

# Delaware Federal Writers Project Papers

Del. F164.F47

## **Volume 48**

ROBERT CORAM (1761-1796)

V.48.

Delaware's first traceable<sup>1</sup> Federal copyright entry was made February 8, 1791, by Robert Coram, when he filed with the U.S. District Court, his pamphlet Political Inquiries to which Is Added a Plan for the Establishment of Schools throughout the United States. The little book is still as readable and provocative as when it was run from Brynberg and Andrews' press a hundred and fifty years ago.

Modern writers credit its author with helping shape the intellectual development of the United States. There is reason to believe he wrote voluminously under pen names which were recognized at the time, and he was active in the public affairs of his city and State. Yet in spite of his prominence in his life-time and his permanent influence, he has dropped from the annals of the country with such amazing completeness that tracing his career has been a problem of original research with only the most fragmentary secondary sources as guides.

Scharf, Conrad, and Miss Lincoln, Delaware historians, and the Delaware Guide of the Federal Writers' Project, mention him; other Delaware reference books disregard him completely. These sources show that he was a teacher with a school on Fourth Street between Market and King,<sup>2</sup> that he was an early librarian of the Library Company of Wilmington,<sup>3</sup> forerunner of the present Wilmington Public Library,

<sup>1</sup> A lengthy note has been prepared for the final copy, outlining the search for copyright records.

<sup>2</sup> J.T.Scharf, History of Delaware (1888), p.684; H.C.Conrad, History of the State of Delaware (1908), p.318; Anna T. Lincoln, Wilmington, Delaware, Three Centuries Under Four Flags (1937), p.327; Delaware, A Guide to the First State, American Guide Series (1938), p.129.

<sup>3</sup> Scharf, p.834; Lincoln, p.107; Conrad, p.407; Delaware Guide, 285.



and that he was a delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1791-92.<sup>1</sup> Miss Lincoln adds that he was secretary of an anti-federalist mass-meeting held in Wilmington in 1795, and was appointed with John Dickinson and seven others to draft its protest to President Washington against the Jay Treaty. (p. 269) She also lists him as one of the early editors of the Delaware Gazette, a position he held at the time of his death. (p. 358.) The Delaware Guide (pp. 129, 285) mentions him as an author and one of the intellectual leaders of Wilmington during a period when the town boasted many figures of more than local interest. Elizabeth Montgomery, in the 1851 edition of Reminiscences of Wilmington, speaks of him as "a reputed literary character." Her reference is obviously based on someone's casual recollection, for in the single sentence she allots to him she misspells his name and garbles two of the three facts she reports.

None of these sources reveals more than an outline of his public activities during the final years of his life. They give no hint of his personality, his influence, his associates, his family, or his background. Since the publication of the Delaware Guide, the Federal Writers' Project of Delaware has continued its search for fuller information about Coram, and can now offer a reasonably complete study of his life, although many questions about him remain unanswered.

1

Delaware, A Guide to the First State, American Guide Series, (1938), p. 50; H. C. Conrad, History of the State of Delaware, (1908), p. 155; Anna T. Lincoln, Wilmington, Delaware. Three Centuries Under Four Flags, (1937), p. 358; Montgomery, Elizabeth, Reminiscences of Wilmington, T. K. Collins, Phila., (1851), p. 280.

Fortunately for the modern biographer, Coram saw fit, less than four months before his death, to answer an attack by the editor of the Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser through the following column in the Delaware Gazette for November 17, 1795:

"As you seem anxious to know what right I have to claim citizenship in Delaware, I shall take the liberty to inform you that I am now in the 34th year of my age, thirty-one of which I have resided in South Carolina or Delaware, or been in the service of the United States, or some one of them. And lest your skepticism might lead you to doubt on this subject, I shall take the liberty to introduce a trophy to you, which will shew you whether I am entitled to citizenship or no.

"This is to certify that, in conformity to a warm letter of recommendation which I had the honor to receive from his excellency Doctor Franklin, dated Passy, May 10, 1778, in favor of Mr. Robert Coram of South Carolina, I received him on board the American ship of war, the Bon Homme Richard, of 40 guns, then lying at l'Orient and under my command; and from which time until the date hereof, he has acted in the quality of a midshipman, and faithfully discharged the duties of that station, especially in the engagement between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis,...When he behaved gallantly from the beginning to the end of the action. This young gentleman's character I esteem, and his past conduct merits my thanks; I do therefore recommend him to the attention of Congress, as a person who wants but little more experience to render him a complete sea officer.

Oct. 28, 1779.

JOHN PAUL JONES"



## 1

Records obtained from South Carolina show that Robert Coram was born May 2, 1761, probably in Bristol, England. He and his twin brother Philip were the ninth and tenth of John and Ann Browne Coram's eleven children. The first four, triplet boys and a girl a year younger than they, died in infancy before the birth of the fifth child. The six sons who followed all seem to have lived to manhood; the daughter, Ann, died two days after her fourteenth birthday. The entries in the Coram family Bible referring to this generation are:

Ann Browne (d. Nov. 21, 1770) married John Coram (b. Aug. 14, 1726) whose children were:

John and Thomas, "with another son dead-born"; March 28, 1753; they died "in a few days."  
 Bathshua, Mr. 21, 1754 - d. Feb. 27, 1755 (11 months)  
 John, Feb. 28, 1755; lived to manhood, for marriage is recorded  
 Thomas, April 25, 1757 -d- May 2, 1811 (54 years)  
 Francis, Aug. 19, 1758 -d- Oct. 18, 1815 (57 years)  
 Ann, Sept. 25, 1759 -d- Sept. 27, 1773 (14 years)  
 Robert and Philip, May 2, 1761 (Robert d. Mar. 9, 1796) (34 years)  
 (Philip, date of death unknown)  
 William, May 31, 1762 (Date of death unknown)

## 1

The Federal Writers' Project of Delaware is indebted to Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr., and through him to an unnamed person in South Carolina, for a bibliography of the Coram family in that State, and for a copy of the partnership agreement of Coram and Wilson. Some of the bibliography mentioning Robert Coram was supplied through Mr. de Valinger and his correspondent by Mrs. Margaret Middleton and Ashmead Pringle, Jr., authors of articles appearing in the June and November, 1936, issues of Antiques.

## 2

A photostatic copy of the page of the Bible containing the genealogy is reproduced in Antiques, Nov., 1936, Thomas Coram's Bible, by Ashmead Pringle, Jr. The date of Robert Coram's death, and ages of other members of the family at the time of death, have been added by the Federal Writers to the chart as Mr. Pringle gives it.

It appears from this chart that the feminine influence in the Coram home was withdrawn early, for the mother died when Robert was nine, and his only sister when he was twelve; there is no indication that the father remarried. There probably was a close tie between the boy and either his mother or sister for he named his own first daughter Ann.

The Bible from which these records are taken belonged to Robert's brother Thomas, who became one of the earliest American engravers, and a painter of considerable merit. It had been given him by his mother the year before her death; she in turn had received it from her grandmother in 1731. On one of the flyleaves Thomas drew a geneological chart, giving, in addition to the names and dates of birth of his own brothers and sisters, his mother's ancestry for several generations. The names Browne, Harling, Kent, and Yoemans, the last two dignified with the title Esquire, appear on the chart. On other flyleaves are inscribed John Speed in two very different hands, and Anne Speed. Her Book. 1675.

When Mr. Pringle wrote, he had not definitely identified the members of the Speed clan, but had found one John who belonged to the Merchant Tailors Company in 1580 and who later "achieved fame and some fortune" as a mapmaker. One of his numerous sons was another John, a distinguished scholar at Oxford; there was a third otherwise unidentified individual of that name who may have been a son or nephew of the scholar. At least two of these men probably owned the Bible before it came into Anne's possession. Though it is not certain the Speeds were ancestors of Robert Coram's mother, Mr. Pringle



believes they were.

Several records show that John Coram, father of Robert, was a successful merchant, and that he emigrated to South Carolina from England when the boy was about three years old. The first, from the Office of the Probate Court ("presumably in Charleston, South Carolina"), Book, 1765-1769, page 1, reads:

"James Wilson, John Harford both of the City of Bristol Merchants are held and firmly bound unto John Coram of the same city for the sum of two thousand pounds ... the said James Wilson and John Coram do agree to go to Charles Town in the Province of South Carolina ... to take a store or stores for the joint concern and as near the place as possible to fix on a proper Spot for the erecting a Smuff Mill." June 1st, 1765

The extract does not show whether June 1765, is the date on which the agreement was made, the date of its registry in England, or of its registry in South Carolina. The last, in view of Robert Coram's statement quoted on page 3 above, seems the most likely, for if he was correctly informed, he must have been brought to America no later than April, 1765.

Another source of information about the Corams in South Carolina is Margaret Simons Middleton's article Thomas Coram, Painter and Engraver, in Antiques, June, 1936. Though her primary interest is in Robert's artist brother, she presents, as background material, numerous references to other members of the family.<sup>1</sup> Among them is an advertisement of Coram and Wilson published in a Charleston paper for Jan. 11, 1768, which

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Middleton had not at the time she wrote had access to the genealogy later published by Mr. Pringle, and was not certain of the relationship of the various individuals she mentions. Information adapted from her article has been combined with other data to make the identification exact.

"indicates a flourishing trade in European and East Indian goods, imported wines and spirits, 'New York beer,' and sundry metal wares." She finds John Coram again a year later as one of a group of thirteen representative merchants of the Province who had joined an equal number of planters and of mechanics in a general association "to discontinue the importation of European and East India Goods and Negroes into this Province."

She also speaks of Thomas Coram, English merchant, philanthropist, and colonial promoter, famed especially as the founder of the first foundling shelter in England, as a "near relative"<sup>1</sup> of Thomas Coram the artist, brother of Robert.

Before Mrs. Middleton's article came to the attention of the Federal Writers, they had established a circumstantial case for connection between the two Coram families. John Brownlow,<sup>2</sup> historian of the Foundling Hospital in London, says of its founder's ancestry:

<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately she does not cite her source for this statement but since she has in other cases clearly labelled as such inferences and data from secondary sources, it seems safe to assume she had access to a primary source linking the two families.

<sup>2</sup> Brownlow, John, Secretary of the Hospital, History and Design of the FOUNDLING HOSPITAL with a Memoir of the Founder. London, 1858. Printed by W. and H. S. Warr.



"Thomas Coram, the philanthropist, was born at Lyme Regis, in 1668, a descendant of the Corhams of Devonshire; and Kinterbury, in that county, was for several generations the property and residence of the family. ... All that can be found in the registers (of baptism) relating to the family is the following:

'William, son of John Coram, Captain, was baptized at Lyme, April 29th, 1671.'

"There seems to be no doubt, therefore, that this William was a younger brother of Thomas."

Most biographies of the philanthropist mention his American-born Puritan wife. Since there is no reference to children, it seems unlikely there were any who lived. After the old gentleman had impoverished himself by his extensive charities he was supported through his last years by public subscription, added argument against the existence of descendants. It seems probable that Robert and Thomas the artist were his brother's great-grandsons.

Though the relationship was apparently collateral, every<sup>1</sup> fact we know points to its existence. Both families came from the same corner of England. Thomas was interested in the colonization of Georgia; John made his home in South Carolina. Thomas' biographer notes that the name was originally spelled Corham; that spelling appears in the one record of Robert handed down through an English source. The Christian names of the philanthropist, his father, and his brother, are all repeated in the Carolina family. Later-born sons, indeed, were called John and Thomas when the first to bear those names died. There are five John Corams who appear related; Thomas' father;

<sup>1</sup> For Thomas (1688-1761); see Brownlow, op. cit., or Dictionary of American Biography 4:4345; for Thomas (1757-1811), see Middleton and Pringle articles cited above; for Robert, see complete documentation of the present paper.



Robert's father and two brothers; and Robert's son. Though the elder Thomas and the two eminent younger men lived very different lives, the parallel between them in some respects is surprising.

Both Thomases were interested in art, the older man as patron, the younger as craftsman. Both, apparently childless, gave generously to the support of orphans (the artist left his entire estate to the Charleston Orphans' Home upon the death of his widow.)

Thomas the philanthropist and Robert show even greater similarity. Both went to sea as boys, but did not follow it as men. Both were deeply interested in education. They were humanitarians. They considered their religion a guide to conduct, rather than a ritual. Both liked the Indians, and thought of them as worthy human beings, not animals to be cleared off the land in preparation for settlement. Both had a deep sense of justice and felt responsibility for their country's welfare. They were appalled by the misery, waste, and crime that follows when a man can find no work. Thomas tried to rescue the victims of unemployment, the children through his foundling shelter, the adults through colonial projects. Robert hoped to remove its causes by training all children to meet the demands of life and by avoiding in America the customs and political theories that had bred Europe's problems.

Robert Coram came of families that were "good" in the sense of producing men of intelligence, leadership, and skill; they were also, apparently, "good" in the sense of aristocratic.



He spent his boyhood in the surroundings of a well-to-do merchant's family in a leading colonial seaport during the decade just previous to the Revolution. Under these circumstances, it would be interesting to know what made a Revolutionary and life-long liberal out of "this young gentleman." Unfortunately we know nothing of his formal schooling. His statement in the Gazette indicates that he was educated in America. His later writing shows he had mastered Latin and French, and was familiar with the main currents of thought in his generation. He held a minor naval commission by the time he reached his eighteenth birthday. None of these slender leads gives important clues to his adult years.

Though John Coram may have instilled in his sons the sense of justice and social responsibility that had characterized the elder Thomas, he did not make rebels of them. Mrs. Middleton reports that he remained a loyalist, and accepted exile rather than take the oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth of South Carolina demanded by an act of March 28, 1778. From the same source (supported by quoted newspaper extracts), we learn that Thomas, the second son, then twenty-one, was detailed to dispose of his father's personal property. He did not care to become a merchant, and in July, 1788, he announced his intention of accepting commissions at engraving "though he had never been brought up to it." He is supposed to have volunteered on the American side, but his biographer infers from a later advertisement that he accepted British protection after the surrender of Charleston. She likewise believes that John, senior, returned to the city in or before 1782, since a newspaper

of that year carries a reference to "John Coram, tavern-keeper."

This assumption is at least questionable, for the eldest son, if living in 1782, was old enough to be well established in a business of his own. Other records<sup>1</sup> show that there were Corams in the Carolinas before this particular family left England, so tavern-keeper John may have been related only distantly, if at all.

After the outbreak of the Revolution, indeed, it becomes impossible to trace any of the family except Robert, Thomas, and Francis from primary sources in the hands of the Federal Writers' Project. Some inferences may, however, be drawn from the Bible record and the facts already outlined.

Five dates of death are omitted in the geneology. This may mean only that Thomas made the chart between 1773 and 1778, and subsequently lost interest in it. Since only John's marriage is mentioned, though Thomas himself and Francis both married in Charleston, this interpretation is quite possible. But the omissions may point to a violent split in the family over Independence. Robert became, and stayed, an ardent patriot; he died in a section he had visited in line of duty. The father was expelled from Carolina for his loyalist sympathies, and is not clearly recorded again. Neither death

1

A letter from Baron de Griffinrid to Edward Hyde, Governor, refers to a "town of Coram" in the colony in 1709, Saunders, Colonial Records of South Carolina, I, p. 987.

A militia list of Mar. 27, 1756 includes the names Wm. Coram and Edw. Coram. Reproduced in South Carolina Historical and Geneological Magazine, Vol. 23, p. 92.



is mentioned in the Bible. Thomas and Francis died in Charleston, and their deaths are recorded. It is therefore possible that John, Jr., Philip, and William either shared their father's politics and his exile, or like Robert, moved to another part of the United States in early manhood. The fact that Thomas, rather than John, settled the family affairs suggests that the older brother may have left Charleston before 1778.

Whatever the reason, there is no evidence to show contact between Robert and other members of his family after his enlistment. One curious coincidence occurs: Francis' wedding and Robert's funeral were announced in newspapers of the same date.

Only a few facts about Robert Coram's career as a naval officer have been unearthed, but they are fortunately items that tell a vivid story.

1

The earliest mention of him is in a letter which Commodore Gillon of the South Carolina navy addressed to the State's delegates at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on March 5, 1779. In it he indicates that he was assembling a navy for his own State, to act in harmony with, but not as a part of, the Continental navy under Jones. He asks instructions and information to prevent possible accidental clashes between various American craft. Among his remarks is the sentence:

"As I flatter myself that it will give you some satisfaction to hear ye prospect of ye Navy Officers of So. Carolina I take ye liberty to acquaint you that ... Capt Robeson with Mr. Lindworth, Morant, and Coram arrived here ye 31 Dec in ye Snow

<sup>1</sup>  
Reproduced in South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 10, p. 80.

Gustave of this port (Nantes, France)  
that put in distress into ye Havana."

Since only one Coram is listed in the index to the bounty grants to Revolutionary veterans as recorded in the 4th volume of Bounty Grants in the office of the Secretary of State and published in the South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine (Coram, Lieut. Robert, S.C.N. 211: 200 acres), Gillon's letter almost certainly refers to Robert.

