

Delaware Federal Writers Project Papers

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Volume 2

Wm. H. Conner
November 21, 1938

Labor
CURRENT FILE

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, March 11, 1797

Wanted

At the Brandywine Paper-Mill

A Number of Girls, to whom generous Wages will be given.-Also, two
or three smart Boys, as apprentices.

Apply to James Given.

Child labor

114681

E. Leon Beauchamp
April 1, 1940

Encyclopedia File 2
Amateur Drama Groups

THE DRAMA LEAGUE

Drama, that branch of literary art concerned with the making of stage plays, has contributed to Delaware the Wilmington Drama League, an amateur organization of real life so exciting as to seem like a play in itself.

The realization of an organization developing a vital interest in appreciation holds, in itself, interest. The outlet of emotions therein is a natural process; hence its aim and end is, in development, gained.

In 1914, a small dramatic group gathered in a Wilmington parish house to give the spirited little play "Why The Chimes Rang." This proved to be the simple origin of the present Wilmington Drama League. Of the actual circumstances surrounding the fulfilment of an earnest desire to develop an art in its early stages, little is recorded though much is perceived and understood.

In the continuing years, haphazard existence was continued in churches, private homes, and clubhouses. In those dark years, Gayle P. Hoskins and Mrs. Edgar B. Fell together carried on the spark. Existence almost died out, and might have had it not been for a persistent few. The project itself was, however, gathering momentum through simple sincerity. In time, the ranks behind the movement began to swell, interest spread, aided by natural inclination, and hope sprang anew.

Encouraged by apparent interest, the "first few" formally

organized "The Wilmington Drama League" at the Old Lea Mill, 18th and Market Streets, in December of 1933. There were only thirty-three members. The total capital was twenty-nine dollars, but enthusiasm ran high, and things got done. Preparations, duties, and production benefited by this spirit of sincere concern. Talent was not a problem, for its development was the purpose of the league.

The League's likable characteristics of expression was viewed with sincere appreciation by all those who learned of it. The ardent fever of the movement began to spread. By the end of the first year membership had grown to three hundred. The League gained many faithful friends during its stay at the Old Mill. Most prominent among these were Mrs. Edgar B. Fell, Miss Edith S. Danforth, Gayle P. Hoskins, Joseph O'Keefe, Richard Reese, Douglas G. Stewart, C. R. Mudge, Thomas Hooker, William W. Laird, Jr., Thomas ^{2.} Hanley, Charles Melchoir, Samuel B. Bird, and, of course, the many unsung heroes. The combined efforts of all of these made the League possible.

A theatrical man could understand the many difficulties of production of varied plays under inadequate conditions, but audiences could not appreciate such problems unless they went behind the scenes. There were unseen technicalities, ingenuities of production of a play, or building up an organization; at any rate, the League grew. Thirty-two plays were produced at the Old Mill, among them "Journey's End," "The Beggar Student," "The Unguarded Hour," "You Can't Take It With You." Pantomime and dancing choruses were included. The work of these untiring amateurs established a worthy precedent - they caused a definite trend of public opinion, making the Drama League popular.

Members of the League had long entertained the idea of a theater of their own, one adequate to their desires, and designed to their likings. The dream of the founders of the group, that of the establishment of a perpetual organization for the development of dramatic art, was soon to be realized.

In the fall of 1938 the League met to discuss plans for a new theater. A board of directors was elected, and a system of committees was set up. Each task fell under a committee. The board of directors were J. Sellers Bancroft, chairman; Mrs. William S. Bergland, E. Paul du Pont, Thomas R. Hanley, Gayle P. Hoskins, W. Winder Laird, Jr., Edmond G. Robinson, John H. Sachs, and Hood Worthing. A ways and means committee devised a plan to raise the sum of \$45,000 necessary to pay for land, construction, and installation of the new theater. The money was raised by issuing bonds, handled by teams governed by team captains. The bonds were sold as two percent income, cumulative notes in denominations of, twenty-five, fifty, one hundred, five hundred, and one thousand dollars. They are callable by lot on July 1 of any year, but the income is sufficient to retire them gradually. A building committee supervised the construction of the building, plans for which were drawn up by Samuel and Victorine Homsey, architects. The plans were approved by the entire organization, everyone had submitted his suggestions and all, therefore, were represented in the plans. The location of the building was agreed to be at 43rd and Lee Boulevard.

By December of 1939 the building was completed. Members

themselves were encouraged to "lend a hand" toward completion. In this way the members would also feel that the building was their own. They painted, installed seats, and did many other little jobs. When the theater was finished in December the members were invited to an open house to inaugurate the completion of the new building.

Careful thought characterized the planning of the building. It is designed along the "square plan," although purpose governed this style more than design did. The necessity of box-shaped sections fits very well into the "square plan" system. The rectangular building sits close to the ground with stage, lobby, and workroom sections jutting from the structure. Within is a glass-doored reception lobby, a large stuccoed room with a seating capacity of three hundred for the audience, a complete stage, and adjoining the stage and theater on either side a large extra lobby to the right and a large workroom to the left. Exits are thoughtfully placed throughout. The building is a complete structure of adequate sections. It is heated by a gas system of circulating hot air.

Imbedded in the center section in the floor of the reception lobby may be seen the imprints of eleven sets of hands. Inserted between each set is a brass name-plate. The names on the plates read: Mrs. Edgar B. Fell, Miss Edith S. Danforth, C. R. Mudge, Thomas Hooker, William Winder Laird, Jr., Gayle P. Hoskins, Thomas Hanley, Charles Melchoir, Joseph O'Keefe, Samuel B. Bird, and Douglas G. Stewart, and the name of Richard Reese, deceased, is included. On the lobby wall above the imprints is a brass plaque which reads:

"These imprints were made by the people whose faith and untiring work in the Drama League made this building a reality. First performance - Lea Mill, Dec. 13, 1933. Formal opening this building, Dec. 17, 1939."

The government set up by the League is purely democratic in form. The various sections are (1) board of directors; (2) officers; and (3) committees; committee members are elected for one year. The board of directors for 1939-40 consists of the following: J. Sellers Bancroft, chairman; Mrs. William S. Bergland, E. Paul du Pont, Thomas R. Hanley, Gayle P. Hoskins, William W. Laird, Jr., Edmond G. Robinson, John H. Sachs, and Hood Worthington. Officers for 1939-40 are: President, Douglas G. Stewart; vice-presidents, Mrs. Edgar B. Fell, Gayle P. Hoskins, W. W. Laird, Jr.,; secretary, Mrs. W. Cristy Pryer; assistant secretary, Mrs. John H. Sachs; treasurer, Hood Worthington; assistant treasurer, Walter Timm. Chairmen of committees are: budget, Edwin W. Taylor; casting, Katharine K. Cairns; costumes, Hazel Chapman; hospitality, Eloise Bergland; house, T. Lees Bartleson; make-up, Mary V. Ryan; membership, Alice Warner; music, William B. Vanneman; play-selection, George H. May; program, Winifred W. Flenner; prompting, Dorothy McCorquodale; properties, Sally Culp; publicity, William A. Hart; stage decoration, Frances McDermott; stage management, Edgar H. Mohr; technical, Charles H. Melchoir; tickets, Florence Cannon; and workshop, George L. Smead. This system of definite government is very well adapted to the needs of this type of an organization.

Laws are introduced, discussed, and put up for vote at League meetings. These meetings are usually attended only by active members, although all members are encouraged to attend.

At present there are eight hundred members of the League, but only two hundred of these are active. Some laws are: that membership shall be by request (much talent is gotten by present declamation contests); that the yearly dues shall be five dollars (which entitled a member to attend all productions and become active if he cares to); and that rentals of the theater be made to outside groups at \$50 per night. All work in the plays is voluntary; the only paid man is the watchman.

The actual production of a play is, of course, the momentous occasion for the League. All work connected with production is handled by a working production committee, which consists of stage manager, lighting, costumes, make-up, music, press, program, prompting, properties, scene design, and ticket reservation representatives, and hostesses. Active members are appointed to these jobs, after due consideration is given to active participation.

Before a play is completed, active members are exhausted of energy by the many tasks that production demands. Someone needs a special type gun, or a new befangled light has to be got, or the curtain has to be jacked up, always extra little jobs need to be done. Each play has its special small worries, but all is taken care of by the "lend a hand" theory. Everyone is anxious to help, a spirit vital to this type of an enterprise. With such backing, play-selection and staging may be done with confidence. The actual treatment of a play is experimental but the amateur group continually works by professional models and standards. These selected are top ranking professional plays.

The purpose, functions, and ambitions of the Drama League are hoped to lead to a definite policy, one of general view and concern, both by the members and the public. The League feels it has "An obligation to the community - a trust to keep." Individual incentive and usefulness is its backbone.

At each play criticism sheets are given out in the programs, in which the audience's point of view is asked. This will greatly aid the League's aim to please the public by promoting better understanding between the two. It is the League's aim to develop new interest in the spoken stage and to encourage the efforts of those with dramatic ability. It is an institution of cultural advance, and aids the new program of development of the arts in Wilmington. It also provides a place where Wilmingtonians can enjoy the work of their own people, and "It is the League's ambition to give the people an opportunity to enjoy just the type of entertainment the organization can provide." The Drama League is the first in Delaware, and one of two hundred in the country.

A popular section of the Drama League is the "Workshop." It was inaugurated to develop new actors, designers, directors, costumers, make-up artists, and back stage crews for the major productions. "A Workshop is a Little Theater in miniature," said Mr. Smead, chairman of the workshop committee. His committee for 1939-40 consists of: Mildred Lindeburg, Aileen Shaw, Naomi Riker, and Gloria Durham.

The activities of the Workshop are to select and produce three one-act plays between each major production of the League. Any member of the League is eligible to enter the Workshop.

Mr. Smead states

"Its function is to develop talent in directing, acting, stage design, and lighting. At the same time it provides a means of expression in these interests for a greater number of the members than do the regular plays. In this way it serves the community better as a means of creative expression."

Following each Workshop production, a general meeting of the whole Drama League is called by Mr. Smead for a "critical diagnosis" of the Workshop plays. Any member interested in the Workshop is welcome to attend. Frank criticism is asked for, and much help is gained from the experienced players of the major group.

Careful thought characterized the planning of the Workshop and it is hoped that it will prove beneficial to the League. The non-active members are becoming greatly interested in the Workshop, and its future seems promising. "The audience," said Mr. Smead, "will profit by its discovery of production difficulties and, I believe, in the future, appreciate more fully a play well presented."

Major productions presented thus far include Sir James Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton," directed by Gayle P. Hoskins; Noel Coward's "The Pursuit of Happiness," directed by Andrew B. Shaw; and Sidney Howard's "Yellow Jack," directed by Charles Culp. The other major plays to be presented this season include "One Sunday Afternoon," "Shadow and Substance," and "Our Town."

The Workshop plays presented thus far include James Daggard's "Good Night Please," "Twenty-Five Cents," Noel Coward's "The Astonished Heart," "The Birthday Party," "The Boor," Eugene O'Neill's "Where The Cross Is Made," Rachel Field's "Greasy Luck," Booth

Tarkington's "The Trysting Place," and Arther Hopkins' "Moonshine."

The realization of a Drama League has always been a popular idea, and is likely to gain in popularity now that there are adequate facilities for such an organization. The untiring efforts of the members and their faith in the future success of their enterprise seem compensated by the enthusiastic approval which the public has expressed in it. Congratulations and sincere thanks must go to those whose efforts carried the movement on to its present state. As one admirer aptly put it:

"Wilmington owes a great deal to the Drama League, so does the spoken stage as a whole."

Sources:

Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 1939: 1-13, 5-8, 5-9, 10-10; 1940: 1-20. In Drama section, Editorials, "Man About Town" by Wm. P. Frank.

Morning News, Wilmington, Del. 1938: 12-6; 1939: 1-14, 10-4, 12-14, 18; 1940: 1-12, 26, 31.

Personal Interviews:

Gayle Hoskins, vice president of The Wilmington Drama League, Inc.

THE WOMEN OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

Women were not employed in industry to any great extent fifty years ago. A few were employed in the leather plants, to sew up the skins while they were in the wet state. This was done on crude sewing machines, and was not attractive work. Girls had not made their appearance in offices, as typewriters had not come in general use, all the letters being written in longhand. Women confined most of their remunerative work to teaching school or music, which appealed to them as more genteel than the atmosphere of an industrial plant.

Those who stayed at home were ~~xx~~dependent on the family for support, and were not allowed the latitude to go and come at will. They spent some of their time learning the arts of homemaking, but knew less about budget-making than the girl of today, who works and knows how far a dollar will go. Knitting and crocheting absorbed part of her day. Constrained by corsets, and a great amount of clothing she did not enter actively into sports, and was lessbroadminded than her modern sister, blushing at the least provocation. One lady, who died at the Old Ladies' Home a few years ago when over ninety, spent her young life in the home of a wealthy sister. When it came ^{time} for the younger generation to take care of her, they didn't see it that way. Never trained in self-support, she found herself in her old age a subject of public charity.

With the large number of women employed in industry today, it might seem to have always been the case.

It was a common saying years ago that a woman's hair was her "crowning glory." That referred to those who had a luxurious growth. Her less fortunate sisters looked upon her with envy. She dressed her hair to suit her individual taste and style, often with so-called "rats" to lift the hair up in front and give it a pompadour effect, and either low on the neck or high on the head, disposed of the long hair. For those lacking in this essential, switches were provided to fill in where the hair was short. Barbers were versed in making switches, as well as cupping and leeching. Arthur Preston, whose shop was at Eighth and Market Streets, had them hanging in the window of his shop in the early 1900's. His brother Lou^{Preston}, who had a shop at Fourth and Jackson, was the husband of Mrs. Mary Preston, who will be remembered as a soloist at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.

Reference: Personal Recollections.

J. Barton Cheyney,

February 25, 1937.

State Treasury History 13
Folk Customs.

Early Home Life in Delaware.

The early settlers in Penn's domain- Delaware and Pennsylvania - though deprived of the luxuries and comforts they enjoyed in their home lands found a great abundance of everything essential to their inner welfare and enjoyment. Their outdoor life and hard work imparted such a zest for foods, that they ate and drank voraciously, and frequently, without a single complaint of indigestion, even the gout was a stranger to the pioneers, except to those officially placed and who could afford the luxury of port. Such were few.

The Quakers were accredited with discovering the fine flavor of planked shad and through the early spring months almost every home along the Delaware had sections of hardwood board upon which the shad were cooked before the coals on the open hearth. At the same time cooking on the other side of the fireplace were johnny-cakes which the Indians taught the settlers to make and which they enjoyed heartily. Penn himself became very fond of the planked shad and such foods as Delaware offered. He wrote to a Delaware Friend in 1686 to send to him at Pennsbury-Manor-in Pennsylvania, some "smokt haunches of venison and pork," such as the Swedes cured and sold, and soon after he sent another request for smok't shad and beef and also some peas and beans which were to be obtained from the Indians.

As a matter of fact Penn's colonists were almost entirely sustained their first winter - 1682- on fish which were caught in great quantities throughout the ^{cold season} winter, which fortunately was mild and open. Later they could buy a deer for the equivalent of 50 cents; and a big wild turkey for half that sum-one shilling. Indian corn was sold to the Quakers by the aboriginies at two shillings, six pence a bushel; four shad or rock fish for 25 cents; or 100 herring for one shilling

six pence. With the marshes abounding with wild fowl neither the Quakers or Swedes could have long experienced the pangs of hunger.

In later years when the settlers had laid out the towns of Wilmington and Penn's City of Brotherly Love, all well-to-do families kept a cow and made their own butter and cheese, salted, cured and smoked its own winter supply of fish and meats. Smoke, dairy and poultry houses were the appendages of all well ordered residences. Great piles of potatoes, turnips, and other root crops were stacked in the cellar for winter uses. Fresh cider shared part of a large space where there were tiers of barrels and casks of vinegar in various stages of transformation. Wine- Maderia and sherry, whiskies and brandies- with non-alcoholic marsala a sweet wine for women and children exacted much space for their accommodation. All- everybody drank something, "if only ale and small beer," commented an observer of that early period.

Equally loaded with winter provisions were the great garrets. Therein were stored barrels of sauer kraut, apple butter in heaping full firkins, great stores of dry herbs, strings of onions, suspended from the rafters, and hampers of apples stored against the winter months. ^{One} ~~The~~ store room was literally packed with huge stone jars of pickles, preserves and sauces, catsups, cordials, lavender, and the like.

All of the early cooking was done on cranes and hooks in the fireplace from which pots and implements for baking and cooking were suspended. The meat was cooked on "jacks" which dogs were obliged to turn constantly. Bread was baked in large outside ovens or for minor baking there were Dutch ovens. They were heated by being set upon and covered with red hot coals. To keep the fireplace going hot in Winter back logs were hauled in by oxen and the task of keeping the home fires

burning and hot required almost the undivided attention and efforts of a man who understood the mysteries of backlog, fore, and middle sticks.

The dining room was the central unit of the houses. A great heavy, solid, hard wood table with flaps and wings were readily adjustable to the need of expansion or contraction for the accommodation of guests and family. Mostly of pewter was the table dishes with delft ware for the plates, brass and copper implements hung from nails in the kitchen instead of the tin and aluminum of the present day. Pastry was eaten in quantities, sweets and pickels were ever in demand while tea, coffee and cider or small beers of home brew were drunk without stint. Wines and whiskies were to be found in every home and almost all took their morning and noon drams. There was either eating or drinking almost continuously throughout the day and evening. Life in the open and strenuous exercise protected our forebears against the present day perils from overeating.

Quakers of Penn's province did not yield their picturesque fire places with their glowing flames reflected on the brass tongs and fender until Benjamin Franklin simulated the open hearth in iron-which, however, was a poor substitute. They and the Dutch later turned gratefully to the ten-plate stove the invention of a German-town printer - Christopher Sauer. The latter were the most advanced step thus far achieved in keeping the house comfortably warm in winter.

Historians declare that the tables of the early settlers literally groaned while pewter dishes piled high with edibles brought satiety to the busy workers without taxing them with the burden of ill health - - even though the coarse foods were eaten - or devoured -

ravenously. It might be said almost that its people seemingly lived to eat and drink primarily.

Courtship, - or love-making was an unromantic experience in earlier years. Young ladies received company only when their mothers were with them and a lover was obliged to address his sweetheart on the most matter of fact subjects - unless he lowered his voice to a whisper or communicated in fond, tender glances. However, love always found the way as it had always done and when the couple became engaged they announced the fact in an official document fastened to the door of the court house or the door of church or meeting house attended by the bride. Twelve ^{persons} witnesses were required by law to witness the marriage and attest that it occurred according to the law or custom. Hospitality was expressed in every feature of the wedding entertainment. The feasting lasted at least the entire day when the server of the punch was constantly on duty. If a guest partook too frequently and ^{was overcome} ~~was overcome~~ the merriment continued. ^{was not halted} ~~One~~ ^{punch} flaming bowl described ^{was} ~~as~~ large enough to provide swimming facilities for a flock of gosling ~~young geese~~. Those who were near enough in social status to partake of the feast and wines joined the bridegroom on the first floor and with him ascend to the second story where the merriment of the bride and maids was interrupted long enough for all the men of the party to kiss the bride - even though there were two scores or more of ~~the~~ ^{such} eager gentlemen.

Early in the eighteenth century society revised its customs. With the coming of new and finer homes, the ladies of the household after their day's tasks were over sat on the front porches and spent their summer evenings in pleasant small talk of the town or neighbors.

~~The young ladies~~ ^{they} dressed in their smartest attire [^] sat on the

porches greeted the neighbors or smiled and spoke to the beaux who bewigged and with a small sword was an impressive dandyified personage. As he strutted by he would turn and smilingly raise his three cornered hat to some fair one who perhaps was the special lady of his adoration.

The porch parades were heartily approved by the most discriminating of maternal chaperones - and continued many years until Wilmington outgrew its small town customs.

Reference:- History of Delaware J. Thomas Scharf, A.M.D.D.L. (2 vols.)
Vol.1, P.621, L.J. Richards & Co. Philadelphia, 1888.

Add Hope Chest

[The chest was indeed regarded an almost important accessory for a bride. There was a thought that a good well filled hope chest assured the young woman of a husband worthy of her thrift, industry and skill with the needle. One such ambitious forehanded miss reported to have made a number of fine ^{skirt} linen shirts for her future husband. As she had not met him; she of course, only guessed at his measure, ^{perhaps} by assuming that the right man when he came would be of the stature she always hoped her husband would be.

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date July 22, 1936.

DELMARVIA PENINSULA

Early Wedding Ceremony

Much informal talk, many parleys and semi-official conferences have failed to unite the Delmarvia Peninsula in a single state and under one government. The last official effort with that end in view was in the seventies of the last century. The two Virginia counties and the nine of Maryland are detached from the hinterland by wide bodies of water. A single state it would include the fertile territory between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. Delaware would be glad to have the ten counties added to her three, but the Diamond State has always objected to the loss of a single letter of the alphabet out of her historic name. Virginia, perhaps would not be adverse to parting with her two remote counties, which are not especially fertile nor productive, but the state would insist that her present name be retained, in any single state project. The Eastern Shore of Maryland counties, however, are ^{sources of wealth} ~~basis of~~ wealth, the various sea foods, fish and oysters bring a large revenue to the State much in excess of the other agricultural counties on the Western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The State would not be severed from them even under the proposed name - Delmarvia.

Delaware's three counties have more than 60 per cent of the entire population of the Peninsula. This "Golden Horn," has an area of 500 square miles with no spot as much as ten miles from navigable tidewater. Maryland would be the greatest loser by any such combine - that is in natural resources. The last conference on the question of combining the Peninsula into one state indicated that each commonwealth would have to overcome the strong objection to any change so the pro-

jeet has been abandoned and the discussions silenced more than half a century ago.

REFERENCE: Delaware and the Eastern Shore,
Edward N. Vallandigham, (1 Vol. pp27)
J.B. Lippincott & Co. Philadelphia, Pa. -
Received London, 1922

EARLY WEDDING CEREMONIES.

With the coming of the English, the marriage observances and laws relating thereto were much changed in Christiana. The Swedish Church required the publication of the wedding bans three consecutive Sundays - a rather distasteful ordeal to the brides. This feature was avoided through the English laws, and Protestant ministers were more often called to perform the ceremony than the Swedish clergy. When English license was granted immediate marriages were exacted- in season or out of season even in the middle of the night, the marriage immediately took place. The brides came in their usual dress and was not distinguishable from the rest of the gathering. Few celebrated with meats or entertainments, plays, dancing were regarded among the Swedes as loose, disreputable sports.

The Swedish brides preferred the Church of England ceremony to marriage in their own churches where they were compelled to sit through the long services before they were invited to the altar for the marriage ceremony.

REFERENCE: History of New Sweden, Israel Acrelius, (1 Vol. p.257)
Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, 1872.

From Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society, Volume 1
Journal of a Voyage to New York, in 1679-80 Brooklyn, N.Y. Published
by the Society, 1837. P.117.

1679 Sept. 28th Thursday. We remained at home today. I performed some
little errands. Monsieur La Grange called upon us, dressed up like
a great fop, as he was. My comrade did not fail to speak to him
seriously on the subject. He requested us to go with him immediately
to his house, as I at length did. His house was not far from our
lodgings on the front of the city. He had a small shop, as most all
the people here have, who gain their living by trade, namely in
tobacco and liquors, thread and pins and other knick-knacks. His
wife welcomed me, and instantly requested that we would come to their
house and stay there as long as we were here, for which I thanked
them. They had lost a child by smallpox, and they had been sick with
the same disease. He said he intended to go to the South River within
three weeks, and hearing we were inclined to travel, he desired our
company, being willing to take us everywhere and to give us every in-
formation. I thanked him, but gave him no assurances, telling him we
would see what the Lord would will of us.

1

LaGrange seems to have been one of the persons to whom the travelers
brought letter.

P.133

Oct. 5th Thursday :- We remained at home this morning, my comrade
having been a little indisposed the preceding day and night, and betook
ourselves to writing. At noon we visited Mms de La Grange, who was
busily employed in his little shop packing and marking a parcel of
ribbons which he was going to send to the Barbadoes, because as he
said, he could not dispose of them here to advantage, that is, with
sufficient profit. We let him first finish his work, and after that
he took us to his counting room, where his wife was. We did not fail

Page No.2

to converse kindly with him and his wife in relation to those matters in which we believed they were sinning,

Edward G. Rotter

If a New England settler had visited the homesteads of the Swedes and Finns at Christmas 1654 he would have seen much that was new to him. The floors of the dwellings were covered with straw, in some cases with finely cut spruce branches; outside of some doors was a large cross made out of straw; a cross might also be seen on barrels and other vessels, painted there before the Christmas holidays, all for the purpose of driving away the evil spirits. The teeth of the cattle were often rubbed with salt and they were given extra feed on Christmas Eve; nor were the birds neglected, sheaves of rye or wheat being placed on poles for them to eat; steel was also placed in the barn and on the barn door, that evil spirits should not enter. There was happiness everywhere. Long preparations had been made, special bread had been baked, special beer had been brewed and the best that the house could afford was brought forth. Candles were lit, especially two large ones made for Christmas eve, and clothes and silver of the house (if there was any), were brought in for the candles to shine on - it produced good luck. Everybody was greeted with "Happy Christmas," and the old northern custom of giving presents was not forgotten. "Jul-grot", a kind of Christmas pudding", or "Christmas porridge," with butter and milk was the principal course of the evening meal; the Jule-skoal, or Christ-skoal, was drunk and a festive, somewhat solemn atmosphere pervaded the whole. Early on Christmas morning, about 5 o'clock, the settlers assembled in the church on Tinicum Island, listened to two services, which lasted four hours or longer and then returned to their homes.

The belief in witchcraft, was prevalent and superstitions played a large role in the life of the settlers. It was believed, for example, that at midnight, the hour of the birth of Christ, the flame of a candle would split in two. The cattle in the barns would all rise up and for a short time they had the power of speech, but no man durst be present at that moment -- a Danish farmer who attempted to see and hear the phenomenon was very roughly handled. PP 543, 544.

Reference:-Johnson Amandus. The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1664. Philadelphia, Swedish Colonial Society, 1911. 2 vol. 879 p.

LOCATION - - Statewide

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date September 8, 1936.

*State Drawn
Folder History - Colored***First Court Case in Delaware.***See also
p. 57*

The first legal court proceedings in Delaware were held at Fort Christiana in the Delaware River territory - Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, 10 July 1643. Sir Johann Printz, Governor of New Sweden was the plaintiff and George Lamberton, the defendant. The jury was composed of two prominent citizens, and the hearings were conducted without pleading or any particular form of procedure. Lamberton's case was in defense of his claim of title to lands on the Schuylkill and at Varenken's Kill, that he traded in the territory of her Royal Majesty of Sweden right under the wall of Fort Christiana with the savages, and that he had bribed the savages to murder the Swedes was charged against him.

The decision of the court was to the effect that as he had denied the accusation on his conscience and would not "confess" it would not permit the witness to take an oath, and that, at the request of the plaintiff, wished to treat the defendant with mercy and "see through the fingers and let such a criminal pass for this time."

The court found "that the defendant to date has by right no place of his own in or around this river, and through the Honorable court such unreasonable pretensions are taken away from him here, and are again entirely denied." He was fined the duty on 400 beaver skins on condition that if he traded again he would forfeit his ship and property. The verdict was signed by seven of the ten jurors.

Chapman
First Court Case.

High 25
Court 700

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Upon 18 September, 1643 John Winthrop, Governor of the English in Massachusetts, and President of the United Colonies of New England," in the name of us all" wrote to Governor Printz protesting against the treatment accorded Lambertson, and in consequence of the letter an inquiry was held before Governor Printz" and seven good men! The English were asked if Printz had done them any injustice; if he had driven them from their chattels and plantations, if he had compelled them to swear allegiance to the Crown of Sweden; if he had spoken ill of the English nation or had scorned them. To all of the inquiries they answered "no". No lawyer was present at this the first recorded court trial in Delaware.

References:- Thomas Spry, Lawyer and Physician, (Page 5)

John Frederick Lewis, A.M. Philadelphia, 1832.

LOCATION - - Statewide

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date July 15, 1936.

JURORS AS JUDGES.

Swedes
Folden
12 in govt.

The custom of appointing jurors for life brought much condemnation to the colonists in the early decades of the Seventeenth Century. They usurped the domain of Judges and counsel. Not only did they examine and cross question witnesses they themselves testified and frequently pronounced their decision of the cases before them. They sat in all courts of their district and really became as much or of more importance than the judges. These life tenured officials were examined by Judges and the jury examined the witnesses. There were cases how ever wherein the judges alone gave the decision ignoring the assumed powers of jurors. The system of trials by Jury was very loosely modelled on the Swedish procedure which was far from satisfying to defendant and plaintiff and to the settlers in general.

References:- Swedish settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1644
 Armandus Johnston, Ph.D. (2 Vols. pp. 458, vol. 2
 pp. 483.) University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia,
 Pa. 1911.

J. Barton Cheyney,

November 16, 1936.

Folklore and Legends

State Drawn
Folder: History Journal

Last Revel in Printz Hall

The offer of five dollars a week to take care of Printz Hall coming from Quaker Quidd to "fiddler Matthews" induced the music maker to undertake the task even though he had many misgivings as to the wisdom of the decision. But five dollars a week could not be lightly refused, even though the offer was coupled with the obligation of "sleeping on the premises." Printz Hall stood in a lonely, weed grown thicket at Tinicum, near Chester, Pennsylvania, and Peter Matthews repaired thence at twilight next day with a mattress, blanket, comestibles and his beloved fiddle and a bottle of whiskey, Settling himself in a depressing looking room, he stuffed rags into the vacant windows, lighted a candle, starting a blaze in the fire place and ate his supper.

"Not a bad place at all!" mused Peter, warming himself by the fire and flask; then taking up his violin began to play. The echo of his music stressed the emptiness of the house, the strings suffered from dampness making them sound tubby, and there were unintentional quavers in the melody whenever the trees swung against the windows and splashed them with rain, or when distant shutters creaked in the wind. Finally he stirred the fire, bolted the door, snuffed his candle, took an heroic pull of whiskey from his flask, flung off coat and shoes stretched himself on the mattress and fell asleep.

Directly after he was awakened, but by what - he had no knowledge, only he became suddenly as wide awake as ever he had ~~never~~ been in all the days of his life. He listened for some sound

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Last Revel In Printz Hall

that he knew was going to come out of the wind's roar and from the mysterious noises coming from all parts of the house. Finally he discerned it was there; a tread; a clink on the stair. The door opened despite the fact that it had been tightly bolted, and there entered a dark figure with steeple crowned hat, cloak, jack boots, sword and corslet. Terrified speechless was the Quaker fiddler. He tried to shout aloud, but his voice was gone.

"I am ~~Peter Printz~~, governor-general of the Swedish Majesty's American colonies and builder of this house; said the figure. "'Tis the night of the autumal equinox, when my friends meet here for revel. Take thy fiddle and come; Play but speak not,"

Peter was irresistible drawn to follow the figure which he could make out by the phosphorous dream of it. Down stairs they went doors swinging open before them and along corridors that clanged to the stroke of the spectre's boot heels. They reached the ancient reception room and as they entered it, Peter was dazzled. The floor was smoothed with wax, logs snapped in the fireplace, though the flame was somewhat blue, the old hangings and portraits looked fresh and in the light of wax candles a hundred people in the brave array of old times, walked, courtesied and seemed to laugh and talk together. As the fiddler appeared every eye was turned on him in a disquieting way, and when he addressed himself to his bottle, every throat uttered a hollow laugh. Finding his way to a chair he seated himself therein and put his instrument in position. At the first note the couples took hands, and as he struck into a jig they began

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Last Revel in Printz Hall

J.Barton Cheyney.

to circle and to leap wondrous high.

Faster went the music for the whiskey quickened Peter's arms^s, and wilder grew the dance. It was as if the storm had come in through the windows and was blowing the people hither and yonder. While the fiddler was musing to himself that he had never played so well before though he did not know the tune- nor had he heard it before - Governor Printz loomed into middle of the room, and raising his hand ordered the dance to cease. "Thou hast played well, fiddler," he said, "and shalt be paid!!" Then at his signal came two negro men tugging at a strong box, which Printz unlocked. It was filled with gold pieces. "Hold thy fiddle bag" commanded the Governor," and Peter did so, while watching open mouthed, the transfer of a double handful of treasure from box to the sack. Another and another such handful followed. At the fourth Peter could no longer contain himself. He forgot the injunction not to speak, and gleefully shouted "Lord Harry, Here's Luck!" Then there was a shriek of demon laughter, the scene had faded out and Peter fell insensible.

In the morning a tavern - loitering friend anxious to know if Peter had met with any adventure entered the house and cautiously went from room to room, calling on the watcher to show himself. There was no response. At last, stumbling on a whiskey bottle empty, he knew that Peter must be near. Sure enough he lay close by in a great room with dust and mould thick on everything; his fiddle smashed into a thousand pieces. Peter looked ruefully about him after being awakened, and then springing up

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demanded his money, "What money?" inquired his friend.
The fiddler clutched the green bag, shook it, opened it.
There was nothing. Nor was there any delay in the exit of
Peter from that mansion and when it went up in flames twenty
four hours after he averred the ghosts had set it afire and
insisted that he knew where they had brought their coals from.

REFERENCE: - Myths and Legends;- On and Near the Delaware.

Compiler publisher and date not given.

Two volumes, Vol.I, pp 318

J. Barton Cheyney
February 26, 1937

State Inmate
History: Colonial 31

Add Early Pedagogues

In still earlier times the teachers of Delaware were subjected to the most inconsiderate treatment by the families of pupils. The Rev. George Ross, a noted educator and a missionary, was shocked at the experiences the teachers were obliged to face. Many children, he wrote, in 1727, are taught by those brought into this country and sold as servants. Some of them are hired by the year by a knot of families who in turn entertain him monthly, and the poor man lives in their houses like one that begged an alms-more like a person in credit than authority. When a ship comes into the river it is a common expression to hear those who stand in need of an instructor, for their children say: "Let us go and buy a schoolmaster."

Newspaper Clippings

Early Day Dress and Diversions

The dress, the garments of our early ancestors were lacking in comfort, and were, one might almost say, grotesque. There were great differences in the ensembles of the "lords and ladies" of the early Eighteenth Century, and the masses of Delawareans and Americans generally. Before the Revolutionary period the lady of gentle birth and large means was a dainty exotic. An historian of that time pictures her wearing a flounced petticoat so distended with the inevitable hoops -so long the vogue-that it required much engineering for her to enter the front door of a house-even the broadest ones. She wore a richly ornamented stomacher laced so tight that she breathed with difficulty but submitted to the discomfort "to be in style." The sleeves were short but supplemented with point lace which cascaded in graceful folds to her slender wrists. Her hair at that period drooped in natural curls upon her neck. These she wore beneath a light silk hood-usually of the popular cherry color. She tripped along on her dainty little feet-^{tiny} little feet spelled aristocratic breeding then-encased in satin slippers. Before the parasol had made its appearance, a belle carried a pretty fan which folded and unfolded like a marshal's baton, and gave her opportunity to flirt with gallants back of its shelter. She was altogether artificial-however beautiful she might have been.

The gentleman who walked beside the lady of the early Eighteenth century was impeccable in his dress and manner. By reason of the lady's broad skirt he was obliged to walk far apart from her when they promenaded together. He could not proffer her a supporting arm for his lavender silk coat, was stiffened out and expanded at the skirts with wire and buckram and worn open to show the long flapped waist

coat, with wide pockets wherein would be carefully bestowed his snuff box. The short sleeves of his coat ended with large rounded cuffs while his gold fringed gloves were partially concealed in his muff-of goodly size. About his neck was worn a point lace cravat; and on his long powdered wig was perched a dandified cocked hat trimmed with gold lace. Square-toed shoes with small silver buckles were correct for the feet while his partridge silk stockings reached above the knee and there meeting his light blue silk breeches.

Following a few steps behind came the man's valet and the lady's maid. Conventions required that he wear a black hat, brown coat and striped waistcoat with brass cuttoms, and leather breeches, worsted stockings and strong leather shoes with brass buckles.

"Abigail's ^{attire} dress was even plainer than that of her escort's costume. Her dress would be of course huckaback, short skirted and puffed out in adulterated imitation of her that of her mistress. A silk neckerchief, neat cap and a bright apron gave smartness and color to her otherwise drab costume.

The middle classes-as they were designated-were even more demurely ^{coarsely} attired than the maid and valet. The tradesman wore coats of stout gray cloth, trimmed with black, his gray waistcoat half concealing his serviceable breeches. Worsted stockings and stout rough shoes completed the outfit. The wife's chintz dress, made up in the style of the fine ladies, even included the wide hoops that added to the natural rotundity of the wearer. Her bright petticoat was partly concealed by a check apron spreading down from the stomacher.

Curls remained in vogue only a few years among the ladies of quality. In 1742 or thereabouts, the old style of building up the hair in high pyramids reappeared in exaggerated importance. Three or four hours were required to erect the hair over a framework and

and stiffen it with pomade sprinkled with powder. The bewildering edifice was decorated with flowers and feathers and on top of the lofty pyramid, might be perched a little hat. Ladies then affected rich jewels and gems, bracelets, necklaces, charms and carried a costly snuff boxes with looking glasses inside, so that on taking snuff they could steal a sly glance ^{to} ~~and~~ see if the rouge was intact or if their beauty spots had not shifted their anchorage, and settled in the wrong section of the face.

With all their costly jewelry and fine dresses they had nothing equivalent to the modern ^{tooth} brush. A piece of rag dipped in snuff was utilized instead, but it did not spare the teeth from early decay. It was not until just prior to the outbreak of the war for Independence that artificial teeth imported and adjusted by London dentists, gained favor-or partial favor for it required four to six months before their wearers could utilize them at table-and then only indifferently. [Indeed, the adoption of the French vogue of carrying dainty handkerchiefs of rich lace in their hand shielded the imperfect teeth of American women from being seen. The fashion came through the Empress Josephine whose ugly teeth marred her facial beauty, ~~who,~~ ^{she} to overcome this ~~the~~ unsightly features, adopted the delicate lace handkerchief which enabled her to demonstrate her gay happy temperament without shocking her court or the gay throng of cavaliers who surrounded her at formal functions.

The fashionable outdoor diversions preceding the Revolution included cock and bull fighting, bull and bear baiting. Men of the highest social standing, attended the brutal exhibitions- and enjoyed them. Billiards, bowling, tenpins, quoits and shuffle board were also popular forms of diversion. Billiards, however, seemed

to become associated with gambling and in consequence lost some of its earliest devotees. Bowls and shuffleboards attracted the masses to the parks and public gardens ^{for} there also were concerts and fireworks.

Dancing was taught by masters who came from Philadelphia and instructed the young men and women-except those sons and daughters of Quakers who did not countenance such frivolity and worldiness. There was early a decided trend towards the study of music; church or sacred music was preferred by Wilmington youths.

Invitations to dancing parties or other formal happenings were written or printed on the backs of playing cards-there were no personal ones until after Lord Howe's Mischianza in Philadelphia, May 18, 1878. ⁰³² They were elaborately printed and engraved invitations which brought ^{forth} ~~with them~~ such admiration that many of them have been preserved by the descendants of Philadelphia and Wilmington belles to this day as treasure trove of the enchanting out door party given by the British officers to the colonial ladies during the former's occupation of the Quaker City.

History of Delaware, J. Thomas Scharf, A. M. LL.D.
(2 vols.) Vol. 1. T.J. Lewis & Company, Phila.
1888.

LETTERS (Edited by George Herbert Ryden, Ph.D.)
to and from
CAESAR RODNEY
1756-1784

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State Draw
Folder - History!
Colonial
Develop

267. To Thomas McKean

Neward June the 9th 1778

Your favour, I Recd by the Post on my way to this place where I have Summoned the Privy-Council² for the purpose, more Especially, of Calling the General Assembly, who verry imprudently dispersed and thereby are dissolved unless called by me, after which they may set on their adjournments as before -- The Summoning them is the more necessary as they have left us without even one Supreme Judge in the State, having before they Separated, for the purpose of getting rid of John Cook, Got both Killen and him to resign, the first of whom they intended to re-appoint together with David Finny of Newcastle County and John Jones of Sussex--I am much Obligated to you for your Care in procuring the money. Shall Send an Express for it before I leave this together with the order in favour of you which you will be pleased to deduct, unless General Patterson Should fail in procuring one which he has promised -- I shall write you by the Express -- The Commissioners arrived off Newcastle the day before yesterday in the Trident of 64 Guns & Immediately went on bord the Eagle's Tender and proceeded to Philadelphia -- They are Earl Carlisle, Lord Amherst, Lord V. Howe, M^r Jackson & M^r W^m Rien --

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2. The colonial government of the Three Lower Counties on Delaware had been fairly simple with a unicameral legislature of eighteen members, six from each county, and with a Penn proprietor as governor or (if the Proprietor lived in England) someone designated by him as deputy-governor. The government set up for the State by the first constitution of 1776 was more cumbersome, the executive's powers being restricted by the fact that he was elected by a bicameral legislature, not by the people, and that all of the President's acts must be concurred by a small council of four,

Letters to and from
Caesar Rodney

page 2

Notes on 267 cont'd

called the Privy Council, two elected by the Legislative Council (upper house) and two by the House of Assembly (lower branch). The Privy Council was abolished by the second State constitution of 1792, and after that year the governor was elected by the people.

LETTERS (Edited by George Herbert Ryden, Ph.D.)
to and from
CAESAR RODNEY
1756 - 1784

State Paper
Folder: History 38
Berkeley

87. To Thomas Rodney (pgs. 94-95)

Philad^a July the 4th 1776--

I have inclosed you a Summons directed to the Sheriff to
Summon the Member(s) for our County to meet in Assembly at New
Castle on the 22d day of this Instant which I hope you will have
put into his hands as soon as possible after it Comes to yours²--
I arrived in Congress (tho detained by Thunder and Rain) time
Enough to give my Voice in the matter of Independence³--It is de-
termined by the Thirteen United Colonies with out even one decenting
Colony.¹ We have ^{now} ~~not~~ Got through with the Whole of the declar-
ation and Ordered it to be printed, so that you will soon have the
pleasure of seeing it²--Hand-bills of it will be printed and sent
to the Armoes, Cities, County Towns &c To be published or rather
proclaimed in form -- . . .

NOTES:

2. A special session of the Assembly was being called by Caesar Rodney, the Speaker, to determine the question of framing a constitution for the State. When the Assembly met, it decided, on July 27, that a convention be held for that purpose on August 27, and made arrangements for the election of delegates to the same to be held on August 19.

3. Rodney had not returned from Sussex County in time to go to New Castle by "Saturday morning," June 29, to continue the sessions of the Assembly as requested by Read in his letter of June 25. Read had then proceeded to Philadelphia in order to be present in Congress on Monday, July 1, when Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence was to be taken off the table and debated. On that day, after a long and spirited debate between the conservatives, led by John Dickinson, and the radicals, led by John Adams, Congress, sitting as a Committee of the Whole House, passed the resolution with nine states favoring it, two states (Pennsylvania and South Carolina) opposing it, and with Delaware's vote not cast due to Read's opposing the resolution and McKean's favoring it and Rodney's being absent. That Rodney did not foresee such a quick decision is quite probable. That he had left Sussex County several days before with a view to going to Philadelphia and had seen Colonel Haslet in lower Kent County while on his way north is certain. He had probably stopped at his home near Dover for a day or two of rest and for the purpose of looking

Notes cont'd

after his personal affairs when McKean's message reached him, perhaps in the night of July 1-2. In this connection it is necessary to state that we have only McKean's word for it that he sent an "express" to Rodney, as there is no reference by the latter to this fact in any of his known letters. It is quite certain that Rodney reached Philadelphia on July 2 (probably late in the afternoon) voted for in a formal manner upon its being referred from the Committee of the Whole-House. Since Pennsylvania and South Carolina also joined the majority on the second, the vote for the resolution on that day was twelve states, New York's delegation remaining silent as on the day before. What Rodney means in this letter is, that he arrived in time to vote for Lee's resolution on the second. This is proven by the curious fact that when John Hancock, the President of Congress, put the motion on the second, he made a tally-sheet on the back of Lee's original resolution, and indicated Delaware's vote as in the affirmative. This tally-sheet may be seen in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress.

1. Rodney was mistaken, as New York did not adhere to Lee's resolution and to the Declaration of Independence until some ten days after this letter was written.

2. Immediately after the passing of Lee's resolution on July 2 had made the United States independent of the Mother Country, Congress proceeded to discuss Jefferson's draft for a declaration of independence which was to serve as an explanation to the world of the act of July 2. The draft was debated paragraph by paragraph, the tedious work not being completed by the Committee of the Whole-House until late on the fourth. Then the Declaration, as we now know it, was adopted by the same twelve states as voted for Lee's resolution on the second. The formal signing of the Declaration did not begin until August 2. Then Read joined Rodney and McKean and made Delaware's vote unanimous.

Locality - Lewes

*State Drawer
History: Colonial
(16 - Lewes folder)*

Submitted by - Virginia F. Cullen

Date - February 10, 1936.

Topic - Early Settlements

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

In 1631, David Pietersen De Vries, of Hoorn, Holland, settled thirty persons under Peter Heyes on Lewes Creek, which was called Hoornkill. They intended establishing a whale and seal fishery and a settlement for cultivation of tobacco and grain. (A) The colonists built a small fort which they named Fort Oplandt and the settlement, Zwaanendael. When De Vries, himself, arrived in 1632 the fort was in ruins. Through some offense the settlers had incurred the hostility of the Indians who wreaked summary revenge by killing the whites. The reason is legendary but it is believed the trouble resulted from the Indians stealing a piece of tin bearing the Dutch coat-of arms, to make pipes. DeVries made a treaty of peace with the tribesmen, sealing it with gifts of duffels, bullets, hatchets and Nuremburg toys. He made no further attempt to colonize but continued whale fishing until 1633 when he returned to Holland. (A)

In 1638 the Swedes and Finns settled on lower part of Lewes Creek which they called Paradise Point. In 1658 the Dutch came in possession of the Whorekills, (Lewes), establishing a fort and military court. The English laid claim to the territory in 1660, and, in 1664, the country was yielded to them. This territory again fell into the hands of the Dutch in 1673 who established a court for civil jurisprudence at Lewes. The English recaptured the place in 1674, and, in 1682, the Duke of York deeded to William Penn all the Delaware country south to Cape Henlopen, when the present names of county and town, (named for Lewes, Sussex County, England,) were adopted. (B)

The recognition of Lewes as the "Cradle of Delaware" is based upon these facts:

The territory granted by Charles I of England to Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, in 1632, contained also what is now the State of Delaware. Delaware might now be part of Maryland, it is said, but for the ill-fated settlement of the Dutch at Zwaanendael (site of Lewes) in 1631. How this should be is this: In 1682 William Penn persuaded the Duke of York to cede him the "Southern Lands on the Delaware," lands which were already included in Lord Baltimore's charter of 1632. Lord Baltimore and Penn were immediately at loggerheads over land which each believed he possessed. Their feud was settled, finally, on the basis of a clause in Cecilius Calvert's own charter of 1632, which granted him land "hitherto uncultivated."

Since the Dutch settlement had cultivated the soil of Zwaanendael briefly the previous year (1631), the English courts upheld Penn's claim to what is now Delaware. (A)

However, the claim of Lewes as having been the "cradle of Delaware" is of doubtful value, inasmuch as the settlement of Zwaanendael had no connection, except site, with the town of Lewes. The Dutch fort and garrison of 1631 were completely destroyed by the Indians. (B)

References:

- A) Scharf
- B) Editorial comment by A. Higgins

O'Callaghan, E.B. Documents relative to the Colonial History of the
State of New York. Vol. 2. Page 764.

Peter Minuit

One of those whom we have now chosen is the Honorable Director
(*Peter Minuit*) himself, and the other is the store-keeper of the Company, Jan Huyghen
his brother-in-law, persons of very good character, as far as I have
been able to learn; having both been formerly in office in the church,
the one as Deacon and the other as Elder in the Dutch and French
churches, respectively, at Wesel.

Location - Dover, Delaware

Submitted by - G. Ashworth Burslem

Date - February 20, 1936

Source: Scharf
Conrad

KENT COUNTY COURT HOUSE

When William Penn directed that a county seat, to be called Dover, should be established, he also gave directions for a cross street on which the court house and the jail should be erected. At that time it was expected that the Green or Public House Square would be the center of the County Seat.

The first Court House was erected on the site now occupied by the Court House. The building was completed some time between 1697 and 1699. This building was sold in 1722 and a new Court House erected on the site occupied by the State House. The bell in the corridor of the State House hung in this building and was used to summon the citizens of the town on important occasions.

In 1777, Dover became the capital of the State. The Court House erected in 1722 was used by the Legislature for its meetings. The coming of the Legislature to Dover crowded the old Court House and made a larger building necessary.

In 1787, commissioners were appointed to arrange for the building of a new Court House. The General Assembly requested that in the projected building accommodations for that body should be included. The commissioners agreed to the request and asked for an appropriation to complete the building. The committee to which this request for an appropriation was referred reported on May 28, 1788, that "in their opinion such is the

situation of the treasury, together with the land complaints of public creditors and their duty to constituents, that the prayer of the memorial cannot be complied with at this time."

However, to provide funds all monies derived from tavern and marriage licenses during the year 1788 were to be devoted to the building enterprise. And in the following year, the Legislature authorized a lottery for one thousand pounds to "fitting up and preparing chambers in the new Court House in the town of Dover for the accommodation and reception of the General Assembly of this State, and the surplusage of the said sum, if any, shall be appropriated to the furnishing and completing of the said Court House."

The land on which the Court House was built was owned by the County, and the building had been erected by the County Commissioners, but most of the funds had been provided by the State. In 1795, the Legislature authorized a copper roof to be placed on the building, the completion of the battlements, the erection of stone steps and the painting of the building. The costs for these improvements were \$1,066.77.

In 1835, further improvements were made by legislative authority at a cost of \$3,000. An executive chamber, secretary's office, library and committee rooms were included.

It was becoming apparent that the building was not adequate to house both the State and County officials. So in 1873, a committee appointed by the Legislature requested the Levy Court to set a price on the building. This committee reported that it was for the best interests of the State and of the County that the dual ownership and occupancy should cease.

The bill passed by the Legislature authorizing the purchase of the building from the County contained this preamble:

"Whereas, the public of Kent County is the owner of a lot of ground upon which the court-house stands, but the building thereon, as it was originally constructed, is the joint property of the State exclusively and whereas it is deemed advisable that the State should own the entire premises aforesaid, to the end that the buildings thereon which are now falling to decay may be repaired and properly remodeled if necessary, refitted and refurnished for the use of the State exclusively."

The Levy Court consented to the sale and set the price at \$15,000, and on April 10, 1873 authorized the president of the court to complete the transaction.

Shortly after the sale of the Court House to the State the Levy Court purchased lots on the corner of State Street and the Public Square. The following year a contract for the erection of a Court House at a cost of \$31,000 was awarded. In October 1874, the building was ready for use, having returned after nearly a century, to the location Penn had designated.

Voyage dans les Etats-Unis d'Amerique.
Fait en 1795 et 1797,
Par La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt.
Tome sixieme.
A Paris, . . .
L'an vii de la republique.

v. 6 begins with voyage a Federal-city en 1797.
to Brandywine, etc. to Chester-town, p. 62.

Excerpt relating to "Practical Farmer" Inn.
"Halfway from Chester to Wilmington is an inn where the stage usually stops. It was kept three years ago, by an English dissenter, who, in his demagogic rage, had had painted on his sign a beheaded woman, the trunk bloody, with the inscription: To the guillotined Queen of France. No authority had the right to make him remove this horrible sign at which the whole world revolted; and as this was the only inn on the route for five miles in either direction, one could not leave it. What the laws were unable to do, public opinion did. The horror at this infamous picture was so general and so pronounced that the villainous inn-keeper was obliged to change his sign, or at least denature it. But he did not wish to abandon the whole idea. The woman remained without a head, but upright, without any trace of blood, without any sign of anguish, and the inscription on it read: To the woman who is silent. This man thus made partial public reparation for his infamy, and was left despised. His inn, nevertheless, continued to be frequented, for still it was the only one. Other taverns were later established in the neighborhood, and a new inn-keeper, successor to the dissenter, changed even the form of the sign, and made the inscription, Practical Farmer."

Submitted by - F. J. Grant.

September 16, 1936.

Political History in Delaware.

Delaware adopted its first constitution in 1776, the initial time that the power of legislation had originated in the people of the State entirely. The early settlers of Delaware under the Swedes, Dutch and English were governed by directors and governors and had scarcely any legislative powers. Any power that they might have had was enlarged to some extent under William Penn, though it was somewhat limited. Under Penn's system of government the assembly, the representatives of the people, had a voting power but this was perhaps the limit of their authority as it could not originate or even debate bills. The governor and provincial council, the aristocratic body, proposed and prepared bills to the assembly.

The struggle for the early possession of Delaware resulted in numerous controversies, lawsuits and bloodless battles ever since the territory was first settled by the Dutch in 1631 who, two years previous, had purchased a tract of land from the Indians. In 1639 the Swedes settled in the land but in 1655 the Dutch again were masters of the soil but relinquished it to the English in 1644.

Under the rule of the latter the Duke of York exercised jurisdiction over the region until 1682 when William Penn acquired a deed to the land. Controversies between the heirs of Penn and the Lords Baltimore created confusion over the titles to the territory but with the Revolutionary War the foreign supervision of Delaware ceased.

The three lower counties (New Castle, Kent and Sussex) upon Delaware as they were once known asked for annexation to the Province of Pennsylvania, also deeded to Penn., which was done in 1682. However, numerous quarrels and controversies led to the separation of the lower counties from the province and in 1704 the three counties formed an assembly. Acknowledgement was made by the new assembly of the authority of the Pennsylvania provincial governor and council. The lower counties maintained this form of government until a separate State constitution was adopted by the Delaware State in 1776.

This constitution was adopted by the General Assembly which met in New Castle. Under this constitution there was a privy council in addition to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. The president of the State, whose power was more or less nominal without the concurrence of the council, was chosen by a joint ballot of the House of Assembly and Council and held office for three years.

John McKinly in 1777 was the first president of the Delaware State but soon after taking office was captured by the British in Wilmington following the battle of Brandywine and Thomas McKean, Speaker of the House, acted as president.

Delaware was among the five state represented at the Annapolis Convention in 1786 and was the first State to ratify the Constitution of the United States on December 7, 1787.

The second constitution was adopted in 1792 for Delaware when the General Assembly met at Dover, which had become the capital of the State in 1777. The constitution, adopted without popular ratification, vested the legislative power of the State in a Senate and House of Representatives with the supreme executive power of the

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State resting with the governor who was to hold office for three years. Other changes, including those pertaining to judicial matters were made. Under the second constitution Joshua Clayton, of Kent County, was the first to serve as governor under the new document.

In 1831 the third constitution of the State was adopted and called for a four year term for the governor. There were but few changes in the fundamental law of the land, a new judiciary system being provided and a plan was adopted making it difficult to obtain an amendment to the constitution. It provided for biennial elections for the Legislature to be held in November instead of October and presidential electors were to be elected by the people instead of by the Legislature.

A convention was held in 1852 for the purpose of amending the constitution of 1831 but the amendments framed and adopted were rejected by the voters in October, 1853. The present constitution was adopted in 1897 and reapportioned representation according to election districts. New Castle County was dissatisfied with the inequality accorded, as the population of that county since 1870 had exceeded both Kent and Sussex. Under the new law New Castle County was allowed seven senators and 15 representatives while Kent and Sussex each had five senators and ten representatives.

The Federalists Party and its opposition, the anti-Federalist Party came into being following the adoption of the Federal Constitution and the former party was a strong factor in Delaware politics for three decades following its enactment. As a result of partiality toward French principles by the supporters of Thomas Jefferson, the Anti-Federalists were later referred to as Republicans and afterwards

as Democratic Republicans. In the time of Andrew Jackson the organization became known solely as the Democratic Party and has thus remained. Upon the decadence of the Federalist Party the National Republican and Whig Parties arose and in 1854 the present Republican Party was started.

The Democrats in Delaware, who previously had elected a few governors and United State Senators, gained control of the administration in 1850 and with the exception of 1863 this party was in power until the last ten years of the present century. The old Federalist and its often referred to opponents, the Democrats, had State organizations in the State until 1825, Delaware being the only State where this was done.

Under the four constitutions there have been many political formations in the State: the Federalists, National Republicans, American Republicans, Whigs, Greenback-Labor Party, Union Republicans, Republicans, Anti-Federalists, Democratic-Republicans and Democrats. Temperance and prohibition parties have also had tickets in the field as have the Socialists and Communists. In recent years a Better Government League was formed to endorse some candidates but it did not linger after its initial appearance.

Some of the State elections were close and bitterly waged. In 1818 a congressional seat was won by one vote while in 1801 the election for governor was decided by 18 votes and in 1822 a gubernatorial contest was won by 22 votes. Daniel Webster and Abraham Lincoln addressed political rallies here, the latter while in Congress and in 1848 Lewis Case, who once taught school in Wilmington, spoke here, he being the nominee of the Democratic Party for the presidency at the time.

The strong influence of the Federalist Party exerted in the State caused Delaware to offer opposition to the War of 1812 but following the opening of hostilities rallied with the other states against the enemy. The question of slavery was a vexing problem, the Whigs in 1845 having then the control of the Legislature, passed resolutions against the annexation of Texas but in 1860 the electoral vote of the State went to John C. Breckinridge, of the southern wing of the Democratic Party. In the following year the General Assembly approved the Crittenden Compromise and sent delegates to Washington to attend a "peace conference" which however, failed to find any acceptable solution to the trouble. Later attempts were made to adopt resolutions on the prevailing sentiment in Delaware on pending questions but the Legislature could not agree on any act of resolutions.

Nevertheless the majority of the residents opposed secession and upon the outbreak of the Civil War Delaware furnished nearly 14,000 men for the Union while hundreds of other fought with the South.

