonry house, and it was purchased in 1887 by the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. It has since been the residence of the bishops of that church, hence the name Bishop-stead. The quaint little private chapel of red brick which adjoins the mansion was erected in 1890.

The Latimer House, 1700 Maryland Avenue, is the stately mansion of stone masonry situated off the south side of the Newport Pike about 1/2 mile from the city line. It was first built ~~about 1800~~, by William Warner, a member of one of Wilmington's oldest families. From him it passed through the ownership of Robert Andrews and his heirs to John R. Latimer, who had sufficient wealth to make the estate a place of enviable beauty. The latter's father, Dr. Henry Latimer, was a skillful physician who practiced in Wilmington and served as a surgeon in the War of the Revolution. Afterwards he served successively was U.S. Rep. and U.S. Senator from Delaware. James Latimer, John R. Latimer's grandfather and Dr. Latimer's father, came to America

and settled at Newport in 1736. He became one of the leading men in Delaware and largely through his influence Newport for a time rivaled Wilmington in shipping and trade. When John R. Latimer died his brother Henry inherited the Latimer House in which he in turn died in 1885. The house and grounds are now under the supervision of a caretaker employed by a descendant relative of the Latimer family.

The Hilton House, 805 N. Broom Street, stands on a site which was occupied by Bancroft Woodcock, a silversmith, as early as 1765. In 1789 it was considered by a committee of Congress as a site for the nation's capital. Then it was called "Federal Hill," "Capital Hill," and sometimes "Bellevue." In 1792 the estate was acquired by Dr. James Tilton who was a surgeon in the Continental Army, and became Surgeon Gen. of the American Army in the War of 1812. He built the original form of the present house with local granite, in 1802. In 1852 Charles W. Howland became owner of the Tilton House and, in 1856, made extensive alterations which included the adding of a tower, porches, and porte-cochere. He also changed its name to Hilton. The property was later successively owned by J. Danforth Bush and Francis V. duPont who improved it to its present condition. Mr. duPont leased the Hilton House to the Univ. Club of Wilmington in 1935.

The Joseph Tatnall House, 1803 Market Street, was built in 1770 by Joseph Tatnall who founded the Tatnall flour mills on the Brandywine and supplied flour to the Continental Army when other millers ceased operations to prevent at least their mills be destroyed by the British. This venerable old stone masonry house was used as Anthony Wayne's headquarters in 1777. Generals Washington, Lafayette, Wayne, and other officers held conferences there before the Battle of Brandywine. After the Battle of Chadd's Ford the house was occupied by the British. Shortly after being elected President, Washington passed through Wilmington. He stopped at Joseph Tatnall's house to thank him for his patriotic services and not finding him there he walked down to the mills to see him.

The Delaware Academy of Medicine Bldg., situated off the north side of Lovering Ave. just east of where it is intersected by Union Street, is the reconstructed Delaware Bank Bldg. of Greek Revival architecture which was built in 1816 at Sixth and Market Streets, and moved to its present location in 1931. The Delaware Bank, the first in the State, was incorporated in 1795. Joseph Tatnall was its first president and director. Before the building at Sixth and Market Streets was built, the bank was housed at the NW. corner of Fourth and Market Streets.

The Brandywine Academy Bldg., 5 Vandever Ave., was built in 1798. The Brandywine Academy, which first used this building, was founded in the same year*, and incorporated in 1815. In 1830 it was incorporated a second time under the title "English and Classical Academy." The building now houses the Brandywine Branch of the Wilmington Institute Free Library - which is open from ~~_:00 A.M. to _:00~~ 3 to 9 P.M. daily

* A stone which apparently was built into the building states that it was founded in 1798, and J.Thos. Scharf's History of Delaware, vol.II, p.689 states it was founded in 1799.

The Banning House, 809 S. Broom Street, was built in 1812 by Joseph Robinson. After changing owners several times, the house and grounds were sold to James Bird, father of Levy C. Bird and Gen, Charles Bird. The Birds lived there until 1861 when they sold the estate to Henry G. Banning, father of a recent owner, former President of Council James L. Banning. The National Society of Colonial Dames was organized in the south parlor of the Banning House on May 19, 1892. Mrs. Henry G. Banning was first president of the Delaware ~~Society of Colonial Dames~~ branch of the Society. The Banning property was purchased on September 21, 1922 by St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Parish and the parish priest, Father William Temple, now resides there. Although the house is not open to

the public in the general sense of this phrase, Father Temple graciously permits an inspection of it to persons interested in its history. In the house ~~can~~ may be seen the old staircase just as it was built in 1812, the Scarlet Fan of old Georgian Design on the main doorway, the solid shutters, and the old mantel on the second floor. The woodwork is hand fluted throughout, and the heavy flooring and joists are in the same condition as if they were just laid.

The Friends' School, on the east side of West Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, is the oldest school having a continuous existence in the State. In 1738, three years after the first member of the Society of Friends settled on "Quaker Hill," a one-story house of worship, or meeting-house, was built by the society on this location. Ten years later, in 1748, the Friends opened their first school in Wilmington in this small building. Every year since then many children have received in it an elementary English education, and in 1786 English grammar, Latin, Greek and other branches of higher education were added to the curriculum. In 1883 the building was remodeled, as it was too small for the number of pupils. Other minor changes and additions were made from time to time. Plans are now made by the Scoiety of Friends to erect a new school north of the city.

The Friends' Meeting-house with its adjacent cemetery occupies the city block bounded by West, Washington, Fourth, and Fifth Streets. It was erected in 1817 to replace another meeting-house which had stood on the same site since 1748, when the original meeting-house directly opposite across West Street was converted into the Friends' School after ten years of existence. Regular services are held in the present meeting-house. The notables interred in the cemetery include Thomas Garret, of Wilmington, who was a prominent leader in the "underground railroad" movement (*see Dickinson) movement. When Garret died, the local Negro leaders drew the hearse bearing his body to the grave, as a sign of appreciation of his valiant service to their enslaved people.

It is a typical example of larger meeting-houses of this period and locality. Interesting interior and vertical sliding partitions to permit separate worship for men and women. —Weston Bloke, architect.

Wm. H. Forbes
November 26, 1940

EARLY MECHANICAL MUSIC IN THE WILMINGTON HOME

For some years, mechanical music has played a part in the home life. Fifty years ago in Wilmington it was the music-box. Some were encased in rare woods, which made them fitting companion pieces in the finest living quarters. The music given forth had a tinkling sound, more akin to that of a stringed instrument than to the piano or organ. Some of the larger boxes carred a repertoire of selections. The main cylinder of brass was studded with short metal points, which would contact other points as the main cylinder revolved, thus creating the music. A key on the side would shift the roll, and produce a new tune.

Underneath the top cover was another of glass, through which one could see the machinery running. On the side, level with the glass cover, was a lever with which the mechanism was wound. Later on, another model of music-box came on the market, which resembled somewhat the phonograph made to sit on a table. The record was of metal, instead of composition, and when put down over the center post, took up most of the space. One novelty remembered was a music-box placed under the leather seat of the arm chair at the head of the dinner table. When seated, the pressure of the body would form a contact, which would start the mechanism, and create some curiosity as to where the music was coming from.

The music-box was followed about 1910 by the first model

of a piano-player. A section was rolled up to the front of the piano, which contained the roll, with hammers which struck the keys. This was followed by another type where the roll was placed in the front of the piano over the key board. Levers were placed in handy position with which to make the music loud or soft, or change the tempo. Both of these types of piano-player were worked by the regular foot pedals.

After these records had been run a number of times, the operator would become proficient in the proper shading. The piano-player was akin to the phonograph in that one had to keep on buying new records. The phonograph, and later the radio, the latter offering a broader field for music lovers, spelled the doom of these earlier contrivances.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

EARLY STREET SCENES

The East side of Wilmington, with its children playing in the streets, the various hucksters crying their wares, the organ grinder and his monkey, the piano player, and occasionally a German band, made for a lively scene. Men drove around selling kindling wood for the home fires, and the tank wagon peddled kerosene oil for the lamps. These, along with the itinerant ice cream and crab dealers, were a daily sight. The milkman carried the milk in a large can with bail handle, the measure hanging from the spout.

The heavy ice wagon would go rumbling along, with its back step and the scales and ax handy for use. Except for the few vacant lots, the children played in the streets. All through the long summer days the boys would be busy with marbles, top spinning, kite-flying, and kick-the-wicket, and the girls with their jacks and hoop-rolling, occasionally joining hands in a ring and raising their lusty voices in "London Bridge is falling down," or "Ring around a Posey."

The streets were lighted by gas, the lamp posts generally placed at the street intersections. Men would go around with a short ladder at dusk and light them, and go around in the morning and put them out. This system of lighting was succeeded by the arc light, two carbon pencils coming together within a large white china bowl. There would be much spluttering and dropping of sparks, and occasionally they would go out. Men would be busy through the night going around adjusting them. They were hung in the middle of the intersection, with a rope

attached to a nearby telephone pole for raising and lowering.

Scenes on the city streets in the early days presented a different appearance than today, and pedestrians could cross the streets without endangering life or limb. The streets were paved with either cobblestones or belgian blocks, and the iron banded wheels furnished most of the street noise. Hitching posts were scattered around for the convenience of drivers, and stepping-stones that the riders might more easily get in and out of the high buggy. The only excitement on the streets was when a horse would run away, or the fire apparatus would go racing to a fire.

The first horse-drawn street cars in 1864 were dinkey affairs, with straw in the aisle, and a small stove for heating. The passenger would go forward and put his fare in a box back of the driver and, if he needed change, would get it in an envelope from the driver. Extra horses would help draw the car up the steep incline on lower Market and East Fourth Streets. The first electric line running from the corner of Tenth and Market to Riverview Cemetery was such a departure from the old order that many were dubious, and some were allowed to ride free to show they were safe. The introduction of the electrics on West Eighth and Fourth Streets was a stimulus to the growth of that section at the crest of the hills. The early type of summer cars had seats running across the car, with running boards along the side to allow for entrance and exit, and to afford the conductor footing in collecting fares. Curtains were provided, to pull down in case of stormy weather. The conductor worked the car for fares, and would often extend little acts of courtesy to the regular patrons.

This led eventually to the custom of adding a small sum to the regular fare when paid around Christmas time, which the conductor would divide with the motorman.

The slow tempo of street life, with the many shade trees, gave portions of even the business section a more restful atmosphere than today. The section around Tenth and Market, with the old First Presbyterian Church, the adjoining cemetery with its wealth of trees, and the little Historical Building now on the Park Drive, presented a restful aspect. On the low stone coping which enclosed the front of the cemetery, many a weary traveler would find rest from the heat of a summer day. The lawyers with their green cloth bags, badge of their profession, most of whom had their offices in that section, would be familiar figures going to and fro to the green stone Court House.

When the private "turn outs" of the well-to-do, with their high stepping horses and fine trappings, would pass along the streets, they would be the cynosure of all eyes. In the winter time, with deep snow on the streets, these same people, with plumes on the dashboard of the sleigh, and tuneful bells on the harness, would give the scene a festal air. At that time, French Street would be set aside for harness racing, the sport being popular at that time, with meets at Hazel Dell Park, where many business men entered their horses during the summer.

Market Street would have its street attractions. At Fourth and Market would be Jester with his high stand and flaming torch, selling corn salve and remedies for the ailing tooth. At Fifth would be the Salvation Army with its amateurish music; some came to jeer and others to stand in respectful silence. At Tenth and

Market, during the day, one might see a "wall fly" climbing up the side of the Du Pont building, or Blondin the tight-rope walker crossing the street on a wire stretched from the Court House to the opposite side.

Market Street has changed in many ways, but nothing is missing that concerned so many people as the corner peanut stand, to be found on at least one corner of every intersection. It seems a misnomer to call them that, for they carried an assortment of fruits, ranged in pyramid form against the building wall. At no time would the sight of these stands seem more welcome than on a cold blustery night, when one's thoughts were bent on getting home to a warm fireside. They were always brightly lighted, not by Mr. Edison's newfangled incandescents, but by flaring torches, whose flame bent and swayed with every breeze. Long before you scented their presence, you would hear the whistle of the escaping steam from the large metal roaster. In the winter months, as if to give the peanut roaster competition, was the little round charcoal stove, with the small frying pan with perforated bottom sitting atop, full of fresh roasted chestnuts. The Italians seemed to have a monopoly of this business, more than one in the family waiting on trade.

King Street had its street market as today, and from Fifth to Eleventh was largely given up to residences. Many of the medical doctors and dentists had their offices and homes in the block from Seventh to Eighth. Since the East side of town was the more densely populated, with few telephones in the homes, these doctors were placed in closer contact with their patients. The blocks from Ninth to Eleventh contained many fine old homes,

with an abundance of shade trees.

Even as far East as French Street were found prominent families in homes that today are in more or less decay. The wide street was taken advantage of for general travel, and with snow on the ground, was the scene of much spirited racing.

Nothing so disturbed the tranquility of the early street scenes, as did the arrival of the automobile, in the early years of the century. When they first made their appearance, they were a curiosity, and scared the horses. Going out for a long ride was a venture, in which the riders would deck themselves out in long dusters, and the women would wear long veils to shield them from the wind and dust, as the closed car was not in evidence the first few years. When the car refused to function, only the mechanically-inclined would dare tackle the works, and then it was necessary to get under the car and lie on one's back. Before Henry Ford placed his car in quantity production, at a price which placed it within the reach of those with a slender purse, most of the cars were owned by the well-to-do. The Lozier and Winton ranked among the higher priced cars of the early days.

With the passing of the horse from the city streets went many of the callings associated with them. At the numerous "horse marts," where sales of mostly old spavined horses would take place, where many a person would stop to watch the horse-shoer and whiff the pungent odor of hot iton and burning hoof. The harness maker also supplied the accessories of the team, such as the robes and whip, etc. The carriage building trade, which occupied a prominent place in our industrial system, along

with wheel factories which supplied them, are a thing of the past.

With the arrival of the motorcar came new trades and businesses to take the place of those which had disappeared with the horse. The stable became a garage, and oil pumps appeared in a small way; the oil pumps were apt to be small affairs inclosed in a cupboard, and tended by a storekeeper, to whom this was only one of his chores. The modern oil station with its service did not arrive for some time. The traffic and parking laws are all a development of the modern trend. Will Rogers offered a solution of the traffic problem to have the traffic run East and West one day, and North and South the next.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

The large car and shipbuilding companies of Wilmington once employed many men, and were the pride of the city. Those who traveled either at home or abroad, would often see the local products, and feel they came from no mean city. The leather-making plants, of which there were about fourteen at that time, mostly small, were also noted for the excellence of their product. There were numerous machinery-making firms, each with its own specialty. Many of the leaders in these industries were associated with the churches and fraternal organizations, and they and their firms were topics of interest in many homes.

In those years, the activities of the port were more extensive than today. The Bush and Warner Lines made daily trips to Philadelphia, with the freight carried on covered barges, powered by a tug. The Wilson Line carried both passengers and freight, and made numerous daily trips. Ships came from far places, bringing ice from Maine, and raw products to the various industries. The Pennsylvania R. R. freight yard was at that time at what was known as "West Yard," along the main tracks, a short way from Maryland Avenue. All the freight trains went through the city, there being no cutoff.

With the passing of that early water-borne traffic, many of the firms catering to that trade also disappeared. Thomas Drein and Sons, of Water and Tatnall, supplied life boats; R. W.

Birnie and Son furnished sails; and George W. Stone, of 13 Water Street, ship chandlery, which comprised chains, rops, anchors, etc. Water Street disappeared when the railroad was elevated through the city. On the north side were a few business houses, interspersed with tumble-down shanties. On the opposite side were the Bush and Waner coal yards, along with a few smaller firms of the same type.

The early industrial plants lacked the pleasant surroundings of those today. Few women were in evidence there, and no public agency sought to make their lot a happy and healthier one. The hours of work were from seven in the morning to six at night, with three-quarters of an hour at noon for lunch. Work stopped at 4:30 on Saturday, which made a sixty hour week. Most of the workmen were of Irish, English, or German birth, the Polish and Jewish element not being much in evidence until 1900.

Up to fifty years ago, the work in the leather-making plants was mostly by hand, and ten or twelve dollars a week was thought fair wages. That period saw the introduction of machinery, which has increased in efficiency and type, until today little of the work is done by hand.

The plant of the Chicago Electric Wire Company, now the Electric Hose and Rubber, was one of the main concerns in 1891. It was controlled by Henry Cobb and his sons. They made electric wiring for indoor and outdoor use, and their product found a ready sale.

The offices of these concerns differed somewhat from those today. The typist had not arrived with her lipstick or compact,

and the bookkeeper dominated the scene, walking back and forth before his high desk, with the books spread out before him. The letters were all written in longhand, in a script which would put to shame much of the penmanship of today. The letters were put in a copybook, with one page dampened to receive the letter, and the book put in a press, and left for a few minutes. The record of these letters were preserved for years.

Fifty years ago, Wilmington had a few factories for the manufacture of low priced shoes for women and children. That was the period which saw the last of the men's high boots, and the old-fashioned cordwainers who made them. Ready-made shoes, like clothing, had not reached the perfection in making or range of styles found later, and generally those with ample means wore custom-made shoes.

The makers of the latter generally combined such work with the repairing of shoes, and often had a store where they retailed the ready-to-wear-type. Burns and Monaghan, whose store was at 617 Market Street, had a fine reputation for their custom-made shoes. William H. Babcock, William Boddy and Son, and Condon and McCarty appear in the early list of shoe makers. The name of Condon was associated with the retail shoe business at 919 Market up to a few years ago.

In recounting the early industries of the city, mention should be made of the several breweries, the Joseph Stoeckle plant, at Fifth and Adams, the Bavarian, at Fifth and du Pont, of which John Lengel was proprietor, and the brewery of the Hartman and Fahrenbach Company of Lovering Avenue and du Pont.

Their product had high standing, and the German proprietors were counted as leading citizens.

Their large wagons, drawn by heavy draft horses, were a familiar sight on the city streets. The old country Germans were more in evidence in those days, and many of them conducted the corner saloons. They brought from their native land a type of sociability which found expression in beer and song. Many a person has stopped to watch the cooling machinery, its pipes covered with frost. Artificial ice-making or cooling was more of a novelty then than it is today.

Prohibition put a crimp in the manufacture and sale of beer, and the majority of the brewers, rather than make an inferior article, shut down entirely. The plant at Fifth and du Pont, under new management, carried on a business in near beer, under such trade names as Ambrosia, which more than once threatened to bring them into conflict with the Federal Statues.

Wilmington held a preeminent place in the manufacture of carriages and cabs, and the work called for high-class artisans. The McLear and Kendall plant, at the S. E. corner of Ninth and King, and the F. J. Clymer factory at Third and Orange, stand out as leaders in that industry, followed by the names of Hammond, Green, Cahill, Merrick, and a host of others through the years. The wheel-making was a separate trade, as well as the springs, and a number of firms were devoted to that work.

While new enterprises have taken the place of the old concerns, that made Wilmington an industrial center, the workmen in the wooden car, shipbuilding and various machine making plants, bulked large in the city's population, and were the mainstay of the churches and fraternal organizations.

Encyclopaedia File 261

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

Wm. H. Forbes
August 1, 1940

KING STREET IN THE EARLY YEARS

King Street fifty years or more ago was nearly as prominent a business street as Market. Along the length of this street, from Second to Ninth, were centered many of the millinery stores, doctors and dentists' residences and offices, the leading butchers, the Post Office and departments of the City government, two of the leading churches, the Republican and Lawyers Clubs, as well as other lines of business.

On the S.E. corner of King at Second was the drug store of Dr. N. B. Morrison, and on the N. E. corner the offices of the Kennebec Ice and Coal Company, controlled at that time by Jacob Pusey and his sons, one of them being Edward R. Pusey, whose death on a burning boat, off the Carolina coast, is well remembered. Later, this concern was taken over by Miller Stradley, father of Wilmer Stradley, of the Diamond Ice and Coal Company.

Miss Kirby at 200 King Street, and Alice Hayes, at 204, milliners, will be remembered by the older generation of Wilmington women. The shop of Edward Melchoir, gunsmith, was the meeting place for those who were interested in gunning and fishing, along with W. H. Hartlove's store, of the same type, at Third and French. Edgar B. Riley's notion store was at 228 King. On the S. W. corner of Third was one of the numerous market houses, where farmers rented stalls, and some local butchers also rented stalls as regular places of business. Another market house was in the center of Second Street, running from King to Market, with an open street down each side.

On the S. E. corner of King at Third was the plant of the Daily Republican, published by George Vernon and his sons. At 302 King was the drug store of Taylor and Fullerton; the wine shop of William Alsentzer was located a few doors above, the place well lined with casks, where you could imbibe, or take it home with you. Charles S. Middleton's store on the S. E. corner of King at Fourth, was a grocery store noted for the salt mackerel carried. On the N. E. corner, was the drug store of Dr. J. Simms and Son, both very stout men. At 404 King was the jewelry store of J. Clayton Massey, still being conducted by one of the family. At 410 King was the J. and J. N. Harman furniture store, one of the leading stores in that line. Robert Harman, the lawyer, is one of the sons of that family. On the West side of King, at 413, was the china store of I. Lewis Row, and two doors above, the wall paper store of Clifford Greenman. Frank Roop Smith conducted a drug store, at the N. W. corner of Fifth, and J. R. E. Montgomery's shoe store was close by, these two stores being in the rear of the Clayton House building. Mr. Montgomery was the father of Joseph Montgomery, the Jeweler now in business at 229 Market Street. At 509 King was the grocery store of William E. Frank, one of the leading stores in that line in the City.

