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HISTORIC  
LOWER MERION  
AND BLOCKLEY



DORA HARVEY DEVELIN, A. M.



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# Historic Lower Merion and Blockley

Also the Erection or Establishment of  
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

By

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BALA, LOWER MERION

1922

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**To the  
Memory of My Father**

JAMES B. HARVEY, Sr.

A Member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and the Centennial Association of Montgomery County.

**Also to My Sister**

MARGARET B. HARVEY, A. M.

A Member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County and Pennsylvania Historical Society; of the Valley Forge Memorial Association; and Historian of Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

From each of whom much of the matter contained in the following pages was obtained, this work is affectionately inscribed by the Author.

DORA HARVEY DEVELIN



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## Lower Merion Township



LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, was settled by a company of Welsh emigrants, from Bala, Merionethshire, North Wales, who landed at Pencoyd (Pen-y-coed) on August 14, 1682, two months before William Penn landed. They came over on the ship *Lyon*, John Compton, Master. Lower Merion is the oldest township in the "Original Welsh Tract." The name Merion is derived from Merionethshire, Wales. (We are told that Merionethshire, itself, was named after an ancient Welsh hero, Merion, sometimes spelled Meriawn, who lived early in the Christian Era.)

The original 10,000 acres included in what is now Lower Merion was granted to John ap Thomas, a noble Friend, or Quaker, whose royal pedigree is said to be recorded all the way back to Adam (which means, as I understand it, where history and mythology meet). The document, a copy of which may be seen in the Library of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, goes a long way to carry out the belief of Welsh historians that the Welsh are the oldest civilized people in the world, and are descended from the Phœnicians, Phrygians and Trojans, through Brutus, the great-grandson of Æneas, who landed in Britain, 1136, B. C.

John ap Thomas died in the spring of 1682, before he had the opportunity of seeing his vast possessions in Merion, but his kinsman, Dr. Edward Jones, who settled at Wynnewood, brought the colonists over. Wynnewood was named after Dr. Thomas Wynne, who was father-in-law to Edward Jones (he having married Mary Wynne.) Dr. Wynne was friend and physician to William Penn. Dr. Wynne was the first Speaker of the first Pennsylvania Assembly.

William Penn and Dr. Wynne came over on the ship *Welcome* two months after the *Lyon* landed. Dr. Wynne

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settled in what was afterwards Blockley Township, and built "Wynnstay," which still stands, and has lately been restored. In Scharf and Westcott's "History of Philadelphia" may be seen a copy of Holme's map, dated 1681. Lower Merion appears as "Edward Jones and Co., seventeen families." (Holme's map may be seen in the Library at Haverford College, Pa.)

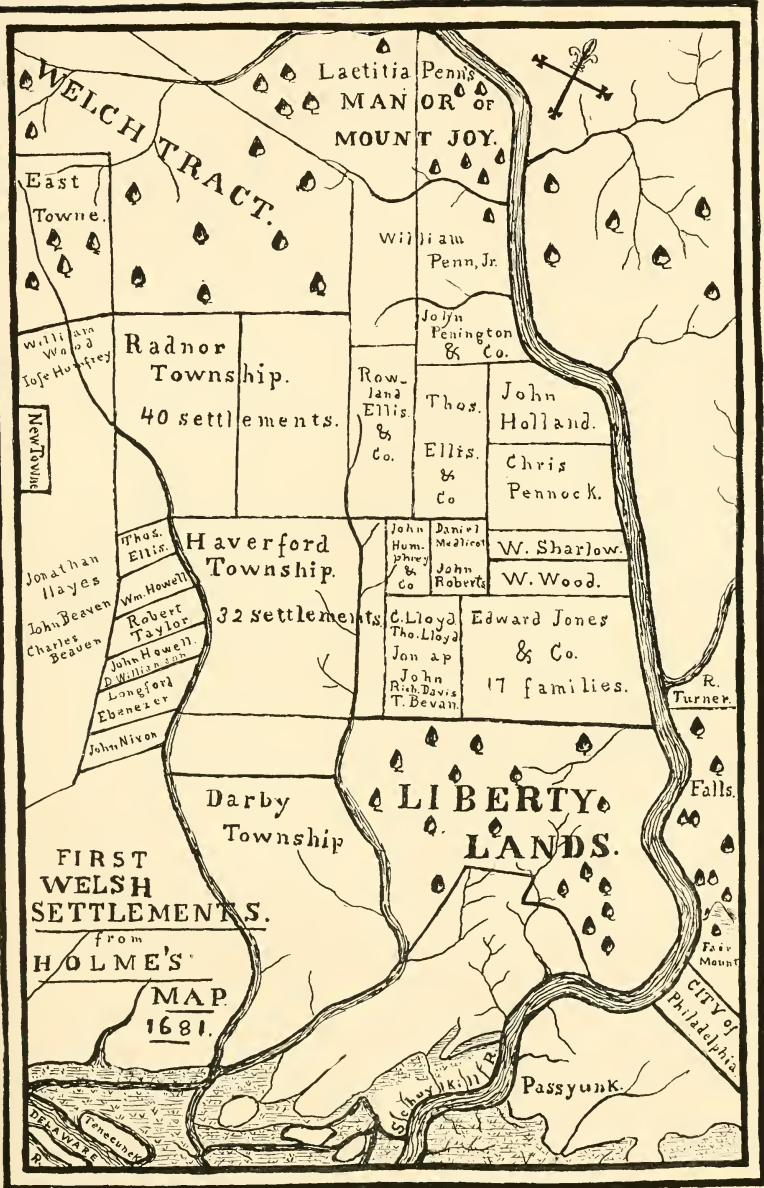
Of the passengers on the ship *Lyon* no complete list exists so far as I have been able to find. William ap Edward, in his narrative mentions himself, his wife, and daughters, his friends David Jones, Robert David, "and others." The Jones record gives "Edward Jones, wife Mary, son Johnathan, daughter Martha."

According to the late Dr. James J. Levick, the following seventeen persons were represented in their families, although not all of these seventeen actually arrived with the colonists on the *Lyon*—Edward Jones, John Thomas, Hugh Roberts, Robert David, Evan Rees, John Edward, Edward Owen, William Edward, Edward Rees, William Jones, Thomas Richard, Rees John William, Thomas Lloyd, Cadwalader Morgan, John Watkin, Hugh John, Gainor Robert.

John Thomas, or John ap Thomas, although he organized the Company, died on the eve of departure. Evan Rees made preparations to emigrate, but for some reason did not do so, but he was represented in the Lower Merion colony by his son, Rees Evans, who, according to Welsh custom, reversed his father's name.

From similarity of dates, as given in Smith's "History of Delaware County," and Howard M. Jenkin's "Historical Recollections of Gwynnedd" it would seem that David James of Radnor, and Robert Turner, also, came in the *Lyon*. Robert Turner was an Irish gentleman and a particular friend of William Penn.

The name Schuylkill is Dutch, and means "hidden river." It was named so in 1616 by the Dutch under Hendrickson, who, on their first voyage up the Delaware, overlooked the mouth of the Schuylkill, which was con-



Drawn by Margaret B. Harvey.

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cealed by League Island. On their downward passage the Dutch navigators noticed the broad stream, and gave it the name it bears today. The Indian name was the picturesque one of "Manayunk," which, in spite of its association with dingy mills and smoke, is worthy a place in literature. From the discovery of the Schuylkill, in 1616, to the time of the landing of the *Lyon* in 1682, few white travelers had ventured up this stream, except the Swedes in their canoes.

### **Lower Merion Friends' Meeting House**

Built 1695—The oldest house of worship in the State of Pennsylvania.

Lower Merion Friends' Meeting House stands on the Old Lancaster Road (sometimes called Montgomery Pike), just beyond Merionville, formerly "Bowman's Bridge," Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This is the oldest church edifice, or more properly speaking, house of worship in the State, and was erected in 1695, on the site of a still older log meeting house, built in 1683. (The organization of Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, antedates that of the Welsh Friends of Merion, but the present church was not built until 1700, five years after Merion Meeting House.) This quaint picturesque structure is in the form of a cross. Its walls are made of jointed stone, two feet thick, and its window panes are of the small leaded type. The coating of plaster (which really disfigures it) was added in 1829, when, as a little tablet in the side wall tells us, it was "repaired."

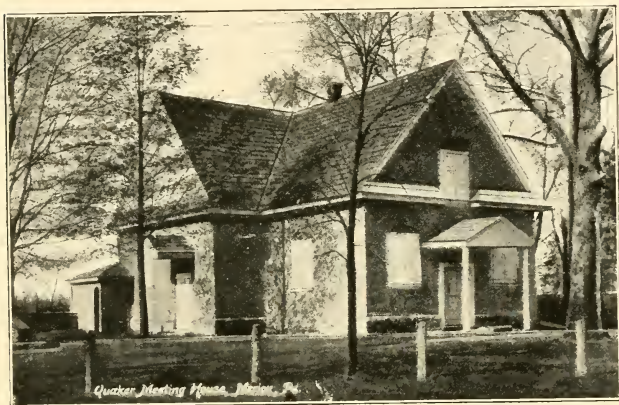
Inside, above the elders' seats, two pegs are pointed out as those upon which William Penn hung his hat when he preached to a Welsh congregation (many of whom could not understand him). One of these pegs was stolen by a relic hunter during the Centennial celebration in Philadelphia, 1876, but another was made from a piece of the original floor, to replace it. Since that time the relic hunter became conscience stricken and returned the original peg and it now may be seen in its former place. (The peg made

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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from the piece of the original floor was given by the clerk of the meeting to Miss Margaret B. Harvey, Historian of Merion Chapter, D. A. R., and Miss Harvey, in turn, gave it to the writer, and it is still in my possession.)

The first recorded burial at Merion is that of a little child, Catharine, daughter of Edward and Mabby Rees, October 23, 1682, only two months after the landing of the *Lyon* at Pencoyd. It is known that for some time after the



LOWER MERION FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

The oldest house of worship in Pennsylvania, built 1695 (on the site of a still older log meeting house, built in 1683).

landing, "meeting" was held at the house of Hugh Roberts, at Pencoyd. The ground where the log meeting house first stood belonged to Edward Rees, the same who buried the little child. The land was sold to the congregation of Friends for \$2.50. Descendants of Edward Rees assert that, previous to this year, ground was leased, or loaned, and that, if the meeting house should ever be disturbed, they could lay claim to it.

Just across the field, on the same side of the old road, stood, until recently, the old Price (or Rees) homestead,

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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used by Lord Cornwallis as his headquarters during the Revolution, while he was in this part of the country. For some years this old mansion was used as a summer boarding house and was called "Brookhurst Inn." It was owned by the McDowell family. What is now called "Brookhurst Avenue," was the original lane which led from the road to the house. Edward Rees had children, some of



THE PRICE MANSION

Showing horse block. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Mowrer.

whom were known as Ap-Rees—then Prees. (The Welsh prefix Ap means son of, or child of.) In a few generations the spelling has changed to Price. In the early records of Merion Meeting we see "Jane Prees, daughter of Edward and Mabby Rees."

Merion Meeting is shown on Scull and Heap's map, 1750.

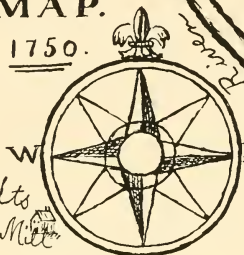
On the opposite side of the road stands another Price mansion, a beautiful example of the old-time Pennsylvania



From  
Scully & Heap's  
MAP.

1750.

Map of  
Merion & Blockley.



Shults  
Paper Mill

Lancaster Rd.

Merion  
Meeting. Grans

Griffiths Tunis

Tunis  
R. George

Britert Roberts  
Falls

Garrig  
Ferry  
a Ford

Wenms  
E. George

Levellin Humphries  
Hughes

Bevan Roberts

D. George

Hood  
Shute  
Miffin

Jones  
Haverford Rd

Warner

Cobbs Cr. more  
Wilen

Roads Williams  
Thomas

Meredith

Marshall  
"Beginning at the Court House"

Garden Ferry

To Merion Meeting 7 Miles 5 Fur.

A Scale of 7 1/2 Longs & Miles.

Drawn by Margaret B. Harvey.<sup>2</sup>

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architecture. Here the "horse-block," or stone steps, used by the riders in the early days, to mount and dismount from their horses, still stands under the wide-spreading sycamore trees. These steps were built in the Colonial period, and are as ancient as the beautiful old mansion.\* This place is now owned by Mrs. John A. Mowrer, a granddaughter of William Thomas, who came from Wales in 1818, and who bought 100 acres of the original Price prop-



THE THOMAS HOMESTEAD

erty. William Thomas, when the Pennsylvania Railroad was built through his plantation, gave the ground for a station which was for a great many years called Elm Station. He called it "Elm" for his old home in Wales. When he gave the land it was with the understanding that it should always bear this name. But this was not done, for the railroad officials changed the name to Narberth, and the suburban settlement or borough of Narberth now stands

\*Note.—It is very amusing to all old inhabitants of Merion to read in a recent writer's book the assertion that these steps once stood at Merion Meeting and were lately moved to this old house.



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on what was the Thomas place. Thomas's Lane (now called Haverford Avenue, which is most confusing, as it is frequently mistaken by strangers for the original Haverford Road (now Avenue) laid out by the Friends in 1690) ran from the Old Lancaster Road, almost opposite the "General Wayne Tavern," to Elm Station. Later William Thomas moved to a fine stone house on Merion Road, still standing, and occupied by his granddaughters Miss Kate Thomas and Mrs. A. Ely Tiley.

Merion Meeting is mentioned in the Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume XIV, page 221, in the Journal of Lieutenant James McMichael:

"Sept. 14, 9 a. m., We marched from Camp near Germantown, N. N. W. for a few miles up the Great road from Philadelphia to Reading, then turning W. S. W. we crossed the Schuylkill in the centre between Philadelphia and Swedes Ford, 8 miles from each. We reached the Great road to Lancaster at Merion Meeting-House, and proceeded up that road, then we camped in an open field, being denied every desirable refreshment." (This was in 1777, a few days before the massacre of Paoli. On this spot a granite memorial stone was erected by Merion Chapter, D. A. R., September 14, 1896, with interesting and appropriate ceremonies.)

On October 5 and 6, 1895, Merion Meeting held its Bi-Centennial Anniversary. Between two and three thousand people came from all parts of the country to be present at this most interesting celebration. A great tent was erected on the greensward, under the tall buttonwood trees, with seating capacity for about 1000 people, but this accommodated less than half who were present. They came early, they came by train and wagon, they rode on horses (this was before the day of the automobile), on wheels, and they walked, until, as someone said, the fields adjoining the old "General Wayne Tavern" looked like a big day at a County Fair. (The old horse-block of flat stones at the top of the stone wall, under the wide-spreading

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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sycamore tree, where the maidens of yore used to dismount, still may be seen as it looked more than two centuries ago.)

The visitors were welcomed to the quaint old house of worship, and many valuable relics, such as the original deed of ground, dated 1695, and an old marriage certificate bearing the date of 1783, were displayed. Behind the Meeting House, running across the back of the "General Wayne" is the graveyard where many of the early settlers of Merion peacefully sleep. (Among them being the Roberts, George, Williams, Thomas, Jones, Harvey, Evans, Zell families.)

At this celebration many well-known speakers took part, among them being Robert M. Janney, Dr. James B. Walker, of Philadelphia; Mary J. Walker, Chester Valley; Rufus M. Jones, Allan G. Thomas and Dr. Frances Gummere, of Haverford College, and others. The paper by Mr. Isaac H. Clothier, on "The influence of the Society of Friends Today" was especially interesting.

Miss Margaret B. Harvey, Historian of Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, wrote an "Ode to Merion Meeting House" upon its Bi-Centennial. (It was published in the *Bryn Mawr Home News*, September 27, 1895.)

Meeting is still held here on First day morning each week at 11 o'clock. Many of the most distinguished, influential and wealthy families of Pennsylvania are proud to claim descent from the grand old forefathers who founded Merion Meeting.

A short distance below stands an old stone house, built the same year (1695.) It adjoins the "General Wayne," and has always been the property of the Meeting. On one occasion Washington slept in the second story front room.

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was descended from the early settlers of Merion. The Welsh stock of Pennsylvania sent numerous branches Southward and Westward. This is one reason why the annals of the South and West are so full of Welsh

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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names. Howard M. Jenkins, in his "Historical Recollections of Gwynnedd," gives the following pedigree of Abraham Lincoln, from John Hanke:

Abraham Lincoln was the son of Thomas Lincoln, of Kentucky, and Nancy Hanks, his wife.

The grandson of John Hank of Rockingham County, Virginia, who lived in that locality in 1797.

The great-grandson of John Hank, of Fayette County, Virginia, who was born in 1712.

The great-great-grandson of John Hanke, of White-marsh, Pennsylvania, who was married to Sarah Evans, 6 mo., 11th, 1711.

Many Welsh families who first came to Merion followed the Wissahickon to its heights and settled Gwynnedd and vicinity. For many years Gwynnedd Meeting was under the care of Merion and Haverford Meetings.

Beyond Merion Meeting on the Old Lancaster Road stands an old stone house called the "Owen House," built in 1695. It was the home of Robert Owen, a noted patriot. It is built on a portion of the Wynnewood property. It is also called "Penn Cottage." It was once occupied by General John Cadwalader, who married Martha Jones, daughter of Edward Jones, the founder of Wynnewood. A straggling settlement nearby was, for many years, called "Libertyville," or "Crow Hill."

"The Welsh Tract" saw the beginning of Pennsylvania's literature. We have a Welsh poem written by Thomas Ellis in 1683. Almost as early, Haverford Meeting ordered the printing of a Welsh book.

During the Colonial period a number of offices were held by Welsh Quakers, many of them connected with Merion and Haverford Meetings. Among them may be mentioned Thomas Lloyd, Deputy-Governor; Thomas Ellis, Register-General; Thomas Wynne, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Griffith Jones, Mayor of Philadelphia.

During the Revolutionary period the following patriots were descended from the Welsh: John Dickinson,

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author of the "Farmer's Letters"; Generals John and Lambert Cadwalader; Nicholas Biddle, Clement Biddle, Owen Biddle and Edward Biddle, General Anthony Wayne, Colonel Samuel Miles and countless others.

Joshua Humphrey, "Father of the American Navy," a descendant of Dr. Thomas Wynne and Daniel Humphrey, of Bryn Mawr, constructed the vessels which made possible our success in the War of 1812. The Mexican War was signalized by the bravery of General Taylor and General Ringgold, who inherited the Welsh strain from the founders of Merion Meeting.

Coming down to the Civil War, we find among the officers known to be descended from the same stock, General Hancock, General Humphrey and General Thomas.

Among the poets in whose veins flows the blood of Wales may be mentioned George H. Boker, Bayard Taylor and Thomas Buchanan Reed.

Among other well-known characters whose pedigree can be traced to the Welsh Barony are Daniel Boone, the pioneer of Kentucky; Dr. Isaac Hayes, the Arctic Explorer; John Jarmon, the first of American Astronomers; Enoch Lewis, the earliest of American Mathematicians; Grace Anna Lewis, the eminent woman naturalist; Mary Anderson, the actress; Newbold H. Trotter, W. T. Richards and George Wright, the artists; Robert J. Burdette and John H. Williams, the humorists; Senator M. S. Quay and Wayne MacVeigh.

The Township of Radnor was also settled by the Welsh Quakers who came over on the ship *Lyon* in 1682. The Friends at Radnor met in private houses until 1718. The Bi-Centennial Celebration of Radnor Friends' Meeting House was held on September 28, 1918. The old horse-block is still standing near the door of this quaint structure. In 1778, this house of worship was occupied by Continental officers, one of Washington's outposts being near the Meeting House.

Old St. David's Church, Radnor, was built in 1715. The outside stairway leading to the gallery was added in

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1771, and the vestry room, to the north, at a little later date. On Sunday, September 1, 1918, this historic church celebrated its 203d anniversary.

In the little "God's Acre" adjoining, is the grave of General ("Mad") Anthony Wayne, surmounted by a monument erected by the Society of the Cincinnati. Another noteworthy stone is that over the grave of Dr. Henry Yates Carter. He was a surgeon on Lord Nelson's Flagship, the *Victory*, at the battle of Trafalgar, when Lord Nelson was killed. Dr. Carter later came to America and died here.

### **The General Wayne Tavern**

The General Wayne Tavern stands on the Old Lancaster Road (now called Montgomery Pike), adjoining Merion Meeting House. This old inn was opened in 1704. From that time on, until about twenty-five years ago, the "General Wayne" was used as a post office.

The building is well preserved; it is a two-story-and-a-half house with a porch on the ground floor and a veranda running across the front of the second story.

On the smooth roadway in front stands a tall pole, which once had been a giant of the forest, from which swings the time-worn sign board. This sign has been repainted a number of times, but it is the identical one which first announced the opening of "Ye olde General Wayne." Across the top are the words "Established in 1704." In the center, astride what is supposed to be a fiery charger, we see a representation of the gallant Anthony Wayne (whose ancestral home was only about ten miles distant.) Beneath, we are told that there can be found "Accommodations for man and beast." At the base of the pole a rim of white-washed stones surround the little green mound in which it stands.\*

The room that answers as "Ye setting Roome" looks about as it did a century ago. Across the ceiling run heavy rafters, dark with the stains of time, while the wide-open

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\*Since prohibition has been established this sign has been taken down (1922).

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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fireplace with its "ingle-nooks," the high mantel, the quaint cupboards, the broad settees, all speak of the past. In the wall which divides "Ye setting Roome" from the barroom is a broad, dark, heavy door. This is divided into two parts (like a "Dutch door"), the upper part being a little



THE OLD GENERAL WAYNE TAVERN

(Opened 1704), where Merion Chapter held its inauguration,  
April 17, 1895. Washington and Lafayette both slept  
in this old inn on several occasions.

door of itself. A knock on this is quickly answered from the other side; the little door swings open and a beaming face appears. Methinks I can see some quiet, dignified Quaker in his garb of grey; some sturdy farmer, with his homespun "jumper," or a swaggering red coat tapping on this little door, and in reply to the ruddy face which appears, ordering something to sustain him after a long and dusty ride.

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From a little entryway a steep pair of stairs leads to the second story. The steps, though hard wood, are hollowed, as though scooped out, from the tread of many feet.

Washington and Lafayette both slept in this quaint old inn on more than one occasion. When, on the way to Paoli, Washington's Army encamped within a few hundred feet of "The General Wayne," Washington slept there that night, September 14, 1777.

The inn was kept for many, many years by the same family, the descendants of Captain Llewellyn Young, 7th Battalion, Philadelphia Militia, and the Misses Young used to conduct the visitor to the room where Washington and Lafayette slept, with its high "four-poster," little chintz curtains and massive chest of drawers. The Young family have a rare collection of old Colonial and Revolutionary relics, including two quaint old chairs brought from Wales in 1692, a money chest, also brought from Wales, apothecary's scales, and old china decorated with animals.