The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Federal Constitution failed to be ratified by the State Legislature in 1865, 1867 and 1869 respectively, and was not done so until 1901 when the Republicans were in control. It was not until 1935 however, that official notification of the ratification was sent to the Secretary of State at Washington it having been disclosed that the former had never received a certified copy of the action of the State.

Legal action was taken against some of the New Castle County Levy Court collectors by the Government and one was convicted in 1872 when it was assumed that the 14th Amendment was being violated.

The payment of a county tax assessed at least six months before an election was one of the qualifications of an elector and under this rule many Negroes in the county were deprived of their vote. Government action followed.

For the first time since the Civil War the Republicans, in 1889, gained a majority in the Legislature and Anthony J. Higgins was elected to the United States Senate. The Republican party was torn by dissension toward the close of the last century when the "regulars" and a faction headed by J. Edward Addicks strove for supremacy. As a result of disagreements the party failed to elect a senator in 1895. In the next year Ebe W. Tunnell was elected governor on the Democratic ticket, the last Democrat to win the gubernatorial election and the General Assembly sent Richard R. Kenney, Democrat, to the Senate, his party then being in the majority of this body. In 1899 the Republicans had a majority but the factional strife prevented the election of a senator and Delaware failed to be represented in the United States Senate from the expiration of Senator Kenney's term in 1901 until two years later when the G.O.P. factions agreed and elected two U.S. Senators. Addicks again attempted to gain a Senate seat in 1905 and again the Republicans fought without a selection being made. In a special session called by Governor Lea in 1906 Colonel Henry A. DuPont was elected senator.

The Republicans have not relinquished their hold on the State offices since coming into control although the Democrats have elected United States Senators and Congressmen at various times and have on occasions held majorities in either the House or Senate of the Legislature.

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There have been vital legislative enactments passed by the General Assembly since 1911, particularly those pertaining to schools and roads. Child welfare legislation, mothers' pension committee, the creation of a State old-age welfare commission and an old-age pension law have been enacted. Matters pertaining to the judiciary, a liberalizing of the Sunday blue laws, creation of racing and boxing commissions were also passed. A long drawn out boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and the State was finally settled in 1921 and another legal problem over a boundary line in the Delaware River and Bay between Delaware and New Jersey approached settlement.

The relief question caused a squabble between factions in the Legislature but in 1935 in order to alleviate the plight of the needy in New Castle County the solons created a temporary relief commission for the county whereby the New Castle County Levy Court was authorized to raise funds for the work. The court thereupon imposed a taxation system, patterned somewhat after the income tax of the State, and residents of the county in addition to this tax have to pay the State and Federal income taxes.

In Delaware there are the following charitable and correctional agencies: the Mothers' Pension Committee Commission, the State Board of Charities, the Commission for the Feeble-Minded, the Commission for the Blind, the State Health and Welfare Commission and among the institutions are the Home for the Feeble-Minded; the almshouses for the three counties; the Palmer House for aged Whites and the Layton Home for aged colored persons, the State Hospital, the industrial school for white girls and a similar school for colored girls, the Ferris Industrial Schools for boys of both races and the Brandywine and Edgewood Sanitoriums.

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1. SITE OF FORT CHRISTINA, known as THE ROCKS, (marked by a small stone monument at the ft. of E. Fifth St., in the Wilson Line Yard and reached from the foot of Fourth St.), is Delaware's foremost historic spot. Here, upon a ledge of rocks that formed a natural wharf along the Christina between Fourth and Seventh Sts., the first Swedish Expedition, commanded by Peter Minuit, landed in March 1638, built Fort Christina, named after the young Queen of Sweden, and established the first permanent settlement of Europeans in Delaware. What remains of the rock exposure is designated by a Historic Marker with the inscription: "First Landing Place of the Swedes, 1638. Site of Fort Christina." The monument is inscribed:

This stone is a portion of the Rocks on which landed the first Swedish Colonists in America, 29 March, 1638. On this spot stood Fort Christina. Here the Swedes held their first Civil Courts and in the Chapel of the Fort celebrated their first Christian Worship in the New World.

Erected by the Delaware Society of Colonial Dames of America, March 29, 1903.

The ledge of rock at the water's edge invited commercial use. Excavation, notably to provide thousands of tons of stone for building the Delaware Breakwater (see Lewes) and dredging and widening operations in the Christina had greatly changed the physical appearance of the shore before the middle of the nineteenth century.

Although the spot presents a picture of neglect, surrounded by industrial debris, a long period of apparent disregard on the part of Delawareans is to be ended by conversion of the site into a two-acre park, where on June 27, 1938, will be held Delaware's Tercentenary Celebration.

-2-

The park, designed by Robert Wheelwright, Philadelphia landscape architect, in consultation with the State Highway Commission and the Delaware Tercentenary Commission, will face the Christina with a concrete bulkhead topped by posts between suspended chains. A brick wall will surround the park and from a gate at the foot of E. Seventh Street, east of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a walk 20 ft. wide, will extend the length of the park, about 600 ft. to a monument to be erected near the water. This monument, a gift of the people of Sweden who raised \$50,000 by popular subscription, will be of black Swedish granite, 25 to 30 ft. high, surmounted by a replica of the Kalmar Nyckel (Key of Kalmar), one of the Swedish vessels on which the first settlers came to America. It is the work of Carl Milles, Swedish sculptor. On the six sides of the shaft will be scenes of Swedish Colonial life in America.

Fort Christina was constructed of palisades and earth in the form of a square; at the four corners of which acute-angled bastions projected diagonally. Cannon were placed in three of these corners and within the enclosure two log houses were erected for the garrison and its supplies. The fort extended nearly to the Christina. An amusing incident in its late Swedish occupancy is described by the engineer Peter Lindestrom, in his Geographia Americae, translated by Amandus Johnson. Lindestrom wrote:

"Now, I will not withhold a ludicrous occurrence which happed one night on our first arrival at Fort Christina, namely, that one of our soldiers who had lately arrived at Fort Christina, gave an alarm in the fort, while he was on guard, because he saw Spanish flies (fireflies) shine bright, and close which he had not seen before, crying out with a loud voice, 'Alarm, Alarm, the enemy is about.' Thereupon the drummer beat the alarm. He was asked what he had seen. He replied: 'The enemy is here close to the fort, see how many burning tapers there are.' And when it was looked into, it was (found to be) nothing but Spanish flies, for which all the people in the fort had run to arms."

The first legal trial on the Delaware of which there is any record was held at the fort in 1643 when a court extraordinary was convened to try the Englishman, George Lamberton, who for some time had been trading among the Indians. He was charged with bribing the savages to kill all the Swedes and Dutch and burn their buildings. Governor Johan Printz, acting as prosecuting attorney, withdrew the bribery charge, but the court, none the less, found the prisoner guilty. However, since he was a foreigner and "would not confess to the charge," the case was dismissed. On other counts, the court decided that Lamberton had no right to trade in this territory and that his ships and cargoes were to be forfeited, unless he paid duty on the beavers bought, in which event he was to be discharged. Lamberton had another day in court. On this occasion Printz convened it to put himself on trial. Again he acted as prosecuting attorney, but this time also as defendant and chief justice. The result of this unique case was that Printz, the prosecutor, refused to press the charge that he had oppressed Lamberton, against Printz the prisoner, and so Printz, the chief justice, discharged himself, the prisoner.

On the rising ground back of the fort, the emigrants began a settlement which was called Christianaham, that is, Christina Harbor. Fields were divided into lots, streets were laid out, and houses built.

Conner.
May, 1937.

Extracts from

"Old Roads Out of Philadelphia"

by

John T. Faris.

58
(Pts. of Int.)

This copy in
Wilm. History.

Roads
Page 60:

"One of the descendants of William Clayton bought for his son a farm near the railroad station at Claymont. The mansion, which stood on a hill, was called Claymont, an abbreviation of Clayton's Mount. That the origin of the name is not generally known is evident from the fact that one writer on the town says that 'it is most appropriately called Claymont, because of the clay soil in the neighborhood! "

Page 69:

"Just a little while before the death of Caesar Rodney, Jacob Hiltzheimer told of a visit of Washington to Wilmington, December 16, 1783. His account was quoted from the Pennsylvania Packet of December 23, 1783:

'Last evening his excellency general Washington, arrived in this borough, on his way to his seat in Virginia; previous to his arrival he was met by the governor and council, the attorney-general, and other Civil officers of the State, officers of the army and other gentlemen, who escorted him into town; on his arrival he was saluted by thirteen discharges of cannon; an elegant supper was provided, whilst the inhabitants demonstrated their joy by making large bonfires, etc.

Page:70:

" In 1745, David Bush wrote to Thomas Hopkinson:

"The Country sixty years ago, particular on the Creek & River Side, was settled by Dutch & Sweads which seldom went from the Settlement and when they had occasion to cross the Creeks, their usual method was to swim over their Horses, while they crossed in a Canoe; between forty and fifty years ago, the English beginning to settle and make a figure in the country, and perceiving a real necessity for the Safety of Travelers that a Ferry should be Erected, application being made to the Court, then held at Newcastle, for liberty to erect a ferry on Christeen, the Court granted it.

"The writer proposed that he be permitted to equip a new ferry , one of the advantages of which was to be 'the Lowering the price to 3½ d. for Ferrying Man and Horse over, which I judge is full much.'

"A year later Peter Kalm noted with interest that redoubts had been thrown up hastily for protection against the French and Spanish privateers who, it was feared, might come up the Delaware.

"The only comment made by Thomas Pownall, who passed this way in 1754, was to the effect that Wilmington 'is a regular well-built town; but not travel enough to draw together a sufficient number of people to compleat it to its plan.'

" in 1794, William Priest passed along the road in a hired 'caravan with four horses, which is here called a stage.' He notes that he slept at Wilmington, 'a pleasantly situate town on the bank of a creek.' Then he called attention to the fact that there were 'about thirty square-rigged vessels, beside sloops and schooners, belonging to this port.'

"Ten years later a more observant visitor told of a visit to the Brandywine mills:

"The mills are mostly in the hands of friends, and although not the most extensive are in construction and situation perhaps equal to any. They are eight in number, and each grinds upon an average, per day, about three tons and a half of flour, and about ten tons of Indian meal; going through all the processes of grinding, packing, &c. They are so situated that near vessels receive and discharge their cargoes alongside the mills. The neighborhood of these mills is romantic and beautiful, and is one amongst the many pleasant spots I have senn in this country.

"Samuel Breck in 1809 crossed the Brandywine on a bridge the then building, which was suspended on iron chains on the principle of the bridge at Falls of Schuylkill. He 'traversed Wilmington without stopping,' yet 'one could perceive that this Capital of the state of Delaware is in a flourishing condition, and may contain about two thousand souls.'

"One of these early visitors called attention to the fact that part of Wilmington stands on ground belonging to the Swedish church, 'which annually receives certain rents, out of which they pay the Minister's salary, and employ the rest for other uses.'

Page 74:

"Among the many old residences in Wilmington is the Tatnall homestead at 1807 Market Street, where Lafayette was once entertained. It is thought that the older part of the house, the Nineteenth Street front, was built by the first Edward Tatnall, who came to Wilmington in 1735. In 1809 the Market Street front was built. The original house faced the Brandywine and overlooked the Tatnall farm. At that time Nineteenth Street was a country lane. Those who have opportunity to enter the house will be interested in the massive doors, the marble mantels and the narrow cupboards at each side of the mantels."

The Indians on the Brandywine creek, by their deputies, complained to the assembly of injuries sustained by the encroachments of the whites. They alleged, that, after the sale of their lands to William Penn, he re-conveyed to them a tract, a mile in extent, on each side of the creek, the deed for which had been burned with the cabin in which it was deposited; and that the English had made settlements within this tract, injured their corn, and, by dams on the creek, impeded the passage of the fish. The deputies were received with much respect, invited to a seat in the representative chamber, and promised that their complaints should be investigated, and promptly redressed. Logan, as commissioner of property, though distrusting the title they set up, proposed to exchange other lands with the intruders; and the governor undertook, that in the province and territories the dams should be abated, or so constructed as to admit a free passage to the fish.

References: The History of Pennsylvania, from its Discovery by Europeans to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. By Thomas F. Gordon. Phila. Carey, Lea & Carey. Jesper Harding, Printer. 1829. p.194.

BUILDING OPERATIONS

The town of Wilmington contained thirty-five houses in 1735. This number was nearly doubled by the year 1739, when a borough charter was obtained. Its growth was slow and steady for the next thirty-six years, as in 1775, at the beginning of the War of the Revolution it had three hundred and thirty-four dwelling-houses. The population of the town in 1820 was five thousand two hundred and sixty-eight. There were then eight hundred and ninety-four dwelling-houses in it, only two hundred and ninety more than were built in the city during the year 1881, when the highest number was erected. In 1832, when the town was incorporated into a city, the houses numbered twelve hundred and twenty-eight and the population seven thousand one hundred and twenty-eight. The first record of the number of buildings put up in any one year was in 1836, when "two entire blocks were erected, besides several foundries and machine-shops, fifty-two buildings in all."

In 1845 Wilmington received a new impetus to its growth and prosperity, which was the result of the erection of a large number of manufacturing establishments. These employed many workmen, and caused a rapid emigration to the city. The population in 1845 (though only about one-fifth of what it is in 1888) was twelve thousand five hundred and thirty-two, an increase of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three in two years. The Delaware Journal, in its issue of September 9, 1845, says:

"The present year is, beyond comparison, the most

prosperous in the annals of our city. Two hundred and fifty dwelling-houses were erected. The population increased one thousand. The most gratifying circumstances in connection with the improvement is that they proceed from no speculative fever. The increasing business of the city fully justifies the movement. Every branch of the manufacturing interest to which our people have directed their capital and energies has increased beyond precedent, and the future is as promising as the past has been successful. If not interrupted, Wilmington will soon attain a commercial and manufacturing consequence which was never dreamed of by her early citizens."

The Philadelphia News, in its issue of October 27, 1847, says: "Wilmington is prospering. We doubt if any city in the Union has made such rapid strides in improvements during the past few years. In 1840 we spent a few days in that city. It then contained a population of eight thousand four hundred and fifty-two. By an enumeration, recently taken, the population is now nearly thirteen thousand, having increased sixty-five per cent. in less than seven years. New buildings have been erected on every side, new streets have been laid out, many factories established and every branch of business is enjoying the highest degree of prosperity.

"The first continuous row of houses in Wilmington was built in 1822, on Shipley Street, near Tenth, by James Canby. The large majority of the houses, at that time, and since, were put up by the owners of them. Of the two hundred and fifty buildings erected in 1845 nearly all were situated east

of Walnut Street. It was in that year that the city began to extend eastward, toward the Delaware River. The artisans, mechanics and other employees in the newly-built manufactories took up their abode in that section. Seventh Street, for a century or more known as Church Lane, in 1846 was extended and paved eastward to the Old Swedes' Church. Long rows of houses were put up in that vicinity this year. In 1846 there were nine millions of bricks made and sold in Wilmington. This was increased to thirteen millions in 1848, when three hundred and forty-two buildings were put up - more than in any previous year. It was in 1848 that an ordinance was passed forbidding the erection of frame houses in the city's limits. A number of handsome dwellings were built on Quaker Hill in 1847 and 1848, and also on the northern part of Market Street, beyond Seventh. The present plan of numbering houses was ordered in 1848. David C. Wilson, in 1845, erected a large mercantile building, four stories high, at the corner of Market and Fifth Streets. He also owned large tracts of land in the eastern part of the city. Pusey, Marr & Scott, at the same time, put up a large building at the southeast corner of Third and Tatnall Streets. Previous to 1845 nearly all the retailers of merchandise did business on Market Street. Stores were afterwards opened in every part of the city."

Reference:

History of Delaware, 1609-1888, by J. Thomas Scharf, Vol. II, L.J. Richards & Co. Phila. 1888. P.805.

K. A. Horner,
January 8, 1937

History 65
From Civil War
to Present

Wilmington - 1867

Prior to the Civil War Wilmington had discarded its swaddling clothes and had become a lusty infant. The next quarter of a century saw it emerge as an adult of sizeable proportions, taking its place in the affairs of the day.

It grew in population and size. Only a few cities exceeded it in the value of its manufactured goods. Its plants produced practically everything from matches to battleships. Shoes, hats and clothes; soaps and candles; carriages and wagons, railway cars and steamships; bolts and nuts, steel rails and bridges; rubber hose and vulcanized fibre; gunpowder and chemicals; paper and leather; matches and bricks, and many other products came from the numerous industries and found their way to all parts of the world.

About the year 1867 a book containing maps of Wilmington and towns in Delaware was printed, a copy of which is in the Wilmington library. It is informative of the community of the time, showing the city and its environs, the location of its industries, shipyards and wharves, hotels and other places of interest.

It shows the "horse railroad" that ran from Front and Walnut Streets to Market, to Tenth and out Delaware Avenue beyond the present Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Depot. At that point was a large skating park, apparently the headwaters of Rattlesnake Run which can be seen on the map making its way to the Brandywine. A city basin, or reservoir, is shown at Rodney and Clayton Streets, between Eighth and Ninth. The first reservoir the city possessed may be seen at

Wilmington Atlas of State of Delaware from actual surveys by J. J. Bacon
1867 96p

Ten and Market Streets.

The J. V. Rice & Co. foundry occupied most of the square now covered by the duPont Building, and John V. Rice was also the proprietor of the Phoenix Iron and Brass Foundry, located on the opposite side of Orange Street, where the Nemours Building now stands. The Lafayette Hotel was at Ninth and Shipley Streets, on the site of the old Post Office; the Rianhard House was another hotel at Front and Market Streets. The Central Hotel was at Fourth and King Streets and the United States Hotel at French and Railroad Streets. Other important hotels were The Black Horse, 518 W. Front; Delaware House, 513 Market Street; Diamond State, 21 E. Front; Farmers and Drovers Inn, Delaware Avenue and King's Road; Farmers and Mechanics Inn, 1315 King Street; Grant House, south side Christiana Bridge; Half-Way House, Delaware Avenue & Thirteenth; Indian King, 108 Market Street; Indian Queen, Fifth & Market Streets; Logan House, Delaware Avenue and Dupont Street; Temperance House, Delaware Avenue and Harrison; Washington House, Fifth and Pine Streets; William Penn, Fourth & Orange Streets, and numerous others. The city boasted of fifty seven hotels in all.

The Farmers Bank stood at Third and Market Streets; the First National Bank on the east side of Market Street, at Fourth. The Union National was on Market Street near Fifth.

The Christiana and Brandywine Rivers, both called rivers at that time, are shown with the various wharves and yards which adjoined them. On the Christiana, east of Market Street, the first wharf was that of Walton & Co. Next came the plant of the

Warner Company, then the wharves of the Geo. W. Bush PSF line. The engine house of the P.W. & B. R. R. was located between Walnut and French Street near the water, and below it the plant of Pusey, Jones and Co. The Lobdell Car Wheel Foundry was at the foot of Lombard Street. W. and A. Thatcher had a marine railway and saw mill at the foot of Pine Street. At Second Street was the A. Harris Vessel Furnishing Shops, and the Diamond State Iron Company occupied the land fronting on the river between Second and Third Streets. Car shops of the railroad company occupied much of the land between Third and Fourth Streets, from the railroad to the river.

On the north side of Fourth Street, where the Wilson Line is now located, E. & C. Moore had their shipyards. A. & J. Barrett & Sons had lumber yards between Fifth and Sixth Streets, and near the foot of Sixth Street, very close to Seventh, was the "Old Rocks Shipyard," operated by John A. Kirkman. Between the Old Rocks Shipyard and the Ship and Steamboat Works and Marine Railway of Burk, McCaulley & Co., at the foot of Seventh Street, a cape or point of land extended into the river for a distance of about 150 feet. Above this point the river is much narrower. The contour of the land here as shown by the map, corresponds to that on the map made by Peter Lindstrom showing the spot upon which the Swedes landed and built their fort and town. It indicates that the rocks upon which they landed were located at the foot of Sixth Street, near Seventh, several hundred yards below the spot upon which the Historic Markers Commission have placed a marker.

The Delaware Car Works of the Jackson & Sharp Co. was located on the Brandywine River at the foot of Eighth Street. Below them on

the same river was the coal yards of D. W. Taylor & Co. The Carriage and Car Spring Works of E. J. Horner were on the opposite side of the railroad tracks near the River at Taylor Street, and farther up the stream were the shipyard and machine shop of R. H. Barr & Co. Seidel & Hastings had a plant near the foot of Tenth Street.

J. E. Price & Co. operated flour mills on the South side of the Brandywine at Market Street according to the map, although another map shows them as being owned by Wm. Lea & Sons. Wauzeka Oil Company had a plant at Vandever Avenue and Claymont Streets, then far out into the country. The Shellpot creek near where it joined the Brandywine was then a large stream about 200 yards wide.

Swift & Courtney's match factory may be seen on the map at the corner of 14th & Walnut Streets, and Pusey Brothers Cotton Factory at Thirteenth and Walnut Streets. Between Tenth and Twelfth from Walnut to Spruce Streets were the large brick yards of Newlin & Beggs and Murphey & Cowperthwaite. The Wilmington Bolt & Nut Works operated a plant at the corner of Walnut and Tenth Streets, where the printing plant is now located.

McLear & Kendall had a large carriage factory at 9th & King Streets, and the Franklin Cotton Factory was located at Ninth and Walnut Streets.

The map plainly shows the old Almshouse at Third and Broom Streets, the Vinegar works at Front and Adams Streets and the Market House which stood in the middle of Fourth Street, between Market and Orange.

St. Mary's College stood on Delaware Avenue between Jefferson & Madison Streets, the Farmers & Drover's Hotel was at the Kings

Highway at Delaware Avenue. W. S. Bullock manufactured wagons and carts at Tenth Street & Delaware Avenue.

The more densely populated sections of the city were located between Front Street and Tenth, Market and Washington, on the west side of town, and between Front and Seventh Streets on the east side. From Walnut to Orange Street and extending to the Brandywine River a number of houses may be noted and the eastern section of the city, around Church, Buttonwood and Locust Streets also contained a number of houses. A few farm houses can be seen on the South Side, now the Third Street Bridge section but none at all are shown in the Eleventh Street Bridge section.

The small street running diagonally from 14th and Market Streets to the bridge crossing the Brandywine, was then known as Bridge Street.

Brandywine Village

William Thatcher had a shipyard at the foot of Pine Street on the Brandywine Creek and lived in a huge mansion on the hill overlooking the creek. A quarry was later conducted on the site of his home. A toll house stood on Market Street near 23d, and another was located on Concord Avenue near West Street. Edward Tatnall, Sr. and Jr. operated the extensive Wawasett Nurseries west of Preston Street, now Tatnall. Grubb & Palmer were dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Queensware, Coal and Wood. They had places of business on the east side of Market Street, near Twentieth and on the West Side near the William Coile hotel at 22d Street.

Journal Every-Evening, Wilmington, Del. - History of
Wilmington - 278 pp. Illustrated. Copyright F. F. Smiley
& Company. 1894. New York. Press of Moss Engraving Co.
1894.

P. 10

"In 1735, however, William Shipley, an English Friend
or Quaker, living at Ridley, Pennsylvania came to Wilmington
**** and purchased considerable property at different times.
His several purchases were included within the limits of the
village, and eight acres were located between West, Market,
Second, and Fifth Streets. In the autumn 1735, Shipley and
his wife and two children moved here, and soon the village
began to show signs of material growth. The newcomer had
the energy and thrift *** of Friends, and he at once became
the moving spirit of a promising settlement.

P. 11.

It is said that Shipley came to Wilmington as a result
of a dream his second wife, a former Elizabeth Lewis, was
supposed to have had in 1730, in which she mentally pic-
tured this district. In 1731, she came here to preach to
a meeting of the Society of Friends and on standing upon
some prominent part of the settlement she ~~ex~~claimed: "Be-
hold, it is the land of my vision, and here will I pitch my
tent."

"After her dream Elizabeth Shipley, so it is recorded,
had impressed upon her husband their duty to go to the new
land." ****

"In the year 1736, there were thirty-three houses in
the town.**** Shipley himself built a home at the corner of
Shipley and Fourth Streets, which was only removed about

a decade ago. The year after his arrival he built, at his own expense, a market house. **** This building was placed on High, or Fourth Street, just west of Market.

P. 14. "A little brick town hall was built over the Second Street market in 1774, and it was used for a school house and as a meeting place for the burgesses. It was torn down in 1795."

P.15 As early as 1729, there was a flour mill on the bank of the Brandywine. *** There were mills on both sides of the stream. ****

P. 16. *after the defeat of the British frigates, "Extra precautions were then taken to protect the shores from the encroachments of the enemy. *** When Lord Howe decided to attack Philadelphia, having disembarked at the head of Chesapeake Bay, Washington started south. He halted for a short time in Wilmington and encamped for a short time on the high ground in the western part of the city. He made his headquarters at the "Happy Return" on Market Street near Third, where both he and General Lafayette frequently stopped on their way through the town. The building was removed in 1879 for a more modern structure. After the battle at Chadd's Ford, in which the Continental forces were defeated and lost 900 in killed and wounded, and the British about 500; the British sent a detachment of troops to this town on September 13, 1777. The leading Whigs and patriots of the town, who were pointed out by the Local Tories, were made prisoners, among those taken being President McKinley, who was held until after the expiration of his term of office.

The British made their headquarters in the old Abijah Dawes home, afterwards the McCaulley property, Market Street above Sixth, and some of the soldiers were quartered in the Old Swedes Church.

P. 17. Of the public buildings erected during the century, and which are still standing are: The building used by the Historical Society of Delaware, Market Street below Tenth, and originally the First Presbyterian Church, now the building of the Delaware Historical Society, the date of its erection being 1740; the First Baptist Church, King Street between Tenth and Eleventh, built in 1785; Friend's School, West Street between Fourth and Fifth, built in 1738, a part of the old walls still being used in the more recent structure. This school house was the original meeting-house and the first place of worship, the new meeting-house being erected on the opposite or west side of West Street. The present building is the second on that site. In 1789 the Methodists built Asbury Church, on the site of the present church, Walnut and Third."

P. 18 *The first meeting of the society (Friends) was held in the house of William Shipley, then a one story brick, and later on and until the building of the meeting-house in Shipley's new home, southwest corner Fourth and Shipley Streets. The new meeting house was occupied in 1738. **** In 1748, another meeting house was erected on the opposite side of West Street, the site of the present building, which was built in 1817. *The Friends continued as one organization until 1827." ***

P. 25

"Federal Hill, or Bellevue, now the home of Charles W. Howland, Ninth and Broom Streets, was the original home of Bancroft Woodcock, an English silversmith, who lived here as early as 1765. The property was afterwards bought by Dr. James Tilton, who gave it the name of Federal Hill, for the reason that it was one of the sites suggested for the location of the national capitol, to have which built here active steps were taken."

P.30

The celebrated old Barley Mill for which the people of Wilmington still hold loving memories was on the south side of the Brandywine just above what is now Bishopstead, the home of *****".

"The inns and hotels -

P. 31

"The Sign of the Ship, located at Third and Market, afterwards became the Happy Retreat, and then the Lafayette. It was the scene of many interesting episodes during the Revolutionary War, and at one time when several British sailors were passing along Market Street they saw the old sign, which represented an American sloop demolishing two British "three deckers," and in their anger they attacked and destroyed it. Thomas Jefferson, Aaron Burr and several noted Continental officers had stopped at the old hotel. It ceased to be an inn in 1835."

P.33.

The oldest banks in the town were headed by the Bank of Delaware, which was incorporated February 9, 1795, and began business at the Corner of Fourth and Market Streets. The first president of the bank was Joseph Tatnall, and the directors were Joseph Tatnall ****, etc. etc.

J. Barton Cheyney
February 26, 1937.

State Treasures
Transportation 74
Savings Society

A Forgotten Railroad Built on Salvaged
Treasure.

A forgotten Dulaney Railroad was opened late in the Autumn of 1856, according to an announcement exultantly set forth in Francis Vincent's "Blue Hen's Chicken" of December 10 of that year. It extended (at that time) from the Dulaney Manor on the lower edge of New Castle County, near the edge of the Maryland line, to the Brick store near to Smyrna landing on Duck Creek. It was built of wood for Grafton L. Dulaney, of Baltimore, by Mr. Bernard and cost \$7,000. The money to pay for construction was salvaged from the ~~creek~~ of a Spanish vessel, the San Pedro, which was wrecked late in the Eighteenth century, in South American waters. Dr. Dulany was one of the stockholders in the expedition to recover the gold from in the strong box of the Spanish ship.

The editor of the Blue Hen's Chicken further explains that the Dulaney Manor "contains about 7000 acres of which 5,000 acres are woodland." The original owner of the manor was Major Dulany-father of the present Grafton L. Dulaney, who was a British officer on half pay; David Stout, who was formerly a judge of one of our courts, when a young man, surveyed the manor and had large stones laid to mark its boundaries. They required the united strength of twenty men to move. On each one was cut ^{M.G.L.G.} "M.C.G.L." which expressed "My Gracious Lord's Gift." The manor was then a dense wilderness only a few huts being seen. The best houses there were built of clapboards and logs, with chimneys of loose stones and dirt, one was owned by Mr. Heverin, father of the Heverins of Jones Neck. The Blue Hen's Chicken recalls that there was a cow on the estate that had been fattened entirely on acorns and when butchered her flesh was surprisingly yellow and sweet. Wild turkeys were constantly flying over in great flocks. ^p Blue Hen's Chicken, December 10, 1847.

Reference

1866 February 5

The Delaware Republican says: "The Bombay Hook Railroad.- Charles C. Dungan has contracted to build a railroad from Smyrna to the Delaware Bay, and to have the road completed from Smyrna Landing to Smyrna Station, by June or July."

Submitted by James R. Allen, ^{Cultural Life} Social Life and Community Activities.

March 4, 1937.

CUSTOMS

The history of the city of Wilmington would not be complete if we considered only the industrial, commercial, and historical phases, and ignored the social life of the city.

Each decade or score of years witnesses some change in the customs, manners, and social life of the people in almost every community, and Wilmington has been no exception to the rule. Many customs and social functions in vogue in the nineteenth century, have, since the turn of the present century, given way to the modern ideas of customs and etiquette.

The modes of dress have probably experienced the most radical and frequent changes, while feminine attire has received the most cruel punishment. The long, white powdered hair, waist coat and knee breeches of men's attire in the colonial period, gave place to the short cut hair, handle-bar mustache, cut-away coat and tight fitting trousers of the nineteenth century; and later, to the clean shaven face and form fitting clothes of modern day styles.

The feminine dress experienced even more radical changes than that of the men. The tight waists, puffed sleeves, tucks and frills, and the long train skirts so prominently displayed in the "old family album" about the time of the birth of the nation, were supplanted by the ultra-radical hoop-skirts of the nineteenth century. The hoop-skirt, in turn, gave way to the hobble-skirt and small waist band of the early twentieth century. A decade later saw the advent of the knee length, and shorter, dress and the demise of corsets, when grandmother, at a distance, could not be distinguished from her twelve

year old grand-daughter. While at the present time the feminine dress comprises anything from pap girdle and loin cloth of the savages to full masculine attire. What the future holds in feminine dress challenges even the optimism of the most reckless speculators.

The forms of recreation have also undergone many changes. Horseback riding, one of man's oldest methods of transportation, was given a set-back with the advent of the bicycle as a new kind of recreation in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The custom became so general that great crowds of bicyclists could be seen in the evenings and on Sunday riding out the highways or through the parks.

While bicycles are used to a considerable extent at the present time, they are employed more in business pursuits than for pleasure or recreation. Before the automobile came into general use, most large industrial establishments maintained a room or shed for parking of the employees' bicycles, but today "wheels", as they are most frequently called, are seldom seen at the shops, and the bicycle shed has given place to the garage or parking space for motor cars.

Customs and styles, like the seasons, operate in cycles; so "old Dobbin" now appears to be staging a come-back after a few years in oblivion, and horse-back riding is being indulged in more frequently by the youth and many grown-ups. Numerous riding schools have sprung up in recent years which maintain grounds where the riding enthusiasts, with their fancy boots and large coats, can go for a ride around a cinder track, or to jump over some low hurdles in an imitation fox chase.

The livery stable has become almost extinct, and the blacksmith with its hitch racks have now been converted into filling stations and auto repair shops.

What used to be nice landscaped farms along the highways are now given over to camping sites, with piles of old tin cans, boxes and rubbish to mark the site for the weary tourist. The highways leading into the city are crowded with lunch stands, more commonly known in the present day language as "Hot dog stands".

The horse and buggy today are as uncommon on the streets and highways as were the automobiles the first few years of the present century. The hay-wagon ride, so often indulged in a few years ago as a method of recreation, has, for the most part, given way to the truck or bus excursion to some beach or resort. The sleigh and the bob-sled have made their demise, and only rarely in the winter do we see the old fashioned sleighing parties. The motor cars are now operated the entire year, while, in the early years of the present century, the auto was usually stored away with the appearance of the first frosts of the season. The attire of the motorist of early days is quite a contrast to the methods of dress for motoring at the present time. In those good old days it cost about as much to fit the family out in motoring togs, as the motor car cost. The ladies had to have special hats, veils and wraps, and the gentlemen had to have special caps, goggles, gloves and etc., all had to wear dusters, a sort of a linen outer garment that probably derived its name from the several layers of terrim deposited on it during a short motor trip. Today, however, most any attire from greasy overalls of the shop workers to their Sunday "best" is considered proper in a motor car.

A few of the early vocational activities have almost disappeared in recent years. The debating societies, which flourished in almost every community in the latter part of the nineteenth century, have, since the turn of the present century, become almost extinct;

their demise being attributed to lack of interest brought about by the introduction of new forms of recreation.

While there may be some people who bemoan sadly the passing of those legendary old days of oratory, others are just as apt to give three whoops of joy, and wish for an early funeral. Fortunately, or unfortunately, as the case may be, it seems that the race of public speakers is slowly dying out in Delaware; most of the old-time stumbers are passing, and there are few coming on to take their place.

There were days when the literary and debating societies occupied the same relative position as the country club, or the Greek letter fraternities, hold today. Every town, no matter how small, had its coterie dedicated to the proposition "that all men enjoy hearing speeches". Hours were given over to practice, usually before a mirror. Striking an attitude before the glass, father would straighten his huge was of ascot, pass a tentative hand over his hair that had been slicked back in pigeon-wing fashion and bellow:

"Friends, Romans, and countrymen".

Then, warming to his subject, in a silver-plated voice he has nurtured into a fierce parabola, he declares, "I come he-er NOT to praise Caesar, but to bur-rey him". He pats his ascot lovingly.

Thus was the orator at about the turn of the present century.

But back in the more seemly days than these, time was devoted to literature, the classics, and the forum, and the debating society filled a distinct niche in the horizon of man. Private groups such as the Hamilton Debating Society, in Wilmington, waged

rheterical warfare on the rostrum and argued the pro and con of weighty affairs. From its ranks have come eminent barristers, staid judges, doctors, statesmen, and others.

The society was organized late in the fall of 1884, with four members, and on March 10, 1885, resolved to increase its membership and perfect a permanent organization. The Coterie grew slowly as care was taken to include only those who could deliver something of intellectual value rather than merely being a good fellow. It flourished for about twenty years, then suddenly went to pieces.

The spelling-bee has also gone the way of the debating society, although efforts have been made from time to time to revive the ancient vocation. These occasions of recreation held the attention of the people for approximately half a century. Aside from being educational, they furnished much amusement for those who attended, and there were seldom any dull moments at these social functions. The people, old and young, who desired to take part in the exercises were divided equally under the leadership of two captains; the persons chosen captains were generally considered to be the best spellers in the community, but occasionally, in order to put a little spice in the affair, the teacher or the presiding officer would toss peanuts and the first two persons catching a peanut in their mouth were to be captains. The next procedure was to decide who would have the first choice, and this was accomplished by tossing a stick to one of the leaders and each grasping it hand over hand until they came to the end of the stick, the person getting the last handhold was to have first choice of the contestants. Each selected one person in turn until all had been chosen; occasionally, in order to liven things up a little more, they departed from the regular routine and chose the contestants in a unique fashion.

After the captains had been chosen, a curtain would be

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Customs - Allen

stretched across the room and those desiring to be chosen would gather behind the curtain. The leaders would then choose their sides from the shadows on the curtain, which sometimes turned out to be a small child who had been placed on a chair and dressed in an older person's coat. Such was the spelling-bee in the gay Nineties and earlier.

Just as marked changes have occurred in social functions and the forms of recreation, there has also been a radical departure from the early customs of home life. A decade or so ago, saw the home as the center of family life, and where the old and young gathered for a joyful time around the fireside in the evenings. The mothers and daughters vied with one another for supremacy in knowledge and skill in culinary arts; and house-wives, following the example of their husbands in protecting their trades by guilds, formed guilds to protect their home arts. Imagine, if you can, what success a "Dish-washer guild" would have in this age of collapsible drinking cups and paper plates.

But, however, time has brought changes, and the present era is sometimes referred to as "the tin can age"; a time when most everything is prepared in canning factories, and the house-wife can buy chickens, meats, vegetables, fruits, and pastry all ready prepared and need only the operation of a can opener to prepare the food for serving. Even the bread comes sliced and the old saw-toothed bread knife, for the most part, has been relegated to the junk heap along with a lot of other obsolete household equipment. Things have been made so convenient and domestic duties have become so simple, that a "can opener" is about all the equipment a young married couple needs to start housekeeping.

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Customs - Allen

Every storm usually leaves some damage in its wake, so the change in customs has also had a rather detrimental effect on the home life of today. Father spends much of his time at the club, or on the golf course, and at other places which he sometimes refers to as "directors meetings"? while mother attends the afternoon tea, the bridge or bingo party, or revels in the night life at some cafe. The children are taught to use the "can opener" in very early life and thereafter are able to look after themselves; they are let run the streets, or are sent to the movies, so as to relieve the parents of their care. Private homes are being made into apartments, and the apartments are becoming smaller all the time. The advent of the collapsible bed, a sleeping contrivance that folds into the wall when not in use, makes one room serve as a living-room and bedroom, and because of the ready prepared foods the kitchen has almost been eliminated.

The farmer has taken cognizance of the changes in the customs and manners of our urban dwellers and vie with the industrialists in delivering his products to the city consumer in an up-to-date style. A pronounced change has been made in the manner in which milk was formerly delivered and the methods in use today. A score or more years ago, the rural dairyman brought his milk to town in large cans from which he dipped out the contents with a gourd or dipper and poured it into the jars, pitchers, pans, or buckets which the house-wife brought for the milk. Some of the more enterprising farmers had cans with spigots whereby the milk was drawn from the can. He usually announced his approach by ringing a bell, and occasionally the harness on the horse had small bells attached.

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Customs - Allen

If two or more milkmen passed along the same street, the customers had to train their ears to the tune of the bell of the man with whom they were dealing. Billing machines were unnecessary in those days as the accounts were kept by tickets. The house-wife usually obtained enough tickets for a week or month, based on the time that "hubby" got his pay. The tickets were good for "one pint" or "one quart", and were used as money.

Today, however, the house-wife seldom sees the milkman, unless she and her husband are rather late getting in from the night club. The milk is usually delivered in the wee hours of the morning, but with "old Dobbin" shod with rubber shoes and drawing streamlined pneumatic tired vehicles, the slumbering Wilmingtonians are not awakened by the "clop", "clop" of "Dobbins" feet on the pavement. The milk comes in sealed bottles with the cream already raised and ready to pour into the coffee, while in early times, especially in the hot days of summer, the cream sometimes had already been churned into butter.

While radical changes have been made in practically all phases of the life of the people, the political life seemed to have experienced the least change, and politics has remained on about the same level as they were a half century or more ago.

"Now is the time for all good citizens to come to the aid of their party" is the olive branch held out to the people by the politicians a few weeks before the election. These people, who have not had any consideration from the government for a biennium, are now urged to "keep the political party in power" in order to save a

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Customs - Allen

democracy they never had, or to defeat some "ism" with which the political party is at odds. If they have a weak candidate, or a weak platform, or both, they wrap themselves up in the American flag and hide behind the Constitution.

The political situation is usually left in the hands of a few party leaders who devote the few weeks prior to the election to mud-slinging and muck raking, because it is a part of the political gospel "that if there is muck to be raked, it should be raked just before an election". The Democrat and Republican parties are the dominant parties in the city, as well as in the State, and the ballots at the election seldom contain any other than the above referred to parties. But, occasionally, the political machine jumps a cog, and a disgruntled party leader breaks away from the fold and with a few followers forms a new party, which, like the dew of the morning, soon disappears and every thing becomes quiet on the political front.

The same hands that manipulate the political wires of the State also manipulate the political wires of the city government, and each succeeding administration, under its guiding hand, devotes more time to repair and building up of its party machinery for the purpose of perpetuating itself in office, than to looking after the interest of its citizens. The people, aside from being burdened with heavy taxes for the upkeep of the city government, are forced, indirectly, to pay the campaign expenses of the Grand Old Party. When the party chest begins to show bottom, those in high political circles begin to look around to see if they have not got some old marsh land, or worn-out hillsides, which they can persuade the city

to buy at Broadway prices, thus leaving considerable revenue above the price of the land with which to buy ammunition for the next campaigns.

The low level of politics in the city can be attributed largely to the lack of interest on the part of the people in the affairs of the city government. They will walk out of a meeting where public questions are being considered in order to attend their lodge or fraternity, and it is easier to get a crowd to listen to some one discussing the fine points of a cross-word puzzle than it is to get a crowd to listen to a proposal for more efficient government at a saving to the tax-payers. The politicians are aware of this fact and their campaigns are generally conducted along every line but politics. But, however, the results of the recent elections have indicated that the people are beginning to take their politics more seriously and not as a matter of course, as heretofore.

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"A Half Century of Clean Sport". Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware. June 23, 1935. (Mag. Sec.) Page 2.

Hamilton Debating Coterie. Sunday Star. Wilmington, Delaware. July 16, 1933. (Mag.Sec.) Page 12.

Interviews with older residents.

Personal observation and experience.

"THE ROCKS" - LANDING PLACE OF THE
FIRST SWEDISH SETTLERS IN DEL.
left bank of the Christiana River
E. of Fourth Street Wharf.

Private property. Admission free on
request.

"The Rocks" is the name of an exposure of rock at the above location which served as a natural dock for the first Swedish settlers landing in Delaware, in 1638. The exposure is designated by the Historic Markers Commission of Del. as "The Rocks, First landing place of the Swedes, 1638, site of Fort Christiana." Permission to view the site may be obtained at the office of the Wilson Line, Inc.

A few yards N. of "The Rocks" is located a stone monument which, according to its inscription, was erected by the Delaware Society of Colonial Dames and marks the spot where stood Fort Christina. (See Monuments, file #617).

The Rocks - Landing Place of the Swedes

#48

Near the foot of East Fifth Street, upon land occupied by the Wilson Line, accessible from that company's wharf at Fourth Street, is a small monument, erected by the Colonial Dames Society in 1903, to commemorate the Landing of the Swedes, and close by is a marker of the Historic Markers Commission of Delaware, bearing the ^{inscription} simple description, "The Rocks - Landing Place of the Swedes, 1638. Site of Fort Christina."

A careful reading of various histories of Delaware in which the landing place is described, an examination of a map drawn by Peter Lindestrom, Swedish Engineer who assisted Governor Johan Glasson Rising in laying out the town of Christinahamn in 1654-55, made ~~at the time the Dutch besieged the town~~, which shows ^{ing} the location of the fort in relation to the neighboring terrain, other early maps of Wilmington, newspaper and magazine articles, indicate that the actual landing place of the Swedes was approximately 200 yards nearer the mouth of the Brandywine Creek.

The site of the shelf of rocks, referred to in various histories as a "natural wharf" upon which the Swedes landed, is now covered by the waters of the Christiana River, but the spot upon which the Swedes erected Fort Christina still exists, this land being occupied by the ship-ways of the American Car and Foundry Company.

① Lindestrom's map shows a point of rocks jutting out into the creek behind which the fort and town was built. The Brandywine
② creek is shown touching the rear of the town, indicating that

the town occupied the land between the Brandywine Creek and the Christiana River, where the distance between the two bodies of water is the narrowest. To the east may be seen the lake or harbor, which Scharf in a footnote (p752) says was "filled up in 1820."

Many early maps show the Road to the Rocks, which wound around Old Swedes cemetery and continued ~~on its way~~ between the two rivers. ¹⁶

^{The stone wharf.} Commissary Hudde, the Dutch commander at Fort Nassau, ^{date} in a report to the Director General at New Amsterdam, described the Fort and its location as follows: "further up the river, on the east shore, on a creek called the Minquas, is another fort named Christina. This fort lies about half a mile (two and one quarter English miles) in the creek and is nearly encircled by a marsh except on the northwest side, where it can be approached by land, and at its Southwest it touches the kill." This indicates that the land occupied by the Fort was much higher than the surrounding terrain. Early maps of Wilmington show a point of land jutting into the creek at this point. Miss Elizabeth Montgomery in her Reminiscences of Wilmington, (1851) describes the spot as follows:

"A reef of rocks, so steep that it forms a quay where vessels lie securely. There is a gradual ascent carpeted with rich grass, and ships sail to and fro almost within your reach," ... This spot ... has been shorn of its greatest attraction, torn up by the blasting of rocks ... it was the birthplace of my mother ... she said that when the first colonists came, they found a cave, the size of a room, and so high that the tallest man could stand erect."

Francis Vincent, in a History of the State of Delaware, p 150, written about 1870, said, "Its (the fort's) original outline and form are yet distinctly visible, coinciding precisely with the

representations made by Lindestrom over two hundred years ago."

The fort occupied a commanding position on the Christiana River. In 1741¹⁷⁴⁸ it was rebuilt as a protection to the Borough of Wilmington against pirates. Just prior to the Revolution it was again "placed in order" to protect the borough against possible British raids, and again in ^{March 1813} ~~1812~~^{Fort Union}, the old fort was placed in commission. The precipice upon which it stood, at a point where the river makes a bend, gave it a commanding position to repulse any attacks that might be made by a fleet of vessels attempting to ascend the river.

A map of Wilmington in 1867 shows the Old Rocks Shipyard of J. K. Kirkman. Vincent, in his history, (p.53) says "... and the rocks, where the late John K. Kirkman's shipyard is now ... were then denominated (one of) the capes of the Christiana ... the harbor or lake back of Fort Christian, at the foot of Seventh Street, ^(within the limits of the City of Wilmington) where the Key of Kalmar lay that brought the first Swedish settlers over ... was more than forty-nine years ago filled up, and workshops are now situated on its site."

The cape or promontory that jutted into the river may be seen on a map of the river made by the U. S. Engineer's office in 1835, when the government was contemplating dredging the river and removing obstacles. In 1837 a Board of Trade was formed in Wilmington and one of their first acts was to request the dredging of the River. The government complied with the request and began work in 1838 continuing until 1840. Wilmington's influence as a large industrial city, a car- and ship-building community, following the Civil War, and the subsequent need for a deeper and wider body of water may have been responsible for the government's again dredging and widening the river, as between the years 1870 and 1875 considerable

dredging was done and much of the rock removed. In 1875 the Chief of Engineers, War Department, reported that the creek had been "widened to its present width of 300 feet at the mouth of the creek, the width of the channel above Third Street and to Market Street, widened to 150 feet, and at the rock excavation the depth has been made 13 feet at low tide."

The report also stated that prior to 1875 a quantity of rock had been removed and in that year the last remaining rock, consisting of ¹³⁵ ~~105~~ cubic yards ^{of solid rock} had been taken away.

The map made by the Government engineer shows the cape jutting out into the creek for a distance of approximately 90 feet, the rock formation behind it being approximately 300 feet in width and extending back between the Christiana and the Brandywine ^{about 400, almost 440 feet wide} several hundred feet. The point of the cape that extended into the river is exactly 2640 feet from the West bank of the mouth of the Brandywine Creek. Two members of the Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, on May 4, 1937 measured the distance from the mouth of the Brandywine Creek and found that 2640 feet from the mouth of the Brandywine Creek brought them to the extreme western ship-way of the American Car and Foundry Company, about five or six hundred feet east of the spot upon which the present marker rests. This coincides with all references in the several histories of Delaware.

Miss Montgomery refers to the spot's having been "torn up by the blasting of rocks." Newspaper and magazine articles have stated that the rocks upon which the Swedes landed were taken away and used in the building of the Delaware Breakwater. Others refer to a quarry that was located upon the spot and which was filled in

when the McCullough Iron Company erected their mills upon the spot in 1870; several old inhabitants have stated that they recall the quarry, but a diligent search through newspapers, magazines and books has failed to confirm these statements, although the present contour of the land indicates that they are undoubtedly true.

What Co. sold rock -

When the Delaware Breakwater was erected at Lewes, Delaware, in 1832 the mass of rocks jutting into the Christina upon which the Swedes landed, was most accessible, easy to obtain and transport to the lower part of Delaware. No records are available to show how many cubic yards of rock were taken from this spot, or who the contractor may have been. However, Elizabeth Montgomery, Benjamin Ferris and Francis Vincent, three writers of Delaware history, are in accord with the statement that the rocks were blasted away and taken to be used in the erection of the breakwater.

LOCATION - - Statewide

Washington 72 area
91
File S-201

Submitted by K. A. Horner,

*History: Colonial
Early*

Date September 4, 1936.

ck. v.1, p.400

Notes on Siege of Fort Christina.

Southwest across Christiana Kill, 2 batteries constructed of timber with bastions and gavions above, where six cannon and four companies were located and back of this battery stood a beautiful large tent, from which a wall was constructed up to the northern battery, Rat-burg. And since there were terribly many mosquitoes assembled at that place, this battery was called Mosquito-burg.

On the northern side of Fort Christina at the entrance to the main street of the town of Christinehamb there was a battery made of timber, filled in with earth (and) covered with turf, upon which there were gabions; beyond this was the headquarters, large beautiful tent in which General Stijfvesandh was lodged, where there were six cannon mounted and where 6 companies were stationed. From this battery ran a rampart over to the kitchen, and since there were many rats in this place therefore they called this battery, Rat-burg.

Across the Fish Kill north east of Fort Christina, four guns were planted on top of two small batteries made of timbers, filled in with earth and covered with sod, gabions on top and ramparts on both sides of the battery down to the Fish Kill. At this place stood two companies, and because there was a great amount of Spanish flies, there, which came from the reed flats, therefore they called this fortification Fly-burg.

Reference:- Geographia Americas - Peter Lindestrom,
The Swedish Colonial Society - Philadelphia, 1925.

File H c.230

LOCATION - New Castle County

Submitted by - Ernest C. Ballinger,

Date - January 15, 1936 .

*Williamson Trace
History
92
in Co. Folder*

HOTELS

Out of the haze of the strenuous days of early settlement, when men were toiling to earn a livelihood with the meager equipment of the pioneer; harassed by conditions that would be considered unsurmountable by their successors of 250 years later, it is surprising that as much historic data concerning their several and daily activities had been preserved. Men of that long past period were in general more literate and left but scant chronicles for future historians. Over a period of several years the only record is that of Land Grants and Patents.

New Castle is of pointed interest in this chronicle covering the hotels of the State as it is here that the first mention of a house of public entertainment is found. On June 8, 1662 at a trial on complaints against Lieut. Hinijossa, the witnesses were all residents of New Castle and in business there and the names appear of Hendryk Kyp, brewer and Popp Jansen Outhout, tavern keeper. Just how long before this specific date this tavern was in existence is impossible to ascertain. It is very doubtful if this early tavern was anything more than a taproom or drinking place.

As such it was important in the fact that it served as a general meeting place for the citizens when everything for the good of the settlement was brought forward and discussed seriously. Many problems of the government of the little town were no doubt effectively solved in this place and it would seem that Outhout, then keeper of the place took active part in the proceedings as in 1674, he is mentioned as having been appointed a Magistrate on the Delaware of New Castle. Again, upon re-organisation of the court on October 10, 1676, he is again mentioned as having been re-appointed, served until 1783, (Scharf P. 868) and then fades from the picture.

The next to appear, of which there is record is Ralph Hutchinson who was a tavern keeper as early as 1677. (Sharf's 868). His place was taken over by his brother Hobberd, who was convicted on the charge of having broken into the chest of Adam Welles, mariner, of Maryland, who was stopping with him. For this robbery which he confessed, he was found guilty and sentenced on an order signed by the Governor, authorizing the Court to affix the punishment, which condemned the culprit to make restitution in full to Welles, to receive "30 and 9 strokes or lashes," at the "forte gate" and was given 3 days in which to leave this River of Delaware and "parte adjacent" being "forever bannish (ed)". This was evidently an occurrence of June 30, 1679, and is of interest as it discloses that this tavern was in reality a lodging house or hotel.

On June 4,1679,Hutchinson was followed by one, John Darby, who evidently bought the property, and to whom a license was granted provided that "hee performs that he now promises which is viz:-That hee will keep a good and orderly house; that he will now begin with six beds and within twelve months procure six beds more; to have only privilege to sell drink by retayle; etc.etc. From this point on,New Castle has had a succession of Inns, Taverns,and Hotels,many of which gained enviable reputations in the days when the town was on the direct stage line from New York to Baltimore. Many people of national prominence have been entertained at some of the numerous hostelryes.

The first hotel in Wilmington was built in 1740; was named "The Foul Anchor," from its sign an anchor hanging foul. It stood on Water Street near the Christiana water front,and is described as having a beautiful lawn at its rear sloping down to the water. This hotel stood for almost a century and was finally razed to permit the extension of King St. to the River.

The next hotel had the nautical name"The sign of the Ship," stood at the S.E.Cor.of Third and Market Streets,and was well known and patronized all during the Revolutionary period,its name having been changed meantime to "The Happy Retreat," and again, later to "LaFayette." Many famous men of the day stopped here,Washington,Adams, Jefferson, Aaron Burr, Commodore Perry and others.

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Its days as a public inn ended in 1835, Other old hostelryes mentioned by historians were "The Washington House," formerly "The White Hart," The Indian King, Tavern at Fourth and Market Sts. "The Delaware House," "The Buck Tavern," "The Indian Queen,"etc.

Today Wilmington offers hotels of all grades and the traveler can choose the type he desires.

Bibliography:-

History of Delaware by J.Thomas Scharf, A.M., LL D.
Published by L.J.Richards & Co., 1888 Vol 11,
Chapter XLIII Page 868. Other references paged in
text refer to same volume.

WILMINGTON IN 1875.

Kenneth A. Horner,

February 12, 1937.

FROM MAPS IN LIBRARY.

Gasometer located at 14th & Poplar Streets.

Pottery at 212 French Street.

Reservoir at 10, 11, Market and King Streets, with office of the Water Department on the N.E.Cor. 10th & Market Streets and the City Engineer's Office on the N.W.Cor. 10th & King Streets. Engine House of the Reservoir on Market Street, just north of the Water Department's office. The Water Works then sat in the midst of three large flour mills on the Brandywine Creek. Wm. Lea & Sons owned the mill on the corner of Sixteenth and Market Streets; Price & Phillips had a mill next to it near King Street and the Water Department occupied the next building, running to French Street. Between French and Walnut was a large mill occupied by Jos. C. Price & Co.

The city used the block then running from Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets between Orange and Tatnall Streets as a City Sand Pit.

Two races paralleled the Brandywine Creek on both sides supplying water to the mills and also the City Pumping Station.

The land North of Fourteenth street to the Brandywine and from Jefferson Street to Orange was the property of Bishop Alfred Lee, no houses appearing on it.

The sole leather manufactory of Jonathan Rhodes was then situated at Maryland Avenue and Monroe on Shipley Run which then ran down to Elder Cut Run and thence into the Christiana.

The Lobdell Car wheel plant was on the Christiana River running from Pine to Lombard Streets and from the river to Third Street.

Concord Pike appeared on the map as Concord Pike or Elliott

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Wilmington In 1875
History - later

Avenue; the Park Drive west of Madison Street was known as Jessup Road.

Snuff Mill Lane ran from 22nd & Washington Streets to the Jessup & Moore Paper Mills near the present Augustine Bridge, where nearby was a school building.

Elliott's Run then ran down what is now Monkey Hill emptying into the Brandywine near the present Van Buren Street Bridge.

Thatcher's Mansion then occupied a spot on a high hill known as Linden Knoll, overlooking the wide Brandywine Creek, which was then a wide stream approximately a quarter of a mile wide, running from Twelfth Street to Sixteenth. In its center, directly opposite the present Kirkwood Park was a large island, known as the Thatcher Island. The stream that ran around the island has since been diverted, filled in and the island is now solid land running from East Thirteenth Street to Sixteenth, upon which are lumber yards and the plant of the Bond Manufacturing Company.

The City line in 1876 ran to 29th Street, North, a toll gate being located at that point.

Submitted by Donald Crowe

Date November 3, 1936.

Wilmington Conspiracy

The loss of the direct trade to the British West Indies played a prominent part in paving the way for President Adams' defeat for re-election in 1828. From comments appearing in various newspapers in different parts of the country, it is evident that Jackson's supporters, if not Jackson himself, gave certain "promises" or "pledges" or "assurances" that Jackson's election would mean recovery of the British West India trade for American merchants. His election, therefor was followed by the expectation that an attempt would be made to redeem his pledge. Jackson himself argued the acknowledged importance of this branch of trade, the influence it was believed to have had in his elevation to the presidency, and the general expectation on the part of the people that renewed efforts might be successfully made to recover it, imposed upon him the duty of undertaking the task. He therefore determined upon a quiet attempt thru diplomacy to regain the trade, and chose as his agent in the negotiation Mr. Louis McLane of Delaware.