On the N. E. corner of King at Fifth was the site of Trinity Church, now located at Delaware Avenue and Adams. From there on to the Post Office, at Sixth, were several large houses, whose stateliness has been destroyed by age, and alteration into stores. In the first house (504) lived Ellen Coxe Bush,

mother of Mrs. Henry S. McComb, of Eleventh and Market streets. At 508 was the office and residence of Dr. John K. Brown, the dentist, who was noted as a lover of fine horses. At that period and before, Hazel Dell Trotting Park, out in the neighborhood of the present Marine Terminal, was the scene of much harness racing.

On the S. E. corner of King at Sixth was the old post-office, still standing, and on the S. W. corner, was the building containing some of the sub-divisions of the City government. On the N. W. corner was the old Hanover Presbyterian Church, its appearance preserved for all time by the paintings of the artist, Robert Shaw. The Reverend Lafayette Marks was pastor of this church for some years, one daughter, Mrs. Henry Pyle now living in Wilmington, and a son, Albert Marks, living in Philadelphia.

On the N. E. corner of King at Seventh was the wholesale grocery store of George W. Lodge and Son. On both sides of King, between Seventh and Eighth, were numerous doctors and dentists, many of whom later on, moved to Washington or West Street. Among them were J. Harmer Rile at 718, William G. Winner at 720, Drs. L. and L. A. Kittenger at 728, Dr. John P. Wales at the corner. Dr. Wales was at one time Mayor of the City, and was the father of Judge Leonard E. Wales and Miss Isabel Wales.

On the West side of King, near Eighth, was the Central Presbyterian Church, which recalls an incident of years ago. A daughter of Dr. Lewis P. Bush, of 612 French Street, taught a class of Chinamen at Central Sunday-school, and two or more of

the Chinamen could come to her home every Sunday, and escort her to the church. Across Eighth street, at 802, was the home of Dr. Josephine M. R. White, who practiced medicine in Wilmington for about fifty-five years. The Republican Club held forth at 810, as today, preaching the same doctrine, but with different trimmings. On the S. E. corner of King, at Ninth, was the large carriage factory of McLear and Kendall, and occupied today by the Wilmington Furniture Company.

The square from Tenth to Eleventh, on the East side, was a far more restful looking one than today. The Hilles family occupied the first two houses at Tenth, the Dental Factory, the Lawyers Club, the Old School Baptist Church, and the Riddle home completing that side of the square. The opposite side was taken up by the New Castle County Courthouse.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
October 11, 1940

THE LEGAL PROFESSION FIFTY YEARS AGO

Wilmington has always fared well in the caliber of its lawyers. William S. Hilles, member of an old Quaker family, won renown as counsel for the defendants in the du Pont barn burning case, in 1891. J. Frank Ball, about that time Judge of the Municipal Court, and Anthony Higgins, who was a U. S. Senator, had offices in what had been private homes, on Market Street, near Ninth. In the Lore building, which was the only semblance of an office building at that time, were the law offices of Willard Saulsbury, Victor du Pont, and Francis H. Hoffecker. James W. Ponder, whose father was Governor of the State from 1871 to 1875, studied law in Mr. Saulsbury's office in 1891. Judge Ignatius Grubb had his offices in the Bayard building at the N.E. corner of Ninth and Market. This was the old home of the Bayard family, and later on an annex was built in what had been the rear yard on Ninth Street.

Levi C. Bird, and his associate Andrew E. Sanborn, had their offices on Market Street, near Eleventh. Mr. Bird was a relative by marriage to Thomas F. Bayard, and when the latter was Ambassador to St. James, during the administration of Grover Cleveland, Mr. Bird paid a visit to London. Mr. Bird was rather a sporty dresser, generally wearing fancy vests. His "turnouts," with coachman on the box, attracted a great amount of attention. Lewis C. Vandegrift was an able lawyer and a man of vigorous appearance. He married into the Garrett

family, who were the founders of the Edge Moor Iron Company, the original firm being known as Sellers and Garrett.

A local young man, Curtis C. Cooper, studied law at Columbia University, and came home with the idea of hanging out his shingle. He failed in his examination, as they largely concerned the old English Common Law, with which he was not so familiar. He later joined the legal staff of the Du Pont Company, and still later was president of the General Motors Acceptance Corporation. One lawyer who neither in appearance nor ethics conformed to the high standards of the local bar was Robert Adair. His father conducted a furniture store on lower Market Street, and the son was a clerk in the Wilmington and Brandywine Bank. Advancement in the banks at that time was rather slow, and he resigned to study law. Before he died in 1939, he managed to be disbarred from the Delaware courts more than once, but always seemed to be busy. The family home was at Eighteenth and Washington, the present home of the Jewish Synagogue. Adair married the daughter of Dr. Naudain, and for some time he and his wife carried on welfare work among the poor children of a section of the city in the days when that work was not so well organized as today.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
October 16, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

LIFE INSURANCE SELLING FIFTY YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago, the selling of life insurance was not as complicated a matter as it is today, but it required more educational work. Today, insurance is looked upon as a good investment, whether it be a family or a business proposition. For those who objected to investing their money in something where they had to "die to win," the endowment policies were inaugurated, and from that time until today, the life insurance companies have added features which take care of every human need.

Charles K. Zimmerman, who had formerly been a clerk for the Pennsylvania Railroad, was one of the early solicitors with the New York Life. Aubrey Vandever, father-in-law of E.C. Huber, at present resident agent of the Mutual Life, was an early member of the same company. He was a vigorous little man with white hair, and an optimist. He had some rather pretty daughters, whom he valued at a million dollars apiece, which he said rated him a millionare. His wife was the sister of Harvey Hoffecker, who was Prothonotary of the State Court for some years. Mr. Vandever was also active at Brandywine Summit Camp every summer.

The insurance solicitors have a reputation which makes them in great demand in all the city's campaigns for funds. Their work is of a different type than the majority of selling, and is making an appeal to college graduates.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
May 5, 1941

LITERATURE

Fifty years ago, before the days of the popular-priced magazines, Harper's, Scribner's, Century, Atlantic Monthly, Godey's, the Scientific American and Popular Mechanics, the two latter of a technical nature, were read by a select group. They were mostly priced at twenty-five cents or more. The Harper's and Leslie's Weeklies were ten cents. The Youth's Companion, a high type magazine, for boys, was published in Boston. The Police Gazette catered to those who were interested in the prize ring or stage celebrities, and was found in all the barber shops.

About the turn of the century, Frank Munsey came to New York from his home in Maine, with ideas for a magazine whose price would be within the reach of all. Munsey's, Argosy, and Everybody's were his first publications, and soon found a wide reading public. In the lower class reading were the dime novels recounting the escapades of the James Brothers, and other desperadoes, with their train robberies and killings. Peck's Bad Boy was a harmless book, telling the story of two mischievous boys. Stanley in Africa and Robinson Crusoe were two books especially favored by the young.

Among the new writers who appeared at that time were A. Conan Doyle and Herbert G. Wells, both of whose work first appeared in serial form in the Harper's Weekly of 1894. Doyle's work, in which he created the fictitious character of Sherlock Holmes, the detective, assisted by his firend Dr. Watson of Harley Street, London, was followed later by full sized novels, among them the

Hound of the Baskervilles and A Study in Scarlet, in which Holmes and Watson made some of their marvelous deductions. The public demand for his work compelled Doyle to get rid of the detective, by having him fall off a cliff. He afterwards said had he not killed Holmes, the latter would have been his undoing from over work.

The first work of H. G. Wells appeared in the Harper's Weekly at about the same time. His When the Sleeper Wakes and The Shape of Things to Come prophesied things which later came true, but at that time seemed like figments of the imagination. During the first World War his Mr. Britling Sees it Through was the experience of a family with sons at the front. The experience of the English today, as detailed in the daily papers, makes more startling reading with the war brought home to the tight little Island. Beatrice Harriden's Ships That Pass in the Night, an English book with a wide circulation in this country, and the novels of General Lew Wallace such as The Fair God, The Prince of India and Ben Hur, were widely read, and the latter because a success on the stage and screen.

Around 1900, the Booklovers, and later on, the Tabard Inn, libraries were organized in Philadelphia. The latter library circulated the books of an older issue. The Booklovers circulated books in all languages, not only in the home, but to the public libraries in the different cities. The books were distributed to nearby cities in trucks, and in the rural sections by express. In a short while the service had been extended as far west as Denver, and to Canada and London. The service was also found on the railroad trains, where one could

read any number of books.

With the improvement in the service of the libraries of the different cities, this service, at times costly, was eventually discontinued.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

1. Surrounded by buildings housing the city's administrative, financial, and cultural activities RODNEY SQUARE, occupying the block bounded S. by 10th St., N. by 11th St., W. by Market St., and E. by King St. since its completion in 1921 has become the heart of Wilmington's civic center.

Occupying a little more than 1½ acres, the land that is now carefully landscaped and bordered by tulips in the spring and roses in June was from 1827 to 1880 used as a reservoir, the first in the city. In 1880, to prepare for the County Court house that was to occupy the site, the reservoir was filled in with many wagon-loads of scrap iron and junk and leveled off with the soil that formed the levees. 1919 saw the demolition of the County Court House, a large two-story structure, constructed for the most part of green stone, known as Chester County Serpentine and once considered an outstanding building of the State. The community's growth necessitated larger quarters and the county offices and courts were transferred to the Public Building, erected in 1916 (see Public Buildings p.) In preparation for the Square the land was dug out to the King Street level and only a clay subsoil was left on the border. To the resulting unhealthy soil condition local critics attribute the turning yellow of the foliage each July, as if seared by fire, of the double row of young lindens bordering the square. Tree specialists, however, say the trouble is caused by " .... unfriendly environment both as to the excessive heat and abnormal impregnation of the air by gas fumes of motor vehicles."

Title to the land was purchased from the county in 1917 for $75,000. The improvements cost $79,234.66. This latter sum was greatly in excess of the original estimates. Towards the fund

DuPont - Com
duPont - family

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Irenee duPont contributed $22,500 and the duPont Company $10,000. The two drinking fountains were gifts of the Wilmington Fountain Society. The one on the Eleventh Street end is dedicated to William Poole, head of the society, and a descendant of one of the original Quaker families who settled on the Brandywine in the early eighteenth century.

Dedicated July 4, 1923, and situated on the West side of the Square midway between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, with James Kelly of New York as the sculptor, is the ~~Rodney Equestrian Statue~~ RODNEY EQUESTRIAN STATUE designed, according to the inscription on its granite base "To commemorate Caesar Rodney's ride to Philadelphia to cast Delaware's vote for Independence July 3 and 4, 1776." A bronze bas-relief on the east side of the pedestal bears below it the legend, "Caesar Rodney, arriving at Philadelphia, is greeted by Thomas McKean, July 4, 1776." Another on the west side of the statue pictures "Rodney casting his vote in Independence Hall, July 4, 1776," ~~and with these words~~ quotes him as saying "As I believe the voice of my constituents and of all sensible and honest men is in favor of independence, my own judgment concurs with them, I vote for independence."

For eight years the members of the committee struggled before sufficient funds were collected. Finally successful, they still differed as to how the riding Rodney should be portrayed. At the time of his famous ride "the lone horseman," was suffering with a cancerous nose, and wore a green handkerchief for protection against the dusty roads. The Committee determined that the statue should show his face uncovered. Further dispute arose as to whether Rodney's starting point was from Dover or Lewes, and whether he did not arrive in Philadelphia on July 2nd rather than July 4, 1776. The latter was the date chosen by the Committee, although most historians now agree that

he arrived in Philadelphia on July 2, 1776, and that his starting point was "Byfield," his home and birthplace in Kent County (see Tour #2). His vote was vitally necessary to break a tie existing between the other two Delaware delegates to the Convention - Thomas McKean and George Read, the former being for independence, the latter against it.

Be it legend or history, tradition has it, that, while the question of Independence was being hotly debated in the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, Rodney had to leave hurriedly for Sussex County to investigate Loyalist uprisings (see LEWES). While he and his militia were in Lewes, Rodney stayed at the Rowland home where Sarah Rowland, a beautiful Tory, so captivated him that he delayed longer than he properly should. McKean had dispatched three letters to Rodney which were intercepted by the beautiful Sarah. A fourth letter McKean sent at his own expense by special messenger. Receiving this at daybreak on July 3, Rodney immediately started his 140 mile ride to Philadelphia through intense heat and dust. He arrived barely in time for his affirmative to make the vote unanimous, thus presenting a united front, without which Independence would have been impossible.

Caesar Rodney (1728-1784) whom John Adams described as " .... the oddest looking man in the world; he is tall, thin and as slender as a reed, ~~and~~ pale; His face is not bigger than a large apple; yet there is sense, and fire, ~~fine~~ spirit, wit and humor in his countenance," is one of Delaware's immortals. His services prior to and during the Revolution were so valuable to the State and cause of independence that when Delaware was asked to choose statues of two of her sons to represent the State in Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C., Rodney and John M.

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Clayton were selected. ' ~~Originally buried at Byfield, his boyhood home, his remains were later removed to the Episcopal~~ Christ Church at Dover. (See Dover) A bronze tablet on the front wall of the churchyard bears the following succinct description of him: "Statesman, soldier, and patriot. Member of Stamp Act Congress and of First and Second Continental Congress. Signer of Declaration of Independence. Member and speaker of Colonial Assembly of 'Three Lower Counties on Delaware.' Member of Council of Safety, Major General of Delaware Militia, and President (Governor) of Delaware during American Revolution." (See History p.)

~~Brief Gen. Biography~~

Great

★ As no absolutely authentic likeness of Rodney was know to exist, the sculptor was furnished with portraits of other Rodney's both living and dead, so that the statue should be as authentic as possible. The story is that the face was fashioned after a likeness of the present Judge Richard Rodney.

File No. 617.

LOCATION - Wilmington.

Submitted by - J. Sweeney.

Date - May 29, 1936.

Memorials:

THE JOSEPHINE TATNALL SMITH MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Josephine Gardens, Brandywine Park close to the N. end of Van Buren Bridge.

This beautiful fountain was erected in 1932 by Gen. J. Ernest Smith and presented to the city as a memorial to his wife, Josephine Tatnall Smith, who died in the preceding year. It was unveiled on April 20, 1933. As a duplicate of the Il Tribola Fountain in the formal gardens of the Villa Petraja, Florence, Italy which embodies features of thirteenth century Italian art it was executed by Edward Canby May, architect, and John Brockhouse, sculptor.

The fountain is composed of a southern coral marble, with the exception of the topmost figure which is of a white Italian marble.

The statuesque topmost figure is a gracefully poised, partially draped figure of a maiden expressing interest in the water bubbling from a tulip horn in her hand and falling past the water jar at her feet onto the lower bowl. Carved consecutively around and beneath the base of the upper bowl are four cherubs and an equal number of lions' heads which seemingly afford proper protection for the coy principle figure.

The water which is being expelled from the mouths of the lions' heads and that which falls from the upper to the lower bowl in sheets of spray is indicative of the veil of mystery which surrounds the symbols on the main shaft of the fountain. These include grotesque heads of "Father Time," bambinos singing in ecstasy, and rams' heads at the foot of the shaft which symbolize sacrifice.

Beneath the edge of the lower bowl are carved bambinos dancing in rhythm with outstretched arms and carrying drooping bands of flowers and falling fuit in a continuous chain. Water spouts from the mouths of every second bambino and falls into the large geometrical basin at the base of the fountain.

Atop the octagonal base four mermaids are represented on their knees riding dolphins and serpents of the sea and holding the lower bowl over their heads with bent arms. Inscribed around the top of the base is an extract from Whittier's "Eulogy to Wordsworth" which symbolizes the character and benevolence of her in whose memory the fountain was erected " "Art builds on sand the works of pride and human passion change and full but that which shares the life of God with him surviveth all."

A bronze tablet in the shape of an Italian scroll of parchment on the perimeter of the basin sets forth the presentation of the gift to the city by Gen. Smith and explains why it was erected.

The basin is surrounded by an octagonal staircase from which a flagstone walk leads through the Josephine Gardens in the direction of Van Buren Bridge. The staircase in turn is surrounded by a flat lawn which lies parallel to the Brandywine Creek, in a NW. to SE. direction, between rows of Japanese cherry trees. The latter are flanked by lofty ash, oak, and other forest trees, together with wild shrubs.

Two lamps and four bleachers stand on the lawn on both the northerly and southerly sides of the fountain. In addition to these permanent lights, flood-lights are used to illuminate the cherry trees when they blossom.

In the shrubbery south of the fountain there is a pump house containing mechanical devies with which various pressures and effects can be produced on the emission of water from the fountain. Coupled with the becoming setting, the water falling in streams and spray from the heights of the fountain into the basin at its base presents an enchanting sight

Authority:

Edward Canby May, architect, Wilmington, Del.

Park Dept. Wilmington, Del.

File No.617
(2 pages)

Submitted by : Jerry Sweeney,
Rewritten by : Jerry Sweeney,
Date : April 29,1936.

17

MONUMENTS:

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT
in triangle formed by Delaware Ave., W. Fourteenth and N.Broom Streets.

This monument consists of a (___-foot) tall marble shaft resting on a granitic base and surmounted by a ball on which is a bronze representation of an eagle strangling a snake. It faces Delaware Avenue. An inscription on the front side of its base reads: "In commemoration of Delaware's Patriotic Dead who sacrificed their lives for their country during the Rebellion of 1861-65."

The shaft of the monument was formerly one of a number of columns of a bank building in Philadelphia; which was purchased by the U.S.Gov't., and demolished in 1868. At that time the idea of converting the columns into memorials to those who died for the Union, was conceived by Albert S. Nones, of Wilmington, who was an officer of the 1st Del. Volunteer Inf. at the time of the Civil War. At Nones' suggestion, a congressman of Philadelphia introduced and secured the passage of a bill in Congress which permitted the use of the columns for the purpose. The U.S.Gov't also presented condemned brass cannon to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Association, from which the symbolic eagle and snake were made and the citizens of Wilmington provided the site and base for the monument. It was unveiled on May 30, 1871.

MONUMENTS:

As yet the cost of erecting the monument had not been fully met. Therefore, Eli Crozier, of Wilmington, who had supervised the erection, succeeded in collecting enough money for that purpose and the monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 29,1880.

LOCATION: Wilmington and vicinity. File No. 617

Subject: MEMORIALS

Written by: Jerry Sweeney

Date: April 23, 1936.

Field No. 84

CANBY MEMORIAL SEAT
Rockford Park on
driveway N. of and
close to Rockford
Water Tower.

This seat of Barre granite was erected by the Board of Park Commissioners of Wilmington and dedicated in 1905. An inscription on the back reads:

" TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM MARRIOTT CANBY,
FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, 1883 - 1904."

Located on the brink of Brandywine gorge, it affords a delightful vista of the Brandywine valley, which at this point can only be seen to better advantage from the observation platform of Rockford Water Tower. (See File No. -- Rockford Water Tower.)

R 271

Victor P. O'Keefe,
September 21, 1937.

Points of Interest
Wilmington

Governor Printz Boulevard - - Inset

The GOVERNOR PRINTZ BOULEVARD, formerly the Northeast Boulevard, is a new heavy duty highway through the city that was given its present title by the Delaware Legislature in 1937. It was named in honor of Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Printz, 400-pound third governor of the Swedes on the Delaware. In 1643 Printz made a survey of the whole river shore for the purpose of settlement and cultivation; some of the land covered in the survey now is included in the route of the highway.

This boulevard, intended to relieve Market Street of through commercial traffic, runs through the lower East Side of Wilmington to Claymont where a connecting link joins it with the Philadelphia Pike, (US 13). Eventually, the State of Pennsylvania will extend the road to Philadelphia.

In Wilmington the boulevard is routed through an industrial and an unattractive residential section, some of which is historic ground. At Eleventh Street it passes Kirkwood Park and crosses the Brandywine over the recently constructed Church Street Bridge.

At this point there was, in the early days of the colony, an island extending a short distance up the Brandywine, sand from which was used in constructing the walls of Old Swede's Church. Near the close of the Civil War it became known as Thatcher's Island, having been included in a farm purchased by Albert and William Thatcher. Eventually the channel northeast of the island was filled in, so that it now is fast land.

North of the island is the George Gray public school, Price Run Park and swimming pool, and the Todd's Cut shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Beyond the city limits, the highway parallels the Delaware River and borders an attractive rural region.

OLD SWEDES

Anders Printz

Acrelius, p. 181 - "A man, a native of Sweden, named Anders Printz, came hither in an English ship. He said that he was a nephew of Governor John Printz. He became at once acquainted with the Swedes, his countrymen, and was heartily welcomed by them..... This Printz thus became informed as to their condition, and then returned to Stockholm. There, in a conversation with John Thelin, secretary and postmaster at Götheborg, he told about the Swedes in America - their condition, manner of life, and their sore need of spiritual guides ..... He (Thelin) ... wrote a letter to the Swedes in America .....