Almost opposite the "General Wayne" stands a time-worn blacksmith shop. It was here that Lord Cornwallis had his horses shod during the Revolution. The shingle roof and the woodwork have been renewed, for the shop was burned out, but the stone walls, with the old stone milestone outside the door, stand as they did more than two centuries ago.

This tavern has always been kept up to the standard of the old wayside inn, and is in no way to be confounded with the modern saloon. It is considered quite as proper, for ladies, while driving, or riding in their automobiles, to stop on the broad porch and rest while drinking a cup of coffee, chocolate, or cooling lemonade, as it was in "ye olden time" when the stagecoach ran down to Philadelphia in the morning and back in the evening. The coach always stopped at "The General Wayne," and invariably took up or set down passengers. This Tavern was first owned by Anthony Tunis and is so marked on Scull & Heap's map, 1750. It was sometimes called "The Wm.

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Penn" and "Streeper's Tavern," but was always called "The General Wayne" after Wayne slept there.

Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, held its inauguration here in April 17, 1895. The members of the Chapter appeared in Martha Washington costumes. A fine display of historical implements and Colonial relics was a feature of the program. "Revolutionary Tea" was served in "Ye setting Room." The old hostelry was profusely decorated with flags and bunting, while a massive oil painting of Washington draped in red, white and blue bunting, with a wreath of laurel suspended above it, was hung over the main entrance.

### **The Ford Road**

The west bank of the Schuylkill, at the foot of the hill above Greenland, in Fairmount Park, in the early days was known as "Garrett's Ford." Opposite, on the east bank, as "Robin Hood's Ford." In 1824, when the Fairmount Dam was built the water was backed up as far as Pencoyd, covering these fords and the Falls of Schuylkill. The Ford Road which crossed the river here extended eastward to the Delaware, and westward to the Susquehanna, on the line of a prehistoric Indian trail. It is the oldest road in the State of Pennsylvania. A part of this ancient road may be traced in Hunting Park Avenue, and in Nicetown Lane, between North and South Laurel Hill Cemeteries, where it reaches the east River Drive. (Here was Robin Hood's Ford.)

The Ford Road can also be traced through the West Park from the river to Bala. It came up from the Ford in a ravine just above Greenland, and can plainly be seen from the Park trolley. It passed "The Lilacs," the old Garrett mansion, still standing. When the Park trolley was built and a new and winding drive, to avoid the steep hill, was laid out to the trolley bridge at Greenland, this end of the road was closed. The Ford Road appears again in front of "Brunnenwald," the old stone house used as the Drivers' Club House, for the Speedway, passes



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through "Woodside," out by the "Five Points" School, to City Line at Bala. From Bala, through Cynwyd, the original roadbed extends along what is now Montgomery Avenue, to "Bowman's Bridge," or Merionville. This settlement is now almost lost in the constantly-growing settlement of Cynwyd. Here it forms one side of the "flat-iron," and unites with the Old Lancaster Road—it then ran on out past Merion Meeting, through the "Welsh Tract" to the Susquehanna.

By the Ford Road William Penn traveled from the Treaty Tree, at Shackamaxon, out through his newly-acquired domain with his Indian guides. By this road the Pennsylvania Militia, under General James Potter, and the Georgia Continentals, under Colonel John White, marched up into Merion to join the main body of the Continental Army in the summer and early autumn of 1777. When General Howe threatened an attack, in September, 1777, a body of Pennsylvania Militia, under Colonel Jonathan Bayard Smith, was set to guard the Ford.

"Robin Hood Ford" and "Robin Hood Tavern," which stood on the Ridge Road, are mentioned in Scharf and Westcott's History of Philadelphia, in connection with the American Revolution. In Volume I, page 346, it is stated that when General Howe, on August 25, 1777, began disembarking at the head of Elk, with the intention of attacking Philadelphia, the State Militia was called out immediately to defend the city. Colonel Bayard Smith's regiment was posted at Robin Hood Tavern on the Ridge Road. On page 348, we are told that, during the progress of the Battle of the Brandywine, the guard was strengthened at Robin Hood and other fords to protect the cannon at these points.

A few days previously Washington encamped near the Falls. (See Memorial History of Philadelphia, Vol. I, page 345.)

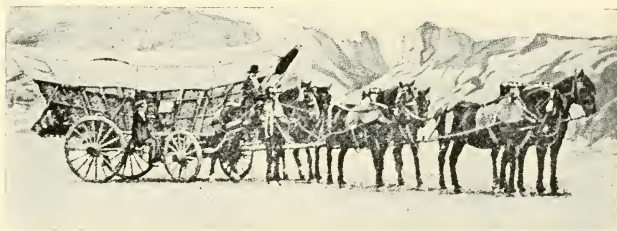
In writing of old roads Miss Margaret B. Harvey said "But we must not think of these old roads as traveled only by contending armies. If we fail to think of them as

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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highways of peace and pleasure and profit we shall utterly fail to appreciate our Colonial and Revolutionary history."

When Pittsburgh was the "far West" there were no railroads. All goods sent westward were "teamed" over the Alleghenies in big Conestoga wagons, some drawn by four or six horses. The Old Lancaster Road, and later the Lancaster Turnpike, were the great arteries of commerce. Over these traveled immense wagon-trains. The "wag-



CONESTOGA WAGON

oner" was a picturesque figure of early days. Thomas Buchanan Read, born in Chester County, Pennsylvania (and his home marked by the Chester County Historical Society), gives us a vivid picture of those same early days in his beautiful poem "The Wagoner of the Alleghenies." The poem deals entirely with Revolutionary events, and the scenes are laid in and adjacent to Philadelphia.

### **The Old Lancaster Road**

The Old Lancaster Road is one of the oldest in the United States. The land on the west bank of the Schuylkill, at the Middle Ferry, where the Market Street bridge now stands, belonged to the Welsh Friends. Almost as soon as the City of Philadelphia was founded a Quaker Meeting House, known as "Schuylkill Meeting" stood near the present site of the Abattoir. In 1690, the Welsh Friends of Merion laid out a road from Merion Meeting House to the Middle Ferry. The ferry was under the care

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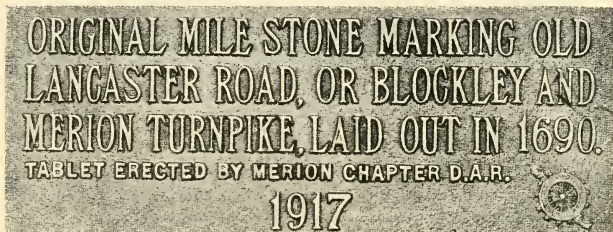
of the Friends, and they had their own boat. This road is now Lancaster Avenue, below Fifty-second Street. It curved to the right at "Heston-Villa," coming up over the hill at Jesse's George's place. "Heston-Villa" was where Colonel Edward W. Heston, founder of Hestonville lived.

When the Schuylkill Valley branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad was built the roadbed below George's Hill was changed, and a portion of it was obliterated.

Wynnefield, a pretty suburban settlement has grown up along this portion of the Old Lancaster Road, just below City Avenue, and the name of the road, in Wynnefield, is now called Fifty-fourth Street. One of the original mile-stones still remains, between City and Wynnefield Avenues. Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, placed a bronze tablet on it, April 14, 1917. The Regent of the Chapter, Mrs. Dora Harvey Develin (the writer) said in her address, on that occasion:

"On the Blockley and Merion Turnpike, as upon all early roads, the miles were indicated by milestones. The stone we mark today is the sixth on this old roadway. Merion Chapter places a tablet here because the City has grown up all about it, and we feared that, within a few years, the Old Lancaster Road or Blockley and Merion Turnpike, would be entirely lost and forgotten in the unromantic and prosaic name of Fifty-fourth Street."

The tablet reads as follows:



An interesting program was given. The opening address and invocation was by Major Henry A. F. Hoyt,

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D. D., Chaplain, N. G. P., Retired. The Salute to the Flag; "America;" historic paper, Mrs. Dora Harvey Develin, Regent, Merion Chapter; Unveiling of Tablet, by Beulah Harvey and Louis H. Buek, Jr., members of the Martha Williams Society, Children of the American Revolution; "Red, White and Blue," followed by the Benediction, closed the exercises.



### UNVEILING TABLET MARKING ORIGINAL MILESTONE

Reading from left to right—Charles Harvey Buek, Louis H. Buek, Jr., and Rheba Harvey, of the Martha Williams Society, C. A. R., and Miss Adelaide V. Harvey, of Merion Chapter, D. A. R.

The Old Lancaster Road, or Blockley and Merion Turnpike, also called Blockley and Merion Plank Road, Old Conestoga Road, and Montgomery Pike, united with the Ford Road just above "Bowman's Bridge," and beyond Merion Meeting followed an ancient Indian trail.

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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In 1770 the Lancaster Turnpike was opened to accommodate increasing traffic westward and to avoid several hills and the curves in the Old Lancaster Road. The "Pike," as it is familiarly called, began at "Hestonville" (Fifty-second Street), where the Old Lancaster Road curved to the right and climbed George's Hill. Through Lower Merion Township the two roads are close together, and run nearly parallel. They join beyond Wayne for a space, then diverge, but finally come together beyond Berwyn. From City Line the Lancaster Pike is now called "The Lincoln Highway." Although the Old Lancaster Road was laid out in 1690, and was in use for almost a century (and the newer road was opened in 1770) it was not turnpiked, as a whole, from Philadelphia to Lancaster until years later. In 1791, the Pennsylvania Legislature authorized a company to construct a turnpike from Philadelphia to Lancaster. This was the first of the kind in this country. In June, 1792, subscriptions were taken up in the State House, Philadelphia, at \$30 each for establishing a turnpike road from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The stock was largely over-subscribed. As the number of shares for this project was limited by law to six hundred, a lottery was instituted, the names of all subscribers being put into a wheel and drawn. The turnpike was completed in 1796, and a line of stage-coaches began running between Philadelphia and Lancaster.

For several years Lancaster Avenue or the "Pike," between Fifty-eighth and Sixty-third Streets, has been closed to traffic. The original roadbed beyond Fifty-eighth Street curved to the right, passed under the Pennsylvania Railroad and wound around through Overbrook to Sixty-third Street. The roadbed was straightened and its course altered in order to make a direct route from Fifty-eighth Street to Sixty-third Street. This newly-made portion of the road was completed December 5, 1922, and opened to the public with impressive ceremonies. A Floral Gate, which crossed the roadway, was thrown open by Mayor

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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Moore, signifying that the highway was again open to traffic.

The Old Lancaster Road is one of the most famous in the country. On this road Cornwallis marched December 11, 1777, to attack General Potter; and when defeated returned by the same route to Philadelphia. In 1781, General Wayne marched by this road to York on his way to Georgia; and again in 1793, on his way to the Northwest territory. He encamped near Merion Meeting House, and slept in the old inn, which has ever since borne his name.

From Merion Meeting westward along this "great road to Lancaster," on the morning of September 15, 1777, the Continental Army marched to Paoli. Congress immediately "adjourned to Lancaster" September 18th. This means that they fled in stagecoaches and on horseback along this highway westward. All official documents were safely conveyed in large wagons by the same road under the direction of Abraham Clark, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Lieutenant James McMichael says in his Journal (See Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 15, page 221) "September 14, 1777, we reached the great road to Lancaster at Merion Meeting House, etc." The Army then encamped in an "open field." This was five days before the massacre of Paoli. This camp ground was marked by Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in 1896.

The Old Lancaster Road and the Lancaster Pike were toll roads until 1917, when the State purchased them.

On Scull and Heap's Map, 1750, under the "Table of Distances" we find the following:

Garrig's Ferry (Garrett's—at the Ford) 4—6.

Levering's (Where Manayunk Bridge stands)—7-6 x

Merion Meeting—7-5. (Meaning 7 miles and 5 furlongs.

The seventh milestone is still standing at the intersection of Levering Mill Road and Old Lancaster Road. The eighth milestone is beyond Merion Meeting, above the

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memorial stone marking Washington's Encampment, near the Old Gulph Road. These distances are from the "Court House."

The events of Whitemarsh, Barren Hill, Valley Forge and the Crooked Billet, transpired in Montgomery County, and all that precedes and follows the Battle of Germantown. Within our limits, during the memorable struggle, Washington and his army remained nine months, lacking nine days, very probably a longer time than was spent in any other county during this period, said William J. Buck, of Jenkintown, a well-known historian. The several houses used as his headquarters are still standing, and the remains of entrenchments, thrown up on our hillsides can be traced to this day in many sections.

### **Old Gulph Road**

One of the oldest in the State starts from the Old Lancaster Road (sometimes called Montgomery Pike, and Old Conestoga Road), a short distance above Merion Meeting and extends to Mill Creek, thence along the creek, and on to the Gulph Mills, whence it continues through Upper Merion Township to Valley Forge. This road was laid out by William Penn, himself, who rode the whole length of it on horseback and superintended the erection of the milestones. A number of them are still standing. Upon each is carved three balls, copied from the Penn Coat-of-Arms (these balls have been facetiously called "three apple dumplings").

Near the ninth milestone, on the left, is an old farm, long the property of the Penn-Gaskill family. The Penn-Gaskills are said to be the last descendants of William Penn to hold any part of his landed possessions in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. (Several members of this family are buried at the Lower Merion Baptist Burying Ground.)

As we approach Mill Creek, we see the antiquated saw-mill belonging to the Robeson family. Up the creek a little further we reach the road branching off to the left in the direction of Ardmore. Here we see an ancient log



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cabin, built 1690. The original logs are boarded over to preserve them, greatly disguising its age. This cabin was at one time occupied by a civilized Indian. Nearby is the "Kettle-Mill," believed to be the oldest rolling mill in the United States. Here were made the old-time copper kettles and brass buttons.

On the right, high upon the crest of the hill, stands the fine old residence of Dr. R. J. Dodd. It was his wife, Mrs. Hannah M. Dodd, who founded the gold and silver medals to be given to the two most meritorious graduates at each commencement of the Girls' High School. Mrs. Dodd also founded several scholarships in the Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia.

The old stone mansion adjoining the Dodd place is very historic. Before the American Revolution this was occupied by John Roberts, who afterwards became notorious as a Tory, and the only person in Lower Merion attainted as a traitor—and hanged. John Roberts' property was confiscated. It was afterwards purchased by the patriot Blair McClenahan, a member of the famous City Troop. He lived in this old house and his children after him. (Members of this family are buried at the Baptist Burying Ground.) A stone tablet gives the date 1746, on the old grist mill. The initials "I. R. R." stand for John and Jane Roberts.

The Sheetz paper mill was one of the first paper mills in the colonies. During the Revolution the Sheetz mill—the "Dove Mill," was run by Frederick Bicking, who made the Continental notes, or "Shinplasters." In return for his services Congress offered Frederick Bicking a tract of land in the "Northern Liberties," Philadelphia County. Bicking refused to accept "barren commons"—many of the finest properties on North Broad Street are built upon these same "barren commons."

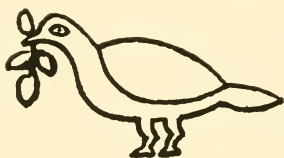
The Sheetz paper mill is believed by many to have been the first paper mill in the colonies. If not the first, it certainly was second. The Rittenhouse paper mill on the Wissahickon was in existence in 1690. In the same year



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several brothers named Schutz, or Scheetz, arrived in Germantown. According to William J. Buck, historian of Montgomery County, one of these brothers, Henry, immediately settled in Whitemarsh. (The late Miss Kate Sheetz, who lived all her life in the old house on Mill Creek, dying there in 1896, aged 80 years, said that there were five brothers. Two of them settled in Merion before the Rittenhouses settled on the Wissahickon. Horatio Gates Jones wrote a history describing the Rittenhouse paper mill as the first. He afterwards became convinced that the Scheetzes could claim a few months' priority.)

In the "Minute Book of Property," Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XIX, it is recorded that a Scheetz purchased a tract of 500 acres west of the Schuylkill in 1717. On Scull and Heap's map of 1750 appears "Schultz's Paper Mill." At this old mill was made the paper for Franklin's printing presses. Later the Government paper, the paper for the Continental notes, and the United States bank note paper. At the Dove Mill was also made the paper used for Government documents, when the United States capital was in Philadelphia. The water-mark was a dove with an olive branch.



Water Mark of the Old  
Dove Mill Paper.  
Drawn by Margaret B. Harvey.

By leaving the Gulph Road at the tenth milestone, and passing up the creek by the ruins of the Dove Mill, and the

## Historic Lower Merion and Blockley

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beautiful dam in the woods, we reach what was once called the Black Rocks.\* From prehistoric times the Black Rocks were known as the site of an Indian Graveyard. The tract was the last Indian reservation in Montgomery County. Old residents of Merion, as the late William Miles and James B. Harvey, remember seeing Indians encamped here and displaying their skill in shooting arrows. When white people were present the targets were often copper pennies.

Miss Margaret B. Harvey, a well-known botanist, author of "The Flora of Lower Merion," said "The Black Rocks" were a curious outcropping of a vein of serpentine. (This same vein appears in the Black Barrens near Oxford, Pennsylvania, and in the high cliffs on the Potomac, at Sheppardstown, West Virginia.) The formations at this spot were so fantastic, so strange, so weird, as to remind one of all the old legends he had ever read about "Devil's Walls," and "Ogre's Castles." The wild luxuriant vegetation, overrunning the rocky tract, heightened the effect.

This was a rich botanical locality. Here were found thirty-two species of ferns, as many as are known to occur in the whole Schuylkill Valley. As many, with the exception of about two principal species, as are found on the whole Atlantic Seaboard. Among the rare ones may be mentioned the "walking fern," or **Camptosorus rhizophyllus**, with a rooting tip at the end of its leaf. Some years ago Miss Harvey said she found a small specimen of the much-discussed **Asplenium ebenoides**, said to be a hybrid between the "walking fern" and the common, little black stalked "ebony fern."

The late Mr. Hamilton Egbert, who lived at the Black Rocks, said there were thirty-two kinds of Talc—"just as many kinds as species of ferns."

Now we strike the Old Gulph Road again. It crossed the creek by a ford at the Scheetz mansion, and continued

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\***Note.**—In 1895-1896 the owner of the land where this wonderful formation appeared, destroyed, to quarry the stone, one of the most remarkable natural curiosities in the whole country—mutilated the famous Valley of Mill Creek!

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up to this point, past the woods skirting the Dove Mill Dam. (William Penn's eleventh milestone.)

At Bryn Mawr the later Gulph Road comes up from the Old Lancaster Road and joins the Old Gulph Road at this point. Here is the Gulph Mill, where the American ammunition was stored during the autumn of 1777. Here General Potter was stationed in November and early December of that year. Here Washington's Army en-



GULPH MILL. Erected 1747

camped a week before proceeding to winter quarters at Valley Forge—from December 12-19, 1777. This spot has been marked by the Sons of Revolution. Tablets on the Memorial Rock read as follows:

“The main Continental Army, commanded  
by General George Washington encamped  
in this immediate vicinity from  
December 13, to December 19, 1777.  
Before going into winter quarters at Valley Forge.  
Erected by the Pennsylvania Society of  
Sons of the Revolution  
1892.”

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On the back towards the mill another Tablet reads:

“This Memorial to the Soldiers of the Revolution  
stands on ground presented by  
Henderson Supplee  
Owner of the Gulph Mill, erected in 1747.”

“Hanging Rock” is near the Memorial stone at Gulph Mills. In 1917, the State Highway Department contemplated removing this historic rock. The following item from the daily papers tells us that the project fell through:

### **Hanging Rock is Spared**

Norristown, July 12.—District Attorney Anderson has been advised by the State Highway Department that the opposition which he headed



HANGING ROCK

against the department's move to demolish the historic hanging rock at Gulph Mills has proved effectual. The rock will not be removed because of its historic connections.

Gulph Church is over the line in Upper Merion. A number of Revolutionary soldiers are buried in the graveyard.

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The Philadelphia and Western Railway passes through the gulph between the hills, and runs close to the Old Gulph Road here at this point. A station called "Gulph" is quite near the Hanging Rock. Close to the foot of the station steps, going west, stands a fine old mansion. It was not there in Colonial times, but is very old, having been built in 1803. The "plantation" of which it was the "Great House" was owned by a famly named Macfarland. This locality was also called Balligo, derived from the longer name Balligomingo. Balligomingo was in Upper Merion, but is now incorporated in the borough of West Conshohocken.

Continental frequently traveled the Gulph Road. Mr. Roberts galloped along it on June 18, 1778, to carry the news to Washington that the British had evacuated Philadelphia. Down the Old Gulph Road immediately came Captain Allan McLane and a detachment of Light Horse from Valley Forge, to occupy Philadelphia. He entered the city close upon the heels of the departing British. He came so quickly, and unexpectedly, that several who lingered to say adieu to acquaintances were captured by the Americans.

Retracing our course and proceeding down Mill Creek, past Penn milestones to the Saw Mill—thence leaving the Old Gulph Road and following its newer continuation down the creek, past old-time mills and dams, amid romantic landscape beauty, we come to an antiquated village called Toddertown. Here was a Revolutionary powder mill, operated by Henry Derringer, who is frequently mentioned in Pennsylvania Archives and Colonial Records, both as a soldier and powder-maker. Henry Derringer was an ancestor of the inventor of the Derringer pistol, and here at Toddertown the first "Derringers" were made. (The name Toddertown is derived from Todd, the name of relatives of the Derringer family, who afterwards lived on the premises.)

If we take the road over Fairview Hill we can pass the old family graveyard where are interred the remains of Frederick Bicking, the Revolutionary patriot and paper-

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maker, who was buried with military honors, also John M. Kuhn, another Revolutionary soldier. The land surrounding this has within recent years been acquired by Percival Roberts. Mr. Bicking said in his will that this graveyard should not be disturbed, and that there should be a "right-of-way" from the road. When Mr. Roberts bought the



THE BICKING FAMILY GRAVEYARD  
Mill Creek, Lower Merion

old Bicking property, Mr. Frank Bicking, a great-grandson of Frederick Bicking wrote asking that he might still have the right to visit the old family "God's Acre."

Mr. Roberts answered, giving the desired permission.

The Old Lancaster and the Gulph Roads constituted the most direct route from Philadelphia to Valley Forge. It was by this route that the "Ladies' Association," under the direction of Mrs. Joseph Reed sent to Valley Forge, early in 1778, eight big Conestoga wagons filled with clothing for the patriot soldiers. Each wagon required six mules to draw it. The drivers were all women.

The Conestoga wagons were first made in Lancaster County, and took their name from the fact that the horses

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used to pull them were bred in the Conestoga Valley. The industry was built up by immigration and during the War of 1812 the wagons came into very general use.