"With the appointment of Mr. McLane as minister to England (1829, shortly following Jackson's inauguration) the Opposition newspapers quickly spread the rumor that the negotiation of a commercial treaty with Great Britain was contemplated. This 'rumor of the day' declared that Jackson intended to make a 'deal' with the British Government in which, by way of exchange for the liberty of trade with the British colonies, the United States would surrender

Wilmington Conspiracy
Page No.2

a portion of its duties on British woolen or other manufactures. It was thought possible that even the American coasting trade might 'be swapped' for this privilege. The report that there was to be an important conference between some of the Administration leaders at Wilmington, Delaware, prior to Mr. McLane's departure for England further strengthened this belief that there was 'something in the wind'. Rumor had it that the new minister to England had summoned Mr. Cambreleng--destined to be chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the House--to come in post haste to Wilmington whither the Secretary of State was also to repair, and that there the subject of the commercial treaty would be handled by the distinguished trio. A meeting of some sort actually did take place, and what was later ridiculed by the Administration prints as the 'Wilmington Conspiracy' was the surmise on the part of the Opposition that the conference had been held to deliberate to what extent it would be safe for the Jackson party to surrender a portion of the American tariff in return for the right to trade directly with the British colonies." (p.163-164)

President Jackson issued a proclamation on October 5. In it he announced the admission to an entry in the ports of the United States of British vessels and their cargoes "from the islands, provinces, and colonies of Great Britain on or near the North American continent and north or east of the United States". He also declared the American acts of 1818, 1820, and 1823 absolutely repealed. The same day a note was hurried on its way to the American minister in London, in order that the period during which the American ports would be open to British vessels from the colonies without a similar right to the American vessels in the colonial ports might be closed as quickly as possible. In thus conceding a temporary advantage to British shipping by its prospective legislation, the United States, as Jackson later pointed out, pursued a course similar

Wilmington Conspiracy,
Page No.3

to that adopted by Great Britain in abolishing by her act of 1825 a restriction then existing and permitting American vessels to clear from her colonies on their return voyage for any foreign country whatever, before British vessels had been relieved from the restriction of returning directly from the United States to the colonies, a restriction which she required and expected the United States to abolish.

The appearance of the President's proclamation was followed by a flood of articles in the press commending or condemning the accomplishment of the Administration. On the one hand it was "Hailed as the sign of a restoration of a good understanding between the two nations, an understanding which had unfortunately been interrupted by the manner in which the negotiations were conducted. It was proclaimed as "one of the most important acquisitions to the commerce of the United States "which had taken place "these last twenty years", as "additional evidence of the good sense, patriotism, and wisdom of the administration of Andrew Jackson". McLane likewise came in for his share of the glory. It has been "no light responsibility for Mr. McLane to undertake a mission which his predecessor had failed to accomplish"; it was "no perishable honor to have succeeded where that able and veteran diplomat Mr. Gallatin, failed". But the negotiation had, in this instance, been no "diplomatic duplicity--no fine spun arguments about nothing--no chaffering about light money, nor quibbling about 'elsewhere'". The views of the negotiators had been "broad and national", with the result that the adjustment of the question had

Page No.4
Wilmington Conspiracy

been achieved "on terms mutually advantageous, honorable and just." A host of administration papers concurred in this view.

On the other hand, the Opposition papers, almost without exception, continued to condemn the whole affair, altho it was now necessary to stand on new ground, to attack it from a new angle. A year before, with their rumors of the "Wilmington Conspiracy", they had predicted that the administration intended to gain the West India trade by sacrificing the American tariff. Some six months later they adopted a different attitude and had laughed at the idea of obtaining any concessions from Great Britain, had stigmatized all rumors to that effect as frauds, hoaxes, dreams, or empty bubbles. But with the actual accomplishment practically in sight they were forced to adopt a new tack. And the administration papers viewed with amusement "the writhings and contortions of the opposition at the successful result" of the McLane Negotiations.

Re:- - The American Struggle for the British West India Carrying-Trade, 1815-1830. By F. Lee Berns, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History in Indiana University. Indiana University Studies, Vol. X March 1923. Pages 163-164, 180-181.

J. Barton Cheyney
February 8, 1937.

Late Colonial to Civil War
History: 18th Century 102

Washington Memorial Services.

The first great national grief that came to the citizens of Wilmington and the rest of the new republic was the announcement of the death of the First President, George Washington, which occurred December ¹⁴30, 1799, at Mount Vernon, Va. The news of the "country's loss" reached Wilmington several hours after his demise, by messengers who heralded the tidings throughout the country. Wilmington, however, took no formal action for public services ~~or~~ demonstrations of sorrow until the sixty-ninth anniversary of the birth of the Father of his country, February 22, 1800 - fifty three days later.

Sorrow and regret was marked on every face in the city. There were those who had come to feel that the republic could not endure without the steadying influences and counsel of the farmer, statesman, soldier, diplomat, and first gentlemen of the Colonies.

Gunning Bedford who served with Washington on his staff, and Major Cass, U.S.A., commander of the federal troops stationed in Wilmington, headed the movement for the memorial services, and almost the entire city turned out to participate in the demonstration or to view the funeral pageant. The line was formed in front of Town Hall and was lead by the military with the Society of Cincinnati second in line and followed by the Masons of the city. Twenty-five young women dressed in white, with long white gloves, jaunty white muslin hats, blue kid slippers, ~~were~~ a wide blue ribbon tied in a bow at the shoulder, and stamped with the name of the state she represented in large gilt letters. There were sixteen states, and the other nine of the group typified the muses.

Behind the women marchers followed members of the state legislature, ministers of the gospel and a great concourse of sorrowing citizens. The band played solemn music and the line marched up Market street to the Old Academy near Eighth street, where it halted while the young women stepped out of the ranks and deposited on the bier of the dead chieftan, sprays of laurel they bore in their hands repeating as they did so: "I deposit this laurel as an emblem of your never dying fame.

Emblems of mourning in most of the homes and flags at half staff from the public buildings bespoke the sorrow of the community. Washington ~~frequently~~ made many visits to Wilmington and often passed through the town going to and from his Virginia home and his high regard for Delaware's ^K evolutionary patriots brought him in closer ties of friendship and intimacy than perhaps was enjoyed by any other Colonial community.

Newspaper Clippings.

LOCATION - - Statewide

Submitted by Sara McCarthy,

Scharf P. 212

File S-613

Date July 9, 1936.

Early Dutch Colony
FORT CHRISTINA.

*See Huntington Library
History 104
Early*
Same as v. 1, p. 206

Commissary Hudde, the Dutch commander at Fort Nassau in a report to the Director General at New Amsterdam has given a description of the local situation of the Fort of its state as a place of defence, as seen on the 1st of November 1645. This document is extremely valuable both for its antiquity and the amount of information--it contains. It gives more facts in relation to Fort Christiana at this period, than can be derived from all other sources. "Further up the river," says he, "On the west shore, on a creek, called the Minquas land, is another fort named Christia, this fort lies about half a mile (two and a quarter English miles) in the creek and is nearly encircled by a marsh except on the north west side, where it can be approached by land, at its South west it touches the kill; but though it is actually in pretty good order yet it might be stronger. This fort has no permanent garrison, but otherwise it is well provided, and is the principal place of trade, in which the commissary holds his residence. And here is a magazine of all sorts of goods." The Forts of the colonists at that time accommodated the people in a variety of ways, they were not only places of defences, round which emigrants erected their dwellings; the fort contained the great Colonial storehouses or magazines, and was the sole mart or place for the exchange and sale of merchandise.

That it served all these purposes we have ample evidence. But Collins in his notes on Rudman, shows that it served another important purpose. He says, "The first colonists lived near together about Christiana Creek and had their public worship in the fort there."

This was the first place dedicated to divine worship in the Christian name on the banks of Delaware, and the only one until Governor Printz erected at Church at Tinicum in 1646. This we can look back through the long vista of two hundred years and behold that little area, about one hundred yards square near the point of rocks; and see the native Minquas some in their canoes paddling down the Christeen, others on land marching single file, with their packs of beaver and otter, and deer skin, and their tobacco and maize, and venison down to the fort, to exchange them for the cloth and blankets, the tools and the trinkets of European production. There we see the wondering Indian regardless of all around him, but, according to Indian customs suppressing every ^{Sign} ^{Surprise} nation of ~~suprese~~ or wonder; and there the trafficking Swede spreading out his goods, and his toys and his blankets to tempt him to barter. There we can view the matronly squaw with her pappoose on her back fixed in a basket woven for that purpose and ornamented with porcupine quill and other finery.

REFERENCE: Benjamin Ferris, " Original Settlement on the Delaware." PP.45

The Landing of the Swedes

Wilmington occupies the site upon which the Swedes, three hundred years ago, established a colony which became the first permanent settlement in the Delaware River valley. In late March, 1638, two small ships the Key of Kalmar and the Bird Griffen slowly sailed up the Delaware River, entered the Christina and proceeded up the latter for a distance of approximately two miles, where they dropped anchor and came to rest.

The expedition was in command of Peter Minuit, a former governor of New Netherland, the Dutch possession in America. Mans Milsson Kling was commander of the two dozen soldiers who accompanied the expedition, Jan Hindrickson van der Water was captain of the Key of Kalmar, and Michel Symonassen, first mate. Andrian Joransen was captain of the Bird Griffen, and Hendrick Huygen, a relative of Minuit, was to be commissary of the proposed colony or post.

Although sailing under the flag of Sweden, the officers and crews of the vessels, the commander and commissary were Dutch, as were half the soldiers. The only Swedish officer was Mans Kling the commander of the soldiers. Both Swedish and Dutch capital had financed the expedition. No women or children were aboard, the object being merely to purchase land, erect a fort, establish a military post and trade with the Indians.

The organization, under whose direction the expedition had sailed, was the New Sweden Company, organized in Sweden in 1636, and composed, in addition to Minuit, of four individuals, two of whom were Dutch and two Swedes. Klas Fleming, president of the

College of Commerce a department of the Government organized to foster trade, and Axel Gustafsson Oxenstierna, prime minister of Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus, and head of a commission of five ruling Sweden during the regency of the infant Queen Christina, were the two Swedes interested. The two Hollanders were Samuel Blommaert, who had been interested in colonization schemes in America for a number of years, and who had been a Patroon at the time the ill-fated expedition had been sent to Lewes in 1632, and Peter Spiring, a business man of Sweden although the son of a Dutch merchant. Blommaert, at the time, was a director of the Dutch West India Company, but apparently had no objection to joining a company, one of whose objects was to compete with his company in America.

Peter Minuit was a Dutchman by adoption. He was born of Huguenot parents at Wesel on the Rhine and had come to Holland. In 1625, he entered the employ of the West India Company and was director of the Dutch colony (New Netherland) for six years. He had purchased Manhattan from the Indians and built Fort Amsterdam.

Minuit had received definite instruction concerning his activities. He was to avoid conflict with the Dutch by purchasing land outside the limits of New Netherland. The Swedish coat-of-arms was to be erected at the rivers marking the boundary line between the lands of the two nations. The country was to be known as New Sweden, and he was to erect a house or fort either on the Minquas Kill or at some other place, which by nature was strong, and it was to be called New Stockholm, "with the firing of a cannon."

It was not by accident that the Swedes landed on the banks of the Christina. Minuit, undoubtedly, in his position as Governor

of New Netherland, had visited the site and realized its advantages as a future stronghold. Dutch ships had often explored the river, and Dutch soldiers at the time occupied a fort near Gloucester, New Jersey. Captain John Smith, famous because of the love of Pocohontas, had made a map of the territory, although there is no record that he had explored the Delaware. Minuit was familiar with the lands and acquainted with the Indian Chiefs who claimed it as their own. He came prepared to trade with them, to barter trinkets and ornaments, knives, cloths, and similar articles for their pelts. Aboard his boats were thousand of yards of duffels and other cloths, hundreds of axes, hatchets, and adzes, knives, pipes, mirrors, gilded chains, finger rings, combs, and ornaments which would appeal to the aborigines; spades, hoes and other farm implements with which to turn the sod; wheat and barley and other grain for future harvests; muskets, cannon, and ammunition to defend the settlers against aggression.

As the ships entered the Christiana River they passed the first piece of land which is now a part of the city of Wilmington. This was Crane Hook, now the Wilmington Marine Terminal, and at the time, according to John Smith's map, the site of Chikihocki, one of the largest Indian Villages in the new world. No mention of it is made by any of the historians who described the voyage, indicating that the village was either used only in the warmer months, or that it had been abandoned.

Arriving at "The Rocks", as the site is called today, the Swedes fired a salute of two guns, and Minuit went ashore with some of the men. The spot was particularly suitable as a landing place; the Indians had pitched their wigwams there and that site, together

with the lands extending to the North, between the Christiana River and the Brandywine Creek, they called Hopokohacking. This village was likewise deserted at the time, as no one appeared to answer Minuit's salute. With some of the other officers of the ships, Minuit sailed up the Christiana to reconnoitre and establish connection with the Indians. They went some distance into the country but "saw no sign of Christian people." Returning to the place where they intended to set up their fort, they again fired cannon to attract the attention of any Indians who might be in the vicinity. This had the desired effect. Several Indian chiefs appeared and Minuit arranged a conference with them about the sale of land. Gifts were exchanged, after which the chiefs agreed to sell the Christiana River and as much of the land in each direction as the Swedes desired. The deed was signed with the marks of five Indian sachems -- Mattahorn, MitotSchemingh, ErePacken, Mahomen and Chiton, and was dated March 29, 1638.

The purchase concluded, a pole was erected with the coat-of-arms of Sweden upon it, and "with the report of cannon followed by other solemn ceremonies the land was called New Sweden, and the Christiana River, the Indian Minquas, was given the name of Elbe.

The location for a fort was then selected and the men were set to work erecting it.

The exact spot upon which the Swedes landed is somewhere between the present Fifth and Seventh Streets, (now covered by the waters of the Christiana) near where the Historic Markers Commission of Delaware has placed a sign -- "Landing Place of the Swedes," to indicate the last vestige of the rocks which once stood near this point. At the time a cape of rocks of considerable height extended out into the river a short distance and back towards the Brandywine

Creek. The fort which they erected, and which they called Christina, after the infant Queen of Sweden, was several hundred feet nearer the mouth of the Brandywine Creek, where an unobstructed view of the Christiana where it joined the Delaware River was available.

Describing it, a Swedish writer stated that it was a place of entrancing beauty. "West of the rocky promontory on which they landed rose a series of verdure-clad terraces capped with forest trees and rising in abrupt ascent to nearly two hundred feet above tide water. On the South the water flowed back for miles and out of it rose islands bright with spring grasses and bloom. On the North flowed the waters of the rapidly running Fish Kill." "On the easterly side of the fort," says Benjamin Ferris, "was a small cove or basin called the 'Harbour', in which their vessels might lay, out of the current of the Christeen, and without danger from floating ice on the breaking up of winter."

The fort is "nearly encircled by a marsh, except on the north-west side, where it can be approached by land. At its south-west side it touches the Kill," wrote Commissioner Hudde, the Dutch commander at Fort Nassau, who reported the arrival of the Swedes to the Director General at New Amsterdam.

Elizabeth Montgomery in her Reminiscences of Wilmington, says, "We pause as we stand now on a renowned site in ruins, hallowed to our mind from association. Here the Swedes made their first settlement. On one of the fanciful windings of the Christiana, is a reef of rocks, so steep that it forms a quay where vessels lie securely. There is a gradual ascent carpeted with rich grass, and ships sail to and fro almost within your reach This spot, once

so delightful and admired, has been shorn of its greatest attraction, torn up by the blasting of rocks, as if the destroying angel had passed over it, and swept away every fragment of antiquity, leaving no vestige for the admiration of man ...

When the Delaware Breakwater was built at Lewes, a quarry was established at this place, and thousands of tons of granite blasted from the ground and moved to Lewes. This work accomplished, the contractor moved away leaving a deep crevice in the ground, which was filled when the McCullough Iron Company commenced operations nearby in 1875.

Two maps are available to show the exact location of the fort and town. One made by Peter Lindestrom, a Swedish engineer, who came to the country with Governor Risingh in 1654; the other a blue print of the creek or river as it appeared in 1835, and prepared by the U. S. Government engineers. Lindestrom's map shows the position of the fort and the town back of it running North and South, with the Fish Kill, or Brandywine Creek at the rear of the settlement, and also the point of rocks upon which the Swedes landed which jutted out into the Christiana in front of the fort. The U. S. Engineers' map shows the same point of rocks, and indicates the promontory of granite, approximately one hundred yards in length, with approximately the same depth. These maps place the fort and town as lying between the Christiana River and the Brandywine Creek where the strip of land between the two is the narrowest. The exact landing spot is just one-half mile from the west shore of the Brandywine Creek as it enters the Christiana, about five hundred feet below the spot upon which the Colonial Dames Society erected their monument and upon which the Swedish Tercentenary Commission proposes to erect a larger monument in 1838.

K. A. Horner,

Folder - Swedes

March 31, 1937.

The Landing Place of the Swedes.

On the Christiana River where the peninsula lying between that river and the converging Brandywine Creek is at its narrowest point, is the site of Fort Christina, the landing place of the Swedes. Here it was that the first expedition from the Old World sailing under the Swedish flag, but under a Dutch commander, Peter Minuit, with Dutch officers and crews, and a mixture of Dutch and Swedish soldiers, landed and erected a fort which was called Fort Christina, in honor of the Infant Queen of Sweden.

It may be reached by way of East Seventh Street which skirts the Old Swedes Churchyard east of Church Street, crosses the railroad tracks and continues past the shipyard of the American Car and Foundry Co. Just east of the shipyard a path crosses the marshland and leads to the creek thirty or forty yards away.

When the Swedes landed, three centuries ago, a precipice of undetermined height jutted out into the river a distance of 90 or 100 feet, its rocky formation extending to the west for a little more than 100 yards. On one side were the waters of the Christiana, on the other a little lake or harbor. The fort, according to an early writer, was "nearly surrounded by marshland, except on the northwest side, where it can be approached by land, and at its southwest it touches the kill."

Elizabeth Montgomery, as a child was familiar with the spot, and described it in her "Reminiscences of Wilmington," as follows:

"....a reef of rocks, so steep that it forms a quay where vessels lie securely. There is a gradual ascent carpeted with rich grass, and ships sail to and fro almost within

-2-

Folder - Swedes (Horner)
The Landing Place of the Swedes.

your reach. This spot...has been shorn of its greatest attraction, torn up by the blasting of rocks, as if the destroying angel had passed over it, and swept away every fragment of antiquity, leaving no vestige for the admiration of man. When the first colonists came, they found a cave, the size of a room, and so high that the tallest man could stand erect. Over the bottom was a smooth rock and in the corner a spring of delicious water."

The fort which the Swedes erected, probably of stone and earth, was in the form of a square, 100 yards in length and breadth. Within the inclosure two log houses were built, one a storehouse, the other a barracks for the soldiers.

It was occupied by the Swedes from 1638 to 1655, ^{by the Dutch} ^{held possession} from 1655 to 1664, after which it and the settlement which the Swedes had built in 1654-55 came into the possession of the English who, centering their activities at New Castle, abandoned the Christiana settlement. Time obliterated all trace of the old fort, but in 1741, when pirates began to infest the rivers and became so bold that even communities did not feel safe against them, the old Fort was again brought into service, its parapets raised and guns mounted to repel any attack that might be made upon the

It was here that Tory Jack, a pirate, after his capture by the citizens of the town, was hung from the branch of an apple tree.

and records of the State, which lay in a ship under the guns of the fort, were captured by the British during the occupancy of Wilmington following the Battle of Brandywine, in 1777. Again in 1812, the fort was prepared against possible attack by the British, but happily its use was never required.

-3-

Folder - Swedes (Horner)
The Landing Place of the Swedes.

When the rocky ledge and the point upon which the Swedes landed was first removed is not known. Numerous references in newspapers stating that some of the rock was quarried and taken to Lewes, Delaware to form part of the Delaware Breakwater are to be found, but the date when the quarry was erected, the amount of stone removed, or the name of the contractor who did the work, cannot be located.

The cape protruding into the river was an obstacle that prevented the smooth flow of water, and silt and sand from the upper reaches of the Christiana filled the channel and impeded the growing navigation of the river. Large ships found it impossible to reach the city which caused the newly formed Board of Trade ^{in 1837} to call upon the Government for assistance in dredging and widening the river. Dredging was carried on from 1838 to 1840, and much of the rock, it is presumed, was removed at this time. Again in 1870-1875 the Government dredged the river, removed huge quantities of rock, and widened the stream to its present width and depth. This last operation, which destroyed the last vestige of the old fort, was completed August 5, 1875.

Of the ledge that once extended more than 300 feet along the banks of the Christiana, nothing remains but a shelf of granite near the foot of east Fifth street. At this spot, perhaps the extreme western end of the rocky ledge, although on the opposite side of the ^{small} harbor that lay on the side of Fort Christiana the Colonial Dames Society, in 1903, erected a small monument, and the Historic Markers Commission later placed a marker ^{here to fore mentioned} in commemoration of that little band of adventurers who braved the seas three hundred years ago to found a colony for Sweden in the new

-4- Folder - Swedes (Horner)
 The Landing Place of the Swedes.

and then unknown world.

K. A. Horner,
April 1, 1937.

Points of Interest.

Fort Christina

★ Fort Christina was besieged by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant in 1655 a year after the Swedes had captured Fort Casimer. The Dutch surrounded the fort on land while their ships controlled the Christiana River. The wordy battle that followed provided Washington Irving with material for the ludicrous story told by him in Knickerbocker's History of New York, from which the following excerpts have been taken:

"This was the grand Swedish post, established on a small river of the same name... and here that crafty governor Jan Risingh lay grimly drawn up, like a gray-bearded spider in the citadel of his web...

"And now the might chieftains marshalled out their hosts. Here stood stout Risingh, firm as a thousand rocks, incrustated with stock-ades, and intrenched to the chin in mud batteries. His valiant soldiery lined the breastwork in grim array, each having his mustachios fiercely greased and his hair pomatumed back, and queued so stiffly that he grinned above the ramparts like a grisly death's head...

"Then came on the intrepid Peter, his brows knit, his teeth set, his fist clenched, almost breathing forth volumes of smoke, so fierce was the fire that raged within his bosom. ...

"And now commenced the horrid din, the desperate struggle, the maddening ferocity, the frantic desperation, the confusion and self-abandonment of war. Dutchman and Swede, commingled, tugged, panted, and blowed. The heavens were darkened with a tempest of missiles. Bank! went the guns--whack! went the broadswords--thump! went the cudgels--crash! went the musket-stocks--blows, kicks, cuffs, scratches,

black eyes and bloody noses swelling the horrors of the scene. Thick-thwack, cut and hack, helter-skelter, higgledy-piggledy, hurly-burly, head over heels, rough and tumble. Dunder and Blixum, swore the Dutchmen, splitter and splutter, cried the Swedes; storm the works, shouted Hardkopping Pieter; fire the mine, roared stout Risingh; tanta-ra-ra-ra! twanged the trumpet of Antony Van Corlear ---until all voice and sound became unintelligible, grunts of pain, yells of fury, and shouts of triumph mingling in one hideous clamor. The earth shook as if struck with a paralytic stroke--trees shrunk aghast and withered at the sight--rocks burrowed in the ground like rabbits--and even Christina Creek turned from its course and ran up a hill in breathless terror!

Long hung the contest doubtful, for though a heavy shower of rain, sent by the "cloud compelling Jove," in some measure cooled their ardor, as doth a bucket of water thrown on a group of fighting mastiffs, yet did they but pause for a moment, to return with tenfold fury to the charge. Just at this juncture a vast and dense column of smoke was seen slowly rolling toward the scene of battle. The combatants paused for a moment, gazing in mute astonishment, until the wind, dispelling the murky cloud, revealed the flaunting banner of Michael Paw, the patroon of Communipaw. The valiant chieftain came fearlessly on at the head of a phalanx of oyster-fed Pavonians and a corps de reserve of the Van Arsdales and Van Bummels, who had remained behind to digest the enormous dinner they had eaten. These now trudged manfully forward, smoking their pipes with outrageous vigor, so as to raise the awful cloud that has been mentioned; but marching exceedingly slow, being short of leg and of great rotundity in the belt.

Lindstrom's Journal 118

K. A. Horner

April 15, 1937

Add to Fort Christina

Peter Lindestrom, Swedish Engineer, who accompanied Johan Rising when the latter succeeded Governor Printz and aided in the building of Christinahamn, or Christina Harbor, the little village that was erected back of Fort Christina, made a map of the site at the time it was beseiged by the Dutch in 1655, upon which the various batteries erected by the Dutch are shown. He says, in his Geographia Americae, explaining the map:

Southwest across Christina Kill, 2 batteries... where six cannon and four companies were located and back of this stood a beautiful large tent...and since there were terribly many mosquitoes assembled at that place, this battery was called Mosquito-burg.

"On the northern side at the entrance to the main street of the town of Christinahamn...was the headquarters, a large beautiful tent in which General Stijfvesandh was lodged...and since there were many rats in this place they called this battery Rat-burg.

"Across the Fish Kill north of Fort Christina..stood two companies...and because there was a great amount of Spanish flies there....they called this fortification Fly-burg."

Fisher, Sydney G. The Quaker Colonies; a Chronicle of the Proprietors of the Delaware. V.8 of the Chronicles of America Series, Allen Johnson, editor.

Peter Minuit.

Wilmington Drawer.
History: Colonial.

" An expedition, which actually reached the Delaware in 1638, was sent out under another Dutch renegade, Peter Minuit, who had been Governor of New Netherland and after being dismissed from office was now leading this Swedish enterprise to occupy part of the territory he had formerly governed for the Dutch.

His two ships sailed up the Delaware and with good judgement landed at the present site of Wilmington. At that point a creek carrying a depth of over fourteen feet for ten miles from its mouth flowed into the Delaware. The Dutch had called this creek Minquas, after the tribe of Indians; the Swedes named it the Christina after their infant Queen; and in modern times it has been corrupted into Christiana. They sailed about two and a half miles through its delta marshes to some rocks which formed a natural wharf and which still stand today at the foot of Sixth Street in Wilmington.

This was the Plymouth Rock of Delaware. Level land, marshes and meadows lay along the Christina, the remains of the delta which the stream had formed in the past. On the edge of the delta or moorland, rocky hills rose, forming the edge of the Piedmont, and out of them from the north flowed a fine large stream, the Brandywine, which fell into the Christina just before it entered the Delaware. Here in the delta their engineer laid out a town, called Christinham, and a fort behind the rocks on which they had landed. A cove in the Christina made a snug anchorage for their ships, out of the way of the tide. They then bought from the Indians all the land from Cape Henlopen to the Falls of the Delaware at Trenton, calling it New Sweden and the Delaware New Swedeland Stream. The people of Delaware have always regarded New Sweden as the beginning of their State, and Peter Minuit, the leader of this Swedish expedition, always stands first on the published lists of their governors.

It is significant of the difficulty of retaining a hold on the Delaware region that the Swedish colonists on the Christina after a year or two regarded themselves as a failure and were on the point of abandoning their enterprise, when a vessel arrived with cattle, agricultural tools, and immigrants. It is significant also that the immigrants, though in a Swedish vessel and under the Swedish government, were Dutchmen. They formed a sort of separate Dutch colony under the Swedish rule and settled near St. George's and Appoquinimink. Apparently the Swedes were not colonizers like the English, since immigrants were hard to obtain.

LOCATION - - Statewide

File S-201

Submitted by K. A. Horner,

Date September 4, 1936.

Notes on Seige of Fort Christina.

Southwest across Christiana Kill, 2 batteries constructed of timber with bastions and gavions above, where six cannon and four companies were located and back of this battery stood a beautiful large tent, from which a wall was constructed up to the northern battery, Rat-burg. And since there were terribly many mosquitoes assembled at that place, this battery was called Mosquito-burg.

On the northern side of Fort Christina at the entrance to the main street of the town of Christinehamb there was a battery made of timber, filled in with earth (and) covered with turf, upon which there were gabions; beyond this was the headquarters, large beautiful tent in which General Stijfvesandh was lodged, where there were six cannon mounted and where 6 companies were stationed. From this battery ran a rampart over to the kitchen, and since there were many rats in this place therefore they called this battery, Rat-burg.

Across the Fish Kill north east of Fort Christina, four guns were planted on top of two small batteries made of timbers, filled in with earth and covered with sod, gabions on top and ramparts on both sides of the battery down to the Fish Kill. At this place stood two caompanies, and because there was a great amount of Spanish flies, there, which came from the reed flats, therefore they called this fortification Fly-burg.

Reference:-Geographia Americas- Peter Lindestrom.

The Swedish Colonial Society - Philadelphia, 1925.

Submitted by Gordon Butler,
Date September 16, 1936.

File W-230

121
inaccurate

Wilmington Early History
Early Swedish Expedition.

First Expedition.

9.D.F. Two ships, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip had been prepared by Fleming for the voyage, and after many delays the expedition left Gothenburg in the beginning of November 1637, Minuit as Commander all the officers, except one, and most of the sailors, soldiers and servants were Dutch.

Second Expedition

9.D.F. They left Holland on board the Ship Freedenburg about the end of July 1640 and arrived to the colony on the second of November, being about twenty families and fifty souls in all. Joost Van Bogaert was their director.

9.D.F. In the letter to the Governor the Royal Government says that "The Company's Ship, which in June, last, returns from New Sweden to Gothenburg, shall again immediately go back there, and we have deemed it advisable to permit the married soldiers and others who from your province as well as from the province of Elfsburg without delay can be gathered, who have had either deserted or otherwise forfeited their lives, to be sent on the ship to New Sweden with their wives and children. For this we present them with their lives as well as give to each soldier a suit and ten dollars in copper.

Third Expedition

40.D. F.

The Ship Charitas left Stockholm for Gothenburg on May 3, 1641 having on board eight hired soldiers, two soldier prisoners and two misdemeanants who were sent for punishment, and twenty-three others, among which were some hired servants for the company, a nobleman and a priest who both took a trip to the colony for adventure, and several other adventurers, besides few regular colonists. But in Gothenburg, where the ship Kalmar Nyckel was prepared for the voyage, were gathered the imprisoned and many other Finns, with their families, who were all born pioneers and colonists. Both of the ships left Gothenburg in July 1641. The officers on the ships and for the trading post were Dutch, with one exception and the majority of the soldiers and some of the sailors were Swedes and Finns. The actual colonists were nearly all Finns, most of whom had their families with them. - 23 Finns.

Fourth Expedition - 1643

5.D. F.

The colonists were required to pay a fare for their voyage, by working for the company in the colony. Later on this fare was fixed to be 16 riksdalers a head, or about equal to 144 American Dollars of present day money. For a man with a big family it took years to work this out, while starting a farm and supporting his family.

As the New Sweden colony had become mostly a Finnish settlement, John Prints who had lived many years in Finland and had belonged to the Finnish Calvary in the wars and therefore was acquainted with the language and manners of Finns, was requested

Page No.3
File W-230

in the spring of 1642 to become the Governor of the Colony on the Delaware.

Letters were also written to several governors asking them to prevail upon people to emigrate with their families to the colony, but few were willing to go and force again has to be employed. (7 of Finnish number listed.)

Fifth Expedition.

47.D.F. But the number of colonists was very small with this fifth expedition, indicating that the game poachers existed largely in the minds of their Swedish brethren.

48.D.F. At the departure of the ship Fama from the colony, the total of male inhabitants in New Sweden was 93, as the adventurers returned as fast as they came and 26 had died from disease within a year. Fama took back four adventurers again to Sweden.

Sixth Expedition. - 1646

51.D.F. A soldier, Peter Olofsson, who had been condemned to death was the only recorded passenger on the Gyllene Haj bound for New Sweden.

Seventh Expedition - 1648

The seventh expedition did not either have many colonists.

52.D.F. Ten or more of the employees of the company and one freeman returned with the vessel to Sweden, leaving the total of male inhabitants to 83, besides the women and children.

Page No.4
File W-230

Eighth Expedition

.D.F.

On July 3, 1649 the Kattan set sail for the colony. She had on board more than 70 colonists of which 2 came from Finland as punishment for shooting elks. The ship had besides twenty-four sailors and six officers, some of the latter to remain in the colony.

Reference;- The Delaware Pinns,
Author - E. G. Louhi,
Publisher - The Humanity Press,
New York - 1925
pp.331

Earl of Wilmington Gave City Its Name



This portrait of the Earl of Wilmington now hangs in the Public Library. It is a copy of the one painted about 1703 by Sir Godfrey Kneller, showing the earl wearing the Star of the Garter.

Kettle, Trinkets Original Price Paid for Wilmington

**Swedes Made Deal With Indians Soon After Landing In
1638; City Was Village of 33 Houses in 1736;
Officially Designated as City in 1832**

A copper kettle and few trinkets . . .

This was the original price paid for Wilmington.

It was paid almost three centuries ago. The Indians sold it. The Swedes bought it . . . and the destiny of Wilmington as the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware River valley began in 1638.

Three hundred years ago next spring, an expedition of weary, ship-tired Swedes prepared to carve a home out of the beautiful wilderness they found on the Minquas River.

The settlers had crossed the inclement ocean in two small boats, the Key of Kalmar and the Griffin.

They left behind their homes in Sweden, spurred on by the spirit of conquest and exploration, to give Sweden a place in the colonial sun.

Poking the prows of their ships up the Delaware Bay, the Swedes paused for a while near the present site of Lewes but the Delaware lowlands and marshes did not invite permanent settlement.

Their ships went farther north. Four miles above the point where now is situated New Castle, they found the land on the left curving away towards the west and northwest, forming a cove about three miles long. Beyond the cove rose indescribably beautiful country, distant hills crowned with forests and cool green meadows fading into the silvery expanse of the river.

River Called Christina

It was spring and it must have been a glorious sight to those tired Europeans, homesick, ill at ease perhaps, and certainly famished for the joys of stretching feet on land.

There, the Swedes landed 18 years after the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth. They landed on the rocks of a sluggish river that emptied into the greater body of water. The smaller river they called Christina, after their young queen in the homeland.

Here, they built their fort and named it also in honor of their queen. The village they laid out was called Christinaham.

They built a church, Crane Hook. Later they built another and dedicated it in 1699. That second building today is standing. It is Old Swedes Church, a monument to the God-fearing Swedes.

But the Swedes were not to live long unnoticed in this land. The hardy Dutch appeared and claimed the territory and they grabbed what they claimed. To tint their grabbing with a touch of legality, the Dutch also "bought" the land from the Indians, as the Swedes had done.

The Swedish price was a copper kettle and a few trinkets.

The Dutch price was a dozen coats a dozen kettles, a dozen adzes, two dozen knives, lead, gun, and powder.

The Hollanders' stronghold was at what is now New Castle. But soon they, too, were assailed. The Swedes rallied and grabbed back their original booty.

In 1644, the Dutch recuperated and once again the site of Wilmington was part of New Netherland.

The English Appear

But not even the Dutch were to be here long. England's colonial sun commenced to shine more directly on America. The strong arm of the English stretched out to the Delaware River country and banished Dutch rule.

January 23, E. E. Feb. 27, 1937

postoffice at Ninth and Shipley Streets was opened. Now the city's third federal building is being prepared for occupation at Eleventh and Market Streets.

Following the Civil War, Wilmington really started to grow. It was part of the national pulse, the rise of mechanized industry. Wilmington was then really coming of age. It became the county seat. Its schools expanded. The leather factories, carriage factories, machine and tool shops, and shipyards, were known throughout the country.

When the World War came, Wilmington was in the swim of national expansion. Shipbuilding industries were stimulated beyond common notions. Well established companies grew to almost fabulous size. New areas were opened. Marshes became factory sites. Home building boomed.

After the war came reconstruction and settling. The fly-by-night was weeded out. The strong, substantial

and dependable remained

New schools came, under stimulation of Pierre S. duPont. The fire department shed its volunteer service and became an efficient paid organization. The old Town Hall gave way to a magnificent Public Building. The old familiar green stone court house where Rodney Square is now, also disappeared.

The DuPont Building expanded. The Delaware Trust and Industrial Trust Buildings serrated the skyline. The dingy library at Eighth and Market Streets moved into a finer, more comfortable and better equipped building at Tenth and Market Streets.

The Marine Terminal, the dream of the fathers of 1832, became a reality . . . everywhere was the change . . . new bridges . . . new transportation services . . . new homes, new industries . . . growth . . . growth . . . growth and a victory over the economic depression.

Wilmington still marches on!

Submitted by Gordon Butler,

File W-230

Date September 21, 1936

Wilmington Early History
Early Swedish Expedition.

127
Inaccurate
Reference

First Expedition 1637 -1639

A number of soldiers sent out to occupy the land were also Swedes and Mans Nilsson Kling went out as Commander of these soldiers.

p. 112 Vol 1. A. J. - S.S.O.D.
24 - 25 men. (Taken from list)
P. 699 Vol. 2 A. J. - S.S.O.D.

29.D.F. Two ships, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip had been prepared by Fleming for the voyage, and after many delays the expedition left Gothenburg in the beginning of November 1637, Minuit as Commander all the officers, except one, and most of the sailors, soldiers and servants were Dutch.

Second Expedition 1639 - 1640

Several people returned from the Colony on this ship.

P. 130. Vol. 1. A. J. - S. S.O.D.

34. D.F. They left Holland on board the Ship Freedenburg about the end of July 1640 and arrived to the colony on the second of November, being about twenty families and fifty souls in all. Joost Van Bogaert was their director.

32.D.F. In the letter to the Governor the Royal Government says that "The Company's Ship, which in June, last, returns from New Sweden to Gothenburg, shall again immediately go back there, and we have deemed it advisable to permit the married soldiers and others who from your province as well as from the province of Elfsborg without delay can be gathered, who have had either deserted or otherwise forfeited their lives, to be sent on the ship to New Sweden with their wives and children. For this we present them with their lives as well as give to each soldier a suit and ten dollars in copper.

Third Expedition 1640-1641

A ship carrying 25 cannon had been prepared and about 50 colonists were to be sent over.

p. 143 Vol. 1. A.J. - S.S.O.D.

O.D.F. The Ship Charitas left Stockholm for Gothenburg on May 3, 1641 having on board eight hired soldiers, two soldier prisoners and two misdemeanants who were sent for punishment, and twenty-three others, among which were some hired servants for the company, a nobleman and a priest who both took a trip to the colony for adventure, and several other adventurers, besides few regular colonists. But in Gothenburg, where the ship Kalmar Nyckel was prepared for the voyage, were gathered the imprisoned and many other Finns, with their families, who were all born pioneers and colonists. Both of the ships left Gothenburg in July 1641. The officers on the ships and for the trading post were Dutch, with one exception and the majority of the soldiers and some of the sailors were Swedes and Finns. The actual colonists were nearly all Finns, most of whom had their families with them. - 23 Finns.

Fourth Expedition 1641 - 1642

But the Finns, living far from civilization, cared little for law and order and paid no attention to any of these ordinances. During the thirty years' war large numbers left their native country to escape conscription, and went to Sweden, where they continued the practice of their predecessors. They burned the forest shot the elks for their hide only, allowing the bodies to lie and rot, and committed other crimes against existing laws.

P. 147 & 48. Vol. 1. A.J. - S.S.O.D.

May 3, 1641, she left Stockholm on her way to Gothenburg with thirty-five souls on board, destined for New Sweden.

P. 151 Vol. 1. A. J. - S.S.O.D.

Two of the colonists and some cattle died on the journey and when the expedition arrived at Fort Christina, Nov. 7, the people and animals were very weak.

P. 155 Vol. 1 A.J. - S.S.O.D.

P.45.D.F. The colonists were required to pay a fare for their voyage, by working for the company in the colony. Later on this fare was fixed to be 16 riksdalers a head, or about equal to 144 American Dollars of present day money. For a man with a big family it took years to work this out, while starting a farm and supporting his family.

As the New Sweden colony had become mostly a Finnish settlement, John Printz who had lived many years in Finland and had belonged to the Finnish Calvary in the wars and therefore was acquainted with the language and manners of Finns, was requested in the spring of 1642 to become the Governor of the Colony on the Delaware.

Letters were also written to several governors asking them to prevail upon people to emigrate with their families to the colony, but few were willing to go and force again has to be employed. (7 of Finnish number listed.)

Fifth Expedition 1642 - 1643

A large number of Dutch soldiers and servants had been employed before 1642. This was now to be avoided and the Dutch soldiers in the colony were to be supplanted by Swedes as far as possible, since it was found that quarrels and dissensions arose among the people.

P. 238 Vol. 1. A. J. - S.S.O.D.

The ships were prepared for return voyage in the spring . . . with some returning people and a large cargo of beaver and otter skins.

P. 241. Vol. 1. A.J. -S.S.O.D.

47.D.F. But the number of colonists was very small with this fifth expedition, indicating that the game poachers existed largely in the minds of their Swedish brethern.

48.D.F. At the departure of the ship Fama from the colony, the total of male inhabitants in New Sweden was 93, as the adventurers returned as fast as they came and 26 had died from disease within a year. Fama took back four adventurers again to Sweden.

Sixth Expedition 1643--1644

It is likely that a few more were on the ship, but the number must have been very small, for only 120 men are given in Governor Printz's list in June, 1644.

P. 243 Vol. 1. A.J. - S.S.O.D.

(Note Johnson names 3 colonists only.)

Total number of male inhabitants in 1644 - 105.

P. 710 Vol. 2. A.J. - S.S.O.D.

51.D.F. A soldier, Perer Olofsson, who had been condemned to death was the only recorded passenger on the Gyllene Haj bound for New Sweden.

Seventh Expedition 1646 - 1647

No special efforts seem to have been made by the Government to obtain colonists for this journey.

P. 256 Vol. 1. A.J. -- S.S.O.D.

52.D.F. The seventh expedition did not either have many colonists.

Ten or more of the employees of the company and one freeman returned with the vessel to Sweden, leaving the total of male inhabitants to 83, besides the women and children.

Eighth Expedition 1647 - 1648

It seems that Papegoja was instructed to collect colonists and hire servants and soldiers, for in Sept. the Chancellor requested

Governor Niles Anderson to aid him in securing some "men and women" for the journey, but little was done in the matter, for but few colonists came here on this expedition.

P.259 Vol 1. A.J. - S.S.O.D.

None (except Rev. Lock) are mentioned in the lists of 1648 as coming on this ship, and those who arrived had perhaps been in the colony before.

P.260 Vol. 1. A.J. - S.S.O.D.

S.D.P. On July 3, 1649 the Kattan set sail for the colony, She had on board more than 70 colonists of which 2 came from Finland as punishment for shooting elks. The ship had besides twenty-four sailors and six officers, some of the latter to remain in the colony.

Reference:- The Delaware Finns,
Author - E. G. Louhi,
Publisher - The Humanity Press,
New York - 1925
pp. 331

Ninth Expedition - 1649

While the question of obtaining colonists no longer was a problem as the Finns in Sweden were beseeching the government to be taken to the colony. Several people acquainted with the colony were questioned in the council meeting, and the general complaint was that since Admiral Fleming's death there had not been anyone to manage the company's business. It was known, however, that the land supported the people without help from Sweden, but the Dutch and English were getting all the peltry from the Indians, as the Swedish traders in the colony did not have merchandise.

P. 57

Many Finns had from time to time applied to be taken to the Delaware Colony, so Sven Schute was instructed on August 25, 1653 to hire fifty soldiers and to collect two hundred and fifty colonists. Schute was sent to the Finnish territories, first he

was to go to Westmanland sending the people from there to Stockholm, from there he was to proceed to Vermland and Dal as hundreds of Finns in these territories were awaiting opportunity to get passage to America. ---- The Orn left Stockholm on October 8, 1653, having on board sixteen hired men and twelve young boys sent from an institute in Stockholm. In Gothenburg had gathered more than 350 people from the firmarks of Vermland and Dal, who had sold their properties at any price in the hope that they found room in the ship to go over to America.

p.58

The Colonist at Gothenburg had been waiting eleven weeks for the ship to sail and on February 2, the Orn set sail alone, but about one hundred colonists had to be left behind for lack of room in the ship. On March 20, they arrived to the Canary Islands, having had a stormy voyage and the passengers as well as the crew were sick, many having died on the voyage and been thrown overboard. The refreshments on the island revived the people and the majority recuperated from their sickness, but many died in the harbor.

p.59

On April 10th one hundred and thirty persons were sick with dysentary and intermittent fever, some jumping into the ocean. On May 22, the ship was anchored in the harbor of Christina and the new arrivals were at once distributed to the houses of the old settlers, who used all means they had at their disposal to revive the sick people, but many still died. Many of the old settlers likewise became infected with the sickness and the epidemic spread to the Indians, who believed that evil spirit had arrived in the ship and offered their medicine men to chase it out.

The population of the colony greatly increased on the arrival of the Orn, as it had dwindled to seventy people in all.

P. 61 & 62

More than 70 colonists, including many women seem to have been secured. (P.268 Vol. 1.A.J. - S.S.O.D.)

Those seventy people, that were in New Sweden on the arrival of the Orm, were mostly Finns. About 350 people, nearly all Finns, were on the Orm as the Ship set sail from Gothenburg, almost a hundred died during the voyage and in the colony after their arrival. On the middle of July 1654, the population was 370 people, including some Hollanders of the twenty-six families that had settled around the Dutch Fort which was captured on the arrival of Orm, twenty-two of whom became Swedish Citizens, although they all later moved to New Amsterdam. Besides there were few English families, who were included in the total population.

The Ship Orm left the Colony on July 15, ^{1654,} with a cargo of tobacco, arriving to Gothenburg on Sept. 24th. Some old people returned with the ship to Sweden.

p. 62

Tenth Expedition 1654 -(Orm)

The Gyllene Haj had got repaired in Gothenburg and set sail for the colony on April 15, 1654, having on board some of the Finnish families who could not get room on the Orm.... The colonists were introduced by Stuyvesant to settle in New Netherland and many of them did so, as a number of Finns were already living there.

p. 63.

Altho the Finnish Colonists' letters to their families and friends in Sweden were full of praise of the Country where they were settled and where they could make their living with the utmost ease, everything in the colony was not ideal. But in comparison of massacres and hiding in the woods for their lives in cold and hunger in Sweden, they were ready to forget their hardships here when they wrote to their people.

p. 65.

Twelve children (boys) from the Bilding College of the City of Stockholm were also sent to New Sweden on these ships.

p. 472 Vol. 2 A.J. - S.S.O.D.

A great many colonists went over with this expedition, but we are unable to state the exact number nor their names for the roll-lists has been lost. On the Thirtieth of Dec. Rising wrote that "the people were about 260 without the sailors".... additional arrivals swelled the number to 350 or more.

p. 482 Vol. 2 A.J. - S.S.O.D.

Eleventh Expedition - 1654 -(Haj.)

The Haj, having finally been made ready, left Stockholm on Nov. 23, with 41 persons (including the sailors) and a good supply of provisions.

p. 480 Vol. 2 A.J. - S.S.O.D.

19 colonists. Note these colonists were probably transferred to the Orm. There were probably about 200 colonists on the Haj as many applicants had been received for passage.

Twelfth Expedition 1655--1656

Toward the end of October the cargo was all on board, but a larger stock of provisions was necessary than at first estimated on account of the increased number of emigrants, and the most desirable colonists to the number of 85 were selected from the whole (one hundred and ten being originally admitted, but in accordance with the warning of Kramer the number was reduced). "A hundred persons or more were left behind" and "it is a pity and shame that they cannot all go along," writes Papegoja.

p. 633 Vol. 2 A.J. - S.S.O.D.

Some changes were made and the list was increased to 110 people (12 of these being old settlers making 130 souls on the

ship including the sailors. The majority were "Swedish Finns"

p. 634 Vol. 2

Amandus Johnson
The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware
Phil. 1911. 2 Vols.
Swedish Colonial Society.

LOCATION - - Wilmington

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date July 17, 1936.

Reference
1 c in Sweden
Folder

BUSY, HAPPY SWEDES.

Christen

"We are almost exclusively farmers who plant and sow, wrote Charles Springer in behalf of the colonists, - to the postmaster at Gothenberg in 1693. He informed the Home Government that "we live according to old Swedish customs in meat and drink." ; ; , This country is very rich and fertile in growing all kinds of grain. So, God be praised, it bears richly and abundantly whatever we sow or plant in it, so that we have plentifully support in meat and drink.

We have every year sent out through the river to most parts of adjacent Islands flour, grain, bread and beer. There is here a great abundance of all kinds of wild animals, birds and fish. "Our wives and daughters," Springer wrote, "busy themselves much in spinning both wool and flax many also weave."

We have great amity with the Indians who have not done us any harm for many years. Mr. Springer, evidently secretary for a number of the settlers, urged the shipment of some books - largely for church services - by the next craft sailing from Sweden to New Sweden.

REFERENCES: - - History of New Sweden,
Israel Acrelius, (1 Vol. pp. 186)
Harberg and Hasselberg, Stockholm 1759.

Location - Wilmington, Del.

Submitted by - Kenneth A. Berner

Date - March 12, 1936

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

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

The expedition consisted of two ships, the "Salmar Nyckel" and "Griffen" and was under command of Peter Minuit, who from 1624 to 1632 had been governor of New Netherlands, the territory in America claimed by the Dutch. Minuit had fallen into disfavor with the directors of the Dutch West India Company, under whom the post of New Amsterdam (now New York City) had been established and, four years later, had transferred his services to Sweden.

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

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

Here they ^{held} religious services, dispensed rude justice, and nearby began tilling the soil, so that the first permanent Swedish colonists, and therefore, the first permanent settlement in the Delaware River Valley were begun on the site now covered by the city of Wilmington.

In 1651 the Dutch who from their New Amsterdam colony had looked upon the Swedes as intruders and who had fought them economically, erected a small fort or outpost at Fort Casimir (New Castle). Johan Casson Hibbingh, then governor, captured the fort on Trinity Sunday, May 21, 1664, which brought upon the Swedes the wrath of the Dutch, who a year later recaptured Fort Casimir, also Fort Christina, which they named Fort Altena. New Sweden, as a sovereign power in the Delaware valley, disappeared.

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

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

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

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

A portion of Stallcop's land was sold and later came in possession of Charles Pickering, and later in possession of the congregation of Old Swedes Church, who in 1736, appointed

Charles Springer trustee. He with Jacob Stilly and Caret Garrison, and their successors, were granted power to "lease and demise for a term of years or forever, in small lots, any part of said church lands."

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

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

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

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

A year passed and Elizabeth Shipley, who was herself a preacher in the Society of Friends, received a Divine call to go and preach at a meeting of the Society of Friends held in the peninsula that lies between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. It was in the springtime, when the meadows were clad with bright leaves unfolding timidly in the generous warmth of the sun, when the birds sang, the cocks crowed, the air was burdened with the sweetness of the apple blossoms, among which the bees swarmed with drowsy hum. After a journey of sixteen or eighteen miles over the old King's Highway, she came to a roaring stream that cut through tree-covered highlands, and came raging and rushing down over great rocks and boulders. As she hesitated on the bank before entering the rough-looking ford, marked at each end by a sapling pole to which a red flag was fastened, the whole scene seemed strangely familiar to her. After she had crossed the stream she began ascending a hill up which the highway led. At the top of the hill she came to a clearing in the forest where an old Swede had built a hut and begun to till the soil. "Here the woods unfolded like a curtain and beneath her she saw the hill melt

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

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

Shortly after his arrival, William Shipley erected at his own expense a market house in the bed of Fourth Street, at Market. This was an economic advantage to those living in that vicinity, which met with the disapproval of those who had planned to have the market house erected at Second and Market Streets. The resultant controversy which lasted for four years finally led to the request on the part of the inhabitants for a Borough Charter and a change of name for the community. The petition was granted by a Governor of Pennsylvania, ^{Nov. 16, 1739} which gave permission to erect another market house at Second Street, and provided for two market days, one to be held on Wednesdays and the other on Saturdays. The governor gave the name of the

borough Wilmington, in honor of the Earl of ^{who} Wilmington, for a short period was prime minister of England.

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

Under the charter, which granted the burgesses authority to "arrest and punish rioters and other disorderly persons breaking the peace," it is interesting to note that the first ordinance passed provided for the purchase of land and the erection of a jail in which to commit offenders, "for the erection of stocks, a whipping-post and cage,". The jail house was erected on the northwest side of Market Street a few doors above Third Street. In front of the "cage" at the outer edge of the pavement, stood the stocks, "in which was often seen some unlucky vagabond, who thus paid the penalty of his transgressions." The penalty consisted not only of public exposure, and the cramped position of his legs and arms, but also in the gratuitous infliction of divers punishments not mentioned in the statute. They were inflicted by the rude spectators of his confinement, of their own mere motion and desire to aggravate the miseries of the culprit. He was often covered with the contents of rotten eggs and other offensive materials, designed to cause him to keep out of the fangs of a law which exposed him to such odious infliction. In addition to such punishments he was sometimes "drummed out of town."

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

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

In the year 1740 William Shipley, David Ferris, Joshua Way, Griffith Minshall and others built the first vessel for foreign trade that ever belonged to this port. It was a brig and named "The Wilmington." From this time until after the Revolutionary War little is related regarding the little community.

LOCATION - Wilmington

Submitted by - Gordon Butler,

Date - January 6, 1938.

Early Settlement

(D) Wilmington was founded by Peter Minuit, ~~April 8, 1638~~. His two ships were anchored below what is now the 3rd Street Bridge.

(B) Minuit's first work was to build a fort which he called Christina. The first two buildings erected here were a store house for the protection of goods and chattles, and a church. They were built inside the fort which was constructed of logs driven end first into the ground, around this fort were built the homes of the people, forming the first Village Christianham.

(F) 24 men were in this colony.

The first industry was carried on by the Indians in the manufacture and sale or barter of arrowheads and tomahawks. (B) In 1642 two Dutch families with their workmen, who followed the business of ship carpenters, boat builders and coopers were engaged in building yachts, a kind of fast sailing trading vessel on Coopers Island now called Cherrys Island swamp land which was the center of industrial activity at that time and (D) in 1643 they were also making kegs and hogsheds. In all probability the hogsheds were

for tobacco and salting down meat, to be shipped to nearby ports and the kegs for wild grape wine and wild persimmon beer.

(F) In 1642 there was a windmill used for grinding grain. This is the first record of any mill operating here and in (D) 1644 Anderson Christiansson Dryer was a miller at Christina.

(A) In 1655 the fort was taken by the Dutch and held until 1664 when the English dispossessed them.

(C) In 1658 a mill was erected by the Jos. Andriessen & Co. on Shellpot Creek. This is the first record of a mill north of the Christina and (D) in 1662 a horse mill for grinding corn was brought over by Director Aldrichs, together with other mills and buhr stones.

(D) In 1663, there were 80 sheep and many large herds of cattle (average about 50 to a herd) including milk cows which were fed bran and other mill ground food stuff. The Swedes tanned their own leather and spun hemp, flax and wool for cloth. They also made their own boots and shoes when they wore any.

(D) Before 1679 there were three grist mills operating on Shellpot Creek. Later another mill was built on the south side of Brandywine. In 1683 tobacco was a common medium of exchange.

(D) About 1690 whale fishery was prosperous, one company would take several hundred barrels of oil.

(D) Iron Hill and Chestnut Hill were known to contain iron ore as early as 1661 as shown by official records.

(D) Sir Wm. Weith had an iron works here before 1730 probably built between 1717 and 1726, included furnace and forge on Christina Creek. Were other furnaces after 1730 cast iron plate cast locally, in the gable of the old Baptist Church near Iron Hill bears date of 1746 and in 1725 a forge and furnace was built and operated about ten years then abandoned.

(A) The first town plan was laid out by Thomas Willing. In c. 1731, who offered lots for sale in a plot located at the foot of Market Street along the Christine River, from Front Street to Second Street. The first house on this plot was built of brick, at the corner of Market and Front Street in 1732 bearing the initials I.W.S. cut in a marble tablet. The house was occupied as a tavern until 1825, when, it was replaced by a larger building. The first farmer's market was built on Second Street, this section became known as Willingtown and later referred to as downtown.

(A) In 1735, William Shipley, A quaker, purchased several tracts of land from Justis and Thomas Willing, the larger being one embraced by the present streets of Second and Fourth, and Market and West. At the corner of Fourth and Shipley he built a beautiful mansion and on Fourth Street near Market he built also a farmers' market, this section became known as uptown. The subdivisions were incorpora-

ted into a borough in 1739 and was named Wilmington.

(H) The streets were enlarged in 1740, by adding eight feet to the original width on each side and in 1832 the town was granted a charter by the legislature.

(E) As early as 1729 there were two small mills operating on the Brandywine on land later owned by Oliver Canby, who built a larger mill in 1742. These were the first of eight mills that operated so many years on the Brandywine. He died in 1755 and Thomas Shipley came into possession of the mills. In 1762 he built a still larger one. All these mills were located on the south side of the stream.

(D) Wm. Shipley started the odd combination of a shipyard and a brewery in 1736.

(D) The Brig "Wilmington" was the first local built vessel sailing in foreign trade built in 1740, owned by Wm. Shipley and others. This was an important step in the shipbuilding industry. She sailed in 1741 for Jamaica with a cargo of flour, ship bread, white and black oak staves, butter and beef in barrels. She returned within a year with tropical products and in 1759, Thomas Willing, built the first sloop packet that ran between this port and Philadelphia.

(D) Francis Robinson in 1732 engaged in tanning buckskins and chamois. His grandson, Wm. Robinson, was the first person to manufacture moroccas in 1823. He had a plant with 10 to 12 employes until 1830.

(5)

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(E) Joseph Tatnall built the first mill on the north side of the Brandywine by 1764, there were four mills on each bank.

(E) After the death of Tatnall, his son-in-law Thomas Lee, operated the company mills remaining in the family and operating continuously up to 1920, when a fire destroyed their mill,

at the time of the British invasion, General Washington ordered upper mill stones removed and hid in Chester County, Pa. - order still exists. These mills were an important factor in furnishing flour to the American Army during the Revolutionary War. They were the most important mills in the colonies at that time and for many years was the milling center of the United States.

Washington visited them often.

(D) The old barley mill on the south side of the Brandywine was used for cleaning barley for about 20 years. Then used as a printing and dying plant for calico by Jordan until 1790 and taken over by A. H. Rowan and Wm. Alfred. Later turned into a cotton mill and later into a cording mill, then spindles were made there.

(D) Many cooper shops making barrels in the early days for the flour mill(B) which had attracted marked attention in 1749 (D) also barrels for whale oil, pork, beef and flaxseed and kegs for powder. James Smith for 40 years made barrels for Joseph Tatnall, the leading Brandywine miller.