THELIN'S LETTER TO AMERICA.

"Highly-esteemed friends and countrymen: The occasion which gives me the honor of writing to you is, that during the past year I was in Stockholm, where I fell into the company of one Andrew Printz, who told me, and others also in the city, that he had been in an English ship to the West Indies, which I knew to be the fact ....."

Acrelius, p. 200 - (Referring to the voyage of Rudman, Biorck, and Auren) - "In their company on board the ship also went Anders Printz, who had brought over the first message from America to Sweden in regard to their desire for ministers, whom the King had appointed for their guide, as has been already mentioned. (Note, I can find no previous mention of this; J.C.). It was now his intention to accompany them to America, and settle there."

Acrelius, p. 201 - "In the meantime (in London-J.C.) they lost their good friend Anders Printz, and never knew what had become of him, but supposed

that he had been pressed by some ship of war. In his place came another Swede, Jonas Bjurström, who became their attendant in common. On the 4th of February, 1697, they left London."

Ferris, p. 149 - "About the year 1690, a young man of the name of Andrew Printz, a nephew of their late Governor Printz, visited Delaware. His countrymen hailed the youthful adventurer with delight, and entertained him with warm hospitality. He was from their "fatherland," to many of them the land of their birth . . . . Two men at least, of those who crossed the ocean with their first governor, were yet living; old Andrew Bonde, and Peter Rambo; and many later adventurers, born in the "fatherland," were yet on the stage of action. Young Printz returned to Sweden, and at Gottenburg met with John Thelin, to whom he related the circumstances of his journey, and particularly of the discovery he had made of a settlement of "Old Swedes," on the Delaware, who lived comfortably, had good land, dwelt together in harmony, and "used the old Swedish way in everything." He said they had greatly rejoiced to see one from their native country; wished to know who was the reigning king; and expressed great confidence that, if his majesty knew of their 'want of ministers, and godly books, he would supply their necessities.' Thelin was pastmaster at Gottenberg, and being an officer of the government, found means to communicate this information to his sovereign. The king, who was greatly interested, resolved to grant their request, and sought for young Printz to make him the messenger of his bounty. But young Printz had vanished."

Ferris, p. 151 - (Letter to John Thelin from Charles Springer of Christina, dated May 31, 1693): "Honoured, loving, and much respected friend, John Thelin, his Majesty's loyal subject, and Postmaster at Gottenbert:-

"Your unexpected and welcome letter dated Gottenberg, Nov. 16, 1692, came to hand the 23d of May, 1693, and made us heartily rejoice that it has pleased Almighty God, through that young man Andrew Printz, to make known our condition to our friends in Sweden." (Goes on to request two Swedish ministers, Bibles, catechisms, etc.
(This letter was written by Springer, but signed by 30 Swedes.)

H. A. Horner
March 23, 1937

Points of Interest

16. Caesar Rodney Statue.

16. Gracing Rodney Square, on Market Street, between Tenth and Eleventh, is the Caesar Rodney equestrian statue, erected to commemorate Rodney's historic ride from Dover, Delaware, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to cast Delaware's vote in favor of independence. The statue was erected by the Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue Committee at a cost of $30,000, citizens contributing $20,000 and the State legislature, $10,000. It was formally dedicated July 5, 1923.

A bronze bas-relief on the west of Market Street side is titled, "Rodney casting his vote in Independence Hall, July 4, 1776," and quotes Rodney as saying, "As I believe the voice of my constituents and all honest men is in favor of independence, my own honest judgment concurs with them, I vote for independence." Another, on the back, or King Street side, is titled, "Caesar Rodney, arriving at Philadelphia, is greeted by Thomas McKean, July 4, 1776.

With the customary Delaware characteristic of doing things impetuously, regardless of consequences, the committee had the statue erected and the wording carved without making sincere efforts to verify dates. As early as 1904 it had been definitely established that Rodney arrived in Philadelphia on the afternoon of July 2, having left his home near Dover, early in the day. Rodney's vote was required to break a tie existing between Thomas McKean and George Read, the former being for independence, the latter against it.

Caesar Rodney is one of Delaware's immortals. His services prior to and during the Revolution were so valuable to the State and the cause of independence that a statue of him along with that of John M. Clayton, represents Delaware in Statuary Hall, Washington.

A bronze tablet on the front wall of the Episcopal Church yard at Dover bears the following succinct description of him, "Statesman, soldier, and patriot. Member of Stamp Act Congress and of First and Second Continental Congresses. Signer of Declaration of Independence. Member and speaker of Colonial Assembly of 'Three Lower Counties on Delaware.' Member of Council of Safety, Major General of Delaware Militia, and President (Governor) of Delaware during American Revolution."

Caesar Rodney was born on his father's farm near Dover, October 7, 1728. When thirty years of age he was elected as delegate from Kent County to the assembly at New Castle. With the exception of the year 1771 he was a member of the assembly and was speaker in 1769, 1773, 1774 and 1775. In 1765 he and Thomas McKean were sent as delegates to the Stamp Act Congress in New York. In October 1768 the assembly adopted several resolutions condemning the Townsend Act and appointed Rodney, McKean and Read a committee of correspondence with instructions to draw up an address to the King.

As speaker of the assembly, Rodney took the extra-legal step of calling the assembly for a special session to meet in New Castle on August 1, 1774. At this assembly he with McKean and Read were appointed to represent the State at the First Continental Congress. At a regular session of the assembly held in March, 1775, Rodney's act in calling the irregular meeting was approved and the three delegates were re-elected to the Second Continental Congress.

In June 1776 Rodney presided over the assembly at New Castle, which passed a resolution supplanting the authority of the crown in the government of the Three Lower Counties and issued new instruc-

tions to the delegates to the Continental Congress, authorizing them to cooperate with the other colonies. On June 22, he hurried to Sussex County to investigate a threatened Loyalist uprising there. He had returned home when an "express" arrived from McKean urging him to hasten to Philadelphia to cast his vote for independence. He rode eighty miles on horseback, arriving in the late afternoon of July 2, 1776, in time to place Delaware's vote on the side of independence.

He was defeated as a delegate to a special convention called to meet late in 1776 and when the new State constitution went into effect he was not chosen as a member of the first State legislature. In November 1776 he was made Chairman of the Kent County branch of the Council of Safety.

He had been elected colonel of the "Upper" or Kent County Militia in 1775 and in September was elected brigadier-general of the militia of Kent County and of the western battalion of Sussex County. In December, 1776 he was occupied in recruiting men in Kent County and sending them forward to join the main Continental army. In January 1777 Rodney spent several weeks in active service in command of the post at Trenton, New Jersey. In the spring the legislature elected him judge of the admiralty. When the British invaded Delaware in September, Rodney was in command of the Delaware militia with the rank of brigadier-general. After the British had captured President John McKinly, Rodney was commissioned major-general of the Delaware militia. In December the legislature elected him delegate to the Continental Congress, and in the spring of 1778 he was elected president of the State for a term of three

years. In the fall of 1783 he was made a member of the upper house of the legislature where he was honored with the speakership. He died June 26, 1784.

Rodney was impetuous,-a man of action--an advocate of an immediate attempt to throw off the yoke of the mother country. John Adam's said of him, "Caesar Rodney is the oddest-looking man in the world; he is tall, thin and as slender as a reed and pale. His face is no bigger than a large apple; yet there is sense, fine spirit, wit and humor in his countenance." His brother Thomas described him as, "about five feet, ten inches, elegant and genteel, easy and polite, agreeable wit; a great statesman, a faithful public servant, just in his dealings, loyal to his friends, beneficient to his relations, kind to his servants and always lived in a generous and social style."

RODNEY SQUARE

16. Rodney Square, a small plot of park land, lying in the heart of the city between Tenth and Eleventh, Market and King Streets with the buildings surrounding it, is the center of the city's administrative, financial and cultural activities.

The Square had its inception, perhaps, when the first unit of the duPont Building was erected in 1907. At that time the site was occupied by the County Court House, a large two-story building, constructed for the most part of green stone, known as Chester County serpentine. A tower rose to a height of three additional stories, upon the four sides of which were the faces of clocks providing the time of day to those who did not possess watches. Erected in 1880 it had been one of the outstanding buildings of the State. Sloping, grass-covered lawns, made the square a favorite resting spot for many years. The community's growth necessitated larger quarters and the county offices and courts were transferred to the Public Building, erected in 1916. During the World War the old building was used for various war activities. In it the draft board was housed and young men were examined and assigned under the draft law. The first draft in the State was drawn in the building on

Originally Since 1827 the site had been used as a reservoir, the first in the city. The Public Library, on the south side of the Square, was erected in 1923.

The Square itself has an area of a little more than 1 1/2 acres. It was purchased from the County in 1917 for $75,000.

The improvements cost $79,234.66. When proposed it was estimated that the improvements would cost about $25,000 and the city was authorized by the Legislature to spend that amount. Higher costs, brought about by the war, and perhaps by a desire to beautify the Square to a greater extent than at first planned, increased the sum needed and Irenee duPont contributed $22,500, the duPont Company $10,000 and the city increased its appropriation to $32,500. The work was completed in 1921. The Caesar Rodney Association erected the Rodney statue in 1924. The two drinking fountains were gifts of the Wilmington Fountain Society.

Completely surrounded by the duPont Building and Hotel, the new Post Office, erected in 1936, the Public Building and the Library, with the Delaware Trust Building in the background; the historic First-Central Church, the modern Odd Fellows Building, and the Citizens Bank Building on the several corners of street intersections, Rodney Square represents the fulfillment of pre-war-day dreams of civic conscious citizens who had long visioned an attractive center at this location.

B. Jour

File No.617

Submitted by : J. E. Bero,

Rewritten by : Jerry Sweeney,

Date : April 29, 1936.

18

STATUES:

THOMAS FRANCIS BAYARD STATUE
on Kentmere Parkway at the junction of Shallcross and Woodlawn Avenues.

This bronze statue of Thomas Francis Bayard (1828--1898) stands on a granitic pedestal which is elevated three steps above the green and highest ground of Kentmere Parkway. It pictures Bayard in the conservative dress of his time, holding a cape on his left arm and a scroll in his right hand. The statue and pedestal are surrounded on the rear or westerly sides by a semi-circular granitic alcove. A bronze tablet on the back of the pedestal gives a list of Bayard's most important positions in public life, including: "United States Senator from Delaware 1869-1885. Secretary of State of the United States 1885-1889. First United States Ambassador to Great Britian 1893-1897." Another tablet on the front of the pedestal gives the exact dates of Bayard's birth and death, (Oct.29,1828 and Sept.28,1898 respectively) together with the following quotation: "Bayard is the purest and most patriotic man I know." — Grover Cleveland.

The statue was erected by the Bayard Memorial Association. It was unveiled and dedicated on June 22,1907: amongst the distinguished speakers at the ceremony were Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt.

File No. 617

LOCATION - Wilmington.

Reference file
3/4/36
1c - Pic. of Mon.

Submitted by - J. E. Bero.

Date - January 31, 1936.

Seventy-second April 29.

Thomas J. Bayard Memorial.

The Statue of Thomas F. Bayard (Ambassador, Sec'y of State, U. S. Senator, Christian Gentleman) is located in Rockford Park, at Woodlwan and Shallcross Avenue.

This imposing memorial, the figure of which is bronze, resting upon a pedestal (8) feet tall approached by steps, leading into a semi-circular veranda, flanked with a resting bench of marble, conforming to the granite of the monument's pedestal itself, surrounded with shrubbery, and easily accessible in all directions by paved walks.

Facing the monument and glancing obliquely to the right, one observes through a beautiful vista, Rockford Water Tower, and in the immediate vicinity some of the most elaborate homes of noted Wilmingtonians are found.

The unveiling of the Bayard Memorial Statue took place June 22, 1907. The dedication addresses were made by Hon. George Grey, also were addresses from Theodore Roosevelt, Hon. Grover Cleveland, H. G. Davis,(U. S. Senator of W. Va.) and many of the leading statesmen of the time.

Officers of the Bayard Memorial association were : J. Harvey Whiteman, President; N. H. Swift, Vice-President; and Robert G. Harman, Treasurer.

Inscriptions upon the two panels on the pedestal:

East Panel

Thomas Francis Bayard

Born Oct. 29th, 1828.

Died Sept. 28th, 1898.

"Bayard is the purest and most patriotic man I know" - Grover Cleveland.

West Panel

United States District Attorney for Delaware

1853 - 1857

United States Senator from Delaware

1869 - 1885

Member United States Electorial Commission

1877

President Pro-Tem United States Senate

1881

Secretary of State of the United States

1885 - 1889

First United States Ambassador to Great Britain.

1893 - 1897.

"And shall these labors and these honors die." ?

Shakespeare.

Thomas Francis Bayard, the second and only surviving son of James Asheton Bayard and Anne Frances, (granddaughter of Captain Fench Francis, of Philadelphia, who was captain of a troop in the American forces in the Revolution), was born in Wilmington, Delaware, Oct. 29, 1828. Died Sept. 28, 1898.

Earlier accounts of Mr. Bayard's ancestry dates back about 1505, mentioning A. Seigneur de Bayard as the head of the house, whose origin is traced back, to the province of Dauphine, now the department of the ISERE, in southeast France about Six Leagues from Grenoble the ruins of Chateau Bayard, ~~work~~ mark what is regarded as the cradle of the race. A. Seigneur de Bayard, the head of the house, was slained at the Battle of Poitiers in a vain attempt to prevent the capture of King John the Good by the English. His son fell in combat with the same enemy at Agincourt, as also his grandson at Montlhery. But the second descent was most widely known namely Pierre du Ferrail Seigneur de Bayard, the knight w thout fear, was the famous Captain of Charles VIII, Louis XII, and FrancisI, the latter of whom, after the battle of Marignano, would receive the honor of knighthood from no hand but that of Bayard. In the war between Francis and Emperor Charles V, he fell mortally wounded conducting a retreat at the passage of the Sesia, April 30th, 1524. As he left no heirs, his estate and rank, descended to the next of kin, and the family name, Du Terrail, was merged in the territorial name Bayard.

Among the descendant of these Bayards were three brothers, Jacques, Thomas and Philippe, who embraced the Huguenot faith. During the persecution which followed the massacre of St. Bartholomew, with thousands of their fellow-believers, fled from France and took refuge in Holland, where their descendents still exist. One of these, Samuel Bayard, early in the seventeenth century, married Anneke, or Anne's daughter of Balthayer Stuyvesant and sister of PeterStuyvesant, Governor of New Amsterdam, Ann Bayard, being a widow at the time of her brother's appointment, with her three sons Balthayer, Nicholas, and Petrus, and a daughter Catherine embarked with him for the New World, landing at New Amsterdam, May 11, 1647. From these three brothers all the Bayards in the United States decended. Petrus associated himself with a religious sect known as The Labadists, but evidently withdrawn from this Community at Bohemia Manor, as he died in New York in 1699.

Of Samuel, the son of Petrus (or Peter) as he was called after his naturalization in Maryland), there is little record. He seems to have lived on his Bohemia Manor farm in ease and abundance, characteristic of those times, occupying a large brick house, in which he and his descendant lived till 1789. He died in 1721, leaving three sons, Samuel, Peter and James, and one daughter, Mary Anne.

James, the third son, married, Mary Ashton, of Vriginia, and of this marriage were born two sons, John and James Asheton. John Bayard lived in Philadelphia, and took an active part on the patriotic side at the outbreak of the Revolution. He was chairman of the committee of Inspection for the County of Philadelphia, and Bancroft pronounced him, "a patriot of singular purity of character and disinterestedness; personally brave, pensive, earnest and devout" (History of the United States VIII 385).

His brother James Asheton Bayard, died in 1769, leaving two sons, John and James Asheton the second, the latter an infant but two years old. John Bayard held the rank of Colonel in the American army during the war of the Revolution, in which he distinguished himself by his conduct and courage! He commanded the artillery at the battle of Brandywine.

James Asheton Bayard, the second, was born in Philadelphia, but after his graduation at Princeton College, he removed to Delaware where he married Anne, daughter of Governor Richard Bassett. His talents and character, won him great esteem, and after he attained his majority, elected him one of their representatives in Congress. Here he soon showed his ability as chairman of the Committee that conducted the impeachment of Sanator Blount, and particularly distinguished himself by his statesmanlike treatment at the difficult constitutional question that arose during the progress of that important case.

President Adams from the first noted Mr. Bayard's ability, nominated him as Minister to France, which he refused, for political and economical reasons (letter on this subject Feb. 22, 1801.

In the House he was one of the leaders of the Federal party, not violently partisan, but conspicuous for moderation, wisdom, forbearance, and recognition of great truths, so often forgotten, believing that parties are not ends in themselves but only means to an end, and must not be placed above the welfare of the country. He played an important part in the memorable contest between Jefferson and Burr, as he felt the peace of the country in danger, and he prevailed upon his policital allies to sacrifice for the general good.

After serving two terms in the House with marked ability, winning the admiration of his political apponents, he was elected to the Senate. In 1812 he was selected by President Madison as one of the commissioners to treat for peace with Great Britain and by his firmness and tact the treaty of Ghent was signed. While still in Europe he was chosen by the President as an envoy to St. Petersburg, but being seized with a martal illness returned to American only to die.

He died in August 1815, leaving four sons Richard H., James Asheton, Edward, and Henry M. Bayard and two daughters.

Richard the eldest was the first mayor of Wilmington and afterwards twice represented Delaware in the United States Senate, from 1863 to 1839, and from 1841 to 1845, and was Minister to Belgium from 1849 to 1852.

James Asheton, the second son, also represented his native state in the Senate in 1850, 1856 and 1862. This remarkable proof of the confidence of his fellow citizens was not obtained by any act of the demogogue. He was consistently a Democrat, devoutedly attached to the union and the Constitution, his fidelity never swerved for party exigencies.

The ties of Delaware and her sister southern states were strong, and many would have liked to have Delaware swepted away on the waves of succession, but by wonderful leadership and the strong influences of the Bayards, father and son, this proposition was rejected.

As a lawyer he stood in the first rank, and perhaps the finest legal mind in Delaware, his great strength lay in the depth and clearness of his intellect. He possessed few of the graces of popular oratory, and none of the arts that win popularity.

His habit of absorbing thought sometime made him forgetful, passing friends on the streets, unnoticed, and by this apparent discourtesy, often gave serious offense until explained, but all who knew him, his simplicity, frankness of character, wholly free from affectation or insincerity, he had through confidence of all who knew him.

Mr. Bayard entered political life as a Democrat, and was a candidate for Congress in 1828 as a Jackson man. From the constitutional principles of that party he has never wavered, nor shrunk from the open avowal of his convictions, in war or in peace. Under Van Buren he held the position of United States attorney for Delaware.

When, after his election to the Senate in 1862, the unconstitutional "iron clad" oath was presented to him which he signed after protecting, immediately resigned his seat only to be recalled again to fill the vacancy caused by death of Mr. George R. Riddle who succeeded him.

On the same day in which Mr. Bayard was elected to fill his own unexpired term. His son, Thomas F. Bayard was also elected for the full succeeding term and in March 4, 1869 both father and son were senators, the term of the latter beginning at noon of the day when that of the former expired.

Mr. Bayard never attended college; he was educated at a private school at Flushing, N. Y. When his father moved to N. Y. he entered the employ of a mercantile house, and later another firm in Philadelphia. When about twenty, he began studying law in Wilmington and was admitted to the bar in 1851, and became a great success in that city becoming a permanent resident in 1858.

He had a lucrative practice and administered to many estates. In Oct. 1856 he married, Louise, the daughter of Josiah Lee, a wealthy Baltimore banker and had three sons and six daughters. She dies Jan. 31, 1886 and on May 7, 1889, he married Mary N. daughter of Dr. George Clymer.

In 1869, he was elected as a Democrat to the United State Senate. His only previous experience in public office had been less than a year's service as United District Attorney, 1853-54.

At this time there was a large Republican majority and both sides had ~~been~~ few men of outstanding ability. Bayard acquired a recognized position almost from the start, but being a minority leader, he is remembered more for his exposure of abuses than constructive legislation. He was a Democrat from the old school, although he ~~loved~~ lived to see a new generation abandon many of the historic principles. He began fighting reconstruction policies, undue centralization of federal power, currency he declared could not be "lawfully or safely anything else than a currency value. He hated class legislation of every sort; whether it took the form of ship subsidies, railroad land grants or tariff protection. Militarism and socialism he considered equally inimical to freedom. Law making he declared again and again should be restricted to measures accepted only as necessary, and an administration should be honest and frugal.

 in 1880 + 1884 receiving considerable support, but conditions of politics made his nomination impossible

He was a candidate for the presidential nomination ~~impossible~~. He became secretary of state Nov. 6, 1885, relinguishing his place in the Senate, reluctantly, and largely out of a desire to render President Cleveland any assistance ~~assertion~~ in his power. As a secretary, he confronted troublesome problems from the beginning of his term. A believer in civil service reforms, he immediately put his beliefs into practice. The major diplomatic issues of his term he was obliged to pass on unsettled to his successors, because of certain legal defects in the claims of the United States, and he pursued a conciliatory policy which resulted in the Bayard-Chamberlain Treaty of Feb. 1888. He led the conference protecting seal herds in Bering Sea with interested Powers. He tendered the good offices of the United States (1886) to bring about a settlement of the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. Owing to faulty agreements detrimental to the United States, Bayard, sought consistently for peace and arbitration, and disappfoved some of the contention put forward by opponents who charged him with failure to uphold United States rights.