Esther Reed, wife of Joseph Reed, though born in England, espoused with heart and soul the cause of her husband and her adopted country in the struggle for liberty. In 1780 when the destitution of the Continental Army was so great that even Washington had fears that it would be forced to disband, the women of Philadelphia organized for relief, and asked the women of other states to cooperate with them. Esther de Bert Reed was chosen president of the society and devoted herself unsparingly to the work. Material was purchased through the purses of the women; jewels and trinkets were sacrificed to raise funds, and 2,200 shirts were made for the soldiers. When we remember that they were all sewed by hand we can imagine how hard these women worked.

On the 4th of July, 1780, Esther Reed wrote to Washington that the subscription fund they had raised amounted to \$200,580, or £625 6s. 8d. in specie, making the whole amount in paper money \$300,634. Early in September of that year she died from the effects of her unremitting labor. When her death became known the Council and Assembly of Pennsylvania adjourned "to pay their last respects to her exalted virtues."

### **The Old Black Horse Tavern and Barn**

The old Black Horse Tavern stood until recently on the Old Lancaster Road, at the corner of "County Line," or more properly speaking, City Avenue, just within the borders of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, and upon the historic acres settled by the early Welsh colonists who came from Wales in 1682.

The Black Horse, with its picturesque roof and chimneys, its broad piazzas, its iron-bound shutters and huge brass knocker, was almost as ancient as the "General Wayne." This estate had been in the family of Jacob Stadelman since long before the Revolution.



## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

The "Black Horse" was the scene of a skirmish during the exciting times of 1777. With the startling events of the Brandywine, Germantown and Paoli following each other in quick succession, many minor happenings have been lost sight of. Among these were the operations of



"BLACK HORSE TAVERN"

Old Lancaster Road and "County Line," Lower Merion,  
Montgomery County, Pa. Built before the Revolution.  
(Stood opposite to famous "Black Horse Barn")

General Potter on the west side of the Schuylkill. Blockley and Merion Townships suffered greatly from the ravages of British foraging parties, and General Potter was kept busy in protecting the inhabitants and annoying the enemy.

A letter written by General Potter is recorded in Vol. VI of the Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, page 97. It reads as follows:

Sir:—Last Thursday, the enemy march out of the City with a desire to Furridge; but it was necessary to drive



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me out of the way; my advanced picquet fired on them at the Bridge; another party of one Hundred attacked them at the Black Hors. I was encamped at Charles Thomson's place, where I stacconed two Regments who attacked the enemy with Viger. On the next hill I stacconed three Regments, letting the first line know that when they were over powered the must retreat and form behind the second line, and in that manner we formed and Retreated for four miles; and on every Hill we disputed the matter with them. My people Behaved well, espeasly three Regments Comanded by the Cols. Chambers, Murrey and Leacey. His Excellency Returned us thanks in public orders;—But the cumplement would have been mutch more substantale had the Valant General Solovan Covered my Retreat with two Devisions of the Army, he had in my Reare: the front of them was about one-half mile in my Rear, but he gave orders for them to Retreat and join the army who were on the other side of the Schuylkill about one mile and a Half off from me: thus the enemy Got leave to Plunder the Countrey, which the have dun without parsiality or favour to any, leave none of Nesscereys of life Behind them that the conveniently could carrey or destroy. My loss in this Action I am not able to Assartain as yet; it is not so mutch as might be expected. The killed don't exceed 5 or 6; taken prisoners about 20; wounded about 20; with the enemy acknowledged the got the worst of this Action; there light hors suffered mutch for they Charged us. I am your Excellency's

most obedant

Humble Servant,

Ja. Potter.

P. S.—His Excellency was not with the Army when this unlucky neglect hapned; the army was on there march and he had not come from his Quarters at Whitmarsh.

Chester County Camp at Head Quarters, Dec. 15, 1777.

Directed—On Public service,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq.

at Lancaster.

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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Thomas Wharton, Jr., was then President of the Supreme Executive Council, that is, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under the Constitution of 1776. General Potter, himself, became Vice-President in 1781.

During the skirmish the dead and wounded soldiers were carried into the Black Horse Barn and laid upon beds made from hay.



THE "BLACK HORSE" BARN

On the old Lancaster Road, corner "County Line," where the Pennsylvania Militia under General Potter defeated a detachment of Cornwallis' army (during the Revolution). The dead and wounded were carried into this barn

From General Potter's letter we learn that the action, begun at the Black Horse, was continued throughout the greater part of Lower Merion as far as Conshohocken. "Charles Thomson's place" was "Harriton" near Bryn Mawr. In fact, this mansion was the original "Bryn

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Mawr" built by the Welsh scholar and preacher, Rowland Ellis, in 1704.

In 1776 Washington caused a bridge of boats to be erected over the Schuylkill in order to facilitate the passage of his army. It was built by General Israel Putnam. There were no bridges over the river at that time, and the people crossed by means of ferries, the principal being the "Middle Ferry," at the site of the present Market Street bridge; the "Upper Ferry," where the Spring Garden Street bridge now stands, and the "Lower Ferry" was "Gray's Ferry." The first bridge was built at the "Middle Ferry." It was begun in 1801. Completed on January 1, 1805. An obelisk now so time-worn that the inscriptions are almost illegible, marked the spot where the old bridge stood. This bridge was destroyed by fire in 1875. A fine bridge now spans the river at this point.

Some members of Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, have in their possession a number of bullets and grape shot which were plowed up in the fields surrounding the "Black Horse" barn. This building is of stone, in the old Colonial style, and the end facing the road is covered with ivy. On the north side of the barn are two massive double doors, with huge iron hinges and a heavy iron latch. These open into the barn where the threshing goes on in season, just as it did in the days of long ago, except that a fine improved thrashing machine takes the place of the flails that were formerly swung by the sturdy country lads. Behind the barn rises a beautiful field of pasture, and from the top of the hill a fine view of Philadelphia may be had. During the season of the year when the trees and bushes are bare of foliage, a silvery thread, winding in and out in the distance, shows where the Schuylkill lies—the river over which the enemy crossed on the way to Merion.

On Scull and Heap's map of 1750 appear the names of "Stradelman" (at the "Black Horse") and "Wenn" (at "Wynnstay").

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On February 13, 1781, a company of Continentals, under Captain Joseph McClellan, encamped in the field near the Black Horse on the way to York, and went thence to take part in General Anthony Wayne's Campaign in the Southern States.

Michael Stadelman and William Stadelman are both mentioned in the "Colonial Records" as "dieting" American soldiers.

In the early days the word "tavern" meant simply a respectable family hotel, with entertainment for "man and beast." The taverns along the old roadways were like the railroad stations of today, with lunch counters. The tavern keeper in old times was a respected citizen. He often was the postmaster, or the County Squire, or the Captain of a Company of Militia.

Along all old roadways we find old taverns usually about a mile apart. The "Buck," at Haverford, the "Sorrel Horse," at Ithan, and the "Spread Eagle," were beyond Merion Meeting, and the "General Wayne." (The "Sorrel Horse" is now the home of George H. McFadden, but the old Tavern is "lost" with the new additions surrounding it. A tablet on a bridge crossing a small creek near the house bears the following inscription:

"During the encampment at Valley Forge in the darkest days of the Revolution, the nearby stone dwelling, then the Sorrel Horse Inn, with warm and patriotic welcome, sheltered often as its guests Washington and Lafayette."

From the Journal of Lieutenant James McMichael we learn that the patriotic army on "September 15, 1777, marched out the Old Lancaster Road, past the Sorrel Horse and the Spread Eagle, to Paoli." They had encamped, September 14, near Merion Meeting, and that night Washington slept in the old "General Wayne."

(Another noted old tavern was the "Red Lion," at Ardmore.)

Coming east, down the Old Lancaster Road, the "Black Horse" was at County Line, a little further down,

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“Black Lodge” at the Trasell place, later the property of the Gerhard family (now included in Wynnefield.) At Hestonville the “White Horse”; at Forty-eighth and Lancaster Avenue, where Girard Avenue crosses the “Pike,” was the “Rising Sun”—now the Union Home for Old Ladies. Then Gheen’s Tavern at Fortieth Street. Here Lancaster Avenue and Haverford Road cross each other. Two of the best-known taverns on the Haverford Road, perhaps, were Whiteside’s at Haddington, and one at the “Upper Ferry,” where it terminated, for many years called “Glass’ Tavern.” The “Wire” Bridge, a suspension bridge, crossed the river here. It was replaced by the present one, often called the “double-deck” bridge, or the Spring Garden Street bridge. The “Wire” bridge crossed where the lower span of the present bridge crosses.

On Market Street (West Chester Pike) the William Penn and the Lehman House (between Thirty-ninth and



THE BLUE BELL TAVERN. Built 1762

Fortieth Street). The William Penn deserves special mention, for the reason that from this antique hostelry

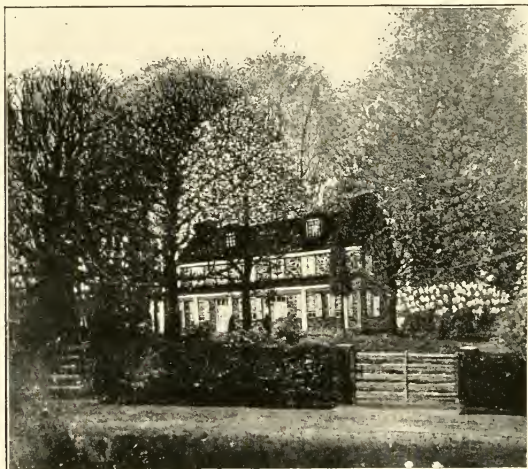
## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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ran, until about twenty years ago, the last stage leaving Philadelphia. It traveled out Market Street to Newtown Square and back again, daily. (The last driver was a woman.) But the railroads, trolley and the "L" had to come, and the last Colonial stagecoach had to go. (The Blue Bell, near Kingsessing, not far from St. James' Church, at what is now Woodland Avenue, is another famous old tavern.)

### "Lilac Grove"

A stone mansion, one of the best examples of Colonial architecture in Pennsylvania, for generations the home of the Harvey family, formerly stood on the Old Lancaster



"LILAC GROVE"

The Harvey Homestead. Built 1700

Road, Lower Merion, immediately adjoining the Latch homesteads, just above the "Black Horse" and about a quarter of a mile above City Avenue.

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The old house was in the midst of a beautiful profusion of lilacs which gave the place its name of "Lilac Grove." Majestic trees, many of them still standing, cast a bewildering shade on every hand. They no longer screen the dear old stone house, but protect a modern Queen Anne mansion from the sun's rays. The western end of the house was built in 1700, on the site of a still older log house; the eastern end was added in 1762.

During the Revolutionary period it was occupied by a Revolutionary patriot, Richard Jones, a prominent Friend, or Quaker, and a member of Merion Meeting. (He is buried there.) He was a wealthy lumber merchant, and one of the ways in which he served his country was by presenting the Naval Board with lumber to build a boat for the armed fleet on the Delaware. As he left but one son, James, who died unmarried, the property came into the possession of his cousin, Margaret Boyle Harvey, descended from the same Jones family as James and Richard. Margaret Boyle, daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, Captain James Boyle, of the Chester County Militia, was married to Edward Harvey at Merion Meeting, Sixth Month, 16th, 1808. (They are both buried there.) Edward Harvey was Squire of Lower Merion for 28 years, holding that office at the time of his death, in 1858.

Margaret Boyle Harvey's mother was Martha Williams, of Charlestown, Chester County. During the Revolution, she with other young girls of that day, put in the crops while the men of their families were away fighting for their country. She also carried food and clothing to the patriot soldiers at Valley Forge. Her grandfather, John Williams, and her father, David Williams, were soldiers in Washington's Army. (Martha Williams married her teacher, known as "Schoolmaster Boyle." He taught in Charlestown before the Revolutionary period, and at the Old Eagle School, Treddyffrin Township, 1812-14. Henry Pleasants, Esq., in his History of the Old Eagle School, says on page 67—"Another of these 'old masters' was James Boyle, an Irishman of famed learning,



## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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known as 'School Master Ehrens.' He is said to have had 'high descent' from the Earl of Cork and the Earl of Orrery, and to have had decidedly artistic talent. He also taught at Old Glassley School on Glassley Commons—now part of Devon—and at the Union School near Great Valley Baptist Church.”)

The Harvey barn stood on the opposite side of the road, next to “Rose Hill,” one of the Latch homesteads. It is said that at one time, during the Revolution, two soldiers, being pursued by a British foraging party, took refuge in this barn and hid beneath the hay. The British suspected their place of retreat, and slashed through the hay with their swords until they found the Americans, and then mercilessly hacked them to death. These were among the unnamed and unnumbered patriots of whom we can find no record, but who just as truly gave their lives that our nation might live, as any hero whose deeds are recorded on tablets of marble or brass.

Highland Avenue, which runs parallel with Latch's Lane, to Merion Station, was formerly Harvey's Lane.

### **The Latch Homesteads**

A short distance above the County Line, or City Avenue, and adjoining what was the Harvey property, stood for many years, two ancient houses. One was built before the days of the Revolution, the other early in the last century. They were the Latch homesteads.

Jacob Latch was a soldier in Washington's Army and encamped, when the patriots were in Merion, at Valley Forge. He obtained a furlough, came home and spent his holiday in making shoes for his destitute comrades. But tradition tells us he did more than that—he really carried dispatches for Washington. He was known as “Washington's Runner.”

The old Latch house on the left hand side of the road, going west, was torn down about six years ago and a fine group of houses has been built there. The other, “Rose Hill,” on the right hand side of the Old Lancaster Road,



## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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built in Colonial days, is still standing. (The first of the Latch ancestors came to America in 1699.)

The road leading from Merion Station to the Old Lancaster Road is called "Latch's Lane" because it was originally the lane leading to these two old-time houses. It is



THE LATCH HOMESTEAD

on Latch's Lane that Dr. Albert C. Barnes will erect his Art Gallery to contain his wonderful collection of paintings and other works of art.

Edward Biddle Latch, Chief Engineer, U. S. N. (relative rank, Commander), and his two sisters were the last of the family to live in the Old Latch home. Mr. Latch died April 2, 1911. (Mr. Latch served on the U. S. S. **Hartford**, Rear Admiral Farragut's Flagship, during the Civil War.)

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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### **Seventh Battalion of Philadelphia Militia**

From Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XIII, page 590, it is found that in the year 1777, the Seventh Battalion of Philadelphia Militia was raised in Upper Merion, Lower Merion, Blockley and Kingsessing. Following is the list of officers.

Colonel, Johnathan Paschall, Esq.

Lieutenant-Colonel, Isaac Warner, Esq.

Major, Matthew Jones, Esq. (page 590).

Colonel, Isaac Warner; Lieutenant-Colonel, Algernon Roberts; Major, Morton Garrett (page 592).

**First Company**—Captain Llewellyn Young; First Lieutenant, David Young; Second Lieutenant, Isaac Williams; Ensign, William Addihl.

**Second Company**—Captain, Israel Jones; First Lieutenant, Joseph Grover; Second Lieutenant, Jacob Wynkoop; Ensign, Richard Thomas.

**Third Company**—Captain, John Young; First Lieutenant, Abraham Strieper; Second Lieutenant, Aaron Johnson; Ensign, Tunis Lee.

**Fourth Company**—Captain, Charles Robinson; First Lieutenant, Nathan Gibson; Second Lieutenant, Charles Justice; Ensign, Clement Smith.

**Fifth Company**—Captain, Samuel Houlston; First Lieutenant, Jesse Roberts; Second Lieutenant, ————; Ensign, Amos Sturgis.

**Sixth Company**—Captain, Edward Heston; First Lieutenant, Peter Ott; Second Lieutenant, Henry Alexander; Ensign, Christian Miller.

**Seventh Company**—Captain, Benjamin Eastburn; First Lieutenant John Davis; Second Lieutenant, William George; Ensign, Moses Davis.

**Eighth Company**—Captain, Joseph Jones; First Lieutenant, Peter Rose; Second Lieutenant, William Rose; Ensign, Isaac Kite.

**Lower Merion Academy**

Lower Merion Academy was built in 1812. While this is not of the Revolutionary period it is one of the noted old landmarks of Lower Merion. It has a broad piazza with a



LOWER MERION ACADEMY

brick floor and flag-stone steps leading to it. The posts are supported at the base by iron pivots. The desks are clumsy and heavy while the windows have tiny square panes. All these show the age of the building, but the hollows in the steps, worn by the tramp of many feet, speak most eloquently of its antiquity.

The Academy was one of the first public schools in the United States. It was founded in 1810 by Jacob Jones, who left a farm of ten acres for the support of a school at which a certain number of pupils should be educated free of charge. The Academy was a genuine Academy with a

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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classical course. It was a boarding school with day scholars. The teacher was allowed the use of the dwelling and grounds in return for his tuition of the free scholars. From the beginning there was no distinction as to sex.

But the question of caste soon made trouble. The "free scholars" were looked down upon, so much so that it was at one time seriously proposed to erect a separate building for the "poor scholars." But the friends of the institution decided that this would defeat the intention of the founder's will, the first purpose of which was to provide free education. (The difficulty was adjusted by doing away with the paid scholars.)

The first teacher was Joshua Hoopes, a Friend, who resigned rather than contend with the strife between "paid" and "free" scholars. He afterwards went to West Chester where he successfully conducted a Friends' school for many years. He was a noted botanist, and a friend of Darlington's.

John Levering came next. He it was who made in 1851, a most admirable map of Lower Merion. As a local antiquarian he was quite remarkable.

Another early teacher was Miss Lydia Coggins. Miss Coggins lived to be 97 years old, dying in 1912. She is buried in West Laurel Hill within a few miles of where she spent her entire life.

But no one can speak or think of the Lower Merion Academy without calling to mind Mr. Israel Irwin, who was head master, or principal for twenty-five years.

Many scholars from the Academy afterwards became known to the world, among them being Charles Naylor, Representative in Congress from Philadelphia, 1840; Joseph Fornance, Representative in Congress from Montgomery County, in the early 40's (this is the Congressman who sent Winfield Scott Hancock to West Point); Prof. James Rhoads, of the Boys' Central High School, Philadelphia; Rev. James Rush Anderson, D. D.; Dr. Richard Jones Harvey, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1832, one of the California pioneers of 1849.





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ARMONIA COUNTY



SPRINGFIELD

MERION SQUARE

**MAP**  
OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF  
**LOWER MERION**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Pennsylvania

STATES OF PA  
1840

Number of Acres 132  
Number of Farms 20  
Population 200  
Value of Land \$100,000  
Value of Buildings \$50,000  
Total Value \$150,000



See at the beginning of the map the names of the streets and the names of the owners of the lots. The names of the streets are: Liberty, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.





*And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

Algernon Roberts, of the Pencoyd Iron Works, and George B. Roberts, who was President of the Pennsylvania Railroad for many years before his death.

The ground upon which the Academy stands rises above the picturesque ravine known as Rock Hollow. It was up this road that the Americans passed out Meeting House Lane to reach the Old Lancaster Road to the place where they camped, near Merion Meeting House, September 14, 1777.



THE OLD MILL

Rock Hollow, Lower Merion, where the Continental money was destroyed

Down Rock Hollow, on the banks of the winding stream known as Rock Creek, stands an old ruined mill. This, during the Revolutionary period, was Lloyd Jones' paper mill. After the Continental paper money had so depreciated in value as to become utterly worthless, it was called in by our young Government and destroyed at this

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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mill. From this spot in Lower Merion, then, started the still popular phrase, "Not worth a Continental."

In 1914, a fine up-to-date school house was built on the Academy grounds, facing Levering Mill Road. But the old building still stands as it has for more than a Century. The new school was made necessary because the settlement of Cynwyd has grown to such proportions within the last few years, that the old school house was too small to accommodate all the pupils. Howard M. Jenkins tells us in his "Historical Recollections of Gwynedd" that Joseph Foulke, of Gwynedd (b. 1786) a minister of the Quaker faith who taught at Friends' School at Plymouth, and later (1818) established a boarding school for young men and boys at Gwynedd, said, in referring to the small salaries paid, "The free school of Montgomery, however, was more popular. The salary paid there \$160 a year, secured more competent teachers than any other school. I can remember when a teacher's pay was from a dollar to ten shillings per quarter for each scholar and he obtained his board by going about from house to house among his employers, and it was a remark that people would trust a teacher to instruct their children to whom they would not lend a horse." The "free school of Montgomery" was the Old Academy.

### **The Columbia Railroad**

The Columbia Railroad, the precursor of the Pennsylvania system, was one of the first in the United States. (In 1823 John Stevens secured a charter from the Pennsylvania Legislature to construct a railroad to Columbia, but he did not succeed in raising sufficient funds to build it. A new Charter for the road was granted in 1826, repealing the former one, but nothing came of this, and it was not until 1828 that the road was begun. In 1832 portions of it were completed, and cars ran. In 1834 the road was finished, and opened through to Columbia, and the "Black Hawk" was placed upon it.)

The Schuylkill Valley branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Bala runs on part of the old Columbia Rail-

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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road. The roadbed continued east, from what is now Bala, down Conshohocken Road, between the catalpa trees, past the Methodist Orphanage and Home, and through Fairmount Park—the trolley running on part of it—to the Schuylkill, below Belmont Hill, at the site of the Old Columbia Bridge (opened in 1834—the new concrete bridge was built in 1919). The railroad started at Broad and Vine Streets and crossed the river at this point. Going in the other direction, from Bala, the Columbia Railroad continued from the deep cut along the Ford Road to “Bowman’s Bridge”—named for a bridge over this railroad—then out along the Old Lancaster Road past Merion Meeting House to Ardmore, where the roadbed became continuous with the present main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The course of the old roadbed can frequently be traced by blocks of stone abandoned along the way. Some of these blocks may be seen at the Junction, Park Trolley, near the Methodist Home. Also between the Bala and Cynwyd railroad stations, where the bed of the old railroad may plainly be seen; also at Parson’s corner, where the Ford Road joins the Old Lancaster Road. And on the property of A. C. Shand, Jr., in Narberth, there are six stone blocks undisturbed, in their original position. In early days there were no ties used, but the rails were bolted into stone cubes, planted in the ground. The first cars to run on iron rails were not drawn by steam engines, but by mules. Just below Bala was an inclined plane by which cars were raised and lowered between the Columbia bridge and the high ground. The first train over this railroad drawn by a locomotive was in 1834—the engine, as I said before, was called the “Black Hawk”—and the train ran to Lancaster in about eight and a half hours. Engines were not used entirely until several years later.

“Bowman’s Bridge” was a well-known settlement. It was at the Ford Road, near where it ran into the Old Lancaster Road that the bridge was built. This was on a part of the land granted to Roger Bowman in 1798. An old

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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deed transferring the property from Joshua Bowman to William Potts and John Wainwright begins the descriptions as follows: "Beginning at the bridge leading across the railroad, thence on the line of said railroad, etc." The portion of the property sold to William Potts was called "Juniper Bank." John Wainwright's place was named "Elm Hall." About thirty years ago General Wendell P. Bowman, a lineal descendant of Roger Bowman (who came to America from England in 1754), bought this place from the Wainwright heirs, so it once more belongs to the Bowman family. A toll gate stood for more than two centuries at "Bowman's Bridge," later called "Merionville;" also "Academyville" because Levering Mill Road, which leads to the Old Academy begins there. The old toll gate was removed in 1917 when the Old Lancaster Road was taken over by the State.