Commodore Gillon was an enigmatic figure in Revolutionary<sup>1</sup> history. He was a Dutch immigrant who at the outbreak of hostilities was a successful merchant in Charleston. In December, 1777, the Continental Congress appointed him to purchase ships and stores in Europe on behalf of the Congress, but, in spite of a fully ratified Commission, he returned to South Carolina where he was appointed Commodore of the State's navy; numerous delays developed, and he did not set out until the spring of 1779. He ran afoul of various intrigues, and had difficulty getting the ships he sought for his command. Eventually, in May, 1780, he obtained the frigate subsequently called South Carolina, which the Continental Congress had earlier tried to buy, only to have negotiations discovered (possibly by treason on the American Naval Commission) and blocked by British interests. Gillon succeeded through a devious maneuver involving the Count of Luxemburg; unfortunately the long negotiations had drained his funds to a dangerous degree, and he had difficulty in keeping possession of his prize

<sup>1</sup>  
Essex Institute Historical Series, 1929, The Frigate South Carolina, Vol. 65, pp. 323-338; 483-498; mention of Coram on page 487.



and provisioning her for a long raiding voyage. The ship, incidentally, was almost new, and was as large and fast as any other of her class afloat.

Various complications in the affairs of the South Carolina prevented her from sailing until August 1781. She was anchored some twelve miles off shore, assembling her passengers and stores while Gillon tried to clear her title, when a terrific hurricane forced her to put to sea not fully prepared for a voyage. Her officers dared not take her back to port for fear she would be seized for debt, or to ride out the storm in the open English channel where she might encounter British men-of-war, so attempted the only alternative of skirting an extremely perilous coast. During the storm, a near mutiny occurred, but the South Carolina got safely away. After a stop at a Spanish port to assemble provisions the big ship started for America, accompanied by a squadron of Spanish craft. Her crew captured numerous prizes on the way, and forced the surrender of the garrison of the Bahamas. At the end of her adventurous trip, she "arrived in the Delaware May 17, 1782," and proceeded to Philadelphia, "toward the first of June."

In the American capital, the ship was again threatened with seizure by agents of the Count of Luxemburg, so was sent to sea again under one Captain Joyner, under whose command she was captured shortly afterwards, when, after a chase of eight hours and "a running fight of four glasses" she was caught on Dec. 20, 1782 off the Delaware Capes by three British men-of-war, each with gun power superior to hers.

The list of prisoners taken by one of these men-of-war, the

H. M. Astrea, is headed by Thos. Fitzgerald, 3rd Lt.; Robt Corham 4th Lt. Outside a bracket is the notation covering the names of these officers and a number of midshipmen and seamen:

"Discharged  
1782  
27 Dec  
Prison  
Ship  
New York"

Whether these men were discharged from the prison ship New York a week after the engagement, or to it from the Astrea is not clear. Mr. Middlebrook's article mentions that conditions in the prison ships at this period were frightful, and that many of the captured crew were never heard from again. Some of the more fortunate captives were landed on Long Island, and eventually made their way home. The Captain of the South Carolina and a few others were paroled. Some of the crew, taken by ships other than the Astrea were noted as "Released, Prison Ship New Jersey"; the study indicates that it was this group which suffered especially severely.

Mr. Middlebrook had been unable to learn whether or not the crew captured with the South Carolina in December was substantially the original company that had sailed from the Texel the preceding summer, minus only desertions, casualties, and transfers to prize ships, or whether it had been enlisted from fresh recruits at Philadelphia. The British admiralty records, from which the lists of prisoners are taken, show that the Carolina was a commissioned commerce raider with a crew of 430

<sup>1</sup>  
Considerably below the original 550.



when taken, "and said crew were shipped at Philadelphia."

From this account of the South Carolina and the two letters from Commodores Gillon and Jones quoted above, it is possible to outline Robert Coram's movements from December 1778 to December 1782, and to make a number of well-supported guesses about additional activities.

He left Charleston in the fall of 1788 to join Gillon in France. A month after the South Carolinian had mentioned him, he had obtained a recommendation from Franklin, the American ambassador, and been accepted aboard the Bon Homme Richard as midshipman under John Paul Jones of the Continental navy. He served under him creditably at least from May till October, 1789, and took part during that time in the most notable naval battle of the war. Three years later he was one of three lieutenants (though his rank was 4th lieutenant) captured with the captain, midshipmen, and crew of the South Carolina. In other words, he ended his naval service at the age of twenty-one as the fourth officer of a major ship. Such are the recorded facts.

The full meaning of some of these events is obscure. It seems probable that Coram, after a five month delay in France, waiting for Gillon's fleet to be assembled, volunteered with the Continental forces. There are several possible explanations of how he came to be aboard the South Carolina on her last voyage: a fellow officer was a survivor of the wreck or capture of one of Jones' ships, according to the Middlebrock account, and Coram may have been also, for the Commodore had in 1789 considered him almost ready to become "a complete sea officer"; he may on the other hand, have wished to serve under

Gillon and have transferred to his command from Jones when the South Carolina was finally ready. Neither of these possibilities helps us guess whether he originally shipped aboard the South Carolina at the Texel or at Philadelphia. The fact that Robert Coram at seventeen was considered fit for a minor naval commission makes one wonder if he had not already received preliminary training for a life at sea, a likely occupation for one of a merchant's younger sons.

The months Coram spent in France between December, 1788 and May 1789 likewise offer possible clues to his education. That country in the late eighteenth century was a center of advanced study in science, government, and the laws of human thought and conduct. Many of the leaders of the intellectual world were Franklin's associates during his years abroad. It does not, consequently, seem at all improbable that an intelligent, scholarly youth with access to the ambassador could meet men prominent in the liberal movement, and able to introduce him to its fundamental philosophy. Such an experience would go far to explain why Coram, instead of having a brief flash of enthusiasm for the Revolution while it was an exciting adventure, as many young men of prominent families seem to have done, served it actively until the close of hostilities and remained loyal to its principles all his life.

No record has been found to show exactly when Robert Coram came to Wilmington. We know that he spent the summer of 1782 in the vicinity, and that he was established in the town by the winter of 1789.

He may have been released on Long Island from the prison



ship New York on December 27, 1782, only a week after the capture of the South Carolina, and moved immediately to Delaware. On the other hand, the treaty of peace was not signed until September, 1783, ten months after the battle. If prisoners of war were held during that entire time, one cannot even guess where they were eventually discharged, or how long a man might be making his way to Delaware.

There is no assurance that Coram did not go back to Charleston after the war, or that he did not stay briefly in one or several communities before he found one that pleased him. In either case he could have come to Wilmington at any time during a seven-year period. Since he was already prominent by 1791 it seems reasonable to suppose he settled in the town not a great while later than 1783.

Yet if this is the case it is hard to explain why the tax lists compiled by the State Archives Commission do not list his name before 1790, though he appears on every complete list from that date until his death. The earliest direct mention of him in Delaware occurs at the close of 1789; for the rest of his life he was prominent in local affairs. He did not join the Library Company until eighteen months after its formation, when he became an active member for some two years. This fact may argue only that he could not afford a subscription earlier, a probable circumstance, since other information suggests he was never very secure financially during his residence in Wilmington.

After Dec. 10, 1789, it becomes easier to trace his activities. On that date the Minutes of the Library Company of Wilmington contain the following entries:

Upon Application it was unanimously agreed that Robert Coram be admitted a member of the Library Company \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph Capelle one of the committee appointed for providing a Librarian in the Room of Stephen Hayes (N.B.: resigned) reports a proposal of Robert Coram to take upon him the charge of Librarian which was unanimously agreed to his Salary to be at the Rate of £4- 10. pr Annum \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes for April 5, 1790, report:

On motion it was ordered that the Library be removed to Robert Corams School House. -----

It appears that Coram served only the ten months remaining of his predecessor's term, for the Minutes of Oct. 4, 1790, mention the appointment of a committee to "settle with the Librarian and procure another suitable person to undertake that Office." Like at least three of his early colleagues, he had difficulty in keeping track of his books; eight volumes were missing on the first check. Four of these were subsequently returned; the Directors decided that two others had in all probability been lost by one of the first two Librarians, but charged Coram with the other two. Eventually he recovered or replaced one of these, and was released from further responsibility. Though the negotiations dragged out over a considerable period, there is no indication that they were attended with any ill-feeling, for in September 1791 Coram was elected a Director of the Company, and during the same year served on a committee to choose new accessions. When he later fell into arrears on his library dues, he did not, like most of the other delinquents cited, permit his membership to lapse, but paid at least "a portion of his indebtedness to the Library," and remained a



member until his death.

There is no record of the reason for his leaving the post of Librarian; it is probable that he was often out of town, and found it impossible to fulfill his duties satisfactorily, for in Political Inquiries he refers to a trip from Philadelphia to New York "last summer" (i.e., 1790), and he was frequently absent, for reasons accepted as valid, from Directors' meetings the next year. The committee dealing with him on the matter of the books reported in December 1791 that he had been "from Home Most of the time since the last meeting," and at the next (Jan., 1792) that he had "not yet returned." (These dates coincide with the sessions of the constitutional convention at Dover.)

Coram did not serve another term as Director, suggesting that he may have been too much occupied in some activity that kept him away from Wilmington at frequent or for long intervals.

Little is known about his school; in fact, the reference to it in the Minutes above is the only primary evidence of its existence. No advertisement of it appears in the scattered newspapers of the period still on file in Wilmington and Coram is not mentioned among the "schoolteachers of this town" in notices in 1795. The Library Minutes show that he was frequently absent from the city in 1790-91, and incidental later accounts mention him in Dover and New Castle at various times on public or private business. His executor's inventory of his personal library shows a considerable number of textbooks. The same document indicates that he owned a collection of craftsman's tools, but it has been impossible to learn

whether he followed a trade as a supplementary means of livelihood, in place of or along with teaching, whether he used the tools merely in connection with spare-time hobbies, or, most interesting possibility of all, whether he may have been one of the pioneers in fitting vocational activities into an academic curriculum.

There is some reason to think the last explanation may be the correct one, for on educational theory he was an exceptionally advanced thinker. In other fields he seems to have been an enthusiastic young liberal highly enough regarded by his associates to win positions of responsibility. But in education he made a lasting contribution to his State and to his country.

On February 8, 1791, Robert Coram copyrighted a little book whose title page reads:



P O L I T I C A L   I N Q U I R I E S :

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A

P L A N

FOR THE

GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT

OF

S C H O O L S

THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

---

BY

R O B E R T   C O R A M

Author of some late Pieces in the Delaware Gazette, under  
the Signature of BRUTUS.

---

Above all, watch carefully over the Education of your  
Children. It is from public Schools, be assured,  
that came the wise Magistrates-the well trained  
and courageous Soldiers-the good Fathers-the  
good Husbands-the good Brothers-the good  
Friends-the good Men. ——— Raynal.

---

---

W I L M I N G T O N

PRINTED BY ANDREWS AND BRYNBERG,  
IN MARKET - STREET.

---

M DCC XCI.

A foreword states simply:

"This Work is intended merely to introduce a better Mode of Education, than that generally adopted in the Country Schools, Throughout the United States."

The book sets forth the theory that there should be tax-supported schools in each district of the United States. Since Coram was one of the pioneers in this field\*, he presented and defended the philosophy of public education at great length; the schools themselves he described in thirteen of his one hundred and seven pages.

He argued that civilized men were not unequal so much because they were created so, as because bad government and unequal property division had given some a monopoly of the means of production. Strict, logical justice would give one man exclusive right only to property he himself could use -- for instance, a farm should be no larger than its owner could till. But for generations governments founded on conquest had protected property rights based on ability to grab; inheritance laws made permanent claims once staked. In this way classes had grown up on the purely artificial base of access to sources of wealth and the means of education.

Education was an important consideration. While men lived under primitive conditions, each youngster might learn from experience or from his elders all he wished to know to prepare

\*

He states that, so far as he had been able to discover, only Noah Webster had published any study of the subject previous to his, and that his had already been planned before Webster's appeared.



himself for adult life; his later success would bear a close relation to his real ability. Coram insisted that conditions among Indian tribes of America bore out his contention: There was remarkable uniformity of ability among them, because all had equal rights in the use of land held in common, and all had similar training to meet the demands of the world in which they would live.

But in a civilized community, a youth could make the most of his possibilities only through a far more formal education than primitive societies demanded. When this was denied the sons of the disinherited, they were automatically put at a grave disadvantage in competition with better-prepared lads. So men were deliberately bred and trained to be dissimilar, and then political theories were spun crediting the dissimilarity to the will of God. Coram found the assumption sacreligious.

American commonwealths, founded on the tradition of equality and fair opportunity for all, could achieve this ideal in only two ways. The method of wiping out private property and all the customs based upon it was obviously impractical in a country already settled. Equal, compulsory, education for all young people would be a far easier, fairer, and more efficient means of starting all citizens in life on an equal footing.

"Education, says Coram (p. vi), "Means the instruction of youth in certain rules of conduct, by which they will be enabled to support themselves when they come of age, and to know the obligations they are under to that society of which they constitute a part."

There were two reasons to justify giving young people this preparation at public expense. First, it would in large part correct injustices that had grown up in civilized nations and actually procure the advantages theory said group living would provide in exchange for the surrender of freedom it demanded. Second, men with the right to vote must understand the questions they helped decide, or be a mere mob. Without general education, self government could be only a dangerous farce. Men must also have a stake in the society they were asked to defend, or they might be tempted to betray it for some temporary advantage. Good public schools could offer the means to make residents of city and country alike both well-informed and economically independent.

"The country schools," continues Coram, "through most of the United States, whether we consider the buildings, the teachers, or the regulations, are in every respect completely despicable, wretched, and contemptible." No improvement could be expected until the schools became a public charge, for their irregular support under existing conditions attracted as teachers none but derelicts and failures.

Some of the towns, however, did have good schools, and would continue to have whether or not the state intervened. Inequality between urban and rural opportunities had results that were dangerous for a free government; it increased the advantages in the legislature that a single class, the town merchants, already possessed over their neighbors. The group had more



representatives than its numbers justified, because such men were more likely than others to have the leisure and financial independence to be able to run for office. Once elected, the educational advantages they had enjoyed made them more effective debaters than the occasional artisans and farmers who might be chosen, and so far more influential.

As a result the country was to a great extent run in the sole interest of this one minority, since others had no effective representation, a condition that would continue until rural districts could offer their young men as good preparation as city boys received. Genuinely equal representation in public affairs for both sections would be an advantage to the whole nation, because the town would tend to supply "elegant imitators," the country, "bold originals."

Each county of the United States should establish enough public schools to meet the needs of its citizens, and should support them by general taxation. "Let the object of these schools," Coram wrote, "be to teach the rudiments of the English language, writing, bookkeeping, mathematics, natural history, mechanics and husbandry -- let every scholar be admitted gratis and kept in a state of subordination, without regard to persons." Each boy should in addition master a trade, whether or not he appeared likely to be dependent upon it for support in his mature years. This Coram considered only reasonable insurance against the hazards of business and professional life.

Trade training, he believed, could best be given through some form of apprenticeship. An entirely new code of apprenticeship laws must be drawn to meet American conditions, remedy the

evils that had grown up in European practice, and provide an American system far more liberal than any then existing on the continent. Both academic and vocational training must be universal and compulsory.

To meet the probable objection that his scheme was a Utopian dream which in practice would bankrupt the country, Coram offered a tentative plan of organization. He suggested that the States be divided into districts according to population. Each unit should then provide a school to be supported by a tax on the acre on all land within its boundaries. He worked out a sample tax schedule for a district six miles square, not too large for many parts of the Union, showing that a very reasonable rate would, within two years, pay for the building of a substantial schoolhouse near the center of the district, with a plot of ground and accommodations for the master's family. Thereafter a smaller annual rate would supply the salary of master and assistants, equipment, books, and incidentals. The largest item would be instructors' salaries, most of which would be spent within the district for food, fuel, and clothing; many farmers might pay their tax in kind and feel no burden whatever.

Under such a plan the average landowner would contribute less as his share of <sup>a</sup>community venture than the cost of a mediocre education for a single child; if his family were large, he would save enormously. On the other hand, "young men too squeamish or too lazy to get married" would be compelled to carry a fair share of the cost of training the young. The



entire community would benefit from general education, and would have in addition a far smaller bill for the control of crime and the support of paupers. Private education could never supply these needs so cheaply as a well-organized public system could do.

His theories of education were, from the modern viewpoint, sound. Despite the existence of occasional geniuses and idiots, he believed the majority of mankind were basically enough alike to profit by similar training, if recognition were given to each child's special gifts and interests. He disapproved prizes and contests, on the grounds that they were a disruptive influence in a school, tended to make the winners feel their education was already complete, and did not really stimulate any but the few who were almost equally matched in a particular study. He thought public schools should teach children that the only fitting reward for good work was the satisfaction of accomplishment and the approval of one's competent associates. He apparently considered coeducation too much a matter of course to need discussion; his only reference to it is: "if the losing competitor happened to be a girl"-p. 104, made in the argument against medals and prizes.

He was convinced, like many <sup>of the</sup> most respected contemporary teachers, that, though "the texture of the human mind," i.e., tastes, interests, and special skills, show tremendous variety, it is only rarely that a whole personality is by nature greatly superior to another. It was on this basis that he argued general public education was possible as well as desirable. Like many

modern students, too, he believed environment was the most important single factor in determining the efficiency of an adult. Though heredity set general limits to the possibilities of each species, it was the soil and the climate that determined how nearly a single specimen achieved the maximum development for its breed. Coram found it impossible to believe that the majority of mankind were not of essentially the same breed; again and again he stressed the variety of gifts that, except in the rarest cases, <sup>could</sup> add up to human beings of similar independence, dignity, and worth to the community. He would have been fully at home with men like Angelo Patri; he would consider the normal probability curve as interesting confirmation of a phenomenon he had noticed a century and a half earlier; he would have found nothing amazing in the radical I.Q. increases of children transferred from stultifying homes to good ones recorded by almost every child welfare organization in the country.