Following Cleveland's second inauguration in 1893, he was appointed ambassador to Great Britain, the first time such diplomatic rank had been conferred by the United States. He worked quietly, but steadily, in cementing cordial Anglo-American friendship.

Sir Willoughby Maylock, who first met him when discussing the Fishery Treaty some years before, and he entertained on a liberal scale, and was in addition a good sportsman, a keen deer-stalker in the Highlands, while his face was not unfamiliar at Epson, Ascot and New Market Heath. He frequently delivered public addresses, marked by British appreication, assailing the high tariff as state socialism, which were responsible for a host of moral, political and economic evil. Bayard's health began to fail while abroad and after his return in 1897, he took no part in affairs, and seldom appeared in public. He died at Dedham, Mass.

Bayard was a strikingly handsome man, over six feet in height, and of powerful physique. His associates agree, that he had an unusually fine presence, dignified, courteous and prepossessing, and was never inclined either socially or politically to seek popularity with the country at large. As to his integrity there was no difference of opinion. He came unsmirched through a period of legislative service when political standards in Congress were at their worst. John W. Foster, an opponent who severely criticized his conduct of the State Department, declared no man of higher ideals or of more excellent patriotism ever occupied the chair of Secretary of State.

In his home at Wilmington, Delaware, he was regarded as a man who profoundly loved his neighbors and many acts of kindness were lavishly bestowed on his unfortunate fellow citizens.

Dict. of American Biography (Barsotte to Brayer Vol. II
(Thomas F. Bayard Spencer 1880).-
Henry C. Conrad 1900)
Bayard Memorial addresses.

29

Historic Sites,
File No.623

2

LOCATION - - Wilmington

W-State

Submitted by James R. Allen,

Date June 1,1938.

SITE OF AN ENCAMPMENT OF CONTINENTAL TROOPS
Brandywine Park NW of where Lovering Ave.
is joined by N.Broom Street.

General Washington,on December 19,1777,relieved General Sullivan of his command, naming General William Smallwood to command Sullivan's troops with orders to proceed to Wilmington and put the town in the best posture of defense.

General Smallwood arrived in Wilmington on December 20,1777, with two Maryland divisions and the remainder of the Delaware troops, a total force of 1,500 men. They went into camp along the Brandywine extending from a point where Lovering Avenue is joined by Broom Street west as far as Rising Sun and Rockland. It is said that the troops pastured their horses in clover fields about three miles from Wilmington. The troops remained in camp here until late in the spring of 1778 when they were ordered to proceed to Valley Forge, and were placed under command of General Layfayette. General Smallwood had his headquarters at Third and Market Streets during the time he was in camp at Wilmington.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:- - History of Delaware, Vol.1 Page 247,by J. Thomas Scharf, A.M.1888.

Reminiscences of Wilmington,Chapter 7, by Elizabeth Montgomery, 1851.

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B. Jon

(2)

SITE OF AN ENCAMPMENT OF CONTINENTAL TROOPS
Brandywine Park NW. of where Lovering Ave.
is joined by N. Broom Street.

Public Park.

By order of Gen. Washington, Gen. William Smallwood in command of 1,500 encamped in this vicinity on December 21, 1777, for the purpose of defending Wilmington against the British and their sympathizers. Gen. Smallwood remained here until the spring of the next year.

Jones 1

SITE OF THE "SIGN OF THE SHIP" TAVERN
S. E. corner of Third and Market Streets.

The "Sign of the Ship" was a famous tavern in revolutionary times. Continental officers were quartered in it and its distinguished guests included Washington, Lafayette, Aaron Burr, and Commodore Perry. The proprietor during the revolution was John Marshall. He was succeeded by George Ross. In 1789 Captain Patrick O'Flynn, an ex-officer of the Continental Army, became proprietor. He changed the name of the tavern from the "Sign of the Ship" to the "Happy Retreat" and operated it under the latter title until his death, in 1818. During the ensuing years it had several owners in succession, including G. James Wolfe who changed its name to "Lafayette," because he prepared the banquet which was given to Lafayette in the City Hall in 1824. It ceased to be a tavern in 1835, and was replaced by the present building soon afterwards.

An interesting anecdote concerning the "Sign of the Ship" relates that when sailors of the British fleet visited Wilmington they were much annoyed by the sign which pictured an American Sloop destroying two British "three-deckers," so one day two of the sailors destroyed the sign with an axe. John Marshall who witnessed the destruction but dared not prevent it, is reputed to have said to the sailors, "'Tis a vast pity you did not have pluck enough to beat the little Randolph, for then I would not have a handsome sign hacked to pieces in that way."

Submitted by Jerry Sweeney, File No.617

Rewritten by Jerry Sweeney,

Date April 29,1936.

STATUE:

CAESAR RODNEY STATUE
Rodney Square on the
E. Side of Market
between Tenth and
Eleventh Streets.

This bronze equestrian statue was erected by the citizens of Delaware, through the agency of the Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue Committee; 2/3 of the cost raised by popular subscription and 1/3 appropriated by the Legislature. According to an inscription on the granitic pedestal it is intended: "To commemorate Caesar Rodney's ride to Philadelphia to cast Delaware's vote for independence, July 3 and 4, 1776." A bronze base-relief on the east side is entitled: "Caesar Rodney arriving at Philadelphia, is greeted by Thomas McKean, July 4,1776." Another on the west side is entitled: "Rodney casting his vote in Independence Hall, July 4, 1776," and quotes Rodney as follows: "As I believe the voice of my constituents and all honest men is in favour of independence, my own honest judgement concurs with them, I vote for independence."

The statue was dedicated on July 5,1923. The orator at the ceremony was Thomas F. Bayard, then U. S. Senator from Delaware.

Since the statue was erected it has been reliably determined that Rodney arrived in Philadelphia July 2, 1776, instead of July 4. His heroic ride and the incidents thatled to and followed it, are briefly described as follows:

According to the Dictionary of American Biography Under the Auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, Edited by Dumas Malone (In_____ vol.) vol.XVI, 622 pp. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1935:

"On June 22 Rodney hurried to Sussex County to investigate a threatened Loyalist uprising there and had just returned to his home in Kent County when he received an 'express" from his colleague, McKean, urging his immediate return to Philadelphia to vote on Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence. He rode eighty miles on horseback, arriving in the late afternoon of July 2,1776, in time to cast Delaware's vote for independence - - his vote and McKean's over-riding the negative vote of Read, the more conservative member of the delegation. He likewise voted with McKean for the adoption of the Declaration of Independence."

To further confirm that Caesar Rodney accomplished his famous ride of eighty miles on July 2,1776 see the following sources:-

The Americana Corporation - The Encyclopaedia Americana - - In Thirty Volumes, vol.8, 720 pp. New York, Chicago; The Americana Corporation 1925.

Michael, William Henry - The Declaration of Independence, Illustrated Story of Its Adoption with the Biographies and Portraits of the Signers and of the Secretary of the Congress - 100 pp. Washington ; Government Printing Office, 1904.

Powell, A.B., Walter A. - A History of Delaware - 476 pp. Boston; The Christopher Publishing House 1928.

K. A. Horner
March 18, 1937

Points of Interest

RODNEY SQUARE

16. Rodney Square, a small plot of park land, lying in the heart of the city between Tenth and Eleventh, Market and King Streets with the buildings surrounding it, is the center of the city's administrative, financial and cultural activities.

The Square had its inception, perhaps, when the first unit of the duPont Building was erected in 1907. At that time the site was occupied by the County Court House, a large two-story building, constructed for the most part of green stone, known as Chester County serpentine. A tower rose to a height of three additional stories, upon the four sides of which were the faces of clocks providing the time of day to those who did not possess watches. Erected in 1880 it had been one of the outstanding buildings of the State. Sloping, grass-covered lawns, made the square a favorite resting spot for many years. The community's growth necessitated larger quarters and the county offices and courts were transferred to the Public Building, erected in 1916. During the World War the old building was used for various war activities. In it the draft board was housed and young men were examined and assigned under the draft law. The first draft in the State was drawn in the building on

Since 1827 the site had been used as a reservoir, the first in the city. The Public Library, on the south side of the Square, was erected in 1923.

The Square itself has an area of a little more than 1 1/2 acres. It was purchased from the County in 1917 for $75,000.

The improvements cost $79,234.66. When proposed it was estimated that the improvements would cost about $25,000 and the city was authorized by the Legislature to spend that amount. Higher costs, brought about by the war, and perhaps by a desire to beautify the Square to a greater extent than at first planned, increased the sum needed and Irenee duPont contributed $22,500, the duPont Company $10,000 and the city increased its appropriation to $32,500. The work was completed in 1921. The Caesar Rodney Association erected the Rodney statue in 1924. The two drinking fountains were gifts of the Wilmington Fountain Society.

Completely surrounded by the duPont Building and Hotel, the new Post Office, erected in 1936, the Public Building and the Library, with the Delaware Trust Building in the background; the historic First-Central Church, the modern Odd Fellows Building, and the Citizens Bank Building on the several corners of street intersections, Rodney Square represents the fulfillment of pre-war-day dreams of civic conscious citizens who had long visioned an attractive center at this location.

File No. 617

LOCATION - Wilmington

Assigned to - John E. Bero

Date - January 23, 1936

Memorials, Monuments and Statues

Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue

This memorial honoring Caesar Rodney is typical of the man, in as much as it represents speed of action, once his decisions were made; yet the role of the thinker was big within him. This patriot probably had no equal during his time who displayed such energy and zeal for Independence, and his seventy-mile ride from Dover to Independence at Philadelphia, that made the decision unanimous to sever British Rule, demonstrated his singleness of purpose for this cause. One can only wonder what our present status would be had Rodney hesitated---he, who said himself that he was delayed by rains and thunder, and as has been written, much distress and suffering caused by a sore on his nose, later determined as cancer, in which he suffered for the last twenty years of his life.

In these years, he accomplished his greatest work towards furthering the welfare of his fellow countrymen; notably, member of the Stamp Act Congress and the First and Second Continental Congress; Speaker of the Delaware Colonial Assembly; President of The Delaware State; Major General of the Delaware Militia; Signer of The Declaration of Independence; and a colorful and inspiring person for the cause of his country.

The Genealogy of Rodney was no less inspiring than his own remarkable achievements; (notes on this as presented by George Herbert Ryden, Phd., Professor of History and Political Science University of Delaware and State Archivist of Delaware) gives the following:

Caesar Rodney, the eldest son of Caesar and grandson of William Rodney, descended from William Rodney, the American progenitor of the family of that name, and contributed much service to the commonwealth. He was of honorable and distinguished ancestry, and traced his descent from Sir Walter de Rodney, who came from Normandy in 1139 A.D. in the suite of Empress Maude, daughter of Henry 11, and wife of Geoffrey Plantaganent, Earl of Anjou. Sir Walter served in the war against Stephen, by which the successor to the Crown of England was secured to Henry 11.

In the subsequent history of England, the Rodneys proved themselves a valiant and honorable race. Soon after the arrival of William Rodney in the province of Pennsylvania, he settled in St. Jones, now Kent County, and in the annals of the period we find his name connected with the local government. We find Mr. Rodney's name in the memorial of representative free-holders in the year of 1700, when they endeavored unavailingly, but as it eventuated, fortunately, to re-establish a legislative union with the province, under the liberal charter of Penn, as it had existed under the settlement of February, 1682, and when the three lower counties had organized a separate assembly for their own government in 1701, William Rodney was chosen Speaker of the Assembly.

His father, whose name also was William, had married Alice, the daughter of Sir Thomas Caesar, an eminent merchant of the City of London, and his son, William, died near Dover, Delaware in the year 1700, leaving eight children and a considerable landed estate, which was entailed, and by the decease of elder sons, finally vested in his youngest son, Caesar, who continued his residence as a landed proprietor in Delaware until his death in 1745. The Christian name of Caesar, the son of William Rodney, was derived from his great-grandfather, Sir Thomas Caesar.

Caesar Rodney, the eldest son of Caesar and grandson of William Rodney, was born in St. Jones' Neck, near Dover, in Kent County, Delaware in the year 1728 and died at his residence at Poplar Grove, in the same neighborhood on the 26th of June, 1784, in the 57th year of his age. Left an orphan at the age of seventeen, he selected Nicholas Ridgely, Esquire, to be his guardian at an Orphans Court held in Dover on February 27, 1745. This early step had a most fortunate influence upon his moral and intellectual training, for he was brought into a family and under the influence, of an intelligent, honorable, and upright man, who wisely nursed his estate, carefully supervised his education, and took an affectionate interest in his welfare. Mr. Ridgely caused his ward to be instructed in the classics and general literature and in the accomplishments of dancing and fencing, to fit his bearing and manners becomingly to the station in life in which he was born.

Friendships of Rodney were many and varied, owing to his bright, cheerful and cultured personality, that was his as though it were a gift in as much this would seem improbable in view of John Adam's description of him as follows:

"Caesar Rodney is the oddest-looking man in the world; he is tall, thin and as slender as a reed and pale. His face is no bigger than a large apple; yet there is sense, fine spirit, wit and humor in his countenance."

Thomas Rodney, his brother, describes him as follows: "Caesar Rodney was about five feet, ten inches, elegent and genteel, easy and polite, agreeable wit; a great statesman, a faithful public servant, just in his dealings, loyal to his friends, beneficient to his relations, kind to his servants, and always lived in a generous and social style."

Caesar Rodney never married, and the happiness of conjugal life, which he was so fitted by his amiable disposition to enjoy, was denied him, Like Washington, he will always be a Father to the sons of Delaware, because the backbone of Delaware's history is Caesar Rodney and his great work.

The handsome equestrian statue of Caesar Rodney cost about $30,000. $20,000 was raised by popular subcription, and the Legislature appropriated the balance.

The memorial fronts Rodney Square on Market Street in the heart of the financial, administrative, and cultural center of the city, and was designed and executed by James Edward Kelly, New York. The dedication took place July 5, 1923 and the U. S. Senator, Thomas F. Bayard was the Orator.

Bibliography:

News Clippings; "Three Signers" by Conrad; "Letters to and from Caesar Rodney" Ryden's History of the Monument; The Rodney Club.

Memorials:

TODD MEMORIAL
Brandywine
Park N. of
Washington
Memorial
Bridge.

This memorial consists of a granitic shaft, 35 feet high, with an abutment which serve respectively as a background and base for a bronze statue of Winged Victory. It stands on a circular rostrum one hundred feet in circumference, with a granitic border and having the unoccupied part paved with brick. The background of the rostrum is adorned with Virginia red cedars. On its front may be seen a bronze tablet, " In memory of the men and women of Delaware who died for their country 1917-1919."
The base of the memorial exhibits the following inscriptions: "ERECTED IN HONOR OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF DELAWARE WHO SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR, 1917-1918.

" A GIFT OF WILLIAM H. TODD IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, 1925."

The memorial was unveiled on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1925.

William H. Todd was born in Wilmington, in 1867. He started his career as a rivet heater in the Pusey and Jones Shipyard of this city, and eventually became Gen. Mgr. of the Robbins Dry Dock and Repair Co., of Brooklyn N.Y.

He organized the William H. Todd Corporation, and became one of the wealthiest shipbuilders in the country. As a result of injuries suffered in a fall, he died at Brooklyn, N. Y. , in 1932. Mr. Todd is remembered as a philantropist, and as a man who never lost his boyish interest in Wilmington firemen and fire companies.

309
R Jones

W. H. Conner
Sept. 3, 1937

50. The SITE OF FORT CHRISTINA, commonly called THE ROCKS, (at this time (1937) marked by a small stone monument at the foot of E. Fifth St., in the Wilson Line yard and reached from the foot of Fourth St.), is Delaware's foremost historic spot because it was on the natural wharf afforded by a ledge of rocks on the Christina River between Fourth and Seventh Sts. that the pioneer Swedes under Peter Minuit landed in March 1638, built their fort, named it after their young Queen, and established the first permanent settlement of Europeans in Delaware. The rock exposure is designated by a Historic Marker with the inscription: "First Landing Place of the Swedes, 1638. Site of Fort Christina." The monument is inscribed:

> "This stone is a portion of the Rocks on
> which landed the first Swedish Colonists
> in America, 29 March, 1638. On this spot
> stood Fort Christina. Here the Swedes held
> their first Civil Courts and in the Chapel of the
> Fort celebrated their first Christian Worship
> in the New World.
> Erected by the Delaware Society of Colonial
> Dames of America, March 29, 1903."

Although the spot presents a picture of neglect, surrounded as it is by industrial debris, the long period of apparent disregard on the part of Delawareans is nearing an end with the State preparing to acquire the site and convert it into a two acre park. Here, on June 27, 1938, will be held Delaware's Tercentenary Celebration, in which the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey will also take part and to which President Franklin D. Roosevelt will welcome Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph and Crown Princess Louise, of Sweden, and other distinguished Swedes and Finns upon their arrival at The Rocks aboard a warship.

The park, designed by Robert Wheelwright, Philadelphia landscape

architect, in consultation with the State Highway Comission and the Delaware Tercentenary Commission, will front the river with a concrete bulkhead topped by posts between suspended chains. A brick wall will surround the park. From a gate at the foot of East Seventh Street, east of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a walk, 20 ft. wide, will extend the length of the park, about 600 feet, to a monument to be erected near the water. This monument, a gift of the people of Sweden who raised $50,000 by popular subscription, will be a black Swedish granite memorial, 25 to 30 ft. high, to the Kalmar Nyckel (Key of Kalmar), one of the two Dutch vessels on which the settlers came to America. Designed by Carl Milles, known as Sweden's most modern sculptor, the memorial will be surmounted by a figure of a ship under full sail. On the six sides of its shaft will be scenes of Swedish Colonial life in America.

In Sweden a special jubilee coin and a jubilee stamp will be issued by the government. The United States Mint issued such a coin, a half dollar, in 1937, designed by Carl L. Schmitz, New York City, and awarded a prize of $500. The obverse shows the Kalmar Nyckel, and the reverse Holy Trinity Church (Old Swedes).

Another phase of the tercentenary observance will be the exhibition in 1938, in Wilmington and other cities of a Swedish collection, representing decorative art products of the past 300 years, which will include paintings, sculptures, furniture, textiles, silverware, and glassware.

Peter Minuit was the leader of the expedition that set out from Gothenburg in the two vessels Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip in November 1637. He had been governor of the Dutch colony at New Amsterdam and had knowledge of the South, or Delaware River. Sent forth by the New Sweden Company, the boats were loaded with trade goods for the

Indians and the emigrants' cargo which included seeds, food, ammunition, axes, knives, mirrors, and beads. Buffeted by storms, the small group was forced to put in for provisions and repairs to the two ships at the Dutch harbor of Mendemblik. In the following spring, they reached Delaware waters and landed near Lewes at what they called Paradis Udden (Paradise Point). Refreshed, they pushed on again, sailing up the Delaware Bay to Minquas Kil, later renamed the Christina, where they steered into the channel to the landing place on the rocks.

Near the rocks, on land bought from the Indians, they built their fort, constructed of palisades and earth in the form of a square; at the four corners acute-angled bastions projected diagonally. Cannon were placed in three of these corners and within the enclosure two log houses were erected for the garrison and its supplies. The fort extended nearly to the Christina. An amusing incident in its early occupancy is described by Peter Lindestrom in Geographia Americae, translated by Amandus Johnson. Lindestrom wrote:

> "Now, I will not withhold a ludicrous occurrence which happened one night on our first arrival at Fort Christina, namely, that one of our soldiers who had lately arrived at Fort Christina, gave an alarm in the fort, while he was on guard, because he saw Spanish flies (fireflies) shine bright, and close which he had not seen before, crying out with a loud voice, 'Alarm, Alarm, the enemy is about.' Thereupon the drummer beat the alarm. He was asked what he had seen. He replied: 'The enemy is here close to the fort, see how many burning torches there are.' And when it was looked into, it was (found to be) nothing but Spanish flies, for which all the people in the fort had run to arms."

The first legal trial on the Delaware of which there is any record was held at the fort in 1643 when a court extraordinary was convened to try the Englishman, George Lamberton who for some time had been trading among the Indians. He was charged with bribing the

savages to kill all the Swedes and Dutch and burn their buildings. Governor Johan Printz, acting as prosecuting attorney, withdrew the bribery charge, but the court, nonetheless, found the prisoner guilty. However, since he was a foreigner and "would not confess to the charge", the case was dismissed. On other counts, the court decided that Lamberton had no right to trade in this territory and that his ship and cargo were to be forfeited, unless, he paid duty on the beavers bought, in which event he was to be discharged. Lamberton later had another day in court. On this occasion Printz convened it to try himself. Again he acted as prosecuting attorney, but this time also as defendant and chief justice. The result of this unique case was that Printz, the prosecutor, refused to press the charge against Printz, the prisoner, that he had oppressed Lamberton, and so Printz, the chief justice, discharged the prisoner.