### **Memorial Stone**

**Erected by Merion Chapter, D. A. R.**

On September 14, 1777, Washington's Army encamped on a field just above Merion Meeting House, on the Old Lancaster Road. (This was five days before the bloody massacre of Paoli.)

Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled and dedicated a memorial stone to mark this spot, on September 14, 1896, the one hundred and nineteenth anniversary of the day, in the presence of five or six hundred people.

The ceremonies began at 2.30, with patriotic airs by the Wyoming Band of Philadelphia, stationed on a platform draped with American flags. The Regent of Merion Chapter presided and made some introductory remarks, which were followed by a prayer by the Rev. Charles S. Olmstead, then rector of St. Asaph's P. E. Church, Bala, and afterwards Bishop of Colorado.

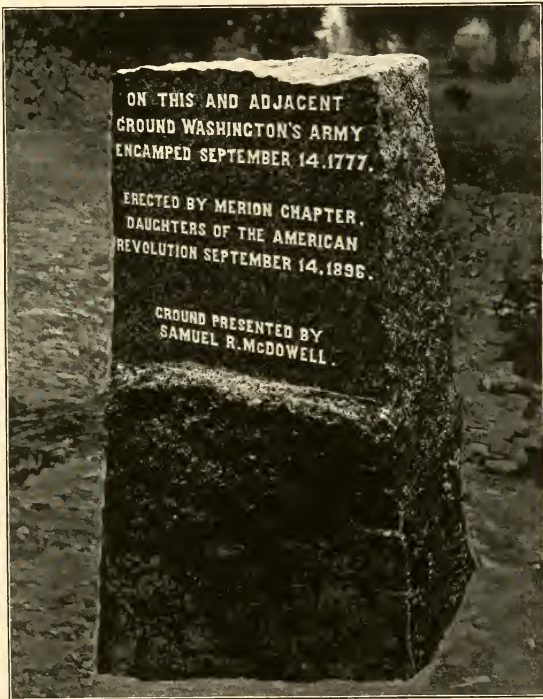
Hon. Jacob Weidel, who was Mayor of Reading at that time, delivered a short address. Miss Margaret B.

*And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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Harvey, Historian of the Chapter, read an historical paper in which she specially referred to the day spent by Washington's Army in Lower Merion.

Then the Regent unveiled the stone, while Battery A of Philadelphia, under command of Captain M. C. Stafford,



with thirty men, fired a national salute of forty-five guns, and the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner." Following the unveiling Major Moses Veale delivered the oration.

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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The stone is a rough granite pillar, four feet high, two feet wide and two feet thick. The face towards Montgomery Pike (as that part of the Old Lancaster Road is now called), is polished and on it is cut the following inscription :

**On this and adjacent  
ground Washington's army  
encamped September 14, 1777**

**Erected by Merion Chapter,  
Daughters of the American  
Revolution, September 14, 1896.**

**Ground presented by  
Samuel R. McDowell**

### **Camp Ground of the Georgia Continentals**

During the summer of 1777, the North Carolina troops under General Francis Nash, encamped in "Governor Penn's Woods," which means "Lansdowne" in West Fairmount Park. Governor Penn's house stood where Horticultural Hall now stands. General Nash was killed at the Battle of Germantown. In the diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer, of Philadelphia (1765-1798), published by his great-grandson, Jacob Cox Parsons, of Brooklyn, N. Y., one entry says, "June 30, 1777—Found the Schuylkill stables filled with light horse; visited also Gov. Penn's Woods to see the Camp of the North Carolina Troops."

The Continental Army occupied both banks of the Schuylkill from the Middle Ferry (where the Market Street bridge now stands) to the Falls. The main body under General Washington was encamped near Queen Lane. This spot has been marked by the Sons of the Revolution.

The Georgia troops under General Lachlin McIntosh took part in the campaign about Philadelphia. During the summer of 1777, the Fourth Battalion, under Colonel John White encamped in the open fields where Cynwyd and Bala now lie. The inspiration to mark this spot is due to Merion Chapter's Historian, the late Margaret B. Harvey, A. M.

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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In the Third Smithsonian Institution Report, of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D. C., 1901, page 235, appears the following: "Miss Margaret B. Harvey, Historian of Merion Chapter, copied an orderly book and several letters, the work of Revolutionary soldiers, and sent them to the State Librarian at Harrisburg, Pa., to be embodied in the Pennsylvania Archives. While working on these Archives she found that a Battalion of Georgia Continentals, under Col. John White, were encamped near Bala, August, 1777. Step by step she has followed those ragged, footsore men through many musty manuscripts and pages of history, wherever she could find a trace of them, picking up a name here and there, until she has gathered up 2,609 names. Such indefatigable work undertaken for the glory of another state than her own is rare. She believes that those early pioneers whose bones are moldering on many fields far distant from their homes will rise up against her on the day of Judgment, if she omits one name which any possible research might have revealed and saved to posterity."

Becoming interested in these same Georgia Continentals, Miss Harvey continued her work for Georgia and compiled the first Archives that state ever possessed.

In the Pennsylvania Archives, second series, Vol. III, page 103, we find that on August 15, 1777, "A Petition of divers Inhabitants of the Townships of Merion and Blockley" was sent to His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esq., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, complaining that the soldiers from Colonel White's Battalion of Georgia troops encamped in the Townships were overrunning their fields, and taking their fruits, etc. The closing paragraph says: "We have, moreover, the additional apprehension that as the Indian corn, which is a principal support of the Farmer and his cattle, is drawing to a state of maturity, in a few days, we may be deprived thereof." The letter was signed by every property holder in the locality. They were as follows:



## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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Algernon Roberts, Anthony Tunis, Thomas George, Richard Tunis, Lewis Thomas, Nehemiah Evans, David George, Edward Roberts, Wm. Stadelman, John Zell, David Zell Abram Streeper, Jno. Roberts, Jacob Jones, Isaac Lewis, John Robinson, James Jones, Jr., Rees Price, Robt. Holland, Silas Jones, Paul Jones, Amos George, Jesse Thomas, Abel Thomas, Anthony Levering, John Leacock, John Smith, James Jones, Bostine Eals, Rudolph Latch, Lawrence Trexler, Jesse Jones, Michael Smith, Anthony Warner, Martin Garrett, Jno. Price.

Many of these names are found on the rolls of the Pennsylvania Militia. These were the men who went out to fight in an emergency, then came home to gather their crops and were ready to be called again should necessity require. It seems natural that they should resent the idea of their fruits and grains being taken during their absence, and also quite as natural for the soldiers to help themselves to the fruits in the vicinity. The majority of these men were Friends, and are buried at Merion Meeting.

John Leacock, one of the signers of the petition, we are told in Scharf and Westcott's "History of Philadelphia," Vol. I, page 265, "set up a lottery in ye Township for ye cultivation of ye vine." (His place was always called "The Vineyard." The old house is still standing close to the Schuylkill Valley branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, between Bala and Cynwyd stations.) As the soldiers were encamped in these fields in August, and the grapes would be ripe in September, we can well understand John Leacock's anxiety for the safety of his vines. From the minutes of Radnor Meeting, 10th, 5th, 1776, page 456, Isaac Warner, Col. 7th Battalion: Algernon Roberts, Lieutenant Colonel of same; Isaac Kite, Jr., and Richard Thomas were dismissed from the Society of Friends for bearing arms. (They were afterwards reinstated.)

On February 22, 1919 (Washington's Birthday), at 4 P. M., Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled a bronze tablet on the lawn of St. John's



## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

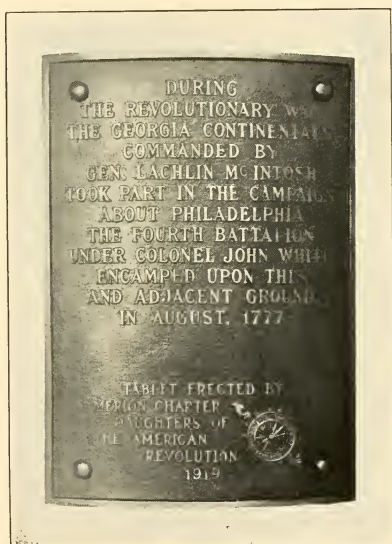
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P. E. Church, Cynwyd Lower Merion, marking this camp ground. The program was as follows:

Opening Address and Invocation—Major Henry A. F. Hoyt, D. D., Chaplain, N. G. P. (Retired), Rector of St. John's P. E. Church, Lower Merion, Pa.

Salute to the Flag:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag, and to the Republic for which it stands—One Nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

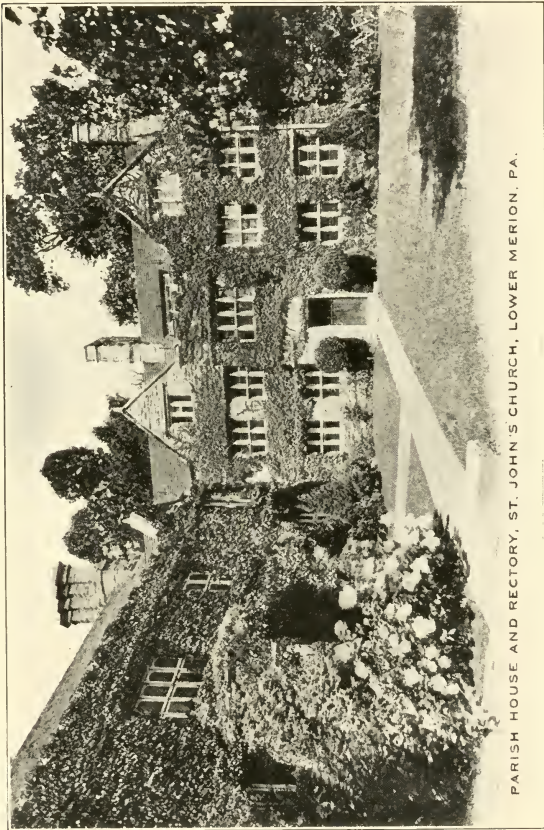


### *Inscription*

DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
THE GEORGIA CONTINENTALS COMMANDED BY  
GENERAL LACHLIN MCINTOSH TOOK PART IN THE  
CAMPAIGN ABOUT PHILADELPHIA. THE FOURTH BATTALION  
UNDER COLONEL JOHN WHITE ENCAMPED UPON THIS AND  
ADJACENT GROUND, IN AUGUST, 1777.  
TABLET ERECTED BY MERION CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

1919

*Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*



PARISH HOUSE AND RECTORY, ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, LOWER MERION, PA.

Tablet to Georgia Continentals, erected on the lawn of this church, by Merion Chapter, D. A. R. was unveiled February 22, 1919.

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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"America."

Historic paper—Dora Harvey Develin (Mrs. John F.)  
Regent of Merion Chapter, D. A. R.

Unveiling of Tablet—Mrs. S. Harold Croft, Mrs.  
Spencer Wright, Jr., and Miss Jane I. Magee,  
(lineal descendants of Nehemiah Evans, one of the  
signers of the petition).

"Red, White and Blue."

Rev. Leighton W. Eckard, a great-grandson of General  
Lachlin McIntosh, made a short address, which  
was very interesting.

Benediction—Chaplain Harry Leo, of the Loyal Legion.

The flag used at the ceremonies is one of the Chapter  
"Flags of 1776" and was made by the thirteen charter  
members in 1895.

### "Harriton"

"The Welsh Tract" not only included the 10,000 acres  
granted John ap Thomas and Edward Jones. On Holme's  
Map of 1681, the part of Lower Merion near the Schuylkill  
is marked "Edward Jones and Co., 17 families." Further  
westward are two tracts marked "Rowland Ellis and  
Thomas Ellis," both being in the neighborhood of the present  
Bryn Mawr.

Rowland Ellis was a great scholar and a preacher in  
the Society of Friends. He is said to have been a descendant  
of King Henry III of England. He settled on his  
plantation about 1686. In 1704 he built a substantial stone  
mansion still standing. (This afterwards became the property  
of Charles Thomson.) This, with its surrounding  
acres, he called "Bryn Mawr," or "Great Hill," after his  
early home in Wales.

The property passed into the hands of Richard Har-  
rison, a wealthy slave holder, who named the place "Harri-  
ton." Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental  
Congress, married for his second wife, Hannah Harrison,  
and became the master of "Harriton." After Secretary  
Thomson retired from public life he spent many years at

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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"Harriton" in making a translation of the Bible. He died in 1824, aged 95 years. At his death the property returned to his wife's kindred, the Morris family, who still hold it.

In the woods near the Baptist Cemetery, is the Harriton family burying ground, enclosed by a stone wall. A tablet in the wall records the fact that here were once interred the remains of Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress.

When Laurel Hill Cemetery was opened, Charles Thomson's nephew and other professed admirers, removed the patriot's remains surreptitiously, and re-interred them



"HARRITON," (the original, Bryn Mawr)

Built 1704

in the new burial ground. To remove Secretary Thomson's body was trespass, as to reach the family burying ground it was necessary to cross private property; but as the Morris family were Friends, they felt bound to follow the doctrine of non-resistance. Hence they never demanded the return

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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of the body. But Mr. George Vaux, of Philadelphia, whose summer home is at "Harriton," is doubtful whether the trespassers succeeded in finding the right body.

More than forty years ago Mr. Vaux and his wife erected the historical tablet now in the wall, as well as the one with name and date on the outside, which tablets are inscribed on two sides of a single block of stone. Mr. Vaux also prepared the inscription from reliable family papers. The interior tablet took the place of an earlier one, which contained a shorter and more imperfect inscription.

Thomas and Rowland Ellis were nephews of the emigrant John Humphrey. A great part of Bryn Mawr is built upon what was the Humphrey Land-grant, including Bryn Mawr College and Bryn Mawr Hotel; while the settlement now known as Bryn Mawr has grown around the old-time village of Humphreyville. Bryn Mawr College was founded by Dr. Joseph W. Taylor, of Burlington, N. J., and is under the care of the Society of Friends.

### **Old Dutch Church, Ardmore**

This little stone building was erected in 1787. This date appears on two quaint tablets set in the wall. The gable end turned away from the road is the more picturesque, as it shows the grey pointed stone. This old church succeeded a log building erected in 1769. A larger stone edifice was built in front of this little one in 1800. This was torn down in 1873 and a new church erected on Lancaster turnpike, on ground given by Charles Kugler.

The proper name of the "Old Dutch Church" is St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran. It was organized before 1765. From Col. Bean's "History of Montgomery County" we learn that the first communion was held in 1767, in which forty-three persons participated. The founders of the church were William Stadelman, Frederick Grow, Stephen Goodman, Christopher Getzman, George Bassler and Simon Litzenberg.

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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From the Pennsylvania Archives, second series, Vol. II, we find that William Stadelman, of Germany, was naturalized April 11, 1762; Stephen Goodman, April 1, 1763. The patriot paper-maker, Frederick Bicking, of Mill Creek, was naturalized April 1, 1763.

The Lutheran communities of Montgomery County, were settled north and westward from Lower Merion, through the central townships to the Berks County lines. The Germans in those early days were intensely loyal, the Muhlenberg family conspicuously so.

During the Revolutionary War the Dutch Church, near Ardmore, met with many reverses. There was a divided sentiment in the community, some of the congregation believing in the Quaker and Mennonite doctrine of non-resistance, just as we see in many sections today (1918).

The church had been founded a great many years before there were regular preaching services. Among those who preached in the old church was the famous Rev. Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, of the Trappe. The old graveyard in which both soldiers of the Revolution and the War of 1812 are buried, has been in use for more than 150 years. (The German language was used in the church service until 1858.) At various times school has been "kept" in this old church. A curious tulip design is carved over the door of this quaint little building.

### **Lower Merion Baptist Church**

Lower Merion Baptist Church was founded in 1808-9, by Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, D. D. It is an offshoot of the Great Valley Baptist Church, of Treddyffrin, founded by Welsh Baptists in 1710. Rev. Horatio Gates Jones was a son of Rev. David Jones, pastor of the Great Valley Baptist Church during the Revolutionary period, and Chaplain of Washington's Army. Rev. David Jones named his son after the victorious General Gates.

Rev. Horatio Gates Jones was the pastor of the Lower Merion Baptist Church for forty-four years. He died in 1853, aged 77. His two sons, well-known in public life,

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were Charles Thomas Jones and Horatio Gates Jones, of Roxborough. His daughter, Miss Hetty Jones, made a noble record as an Army nurse during the Civil War. The Hetty Jones Post, G. A. R., of Roxborough, was named in her honor, and a notable monument to her memory may be seen in Leverington Cemetery.



## PART II

### Early History of Blockley



LOCKLEY and Merion Townships were both in Philadelphia County prior to, and during, the Revolution. In fact, Montgomery County was not separated from Philadelphia County until 1784. Norristown, the County seat of Montgomery County, noted this event in its Centennial celebration in 1884. (Hon. Joseph Fornance was President of the Montgomery County Centennial Association, and F. G. Hobson, Esq., was Secretary. James B. Harvey was Chairman of the Auxiliary Committee of Philadelphia, with the following members: Saunders Lewis, of Ambler; Miss Elizabeth Croasdale, Hon. John Wanamaker, Ex-Governor J. F. Hartmanft, William M. Singerly, General W. B. Thomas and Horatio Gates Jones.)

Blockley extended from the neighborhood of the University of Pennsylvania and the Almshouse, up along the Schuylkill to Pencoyd. City Avenue was its western boundary. Blockley took in all of Haddington, being separated from Delaware County by Cobb's Creek. Southward it touched the old Swedish township of Kingsessing. On Holme's map of 1681, Blockley is included in the "Liberty Lands," or lands unsettled and outside the City plan. On the eastern bank of the Schuylkill, the territory from Vine Street to the Wissahickon and Germantown were afterwards known as "Northern Liberties."

When we say "Blockley" most people think of the Almshouse, but "Blockley" as applied to the Almshouse is simply a survival of a name. "Blockley Baptist Church" is another. The Old Lancaster Road was called for many years the "Blockley and Merion Turnpike, or Plank Road."

A portion of what is now Sixty-third Street, West Philadelphia, was called "Blockley Avenue." "The Blockley Library" was in the old Hestonville Hall, Fifty-second



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and Lancaster Avenue. "Blockley Post Office" in the antiquated store which stood at Lancaster Avenue and Paschall Street (now Master Street). "The Blockley Brass Band" afterwards called the Washington Cornet Band, was quite a noted band in its day.

The first settler who "penetrated the wilds of Blockley" was William Warner, of Blockley, England. He was a resident as early as 1677, having arrived before the great influx of either Welsh or English colonists. William Warner built his house on what afterwards was Forty-fifth and Westminster Avenue. He named his plantation "Blockley" after his home in England. (The writer remembers, when a school-girl, often passing the quaint brick structure, with shingled pediments, and overhanging portico, similar to what is popularly called "Queen Anne." This was the Warner Homestead.) He landed at Upland, now Chester. His title was confirmed by William Penn.

John Warner, a brother of William, soon followed him, coming over with Penn, and settled nearby. Both were members of the first Pennsylvania Legislature, along with Thomas Duckett (keeper of the Middle Ferry.)

The Speaker of the First Pennsylvania Legislature was Dr. Thomas Wynne. (See "WYNNSTAY.") So we see that Blockley was settled by the English coming up from Chester, by way of the Swedish settlement of Kingessing, and by more Welsh coming down from Merion.

On Scull and Heap's map of 1750 appear the following names of principal landowners in Blockley: Warner, Meredith, Wennis (Wynne), Jones, Roberts, Garrig (Garrett). A large part of the property held by these families is now included in West Fairmount Park.

From the letters of William Penn, Gabriel Thomas and others, we learn that the woods of Blockley were majestic, but not savage. They were picturesque, but not densely tangled. The Indians kept them particularly cleared so that it was possible to travel long distances through the country without paths, yet without meeting with serious obstacles.

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The name Garrig later was called Garrett. Charles V. Hagner's "History of the Falls of Schuylkill" says this family was of Swedish origin and claimed a considerable strip of territory along the western bank of the Schuylkill, from the old Columbia Bridge to the Falls. Opposite Laurel Hill was Garrett's Ford. (See Fords and Ford Road.)

The first general tax-list for Philadelphia County was made in 1693. The original assessment list is in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is copied entire in the "Memorial History of Philadelphia," by John Russell Young (see page 123). Below is the assessment for townships "Beyond the Schoolkill." The assessor was Thomas Pascall, Junr.

William Smith, £250, 10s., 10d.

Paul Sanders, £100, 8s., 4d.

John Gardner, £20, 2s., 6d.

Johnathan Duckett, £100, 8s., 4d.

Thomas Duckett, £100, 8s., 4d.

John Roads, £120, 10s.

William Powell, £100, 8s., 4d.

John Albore, £—, 6s.

William Wilkins, £50, 4s., 2d.

James Keight, £10, 3s., 4d.

William Warner, £120, 10s.

John Warner, £40, 3s., 4d.

John Boles, £150, 12s., 6d.

Georg Scottson, £60, 5s.

John Scootson, £120, 10s.

William Bedward, £30, 2s., 6d.

Thomas Pascall, £150, 12s., 6d.

George Wilcox, £170, 14s., 2d.

The tax was assessed under the Act of the Assembly in 1693, during the administration of Governor Fletcher. It was entitled "An Act for Granting to King William and Mary the rate of one penny per pound upon the clear value of all real and personal estates, and six shillings per head upon such as are not otherwise rated by this Act, to be

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employed by the Governor of this Province of Pennsylvania and territories thereof for the time being towards the support of this Government."

Thomas Duckett and William and John Warner we have already mentioned as first settlers and prominent office holders. James Keight, whose name is also spelled in other old records Keite, and Kite, was a son-in-law of William Warner. Also an early member of Schuylkill Friends' Meeting. John Roads was an ancestor of the late Professor James Rhoads of the Boys' Central High School, Philadelphia. The Rhoads property was near Haddington, not very far from the Delaware County line.

William Powell was an ancestor of the Powell family, who built the old "Powell Mansion" and gave the name to Powelton Avenue. "Powell's Ferry" was near the old mansion, a short distance below the Spring Garden Street bridge. The name Powell is an abbreviation of the Welsh name "ap Howell." The prefix ap meaning a son of, or a child of. The name William Bedward appears in the list above. This name is a contraction, or abbreviation, of William ap Edward. He was a Quaker preacher and lived in what is now "Overbrook Farms." He was one of the Welsh of Merion who crossed over into Blockley, and an ancestor of Jesse and Rebecca George. According to Welsh custom the eldest son reversed his father's name—so William Edward had a son named Edward William. (The s was gradually added as a possessive, to take the place of ap. This explains such Welsh names in Pennsylvania as Roberts, Edwards, Richards, Walters, etc.)