(B) The first mill which was built within the town limits was near the old Ford road now Adams Street, it was erected by Timothy Stidham. Afterwards it was run by Oliver Canby, son of Thomas Canby, who settled here in 1740. Samuel Canby succeeded his father, Oliver, in the mill business and he in turn was followed by his son, James.

(D) The first Pottery was established in 1760 by Matthew Crips. They made cups and saucers and sold them throughout Delaware and New Jersey.

(D) Quite a large shipping business was carried on between Wilmington and the West Indies which was interrupted by the Revolutionary War. Shortly after business was resumed. Corn meal was an important item and due to the rotting in transit, Wilmington mills developed kiln drying of corn.

(B) Wilmington grew very slowly. Up to this period, their anticipation of future development was to expand their export business especially their mill products and develop their shipbuilding and cooperage industries.

It should be recalled that a large percentage of the emigrants that settled here were bound by contract to work usually one year for their passage and a good many of them would run away the first opportunity.

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- B. Author J. Travers Jones, (City Editor of Every Evening Journal) "Every Evening History of Wil." (Copyright F. T. Smiley & Co.) Press of Moss Engraving Co. New York, N. Y. 1894. 279 p p.
- C. Editor John C. Harkness, "Harkness Magazine" Published by John C. Harkness, Wil. Del. 18 editions, September 1872 to May 1888. Special Industrial number #19 - 1871. Complete in book 1141 p p - 2 parts.
- D.- Author J. Thomas Scharf A. M. L.L.D. History of Del. (Copyright by L. J. Richards & Co. Phila. Pa.) Press of Jas. B. Rodgers printing Co. Phila. Pa. 1888. Two vol. 1358 p p.
- E. Author Henry C. Conrad "History of the State of Del." (Copyright by Henry C. Conrad, Wil. Del.) Press of Wichersham Co. printers, Lancaster, Pa. of 1908. three vol. 1179 p p.
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State *Draw* 153
Folder: *History:*

See J. J. about later extracts, better than this

Gerrit Van Sweeringen's Account of the settling of the Dutch
and Swedes at the Delaware.

(Maryland, I.B.C. 35)

The Relation of M^r Garrett Van Sweeringen of the
City of St^t Maries concerning his knowledge
of the seateing of Delaware Bay and River to
y^e Southward of the 40th Degree Northern
latitude by the Dutch and Sweedes (Viz^t)

In the yeare 1648. the Dutch haveing had bad successe in
the North River from whence they had bin driven by the New England
men, they resolved to looke towards the South, and haveing in-
formation of that River otherwayes called Delaware, formerly
bought by one Manheer Godin from the Indians, a Sloop was fitted
out with some cargoe to trade with the said Indians of that river.
They landed first at a place called by the Indians Siconescinque
where they found out a Creeke navigable for a sloop, as I was
informed by those that had been acquainted with these men that
landed there.

These men or traders came ashoare with their goods, where
they traded with the Indians & frequenting soe much with ye Indian
women, 'till they gott the country dutyes, otherwise called the
pox, and soe they named the place Whore-Kill, that is in England
the Whores Creek. Whereupon they returned home and ventured againe
a second time with a considerable Cargoe; but remembring (as I
suppose) how they had been served at the Whore-kill, they went
some ten or twelve mile higher, where they landed againe & traded
with the Indians, trusting ye Indians to come into their stores
ashoare, and likewise aboard of their sloop drinking and de-

bauching with the Indians till they were all at last barbarously murdered, and soe that place was christined with their blood and to this day called the Murderers-kill that is Murders Creeke.

About the yeare 1650, as neere as I can guesse they made a thir voyage into the river of Delaware, and there cast Anchor at a point neere the mouth of Delaware river called Bomtges hooke, but mislikeing that place they went higher up and cast anchor at the sand point now called Newcastle; there they perceived some foure or five English families were seated about nine miles lower on the East side of the River called Elsingburgh, which English men were supposed to come from Maryland or Virginia.

There is noe doubt but the Dutch much mislikeing this, they resolved to goe up the River as high as they could, and there landed, setting up a post with the marke of the West India Company in this manner W by which marke they claime their title to that river. Whereupon by comand from the Generall of the Manadoes, they built a fort on the sand point where they first landed after their mishap in the Bay; this fort being soe built for their security against the Indians and Christians, one Andrew Hudde being the cheife man, some times Secretary, sometimes Commandant, and at other times nothing at all, being according to behaviour turn'd out and put in againe, according to pleasure; which p^rerson I knew very well, and I have heard him and others discourse of what had happened and past in his time.

In this manner they lived a long time without any governm^t till neere the yeare 1652. when the Sweedes did fitt out a fly boate with considerable cargoe, with another small vessel filled with freemen and soldiers, wth a Governo^r called Manheer Prince and Younker Papagy, besides a factor Henric Heugan and Jacob

Swanson, who were to trade with the Indians.

Upon their arriveall in Delaware they askt leave of the Dutch to refresh themselves with water to which the Dutch yeilded not imagining they had any designe upon that place; but the Sweedes haveing got ashore made ye Dutch quitt their possessions and were turned to their shift, as before. And then the Sweedes with a (s) little right as the Dutch had done before, possest themselves of that River; they haveing thus lost the South River as they had afore lost the North River, the West India Company being very poore and noe wayes able to encounter the Sweedes, they resolved upon a protest, which they made ag^t the Sweede for dispossesseing them of their possessions; which the Sweede little regarded.

After this the Company stated their case to the citty of Amsterdam; the Citty being full of money doth resolve to assist the said Company in order to restore them to their former possessions.

In the yeare 1654 the Citty of Amsterdam did cause a ship to be fitted out with thirty six greate gunns, being called the Waegh, and manned accordingly, whereof was comander Cap^t Koning, which said Cap^t and other officers I knew very well, and had relation of some of them what was past at that time. The Sweedes in the meane time, being interlopers, keepe a trade with the Indians: the Governo^r going to Sweedland left his son in law Papagij the government, and the fort at the Sandpoint which they took from the Dutch being very inconsiderable, was enlarged by them and called Cassimeirs, and another fort builded five mile higher was called Christina.

The head of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland was not att that time seated, and soe the Marylanders did not much take notice either of the Sweedes or Dutch, they looking upon them both to be

onely traders and soe here to day and gone tomorrow; there being noe navigacon or road betwixt the head of the Bay and Delaware, by which meanes the Marylanders could be informed of the proceedings of the Dutch and Sweedes, Afterwards the Company repossesst themselves with the assistance of that frigatt called the Waegh, which ye Citty of Amsterdam had sent to that purpose.

In the meane time arrived a ship from Sweedland, and heareing the Dutch had got their former possessions, tooke a greate many Indians on board their ship upon the decke in sight of the Dutch, and soe without any hindrance past by the fort Casimer of which the Dutch had possession and from whence they might have sunck the Sweedes ship, but that they were afraid of killing the Indians then on board, in that manner; for both the Nations as well Sweedes as Ditch did strive on both sides to please and not to disoblige the Indians, in consideracon of the trade upon which they wholly depended.

The Sweeds ship sailed up as high as Tenacum hideing themselves in a creeke, therefore is called to this day the Schuyl-kill in English Hideing Creeke. The Sweedes yeilded themselves up, most of their Officers went home except their Cap^t and Lieuten^t Henryc Heugen their factor and Heer Lawrence their priest; all which persons I knew very well & have severall times a full relation of what was done in those dayes; the soldiers remaineing in the country as inhabitants amongst the Dutch who together made a considerable number, & soe became as it were a Colony or a Comon Wealth.

The Company being soe indebted to the Citty of Amsterdam as to the setting out of a man of warr in reduceing the South River into their possession againe, they were resolved to make sale of their

said title unto the said Citty, which likewise was required from the otherside; see both parties were soon agreed, the Company being rid of their uncertain title did not onely pay their debt, but is supposed had money to boote.

In fine the Citty of Amsterdam were made Lords and Patrons of that Colony in Delaware River, whereof I myselfe have had a p^rusal of some papers concerning those matters.

A Ship called the Prince Maurice was provided to goe to the said Colony, a Governo^r and Councell appointed, and a Company of soldiers consisting of about sixty men put aboard, and I myselfe was made Supra Cargoe over the said ship and goods, there being to the number of one hundred and eighty souls aboard the said ship, sailed out of the Texell the 25th day of December 1656; The said passengers comeing into Delaware in a ship called the Beaver, hired at New Yorke, after the ship Prince Maurice was lost. This was the 25th day of April 1657. when we toke possession of the fort now called Newcastle, and the soldiers of the West India Company quitted the same.

After this Cap^t Criger being comanded to goe for Maryland, the called by us Virginia, upon the Isle of Kent the 11th day of September 1657. he returned againe and reported that the English Governor was p^rparing to come over to Delaware. Whereupon good watch was kept and the fort putt into repaire and likewise the freemen of the towne kept to their duty. The English desisting from their designe wee had no repulse from that side.

The Governo^r and Ministers of State in Maryland comeing to understand that the Dutch and Sweedes encreased in Delaware, that they began to make Settlem^t there, and that in time it would be a

hard matter to remove them or make them sensible that they were within the p^rcinets of Maryland, which had not been much regarded before by the Officers of Maryland; for in my opinion, the considered the Dutch and Sweedes onely as traders, not haveing any settled governm^t or Governo^r before.

Now in the yeare 1659 deputyes were sent from Maryland to the town of New Amstell, I myselfe being then one of the Councell and Comissary Generall for the Citty of Amsterdam in that place. The Deputyes were Coll: Nathaniell Uty, Maj^r Samuell Goldsmith and M^r George Uty, with severall persons of note in Maryland Jacob Young being then Interpreter. Coll: Uty then produced his letters of credence, signed (Josias Fendall) and the protest was read and signed (Phillip Calvert) wherein was sett forth (soe neere as I can remember) the injury done to the Lord Baltemore by their unlawfull and forcible possession kept by them of those partes in his Lo^{ps} Province; and that his Lo^p against his will should be forct to use the extremety of armes, if that parte of his Countrey was not delivered up; some copyes of records tending to his Lo^{ps} purpose were produced; what they were I cannow not remember. Whereupon the said Deputyes were dismiss, and upon the same day a remor went all the towne over, that Major Goldsmith at a house of Margarett Davies a Scotch woman did publicquely proclaim to our inhabitants, att least to those that were there p^rsent, that all land thenceforth was to be taken up under a Patent from my L^d Baltemore, and the land taken up already was to be held under him by the same authority: which was very ill taken by us and wee resolved to stopp those hott proceedings; but upon considerations and other reasons wee past it by for that time.

Againe in the yeare 1660 did appeare att Amsterdam in Holland, Cap^t James Neale, being a person deputed from the Lord Baltimore, protesting in the name of Caecilius Baron of Baltimore in a manner and forme as afore the Deputyes had done att Delaware.

The Company was sitting then in the new West India House in Amsterdam, where the said James Neale did appeare and protest by Notariall act, of the wrong done to his Lordship by their ministers of State in America, by usurgeing and unlawfully possesseing a considerable part of his province of Maryland, especially that part which was called by the name of Delaware Bay, demanding not onely the restouracon of the said territoryes soe unjustly deteined with satisfaction also for the injury his Lo^p hath susteined thereby. The West India Company returnes a proud answer sayeing they possessee the same by generall octeroy granted to them by the States of Holland, that they were resolved by vertue of the same octeroy to defend their just and lawfull title, with such meanes as God and nature hath put into their hands, and other circumstances, as may appeare by the same instrument; Which copy of protest was sent to us att Delaware. Whereupon wee did resolve to quit the Whore-kill, thinking it better to quitt that place then to run the hazard of weakening New Amstell. The English then came out of Maryland, from a part now called Somerset County and drew neere the Whorekill, trading with the Indians. Whereupon it was reported that the said English men began to build and settle in that parte of the country. The Citty of Amsterdam thereupon did send us expresse orders to protest against the said English men, and in case they would not remove then to compell them by force of arms. All this while wee stood upon our

defence against Maryland.

A Commander and sixtene men were sent to the Whorekill to take possession againe, but another resolucon was taken a short time after to call the said soldiers back, and soe the Whorekill was left againe. The Citty of Amsterdam hereby was very much discouraged, and did absolutely incline to leave and abandon the said Colony as appeared by their writeings and scarcenesse of goods & Provisions they did send in. Whereupon I my selfe was deputed for Holland for a whole yeare, resideing there, to remonstrate y^e condition of the said Colony, to encourage the Citty of Amsterdam to goe on with their designe; which att last they undertooke by new resolution, charging us strictly not to omitt in makeing a devision betweene the English neighbors and us to the end they might not receive any repulse from that side, as may appeare by their owne letters written to the Governo^r and Councell att Delaware. To which end they ordered us to build a fort upon Ritten Island, neare where they did thinke the division might be; yet notwithstanding that division not to be absolutely conclusive, but provisionally; for wee did not intend to contest with Maryland about my Lord Baltimore his patent reaching to the fortieth degree of latitude, but at randome, soe neere as wee could agree to draw a line betweene the two governments, wee being informed that the Schuilkill did lye under forty degrees farre above Delaware towne. I myselfe could never heare them speake to what degree they p^rtended, when I was that whole yeare in Holland, neither did any such thing appeare in any of their letters; onely agree with your neighbors

in Maryland, for feare of opposicon from that side.

In the yeare 1664 arrived Coll. Niclas set out by his Ma^{tie} whereupon the fort and country was brought under submission by S^r Robert Carr as deputed with two shipps to that intent. S^r Robert Carr did protest often to me that he did not come as an enemy, but as a freind, demanding onely in freindshipp what was y^e Kings right in that country. There was taken from the Citty of Amsterdam and the inhabitants thereabout, one hundred sheep & thirty or forty horses, fifty or sixty cowes and oxen, the number of betweene sixty and seventy negroes, brewhouse, stillhouse, and all materialls thereunto belonging, the produce of the land for that yeare, as corne hay &c were likewise seized by S^r Robert Carr for the use of the King and likewise the cargoe that was unsold, and the bills for what was sold. They also gott in their custody, being all, to the value so neere as I now can remember of foure thousand pounds sterling, likewise armes powder and shott in a greate quantity, foure and twenty greate gunns were, the greatest part, transported to New Yorke. The Dutch soldiers were taken prisoners & given to the merchant-man that was there, in recompence of his service, and into Virginia they were transported to be sold, as it was credibly reported by Sir Robert Carrs officers and other persons there liveing in the towne. All sorts of tooles for handicraft tradesmen and all plowgeer and other things to cultivate the ground which were in the store in great quantity, as likewise A Saw Mill to saw planke ready to sett up, and nine sea buyes with their iron chaines, great quantities of phisicall meanes besides the estate of Governo^r Debonissa, and myselfe, except some

household stuffe and a negroe I gott away and some other moveables S^r Robert Carr did permitt me to sell.

Coll: Nicklus understanding what S^r Robert Carr had gott Delaware tooke all againe from the said Sir Robert Carr when the said Coll: came there againe in p^rson (as I was informed) being upon the way for Maryland.

There was likewise a boate dispatched to the Whorekill and there plundred and tooke possession of all effects belonging to the Citty of Amsterdam, as alsoe what belonged to the Quaking Society of Plockhoy to a very naile, according to letter written by one of that company to the Citty of Amsterdam, in which letter complaint was made that the Indians at the Whorekill had declared they never sold the Dutch any land to inhabitt.

I have omitted what past in the yeare 1659. when severall of the Dutch came away from Delaware and sheltered themselves under the government of Maryland, some under p^rtence that they could not get their liveing there, and others that we had noe right or title to the land wee inhabited, as I suppose they conjectured by the difference there was betweene Maryland & Delaware. I myselfe went to Maryland to demand those p^rsons backe againe from the Lieutenant Generall of that Province and from the Chancello^r Phillip Calvert, with whom I spoke, but could receive noe satisfaction as to my demand.

Maryland. ss.

May 12th 1684

Memo^m - Then came before us Garratt Vansweeringen of the City of [&] Maries within this province gent. aged eight and forty yeares or thereabouts, and haveing taken his oath upon

the Holy Evangelist by us in Councill to him administered, deposeth and saith that when is herein before conteined and declared to be of his owne knowledge is the truth of his knowledge and well knowne to him to be in manner as is sett downe; and what else herein before conteined and declared to be the report or rumor of those times was indeed received by him as such, good credible and sufficient p^rsons, to be the dealeings and transactions of those times in manner and forme as is herein before sett downe; to the truth whereof he said Garratt Vansweeringen hath hereunto sett his hand the day and yeare abovesaid.

(Signed)

G. v. Sweringen.

Nathan A. Breuer
Sept. 27, 1940

II-A-3-c

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF BARBERS

^{Del.}
The Board of Barber Commissioners was established in 1901, and has jurisdiction over barbers in the City of Wilmington only.

The members serve for a period of three years the present term expiring July 1, 1943. The present board consists of Harry Wagner, president; Charles A. Allegretta, secretary; and Francis Lemon, treasurer. Their terms expire on July 1, 1943.

Each member of the board receives a compensation of \$5 for actual services, which must be paid out of monies in the hands of its treasurer, and must enter into a bond to the State in the penal sum of \$500, conditioned for the faithful performance of his official duties.

The Governor appoints the members, and whenever there is a vacancy, he may appoint another person for the period of the unexpired term.

The Board has the power to adopt rules and regulations, for the sanitary requirements of barber shops, subject to the approval of the City Board of Health. It is the duty of every barber to post the rules and regulations, as complied by the board, in his place of business.

Every barber is allowed to have one apprentice to whom he can teach the art of barbering. Such apprentice must file with the secretary of the Board a statement in

writing showing the name and place of his employer, the date of his starting, and then must pay into the treasury a fee of fifty cents. The Board keeps a register which holds each name of a barber who has received a certificate, card, or insignia showing that he or she has the right to practice the profession. This register is at all times open to public inspection. The Board defines as a barber one who shaves or trims the beard or cuts the hair of any person for hire or reward. This Board must meet at least three times a year to enable anyone to qualify for the privilege of practicing the profession in Wilmington.

A person who violates any provisions of the law is guilty of a misdemeanor, and if convicted before a Justice of the Peace who is a resident of the city, or by the Wilmington Municipal Court, can be fined not less than \$5 or more than \$50. Any convicted person who refuses to pay the fine may be imprisoned in the County Jail for a period not exceeding twenty days, or until the fine is paid.

If a barber is open for business on Sunday, he is deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and if convicted has to pay a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$20, and if he fails to pay such fine, can be imprisoned for not more than ten days.

At the 1937 meeting of the State Legislature, an amendment was passed making it necessary for a new applicant for a license to practice in Wilmington to send

\$10 in with his application, instead of \$5, which was formerly required.

In order to establish a new barber shop in the City of Wilmington, one must pay a fee of \$100 to cover expenses of inspection; this amount is deposited with the State Treasurer by the Board. This section, however, does not apply to any residents of this State.

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Delaware. General Assembly, 105th Session. Laws... Passed...1935. Wilmington, Del., William E. Taylor, Inc., 1935. v. 40.

Interview:

Mr. Francis Lemon, Treasurer of Board of Barber Examiners.

EDUCATION BETWEEN 1788 and 1800

1788 June 11

Library Company of Wilmington chartered, with 51 members.

1786 May 2
May 22

Wilmington Academy reorganized after the Revolution.

1789 Oct. 3

John Thelwell announces an evening school.

1790 April 5

Library collection removed to Robert Coram's schoolhouse.

1791 February 8

Robert Coram copyrights POLITICAL INQUIRIES, to which is Added a PLAN for the Establishment of PUBLIC SCHOOLS throughout the United States: in it he maintains that "the education of children should be provided for in the constitution of every state."

1791 September 8

The legislature authorizes election of delegates to a State Constitutional convention.

1791 November 29 (continuing in session the remainder of the year),

Delegates meet at Dover; the ten from New Castle county include several Wilmingtonians, among them Robert Coram.

Later, the drafting committee presents as Article VII, 15, of a proposed Constitution: "The legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law "for reviewing the existing laws to determine their constitutionality, for revising the penal system, for better insuring certain civil liberties, "and for establishing schools and promoting arts and sciences in one or more seminars of learning." (Italics supplied)

(It was later charged that the Delaware constitution was almost an exact copy of that of Pennsylvania, and called for a government far more complex and expensive than the State's needs required. The Pennsylvania constitution of 1790, according to Paul Monroe, The Founding of the American Public School System,

p., 296, contained this section: "The legislature shall as soon as conveniently may be provide by law for the establishment of schools throughout the state in such manner that the poor may be taught gratis."

Absence of a charity-school clause in the Delaware constitution therefore seems deliberate.

1792 May 29

Second session of the Constitutional Convention meets to ratify the proposed new constitution after a long recess to enable delegates to confer with their constituents. The education clause quoted above (1791, Nov. 29, ff.) was adopted without the words "in one or more seminars of learning."

1794 October 22

J. Derpiau advertises a French school in the Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser. States he had recently moved from Dover, where he had successfully conducted a similar school.
August 30

Mr. Higgins offers a resolution before the Patriotic Society that the organization recommends formation of "Schools throughout the State of Delaware, under the direction of Government, whereby the unfortunate children of indigence and neglect may be educated and enlightened among the children of opulence and vigilance--"Adopted; Messrs. Coram, Vandyke, and Rodney appointed to prepare a memorial to the legislature.

December 23

The Committee makes its report to the Patriotic Society;

- 1794 unanimously adopted; others interested are urged to prepare and forward similar memorials.
- 1795 January 28
Robert McCullough announces a school to be opened Feb. 2., where he will teach Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Book-keeping, Euclid, Algebra, Trigonometry, Navigation, Gauging, Land Surveying (both theory and practice), Geography, etc., et.
- 1795 September 8
Robert Coram takes over publication of the Delaware Gazette as a liberal bi-weekly, and in the first sixteen issues (until Nov. 3) mentions education eleven times, usually in a prominently displayed article of some length. This series of news stories and essays was apparently designed to influence the Legislature to be chosen at the fall elections.
- 1795 September 22
Henry Pepper advertises an evening school, "as soon as sufficient number of scholars may offer."
- 1795 November 11
Francis Gallett opens a French school which meets three times weekly at Mr. Joseph Warner's house on Market Street.
- 1796 January 6
A Committee of the Legislature appointed to report a "plan for the establishment of public schools throughout this State."
- 1796 January 16
The Committee reports an "Act for gradually creating a fund sufficient to establish schools in this State."
- 1796 January 19
Bill read a second time
January 20
Bill read a third time and passed by vote of 13-

1796 January 28

Bill voted on and passed by vote of 11-7. Six of New Castle county's seven votes were given to the proposal.

1796 February 2

Bill returned from the Senate, Senate amendments accepted, and ordered engrossed.

1796 February 9

Bill signed and duly entered on the statutes.

1796 March 9

Robert Coram dies; buried March 11.

1797 February 4

Mrs. Chappell will remain instead of returning to England as she intended, if "she meets proper encouragement" for opening a Young Ladies' Seminary; "Young Ladies may learn Paper Fillagre Work and Drawing, immediately, North-side Lower Market, Wilmington, Jan. 18."

1797 May 3

Dancing School at Francis Gallett's House, term divided into two parts "to avoid the danger and inconvenience of excessive heat, and to enable the Country Pupils to attend."

1797 May 3

Mons. Turel, "if properly encouraged" will open a fencing school.

1797 May 3

"We hear that a Vacation of two weeks which commenced on Monday last, will be given to the Pupils of the Wilmington Academy."

1797 August 5

Patrick Farrelly announces a new school to teach Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and English Grammar, with Bookkeeping and

1797

the Latin and Greek Classics by special arrangement. School will open "In Shipley-street, rear of Messrs. Reynolds and Hoops, coach Manufactory, Wilmington, on Monday the 7th inst."

1798

October 27

Mr. A. Smith announces the opening of a Drawing School at the Academy for Young Ladies and Gentlemen. Mrs. Smith a native of Geneva, teaches French "by the lesson or the month."

Wm. H. Conner

EDUCATION

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November 14, 1938

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, December 21, 1793.

Wanted-A School-master

At Grubb's Cross Roads, within 6 miles of Wilmington, and two of the Queen of France. Apply to Benjamin Grubb, Isaac Grubb, or Joseph Pierce, near the place: None need apply without a good character.

Dec. 10, 1793.

Isaac Grubb
—

Wm. H. Conner
Nov. 21, 1938

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Saturday, Aug. 31, 1793.

Notice

Agreeable to the Constitution of the
Library company of Wilmington, the
members of said company are requested
to meet at the school house of Frederick
Jordan, on the second of September next,
in order to chuse directors and a
treasurer for the ensuing year.

Samuel Byrnes

Education

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Saturday, Aug. 31, 1793:

The society of friends to Justice, are requested to
meet at Mr. Thellwell's school-house, on Monday evening
next at 6 o'clock, it being the annual meeting.

Peter Brynberg Sec.

Aug. 31, 1793.

Wm. H. Conner
Nov. 30, 1938

Education

CURRENT FILE

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Extract from The Delaware Gazette; Sept. 17, 1799:

The members of the Wilmington Library Company are
requested to attend a General Meeting, to be held at
Fr...Jordon's Schoolhouse on the 26th inst. to take into
consideration a revision of the Laws of the Library.

Sept. 16, 1799.

Conner, Wm. H.
Dec. 1, 1938

Education
Negro

CURRENT FILE

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Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Wednesday, July 19, 1797:

Negroes.

The Subscriber intends to open a Free School
(for the People and Children of Colour) on Sunday
next, at his School-room, to be held in the following
manner: - The School to begin in the morning at half
after five, & close at eight; in the afternoon, at
half after three, and close at five, each Sabbath-day.

John Thelwell.

July 19, 1797

Connér, Wm. H.
Dec. 1, 1938

CURRENT FILE
Education

177

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Sept. 22, 1795:

Henry Pepper
Intends opening an
Evening School

As soon as a sufficient number of scholars
may offer.

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, May 3, 1797.

Dancing-School

At Francis Gallett's House

To avoid the danger and inconvenience of excessive heat, and to enable the Country Pupils to attend, the quarter will be divided into two parts, viz: Seven weeks from the 8th of May, and six weeks in the Fall. The lesson will begin at seven or half-past seven in the morning, three times a week. Terms, Eight Dollars per quarter, as before. No Scholar admitted who has not already been taught, at least one quarter, so that when the Winter comes, all the Scholars may be nearly in the same degree of improvement. The school-room is as cool, as it is possible to expect.

A Drawing-school would be opened, if encouraged.

Francis Gallet continues teaching French. His terms would be much lower, if the number of his pupils would increase, and their engagements be of longer duration.

Education

Fencing School

Mons. Turel respectfully informs the Gentlemen of Wilmington and its vicinity, that, if properly encouraged, he will open a Fencing-School on the truest principles. Those who incline to learn this useful exercise, may be assured of obtaining, in a short time, the quickest and best methods.

As soon as a sufficient number of pupils may offer, a suitable room will be taken for the purpose, of which notice will be given. His terms may be known, and all commands punctually attended, by

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, May 3, 1797

applying to Mr. Braden, coachmaker, upper end of Market-street.

May 3.

Education

We hear that a Vacation of two weeks which commenced on Monday last, will be given to the Pupils of the Wilmington Academy.

Wm. H. Conner
November 18, 1938

CURRENT FILE
Education
180*

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Saturday, October 27, 1798.

Mr. A. Smith announces he has opened a Drawing-School at the Academy for Young Ladies and Gentlemen. The French language was taught by Mrs. Smith, native of Geneva, by the lesson or month.

* * * * *

Extract from The Delaware Gazette, Saturday, August 5, 1797.

A New School

Will be commenced by the subscriber, in Shipley-street, rear of Messrs. Reynolds and Hoops, coach Manufactory, Wilmington, on Monday, the 7th inst. wherein will be taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and English Grammar, at the modest price of three dollars per quarter. Those who incline to study Book-keeping, may be taught by the set, or in what manner they chuse to contract for. Also the Latin and Greek Classics.

Induced by the morality and salubrity of the place, the subscriber considers it the most eligible within the reach of his experience or information; and confiding in the liberality of its enlightened citizens, he flatters himself to meet the encouragement which a strict adherence to duty, and a punctual attention to the morals of his pupils and their respective literary pursuits, may meet. Under such impressions, he confides in their patronage,

And remains,

The public's humble servant,

Patrick Farrelly.

August 5, 1797.

All orders sent to the office of The Delaware Gazette, will be thankfully received and punctually attended to.

J. F. Pote
February 25, 1937

State Printer
Self Folder 181

Dulany Railroad and Manor

"This railroad which is eight miles in length, is now completed from Dulany Manor, on the lower edge of New Castle County, near the Maryland Line, to the Brick Store Landing, on Ducks Creek near the Smyrna Landing. It is of wood, and costs \$7000. It was built for Mr. Grafton L. Dulany, of Baltimore, by Mr. Benard. The money that built this railroad was fished from the werck of the San Pedro, a Spanish man of war, that was wrecked with the Spanish military chest on board, some 60 or 70 years ago, in South America. Mr. Dulany being one of the principal stockholders in the vessel, fitted out from Baltimore for that purpose, which proved so successful."

"The Dulany Manor contains about seven thousand acres, five thousand acres of which is woodland. It originally belonged to Major Dulany (the fater of the present Grafton L. Dulany) a half pay British officer. David Stout, Esq., who was formerly judge of one of our courts, who is now between 80 and 90 years of age, when a young man, surveyed the Manor, and had large stones laid to mark its boundaries, which took twenty men to move. On each stone was cut "M.G.L.G.," which meant, "My Gracious, Lord's Gift." The manor was then a dense wilderness, only a few huts being seen, the best house there was built of clap boards and logs, with a chimney of loose stones and dirt, owned by Mr. Heverin, the father of the present Heverins, of Jones' Neck. A circumstance occurred there that was considered somewhat singular, there was a cow that was fattened entirely on acorns. She was killed and the meat proved remarkably yellow and sweet, at that time too, immense flocks of wild turkeys were constantly flying over. What a change is now presented in the appearance of that country.

(Blue Hen's Chicken. Dec. 10, 1847)

1866 February 5

The Delaware Republican says: "The Bombay Hook Railroad.- Charles C. Dungan has contracted to build a railroad from Smyrna to the Delaware Bay, and to have the road completed from Smyrna Landing to Smyrna Station, by June or July."

E. Samworth
December 19, 1940.

Education
1776 - 1790

Progress of Education: 1776 -1790

Another copy in
V. 11, p. 206-233.

1776 The Revolution was in progress and its outcome in doubt, but its issue was in the hands of those who had acquired their education in the private schools of the colonies. These schools had been conducted for the most part by minister-teachers who had brought a sound classical education from the universities abroad or from New England. They were ministers and teachers, perhaps better ministers than teachers, with their boy's schools conducted in the church or in the minister's homes.

No academ-
ic educat-
ion for
girls.

This was a period of time when girls were not generally included in the limited opportunities for education except being taught to read and write, and to sew and embroider, to dance and coquette, and to play some musical instrument as an asset to their feminine charm. One New Englander asked: "If our girls are ^{made} ~~made~~ scholars who will bake our pies?"

Men at
r, women,
children and
ged carry
a at home
nd on the
arms.

1783

No school-
houses in
Delaware
yet.

In time of warfare normal living must be carried on as far as possible by the non-combatants, the infirm, the women, and the children, so we may look with confidence for some educational activity from 1776 until the troops were mustered out in 1783 and in many cases eminent refugees, ministers or out-of-service men from other vocations taught in churches or empty cottages. The school then as now being not a school-house but a teacher and pupils actuated by a common motive.

"Progress is made through idealism and vision, but the ^{driving} force which leads to accomplishment lies within man whose

Samworth

Education
1776-1790

Progress of Education: 177 - 1790

the Quaker foresight, judgement and effort turn dreams into realities.
influence.

***** If they (Quakers) sponsored educational methods which, in the light of present knowledge, seem crude and inadequate, nevertheless by the standards of their time these leaders were truly progressive. No doubt, they they were even censured for their liberalism." ¹

"The early Quakers in this country must have brought many of their ideas of education from England. The English Friends had renounced Ecclesiastical traditions and had also substituted for the classical education given at Westminster, Winchester, Oxford and Cambridge one that was more practical and conducive to a well rounded character. George Fox in his 'Journal' urged the establishment of a school for instructing girls and young maidens in whatsoever things were civil and useful in the creation ***. Penn advised for his children 'such moral training as would be consistent with truth and goodness and the more useful parts of mathematics***. Agriculture is especially in my eye; let my children be husbandmen and housewives.'"

Quaker Edu-
cation in
Wilmington"
p.45
ibid, p 45

Delaware's
three coun-
ties, New
Castle at
the head.

New Castle County not only heads the divisions of the State but in its chief city, Wilmington, it shows a greater activity and progress in education than any other section of the State, though some of the most advanced of the few classical schools were located in smaller settlements.

The first
church be-
comes the
first school
house
1748-1940

The first and only school to remain in existence until the present day was established by the Society of Friends on the east side of what is now West Street between the present

Sanworth

Education
1776-1790

185

1748 Fourth (then High Street) and Fifth Streets in 1784 when the Society built a larger Meeting House on the west side of the street and gave the original meeting-house of brick, 24 x 24 ft, entirely to the use of the school.

John Webster
of Wil-
mington's
early
tables.

One of the early teachers in this school was John Webster³ who afterwards became a well known citizen of Wilmington. He opened a drug store on Market Street in which he conducted the postoffice. A friend of his wrote most of the advertisements of John Webster's goods in rhyme, but the following appeared in the Delaware Gazette, Saturday, Nov. 5, 1791:

J O H N W E B S T E R

HAS FOR SALE

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

He was the John Webster who became librarian in the 1790's and was threatened with suit by the company after the expiration of his term if his account for missing volumes was not promptly settled. As a teacher he was a strict disciplinarian and in 1780 he effectually broke up the time honored custom of "barring out the teacher" as far as Wilmington's schools were concerned.

1780

barring out
the teacher.

It was an old custom for the bigger boys on the approach of some holiday to enter the school house before the arrival

of the teacher and bar the door and windows, shutting the teacher out until he promised on his word of honor to grant the holiday desired. On the evening before Christmas, Benjamin Ferris, in his "History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware" pp 286,287 relates that the boys got possession of the school house, and, carrying wood from the cellar, barricaded the door and securely nailed down the windows except one which they left as an avenue of entrance. They took possession early and nailed down the remaining window. John Webster arrived at his usual hour, thrust his key in the lock which turned but the door refused to open. Suppressed giggles betrayed the scheme. From within came a shout from the largest boy "We will only let you in if you promise to give us a holiday."

"It is not my will that boys shall rule or dictate terms of peace" responded the angry teacher, redoubling his efforts to break in.

It is doubtful how long the siege would have lasted if three sober, dignified Friends had at that time not come slowly up Quaker Hill on their way to Fifth Day meeting. They proved ample reinforcements for Master Webster. One of them secured a crow-bar and, with a thrust that struck terror to the hearts of the rebels within crashed one of the window-sashes. A rush was made to open a way through the rear window, but one of the lusty Friends had stationed himself there and administered sound recompense to the large ^{boys} who would have left the smaller and weaker ones to face the penalty of insurrection.

Surrender was the only thing possible, and after a short court of inquiry Master Webster's cane administered enough punitive justice to forever end the practice of "barring out the teacher" at Friend's School.

Many of the men who became successful in business, in art, medicine and law received their foundation in the three r's under John Webster, teacher, and may have been of the number who received stripes of ethical impressions under John Webster, tanner of juvenile insurgents.

1787

About the year 1787 the committee having charge of the school on the hill procured a teacher from Philadelphia who was at that time accounted an extraordinary scholar in that he could teach Latin and Greek. He introduced the study of English Grammar as an additional branch of instruction but this work was a failure owing to the want of books on the subject.⁴ The study of geography was no more considered a school subject at this early date than was astronomy.

Friends in
Wilmington
p 51

1738
1938

In an anniversary publication "Friends in Wilmington: 1738-1938, Anna Merritt and committee, the writers state under the chapter "Quaker Education in Wilmington" that when the school was first established in Wilmington, 1748, it was chiefly for the benefit of the poor in the neighborhood.⁵ After 1750 references to various schools under the meeting's direction are frequently found in the minutes. "Financial support in the form of bequests soon followed" the opening of schools. "Measured by modern standards these gifts seem small, but they loomed large at a time when a day's wages was thirty-three cents and

building brick two dollars and sixteen cents a thousand."⁶

"Extract from the will of Benjamin Ferris 1778: 'Item, I will and Bequeath unto the Monthly Meeting of Friends in 1778 Wilmington, the sum of twenty-five pounds~~*****~~and the interest arising therefrom, to be applied yearly by said meeting, for Schooling poor Children either White or Black who are not under the immediate care of any Society, at the School that is under the Inspection of Friends."⁷

Similar bequests continued from year to year from other friends, stipulating the same terms, while "during this early period the more well-to-do Friends hired tutors for their children. ~~*****~~ If they were obliged to employ the itinerant teacher just off a boat and passing through the town, they did not fare so well for many such were lacking in both morals and learning."⁸

Benjamin Ferris says: "It is well known to many yet living that, in country places, it was then common to employ, as schoolmasters, any tolerably decent looking traveler who would apply for the office. The first and most important inquiry was, at how low a price would he teach a child for three calendar months. If that question was satisfactorily settled, and it was found that he could 'read, write and cipher' the bargain was concluded.~~*****~~ It very often turned out that he was an habitual drunkard, who spent a goodly portion of his time during school hours in sleep. To such teachers was it then common to expose the morals of children. In Wilmington, however,~~*****~~ things were not quite so bad."⁹

Friends in
Wilmington
p.46

old.
p.47

Benj. Ferris
History
of the Orig-
inal Settle-
ments on the
Delaware.
p.285

1779

"In 1779 there were several schools in Wilmington conducted by Friends. Boys and girls were apparently taught separately, the girls schools being in the minority. Concerning these schools the following report was made:

"We the committee respecting schools having several times met do find there is one school under the direction of the preparative meeting, one other schoolmaster a member and and employed by some Friends with others. Two schoolmistresses not members to which many Friends children are sent with others, there being no mistresses school under the direction of the preparative meeting which we believe is much wanted."

Philip Jones
Lida Ferris
Joseph Chambers
Joseph Warner
Nathan Wood
John Milnor

1779

"In this same year the first mention is made of a school fund. Cyrus Newlin was recommended as treasurer of the fund and at the same meeting an annual report was considered." 10

"At such Monthly Meeting a school committee was appointed or the same one continued to visit the schools under its care." 11

Several schoolmasters began their work in Wilmington before 1776 but continued work beyond that date. Master John Wilson, a learned Scotchman, kept a school in an orchard behind Third Street and Spring Alley. He limited the mathematical education of girls to simple division, saying only boys with big slates would care to work "in double rule of three. It was of no use for girls."

1760

1765 One of the most interesting of the old time school-
masters in Wilmington, was John Thelwell. He opened his
school under Quaker Hill in 1765 and later moved it into the
council chamber over the market house on Second Street where
he conducted a boy's school until his death. ¹³ He filled
many official positions besides that of pedagogue. He was
bell-man, market clerk, ruling elder, class-leader, choir-
leader, exhorter and church clerk, keeping the records of
Asbury Methodist Church in the back of his ciphering book.
Daddy Thelwell had lost an eye and on a market day, finding
a woman with light-weight butter, he prepared to take away
her basket, but she, quick to defend her property, dabbed
a print of butter into Daddy's good eye and in the confusion
made off with her effects. ¹⁴

From the beginning of Wilmington time he held the office
of bell-man and was well remembered for years after his death
striding along with tinkling bell in hand to the street inter-
sections where he stood to ring for attention to his long
loud chant of the notice to the burgesses of the town-meeting
or to the householders of auction sales. His voice was a
joyful sound on the morning at four o'clock when he awakened
the sleeping town with the cry "Cornwallis is taken." ¹⁵

Can you believe that one man could fill so many offices
even in a small town and be a successful teacher too? His
boy's school was entered from Market Street while the girls
entered the school kept for them by Miss Deborah Thelwell
through an alley in the rear. The second daughter Miss Polly

rarely came into Miss Debby's school. She was more timid and retiring.

books scarce
expensive
and unattr-
active.

Horn Book

Most of the learning at that day was by repetition, books were expensive and scarce. The ancient Horn Book which had been imported from England, as were most of our books in use before the Revolution, became too elementary for the new nation which had begun to do its own thinking. Indeed the Horn Book was not a book at all. It was a small thin board, framed by a strip of brass which secured a printed page containing the Lord's Prayer, the letters of the alphabet and the numerals, covered by a thin sheet of horn which preserved the precious print from destruction and from the smears of dirty fingers. This primitive introduction to scholarship, about the size of a small spelling book page, had a handle attached for convenience in use.

The Bible was the reading book for the senior class and Gough's Arithmetic with simple division of such length that it would fill a large slate and bring forth showers of tears.

The Horn Book's successor in Delaware was Dilworth's spelling book which was a speller, reader and grammar and which today would be unattractive to us with its small print like worn out newspaper type. Every schoolmaster of Thelwell's day, like himself, heeded Solomon's warning, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," and in avoidance of such calamity they kept the ferule or the rattan in constant vibration? One method of administering punishment was to compel one boy to bend "to make a back" on which the culprit mounted astride and bent forward, the blows from the ferule or rattan

fell with telling effect on the culprit's amplest part.

Market Clerk, Church Clerk, Choir Leader, Class Leader, Town Crier, all these duties did not absorb all John Thelwell's time. This public service was the least important side of this energetic citizen of colonial Wilmington. These were his avocations practiced in his leisure time. His vocation was teaching, and a full week was not long enough to satisfy his energy. He was one of the pioneers in establishing a Sunday-school in which poor boys could obtain the rudiments of an education and there is ^{no} evidence that John Thelwell was ever paid for pupils he taught as was the rule a generation later. On the First day he proposed to open a school in which he offered to teach black and white under certain conditions the most important of which was good behavior.

John Thelwell, a good citizen. He did what he could. Here's to his memory.

The first Sunday School.

From the Delaware Gazette, March 31, 1792.

F R E E S C H O O L

"The subscriber intends, (God willing, in order to suppress vice and encourage virtue) to open a Sunday-school, free for all young persons without exception (that will behave themselves decently, and comply to the instructions that may be given (them both White and Black) a separation to be made between them in the school, as to their seats,) in order to teach them spelling, and reading, and each scholar that can read is to learn a portion of the Holy Scripture, or Catechism weekly, as it may suit them. Time of attendance will be from seven o'clock in the morning until nine; in the afternoon, from half past four until half past six. The school will commence the second Sunday in April next, commonly called Easter Sunday. Any person

inclined to send, or to become Scholars, is requested to send in their name, if convenient, to the Master before the said day.

Wilmington, March 29, 1792.

John Thelwell"

bid p.42

Most of the boys of the town spent some time in Thelwell's school and after his death his two daughters Miss Debby and Miss Polly united in teaching the young children for many years until this family were removed by death from worthy service and worthy companionship.

8

42-43

On the north-east corner of Second and Market Streets an interesting school was kept by a widow, Mrs. Way, who was a celebrated needlewoman. The girls who learned to sew under her supervision were considered fortunate indeed. The climax of stitchery was shirt-making.

Mrs. Way was a handsome dominating woman. She was educated beyond most women of her day and was conscious of her superiority. She had been the friend and childhood companion of the celebrated artist, Benjamin West, and they kept up a correspondence in their advancing years, a fact of which Mrs. Way was proud and of which she kept her Wilmington friends well informed. She was a strict disciplinarian with a strong mind and strict principles of morality, but of an irritable temper which was annoying to many of her pupils.

She was more inventive in methods of discipline than her neighbor, Thelwell, on the opposite side of the street, or perhaps a woman's mind led her to restrain the use of the rod on girls, although a bunch of switches and a cat-o'-nine-tails always hung within reach, and the wise king's advice

was not ignored.

If a girl did careless stitching she had to wear leather spectacles. If she sat in a bad posture she wore visible correctors, a necklace of jimson-weed burs ^{on tape} for bent head, a steel stomacher from chin to waist for stooping, a morocco spider on the back to keep the shoulders straight, unpleasant penalties for careless posture if not aids to erect figures.

Mrs. Way conducted her school until near the close of the century, when in her declining years she closed it to make her home with her lovely daughter who had married Isaac Henderson, a shipping merchant of Swedish descent. Her only son, a young doctor, made his home with them until the yellow fever epidemic of 1798 took both the son and daughter victims, and brought proud Mrs. Way's gray hair in sorrow to the grave.

James Filson taught in Wilmington before the Revolution and again in 1785, but he complained that he could ^{not} thrash the boys thoroughly because of an arm wound received in the war. He gave up teaching and joined Daniel Boone in Kentucky. He really gave Boone to the nation for he wrote the first history of Kentucky and made a complete map of that State. He explored the southwest and his name has been perpetuated in the Filson Club which made valuable contributions to American historical literature. He returned to Wilmington to have his history and map of Kentucky printed. He was massacred by Indians in 1810.

One of the notable schools that carried on over the Revolutionary period was the Wilmington Academy, usually termed

Wilmington
Academy
"The Old
Academy."

"The Old Academy." It was built on Market Street between Eighth and Ninth, in ^{1765?} ~~1866~~ on land, a part of the Staleop tract, but whether ^{on} donated land as Powell says or on purchased land is not proved. The building was of stone two-and-one-half stories high and, being built on an elevated site, it not only had a fine appearance, but commanded an extensive view in all directions. It stood in a grove of virgin trees which covered the high ground on the east from Market to French Street above Eighth. Most of these were cut down by the soldiers for the use of the army when the British took possession of the town, except a few old oaks which were left standing east of King Street for eight or ten years after the war. ²⁰ The rejoicing for the victory at Yorktown was celebrated in this grove. Cannon were fired and splendid fireworks were exhibited in celebration of the peace which made this nation free and independent, and for several years afterward the anniversary of that happy event was celebrated on "Academy Hill" by a noisy discharge of firearms..

The appearance of that section is much changed now as the hill has been leveled down to meet the established grade of streets there. Under that hill there was a fine body of sand and its value was a double inducement to bring the section ²¹ to the legal elevation established.

"Public spirited men erected the Wilmington Academy and distinguished men were the trustees or over-seers." These outstanding citizens were the first trustees: Rev. Lawrence Girelius, Bishop White, Hon. Thomas McKean, Dr. Robert Smith,

Thomas Gilpin, Dr. Nicholas Way, and Joseph Shallcross, Esq.

The first principal of record was Robert Paterson, father of one, Dr. Robert M. Paterson of Philadelphia, president of the United States mint.²² This patriotic principal trained his older boys and the young men of the community in military tactics, and then saw them march away in charge of Israel Gilpin to fight for their country's freedom. "Afterward he joined the New Jersey line and was a major in the paymaster's division during the war."

1774 As early as 1774 the famous preacher, George Whitfield, wrote in his diary "In the academy woods at Wilmington I preached to 3000 persons."

1786 At a meeting of the trustees of the Wilmington Academy on May 2 and May 22, 1786²⁴ a plan of education was drafted and adopted. "The object of this Academy is to promote the important cause of Religion, Morality, and Literature." Five years was considered a sufficient time to complete a classical course of education and the principal, a professor of mathematics, a professor of languages and a professor of English were the officers intrusted to conduct the school, but if any of these professors became "over-burthened with pupils" the trustees or their committee were to appoint ushers to assist him.

A curriculum was prepared and adopted for each year's work from Lowth's Grammar, reading and penmanship in the first year through all the rules of arithmetic, vulgar and decimal, the four rules of Algebra, the method of solving

simple equations, Euclid Book I, Geography and the use of the globes to Euclid, Trigonometry (plain and spherical), Surveying and Navigation, the "principles also of Astronomy and the Newtonian System, the Solution of quadratic equations and the principles of the conic sections. "The two higher Latin classes shall every day attend the Professor of Mathematics at such time and in the manner as the Principal, Latin, and Mathematics Professor shall fix and appoint, each pupil paying for the use of the Mathematical Professor seven shillings and six pence per quarter extra." The fifth class covered Horace, Cicero, Homer, Xenophon and Demosthenes.

"The French language will be taught by one of the Professors of the Academy, if parents or guardians require it."

"Essays in Latin as well as in English were required from the pupils. For the two best English essays rewards and honors were offered while the authors of the two best Latin essays from each class received 'some honorary distinction at the hands of the trustees.'"

25

The scholastic year began in November. Charles Henry Wharton, D.D., was the Principal aided by professors "selected by Rev. Girelius, John Dickinson, Dr. Nicholas Way, and Jacob Broom who were directed to act in concurrence with the principal." Dr. Wharton was rector of Imanuel Church, New Castle, 1784 to 1788.

This committee assured the selection of men of sound scholarship and typified the period of intellectual development following the Revolutionary War.

charf
861

Causeway
at New
Castle

charf
461

Terms of
tuition

The tuition was moderate, but even so it was far above the reach of any citizens except the well-to-do. It was two guineas yearly in the English and six pounds in the other schools. Young Gentlemen could be accommodated at the best boarding-houses, washing included at \$30 per year. Attendance at worship on the Lord's Day was compulsory.

1786

Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Rittenhouse, Benjamin Rush, and James Madison were among a group of America's most prominent scientists who met in the Academy and made astronomical observations from the cupola. Benjamin Franklin experimented with electricity on this occasion.

One of the ^{first} general conventions of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held here.

1795

About 1795 the interest of the public in this classical school declined to such a degree that the building was turned into a cotton ²⁵ factory and the hum of spinning-jennies took the place of the hum of school boys at lessons.

1803

When the new century was but three years old the school was reorganized and the following progressive citizens became members of the board of trustees: Dr. James Latimer, Dr. E. A. Smith, Dr. Read, Dr. James Felton, Sr., Judge Bedford, and R. Hamilton, Esq. The school was divided into two departments and girls were admitted into a female department while the boys were in their separate section with competent teachers selected for each. The school was chartered in 1803 as the College of Wilmington and was empowered to grant degrees on completion of the prescribed course though there is no record

of a degree being granted though the higher courses were taught by experienced teachers.

The board of trustees was remarkable for the number of distinguished men who composed it, twenty-seven of whom Gunning Bedford was chosen president.

The province of the school was to educate the young in the American, learned and foreign languages and this duty bespeaks the influence of the educational essayists of the period.

In 1805, 1809 and 1811 acts were passed allowing the trustees to raise money by lottery for the support of the college, a movement which bespeaks a shortage of other support in spite of the qualified teachers in charge. In 1825 the building was offered for sale by the sheriff of New Castle County and was bought by the Masons, by whom the mortgage was held, before the sheriff's sale was consummated. In 1828 it was still advertised as the Wilmington College and in 1828a graduate of Oxford, Ryson Lawrence, was principal.

In 1832 David C. Wilson to whom the building had been sold tore it down and erected houses on the site.

The near-by port and capital city of New Castle, had the honor of receiving the first legally appointed schoolmaster, Hveret Petersen, from Amsterdam as early as 1658. It was the center of the New Castle Presbytery through which body early classical education was fostered, yet within the baliwick up to the end of the 18th and the beginning of

the 19th century education within its borders was almost at a standstill. Well-to-do citizens followed the English custom and sent their sons away from home to be schooled ^{abroad} after receiving their elementary training. Of course the Friends had a school before 1758 when being few in number they worshipped with the Wilmington Meeting. Much education resulting in intelligent citizenship was furnished by the ministers.

From 1769 to 1775 an item in the Sessions Docket for those years reads, "It is agreed by the court that the North Wing of the Court House may be used for a School-House. In consideration whereof Richard McWilliam Esq^e. promiseth to pay into the Treasury of the County the sum of Six pounds per Annum for the same for the use of the Public.***And the Court do that the said Richard McWilliam shall have the South East Wing of the Court House for a Public Office at any time he shall think proper to enter into the same. And that the same maybe occupied as a School-house this present Year (if the said Richard McWilliam shall direct or chuse the same shall be so used.) without any consideration therefor."

November 1770:

The citizens of Newark have always taken a deep interest in educational affairs. The oldest classical school in the State was located here and was the foundation of the University of Delaware. This school, famous for learning before the middle of the eighteenth century, grew out of the tutorial

Sessions
Docket
1769-1775
p. 94 of
volume identified
above.

Newark
Academy

teaching of Francis Alison, a probationer from Glasgow University who, recommended by Benjamin Franklin to Judge Samuel D. Dickinson as tutor to his son, John, afterward famous as a patriot, and author of "A Farmer's Letters." Francis Alison was given permission to take a few other pupils into his class and after his ordination and marriage he continued his school at his residence at Thunder Hill. In 1743 at a meeting at the Great Valley the Synod of Philadelphia was urged to establish a Synodical school and they decided to adopt the school then existing at New London and to retain Rev. Francis Alison as master. In 1744 this school which had already educated many pupils who afterward became famous was now the Synodical School of the Presbyterian Church and after several changes of location and of masters was in 1767 moved to Newark and in 1769 was chartered by Thomas and Richard Penn and continued its useful work until 1848 when it was merged into Newark College and the principal of the academy became a member of the college faculty.

Thus we see a well established classical academy having begun as a synodical school continuing its work during the years from 1776 onward, except for a short period after the British army marched through Newark, on September 6, 1777 and took as they went every record and every shilling that had been left in Newark. (The funds and papers had been sent to Wilmington for safe keeping, and there fell into the hands of the British when they occupied and sacked Wilmington). The work of the school did not cease during the Revolution except for the short period from 1777 to 1780 when the building housed a

factory for making shoes for the continental army (a true function from training understanding minds in the boys of the nation to creating understandings for the feet of its defenders).

1783

In 1783, Oct. 16 the board of trustees passed the following resolution:

"The trustees, taking into consideration the meritorious conduct of Mr. William Thomson, the present teacher of the scholars in this academy, in undertaking that employment for near three years past, under many discouragements, and the small compensation he has had for his services, have unanimously agreed to allow him the sum of ~~1~~-50 as a gratuity on that account, to be paid as soon as the same can be collected by the treasurer". 30

the first
record in
the new
minute book.

The trustees of the academy met in Wilmington on this date, seven members being present and five absent.

June 5, 1783.

"Dr. Ewing laid before the board an account of the money belonging to the friends in his hands"

October 6,
1785

On October 6, 1785 the report of the treasurer showed the sum of \$6,700.20 in the treasury and some outstanding notes and bonds in spite of the losses during the war. In the meantime his Excellency, N. van Dyke, and four other outstanding Delawareans were added to the Board of Trustees and Dr. Ewing had been appointed to have it published in the Pennsylvania newspapers that the "Newark Academy is revived, and will be carried on as formerly."

1794

Mr. William Thomson was retained as principal teacher

which position he filled until 1794.

Thus we see within the State of Delaware a classical school of established record serving our own and neighboring States in the early period of our national life when scholarship leading to sound thinking was needed to guide in the construction of a democratic state.

In Kent County, the first organized schools of which we have record were in Dover and were established by the wealthy residents. It is reasonable to suppose that the earliest ones were in the house of one of the patrons, soon after the town was laid out in 1717. The earliest record comes from the diary of Dr. Nathaniel Luff who was born in St. Jones Neck in 1756. His first school experience began in 1767 and he records the rough and unruly behaviour of the boys, and the lack of knowledge of the teachers. He says of the ambitious parents:

"A few men anxious for the promotion of their children were excessively gulled by tutors; themselves unacquainted with the learned languages and science, prompted by ambition and secured by wealth were willing to go to great lengths, but for want of proper knowledge they expended their money to little purpose and established habits that were unsubstantial and hard to eradicate.--- I was so improperly taught that on going to Philadelphia had to begin again --- and the school tuition was more than two prices in Dover to what it was in Philadelphia; so that I had to pay double prices for erroneous principles." 31

This item from the diary of Dr. Luff proves the purpose of the early citizens of Delaware to give their sons

the best type of education available without stinting the expense and it proves the use of itinerant tutors often ignorant and unworthy.

The school to which Luff refers was in a building on High Street (now Governor's Avenue) south of Bank Alley. In his work on "The Rise of Methodism in America," John Lednum says that in 1778 the Rev. Freeborn Garretson preached the first Methodist sermon in Dover from a platform in front of the Academy. He adds the fact that in 1780 Bishop Asbury and the Rev. Stephen Magaw, rector of Christ's Church, Dover, worked together with Episcopalians to educate the youth in the vicinity and that Bishop Asbury persuaded James Coleman to come from Virginia to Dover, where for some time he conducted a school for boys. 32

In 1785 those interested in having a permanent school in Dover presented a bill before the General Assembly asking that the Academy property be placed under the control of a board of trustees, but the bill failed to pass. It seems that a system of private schools without a board of trustees was spasmodic and unsatisfactory. 32

In West Dover Hundred, an Irishman who came early in the eighteenth century was the first teacher in this section of the State. William Dickey kept school in his own house where he gathered as many of the neighbors' children as were within approachable distance. Scharf mentions no charges, so Mr. Dickey may have made it a labor of love. 33

On the border between Kent and Sussex Counties one William Johnson, a surveyor of Milford, kept a school. His notebook details even the trivial misdemeanors of his pupils to say nothing

1778

1780

1785

Scharf
1090Milford
schools 1787

of such grave breaches of discipline as truancy. 34

Lewes
Sussex County
May 4, 1762

5/4/1762 On this date the lot on which the first schoolhouse in Lewes was built was deeded for the sum of 10 shillings, to fifteen of the leading citizens of the town, who were trustees of the school which was built on Second Street near Ship Carpenter Street. A frame school was built which housed a school for more than a hundred years in which the youth of the town and county were instructed in the principles of religion and virtue, useful knowledge and learning. 35

There had been much educational activity in Lewes before this school was built and learned men had made Lewes their port of entry. In 1735 the Reverend Francis Hindman had opened a school where the classics were taught and this school led to the establishment of the Lewes Academy early in the nineteenth century. 36

Besides the scholarly men who held crown appointments in Lewes and the scholars who were preachers and teachers here, there is more than a tradition that Lewes had a reputation for female education more than two centuries ago. Watson's Annals relates that Deputy Governor Thomas Lloyd preferred to send his young daughters to Lewes to finish their education, rather than to have them remain in Philadelphia or to send them elsewhere, and this choice was the result of the preeminence enjoyed by Lewes in female education. 37

A petition from the newly erected Presbytery of Lewes set in motion the movement that resulted in recognizing Rev. Francis Alison's New London Academy as the Synodical School, which later as Newark Academy became the germ from which the University of Delaware grew. 38

Among the clergymen noted as teachers, as preachers, and as physicians, the Reverend Matthew Wilson, once principal of the Synodical New London Academy, was ordained before May 1755, pastor of Lewes and Cool Spring and served these churches and Indian River until he died in 1790. He was skilled in jurisprudence and was succeeded by his son, James Patriot Wilson, who afterward became the third president of Delaware College and was more distinguished than his father. Such men set a standard of scholarship among thoughtful people in a small community and their influence is reflected in the life of the community.