On the rising ground back of the fort , in course of time, the emigrants began a settlement which was called Christinaham, or Christine Harbor. Fields were divided into lots, streets were laid out, and, as houses began to arise, colonists were summoned from Fort Casimar (see p. ____), to swear allegiance to Sweden. Casimir was re-named Fort Trinity by Rising because it was captured on Trinity Sunday, May 21, 1654.

In reprisal for the taking of Fort Casimir, the redoubtable Peter Stuyvesant invested Fort Christina after he had recaptured Fort Trinity on September 1, 1655. The siege was bloodless. Stuyvesant had a fleet of "two battleships", four smaller vessels, and a sloop, and a force of 317 soldiers in addition to a company of sailors, while Governor Johan Classon Rising had only a garrison of thirty men in the fort and very little powder, the bulk of this having been sent to

Fort Trinity. The investment proceeded ten days, and on September 25, Rising surrendered to Stuyvesant. The garrison marched out "with beating of drums, playing of fifes, burning matches, musket-balls in their mouths, and hand and sidearms." The story of the seige is humorously retold in Washington Irving's History of New York by Diedrich Knickerbocker.

Thus ended Swedish rule on the Delaware. Some of the Swedes were deported, and the remainder swore allegiance to the Dutch. The fort was re-named Fort Altena, and it was restored in 1657 to become the capital of the Dutch West India Company's colony. The fort was rebuilt in 1748 as a protection to the Borough of Wilmington against pirates. Prior to the Revolution there was another fortification near the spot now occupied by the Colonial Dames' monument and finally, in March 1813, it was once more placed in commission and called Fort Union.

Benjamin Ferris in A History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware, published in 1846, thus describes the site as it then appeared:

> "... The very spot where the valiant governor of the New Netherlands, Peter Stuyvesant, of warlike mien and memory with his sage counsellor Nicatius de Sylle, of the one part, and John Claudii Rising, governor general of New Sweden, with his Commissary Elswyck, of the other part, held a parley for the surrender of Fort Christina, nearly two hundred years ago--that very spot is now a yawning gulph excavated wide and deep, out of which have been taken thousands of tons of stone to make the Delaware Breakwater," (see Lewes, p.).

Thus the rocks began gradually to disappear. The physical appearance of the ledge changed further in Government dredging and widening operations between 1838 and 1840. By 1876 there had been removed from the south sloop of the channel a short distance down stream from Third Street Bridge 135 more yards of solid rock, pre-

sumably a part of the ledge. Little of the ledge remains in sight.

3N

Submitted and rewritten by: Jerry Sweeney.

File No.617

Memorials:

JOB H. JACKSON MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
SW. corner of Locust and Taylor Streets.

This combination trough and drink-fountain was erected in 1905 by the Wilmington Fountain Society in memory of Job H. Jackson, one of the founders and prseidents of the Jackson & Sharp Co. of this city.

The fountain is composed of iron and has two marble tablets thereon; one of which gives the year of erection and the other the following inscription: "In memory of Job H. Jackson."

Authority: Writer' personal observation.

File No. 617

Submitted and rewritten by Jerry Sweeney

Date: May 28, 1936

Memorials:

FERRIS BRINGHURST MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
at the divergence of Delaware and
Pennsylvania Avenues.

This fountain was erected by the Wilmington Fountain Society in 1872. It consists of an ornamenatl base of gray granite, a five-foot high column of polished red Aberdeen granite with a capitol of gray granite which is surmounted by an urn of polished red Aberdeen granite.

Besides supporting the column, the base serves as a stand for a drink-fountain. An inscription on its N. side reads: "To the memory of Ferris Bringhurst, first president of the Wilmington Fountain Society," and another on its S. side reads: "Kindness to God's creatures is a service acceptable to him."

Authority:

Scharf, A.M., LL.D.; J. Thomas — History of Delaware 1609 to 1888 — (In two vol. illustrated). Vol. II, 1358 pp. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co. 1888.

Writer's personal observation.

By Wm. H. Conner
July 14, 1937

Points of Interest
Wilmington

317

R. Goode

56 57 WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, 303 West St., (not open to the public), a three-story building with new front but original two-story rear, was used by the commander-in-chief during the period immediately prior to the Battle of the Brandywine. A tablet reciting its historical importance was placed on the front of the building by the Delaware State Society of the Cincinnati, Feb. 22, 1902.

Closely watching the movements of the British General Howe, Washington arrived in Wilmington the same day, Aug. 25, 1777, that Howe landed at Head of Elk, Md., and chose 303 West Street as his headquarters because of the high location. With Lafayette and Greene he rode the following day to Iron Hill on a reconnoitering trip (see p.). Returning to Wilmington, this house, in conjunction with Newport, was continued as headquarters until September 8, when the Continentals marched to Chadd's Ford to fight the Battle of the Brandywine on September 11.

The house was owned at the time by Joseph Bennett, a sea captain and father of Major Caleb P. Bennett (1758-1836), later Governor of Delaware. Caleb, whose grandmother was Mary Boone, daughter of the famous Kentucky pioneer, Daniel Boone, fought throughout the Revolutionary War and was at Yorktown. To the day of his death, July 11, 1836, he clung to the old-fashioned dress, wearing low shoes, silver knee and shoe-buckles, long silk stockings, white kid breeches, velvet coat with brass buttons, ruffled shirt-boson, and powdered hair and queue. He was buried in the Friends Cemetery, only a block away from this house (see p.).

Wm. H. Forbes
February 17, 1941

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

MEMORIES OF BISHOPSTEAD

Bishopstead has been for years the residence of the Protestant Episcopal Bishops of the Delaware Diocese, beginning with Bishop Alfred Lee, who owned the property. It was bought in 1893 by an anonymous layman of the church, and presented to the diocese. It was customary to hold a one day lawn-fete there every summer. At one of these, about 1900, Alfred I. du Pont's orchestra, led by Mr. du Pont, furnished the music.

At that time a large picture hung in the hallway, showing the Bishops of the Anglican church gathered on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral in London for a short religious service, as part of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign. This took place on June 22, 1897, and Delaware's Bishop Leighton Coleman was in the front row. Upon Bishop Coleman's death, his body was on view in the chapel at Bishopstead.

After the arrival of Bishop Philip Cook in 1920, he was instrumental in having the Synod of the church in this section choose Wilmington as its meeting place the following year. Bishops and other clergy came from six nearby States, and were given a reception at Bishopstead upon the eve of their arrival. For the three days of the sessions, luncheons were tendered the delegates in the ballroom of the Hotel du Pont, the group filling the room.

St. John's Church, now known as the Cathederal Church, has always been closely identified with Bishopstead, as it is the Bishop's Church. St. John's had as rector some years ago the Reverend George C. Hall, who had formerly been a Lutheran minister. Mrs. Hall was also prominent in club and social circles. Because of failing health, Dr. Hall lived in retirement for some years before his death.

A Sketch of the Rt. Rev. Philip Cook
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware (1920-1938)

Born at Kansas City, Missouri, July 1, 1875, Bishop Cook was a graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and the General Theological Seminary in New York. Ordained to the priesthood in 1902, he was first assigned to the little town of Minot in the Dakotas, a rough and ready town, where profanity was well mixed with the general conversation. It was a shock to him to find out later that some of the worst talkers were leaders in his church. One of them explained to the young priest that one had to be tough, or others"would walk all over you."

From there he went to be Vicar of the Chapel of the Incarnation on the lower East Side of New York City, and it was there he met his future wife, who was teaching a Bible class. He next went to St. Mark's Church, San Antonio, Texas, then to St. Michael's and All Angels, Baltimore, and thence to be Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware. The Baltimore church had been noted for years for the rectors who went from there to be bishops of the Church. Where Bishop Cook was stationed as

priest or bishop, he early took a leading part in the community life. Bishop Mann, who ordained him to the priesthood, ~~and priesthood~~ and preached the sermon at his ordination as a bishop, called him a man of splendid personality and vigor.

As the work of the little Diocese of Delaware did not fill his desire for service to the church, he added the office and work of President of the National Council, governing body of the church. It was in returning in his automobile from his duties in New York, accompanied by some of his children, that an accident occurred near Trenton in which one of his daughters was killed, and the Bishop sustained injuries, which eventually led to his death. His standing was high among the Bishops of the Church, and had not his death intervened, no doubt he would have been elected Presiding Bishop, the tenure of which office is for six years.

The Church in this Diocese has been fortunate through the years in having as leaders such men as, Bishops Alfred Lee, Leighton Coleman, and Philip Cook. When Bishop Lee would call on one of his parishioners, he would place his hand on the side of the door before entering, and ask a blessing on the household. Bishop Coleman was noted for his interest in all his flock, down to the small children.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Encyclopaedia File 321
Cities and Towns
Wilmington

W. H. Forbes
Aug. 13, 1940

MILL STONE ON BRANDYWINE DRIVE

The Mill Stone on the Brandywine Drive at Adams Street was for more than one hundred years in a grist mill, at what is known as Barley Mill Dam, near the foot of Jackson Street. The mill property was owned by the Canby family from 1746 to 1883; in the latter year it was purchased by the City to become a part of Brandywine Park.

Reference: Board of Park Commissioners.

Encyclopedia 322

Wm. H. Forbes
October 11, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

The election campaigns for the National and State tickets are mild affairs today, compared to those of earlier years. The torchlight parades, which have since been banned, with their music and uniforms vied with the circus parades for color. Most of the processions then passed off without any great amount of interference, with the exception of the Democratic parade during the campaign of 1880. When the vicinity of Ninth and French was reached, they clashed with the Negroes and the fight lasted most of the night. Some of those who sought refuge in Ezion Church on the corner got panicky, and jumped from the high windows. The next morning the street was strewn with bricks and other missiles.

In those days boys took sides, wearing caps with straight visors, with bands bearing the names of their favorites for President and Vice-President. Their political allegiance was largely governed by that of their elders in the home. When Election Night arrived, the boxes and barrels which the boys had been collecting for days would be piled in the middle of the intersection and saturated with coal oil, to make a more snappy fire. Around these fires all the bitterness of the campaign would be forgotten, and all would again be just Americans.

Lord Bryce in his American Commonwealth, published in 1876, comments on the intense excitement and sometimes bitterness which characterized those campaigns. The losers, however, would accept the results, and begin to look forward to the election four years hence to get revenge.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
September 3, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

AN OLD-ESTABLISHED LOCATION

The buildings, both old and new, at the N.W. corner of Seventh and Shipley Streets, have been put to many uses. Years ago this was the site of the carriage making plant of Frist and Allmon. After being vacant for a while, Mr. Dockstader moved his show and menagerie there from down Shipley Street, and remained until the completion of his new home on Market Street, between Eighth and Ninth. The next to occupy this site was the Foord and Massey Furniture Company, operated by William Foord and Frank Massey, son of the jeweler at Fourth and King Streets. One of Mr. Foord's relatives having married William Beadenkopf, the leather manufacturer, the latter took a financial interest in the firm, and the building that stands there today was erected. The next occupant of the property was the Stern Company, a branch of the Philadelphia store. After some years, this company moved its furniture business to the building at the S. E. corner of Seventh and Market, which had formerly been occupied by David Snellenburg as a clothing and gents furnishing store. After the removal of the Stern Company, the building was taken over by the Sears-Roebuck Company, who are now there.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
October 18, 1940

Cities and Towns File
Wilmington

OLD NATIONAL GUARD DAYS

Fifty years ago before the first Armory was built, the city companies of the State National Guard were located on one of the upper floors of the Masonic Temple. The uniform worn included a blue coat, blue and gray trousers with a broad black stripe down the side. The helmets with the yellow tassel hanging from the center of the crown suggested very much those worn by the soldiers in the German Army. Armon D. Chaytor, who at that time was a clerk in the post-office at Sixth and King Streets, was a prominent member. A cavalry regiment was also part of the State equipment. James Fields, better known as "Jimmy," son of William M. Fields, president of the Central National Bank, whose home was at Kentmere, was one of that aggregation. He could be found at times strutting around, all booted and spurred, a regular "show off." Later on, I. Pusey Wickersham came to the fore in guard circles, and was in command of the State troops at the time of the Spanish- American war.

On public occasions, when our State troops join with other States, Delaware heads the line of march. At the dedication of Grant's tomb in April 1897, General Wickersham led the troops, and Grantley Parke Postles was on the staff of Ebe Tunnell, then Governor of the State.

James Fields was engaged to the daughter of Henry C. Robinson the banker, and while the two were out for a canter, she was thrown from her horse and killed.

Reference: Personal Recollections

OLD-TIME OFFICE WORK

A look into the office of an industrial firm fifty years ago would present a different picture to one of today. The activities of the office centered around the bookkeeper, standing at his high desk, with daybook, cash-book, and ledger spread out before him, moving back and forth, from one to the other, and always keeping in mind the fundamental rule of bookkeeping: debit what is received, or who or what costs value, and credit what is given, or who or what produces value. The bookkeeper stood on a narrow platform, raised a few inches from the floor to ease the strain of standing for long hours. Double or single entry were used, according to the exigencies of the business. At the end of the month, he would take off a trial balance, and at the end of the fiscal or calendar year, a balance sheet to show the profit or loss.

Today, in banks especially, the customers' account are kept on large cards, the deposits and withdrawals being recorded on a typewriter adapted to that work. In an active account, the balance is struck off from day to day, making it possible to see at a glance the condition of the customer's account.

All the letters were written in longhand, in a hand that, as a rule, would shame the writing of today. In those

days the commercial colleges laid special stress on penmanship. The letters when dry would be put in the copy book, the pages of which were as thin as gossamer, between two heavy sheets of cardboard, one being placed back of the dampened sheet, and care being taken not to have the sheet too damp. The letter was placed in the book, the writing next to the damp page; the book was then placed in a press, a little larger than the book, and the press was brought together with a strong pressure, and left for a few minutes. It usually was the work of the office boy to do this copying.

The Goldey Commercial college, found at an early date that only those students with high school training gave entire satisfaction in office work. While they might be proficient in typewriting and shorthand, they lacked the ability to compose a letter for their employer. Mr. Goldey tried to solve this problem by engaging the teacher of English literature and rhetoric at the High School to teach at the college on those subjects.

Reference: Personal recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
October 22, 1940

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND ITS OLD HOMES

Pennsylvania Avenue has been widened in the last few years, old families and homes have disappeared, but the Avenue still remains the main western entrance to the city. On the site of the Rodney Court apartments was the home of the Van Kleeck family. The son, Barent, was often by mistake called "baron," which gave some the impression that they were titled people. Farther on was the home of Henry Grant, who married into the Knowles family, prominent mill owners in New Castle years ago. Mr.Grant is remembered as one who bought his tabacco in the leaf, and turned it over to the DeSoto Brothers of 715 Market to be made into cigars. He also guarded his fine flower beds against cats and other prowlers, very often with a shotgun in hand.

On the edge of his grounds, on the corner of Franklin, was the old-style home of Henry C. Downward, contractor and builder, who was also in the coal business at one time. He was connected with numerous civic bodies. Running from the Avenue on Franklin Street were a few one-story buildings, used about 1900 by some of the artists who came here to study under Howard Pyle, whose studio was at 1305 Franklin Street. At 1103 was the home built over fifty years ago by Willard Pyle, one of the firm of patent leather manufacturers. He had a number of attractive daughters, one of whom married James Saulsbury the lawyer, another married Poyntell Johnston, and another married John Montgomery, better known as "Spike,"

who was killed in a flying machine accident. He would have fallen heir to the interests of his father in the firm of Gilpin, Van Trump and Montgomery. Another member of that firm, Francis duP. Balch, was killed in an automobile accident on the State road at about the same time.

On a large plot of ground bounded by Broome, Franklin, Tenth and Eleventh, was the home occupied by John M. C. Rodney, a city attorney, and a member of Delaware's distinguished family. In building the homes of H. Fletcher Brown and William H. Fenn on this plot, some of the fine old trees have been preserved. At the S.W. corner of Franklin and the Avenue is a large house that for years was the select school for girls, conducted by the Misses Hebbs. This property was owned by Mrs. James Winchester, daughter of Henry S. McComb. When the school was discontinued, the Winchester family occupied it. Mrs. Winchester died there in 1939. In the flatiron where Thirteenth and the Avenue almost meet at Franklin was, forty years ago, the home of Adam Barr, the butcher, father of William A. Barr, the leather manufacturer. In 1910, this home was occupied by Lewis P. Bush, father of Charles Whitley Bush.

At the S.W. corner of Broome and the Avenue is a home built over fifty years ago by William Beadenkopf, another leather manufacturer. It is now occupied by his widow, who was his second wife. He had a son, Clarence, who died some years ago. On the N.E. corner at this intersection is a home built some years ago by Elmer E. Mitchell a leather manufacturer, and now owned and occupied by Clarence McCaulley,

contracting plasterer. On the N.W. corner years ago stood two adjoining houses, occupied by E. L. Rice and his son, E. L. Rice, Jr.

William G. Mendenhall, wholesale lumber dealer, afterwards joined these two houses, and lived there for some years. Today the main house has been razed, leaving the garage standing. Westminster Church, which was an offspring of Central Presbyterian Church on King Street below Eighth was founded over fifty years ago. The first building of wood, was on the corner of Thirteenth Street. Today the Church owns the whole block. The Clayton Street end was, fifty years ago, the site of the Victor Gause home; later it was occupied by Martin Lane.

On the plot bounded by Rodney, Clayton, Eleventh and the Avenue, stood the home of J. Taylor Gause, president of the H. and H. Company. Surrounded there by his three sons, Harry, Horace, and Victor, the family and houses have all disappeared, with the exception of the home of Horace, on the corner of Clayton and the Avenue. His son and daughter still reside there, but the house has been for sale for some time. Harry and Horace Gause were associated with the father in the management of the Harlan plant. At 1606 Pennsylvania Avenue was the home of Andrew J. Woodman. Vincent Walker, of the firm of Walker and Elliott, married Mr. Woodman's daughter, and lived there until their death. Since then the house has been the home of their daughter, Mrs. Fred Becker, her husband and daughter, until the house was torn down to

make way for the building of the Delaware Motor Sales Company. At 1608 was the home of Aubrey Thatcher, who owned the Thatcher quarries over near Vandever Avenue. He was a class leader at St. Paul's Church years ago. From here on out seems to have been selected as a site for automobile row, along with numerous gas stations.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Points of Interest

6-8-37

From Van Gelder, Arthur Pine, and Schlatter, Hugo.
History of the Explosives Industry in America.
New York, Columbia University Press, 1927. 1132 p. ill.

53,
52. EDEN PARK

Page 87. - "Among the 'Documents relating to Manufactures in the United States and Transmitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Treasury' is a report made by Garesche to Joseph Gilpin, who with Andrew Gray collected statistics for the State of Delaware. According to this he had a capital of $58,000 invested in plant and materials and his output was 250,000 pounds a year. His force consisted of 21 to 23 men and the mills were run by horse and steam power. A portion of his production was exported to the West Indies, where he had, no doubt, relatives through his father-in-law. He also states that he began the manufacture of powder in 1819, the year he took over the mill at Wilmington from Bauduy."

Page 88, Note 1. - "Bauduy, Garesche and Verrier were Frenchmen or descendants of Frenchmen who had settled in San Domingo, but were driven out by the insurrection of the slaves in 1791 and came to the United States for refuge. Many of them settled in Wilmington on what became known as French Street, and these families 'constituted a large and refined society of themselves' according to Miss Elizabeth Montgomery, the historian of early Wilmington, whose 'Reminiscences of Wilmington' are authority for part of this account. Reference is also due to an article on 'Eden Park' by Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles in the Delmarvia Star of October 7, 1923. Scharf, Hist. of Delaware

(Phila., 1888), 652, gives the date of the establishment of these mills as 1801, but this seems to be an error as Bauduy did not acquire the Eden Park or, as it was originally called, Monckton Park property until 1805 and he was duPont's partner until 1814. Bauduy, according to Miss Montgomery, was an enterprising man of affable manners and possessed great taste in the fine arts and he was something of an artist himself. He also made the designs for the old city hall in Wilmington. His business interests were varied. Besides his interest in the powder mills, he was a partner in the duPont woolen mills and through his own resources and financial connections he undoubtedly had a large part in helping E. I. duPont through the difficult period while he was establishing his powder mill."

Wm. H. Forbes
October 14, 1940

PIONEER DAYS IN THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

There have to be pioneers in every great movement. The Salvation Army members, when they first stood on the street corners, would be received with jeers and sometimes rotten eggs and vegetables. The pioneers in the Women's Suffrage cause would also take their places on well-lighted corners, or possibly standing in an open car; soon a crowd would gather, some to jeer or heckle, others to give rapt attention. Among the local women who were early champions of the movement were Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, daughter of the late Thomas F. Bayard, and Miss Mabel Vernon, daughter of the late George W. Vernon, publisher of the old Daily Republican. These two women later became leading figures in the national movement. Mrs. Blanche Stubbs, an estimable colored woman, and wife of Doctor Stubbs, of 827 Tatnall Street, worked for the women of her race.