The name of Duckett, Warner, Kite and others, all early members of the Schuylkill Friends' Meeting, appear on the records at the Friends' Meeting House, Fifteenth and Race Streets, Philadelphia. Mary Warner, daughter of William Warner, married Thomas Wynn, grandson of Dr. Thomas Wynne.

Thomas Duckett, clerk of Schuylkill Meeting, and a member of the First Pennsylvania Assembly, died of fever in 1699.

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Pennsylvania from the beginning was an agricultural State. The great land holders built solid stone mansions and lived in the midst of their broad acres, cultivating their own "plantations." This section of Pennsylvania never had the ignorant, stupid, loutish farmers, of which we read so much in stories and novels. The old families of Pennsylvania are all able to point to some old stone farmhouse, in some old county, as the cradle of their American clans, for the very good and historic reason that the first purchasers took up large tracts of land and laid out plantations. The Welsh were stone masons and wherever they settled they built their houses of stone. In New England, where stone is plentiful, we see frame houses because those who settled New England were carpenters by trade.

Among the old mansions of Blockley, still standing, and outside Fairmount Park, may be mentioned the Wynne mansion, or "Wynnstay" (recently restored), near Bala; the Joseph George mansion, Overbrook (now a fashionable school for girls); the Jesse George mansion, near George's Hill, close to the Schuylkill Valley R. R. (now fast falling to decay); the David George and Edmund George mansions in the same neighborhood, and the Amos George mansion on the Christ Church Hospital property. Another old mansion on the same property is now used by the Rabbit Club.

In 1708 Richard George, with his wife, Margaret, and many children, arrived from Wales. Richard purchased a portion of the Wynn tract in Blockley. Some of his children settled near him, others proceeded to Chester County. His descendants intermarried with the descendants of William ap Edward. In this way the Georges became possessed of a large tract near Overbrook, as well as George's Hill.

The best-known members of the George family were the philanthropists, Jesse, Rebecca and Joseph. This last founded the George Industrial School. Jesse and his sister Rebecca, perpetuated their name in their noble gift of eighty-one acres to Fairmount Park. They also founded the George Institute and Library, Hestonville.

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The Georges were quite numerous and all lived to be very old. Christ Church Hospital, a home for old ladies, is built on a portion of the George estate. The lofty steeple



HOME OF JESSE AND REBECCA GEORGE  
Still standing

of this fine old building can be seen from many points in Blockley and Merion. This is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in the country. It was founded by Dr. John Kearsley long before the Revolution, in a house on "Church Alley," opposite Christ Church. The hospital was removed to the new buildings in Belmont in 1854. The term "hospital" is still used in a colonial sense, meaning not merely a refuge for the sick, but a "house of entertainment." Dr. Kearsley, the founder, was the architect of Christ Church.

### **West Park**

No history of Blockley Township would be complete without particular mention being made of West Fairmount Park, which is included in old Blockley. This vast pleasure ground extends along the Schuylkill from City Avenue at

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Pencoyd, to Fairmount Dam, and beyond. The portion of Fairmount Park, and the grandly romantic and picturesque Wissahickon on the east bank of the Schuylkill (with its stories of mystics, hermits, poets, Indians; its old monastery, its luxurious foliage, a harbor for many rare birds; its cascades and gorges), is in what was, before the city's consolidation, the "Northern Liberties" and Roxborough Township.

Many noted historic spots are included within the West Park, among them a number of old-time mansions. We are deeply indebted to the late Charles S. Keyser, Esq., for the preservation of much of the historical lore connected with the Park.

**The Centennial Grounds.**—Here the one hundredth anniversary of the nation's birth was celebrated in the sum-



MEMORIAL HALL

One of the buildings erected for the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. In it may be seen a fine collection of objects of art, and antiquities, including the famous Wilstach Art Collection. The building is of white marble, 365 feet long and 210 feet wide.

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mer of 1876. The grounds are in the West Park, extending from "Lansdowne" to George's Hill, and bounded on the north by Belmont, and on the south by Girard and Elm (now Parkside) Avenues. These were part of the 5,000 acres granted in 1681 to Dr. Thomas Wynne, of Caerwys, Wales, friend and physician of William Penn. A portion of the same land was presented to the city of Philadelphia by Jesse George and his sister Rebecca in 1868.

**The Garrett Mansion.**—In the West Park near the Falls of Schuylkill, now called "The Lilacs." The Garrett family are of Swedish descent, their ancestor being one Garretson, who came to Delaware at an early date. The Swedes settled at Wilmington in 1683, and claimed both banks of the Delaware River as far north as Trenton, and both banks of the Schuylkill as far as Reading. The domain constituted "New Sweden." William Penn recognized the claims of the Swedes to ownership in the land. The Welsh who settled Lower Merion and Blockley, in the summer of 1682, made friends with their Swedish neighbors. The Garrett family retained their plantation up to the time that the city of Philadelphia acquired it for park purposes. In extending the park the city became possessed of a number of old Swedish and Welsh land claims. At the time of the Revolution the Garrett mansion was occupied by Captain, afterwards Major, Morton Garrett, of the Philadelphia County Militia. The Ford Road passed up from Garrett's Ford, which was just at the foot of the hill below "The Lilacs."

**Brunnenwald.**—This old mansion stands on the crest of Cedar Hill, in the West Park, long the property of the Ott family. The Otts were of German origin. The Germans, under Francis Daniel Pastorius, settled Germantown in 1683, thence spread into the neighboring townships of Roxborough, Blockley, Lower Merion and up the Schuylkill Valley. They were among the best citizens Pennsylvania ever had, their record being quite as creditable as the Welsh and Swedes. At the time of the Revolution, Brunnenwald Farm was occupied by Lieutenant Peter Ott, of the Philadelphia County Militia.



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"BRUNNEWALD"

Faces the Speedway and is used as a club house by the Road Drivers' Association. During the Revolution it was occupied by Lieutenant Peter Ott, of the Philadelphia County Militia.

**Mount Prospect.**—In the West Park, overlooking the Falls of Schuylkill, now called Chamounix, part of the old Swede domain of Swan Lums, long the property of the Johnson family. In this old mansion resided for a time Robert Morris, son of the Revolutionary financier, Robert Morris. The younger Morris well nigh impoverished himself in the attempt to make glass.

**Greenland.**—In the West Park, on the slope of Cedar Hill, thence extending to the river bank; once part of the Garrett and George properties. (Here the trolley bridge now crosses the Schuylkill.) The house is built in the same solid style as the George houses in Blockley. From the Revolutionary period down to the time of its acquisition by the city, "Greenland Farm" was held by the Craig family. James Craig, a member of this family, was a soldier in the famous Philadelphia City Troop, in 1778-79. The troop still exists, and is said to be the oldest military organization in the United States.



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**Belmont or Peter's Farm.**—In the West Park, near the Columbia bridge. In 1745 William Peters of Yorkshire, England, purchased the property from the widow of Daniel Jones, a descendant of the early Welsh. Here were born Richard and Thomas, the sons of William Peters. At the outbreak of hostilities with Great Britain William Peters returned to England, but his sons espoused the cause of the Colonies. Richard was the illustrious Judge Peters—



GREENLAND

As it looked before the back buildings were removed and alterations made.

patriot, wit, poet, scholar and Statesman—a captain in the Philadelphia County Militia and Secretary of the Board of War and a friend of Washington. Judge Peters performed many acts of service to his country. After the war he went to England to induce the high dignitaries of the established Church to confer Episcopal Ordination upon the Rev. William White, of Philadelphia, in which mission he was successful, thus becoming one of the founders of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America.

Richard Peters was the first President of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, and introduced many improvements in farming. In 1782-83 he was a member of Congress.

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and from 1789 until his death on August 22, 1828, U. S. District Judge of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Peters was a soldier in the Philadelphia City Troop. Belmont Mansion still stands on a high eminence in West Park, commanding a beautiful view of the Schuylkill. The Peters coat-of-arms, in stucco, still adorns the dining-room ceiling. A stone slag set in the wall, on the north end of the old library bears the letters, J. W. P. 1745. In 1794, September 11-20, a troop of Pennsylvania Militia encamped at Belmont, on the way westward to suppress the whisky insurrection.



BELMONT MANSION  
Built 1745

Near the mansion is a white walnut tree which Lafayette planted during his visit in 1824. It is enclosed with an iron railing. On the broad field lying back of the house, near Belmont Avenue, stands a magnificent walnut tree planted by Washington.

The Belmont plateau is a favorite site for military demonstrations today. Here was held the Historical Pageant, October 7 to 12, 1912. Here, during the World War, a great demonstration urging the sale of Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps was held at which several noted opera stars sang, while aeroplanes flew overhead (1918).

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**Tom Moore's Cottage.**—A small, low, stone structure on the river bank at the foot of Belmont Hill, once part of the Peters property. A winding pathway leads down through the "glen" to the River Road near this spot. The Irish poet, while a guest of Judge Peters, played hermit for a short time, by secluding himself in this cottage. Here he wrote a number of poems, among them those beginning with lines, "Alone by the Schuylkill a wanderer roved," and "I knew by the smoke that so gracefully curled."



HORTICULTURAL HALL

One of the buildings erected for the Centennial Celebration of 1876. This great conservatory is 380 by 190 feet. It is 55 feet high. The collections show plants from all parts of the world, many of very rare character.

**Lansdowne.**—Upon the spot now occupied by Horticultural Hall, in the West Park, stood the residence of John Penn, grandson of William Penn, and the last royal governor of Pennsylvania. Although a Tory, he was not at all aggressive, and spent the last years of his life in Pennsylvania, dying in 1795. The name "Lansdowne" is derived from John Penn's English title of Lord Lansdowne. Washington visited Ex-Governor Penn at Lansdowne, in 1787, during the sitting of the Constitutional Convention. After the death of John Penn this estate became the property of William Bingham, the well-known patriot. During the

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Revolution he was agent of the Continental Congress in the West Indies; afterwards captain in a troop of dragoons; also Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and United States Senator. His wife was Ann, daughter of Thomas Willing, member of the Continental Congress, and the Supreme Executive Council. Joseph Bonaparte, Ex-King of Spain, lived at Lansdowne in 1816.

The last owner of the place, before it passed into the hands of the Fairmount Park Commissioners, was Lord Ashburton, whose family name was Baring, the noted bankers. (Baring Street, which winds through a portion of West Philadelphia, once known as Hamilton Village, was named for this family.) Lord Ashburton, with Daniel Webster, arranged the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, which fixed the 49th parallel as the northwestern boundary of the United States.

**Camp Ground of the North Carolina Battalion.**—Early in July, 1777, the North Carolina troops, under General Francis Nash, encamped at Lansdowne. The Continental Army then occupied both banks of the Schuylkill, from the Middle Ferry (Market Street) to the Falls. General Nash was killed at the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777.

**Camp Ground of the British.**—While the British held Philadelphia, 1777-1778, one of their camp grounds extended between Lansdowne and George's Hill, in the West Park, that is, where the Centennial Exposition was held—where the overthrow of the British was destined to be celebrated nearly a hundred years later. (The English, evidently bearing no malice, built a "Queen Anne" house in the Park for that celebration, and after it closed presented the house to the city. It still stands and is used as a guard headquarters.)

**George's Hill.**—A commanding eminence in the West Park, a part of the large tract of land presented to the city by the Quaker philanthropist, Jesse George, and his sister, Rebecca George. The George property was a portion of the Wynne tract, but it passed into the hands of Richard George, of Wales, in 1708. (Near the foot of the Hill, just

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outside the Park, close to the Schuylkill Valley branch of the Pennsylvania R. R., the old George mansion still stands (1918), but it is fast falling to ruin.) There were several other old mansions in the vicinity, of the same substantial style, once held by various branches of the George family. During the Revolution the Georges were patriotic. Jesse, an ancestor of the later Jesse George, was a member of the Committee of Correspondence. William George was a Lieutenant in the Philadelphia County Militia. John George was another patriot of the name.



“RIDGELAND”

Another old-time mansion in the West Park, above Belmont Glen, near Belmont Mansion.

Jesse George died in 1872, aged 90 years. His sister Rebecca, a few years younger, died in 1869.

**The State in Schuylkill.**—In May, 1732, a fishing club located itself at Eaglefield, which is just above the Pennsylvania Railroad and Girard Avenue Bridges, West Park. The club was called the “Colony in Schuylkill,” and rented an acre of ground from William Warner, whom the members dubbed “Baron Warner,” in order that “he might properly receive their homage.” The organization was

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kept up until the outbreak of the American Revolution, when, as the members of the club were all eminent patriots, the name was changed to the "State in Schuylkill." Among those eminent patriots were Samuel Morris, Thomas Wharton, Thomas Mifflin, John Dickinson and Richard Peters. The Philadelphia City Troop was largely an outgrowth from the "State in Schuylkill." The club still exists, although located on the Delaware, in Bucks County. It is believed to be the oldest social organization in the world. The club has always been famous for its good dinners. The gentlemen, themselves, act as cooks. They are said to possess a great number of secret recipes, which have been handed down from Colonial and Revolutionary times, and which have been tested by the most illustrious warriors and statesmen of those periods, and later entertained as guests. It is accepted as a fact that the organization wielded a great influence in behalf of the American Independence. John Dickinson, author of the "Farmer's Letters," did more for the Colonies than did any other one individual.

**Fort St. Davids**, founded by the Welsh, was another fishing club, with a clubhouse, or "Castle," on the east side of the river above the Falls. This was afterwards merged in the "State in Schuylkill." Near the original home of the latter-named club stands a mansion known as "**Sweet Briar.**" This was built after the Revolution by Samuel Breck who resided there for more than fifty years. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and one of the framers of the bill providing for the establishment of public schools.

**Solitude.**—Now the Zoölogical Garden, which is, itself, part of the West Park. The mansion, still standing, was erected by John Penn, a nephew of Governor John Penn. The younger John Penn was a poet and philosopher. This house and grounds were among the last pieces of property

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held in Pennsylvania by the Penn family, who retained it until purchased by the City for park purposes.

**Shad Fisheries.**—Before the Fairmount Water Works and dam were built, the Schuylkill was as famous for its shad as the Delaware now is. The breast of the dam prevented the fish from ascending the river, hence the fish-



"SWEET BRIAR"

The villa built by Samuel Brecht in 1797, and occupied by him until 1838. It is just below the Fortieth Street entrance to the West Park on Lansdowne Drive. Nearby, facing Girard Avenue, is the Letitia House, the original home of William Penn. It formerly stood on Letitia Street near Second and Market Streets. In 1899 the house was carefully taken down and removed to the Park.

eries were abandoned in 1824. One of the best-known shad fisheries was at Willow Point, at the foot of Greenland Hill, below the Ford. For many years it was operated by Jacob Sorber, who was, during the American Revolution, an Ensign in the Philadelphia County Militia. Several other fisheries were at the Falls of Schuylkill. The most noted was the one conducted by Godfrey Shronk, also a Revolutionary soldier. The descendants of Godfrey



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Shronk still claim a "fishery right," which in early days was considered property quite as much as real estate. The claim, however, is of no value today, as there are no longer any shad, and the river banks are within the Park limits.

**Roberts' Hollow.**—A romantic piece of woods, partly within the West Park, and extending along the river bank to the City line at Pencoyd, for more than two hundred years in possession of the Roberts family, descendants of Hugh and John Roberts, who were among the Welsh emigrants. The old mansion stood until recently. Here resided in 1704, Edward Roberts, one of the first mayors of Philadelphia, and a son of Hugh Roberts, the eminent Quaker preacher. At the time of the American Revolution the place was occupied by the patriot Phineas Roberts, who was one of a committee to purchase clothing for the relief of soldiers' wives and children. To the same family belonged Lieutenant-Colonel Algernon Roberts, Lieutenant Jesse Roberts and Lieutenant Robert Roberts, all of the Philadelphia County Militia. A Mr. Roberts, of this family, carried to Washington, at Valley Forge, on the morning of June 18, 1778, the news of the British evacuation of Philadelphia, thus enabling the Americans to follow promptly and defeat the enemy at Monmouth.

**The Monument Road.**—The Old Monument Road extended from what is now Forty-ninth Street and Lancaster Avenue, crossed the Pennsylvania Railroad, thence up through West Fairmount Park, then out into Montgomery County, terminating near Manayunk Bridge. For years the main entrance to "Belmont" or Peter's Farm, was a lane leading off the Monument Road, near the present North Wynnefield. This road, which ran diagonally from Forty-ninth and Elm (now Parkside) Avenue, passing where the English Building now stands in the West Park, was partly obliterated when the Centennial Grounds were laid out. At the present time (1918) a portion of it appears

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at North Wynnefield, ending at the Christ Church Hospital Grounds. Again, starting at Belmont Avenue, it runs between the Methodist Home and the School for the Deaf and Dumb, past the "Five Points," crossing City Avenue and continuing to Righter's Ferry Road, at one of the entrances to West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

From the Revolutionary period until about 1860-65 there stood at the point where Peter's Lane left the old road, a rough stone monument or obelisk. This rugged obelisk was scarred and seamed; it bore no inscription, and what it really commemorated was somewhat of a mystery. Some say Judge Peters erected it in memory of the horses killed during the Revolution; others, that it was to mark the spot where he first met his future wife, and still others, that it merely indicated the entrance to "Belmont," his country place. However, the monument was there for generations, and this old roadway was, and still is, called the "Monument Road" for that reason.

### **Reed's Map**

John Reed made a map dated 1733, not published until years later. This came between Holmes' map of 1681, and Scull and Heap's of 1750. The list of landholders in Blockley and Kingsessing as recorded on Reed's map is as follows:

Swan Lums, 400 acres; John Bowle and T. Scotsink, 400 acres; Wood and Sharlow, 100 acres; Wm. Wood, 400 acres; Jon Winn, 214 acres; Wm. Peters, John Simson, Ed. Martin, Wm. Smith, T. Parsons, Wm. Moore, Jno. Warner, David George, John Warner, Wm. Orien, Wm. Warner, Geo. Scotson, Jona Winn, Edward Jones, Burz Foster, William Bedward, alias Edward, David Jones, William Warner, Israel Morris, John Simcock, Richard Marsh, Wm. Smith, William Powell, Barnabus Wilcox, Thomas Duckett, E. Pritchard, — Maris, Francis Ficher, Haverford Friends,



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P. England, John Bristol, Benj. East, John Waight, Thomas Lloyd, Dan'l Humphrey, Wm. Hems, John Gee and Co., Wm. Brown, Peter Coke, Peters Mord, Thos. Paschall, Saml. Richards, James Peter, John Chambers, B. Chambers, Richard Peirce & Co., Edward Penington & Co., John Ball, Pearson Watson, Wm. Cuerton, John Marshall, James Richard, — James, Richard Haynes, George Shore, G. Ashmead, D. Deweling, S. Bulkley, I. B. Fen, A. Roads, Francis Smith, Saml. Allen, John Ward, Allen Foster, Penl Lehman, R. Webb, Hugh Roberts, George Ashbridge, Joseph Pike, Thomas Wickersham, Thomas Woolrick, Wm. Roberts, Hana Musgrove, Phil Howell, Thos. Reese, Dan. Thos, Abiah Taylor, Benj Furlow, R. Hart.

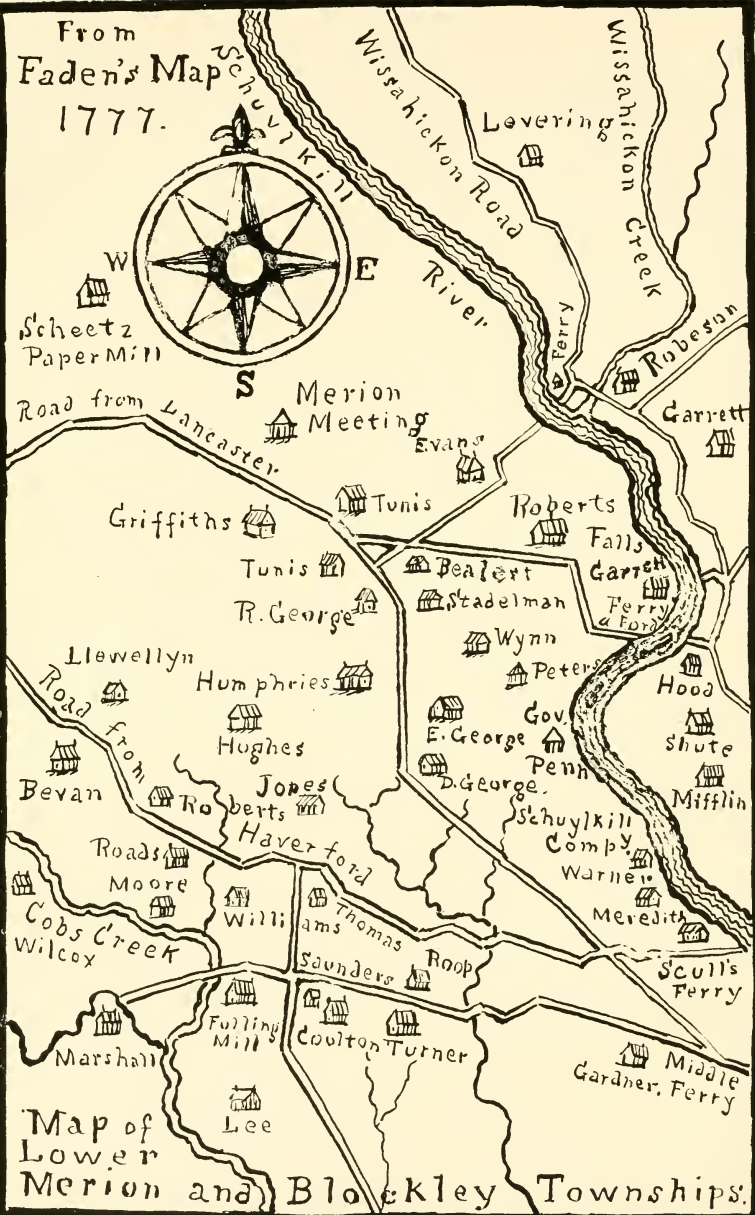
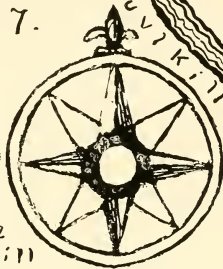
Swan Lums' 400 acres included all the land from City Avenue along the Schuylkill to near Chamounix, or "Mount Prospect," now in the West Park. John Bowle and J. Scotsink's 400 acres, the West Park opposite the Falls of Schuylkill and Laurel Hill. Wood and Sharlow's 100 acres and William Wood's 400 acres, that part of the Park adjacent to the Peters and Wynne property. Jonathan Wynn, William Peters, John Simson, Ed. Martin, Wm. Smith, T. Parsons, Wm. Moore, John Warner and David George owned tracts of various sizes in what is now that part of the Park near to and including the Centennial Grounds.

John Warner, William Warner and William Orien owned the greater part of West Philadelphia, between the Park and Kingsessing.