In the conclusion to this study, Coram's place in the intellectual history of his generation has been examined in some detail; he did not, however, rest content with publishing his opinions and leaving them for someone else to translate into fact. There is reason to believe he had already begun agitation to persuade his own State to undertake the course he recommended for the entire United States.

The farther one follows the various trails of evidence linking Coram with the public school movement in Delaware, the more dominant and lasting his influence appears. Much



of the case is circumstantial, it is true, but if there is no cause and effect relation between Coram's presence on numerous occasions and subsequent activity in behalf of state-sponsored education, the story contains a hard-to-believe chain of coincidences.

Political Inquiries states on the title-page that its author had been contributing a set of articles on the subject of education to the Delaware Gazette prior to February, 1791. The book itself, copyrighted on the eighth of that month, states: "The education of children should be provided for in the constitution of every state." During this same period, a new constitution, to bring Delaware's basic law into accord with Federal practice, was a subject of discussion in the State; on September 8, 1791, the legislature authorized election of delegates to a constitutional convention. Members were duly chosen, and assembled November 29, 1791, at Dover.

The Minutes of the Convention of the Delaware State contain, on pages 7-8, a list of the persons whose election was certified; Coram was among the ten chosen from New Castle county. The document shows that he was an active participant in all the proceedings. He was frequently one of a determined minority pressing for more democratic provisions, both in the Constitution and in the Convention's proceedings, than many of the delegates favored; he was plainly a dogged advocate of propositions he considered vital.

Despite the opposition of a considerable faction, of whom Coram was one, a committee of nine was appointed to make a

preliminary draft of a new constitution as a basis for discussion. Probably in deference to the large minority who felt that the entire Convention should have worked on the rough draft, suggestions from the floor were welcomed. Though Coram was not a member of the smaller group, two men with whom he was evidently in accord, Edward Roche and Richard Bassett, were.

Because minutes of the subcommittee and records of suggestions offered by the main Convention were apparently not kept, it has been impossible to trace completely the introduction of the education clause. Article VII, 15, of the Committee's report begins: "The legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law" for reviewing the existing laws to determine which were still constitutional, for studying and 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." The phrase, "in one or more seminars of learning," was, for undiscovered reasons, not included in the version presented and passed at the second session of the Convention. At both sessions the section was adopted without amendment or recorded vote.

In January 1796, the first motion introduced, after the formalities of organization were completed, was for the appointment of a committee to consider the best means of establishing public schools.

The presumption that Coram may have been the delegate chiefly interested in laying the legal basis for public schools is bolstered by certain later developments. He was not a member



of the legislature chosen under the new Constitution, though many of the other prominent delegates were. Five sessions met before 1796, the earlier ones of them dominated by former convention delegates. Yet a careful search of the House Journals reveals no move to "provide by law for establishing schools." The other matters scheduled in the Constitution for early attention received it. In 1796 a school bill was introduced with an abruptness the House Journals failed to explain. Extracts from the Wilmington papers for the years 1794-95, however, indicate how the proposal reached the legislative calendar.

The first set of clippings concerns the activities of the Patriotic Society in the summer and fall of 1794 and the winter of 1795. The August 20th issue of the Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser invites "these citizens of New Castle county who wish to become members of the Patriotic Society" to attend a meeting at a specified time and place. At this period<sup>1</sup> the society was

"an organization whose express object should be, the diffusion of political knowledge among our fellow-citizens. ... Every citizen, without distinction, who will support the laws and the constitutions of our country is freely admitted a member."

Its Minutes, as reproduced in the Advertiser for December 27, 1794, include the item below. The reference to Coram is the first after 1792.

1

Address of the Patriotic Society of the County of New Castle of the State of Delaware to the People of the United States of America, dated Jan. 14, 1795; copy in files of the Historical Society of Delaware.

REGISTER OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PATRIOTIC SOCIETY

NewCastle, August 30, 1794

On motion of Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Rodney--

Whereas by our declaration of principles, we have pledged ourselves, among other things to promote the diffusion of knowledge among our fellow citizens:

Therefore, Resolved-- That this Society do recommend to their fellow citizens the establishment of Schools throughout the State of Delaware, under the direction of Government, whereby the children of indigence and neglect may be educated among the children of opulence and vigilance-- which is an effective means of preserving that equality so necessary to the preservation of a pure Republican Government, And that a Committee of three be appointed to prepare a Memorial to be laid before the Legislature of this State, and report the same to our next meeting.

The Committee are, Messrs. Coram, Vandyke, and Rodney.

Extract of the Minutes.

J. Bird, Secretary

PATRIOTIC SOCIETY

NewCastle, Dec. 23, 1794

The Committee appointed to prepare a Memorial to be laid before the Legislature, on the subject of Schools, now made their report, which is as follows:

To the Legislature of the State of Delaware, the Memorial of the subscribers, freemen of the county of Newcastle, in the said State, respectfully sheweth:



THAT your Memorialists, deeply impressed with a sense of the inestimable benefits arising from a general and public system of education, calculated to extend to all the Citizens of the State, are constrained to pray your attention to this important subject.

Your Memorialists beg leave to suggest, that, although the necessity of some general system of instructing the people hath been long felt, and universally acknowledged in most parts of Europe, as well as in the United States; although immense benefits have arisen from such institutions in Scotland, and the New England States; although a constitutional provision for public instruction hath existed for some years in this State; (... although its need has been amply demonstrated in our public affairs ...) yet we are sorry to say, that those to whom the authority for making laws hath hitherto been delegated, have done nothing in the business; and there still remains in the minds of many a torpor on this subject as difficult to account for as to excuse.

Far be it from us to presume to dictate to that Legislature which at present we have the honor to address; yet we cannot help lamenting the fatal effects of such listless inattention to the first principles of society, which guarantees to every citizen of the community the means of acquiring a knowledge of those duties, the performance of which is expected of them. By such inattention to fundamental principles, the bond of society becomes a rope of sand;-- and the history of all nations abundantly testify, that no tears can wash away the fatal consequences, or the indelible reproach of such neglect.

As freemen, deeply interested in the happiness of our fellow citizens, and anxious for the honor of our country, we cannot avoid pressing the Legislature with our earnest solicitations, to take the premises into consideration, and to make some beginning in this important business;-- being fully convinced that such government is happiest, and will be most durable, which is supported by citizens well instructed in all their social duties.



The said Memorial being read, and unanimously adopted, the Society earnestly recommend to their fellow citizens throughout the State, to give their aid in endeavoring to effect the important and laudable design contemplated therein, by signing, and forwarding to the Legislature of the State, without loss of time, similar memorials.

Extract from the Minutes

J. Bird. Secretary.

Repetition of the argument presented in Political Inquiries, and reappearance of the phrase "a rope of sand" in the petition to the legislature suggests that Coram was the author of both. The whole incident identifies him with the political fight to translate public school theory into fact in Delaware, and marks him as its accepted spokesman, probably its leader.

Further support for this viewpoint is supplied by the issues of the Delaware Gazette between September and December, 1795. Coram bought the paper (details below) a few weeks after bitter controversy over the Jay Treaty had stimulated anti-Federalist feeling in Wilmington and strengthened the position of the Patriotic Society. Sixteen issues of the bi-weekly paper appeared during the first two months of his editorship; during this time education was mentioned eleven times, usually in a prominently displayed article of some length. The impression of a deliberate effort to influence the next General Assembly is heightened when one considers that an election was just ahead, and that no single mention of public schools is found in the scattered files of the paper for the six preceding years or in the almost complete set for the six months immediately following Coram's tenure.



The subject-matter of the eleven articles fits neatly into this interpretation of their purpose.

His first issue contained an article outlining the French plan for public education, giving the program in considerable detail. A week later, he presented the first part of a summary of the French Constitution, and repeated on the first page a summary of the material given in greater detail earlier. In the third issue attention to the first number is called by a footnote, when a second mention of education occurs in the concluding section on the French Constitution.

Number 552, Sept. 29, contains another reference to education as a political force, and a reference to Rousseau's Emile.

In No. 558, Oct. 2, a full-page, unsigned, article lists literature, education, and political justice as "three causes by which the human mind is advanced toward perfection." There is some indication that this and other essays in a rather long series are excerpts from a book for whose re-publication Coram and James Wilson were advertising "Proposals."

Oct. 6- Extract from a French author's suggestions on MEANS TO ABOLISH, BY DEGREES, SLAVERY IN AMERICA. Education of the Negroes for the responsibilities of freedom was part of the program. The same issue includes a recapitulation of Coram's political theories, with no direct mention of education, but the implication that an informed electorate is the only guarantee of a sound, free government.

Oct. 16- Education of all is the one means of achieving orderly growth and improvement in the plan of government and social organization.

Oct. 20 and Oct. 30, same theme.

November 3- "We should endeavor to afford to all the same opportunities and the same encouragement."

The next few issues are taken up with discussion of items pertinent to elections, and a controversy with the editor of the opposition paper, The Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser, about whether Mr. Coram was, or was not, betraying his trust as an editor.

As mentioned in another connection, Coram's active editorship apparently came to an end early in December 1795. From September to November (that is, just before delegates to the Assembly were selected), there is constant repetition of the need for general education as a national safeguard, though the only specific advocacy of public tax-supported schools is in the first issue. This, however, is no proof that he had lost his enthusiasm for modern public schools, since the paper invariably discussed general principles rather than definite proposals.

The first motion introduced into the House of Representatives at the session of 1796 after the formalities of organization were complete was:

"On motion of Mr. 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 wording of this resolution contains a further suggestion of Coram's influence. "Public schools" is the expression he uses throughout Political Inquiries to describe his plan, but the staff preparing an exhaustive history of Delaware education has not found the term elsewhere in the public documents of the State until 1887; free or common were the adjectives used.

The program the legislature finally evolved<sup>1</sup> did not attempt to start schools at once, but was "An Act for gradually creating a fund sufficient to establish schools in this State." It appropriated all revenue from marriage and tavern licences for the next ten years to a trust fund for school purposes, provided for its investment, invited gifts and bequests, and stipulated that the income of the trust be

"applied to the establishment of schools in the several hundreds, or districts, of the 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 that the same shall not be applied to the erecting or supporting any academy, college, or university in this state."

This provision was somewhat more generous than it appears at first glance, for the funds assigned the schools were, for 1794-95, approximately one-eighth the State Treasury's total income.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> House Journal 1796, pp. 6, 38, 46, 71; 2 Del. Laws, 1296-98.

<sup>2</sup> Total receipts: \$8,478.40, of which \$979.54 was balance; marriage and tavern licences: \$1,355.60. H.J. 1796, appended Table No. 1.

In other words, Coram's philosophy of a sound general education for all children of the State was accepted, but not his scheme of financing the experiment. Possibly significant is the fact that New Castle county, where he lived, gave six of its seven votes for the proposal while Kent supplied only two and Sussex three.<sup>1</sup> The House had 21 members, equally assigned to the counties.

Coram's influence seems undeniable in face of the circumstances that the convention of which he was a member provided for public schools; the succeeding five legislatures in which he did not sit ignored the matter; the petition of the Patriotic Society in 1794 shows that he was still actively working for that end; in 1795 he bought the Gazette, apparently to further the interests of the liberal viewpoint in local politics; among the causes he particularly urged was the need for public schools; in February 1796, a school bill became law. Finally, the fate of the movement after ill health and death had removed him from the scene (see below for documentation) is the most eloquent argument for his active leadership in it.

Weeks, History of Public School Education in Delaware, pp. 20-38, gives the history of efforts to have the income from the fund assigned to the subscription schools that were developing in some sections, gradual loss of interest, intrusion, dominance and decline of the pauper school notion, revival of the genuine public school movement, and final victory for it in 1829 after another vigorous leader had appeared.

<sup>1</sup>  
House Journal, 1796, pp. 4-5; 71.



One must of course remember that no basic social re-adjustment can be the work of a single man. The successful efforts of Coram, and later Hall, to introduce public schools in the State coincides with liberal resurgences in State and Nation. Only muddled thinking can result from overemphasizing either the role of leadership or of general opinion.

On the surface, the 1792-96 public school movement appears to have accomplished little for Delaware; but study of the later period indicates that it may have been of crucial importance. The State lies between the section of the country that had a school system under construction by 1835 and those that delayed until after the Civil War. The difficulty free school men faced during and after 1829 suggests that the effort would never have succeeded if there had not been a legal and financial foundation already laid.\*

The summary above of Political Inquiries shows that Coram was interested in education not as an end in itself, but as one of the means of evolving a just society under the new Federal government. An outline of his political activities and opinions, so far as it has been possible to follow them, appears below:

\*

If Cubberly, Public Education in the United States, Houghton-Mifflin, 1934, pp. 94, 101, is more accurate for other States than for Delaware, that State, during the pre-Civil War period was abreast of its neighbors and ahead of many of them in public school development.

Abstract of Motions, Seconds, and Votes

Minutes of the Convention of the Delaware State, which commenced at Dover, on Tuesday the twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, For the purpose of reviewing, altering, and amending the Constitution of this State, or if they see occasion, for forming a new one instead thereof. Wilmington, Printed by Peter Brynberg and Samuel Andrews, M,DCC,XCII. 73pp.

P.7-8 - Robert Coram was present on the day of meeting; election returns, including his, certified. (10 members from each county)

P.11 - Seconded motion for reading of existing Constitution.

P.12 - Voted to postpone decision on "whether and wherein the present Constitution is defective"; voted to have special committee dissolved, a new draft of Constitution worked out by Convention sitting as a Committee of the Whole.

P.71 - Voted against postponing vote on the Constitution as a whole after it had been examined and discussed in committee.

P.72 - One of a committee of three appointed to arrange for the printing and publishing of 900 copies of the proposed Constitution and 300 copies of the Proceedings of the Convention and of the Committee of the Whole, to be distributed by the members in their own neighborhoods.

P.73 - Allowed \$22-13-4 for 35 days attendance and mileage (entire session)

Minutes of the Grand Committee of the Whole of the Convention of the State of Delaware. Wilmington, Delaware, James Adams, Printer in High Street, 1792.

P.4 - Voted against a resolution to place legislative authority in a General Assembly of two houses.

P.5 - Voted to strike out word "counties" as the unit of representation in the Assembly.

P.5-6 - Seconded a motion that "executive power shall be kept distinct and separate from the Legislative Department of Government."

P.8 - Voted against choice of State senators by electors to be chosen by the citizens of the State.

P.11 - Moved to strike out permission to Judges of the Supreme Court or Court of Common Pleas to transfer trial of a case from the county in which it was started when "an impartial Trial of the Cause cannot be had in that County."



12

P.15 - Voted to strike out property qualifications for representatives. (Similar action on all other appearances of the same topic)

P.15 - Voted for nine representatives from each county instead of seven.

P.17 - Voted to have senators elected in same manner as representatives.

P.22 - Seconded a motion to require Auditor's reports annually instead of "from time to time."

P.24 - Voted, in various forms, for proposals designed to prevent a Governor from serving consecutive terms.

P.26 - Voted to prohibit any representative from profiting, during the term for which he had been elected, from creation or increase in salary of an office. No person interested in army or navy contracts, or holding other State or Federal office was to be eligible for membership in the Assembly.

P.27 - Voted against veto power for the Governor similar to that given the President of the United States.

P.29 - Voted for definition of treason and permission for punishment thereof similar to that in the Federal Constitution.

P.30 - Seconded a proposal to give Governor discretion in impeachment cases (reversed his position on this later)

P.31 - Voted against a motion to require "profound legal knowledge" of candidates for office of Chief Justice.

P.35 - Voted for a motion designed to protect owners against sheriff's sales in cases where income of property would satisfy judgment within a reasonable time.

P.35 - Voted for a motion to prevent sales by executors without certain safeguards.

P.37 - Voted for a motion to create the office of Chancellor.

P.51 - Seconded a motion to transfer powers of the Levy Court and Court of Appeals to elected Commissioners.

P.58 - Voted for a motion to limit fees in legal actions involving small sums to half that permitted for larger amounts.

P.59 - Made a motion to reconsider action giving Supreme Court, and Court of Common Pleas, jurisdiction over cases involving over \$32.00; seconded a motion to make the amount \$120.00; voted against a motion to delete the amended article.



P.61 - Moved to call a Constitutional Convention on majority of all votes cast in a referendum election instead of on vote of majority of eligible voters; reversed stand later.

Made several motions and seconds on matters of order and procedure.

Minutes of the Convention of the Delaware, State at the second Session thereof, which commenced at Dover, on Tuesday, the twenty-ninth day of May, it (sic) the year of our Lord, One thousand, seven hundred and ninety-two, for the purpose of reviewing, altering, amending the Constitution of this State, or if they see occasion, for forming a new one instead thereof. Wilmington, Printed by Brynberg and Andrews. 106 pp.

P.16 - Voted for direct election of State senators.

P.18 - Voted for public sessions of the legislative houses and committees of the whole, except in emergencies where secrecy was necessary for public safety.

P.26 - Favored election of Governor at same time as representatives and senators.

P.29 - Voted against abandoning limit number of consecutive terms a Governor might serve.

P.31-35 - Moved, seconded, and voted for a series of proposals for removing or decreasing property qualifications for elected officials.

P.39 - Voted against a proposal barring Negroes from becoming freeholders in Delaware.

P.45 - Voted for a provision designed to minimize technical errors in trials, and to hear witnesses, under oath, at some other time and place than open court if they were likely through illness, great age, or intention to move, to be unable to attend.