The Lewes Common, like the New Castle Common, was the source of an educational income from an early date. For Lewes the following provision was made:

Sussex County's
1st Offici-
School Pro-
vision.
June 23, 1736

"A yearly quit rent of 1 penny sterling for every acre of the Common to be duly paid by the inhabitants of the Town of Lewes for and toward the support of a school to be kept within the said town. Given under my hand and the lesser seal at Philadelphia on this 23rd day of June Anno Domini 1736 to Benjamin Eastburn, Surv. Genl."

"Tho. Penn" 39

In western Sussex there was a school in Bridge Branch (Bridgeville) in 1765. It was of stone. Another well known school was in North West Fork Hundred. Each of these western Sussex schools were open only three months in the year and education in each one extended to the "simple rule of three" at which time the scholars knew as much as the teacher.

In Dagsboro hundred a school was taught by Mr. Rollins, and in 1778 Major Benson, a surveyor taught in an old log house on the farm of Shadrack Short.

We find Kent and Sussex County short of organized schools during this period of reconstruction, yet rich in men who were ready and able to bring sound judgement to the task of organizing into a comparatively well ordered nation, the fringe of civilization along the Atlantic seaboard.

As Bishop John F. Hurst says in the preface he wrote for Robert W. Todd's "Methodism on the Peninsula": "It was as much the custom of all who could command the means to give a good education to their children, as to open the 'road gate' for the entrance of guests." From the Declaration of Independence onward, the custom of sending the sons abroad to be educated and to become loyal Britons was at an end, and for those Delawareans who had not the means nor the desire to send their sons away from home, the missionaries of the Gospel, the redemptioners, the out-of-service-sea captains, old soldiers, and adventurers of all sorts including scholars-by-chance kept school in any empty church or barn or cottage until progress and better roads made easier communication and access to the good private academies that were organized in many settlements.

One of the elements that retarded education in rural Delaware was the absence of the Press, and its absence was due to the same cause that retarded education, a sparse population; so that cause and effect were from the same source and were contingent one on the other. There was only one newspaper printed in the State - The Wilmington Courant - before the Revolution, but after the British left Philadelphia the publisher, James Adams,

returned to Wilmington and to the business of printing, but publishing a newspaper did not prove profitable either to James Adams and his sons or to any other publisher. Today, the great dailies and weeklies are carried by mail to every little hamlet and the news of the world may be known to every farmhouse, and the agency second only to the school and its teachers as a factor in general education is functioning to its full measure of efficiency.

Another factor hindering early education was the expense and quality of books. We have noted that the study of English Grammar was abandoned at Friends School in Wilmington in 1787 for want of textbooks. The Dillworth Speller was a compilation of spelling, reading, moral instruction and various rules crowded into a small volume because of the expense of book printing and making. Noah Webster's Speller was an equally crowded small volume and for the interest of present day students there is a small volume in the possession of the Wilmington Library that is too precious to be in circulation, but like many of their treasures, a source of information to those who are fortunate enough to examine it. The title page reads:

A
Synopsis
of
Geography

with the use
of the

Terrestrial Globes

Intended for the Benefit of Youth
Especially that of the Students in

The Public Grammar
School in Wilmington

Printed by James Adams 1785.

The geography referred to above is a tiny paper-bound pamphlet about the size, shape, and color of the current P. S. du Pont High School handbook. It is well printed and in excellent condition. The information given about the various subdivisions of the world is substantially what one would find in a present-day almanac, i.e., boundaries, important mountains and rivers, greatest length and breadth, and the name and exact latitude and longitude of the capital. There is almost no reference to natural and manufactured products, trade, etc., but the form of government and the prevailing religion of each locality is listed. In Switzerland, for instance, this information is given for each of the various cantons. Island and colonial possessions are carefully listed.

Although the United States are referred to as such, each is given a separate paragraph whose whole tone emphasizes the independence of the various sections rather than their unity. In fact, the description of South Carolina contains a sentence beginning "This republic..." The paragraph on Delaware mentions Wilmington as the "principal city, but not the capital" and fails to name the capital!

One of the most curious features, to modern eyes, is the mention of "country unknown, still in the possession of the Indians" as the northern boundaries of California and New Mexico.

Among other curious features are some details of instruction as to the use of the globes that boys and girls of today are not familiar with, instruction as to finding the dates of the moon's eclipse, information that is given today in the newspapers and in almanacs that come to us so freely.

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4. Ferris	p. 286	24. L.P. Powell	p. 45
5. Friends in Wilmington	p. 46	25. L.P. Powell	p. 46
6. Ibid	p. 46	26. J.T. Scharf	
7. Ibid	p. 46	27. L.P. Powell	p. 47
8. Ibid	p. 47	28. L.P. Powell	p. 51
9. Ferris	p. 285	29. L.P. Powell	p. 71
	286	30. Minutes of Synod, 1744	pp. 173, 174
10. Friends in Wilmington	p. 50		1735 p. 115
11. Ibid	p. 51		1736 p. 122
12. L. P. Powell	p. 47	31. L.P. Powell	p. 71
13. L. P. Powell	p. 41	32. L.P. Powell	p. 77
14. L.P. Powell	p. 41	33. L.P. Powell	p. 84
15. L.P. Powell	p. 42	34. L.P. Powell	p. 55
16. L.P. Powell	p. 42	35. J.T. Scharf	p. 1090
17. L.P. Powell	p. 42	36. L.P. Powell	p. 58
18. L.P. Powell	p. 42	37. L.P. Powell	p. 62
19. L.P. Powell	p. 47	38. L.P. Powell	p. 62
20. Ferris	p. 285	39. L.P. Powell	p. 61
		40. L.P. Powell	p. 62
		41. L.P. Powell	p. 61

V. E. Shaw
February 2, 1940

Education
1830-60 Sources

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Encyclopaedia File

REPORT OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1830

House Journal, p. 211-215, 1831; summarized

BRANDYWINE HUNDRED

Seven of the 8 districts had schools in operation (#6 missing). They paid their teachers \$40-60 a quarter. There were 705 persons in the hundred between 5 and 21 years of age; school enrollment is not listed.

RURAL CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

Had a population of 1,003 persons of school age, and 12 schools enrolling 531 students. All but Brandywine Sunday School, whose 219 pupils were paid for at \$0.10 a head from county funds, demanded tuition, usually \$8 a year, though Richardson's school asked \$10.

BOROUGH OF WILMINGTON

Population, 2,012 of school age, of whom 813 were enrolled in 36 schools, all ^{but} two of which charged tuition. Maria Smith had 30 free pupils in District No. 13, and the Sisters of Charity 46 in District No. 16.

MILL CREEK HUNDRED

Had 883 of school age in the ten districts of the hundred. All ten had schools in operation; 330 pupils were enrolled at \$2 per quarter.

WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED

Six districts had five schools for a school population of 471; enrollment was not given for all districts; tuition \$1.50-\$2.50 a quarter.

NEW CASTLE HUNDRED

Had six districts, two of them without schools; 155 of the 658 of school age were attending school, 30 of them in the free school in District No. 46 taught by Jane Barr at \$100 a year. The others charged \$2.50-\$6.00 a quarter.

RED LION

Three schools, one per district, enrolling 88 of 170 school-age residents, at \$2.50 per quarter.

PENCAKER HUNDRED

Two schools in the four districts, paying \$50-\$54 a quarter for teachers, and enrolling 47 of the 346 eligibles.

ST. GEORGES

Seven schools in the five organized districts; two others were without schools. \$50-\$75 paid teacher quarterly; school population 333; enrollment, 118.

APPOQUINIMINK

Names of six schools are listed, though apparently none were in operation in 1830 for about 400 possible pupils.

From the:

Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Divide the County into School Districts in Accordance with the Law of 1829; notarized Dec. 28, 1830.

Pa. Gazette, June 4, 1752 p 3.

"The Publick-school formerly taught by the Rev. Mr. Francis Alison, is now continued, by the Appointment of the Synod of Philadelphia, under the care of the Rev. Mr- Alexander M'Dowell, between the branches of Elk-River, and will be opened the 15th of this month; where Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and several Branches of Philosophy will be carefully taught"

Alison?

E. Samworth
Dec. 16, 1940.

Education in Delaware
Colonial: 1682-1776.

III

2. C. SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOLS III - 2 - C

A neighborly interest in the children of the near-by families often led to sharing the work of a tutor, in which case the neighbors met together, and, if the home were not as well suited for the community purpose, the parents selected the most suitable site for the convenience of all and one neighbor gave the ground, another gave timber, and all gave labor in cutting the timber and building a primitive school where the children assembled for an education limited by the qualifications and ambition of the teacher.

The school-house was sometimes very primitive, uncellared, built of hand-hewn logs, the flat side up was the floor, the cracks in which were disastrous to the children's pencils when dropped. The furniture in these schools was as primitive as the school. A long hand-split log was fastened against one wall, flat-side up for a writing desk. The bench for the pupils was another split log, flat side up with split legs thrust into holes on the under-side of the log. Other backless benches of the same form furnished seats for the rest of the school. Only a part of the pupils could sit at the desk at once so that writing lessons had to be repeated to another group in turn. Many of these subscription schools were more primitive than the one just described. Instead of a plank floor some of the schools had only the earthen floor packed solid by many feet. Miss Harriet McHatt of Milford a woman who began life with the opening of the 19th century describes the school she first attended in 1803 near her grandfather, Richard Delaner's house. He was an Irishman who came to Milford early in the eighteenth century.

The school was here when he came, built of logs with an earthen floor. The school had planks fastened to the walls for desks.

This may have been the original subscription school that housed the Johnson children and their neighbors and which shows the easy transition from tutorial education to subscription schools.

Feb. 1,
1937.

On February 1, 1937, at the close of a meeting, the writer met a Miss Johnson of Milford. Miss Johnson volunteered the following story from her great-grandfather's history:

"One day my great-grandfather, who was a surveyor, saw a tall red-headed man at a laborer's task handling his tools in an awkward manner. Grandfather was interested enough to look for the stranger when he passed the same way again and saw him chopping wood. Grandfather spoke to him.

"You don't handle your axe very well. I don't think you are used to that work."

"No. But a man must eat."

"I think you are an educated man."

"I am somewhat."

"Well, I have a family and there is no school hereabout. If you will come to my house and teach my children I will give you ~~x~~ bed, board, light and heat."

The stranger accepted the offer and proved himself a proper teacher.

The neighbors learned that the Johnson boys and girls had a teacher, and a proposal was made to Papa Johnson.

"Let us help build a school large enough for all our children so that they may all learn and we will help keep the teacher."

An agreement was made, a central site selected, wood cut, a primitive log school was built convenient to all but the teacher made his home with the Johnsons.

Except for his service as teacher the clumsy wood-cutter remained a stranger. No information as to his past, to his family, to his circumstances was ever asked. None was ever given. His name Michael Dailey was all. "

"It is appointed for all men once to die," and the teacher's appointed day came. A short letter told all his last will and testament.

"I have found the Johnsons the kindest people I have met in the New World. I have been happy and contented living with them. I want to be buried among them. "

He was. His small chest was opened and the most important things it contained were a yellowed parchment testifying to his scholarship and his graduation from Trinity College, Dublin, and a hand-made arithmetic covering the course he gave the boys and girls in his little school, and in his Johnson fire-side school, every word and figure in which had been written in a hand as perfect as copper plate.

His name, his tools, his work, that is all, but it is all the vital life of a man for his "works do follow him."

These subscription schools, built as a community project in the rural sections within reach of the group of families served by them, were soon to be found at every important cross-roads and the same idea of community cooperation brought larger schools into the towns.

At first these schools were built for such scholarly teachers as Michael Dailey, and through their influence and the boys and girls of Delaware though dwelling in the forest and the wilderness had their minds stimulated and their taste developed for more and more enlightenment until it became the custom of planters of even moderate means to send their sons to the colleges in the South, in New England, or even abroad to Old England not only to extend their education but to strengthen family ties or to get a mental strength that English people felt a boy gained from education away from home. The result of this parochial, tutorial or subscription teaching, brought a Delaware citizenship of young men ready to be leaders in statecraft and in a struggle for political liberty on a par with the physical liberty and the moral and spiritual liberty that right teaching develops.

But the subscription schools were not always in the hands of refugees for conscience sake and derelicts often masqueraded as scholars and the tone of rural education languished.

V. E. Shaw
Feb. 4, 1940

Education
Summary of Early Source Material
1847-1880

Encyclopaedia File

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION IN DELAWARE

The New Castle County School Convention of 1847, according to an account in The Blue Hen's Chicken for September 17 of that year, included in its resolutions "that the Convention recommend all teachers in New Castle county to hold a meeting in Wilmington on the 2nd Thursday of October, and form themselves into an association for their mutual benefit."

The meeting was held, as suggested, but it led to no permanent organization. The two newspaper notices relating to it are quoted below:

"The School Teachers' Convention met in Temperance Hall yesterday after noon. There was a rather slim attendance, there being not more than twelve or fifteen teachers present. When we went to press, they had done no business. They will hold their meeting two or three days." (Blue Hen's Chicken, No. 9, p. 2, col. 5)

"The School Teachers' Convention met in this city on Thursday last. They continued in session two or three days. They adopted a constitution and some twenty or twenty-five signed. An address was delivered by Judge Hall. The principal business done was the recommending of text books to be used in the schools." (ibid., Oct. 22, 1847)

A second attempt to promote a Teachers' Association in New Castle county likewise failed for lack of interest on the part of the instructors, according to the School Convention report for 1855.

It was a full generation later, in 1879, that a successful effort to organize the teachers was finally initiated. The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Free Schools for 1880 includes an account of the proceedings. The Teachers'

Page 219 in FWP Volume 2 is missing.

Bibliography

Blue Hen's Chicken, Wilmington, Delaware, Semi-Weekly. 1847: September 17
No. 9; October 22.

New Castle County School Convention, Wilmington, Delaware. 1855.

Superintendent of Free Schools. Annual Report for 1880.

V. E. Shaw
Jan. 13, 1941

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Encyclopaedia File
Education
Sources: 1776-1792

THE WILMINGTON ACADEMY

From the Delaware Gazette or Faithful Sentinel, May 27, 1787

The Subscriber, lately Mathematical Tutor in the University of Pennsylvania, has commenced teaching in his Department in the aforesaid Academy, such branches of the Mathematics as are required, according to the latest improvements and most modern practice. To prevent inconvenience, and that the Education in this School may be complete, the English Language grammatically, Writing and Arithmetic will be taught — Strict attention will be paid to the Pronunciation of English, and in the Reading of it respect will be had to the Authorities of Dr. Priestley, Sheridan, &. Writing will be taught by the most approved Method; and Arithmetic attended to in both Theory and Practice. The hours of attendance for the Pupils will be these observed at Present by the Latin School of the same Academy and such further Regulations and Improvements entered into, as circumstances may direct and the Vistors approve. By the Public's humble Servant,

John M'Clintock

V. E. Shaw
March 27, 1941

EDUCATION 1775-1790

ITEMS PRINTED IN DELAWARE 1775 - 1790

Other than official records of the State, as indicated
By Wilmington Public Library Catalogue of
Delaware Imprints

- 1776 Articles and rules for encouraging the association and the better governing of the militia, - etc. Adams.
- 1776 Journal of the proceedings of the Congress held at Philadelphia, May 10, 1775. (Continental Congress)
- 1781 New Testament — Adams — also 1787.
- 1783 Barclay, Robert. — Anarchy of the Ranters, & other liberties (and other papers in defense of the Quakers).
- 1783 Brief attempt to set the prohibitions in the XVIII-th and XX-th chapters of book of Leviticus in a proper light.
Finley, James — 20 p.
- 1783 Penn, William — Brief account of the rise and progress of the people called Quakers.
- 1783 A collection of three pamphlets on Quakers (listed above)
88, 111, 24 p.
- 1783 Pike, Jos. — Epistle to the National Meeting of Friends in Dublin — etc.
- 1783 Filson's history and map of Kentucky.
- 1785 Presbytery of New Castle — Address from the Presbytery to the congregations under their care (relative to the decline of piety, etc.)

- 1785 Synopsis of geography with the use of the terrestrial globe; intended for the benefit of youth, especially that of the students in the Public Grammar School in Wilmington — 58 p.
- 1786 Hayward, Samuel, Important cast of conscience answered at the casuistical lecture in Little St. Helen's Bishopgate St. — London.
- 1786 Henry, Matthew, Prayers in Scripture expressions for the use of families.
- 1786 Draft of a plan of education for the Wilmington Academy — 8 p.
- 1788 Pattillo, Henry — Sermons
- 1789 Chesterfield, P. D., Lord — Advice to his son on men and manners (collected with similar papers to form a book of 106 p.)
- 1789 Oeconomy of human life, complete in two parts, transcribed from an Indian manuscript written by an ancient Bramin, etc.

AUDITORS' REPORTS CONCERNING WILMINGTON SCHOOLS

	Reference	Local Contribu- tion	Fund	Salaries	Mainten- ance	No. School	Term	Enroll- ment
12	*257 - #10 #11	\$ 29.08 183.62	\$ 58.16 153.54	\$ 75.00 307.16	\$ 12.81 22.30	1	3 12	51 53
14	(p. 241)	No div. rec'd by any Wilm. dist. - p. 241						
15	(p. 36)	418.90	2,042.28	---	2,400.57	---	---	---
16	(p. 308)	674.80	555.39	160.00	163.18	1	3:05	308
18	(p. 369)	676.46	867.78	697.50	797.51	1	12	260
20	(p. 612)	800.97	1,094.04	900.00	326.08	2	12	254
21	(p. 102)	366.53	1,649.88	908.33	293.96	2	12	250
22	(p. 650)	440.31	1,311.57	1,050.00	341.82	2	12	300
23	(p. 48)	457.27	1,370.07	1,150.00	1,104.27	3	12	375
24	(p. 409)	503.95	1,284.75	1,300.00	850.48	3	12	350
26	(p. 398)	230.00	722.52	722.50	195.44	3	6	450
28	(p. 435)	674.24	1,303.38	1,250.00	294.18	3	12	485
30	(p. 491)	602.57	1,303.56	1,237.68	602.63	3	12	450
32	(p. 440)	647.30	1,261.45	1,353.35	511.10	2	12	300
34	(p. 84)	7,300.00	1,337.50	6,425.00	2,156.00	6	11	1,000
36	--	No auditors' report						
38		12,500.00	1,745.50	8,670.00	6,292.09	7	11	1,700
40		Missing						
42		18,161.95	1,724.80	9,891.00	10,901.91	8	10	2,000
44	(p. 227)	26,176.80	1,663.50	10,593.75	18,067.65	10	10	300*
46	(p. 56)	28,561.00	2,062.30	15,475.00	15,643.86	10	12	2,400
48	(p. 90)	31,852.21	1,811.90	17,580.00	15,180.46	10	12	2,700
54	(p. 58)	100,829.50	5,501.69	43,029.47	61,847.81	16	12	4,500

* Districts 10-18 were within the 1830 boundaries of Wilmington; of these only #10 and #11 are reported as receiving a dividend before 1835.

OK- VES
2/15/40

FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN WILMINGTON

Wilmington, Delaware was probably the first, and certainly one of the earliest, cities in the United States to have a public school system organized and operated under the general laws of its State.¹ Other communities had independent schools throughout their various districts before Wilmington had any; several of the larger cities had free schools operated as a unit by volunteer organizations, or as tax-supported charity schools. The Delaware town seems to have been the earliest to combine central operation and a program that, at least in theory, was genuinely public.

Many of the causes that brought about this early union were not indications of a progressive spirit in public education. Only two of the districts that later formed the Wilmington system had attempted independent operation, and these two had failed to keep a school in operation. Then, in 1833, the legislature passed a Union School law which permitted districts to pool their resources and still receive a full share of the State money each would be entitled to separately. This, too, may have been the first law of its kind passed in the United States,² and there is no reason to believe that it was not adopted because its sponsors appreciated the convenience and economy of larger schools where they did

¹ Monroe, Paul. Founding of the American Public School System, Vol. 1, p.259, lists Mass., 1838; Conn., 1841; and N.Y., 1853, as pioneers in the Union School movement. Though he does not state that these were the earliest, he implies that they were. The New York legislature, between 1837 and 1842, passed special laws permitting Buffalo, Rochester, and New York City to form Union districts. These, too, are given as though they are the first of definite record. Delaware's law is five years earlier than the first on this list; Wilmington's organization began in 1834, three years before similar permission was given Buffalo.

² Laws of Delaware, 1833, ch. 269, p. 277-279.

not require too much travel for children. Wilmington accepted the law only because its residents had voted down free schools in the separate districts, and the two which had tried to operate alone had been forced to disband. Friends of public education seized the Union proposal as a last hope to be tried before admitting that conservatism, the selfish interest of a comparatively large number of private schools, and dislike of "pauper education" had defeated them.

The story of the school held jointly by two districts is found in a brief Minute Book in the Historical Society's collection. An account of the activities of the group which urged the city-wide union appears in the Annual Report of the School Committee for the United District, for 1852, as published in the Delaware Gazette and Watchman for April 23 of that year.

The school was opened in District No. 10 "on the first Monday in November," 1830, after formal organization had been arranged under the law. Since this district had only seven pupils enrolled, its committee suggested a union with Districts 9 and 11. The first was not interested in the proposal, but conferees completed an agreement with No. 11. Two rooms of "the Academy building," near the common boundary of the two sections, were obtained for the public school, and classes began at once for the boys, under Erastus Edgerton, whom District 11 had employed previously at \$100 a quarter, and who had agreed to take the boys of the two communities under the same terms. Hannah Monaghan accepted the joint girls' school "at 75 dolls. per quarter," and entered on her duties November 11. A uniform list of textbooks for the two districts was adopted, and parents were asked to procure copies for

their children . An assessment list was made out, and a rate ~~of 100 to produce \$300~~ levied to produce \$300 for school use.

At the close of the quarter, Edgerton resigned; James Wallace was employed in his place on the same terms. Miss Monaghan continued. The school was kept open "three quarters of the year"; funds for a longer session could not be obtained.

To the Minutes for the first year there is appended a list of students enrolled, showing 73 names, 29 boys and 44 girls. Apparently this was the enrollment from both participating districts.

During the year 1831-32, Miss Monaghan was again selected as teacher for the girls, and Jonas Pusey took the boys' classes. The same salaries as before were contracted for, though Mr. Pusey, one of the officials of his district, was paid only in part. The two Academy rooms were again available. The school, however, failed after a single quarter, though it had had a good enrollment - 30 girls and 21 boys. No clear reason for disbandment is offered, but it was apparently the lack of financial support. A pencilled note at the foot of the last page comments: "Nothing rec'd from #11 except a small sum of Wm. Clark to buy wood, and their portion of the state fund."

Elections continued to be held annually in this district to and including 1834, but no further effort to operate a school was made until the formal union of all the districts in the city was started in that year. The Clerk, however, was absent from the city for an extended period while this agitation was under way, and District 10, like those that were unorganized, was obliged to hold its meeting under a call obtained by petition.

This first public school seems to have had no trace of charity-school psychology, for the names on its roll are, so far as they can now be identified, those of well-established and respected families.

After the failure of the school in District 10-11, the city was left without free school facilities. The story of the second, and successful, attempt to organize public education can be told most effectively in the words of the men who made it. The 1852 report quoted below, though published so many years later, agrees closely enough with every other source discovered to date to prove it was prepared from the full contemporary documents. Two of its three signers, Willard Hall and Samuel Macaulley, were identified with the public school movement from the outset. They write:

"It may not be out of place...to present a historical summary of the origin, difficulties, and progress of the establishment of schools in this city.

"Under the act of the General Assembly of 1829 for the establishment of free schools, New Castle county was divided into school districts. Ten of these districts (number 9 to 18 inclusive) were comprehended within the limits of Wilmington.-- In these ten districts the school law was rejected. At a meeting in one of them an attempt was made to organize the district, and the motion to appoint a chairman was voted down by a large majority; the language of the opposition being, let nothing be done under the law. Seven of the districts (numbers 12 to 18) were never organized, except for forming the union to be mentioned. In two, numbers 10 and 11, there was an organization but the oper-

ation in each was ephemeral, and abandoned in despair. In 1834, not one of the districts was organized, and there was not a clerk or a commissioner in either of the districts to give notice of the meeting of the school voters. It was necessary in order to have a meeting in either district for five of the school voters to apply to the clerk of the peace of the county to give notice as prescribed by law.

"There was a dividend from the income of the school fund entered to the credit of each district yearly, on the 4th of July. The original provision of the law was, that if this dividend were not drawn in the course of the year, it should be transferred from the district to the general fund for the county, to be divided among all the school districts; but the legislature to encourage districts to organize, enlarged this provision, and in 1832 by an Act of the General Assembly, extended the time to the 4th of July 1835; directing all dividends then undrawn to be transferred. The dividends to the nine districts in Wilmington afterwards united, liable to this provision, exceeded \$2000. To draw these dividends it was necessary there should be a stated meeting in October, 1834. In 1833 an Act of the General Assembly had been passed authorizing a union of districts. As these Wilmington districts had evinced a determination not to organize for separate action, it was determined to try whether they would not unite under this Act; and applications were prepared from five school voters of each school district to the clerks of the peace for the requisite notice of the stated meeting in October, 1834. The notice was duly given; the stated meetings were held; committees were appointed; reports made to adjourned meetings and adopted; so that nine of the districts, numbers 10 to 18

inclusive, were duly united according to the act."

The men who were endeavoring to form a United District waged a careful campaign. A complete file of the Delaware Gazette and Watchman for 1834 through 1836 has been preserved, from which we can follow the development of the school program from September 16, 1834, when an unsigned letter set forth the arguments for public education, until October 1836, when a report announced that schools had been in operation for five months. The more important notices follow in chronological order, most of them verbatim, though a few have been condensed or summarized.

Sept. 16, 1834

For the Gazette and Watchman

PUBLIC SPIRIT

"There is no subject in this city on which there is more need of public spirit, or on which public spirit is of more vital usefulness, than providing means of education for the young. In this particular no place is more destitute than Wilmington. We have not now one free school.

"Our condition in this respect is the consequence of want of union and arrangement among our citizens. There is much more money paid for schooling the children that enjoy the privilege of schools, than would supply schools for all the children in the city. Public schools furnish a more practical education than subscription schools:-In this country nothing can be useful that is not practical. Trial, where it has been fairly had, approves public free schools as the best means of education, especially for boys.

"In this connection look at these facts.--

There are in this city, with a very small extension to near the milestone on Lancaster road, ten school districts. The annual dividend to each of these, from the school fund, is about fifty dollars. The city therefore has an income, for public schools, if it will avail itself of the advantage of about five hundred dollars. There is now remaining to the credit of these districts more than two thousand dollars. All this will be lost, if there be not some attention to this subject."

1. The letter points out that a recent law provides that districts may unite, and use their joint dividend in common. Wilmington could use its \$2,000, and the annual \$500 as a unit.

"In this manner we can with a very small addition to the public fund establish and support, on the Lancastrian plan, one of the public best/schools in the nation." Or, if this is impossible, any group of districts may unite, and make better use of their money together than individually.

"I ask the deliberate attention of every one concerned in the welfare of this city to these questions. Those who can school their children are as much interested as those who can not. There will be a great diminution of the expense, and public attention will improve the schools beyond any expectation. This is so in other places, and will be here. Public attention to this subject gives encouragement, excites enterprise, and communicates a spirit and a power, that without it cannot exist.

A Citizen

"N.B.- The meetings of the school voters are to be held this year on the 4th of October. In most of the districts of this city,

notice must be given by the Clerk of the Peace, to enable them to organize. If this subject is to receive attention it is time to act."

Sept. 23, 1834

Letter from A Voteable supports the position of A Citizen, and calls attention to the large number of ill-educated and uneducated among native Delawareans. He argues the need of general education as a political safeguard, and points out Wilmington's opportunity under the act to found a sound system of public schools.

He defends Free Schools from the stigma of "charity schools." Anyone may contribute as he is able to their support. In fact, this is needed, since taxation is not planned. Yet, if the city districts will unite and establish good schools for both boys and girls the cost to their relatives will be far less than if they were educated in private schools. The writer suggests a general meeting of school voters of all districts, to facilitate handling of legal technicalities.

Oct. 3, 1834

"There will be some definite action on Saturday the 4th inst. in every school district in this city, upon the question whether the system of free schools shall be introduced into this city? or in other words whether we shall countenance public schools?"

This should not still be a question. These are some of the advantages of the proposition now before us:

1. Because of our compact situation we can obtain far greater benefit from the school dividend than any other part of the state. Shall we throw it away?

2. Public schools add to the value of property (convenience to one is often noted in advertisements of property for sale); public schools encourage a "skillful and enterprising population." Can we disregard these two factors of our material prosperity?

3. The value of all schools depends upon public attention. There never will be public attention to schools until there are public schools. Public schools are a means of improving all schools.

4. "The expenses of education in this city are too great." There are many men high in public life today who could never have received an education at the prices prevalent here. Many useful mechanics and professional people would never have entered their line of work "if schooling had been as high in the neighborhood of their fathers, as with us." It is cruel to the youth in moderate or straitened circumstances to suffer a state of things depriving them of advantages of such inestimable importance.

"By public schools I do not mean charity schools: I mean the schools of a republican government, in which all children enter upon equal terms, and the only distinctions arise from good conduct, diligent application, and proficiency in study. Let such schools be once fairly put in operation, they will prove their own advantages, and all will unite in their support.

A.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS

October 7, 1834

The Committee composed of John Wales and James Pusey appointed at a meeting of citizens on September 23, reminds the public of the

procedure to be followed at district meetings. The law required that each district organize by appointing a chairman and secretary and electing by ballot a clerk and two Commissioners. A motion to consolidate with another district or districts was then in order. If carried by a "two-thirds favorable vote" a committee should be appointed to meet with representatives of other districts concerned, and the meeting should adjourn to await the report of the conference committee.

Members of the several conference committees were requested to meet at City Hall "at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock on Wednesday, Oct. 8" with vouchers of appointment.

October 14, 1834

PROCEEDINGS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT # 11

The meeting was held Oct. 4 according to law, with Willard Hall as chairman and Samuel McCaulley as secretary. McCaulley was elected clerk by ballot, and Hall and Eli Hillis Commissioners. Those present voted unanimously that "it is expedient to arrange a union between this district and other district or districts, and that a committee be appointed to arrange said union." The regular officers were appointed to serve on the committee.

October 14, 1834

SCHOOL MEETING

"At the general meeting of the school district committees held at the City Hall on the 8th inst. (Oct. 8, 1834) with the view of forming one or more union districts, a chairman and Secretary of the meeting were chosen, and it was found that nine

districts (Nos. 10 to 18 inclusive) were represented either wholly or in part. --Present 20, absent 7.

"The object of the meeting was explained and the subject discussed.

"On motion, a committee of six was appointed to procure further and more particular information and the meeting adjourned to Thursday the 30th inst. at 7 P.M."

November 10, 1834

FREE SCHOOLS OF WILMINGTON

The committee on forming a Union district submitted a report which is summarized below:

The State holds \$2,042.28½ for the account of the United District 10-17. To obtain this, districts must raise \$263.92½, making a total of \$2,306.21 for school use. The annual dividend is \$527.65, which may soon be increased. The district must raise annually \$263.92½, giving a yearly income of \$791.77½.

The committee believes this can be raised by contribution, since it represents but about 50¢ per voter.

It is absolutely necessary to build a sound foundation for a permanent system of primary education, else the money spent will be wasted, and the philosophy of public education discredited.

Because paving is satisfactory, two schools, (one for boys and one for girls) accommodating 400, are feasible. This will provide better teachers and equipment for the money available than would several small schools. It can be better administered, because it will be easier to find one intelligent, responsible

and interested committee than several.

Committee therefor recommends a union, with a single set of two commissioners and clerk, with an advisory committee of two members from each district to keep the central and local groups in proper communication with one another. This appears the most promising of the various possibilities considered.

All districts but No. 9, Brandywine, had voted for union.

Friday, November 14.

UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"School districts Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, & 18, in New Castle county, being united in one district by proceedings according to law;

The first meeting of the united district, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15 inst. (tomorrow) at one o'clock P.M. at the City Hall."

November 18, 1834

J. Biddle. Auditor of Accounts, announced that he would sit at New Castle Nov. 17-20 to settle with School Committees of the County, who should appear with all accounts and vouchers required by law.

November 21, 1834

At a meeting of the school voters of the united school district in this city on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the City Hall, Wm. Chandler was appointed chairman, and Willard Hall, secretary.

Upon report of a committee that the legal forms had been properly followed in consolidation, the meeting proceeded to

the election of a clerk & commissioners, James Pusey, Willard Hall and Thomas Young, respectively.

"A resolution was passed to raise \$300.00 by contribution toward building or procuring a School House and the support of a Free school in said district."

And it was further resolved that the school committee have full authority to fix a site, purchase or otherwise procure a Lot and build a school house, acting according to their best judgement for the benefit of the district.

Wm. Chandler

Willard Hall

"Note: The Clerk of each district is requested to furnish the clerk of the united district with a copy of the minute of appointment of their respective delegates in the advisory committee."

November 28, 1834

Free Schools¹

Notice was given that the advisory committee, or some member of it, would call upon every inhabitant of each district to solicit contributions for the fund. "and it is respectfully suggested that every one contribute something so that all may have a part in building up a system of public schools among us. The sum may be small in many cases; but it is the cheerfulness with which a sum is contributed, that is regarded, more than the sum, when the ability is small.

¹Meetings reported above summarized over the signature of Willard Hall. Copy of formal agreement between the districts, signed by delegates, and comprising the items listed in foregoing reports — dated Oct. 30, 1834.

"The object is very important, supplying means, and suitable means of education, for the rising generation, is certainly one of the most interesting, and promising efforts of benevolence. It is the way in which the moral condition of society is improved; and here we must look for prosperity, for safety, for every thing valuable.

"We trust that there will be liberality on the part of our citizens, in respect to this object of vital interest, and that such contributions will be made as will enable the committee to establish at least two primary schools, of such character and with such advantages, as shall secure to our youth the full value of such schools. One great hinderance on this subject is, that through scantiness of means what is known to be best, cannot be done. We trust, that this will not be allowed to be the case in this city. Liberal contributions can be made without being felt by those who make them, except in the pleasure always arising from the recollection of having endeavored to promote the welfare of our fellow beings.

A. B."

The 1852 report mentioned above throws additional light on this meeting of the United District and the ensuing request for funds.

"The first meeting of the school voters in this united district was held November 15, 1834 at the City Hall, when the proceedings were examined, the union found to be regularly formed, Jonas Pusey was chosen clerk and Willard Hall and Thomas Young commissioners, and a resolution to raise money passed. -- To speak of a tax would have defeated this measure at any stage of it.

It was necessary therefore to raise money by contributions; and these were solicited in the school districts from door to door and obtained as follows: - In school district No. 10, by Eli Hollingsworth, \$40; No. 11 by Willard Hall, \$60; No. 12, Samuel Wallaston, \$36; No. 13, by James Bringhurst and Robert Porter, \$28; No. 14 by James Webb, \$53; No. 15 by David Smyth \$33.33; No. 16 by Thomas W. Aldrich, \$35; No. 17 by George Bush, \$50; No. 18, by Wm. Chandler, \$33.50; - amount \$368.83. This enabled the committee to draw the accumulated dividends of the nine districts amounting to \$2,042.28."

May 8, 1835

"To the Citizens of United School District

From No. 10 to 18 inclusive, comprehending the part of Wilmington between Dickinson street and the Christiana.

"The school committee of this United District, with a view to establish a school adequate to the probable requirements of the District, and creditable to this city, have obtained information from the best sources respecting schools in Philadelphia, New York, Providence, Rhode Island, and Boston, Charlestown, Worcester and Salem in Massachusetts; this information has convinced them that public schools sufficient to afford elementary instruction to all children within the limits of this district, will not only be highly beneficial and grateful to our citizens, and productive of great and permanent prosperity; but that the expense of them would not be equal to that now actually incurred

for elementary education, while they would introduce a system of instruction of a higher order, and involving a principle of continual improvement.

"But the committee meet with difficulty and embarrassment in measures preliminary to establishing a school sufficiently large to be a fair beginning upon the improved plan of public schools. They could obtain no building suitable for their purpose. They have procured a lot at the S. W. corner of French and Hanover streets, of good size, and in a pleasant and central situation; and they are desirous to erect on this lot a building of two stories, 55 feet by 35 feet. The school house ought not to be of less dimensions. The lowest proposals received for building such a house, stands at \$2685; the committee have on hand \$1811. Some expense will be necessary in furnishing the house; so that they need an additional sum of at least \$1000. They have considered the propriety of reducing the dimensions of the house to their present ability. In that manner they could build a house 30 feet by 35 feet. But a house of this size, instead of answering, would probably defeat the object in view. It could not be supposed to be large enough to accommodate the children who would attend immediately on the school going into operation; and crowding, confusion, and dissatisfaction, and the probable breaking up of the school, would be the consequences. Beside, a school filling a house 55 by 35 feet can be taught at as little expense, as one occupying a house 30 by 35 feet; so that a house of the last mentioned dimensions would occasion the waste of one half the constant expenses of the school.

-17-

Education: 1830-1897
 Wilmington, 1830-52
 Free Schools

"In these circumstances the advisory committee have determined, that the application ought to be made to the citizens within the limits of this United District, for additional contributions to raise the sum deficient. They feel confident that these citizens will not consent that an undertaking so intimately connected with the public welfare should fail through want of so small a sum. If all the citizens should contribute, each contribution might be small. It is hoped that there will be a spirit of liberality; and that the liberal will give liberally to meet this pressing demand. We hesitate not to say, that no claim of benevolence is so strong, or so full of promise.

"The committee ask all to make up their minds upon this subject, on deliberate consideration of its great and interesting importance. Persons will call on the citizens within each district.

"The committee will only add that they ask no one to do what they will not do themselves; nor suggest a scale of contribution to others which they will not adopt for themselves.

Willard Hall
 Thomas Young
 Jonas Pusey
 School Committee"

May 12, 1835

The District School Committees are requested to meet at the City Hall this evening at 7½ o'clock.

T. Pusey, clk.

July 3, 1835

Wilmington Free Schools

"We are gratified to learn the contracts have been completed for the erection of a large and convenient house for the Free School in this city, which will be completed in three or four months. The corner stone will be laid tomorrow at 4 o'clock P. M., on which occasion a public address will be delivered by Judge Hall. The house will accommodate about 400 pupils, and will be erected at an expense of \$6,000."

July 7, 1835

Wilmington District School
House

"Notwithstanding the absentees from our city were numerous at the hour appointed on Saturday last for laying the cornerstone of our new school house; that ceremony, or rather the unceremonious circumstance of simply laying a plain stone, almost in the form in which nature left it, in the position designed for it by the Architect, in supporting the contemplated superstructure, was witnessed by a very respectable assemblage of our citizens, amongst whom, with no small degree of pleasure, some ladies were seen.

"Our worthy fellow citizen, Hon. Willard Hall, with hammer in hand placed the stone; and then taking a position in the shade of an apple tree on the lot, delivered with his usual forcible manner an excellent and peculiarly appropriate address to a deeply attentive audience."

The address, not quoted directly, pointed out the importance of elementary education in common schools, in insuring the social

and economic well-being of the town, the personal happiness of individuals, and the fundamental safety of democratic institutions.

"I will add, what hazard can there be in the assertion that no corner stone has ever been laid in Wilmington, except perhaps the first one, of more importance prospectively, or that promised greater advantage, greater in the true & most noble definition of the term, than this one, measuring 22 inches by 12 superficies, and 8 inches thick the laying of which in manner and stile, so unostentatious, was celebrated at the South West corner of French and Hanover streets on Saturday the 4th of July, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and thirty five.

One of the Spectators."

October 6, 1835

REPORT OF 2ND ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING:

Balance on hand \$42.78

Pusey, Hall, and Young reelected commissioners.

Resolved \$600 be raised by subscription during the ensuing year.

October 20, 1835

Report of Committee on State of School District.

Received by contribution	\$368.83
" from school Fund	2043.28
" " sale of house on lot	37.00
" for interest	<u>31.67</u>

On hand \$ 2479.78

Lot at S. W. corner French & Hanover, 83' 2" by 58 had been purchased for \$600.

The lowest bid for a building 35 by 55, 2 stories was \$2685; later a simplified plan reduced the bid to \$2600.

Building complete at	\$2600
Lot	<u>600</u>
Total cost	\$3200
Total deficit	720.22

Needed for completion of furnishing yard, outbuildings, heating, etc	500.00
To complete school	1220.22

This sum will give two rooms, one for boys and one for girls , each capable of seating 120 - 150 pupils, and a finished yard. There is a basement room that can be finished at moderate cost.

The School Fund, and voted contribution (if collected in full) will amount to only \$1150, which will not permit the opening of the school this season. The committee is very anxious to get the school in operation, and believes current revenue should be used for employing teachers and other current expenses.

They therefore urge that the \$1220.22 needed to complete the plant be raised in some other way, and ask public cooperation

Willard Hall	} Committee
Wm. Chandler	
Geo. Bush	
Robt. Porter	
Jonas Pusey	

October 27, 1835

A letter signed P. applauds the report of Hall and others, and supports the theory of public education because:

It is the soundest type of internal improvement to use the intellectual resources of the community to the fullest possible extent.

It is a measure of public defense to see that those who control the government shall be informed.

"It is no charity system. It is a plain common sense transaction," where a common good is obtained by common action.

"A school of the kind contemplated has this additional advantage; that where there are so many children thrown together with such a variety of internal structure -- minds as diversified as their faces and forms, there is an incitement of the mental energies, a rubbing and brightening up, that cannot fail to be beneficial."

October 7, 1836

Public Schools in Wilmington

Extracts from the Delaware State Journal, vol. 4-- No. 90

At a meeting of the members of the School Committee and advisory comm. of the United District of Wilmington, held at the Clerk's office, Oct. 4, 1836, among other proceedings it was, on motion,

Resolved, That a sub-committee of three be appointed to devise the best mode of warming the school room, and to have it put into operation as soon as possible." Committee named.

"Resolved, also -- That a charge of fifty cents per quarter for stationery and incidental expenses of the schools, be made for each scholar attending them."

Jonas Pusey, Clerk

* * *

At a stated meeting of the voters of the United District, October 1, 1836, at the district schoolhouse.

"Jonas Pusey, Clerk of the United District, read a report of the school committee of their proceedings during the year now ended, stating among other things that a Boys' school was opened in the District school house on the 25th day of April last, under the care of Mr. Caleb Himber, teacher, and that a Girls' school was opened in the said house under the care of Miss Rachel Wilkinson, teacher: - He also read the report of Mr. Kimber respecting the Boys' school.

"On motion, Resolved that there be raised in the United School District the sum of nine hundred dollars, for maintaining the school house, and for the support of the free school in said district."

Jonas Pusey was elected clerk, and Willard Hall and Dr. James W. Thomson elected commissioners.

Robert Porter, Chairman

Jonas Pusey, Clerk

The opening of the school had not received a single line in the newspapers for April and May. Apparently, it was not considered sufficiently important. The report of 1852 again adds an enlightening detail to the contemporary story.

(i.e., 1835)

"The next year/the money was also obtained by contribution solicited in the same way. But this becoming unendurable, it was determined (apparently, in 1836) to apply to the city council to advance what must be raised in the districts to obtain the school dividends. This application was made with anxiety, for it was known that there was (sic) strong negative voices in the city council. But the reasons for the application was (sic) strong; a majority of council was favorable; and ever after the advance requisite to obtain the school dividends, and at times more, was made.

"When the united district went into operation there was an advisory committee of one from each district, who purchased a lot

and superintended the building of a school house. In March, 1835, a lot was purchased for \$600; June 10 a contract was made with E. ^{in the} Huxley for building the house for \$2500; July 4th corner stone was laid; 1836, April 21, the boys' school was opened (see extract of the committee's Minutes for explanation of apparent discrepancy in dates), September 5th the girls' school was opened. These schools have been continued to this day, and are now in successful operation....

Signed by

Ziba Ferris
Willard Hall
Samuel McCaulley"

Most of the information available about the schools of Wilmington between 1836 and 1850 is found in the recently recovered¹ Minute Book of the United District #10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 in New Castle County for the years 1835-1852. Occasional newspaper extracts add further detail to the story.

The little book offers a few interesting items, in addition to those found in the newspaper accounts, about the years between legal organization of the district and the opening of classes. January 3, 1835, an account with the Farmers' Bank of the State of Delaware was opened for the public schools of Wilmington, in which the \$364.83 raised by contribution was deposited on January 26. On March 21, land was bought for the first city-owned public elementary school, and on June 10, a contract was let to Elisha Huxley to erect the building for \$2600, to be paid in three in-

¹ This record, missing for a half-century or more, was found in 1939, and later purchased by the Delaware State Archives Commission.

stallments, the final one on completion of the building, "by the 10th of October next." At the meeting of September 11, the Committee made arrangements "for furnishing the School house with seats, writing desks, Stoves, etc., and for procuring teachers."

Seven months later, April 6, 1836, the Committee engaged Caleb Himber of Philadelphia as teacher of the Boys' School at a salary of \$600, and deferred opening of the Girls' School as inexpedient "at present." Two days later the school system received its first legacy, \$50.00 from "the late John Wardell." On the twenty-first of the month, the Committee and the teacher "attended to take applications at the Boys' School." The next day rules and regulations for the government of the school were prepared for distribution. The Committee reported 149 boys enrolled, and decided that not more than "two from any one place" might be admitted. The first session was held April 25, with 151 attending.

The principle of using locally raised tax money to assist the public schools was established almost from the beginning of the Wilmington schools, for on May 16, 1836, City Council contributed \$100 "in aid of the funds of the District."

In July the Committee "agreed with Rachel Wilkinson of this place to teach the Girls' School at a salary of Two hundred and fifty Dollars; she to visit some of the public schools of Philadelphia and otherwise to prepare herself for that duty." The school census of 1830 (See Table I) shows Miss Wilkinson, at that time, as a private teacher/^{in District No. 12} with 14 pupils. By September 25, (1836) Miss Wilkinson had apparently "prepared herself" sufficiently, for the school was put into operation with an unrecorded number of students. To and including October 1, 1836, a total of 308 pupils

had attended both schools. A December report shows 149 girls then enrolled.

School officials of this period evidently did not believe in coddling their wards unduly in the matter of heat, for it was not until October 6 that coal, and four stoves, two for each room, were ordered.

There is evidence that the public at large considered the city schools as successors to the charity schools, for on October 7 the School Committee received \$120 from the Harmony Free School Society, one of the chartered charity schools that had received a State subsidy before the passage of the Free School Law in 1829.

At the close of 1836, on December 28, the Committee decided to admit children at six years of age instead of seven, after the first of January. At this same meeting the Franklin Lyceum Company negotiated a lease on the unfinished basement room of the school, the first evidence of cooperation between a group interested in adult education and the public school system. The Committee was to finish the room, and charge \$25 yearly rent for it until the cost of the work was amortized.

After 1836, the Minutes of the School District became almost the sole source of information about the progress of the schools until agitation for a more complete system of public education began to find space in the papers a dozen years later. A few newspaper extracts and references to Wilmington schools found in the Proceedings of the New Castle County School Convention add occasional details to the story. Such items are documented as introduced; other statements are taken from the Minutes of the District for the dates indicated.

The first significant entry for 1837 shows that the Lancastrian system was abandoned in the Boys' School on August 4, after eighteen months trial. The Committee decided to release the man employed in this department, and replace him with two women; they closed the Boys' School for the remainder of the school year as of September 4.

This same meeting of August 4, 1837, indicates further co-operation between the District and City Council, for the receipt of \$450 and exemption from a paving assessment was acknowledged.

The Annual School Meeting was held September 30, and school supporters finally mustered courage to say the word taxation aloud. The school system did not drop dead on the spot as punishment for the sacrilege; the meeting approved a budget of \$800.00, to be raised by taxation unless Council would appropriate at least \$500, a proposition later accepted. This is apparently the transaction which Hall reported in 1852 as one undertaken with great misgiving.

Table II lists the teachers employed by the District, with salary, residence, and tenure where these items are available. It is, however, worth noting that November 1837 marks the start of Wilmington's first experiment in the use of women teachers for the Boys' School. Apparently, the plan did not work out very well, for in July 1838, the Committee and teachers, in conference, decided to abandon it at the close of the year. On October 20, 1838, a teacher with the intriguing name of Rudolpho Parker, origin unknown, was employed. Rudolpho, too, was abandoned as a bad guess at the end of his year, although he continued to teach

for several months longer until a successor was located.

The meeting of October 20, 1838, gives the first evidence that the Wilmington schools, from the beginning, had bought books and stationery to supply the entire student body. A small charge, not always collected in full, was made for use of supplies. The city schools under this plan were spared one of the chief problems of the smaller districts, lack of uniform textbooks and other materials needed for school work.

The report of the Annual Meeting on October 5, 1839, announces that the schools had been in session the entire year, and that they were proving themselves "useful," though not to the full extent their friends hoped they soon might.

In 1841 the Committee employed a brother and sister to take charge of the Boys' School. Though the original pair remained only six months, the precedent was followed frequently thereafter. The schools seem to have been managed on something of a family monopoly basis, for when Rachel Wilkinson, the original girls' teacher, resigned in 1839, her place was taken by an "Ann" who was, apparently, her sister.

Joseph Hayes, who, with his sister Leah, took charge of the schools in 1841, seems to have been an enterprising young citizen. Though his initiative eventually got him into difficulties with his superiors, he started off well. At the Annual Meeting in October, the Committee reported improved enrollment and attendance under his tutelage. They considered that the appointment of an assistant in the Boys' School had been very wise, though they still found the Lancastrian program satisfactory for the girls.

1841 was decidedly a year of innovation in the schools of Wilmington. The following entries indicate the changes that were taking place:

October 5

"The first and second series of the 'District School Library,' with cases," were to be procured. It was also agreed that "a suitable person be employed to take charge of the fires during the fall and approaching winter."

October 9

Jane Anderson was employed at \$1.25 a week to "make fires, etc., and do the necessary sweeping in the Girls' Room."

November 27

The Library arrived, and rules for its use were formulated:

- 1 - Privilege of withdrawal was restricted to "the First and Second Classes" of each school, one volume at a time.
- 2 - Books were to be returned weekly.
- 3 - Abuse of books should mean loss of right to use them.
- 4 - Books might be refused those who showed no evidence of having used those previously borrowed.

November 29

Use of tobacco by the boys in the school was prohibited. A laborer was employed to clear the sidewalks of snow when necessary as a protection to girls on the way to and from the building. The janitress was to sweep the Boys' Room as well as the Girls' Room at 50¢ per week extra.

The five-year-old school, however, despite its new janitress, its library, its assistant teacher, and its prohibition against "the use of tobacco in the school-room," had not outgrown all its early problems, for the Report to the Annual Meeting of that same year, 1841, concludes:

"It may be added, that little as our citizens generally seem to regard our public schools (judging from the attention they pay or rather neglect to pay to them) which is a circumstance much to be regretted; the friends of education are encouraged by the reflection that an institution at which 250 children are daily instructed in those several primary branches which are necessary to the attainment of the commonest acquirements of learning, and conducted, too, with the strictest regard to morals, decorum, and general good behavior, cannot fail to be highly beneficial to the community in which it is established. Our motto therefore should be:

PERCEVERE."

In January, 1842, boys under seven were again excluded because the enrollment had grown too large to accommodate them. This was evidently a matter of necessity, for in October the Committee decided to look for a room for "a school for small boys" and a woman teacher to take charge of it. The next month they agreed that their own basement room was the best for the new school, and opened negotiations with the Lyceum Company to purchase the lease. On December 31, they made the purchase for \$75, and a month later installed as teacher, Aquila Thomas, a man willing to accept the salary offered a woman, forced to withdraw between the signing of her contract and the opening of the school.

This arrangement was on an experimental three-months basis, and the instructor received only \$50 a quarter. The following September, an average enrollment of 60 was reported in this division. The plan apparently worked satisfactorily, for the school was continued for six years with the same teacher (at the same salary), and was suspended only for lack of funds. For some months longer, Mr. Thomas rented the room and continued the school under private arrangements with the parents. A brief experiment with a "cheap" teacher, after 1849, proved wasteful. (See below)

The July meeting of the Committee, in 1842, ordered that the school should be open on Saturday morning, "a revival of the original rule." Members complained that many parents and guardians were "remiss" in meeting "charges made from the commencement of the schools for the use of Books and Stationery, to wit, 50 cents per quarter" for those "using Copy Books, and 25 cts. per quarter for others." A statement of the problem this caused was to be sent in writing to all patrons of the schools, with a request for fuller cooperation.

For March and June 1843, these entries appear:

March

Concert singing of "Temperance Odes and Songs and other pieces of unexceptionable character" was to be introduced into the schools.

June

"Observing some of the boys are still in the habit of spitting in their schoolroom notwithstanding the pains heretofore taken by us to prevent it, the Committee --

"Resolved: That the practice of Spitting in the School Rooms be entirely prohibited, and any infringement of this Rule shall be deemed cause of dismissal from School!"

In the fall of that same year the Committee was authorized to remodel the seats so that all children could be accommodated "according to the most approved plan." In September 1844, the work had been completed, and at the Annual Meeting the voters were informed that "there were ready for use 340 desks, seats, and side benches, all with backs," obtained at a cost of \$180.

That spring, the Lancastrian plan had been finally abandoned "altogether" in the schools of the district, and a "female assistant" had been employed for the Girls' School. Results had been encouraging.

1845 marks the beginning of a central purchasing agency for the schools. In October, the Committee drew up rules under which it should purchase, for cash, a general order to fill all school needs. The list should be made from the teachers' detailed requisitions, and any other suggestions they cared to submit.

The school had outgrown its quarters, even with the addition of the basement room, and in April 1846, a committee, of which David C. Wilson, Willard Hall, Dr. H.F. Askew, Eli Hillis, and John McClung were members, was appointed to consider the purchase of another school or schools which would provide space for "play-ground and conveniences," part of the expense to be met by the sale of the original building.

During this same year one finds the first evidence of a direct tie-up between the public schools and a program of adult education, although the evening program was not yet under the

direction of the School Committee. The following notice appeared in the Delaware Gazette for October 9:

Night School

"Mr. J. R. Hayes has opened a school for young men and lads, at the School House, corner of Sixth and French streets, where instruction in the common English branches will be given."

Mr. Hayes was still the Principal of the Boys' School. It is not clear whether he paid rent for the use of the school building, or what the tuition charge for the adult classes was. (See chapter, Early Adult Education below for more detail about cooperation between the day and evening schools.)

Mr. Hayes, after a tenure of six years, was headed for difficulty with his superiors. On March 20, 1847, the School Committee discovered that Leah Hayes had left her position, and that her brother, who received the salary of both in a lump sum, had obtained a new assistant without consulting or even notifying the Committee. The Clerk was directed to make a full investigation, and to pay the proper assistant's salary directly to the young woman. In August, Hayes resigned, probably under pressure, and his place was filled by Elbridge Sibley. Miss Farra, who had occasioned the trouble between Mr. Hayes and his Committee, was apparently a satisfactory teacher, for she was retained. Salaries for all teachers, were, however, reduced.

By 1848, Wilmington was approaching another period of interest in its schools, presaged by activity both on the part of the Committee and by outsiders. After Mr. Hayes' withdrawal, there were frequent changes on the faculty for several years. A Miss Temple was

appointed to the Girls' School (Nov. 1847); the Small Boys' School and was closed for lack of funds in April 1849, /reopened in August under Miss Caroline Vandever, whose work was apparently poor, for the Annual Report of April 1851, reads:

For the two first quarters in the preceding year there was a Primary School in the Basement story, kept by a teacher at an annual salary of \$125. The Committee, on examination, became convinced that very little, if any good, was effected by it. They discontinued it, but, it is certainly desirable to have a Primary School in the Basement story; the error has been in rating the ability to teach such a school too low. It requires as much energy as either of the other schools and the funds will not suffice, to pay a competent teacher, unless the teacher be fully competent, the expenditure will be of little profit, - money only thrown away.

In November 1850, Mr. Sibley was dismissed as unqualified; the Committee sent to Boston to find a successor, and chose Albert G. Webster. The following spring Miss Farra resigned, and her place as assistant in the Boys' School was filled by Mr. Webster's sister, Sarah. A year later the Websters resigned and at the same meeting Miss Elizabeth Vandever, who had been in charge of the Girls' School for two years, was dismissed. The Committee asked the correspondent in Boston who had recommended the Websters to find a substitute; Charles and Charlotte Hutchins, husband and wife, were employed as principals of the two schools, and Miss Elizabeth C. Halliday, probably a local candidate since nothing to/ the contrary appears in the records, as assistant in the Boys' School.

The Minutes for these same years of frequent faculty changes contain numerous reports of the Committee visits to classrooms; both censure and commendation of teachers and methods are recorded. Sometimes the members remarked about the neat and attractive appearance of the students; at others, (as on March 5, 1850), they complained that the little boys were distressingly untidy, and agreed to ask

their parents to send them in more presentable condition.

Throughout these same years there was constant agitation for improvement of the public schools. The two most important propositions were the addition of a high school to the existing grades, and a great expansion of school plant and revenue so that all children in the city could enjoy the privilege of free education at least in the fundamentals. The seeds of both movements had already been sowed in the school system of the city and State before they became important issues in the late forties and early fifties; both reflected national as well as local feeling.