Out near Overbrook, Haddington, and City Line the landholders were Johnathan Winn, George Scotson, Edward Jones, Buz Forster, William Bedward, alias Edward (ap Edward) and David Jones. Several thousand acres were divided among these six men.

Other landholders lived near the boundaries of Delaware County, all of these following names being located in the neighborhood of what is called on this old map "Mill

From  
Faden's Map  
1777.



Map of  
Lower  
Merion and Blockley Townships.

Drawn by Margaret B. Harvey.

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Creek, or some of its branches." Peter Coke, Thomas Paschall, Samuel Richards, James Peter, John Chambers, B. Chambers, Edward Penington and Co., A. Rhoads, Abiah Taylor, Benj. Furlow, R. Hart.

Peter Coke, also called Cock, and Cox, was a Swede. The above-mentioned William Orien or Urian, was also a Swede. The Swedish Church of St. James, Kingsessing, is still standing on the Old Darby Road, near Sixty-ninth Street, in the midst of a graveyard filled with Swedish names. (The Revolutionary General, Isiah Harmer, is buried there.)

The "Mill Creek" on this map is Cobb's Creek. This name was given it from an early English settler. The Indians called it Karakung. The Swedes named it Mill Creek. An old mill once stood near the Blue Bell Tavern, where the Darby Road crosses the Creek.

The name "Mount Joy" appears on Holme's map of 1681. It is in Letitia Penn's Manor of "Mount Joy," the first draft of what afterwards became Valley Forge Camp Ground. "Welch Tract" as shown on Holme's map includes Tredyffrin township in the Great Valley, now called the Chester Valley. Southeastward are the Welsh townships of Radnor and Haverford. Lower Merion township comprises the area between Radnor and Haverford on the westward, and the Schuylkill on the eastward. Holme's map is dated 1681, but was not finished until 1683.

The "Liberty Lands" included old Blockley township, Philadelphia County, now a part of the built-up portion of West Philadelphia. Below the "Liberty Lands" was the marshy township of Kingsessing settled by the Swedes.

Scull and Heap's map of 1750 shows a goodly portion of Lower Merion and Blockley, with the old roads and the houses of the principal landholders of that period. In the northeastern corner of the map, about the Wissahickon Creek, is a section of old Roxborough township, afterwards a part of the battleground of Germantown.

Reed's map was published in 1774, but it really belongs to a much earlier period, as it accompanied his list of "First

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

Purchasers." The greater part of the map here shown represents Blockley, bounded on the northwest by Lower Merion, on the northeast and east by the Schuylkill, which separates it from Roxborough township, the Northern Liberties and the City of Philadelphia; south by old Kingessing township (in which is Gray's Ferry); on the west and southwest by Mill Creek (also called Cobb's Creek), which separates it from Darby township, Chester County (now Delaware County). This map shows the first roads and names of residents living about 1700 and a little later. Among these appears the names of some of the original Swedish landholders as well as the Welsh and English.

Faden's map of 1777 is founded on the survey of Scull and Heap. In addition to Scull and Heap's names it gives "Gov. Penn." then living at Lansdowne, in what is now West Fairmount Park. Also, the "Schuylkill Company," afterwards the "State in Schuylkill" fishing club, which became a patriotic organization wielding a powerful influence in behalf of American Independence. This map was published the same year that General Washington's army marched through Lower and Upper Merion to Valley Forge.

These four maps give a fairly complete representation of the whole region west of the Schuylkill, from its mouth to Valley Forge, and for a period beginning with the survey ordered by William Penn in 1681, and ending with the year 1777, when the patriot army encamped at Mount Joy.

### **"Hestonville"**

#### **And Colonel Edward W. Heston**

**Hestonville.**—A village founded prior to the American Revolution, by Edward W. Heston. His homestead, the original "Heston Villa," stood near what is now Fifty-second Street Station on the Pennsylvania Railroad. A portion of the property is still in the possession of the family. Colonel Heston's daughter, Mrs. Louisa Heston Paxson, was born there in 1801. She died in March, 1898, aged 97 years and 4 months.



## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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Edward Heston volunteered his services at the beginning of the Revolutionary War and went out as Captain of the Sixth Company, Seventh Battalion of Philadelphia Militia. He later became Lieutenant-Colonel. He was a son of Jacob Heston, of Wrightstown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the grandson of Zebulon Heston, who landed at Barnstable Bay, Massachusetts, in 1699.



HESTON HOMESTEAD  
Built 1766. Torn down 1877

Colonel Heston died on February 14, 1824, aged 79 years. His obituary, which appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, February 21, 1824, says:

"It was to Colonel Heston that General Potter, with, perhaps, his whole brigade (then lying near the Gulph), owed their liberty, if not their lives. When Cornwallis left his quarters in Philadelphia, intending to take General Potter by surprise, he marched at the head of five thousand men, crossing the Schuylkill during the latter part of the night. Colonel Heston being on the alert, had lodged that night a short distance from home. About daybreak the enemy was discovered approaching near his farm, through

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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which they had to pass, by a man whom he had stationed there as a watch. They advanced and took the Colonel's horse with them. The watch immediately conveyed him the intelligence. The Colonel then fled on foot to one of his neighbours, borrowed a horse, and rode by a circuitous route with all possible speed, until he got ahead of them. He soon arrived in Potter's camp, and found them just going to breakfast. At the request of General Potter, who was then in his Marquee, he ran through and aroused the whole camp to arms, and then went to meet General Washington, who, with his Army, he met crossing the Schuylkill at a bridge which had just been completed for the purpose.

"In consequence of the intelligence he brought, the Americans moved their quarters and the British had the mortification to miss their anticipated conquest.

"The day previous to the Battle of Germantown, he was one among others who, in consummation of a plan laid down by Washington, to cut off the enemy's retreat from Philadelphia, went to the Middle Ferry and assisted in cutting away the rope which then extended across the river, notwithstanding there was a continual fire from the enemy on the opposite bank, etc."

Colonel Heston was later captured by a troop of British horse and taken to Long Island, where he was held for seven months as a prisoner of war. After the close of the war he was elected to the State Legislature, some years later was appointed as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia. Later, elected to the office of Senator.

In June, 1896, when old Congress Hall, Sixth and Chestnut Streets, was being restored and repaired, one of the carpenters found some papers behind the wainscoting in the Senate chamber which had been there over ninety years. One of the documents was a "Return of election of Senator of the State in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the district of the City of Philadelphia, the County of Philadelphia, and the County of Delaware, held in the State House,

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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Philadelphia, 11th October, 1803." At this election Edward Heston was elected, having received 1,682 votes. The return is signed by James Sharswood, Matthew Carey, James Gamble, Lewis Rush, William Stephenson, Joseph Morrell, and Stephen Girard.

Edward Heston was buried in the family burying ground on his "plantation," near what is now Fifty-fifth and Master Streets. The dead in this enclosure were later removed to Woodlands.

The Heston School, at Fifty-fourth Street and Lansdowne Avenue, is built upon a part of what was Colonel Heston's farm. The ground was willed and deeded to the city by members of the Heston family. The first schoolhouse, built about 1828, was a log house; this was followed by a "rough-cast" building. In 1868 a brick schoolhouse, with a cupalo, was erected. Several years ago a fine up-to-date grammar school was built on the same plot with the brick building. In 1918 this last-named was set on fire, and the entire building gutted and destroyed. (It was thought by some of the investigators, that robbery was the cause, as it was known that a number of "Liberty Bonds" were there, having been bought by the teachers and scholars. Others felt it was the work of German sympathisers. A couple of weeks later, when the George Brooks School, Fifty-seventh Street and Haverford Avenue, was also burned, five firemen losing their lives, and many others seriously injured, it became certain that the fire was a part of a plan to spread terror.)

From the "Colonial Records," Vol. XII, page 67-70, may be found the following:

"In the Supreme Executive Council, August 10, 1779.

"Joseph Reed, President.

"An order issued to Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Heston for two hundred dollars for services done to General Potter, from the 14th of November, 1777, to the 3rd of January, 1778, as certified by the said General at four dollars p. day."

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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An odd little six-page pamphlet entitled "An Address to the People of Blockley and Its Vicinity," published about 1822, was called to my attention several years ago. It described a controversy over the name of the settlement known as Hestonville. Newcomers in the neighborhood of the three-mile stone tried to call the growing village "Monroe." The pamphlet describes the dissention as follows:

"About twenty-five years ago, a person by the name of Hill undertook to make a map of Philadelphia city and its vicinity, an undertaking as arduous as it was laudable; he, however, completed it. The map was in circular form, extending each way ten miles from the centre, in which the names of places long established were generally entered, and the proprietors of many such villages, country seats, farms etc., as had not been previously named were consulted, and in many instances names were agreed on, and entered on the map accordingly.

"Such was the situation of the farm on which the three-mile stone before mentioned stands, which farm at that time belonged to Edward Heston, who, on being consulted respecting the name he wished his place to have, gave it the name of Hestonville or villa, which name was entered also.

"Previous to that period, Edward Heston had sold some small lots off of the eastern end of his farm; one to his brother Isaac, and one or two more to strangers. Isaac, however, built a house on his lot and made it his place of residence during his life, and his was the only family among the original settlers that continued to live there at the time that the name of Monroe for that village was first mentioned or thought of, which name he never either assented to or adopted.

"The name of Monroe, it therefore appears, was altogether introduced and adopted by strangers, one of whom had by this time got in possession of a house and lot situated across the turnpike, directly opposite to Isaac Heston's premises; this stranger had the name of Monroe painted

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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on a board and fastened to a post in his lot, which board remained a considerable time before much opposition was made.

“At length, however, Isaac Heston seeing the name of Monroe adopted generally by his neighboring villagers, and knowing, as well he might, that the adoption of that name there, under existing circumstances, was an unwarrantable usurpation of rights long established, he could not consistently reconcile to be thus wantonly supplanted of a name that it was no man’s privilege to take away. He therefore suggested to his brother Edward the expediency, and indeed the necessity of keeping up the name, by each of them having the name of Hestonville painted and put up on their respective premises, which was accordingly done; one at the store near the Columbus tavern, and the other in the very centre of what those strangers had been pleased to call Monroe village.

“And what next? A farce was introduced which was completely characteristic of those who commenced it; the name of Hestonville was torn down by violent hands, and the board that contained it carried off the ground; and as it is one of the principles of nature for like to beget like, similar acts were committed by way of retaliation on the other side, and so it went until sober unbiased observers had cause to mourn over the follies of their contending neighbors; and those only were gratified whose eyes gladden at the sight of licentiousness, and whose hearts warm in the midst of contention. After a time, however, the name Hestonville disappeared in that quarter, and the name of Monroe was permitted to remain; then, and not till then (notwithstanding the palpable injustice of the measure), a seeming tranquility appeared to prevail for a season.

“Efforts were now made to endeavor to unite the two great contending parties, the inhabitants of Hestonville and those of Monroe.”

The Heston faction and the Monroe faction kept up hostilities for some time afterward, and it was only after there had been all sorts of agitation in the vicinity of the

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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three-mile stone, religious, educational, social and political, that finally the community settled down to an acceptance of the leadership of the Hestons and the adoption of their family name.

The "three-mile stone" on the Lancaster Pike stood below what is now Master Street, formerly Paschall Street. The "Monroe Fire Engine House" and "Monroe Hall" above it, where local entertainments were held, was near what is now Fiftieth and Lancaster Avenue.

When a new fire house was built on Belmont Avenue (Forty-fourth Street) near Girard Avenue, and the "Monroe Engine Company" (now 16) was moved, the local post office was opened there and was officially station W, but was called "Monroe" by the people, so this old name cropped up again seventy-five years later. As the city grew westward a new post office building was erected at the intersection of Lansdowne and Lancaster Avenues (about twenty-five years ago). It was called "West Park."

Among the other one-time villages to be absorbed by the city were **Hamilton Village**, on a portion of the Hamilton estate. **Mantua**, extending from the Schuylkill along Haverford Road and Spring Garden Street to Forty-first Street. About all that remains to remind us of this old settlement is the Mantua Baptist Church, Fortieth Street and Fairmount Avenue. **Kingsessing**, settled by the Swedes, Darby Road. **Maylandville**, on the Darby Road on Mill Creek, a settlement which grew around Jacob Mayland's snuff and tobacco mills. **Paschallville** was also on the Darby Road near Sixty-fifth Street. Paschall Street, now Master Street, ran from the Lancaster "Pike" above the "three-mile stone" to this village. **Haddington** was the section lying from Sixty-third to Sixty-fifth Street on and adjacent to the Haverford Road. (During the Civil War a hospital for the sick and wounded soldiers was established at Haddington. Another hospital, called the "Satterlee" (for General Satterlee), was also in Blockley Township. The apartment house bearing this name, at Forty-fifth and

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Chestnut Streets, is built on a portion of the ground where this hospital stood.

### **An Old Assessor's List**

#### **The First One Taken after the Revolution**

In 1783 Edward W. Heston and Thomas George were appointed assessors for the Township of Blockley. This was the first list taken after the Revolution. The original list, which is in an excellent state of preservation, is in possession of the family of the late Edward W. Heston, of Cynwyd. Edward W. Heston was a grandson of Colonel Edward W. Heston, of Revolutionary fame, and one of the assessors.

The list shows 112 residents and non-taxpayers, occupying 7,231 acres of land. The white population is 644, and there were 8 negroes, or slaves. There were 85 houses, 40 barns, 119 horses, 253 horned cattle and sheep. William Hamilton was the largest land owner, having 554 acres where Woodlands Cemetery is now located. John Penn owned 240 acres, now the site of Horticultural Hall, Fairmount Park. Edward W. Heston, the assessor, owned 110 acres, near Fifty-second Street. (He was the founder of Hestonville.) George Gray was the second largest land owner, with 300 acres at Gray's Ferry. Carriages were considered a luxury, only a dozen being in the district; but everybody had more than one saddle. Jonas Supplee had the only distillery, not far from Hestonville. There were two ferries, two grist mills, and one tannery.

The list of "Land and Housekeepers" contains the following names:

John Thomas, David Jones, Sebastian Wilfong, Joseph Jones, Peter Wilfong, Jonas Supplee, Nathan Supplee, Nathan Rhoads, Henry Read, Samuel Pearson, Lydia Morris, Aron Hilbert, Isaac Gray, Lydia Musgrove, Henry Campffer, Mary Coulton, Edward Williams, David Seldrack, Frederick Smith, William Seldrack, James Underwood, William Sanders, John Supplee, Mary Blankley, Joseph Lees, Jr., George Gray, Joseph Lees, Barbery Roop,



## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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Ezebella Turner, Joseph Saltback, Peter Jones, James Worrell, Joseph Coughran, Rich'd Crain, Robert and Richard Crain, Thos. George, Jacob Balort, Amos George, Conrad Hoover, Willm Roberts, Thos. Roberts, Able Moore, William Bispham, Willm Rose, Andrew Yocum, Martin Walter, Gillion Roop, Joseph Hibbert, John Saltback, Michael Loots, John Bare, Mary Smith, Rebecca Sandoun, John Neven, Peter Rose, John Hough, Robt. McGugan, Adam Rhoads, Abrah Harding, Margery Warner, Henry Smith, Thomas Rhoads, John Davis, Peter Ott, Joseph Watson, Ann Green, John Pywell, James Wallis, Willm Toms, John George, Robert Craig, Jacob Slone, Christian Miller, Malon Hall, John Heckler, Jonathan Supplee, Thos. Tomson, Isaac Kite, Edward Heston, Jacob Reeves, Thos. Walters, Jacob Waggoner, Chris Keller, Jesse George, Jos. Boulton, Abrah Streeper, John Peck, Isaac Warner, Wilson Warner, Peter Evans, Christian Leech, Jacob Hoffman, James Jones, Silas Gilbert, Daniel Bowman, Henry Felton, Willm. Davay, Joseph Hall, Jacob Fawood, Morris Fowler, Jacob Johnson, Jacob Amos, Isaac Hayes, Willm Elliot, Robert Platt, Edmund Phisick, Phenias Roberts, Willm Peters, Rich. Peters, John Lukins, John Penn, Willm Hamilton.

The list of "inmates" of the above-named housekeepers' families and "single freemen" includes the following names:

John Thomas, Jr., David Jones, Francis Leatherman, Andrew Supplee, Matthew McCrate, Edward Haley, David Seldrack, Jr., George Hansil, John Leacock, John Stradling, Peter Worrell, David George, Francis Higgins, Phenias Roberts, Jos. Sellers, Martin Waller, Jr., Abra Smith, Ben Smith, Arch. Watson, Thos. Campble, Jos. Campble, Mourton Garrett, John Hall, Jos. King, Jont. Kite, Willm Kite, Arth. Kite, Mich. Cate, Adam Keller, Isaac Roberts, Willm Warner, Joshua Levis, Will Miller, Will Leech, John Leech, Moses Wells, Thos. Clarridge, Charles Arnold, Rich. Whitfield.

Many of these names are also found in the "Pennsylvania Archives," Second Series, in the list of Revolutionary soldiers.

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In the assessors' list the occupation of William Warner is given as "soldier." (From this I infer that he may have been a volunteer in the Continental Army for a lengthy period of time.) The other residents of Blockley, who fought for independence, were mostly "associators," or members of the "Philadelphia County Militia." The same battalion in various years, included both Blockley and Merion, which latter territory was not cut off from Philadelphia County until 1784.

Thomas Wynne was a Revolutionary soldier, and lived at "Wynnstay," Blockley. His name does not appear on this list, but the 100 acres of land, marked as "Estate of Thomas Wynn, deceased," were held, or rented by Thomas Waters. This Thomas Wynn, deceased, was the father of the Revolutionary soldier, Thomas Wynn. This patriot had been detained a number of years by the British, in their horrible prison-ship, "Jersey." (The old farm was probably leased during his absence.)

Some of the entries on this assessors' list are curious and interesting. Under the head of "Negroes and Mulattes" we see that George Gray owned two, as his personal property; Rebecca Sandown, widow, one; John Penn, gent, three, and William Hamilton, one.

Another curious circumstance is that on large plantations only a small number of "horned cattle" were kept. Thus, David Jones, with 200 acres, had but 8; John Thomas, with 135 acres, only 4; Jonas Supplee, with 110 acres, 2; Edward Williams, with 110 acres, 3, and so on. The largest number held by any one person was 11. These belonged to George Gray, of Gray's Ferry, who possessed 300 acres in Philadelphia County, and 246 acres in Chester County. (In talking with Mr. Edward Heston, of Cynwyd, a short time before his death, while explaining the old list, Mr. Heston said that he thought the reason was that in early days no attempt was made to cultivate grass for pasture and hay, but that cattle were obliged to depend upon scant patches of meadow for grazing ground.)

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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Improved methods of farming, introduced into Pennsylvania after the Revolution were largely due to Judge Peters, of Belmont. To this eminent jurist belongs the credit of importing gypsum as a fertilizer, in 1797. Judge Peters was, during the Revolution, a member of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society.

In the assessors' list appears the name of Richard Peters, gent. He holds 180 acres of land, with one dwelling house (now Belmont Mansion, in West Fairmount Park), owns 70 ounces of plate, 2 horses, 5 horned cattle, 6 sheep, and has 7 white inhabitants in his family.

Among other residents having a quantity of plate may be mentioned John Penn, gent, 224 ounces; William Hamilton, 60 ounces; Edmund Physick, gent, 37 ounces; George Gray, gent, 70 ounces, and Isaac Gray, gent, 30 ounces.

John Penn was a grandson of William Penn, and the last royal Governor of Pennsylvania. His residence was the "Lansdowne Mansion," which he built upon his extensive property in what is now the West Park. "Lansdowne" was destroyed by fire, July 4, 1854, caused from sparks while a small boy was setting off his firecrackers. (The Park Commissioners, evidently not appreciating the historic value of this old building, had the walls torn down, and Horticultural Hall, erected for the Centennial celebration, stands upon the site of John Penn's home.) On the assessors' list the number of acres given for the Lansdowne property is 240.

Still another curious fact about this old list is that carriages were few. People travelled mostly on horseback. Almost every householder kept "horses and mares." Under the head of "Riding Chairs and Couches," it is recorded that Isaac Gray, gent, had 1 chair; John Supplee, farmer, 1 chair; George Gray, gent, 1 chair; Jacob Waggoner, innkeeper, 1 chair; William Peters, Est., 1 phaeton; John Penn, gent, 1 coach, 1 phaeton; William Hamilton, 1 chair.

Following is the list of "non-residentors" owning property in Blockley:

## *And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

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Ann Emlen, Will Smith, Joseph Dean, George Clymer, Edward George, Thomas Willing, Samuel Powell, David Beveridge, Sanders and Reaves, Joseph Ogden, Thomas Marshall, Jr., Nathan Thomas, John Sellers, Pick's Lands, Wilfong's do., Widow Shaw's do., Marsh's Land, John Ross's do., Huff's do., Sarah Pawling, Willing and Francis, Jacob Plankingham, Francis Lees. (In the above list is found the name of George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.)

### **"Wynnstay"**

"Wynnstay" was the original name given to the Wynne place, and is so marked on the early maps. This tract of



THE ORIGINAL "WYNNSTAY"

Built in 1690 by Dr. Thomas Wynne, friend and physician to William Penn. Still standing and has recently been restored

land on the Old Lancaster Road, east of City Avenue, was part of the 1000 acres purchased by Dr. Thomas Wynne and John ap John, in 1681. It was named after "Wynnstay"

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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in Wales, and was comprised in old Blockley Township. A lane leading from the Old Lancaster Road, or Blockley and Merion Turnpike (laid out in 1690), left the road near the sixth milestone.

Within the last few years Wynnefield, a pretty suburban settlement has grown up on this portion of the Wynne place. (Wynnefield is a translation of the Welsh "Wynnstai.") The sixth milestone is still standing, though the old Lancaster Road has lost its name in Wynnefield, and is called Fifty-fourth Street.

Just above the milestone stands an old house surrounded by majestic trees. This is the home of Miss Sarah S. Wynne,\* a lineal descendant of Dr. Wynne. On the gatepost is cut "Wynnstai," for the house and the surrounding lawn and garden are part of the Wynne tract. But this is not the original house—that stands further east and nearer Bala. It has recently been restored. The date stones tell us that one end was built in 1690; the other in 1700.

Formerly a long, low, frame addition extended from the older portion towards the north, where a large barn, of the same stone, stood. When the house was restored the barn was torn down, and so was the frame extension. From the stone of the barn was built a new wing where the frame one stood, and also a modern garage. But the main portion of the house was not altered in any way, except that the porches which had fallen to decay were rebuilt.

Dr. Thomas Wynne was a notable character in Colonial days. He was the first Speaker of the first House of Representatives in Pennsylvania; a Judge in the Provincial Courts; Magistrate of Sussex County, Delaware (where he moved). Was friend and physician to William Penn, a scholar and a Quaker preacher. A great number of famous characters, Revolutionary and otherwise, were descended from Dr. Wynne, among them being John Dick-

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\***Note.**—Miss Wynne died August 29, 1921, aged 89 years.