P.72 - Voted against a motion to expunge the words: "It is the duty of all men frequently to assemble together for public worship of the Author of the Universe--but" (it must not be made compulsory).

P.78-9 - Moved an amendment that would make liberty of conscience specifically apply to freedom of the manner of worship, and not to civil acts dictated by conscience (proof that Coram was not a Quaker).

P.82 - Seconded a motion forbidding simultaneous holding of more than one important office.

P.85 - Not recorded as voting on a resolution prohibiting holding, importation, or exportation of slaves within the State, except after hearing in open court.

P. 106 - Coram present every day of the session.



4A

Full record of Coram's votes at this session has not been taken, where his vote was simply a confirmation of a stand made clear previously.\*

In other words, he supported moves to keep the Convention's own proceedings democratic, and to frame the Constitution in a way that would further political and economic democracy in Delaware.

His connection with the Patriotic Society in the fall and winter of 1794-95 has already been mentioned in connection with the origin of public schools in the State. Though no other specific mention of him, or of special legislation backed by the Society, has been found, in all probability he continued active in this organization to the end of his life, for his last published opinions reflect the same viewpoint. The item immediately below his obituary, curiously, is notice of a meeting of one of the chapters.

Though the Patriotic Society, according to its own statement in 1795, was open to every citizen, without distinction, who would support the laws and the Constitution, it had, according to Miss Lincoln, (p.154) been organized by former officers and soldiers of the Revolution in or before 1792. She points out that its officers were later leaders of the Democratic-Republican (later Democratic) party. The organization, which was national in scope, was, in fact, apparently one of the forerunners of that party in Federal as well as State politics. Its purpose in Coram's time, however, as stated in

\*

The three titles listed above are bound in a single cover, Convention of the Delaware State, and are on file at the Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

extracts of its proceedings printed in the Advertiser for 1794 and 1795, was to serve as a school of political economy, a watchtower for guarding the citizens' interests, and the organizer of support for movements in line with their own liberal viewpoint.

Political feeling ran high in the closing years of Washington's second administration. In Delaware, as in many other localities, opposition to the Jay Treaty resulted in demonstrations and protests. A Town Meeting was called in Wilmington for August 4, 1795, to consider the subject. A complete account of the discussion, with a transcript of the correspondence with President Washington, was printed in the Delaware Gazette for August 15.

The citizens met first at the upper Market House, where Dr. James Tilton was chosen Chairman. Then the meeting adjourned to the Presbyterian meeting-house, near the Academy, which was so crowded that many had to remain outside. There was said to be present upwards of 500 people.<sup>1</sup> Robert Coram was chosen secretary.

Caesar Rodney spoke first, and moved a resolution to the effect that it was the constitutional right of freemen to assemble peaceably and express their opinions of public measures. The Jay Treaty was then ordered read.

John Dickinson was called upon to speak, but he said it was the place of the younger men to discuss the subject.

Caesar Rodney then talked at length, opposing the treaty. Dickinson, at the conclusion of Rodney's speech, spoke over

<sup>1</sup> Population, census of 1790; 602 adult white males.



two hours.

The question--Does the Treaty meet with the approbation of this meeting?-- was unanimously decided in the negative.

Jacob Broom moved a committee of nine be appointed to draw up a memorial to be sent to the President of the United States, expressing disapprobation of the Treaty. The Committee consisted of John Dickinson, James Tilton, Caesar Rodney, Jacob Broom, Robert Coram, Archibald Alexander, John James, Joseph Warner, and Isaac Starr, Sen.

The citizens then adjourned to meet at the same place at 5 P.M. on Saturday, August 8.

At this subsequent meeting, John Dickinson read the report. It was ratified and sent to President Washington. A copy of the report was printed in the Gazette in full, as was the reply of President Washington, which was the same as the letter he sent to the Selectmen of Boston. Coram, as secretary of the meeting, signed the correspondence.

Very soon after this meeting Coram bought the Delaware Gazette from its former owners, Brynberg and Andrews, starting its publication under his own management with the issue of September 8, 1795. Bonsal and Starr were the printers; the subscription rate was \$3.50 per year, half at time of subscription, the rest at the end of the year. He planned a publication to furnish as much political and general information as possible; to increase the space available, he used a larger size sheet and, usually, smaller print than his predecessor had done. He hoped, apparently, to offer a forum for public

discussion, for he promised to print any contributions of reasonable length, whether or not he agreed with the thesis, unless the material seemed likely to incite to riot. On September 25, he repeated his intention.

The Gazette was frankly anti-Federalist, as its choice of foreign and domestic news exchanges and its editorial comment, both original and exchange, reveal. It took pains to give anyone attacked in its columns an opportunity to refute the charges, as when it devoted nearly twice as much space to a verbatim copy of Secretary Hamilton's defense of his treasury administration as the criticism had taken. The periodical's fairness, in fact, is somewhat unusual at a time when violent invective was the journalistic rule. Consequently, it is odd to read the attack of the editor of the Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser, reprinted in the Gazette, charging that Coram was betraying his trust as a leader of public opinion by suppression, distortion, and misrepresentation of news, and by scurrilous personalities. His intellectual integrity, and finally his citizenship, were called into question. It was this final attack that goaded Coram into reproducing the valuable John Paul Jones letter; consequently, a modern biographer owes the long-forgotten editor a vote of thanks.

Under Coram's management the paper developed a distinctive personality. It expressed the liberal viewpoint in domestic and foreign policy with little propaganda for or against specific proposals. There were occasional bits of light writing; some suggestions for farmers; letters pro and con on matters of



political interest; a few local items of births, deaths, and marriages; and the above-mentioned debate on Coram's own fitness to manage a paper, in addition to much serious discussion of the theory of government.

After December 11, however, exchanges and verbatim legislative reports came more and more into evidence; the issue of December 29 carried the last articles that sound like Coram's personal writing. It seems probable that his active editorship came to an end during December, for it is then, and not at the time of his death the following spring, that the Gazette shows evidence of change.

The Gazette proved a tragic venture so far as Coram's personal affairs were concerned. He had apparently gone heavily in debt to purchase it and finance the first few months' operation; illness and death overtook him before he had placed it on a self-supporting basis, and his wife was apparently left destitute with two small children; the posthumous third was born two weeks later.

The following records tell in stark outline the final weeks of Coram's life, the amount of his estate and its character, and the little that is known of the family he left behind.

MARCH 1, 1796 (Delaware Gazette)

An advertisement repeats the subscription terms and continues:

"... The expense necessarily attendant on a publication of this kind being very great,

obliges him (the editor) to call on his subscribers to make good their engagements, ... the salvation of the paper depending upon the punctuality of payment ... Those who live conveniently will be called on by Bonsal and Starr, or their order, as the editor's bad state of health prevents his personally calling upon them." (*Italics supplied*)

MARCH 11, 1796, in a black-rimmed box:

Wilmington, March 11- Died on Wednesday, the 9th instant, Robert Coram of this town, late editor and proprietor of the Delaware Gazette. In the death of this great man, (for such he certainly was) whose writings have been sometimes contradicted, but never refuted, Science and Philosophy have lost one of their brightest ornaments; and Liberty a firm and able advocate.

Ah! take, departed shade, this soothing verse,  
The plaintive tribute of a sorrowing muse!  
Thy great perfections could her pow'rs rehearse,  
Immortal Shakespear should her numbers choose  
The splendid glories of immortal fame,  
Shall gild the annals of remotest days;  
Unfading laurels crown his sacred name,  
And genius triumph on the wings of praise!

Never the words of Hacket apply better than on the present occasion:

Here sleep the brave, who sink to rest,  
With all their country's wishes blest;  
When spring with dewy fingers cold,  
Returns to deck their billowed mould,  
She there shall dress a sweeter sod  
Than fancy's feet have ever trod.  
By fairy hands their knell is rung,  
By forms unseen their dirge is sung.  
There Honor comes, a pilgrim grey,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay;  
And Freedom shall awhile repair,  
To dwell a weeping hermit there.

His remains will be interred this day at 10 o'clock.

MARCH 15, 1796 "The subscribers of the Delaware Gazette are informed that in consequence of the decease of ROBERT CORAM, late editor and proprietor thereof,



We the undersigned, are, agreeable to a written contract\* (italics supplied) with the said Robert Coram, to continue the publication of the Gazette, and to collect the arrears that now are or may become due.

"We deem it unnecessary to comment upon the duties of an editor, but will only say, that if our utmost endeavors to make our paper a channel of useful information shall be attended with success, we shall not doubt the public patronage--that we declare that we shall strictly adhere to the principles laid down by the late editor in his first number."

Wilmington, March 15, 1796

BONSAL & STARR

APRIL 8, 1796 - Extract from Register of Wills' Office -0-1-154-  
New Castle County.

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

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 1796 - Records of Holy Trinity Church of  
Wilmington, (p. 676).

Rhoda Coram, widow of Robert Coram, born February, 1768, baptized September 19, 1796, with her three children as follows:

John Robert, born March 4, 1791 (error makes this 1891)

Ann, born July 9, 1793

Elizabeth, born March 23, 1796

\*

This apparently indicates that Coram knew his illness might be fatal, and stresses the importance he placed on providing a forum for liberal opinion and his sense of responsibility to his subscribers and his business associates.

NOTE. (This baptism is one of the numerous hard-to-explain circumstances surrounding the Coram family. Why did it take place six months after the death of the husband and father, a man whose writings and convention votes show that he was religious in a conventional sense, rather than according to the theistic doctrines widely current among liberals of his time? He had opposed deleting from the guarantee of freedom of conscience in the Constitution the introductory comment that public worship is part of a citizen's duty. He had likewise insisted that this guarantee be made to apply specifically and only to the form of worship one followed, and not to civil acts dictated by conscience. This position disposed of the possibility he might have belonged to the Friends, a sect that did not practice baptism.)

AUGUST 19, 1799 - Register of Wills, Administration Account  
Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

Assets

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

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

Total assets 691.13

Bills

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

Brynberg and Andrews, notes 200.28

Bonsall and Starr, account 326.39

Total debts 835.32

FILED OCTOBER 18, 1796 - Inventory of Robert Coram, Intestate,  
by his executors. Now in Hall of  
Records, Dover.

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



One curious fact is that he owned surveyor's instruments, and smith's, clockmaker's, and carpenter's tools, in addition to his library. The inventory gives no suggestion as to whether he was still operating a school at the time of his death. A few weeks after his death, a year's rent bill (\$80) fell due to Vincent Gilpin, for which he levied on the estate.

The size of his library, 119 volumes, is rather extensive for a young man of limited means.

#### LIST OF VOLUMES OWNED

2 volumes Goodwin's Political Justice  
 1 Sheridan's Dictionary  
 Adams' Mathematical Works  
 Latin Dictionary  
 Emmerson Algebra  
 Mathematical Tables  
 Arts and Sciences  
 Shakespeare's Works 8 (?) volumes  
 Ovid's Metamorphosis  
 Gibson's Surveying - 2 books  
 Conductor Generalis  
 Locke's Works, 2 vol.  
 4 volumes Voltaire in French  
 26 pamphlets McPhenon's (spelling not clear) Poems  
 17 volumes sundry books  
 17 Catechisms of Nature  
 30 odd volumes  
 Sundry pamphlets

This is the last entry concerning the family that has been found in any of Delaware's public records. Whether Rhoda Coram and her children moved from the State after her husband's tangled affairs had finally been settled, whether she remarried and the children took the stepfather's name, whether some or all of the children died in childhood, possibly in the yellow fever epidemic of 1798, or whether the son died or moved, while the daughters married here and are the ancestors of present-day residents, are all puzzles to which no clue whatever has been

unearthed in the course of the present study. The only suggestion which can be offered for further investigation, besides minute search of all extant private correspondence between Delawareans of that day, is the fact that apparently three towns named Coram exist in the United States. The U. S. Postal Guide for July 1939 (p.640) lists one in Montana and one in New York. Magner White, in We're Moving the Rain, published in Saturday Evening Post for April 27, 1940, speaks of another in California. (p.36, col. 2.)

Coram's personality must have been a vivid one. The details of his life argue keen intelligence, careful scholarship, unusual versatility, manual skill, and, at least in boyhood, physical vigor. He had the gift of leadership in a high degree, as his entire career in Wilmington testifies; without it, he would certainly not have been a convention delegate during his first few years in the town, or later, a frequent member of committees which included some of the most prominent men of the community. The Jones letter shows that the trait had developed early. He had an eager interest in both ideas and people; his enthusiasm, however, was directed by moderation and good judgment, a combination not always found in zealous champions of new theories.

Excerpts from Political Inquiries show some significant facets of his character as well as curious sidelights. He condemned slavery as a moral monstrosity. Absolute justice for men of all kinds and conditions was the ruling article of his creed. He considered Christianity as a philosophy



to guide men's relations with one another, not as a ritual to be kept carefully penned in one corner of one's life. He quotes approvingly several passages from Latin literature condemning slaughter of animals for food, and expresses disgust at the civilized habit doing so "for riot and ostentation." (p.45-46) Savages, he remarks, kill only what they need for food. His interest in and respect for the Indians has been mentioned previously; it stemmed from a sense of justice and regard for essential human dignity (11-21; also p. 84, and incidentally elsewhere). He remarks (p.79): "To make mankind better is a duty which every man owes to his posterity, to his country, and to his God."; and again: "If education is necessary for one man my religion tells me it is equally necessary for another." (p. 96.)

Coram was not only a profound student with deep human sympathies and the ability to understand the full implications of what he learned; he had a journalist's feeling for a neat phrase. In fact, though parts of his hundred-and-fifty-year-old book have the involved style common when it was written, many passages might have come from the press with the morning's paper. In criticizing Blackstone he gibes: "That is, in plain English, lawyers may know the obligations of society; but the plain people not." (p.25) He coins the still-heard phrase descriptive of our own times, "starves in the midst of universal plenty." (viii.) He was, so far as one can determine, the original author of the expression, "a rope of

55

sand incapable of supporting its own weight" (p.57) which a contemporary educator<sup>1</sup> has used of the modern curriculum. (Coram used it to describe the helplessness of a society not really integrated.) His observations on taxation are equally apt:

Nothing is more obvious than that every person in a civilized society should contribute toward the support of government. How stupid then is the economy of that society conducted, which keeps one half the citizens in a state of abject poverty, saddling the other half with the whole weight of government and the maintenance of the poor beside? Every citizen ought to contribute to the support of government, but all obligations should bind within the limits of possibility; a man, at least, ought to be able to pay a tax, before he is compelled to do it as a duty." (p.67-68.)

Robert Coram was not a scholar working entirely alone. Attention has been called to forward-looking men who were his associates in an effort to make eighteenth century Delaware a more satisfactory place to live. Throughout the new nation, as well as in the more progressive European countries, a liberal ferment was working. Present-day students of the intellectual trends of this period are coming more and more to include Coram's name in the list of the spokesmen for the future who lived during and just after the American and French Revolutions. Summaries of a few of these recent studies make a fitting conclusion to the story of the life and contributions of an alert American.

Charles and Mary Beard, in a section of Rise of American

1

W. S. Learned, The Quality of the Educational Process in the United States and Europe; Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Bulletin 201, 1929.



Civilization, devoted to education in the early republic, list Washington, Jefferson, Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, James Sullivan, and "the less known Robert Coram, Nathaniel Chipman, Samuel Knox, and S. H. Smith" as men who wrote, from one angle or another, on the need of general education in a democracy. They continue: "though most of the tracts and pamphlets lie buried in the dust of libraries, their influence still lives in American educational theory." (p.486-7.)

Wilson and Kandel, in Introduction to the Study of American Education (p.-11) mention him among the earliest advocates of public schools. W. S. Elsbree, in The American Teacher p. 136, gives similar recognition to Coram's contribution. He likewise calls attention to the disruptions caused by the Revolution, especially in the New England colonies that had previously made the greatest strides in public education, and the problems of "alleviation of poverty, rehabilitation, realignment of taxation, and provision for the physical needs of the people," to say nothing of major political readjustment, as matters that absorbed the full energies of Americans to the exclusion of education "at least temporarily." From his analysis of conditions, one might conclude that Delaware's constitutional provision for schools and assignment of one-eighth of her State revenue for school purposes were exceptionally advanced achievements for that poor and busy generation.

Allen Oscar Hansen's Liberalism and American Education in the Eighteenth Century is the most complete study of the years

1775-1800 that has come to the attention of the Federal Writers in preparing this paper. He echoes the Beards' comment that, though the specific influence of any one pamphlet on education may have been limited, and the entire group of writers of this period were not representative of the dominant political faction, none the less "the main principles set forth in these writings have been one of the most potent factors operative in the growth of American democracy" (p.45).

Hansen examines in detail the basic philosophy of the later eighteenth century, and its application in terms of the American Revolution and subsequent readjustments. He then devotes the major part of his book to an analysis of nine plans of public education, suggested respectively by Benjamin Rush, Robert Coram, James Sullivan, Nathaniel Chipman, Samuel Knox, Samuel H. Smith, LaFitte du Courteil, du Pont de Nemours-- of interest to Delawareans in view of the part his descendants have played in the State's later development--, and Noah Webster.

Main tenets of the faith of this generation were that man and his institutions were perfectable; that to attain this perfection the natural laws of control and growth must be discovered; that institutions must be kept fluid and adaptable to changing human needs; and that a scientific, objective, and evolutionary attitude fostered by a wiser program of education than any then in vogue was the only instrument for building such institutions (Ch. I, summarized p. 20). The separation from England was based not so much on the economic issues that caused the immediate quarrel as upon a revolt against the mercantilist



38

policy fomented by wider acceptance here of the new liberal viewpoint and its reinforcement by the conditions and common experience of pioneer life (Ch. II, summarized p. 43).