Dr. Paul Monroe points out¹ that public secondary schools in the United States developed gradually and somewhat informally, but that they had appeared years earlier than most students recognize. Massachusetts had started to build a system in 1827. Though it grew slowly, and in 1840 only a third of the towns complied with the law, in 1850 half, and in 1860 two-thirds, the State-supervised public high school was a fact in most sizable communities of that State before the Civil War. Elsewhere, Dr. Monroe contends, the public high school was widely accepted in many parts of the country before the conflict, even though it was not yet organized on a State-wide basis and was sometimes a mere informal extension of the usual curriculum. The Academy, even in Massachusetts, was still the more fashionable institution, but the trend toward public operation was unmistakeable.

The origin of the public high school in Delaware (though it rarely went under that title) has been discussed at some length in the section Free Schools in the Counties, 1830-60. Attention

¹ Founding of the American Public School System, p.414-419.

was called to the fact that this State had laid the legal foundation for such classes only two years later than Massachusetts did, that actual instruction had begun before 1840, that it was attempted in many communities in the late years of that decade, and that village and country schools in New Castle County, taken together,^{offered} at one time or another, every subject demanded by the New England law. Reasons for the decline of the movement in Delaware are suggested.

Although the city of Wilmington, better supplied than its rural neighbors with private academies, never offered the ambitious program some of the smaller towns attempted, some secondary subjects were taught as early as 1843¹. From 1843 through 1847, the school taught philosophy (general science), history, and bookkeeping in addition to the usual elementary course. In 1845, astronomy was added for that year alone. In 1848, physiology and natural philosophy "etc.," beyond the legal minimum were reported. In 1851, the Boys' School mentions no secondary courses, but the girls added history, physiology, and philosophy to the regular grades. The next year the same subjects appear for both schools. According to modern standards, the public school in Wilmington had reached a somewhat precarious junior high school status by 1843, and maintained it, with some changes, until the reorganization in 1852, a period of nine years.

Advocates of public education were not satisfied with this level of achievement. They seem to have decided, wisely, that when two teachers were asked to handle from ninety to one hundred

¹ Curriculum for 1841-42 is missing, so the exact date of introduction has not been determined.

and fifty pupils, little more could be demanded of them than they were already doing. Newspapers in 1848 report a strongly-supported plan to build or buy a new school for the advanced classes. Unfortunately, no mention of curriculum has been uncovered; one may assume that the school duplicated the program in Massachusetts for the larger towns: U.S. history, bookkeeping, geometry, surveying, algebra, Greek. Latin, general history, rhetoric, and logic, for the schools at this time were coming under a strong New England influence.¹ Contemporary clippings show the main features of the proposal, and the arguments and mood of those who objected to it:

1848

January 21, /p. 2, col. 3, Delaware Gazette

High School. - Petitions to the City Council for a High School are in circulation and are very numerous, signed, about 500 signatures having been already obtained. This is an excellent object and every suitable effort should be made for its attainment, as such a school is much needed in our city.

March 3, 1848, p. 3, col. 2, Delaware Gazette

The High School. - Our citizens will be pleased to learn that the City Council have adopted the report of the committee upon this subject, which provides for the establishment of an institution of this useful character.

The location selected (the City School House on sixth street, to the right of the City Hall) being a very central and accessible, is a very suitable one.

March 21, 1848, p. 2, col. 3, Delaware Gazette

The City High School. - We are sorry to hear that the report submitted by the special Committee of Council, proposing the establishment of a "High School" within our city, has met with opposition from some of the members. In our humble opinion the same amount of money can be expended in no other manner to be conducive of half as many good results.

¹ See extracts from Minutes of the School Committee for these years.

The general features of the report are these:

The school is to be called "the High School of Wilmington," to be held in the City School House, in Sixth street (which is admirably adapted to such a use) until a building can be erected for the express purpose, from private subscription, the students to be taken from the District Schools on certificates of merit from their teachers, and not to exceed forty in number. The school to be under the control of five directors, who are to be elected annually by council, and shall prescribe the exercise, &c. An appropriation of seven hundred and fifty dollars, per annum, made by council to defray the expenses.

...The Report provides that the Students shall be taken from the District Schools. In other words, the children who are to be educated in the High School shall be the sons of parents whose limited means will not admit of sending them to our expensive Colleges and Academies. It is known that our District Schools are made up of such scholars; so far as these schools go, they have been pronounced a blessing to our community ...

January 3, 1851, Delaware Gazette

For the Delaware Gazette

Common Schools

The necessity of establishing a uniform system of elementary schools in this city, has long since been clearly demonstrated, from the fact that many thousands of our population have grown up without even the advantages of primary schools. And notwithstanding these facts, set very fully before us from time to time, the wise men of our city have come forward with a report in which they say it is necessary to improve the condition of our common school education, by building a college. In the Ninth district we have had a school for fifteen years. This portion of the Fifth ward is thinly inhabited, yet the manliness of her citizens has enabled them ... (to build a common school in which) hundreds of children have received the rudiments of education ... But what have these men done, who had the management of the union schools? They must be made to answer for nine districts, in sixteen years, where they have expended twenty-two thousand dollars of the public money, or all that belonged to the nine districts by law, and have accomplished little or nothing. A committee now comes forward to swindle the people again out of their rights, with a report that we ought to build a high school or a college, when they know we have never had elementary schools among us. They tell us in the report that a school house will cost about four thousand

dollars -- they order an election to take place, on the 4th instant. Why all this hurry, and why this summary proceeding? ... The great object of this committee is to go forward, and take the people by surprise, carry the election in their favor, then a committee will be appointed to visit Dover, and bore the Legislature for acts to enable them to go forward. Taxation will then commence in earnest, and the building, instead of costing four thousand dollars, will cost eight or ten ...

B. E. M.

There is no evidence that those who wanted a high school added to the lower grades objected to a program of taxation and building, so that all children in the city could conveniently attend school. However, the success of the more expensive proposal in 1852, deferred further action on the plan to expand the curriculum.

Bringing Wilmingtonians to the point of taxing themselves enough to build and support an adequate school system, cost a second major campaign almost as difficult as that of 1834-36. For the most part the account of its course is taken verbatim from the newspapers, though in some cases it has been necessary to summarize or condense the source material. Annual Reports of School Committee for 1851 and 1852 are included, in their proper chronological position, to indicate the condition of the school, in the eyes of its friends, during the time the transition to Board of Education control was taking place. One must of course remember that both the defense of the schools and the attacks upon them, which are quoted, are the blow-by-blow description of a bitter political fight, very probably clouded also by personality conflicts. Yet, with all their imperfections as educational treatises, these newspaper extracts show vividly the atmosphere in which the modern public school system of Wilmington was evolved.

January 17, 1850, page 2, Delaware Gazette

A Long Editorial on School Meetings

"A stated meeting of the New Castle County Association for the improvement of public schools, was held at City Hall, Wilmington, on Monday evening, January 14th, 1850. The committee appointed at a previous meeting to prepare a report on the expediency of increasing the number of schools in the city, made the following report."

Committee passed resolution to increase number of public schools in Wilmington.

Remarked also that public schools could accommodate so few, and were so inadequate that little interest was felt in them.

Committee also suggested the following:

"Commodious school houses must be built and qualified teachers must be employed. Money for the School Fund and school equipment must be raised from taxation."

"The Commissioners from the several wards shall together form a Board of Control, which shall direct as to the course of instruction given, the books to be used, make rules for the admission of children to the schools, and appoint all teachers.

"The Commissioners of each ward shall make quarterly reports to the Board of Control, of the conditions of the schools under their care, the number, ages and sex of the children taught, average attendance, and other such matters as may assist the Board in its measures for rendering the schools as perfect as possible.

"The Board of Control shall make an annual report to the City Council of all the conditions of all the schools, with an accurate statement of expenses, and the object for which they were incurred. They shall also present an estimate of the amount needed for the ensuing year, to aid the Council in making their appropriation.

"It shall be the duties of the Commissioners in each ward, to visit their respective schools at stated times for the purpose of ascertaining from personal observations the conditions of the schools, and thus judging necessary modifications." ...

February 5, 1850, Delaware Gazette

School Meeting

The meeting at the City Hall on Saturday evening was largely attended. Speeches were made by Rev. M.J. Rhees, Thomas Young, Esqr., and Dr. Grimshaw, and resolutions

were passed requesting the City Council to lay a tax upon our citizens, and appropriate money for the purpose of erecting school houses and employing teachers.

February 19, 1850, Delaware Gazette

Adjourned Meeting

The meeting of the School Association held on Monday evening last adjourned to meet at the Wilson Building, corner of fifth and Market streets, this evening. The object we learn is to adopt some plan to propose to the council for the improvement of the schools.

December 17, 1850, Delaware Gazette,

"Town Meeting, Common Schools"

A Letter to the Editor of the Gazette.

"I understand, the committee who have been charged with the consideration of means for the increase and improvement of common schools in this city, have prepared a report of a system, after which careful consultation and examination they have unanimously adopted. From the character of the members of the committee, we may expect a very matured plan. The subject is deeply important. The condition of our common schools as well as the number of them; and whether we shall have a system suitable to us will much depend on the report made, and the action of the meeting upon it. We believe everyone will be able to spare an hour or so of next Saturday afternoon (3 O'clock) to attend this matter, vital as it is to the general welfare.

It is very desirous to have an universal attendance of our citizens and their deliberate action on the subject.

A Citizen

January 7, 1851, p. 2, Col. 2, Delaware Gazette

"The School Proposition. - The election held in the city on Saturday, resulted by a large majority in favor of the proposition made by a committee of citizens, appointed at a recent public meeting, which is adverse to that proposed by the City Council. The following is the detailed result as reported:

For the Report

386

Against the Report

150

A majority of 230 for the Report.

January 10, 1851, p. 3, Col. 1, Delaware Gazette

We hope the well wishers to a good system of Common Schools in this city, will not neglect the Town Meeting of Saturday evening in the City Hall.

January 14, 1851, p. 2, Col. 3, Delaware Gazette

At a meeting of the citizens of Wilmington, held in the City Hall on Saturday evening, January 11, 1851, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee appointed to receive the ballots of the School Voters in the several wards of the city aforesaid, for acceptance or against acceptance of the system of Common Schools proposed in the report of the said Committee, William Chandler was called to the chair, and William B. Wiggins appointed Secretary.

The report of the Committee was then read, and unanimously adopted.

On motion of Judge Hall, the following Preamble and Resolution were read and adopted:

Report of the Committee appointed by the Resolution of the Town meeting, of December 21st, to hold elections in the several Wards; to receive the ballots of the school voters in said Wards, respectively, for acceptance or against acceptance of the system of Common Schools, proposed in the Report of the Committees to that Town meeting being made, it appears that said Report to the Town meeting of December 21st, and the Resolution of said meeting thereupon was published in the newspapers as required by said Resolution; and that, pursuant to said Resolution, elections were held in the several Wards, on the 4th day of January, inst., ... and that there was a majority of two hundred and thirty-four votes "for acceptance" of said system. Therefore,

Resolved, That a Committee of seven be appointed to petition the General Assembly now in session, to pass an Act in conformity to the system of Common Schools proposed in said report, and so as to carry the same into operation.

Whereupon, the meeting appointed as said Committee, Hon. Judge Hall, Samuel Hilles, Col. Jesse Sharpe, William Chandler, Rev. Nicholas Patterson, Dr. H. F. Askew and P. Sheward Johnson, Esq.

Wm. Chandler, President

Attest, Wm. B. Wiggins, Sec'y

January 24, 1851, p. 3, Col. 3, Delaware Gazette

A lengthy letter to the editor on the subject of financing the school system, urges that the school board should be elected by the people and not by a

city council; it should be responsible to the former. In this way more money will be granted and more will be achieved for education. (Signed by "T")

January 24, 1851, p. 3, Col. 4, Delaware Gazette

There appears an even longer letter to the editor by "BEM". It sneers at the building of a college before enough grade schools are in existence; and at teachers imported from New England. It also claims that the City Council are the best commissioners to attend to funds.

January 24, 1851, p. 2, Col. 5, Delaware Gazette

AN ACT

To establish a Board of Public Education
in Wilmington

Section 1. Be it enacted..., That there be established in the city of Wilmington a Board of Public Education, composed of twelve members to wit: (3 each, from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th wards)...

The members from each ward shall be elected in the same by the school voters therein voting by ballot; they must be school voters in the ward in which elected; they shall hold their offices for three years and until successors to them respectively be chosen and qualified; but removal from the ward shall vacate membership; they shall have no pay or emolument, nor be allowed compensation for any service; but the expenses of the accountant when going before the Auditor for settlement, and fees for copying to make out assessment lists and duplicates shall be proper charges.

Each member before entering upon office shall be qualified, by taking an oath or affirmation to perform the duties of his office diligently and faithfully...

School voters must vote in the ward they reside in, and only for members from that ward...

Sec. 2....(The Board shall have) the capacity and all the powers and incidents of a corporation, except banking powers and power to borrow money, but for the purchase money of any real estate procured for the accommodation of a school or for the expenses of building a school house or appurtenances the board may give security by the obligation of the corporation and the mortgage of the estate or building.

The officers of the said board shall be a president and secretary, who must be members, and a treasurer who may be appointed, not being a member, and other officers and agents as found necessary...

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3...the board aforesaid shall have charge of the public education in common schools in the city of Wilmington, except the part of it lying north of Twelfth street, and being school district No. 9, in New Castle county.

It shall be the duty of the board to increase the number and improve the condition of the common schools, as they shall deem judicious and expedient, until it shall satisfactorily appear that the common schools are sufficient to accommodate all the white children and minors whose parents, masters or guardians desire the benefit for them.

The board shall have authority to rent, purchase or build school houses, one or more from time to time, to procure lots of ground, to employ and dismiss teachers, and to do all acts necessary for instituting and sustaining common schools; they shall appoint visiting committees, make regulations, and have stated monthly meetings. They shall have power to make by-laws.

Sec. 4...In order that the board aforesaid may have the necessary means to discharge its functions, it shall have right to draw the dividends from time to time made and entered to the credit of the school districts numbers 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, in New Castle county, in the accounts of the trustee of the school fund with said districts respectively, and it shall be the duty of the said trustee to pay said dividends, upon an order signed by the president of said board and attended by the secretary...

(For raising money the board) shall cause to be made an assessment list, by transferring to an and entering in the same all the names of the white inhabitants of Wilmington hundred, except the part thereof lying north of Twelfth street, with the sums entered against them...on the assessment list of Wilmington hundred...

Sec. 5...whenever the school voters in school district No. 9, in New Castle county shall desire...the said district (may join) with the rest of the city under the said board of public education...

Sec. 6...election of members of the board aforesaid, the present year, shall be held the second Saturday of February...

The members so chosen shall be classed by lot as follows, that is to say: the term of one of said members shall expire on the first Saturday in April 1852; the term of another...1854, so that to keep the board full, one member for the term of three years must be elected in each ward, every year after the present...

Sec. 7... if any person not having right to vote in any election held under this act, shall vote in such election, or shall vote in a ward in which he does not reside, or if any Inspector or assistant shall knowingly take the vote...every such person ...shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars...

Sec. 8...after the first Saturday of April next, the offices of clerk and Commissioners of the United School district aforesaid shall be abolished and the board aforesaid shall be in their stead...

January 28, p. 2, Col 3, Delaware Gazette

A letter to the editor favors the new board of education, and opposes the expert politicians, enemies of the board, who decry it as a "new taxing power."

January 31, 1851, p. 3, Col. 1, Delaware Gazette

Gov. Ross and Free Schools - Anterior to the election, Col. Ross was most bitterly assailed by the Whigs on many points, and on none more bitterly than as an opponent of Free Schools. We denied this statement at the time as Col. R. did himself, but the false accusation was repeated. We know Col R's real views, and urged him as a friend and champion of public education.

In his Inaugural Address, Gov. R. has fully sustained our position.../Here follows a section of the inaugural address giving the Governor's favorable opinion of Free Schools/.

February 25, 1851, p. 2, Col. 2, Delaware Gazette

The Public School Bill. - We sincerely trust that the Legislature may pass the Public School Bill now before them, referring to this city. Something ought to be done, and it should be done now. Council will oppose everything not originated by them. That bill will meet the popular wishes, and it can do no harm, since it is left entirely optionary with Council to accept or reject it. The President of the Council stated in debate the other night that they, the Council, were not committed and should keep so, this is not the case. We presume they defeated the other bill; we hope they will not defeat this also. One overgrown neutile school house has absorbed all the school money for years. Raise money and build houses in other Wards now, should be the doctrine.

March 14, 1851, p. 3, Col. 1, Delaware Gazette

The Public School Bill. - The Journal of Tuesday says this Bill passed the Legislature. This may be, and we sincerely hope is correct, for it was an excellent measure, and should have passed if it did not, but we were told by its chief patron, Mr. Lodge, that it was yet lying on the files of the Senate, and could only pass at the adjourned session. We hope as we say again that the Journal may be correct.

March 21, 1851, p. 3, Col. 3, Delaware Gazette

The Public School Bill. - Everybody who is anybody, now turns up his eyes with holy horror at the neglect of the State Senate to pass the House Bill for the benefit of the Public schools of Wilmington, but while the measure was still pending, there was scarce a man to be found in the public places who would take the trouble to say one word in its favor...

From what we have seen and been referred to we are constrained to believe that the lamentations of the Whig press at the overlaying of a highly popular measure by a Democratic Senate are insincere, and its tears such as are shed by crocodiles alone.

At all events, the bill now lies upon the Senate's files on its second or final reading, and that body can easily make it a law at the adjourned session which they will have no excuse for failing to do, the desire therefor being so generally evinced by the press and people of our city, of all parties and classes. This difficulty about comprehending what were the real wishes of our citizens, we are told was the only reason which prevented the Senate acting favorably upon the Bill. We think however the odium of its defeat should rest on council which was represented as opposed to it, and thus exerted a fatal influence on its immediate prospects.

April 8, 1851, Delaware Gazette

Dr. Thompson introduced the subject of Common Schools, and proposed a plan whereby an increase of good schools might be satisfactorily made, and on motion it was referred to the next stated meeting.

May 6, 1851, p. 2, Col. 1, Delaware Gazette

The Council and Public Schools. - "A Liberal Course." - We are pleased to learn from the Journal (the official organ of the Council, edited in part, by the Clerk of that august body,) and its echo [for this purpose] the Philadelphia North American: that it is now "the inten-

tion of the Council, to pursue a liberal course in reference to the subject of Public Education... "

A death-bed repentance is always looked upon by living survivors, with just suspicion...we are met just as their term of office is expiring...with the assurance that "a liberal course" is about to be pursued on the subject...And what, good people do you think, is the meaning of this cabalistic phrase? Why, if we are to believe a correspondent of one of the Whig organs, the appointment of a Committee of the Council to travel throughout the New England States, New York, &c., during the ensuing traveling season, to collect information, &c., as to the best system of Public Education," and all expenses to be paid by the liberal "Tax-payers of Wilmington,"...

Now, since on this day, the tax-payers of Wilmington have the opportunity of deciding as to whether this pleasure excursion shall take place at the expense of the ignorant children, now suffering for the want of educational accommodations or not, we call upon them to come up to the polls en masse...

April 15, 1851, p. 2, Col. 6, Delaware Gazette

At a meeting of the School voters of the United School District, from No. 10 to 18 inclusive, in New Castle County, convened according to public notice, in the city of Wilmington, in the District School House, in said United District, on Saturday, April 5th, 1851, Robert Galbreath was appointed Chairman, and E. Joyce Smithers Secretary.

The committee laid before the meeting their accounts for the year past, by which there appears a ballance in favor of the District of \$371 13.

On motion it was resolved that Dr. A.H. Grimshaw and John A. Allderdice be appointed a committee to examine said account.

The following report of the School Committee was ordered to be published:

During the past year two schools have been kept open -- one for boys, by two teachers, a male teacher at a salary of \$500 a year, and a female teacher at \$200 a year. The salary of the present female assistant, owing to expenses in coming from a distance on trial, for her first half year to be at the rate of \$250 per annum.

The present male teacher commenced the school December 9th, last. The whole number of scholars that have been in the school since that time 191

Whole number in attendance during Feb	156
" " " " March	152
" " " " at this time	143

Average attendance in February	131
" " " March	120

The attendance in March being affected by moving of families, and several of the older scholars attending in the winter only, leaving in the Spring.

THE EXERCISES

Reading and Spelling — the whole school	
Writing	120
Adams' large Arithmetic	20
Colbourn's Elements	64
Davies' Arithmetic	30
Emerson's North American	30
Grammar	10
Mitchell's large Geography	24
Primary	55

The good order established in this school affords to the scholars the fullest opportunity for learning, while thoroughness and strictness of the recitations compel them to make progress. The recitations are effective mental discipline; great credit is due to the principal teacher for the ability by which he has established in so large a school a system of order and quietness, as well as general, thorough recitation — even if the scholar come to his recitation unprepared, he must be drilled into it by the exercise, and will be made careful against repeating his fault.

The committee consider the whole conduct of the school as commendable, and they believe there is not a school in the county in which the scholars, notwithstanding the large number for one teacher and one assistant, receive more direct and individual instruction.

The school for girls has also two teachers; the principal at a salary of \$250, and the assistant at a salary of \$150 per annum. The seats of the school (150) have been all occupied. The average attendance, in the winter, was 130 and since the setting in of the spring, from 112 to 118. The branches taught are Reading and Spelling, Writing and Dictation, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Physiology and Philosophy.

In these two schools, since their commencement in 1835, more than 4000 children have received their elementary education. The committee furnish to the scholars stationery, the class books, slates, pencils, copy books and pens -- better books are thus furnished, and at cheaper rates. There is also uniformity — this, in so large a school is indispensable. In return, a sum is required to be paid quarterly, by the scholars. There has been collected in the Boys School \$101.23
And in the Girls School 107.20
The Stationery bill has been 281.73

The sum, although there was an uncommon call for new books, and stationery, being much smaller than in the preceding year.

Principal and Assistant of Boys School	\$700
Principal and Assistant of Girls School	375
Teacher of Primary School, two quarters	62.50
For care of House	100
For Fuel	58.50
For Repairs	60.62
For articles of Furniture	21.25
For Insurance	6
For Bill of Stationery and Books	<u>281.73</u>
Total	\$1665.60

Leaving on hand an unexpended ballance of \$371.13 which will be called for Payments to teachers before any sum will come into the hands of the Committee — and if they could succeed in obtaining a suitable teacher for Primary school, this means will be inadequate.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

✓ Willard Hall) Com.
 ✓ Samuel Mc Caulley)
 ✓ Ziba Ferris, Clerk

The Committee appointed to examine the accounts reported, that they had performed their duty, and found the same correct. Report adopted.

On motion it was Resolved that three Hundred and Sixty Dollars, be raised in this United School District, for maintaining the Free Schools, and keeping in repair the school house. The Meeting proceeded to ballot to ascertain whether the said sum be raised by "Tax or no Tax," and for two Commissioners and a Clerk to serve during the ensuing year, which resulted in the re-election of Willard Hall and Samuel Mc Caulley Commissioners and Ziba Ferris Clerk; and in favor of "Tax." There being a majority of all the votes given for each of said officers and for said tax.

Robert Galbreth, Chairman

E. Joyce Smithers, Secretary

* * *

December 30, 1851, p. 2, Col. 1, Delaware State Journal

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The City Council hold a special meeting on Friday evening next, to take into consideration the subject of establishing Public Schools. We understand a Bill has been drawn and will be submitted to the Legislature this winter, which is satisfactory to all parties. The Bill

proposes to borrow ten thousand dollars for building and furnishing the school houses, and then support the schools by annual taxation. If the City Council should approve the Bill, which will be submitted to them on Friday evening, it will be sent to the Legislature for their action. If there is no objection to its provisions, the Legislature will of course pass it. The Council will no doubt call a public meeting of our citizens to act on the subject sometime before the meeting of the General Assembly.

* * *

March 5, 1852, p. 3, Col. 2, Delaware Gazette

The General Assembly, at the session just ended, have passed an "Act for the benefit of Public Schools in Wilmington."

It is, in substance, the same measure that has engaged the attention of the people of this city for the past two years; it embraces all the part of the city south of Twelfth street, and it forms a system under which the people can have as many and as good public schools as shall be found requisite...

This act provides for a Board of Public Education, to consist of twelve members; three from the first ward, three from the second ward, three from the third ward, with additions thereto of all that part of the fifth ward south of Twelfth street, and west of Market street, and three from the fourth ward, with additions thereto of all that part of the fifth ward south of Twelfth street and east of Market.

The members of this Board are to be elected by the school voters in each ward, or each ward and addition, on the second Saturday of March, inst., in the afternoon -- the election to open at two o'clock, and close at seven o'clock. Notice will be given of the same, and the place of holding.

The Assessor of the ward is to be the Inspector, and he is to take two assistants. Members hold their offices for three years; but they are to be so classed at first that one shall go out every year; so that, in each ward one member must be elected yearly, besides supplying vacancies.

For the great object in view, Public Schools, everything will depend upon the Board of Public Education... It is earnestly hoped that all other considerations will be laid aside...

The members can receive no compensation...

The Act contemplates that the schools shall be increased gradually, as circumstances point out and require.

* * *

March 19, 1852, p. 3, Col. 1, Delaware Gazette

THE SCHOOL ELECTION

An empty sound, and nothing more, is the noise made by the escape of gas from the pent up reservoir of Whig wrath upon the recent defeat at the school election...

Because the people chose to elect Samuel Hillis, of the Fourth Ward, over Judge Hall, it is denounced by the Republican that the city has been covered with "a burning disgrace"...

Again, Mr. Robert Carswell, an industrious, intelligent and educated Democratic mechanic, is selected as an object of denunciation because...of "his want of practical knowledge of the duties which he has been elected to perform." Mr. C. was elected especially on account of his connection with, and intimate knowledge of the working classes, whose children will fill these public schools to a large extent...

* * *

March 23, 1852, p. 2, Col. 3, Delaware Gazette

Proceedings of the School Board.— ...John Rudolph, Jesse Sharpe, Dr. J.F. Wilson, Robert Carswell and the President, were appointed to prepare and submit to a future meeting of the Board a plan for the establishment and government of public schools...

Union.— The School voters of District No. 9, are about uniting with the Board of Education with the rest of the city, and for this purpose a meeting will be held at their School House in Twelfth street...

* * *

1852,
March 19, /p. 3, Col. 2, Delaware Gazette

The Board of Public Education recently elected, convened on Wednesday evening and organized by the appointment of Samuel Hillis, President, J. Morton Poole, Secretary, and Jesse Sharpe, Treasurer...

* * *

March 26, 1852, p. 3, Col. 1, Delaware Gazette — contains an editorial which says that it is incorrect to suppose "that there exists a 'deep felt opposition to the cause' of public education in this community. We know of no such hostility. There may be those who do like to meet the expenditure, but we are not of that class...We have advocated the increase of public school facilities, and above all, the improvement of the present wretched system..."

* * *

March 26, 1852, p. 3, Col. 2, Delaware Gazette

Presentation.-- A deputation from the male and female departments of the public school, all nearly apparaled (sic), waited on Ziba Ferris, Esq.,...and presented him with a handsome copy of "Illustrated Poetical Selections."...

* * *

April 2, 1852, p. 3, Col. 3, Delaware Gazette

The School Board.-- This body assembled on Wednesday evening, when Samuel Hilles, the President, resigned his seat in the Board. We do not feel called upon to assign any reason for this resignation. But as the Board elected Judge Hall in his place, we sincerely trust our Whig friends will feel easier, "the burning disgrace" being, as we suppose, now wiped off the city...

* * *

April 9, 1852, p. 3, Col. 3, Delaware Gazette

Voted In.-- The Fifth Ward, has by an unanimour^s vote at the School Election held on last Saturday resolved to come under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Education of the city, and will elect three commissioners to said Board on Tuesday next. See notice...The following persons were elected commissioners in the Fifth Ward --Joshua H.T. Rice, J.W.Hawkins, and Wm. Bright.--and they voted a Tax.

(The notice referred to, on the last column of the same page, asks the school voters of District 9 and of District 5 to vote on union with the Board.)

* * *

In the Delaware Gazette for April 13, p. 2, Col. 2, 1852, is a list of school committees from several districts.

* * *

April 20, 1852, p. 2, col. 3, Delaware Gazette

The Board of Education met on Friday evening last, Bishop Lee and Samuel Walker, members elected from the 5th Ward, appeared and were duly qualified.

The Board adopted rules for the regulation of the schools, and also adopted a plan for school houses.

J.M. Poole, D.C.Wilson, James Webb and Dr. J.F.Wilson were appointed as Building Committee. Two school houses will be erected as soon as possible.

A committee was appointed to aid the school committee of district No. 9 in obtaining funds to pay off their debt on their school house.

The board adjourned to meet on Thursday evening next, in the Council Chamber.

* * *

Report of the School Committee of United School
District No. 10 to 18 inclusive

April 23, 1852, p. 2, Col. 1, the Delaware Gazette and Watchman

Two schools have been kept in this United District through the year:- a boys' grammar school and a girls' grammar school. The apartment of each is constructed for one hundred and fifty scholars. The seats have been filled; about one hundred applications have been rejected for want of room. The whole number of scholars has rarely been in attendance at the same time; there has scarcely been a day without absences; the average daily attendance has been, since the first of last September, in the boys' school 132, in the girls' school 115; this may be taken as the average daily attendance for the year.

In the boys' school are two teachers, Mr. Charles Hutchins at a salary of \$600 a year, and ... Miss Elizabeth Halliday, at a salary of \$250 a year.

In the girls' school, also are two teachers, Mrs. Charlotte Hutchins, principal, at a salary of \$500 a year, and Miss Margaret H. Mahaffy, assistant, at a salary of \$200 a year...

The amount of the salaries of the teachers of the boys' school	850.00
--	--------

Add one-half incidental expenses of both schools, exclusive of books provided	<u>131.41</u>
---	---------------

Total	981.41
-------	--------

making annual charge for each scholar (being 150), \$6.50; or for each quarter, \$1.63.

The salaries of the girls' school, principal and assistant	\$500.00
--	----------

Add one-half incidental expenses of both schools	<u>131.41</u>
--	---------------

Total	631.41
-------	--------

making the annual charge for each scholar \$4.20; or for each quarter, \$1.05.

The branches taught in these schools: Reading, Writing, Orthography, Arithmetic, Geography, History and Grammar; occasionally some branches of Natural Philosophy (now science)...

The committee furnish books. In this mode, the school can be properly classed, (a matter indispensable in so large a school); the best books are provided, and the cost of the books is much less, probably not more than half what it would cost the scholars to provide their own books. We make collections of the scholars for use of the books. In this way a part of the expenditure has always been reimbursed, sometimes one half...

The schools have suffered greatly from a cause affecting injuriously all schools -- neglect of parents and those having charge of children sent. (The former prejudices against the schools as pauper education and the present removal of that prejudice are discussed. Irregularity of attendance because of chores at home and because of truancy is denounced.)...

The schools of this United School District were opened in 1836 - the boys' school on April 25th, the girls' school September the 5th. There have been taught in these schools 5,450 pupils -- viz: 2760 boys; 2600 girls... It was several years before prejudice against the public schools could be so withstood as to admit these seats to be filled.

(Here follows the history of the schools quoted at the opening of this section.)

This report rounds out the story of the pioneer period of public education in Wilmington. From the reorganization in the spring of 1852, the city schools entered an era of rapid expansion which was soon to make them the dominant educational agency, at least in enrollment.

More liberal support and far more ample facilities are the chief items on the credit side of the reorganization. Factors that tended to hamper educational progress were the introduction of partisan politics and the ward unit of representation on the school board, and the long delay in establishment of a city high school, a proposal laid aside when the expensive new elementary program was adopted.

Tables Concerning Wilmington

Public Schools 1830 - 52

TABLE I

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO DISTRICT NEW CASTLE COUNTY,
SCHOOLS IN THE BOROUGH OF WILMINGTON, Dec. 28, 1830

From House Journal 1831, p. 211-12

St. No.	Pop. 5-21	No. Schools In Operation	Teacher	Enroll- ment	Fee
9	182	1	Mary <u>Wilkinson</u>	25	\$ 10 per an.
10	175	3	John <u>Bullock</u> , bdg. sch.	35	140
			Abigail <u>Robinson</u>	8	6
			Widow <u>Garretson</u>	8	5
11	136	5	Samuel <u>Hillis</u> , bdg. sch.	60	140
			Eli <u>Hillis</u>	30	32
			B. <u>Davenport</u>	31	20
			E. <u>Montgomery</u>	15	10
			Assenet <u>Wilson</u>	20	8
12	252	3	Rachel <u>Wilkinson</u>	14	9
			Mary <u>Seeds</u>	14	6
			Samuel <u>Foard</u>	20	2
13	204	8	Mary <u>Morris</u>	30	
			Elizabeth <u>Richards</u>	20	16
			Amelia <u>Clark</u>	25	20
			Lydia <u>Coulton</u>	25	12
			Martha <u>Kilpatrick</u>	20	10
			William <u>Mahannah</u>	40	8.80
			Phebe A. <u>Thomas</u>	23	6
			Maria A. <u>Smith</u>	30	Free
14	214	7	Samuel <u>Smith</u>	25	32
			R. <u>Belknap</u>	25	20
			Thomas <u>Hayhurst</u>	20	18
			Mary A. <u>Dixon</u>	20	12
			Yeamans <u>Gillingham</u>	16	10
			Ann <u>Phillips</u>	15	10
			Ellen <u>Byrnes</u>	11	8
15	227	2	Ann <u>Baily</u>	20	6
			Mrs. <u>Somers</u>	15	5
16	192	3	T. B. <u>Coit</u>	13	28
			Hannah <u>Bonsall</u>	20	14
			Sisters of <u>Charity</u>	46	Free

Dist. No.	Pop. 5-21	No. Schools In Operation	Teacher	Enroll- ment	Fee
7	260	2	Mary Thelwell Hannah Robinson	15 15	8 15
8	170	2	Mary Moore Eliza Roche	22 22	10.50 5.50
2012				36	813

Table II A

Boundaries of the Original Districts

March 22, 1853, p. 2, Col. 6, Delaware Gazette

Boundaries of the Original School Districts.-- The records in the office of the Clerk of the Peace, of New Castle, furnishes the following boundaries of each of the Original School Districts within this city:

District No. 9. -- Begins at the intersection of the City line and Brandywine Creek, thence with said line to 12th Street, and running east with 15th street to Brandywine Creek, and up the Creek to the place of beginning.

District No. 10.-- Beginning at the intersection of the city line and 12th street, along said line to 8th street, down 8th street to Market, up Market to 12th street and thence to the place of beginning.

District No. 11.-- Beginning at the intersection of Brandywine Creek and 12th street, up said street to Market, down Market to 7th, down 7th street to the Christiana Creek, down said creek to the mouth of the Brandywine, and up the Brandywine to the place of beginning.

District No. 12.-- Beginning at the South West corner of Market and 8th street up 8th street to the city line, down said line to 5th street, down 5th street to Market and up Market to place of beginning.

District No. 13.-- Beginning at Market and 7th street, running eastwardly along 7th street to the Christiana Creek, up said Creek to 4th street, up 4th street to Market and up Market to place beginning.

District No. 14.-- Beginning at the South West corner of Market and 5th streets, up said 5th street to the city line, with the said line to 3rd street to Market and up Market to place beginning.

District No. 15.-- Beginning at the corner of Market and 4th streets, along 4th street eastwardly to the Christiana Creek, up said creek to 2nd. street, along 2nd street to Market and thence to the place of beginning.

District No. 16.-- Beginning at the corner of Market and 3rd street to the city line, along said line to the Lancaster Turnpike, along said Pike to Front street down Front street to Tatnall, up Tatnall to 2nd street, along 2nd to Market and thence to the place of beginning.

District No. 17.-- Beginning at the corner of Market and 2nd streets, along 2nd to the Christiana Creek, up said creek to Market street, and up Market to the place beginning.

District No. 18.-- Beginning at the corner of Market and 2nd streets, up 2nd to Tatnall street down Tatnall to Front street, up Front Street to the Lancaster Pike, up said Pike to the city line, along said line to the Christiana Creek, down said creek to Market street, thence up Market to the place of beginning.

* * *

Table II B

Boundaries of the United District:

"Brandywine Creek to the intersection of Dickinson Street, thence with said Street westerly to the City line, thence along said line (being the Old King's Road) Southwesterly, passing on the western side of the Poor-house to the Lancaster Turnpike, thence up said Road westerly to the one-mile stone a few perches above the toll-gate and running from thence South thirty-two degrees west and passing through land belonging to Col. Samuel B. Davis, and passing about six perches to the south of the buildings thereon to a corner for said Davis, and in a line for land of the heirs of Joseph Robinson, deceased; from thence a southeasterly direction with the line of Davis and the heirs of Robinson to a corner for the Widow Warner, and from thence with the line of Warner and the aforesaid heirs of Robinson, and passing west to the buildings of the heirs of Robinson to the Newport and Wilmington Turnpike, and from thence with the line of said Warner and Nancy Stidham to the end of their line; to from thence continuing the same course to the Christiana Creek to the mouth of the Brandywine, and from thence to the place of beginning."

Table III

AUDITORS' REPORTS CONCERNING WILMINGTON SCHOOLS

Year	Reference	Local Contribution	Fund	Salaries	Mainten- ance	No. School	Term	Enroll- ment
1832	*257-#10	\$ 29.08	\$ 58.16	\$ 75.00	\$ 12.81	1	3	51
	#11	183.62	153.54	307.16	22.30		12	33
1834	(p. 241)	No div. rec'd by any Wilm. dist. - p. 241						
1835	(p. 36)	418.90	2,042.28	-	2,400.57	-	-	-
1836	(p. 308)	674.80	555.39	160.00	163.18	1	3:05	308
1838	(p. 369)	676.46	867.78	697.50	797.51	1	12	260
1840	(p. 612)	800.97	1,094.04	900.00	326.08	2	12	254
1841	(p. 102)	366.53	1,649.88	908.33	293.96	2	12	250
1842	(p. 650)	440.31	1,311.57	1,050.00	341.82	2	12	300
1843	(p. 48)	457.27	1,370.07	1,150.00	1,104.27	3	12	375
1844	(p. 409)	503.95	1,284.75	1,300.00	850.48	3	12	350
1846	(p. 398)	230.00	722.52	822.50	195.44	3	6	450
1848	(p. 435)	674.24	1,303.38	1,250.00	294.18	3	12	485
1850	(p. 491)	602.57	1,303.56	1,237.68	602.63	3	12	450
1852	(p. 440)	647.30	1,251.45	1,353.35	511.10	2	12	300

Districts 10-18 were within the 1830 boundaries of Wilmington; of these only #10 and #11 are reported as receiving a dividend before 1835.

TABLE IV

LOCAL TAX REVENUE RECEIVED BY THE WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1835-1852

YEAR	AMOUNT	COMMENT
1835	\$ -	All local money raised by individual contribution
1836	100.00	Rec'd. May 16 "in aid of the funds of the dist.
1837	500.00	Voted after Sept. 30; paid (?)
1838	225.00	School meeting had voted \$300 by tax unless Council contributed that amount. (Nov. 6)
1839	225.00	Rec'd Oct. 11
1840		Not recorded
1841	230.00	Amount voted; apparently paid. (Oct 2)
1842		Entry not copied
1843	230.00	Amount voted; apparently paid.
1844	230.00	" " " "
1845	230.00	" " " "
1846	230.00	" " " "
1847	230.00	" " " "
1848		
1849		
1850		Committee appointed at the Annual School Meeting to discuss means by which Council might take charge of raising the funds needed for an adequate school program.
1851		
1852		

Data for 1840, 42, 48, 49, 51, 52 is not included in the notes made from the original.

This data needs rechecking to try to reconcile the figures of the Auditors' Reports with those copied.

TABLE V

TEACHERS OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1836-52

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Tenure</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Position</u>
Caleb Himber Philadelphia	Apr. 7, 1836	Sept. 4, 1837	Comm. substituted women	1 yr. 5 mo.	\$600.00	Teacher of Boys' School
Rachel Wilkinson	July 1836	May 25, 1839	Resigned	2 yrs. 10 mo.	250.00	Teacher of Girls' School
Edith Pusey	Nov. 1837	Sept. 1838	Experiment	11 mo.	250.00	Teachers of
Rachel England	" "	" "	Failed	" "	250.00	Boys' School
Rudolpho Parker	Oct. 20, 1838	Aug. 5, 1839	Contract not renewed	10 mo.	600.00	Teacher of Boys' School
Ann Wilkinson	May 25, 1839	Nov. 1847	Resigned	8 yrs. 6 mo.	300.00	Teacher of Girls' School
Elisha Peck and sister, of New Castle	Jan. 2, 1841	July 16, 1841	Insuffici- ent salary	6 mo. 6 mo.	750.00 for both	Principal and assistant, Boys' School
Joseph Hayes	July 31, 1841	Aug. 2, 1847	Resigned	6 yr.	500.00	Principal and
Leah Hayes	" " "	Before Mar. 29, 1847	Resigned	5 yr. 8 mo.	250.00	assistant, Boys' School
Aquila Thomas	Jan. 25, 1843	April 1849	School dis- continued, lack of funds	6 yr. 3 mo.	200.00	Small Boys' School
Unnamed	Feb. 2, 1844	-	-	-	100.00	Female ass't.
Unnamed	Apr. 4, 1846	-	-	-	Available sum (\$100) divided between two assistants.	
Miss Farra	ca Mar. 29, 1847	Mar. 1, 1851	Resigned	1 yr. 11 mo.	250.00	Assistant, Boys' School
Elbridge Sibley	Aug. 27, 1847	Oct. 28, 1850	Dismissed as not prop- erly qualifi- ed	3 yr. 2 mo.	500.00	Principal, Boys' School
Phoebe Temple	Nov. 20, 1847	-	-	?	-	Ass't. (appar- ently) Girls' School

TABLE V (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Tenure</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Position</u>
Elizabeth Vandever	Apr. 24, 1849	Mar. 1852	-	1 yr. 11 mo.	\$ -	Principal, Girls' School
Caroline Vandever	Aug. 29, 1849	Mar. 1, 1850	Dismissed as incom- petent	6 mo.	120.00	Primary School
Albert G. Webster Boston	Oct. 28, 1850	Mar. 1, 1852	Resigned	1 yr. 4 mo.	-	Principal, Boys' School
Sarah Webster Boston	Mar. 3, 1851	Mar. 5, 1852	Resigned	1 yr.	-	Assistant, Boys' School
Charles Hutchins	Mar. 5, 1852	-	-	-	600.00	Prin. Boys'
Charlotte Hutchins (wife), Boston	Mar. 5, 1852	-	-	-	500.00	Prin. Girls' Schools
Elizabeth C. Halli- day	-	-	-	-	250.00	Ass't. Boys' School (?)
Margaret Mahaffy H.	-	-	-	-	200.00	Assistant, Girls' School

Compiled from the Minutes of the School Committee for the United District, No. 10-18 inclu-
sive, for the years 1836-52.

V. E. Shaw
Oct. 28, 1940

Education in Delaware
Education: Wilmington 1830-1852
1830-1897

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THE FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN WILMINGTON
(1830-1852)

For a variety of reasons, some of them showing progressive trends, others the evidence of reaction, Wilmington, Delaware, became one of the earliest, possibly the first, city in the United States to have a genuinely free public school system operated as a unit. Others had had public schools in their various districts earlier than Wilmington's experiment; there had been free schools operated on a charity basis by subscription or with public support on a city-wide basis. The Delaware town's priority lay in schools theoretically open to all, tax-supported without rate-bill, and organized as a single unit.

After Delaware's Free School Law was passed in 1829, the second of its kind in the country, the city was districted in the same manner as the smaller towns, villages and rural areas of the State; districts 9-18 fell within its boundaries. Districts 10 and 11 (inferentially 9 also) met the requirements for sharing the State subsidy by holding the necessary meeting, electing officers, raising a sum to match the School Fund dividend, and preparing to open a school. These two districts united very early, and operated a joint school for twelve months over a calendar period of about eighteen months between Nov. 2, 1830 and the early part of 1832. They used two rooms in the old Academy building, employed a

teacher for boys and another for girls, levied a tax which in District 10 was calculated to produce \$100, and had a total enrollment of 73 during the first year and 51 in the second. The program failed after one quarter of the year 1831-32, apparently for lack of funds. District 10 kept up the legal form of organization, although it was unable to operate a school. District 11 apparently failed to do even this. District 9 did not enter the later merger; its records have not been examined, but it may have been in continuous operation from the early thirties.

In 1833 the State passed a law permitting districts to form a legal union and operate a joint school without loss of any part of their State money. This is apparently the first such statute passed in the country and is unquestionably one of the earliest. Under its provisions discouraged public school supporters in Wilmington attempted organization of the entire city as a Union district. Through the fall of 1834, free school supporters carried on a campaign in the newspapers, and presumably elsewhere, for the program, pointing out that Wilmington had an excellent opportunity since the accumulated dividend from the State Fund for the ten districts would go far toward meeting the initial expenses of a school and the annual dividend thereafter would be very substantial. They argued that public schools were a necessary part of the defense of a democracy, and that they would return profits in efficient citizenship far beyond their cost. They insisted that the planned schools were not a charity, since all would benefit and all were asked to contribute as their

means permitted; taxation was not suggested although many of the backers of the program privately favored it.

Annual school meetings were held throughout the city on Oct. 4, 1834; all districts but Number 9, along the Brandywine above Twelfth Street, voted to unite. A committee chosen to work out terms recommended a single "set of two commissioners and clerk, with an advisory committee of two members from each district to keep the central and local groups in proper communication with each other." A general meeting of school voters of the united districts ratified the proposal on November 21, elected James Pusey clerk and Willard Hall and Thomas Young commissioners, and voted "a resolution to raise \$300 by contribution toward building or procuring a School House and the support of a Free school in said district." School officials of each of the original districts begged funds from door to door in their own localities, and raised \$368.83.

The cornerstone of the new school was laid July 4, 1835, with Judge Hall officiating. After the ceremony he withdrew to the shade of an apple tree on the premises to deliver suitable dedicatory remarks. Organization of the new school, however, went forward rather slowly; it was not until April 25, 1836, that the Boys' School was ready for pupils, and opening of the Girls' School in the same building was delayed until Sept. 5, 1836. The original teachers were Caleb Himber, of Philadelphia, and Rachel Wilkinson, formerly a private school mistress in Wilmington. Both rooms were taught under the Lancastrian system. The standard subjects of an eight-grade

elementary school were offered.

For the next sixteen years the school held its own and gradually entrenched itself in public esteem to the point where a considerable expansion was possible in 1852. During the intervening years, sponsors of the program claimed that prejudice against the schools as "charity organizations" had vanished, several thousand pupils had received an education they could not have obtained otherwise, at least without grave sacrifice on the part of their parents, and standards had slowly been raised. Records of the School Committee show that the Lancastrian plan was abandoned for boys after fifteen months' trial and for girls in February 1844, seven-and-a-half years after organization. A primary room for boys was opened in the basement in 1843, and operated with only one brief interruption until 1851, when the Committee found it did not have sufficient income to pay a good teacher and believed a mediocre one was sheer waste. A library was secured for the school. From the beginning the district bought books and other supplies wholesale for use of students at a fee of twenty-five cents quarterly for those who did not use paper, and fifty cents for those who did; an 1852 report says that "sometimes as much as half" the total due was actually collected. In other words, the district saw to it that all students were properly supplied, whether or not their parents met their share of the obligation. Attendance was always a serious problem in Wilmington as elsewhere in the State. Some of the teachers seem to have been competent and satisfactory; others were discharged for incompetency or failed to win re-

newal of contract. From 1837, the United District was officially in favor of taxation for school support, the sum required being appropriated by City Council and collected along with the general revenue of the municipality; a year previous Council had contributed \$100 "in aid of the funds of the district." At all times the school offered a full elementary curriculum, and during most of the 1840's maintained an approximate junior high school standard; the secondary subjects attempted varied slightly from year to year. Between 1848 and 1852 there were active efforts to add a formal high school to the system, finally defeated by the program of expansion undertaken in the latter year. It is rather difficult to determine just what discipline conditions were in these schools. The Minutes of the School Committee contain both complimentary and critical comments about the pupils' appearance and behavior; once the administration was forced to threaten suspension of culprits who persisted in "spitting in the school room." During the 1840's an adult education movement in cooperation with the public schools began to take shape.

By 1850 residents were coming to feel the need of a much more comprehensive school system than the original plan of union permitted. In January of that year an editorial in the Delaware Gazette speaks of a report of a special committee of the New Castle County association for the improvement of public schools, chosen to prepare a report of "the expediency of increasing the number of schools in the city." The committee urged the increase, since comparatively

few of the children who wished to attend could do so, and people were losing interest in public education. They recommended taxation to pay for "commodious schoolhouses... and qualified teachers," a Board of Control on which each section of the city should be represented, full reports of financial affairs, and regular inspection of all schools.

By January 1851 a bill was ready for presentation in the legislature, which provided an elected Board of Education with all the powers of a corporation "except banking powers and power to borrow money," though it might acquire land or buildings for school purposes on "the security of the corporation and the mortgage of the estate or building." The Board was specifically required to "increase the number and improve the condition of the common schools" until they were able "to accomodate all the white children and minors whose parents, masters, or guardians desire the benefit for them."

This provision was defeated in the Senate in 1851 but a similar bill, permitting taxation and the borrowing of ten thousand dollars to buy or construct new buildings in various parts of the city, was introduced at the next session and passed during the early months of 1852. An election was held almost at once, and the new plan went into operation before the end of March of that year.

(For documentation, see complete article held in dummy file)

V. E. Shaw
Oct. 24, 1940

Education: 1830-52 292
Wilmington, 1830-52
Encyclopedia File

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

Commencing the first Monday of November, 1830.

School was opened in District No. 10 "on the first Monday of November," 1830, with an attendance of seven. The Committee made inquiries about the possibility of a union with Districts 9 and 11; the first was not interested, but an agreement with No. 11 was reached promptly. The Academy building, near the dividing line between the two districts, was unoccupied and the committees obtained the use of two rooms. Erastus Edgerton had been employed by No. 11 to teach the school at \$100 a quarter; with his consent, the union group assigned him, instead, the boys from both districts, and he started on his duties at once. Hannah Monaghan was selected to teach the combined girls' school at "75 dolls. per quarter," and was ready to start by November 11. Uniform textbooks were adopted, and parents of both districts asked to provide their children with those necessary for their grade. An assessment list was made out, and a tax-rate levied to produce \$300 annually.

At the end of his quarter, Edgerton resigned, and James Wallace was employed in his place at the same salary. Miss Monaghan continued. The school was kept open "three quarters of the year"; funds did not allow a longer session.

A list of scholars is appended to the record of the first year's operation. It contains 73 names—29 boys and 44 girls;

many of the families represented (Pusey, Clark, Hollingsworth, Beeson, etc.) were well-established residents of the section, indicating that there was no "charity-school" taint about this venture.

Although the program started so hopefully, it soon petered out. School opened in the fall of 1831 for the year 1831-32, with Miss Monaghan and Jonas Pusey as the teachers under contract for the same salaries as before. Mr. Pusey, one of the officials of his district, was paid only in part. The Academy rooms were used again, and a fair enrollment, 21 boys and 30 girls, is reported. But the school could be kept up only "one quarter each school." A pencilled note reads:

"Nothing rec'd from #11 except a small sum of Wm. Clark to buy wood and their portion of the state funds."

Entered from the opposite end of the volume are the records of formal school meetings and legal business of the district. They show that the district continued to hold annual elections yearly through 1834, when the city-wide union was formed with the active cooperation of residents of this section. Although a clerk had been elected, he was out of town for an extended period at the time the consolidation was under way, and District 10, like those which had not organized, was obliged to hold its meeting in 1834 by the issuance of a petition.

(This Minute Book is a small manuscript kept in an ordinary notebook, and now belongs to the Historical Society of Delaware.)

V. E. Shaw
May 7, 1940

EDUCATION, WILMINGTON
1830-52: Sources

294
Encyclopedia File

UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOS. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,
15, 16, 17, and 18 IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY
(Handwritten Minute Book, Extracts)

Boundaries of the United Districts:

"Brandywine Creek at the intersection of Dickinson Street, thence with said Street westerly to the City line, thence along said line (being the Old King's Road) Southwesterly, passing the western side of the Poor-house to the Lancaster Turnpike, thence up said Road westerly 'to the one-mile stone a few perches above the toll-gate' and running from thence South thirty-two degrees west and passing through land belonging to Colonel Samuel B. Davis, and passing about six perches to the south of the buildings thereon to a corner for said Davis, and in a line for the land of the heirs of Joseph Robinson, deceased; from thence a southeasterly direction with the line of Davis and the heirs of Robinson, to a corner with the Widow Warner, and from thence with the line of Warner and the heirs of the aforementioned Robinson, and passing west of the buildings of Warner and East of the buildings of the heirs of Robinson to the Newport and Wilmington Turnpike, and from thence with the line of the said Warner and Nancy Stidham to the end of their line; and from thence continuing the same course to the Christiana Creek to the mouth of the Brandywine, and from thence to the place of beginning."

1835

Jan. 3, 1835

An account with the Farmers' Bank of the State of Delaware was opened for the schools of Wilmington.

Jan. 26

\$364.83 had been raised by subscription for the districts.

March 21

The schoolhouse tract was acquired for the district for \$600.

June 10

A contract was let to Elisha Huxley to build the school for \$2600, payable in three installments, the last due on com-

pletion of the building, not later than "the 10th of October next."

Sept. 11

The committee made arrangements for "furnishing the School house with seats, writing tables, Stoves, etc., and for procuring teachers."

1836

April 7

The committee engaged Caleb Humber of Philadelphia as teacher of the Boys' School at a salary of \$600. It was "deemed inexpedient" to open the School for Girls "at present."

April 9

The Committee received a legacy of Fifty Dollars from the late John Wardell.

April 21

The Committee and teacher attended at the school to take applications for enrollment at the Boys' School.

April 22

Rules and regulations for the government of the school were prepared for distribution.

149 boys registered: "not more than two from any one place" could be accepted because of lack of space.

April 25

Boys' School opened, 151 attending.

May 16

\$100 was received from City Council "in aid of the funds of the District."

July (no date given)

The committee "agreed with Rachel Wilkinson of this place to teach the Girls' School at a salary of Two hundred and fifty dollars; and she to visit some of the public schools of Philadelphia, and otherwise prepare herself for that duty."

Sent. 15

Girls' School opened at 9 A.M.; attendance not given. To and including October 1, 1836, 308 pupils had attended both schools.

Oct. 6

Coal, and four stoves, two for each schoolroom, ordered.

October 7

\$100 received from Harmony Free School Society.

Dec. (no date), a report showing 149 girls enrolled.

Dec. 28

Children to be received at the age of six, instead of seven "as heretofore," beginning in January.

At the same meeting it was agreed to permit the Franklin Lyceum Company to rent the basement room in the school, which the Committee would complete, for \$25. yearly until the cost of the work was amortized.

1837August 4, 1837

The Lancastrian system for boys was abandoned after 15 months trial. Two women teachers for the boys, instead of one man, were employed. City Council released the Committee from its share of the bill for paving the adjoining street,

and contributed \$458. toward the Districts' expenses.

The Boys' School was closed, as of Sept. 4, for the remainder of the school year.

Sept. 30, 1837

The school meeting unanimously agreed to raise the \$800. budget for the coming year by taxation, unless City Council would contribute at least \$500. (Grant was given in September.)

Nov. (no date)

The Boys' School reopened under Edith Pusey and Rachel England, at \$250. each per year.

1838

July

It was agreed in conference with the Committee and the teachers to discontinue the employment of women for the Boys' School after expiration of the term.

September 29

The school meeting voted \$300 tax unless City Council contributed the same amount.

Oct. 20

The Committee engaged Rudolpho Parker from ---- for the Boys' School, at \$600.; the school reopened Nov. 6.

(Note mentions that from the beginning Wilmington schools had supplied books and stationery for their pupils at a small standard charge.)

Nov. 6

\$275. was received from Council, and the debts of the District cleared.

1839May 25

Rachel Wilkinson resigned "as of the ensuing quarter," and Ann Wilkinson was appointed in her place.

Oct. 5

A report stated that the schools had been in session the entire year, and that they had proved "useful," though not to the full extent that was possible or desirable. The total enrollment had been, since 1836, 551 boys and 505 girls, a total of 1056. In the year just past there had been 341 enrolled at one time or another, with an average number belonging at one time, 257. Ann Wilkinson's salary was to be \$300 a year.

October 1.

\$225 was received from City Council.

Aug. 5

Mr. Parker's contract was not renewed.

1840Oct. 3

Report at the annual meeting shows girls exceeding boys in "average belonging" for the first time. (156-98); average attendance was: girls, 87; boys, considerably less. The Committee deplored the irregular attendance that seemed habitual. Per pupil cost was about \$4.00 yearly for instruction, maintenance of plant, books, and stationery; this was almost constant whether or not the child came regularly. A resolution was passed asking all adults in a position to do so to help improve attendance.

Oct. 17

A further experiment in the Boys' School tried a man principal with a woman assistant.

Nov. 5

Mr. Parker was continued without contract for a temporary period.

1841Jan. 2

Elisha Peck, of New Castle, offered to take the Boys' School for himself and his sister, at \$800 for both. \$750 was offered and accepted on a six months basis. (The Pecks resigned July 16.)

July 31

Joseph Hayes was offered \$500 yearly and his sister Leah, \$250.00; they accepted.

Oct. 2

The annual meeting received a report of increased attendance during the second half of the year. There had been 182 boys enrolled, "165 at one time"; the average belonging was about 150, and the average attendance about 100. Figures for the Girls' School are not given.