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inson, author of the "Farmer's Letters," and Generals John and Lambert Cadwalader.

During the Revolutionary period the old Wynne house was occupied by the family of Lieutenant Thomas Wynn, of the "Pennsylvania Flying Camp," a great-grandson of the first Thomas Wynne. Lieutenant Wynn was taken prisoner by the British and detained on Long Island for more than four years.

While Blockley and Merion Townships were being ravaged by the British, and while Lieutenant Wynn was away from home in the service of his country, a number of British soldiers attacked the Wynn house. Mrs. Wynn, so the story goes, assisted only by her children and servants, bravely defended her home. But the English finally broke into the house and searched high and low for valuables. But the only things they found which they wanted were some freshly-baked loaves of bread and a barrel of liquor. The last vanquished them! They fell helpless under the influence of the liquor and were captured by a party of American soldiers who passed that way. (Mrs. Elizabeth Rees, wife of Lieutenant Wynn, is buried at Merion Meeting.)

### **The Five Points**

At the Five Points, outside the Park, near Bala, two old roads, the Monument and the Ford Roads, cross each other, and a third, the Falls Road, starts out from the intersection, thus forming five roads pointing in five different directions—to Hestonville, to West Manayunk, to Lower Merion, to the Ford, and to the Falls of Schuylkill. All these old roads resounded to the tramp of contending armies, Continental and British.

Near the Five Points stands an old schoolhouse, nearly seventy years old, built on ground presented by George Aston, of "Woodside." The building was named "Astonville School" in the expectation that a village would grow around it. This has never grown, but the fields surrounding it are gradually being built upon.

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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This little schoolhouse has a white marble tablet over the door giving its name, but recently the Board of Education (for the school is within the Philadelphia City limits) has placed a large sign, covering the little tablet, bearing the words "Joseph M. Bennett Public School."

It was in this locality, while reconnoitering in the spring of 1778, that Colonel Edward Heston, of the Pennsylvania Militia, was captured by a party of British troopers. He was sent as a prisoner to Long Island, where he was detained for seven months.

### **Blockley Baptist Church**

The Blockley Baptist Church was founded in 1804. It stands on ground given by John Suplee, a Revolutionary soldier, whose remains rest in a vault under the church. The Suplee (or Supplee) family is descended from Arnaud Souplis, one of the numerous Huguenots who settled in and about Philadelphia in 1683.

In the churchyard are buried a number of Revolutionary soldiers, among them being William Sheldrake, John Graham, John Little, William Donaldson, John Gamber, Peter Wörrell, John Tyson, Benjamin Town, Benjamin Miller, Thomas Wyatt and William McClure.

For many years this was the only church of any denomination (except the Friends) in all Blockley Township.

The church is situate on what is now Fifty-third Street, being a part of the old-time "Meeting House Lane," which extended from the Lancaster Pike to the West Chester Road (now Market Street). Meeting House Lane is "lost" in Fifty-second Street, where the trolley line runs; only a portion of it from the church to Girard Avenue, between Fifty-second and Fifty-third Streets remains.

The "General Association" to spread the gospel in Pennsylvania was founded in Blockley Baptist Church on July 4, 1827. (See Scharf and Westcott's "History of Philadelphia, Vol. II, pages 1310-1311.)



### Old Roads

We have previously given the history of the Ford Road, the Old Lancaster Road, the Lancaster Turnpike and the Monument Road. Other old roads are:

**The Darby Road**, leaving Lancaster Road near the Middle Ferry and extending southward to Darby—1690.

**West Chester Road** (now Market Street) extending westward from the intersection of Darby and Lancaster Roads—1770.

**Marshall Road**, now West Walnut Street—1750. (On Scull and Heap's Map of 1750, we see a road "to Marshall's.")

**Haverford Road**, from Haverford Meeting House to Upper Ferry (near where the Spring Garden Street bridge stands), laid out in 1690.

**Upper Darby Road**, from Merion Meeting House, passing through Haddington (near Sixty-second—Sixty-fifth Streets) to Upper Darby Meeting House—1695.

These historic roads are shown upon the military charts of that day, both American and British; also on early maps.

Near the intersection of the Haverford Road and the Upper Darby Road, close to Ardmore Junction, stands one of the most beautiful of old Colonial houses, with stately columns supporting the piazza. It is on part of the Humphrey estate, and the oldest portion of the house was built long before Revolutionary days.

Other old roads in Lower Merion are **Levering Mill Road**, which led from Levering's Ferry near where the Manayunk bridge now stands (and is marked on Scull and Heap's map of 1750), up through Lower Merion to the Old Lancaster Road, near where the Ford Road joins the latter, at "Bowman's Bridge." The lower end of this road, near the river, was called since the early sixties, "Clegg's Lane," because a man named Clegg bought one of the old mills there and operated it for years. It was up this road from Levering's Ferry that Washington's army marched

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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on September 14, 1777, after crossing from Old Roxborough Township to Lower Merion, on the way to Merion Meeting House, thus leaving the camp near the Falls of Schuylkill, three days after the Battle of the Brandywine. They turned from Levering Mill Road out Meeting House Lane, according to Lieutenant McMichael's Journal, where they reached the "great road to Lancaster."

**Righter's Ferry** was between Manayunk and Pencoyd on the Schuylkill, and **Righter's Ferry Road** ran from the Old Ford Road to this Ferry. One detachment of Continentals marched up into Merion from Righter's Ferry, then out the Ford Road to Merion Meeting.

Levering Mill Road no longer runs to the river, but ends at Belmont Avenue. Righter's Ferry Road runs down the hill past West Laurel Hill Cemetery, but neither does it lead to the river. It turns to the right at Pencoyd and joins City Line at the bridge. (The Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pencoyd Iron Works have "acquired" the entire bank of the river between City Line, almost to Manayunk bridge, thus cutting off the west River Road, and closing the lower portions of Righter's Ferry Road and Levering Mill Road, two old historic highways.

### **Valley Forge**

The principal part of the Camp Ground at Valley Forge, including Washington's headquarters, is in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. (Only a small portion of it extends into Chester County.) Just across the Valley Creek were the Artificers, in what was then Charlestown Township, now Schuylkill, the lower part of Charlestown having been cut off since the Revolution. As Washington's army, in 1777, marched through Lower Merion and camped there, on its way to Valley Forge, I feel that this volume would be incomplete without a few words concerning this noted spot.

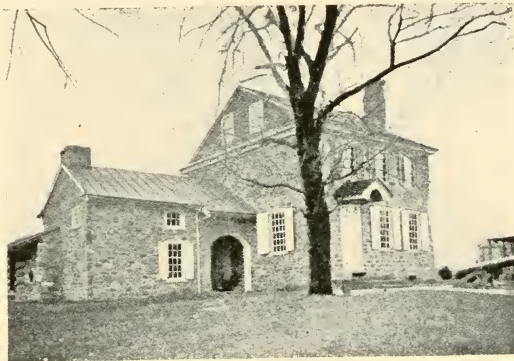
The fine old stone house used by Washington as his headquarters is still in an excellent state of preservation. At the time of the Revolution it was the home of Isaac

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Potts, a patriot Friend, or Quaker. He it was who came upon Washington while at prayer in the woods, as shown in the painting so familiar to us all.

The army went into camp at Valley Forge in December, 1777, and spent a terrible winter of suffering from both cold and hunger. But the women and girls in that part of the country did what they could to help feed and clothe the soldiers. They knitted stockings, gloves and mufflers; they baked bread, carried flour and grain to them, and ministered to their necessities as well as lay in their power—just as our women and girls have done today, both at home and abroad. The army evacuated Valley Forge in June, 1778.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE

Every Pennsylvanian, and no doubt every American, is rejoiced that Valley Forge is saved to the nation. The fact that it has been preserved is largely due to the efforts of a woman, the late Anna M. Holstein, of Bridgeport, Pa. Mrs. Holstein had been since 1885 the "Lady Regent" for Pennsylvania, in the association of patriotic women formed for the purpose of preserving the home of Washington at Mt. Vernon. During the Civil War she went as an army

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nurse and rendered valuable aid to our country in that capacity, as also did Mrs. Rebecca McInnes, who was closely associated with her.

As the year 1878 drew near, the one hundredth anniversary of the evacuation of Valley Forge, when the troops marched on to victory, Mrs. Holstein felt that its centennial ought to be fittingly observed. She and other kindred spirits, living in the neighborhood, with several patriotic societies, formed the "Valley Forge Centennial and Memorial Association." Among the first members were Major William Holstein, Dr. and Mrs. George Holstein, all of Bridgeport; General B. F. Fisher and Colonel I. Heston Todd, of Valley Forge; John O. K. Robarts, editor of the *Phoenixville Messenger*; Colonel N. Ellis, of Phoenixville; Colonel and Mrs. Theodore W. Bean, and Charles Ramey, of Norristown, and others. Mrs. Holstein was elected Regent of this association, an office which she held until her death, December 31, 1900.

The Valley Forge Centennial and Memorial Association purchased the headquarters with adjoining orchard and garden, and celebrated June 19, 1878, with impressive ceremonies. It was then that the late Henry Armitt Brown, that eloquent young orator, delivered his famous address. This celebration called the attention of the whole nation to Valley Forge.

The Association had purchased the headquarters buoyed up by an abiding faith, but borne down by a heavy debt. The Patriotic Order Sons of America came to their aid, and by June 19, 1887, the property was free from all incumbrance. Another celebration was held, the date being the 109th anniversary of the evacuation of Valley Forge. Among those instrumental in bringing about this happy consummation were Henry J. Stager, editor of the *Philadelphia Camp News* (the organ of the Patriotic Sons of America), and J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq., of Norristown, Pa.

In 1894 the Valley Forge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized, and Mrs. Holstein became its first Regent. This chapter assisted in the care

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of Washington's Headquarters and furnished, in Colonial style, the room in which Washington slept.

Chester County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, followed, and furnished another room in similar style.

Merion Chapter has also furnished a room in Washington's Headquarters, the upper room with the "round window" (facing the Valley Hills), shown in so many pictures. Every piece of furniture is authentic, with a Revolutionary or Colonial history.

On the death of Mrs. Holstein, Mrs. Rebecca McInnes, of Norristown, who had been Vice-Regent of the Valley Forge Centennial and Memorial Association, succeeded her as Regent. (Mrs. McInnes had also been Vice-Regent of the Valley Forge Chapter, D. A. R., with Mrs. Charles Hunsicker as Regent.) Other Regents were Mrs. P. Y. Eisenberg and Mrs. N. Howland Brown. The present Regent of the Valley Forge Chapter is Miss Martha McInnes (1918). The retiring Regent, Mrs. Irwin Fisher.

Some years ago the State of Pennsylvania acquired several hundred acres of the Valley Forge Camp Ground, with the intention of gradually securing the whole and preserving it forever as a public park. Washington's Headquarters, so long in the possession of the Valley Forge Centennial and Memorial Association, became, in March, 1906, the property of the State. The Association then went out of existence, but it will long be remembered for the noble record it left behind it. One of its last acts was to join with other patriotic societies in celebrating the 125th anniversary of Washington's evacuation of Valley Forge, June 19, 1903.

In the morning there was held a Memorial Service, after which the corner-stone of the Washington Memorial Chapel was laid. (Colonel I. Heston Todd gave the ground for this church. The erection of the Memorial Chapel was the result of a sermon preached by Rev. W. Herbert Burk, then rector of All Saints' P. E. Church, Norristown, now of the Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge.) The usual rite for the laying of a corner-stone was carried out in full. A

## *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*

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large metal box was placed within the ponderous block, and the contents included:

The holy Bible, prayer-book and hymnal; Journal of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, 1902; address of Bishop Whitaker and other papers relating to the Diocesan Convention, 1903; *Norristown Daily Herald*, February 23, 1903, containing the sermon in which Rev. W. Herbert Burk, rector of All Saints' P. E. Church, Norristown, Pa., suggested the erection of the Memorial Chapel; various secular and church papers containing articles on the subject, and a poem, "The National Flower, or Valley Forge Arbutus," by Miss Margaret B. Harvey (Merion Chapter, D. A. R.); History of All Saints' Church, by the late Henry R. Brown; pictures and papers relating to Norristown and Philadelphia churches, historic stones and woods; the daily papers for June 19, 1903, and an American flag.

In the afternoon a grand patriotic celebration was given. Addresses were made by Hon. Walter S. Logan, of the Empire State Society, S. A. R.; Mrs. Donald McLean, then Regent of the New York City Chapter, D. A. R., and later President General of the National Society, D. A. R. (both of whom have since been summoned "Over Beyond"); Miss Adaline W. Sterling, of New Jersey, President D. R., and Hon. Charles Emory Smith, of Philadelphia.

Two poems written for this occasion were read by Francis L. Lybarger; one was by Miss Margaret B. Harvey and the other by Mrs. Mary E. Thropp Cone. Miss Harvey's poem was entitled "Ode for Valley Forge Day," and contains these lines:

O Valley Forge! O ringing name!  
The "Forge" suggests the deathless flame,  
The glowing mass, the hammer strong.  
The sound of music, metal's song,  
By which our Nation rose to shine—  
The Vulcan-Maker all divine!  
O Ætna in the Valley Hill!  
The wondrous fire is bursting still;

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How trembled earth at Crater's glow  
In first eruption, years ago!  
O Valley Forge! What chains were wrought  
And over ocean boastful brought!  
But we had fires and hammers, too—  
Our Vulcans struck and shackles flew!

A prayer was made by the Rev. Henry A. F. Hoyt, D. D., Rector of St. John's P. E. Church, Lower Merion. The musical part of the program was under the direction of Mr. John O. K. Robarts, of Phoenixville.



### PART III

## The Erection of Montgomery County



ON THE tenth day of September, 1784, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an Act for the establishment of the County of Montgomery, which reads as follows:

Section I. Whereas a great number of the inhabitants of the County of Philadelphia, by their petition, have humbly represented to the Assembly of this State the great inconvenience they labor under, by reason of their distance from the seat of judicature in said County; for remedy whereof,

Section II. Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That all and singular the lands lying within that part of Philadelphia County, bounded as hereinafter described, beginning on the line of Byberry Township, and the Township of the manor of Moreland, where it intersects the line of Bucks County, thence westward along the northern lines of Byberry, Lower Dublin and Oxford Townships, to the line dividing the Townships of Cheltenham and Bristol; and thence along the said line, dividing Germantown Township from the Township of Springfield; and thence along said line, to the line dividing the Township of Springfield aforesaid from the Township of Roxborough, to the River Schuylkill; thence down the said river, to the line dividing the Townships of Blockley and Lower Merion; and thence along said line to the line of the County of Chester; thence by the line of Chester County, to the line of Berks County; thence by the line of Berks County to the line of Northampton County; thence by part of the line of Northampton County, and the line of Bucks County; thence along the said line of Bucks County, to the place of beginning; be, and hereby are,

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erected into a County, named, and hereafter to be called, "Montgomery" County.

What is now Montgomery County, then part of Philadelphia County, was settled by the Welsh, English and German—the Scotch-Irish and the Irish coming over at a later date. The Welsh (as told previously under the head of Lower Merion) have the honor of being first. The English, however, were a close second.

Edward Jones, who brought the Colonists over on the ship *Lyon* (John Compton, Master), landing at Pencoyd, August 14, 1682, wrote home to Wales on August 26th, saying: "The Indians brought venison to our door for six pence ye quarter. There are stones to be had enough at the Falls of Skoolkill—that is where we are to settle—and water power enough for mills; but thou must bring mill stones and the irons that belong to it, for smiths are dear."

Thomas Evans and William Jones purchased seven-thousand-eight-hundred-and-twenty acres in Gwynedd in 1698, and were soon joined by Cadwallader, Owen and Robert Evans, Hugh Griffith, Ellis David, Robert Jones, Edward Foulke, John Hugh and John Humphrey. The Welsh at Merion built their meeting-house in 1695, on the site of a still older log meeting-house.

In 1700 the Welsh of Gwynedd built a small log house for worship, and a larger one of stone was erected in 1712. The subscription paper was written in Welsh, to which sixty-six names were affixed. A petition of the residents of Gwynedd for a road to Philadelphia in 1704, states that they then numbered thirty families.

In 1729, Marmaduke Pardo, of Gwynedd, "School-master" was married at Merion. This Marmaduke Pardo came from Pembrokeshire, Wales, with the following quaint certificate, dated April 18, 1727: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being the Curate and others of the inhabitants of the Parish of St. David's, do hereby certify whom it may concern, that ye bearer hereof, Marmaduke Pardo, of the city of St. David's and County of Pembrok, has to ye utmost of our knowledge & all appearances

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liv'd a very sober and pious life demeaning himself according to ye strictest Rules of his profession, viz., wt what we call Quakerism, & yt he hath for these several years past took upon himself ye keeping of a private school in this Citty, in which Station he acquitted himself with ye common applause, and to ye general satisfaction of all of us who have committed our children to his care and tuition, etc." (Signed by Richard Roberts, Curate, and about 25 others.)

Before 1703, David Meredith, Thomas Owen, Isaac Price, Ellis Pugh and Hugh Jones, all from Wales, settled in Plymouth. The Rev. Malachi Jones from Wales, organized the first Presbyterian Congregation at Abington in 1714.

Before 1720, John Evans, William James, Thomas James, Josiah James, James Lewis, Edward Williams and James Davis had settled in Montgomery Township, where they built a Baptist Church (1720) in which preaching in the Welsh language was maintained down to the Revolution. The Welsh, as statistical records prove, during the first half of the Century were the principal settlers. In 1734 they formed nearly one-fourth the entire population. In that year fifty-two taxables are mentioned in Lower Merion, of which forty-four are Welsh, and four English. In Upper Merion, for the same date, of thirty-two, twenty-two are Welsh and one English; in Gwynedd of forty-eight, thirty-nine are Welsh and six English; in Towamencin, eight are Welsh and three English; in Horsham, five are Welsh and four English; in Plymouth, eight are Welsh and six English; in Montgomery, of twenty-nine, twenty-two are Welsh; in Norriton, seven Welsh and six English.

As the Welsh, English and German did not understand each other's language, they, at first, formed settlements by themselves.

After the Welsh came the English and their first settlement, according to Mr. William J. Buck, was probably made in Cheltenham. He said, "There is no doubt but what this township received its name through Toby Leech, one of the earliest landholders there." On his tombstone

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at Oxford Church is found this extract, that he "came from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England, in 1682." From the records we learn that on the first of Seventh month, 1683, Thomas Fairman surveyed for Patrick Robinson, two-hundred acres adjoining Richard Wall, by Tacony Creek, which states that "this tract of land is in the parish of Cheltenham." From this we learn that Richard Wall's purchase must have been made still earlier. Richard Wall was also from Gloucestershire.

Other early settlers from England were John Day, William Brown, Everard Bolton, John Ashmead, John Russell and Joseph Mather. John Hallowwell, John Barnes and Joseph Phipps settled Abington before 1697.

Nicholas More, a London physician, arrived soon after William Penn, and had conveyed to him, by patent, 7th of Sixth-month, 1684, the Manor of Moreland, containing nine-thousand-eight-hundred-and-fifteen acres. He called his place Green Spring, and built his home, where he lived for the balance of his life.

Joseph Farmer, by patent, January 31, 1683, took up five-thousand acres of land. His widow, Mary Farmer, settled there with her family in 1685. This was the first settlement in Whitmarsh. On the death of Mrs. Farmer, in the latter part of 1686, her son Edward Farmer, became the owner of three-fourths of the original purchase. He was noted as an interpreter to the Indians. He built a grist mill on the Wissahickon prior to 1713.

To the English belongs the honor of having burnt the first lime, from limestone in Pennsylvania. It was on the Farmer land. We know this from a letter written by Nicholas More, to William Penn, September 13, 1683, saying, "Madame Farmer has found as good limestone as any in the world, and is building with it. She offers to sell ten thousand bushels at six pence the bushel, upon her plantation." Thomas Fitzwater carried on the burning of lime before 1705, at what was called Fitzwatertown. (Lime was burned in Upper Merion prior to 1708.)

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John Barnes purchased two-hundred-and-fifty acres in Abington in 1684. In 1697, by will, he vested in the trustees of Abington Meeting one-hundred-and-twenty acres, for the use of same and for a schoolhouse.

Plymouth was originally purchased and settled about 1685, by James Fox, Richard Gove, Francis Rawle and John Chelson. As these men came from Plymouth, in Devonshire, England, they called the place Plymouth.

Thomas Iredell and Thomas Palmer were among the earliest settlers of Horsham. In 1701, Joseph Richardson and Edward Lane settled in Providence. In 1708 Edward Lane built a mill near Collegetville. Henry Pawling came from Buckinghamshire and was also an early settler of Providence.

Previously the settlements in which the Welsh predominated were given, so we will now take up those settled by the English. Statistics tell us that in 1734, Abington had twenty-four English and thirteen Welsh; Cheltenham, eleven English and six Welsh; Moreland, forty-seven English and seven Welsh; Whitemarsh, twenty-three English and nine Welsh; Upper Dublin, fifteen English and five Welsh; Springfield, nine English and no Welsh.

The English built Abington Friends' Meeting House in 1697; one at Horsham, 1721; at Providence, 1730; at Pottstown, 1753; Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church in Whitemarsh in 1710, and Saint James' in Providence in 1721.

In 1755 there was one public library. It was founded at Hatboro by the English, and the books, numbering five-hundred-and-fifty volumes, were brought from England.

In less than a year after Penn landed, a colony of Germans, chiefly from Creyfeld, arrived in October, 1683, and founded the village of Germantown. Penn had preached in Germany urging emigrants to come to Pennsylvania where liberty of conscience had been proclaimed. A majority of the first German settlers were members of the Society of Friends. They had been here only a short time when they were shocked to learn that many human beings were held in bondage. They drew up a protest against slavery.

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This was probably the first protest against this inhuman practice in Pennsylvania. It seems almost incredible to us that, in the early days, even Ministers of the Gospel held slaves—one being "Pastor Weiss, preacher and slaveholder," who lived at the Reformed Church glebe, Red Hill, in Montgomery County. An old slave burying ground lies a short distance from the Schall mansion, near Greenlane.

The Society of Friends, as an organization, always protested against slavery, as reference to their records will prove. Lucretia Mott, the noted Abolitionist, was a Friend. She devoted her whole life to the cause of the slave. She was a native of Montgomery County.

Mathias Van Bebber bought a tract of land, six-thousand-one-hundred-and-sixty-six acres, which, by patent, dated February 22, 1702, was located on Skippack Creek, constituting about one-half of the southern portion of what is now Perkiomen Township. He invited settlers by selling off his lands in parcels. Among these settlers prior to the end of 1703 were Henry Pennepacker, John Kuster, Claus Jansen, John Umstat and John Frey. John Jacobs came in 1704. Edward Beer, Herman and Gerhard Idenhoferfin, Dirck and William Renberg before the close of 1707. In 1708, William and Cornelius Dewees, Herman Custer, Christopher Zimmerman, Jacob Schall and David Desmond. In 1709, Jacob, John and Martin Kolb and John Stayer. Mathias Van Bebber gave a hundred acres towards a Mennonite Meeting House which was built about 1725-26.