All the programs for public education had much in common: They accepted the basic liberal premises of their century; they recognized the need for education as a prerequisite for self-government; they were founded on consideration of each man's individual worth and his role as a social creature; they were strongly nationalistic in the better sense of that term, i.e., they aimed at producing unified support of democracy throughout the country by diffusing knowledge of it and fostering of conditions under which it could work.

The second section of Chapter III (pp. 63-79) presents a full and careful study of Political Inquiries, more in detail, in fact, than the one in the present biography. The Federal Writers had already completed their analysis of the book before the Hansen work was called to their attention through Rise of American Civilization; though no direct quotations were incorporated, the Writers' Project is indebted to Liberalism and American Education for clarifying its members' own viewpoint and for helping in revaluation of the importance of certain of Coram's comments to which too much or too little attention had been given.

A few excerpts will show Hansen's appraisal of Coram and his work. Of the plan, he says: (p. 63-4):

"In 1791 Robert Coram of Wilmington, Delaware, brought out a plan for the general establishment



of schools throughout the United States. He had a very definite philosophy of life and of democracy and saw the relation between education and the furtherance of democratic principles. The complete title of the work is: 'Political Inquiries: To which is added a PLAN for the general establishment of SCHOOLS throughout the United States,' but, in fact, according to the writer's own statement, the purpose was not the discussion of political theory but rather of the relation of political theory to education."

This introduction he supplements with the following footnote in regard to the man himself:

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

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

In another connection he remarks: (p. 66)

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



Hansen concludes with a brief resume of Coram's philosophy of government and education. (p.78-9):

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

Such then was the viewpoint of one of America's pioneer philosophers in the field of public education, a man who succeeded in crowding equal parts of careful study and strenuous activity into his brief life. He helped to spread the doctrine of general State-supported education throughout the United States, and took a leading part in laying the political and financial foundation upon which the public school system of Delaware could be built in the next generation. His early death deprived the State of a courageous and devoted democrat about whose potential influence one can only guess.

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

Index

Legend:

Class A in capital type  
Class B in ordinary type  
Class C in brackets

A

Acrelius, Israel, Rev., *HALL*

Addicks, J. Edward, by Allen, in File

Alison, Francis, Rev., by Samworth, in File

ALRICKS, JACOB, Director, Hist. Soc. of Del. Paper XXII per ?,  
in File

Alricks, Peter, Hist. Soc., op cit., in File

Anderson, William Spencer, by Hammond, in File

ANDROS, SIR EDMUND, Gov., by Hammond, in File

ARGALL, SAMUEL, Capt.,

Arthurs, Stanley J., by LaMont, in File

ASBURY, FRANCIS, Rt. Rev.,

B

BALTIMORE, Lord, see CALVERT

Bancroft, William P.,

Banning, Henry G., by Cheyney, in File



## B

Barrett, Philip, by Hammond, in File

Bassett, Richard, by Sweeney, in File

"Bayards of Delaware," by Cheyney, in File

Baynard, Samuel H.,

Bedford, Gunning, Gov., by Hammond, in File

Bedford, Gunning, Jr., by Hammond, in File

BEEKMAN, WILLIAM, Vice-Director,

/Beier, Johan, /

/Bicker, Gerritt, /

Billop, Christopher, Commander,

Binkson (?), John, revolutionary "Long Finn,"

BIRD, ROBERT MONTGOMERY, *Browning, Dec 37*

Bjork, Erik, Rev.,

Black, John J., Dr., by Hammond, in File

/Block, Hans, /

BLOMMAERT, SAMUEL, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

/Bogaert, Joost van den, /

---

---

B

Bradford, Edward G., by Cheyney, in File

/Bringhurst, Edward,

Bringhurst, Joseph, see "Postmasters," in File/

BROOM, JACOB, by Crowe, in File; see also under "Postmasters."

/Buck, J. Allison, by Butler, in File/

"Bush Family," by Allen, in File

/Byrne, Samuel, see "Postmasters."/

C

CALVERT, CECILIUS, second Baron Baltimore,

Calvert, Charles,

"	, Frederick,	/ Biographies would be historically useful
"	, Leonard,	

Campanius (Holm), Johan, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

Canby, Oliver, by Allen, in File

CANNON, "PATTY,"

CANTWELL, EDMUND, Commander, by Hammond, in File

CARR, JOHN, Commander,

CARR, SIR ROBERT, by Conner, in File

Chester, Frederick D.,



C

CHRISTINA, Queen of Sweden,

Clark, Charles H. ("Max Adeler"),

/Clark, William, /

"Clayton Family," by Cheyney and Hammond, in File

/Cochrane, John P., Gov., by Cheyney, in File /

/Coke, Thomas, Rev., /

/Coleman, Leighton, Rt. Rev., by Cheyney, in File /

/Comegys, Joseph P., by James Pennewill per Burslem, and  
Cheyney, in File /

Cooper, Alexander B., by Cunningham, in File

/Corbit, Daniel, by Cheyney, in File /

Craghead, George, Col., by Pote, in File

D

Dagsworthy, John, by Hammond, in File

Dankers, Jasper,

DARLEY, FELIX O. C., by Butler, in File

/Davis, Samuel B., Col., by Samworth, in File /

Decatur, Stephen,

D'HINOYOSSA, ALEXANDER, Director, by Allen, in File

D

De Laet, Johan, (associate patroon of Swanendael and historian of Dutch West India Company),

De La Grange, see La Grange

De Rasieres, Isaac,

De Segur, Louis Philippe, by Pote, in File

De La Warre, see West, Thomas

De Vries, David Petersen (autobiographer and ship-captain), by Butler, in File

DICKINSON, JOHN, by Burslem, in File

/Dickinson, Philemon, Biog. and Geneal. Hist. of Del., III, 1237, per ?. in File/

Du Ponts, by Cheyney, in File

See also "Pioneers of Wilmington," by Cheyney, in File

E

Edmundson, William,

Elswick, Hendrick von,

Evans, John, Gov.,

Evans, Oliver, by Allen and Moore, in File

F

Fabritus, Jacob, Rev., by Allen, in File  
(Fabricius)

Fenwick, John, Maj.,



## F

"Ferris Family," by Allen, in File

/Fisher, George P., by ?, in File/

Fitch, John, by Allen, in File

/Fox, George, /

French, John, Col., by ?, in File

## G

and Butler  
GARRETT, THOMAS, by Horner, in File

/Garrettson, Freeborn, Rt. Rev., by Pote, in File/

/Gilpins, by Charles B. Lore and James Pennewill per ?, in  
File/

GODYN, SAMUEL, Patroon of Swanendael and President of Amsterdam  
Chamber of Dutch West India Company and Director of Dutch  
Northern or Greenland Company — first owner of land within  
boundaries of present Delaware,

/Graham, (surveyor)?/

/Gray, Andrew C., by ?, in File

Gray, George, by Cheyney, in File/

## H

Hall, Willard, by Daniel M. Bates per ?, in File

/Harlan, Samuel, Jr., quote Memoir of Harlan & Hollingsworth  
Company, Wilmington, Delaware, 1886, p. 140 ff./

/Harrington, Samuel M., by Burslem, in File/

H

Haslet, John, Col., by Hammond, in File

Haslet, Joseph, Gov., by Hammond, in File

/Hay, Henry, H.,/

HENDRICKSEN, CORNELIS, Capt.,

HERMAN, AUGUSTINE, by Hammond, in File

Excellent biography in Dict. of Amer. Biog. should have been referred to.

Herman, Casparus, / by Hammond, in File

Herman, Ephraim, / Certain other sources should have been referred to.

*Hesselius, Gustavus*

Hesselius, John,

" *Samuel*

HEYES, PETER, Captain of first colonizing expedition to "Delaware,"

/Hilles, by Cheyney and Hull, in File/

Hinoyossa, see D'Hinoyossa

/Holcomb Family, by Allen, in File/

/Hollingsworth, Valentine, &c., by L. M. Marshall (editor) per ?, in File/

/Holt, Ryves, by Henry C. Conrad per ?, in File/

/Hoopes, Edgar M.,/

HOSSET, GILES, first governor <sup>of</sup> "Delaware,"

Howe, Sir William,

Hudde, Andries, Commander,



HUDSON, HENRY, some sources of biography but little more  
in File

/Hunn, John, Gov., by Cheyney, in File/

Huygen, Hendrick, Commissary,

I

/Ingersoll, Robert R., "attitude on Delaware," by Pote,  
in File/

J

Jacquett, Jean Paul, by Allen, Browning, &c., in File.

JAMES II (as duke and king),

/Janviers, by Cheyney, in File/

/Johns, Kensey, by Butler, in File

Johns, Kensey, Jr., by Butler, in File ,

Jones, Jacob, Commodore, by Allen, in File

Juet, Robert, (Journal of Hudson's voyage),

/Justesen, \_\_\_\_\_ (see B. Fernow, Doc., XII, 141: Jan Justen  
granted permission in 1656, by Jean Paul Jacquett and his  
council, to "make a plantation on the Kil of Christina). /

K

Kieft, Sir Willem,

/Killen, William, by Hammond, in File/

Kirkwood, Robert, Capt., by Butler, in File

## K

Kling, Mans,

Kruse

Kryger, Martin, Capt.,

## L

/Lafayette, .. /

La Grange, Arnoldus de, by Allen, in File

/Latimer, .. /

/Latrobe, Benjamin H., by Cheyney, in File /

/Leas, by Allen, in File /

LINDESTROM, PETER MARTENSSON, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File. Diacritical marks are missing, from biography.

Lock, Lars Carlsson, by Allen in File  
Amandus Johnson, Swedish Settlements, does not seem to have been referred to.

/Lockerman, Nicholas, by Cheyney, in File /

LOFLAND, JOHN, ("Milford Bard"), by ?, in File

"LONG FINN," see Binkson

LOVELACE, SIR FRANCIS,

## M

MCKEAN, THOMAS, by Allen, in File

MCKINLEY, JOHN, by Butler, in File. Incomplete



/McLane, Allen, Col., by Allen, in File

McLane, Louis, Ambassador to Great Britain and U. S. Senator,  
by Allen, in File/

MACDONOUGH, THOMAS, Commodore, by Pote, in File

/Mariam, Charles, by Hammond, in File/

MAY, CORNELIS JACOBSEN,

MINUIT, PETER, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

/Moll, John, by Hammond, in File/

Montgomery, Elizabeth, by Cheyney, in File

N

NICOLLS, SIR RICHARD, by Conner in File

Niles, Hezekiah, by Hull, in File

O

/Odhner, Klas Theodore, (historian of New Sweden)/

/Ogle, John, by Allen, in File/

/Otto, Garet, (biog. would be historically useful),/

Ossett, see Hosset

OXENSTIERNA, AXEL, (?)

Oxenstierna, Eric, (?)

## P

/Papegoja, Armegot, /

Papegoja, Johan, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

PENN, WILLIAM, by Manlove Hayes and Cheyney, in File

Pierson, Thomas (surveyor),

Pietersen, Evert (1st <sup>known</sup> schoolmaster <sup>employed as such.</sup> ^?),

/Pioneers in Wilmington's Upbuilding," by Cheyney, in File/

Plockhoy, Peter, Rev.,

PLOWDEN, SIR EDMUND,

/Postmasters of Wilmington," by ?, in File/

/Printz, Armegot, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File/

Printz, Johan, Gov., by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

/Pusey, Pennock, by Charles B. Lore per ?, in File/

<sup>N.</sup>  
/Pusey, Samuel/, quote Memoir of Harlan & Hollingsworth Co.,  
Wilmington, Delaware, 1886, p. 134 ff./

PYLE, HOWARD, by LaMont, in File

## Q

...

## R

READ, GEORGE, by Allen and Pote, in File

Redfield, Edward W.  
Reeves, Marian C. L. ("Fadette"),

?



## R

Ridder, Peter Hollender, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

/Ridgely, Nicholas, "H & B Papers," per ?, in File/

RISING, JOHAN CLASSON, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

RODNEY, CAESAR, by Allen and Burslem, in File

Rodney, Caesar A.,

/Rodney, Daniel, by Crowe and Cunningham, in File

/Ross, George,

/Rowan, Archibald H., by Hammond, in File/

## S

/Saulsbury's of Delaware," by Cheyney, in File/

/Schoonover, Frank E., by LaMont and Cheyney, in File/

/Schute, Swen, see Skute/

/Scott, Levi, by Moore, in File/

/U. S. Senators from ..Delaware," by Burslem, in File/

Shaw, Robert, by Butler, in File

/Shipley, Elizabeth, by Cheyney, in File/

/Skute, Sven,/

/Smithers, Nathaniel, by William T. Smithers and James Pennewill per ?, in File/

Sluyter, Peter,

## S

/Smyth, Thomas A., by Pote, etc., in File/  
Sprinchorn, Carl,  
Springer, Charles, &c., by Cunningham and Cheyney, in File  
/Stalcop (Stalkofta), Johan Anderson, by Allen, in File/  
/Stiddem (Stidden, Stidham), Tymen, by Allen, in File/  
/Stockton, ----- ?  
STUYVESANT, PETER, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File

## T

/Tatnall, Joseph, &c., by Cheyney, in File/  
/Thomson, Charles, by Samworth, in File/  
TILTON, JAMES, Dr., by Allen, in File  
/Tom, William, by Cheyney, in File/ *see inventory of his effects  
in n.c. County Court  
Records*  
TORKILUS, REORUS, by Amandus Johnson per ?, in File  
TOWNSEND, GEORGE ALFRED ("Gath"), by Pote, in File

## U

USSELINX, WILLEM,

## V

/Van de Veere, Jacob, by Allen, in File/  
Van Dyck, Gregory,



V

"Van Dyke Family," by Hammond, in File

/Van Sweeringen, Gerritt, by Allen, in File/

VERAZANNO, JEAN DE,

VINING, MARY, by Cheyney, in File

W

//Wertmuller, Adolph U., Ashmead, Hist. of Del. Co., Pa., per ?,  
in File//

WEST, THOMAS, third Baron De La Warre,

White, <sup>Samuel,</sup> ~~Thomas~~, by Clinton Johnson, etc., in File/

Willing, Thomas, by Allen, in File

/Wiltbank, Hermanus Frederick,/

X

...

Y

/Young (Jongh), Jacob,/

Young, Thomas\*, Capt.,





Locality -- LAUREL

Submitted by; W. T. Bennett

March 7th 1936

240.

FOLK WAYS --- One of the oldest customs still

in practice is the gathering at the campmeeting, held in a wood or grove, where the folk come to worship and to rest from their labors for a week or more every year. The custom originated in colonial days when churches were few and widely situated, and the means of travel was slow. Covered wagons, canvas tents and roughly built cottages with thatched roofs were built or placed in a circle around a tabernacle which consisted of a roughly built pulpit and a shelter made by stretching a large canvas sail in shelter fashion to cover the rough board or log seats. Here the folk came to sing, pray, shout and perform their religious ceremonies. The minister in charge was the preacher, and after a sermon the worshippers sang, leaped, shouted and prayed, sometimes until the early hours of the morning. (1) Campmeetings are still held each year but in a much different manner. The functions have gone modern and amusement and entertainment have been added as attractions. (See supplementary report)

Quilting parties helped wear away the long winter afternoons and evenings with the folk of a few years back, and this custom is still followed. Women folk from the neighborhood are invited to the home of one of their neighbors, usually in the afternoon, where the quilt has been

"put in the frame" and is all ready for the needle and thread, which is provided by the host housewife. Conversation of a lighter vein and gossip keep the party always in a pleasant mood while they sit around the frame and sew the lines through the "quilt batting and lining." After the quilt has been finished and taken from the frame, the ladies gather in a circle and the quilt is tossed up, and although most of the ladies are married, the saying goes, the one upon whom the quilt falls will be the first in the party to marry. (2)

"Apple Cuttings" where the young folk gathered to meet and greet, were popular functions before and during the gay nineties. The young men and ladies, upon invitation of another member of their social set, gathered at the home of the neighbor, where apples in long rows of baskets were placed on the lawn, and with sharp knives and merry banter the young folk pared, cored and sliced the fruit, which was placed on trays to be exposed to the sun for several days until it had dried. This fruit was kept for the winter, when it was thought to be necessary to any well regulated diet. After sweet cider and ginger cakes had been passed around and the apples had been cleared away, the old barn floor was cleared for games and square dances. Such games were played as "spin the plate," "post office," "spinning wheel" and "chase the quaker" in all of which "the feller would kiss the gal if she chose him, or if he caught her." If a fiddler was not handy for the dances, someone played a harmonica, accordion or banjo in lieu of the usual instrument. (3)



Some of the superstitions that still remain, even with the literati: If a black cat crosses the path, especially in the early morning, it means bad luck for the day. Women should not leave home on New Year's Day or the family will suffer ill luck during the year. Walking under a ladder brings bad luck. Seeing the new moon over the right shoulder means prosperity during the phase. Plant vegetables that grow vines, at the time of the moon when nights are dark, and those with stalks on moonlight nights. Meat is solid if butchered on a waxing moon, but will shrink if on a waning moon. Carrying a rabbit's foot brings good luck. Breaking a mirror means seven years bad luck. (3)

340 TOWN GOVERNMENT -- A mayor; six councilmen, one from each of the four wards and two at large, and an alderman constitute the governing power. (4)