In some localities, by picketing and other noisy demonstrations, the suffragettes, as they were called, would often find themselves faced with either fine or imprisonment. Generally, they chose the latter, as it classed them as martyrs to the cause. Our American women, with less prejudice and handicaps to overcome than the women in England making the crusade under the leadership of Mrs. Pankhurst, did not resort to the same violent tactics. In the England of those days married women did not have the same direction of their

own money, or their children, as enjoyed by the women in this country. About that time a law was passed that should a wife leave her husband, he could bring her back, and reprove her, this might mean anything from a slap on the wrist to a sound beating.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson tells in her story of her days in the White House of a band of pickets outside the gates on a cold blustery day. The President sent a message out, inviting them in where it was warm, an invitation which they declined.

In 1919, an amendment to the Constitution was passed by the necessary number of States and by the Congress, giving women equal suffrage with men.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Mrs. Tracy

TRANSPORTATION MAIL

Transportation of mail was unknown among the earliest settlement. Letters were carried by traders or messengers entrusted with them. It was not until the population had widened and extended from river banks that any regular conveyance of letters was necessary. The weekly post route between Philadelphia, Chester, New Castle and other settlements.

In July 1683 Henry Waldy was given authority to conduct the service and to supply passengers with horses from Philadelphia to New Castle. King William granted to Thomas Neale for twenty(20) years power and authority to establish a postal system in America under this grant a general postoffice was established in the colonies.

In 1759 the mail ran every two weeks and once a month in winter via New Castle.

MAIL TRANSPORTATION

Establishment by Wm.Penn in 1683 are the commencement of the public mail facilities in Delaware.

Wilmington and Philadelphia stages left David Brinton Indian King Hotel every morning at 8o'clock. Southern mail coach stopped at Indian King for breakfast at 7 o'clock.

The northern mail coach from Baltimore stopped at some public inn for dinner. There was one steamboard to Philadelphia in 1815, "The Delaware." Great Northern and Southern Mail Route passed through Wilmington. It was surveyed between June 1812 and January 1813.

Mrs. Tracy.

W. 342

POST MASTERS

Wilmington was accorded recognition as a post office town from the Federal Government soon after Washington was inaugurated as President of the new United States. Who, at the very first, looked after the mails of the town is a matter of some conjecture, but it is generally conceded that the first postmasters distributed letters to patrons through the front window or door of their dwellings. In early days the mail was light, for postage was a heavy drain on the slim purses of Wilmington folks, and letter writing was a luxury indulged in, except for emergencies, by only the well-to-do towns-people.

Consequently there was room for the mails in the small homes of those times without crowding the families of postmasters. It has been facetiously declared that one of the early worthies, while we still bowed to Britannia's rule, carried the post office about in his hat, handing out letters to his neighbors as he walked about town.

The very first postmaster in Wilmington, after Washington had taken up the reins of government, was Jacob Broom, who served from 1790 to 1792, and his post office is believed to have been in the vicinity of Third and Market streets, in John Webster's store, where it was continued twenty years through the incumbencies of John Webster, Samuel Byrnes, Enoch Welsh and Edward Gilpin.

Joseph Bringhurst, when appointed in 1802, removed the postal headquarters for Wilmington to his drug store in Market Street (west side) below, Third. He found room on his shelves for the small consignments of mail, forwarded by stage coaches. Mr. Bringhurst continued his apothecary shop, as the post office during his 18 years of service, uhtil 1820, when the office was given to Nicholas G. Williamson, an attorney-atlaw, who found space in his law office for letters, and for patrons of Uncle Sam to call.

Obviously there were none of the present day contentions - the scramble for the rich political plum - for Williamson remained as postmaster twenty-one years (1820-1841 setting a record for continuous service that has not since been equalled by Wilmington postmasters. Mr. Bringhurst's stay in the post, 18 years, is still the next time record. There is no evidence to show that anybody envied the postmaster or the salary of those times or who cared for the honor.

Jacob Alrich, who combined the vocations of machinist and watch maker, came next in order to the office. He lived "far out" of the centre of the town, on Market Street near Ninth, and after his appointment he shifted the office to Cyrus Newlin's store, in Market Street above Fifth.

The demise of President Harrison preceded the removal of Aldrich by President Tyler, in 1843, and Williamson was recalled and served from July to October, when William Sellers was appointed, in 1843. He shifted the office to his hat store in Market Street southwest corner of Third.

The second floor of the post-office building ~~is~~ was occupied by offices of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Marshal. On the third floor ~~are~~ were located the ~~District Attorney's Office, the Post~~ offices of the Dist. Atty., Incom Tax, Internal Revenue, and Post-Office Inspector, together with the stairway which leads to the tower.

The main public entrance to the ~~building is~~ Post Office was on the W. Ninth Street side, directly under the tower, and ~~the~~ another public entrance ~~is~~ was on the Shipley Street side. Access to the second and third floors is gained by an elevator and a stairway which are located near the entrance from Shipley Street.

Before the Wilmington Post-Office was built the U.S. Government offices were housed in the old Federal Bldg. which still stands at the SE. corner of E. Sixth and King Streets.

This article to be checked before printing because of new postoffice.

Doubtless it was those shifts - political house cleanings - that eventuated, after a long time in Civil Service Reform which safeguards every employe of the post offices of the country. The sole causes for removal now, happily, have no connection with the political affiliations of postal employes. Following the house cleaning of Captain Barr, came the less radical, tranquil William M. Pyle who discontinued in a measure the "hiring and firing" practiced by his predecessors. His administration was satisfactory and he was reappointed for four years more.

President Arthur to the surprise of almost all his partizans, appointed William Y. Swiggett in 1882, whose administration of that branch of the government's business that seemingly overshadowed all the rest, was marked by efficiency.

With the long awaited return of Democratic ascendency Robert H. Taylor was named for the office by President Cleveland. He had been a painted and popular - his conduct of the office met with high commendation from his chief.

With the comeback of the Republicans, Daniel F. Stewart was called to the remunerative Delaware federal office. Stewart's selection was even more of a surprise than Swiggetts. He was almost unknown in politics, but was without the "taint" of either faction of the Republican party, and that seemed essential.

With the second coming of Cleveland as President, Enoch Moore, in 1894, was named for the office with almost no opposition. He had been a life long Democrat as had his family for a century.

But Moore was not permitted to remain long after the return of the Republicans, to control, and Hugh C. Browne was appointed by President Harrison. The choice was scarcely a happy one. William H. Heald, a native Delawarean, an attorney-at-law, was brought from the far West to fill out the term of Browne. He was reappointed for four years more, and as a further recognition of his ability and popularity, he was elected to Congress by the Republicans of Delaware. Henry C. Conrad, afterwards a member of the State Judiciary, historian and State Archivist, followed Mr. Heald for a term of four years and M. Howard Jester - a prominent Republican leader - came after Mr. Conrad.

With the comeback of Democracy, in the person of Woodrow Wilson, James J. English was promptly appointed and served a total of nine years, until the President named LeRoy Hickman and later the plum fell to Alexander R. Abrahams, who had the backing of Senator Coleman duPont. Mr. Abraham's administration was so satisfactory that when his first term expired his reappointment was unopposed. Pyle, English and Abrahams each served even more than eight year.

James J. Cahill, the twenty-sixth postmaster, was the last to serve in the federal government's second local post office building. He was appointed by President Roosevelt, and promptly conformed taking up the duties of the office in April, 1934. He has long been a political leader in the Democratic party. His term of office extended beyond the date of moving from the old post office to the new.

The federal government moved into the first home of its own in 1855, at the northeast corner of Sixth and King Streets.

The building accommodated in addition to the Wilmington post office, the Federal Courts and other offices of the Washington government. The lot coat $3,500 and the building represents a further outlay of $30,000. It remains Gibralter-like having withstood unscathed the stress of almost four score years and still is housing some of the subordinate activities of the national government.

The old building - its court chamber and Marshal's office - staged many bitter contentions during the war. Citizens suspected of disloyalty to the Northern Government were "heard" before the bar of the court there. Some were sent to Fort Delaware, but only for short terms for the spirit of vengeance or persecution such as is the outcome of war-like animosities, even between brethren, soon subsided after the complaining "patriots" had demonstrated their own loyalty by the procedure, and were satisfied that they had done their duty. There were 100 per cent Unionists then as there are 100 per cent Americans to-day, and the individual is no less opposed to being "forced" to flaunt his love of country with the flag now than he was during that tense troublous period of 1860 and through the Reconstruction years that followed. Many of the country's ablest outstanding lawyers appeared before the U. S. District Judges there in cases of vital import and concern, not a few involving the question of human slavery.

File 240

Location - Wilmington

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney

Date - March 5, 1936

RODNEY OAK - OTHER NOTABLE TREES

The great and aged white oak (Quescus Alba) with its outstretched arms in the lawn of H. Fletcher Thompson Brown, West side of Franklin Street, north of Tenth, is the most interesting tree of all the species in Wilmington and Delaware. It is neither the largest nor the oldest of the remnants of the original forests between the two bays, but historically it is associated with many of the outstanding events of the earlier times. Tradition had it that it reached maturity long before the white man came to the three counties on the Delaware, and that under its branches, Indians gathered for tribal conclaves; also that they hung on its limbs, meats taken in the chase for sun-curing. Further legends declared that Cool Spring which bubbled up beneath its shade, possessed a curative value that brought afflicted Red Men and Squaws over long trails to partake of the healing waters.

The Rodney (formerly Cool Spring) Oak, scientists have ascertained by counting its circles or wrinkles, is scarcely more than 240 years old, When William Penn came to New Castle to visit his province in 1682, it was not even in the acorn stage. The tree has a circumference of 13.10 and is 75 feet high with branches that spread over 125 feet of the lawn. If this proud relic could be considered in terms of fire wood, it might yield 30 cords. In earlier days, its output would have been greatly more, but in recent years, its heart died and the center of the trunk crumbled to

zero, and it stands today as a tribute to the preserving virtues of modern tree surgery. Concrete has filled the cavities caused by decay, and while the storms of almost two centuries have broken down some of the limbs, the Rodney Oak retains its impressive conformation that makes it distinctive among all of its kind.

If the great oak stopped widening its girth measure many years ago, probably it was because the marshy land surrounding it disappeared. This low spot is mentioned in a letter to the Honorable James A. Bayard from Caesar A. Rodney, inviting the Senator to come up from Washington and enjoy a day or two's sport, shooting woodcock that fed in the marshes surrounding the oak and spring. It is permissable to turn aside long enough to say that Mr. Bayard promptly assented. Both oaks and woodcock require moisture for proper development.

The Rodney Oak staged most of the patriotic gatherings, celebrations and picnics in the first half of the last century. Delawareans going abroad on important missions were "toasted" under the shade of the tree and the distinguished visitors were welcomed by the citizens at Cool Spring. Its cool water was uncontaminated and undefiled and contained the component minerals to assure partakers of healthfulness. In later years, so that the waters might not be lost to the public, they were piped under the Cool Spring Reservoir to reappear in Tenth Street Park where it meets the need of thousands of adults and children in the summer time.

It is still recalled that two months after the death of Washington, Wilmington held a service of mourning there--- marching to the sorrowful tones of a Dead March by the band to

the oak, where prominent citizens fittingly eulogized the "Father of his Country." Cool Spring was the favorite outing place for Fourth of July celebrants who could shoot fireworks and set off cannons without peril to life or property of Wilmington. There was no objection to noises and fireworks those days with the Independence of the country recently achieved. From the natural rostrum under the oak the foremost of Delaware's orators discussed political economy issues of the time. Perhaps the last celebration held there was a picnic for the wives and children of Delaware soldiers of Civil War trenches in the South, given by that patriot, Eli Crozer, who never forgot the "girls" and children left behind them, when they marched to the defense of the Union. It may be guaranteed that there was an abundant supply of cakes, ice cream and lemonade; and orations by prominent Delaware speakers. The Rodney Oak has held its place against the encroachments of the developments that carried Wilmington over the Western hills and over into Christiana hundred.

Not less interesting as a tree is the huge Buttonwood (Platanus Occidentalis) that has shot its branches even higher than the church spire across the street at Delaware Avenue and West Streets. It is the observed of every passer-by, who wonder at its increasing waist line of 22 feet. It has modestly withheld the secret of its age. Tradition and the oldest citizens unite, however, in the opinion that it has by far passed the two and a quarter century mark. Early in the 1800's merchants and professional men of the town found a comfortable cool lounging place beneath its boughs where they assembled on long summer evenings and exchanged local new small talk as well as

voicing their views on some of the difficult issues before Congress. Teamsters of the duPont Powder wagons in hauling munitions through the city for shipment or storage invariably timed the dinner hour so they could eat under the spreading branches of the big Buttonwood that shades half a dozen houses with its canopy of leaves.

The tree was so much more observable than the house that the late Henry A. Garrett, son of Thomas Garrett, Abolitionist, used to facetiously explain to neighbors that he bought the big tree and the house was thrown in for good measure. It is recalled that it was almost as large when Mr. Garrett bought it as it is today. The present occupant of the residence, however, proud as he is of the majestic Buttonwood, decries it as a dirty nuisance, explaining that with the first frost, it sheds leaves, bark and balls until the coming of Spring.

A less obtrusive, but none the less interesting a tree is a fine Cedar of Lebanon at the South entrance to the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery. Its parallel arms are so regularly adjusted that they appear to have been placed with mathematical precision. It holds its foliage throughout the seasons and is the favorite nesting home of scores of birds who are protected from the hot sun and rain by the heavily massed ~~foliage~~ shade. It was planted in 1850 and adapted itself to Delaware winter so well that it survived the minus temperatures of ~~1884~~ 1934, after giving early signs that it had been fatally frost bitten. Another of the same species flourishes at Oxford, Pennsylvania, which was brought over the seas in the luggage of a missionary, and it, also, withstands the shock of the shift from the torrid heat of the Holy Land to this freakish temperate zone.

Obviously the soil of the Diamond State is perfectly adapted to the welfare of oak trees. The largest of the White Oak family in Delaware is growing near Frederica, Kent County. It is 22 feet in circumference, rises 72 feet and spreads its branches 72 feet. It is the largest tree in Delaware.

The Council Oak at Brandywine Springs is interesting historically. It is recorded that Washington, Lafayette, and their staffs held an anxious conference under its branches and planned to frustrate Lord Cornwallis' move to advance from the Elk River to Philadelphia. In further connection with the Battle of Brandywine, a huge oak at Dilworthtown served as the gibbet from which were hanged spies and traitors as the tragic aftermath of the defeat of the Colonials.

A great White Oak at McClellandville was one of the two enrolled on the William Penn Honor List, the qualifying condition being proof that it antedated the visit of William Penn in 1682. There are large oak trees at Red Clay Presbyterian Church, Marshallton of 20 foot girth, another at Old St. Anne's Church, near Middletown, 14.4 ' and still another at Glasgow five inches bigger. There are numerous forest giants standing about the churches and meeting houses in Chester and Delaware counties and perhaps safe from the woodman's axe and modern greed until, broken by storms or decayed by years.

Interesting trees of other varieties in New Castle County must include the Beech on Weldin's road near the Blue Ball in Brandywine Hundred which is 8.2 ' at the waist line, and which was accepted as sufficiently mature for Penn's two and a half century honor list. Other notable ones include a

hackberry on Willard Street, Wilmington, which is 9' 10". Others of the nearby soil of Delaware are a sugar maple on the duPont estate "Guyencourt" with a circumference of 11'8" and a tulip tree at Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church measuring 16.7 feet. Of still greater interest, however, is the tree surgeoned pear that stands along the Kennett pike a short distance from Wilmington. Legend says that Washington and Lafayette halted there on the way to encounter Cornwallis and rested their horses from the September heat. Folk lore has perpetuated the story that Washington ate of the pears and liked them so well that he inquired of a passing farmer its name, to which the quick witted observant individual promptly replied "Washington pears, sir." The name has stuck and the tree still bears fruit, even though it is a twisted vagabondish thing, decayed almost to a shadow of its original self, but so much doctored and plastered that without its summer foliage fruit or blossoms it stands like a gnarled tower of ugly concrete.

As the Kiefer pears are grown in Delaware it may be interesting to know that the original seedling of that variety is still flourishing and yielding in a garden plot at Roxborough, Pennsylvania. Kiefer, a gardener, seeking a new pear, developed from a seedling the fruit that bears his name.

Along the South Long Race of the Brandywine, above Market Street, grows a weeping willow, The parent from which it was taken long stood sentinel over the grave of Napoleon at St. Helena, while a pin oak from Washington's headquarters at Chadd's Ford is responding beautifully to the sun and soil of its adopted habitat.

A survey recently recorded 148 varieties of trees in Wilmington Parks---all well rooted and thriving while an authentic horticultural source has reported that the group of oaks in Rockland Park is the finest collection of oaks in this country. They ~~have~~ are photographed, sketched, painted, and modeled by horticulturists and artists and are displayed in offices or schools as examples of the perfection with which nature composes her landscape~~, views~~.

In enumerating the interesting big, old or unusual trees in Delaware and adjacent sections of Pennsylvania, the fact is apparent that except for the church yards of the early houses of worship there would be scarcely a tree of primitive growth standing today. The axe and storm have levelled the mighty forests of 1638 which the Swedes found everywhere about them. They, with their thrifty Dutch neighbors, even then, used the wood sparingly for heating their homes in fear that the supply would be exhausted. The exercise of such wisdom was the first earnest community effort for forest conservation. In another half century a tree that lived and grew when William Penn first visited the New World will be an exceptionally rare curiosity in this section of our great country of wonderfully rich natural resources.

References:

From a former article by the Writer after interview with John M. C. Rodney---A Last Resident of the Rodney mansion and owner of estate on which the oak grows.

R

1c in folder: Reservoirs

PORTER RESERVOIR
one mi. N. of the
city line on E.
side of the Concord
Pike, U. S. 202.

Porter Reservoir occupies a triangular area of 202,000 sq. ft., at the above location, surrounded by Rock Manor golf course. It was constructed in 1907 by J. T. Lynch of Glens Falls, N. Y., contractor for the Water Dept. Composed of concrete-lined banks of puddle clay surmounted by three foot high stone masonry walls, it is an open reservoir of unfiltered water with a capacity of 40 million gal. It derives its name from William T. Porter, a former president of the Board of Water Commissioners.

A cut granitic stone water-control round tower is situated in Porter Reservoir, 19 ft. from the entrance gate at the eastern end. The observation platform on top of it can be reached only by climbing iron pipes, which serve as guard fences on the footbridge which leads to the tower, and thence the eleven iron steps which are embedded in the wall. As the tower grows gradually wider from centre to top with the steps following its contour, it is not advisable for timid persons to attempt the climb.

The steel concrete decked footbridge 62 in. wide serves as an approach to the tower and also supports davits from which a rowboat of the Water Dept. is suspended, From this footbridge as well as other vantage points about the reservoir excellent views of the surrounding country may be had. In the distance, to the NW., the imposing Memorial Carillion Tower

on the estate of Alfred I. du Pont may be seen towering above the trees.

A short distance E. of Porter Reservoir an administration building of the Water Department is located. Fifty feet SE. of this, along a cement footwalk, stands a small shed which contains instruments for recording rainfall and temperature. The Water Department has these instruments read at midnight, 8:00 A.M., 1:30 P.M., and 5:00 P.M., and then forwards the readings to the U.S. Weather Bureau. Thus is derived the phrase "official temperature at Porter Reservoir," often seen in Wilmington newspapers.

LOCATION - Wilmington.

Submitted by - Alex Ramsay.

Date - April 29, 1936.

The Zoological Gardens.

Located on the north bank of Brandywine Creek, west of Market Street one quarter of a mile on Glen Avenue driveway. The exhibits are as to number and character are as follows in their order.

One duckpond

Three pens of rabbits.

One black bear.

One Himalayan bear.

One pen with several prarie dogs.

One pen containing two porcupines.

One pen with eight alligators ranging in length from six ft. to two feet.

One large brick monkey house with sun enclosure at the side, containing several well developed rhesus monkeys,

Cuban parrots and red and blue macaws together with a military macaw.

Crossing Glen Avenue at the intersection of Van Buren Street and Glen Avenue on the left is to be seen the Josephine monument and fountain, a graceful structure surrounded by an avenue of Japanese cherry trees. Crossing Van Buren Street one comes to the Rose Garden which when in full bloom presents a pleasing picture of color and perfume.

Crossing the Van Buren Street bridge to the south bank of Brandywine Creek one comes to extensive tennis courts and on proceding east about five hundred yards and under neath the Washington Street Bridge, can be seen at the foot of West Street the original First Presbyterian Church with its Swedish "hip roof" now a headquarters for the Colonial Dames of the State of Delaware.

Reference: Personal investigation made by Alex Ramsay, April 29, 1936.

File No. 658 357

LOCATION - Wilmington.

Submitted by - Alex. Ramsay.

Date - April 29, 1936.

The Zoological Gardens.

This institution for public entertainment, situated on the north bank of Brandywine Creek, one quarter mile west of Market Street on Glen Avenue with its several divisions, the Josephine monument and fountain, the Japanese cherry grove and the rose garden, fish ponds and animal structures, is enclosed in a charming sylvan setting of historic importance.

The late Dr. James H. Morgan was the originator of the Zoo. In 1904, he offered the Board of Park Commissioners a collection of fowls and animals, which was accepted, and Samuel H. Baynard a member of the Park Commission assumed the personal responsibility for the care, maintenance, and development of the Zoo. Mr. Baynard had the fish ponds in the park put in shape for the fowl. William Lawton, then a Market Street merchant, donated a cage for the animals. A stream in the park was dammed and a place made for gold fish and amphibians.