The Committee reported that the addition of an assistant to the staff of the Boys' School had produced a great improvement; in the Girls' School, however, the Lancastrian system still seemed to be working satisfactorily. The committee likewise commented on the "general good appearance" of the pupils, "especially the girls," and continued:

"It may be added, that, little as our citizens generally seem to regard our public schools (judging from the attention they pay or rather neglect to pay to them) which is a circumstance much to be regretted, the friends of education are encouraged by the reflection that an institution at which 250 children are daily instructed in those several primary branches which are necessary to the attainment of the commonest acquirements of learning, and conducted, too, with strict regard to morals, decorum, and general good behavior, cannot fail to be highly beneficial to the community in which it is established. Our motto should therefore be -- Percevere."

Visitors were invited to attend sessions of the schools, and the meeting voted to raise \$230.00 by tax.

Oct. 5, 1841

This Committee meeting marks the foundation of the school library program and janitor service in Wilmington. Committee members arranged to procure the "first and second series of the 'District School Library,' with cases," and passed a resolution that "a suitable person be employed to take charge of the fires during the fall and approaching winter."

Oct. 9

Jane Anderson was employed at \$1.25 a week "to make fires, etc., and do the necessary sweeping in the Girls' Room."

Nov. 27

The Library arrived, and rules for its use were formulated:-

- 1-The privilege of withdrawal was restricted to the "First and Second Classes" of each school, one volume at a time.
- 2-Books to be returned weekly.
- 3-Abuse of books to mean loss of privilege.
- 4-Books may be refused scholars who show no signs of having read those previously borrowed.

Nov. 29

Use of tobacco by boys in school prohibited.

A laborer employed to clear sidewalks of snow when necessary, as "a protection" to girls on their way to and from school.

Arrangements made for the janitress to sweep the Boys' Room as well as the Girls', for 50¢ a week additional.

1842

Jan. 21

Boys under 7 again excluded because the enrollment had grown too large to accommodate them.

Feb. 26

Mr. and Miss Hayes reappointed, at the same salary, though they had asked an increase.

July 30

Mr. Hayes and sister were offered reappointment for the coming year at the same salary. The school was to return to the "original rule" and remain open Saturday morning. The Committee complained that many persons were "remiss" in meeting "charges made from the commencement of the schools for the use of Books and Stationery, to wit, 50¢ per quarter" for those using Copy Books, and 25¢ per quarter for others." A resolution was passed that the problem be presented in writing to all parents and guardians of children in school.

Oct. 11

The school Committee decided to look for a room for a "school for small boys," and a woman teacher to conduct it.

Nov. 24

Upon general agreement that a Boys' Primary school was needed, the Committee decided to try to buy the lease on the basement room from the Lyceum Company instead of renting quarters elsewhere.

Dec. 31

Possession of the basement room was secured for \$75.

1843

Jan. 25, 1843

Aquila Thomas (a man willing to serve for the same salary that had been agreed upon with a woman unable to keep her contract) was employed for three months at \$50. per quarter, and opened a primary school in the basement.

March (no date)

Concert singing of "Temperance Odes and Songs and other pieces of unexceptionable character" was to be introduced into the schools.

June

"Observing some of the Boys are still in the habit of spitting in their school room notwithstanding the pains heretofore taken by us to prevent it, the committee --

RESOLVED-- That the practice of Spitting in the School Rooms be entirely prohibited, and any infringement of this Rule shall be deemed cause for dismissal from School."

August 26

The salary of Mr. Hayes and his assistant was increased to \$775. per annum.

Sept. 30

The annual report on the schools showed an average attendance of 120-150 in the Boys' School; 123 in the Girls' School, and 60 in the School for Small Boys. The School Meeting authorized a tax of \$230.00 to be raised by tax. The School Committee authorized the remodelling of desks and seats "to seat children according to the most approved plan."

1844

Feb. 2

Lancastrian system "to be discontinued altogether in the schools of the United District." A "female assistant" was to be employed at \$25 per quarter in the Girls' School.

Sept.

Schools reopened with desks remodelled.

Oct. 5

At the annual meeting improvement in the Girls' School was reported. The number enrolled in the Boys' School ranged from 90-150; in the Small Boys' School, 36-90; in the Girls' School, an average of 120. The teacher of the Girls' School received \$300, and her assistant \$100. The cost of renovating the desks had been \$180; 340 seats, desks, and "side benches," all "with backs" had been placed. \$230 tax was approved.

1845April 5

\$230 to be raised by tax.

Oct. 9

A set of general rules for the ordering of supplies was adopted; the Committee was to do all buying, for cash, from the teachers' detailed requisitions, made out with any supplementary suggestions and instructions they cared to include.

1846Apr. 4

The schools and teachers remained the same, except that two assistants in the Girls' Department shared the \$100 appropriated annually, instead of the one previously employed.

\$230 to be raised by tax was approved; a committee was appointed to consider the purchase of another school or schools, providing more space for playground and conveniences"; part of the cost of a new site would be met by the sale of the original plant. Members were David C. Wilson; W. Hall; Dr. H. F. Askew; Eli Hilles, and John McClung. School supplies were to be obtained from each stationer in town in rotation.

1847March 29

Miss Hayes had retired, and her brother had provided himself with a new assistant without consulting or informing the Committee; the Clerk was directed to investigate the situation and pay the proper salary direct to the young woman

teacher. The salary of the Boys' Principal was set at \$500 for the ensuing year.

April 3

The usual amount of tax was voted.

Aug. 2

Mr. Hayes resigned; all salaries were reduced.

Aug. 27

Elbridge Sibley was appointed Boys' Principal; Miss Farra, who had occasioned the difficulty with Hayes mentioned above, had proved a satisfactory teacher and was retained as assistant. The Girls' and Primary faculties remained the same.

Nov. 20

Miss Phoebe Temple was appointed to the Girls' School.

1849

April, 1849

The Primary School was discontinued for lack of funds.

April 24

Miss Elizabeth Vandever was appointed to a vacancy caused by the resignation of the principal of the Girls' School.

May 8

Aquila Thomas was permitted to rent the primary school room and operate the school under agreement with individual parents and guardians.

August 29

The Committee reopened the primary school with Caroline Vandever as teacher at \$120 per year.

1850Apr. 6, 1850

The annual report showed the largest enrollment in the history of the schools. Since they had opened in 1836, they had had a total of 1,718 pupils; many applications had had to be refused for lack of space. The branches taught in 1850 were: "orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, mensuration, algebra, natural philosophy, history, and bookkeeping." For the girls the program was the same except for the substitution of physiology and composition for the mathematics beyond arithmetic in boys' curriculum. The salaries of the assistants in the Girls' Department were raised \$25.00 yearly.

A committee was appointed to discuss means by which City Council might take charge of raising the funds needed for a really adequate school program.

March 5, 1850

A complaint that the little boys were extremely untidy in their classroom was registered; the Committee decided to consult with parents and try to have the children sent in more presentable condition.

10-28-50

The Committee decided that the Boys' principal was not qualified for her work, and sent to Boston for another; Albert G. Webster was selected.

March 3 (year not given)

Miss Farra resigned, her place being filled by Mr. Webster's sister Sarah.

Attendance in the school was down; there was not enough money to pay a good primary teacher, and a poor one represented money worse than wasted.

March 1, (1851)

Miss Vandever was dismissed as unsatisfactory; the Websters resigned. They, however, had apparently been satisfactory, since the Committee wrote again to Boston to the same person who had recommended them for candidates to fill their places.

8/27/51

Charles and Charlotte Hutchins (man and wife) were employed as principals of the Boys and Girls Schools respectively, and E. C. Halliday as assistant.

The summary above includes the important topics entered in the Minute Book of the School Committee; details of the arguments and investigations leading to dismissal of several teachers in the late forties and early fifties have been deleted as unimportant, as have arguments involving organization and administration where they did not concern fundamental policy. In addition, a few details fully reported in other extracts already in the files have been omitted. (These refer particularly to the original opening of the schools, and the proceedings of annual school meetings covered in newspaper accounts or the School Conventions, or both.)

The Minute Book is a small manuscript volume, with entries in several different hands, and is now the property of the Delaware State Archives Commission at Dover, which had purchased it from a dealer whose agent had retrieved it from a junk collection in Philadelphia.

(State Encyclopedia)

Group 6

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSCOMMERCERivers and Harbors

\$2,307,700 allotment for new work and maintenance on rivers and harbors in and near Delaware by War Department
\$123,000 allotment for Indian River inlet
\$100,000 allotment for new work on Chesapeake and Delaware canal
\$582,000 allotment for maintenance on Chesapeake and Delaware canal
\$7,300 allotment for Northeast River
\$58,000 allotment for Rock Hall harbor
\$58,000 allotment for Nanticoke River
\$187,000 allotment for Wilmington harbor

Chesapeake and Delaware Canal

Construction started in 1804 and opened in 1829
Cost \$2,201,864--1/4 of a century to build
\$13,000,000 has been spent by the Government to-date

ARCHITECTUREBuildings

The Historical Society Building was originally the First Presbyterian Church, erected in 1740

GOVERNMENTMilitia

749 officers and men in regular army at Fort DuPont
934 officers and men in Delaware National Guard
350 reserve officers

Forts--Saulsbury, DuPont, Delaware, Mott

Armories--Wilmington, Dover, Newark, New Castle, Milford, Georgetown, Laurel

AGRICULTURE

The Delaware Production Credit Association has made more than 1260 loans to farmers to upwards \$634,000 since its organization 4 years ago

SCIENCE

Haskell Laboratory (toxicology) entomologists

(State Encyclopedia)

Group #7

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSRELIGIONStatistics

Census (Various church groups are now compiling figures)

POINTS of INTEREST

Longwood Gardens (125,000 visitors last year)

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABORTextiles

Anticipated \$7,000,000 DuPont Plant near Seaford

SPORTS and RECREATIONOrganization

Brandywine Archers Club

SOCIAL WELFAREOrganization

Delaware State Woman's Christian Temperance Union
National Youth Administration
Delaware Colony, State Training School

EDUCATIONOrganization

American Association of University Women
Home and School Association of the Friends School

SOCIETIES--fraternal and patrioticPatriotic

Delaware Society of the Daughters of the Colonial Wars

(State Encyclopedia)

Group #8

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSEDUCATION

Statistics--of physical examinations given to pupils in city public schools by school doctors and nurses:

Last year	16,146	pupils	received	medical	examinations
"	"	4,818	"	"	prophylactic treatments
"	"	3,535	"	"	special examinations

A permanent record is kept for each child who attends kindergarten to grade 12.

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Statistics--Soil Conservation Service

42,000 acres in region of erosion control
 65 square miles in the Christina River watershed
 55 per cent increase since this service started

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABOR

Industry--Leather (tanning and dressing of morocco)

Statistics

14 leather factories operating in 1867
 -- " " " " 1938
 30 per cent of state industrial activity in 1920
 was tanning of goat skins
 85 per cent of all the kid leather produced in
 United States during 1929 came from Delaware

The Rhoads family have been in the leather business here since 1712--the second oldest in United States

GOVERNMENT

Organization

Public Archives Commission (Hall of Records)
 Delaware Safety Council

(State Encyclopedia)

Group #9

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSINDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABORFINANCEOrganization

Wilmington Chapter, American Institute of Banking
(Monthly meetings)

SOCIAL WELFAREStatistics--State Welfare Home (State Welfare Commission)

3000 now on roster
\$25.00 per month maximum allowance
\$10.81 average allowance

EDUCATIONOrganization

Peninsula Horticultural Society (Annual exhibition)
Delaware Library Association

INDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABORLABOR--Organization

Labor Non-Partisan League of ³/_{Delaware}
Unemployment Insurance
U. S. Employment Service

COMMERCEStatistics (Chesapeake and Delaware Canal)

18.6 feet minimum depth
19 feet main channel
27 feet anticipated future depth
Vessels between 235 feet and 425 feet in length --58 foot
beam and 18 foot draft may navigate the canal

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSGOVERNMENTStatistics (Board of Park Commissioners) Created in 1883

734.75 acres in their care
 525.32 acres or 71.25 per cent donated to their care
 270.15 acres or 36.6 per cent was donated by the
 late William P. Bancroft former member of the
 Board of Park Commissioners
 209.43 acres purchased outright
 133.41 acres additional consist of the following:
 8th Street Park (City Council)
 Cool Spring Park, Porter and Rodney Street
 reservoir tracts (Board of Water Commissioners)

 Alapocas Woods consisting of 5.65 acres recently offered
 — to the commission by Woodland Trustees

AGRICULTURETenant Farmer Groups

Allocation of purchase loans from Farm Security
 Administration for current fiscal year \$29,085

SOCIETIES--fraternal and patrioticService Clubs

Kiwanis
 Quoto
 Exchange
 Recess
 Lions
 Rotary
 Monarch
 American Business

SOCIAL WELFARE

St. Michael's Home for Babies
 Washington Street Home for Babies
 French Street Day Nursery
 Florence Crittenton Home
 Delaware Anti-Tuberculosis Society

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSINDUSTRY, FINANCE and LABORINDUSTRY (Business)Insurance (Statistics)

\$347,303, 593 life insurance in force beginning 1938
 4,002, 731 paid out to policyholders or beneficiaries
 446, 379 policies in force
 83 companies licensed to sell insurance
 Group insurance started 26 years ago

AGRICULTUREDairying

Holstein Cows in Delaware rated highest in U.S. in 1937
 " " " " " " " " second " " " 1936
 Most famous herds come from Winterthur Farms

GOVERNMENTDelaware Volunteer Firemen's Association

46 fire companies
 \$500.00 appropriation granted each year by state

City Tax Rates

Current rate for school purposes 15 cents per \$100.00
 Ten years ago it was 34 cents per \$100.00

Current rate for city purposes on real estate is \$1.45
 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. In 1921 the tax
 rate was \$1.73 per \$100.00

Delaware Corporation Taxes

\$2,400,000 paid by corporations in 1937 for franchise taxes
 24,000 active corporations
 86 per cent of this amount paid by 15 per cent
 of Delaware corporations such as DuPont Co.,
 General Motors, Chrysler Motors, Bethlehem
 Steel, etc.
 60 corporations organized by Federal Government

SPORTS and RECREATION

Lewes Yacht Club (Founded 6 years ago)
 United Farmers and Sportsmen of Delaware (Various chapters)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSEDUCATIONStatistics (KINDERGARTENS)

349 pupils enrolled last year in Wilmington
 8 kindergartens (6 for white--2 for negroes)
 *** attendance

SOCIAL WELFAREChildren's Bureau of Delaware (Statistics)

1,255 under-privileged and neglected children were
 served from 60 Delaware communities during past year
 389 children in actual care
 167 children in foster homes
 Accepts children between the ages of 10 days and 21 years
 Costs about \$300.00 yearly to provide for each child

Travelers' Aid Society
 Delaware Citizens' Association
 Children's Home (Summer camps)

RACIAL GROUPS

Pulaski Day (Annual event)
 Polish National Alliance of America

ARTS, ThePress (Newspapers)

Every Evening established 1871
 Evening Journal established 1888--merged with Every
 Evening in 1933
 Sun started in 1898--discontinued in 1904
 Freie Presse established in 1881
 Sunday Star established in 1881
 Labor Herald
 Weekly papers which are now defunct; The Delaware Farm
 and Home, Conference Worker, Wilmingtonian, The
 Cathedral Chronicler and many others
 13 newspapers in Milford since 1848--current newspaper,
 The Milford Chronicle

Retail Associations

Del-Mar-Va Press Association
 Independent Retailers Association

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSAGRICULTUREAnnual Event--Delaware Poultry Tour

Statistics--Estimated \$12,790,000 business in crops and dairy products each year
 Estimated \$11,000,000 business in poultry activities each year
 Estimated 15,000,000 broilers shipped each year--mostly from Sussex county

EDUCATIONUniversity of Delaware

Statistics--\$4,145,495 plant net investment
 353,525 ground value
 2,765,731 building and dormitory investment
 1,055,239 library investment

Special Schools

Delaware School for Deaf Children
 Friends School--191 years old
 Delaware School of Music--7 years old

GOVERNMENT

Road Building--Delaware will receive \$1,437,000 in the highway appropriations bill just passed by Congress

SOCIAL WELFAREThe Nemours Foundation Hospital for crippled childrenSPORTS and RECREATIONFoxcatcher Hounds Race Meeting(Annual Event)RELIGION

Old Drawyers Church (near Odessa) opened in 1773

INDUSTRYFirst cannery was established in Smyrna in 1867

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSEDUCATIONPublic Schools

Savings system in existence 16 years
 22 local public schools participating
 9 rural " " "
 23,100 active depositors
 \$240,830 deposited end of last school term
 \$1,250,000 deposited in 16 years

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATIONFunds Expended for Liberation of Game

\$11,709.95 end of fiscal year
 21,173 rabbits released last 3 years
 4,795 quail " " "
 2,794 pheasants " " "
 The above liberation cost \$41,000
 17,883 bass released last year
 337 crappies released last year
 38,000 perch and catfish released last year

GOVERNMENT

Birth and death registration (Board of Health)

HISTORY

First christian clergyman in Delaware--Rev. Reorus Torkillus,
 who arrived here in 1640 on the Kalmar Nyckel

Delaware's important part in the framing and ratification
 of the Constitution. Philadelphia Convention in 1787
 attended by delegates John Dickinson, George Read,
 Richard Basset, Gunning Bedford, Jr., Jacob Broome.

ARTS, The

Gustavas Hesselius, Swedish painter and organ builder

Delaware Art Center cost \$250,000--funds raised by the public

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSSOCIAL WELFARESocial Security--Statistics

90,486 enrolled in Delaware according to Social Security Board
 540 claims paid since program began--January 1st, 1937
 \$19,758 total payments in claims since program began

Unemployment Compensation--Statistics

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

MEDICINE and PUBLIC HEALTHWho's Who

Dr. J. E. Wallace Wallin, director of mental hygiene work
 in the Delaware schools, grouped among ten famous living
 American psychologists in current book "Psychology in
 Every Day Living"

EDUCATIONPublic Schools--Wilmington and StateSchool Buses (Statistics)

17 years without a fatality
 10,531 pupils transported in buses at public expense--1936-37
 9,262 pupils transported by contracts
 1,269 pupils transported by private conveyances

Old School

Forwood School (Silverside Road) built in 1799--attendance 6

Wilmington School Library SystemUniversity of Delaware

Donations--H. Fletcher Brown--his gifts to the university
 Chemistry building cost about \$400,000

Private or Special School

Faith Theological Seminary

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSSPORTS

Annual Event--Tidewater Shoot Revolver Match (State Police)

FOLKLORE

Devil worshipping cult--Passing of "Si" Maull, negro of Belltown, Lewes, severs link of band once active in Delaware

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Rural electrification extension service specialists--provided from the University of Delaware

SOCIETIES

Service Clubs in Sussex County

Frankford New Century Club
 Selbyville Community Club
 Georgetown New Century Club
 Laurel New Century Club
 Lord Baltimore Women's Club
 New Century Club of Delmar
 The Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth
 The Zwaanendael Club of Lewes

POINTS of INTEREST

The Zwaanendael Museum at Lewes

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Conservation--45 acre tract of forest land presented by the Delaware State Federation of Womens' Clubs to the state. This land known as "Charles Richards Farm" lies on the highway between Greenwood and Ellendale--to be cared for by the State Forestry Department.

RECREATION

Annual Event--Big Thursday--Oak Orchard, Georgetown, Delaware

Delmarva Camp--known as Laurel and Bethel camp, at Broad Creek--one of the oldest camps on the peninsula

Annual Reunions--The Tunnell family

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

SPORTS

Annual Event--Delaware Breakwater Regattas (Cape Henlopen)

Lewes Yacht Club
Lewes Yacht Club Auxiliary
Lewes Anglers Association

Cape Henlopen Beach--at the end of Cape Henlopen

MILITIA and NAVY

Navy--Lewes Coast Guard Station (Chincoteague, Virginia is the headquarters for the district) Overfalls Lightship

POINTS of INTEREST

Henlopen Lighthouse--functioned for 162 years--second oldest in United States. Toppled into sea on April 26, 1926.
"Great Dune" rising 80 feet skyward
Sunken British sloop of war "De Braak" - lost millions in Spanish gold

SOCIETIES

Patriotic--Henlopen Post #5, American Legion
Henlopen Post Auxiliary

CONSERVATION and RECLAMATION

Firetower--at Laurel--State Forestry Department

HISTORY

Lewes--307th anniversary of its settlement (first town of first state)

INDUSTRY, FINANCE, COMMERCE and LABOR

Commerce and Industry

Lewes--Chamber of Commerce

(State Encyclopedia)

Group 18

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSRECREATION

Fifth Annual Event--home-coming celebration of Milton, Sussex County

Annual Event--Bowers Beach and Oak Orchard (2nd Thursday in August)

Big Thursday--Slaughter Beach (3rd Thursday in August)

Annual Event--Rogation Day--Lewes (Prayers for abundant crops)

Annual Event--Friends Centenary--Mill Creek Friends Meeting House

Various reunions of families, clans and generations

ARTS and CRAFTS

Art Center--Paynter House in Rehoboth--located on Henlopen Acres--
150 years old

TRANSPORTATION

Airport--Rehoboth Beach-145 acres

Rehoboth Flying Club

RECREATION

Dewey Beach and Indian Beach--adjacent to Rehoboth Beach

Annual Golf Invitation--tournament held at Rehoboth Country Club

SOCIETIES

Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach

Kent-Sussex Counties Dental Society

RELIGION

Delaware Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal
Church

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSEDUCATIONWilmington and State Public SchoolsState Calendar-1938-39

Constitution Week, Sept. 11 to 17
 Constitution Day, Sept. 17
 Frances Willard Day, Sept. 28
 Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 2 to Oct. 8
 Junior American Red Cross Week, Oct. 29 to Nov. 4
 Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, (schools closed)
 Armistice Day, Friday, November 11
 American Education Week, November 6 to November 12
 State Education Association meeting, November 10 and 11
 State Colored Teachers' Association meeting Nov. 10 and 11
 Thanksgiving vacation, Nov. 24 and Nov. 25
 Delaware Day, Wednesday, Dec. 7
 Christmas vacation, close schools at end of day, Friday, Dec. 23
 and opens Monday, Jan. 2
 National Thrift Week, Jan. 17 to 23
 Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Sunday, Feb. 12
 George Washington's birthday, Wednesday, February 22
 Arbor and Bird Day, Friday, April 14
 State contest in declamation, Friday, April 21
 State Educational Conference, University of Delaware,
 Saturday, April 22
 Easter Vacation, schools closed Good Friday and Easter Monday,
 April 7 and April 10
 Play days and musical festivals for elementary, junior and
 senior high schools during latter part of April and month
 of May
 State, track and field meets, University of Delaware, probably
 Saturday, April 29
 Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 30, (schools may close)

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSSOCIAL WELFARE

State appropriates \$24,000 a year to the blind

EDUCATION

Public Schools--Wilmington schools named for leading citizens:

Pierre S. DuPont High School
 Thomas F. Bayard School
 Willard Hall Junior High School
 George Gray School
 William P. Bancroft School
 Charles B. Lore School
 Emalea P. Warner Junior High School
 Mary C. I. Williams School
 David W. Harlan School
 Evan G. Shortlidge School
 Wollaston School
 Howard High School
 Samuel G. Elbert School
 John Palmer School

State schools--90 per cent of school children in Delaware are housed in new and modern buildings.

In 1918-19 the schools of Delaware stood 33 among the states of the Union in accordance with the Ayres Index. Recent comparison shows Delaware stands among the first 10 states.

TRANSPORTATION

Airplane pilots--58 licensed in Delaware

Aircraft--55 in Delaware

HOUSING

Procedure of planning--engineer consults recommendation to owners by government regional planning commission.

Surveyor-prepares tentative plans

Engineer or surveyor-files tentative plans

Planning commission acts on plans and adopts

Levy court approves-passes on to recorder who records final plot

RECREATION

Annual event--Mens' Bridge Tournament-Wilmington Whist Club

ARTS and CRAFTS

Collections of Spackman and Bancroft

Influence of late Howard Pyle

(state Encyclopedia)

Group 21

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSEDUCATIONWilmington Public Schools

Statistics--Per pupil cost has been reduced \$1.63 since 1930.
Per year cost for the entire average net enrollment:

\$94.08 in 1930-31
96.41 in 1931-32
94.74 in 1932-33
85.11 in 1933-34
85.80 in 1934-35
92.45 in 1935-36

Analysis of the 1936-37 budget shows that of every dollar spent--\$86.92 went for salaries and the remaining \$13.08 went for text books, supplies, fuel, light, etc.

School experts usually regard per pupil cost tendencies as one of the best indices of determining whether available funds are being used in the most economical and effective way.

Wilmington and State Public Schools

Statistics--Delaware public school system (including colleges) will receive \$3,921,847 for the 1938-39 year from the State Board of Education and the federal government.

ARTS and CRAFTSPainting

Contemporary artists--N. C. Wyeth, Peter Hurd, Mrs. Peter Hurd, Miss Katharine Pyle (also author) Stanley M. Arthurs, Frank E. Schoonover, Gayle Hoskins, Mrs. Ellen B. T. Pyle, David Reyan, Orville H. Peets, Robert Robertson, Charles A. MacLellan, Harvey Dunn, Clifford W. Ashley, Leslie Thrasher, Douglas Duer, Jack Lewis.

ARCHITECTUREArchitects

Contemporary architects--G. Morris Whiteside, II, Gabriel Massena, Weston Holt Blake.

GOVERNMENT

Federal--United States Mail and Postal Service

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSBiographical Sketches

Robert H. Kirkwood--Delaware army officer during the Revolution.

John Lofland--literary editor and poet--known as the "Milford Bard." Former native of Milford, Delaware. Buried in St. Andrew's grave yard at 8th and Shipley Sts., Wilmington.

Points of Interest

Largest tree in Delaware--oak tree at Bowers Beach on Warren Hall property--300 years old. Largest white oak tree in the East.

Conservation and Reclamation

Bird sanctuaries--Silver and Comegys Lakes--Sussex County.

ArcheologyIndian names

Hopokohacking--the present site of Wilmington.

Amimenipaty--now the site of DuPont Co., Edge Moor, Del.

Menmankitonna--the present site of Claymont, Del., on Naaman's Creek.

Chikohoki--the former principal town of the Unalachtigs Delawares on the west side of the Delaware River near its junction with the Christina River. (According to Bulletin #30 of the Bureau of Ethnology.)

This village was no doubt located on the tract where the Swedes later erected their first church.

The site is marked by a monument erected by the Historical Society of Delaware.

Thousands of Indian artifacts have been found on this site over a period of years.

Flora and Fauna

Climate--under normal conditions Delaware has abundant rainfall.

Temperature is moderate and the heaviest rains are in the growing season.

Average growing season of 186 days.

Average date of last killing frost in spring is April 20th.

Average date of first killing frost in fall is October 23rd.

Average temperature for summer months is 74.2 degrees.

Average temperature for winter months is 36.8 degrees.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSRecreationTourists Camps

Holly Oak Cabins--6 miles south of Laurel

Free Camp Sites

Chipman's Trap--Tresham Ponds--Records Lake.
Ellendale wooded area--cleared and opened in a delightful grove with drinking water, benches, toilets, fireplaces and other conveniences to travelers.

Swimming Pools
Tennis Courts
Foot ball fields
Base ball fields
Parks
Zoo
Supervised play grounds
Basket ball floors
Golf Courses

Industry, Commerce, Finance and LaborCommerce

Marine Terminal--158 steamships docked there during the fiscal year of June, 1937 to June 1938.
Average length per day of the boats was 682 feet.
Net tonnage handled at the port last year was 482,120 tons.
Each ship averaged 3,051 tons.
Gross tonnage for the fiscal year was 785,342.
Cargoes of these ships contain raw materials, woodpulp, chemicals, oil, lumber, ore, cork, potash, licorice root, etc.

HistoryDelaware's Part at World's Fair of 1893

George V. Massey of Dover--one of the Commissioners.
Mrs. Caleb Churchman and Chief Justice Lore very active.
Delaware expended about \$20,000 on her State Building and furnishings.
In the interior of the building were antique furniture, pictures of famous Delawareans, ancient clocks, illustrations by Howard Pyle, paintings by Clawson S. Hammott and etchings by Robert Shaw. Miss Montgomery also contributed a reminiscent volume about Wilmington.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSGovernment

Parking Meters add about \$90.00 daily to City Treasury.
Revenue used solely to govern traffic in meter area.

Agriculture

Dairying--a gift of \$45,000 to the University of Delaware to carry on special research in diseases of cattle, made by Harry G. Haskell, has just been announced by the trustees of the university.

Farm Income in Delaware for 10 months of this year (1938) from sales of products and government payments was \$12,424,000---\$2,751,000 below the same period in 1937. (According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture)

Industry, Commerce, Finance and Labor

Commerce--the untiring efforts of Delawareans for more than half a century to gain a permanent opening of Indian River Inlet, near Lewes, Del., has just been rewarded when the \$443,000 improved waterway was reported ready for use yesterday (12/9/38) by the U. S. Engineer's Office. The reopening is expected to yield a \$400,000 annual gross revenue to the seafood industry of Delaware.

Recreation

Picnic permits--8000 persons picnicked from April until the middle of November in the city parks during the past year, according to Edward R. Mack, superintendent of parks.

Playground League--has organized a total of 96 basketball teams for the winter season.

Social Welfare

Boy Scout Troop #2 of Old Swedes Church--28 years old--the first scout troop in Delaware--one of the oldest in United States.

Biographical Sketches

Historical--Commander Jacob Jones--born near Smyrna in March 1768. Served with distinction during War of 1812. Buried in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSIndustry, Commerce, Finance and LaborFinance

44 banks in Delaware carry 146,000 accounts.
 143,000 or 97.6 per cent were \$5,000 or less, for the period
 of May 16, 1936 to Sept. 21, 1938--according to the Federal
 Deposit Insurance corporation at Washington, D. C.

HistoryDelaware's Part at the World's Fair--1893

Delaware constructed a high building of iron and steel--
 this structure was completed by Delaware engineers of the
 Edge Moor Iron Co. Scientists from all over the world
 came to study the huge edifice and dubbed it the greatest
 glory in a scientific sense the exhibit had to offer.

It was claimed that all the churches in Chicago could be set
 down under its expansive dome and to these might be added
 the Cathedral of St. Peter's at Rome. The floor space
 comprised of some 40 acres.

Everyone who attended the Fair recalls the Ferris Wheel.
 This invention was the brain child of G. W. G. Ferris,
 a member of the old Delaware family of that name.

Points of Interest

Society of Natural History of Delaware--the society was founded
 in October 1891 by 18 enthusiastic people of natural history,
 who held their first meeting in Friend's School.

The society was established for the purpose of cultivation and
 study of natural science by establishing and conserving a
 permanent collection of natural objects.

On October 24, 1910 the present museum was acquired and since
 used for a free museum open to the public three or four after-
 noons a week from June to September, inclusive.
 The building is of one story brick construction and is part
 of Cool Spring Reservoir pump plant building. It is situated
 at the N.W. Corner of 10th and Van Buren Sts.

The Museum has a collection of about 30,000 plant specimens.

Walter D. Bush, the first vice president, was the only scientific
 ornithologist in Delaware in his day.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSPenologyDelaware's Whipping Post

In days gone by the whipping post down in Kent County stood out brazenly in the open courtyard of the county jail, not far from the old State House. It looked like an old time octagonal pump without a handle. It had a slit near the top of it in which the equally old-time pillory boards might be inserted when needed for punitive use. There also were iron shackles for holding the prisoners while they were being whipped.

The whipping post was painted red from top to bottom and Negro residents bestowed upon it the name "Red Hannah". Any prisoner who had been whipped at the post it was said "He has hugged Red Hannah."

Since those days the pillory has gone out of use in Delaware but the whipping post still exists in a more modern form at the New Castle County Workhouse at Greenbank.

Government

State--Costs of general government and protection rose from \$886,845 to \$1,573,277 during ten year period from 1927 to 1937.

Costs of health and sanitation during same period rose from \$597,375 to \$1,869,426.

Highway maintenance rose from \$240,800 in 1937 to \$989,697 in 1938.

Biography

Miss Emily P. Bissell--pioneer of Christmas Seals.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGS

Conservation and Reclamation

Delaware in the past three years has spent more money in wild life investment per square mile than any state in the country. The report of the Game and Fish Commissioners show the rate of \$7.60 per square mile during each of the past three years.

Expenditures

1936	Ending June 30.....	\$ 8,725.09
1937	" " ".....	11,709.95
1938	" " ".....	20,575.28

\$3,584.18 spent on game fish during fiscal year of 1938
9,587.09 spent on game animals during fiscal year of 1938
7,404.01 spent on game birds during fiscal year of 1938

Sports

Horse Racing--Honors for outstanding achievements on the turf in 1938 have been awarded two Delawareans.

Mrs. Marion DuPont Scott, owner of "Battleship", the only American-owned and American bred horse to win the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree, England.

William DuPont, Jr., owner of the famous Foxcatcher Farm's Stable.

Industry, Commerce, Finance and Labor

Industry

In 1926 a survey was made in Delaware of the Holly Industry to ascertain the volume or value. It showed a value of \$400,000.

The Forest Department estimated the value of this business to the state was \$220,000 and gave employment to 8,500 persons.

Since this survey was made the business has decreased nearly 54 per cent due to destructive harvesting in cutting down the tree instead of the branches.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSIndustry, Commerce, Finance and LaborFinanceWilmington Clearing House Association

1937	Bank Clearings	\$193,180,000
1938	Bank Clearings	<u>185,650,000</u>

A deficit of \$ 7,530,000 over the preceding 12 months

The Wilmington Clearing House Association celebrated last year a half-century of active financial service. It is a member of the Federal Reserve district of Philadelphia and serves eight member banks.

The clearing house, a voluntary organization, was begun on October 1, 1887, with a total of six banks.

At the present time the member banks of the clearing house are:

- Union National Bank
- Farmers' Bank
- Central National Bank
- Equitable Trust Company
- Security Trust Company
- Wilmington Trust Company
- Delaware Trust Company
- Industrial Trust Company

The member banks not only clear their own checks and banking records through the clearing house, but in addition, each individual bank acts as a clearing house for other institutions not affiliated directly with the clearing house.

The office of the organization works smoothly with member banks rendering a daily service in the matter of clearing checks and negotiable instruments for financial institutions in this city.

Agriculture

Crops--A drop of nearly \$2,000,000 in Delaware's income from crops for 1938 from the figure of the previous year is reported by C. E. Burkhead and Paul L. Warner, agricultural statisticians of the U. S. Bureau Agricultural Economics.

The estimated value of last year's yield is placed at \$8,978,000. The Delaware Crop Reporting Service reported 368,000 acres harvested in 1937 compared with 356,00 acres harvested in 1938.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM CLIPPINGSGovernmentBoard of Park Commissioners

70 years in existence.

Control 760 acres of park land.

Per capita acreage--1 to every 122 persons.

The layout comprises:

North, South Brandywine and Delamore Parks, purchased by the city in 1886.

Kirkwood Park, acquired in 1887.

Rockford Park, donated by William P. Bancroft in 1869.

Eden Park, purchased from the old Garasche estate in 1890.

Old Soldier's Park, acquired in 1903.

Canby Park, the gift of Pierre S. and Irene DuPont.

Rodney Square, Price Run and Sellers Park.

William P. Bancroft elected to the Board of Park Commissioners in 1904--served for 18 years. He donated generously toward planting of trees along Rockford Park Driveway--also developed Baynard stadium.

First swimming pool opened in South Brandywine Park, at the foot of Adams Street in 1897.

Today the Wilmington Board of Park Commissioners control:

28 baseball and softball diamonds

23 supervised playgrounds

32 tennis courts

6 football fields

5 swimming pools

2 soccer fields

2 hockey fields

6 wading pools and showers

13 fireplaces

6 picnic grounds

1938 attendance at playgrounds and indoor centers-506,047 persons.

1938 attendance at swimming pools-254,336 persons.

Other tracts--Bringhurst Woods

Alapocas Woods

Thirtieth Street Park

INFORMATION FROM "WHAT TO SEE IN AMERICA"

by Clifton Johnson

Flora and FunaGeography

Length of Delaware--100 miles

Width of Delaware-- 10 to 35 miles

Highest point--Centerville--440 feet above sea levelComparision--The three smallest states in the Union are Rhode Island, Delaware and Connecticut-- Delaware is about twice the size of Rhode Island and half the size of Connecticut.Elevation--Mostly low and levelSwamps--great cypress swamps at southern end of state and Maryland covers 50,000 acres.HistoryOrigin of the name of Delaware--Delaware bears the name of an early governor of Virginia, who sailed up the river in 1610.Called "Diamond State" because it combines smallness and importance."Blue Hen's Chickens"--A single regiment of Delaware soldiers fought in the Revolution and rendered valiant service.

They carried a number of gamecocks, said to have been the brood of a blue hen. Hence the soldiers themselves were dubbed the "Blue Hen's Chickens."

INFORMATION FROM "THREE CENTURIES UNDER FOUR FLAGS"

by Anna T. Lincoln

Arts and CraftsCrafts (early)

Clockmakers--George Crow--one of the earliest--also made surveying instruments and served as high constable in the Borough in 1746, (died in 1771) His oldest son, Thomas, continued the business and served the community as Town Clerk three times, Assistant Burgess, and Assessor twice. A number of tall "Thomas Crow" clocks are still in existence though the maker died in 1824.

Two apprentices of Thomas Crow were Samuel McClary and George Jones. McClary formed a partnership with Charles Bush in 1827 and started a machine shop where the first steam-engine was built in Delaware in 1832.

George Jones manufactured clocks and watches for many years--one of his clocks is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Delaware. He was president of the Delaware Fire Insurance Company, an organizer and manager of the Wilmington Savings Fund Society, director of the Bank of Wilmington and Brandywine, member of the Borough Council in 1819, 1820, 1821 and 1827. He died in 1867 at the age of 85 years.

Jacob Alrichs was a prominent Whig and was appointed postmaster under the administration of President William H. Harrison. He was born in 1775 and died in 1857. Jonas Alrichs was born in 1759 and died in 1802. Elijah Hollingsworth learned his trade in the Alrichs Machine Shop and later formed the Harlan & Hollingsworth Company.

Benjamin Ferris and his brother Ziba were also clockmakers. Ziba Ferris was a member of the Society of Friends, member of the Borough Council in 1811 and 1816, and treasurer of New Castle County from 1841 to 1843. Among his apprentices were Joseph Haslet who was twice Governor of Delaware, Charles Canby, member of the Society of Friends, Thomas J. Megear, William F. Rudolph and Ziba Ferris, junior. Ziba Ferris died in 1875, nearly ninety years old.

George Elliott, Jacob F. Robinson, Thomas Dawson, Edward Luff who was in business in 1803, and Charles Chandlee were also old time clockmakers.

EDUCATION IN DELAWARE FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT

Table of Contents in Paragraph Form

Introduction: Educational Tradition

A brief statement will outline the events, the economic and political conditions, and the educational philosophies that have shaped three centuries of education in the State. Colorful bits of anecdote will be used to make a readable introduction, and the State's educational history will be sketched in general outline.

Period of the Swedes, Dutch, and the English under the Duke of York, 1630-1682.

For each of the three strains of seventeenth century colonization the book will show the continental tradition the new settlers brought, adaptations to meet local conditions, educational legislation, and, so far as meager records permit, the character of schools actually established. More information is available for the Dutch than for the Swedes and the pre-Quaker English. Several interesting bits of comparative education are available for this period, particularly in the history of Dutch colonization of the Hudson Valley region.

Colonial Period, 1682-1775

During the early years of the Penn proprietorship the Delaware colony was merged with Pennsylvania, and William Penn's ambitious plans for public education were expected to apply to both settlements. In actual practice, his ideas

had little influence here, except as they colored the thinking of important local Friends. Swedish parochial schools, taught in that language, maintained a hold in the neighborhood of Wilmington until after the Revolution, and church schools of other denominations were important, in many instances providing the only facilities for those of limited means.

The later decades of the Proprietorship were marked educationally by increased importance of denominational schools, the importation of tutors, some of them men of distinction, multiplication of subscription schools in many neighborhoods, and finally the appearance of academies. That at Newark, founded originally by Francis Alison in New London and later transplanted to Delaware, was among the famous schools of the later colonial period, and important both for the men it prepared in its early history and for the fact that it is the ancestor of the State University.

The colonial period, like most others, will be summarized by a brief statement comparing Delaware's educational plans and accomplishments with those of other Atlantic seaboard settlements.

Education in the Early State, 1776-1830

1776-1792 was a period of aristocratic education, for the most part. The State boasted distinguished teachers from time to time during this generation, and at least two academies seem to have maintained a high standard of performance. Free education, except through the generosity of individuals or religious sects, was unrecognized even as an ideal until after the state constitution was revised in 1792.

EDUCATION IN THE STATE, 1776-1830

Table of Contents (Paragraph form)

Between 1776 and 1792, when the second State constitution was adopted, education in Delaware was entirely of a private nature; many of the schoolmasters who taught here for longer or shorter periods were men of distinction in one field or another, and left their mark on the thinking of young people of the more favored economic groups, the only ones able to patronize them. Several academies, in addition to the schools of individual masters, flourished at the same time.

Between 1792 and 1830 the foundations of the present school system were laid. The movement breaks into two distinct periods, the first culminating in 1796, the second in 1829. Laws passed in these two years underlay all the public and semi-public education in the State during the nineteenth century, though important administrative changes were expressed in new basic laws in 1861, 1875, and 1887.

Delaware's first activity looking toward public schools, reflecting nation-wide interest in the problem, centered around the work of the brilliant Robert Coram, backed by efforts of the local Patriotic Society. Coram's status as an important American educational theorist is being more and more recognized in recent years; his biography, however, and his connection with practical applications of his theories, have not previously been traced.

The second State constitution in 1792 recognized education as a public function; the School Fund Act in 1796 provided for establishing a trust whose income should when sufficient be used as a subsidy for local district schools. Subscription schools, operating independently, multiplied during this period, at least in sections where the democratic viewpoint was widely accepted.

A slump in educational interest at the turn of the century checked school development throughout the country, in Delaware as elsewhere; there was no successful effort to apply the School Fund income to its original purpose for the next thirty years; in 1817 some of it was diverted to charity schools for the poor, several of which were chartered by the State. Secular Sunday schools, introduced by private efforts about 1816, were chartered in 1817, and assisted by tax funds in 1821. The only vestiges of the earlier movement that remained were the subscription schools maintained by progressive neighborhoods as community projects, existence of the School Fund, and occasional Governor's messages urging that its income be redirected to its original use. In 1822 an attempt to do this failed.

A second period of activity, under the direction of Willard Hall, Charles Marin, and Governor Charles Polk, reached its height in 1829. A permissive law regulating the conditions under which district subscription schools might receive help from the School Fund was passed in the General Assembly of that year. The new schools were genuinely democratic, and might offer any curriculum beyond the rudiments local trustees

saw fit; their chief weakness was poor financing and lack of a coordinated policy.

During the same period sentiment for establishing a college in conjunction with Newark Academy was growing, and plans began to be formulated. The college that eventually became the University of Delaware was not, however, opened until 1834.

EDUCATION, 1830-1897

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: The history of public education in the last three quarters of the nineteenth century divides into three distinct epochs; 1830-61, when the independent free schools were being organized throughout the State; 1861-86, when centralization of control was increasing; and 1887-1897, when an experiment in county, instead of State, supervision was introduced. The schools of Wilmington, a single system and separate from the rest of the State from the beginning, have slightly different significant dates: 1830-34, separate districts in theory—in practice, no schools; 1834-1852, Union District under a School Committee; 1853-75, unified and enlarged school system under a Board of Education; after 1875, unified system under a City Superintendent.

Establishment of independent free schools in the counties:

The first seven years of the school system were marked by passage of the amendments whose need became obvious as soon as the Act of 1829 was put into operation; by the appearance, in embryonic form, of the basic outline of the later school system; and by the distinctly local nature of most activity. Financing and public indifference were critical problems.

Leaders in New Castle county attempted, in 1836, to meet both problems by calling a convention of delegates from the districts to petition the legislature to add the Federal Surplus revenue to the School Fund, and to discuss their common problems. Permanent organization was effected, and meetings

took place annually until at least 1858.

Discussion, recommendations, and district or committee reports from the published digests of the Proceedings have, in this chapter, been arranged under the heads of philosophy of education, school law and school administration, school financing, school buildings and equipment, enrollment and attendance, and curriculum and methods. A topical treatment of this sort seemed best calculated to produce a comprehensible story of the growth of ideas of school policy during this first generation of public school operation. It had the additional merit of not duplicating the chronological presentation of the same source material in Stephen B. Weeks' Public School Education in Delaware. The Federal Writers have had the advantage of access to originals not available when Weeks wrote, and have therefore been able to correct certain errors of the earlier work and to add details to it.

Information about Kent and Sussex counties is far less complete than that for New Castle, but a Report published by Charles Marin covering several years of his superintendency in Kent, and a compilation of facts contained in the far from accurate Annual Reports of the State Auditor have provided bases for general summaries of conditions in this part of the State.

A brief summary lists the trends in Delaware education from the first operation of schools under public subsidy until the passage of the first compulsory legislation, points out similarities and contrasts between practice here and in neighboring States, offers a set of Tables summarized from the

Auditors' Reports mentioned above, and from the Report of the commission appointed to district New Castle county under the School Law.

Centralization (Counties):

A few months before the Civil War interrupted educational progress all over the country, the General Assembly passed a new provision, making ^{schools} mandatory instead of permissive, raising the minimum local contribution required of each district, and embodying some of the administrative reforms urged at Convention sessions during the previous ten years. Until 1875, there is little data about the operation of schools under this law.

In that year a State Superintendent of Free Schools was appointed under the provisions of another new enactment. Ten years of greater centralization and closer school organization than the State had ever known before, or would again for three decades more, followed. James E. Groves, first occupant of the post, visited the schools at the most frequent intervals possible (rarely more than once a year), conducted examinations of candidates for teaching positions, made careful reports on all phases of school operation, worked for improvement in buildings and equipment, to improve attendance, and to increase the efficiency of teachers. Conferences with individual instructors after examinations had revealed their weak points, suggestions for new methods and for methods of improvement available to those in service in isolated communities, and finally, organization of teachers' Institutes to broaden the professional horizons of the inbred faculty, were the means he used. His successor, Thomas

N. Williams, seems to have been less efficient an executive, and, after four years of his administration, the office was abolished in favor of individual superintendents for each county.

Other features of school development in this period were the emergence of a successful Teachers' Association (efforts in this direction had been made much earlier, but the organizations always died in infancy), and the growth of independent consolidated districts responsible only to their own voters. A movement begun earlier to obtain the advantages of a larger administrative unit in this period developed into a means of escaping supervision from the State that none of the districts except Wilmington could provide for itself.

County Control

A system of State Board of Education supervision under the direct control of three county superintendents succeeded the superintendency in 1887. Though a few feeble movements for improvement of school conditions persisted during these ten years, the period was mainly one of stagnation or outright retrogression.

Wilmington

When the Research Division of the Department of Public Education published a centennial Report, it was unable to find any full account of the first fifty years of operation. The Federal Writers, with a larger staff and more time at their disposal, have been able to search the files of old newspapers, fortunately complete for the more important years of school history, and have been able to piece together the full outline

and many of the enlivening details of the story. Then, too, since the Board of Education booklet appeared, the Minute Book of the School Committee for the early years of operation has been retrieved from a Philadelphia dump by a bookdealer's runner and made available for students.

1830-34: (Wilmington)

Town laid out in eleven districts, in two of which unsuccessful schools were held for brief periods.

1834-52:

A Union District composed of ten of the eleven districts within the city limits had a school for 300 pupils built in a central section, and operated it without interruption for a 10-12 month term each year during this period. Charity school psychology, indifference, poor attendance, poor equipment, occasional difficulty in obtaining suitable teachers, and public unwillingness to pay for an adequate plant were the chief difficulties of this period. Its chief victories were defeat of the charity-school attitude, acceptance of the principle of taxation, and demonstration that public schools were sufficiently useful and feasible to warrant expansion of the program. The newspaper extracts and the Minute Book contain numerous delightfully colorful bits, such as a description of Willard Hall helping to lay the cornerstone of the original schoolhouse on Fourth of July, and then repairing to the shade of an apple tree on the premises to deliver suitable dedicatory remarks; or the final threat of expulsion when other efforts at discipline failed to break the boys of spitting in the schoolroom.

1852-1875: (Wilmington)

In 1852 public school sentiment had increased to the point where a new school law for Wilmington was obtained from the Assembly. A large Board of Education took the place of the small School Committee, and gave representation to each ward in management of school affairs. Within the next year a building program added six new schools to the plant and provided for a thousand children instead of the three hundred previously accommodated. This period, replete with bitter factional rows, charges of political interference with the operation of the schools, expanding plant, and gradual enrichment of the curriculum, marks the beginning of the modern city system.

1871 - and after: (Wilmington)

By 1871 the school system had grown to the point where it needed closer professional supervision than the untrained School Board could give, and a full-time superintendent was chosen. David A. Harlan, the first incumbent, served in this capacity for the rest of the century, and completed the task of building a coordinated city school system from the scrambled elements of one that had grown up promiscuously in the preceding half century. Formal secondary education was introduced during this period of the schools' history.

Teachers and Teacher Training:

Throughout this period the best means of training teachers, the standards that were desirable for the profession, and the working conditions that should be offered in order to hold a satisfactory teacher once found, were perennial topics of dis-

cussion among public school leaders.

Information about the teachers themselves, their actual training, experience, and classroom success, is very incomplete except for the ten years of the State Superintendency near the close of the century. Newspaper files and the reports of the annual conventions in New Castle county give occasional glimpses of the men and women who were operating the schools.

Attempts at training an adequate supply of local teachers continued through the entire period. At first they comprised nothing more than selection of the best graduates of district schools for positions in others; Hall believed, in the 1830's and '40's, that this was sufficient; other leaders urged specific preparation. Sporadic efforts to supply it appear during the early years, but foundation of the Delaware State Normal University in 1866 was the first well-organized and partially successful effort to fill the need. The fortunes of this ill-starred institution, wrecked by a three-sided personality clash between its founder, a United States Senator, and the United States Commissioner of Education, are examined and presented in more detail in the present study than in previous publications of a general nature.

Cooperation between Delaware College and the public schools in the matter of preparation of teachers dates, at least as a theory, almost from the beginning of the school system, and in practice from the 1850's. No widely accepted and continuous program was, however, worked out during the nineteenth century.

Adult Education

Though adult education is usually considered a development of the second decade of the twentieth century, in Delaware we find traces of the movement from the very beginning of the public schools. Facilities might be public or private, or a combination in which a school was used gratis by a teacher or lecturer who charged a small tuition fee. This section is another of the items not included in other studies of Delaware education, probably because so much of the source material is found in newspaper files which for one reason or another have not been available to previous writers.

Private Schools

During the nineteenth century private schools flourished both in Wilmington and in the smaller towns of the State. A bulky sheaf of newspaper extracts throws light on the programs, management and often the history of the private institutions of these two generations. The present book as now outlined, contains less new material for this field of education than for most others.

Most private education of this era was non-sectarian, but church-supervised schools also flourished. The Friends continued without interruption the institution they had operated from colonial times; the Catholics, becoming more numerous, started parochial schools as well as independent ones of secondary and higher grade; several Protestant denominations other than the Friends likewise maintained schools either under their direct supervision or operated independently by ministers.

Delaware College

In 1834 New Ark College, an outgrowth of the earlier Academy, opened its doors. Somewhat later¹⁸⁴³ its name changed to Delaware College;¹⁸⁴⁴ the same institution is now known as the University of Delaware. Throughout its earlier history the position of the college was always precarious, though from time to time it numbered excellent scholars on its staff. In 1859 poor financing, combined with a fatality in a student feud, forced suspension, and the institution was not revived until 1870, when it became a State College under the Federal Act of 1862. Though its difficulties were far from over, the revived institution lived and slowly improved its program, staff, methods, and equipment. Though a brief experiment with coeducation was introduced not long after the reopening, this did not become the established policy of the school until after 1900.⁽¹⁹¹³⁾ As indicated previously, Delaware College at various times cooperated with the public schools in preparing teachers, but this, too, did not become permanent policy until the twentieth century.

Negro Education:

Throughout the century, a program of Negro education was developing under partly public, partly private, auspices. During the entire century, no facilities were offered for Negroes comparable to those for whites.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Education in the Twentieth Century - Public Schools

1900-1915:

The first fifteen years of the new century were largely a period of preparation for a better-integrated public school system. Actual practice represented some of the most static conditions in the history of the movement, but a few changes in school law, increasing interest on the part of prominent citizens, and similar factors foreshadowed a coming reorganization.

1915-1930:

The first important move was authorization of a survey of existing conditions, the findings of which were published in 1918. Armed with proof of unsatisfactory school provisions, those who favored a major change in the basic law were able to force through a new School Code in 1919. This was too radical a departure to meet full public approval, and was replaced at the next session by the present School Law. Both provided for centralized control of finances and administration, in contrast to the complete district autonomy previously permitted, and made possible state-directed programs for improving attendance, housing, curriculum and methods, professional training of teachers, transportation of pupils to conveniently-located centers, and similar essentials of a modern school system.

In 1921, the United States Bureau of Education, at the request of the local authorities, conducted a survey of the Wilmington schools which revealed that here, as well as in

smaller communities, reorganization was overdue.

During the decade 1920-30 the major recommendations of the two surveys were put into practice in State and Wilmington schools, and extensive alterations to the physical plant made.

1930-1940:

By the time the effects of the depression began to be felt severely in Delaware, the public school system had risen to a high rating, at least on physical factors. So, on many counts, the situation was frozen at a fairly high plane of development rather than being checked, as had happened so often before, just as a progressive movement was getting well under way.

Study of the schools as they have existed during the past ten years must be approached under three headings: State-board and special district schools, or those outside Wilmington; and the colored schools of the various units.

State-Board and Special District Schools:

The school plant of almost the entire rural and small town section of the state has been rebuilt or extensively renovated within the past twenty years. In addition to buildings constructed or reconditioned, playgrounds have received much attention, and libraries, laboratories, gymnasiums and auditoriums provided. Smaller items of supplementary equipment are far more widely distributed than they were at the beginning of the reorganization. The projected book will offer a brief survey of the amount and condition of the school property, including the smaller items of equipment.

The program of studies had been largely remade during

this period. Education in Delaware plans a study of standard practices in curriculum and method, with recognition of significant variations in the form of promising experiments or substandard practices.

A personnel survey will include important statistics, regulations, etc., concerning all persons directly concerned in the operation of schools. Licensing requirements, training, tenure, salary scale, and similar items concerning teachers and administrators; enrollment, age-grade placement, retardation, health, attendance, nationality, achievement on standard scales, and so far as determinable, in later study or employment, for students; number, duties, training, salary scale, etc. for the clerical and maintenance staff; are among the topics to be treated.

Wilmington:

Modern Wilmington schools will be discussed under headings similar to those above, with an additional section on the new and old curricula on elementary and secondary levels. The history of the new curriculum and its underlying philosophy, summaries of revisions to date, and experience with well-tried units will be fully reported.

6-5: Negro Schools of the Three Units:

Under the present school laws, all public instruction in the State is financed and supervised as a single system without racial discrimination. However, since separate schools are maintained for colored students, a brief set of notes on their special problems, achievements and programs peculiar to them, and differences between them and white schools of corresponding

grade and location is needed to make the picture complete.

An attempt will be made to evaluate the accomplishments of each division of the school system and to point out in an objective spirit the places where weaknesses still exist. In this portion of the book, every effort will be made to avoid partisanship in favor of any faction or educational creed.

VIII- EDUCATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: SPECIAL EDUCATION

A detail study has been made of special education on all levels for handicapped students. This includes the blind, the deaf and hard-of-hearing, the crippled, the tubercular, tubercularly disposed and other delicate children, the retarded and mentally defective, and vocational rehabilitation of handicapped adults. Both the history of efforts for each group and an outline of present facilities and programs are included. Since public and private efforts in most divisions of this field are at present closely coordinated, no attempt has been made to treat the two types of organization as distinct units.

No organized provision for gifted children has yet been made in Delaware public schools. In all probability, the final studies to bring the material up to date just before publication will reveal at least scattered local experiments along this line, which will, of course, be included in the report.

EDUCATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS:

A survey similar to that for public schools (outlined VI c above) will be presented. Though the space devoted to education of this type is necessarily limited, effort will be made to include the philosophy of education directing the program of each of the private organizations, its approximation to conditions in the public schools, the segment of the population it serves, its special contribution to community life, an appraisal of its plant, and brief mention of its history.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN DELAWARE

The University of Delaware and Delaware State College for Colored Students are the only academic colleges within the State, although there are private institutions for the vocational instruction of mature students.

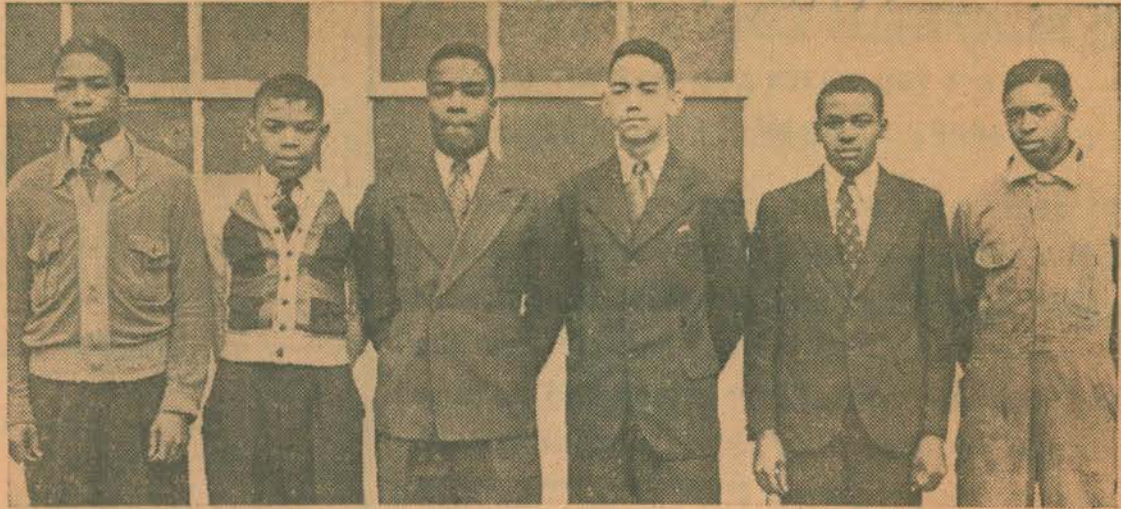
The two standard colleges will be studied under the headings of plant, personnel (supervisory, instructional, student, and clerical-maintenance), academic program, recent or prospective changes in any of the items above, and influence upon the community. (Subheads, definitions, etc., are indicated under the corresponding topics for elementary-secondary schools).