600 POINTS of INTEREST -- Four miles west of Laurel, overlooking the waters of the Laurel river, are the remains of the first shipping port in western Sussex county. The ruins of wharves, docks and jetties are still visible. (5) It was in a sand hill near this point where gold was thought to have been discovered in 1930. From Laurel a drive of six miles through wooded roads where the branches meet overhead brings one to the haul seine grounds on the Nanticoke river. The same methods are used to catch fish as in the biblical days. A long net is taken out into the river where it is spread in a semi circle and is dragged ashore by a windlass operated by man power. (3) Old Christ Church is one of the oldest churches in the east of the Protestant Episcopal denomination, and is the subject of many tales of history. In George



Alfred Townsend's story "The Entailed Hat" the old church is mentioned on several occasions as being the scene of the marriage of many of the characters in the story. In the cemetery surrounding the church are buried men who have made history in this community. (5) (6)

Two and one-half miles west of the town is Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal church, the second oldest church of this denomination in Delaware and the oldest in Sussex county. (5)

Up Records lake, a short paddle in a canoe or a row in a row boat, is Lover's Lane, a stretch of water almost perfectly straight for an eighth of a mile. The stream is twenty feet wide and follows a natural course. In the lane bloom water lilies and on the banks are laurel and dogwood blossoms in profusion. In the warmer months semi-tropical birds build their nests and rear their young in this sylvan setting. (3)

In North Laurel the old Collins House, Laurel's home of governors, is the subject of many tales of historic interest. (See later report)

Four miles to the east of the town is the sub-marginal resettlement project, where the Federal Government has caused to be started the development of 700 acres of land into a wild game refuge, a pond for breeding fish, and a recreation park. (7)

640 EDUCATION -- The Laurel Special District Public School, with an enrollment of 908, and serving a territory with a population of 4,800, is housed in a brick and stone building at the south edge of the town, on the State Highway. The school was legally established as a secondary school in 1893. In 1920 the



present building was erected, and in 1930 an addition was built. The cost of the building and addition was \$427,000. There are 31 regular class rooms with a capacity of 40 pupils each; 4 special class rooms with a capacity of 25 each; 3 administrative rooms; an auditorium seating 600; cafeteria 225; gymnasium 350; library 65; two study halls 165. The library has 2954 volumes and is in charge of a librarian during school hours. The campus covers ten acres and contains a baseball field, cinder running tracks, play grounds and drill field. The school maintains a band of 50 pieces and an orchestra of 35. (8) Paul Lawrence Dunbar School (Negro) has a faculty membership of eleven and an enrollment of 275. The building has eleven rooms and is situated at the western limits of the town, on Townsend street. (9)

THEATRE --- The New Waller Theatre on Central avenue near Market street, has a seating capacity of 600. Stage is fully equipped with scenery, backgrounds, sets etc., R.C.A. sound equipment. Talking picture shows are held each evening, Sunday excepted. (11)

AUDITORIUMS --- The Federal - State armory in North Laurel has a floor space 55 x 70, level and is used for drills, dances etc. (11) The Laurel school auditorium seats 600, and is equipped to take care of amateur theatricals and moving pictures. (9)

ANNUAL FESTIVITIES -- The Christmas, New Year's and Easter dances are annual functions held by the Laurel Cotillion Club in the local armory. (10)

Gunming and fishing parties can procure guides and equipment by applying at either of the hotels.

## Laurel

-6-

- (1) Elijah Hitch's story of Moore's Chapel 1863
- (2) Personal observation
- (3) L. Ray Otwell, town clerk
- (5) Scharf's History of Delaware
- (6) George Alfred Townsend's "Entailed Hat."
- (7) S. Lloyd Lowe, prothonotary of Sussex County
- (8) General report of school 1933 and 1935 to commission on  
Secondary schools, 3440 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.
- (9) Charles P. Helm, superintendent of schools, Laurel
- (10) J. Alden Warrington, president Laurel Cotillion club
- (11) Everett Waller, manager New Waller Theater.



(14p)  
wall 81

LIST OF BIOGRAPHIES  
DELAWARE STATE GUIDE

A.

Acrelius, Israel  
Adams, James  
Addicks, J. Edward  
Alison, Francis Dr.  
Allee, James F.  
Alrichs, Jacob and Peter  
Anderson, William Spencer  
Andros, Sir Edmund  
Argall, Samuel, Sir  
Arthurs, Stanley J.  
Ashbrook, Donald S.

B.

Baker, Scott Samuel  
Ball, L. Heisler, Dr.  
Baltimore, Lord  
Bancroft, Dr. Daniel  
Bancroft, Samuel Jr.  
Bancroft, William P.  
Bancroft, William Poole  
Banning, Henry G.  
Bannister, Nathaniel Harrington  
Barratt, Philip  
Bassett, Richard  
Bates, Daniel M., Chancellor  
Bayards of Delaware  
Bayard, Thomas Francis  
Baynard, Samuel H.

B.

Bedford, Gunning

Bedford, Gunning, Sr. & Jr.

Beekman, William

Berl, William C., Jr.

Betty, John Elmer

Biggs, Benjamin T.

Biggs, John, Jr.

Biggs, J. Franklin

(Bing, Dr. J. B. dentist - not yet written exp. Dr. Bonthard?)

Bird, Levi C.

Bird, Robert Montgomery

Black, George

Black, James H., Judge

Black, John J., Dr.

Blommaert, Samuel

Boniwell, Wm/ Gibson Srlington

Borton, Edward Everett

Boyce, William H.

Bradford, Edward G., Sr.

Bringham, Edward

Broome, Jacob

Brosius, Levis W.

Brown, John Draper, Jr., Dr.

Brown, John Wifflin

Buck, Clayton Douglass

Buck, J. Allison

Burr, Horace, Dr.

Burton, William

Bush, Lewis Potter, Dr.

Bush, Samuel

Bush Family

Bye, Charles C.

Erinckle, Wm. Draper



C.

Campanius, Holm, Johan, Rev.  
Cann, John Pearce  
Cannon, Anna Jump, Dr.  
Cannon, William  
Cantwell, Edmund, Capt.  
Capelle, George S., Sr.  
Carey, Joseph Mauld  
Carpenter, Joseph L., Jr.  
Carr, Robert, Sir  
Chandler, Elizabeth Margaret  
Christina, Queen of Sweden  
Clayton, John Middleton.  
Clayton, Joshua  
Clayton, Thomas  
Clayton Family  
Coage, Jefferson S.  
Cochran, John P., Governor  
Coleman, Leighton, Bishop  
Comegys, Joseph P., Chief Justice  
Comegys, Joseph P.  
Compton, Spencer - Earl of Wilmington  
Conner, James Christie  
Conrad, Henry C., Judge  
Cook, Phillip, Rt. Rev.  
Cooper, Alexander B.  
Coram, Robert  
Corbit, David  
Craghead, George  
Cranston, John F.  
Crichton, Alexander F.  
Crozier, Eli  
Cuffee, Paul negro  
Cummins, Albert W.  
Curtis, Charles M.

D.

Dagworthy, General  
Darley, Felix O. C., artist  
Davis, Willard F.  
Davis, Samuel Boyer, Colonel  
Deakyno, Walter C.  
Deakyno, Herbert, Gen.  
Dean, William  
De La Grange  
De La Warr, Lord  
De Segur, Louis Philippe  
De Vries, David Pietersen  
D'Hincoyessa, Alexander  
Dickinson, John & father, Samuel  
Dickinson, Philemon, General  
Duff, Thomas  
duPont Family

E.

Eastburn, Horace G.  
Edison, William L.  
Evans, Oliver



F.

Fabricius, Domine  
Fabrituis, Jacobus, Rev.  
Fennimore, William, Dr.  
Ferris, Benjamin  
Fisher, George P.  
Fitch, John  
Forrest, George W. K., Dr.  
Foster, William B.  
Foult, William Henry  
Fowler, Burton P.  
Fraim, Clarence  
Frantz, Abram E., Dr.  
French, John Colonel

G.

Garrett, Thomas, "Moses"  
Garrett, Thomas  
Garretson, C. D.  
Garrettsen, Freeborn  
(Garrettsen, Dr. James E. - Dr. Southard meeting him up.)  
Gawthrop, Allen  
Gawthrop, Joseph Newlin  
Gilpin, Edward W.  
Gilpin Family  
Godyn, Samuel  
Grant, James Morgan  
Gray, Andrew C.  
Gray, George  
Green, Percy Warren

G.

Grier, Frank L., Dr.

" <sup>G. Layton</sup>  
Grubb, Charles E.

Grubb, Ignatius C.

H.

Hall, Willard

Handy, Levin Irving

Handy, Wallace S.

Harrington, Nathaniel

Harrington, Purnell Frederick, Admiral

Harrington, Richard, Orator

Harrington, Samuel M. Hon.

Harvey, Leroy

Haskell, Henry C.

Haslet, Governor

Haslet, Colonel John

Hastings, Daniel O.

Heald, William H.

Hellings, Edmund C.

Herman, Augustine & Sons

Herman, Ephraim

Hepburn, Cheretion Yeatman Pyle

Hertert, William

Hilles Family

Holcomb Family

Hollander, Peter

Hollingsworth, Valentine

Holt, Ryves

Houston, Hon. John W.



H.

Hudson, Henry  
Hughes, James H., Jr.  
Hunn, John, Governor  
Huxley, John W.

I.

Ingersoll, Robert G. "Attitude.."  
Issacs, Henry R.

J.

Jacquet, Jean Paul  
James, John  
Janvier, Francis de Haes  
Jenkins, Bernard A., Dr.  
Johns, Kensey, Sr. & Jr.  
Johnson, Henry  
Johnson, Mary  
Jones, Jacob, Commodore  
Judges of Delaware

K.

Kane, John Kent, Dr.  
Keift  
Kenney, Richard R.  
Killen, William, Judge  
Killen, William, Chief Justice  
King, Smiley  
Kirkwood, Major Robert  
Kollock, Shepherd

L.

La Grange, Arnoldus  
La Motte, William O., Dr.  
Latimer, James  
Latrebe, Benjamin Henry  
Lattomus, J. Walter  
Lea Family  
Leach, Elmer J.  
Lewis, Dorsey W., Dr.  
Lindestrom, Peter Martensson  
Lock, Lars Carlson  
Lockerman, Nicholas  
Lodge, George  
Lofland, John, "The Milford Bard"  
Lore, Charles B.  
Luff, Nathaniel, Dr.  
Lukens, J. Paul, Dr.

M.

MacDonough, Thomas, Commodore  
Mannole, Canby C.  
Marceau, Browning Edincott  
Marin, Charles  
Marshall, J. Clarence  
Martin, Edward Wm.



Marvel, Josiah  
Massey, George V.  
Maxwell, Solomon  
May, (Mey) C. J.  
McKean, Thomas  
McKinly, John  
McLane, Allen  
McLane, Louis  
Medill, George L.  
Melson, Elwood F.  
Miller, Charles R.  
Minuit, Peter  
Mitchell, Edmund  
Moll, John  
Montgomery, Elizabeth  
Montgomery, Joseph T.  
Moore, Chester J.  
Morris, Hugh M.  
Morton, Donald R.  
Mott, Lucretia

H.

Nealson, Hendrick - Will of.

Nicolls, Richard, Sir.

Nields, Benjamin

Nields, John P.

Noblitt, Doll

Nowland, Otho

Niles, Hezekiah

O.

Ogle, John

P.

Palmer, Charles B.

Palmer, John Dr.

Papegoja, Johan

Penn, Wm.

Pennewill, James E.

Physicians & Surgeons

Pioneers in Wilmington's Upbuilding

Canby, Bancroft, Duponts, Hollingsworth, Ferris,  
Jones, Latimer, Shipley, Tatnall West, Willing,  
Nicholas Way, Warner, Bush, Pusey.

Polhemus, Johannes Theodorus

Polk, Albert F.

Preston, Willard Fallon, Dr.

Printz, Arnegot

Printz, Johan

Pusey, Joshua, Esq.

Pusey, Pennock

Pyle, Howard



R.

Read, George, Senator from Delaware in U. S. Congress

Reed, Archibald S.

Reeves, Marian Calhoun Legare

Reybold

Reynolds, Robert J., Gov.

Rheuby, Gould Grant

Rheads, Calvin B.

Richards, Charles Sudler

Richards, Robert H.

Richardson, John

Ridder, Peter Hollender

Ridgely, Hon. Nicholas

Ridgely Family

Rising, Johan Classon

Roberson, Alvin B.

Robinson, Alfred P.

Robinson, Robert P.

Rodney, Caesar

Redney, Daniel

Rood, Norman P., Sr.

Rowan, Archibald Hamilton

Ryan, Leon H.

S.

- Samuel, Meredith Iver, Dr.  
Saulsbury, Willard, Chancellor  
Saulsbury, Willard, Hon.  
Saulsburies of Delaware  
Schoonover, Frank Early  
Scott, Levi  
Schutt, Harold S.  
Scott, Henry P.  
Senators from the State of Del.-List  
Shaw, Robert, artist  
Shipley, Anna Conwell, Dr.  
Shipley, Elizabeth  
Skelly, James T.  
Smith, Linton, Dr.  
Smith, Richard, Esq.  
Smithers, Nathaniel B.  
Smyth, Thomas A., Gen.  
Sparre, Fin  
Speakman, Frank L., Judge  
Speakman, Harry E.  
Speakman, William C., Dr.  
Speer, William H., Dr.  
Spencer, William, "Negro pastor of first registered United Church  
Springer, Willard, Dr. of Africans."  
Spruance, William C.  
Stalcop, Johan Andersen & Son  
Starr Family  
Stidham, Tyman - Dr. Tyman Stidden - Dr. Tyman Stedham  
Stillman, Effie  
Stockley, Charles G., Gov.



S.

Stuyvesant, Peter

Sykes, James - Kent Co. signer

T.

Tatnalls

Taylor, Herman C.

Taylor, Morris

Thomson, Charles

Tilton, James, Dr.

Tom, William

Torkillus, Reorus Rev.

Townsend, George Alfred

Townsend, John G., Jr.

Townsend, Julian E.

Truitt, George - Kent Co. Signer

V.

Vale, Ruby R.

Van Dyke family

Van de Veer (Vandeveer) Jacob

Van Sweeringen, Gerret

Vining, John - first Representative in Congress from Del. State

Vining, Mary

97

W.

Wales, Leonard E., Jr. & Sr.  
Ward, Christopher, L.  
Warner, Alfred D., Sr.  
Warner, Emalea Pusey  
Washburn, Victor B., Dr.  
Wattson, Thomas  
Way, Nicholas, Dr.  
Wertebaker, William, Dr.  
Wertmuller, Adolph Ulrick  
West, Sir Thomas  
White, Samuel  
White, Robert G.  
White, Thomas, Judge  
Whitely, William G.  
Whiteside, G. Morris II  
Willes, Jonathan  
Willing, Thomas  
Wilmington, Earl of  
Wilson, Horace  
Wooten, Edward, Judge  
Worth, William J. & Edward J.

Y.

Yard, Joseph  
Young, Jacob  
Young, Henry S.





Negro  
W. K. Chas. J.

95

## DELAWARE

### Negro Voodoo

Reese Hammond

August 26, 1937.

Hexing and practice of the voodoo arts are rampant among the Negroes of Delaware. Annually hundreds of hapless people wend their way to the establishments of mountebanks and fakirs that have advertised themselves as possessed with the power to cast charms and spells over others.

The success of these charlatans is assured by the prevalence of many ancient superstitions, and Negroes are daily mulcted out of hard earned dollars by a hodge-podge of voodoo ceremonies or deliberate witch-doctor trickeries. The booming business is being done by "professors", "doctors" and the females who style themselves as "madams", in spite of rigid legislation against these spurious practices. The fees are not fixed at any special level but are determined by the urgency of the client and his apparent ability to pay.

A highly successful practitioner living at - - - - Street, Wilmington, will advise on health, love, business and all domestic troubles for a fee ranging downward from fifty dollars to a two dollar reading. This person, a widely known "Madam D-----," employs her husband as doorman and finds it necessary to take extended rest periods. Her patronage consists of successful people of both the white and colored races.

"Professor Morris" visits the city at regular intervals and assisted by his wife "Madam Morris" who gives spiritual readings,



and these many times from a psuedo trance, will "accept" a number of clients willing to discuss with him their martial troubles and ills of business and body. In cases involving court procedure "Professor Morris" will protect the persons seeking succor for a sizeable retainer and set spirits and powers working that are verbally( by him) guaranteed to insure defeat of the prosecution. According to police, "Professor Morris" recently ran afoul of the law and was sentenced to the New Castle County prison for practicing medicine without a license. The "Professor" had prescribed a concoction that failed to do the work and was reported to the police by the duped victim.

A cursory investigation of these practices in Wilmington indicates that most of the "temples" are fitted with a makeshift altar or table upon which candles and incense of various degrees of pungency continually burn. The room used as the altar room is dimly lighted and the lack of light gives to the fakir and the assemblage a depressing and mysterious air.

The gatherings, for the poorer people, are usually held in a large room in which these gathered chant a ditty or mumble the words of hymns or a gibberish familiar only to the user. If the client is pursued by troubles of a serious nature he or she can, by speaking to an assistant of the "professor" or "Madam", arrange for a private appointment. This private consideration will be given in another room of much smaller size where for a sum determined by the seriousness of the client's trouble, the omnipotent aid of "High John the Conqueror" or



"Bay Ham" will be invoked. If the client has only a part of the fee the case will be aided only to the extent that funds are provided as the assistance is given. Often this method enables the "Professor" or his assistant to extract a tidy sum of money from the gullible patron.