German settlers also located in Cheltenham, Springfield, Whitemarsh, Moreland, Upper Dublin and Horsham. We find among them the Shoemakers, Tysons, Snyders, Clines, Ottingers, Cleavers, Redwitzers, Rinkers, Bartlestalls, Melchers, Leverings, Reiffs, Conrads and the Lukens and Yerkes families.

The influx of Irish into this country was small prior to 1724, but after that greatly increased, especially along the Schuylkill Valley. The Scotch-Irish and the Irish contributed largely to the strength of our army during the

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War of the Revolution. Among the Scotch-Irish we have such names as Porter, Knox, Todd and Burnside. Col. Stephen Moylan's Cavalry was largely made up of the Irish. The Irish also fought in the War of 1812, the Civil War and the World War. A glance at the names of the various regiments will prove this. No braver soldiers ever fought than those from the Emerald Isle.

Among other early settlers were John Henry Sprogell, who bought a large tract of land before 1709 near what is now Pottstown. Isaac Schaeffer was a large landholder in Plymouth, in 1702. John Schrank settled in Providence in 1717. John F. Hillegas, in Upper Hanover in 1727. Before 1728 John George Gankler, Elias Long, John Henry Beer, George John Weiker and John Martin Derr and the patriotic Heister family (whose old brick mansion, built in 1757, is still standing) settled in the vicinity of Salford.

The early colonists were a religious people, most of them having left their native lands because of religious persecution. Almost as soon as they found a place to settle they built their churches and meeting houses. There was a Lutheran congregation organized by Justis Falkner in 1703. There was a church in Upper Providence in 1743; in Upper Dublin in 1754; Barren Hill in 1761; Saint John's, Whip-pain, 1769, and Saint Paul's, Lower Merion, in 1765.

The German Reformed had congregations in Skippack, Whitmarsh, Salford and New Hanover at which Philip Boehm preached before 1727. A church was built at Whip-pain in 1740, and in Worcester in 1770. The Mennonites had houses of worship in Perkiomen in 1726, in Lower Salford in 1741 and in Towamencin in 1750. The Dunkards also had organized congregations at a very early date.

The Schwenkfelders, a persecuted people from Silesia, followers of Casper Schwenkfeld, arrived in 1734, on the *St. Andrew*, John Stodman, Master. Others arrived in 1740. These people for 187 years have annually held services commemorating the landing of their forefathers. They still have their houses of worship, one being the Towamencin Schwenkfelder Church near West Point, and another



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at Lansdale. The last census gave these people six houses of worship.

At Perkiomen there is a Schwenkfeld Historical Museum and Library. The Museum and Library contain Bibles, deeds, surveyors' drafts, maps, Indian relics, old stove plates, hats, dresses, tools of the flax industry, manuscripts, samplers, pewter ware, pen work and various other interesting exhibits covering in time 440 years. The territory from which these have been procured includes Germany, Montgomery County and other parts of Pennsylvania.

From these statistics we learn that Montgomery County, with its wonderfully fertile lands, its many waterways and luxurious forest growths, proved a haven of peace and rest to those from other climes. Each sect was permitted to worship according to its separate beliefs.

## PART IV

# Centennial Celebration of Montgomery County



AS THE one-hundredth anniversary of the erection, or establishment of Montgomery County drew near, many of the most influential citizens felt that the event should be properly and fittingly celebrated. The first movement towards this end was made by the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

At a regular meeting of that organization held May 25, 1882, Col. Theo. W. Bean, President, in the chair, the project was discussed at some length, and the chair on motion, appointed a committee, to confer with a similar committee of the County officials, and to consider the proper observances of that occasion. The committee consisted of F. G. Hobson, Esq., Hon. Jones Detwiler and A. K. Thomas. The County officials met the same day at the office of Irving P. Wanger, Esq., District Attorney and the following committee was appointed: Henry W. Kratz, Recorder of Deeds; J. Roberts Rambo, Register of Wills, and Jacob R. Yost, County Treasurer.

These two committees met and discussed plans for the celebration. It was determined that a general committee be appointed, consisting of one person from each election district in the county, into whose hands the work of the celebration be placed.\*

The General Committee was gradually selected. Also an "Auxiliary Committee in Philadelphia," composed of persons identified with the County, but residing in Philadelphia at that time. Many meetings for the discussion of plans, ways and means, were held, extending over two years. At the meeting held May 29, 1884, it was deter-

\*Note.—The committees, programme, exhibits, etc., were taken from the stenographic report of the Montgomery County Centennial Celebration, published by "The Centennial Association of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania."

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mined, formally, that the committee be known as "The Centennial Association of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania."

The officers of the Association were as follows:

### **President**

Joseph Fornance, Esq., Norristown.

### **Vice-Presidents**

Hon. Isaac F. Yost, New Hanover.

Wharton Barker, Jenkintown.

Philip Super, Pennsburg.

Warner Roberts, Lower Merion.

Robert Iredell, Norristown.

Dr. Hiram Corson, Conshohocken.

Abraham H. Cassel, Harleysville.

Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D. D., Collegeville.

George Lower, Springfield.

Daniel Foulke, Gwynedd.

### **Recording Secretary**

F. G. Hobson, Esq., Norristown.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Muscoe M. Gibson, Esq., Norristown.

### **Financial Secretary**

J. A. Strassburger, Esq., Norristown.

### **Treasurer**

Lewis Styer, Norristown.

### **Executives**

F. G. Hobson, Esq., Norristown, Chairman.

Col. Theo. W. Bean, Norristown.

J. Roberts Rambo, Norristown.

John W. Bickel, Esq., Norristown.

Joseph Lees, Esq., Bridgeport.

William J. Buck, Jenkintown.

G. Dallas Bolton, Norristown.

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Col. John W. Schall, Norristown.  
Henry W. Kratz, Upper Providence.  
J. A. Strassburger, Esq., Norristown.  
Samuel F. Jarrett, Norriton.

### **Antiquarian**

William J. Buck, Jenkintown, Chairman.  
Hon. Jones Detwiler, Whitpain.  
Henry S. Dotterer, Philadelphia.  
Philip Super, Upper Hanover.  
Thomas G. Rutter, Pottsgrove.  
George F. Price Wanger, Norristown.  
Abraham H. Cassel, Lower Salford.  
Mrs. Dr. George W. Holstein, Bridgeport.  
Mrs. Sarah H. Tyson, Upper Merion.  
Mrs. G. R. Fox, Norristown.  
Mrs. William W. Owen, Norristown.  
Mrs. Joseph Fornance, Norristown.

### **Finance**

David H. Ross, Esq., Conshohocken, Chairman.  
J. A. Strassburger, Esq., Norristown, Secretary and  
Treasurer.  
Albert Bromer, West Perkiomen.  
Col. Theo. W. Bean, Norristown.  
George W. Rogers, Esq., Norristown.

### **Literary Exercises**

Hon. George N. Corson, Norristown, Chairman.  
Jacob V. Gotwalts, Esq., Norristown.  
William L. Williamson, Pottstown.  
Hon. William H. Sutton, Lower Merion.  
Dr. William T. Robinson, Hatboro.

### **Program**

Col. Theo. W. Bean, Norristown, Chairman.  
Joseph C. Jones, Conshohocken.  
J. Wright Apple, Esq., Norristown.  
F. L. Murphy, Norristown.

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Dr. H. H. Drake, Norristown.  
David H. Roberts, Norristown.  
B. Percy Chain, Esq., Norristown.

### **Invitation**

J. Roberts Rambo, Norristown, Chairman.  
David Scholl, Norristown.  
J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq., Norristown.  
Samuel B. Helffenstein, Norristown.  
Perry L. Anderson, Lower Merion.  
Levis H. Davis, Pottstown.  
Andrew J. Baker, Jenkintown.  
William M. Clift, Esq., Norristown.  
John H. White, Norristown.  
J. Wright Apple, Esq., Norristown.  
John Burnett, Norristown.  
C. H. Brooke, Conshohocken.  
Dr. J. E. Bauman, Franconia.  
William Young, New Hanover.  
Dr. Charles C. Webber, Norristown.  
Col. Theo. W. Bean, Norristown.

### **Decoration**

Mrs. Mary L. Koplín, Norristown, Chairman.  
Miss Bella Shaw, Norristown.  
Mrs. Henry R. Brown, Norristown.  
Miss Mary Harry, Norristown.  
Irvin H. Brendlinger, Norristown.  
Morgan Wright, Norristown.  
John Overholtzer, Norristown.

### **Reception**

J. Wright Apple, Esq., Norristown, Chairman.  
Aaron S. Swartz, Esq., Norristown.  
John W. Bickel, Esq., Norristown.  
Irving P. Wanger, Esq., Norristown.

### **Memorial**

Hon. Jones Detwiler, Whitpain, Chairman.  
Dr. Hiram Corson, Plymouth.

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John Hoffman, Norriton.  
Hon. Hiram C. Hoover, Norriton.  
Samuel F. Jarrett, Norriton.  
Samuel Rittenhouse, Norriton.

### **Building**

Samuel F. Jarrett, Norriton, Chairman.  
Justus P. Leaver, Norristown.  
G. Dallas Bolton, Norristown.  
Joseph Fitzwater, Upper Providence.

### **Music**

Lafayette Ross, Norristown, Chairman.  
Henry W. Kratz, Upper Providence.  
Dr. P. Y. Eisenberg, Norristown.

### **Parade**

Col. James W. Schall, Norristown, Chairman.  
Col. Thomas W. Stewart, Norristown.  
George W. Rogers, Esq., Norristown.  
John Pugh, Conshohocken.  
Capt. H. N. Graffen, Pottstown.  
Hon. Montgomery S. Longaker, Pottstown.  
William D. Heebner, Lansdale.  
Dr. John S. Lees, Bridgeport.  
Rocoe M. Moir, West Conshohocken.

### **Auxiliary Committee of Philadelphia**

James B. Harvey, No. 4833 Lancaster Avenue, Chairman.  
Saunders Lewis, Ambler.  
Miss Elizabeth Croasdale, School of Design for Women.  
John Wanamaker, Grand Depot.  
Ex-Governor John F. Hartranft, Collector of the Port.  
William M. Singerly, Editor of the *Record*.  
General William B. Thomas, ex-Collector of the Port.  
Hon. Horatio Gates Jones, Roxborough.

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The foregoing were aided by a General Committee composed of one person from each election district in the County, together with a committee of assistants to Township Committeemen.

The Centennial Celebration was held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 9, 10, 11, 1884, in Norristown, the county seat of Montgomery County.

On the opening day a granite monolith to the memory of David Rittenhouse, the noted astronomer, who lived in Montgomery County, was dedicated. The exercises took place at eleven o'clock a. m. on Tuesday, September 9th, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The memorial stands in front of the Court House. The meridian stone bears the following inscription:

On the east face:

**David Rittenhouse  
Eminent Astronomer  
and Mathematician  
Born April 8, 1732  
Died June 26, 1796**

On the north face:

**He calculated and  
observed the Transit  
of Venus at His Home  
in Norriton, 1769**

On the west face:

**Erected by The  
Montgomery County  
Centennial Association**

On the south face:

:  
:  
1784 : 1884  
:  
:



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David Rittenhouse, the records tell us, was born in the County of Philadelphia, of which Montgomery was then a part. He lived in youth and manhood, during the greater part of his lifetime, within the limits of Montgomery County. In Norriton township, within a few miles of where this monolith was erected, stood his father's house. There, in Norriton, lay the farm where he grew up as a farmer boy. There, in a tiny shop by the wayside, without other



HOME OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE  
Noted astronomer, born April 8, 1732

instruction than the intuitive promptings of an extraordinary genius, he taught himself to make clocks and mathematical instruments. The clocks, remarkable for their accuracy and the beauty of their workmanship, are still treasured as heirlooms in many households. It was there in Norriton that he erected his observatory; there, with instruments constructed by himself, he explored the heavens. There learned scientists came from all parts to consult David Rittenhouse and to participate with him in

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his observations. Montgomery County is proud to number him among the many noted men born within its boundaries. It was there, in Norriton, that he constructed his wonderful orrery (now at Princeton), illustrating mechanically the movements of the solar system, upon a scale more elaborate and exact than had ever before been attempted.

In alluding to it, Thomas Jefferson who was a philosopher as well as a statesman, wrote: "We have supposed Mr. Rittenhouse second to no astronomer living; that in genius he must be the first, because he was self-taught. As an artist, he has exhibited as great a proof of mechanical genius as the world has ever produced. He has not, indeed, made a world, but he has by imitation, approached nearer its Maker than any man who has ever lived from creation to this day."

On the first day, in addition to the dedication of the memorial, at which Judge B. Markley Boyer made the address, prayer was made by Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D. D.; address of welcome; J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq.; address, Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the Centennial Association. At the conclusion of the exercises Rev. Isaac Gibson pronounced the benediction. Music by the Norristown Band followed, which closed the program for the day.

On the second day the exercises were held in Music Hall. They opened with a prayer by Rev. H. S. Rodenbough, pastor of the Providence Presbyterian Church of Lower Providence. Opening address by Joseph Fornance, Esq. The never-to-be-forgotten Historical Oration by William J. Buck followed. Poem, Hon. George M. Corson. "Hallelujah Chorus," by the vocalists, accompanied by the orchestra. Rev. Dr. C. Z. Weiser, of East Greenville, a lineal descendant of the early pioneer Conrad Weiser, then followed with another oration. Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Rodenbough.

Thursday, September 11th was Parade Day. (It was such a parade as only Norristown knows how to arrange.) The parade was in four divisions. First Division, Col. D. C. Swank, Marshal. Second Division, J. P. Hale Jenkins,

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Esq., Marshal. Third Division, Major D. B. Hartranft, Marshal. Fourth Division, T. J. Baker, Marshal. One feature of the parade was the Indian children from the Indian Department of the Lincoln Institute of Philadelphia, who were in charge of Mrs. J. Belangee Coxe and Chaplain J. L. Miller. They were received and cared for during their stay in Norristown by David Schall. The address of the day was made by Col. Theo. W. Bean.

The Fourth day was devoted to the Antiquarian Exposition. This included historical records, antiques, Indian relics, antiquities of the first settlers and early purchasers, relics and records of the Colonial period and relics of the Revolutionary War. Also of the Mexican War; War of 1812, and the War for the Union. Old Furniture, china, pewter, silver, etc., early surgical and dental instruments, coins and paper money.

Herbarium of ferns and flora of the county. These last named were by Mrs. J. F. Cottman, Jenkintown, exhibiting a book of natural flowers, prepared in 1859; remarkable for preserving colors.

And by Miss Margaret B. Harvey, Lower Merion, collection of twenty-eight varieties of ferns found growing in Montgomery County, dried and mounted on paper in groups. Also sixty-nine drawings of wild flowers of Montgomery County.

### Ferns

1. Polypodium. *Polypodium vulgare.*
2. Maiden Hair. *Adiantum pedatum.*
3. Brake, or bracken. *Pteris aquilina.*
4. Cliff brake. *Pellaea atropurpurea.*
5. Ebony fern. *Asplenium ebnooides.*
6. Wall Rue fern. *Asplenium Ruta muraria.*
7. Spleen-wort. *Asplenium augustifolium.*
8. Larger Spleen-wort. *Asplenium thelypteroides.*
9. Lady fern. *Asplenium Filix-formina.*
10. Walking fern. *Camptosorus rhizophyllus.*
11. Beech fern. *Phegopteris hexagonoptera.*

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12. Swamp Shield fern. *Aspidium Thelypteris*.
13. New York fern. *Aspidium Novæboracense*.
14. Spring Shield fern. *Aspidium Spinulosum*.
15. Crested fern. *Aspidium Cristatum*.
16. Shield fern. *Aspidium Goldianum*.
17. Wood fern. *Aspidium Marginale*.
18. Christmas fern. *Aspidium Acrostichoides*.
19. Bladder fern. *Cystopteris fragilis*.
20. Sensitive fern. *Onoclea sensibilis*.
21. Woodsia. *Woodsia Ilwacensis*.
22. Dicksonia. *Dicksonia punctilobula*.
23. Royal fern. *Osmunda regalis*.
24. Clayton's fern. *Osmunda Claytoniana*.
25. Cinnamon fern. *Osmunda cinnamomca*.
26. Grape fern. *Botrychium Virginicum*.
27. Moonwort. *Botrychium lunarioides* (variety *obliquum*).
28. Moonwort. *Botrychium lunarioides* (variety *dissectum*).

The sixty-nine drawings, by Miss Harvey, of wild flowers of Montgomery County were arranged in groups, viz.:

### Spring Flowers

#### Group I

1. Trailing Arbutus. *Epigæa repens*.
2. Liverleaf. *Hepatica triloba*.
3. Wild hyacinth, or blue bottle. *Muscari roccmosum*.
4. Blood root. *Sanguinaria Canadensis*.
5. Spring beauty. *Claytonia Virginica*.
6. Rue anemone. *Thalictrum anemonoides*.
7. Wood anemone. *Anemone nemorosa*.
8. Golden corydalis. *Corydalis flavula*.
9. Dutchman's breeches. *Dicentra cucullaria*.

#### Group II

1. Quaker ladies. *Houstonia cærulea*.
2. Dog tooth. *Erythronium Americanum*.

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3. Violet sorrel. *Oxalis violacea*.
4. Columbine. *Aquilegia Canadensis*.
5. Tooth root. *Dentaria laciniata*.
6. Wild geranium. *Geranium maculatum*.
7. Cinquefoil. *Potentilla Canadensis*.
8. Solomon's seal. *Polygonatum giganteum*.
9. Jack-in-the-Pulpit. *Arisæma triphyllum*.

### Group III

#### Violets

1. Common purple violet. *Viola cucullata*.
2. Sweet-scented white violet. *Viola blanda*.
3. Heart-leaved violet. *Viola cordata*.
4. Arrow-headed violet. *Viola sagittata*.
5. Hand-leaved violet. *Viola palmata*..
6. Yellow violet. *Viola pubescens*.
7. Striped violet. *Viola striata*.
8. Bird-foot violet. *Viola pedata*.
9. Dog violet. *Viola canina*.

#### Summer Flowers

##### Group I

1. Buttercups. *Ranunculus acris*.
2. Daisies. *Leucanthemum vulgare*.
3. Azalea. *Azalea nudiflora*.
4. Laurel. *Kalmia latifolia*.
5. Blue flag. *Iris versicolor*.
6. Cockle. *Lychnis githago*.
7. Indian physic. *Gillenia trifoliata*.
8. Partridge berry. *Mitchella repens*.
9. Wild rose. *Rosa blanda*.

##### Group II

1. Spider wort. *Tradescantia Virginica*.
2. Venus' looking-glass. *Specularia perfoliata*.
3. Wild lily. *Lilium supurbum*.
4. Wild pink. *Dianthus armeria*.
5. Starry campion. *Silene stellata*.

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6. Bouncing Bet. *Saponaria officinalis*.
7. Indian pipe. *Monotropa uniflora*.
8. Shin leaf. *Pyrola elliptica*.
9. Pipsissewa. *Chimaphila maculata*.

### Group III

#### Orchids

1. Showy orchis. *Orchis spectabilis*.
2. Twayblade. *Liparis lilifolia*.
3. Adam and Eve. *Aplocctrum hyemale*.
4. Fringed orchis. *Habenaria lacera*.
5. Rattlesnake plantain. *Goodyera pubescens*.
6. Ladies' tresses. *Spiranthes gracilis*.

### Autumn Flowers

#### Group I

1. Butterfly plant. *Asclepias tuberosa*.
2. Cone flower. *Rudbeckia hirta*.
3. Wild sunflower. *Helianthus strumosus*.
4. Cardinal Flower. *Lobelia cardinalis*.
5. Golden rod. *Solidago*.
6. Blue and White Asters. *Aster*.
7. Closed gentian. *Gentiana Andrewsii*.
8. Touch-me-not. *Impatiens fulva*.
9. Evening primrose. *Oenothera biennis*.

#### Group II

1. Snap-dragon. *Linaria vulgaris*.
2. Arrow-head. *Sagittaria variabilis*.
3. Blue lobelia. *Lobelia siphilitica*.
4. Virgin's bower. *Clematis Virginica*.
5. Gerardia. *Gerardia tennifolia*.
6. Man-of-the-earth. *Ipomœa pandurata*.
7. Monkey flower. *Minulus alatus*.
8. Lick trefoil. *Desmodium nudiflorum*.
9. Shell flower. *Chelone glabra*.

The total number of exhibitors at this Antiquarian Exposition was 1,240—showing how many people were

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interested in making this exhibit a success. Many of the articles displayed were of rare interest and value.

*The National Geographic Magazine*, Washington, has been publishing a series of articles on the "Common American Wild Flowers." These are beautifully illustrated, so the flowers may be readily recognized. In the introduction to these articles we read, "Many of these, such as the daisy, mullen, aster, blue-flag, etc., are so plentiful that they may be picked at will; but there are others—for instance, the Mayapple, Spring beauty, lupines, lady-slipper, etc., which may become as rare as the trailing arbutus unless everyone unites to preserve them. So it is to be hoped that the city dwellers who, on their automobile excursions, thoughtlessly cut and bring back great branches of dogwood and baskets laden with our rarer wood flowers will soon realize that, unless their plucking be tempered with judgment, the suburbs of all our cities will, in the not-distant future, be bereft of many of these flower treasures."

Mr. John C. Wister, Philadelphia, rose and iris expert recently addressing a meeting of the Garden Club at the Academy of Natural Sciences, voiced the same sentiments. Mr. Wister made an urgent plea for the preservation of our wild flowers, which, he said, are in grave "danger of extermination."

As Miss Harvey gave the names of all the native wild flowers of Montgomery County the writer has included them in this volume, with the hope that they may help in the preservation of those in danger of extermination.

Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the "Centennial Association of Montgomery County," in his address, September 9, 1884, said: "The Act of Assembly establishing the county states that the reason for cutting off three-fourths of Philadelphia County and making Montgomery County of it, was its great distance from the courts of Philadelphia. That seems a strange reason now, for railroads and telephones have annihilated distances."

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Thirty-eight years have passed since Mr. Fornance uttered those words. The telephone was then in its infancy, Mr. Bell having for the first time publicly demonstrated it at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, in 1876. In 1884 very few were in use. Now they are installed in almost every dwelling, so we may talk to each other at any time. With the electric trains added to the steam roads our children go back and forth to schools and colleges in Philadelphia daily; the automobile carries the business man to and fro. The aeroplane and the radio are among the latest inventions annihilating time and space. All settlements in Montgomery County have really become suburban to the Quaker City, and sometimes it seems to the writer that, perhaps, before many years have gone by, the two counties may again be one.











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