The Washington Heights Association sponsored by Mr. Baynard composed mostly of residents of the North Side built an enclosure for two Virginia deer. This marked the beginning of the Zoo. In order to systematize its management the Wilmington Zoo Association was formed by Mr. Baynard and friends and incorporated at Dover in 1905.

The association continued to function for several years assisted by an annual appropriation made by the City Council.

Mr. Baynard took a personal interest in the Zoo up to the time of his death in 1925, and paid much of the expense of its operation. The Park Commission eventually took over the obligation, and for the last ten years maintenance of the Zoo has been part of the Park Commission's regular program. Animals and fowls have been donated to the Zoo at different times. Most of the animals and fowl were gifts from persons interested in this form of public entertainment.

According to history, that part of the park devoted to the Zoo, being something of a natural amphitheatre, has been the scene of many political meetings "addressed", we are told, "by such men as Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster." History also avers that Washington reviewed the Delaware troops on the level ground where the William H. Todd War Memorial now stands that is, at Eighteenth and Washington Streets.

It is said that General Washington and his troops forded the Brandywine about at Adams Street, which was originally the King's Highway, and that the army encamped on the north side of the stream.

The south side of the Brandywine, opposite the Zoo, where there are now tennis courts, once was occupied by a house.

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It was the home of Archibald H. Rowan, an Irish patriot, who is said to have manufactured, there, in his home, the first printed cloth that was made in Delaware.

Reference: Article by A. O. H. G. contained in the Journal, Every-Evening published in Wilmington, Delaware, issue of April 22, 1936.

Xerox Edition 215

PRESENTATION OF SILVER SERVICE TO BATTLESHIP

The presentation to the battleship Delaware of the silver service, stand of colors, and portraits of Delaware naval heroes, was made on board the ship, October 5, 1910. One of the Wilson Line boats carried the committee, headed by Horace Wilson, chairman, Josiah Marvel, vice-chairman, and L. Scott Townsend, treasurer, as well as invited guests, about a thousand in all, out to the vessel, which was anchored in the Delaware river. In the evening, the committee tendered a dinner to the Commandant, Captain C. C. Gove, at the Wilmington Club. Meanwhile the "jackies" were given the freedom of the city, finding it hard to spend their own money. They rode free on the street cars, were welcomed at the theatres without cost, and the Y.M.C.A. offered them the facilities of their home.

The service is of sterling silver, and is the work of the Gorham Company, silversmiths. The sum of $10,000 was raised by popular subscription throughout the State. The numerous pieces center around two large punch bowls, all the pieces engraved with the seals of the State and Navy Department, interspersed with peaches and other products, emblematic of the State. The battleship Delaware was launched at Newport News in 1909, and was christened by Miss Annie Pennewill Cahall, niece of the then Governor, Simeon Pennewill, assisted by Miss Ellen E. duPont and Miss Frances Hazel. When the ship was dismantled in 1924, the silver service, flags, and portraits, were returned to the State, and placed in the keeping of the State Archives.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Wm. H. Forbes
November 14, 1940

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF HALF A CENTURY AGO

The old school building, with their narrow halls and lack of modern facilities, presented a strong contrast to the school buildings of today. The school hours were from nine to twelve noon, with a short recess in the yard in mid-morning. The afternoon session was from two to four. What was called a "cow bell" was rung at the front door, which was a signal for every one to get inside. A boy was chosen to do this work, and also run errands; often in a spirit of envy, he would be called the "teacher's pet."

Friday afternoon would be devoted to literary exercises, depending largely on the type of teacher one had. As there were no auditoriums in the old-type schools, these exercises were held in the several rooms. In No. I school at Sixth and French Streets, classrooms were provided, but in the smaller schools, the class would range around the side of the room while the lesson was heard. Individual slates were largely used, instead of tablet and pencil. Penmanship was an important part of the curriculum, good handwriting being held a necessary adjunct to a business career. Copybooks were furnished for this work, and would have printed maxims at the top of every page.

Miss Mary Lacklen was principal of No. 7 School at Fifth and Pine Streets, in 1883, and later on went to the High School on Delaware Avenue to teach English literature and

rhetoric. Annie Kates, whose home was at Sixth and Washington, was principal at No. I at Sixth and French in 1889. With her there as teachers were Miss Mary Wheeler and Miss Mary Turner, the latter remembered kindly by many of her former pupils.

In the latter 1880's, David W. Harlan was Superintendent of Public Schools, and Charles Baird was President of the Board of Public Education. Running the public school system then was a simpler matter than today. The teacher had very few reports to make out, and the curriculum was not so extensive.

No orchestras are recalled in any of the schools fifty years ago, nor was there much attempt to introduce music in any form. In 1889, N. Dushane Cloward, who had gained a local reputation as a vocalist and teacher, was engaged for a while to teach ensemble singing in the schools. He would take the pupils in each room separately. The selections used were mostly of a patriotic strain. Among the ballads sung by the general public at that time were "After The Ball Is Over," and later, the "Sunshine of Paradise Alley," composed by a local man, John W. Bratton. "O, Genevieve" and "Sweet Adeline" were two songs popular then, especially by barber shop quarters and those slightly inebriated.

Encyclopaedia File

Wm. H. Forbes
July 22, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

PUBLIC UTILITIES IN WILMINGTON

There seems to be no phase of our city life which has shown more progress in looking after the comfort of the public than transportation. The first horsecars were started in the summer of 1864, and were little dinky affairs, drawn by two horses or mules. On steep grades, the horses were assisted up the incline by one or two others who would be held ready at the foot of the hill.

It goes without saying that such means were not adequate to negotiate such hills as West Eighth Street. The driver of these cars stood out on the platform, subject to all kinds of weather, and the rider went forward and put his money in the box, getting change if needed from the driver through a slot beside the front door. In winter time, the car floor was very often covered with straw, and the car heated with a small stove.

The first electric cars were run from the corner of Tenth and Market Streets to Riverview Cemetery in the summer of 1888. As they were such a departure from what the people had been used to, people were more or less timid. Some were allowed to ride free to show that they were safe. The introduction of electric cars out West Fourth and Eighth Streets was a stimulus to the growth of the section at the crest of the hill. The last horsecars were soon abandoned in favor of the electrics, and the different sections of the city were brought into closer and speedier contact.

One type of summer car had running boards along the sides to allow for entering and leaving the cars, and to give the conductor footing in collecting fares. These cars were open on all sides, and supplied with curtains, in case of bad weather, with a seat at both ends on the platforms. These cars later gave way to closed cars with wide windows, allowing for free play of air.

- The street car system showed a deficit from year to year, and as a matter of economy, the company dispensed with conductors. The moterman not only collected the fares, but controlled the opening and shutting of the doors. The safety element was carefully considered beforehand. To date, very few accidents have been traced to the absence of a conductor.

The Peoples Railway Company received a charter to run a line to Brandywine Springs, and was also given the right to lay tracks within the city limits. This move caused litigation between the old and new companies for three years, and ended in favor of the new company. The line to the Springs, which had been developed as an amusement park, was opened on May 30, 1901. About midnight, some of the cars starting from Sixth and Broom Streets got such headway that the moterman was unable to use the brakes, because of the pressure of the people around him. The car ran away, colliding with the car ahead, several being killed and others injured. Many law suits were the result of this accident, not a favorable beginning for the company.

The revenues of the company declined when the people lost interest in the amusement park, and the demand within the city

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not warranting the existance of two competing lines, the Peoples Line finally forfeited its charter. This company also ran a line to Henry Clay.

The next change in mode of transportation was made in 1939, with the introduction of the trackless trolleys. These have a greater flexibility, being able to go around obstacles in the street. Whether they afford easier riding is a matter of argument, but they are a far cry from the little horsecars, both in comfort and speed. The earlier transportation company was controlled by local capital, but today, outside interests control, in combination with electricity and gas.

The earlier lighting of the city was by gas, men going around with short ladders and lighting the lamps at sundown, and returning in the morning to put them out. Later on, this system was supplemented by carbon lights in large white bowls, hung at street intersections.

The gas company kept a man at the office window for the payment of gas bills, and also to listen to complaints, who was very deaf. The feeling was general that this was done on purpose to discourage people against making kicks.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Encyclopaedia 363 File

Wm. H. Forbes
October 22, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

THE WILMINGTON YACHT CLUB

In 1910, a number of local men interested in boating, including Edward R. Pusey, Enoch Moore, Jr., and William Kirk, formed the Wilmington Yacht Club, and took over the grounds and building at Gordon Heights, which had formerly been an amusement park. The building used as a dance hall was partitioned off with beaver board into dining rooms, kitchen, bar, and sleeping quarters for members. A large hall ran down the center. The house was furnished completely, through the generosity of T. Coleman du Pont. Mr. Pusey was the first Commodore.

This clubhouse became a popular place for those who enjoyed the water, and William Cookson, the steward, and his wife added to its reputation with their cooking. In 1912 the club made a working agreement with the local automobile club, of which Charles G. Guyer was secretary, and the name was changed to the Wilmington Yacht and Automobile Club. Charles H. Smith, head of the Delaware Electric and Supply Company, was elected commodore, and Henry P. Scott, the banker, was made president.

The club, however, always seemed to be in financial difficulties because of unforseen circumstances. In the winter of 1911 excessive ice formed in the river and fifty feet of the pier was swept away. T. Coleman du Pont, A. Felix du Pont, Henry P. Scott, and Joseph Bancroft were generous friends of the club, and did much to keep it a going concern until 1914, when it was decided to discontinue the enterprise.

In the winter of 1912, the club maintained quarters on the top floor at 728 Market Street, since the clubhouse on the river had no heating facilities.

One of the attractions given by the club which aroused much attention was a "mock trial." All the counsel were local attorneys and members of the club. Francis H. Hoffecker was Judge, Charles W. Bush and Josiah Wolcott were counsel for the defence, and John W. Brady and John F. Malloy appeared for the plaintiff. The charge was that W. H. Forbes stole a hobble skirt from the wife of Colonel Enoch Moore, while living in his home. The trial was spontaneous, no rehearsels being held. Enoch Moore, Jr., was sheriff of the court. An attempt was made to repeat the performance, but it was a "flop" as only about fifteen people were present. Some of the counsel had other engagements, and those present gathered around the large table in the grill, and listened to Frank Hoffecker and Frank Williams, the latter resident agent of R. G. Dun and Company, and originally a Smyrna boy, swap yarns.

Reference: Personal Recollections

Encyclopedia File 365

Wm. H. Forbes
November 5, 1940

Cities and Towns
Wilmington

RACING DAYS AT THE WILMINGTON YACHT CLUB

The Wilmington Yacht Club had five Class X boats, twenty-two feet long, owned by different members. In the heat of summer, the sun would bake up the wind on the river, making the races merely drifting matches. This situation would call skill, to catch what breeze there was. In summer, the best time for sailing was found to be near sundown. In the fall, the wind was often found too strong for such light weight boats, especially if the wind and tide were opposite. More than one of these boats upset, one drifting with its occupants nearly to the Jersey shore before rescue came.

Egbert Moxham, one of the du Pont executives, had considerable experience in sailing boats at his former home in Nova Scotia. He offered a cup for the season races, which he generally won in the individual races, because of his skill. Two of the club members, Henry P. Scott and T. Coleman du Pont, had seagoing yachts. Most of the members with power driven boats favored the yacht clubs in Chesapeake waters, partly because the tide was far less there than in the Delaware River. When they desired to take part in the races at Gordon Heights, they would bring their boats through the Canal, at a cost of four or five dollars.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Submitted by J. Sweeney,

Date June 9,1936.

RODNEY STREET RESERVOIR'S TOWER
on centre of Rodney Street Reservoir
at W.Eight and Rodney Streets.

W. State

This observatory is an open four-square steel tower that is ascended by means of seven straight flights of stairs, each of which is surmounted by a concrete platform. It was erected in 1919 by the American Bridge Works of Edgemoor, contractor for the Water Department of the city. Having an elevation of 40 feet above the Rodney Street Reservoir, which stands on the highest ground of the city, it affords a magnificient view of the surrounding country.

On looking from the top of the tower when trees are in foliage the buildings of the city seem to be scattered without system along the slopes of a wooded hill which lies between Richardson Park and Penny Hill with a ridge sloping downwards towards the confluence of the Christiana River and Brandywine Creek. About three-fourths of a mile to the northwest the estate of the Wilmington Country Club is located, to the north and northeast respectively Rockford Water-tower, and the Memorial Carillon Tower on the estate of Alfred I duPont stand out as notable landmarks, and between the towers can be seen the grounds of the duPont Country Club together with the adjoining Alapocas Woods.

At the distance of a stone's throw southeast of the observatory, the tower of the Hilton House stands above the trees.(See Historic houses, page_____). In the same direction the Dupont, Industrial Trust and Delaware Trust Buildings dwarf all other buildings of the city with their comparative immensity.

From the E. to the S. and W. the gently undulating lands of New Jersey and Delaware are visible as far as the eye can reach.

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COOL SPRING RESERVOIR
adjacent to Cool Spring Park is bounded N. by iron fence parallel to Park Place, S. by W. Tenth Street, E. by park driveway, and W. by N. Franklin Street.

Cool Spring Reservoir is the oldest existing water storage place in the city. It derives its name from the natural springs in this area which formerly supplied water to residents of the locality. The reservoir occupies a rectangular area of 292,000 square feet and consists of two basins, which may be emptied individually or simultaneously. The N. basin was completed in 1877 by Messrs. Peter F. Collins and James Kennedy of Philadelphia, contractors for the Water Department of Wilmington. The water was turned into the supply pipes on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1878. On Oct. 5, 1878 the S. basin was completed by the contractor, P. McEntee of Philadelphia, and accepted by the Board of Water Commissioners. Built of brick-lined banks of puddle clay, it is an open reservoir of filtered water with a capacity of 40 million gal.

File #693

LOCATION: Wilmington and vicinity

Submitted by J. Sweeney,

Subject Observatories

Date June 9, 1936.

ROCKFORD WATER-TOWER
Rockford Park, about
1/8 mi. from the entrance
at W.Nineteenth Street
and Tower Road.

Rockford Water-tower was erected by the Board of Water Commissioners of the city in 1900 and 1901. It is a round tower of rough stone, lined with glazed white tile and surmounted by a conical steel supported roof of glazed terra-cotta tile. The diameter at the base is 57 feet, the height to the floor of the observatory is about 75 feet, that to the eave is 90 feet and the elevation above the ground of the apex of the roof is about 115 feet. The tower shelters a steel cylindrical water tank, (See reservoirs,page_____), and supports a platform for observation.

A stairway four feet wide winds upwards inside the wall and around the tank from the entrance at ground-level to the observatory. It is provided at regular intervals with small platforms which break the continuity of the acclivity. Tall and narrow windows with semi-circular arches light the passage and help to give the structure a medieval appearance.

As the tower is located on one of the highest parts of the city near the brink of a steep gorge of the Brandywine Creek the observatory thereon affords a splendid view of the surrounding county. On the northerly side the sunken course of

the creek can be seen winding like a great serpent between thickly wooded banks, bluffs, and hills. When the trees are in foliage the water of the creek is not visible from the tower except in the vicinity of Rising Sun. There every physical feature essential to natural beauty join with the old rustic mills by the creek and the spire of St. Joseph's on the Brandywine (Catholic) Church in the woods of the NW. to produce a delightful vista.

About one mile E. of the tower, near where the contour of the creek is lost to view, a tall smoke-stack of the factory of Jos. Bancroft and Sons Co. fulfills its purpose in striking opposition to its surrounding rurality. Also at odds with the beauty of the country-side are the buildings of the duPont Experimental Station which lie along and off the N. Bank of the creek at a stone's throw distance from the tower. The displeasing effect of these buildings is somewhat lessened by the well kept grounds of the duPont Country Club which with the adjoining Alapocas Woods extend northward towards the horizon where stands the imposing Memorial Carillon Tower on the estate of Alfred I. duPont.

On the southerly side of the observatory about one-half of the city is visible. When trees are green it appears to be scattered unsystematically along the northerly side of a gently sloping wooded hill that lies from Richardson Park to Penny Hill. In the vicinity of Tenth and Market Streets the large office buildings seem to stand as one, like an enormous fortress protecting the city and controlling navigation on the Delaware

River. The latter is visible from about Bellevue to Port Penn and the communities of Penn's Grove and Deepwater may be distinguished on the New Jersey side. In that as well as in many other respects the view from Rockford Water-Tower is similar to that from the Tower on Rodney Street Reservoir, (see Rodney Street Reservoir's Tower. page_____). Lands of New Jersey and Delaware are visible as far as the eye can reach.

The entrance door to the tower is open daily from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Reservoirs:

The foregoing reservoirs are supplied with water from Brandywine Creek, which has been the principal source of the city's water supply since 1827 when the Water Works' Commission first introduced it. The water is conveyed through a canal race, walled on either side, for one mile along the right bank of Brandywine Creek. At Sixteenth and French Streets it flows by gravity to the pumping wells, whence it is lifted to the reservoirs.

Edgar Hoopes Reservoir is located in Old Mill Stream Valley, at the junction of Barley Mill Road and White Clay Creek, about six miles north west of Wilmington. It is formed by a concrete masonry dam which was constructed across Old Mill Stream, at a cost of $1,090,197.50, for the Water Department by contractor John L. Walsh who was doing business under the title: Northport Sand and Gravel Co. of Northport, Long Island, New York. The dam is 135 feet high at centre, and 970 feet along the walkway which crosses its summit from end to end. It forms a basin with an approximate length of 8 thousand feet, an average width of 9 hundred feet and a maximum depth of 100 feet. The basin is capable of holding over 2 billion gallons of water.

This project was known as Old Mill Stream Dam when first started in 1929. When completed, June 4, 1932, it was dedicated as a memorial to Edgar M. Hoopes, Jr., a former chief engineer of the Water Department and member of the Board of Water Commissioners. The total cost of the

I: reservoir, including the building of the dam, clearing the basin of trees, and purchase of land, amounted to 3 million dollars. It provides a reserve water supply

IX: for the city of Wilmington which has been found useful on past occasions, especially during the summer of 1935. The water is brought to Wilmington through pipes which lead from Hoopes Reservoir to Porter Reservoir and the pumping plant at Sixteenth and French Streets.

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VII. VanTrump, S. Newbold — Sixty-Second Annual Report Chief Engineer of the Water Department to the Board of Water Commissioners, Wilmington, Delaware, Fiscal Year 1930 to 31 — 136 pp. Wilmington: Chas. L. Story Co. 1931.

VIII. Wills, W. Compton — Sixty-Third Annual Report of the Water Department to the Board of Water Commissioners, Wilmington, Delaware, Fiscal Year 1931 to 32 — — 156 pp. Wilmington: ?

IX. Writer's personal observations.

That is the end.

ROCKFORD WATER TOWER'S RESERVOIR
in Rockford Park
about one-eighth of a
mi. from the entrance
at W. Nineteenth Street.
and Tower Road.

The reservoir in Rockford Water Tower consists of a cylindrical steel tank 40 ft. in diameter and 60 ft. in height, which affords a capacity of 550,000 gal. The assembly of the tank was completed in July 1900 by the Edge Moor Bridge Works, contractor for the Board of Water Commissioners. The surrounding stone masonry tower was almost completed in the same year. (See page #_____(Rockford Water Tower) As the entrance door to Rockford Water Tower is open daily from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M., the water tank within may be examined during that time.

LOCATION - Wilmington and Vicinity.

Submitted and rewritten by -

J. Sweeney.

Date - May 28, 1936.

RESERVOIRS:

BELLEVUE "LAKE" RESERVOIR,
Bellevue, 2-1/4 mi. from
the city line and on N. W.
side of the Philadelphia
Pike, U. S. 13.

One of the most beautiful points of scenic interest in the vicinity of Wilmington was created at Bellevue in 1932, when the Wilmington Suburban Water Co. impounded 80 million gallons of water into an old rock quarry.

Parts of the expanse of water, with its surrounding steep cliffs and thickly wooded banks, are visible from the Philadelphia Pike, but it is necessary to journey for a few minutes along a grassy pathway that extends backwards through its centre in order to enjoy the scenery.

At the north side of the artificial lake all signs of habitation, except the roof of a neighboring house, are lost. Several small islands and peninsulas stand out in the water; some bold and rugged like the border of the basin, others low and flat, and all thickly covered with trees, shrubs, and flowers. A babbling brook which topples into the reservoir through a rocky tree-covered gorge contributes the

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crowning touch to this beauty spot so delightfully secluded and picturesque.

Permission to walk about the reservoir is courteously given to the public by officials of the Wilmington Suburban Water Co., owners and operators. It may be obtained at the company's office on the pike or at the pumping station on the reservoir daily between 8:00 A. M. and 4:00 P. M.

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WILMINGTON RESERVOIR OF THE PA. RR.
at Thirty-eight Street and Robinson
Lane and two city blocks SE. of
Market Street along the lane.

This circular reservoir is built of stone masonry-lined banks of puddle clay, surmounted by an iron fence, and elevated above the surrounding land. It is bordered by a grass lawn on which trespassing is forbidden, but on ascending a granitic stairway from Robinson Lane, a view of the water in the 20 million gal. reservoir may be had.