Methods of assisting the habitues of these "temples" vary according to the type of help wanted. Persons seeking good luck in playing "numbers" will be given a series of numbers to play every day for a certain number of days but only after a certain ritual is performed daily. For this kind of aid the usual fee ranges from one to five dollars. Should one of the numbers mentioned by the "Professor" appear he will have an increase in business and will ask as much as twenty-five dollars for his numbers. He is established firmly by this coincidence and will find that customers of his fellow-seers will begin to appear on his client lists.

For illness of lesser degrees the client will be purged of evil spirits by singing, chanting, and washing of the infected parts. If the ill is a deep seated malignant one a series of treatments will be prescribed oftentimes involving the taking of bitter, noxious, foul-smelling concoctions. If the treatment fails the patient is usually convinced that failure resulted from divergence from the instructions. If improvement is noticed the word is passed among the neighbors and the "Professor" has boom days.

In cases where persons are beset with a series of misfortunes such as minor brushes with the law, family spats, loss of jobs, inability to win money, the "doctor" or "Professor"



will make a charm to use whenever an unfavorable condition exists. These charms are of many shapes and ingredients. Price is again determined by the urgency of need for aid and the ability of the client to pay. It is not uncommon for a person to pay twenty-five dollars for a charm to offset the above handicaps. The charm may be made of cloth, leather, adhesive tape, a dark stained glass vial, wood or any material the "professor" blesses. Enclosed within the charm may be squirrel's teeth, frog bones, black hen feathers, mole skins, roots, herbs, barks, berries, blossoms, snake bones, black cat's bones, rabbits' feet or a solidified mixture of sugar, molasses and alum. It is sometimes necessary to deposit the charm, when not in use, in jars of liquids for preservation. Should the charm after bringing success to the holder, fail, its potency can be renewed by returning it to the fakir who restores it to its former power for a sum of money.

The practice of expecting charms to counteract due processes of the law was recently evidenced in municipal court in Wilmington. A girl arrested for assault and battery had been urged to get political help in effort to have the charge retired, but she refused on grounds that her mother had a charm which if used would end in dismissal of the charge. Armed with the well-worn charm, the girl presented herself for trial and in spite of the charm and her performance of the ritual of passing the charm over her face nine times and reciting "In the name of God, the Son and Holy Ghost" she was fined. (See Municipal Court Records, Wilmington, Delaware, 8/17/37-Grace Thomas vs Fannie Holloway)



When queried as to the cause for the unsuccessful outcome of her case she declared "the charm has lost its power. Mother will have it recharged and then it will work." This charm cost twenty-five dollars and has been in the family for several years. Close observation of its outer case will show that it has been used often. The mother when interviewed explained that it had been loaned to friends of the family for small sums.

The efforts of the police to curb the mulcting of these superstitious Negroes by preying on their ignorance is not meeting as much success as the police desire. The reluctance of the people victimized to talk about their experience makes exceedingly difficult the efforts of the police to eradicate the practice. In the cases of practitioners apprehended it is extremely hard for the peace officers to get convictions inasmuch as many of the offenses fail to be mentioned in the current laws, and the continued deception and robbing of these hard-working people goes on unmolested.

---30---

#### Bibliography

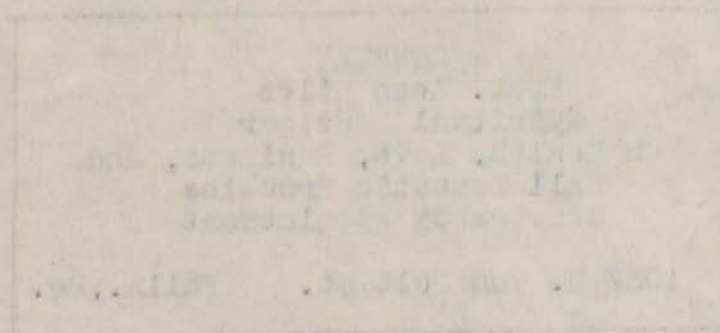
- Personal Observation - Seance, Sunday night, 8-22-37-  
516 East Second Street, Wilmington.  
Conversation, Mrs Hennie Holloway-412 Townsend Street, Wilmington.  
" Miss Fanny Holloway-833 Tatnall Street, Wilmington-  
8-17-37.



\* See picture of "Charm" bought for \$25. from  
"Prof. Leon Niles" of Philadelphia.

CONSULT  
Prof. Leon Niles  
Spiritual Advisor  
On Health, Love, Business, And  
All Domestic Troubles  
Service by Appointment  
1637 N. Van Pelt St. Phila., Pa.

Fac-simile of card of man from whom Holloway family purchased  
charm.





(13 p. total)

Written by Wm. H. Conner.

3,200 Words. 101

State Printer:  
Natural Resources  
(Lic in Geography.)

## A. LAND AND RESOURCES

### 1. GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

DELAWARE, the "Diamond State", is the second smallest in area of the Union, the third smallest in population, and was the first of the Thirteen Colonies to adopt the Constitution of the United States. Its northern boundary is the arc of a twelve-mile circle struck from the Old Court-house at New Castle as center, its southern and western boundaries were run by the celebrated Mason and Dixon in order to secure a point of beginning to divide the territories of Lord Baltimore and William Penn, and its eastern boundary is that of river, bay, and ocean.

Delaware is the only State that owns a circular boundary line. The arc separates Delaware from Pennsylvania on the N., while on the E., the State owns the Delaware River within the 12-mile circle to mean low-water mark on the New Jersey side. Below the limits of the circle, the middle of the Delaware River and Bay marks the eastern boundary until the Atlantic Ocean is reached. The S. line comprises one-half of the parallel 38 deg. 27 min., between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, and the W. boundary is a line erected from the middle point a little W. of N. until tangent to the arc of the 12-mile circle. Maryland borders Delaware to the S. and W.

For over two centuries, boundary disputes have been fought out between the Diamond State and neighboring Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. The most recent decision (1932) against New Jersey confirmed Delaware's control over the Delaware River within the 12-mile circle.



The State lies between Latitudes 38 deg. 30 min., and 39 deg. 45 min., and Longitudes 75 deg. and 75 deg. 35 min. Its length is 95 mi., its greatest width 35 mi., and its narrowest width 9 to 10 mi. Approximately, the area is 2,370 sq. mi., and of this, 1,965 sq. mi. is land area. It forms a part of the rich Del-Mar-Va Peninsula, composed of Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and two counties of Virginia--in all, four million acres lying between the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

"From the green hills of New Castle to the golden sands of Sussex," a favorite metaphor with Delaware orators, aptly suggests the general topography. The extreme N. part of the State is included in the Piedmont Plateau, with the foothills of S. E. Pennsylvania sloping down to the highest elevation at Centerville (436 ft.), about one mile S. of the Pennsylvania boundary line. If a line should be drawn from a point on the W. boundary about 2 mi. S. of Newark, in a N. E. direction, it would strike the City of Wilmington and mark the S. edge of the hilly country. This picturesque section offers scenic drives, with the Brandywine and tributary streams flowing between the hills to join the Christiana River. The outliers of the rolling country are two abrupt hills, containing iron-ore, that jut out below Newark. They are Iron Hill (340 ft.) and Chestnut Hill (280 ft.).

South of this line, the remainder of the State is a great plain of sandy soil, almost level, and well-wooded.



The height of 50 ft. is seldom reached. As part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, it is fertile and yields, with cultivation, an abundance of grain, vegetables, and fruits. The watershed between the two bays is, in general, near the W. boundary as far S. as Harrington, where it passes S. E. to Georgetown, and thence, slightly W. of S. to the line. Below the hilly section the Appoquinimink, Smyrna (formerly Duck Creek), St. Jones, and Mispillion Rivers, among others, empty into the Delaware River and Bay, on the east. On the W. side of the watershed, the largest Chesapeake tributary is the Nanticoke River.

The union of the Brandywine and Christiana at Wilmington affords a commodious harbor for that city. Other good harbors along the marshy coast are New Castle and Lewes, the latter protected by the famous Delaware Breakwater. Rehoboth and Indian River Bays are shallow lagoons in the S. E. corner of the State which lie behind the narrow and sandy coastal barrier separating them from the sea. Many freshwater ponds in the State offer excellent fishing.

## 2. CLIMATE

Observers describe the climate of the Diamond State as genial, expressing the escape from the rigors of the north and the languor of the south, but marred, to some extent, by excessive humidity in July and August.



Whether because of the small area of the State or its level character, little variation in temperature exists between the various sections. In N. Delaware the mean annual temperature is 52 deg. F., and in the southern sections, from 3 to 4 deg. higher. The mean temperature in February is 31 deg. F., and in July, 73 deg. for N. Delaware, with slightly higher marks for the south.

The ranges show even less variation, with an absolute minimum of -15 deg. and an absolute maximum of 102 deg. The differences in mean temperatures result from cold spells in the N., and hot spells in the S. The coldest day ever recorded was 17 deg. below zero and the hottest 110 deg. Spring frosts usually end April 1, but may run to the end of that month, while the first fall frost does not arrive until after October 10.

The crop season, taken as the average period between killing frosts, varies from 175 days in the north to 187 days in S. E. Sussex. (This may be reduced to 184 days in the W. part of Sussex furthest from the ocean). The growing season ranges from the latter part of April to the middle of October. The variance of a few days may be noted between N. and S.

The rainfall is abundant and precipitation is uniform to a remarkable degree through the State, least in late autumn and early winter. The average annual precipitation is 43 to 45 in. for all three counties, with the heaviest on record that of 1906 with 62.92, and the lightest, 1896, of 30.70. Thunder-storms and heavy downpours of rain cool



off the section during the summer, and, occasionally, the average rainfall for the month arrives in one day.

The prevailing winds in winter come from N. and W., and in summer from S. and S. E. Wind velocities seldom rise high enough to cause damage to crops and property, while tornadoes and earthquakes are practically unknown.

### 3. GEOLOGY

Sedimentary deposits cover the larger portion of the surface and tell the tale of ancient glacial floods when the swollen Delaware, having submerged the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula, laid down what are termed the "Delaware Gravels." These Quaternary deposits overlies the Archean, the Cretaceous, and the Tertiary to an average depth of 25 ft. Coarse red sand and gravel characterize the N. deposits, and fine white sand and gravel mark the S.

The sole notable exposure of rock occurs in the N. hilly area, where the locally famous Brandywine Blue Granite, a distinctive bluish-black or gray stone susceptible to a high polish is noted. Other rocks in this area contain varying proportions of quartz, feldspar, and mica, and some serpentine and limestone exists. Iron ore has been mined at Iron and Chestnut Hills.

The surface soil of the hilly area is classified as Chester loam, and the river-bottom land as Chester silt loam. Below the Wilmington-Newark line is a belt of clay 18 mi. wide and 15 to 20 mi. wide. Here are found plastic clays, and green, white, and red sands. The marlbeds have been worked as fertilizer sources.



A white plastic clay, covered by white glass sand, extends over the remainder of the State to the S., with the white sand overlaid, in spots, by blue clay and black bog mud. The soil type is sandy silt loam. Well-defined sandbars border the river, bay, and ocean shores, with the tidal marsh varying from one-fourth of a mile to four miles in width. Drainage plays its role in the adaptability of the land to tillage, and peaty soil is found in places.

Deposits of bog-iron ore in the S. section were worked in earlier days. The outstanding reminder of past ages is the Big Cypress Swamp, an area of 30,000 acres that lies for the most part in Delaware. A fuller description of this wilderness may be found in the Tour Section.

#### 4. NATURAL RESOURCES

Delaware's greatest natural resources lie in its fertile soil and its water facilities, the former placing the emphasis on agriculture, and the latter promoting trade and manufacturing.

The mineral resources are limited, as may be surmised from the low and sandy surface. The mining of iron at Iron and Chestnut Hills by the open-pit method has long since been abandoned, and the once-flourishing bog-iron ore industry in the lower counties was discontinued completely by 1850. Deposits of kaolin near Hockessin are now seldom worked, but the state clays are used for pottery, brick, and terra-cotta. Sand is excavated in quantities at Lewes. In the St. Georges section, little is done with the once-



extensive marl-beds. Quarries near Wilmington supply granite and limestone for local needs, with the Brandywine Granite the only notable stone.

Strong evidence exists that the whole of the State's surface was once heavily wooded, and three distinct types of growth are represented today. The remains of the Brandywine Forest, chiefly bordering that stream, showed hardwood, in which little cutting has been done in the last 50 years. The Ellendale section (not to be confounded with the 40-acre State Forest) is a tract of 16 miles square that includes the height of land between the two bays. This varies from pine or mixed pine and oak to pure hardwood. A rectangle of four miles square S. of Ellendale shows less than 20 per cent cleared. The Big Cypress Swamp section reveals a southern aspect with the northern limit of the bald cypress reached. All these areas, in the main, are second-growth. Forest growth is rapid except in the extreme north, and trees reach merchantable size at an early age.

A State Forestry Department was established in 1927. Control is had over 1,222 acres, including a State Forest Nursery near Milford.

Little water power is available save in the hilly section of New Castle County, where mills and plants have been long maintained beside the Brandywine, Christiana, and White Clay Creeks. Of these the Brandywine has been the most important, with a series of dams offering power. Along this stream may now be found only a paper-mill or two in steady operation.



-8-

The streams, particularly the Delaware River, play their part in commerce. Ocean vessels ply the bay and river, and touch at Lewes and Wilmington, while smaller craft ascend the smaller rivers to the head of navigation, usually a small town. The notable Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is described in another section.

Fisheries are important. Shad and sturgeon are caught, but seldom in the quantities of former years, since great manufacturing plants discharge oil and refuse into the Delaware River. At Lewes, not only are edible fish caught, but non-food fish like the menhaden are seined and turned into fertiliser, chicken-feed, and oil. Oysters and clams are taken, with the former enjoying a high reputation, inasmuch as they are shipped largely from Maurice River on the opposite New Jersey shore. Esteemed salt-water fish are landed in quantity. Bowers, Little Creek, Lewes, and Rehoboth are widely-known fishing grounds. Along the Delaware marshes an extensive muskrat industry has developed.

Scarcely 200 sq.mi. of the total land area can be classed as non-adaptable to cultivation. Included is a small section of sand beach, with the balance in tidal marsh land, and even marsh hay is harvested from the higher sections of the latter. Nine-tenths of the land area of Delaware may be reckoned as tillable. The swamp land lies to the south, mostly at the head of sluggish streams, and it is easily drained by ditching. Excellent work has been done by the Civilian Conservation Corps in draining, although the primary object has been the elimination of mosquitoes.



## 5. AGRICULTURE

Delaware has been so proud of its eminence in agriculture that the figure of a husbandman, hilling hoe in hand, appears as the coat-of-arms, and beside him an ox, a wheat sheaf, and an ear of maize.

The motorist traversing the State from N. to S., cannot fail to be impressed by the importance of agriculture. Once past the hilly section in which Wilmington is nestled, the panorama to the S. is that of a vast garden and orchard. Wheat, corn, hay and staple crops are grown rapidly, but the distinguishing feature of the Delaware sandy coastal plain, and, in fact, of the whole Del-Mar-Va Peninsula, is its adaptability to the growing of all kinds of vegetables and fruits known to the temperate zone with the exception of the citrus fruits. Added to this is the remarkable poultry industry of southern Delaware, as well as the dairy industry and livestock. Last, but not least, the proximity of the Diamond State to the great metropolitan areas affords a potential market of one-third of the nation's population. Delaware roads resound to the rumble of motor-vans, laden with fresh produce.

While in the north dependence is placed in wheat, corn, and hay, Southern Delaware puts its trust in the far-famed Delaware apples and peaches, in truck farming, in poultry and in small fruits. In spite of its area, the State ranks high in agriculture. The 1933 figures show 10,381 farms, and farm values reaching \$83,271,797.



-10-

Corn, chiefly for home consumption, ranks the cereal crops, with wheat second. Delaware flour is preferred by cake and pastry bakers. Oats, rye, buckwheat, and hay are raised in quantity, the yield of the latter crop being 125,000 tons from 60,749 acres in 1933.

The sweet potato is an interesting and profitable crop. "Sweet potato houses" dot lower Delaware, the product much-sought, being termed "kiln-dried sweets." In soy-bean culture the State took an early lead.

By the census of 1933, 39,000 acres of truck crops were grown for sale purposes. The tomato leads the list, followed by strawberries, cantaloupes, green peas, lima beans, and asparagus. Delaware ranks 10th to 15th in the annual yield of strawberries.

Delaware has become the most extensive early apple state in the Union. With two exceptions, it is the only section that can put its fruit on the market before August 1. Kent and Sussex Counties lead in the commercially important orchards of Yellow Transparent, Early Ripe, and Williams Early Red. Late apples are sold all over the world and have an established rating for variety, flavor, and grade. Strict control is exercised over packing, branding, and marketing. The average commercial production of late apples is well over a million bushels. Orchards tend to run large, with many over 500 acres bordering main-traveled roads.

Although the Delaware peach has a fame of its own, the ravages of disease have curtailed this once-flourishing industry. Shipments have declined from 5,000 carload lots at the end of the century to a mere 225,000 bushels. However, profitable yields



-11-

are still secured and the old "gluts" avoided. Small-fruits, such as grapes, cherries, and the various berries, are grown largely and shipped directly to the city markets.