PROGRAMS OF ADULT EDUCATION:

Like special education for handicapped groups, or the

earlier scattered programs of adult education mentioned as a nineteenth century development, the movement in the twentieth century is partly public, partly private, and sometimes a cooperative program hard to classify according to method of support. Since the objective, rather than the financing, seems the essential feature of the program, all efforts to provide for education of adults will be considered in a single chapter. The main divisions of the field are: Americanization; Evening Schools of the Wilmington and State Boards of Education; Private Educational Facilities for Mature Students (Business colleges, vocational courses offered under private auspices, schools of art and music, educational programs of Y's, religious and fraternal organizations, and similar opportunities for continuation study.); WPA Educational projects; Community projects not otherwise classifiable.

They're Leading Their People Back to the Soil



These presidents and vice-presidents of the Delaware State Chapter of the New Farmers Association are trying to make good farmers of Negroes in these war times to meet defense needs under the leadership of the Leadership Training School of the State College at Dover. They are, left to right: H. Watson, Booker T. Washington chapter, Dover; Henry Ingram and Chester Waller, P. L. Dunbar chapter, Laurel; Kermit Jackson, S. P. Davis chapter, Georgetown; Storer Parker, Golden Trickle chapter, Middletown; James Scott, State College H. S. chapter, Dover.

Negro Farm Leadership Is Topic Of State College Celebration

**W. Lyle Moulds, Vocational Supervisor, Challenges
'New Farmers' Group to Meet Defense Needs; 400
Attend Founders Jubilee at Dover**

DOVER, Feb. 5.—(Special).—State Supervisor of Agriculture Education W. Lyle Moulds, addressing the first rural leadership training school for Negroes at the State College for Colored Students here yesterday, challenged the young men to aid in the defense of America and her allies by producing larger and better gardens and more effective vocational projects.

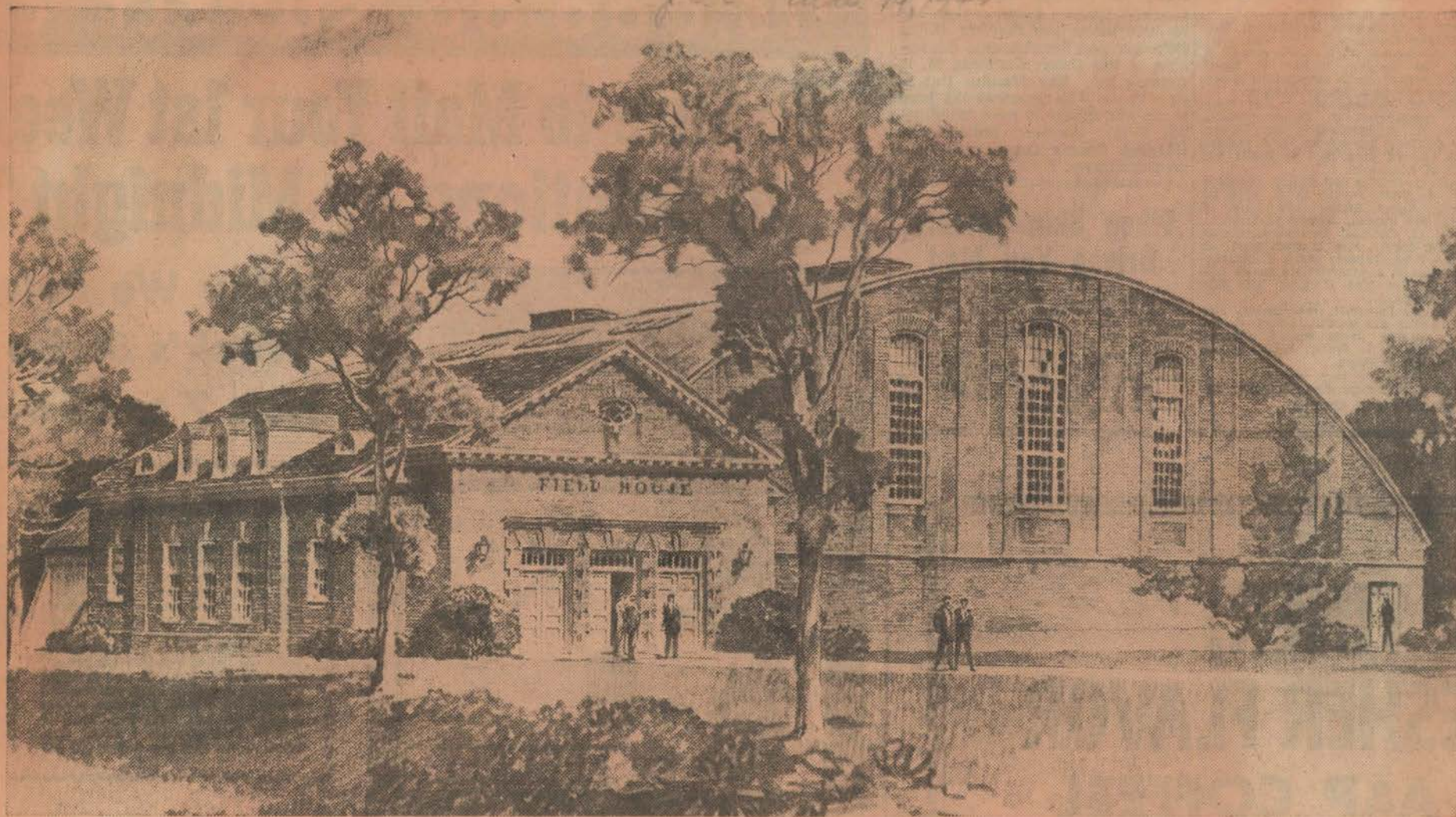
The meeting was held under the sponsorship of the Delaware New Farmers of America Association and was attended by representatives of the various departments of vocational agriculture in the Negro schools of the state.

Founders' Day Celebrated

The gathering was part of a general program held at the college here yesterday in observance of Founders' Day. Dr. Mort W. Johnson, president of the Howard University, Washington, D. C., principal speakers at the closing exercises last night, deplored the lack of opportunities for Negroes graduating from agricultural and industrial education courses in his address.

He lauded the progress of the 50 years of service given the Negro

University of Delaware's Field House Expected to Be Ready in Fall



The University of Delaware R. O. T. C. Building and field house, as shown in the architects' sketch by Martin and Jeffers, is expected to be ready for use next fall. The building was made possible through a donation by R. R. M. Carpenter, a trustee of the university. Work was

started on the structure several months ago and it is expected to be completed in time for use next fall.

The structure will conform architecturally with other buildings on the campus. Sheppheard and Co. of Wilmington, is the contractor.

The building will include an en-

trance section containing a large public lobby, and a drill hall 112 by 123 feet which will have a height of 39 feet along the center line. Besides being used for regular military drill, the hall can also be used for mass drill examinations and other

exercises. It will contain folding grandstands to accommodate 2,000 spectators.

In addition to use for military activities, it will be used for basketball and indoor tennis.

Plans have already been prepared for extending the main section of

the building 160 feet in order to provide additional space for indoor drill and anti-aircraft gun practice. This new section will be built as soon as funds can be obtained from the federal government. The cost of the present unit will be \$135,000.

EARLY CHRONOLOGY OF CHARLES THOMSON

1729 November

Born in Gortede, County Derry, Ireland, son of John Thomson. Mrs. Thomson died before 1739--the children were William, Matthew, Alexander, Charles, John, and Mary.

1739 John Thomson, with his children, set sail for America. Thomson died on the voyage.

1739 or 1740 The Thomson children land at New Castle, Del. Charles resided for a time in the home of a blacksmith at New Castle, who thought of having him indented as an apprentice. Charles ran away, and on the road met a lady of the neighborhood, who asked him what he wished to be in later life. Charles said he would like to be a scholar, and the lady was so pleased with the answer that she took him home and sent him to school.

Whether the lady placed him in Dr. Alison's school, or he was aided by his brother, Alexander, Charles did enter Alison's school at New London, Pa. Some say he was a tutor in the Academy for a while.

On leaving Dr. Alison's school, Charles at once became a tutor. "He made his home for a time in the family of John Chambers, who resided on a large farm, on the edge of New Castle County, about one hundred yards from the Pennsylvania line. Thomson opened a subscription school in the cooper shop that stood on the Chambers farm, and Sarah Black Chambers, the chronicler of the family, who died in 1898, at the age of ninety, often remarked that he was considered the best teacher in all that region." (Life of Charles Thomson. Lewis R. Harley. p. 33.)

1750 December 20

"Mr. Charles Thomson having offered himself as a Tutor in the Latin and Greek School,

and having been examined and approved of by the Rector, is admitted as a Tutor in the Latin and Greek School at the rate of sixty pounds a year, to commence on the seventh day of January next." From the Minutes of the Trustees of the Academy of Philadelphia, which finally became the University of Pennsylvania.

- 1751 January 7
Charles Thomson begins his duties at the Academy of Philadelphia.
- 1755 July
Thomson resigns from the Academy "having a design to apply himself to other business."
- 1757 "twenty seventh day of ninth month"
Thomson takes charge of the Latin School in what is now the William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia. 150 pounds a year.
- 1758 Thomson's salary raised to 200 pounds.
- 1760 Thomson resigns from the Latin School to "enter other business."

After this, Thomson became an importer and was concerned in Batso Furnace (iron works) in New Jersey.

From the above, it will be noted that Thomson was ten or eleven years old when he arrived at New Castle in 1739, or possibly in 1740, depending on the time it took to cross the Atlantic. At any rate, if Alison's school did not open until 1743, rather than 1741, Thomson had little time to acquire all the knowledge that would take him through the school, make him a fine Latin scholar, permit him to serve as tutor in Alison's academy, "conduct a private school for a few years" (Dict. of Am. Biog.), and then in 1750 take a well-paying job in the Academy of Philadelphia. Harley says he was tutor at a subscription School on the Chambers farm.

William H. Conner
October 14, 1940

Education: 1792-1829
Legislation-Finances

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SLAVE TRAFFIC FEES PAID INTO EARLY SCHOOL FUND

Whether as a salve to their consciences for placing the stamp of approval on the slave traffic, or whether the School Fund was regarded as a carryall for such odds and ends of revenue as might happen to turn up from time to time, the members of the Delaware Legislature in 1829 passed an act granting power to the courts to grant licenses for the exportation of Negro or mulatto slaves to Maryland, and their importation from the same State, and ordered that such fees as were received should be paid into "the fund for establishing schools in this State." For every Negro or mulatto slave brought into the State from Maryland, a ten dollar license fee was charged, and for every Negro or mulatto slave exported from Delaware into Maryland, a five dollar license fee was imposed.

The text of the act, passed at Dover, February 4, 1829, and to be found in the Laws of Delaware, Vol. 7, page 282, is as follows:

AN ACT for granting power to the courts to grant licenses respecting slaves in certain cases.

1829
(Servants
& Slaves)

Section 1. The Supreme Court or Court of Common Pleas shall have power to grant licenses to the owner or owners of any negro or mulatto slave, to export the same to the State of Maryland or to bring the same into this State therefrom upon such conditions as may be deemed

1 Licenses
to export
or import
to, and
from Mary-
land
(Crimes,
&c. 146)

proper, and whenever in the opinion of the court, the facts and circumstances set forth in the petition therefor will justify granting such licenses; and every license granted as aforesaid shall be issued by the clerk or prothonotary under his hand and seal of office; and if any negro or mulatto slave shall be exported or brought into this State pursuant to a license issued as aforesaid, such negro or mulatto slave shall not thereby be entitled to his or her freedom.

Sect. 2. For every negro or mulatto slave to be brought into this State as aforesaid, the owner or owners thereof shall before granting a license therefor pay to the clerk or prothonotary the sum of ten dollars for the use of the fund for establishing schools in this State, and for every such negro or mulatto slave to be exported as aforesaid, the sum of five dollars, for the use aforesaid, and to the said clerk or prothonotary one dollar for issuing said license.

2 Tax
\$10
for slave
imported

\$5 for
slave exported
\$1 to clerk

Passed at Dover, February 4, 1829

The act to create the School Fund was passed in 1796, and was to operate until 1806; in 1806 it was renewed to 1813, and renewed in the latter years for seven more years. In 1822, the act was revived.

The original act of February 9, 1796, to be found in Vol. II, Laws of Delaware, Chapter CV, is as follows:

AN ACT to create a fund sufficient to establish schools in this State.

1796

Section 1. The money paid into the State Treasury on account of marriage and tavern licenses between the passing of this Act and the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six (a) shall be and is hereby appropriated as part of a fund hereafter to be applied under the direction of the Legislature for establishing schools in this State.

11 Fund
for
estab-
lishing
Schools
(Fees
154--
Slaves
2--
Schools
11) a
[17-18]

Sect. 2. The money so as aforesaid appropriated and all other money and estate hereafter given or appropriated for the said purpose, shall be distinguished and known by the name of The fund for establishing schools in the State of Delaware.

12 Name

Sect. 3. The State Treasurer for the time being, who in all matters relative to the said fund shall be stiled The Trustee of the fund for establishing schools in the State of Delaware, shall be and is hereby empowered, authorized and required to take care of the said fund, to receive, apply for and recover, by suit or action in his name as Trustee of the said fund any gift, donation or bequest, which any person or persons disposed to promote the establishment of seminaries of learning may think proper to make; and for the application of every such gift, donation or bequest to the purpose of establishing schools as aforesaid the public faith of this State is hereby most solemnly pledged; and the said Trustee is hereby further empowered to execute a lease for a term not exceeding three years to any responsible person of any real estate, which by virtue of any gift, donation or bequest may hereafter form part of the said fund, to sue, prosecute and recover for any breach of contract or covenant, to distrain for rent in arrear, and to do every other act and deed in his name as aforesaid for the benefit of the said estate and fund, which the former owner of the said estate might have legally done, excepting the sale thereof.

13 State
Treasurer
Trustee14 public
faith
pledged15 powers
of trustee

Section 4. That whenever the money in the treasury, arising from marriage and tavern licenses, gifts, and bequests, shall amount to a sum equal to the purchase of a share in either the Bank of Delaware, the United States, of Pennsylvania, or of North America, the said Trustee shall be, and is hereby authorized, empowered, and required, to purchase, on the best terms to be procured, in the name of the Trustee of the fund for establishing schools in the state of Delaware, a share in one of the said banks, to demand and receive the dividend on every such share, as often as it becomes due, and to apply the same, with the other money in the treasury belonging to this fund, to the purchasing another share in one of the said banks, as often as the same may be adequate thereto.

16 Account of
fund--
for Gen'l
Assembly

Sect. 5. The State Treasurer for the time being is hereby required to produce to, and make a settlement with the General Assembly of this State, at their first session every year, of his account as Trustee of the fund for establishing schools in the State of Delaware, and once in every year either during or immediately after the first session of the Legislature to procure to be published in one of the newspapers of this State a particular account of the said fund, mentioning therein the names of the persons who have made any gift, donation or bequest towards the said fund, specifying the time when the same was received, and the amount or value thereof.

17 published
annually with
names of do-
nors

Section 6. That there shall be included in the bond prescribed by the act, intituled, An act requiring the State Treasurer to give security, passed the fourteenth of June, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-three, the further condition of true and faithful performance of his duty, as Trustee of the fund for establishing schools in the state of Delaware.

18 For What
schools
Schools 7,
387

Sect. 7. The said fund shall be applied to the establishment of schools in the several hundreds or districts of the respective counties of this State, for the purpose of instructing the children of the inhabitants thereof in the english language, arithmetic and such other branches of knowledge as are most useful and necessary in completing a good english education; and the same shall not be applied to the erecting or supporting any academy, college or university in this State

Passed February 9, 1796.

The revival of the act in 1822 is to be found on Page 508 of the Revised Code of 1829, and is as follows:

1822 AN ACT to revive and continue in force the Act entitled, "An Act to create a fund sufficient to establish schools in this State and for other purposes."

18
Continued
without
limitation

Section 1. The Act entitled "An Act to create a fund sufficient to establish schools in this State" passed the ninth day of February

in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven hundred and ninety six shall be and the same is hereby revived and re-enacted, and every provision thereof shall be in force and so continue until repealed by law.

19 Moneys

since 1 Jan.

1820 [22]

Sec. 2. All the monies, which have been received by the State Treasurer since the first day of January in the year eighteen hundred and twenty, and which would have belonged to the School fund, if the said Act had not expired, shall be laid out and applied by the Trustee of said fund, as directed by a resolution of the General Assembly adopted the thirteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and sixteen, which is hereby declared to be in full force and shall so continue until repealed by law: Provided nevertheless, that in case of a deficiency of other funds the State Treasurer may retain out of the said monies, such sum or sums of money, as may be necessary to pay the salaries due and to become due to the Chancellor, Judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Common pleas.

20 proviso
for salaries
of Chancellor
& Judges

[21]

Sec. 3. In case any of the monies aforesaid shall heretofore have been or shall hereafter be retained for and applied to any of the purposes mentioned in the proviso to the second section aforesaid, then and in such case the monies so retained and applied, shall be made good and paid over to the Trustee of the School fund out of any money hereafter received into the treasury and not otherwise appropriated.

21 reim-
bursement

Passed at Dover, 8 February, 1822.

Under Fees, page 267 of the Revised Code of 1829, is the following, applicable to the School Fund Act.

All monies, that shall be received for fees for marriage licenses and tavern licenses, shall be appropriated to "the fund for establishing schools in the State of Delaware," subject to be applied in case of necessity to the payment of the salaries of the Chancellor and Judges according to the law in this behalf provided; all other fees received under this Act shall belong to the funds of the State.

154 appro-
priation

363

V. E. Shaw
Jan. 31, 1940

Education
Sources: 1830-60

Encyclopedia Pub

SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' REPORTS CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1834-1874

Year	County	Enrollment	Length of term	No. of schools	Teacher's Salary	Total Costs	References
1830 ^{*1}	New Castle	in separate table.					
	Kent	22-97; median ca. 45	3-12 mo.; med. 6	22	\$35 - 185; med. \$100		p. 180
	Sussex	20-84; median 55	3-9 mo.; med. 6	23	\$42 - 150; med. \$ 80		
1831	New Castle	476	9 - 12	10	\$46-300; med. \$130		p. 222
	Kent	25-60 per school	9 - 12	27	\$30-300; med. 120		
*2	Sussex	721	med. ca. 6 mo.	25	\$35-175; med. ca. \$65		232
1832	New Castle ^{*4}	2,432	277 mo.	45	\$7,364	\$10,189	p. 257
*2	Kent	1,913	267 mo.	32	4,671	6,589	p. 276
*3	Sussex	1,578	162 mo.	31	\$2,243	5,061	p. 290

*2 - Very incomplete figures. Auditor calls attention to difficulty of getting notices to the districts in time for them to report, and asks amendment to make the law workable.

*3 - Misprint credits this report to 1831.

*1 - Figures not totaled; medians estimated.

*4 - New Castle, 1832; total local contribution, \$6,206.04
total school fund dividend, \$3,983.03

Year	County	No. Pupils	Months in Session	No. Schools	Teachers' Salaries	Total Costs	Source
1834	New Castle	2050	297	39	\$6,095.00	\$10,208.00	p. 241
	Kent	1976	286	35 ^{*1}	4,968.	\$ 6,658.	p. 271
	Sussex	2551	272	51 [*]	5,926.	6,752.	p. 287
	Total						
1836	New Castle	1726	333	42			p. 309
	Kent	1292	272	36			p. 329
	Sussex	2136	279	62			p. 350
	Total						
1838	New Castle	1952	453	54			p. 370
	Kent	1525	398	44			p. 388
	Sussex	2077	380	67			
	Total						
1840	New Castle	2,204	452	55			p. 614
	Kent	1,323	348	42			p. 583
	Sussex	2,282	317	68			p. 586
	Total						
1842	New Castle	3,926	(6-12) av. about 9	64	\$14,990.	\$18,220.	p. 651
	Kent	3,020		53	\$11,561.	\$13,214.	p. 670
	Sussex	3,413		72	\$ 7,934.	\$ 9,757.	p. 687 *2
	Total						

*1 - 45 in county of which 2 have never made settlement.

12 additional have never settled

*2- These figures are totalled in pencil, and were copied without further checking.

Year	County	No. Pupils	Months in Session	No. Schools	Teachers' Salaries	Total Costs	Source
1844	New Castle	4,400	9 av.	67	\$15,914.	\$19,572.	p. 410
	Kent	3,154	"	51	\$ 9,642.	\$10,693.	p. 431
	Sussex	3,325	3-6 av.	74	5,243.	6,663.	448
	Total						
1850 ^{*3}	New Castle	5,216	742 mo.	72	\$16,603	\$22,721.	p. 492
	Kent	4,000	542	55	\$11,409	\$12,987.	p. 518
	Sussex	4,874	563	85	\$10,863	\$12,572.	p. 536
	Total						
1852	New Castle	3,638	638	85	\$18,185.	\$23,772.	p.440
	Kent	2,619	538	58	\$11,549.	\$13,075.	p.465
	Sussex	3,973	564	93	\$10,891.	\$12,619.	p.493
	Total						
1854	New Castle - not totalled						p. 84
	Kent	2,441	521	59	\$11,814.	\$13,859.	p. 62
	Sussex	3,881	526	90	\$10,952.	\$12,626.	p.119
	Total						
1858	New Castle	6,161	796	85	\$27,773.	\$40,138.	p. 77
	Kent	3,738	492	61	\$12,780.	\$17,032.	p. 114
	Sussex	4,886	541	97	\$12,459.	\$15,193.	p. 160
	Total						

*3 - Figures for 1846-1848 are given by districts but not totalled. 1846 shows low dividend and local contribution, curtailed term, but normal enrollment. 1848 income and term length return to normal.

Year	County	No. Pupils	Months in Session	No. Schools	Teachers' Salaries	Total Costs	Source
1862	New Castle	5,265	732	86	\$31,129.23	\$47,095.	p. 56
	Kent	3,678	676	82	\$15,789.48	\$18,868.	p. 89
	Sussex	5,813	av. ca. 4 mo.	138	\$15,922.	\$17,011.	p. 116
	Total						
1864	New Castle	4,741	844	95	\$30,714.	\$54,569.	p. 227
	Kent	3,293	770 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	\$17,226.	\$21,447.	p. 231
	Sussex	4,349	412 $\frac{1}{2}$	143	\$13,849.	\$15,938.	p. 238
	Total						
1866 ^{*4}	New Castle	6,451	630	83	\$38,656.	\$59,721.	p. 59
	Kent	4,522	665	92	\$21,138.	\$24,922.	p. 71
	Sussex	6,393	676	143	\$18,718.	\$21,888.	p. 96
	Total						
1868	New Castle	6,868	786 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	\$45,337.	\$69,129.	p. 93
	Kent	5,099	748	98	\$22,850.	\$30,261.	p. 154
	Sussex	6,217	658 $\frac{1}{2}$	149	\$18,000.	\$22,204.	p. 203
	Total						
1874	New Castle	8,225	991	104	\$69,350.40	\$140,293.	p. 62
	Kent	5,075	924	106	\$25,324.34	\$31,539.	p. 82
	Sussex	6,581	712	159	\$19,042.86	\$22,217.	p. 109
	Total						

*4 - 1866 calls attention to failure to expend funds for district, and advises change in law to prevent holding of funds.

Source: Annual Reports of State Auditor found in House Journal for following year.

AUDITORS' REPORTS CONCERNING WILMINGTON SCHOOLS

Reference	Local Contribution	Fund	Salaries	Mainten- ance	No. School	Term	Enroll- ment
*257 -#10	\$ 29.08	\$ 58.16	\$ 75.00	\$ 12.81	1	3	51
#11	183.62	153.54	307.16	22.30		12	33
(p. 241)	No div. rec'd by any Wilm. dist. - p. 241						
(p. 36)	418.90	2,042.28	---	2,400.57	---	---	---
(p. 308)	674.30	555.39	160.00	163.18	1	3:05	308
(p. 369)	676.46	867.78	697.50	797.51	1	12	260
(p. 612)	800.97	1,094.04	900.00	326.08	2	12	254
(p. 102)	366.53	1,649.88	908.33	293.96	2	12	250
(p. 650)	440.31	1,311.57	1,050.00	341.82	2	12	300
(p. 48)	457.27	1,370.07	1,150.00	1,104.27	3	12	375
(p. 409)	503.95	1,284.75	1,300.00	850.48	3	12	350
(p. 398)	230.00	722.52	722.50	195.44	3	6	450
(p. 435)	674.24	1,303.38	1,250.00	294.18	3	12	485
(p. 491)	602.57	1,303.56	1,237.68	602.63	3	12	450
(p. 440)	647.30	1,251.45	1,353.35	511.10	2	12	300
(p. 84)	7,300.00	1,337.50	5,425.00	2,156.00	8	11	1,000
--	No auditors' report						
	12,500.00	1,745.50	8,670.00	6,292.09	7	11	1,700
	Missing						
	18,161.95	1,724.80	9,891.00	10,901.91	8	10	2,000
(p. 227)	26,178.80	1,663.50	10,593.75	18,067.65	10	10	300*
(p. 56)	28,561.00	2,062.30	15,475.00	15,643.86	10	12	2,400
(p. 90)	31,852.21	1,811.90	17,580.00	15,180.46	10	12	2,700
(p. 58)	100,929.50	3,501.69	43,029.47	61,847.81	16	12	4,500

Districts 10-18 were within the 1830 boundaries of Wilmington; of these only #10 and #11 are reported as receiving a dividend before 1835.

V. E. Shaw
July 31, 1940

Encyclopaedia File
Education: 1830-97
Curriculum and Method

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WILLARD HALL'S VIEW ON METHODS AND CURRICULUM

(Extract from a lecture delivered before the Delaware Academy of the Natural Sciences, Feb. 18, 1838)

"There is another most important subject, that calls for the aid of Institutions like this ... -: the subject of popular education. A system of education by which the minds of our youth shall be most profitably employed during the period when they can be spared for schools, giving them the best direction and most efficient helps for a life of improvement, in whatever situation they may be, is yet to be discovered; and it is of more concern in respect to the happiness and greatness of this nation than all the wealth it holds. Scarcely one step in this search has been taken, unless it be in having made trial of what must be rejected. I consider that the greater portion of the time employed in my education was wasted, thro my not having been engaged in suitable studies with suitable helps.

"Whence must this improvement of incalculable importance and pressing need, come?--We are sending to Europe, to the rotten and worn out monarchies of the old world, for a system of education for this young, healthy, and rising republic! -- to the regions of despotism to borrow institutions to form citizens qualified for the enjoyment of enlightened liberty! We are examining the system of the King of Prussia-- a monarch in a military despotism. His private character is good. But who has done more to resist investigation, to overpower

and subdue free discussion, to prevent all research into the principles of his own power, to crush every germ of liberty in his dominions, than the King of Prussia? Our only expectation must be, that he does not understand the character and tendency of his own system. He is wiser than we think.. He is not the first who has attained the same object by the same means.

"The system of education for this country, must originate in this country, inhaling as its vital breath the spirit of our free institutions, and it must be matured under their genial influence. Practical men, having a common interest with the people, associated with them in feeling and destiny, collected in Institutions like this, must give birth to, and foster this system. Every one admits that there must be a new and improved system of common school education. In Massachusetts, where they have probably the best system of common-schools in this country, they are more decided on this point than we are. Whence then shall improvement come?-- Not from colleges. It is nearly six hundred years since Roger Bacon, the luminary of his age, pronounced concerning the works of Aristotle, that they ought to be burnt, because the study of them was not only a loss of time, but caused error and increase of ignorance. Yet how slowly have these works disappeared from colleges? they are not purged yet. It is two hundred years since Francis Bacon brought to light the true philosophy. Who have profited so little as the colleges! And how long did they entirely neglect it? The action of improvement will not come from colleges on schools but from schools

on colleges. Permanent bodies of men resist change. An individual permanently employed, wishes to carry everyone through the same course he went himself and has carried others. The thought that any thing is wrong to which he has been accustomed, or that any thing can be good, which was not known in his course, he rejects as self evident absurdity. It is in Institutions like this, where there are no permanent employments of profit, and of course no interests at stake; into which members come from the common walks of life, and the ordinary avocations of business and society, with the single view to improve themselves and to promote the improvement of others, for the sake of improvement, to join in mutual councils, and advance the general good, tied down to no prejudice, and not only free, but accustomed to see things and opinions in the light of practical truth; that changes from old to new must find favor. Such institutions belong to the very genius of our government, resting upon the principle as unquestionable and fundamental that the people best understand their own interests and rights, and are the only trust worthy guardians of them; and that they themselves, and none others for them, must concert and mature all plans for bettering their condition."

Henrietta Lovinger
March 29, 1940

Education in Delaware

Encyclopaedia File

Extracts from the Delaware State Journal for Nov. and Dec., 1851.

Items include:

1. Flourishing Condition of Delaware College.
2. Lectures on the Reformation.
3. Establishment of Public Schools.

Nov. 14, 1851, p. 3, col. 2.

DELAWARE COLLEGE

A correspondent ... writes about this excellent institution as follows:- "It will be gratifying to the friends of this institution and the community in general, to learn that it is in a very flourishing condition. Such I am happy to say is the case, and the prospects of future success are brighter now than they have been for years... I have conversed with several prominent men, and they are all sanguine as to the result of the plan of endowment, and they have reason to be, when they have led off so nobly by subscribing above \$10,000 themselves. With such a commencement in a small place what else could be expected than the complete success of the enterprize... Already there are forty students in the College, more than there have been for years, and several others engaged to come ...

On Nov. 18, p. 2, col. 1, there is an announcement of a series of lectures to be held in Wilmington by Mr. Lord on personalities and currents of thought in the Reformation.

Dec. 30, 1851, p. 2, col. 1.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The City Council hold a special meeting on Friday evening next, to take into consideration the subject of establishing Public Schools. We understand a Bill has been drawn and will be submitted to the Legislature this winter, which is satisfactory to all parties. The Bill proposes to borrow ten thousand dollars for building and furnishing the school houses, and then support the schools by annual taxation. If the City Council should approve the Bill, which will be submitted to

them on Friday evening, it will be sent to the Legislature for their action. If there is no objection to its provisions, the Legislature will of course pass it. The Council will no doubt call a public meeting of our citizens to act on the subject sometime before the meeting of the General Assembly.

EVIDENCES OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ABOLITIONIST AND
PUBLIC SCHOOL SENTIMENT IN DELAWARE, 1790-1860

Robert Coram, probably the instigator, and certainly the most articulate advocate of the earliest public school movement in Delaware, remarked, on p. 25-26 of Political Inquiries, the book which proposed a program of public education for the United States:

"One deplorable iniquity at least, which has filled the earth with tears, and the hearts of all good men with deep regret; I mean the slave trade, could never have existed among any people who had distinct ideas of property: but this subject has been treated in such obscure, vague, and contradictory manner by the European lawyers, that it is impossible to determine by them what is property, and what is not."

William Hill Wells, who introduced the first provision for public education (the School Fund Bill) into the legislature, is marked, by his voted at the session of 1796, as an abolitionist, for he voted against every private bill to permit the importation of slaves, even in cases where they were acquired by inheritance or as part of a wife's dower, and he also opposed the plan then adopted of permitting every child born in the State of slave parents, and every minor slave imported, to become free at or before his twenty-fifth birthday. (Check details)

A reprint of the proceedings of the Abolition Convention, which assembled in Philadelphia in 1795, was prepared and circulated by Dr. A. H. Grimshaw, May 3, 1862, to show that

"it was deemed wise, prudent, and just in the days of Washington to emancipate the slaves. ... The public will notice that the men who represented Delaware were the prominent Federalists and Democrats of the time, the descendants of some of whom are now the most bitter and vituperative pro-slavery men in the country."

Delegates for 1794: Cyrus Newlin, James A. Bayard, Joseph Warner, and Wm. Poole, (1/11/1794)

Delegates for 1798: James A. Bayard, and Caesar A. Rodney, signed by John Ferriss, Jr. 31/5/1798.

Rodney and Grimshaw, among the known abolitionists, were unquestionably connected with the public school movement in their respective generations. Some of the Ferrises and Warners were also active in behalf of public schools in the 1830's. (It has not been determined whether or not they were direct descendants of the early abolitionists, or whether any of the other abolitionists may have been interested in the education movement.) Several of these names appear in connection with Coram's in his political activities. It seems probable that he may also have belonged to the abolitionist organization.

V. E. Shaw
Nov. 11, 1940

Education: Delaware
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Extracts from Knight, Edgar W., Education in the United States,
1934 edition, (Ginn and Co.), referring to Delaware and Delawareans.

p. 110-111:

"The more or less random establishment of schools was characteristic of most of the colonies outside Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, and even the attempts of these colonies to provide schools on a systematic plan was not successful." ... "Early educational effort in Delaware was local and was made through the encouragement of various religious bodies, such as the Swedes, the Dutch, and the English. At the beginning the Swedish authorities ordered that the patrons of the colony of Delaware should "support at all times as many ministers and schoolmasters as the number of inhabitants shall require." It seems that education, which was under private and church control, was not neglected. In 1744 the legislature of the colony confirmed the earlier gifts of lots and houses for school purposes. Here, as in other middle and Southern colonies, schools arose during the colonial period as local neighborhood and social conveniences."

p. 138-140:

"Constitutional provisions vague. Interest in schools as a public necessity was not widespread. The Federal Constitution did not declare its purpose to promote either re-

ligion or education, but "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," --purposes which dealt with secular affairs, matters of this rather than of another world. Congress could not establish a state religion or the requirement of a religion test as a qualification for holding a Federal office. Religious qualifications for voting and for holding office were numerous, however, in state constitutions formed during this period. But in providing for religious freedom the Federal Constitution helped to lay the foundation for the later building of non-sectarian, free, publicly supported, and publicly controlled schools. A new state motive, to be substituted for the old religious motive for schools, involved state support and control of schools; the aim was education for all, to the end that liberty and political equality might be preserved. Nor did the Constitution give attention to schools, but left educational matters to the states, by implication in the Tenth Amendment. Those which made constitutional provision for schools before 1800 were Pennsylvania and North Carolina in 1776, Georgia and Vermont in 1777, Massachusetts in 1780, New Hampshire in 1784, Vermont again in 1787, Pennsylvania again in 1790, Delaware in 1792, and Georgia again in 1798.

"In none of these constitutions, however, were specific instructions given to the legislature concerning the establishment of schools. The vagueness of the language has been offered as one cause of the long delay by some of the states in

providing for schools. The mandates seemed not to be specific.

"The legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provided by law ... for establishing schools," said the constitution of Delaware. The constitution of Vermont said:

A school or schools shall be established in every town by the legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by each town ... to enable them to instruct youth at low prices. One grammar school in each county, and one university in this State ought to be established by direction of the General Assembly.

The constitution of Pennsylvania said that "a school or schools shall be established in every county by the legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct youth at low prices; and all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more universities." North Carolina copied this provision in its first constitution and continued it unchanged in the constitution ~~and continued it unchanged in the constitution~~ of 1835. In 1790 Pennsylvania made the following constitutional provision, which was continued in its constitution of 1838: "The legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide, by law, for the establishment of schools throughout the State in such manner that the poor may be taught gratis." Georgia in its first constitution said that "schools shall be erected in each county, and supported at the general expense of the State, as the legislature shall hereafter point out," and in its constitution of 1798 provided that "the arts and sciences shall be promoted in one or more seminaries of learning."

"New Hampshire in its constitution of 1784 and again in 1792 held that "knowledge and learning generally diffused through a community being essential to the preservation of a free government, spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through the various parts of the country being highly conducive to promote this end, it shall be the duty of the legislature and magistrates, in all future periods of this government, to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries and public schools." The constitution of Massachusetts of 1780 was likewise general in its provision for schools. After dwelling at length upon the activities of "our wise and pious ancestors," it declared that "wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties ... it shall be the duty of the legislature and magistrates, in all future periods of this commonwealth, to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences."

p. 146-148:

"Plans were offered by prominent men of the time as well as by others who are less well known to history. The best essays were submitted by Samuel Knox, a physician, minister, and school-teacher, head of an academy in Maryland, and Samuel H. Smith of Philadelphia. Other plans were prepared and published by Benjamin Rush, Robert Coram, James Sullivan, Nathaniel Chipman, Du Pont de Nemours, Lafitte du

N.B.

Independently

Courteil, and Noah Webster. Some of these discussions contained descriptions of the extreme backwardness of education of the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary periods; but their chief value in the history of American education appears in the advanced ideals and ideas and in the comprehensive plans which they suggested for education - universal and free, supported and controlled by the public, and open alike to girls and boys. The purpose and the content of education were also discussed with amazing insight at a time when neither received great attention.

Benjamin Rush, a colleague of Franklin, insisted that the youth of America have opportunity to study those things which will "increase the conveniences of life, lessen human misery, improve our country, promote population, exalt the human understanding, and establish domestic and political happiness." He expressed advanced views also on the education of women, and advocated provisions for the proper training of teachers and for liberal national support of schools. These theorists looked upon education as a function of the State, to be secured by government to every class of citizen and to every child in the State. "Education should not be left to the caprice or negligence of parents, to chance, or confined to the children of wealthy parents," declared Robert Coram. "It is a shame, a scandal to civilized society, that part only of the citizens should be sent to colleges and universities, to learn to cheat the rest of their liberties." The country districts should have as good schools as the towns. "If education is necessary for one man," he said, "my religion tells me that

it is equally necessary for another." In his opinion equality of educational opportunity was a reasonable demand of democracy. But these fine views of education as a means of progress and for the service of all men were not caught by the governing authorities of the time. Owing in part to the deadliness of indifference, which has always acted upon new suggestions for social reform, the proposals of these thinkers were to remain only the visions and theories which all except a few people considered them to be at the time."

p. 251:

This for Dover Seminary
 "In 1810 Delaware authorized a lottery for \$10,000 for an academy. The president of Delaware College resigned in 1835 because he believed that money received from lottery licenses and accepted by the trustees for use in the institution was tainted. The trustees, a trifle pricked in conscience, hit upon the plan of refusing to accept the fund from the hands of the evil managers of the lottery, but received it from the treasurer of the state, to whom it was turned over, and after the legislature had by special action properly appropriated it to the institution."

The rest pertains to the early history of the University of Delaware a different institution than Dover Seminary.

p. 254:

"National land grants provided a source of school money for new States in the West. "But the older states, not sharing in these congressional land grants, turned to the establishment of

permanent public-school funds on their own account: Connecticut and Delaware before 1800, New York in 1805, Tennessee in 1806, Virginia in 1810, Maryland in 1812, New Jersey in 1816, Georgia in 1817, Maine, New Hampshire, Kentucky, and Louisiana by 1821, and Vermont, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts by 1834. South Carolina seems to be the only old state that did not establish some kind of permanent public-school fund before 1860. In some of the states the funds accumulated before any use was made of them for school purposes; in others they were used chiefly to provide schooling for poor children."

p. 351:

"Observations of Coram. Robert Coram, writing in 1791 on a plan for the general establishment of schools, devoted one chapter to the "wretched" state of the country schools in the United States and "the absolute necessity of a reformation." The teachers were described as "generally foreigners, shamefully deficient in every qualification necessary to convey instruction to youth, and not seldom addicted to gross vices. Absolute in his own opinion, and proud of introducing what he calls his European method, one calls the first letter of the alphabet aw. The school is modified upon this plan, and the children who are advanced are beat and cuffed to forget the former mode they have been taught, which irritates their minds and retards their progress. The quarter being finished, the children lie idle until another master

offers, few remaining in one place more than a quarter. When the next schoolmaster is introduced, he calls the first letter a, as in mat; the school undergoes another reform, and is equally vexed and retarded. At his removal a third is introduced, who calls the first letter hay. All these block-heads are equally absolute in their own notions, and will by no means suffer the children to pronounce the letter as they were first taught; but every three months the school goes through a reform - error succeeds error, and dunce the second reigns like dunce the first."

"On the eve of the American Revolution it was said that most of the school-teaching in Maryland was done by "instructors who are either indentured servants or transported felons." Private schools in Delaware in the early eighteenth century were often in charge of men "brought into the country and sold for servants. Some schoolmasters are hired by the year, by a knot of families who, in their turn entertain him monthly, and the poor man lives in their houses like one that begged an alms, more than like a person in credit and authority. When a ship arrives in the river it is a common expression with those who stand in need of an instructor for their children, let us go and buy a schoolmaster. The truth is, the office and character of such a person is generally very mean and contemptible here, and it cannot be other ways until the public takes the education of children into their mature consideration."

N.B. - dit
from
Cowan

Wm. H. Conner
July 31, 1940

Education
Colonial Period

ROBERT KIRKWOOD'S EDUCATION

So far as can be learned, Major Robert Kirkwood, the best-known of Delaware's Revolutionary War fighters, secured all of his early education at the Newark (Del.) Academy. Little has come down as to the quality and extent of his education, but such as has will prove of interest to researchers into education of the Colonial period.

Kirkwood was born in White Clay Creek Hundred in 1756, his father's farm lying about two miles north of the village of Newark. A Historical Marker just north of the present town of Newark indicates the site of the farm. His father designed him for the ministry, and with that in view "continued him at the Academy until the Revolutionary War put an end to his long-cherished hopes."

P. B. De Lany, in a "Biographical Sketch of Robert Kirkwood," published in Graham's Magazine, Philadelphia, 1846, declares that at the age of twelve Kirkwood was entered as a student at the "old academy" in the village of Newark, where he studied the dead languages, and was distinguished for his application and abilities. De Lany says that among his papers he found a well-written essay on "Thoughts upon Duelling," in which Kirkwood attacked the practice as "a false and flimsy code of honor." He also wrote

"poems, in which occur many stanzas of strength and beauty. They were evidently composed previous to his joining the Continental army. He wrote music also with considerable taste, as his manuscripts attest; and performed upon the

flute, with which he was wont to beguile many an hour of its silence and its cares."

If Kirkwood entered the Newark Academy when he was twelve years old, the year must have been 1768. Since he entered the Delaware Regiment as an officer in January 1776, the assumption would be from the above that he stayed at the Academy eight years. If such were the case, it would appear he was either taking advanced work for the ministry, or else might have "spelled" his way through the Academy by working on his father's farm from time to time.

A possible picture of the life of a Newark Academy student of his time would seem to be regular recitations in Latin and Greek, and other subjects that would prepare one for the ministry, coupled with such extra-curricular subjects as writing essays upon dueling, writing poems, composing music, playing upon the flute, and, in Kirkwood's case, devoting some time to revolutionary activities, since it is stated that he announced several times, before 1776 and thus while he was a student, that he would join the Colonial forces if war broke out with England.

Reference:

De Lany, P. B. "Biographical Sketch of Robert Kirkwood."
Graham's Magazine, Philadelphia, 1846. v. XXVIII, No. 3.
6 p.

Education in Delaware.

E. Samworth,
December 16, 1940.

III-2-A COLONIAL: 1682-1776.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

A. The Church as an Educational Force.

1682

When William Penn brought his laws for church and state to his proprietorship on the Delaware, education in his opinion was important as the basis for just laws, and the growth of religion and ethical conduct, faith in God and man. Because of his belief in education as basic to right conduct, schools were established under certified teachers in Philadelphia, Penn, the Quakers, coming to establish the fourth government in this territory, brought a more formal type of education with his government than had been established by his predecessors. He brought a religion without a church, but he brought education established in a school-house and in 1682 in his capital city the first school-house of pine and cedar planks was built less than a year after his arrival. From this beginning the modest Quaker meeting-house was the school-house or if the Quaker settlement was large enough the school was built beside the meeting-house- education, a sentinel, guarding worship.

Dec. 15,
1682

Swede, Dutch and English had established education limited to the power to read and write as a help in establishing the State religion, even where freedom of conscience was assured. The ^{ability} power to read the Bible and the church catechism was the extent of education under the church of Sweden, the Netherlands, and England, and a broader curriculum awaited the arrival of the Quaker although

1672 George Fox who visited America in 1672 and preached in New Castle was an uneducated man. He reasoned that "God stood in^{no} need of human learning." Successive Quakers did not follow Fox's leadership in the matter of education.

Lutheran Swedes and Dutch Reformed Church taught the children to read in order to read the Bible. The Episcopal Church continued the same curriculum but extended their teaching to embrace the liturgy. Besides teaching the children they extended their teaching to embrace servants and slaves if masters would send them for instruction. The Society of Friends built the first school-houses as numerous as their meeting-houses, free for those too poor to pay.

The Presbyterians came in larger numbers than any other people during the first half of the eighteenth century and brought a scholarship that provided an educated ministry and a people too with an education that went hand in hand with religion. All education at this time was either parochial or private and was in the hands of ministers and teachers who had been liberally educated, many were graduates of British universities or of Yale.

While there was in no sense "The Church" as it existed in European countries, there was a denominational cleavage in communities and the church of the community became the parochial guide to the education of the community.

The Presbyterians from the British Isles broadened the concept of education and languages, philosophy, history, theology, all the subjects of a classical education, "The church as an educational force."

V. E. Shaw
Dec. 4, 1939

Legislative Progress of Law of 1796

House Journal, 1796, p. 6: Wed., Jan. 6.

On Motion of Mr. ^{William Hill} Wells, seconded by Mr. Clark,
Resolved,

"That a Committee be appointed to report to this House a plan for the establishment of public schools throughout this State."

The members appointed are, Messrs. Wells, Clark, Henry, Naudain, Burton, and Maxwell.

Jan. 16, 1796; p. 38

Mr. Wells, of the Committee, appointed to report a plan for the establishment of public schools throughout this State, reported a bill entitled, "An Act for gradually creating a fund sufficient to establish schools in this State"; which being presented to the Speaker, was read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Read a second time, Jan. 19

Voted on and passed Jan. 28, 1796, by vote of 11 to 7; returned from Senate, Senate amendments accepted, and ordered engrossed, Feb. 2, 1796 (p.91).

Note: Wells, the sponsor of the measure, was apparently an abolitionist even at this early date, since he voted consistently against all private bills to permit importation of specific slaves, even in cases where title came through marriage or inheritance rather than purchase. He also opposed a measure entitled a Bill to Gradually Abolish Slavery, which forbade any resident

of the State to hold in slavery beyond his twenty-fifth year any child born within the State of bound parents, or imported as a minor.

Mary Mazzeo
Feb. 15, 1940

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Encyclopaedia File
EDUCATION IN DELAWARE
Miscellaneous News Items

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, April 20, 1855

Dedicatory Meeting

A commodious building having been erected in the past year in Chester County Pa. for the use of the progressive Friends, for moral, literary and scientific purposes will open its doors for the first time on May 19th 1855, the day immediately preceding that fixed for the Convocation of the yearly meeting of the progressive Friends. Theodore Parker of Boston has been invited to deliver an appropriate address.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, April 10, 1855

Deaf and Dumb Institution

We have received a copy of the annual report of the Pennsylvania institution for the deaf and dumb. Three pupils from this state are supported by this institution -- one from Kent and two from Sussex.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, Sept. 30, 1859

Excerpt from a letter from Media, Pa.

.... The State institution for the training of feeble minded children lately erected near this place will be opened

to visitors early next month. Doubtless many will embrace this opportunity of seeing complete and detailed arrangements for the care of this helpless class of society. Many will be astonished at the untiring patience and success of its head, Dr. Parrish. This is truly a noble institution and should be most amply sustained. It has a mission which no other can perform. The motives of those concerned in its operation must arise from hearts filled with love for fallen and unfortunate humanity.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, Nov. 18, 1859. P. 2

Night School

We have for several years in succession called attention to a night school which has been regularly continued throughout the winter season in the basement of the public school house corner 6th and French streets. Again it presents itself and heartily claims our notice which we most heartily give, for we know it has indeed excellencies worthy our communication. Young men will find here good teachers, good books, and good order, which can scarcely be found elsewhere for such a trifling cost. School will commence Monday evening Nov. 28th at 7 o'clock The school will doubtless be filled as heretofore, and those who are successful in obtaining seats will be much benefited.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, Oct. 18, 1859.

..... The city seems to be alive with miniature "boom a laddies." Col. Hyatt must have a perfect beehive of young patriots in his popular academy at the West End, and if he succeeds in making them all good soldiers and true American liberty-loving citizens it will be no more than is expected from such an able preceptor.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, June 22, 1885

St Mary's College

The eighth annual distribution of the premiums of this institution will take place on Thursday 28th. Exercises will commence at 10 A.M. Exhibitions of fine arts will be open from 9 o'clock. The public are generally invited.

From Delaware Journal & Statesman, Oct. 18, 1859. Page 2

Academy of Science

At a meeting of the Academy of Science on last Saturday evening it was resolved to wind up the affairs of that organization and hand over the funds amounting to \$500 or \$600 to the young men's association to be used for enlarging their hall.

From Delaware Journal & Statesman, Wed. Mar. 20, 1855

Princeton College was destroyed by fire last Saturday night.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, Feb. 16, 1885

Night School

A visit to the night school in the basement of the school house corner 6th & French streets, would well repay the trouble of the walk, to anyone of our readers. And as their ought to be an effort made next fall to give accomodation to all who apply for the opportunity of education, the friends of youth should visit this most successful experiment before it closes for the season two weeks from today.

From Delaware State Journal & Statesman, Sept. 13, 1859

The County Treasury & Sunday schools

Mr Editor

A short time since a notice appeared in our city papers to the effect that the county treasury had made arrangements so that those Sunday schools, which had not received their share of the appropriation of the school fund for the present year might obtain them by application to the Farmers Bank at New Castle.

The writer of this letter in obedience to the conditions as he thought, forwarded to New Castle through one of our banks

an order upon the treasurer for the amount due a certain Sunday school, and in a day or two the order was returned with an endorsement to the following purpose: The county treasurer had left a list of schools with instructions that the amount due them was to[^]paid when their respective superintendents should go personally to the bank and give their receipt upon a paper which he had left. ?

Without being personally acquainted with Mr. Scott the treasurer, the writer presumes that from the position he occupies that he is acquainted with the usual forms of transacting business, and without making any mention of the inconvenience to which, compliance with his instructions would subject the superintendents, we merely urge upon this notice the following consideration: The cashiers of the Farmers Bank at New Castle are or cannot be supposed to be acquainted with all the superintendents even if they do call. Their receipt upon his list would be no guarantee of correctness as the order of one of our banks. There can be no better security for him than such an order. Can we not persuade him to withdraw his instructions? We shall wait for a reasonable time for a notice to appear in our papers, to the effect that an order of a superintendent properly guaranteed shall be paid & recognized at the Farmer's Bank at New Castle.

A Sunday School Superintendent

m d m

Mary Mazzeo
March 6, 1940

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS - 1839

Thoughts on Common Schools No. 1

From the Delaware State Journal, June 21, 1839

What have the citizens of Delaware gained by the School Law now in force in this State?

The first obvious advantage which resulted from the present school law was the laying off of the State into school districts, and the erection of school houses so as to be accessible to all the inhabitants.

A second advantage is that a large proportion of the County Districts are now able to support a school during the whole year, whereas before the present system came into operation, but comparatively few neighborhoods in the county supported a school during the summer months.

A third advantage resulting from this law has been to increase the number of scholars who attend school, and to extend the blessings of education to all classes of the community. This has been the effect in every school with which I am acquainted. In the town of Smyrna, where before the passage of the present law there was great difficulty in supporting one good school, there are now employed two males, and one female as teachers, and the number of scholars would justify the employment of another teacher. And in many county districts where there could not be a school kept up during the summer months, there are now taught from twenty to forty scholars: Many of whom are children of poor parents, who under the operation of the old system would actually have been, or would have supposed themselves to be, too poor to educate their children.

Who then would attempt to compute the benefits this state has derived, and may derive from its school law . . . And when I have seen the children of the poorest class, day after day, wending their way to the school room, and evincing by the rapidity of their improvement, that although Heaven has cast their lots amid the sons of poverty and toil, it has blessed them with intellectual capacities of the highest order - I have blessed a thousand times our school law, and have thought that the men who devised and matured it deserve a proud place in the hearts of their fellow citizens.

That the present school law might be improved is very possible. But I have always observed that the persons who are most clamorous for alterations, and who tell us that it compels the poor to educate the children of the rich; are the very men who are least anxious that the poor should be educated, and thereby be placed on a level with the children of those who would drive back the inestimable blessing of education to those costly institutions.

"Before whose gates exclusive wealth stands guard

Repelling all who entrance seek without the pass
of fortune."

An Advocate for General Education Smyrna, June 12th,
1839.

Mary Mazzeo
March 6, 1940

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Education in Delaware
Encyclopaedia File

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS--1840

Wilmington Select Seminary for Boys

From the Delaware State Journal, January 14, 1840.

Wilmington Select Seminary For Boys, No. 175 Market Street,
opposite Hemphill's Square.

This being a pleasant and healthy situation, and easy of access by means of railroads, etc., renders it particularly desirable to those who may wish to place their sons from home to be educated. The Institution itself holds out inducements of peculiar importance, as the number of boarders will be limited. They will of course receive more of their teachers' attention, and will be free from much of the exposure that is unavoidable in large schools.

The government of this school is of a parental character: and while the health and morals of the pupils will be strictly attended to, unremitting exertions will be used to promote their advancement in all the elements of a complete education.

Terms

The charge for board and tuition in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Composition, will be \$35 per term of 12 weeks.

Those who study any of the Mathematical branches, are charged \$40 per term of 12 weeks.

An additional charge of \$6 for those who study the languages or drawing -

Use of instruments per term \$2.

Terms, always payable in advance.

No scholar will be received for a less time than one term, and one month's notice will be expected previous to leaving.

Vacations - midsummer and Christmas - for which no charge will be made. No deduction will be made for absence at any other time.

References - Wilmington, Del. - Rev. E. W. Gilbert, Rev. Wm. A. Wiggins, Hon. Arnold Naudain, Hon. Willard Hall, Richard H. Bayard, Col. Henry Whitely, Lieut. Irvine Shubrick of the U. S. Navy, James A. Bayard, James Simpson, Jonas Pusey, Joseph Scott and Charles I. Dupont Esqrs.

Newark, Del.- Thomas B. Armstrong, Esqr.

Staunton, Del. - George Janvier, Esqr.

Lewistown, Del. - Lewis West Esqr.

Philadelphia - Rev. John Chambers, Rev. P. F. Mayer, Messrs, Thomas Kimber, Samuel F. Watson, Thomas McKellar, Joseph Weeks, John Neil, A. Waldie.

Baltimore City - Washington R. Handy, M. D. Messrs. Wm. Heald, and Jacob Heald Esqurs.

Cambridge - E. S. Md. James A. Steward Esqr.

Denton Caroline Co. Md. - James Sangston, Esqur. Caleb Kimber, Principal.

From Delaware State Journal, April 7, 1840 - Page 3, col. 3.

[In a letter to the editor of the Journal, an article describing a small fire at Newark College. Considerable damage was done to the building but the fire was extinguished in about two hours.]

From Delaware State Journal April 28, 1840.

Education Convention

The National Convention to consider the subject of education in the United States, is to meet at Washington on the 6th of May next.

Mary Mazzeo
March 6, 1940

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Education in Delaware

Encyclopaedia File

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS - 1845

1. School Districts - change of time in voting
2. School Districts - Yearly Meeting
3. Common Schools - meeting to consider present school system

From the Delaware Gazette, March 14, 1845

School Districts

It is important that the Clerks and Commissioners understand the change of time of the yearly meeting of school voters to first Saturday of April at 3 o'clock p.m. that the meeting be advertised in season.

The same directions given for advertising yearly meeting heretofore, are still to be followed - the time only being changed.

H.

From the Delaware Gazette, March 13, 1846

School Districts - Yearly Meeting

The yearly meeting of school voters is on the first Saturday of April at 2 o'clock p.m. It must be kept open one hour at least.

From the Delaware Gazette, January 24, 1845

Common Schools

A meeting of the friends of New Castle County, having met at the house of James Morrison, Hare's Corner, pursuant to public notice, on Saturday the 18th inst. to take into consideration the present School System of this State, on motion, Mr. Edwin M. Niven was appointed President and Mr. Z. Gemmill, Secretary.

On motion a committee of four were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. ... The committee after retiring a short time reported the following:

...

3d Resolved, That while we would willingly submit to taxation to any necessary or reasonable amount, or in any other suitable manner contribute of our substance to promote the free and general education of the poor, who have not the means of education, we will use all honorable means in our power to procure the speedy abolition of the present Common School System, in its unequal, unjust extravagant and anti-republican form.

...

5th Resolved, That as a system of espionage, our School System cannot be equalled in American history, as every teacher and officer who are interested in receiving an emolument, will unite to tax the people to the end of time.

...

10th Resolved, That we consider a general system of taxation for the support of Schools, to be a good stock upon which to ingraft the union of church and state.

... On motion of Mr. John D. Titter the meeting adjourned.

Attest Edwin D. Niven, Pres't

Zachariah Gemmill, Sec'ry

Mary Mazzeo
March 20, 1940

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Education in Delaware

Encyclopaedia File

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS (1847)

From the Delaware Gazette, February 26, 1847.

American Literary, Scientific, and Military Institute.

This institute chartered at the present session of the Legislature, to be under the direction of Rev. Corry Chambers, A. B. T. C. D., and the celebrated Captain Alden Partridge, subject to the general supervision of a board of Trustees and Faculty of Professors, is likely to prove one of the best educational establishments in the country. The moral, physical and mental systems will each receive, as always should be the case, its proper share of attention.

Wilmington is about to become one of the greatest scholastic and literary cities in the country.

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