The water supply for the reservoir is taken from the Christiana Creek near Christiana, where Christiana Dam, a pumping station, and sand filters are located. The capacity of the pumping station and filter plant is 5 million gal. per 24 hours. Two pipe lines, one 12 in. and one 16 in. in diameter convey the water from the pumping station to near Ruthby on the Pa. R. R. There both pipe lines connect with a 20 in. pipe line, owned by the Pa. R. R., which conveys the water to the Wilmington Reservoir of the company.

The Delaware Water Co., 15 N. 32nd Street, Philadelphia, owns and operates the Christiana Dam, pumping station and filter plants, together with the pipe lines to Ruthby.

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Except in emergency, Cool Spring, Porter, Rockford Water Tower, and Rodney Street Reservoirs are supplied with water from Brandywine Creek; which has been the principle source of the city's water supply since 1827, when the Water Works' Commission first introduced it. The water is conveyed through a canal race, walled on either side, for one mile along the right bank of Brandywine Creek. At Sixteenth and French Streets it flows by gravity to the pumping wells, whence it is lifted to the reservoirs.

R guide

66 ~~69~~. RODNEY RESERVOIR, which covers the square bounded by Rodney, Clayton, Eighth, and Ninth Sts., and has a capacity of 500,000 gals., is of interest chiefly because it is located on the highest ground in the city and surmounted by a 40 ft. steel observation tower (open in winter, from 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; in summer, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.). On a clear day a view of three States may be secured, and the Delaware River is visible from Bellevue to Port Penn.

Authority for account of Bellevue "Lake" Reservoir:

Chief Engineer of the Wilmington Suburban Water Co., Bellevue, Delaware

Sign near the reservoir

Writer's observation.

Authority and bibliography for accounts of reservoirs from Cool Spring to RodneyStreet inclusive:

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Writer's observation.

Authority for account of the Wilmington Reservoir of the Pa. R.R.:

Letter from the Delaware Water Company, 15 N. 32nd Street, Philadelphia, Pa. (J.A. Russel, Manager.)

Writer's observation.

Wm. H. Forbes
November 26, 1940

Cities and Towns 382
Wilmington

SCENES ON THE CITY STREETS FIFTY YEARS AGO

The motor vehicle has not only increased traffic on our city streets but has been instrumental in changing the contour of different types of delivery wagons. The modern ice wagon, with the ice in convenient sizes for delivery, is a more compact business affair than the old style wagon. The one drawn by horses had a step in the rear, nearly the width of the wagon, with the hand scales hanging on the side. The natural ice came in large blocks, as it was cut on the rivers and ponds, and covered with a goodly share of dirt and sawdust. This necessitated some chopping into different sizes, for which the driver carried a long-handled axe and a large ice pick. He carried the ice from the wagon to the building by the regular ice tongs, instead of in a bag, as is done today.

The type of milk wagon has also changed. The old type had a high body, which called for much climbing in and out on the part of the driver. Some of those are still in use on the city streets, moderized to the extent of heavy rubber tires to lessen the noise in the early morning hours. Even as late as 1910, the milkman carried his large tin can with bail handle, with the measure hanging from the spout. At that time there were so-called "milk depots" scattered around town, many attached to the homes of the dealers, with the shed back of the kitchen being utilized for that purpose. Different members of the family would take turns waiting on customers.

Clarence Fraim, one of today's largest purveyors of milk, is remembered as having his one wagon route in 1906.

The bakery wagon has also undergone a change, the result largely of the passing of the old family bakeries, which were mostly German. The old style wagon had a door on each side, about midway between front and back, which facilitated deliveries.

The old brewery wagons attached to the several breweries were noted for their fine horses. The body of the wagon was high, with flanged sides, which added to their carrying capacity. They were heavily constructed, and most of those in the city were built by the firm of Gatta and Kaiser, of Third and Walnut Streets, who made a specialty of business vehicles.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

Wm. H. Forbes
November 26, 1940

BOYS A HALF CENTURY AGO

Among the toys a boy must own half a century ago were a "sling shot" and a blow pipe. It is hard to define whether these two were toys or weapons, depending into whose hands they fell. The former is sold today in the five-and-ten stores, and has a metal frame, but in early days the boy got as much satisfaction out of making the sling as he did in using it. His first job was to find a tree branch with a suitable crotch, then acquire the rubber bands and fasten one on each point, with the other ends of the bands held together with a piece of leather, which contained the ammunition. He then had something that would stir to action any birds or cats in sight.

The blow pipe was a piece of light tubing, about two feet long, and a quarter inch in diameter. With this the boy would generally use putty. It would be his delight to hide from his victims, whether they were man or beast, and surprise them with a stinging sensation, on the face or neck, little damage being done, unless a vital part, such as the eyes, were struck. While today a boy spends part of his day going to the movies, or reading the comics, the boy of the early period was interested in games with others of his group, which created a competitive spirit. The boy who was interested in marble playing would pore over his collection of "glass-alleys" and common marbles with the

same enthusiasm a financier would give to his stocks and bonds. When it came to kite-flying, the making of the kite, whether it be of newspaper, or different colors of crepe paper, was of equal importance with handling it in the air. The upper air currents were studied, as well as the proper amount of tail to attach to the kite. Whether or not Benjamin Franklin set the style in kite-flying, he entered into it with no more enthusiasm or skill than the boy of fifty years ago.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

SCENES ON THE CITY STREETS FIFTY YEARS AGO

The scarcity of horses on Wilmington streets brings to mind some of the fine types of heavy horses of the early days. The fire-engine companies and breweries led in this respect. The former were well-trained, and when the alarm would register within the engine house and automatically open the stall doors, the horses would plunge out and take their places in front of the apparatus. The harness was hung from the ceiling, and the matter of adjusting it on the horse was a task of a few seconds. They seemed to enter into the work in hand as heartily as the firemen themselves. When the fire was reached, they would be detached from the apparatus and led away for a distance, to escape the cinders and excitement. The Delaware Hook and Ladder Company had three horses abreast, and the engine companies two for the engine and one for the hose cart. The latter contained a large reel in the center of the wagon, with the hose already wound. When the fire was out, the hose would be wound on the reel by means of cranks on the sides.

The numbering of the fire companies, in place of their old names, has taken some of the glamourfrom fire-fighting. The fire-engine houses in the different sections of the city, would have their "hangers-on," as well as bona-fide members, who would make of them neighborhood clubhouses. During the winter, some companies would hold balls; those with the facilities holding them in their own houses, or if not, in the German Hall on East Sixth Street. The Washington Engine Company would likely hold their ball on February 22, as a matter of sentiment. Part of the year was given up to the

exchange of visits with fire companies in other nearby cities. The red shirt and fire helmet were much in evidence among the volunteer firemen, especially when they were on parade. The horses of the several breweries were heavier than those of the fire-companies, as their work did not call for such speed. The horses attached to the numerous milk wagons grew to know the stops and starts of the route as well as the driver. One of the fascinating features of the circus parades was the display of horseflesh.

The city streets in those days were laid with Belgian blocks about 5 by 7 inches, with cobble stones on the hills to give the horse a better footing. This type of paving, with the iron bands on the wheels, made for noisy travel.

Numerous boys throughout the city had ponies, which made them the envy of other boys. W.Y.Warner had a horse bazaar on Maryland Avenue near Oak Street, and always carried a line of ponies. One "Johnny" Jefferis, who was minus both legs, had a flat-bottomed cart, to which were hitched two goats; this was used in serving newspapers. The mule of whom it is said: "He has no pride of ancestry, nor hope of posterity," was often seen on the streets; mules were used along with the horses in the old horsecar days.

With the arrival of the motor car came the gas pump. The first were simply pumps placed along the curb, and tended by a storekeeper, to whom this was only one of his daily chores. The artistic gas stations, with their broad plazas, rest rooms, and car servicing, were to come later. No better picture could be drawn of the changed condition of city streets than to state that the first automobile was placed on exhibition as part of a bicycle show in Madison Square Garden, New York in 1896. The number of cars in the nation in 1900 was eight

thousand, and at the close of 1940 had increased to near twenty-five million. No doubt Wilmington always had its proportionate share of automobiles. The main arterial highways which enter the city, known as "turnpikes," were controlled by companies. A gatekeeper would be stationed along the road and collect a small fee, often depending on the distance one was traveling. The gate to control the traffic, and a small house to protect the gatekeeper from the weather, supplied the necessary equipment. The center of the road was of crushed stone, packed down hard, with dirt roads on the sides, known as "Summer roads." The latter made easier riding, but were apt to be dusty. About 1900 the county bought the stock of the turnpike companies, and opened the roads to the public free.

The road leading into the city from the south, over lower Market Street bridge, was for some distance called the "Causeway," and was paved with oyster shells. When they were put down whole, they made rather rough riding, but when ground up by travel, made a compact road. There was no occasion to regulate travel within the city, and the term parking was not in use. King Street was the first to be made a one-way throughfare in July 1912. The parking problem continued to mount, which eventually led to its regulation. In 1937, the parking meters were first installed on Market Street, and later were extended to other streets. Another departure was the first "Stop and Go" light placed on Market Street.

About 1925, a new system of traffic control at intersections was tried. It consisted of a narrow strip of heavy rubber, laid over a mechanism placed below street level at the intersection. When the vehicle passed over it, the traffic lights on the corner would be effected. It did not entirely solve the problem, and was soon abandoned.

In the days of the horse, traveling was at a slow pace through the city; when a stop was made the horse would be hitched to a post of iron or stone provided for that purpose. At places a ring would be inserted in a tree or telegraph pole for convenient use. There was no time limit during which a horse could stand, within reason.

The first macadam was laid on Thirteenth Street, between King and Market Streets, in 1904, and was the forerunner of the fine streets we have today.

The city transportation facilities have been extended to meet growing needs. Until the development of that section known as the "Highlands," the Delaware Avenue line had its terminus at Dupont Street, at what was then known as the "Car Barns." The cars on Lancaster Avenue, then known as Front Street, stopped at Union, where there was also a car barn. The fare in the city was for years five cents; when raised to eight cents, the first tokens sold, were of lightweight cardboard. The cars of the early days had no platform doors, leaving the motorman and conductor exposed to the weather. The conductor took up the fare after the patron had entered the car, and registered it on a meter by means of a strap which ran the length of the car overhead. In 1925, safety appliances had been developed to such a point that the motorman could control the opening and shutting of the doors and also take the fares. Thus the jobs of motorman and conductor were combined.

About 1900, the Peoples Railway Company received a charter to run cars within the city, as well as to Brandywine Springs Park, near Faulkland, which they controlled. They also ran a line along Woodlawn Avenue to Henry Clay. When the patronage at the Springs

fell off, and their largest revenue producer lost, the city was not large enough for two competing lines, and the company was compelled to forfeit its charter. The Wilmington City Railway Company furnished transportation to Shellpot Park, on the Philadelphia Pike, both by the Darby Line which ran to the outskirts of Philadelphia, and by the cars of the West Fourth Street line. When the first electic cars made their appearance in the city, the short line ran from Tenth and Market to Riverview Cemetery. The people were so skeptical of them that numbers were allowed to ride free to show they were safe.

Reference:

Personal Recollections.

File W-646

Location - Wilmington, Del.

Submitted by - Ellen Samworth

Date - March 26, 1936

PRIVATE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Connected with the Roman Catholic churches of this city is an interesting phase of PRIVATE education with which the general public seldom comes in contact.

Many of the children of families of the Catholic denomination receive the greater part of their education in parochial schools. These schools do not come under the jurisdiction of the City or State Board of Education, but are conducted independently. The members of the faculty are all nuns of various orders, and the pastor of the church is the principal of the school. While time is devoted to religious training, the students in the parochial schools are given the same courses as the pupils of the public, primary, grammar and junior high schools receive.

A change in the program of instruction is made after the eighth year, when a commercial COURSE is offered, which is equivalent to the training given in the junior and senior classes of the senior high school.

The schools now existing were not established without encountering the same difficulties which were ~~not~~ MET by other educational institutions, which were established in the latter part of the nineteenth century. There were no school buildings available, and each church desiring to establish an educational program was forced to build a structure to accommodate the students, an undertaking which incurred heavy expense.

All the churches in the city of the Catholic faith have parochila schools including the two Polish churches, St. Stanislaus and St. Hedwigs, and one colored school, connected with St. Joseph's R. C. Church. The nuns teaching in the parochila schools are for the most part members of the Franciscan Order, although there are a few exceptions. Instructors at the Sacred Heart School and St. Elizabeth's School are members of the Benedictine Order. Christ Our King, the most recent addition to the church schools of this city, is under the direction of the sisters of the Order of St. Josephs.

Among the pioneers of the existing religious schools were St. Joseph's-on-the-Brandywine, which was built about 1840, and St. Peter's Parochial School, which has been conducted for many years. The former was established and still is conducted by Sisters of the Order of St. Francis. In 1841, Mrs. Amelia duPont donated land for the construction of a home for the sisters of the church, which was completed the same year.

~~St. Joseph's School~~ The Church of St. Joseph was built near the Banks of the Brandywine in 1841 by the forethought and the earnestness of P. N. Brennan, who was clerk for Charles I. DuPont Company, large woolen manufacturers on the east side of the creek. Charles I. duPont gave one acre of land on which the church now stands.

Another half acre on each side of the church was purchased for $100 and on the westerly side the modern school was built and the easterly side is the site on which the pastor's home is located.

The school is in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph and has an enrollment of about 215 pupils.

St. Peter's School On February 1, 1926, the students of St. Peter's School went to their studies in a new $150,000 school, located at Sixth and Tatnall Street, with an enrollment of 215 pupils.

The school is conducted by the Sisters of Charity, and is successor to the private boarding school for girls, which was at one time connected with the church. The old academy was located in the building at the N. W. corner of Sixth and West Street, which is now used as a home for orphan girls.

Ursuline Academy Ursuline Academy is the leading Catholic school for girls in Wilmington with a new building, modern in every respect, costing a quarter of a million dollars, which is located at Pennsylvania Avenue and Franklin Street. The school has an enrollment of about 300 students.

The Reverend Mother Olympias is the superior mother and head of the Academy. The institution was founded by the Ursuline Sisters in 1893 and is affiliated with the New Rochell College in New York. The sisters came to this city from Bedford Park, New York, to succeed the Visitation Sisters who had conducted a boarding and day school for girls since 1868. The first few years following the establishment of the academy were a continual struggle and in 1909, Bedford Park recalled the sisters. At the request of Rt. Rev. John J. Monoghan, then Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington, a few of the sisters volunteered to remain in this city and continue their efforts to establish a successful school. Their faith was justified.

When the enrollment reached 40, the members of the faculty and Board of Directors were enthused, and the institution began to show signs of being successful. In 1915, the enrollment reached 300 pupils, and it was necessary to have more room. In the same year work was started on the construction of the building at Pennsylvania Avenue and Franklin Street.

Salesianum School The Salesianum Catholic High School for boys was established by the Oblate Fathers more than twenty-eight years ago. It has an enrollment of 175 boys, and according to Father George A. Maloney, 300 boys are turned away at the beginning of the school term because of the lack of room. The school was started in 1903.

St. Mary's School St. Mary's School at Sixth and Pine Street, modern in every respect, was begun in 1888, under the supervision of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the site selected for the school was owned by Father P. Reilly, to whom the Catholics of Wilming on owe much of their education.

Sacred Heart School In 1857, Father Stenzel, recently from Germany was sent to this city to preach to a congregation of German Catholics in the chapel of St. Mary's College which was volunteered by Father Reilly until a church could be built. After a year's service here, Father Stenzel went back to Philadelphia and the German Catholics were without the services of their language.

The Sacred Heart Church was founded by the Rev. Wendaline Mayer, O. S. B., and soon after death in 1881, the school as an annex to the church was constructed.

During the past years, evening courses have been started in many of the Parochial schools.

3 90

Submitted and rewritten by: Jerry Sweeney

FRIENDS' SCHOOL
on E. side of
West Street
between W.Fourth
and W. Fifth
Streets.

(~~Not open to the~~
~~public~~) Private School

This is the oldest school having a continuous existence in the State. In 1738, three years after the first member of the Society of Friends settled on "Quaker Hill," a one-story house of worship, or meeting-house, was built by the society on this location. Ten years later, in 1748, the Friends opened their first school in Delaware in this small building. During the ensuing years many children received in it an elementary English education, and in 1786 English grammar, Latin, Greek and other branches of higher education were added to the curriculum. In 1883 the original building was remodeled and enlarged, as it was too small for the number of pupils. Other minor changes and additions were made from time to time. Plans are now made by the Society of Friends to erect a new school north of the city.

~~Weekend Blake, architect~~

Submitted by Ellen Samworth,

Date July 16,1936.

W-646

Reference

SALESIANUM.

Salesianum in sports, "The Sallies," The northwest corner of Eighth and West Streets has been steeped in an educational atmosphere since 1853 when the Hannah More Academy for young ladies, a well conducted educational institution was maintained there. The building was erected with large recitation rooms, dormitories and dining room and was under the care of Misses Charlotte and Isabella Grimshaw with Dr. Arthur H.Grimshaw as a frequent lecturer. Rev.E.Wilson came from Newark and started a school in Wilmington. Afterward he opened a school for girls here.

In after years the school was turned into a boarding house. It seems that the site was intended to be used for school purposes during Bishop Monaghan's occupancy of the Wilmington See, one Father Fromentin of the Oblate Order whose work is teaching,started a Boys Catholic High School and, seeing in this commodious building a favorable site, Bishop Monaghan purchased the property. It has been much extended by gymnasium, refectory and other necessary improvements, additional properties having been bought and added to the original building and at this date still accommodates such of Wilmington youth as, attracted by the "Sallies," prowess in athletics and the thoroughness of the teaching of the Oblate Fathers select this school for their preparatory studies. Father J.Francis Tucker, of St. Anthony's church was a member of the first graduating class and by special dispensation is a local priest. The Oblate Order is a teaching order.

Clyde W. Young
September 3, 1940

COUNTY JANITORS

Janitors employed in the Court Houses in Kent and Sussex Counties are employed by the Levy Courts of the respective counties. Employment is made for indefinite periods, at salaries which the law allows to be fixed by the Levy Courts. (1)

In New Castle County, janitors are employed by the Public Building Commission through the Building Superintendent. The salaries are set by the members of the Public Building Commission. (2)

Sources

(1) Delaware. General Assembly. Revised Code of Delaware, 1935. ... Wilmington, Del., The Star Publishing Co., 1936. 1642 p. p. 273.

(2) Report of Audit of New Castle County, Delaware, for the year ended June 30, 1939.

B. Bell
June 18, 1940

GOVERNMENT: COUNTY
County Officers

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR IN 1779

Extract from Sessions Docket
1778
Page 52-February 1779

The following Persons were appointed Overseers of the Poor for the respective Hundreds for the ensuing Year, to wit,

Hundreds	Overseers of the Poor
New Castle	
Christiana	Thomas Crow, Joseph Lawson, Samuel Kelly, Robert Pierce.
Brandywine	Isaac Tussey, John Pyle, William Anderson.
Mill Creek	Charles Williams, John Nivin, John Wyatt.
White C. Creek	
Pencader	John Elder, Robert Armstrong, Jacob Fairies.
Redlion	Anthony Durshane, Lawrence Higgins
St. Georges	William Carpenter, Benjamin Bunker, James Moody.
Appoquinim.k	James Harris, Elias Naudain, Jacob King.

Sealed and Delivered)
)
in the Presence of)

Robt Bryan [S-S]

Dan[l]M Lonen [S-S]

Page 53

Nich.[s] Van Dyke

Gunning Bedford

Ja.[s] Booth

Clyde W. Young
Sept. 4, 1940

4-H CLUB AND FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Acting under a law passed by the State Legislature in 1923, annual appropriations are made by the Levy Court of New Castle County to the 4-H Club and the Future Farmers of America. (1) The 4-H Club received a grant of $300 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1940, while an appropriation of $150 was made the Future Farmers of America for the same period. (2)

The grants are made "for the development, encouragement or improvement of agriculture (including demonstration work in agriculture and economics)," and in making them the Levy Court is privileged under the act of the General Assembly to "select any one or more of the agricultural or farmer's associations. . .as the medium through which to accomplish the purpose. . ."

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(2) Report of Audit of New Castle County, Delaware, for the year ended June 30, 1940.

Clyde W. Young
Sept. 4, 1940

CHARITY APPROPRIATIONS

Under a law passed by the State Legislature in 1931, the Levy Court of New Castle County may make annual appropriations to the Trustees of the Home for Friendless and Destitute Children, the Delaware Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Associated Charities of Wilmington (now known as the Family Society), and St. Michael's Home for Babies. The amount of the appropriations is left to the discretion of Levy Court, and the donations are made by the County "in the aid of the objects of the said corporations." (1)

Although the act of the State Legislature still remains in force, the Levy Court discontinued making such appropriations in 1933, when direct relief was established in New Castle County to handle all cases of destitution. (2)

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1---Delaware. General Assembly. Revised Code of Delaware, 1935. ... Wilmington, Del., The Star Publishing Co., 1936. 1642 p. pp. 263,264.

2---Personal interview with Louis Haywood, Comptroller for New Castle County, September 4, 1940.

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