Perhaps the most notable development of recent years has been the poultry industry, which is estimated to produce an annual income of \$8,000,000, approximating one-half the farm income. More than 6,000,000 chickens were raised in 1934, in addition to 23,000 turkeys, and a total of 6,550,765 dozen eggs produced. As an important poultry-raising section of the east, its hatcheries have a capacity of 3,000,000 eggs every three weeks during the hatching season. Baby chicks are distributed from certified, accredited, and blood-tested flocks. Of late years, the trend has been toward broilers. Sussex County is the center of the industry.

Few herds of dairy cattle in Delaware remain untested for tuberculosis. The bulk of dairy products is consumed locally, although considerable milk is shipped to Philadelphia section. Stock-raising has declined save in the breeding of blooded cattle in New Castle County.

Throughout, the State Board of Agriculture, aided by the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Delaware, has been active. A State Laboratory examines feeds and fertilizers free of charge, a State Bureau of Markets assists in securing advantageous markets, and a Poultry Department offers valuable aid.

#### 6. FLORA AND FAUNA

The geographical position of the Diamond State has given a rich and varied flora, but has also laid the emphasis



-12-

on agriculture. A land originally heavily forested has been burned into tilled fields. Flora survives best in isolated areas, including the swamp-land to the south, the tidal marsh districts, and protected forest sections.

The once abundant bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and the occurrence of such plant forms as the Muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*) and the sweet-leaf (*Symplococos tinctoria*) point, with faunal remains, to a marked admixture of southern (Lower Austral) forms in lower Delaware more mixed than is the presence of northern species in the much smaller Piedmont Plateau section, with its flora essentially the same as that of S.E. Pennsylvania.

No considerable areas of primitive forests exist in Delaware. The oaks, the hickory, the maples, walnut, and tulip trees, or yellow poplar, persist, along with the chestnut, almost destroyed by the blight. The Delaware white-oak was once esteemed without a peer for shipbuilding. The persimmon tree is common, along with the dogwood, now almost exclusively white, the sassafras, and the laurel. The walking fern and the blue-fringed gentian deserve mention. The trailing arbutus is native, but has been almost extirpated.

To the south, the tree range includes the pines, oaks, maples, sweet and black gums, yellow poplar, and holly, the latter commercially important in the Christmas wreath business. Magnolia and Aralia, *Clethra* and *Vaccinium*, are discovered in the undergrowth. In the sand-bar land, the pitch and pond pine flourish, along with the willow and blackjack oak, and the beach plum, red cedar, and wax myrtle. The bald cypress maintains itself in the Cypress Swamp, its northern limit,



-13-

although the area is predominantly white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*). Swamp characteristics are the sphagnum or peat-mosses, the swamp magnolia, and the pink ladyslipper, or Noah's Ark. Somewhat rare orchids also exist in the swamp. Mistletoe is found through the State, but has been scarce in the latter years.

A novelty is the extensive area of the St. Jones River, near Dover, where the American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) raises lemon-yellow blossoms during the summer.

113



*social life  
Sussex Co*

*(6 p. total)*

*Sussex Co. Folder*

Submitted by - Virginia Cullen

File S-240

Date- April 15, 1936.

Topic- FOLK CUSTOMS

Locality - Eastern Sussex County

At hog-killing time the families consult together on the dates for the slaughter, and the first one on the schedule receives the unstinted help of all, the men doing the killing and the women busy in the kitchen with sausage making and the curing of meats. In succession, each family goes to the home of the next in line, and so on until the tasks are completed. Likewise, in any emergency when a house-wife is sick-abled, absent, or for some reason cannot undertake her daily tasks, the neighboring women come in and do the chores. For instance, if a neighbor's wash does not appear on the line at the usual time on Monday morning, the other women set aside their own tubs and go to find out the cause, usually remaining to complete the task of the delinquent one. Nor do they wait to be summoned to each knows the schedule of others. No doors are ever locked the year round, and neighbors are privileged to come in and borrow in any shortage or emergency without becoming the target for rocking chair gossips. The families live mostly to themselves with no apparent cognizance that such benevolence is not generally practiced. (A)

#### Old Folk's Christmas Party-

In Lewes, where old folk abound, Christmas shindigs are not a monopoly of the younger generation. There is one night set aside for the oldsters when the Rotary Club sponsors a Yule tide celebration for elderly persons between the ages of 70 and 100 years. The date of the party is sometime during the week preceding Christmas day. The evening is given over entirely to the old folk,



who furnish most of the entertainment in song and dance, and it is not an uncommon sight to see some octogenarian cutting the pigeon wing when called upon to do his bit.

The guest are the progeny of people who have lived here for generations and contributed much to the colorful life of this ancient sea-faring village. The Rotarians instituted the custom several years ago. On the night of the celebration they round up their guests from all sections of town and personally escort them to the party all dressed up in their best bib and tucker.

(B)

#### COMMUNITY DANCES

The social interchange of hospitality at Christmas dances, between the small towns of lower Delaware and the Del-Marva peninsula, is an old custom perpetuated by dancing groups of modern times. The State's small area and the proximity of the towns have lent themselves to the establishment of a custom by which the whole section comeslingles during the Yule tide season. The towns arrange the dates of their Christmas cotillions so that, if possible, none will conflict and all affairs may be enjoyed by the greatest number of persons. Each subscriber to his home town function is allowed from three to five guest tickets for out of town couples, becoming host to that group at cocktail parties before the dance and at intermission or after dance functions. As a return courtesy, the out of town guests remember their hosts of neighboring functions.

The custom has engendered a form of free-lancing among the younger set who frequently attend these dances on bids secured for them by a friend of some host who had more tickets than they



expect to distribute among their own acquaintances. However, the "blind bids" are equally honored as the recipients automatically become the guests of the original hosts at home parties, even though they may be total strangers. (C)

#### LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Many persons of orthodox religious faiths throughout Delaware observe Christmas Day on January 6 as well as the customary December 25. The day is known as "Little Christmas" or Old Christmas Day."

Around Georgetown are some of these celebrants of Little Christmas who still dispute the authority of the Gregorian calendar which set back the birthday of Jesus thirteen days from that of the Julian computation. The Delawareans contend their convictions are upheld by the supernatural order of things symbolizing a new birth, which they allege takes place on the eve of January 6; that daffodils, hops and elders shoot forth sprouts through the frozen ground, remaining visible until sunrise. Some old folk of Georgetown claim they have witnessed this phenomenon. In these homes the Christmas decorations are left intact until after Little Christmas, and families felicitate the event with turkey, duck and goose dinners and the exchange of presents. Former Sussex countians now residing in other cities, who believe with their parents in Little Christmas, come home for a second celebration on January 6. (D)

#### CHURCH BAN ON MUSIC\*

A few elderly persons of Lewes remember the ban once placed on violin music in local churches, as the "fiddle" was considered



the instrument of the devil. The lively strains of the violin were associated with barn dances and like frivolity and deemed totally unfit for the house of God. It was still resisted less than twenty years ago, although the prejudice was finally overcome.

The same feeling prevailed about organ music in sacred edifices of this county. The only appropriate music was believed to be the human voice lifted in paeans of praise, which was good enough, they claimed, for their forefathers. A church in Bridgeville was one of the last in Sussex County to permit nothing but organ music. (F)

#### BLUE LAWS-

The antiquated "Blue Laws" are still respected by a surprising number of Lewes residents. In 1935, after Sunday baseball was ruled legal by the State Legislature, there was so much opposition to what was considered a desecration of the Sabbath that a referendum was held in which the qualified voters registered their sentiments pro and con. The fundamentalists were defeated.

Not so long ago many abstemious folk around Milton believed it a form of wickedness to take Sabbath automobile rides or buy any product on Sunday, and up to a few years ago there were some who would not purchase newspapers on the holy day nor allow milk deliveries on their doorsteps. The men folk were prohibited from shaving on the Sabbath and the women did all their Sunday cooking on the preceding day. Violators of the sanctity of the holy day who wished to justify their "misdemeanors" quoted the Biblical verse: Matthew, 12:11, as follows: "What



man shall be among you that shall have one sheep, and if it fell into a pit on the Sabbath Day would he not lay hold of it and pull it out?" (G)

#### MILTON-HOME\*COMING\*

The little town of Milton, on the Broadkill Creek observes an annual three-day "Home-Coming" celebration during the second week in August, when many former residents now living in other parts of the State and country return to their old stamping ground for the renewal of friendships. The ceremonies begin on Friday morning, the home-comers assembling in front of the old school house of their childhood days to be welcomed by the town mayor. From that point they parade through the town under flags and bunting strung across the main thoroughfare, led by a lusty brass band of home talent. One feature of the day is the "Old Timers' Ball Game," with only those eligible to play who can produce records "They drank from a bottle over thirty-five years ago." On Sunday the churches hold special services appropriate to the occasion, and the day closes with big family dinners, the boards groaning under the choicest produce of Sussex County farms. (H)

#### -BIG THURSDAY-

The celebration of "Big Thursday," the second Thursday in August, has been an institution in rural Delaware for over eighty years. In the earlier days the event was observed only at Oak Orchard on the Indian River, the happy hunting ground of the Nanticoke Indians, but more recently a like celebration takes place at Bowers Beach, on the Delaware Bay.

At Bowers, farmers, politicians and pleasure-seekers from all



over Eastern Delaware assemble on that date loaded down with picnic lunches prepared for an all-day outing. Clam and oyster bakes, corn roastings and field sports are mixed with political speeches and the happy intercourse of friends who have not seen each other since the last Big Thursday. In the first days many new political alliances were hatched at Bowers and practically every ambitious stump speaker in the State took advantage of the leisurely throng.

At Oak Orchard the outing has more of a religious aspect, as open air camp meetings are a high spot of the day. Before the age of the automobile and hard-surfaced roads, the families would leave home before sun up with all the children piled aboard the spring wagon. To add zest to the long trek over muddy bumpy roads, chariot races were staged, with each family vying with the others to see which could reach first their destination. Descendants of the Nanticoke Indians who still reside near Oak Orchard seize the opportunity to peddle souvenirs of their tribe among the picnickers.

The origin of the custom is said to be as follows: In 1852, by an act of assembly, it was made unlawful to gather oysters between May 1 and August 10. The following year on August 11, which fell on the second Thursday in the month, the oyster gatherers and their families marked the opening of the season with a gala day, which became known as Big Thursday. The oyster prohibition was lifted in 1877, but the custom of celebrating the second Thursday in August has remained a fixed event in the life of rural folk. (1)



## LAUREL DECORATION

The custom of laurel rope decorations at Christmas is believed to have had its inception in Eastern Sussex. At this season every town of Delaware is liberally hung with ropes of this beautiful evergreen, the fashioning of which has become a thriving industry in the vicinity of Hollyville. The farmers gather at the various homes on winter evenings and make laurel garlands and holly wreaths which they peddle over a wide area. Thousands of feet of rope are sold at one cent a foot, the profits are substantial as the farmers work on a co-operative basis.

(J)

## References:

- (A) Carey family, Kimmey Town, Lewes
- (B) Dr. U. W. Hoeler, charter member Lewes Rotary Club.
- (C) Personal knowledge.
- (D) Georgetown residents, files Journal Every-Evening, Wilmington.
- (E) C. C. Marshall, Lewes.
- (F) The Rev. W. R. Mowbray, retired M.E.pastor, Lewes.
- (G) Personal knowledge- Lewes and Milton residents.
- (H) Files- Delaware Coast News, Rehoboth, Del.
- (I) Polk Carey, Lewes - Files Wilmington newspapers.
- (J) Farmers around Hollyville, Del.

The first of these is the fact that the  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...

The second of these is the fact that the  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...  
... of the ... of the ... of the ...



Wm. H. Conner  
July 10, 1940

## EARLY BASEBALL IN WILMINGTON

The following extract is taken from an article in  
Every Evening, August 17, 1887, headed

### EARLY DAYS OF BASEBALL

#### The Infancy of the Game in Wilmington

\* \* \* \*

"Previous to 1865, when the then comparatively novel game of base-ball was first introduced here by a handful of enthusiastic spirits, it had already gained a considerable foothold in other sections of the country and even in this State, at Delaware City and New Castle, clubs had been formed before the famous Diamond State nine saw life in this city in 1865.

The Diamond State club which so well upheld Wilmington's reputation in the base-ball arena in its day, was formed in Wollaston's broker office at the corner of Fifth and Market streets in what is now Meyer Meyers' clothing house. Enthusiasm was manifested from the start, although the new organization did not play any games until early the following season. Young business men either became active or honorary members. Early in May of 1866, the boys donned their uniforms and made their initial bow on their old grounds at Delaware avenue and Adams street, opposite to the Wilmington and Brandywine cemetery. Mrs. Schofield then kept the famous Cross Keys tavern right on the base-ball grounds and Rossiter's Hotel stood on the opposite corner on Delaware avenue. They were a happy set of young men



as they appeared in their uniforms and proudly marched through the streets to the scene of the battle.

Their first game can hardly be called a battle as it was a heartless, relentless slaughter. The Athletic team of Philadelphia had been invited down to play the first game with the new club and show the youngsters how to play base-ball. The Athletics were then the champion team of the country and were in the height of their glory. On the nine were such veterans as McBride, the most famous pitcher of his day, of whom the boys even of a later day told as a tradition that he could pitch a ball through an inch board. Then there was Dockney, who caught McBride's swift delivery. Wilkins played short stop while Berkenstock and the veteran Al Reach and Tom Pratt guarded the first, second and third bases respectively. Sensitive, said to be the greatest fielder of his day and Wes Fisler were in the field on this memorable occasion. Reach as is well known, is now part owner of the Philadelphia club and Wes Fisler, a few years ago, managed the famous Merritt team of Camden. The Diamond State nine made its debut with Andy Gibney, the best catcher of his day in this section, behind the bat, W. L. G. Thomas pitcher, Jesse Chandler short-stop, George Chandler first base, Wm. Bush second base, Chas. Tatnall third base, Chas. McCabe left field, Chas. W. Gouert centre field and James A. Kelley right field. The home boys were resplendent in suits of black and white checkered shirts, a pair of their old black pantaloons cut down and with blue



stripes sewed down the sides, canvas shoes, a blue belt and a blue skull cap with the figure of a diamond on top. The youth, beauty and fashion of the town turned out to see the "boys" receive their first practical base-ball lesson. Colonel Fitzgerald of the Philadelphia Item, who was then the president of the Athletic club, was the umpire. He was a dignified figure as he stood there in his high choker and white necktie and high white hat. Everybody was one of the qui vive when the game began, but after the opening of the game, the home players were mostly on the qui vive in hunting the leather. It took but a short time for the veterans to dispose of their novice opponents but the way in which the Diamond State fielders were required to chase the ball made their hearts sick and their legs weary. Home runs over the fence were the rule rather than the exception. Hit followed hit in rapid succession, a few singles, more doubles and a plentiful supply of three baggers. One of the Diamond State fielders says that he got so tired jumping over the fence after the balls that he remained outside of the fence. It seemed impossible to retire the heavy batters of the opposing team and they were only put out when it pleased them. . . . .

. . . . .  
Seeing that the home club would probably be whitewashed, McBride began to let up in his pitching. One of the home players hit a ball. He ran wildly for first which he reached amid the

huzzas of the crowd. The Athletic fielder had purposely thrown wide. The base-runner reached second, third and then home by a similar lot of deliberate errors. The crowd, however, only saw that a run was scored and went wild with delight. This memorable game, which proved a delight at that time, but which would now prove to be an intolerable bore, finally ended by the grace of the Athletics, in the small score of 104 to 1.

That ended the ball playing, but the festivities were not yet over. It was a gala day. The visitors were escorted by their defeated hosts to the old Indian Queen Hotel, which occupied the site of the present Clayton House, where they were royally entertained at a banquet. Good feeling prevailed and all voted the first base-ball game a big success. Speeches were made by the late Samuel Harrington, then president of the Diamond State club, Benjamin Nields, Esq., Anthony Higgins, Esq., Levi Bird, Esq., \_\_\_\_\_ Cooper, Esq., all of whom took a keen interest in the sport and some of them afterward became good players themselves.

This was not a good beginning, but the boys were not discouraged. They buckled down to hard work and by dint of practice soon became proficient. Their bases were soon afterwards well guarded by George Chandler, Daniel W. Taylor and Charlie \_\_\_\_\_. Charles M. Tatnall played short and Charles McCabe, Jesse Chandler and William Bush were in the outfield. They soon showed of what stuff they were made. The Lenapis



of New Castle and the Atlas club of Delaware City, both . . . organizations, were then the . . . clubs in the State, but the . . . club challenged them to a series of games to decide the championship of . . . Lenapis were their first . . .

At that time the New Castle . . . prided themselves on a team . . . they might feel proud, . . . . (Among the players were Brown, Paynter, W. Paddock, Driver, and Warner. The crowd numbered over 1,000; local team defeated by ten runs. The second game resulted in a victory by Diamond State in 35 to 32. Many ladies were included in the spectators. A banquet was staged after the game. A press comment on the contest was as follows: "Before concluding this account we must express our gratification at finding so large a number of citizens present to witness the match. Fully a thousand persons were on the ground and the ladies (God bless them!) were not much in the minority. The enthusiasm displayed, as either club made a good play must have been very gratifying to the contestants. We wind up our remarks with the hope that baseball may long flourish in Delaware, and that the ladies will ever continue to brighten the field with their charming faces. Wilmington is peculiarly fortunate in having so many handsome ladies. Perhaps to their smiles may be laid the victory on Saturday." The third game was won by Diamond State 30 to 7. Charles Gouert played centre field for the Diamond State. The strong Atlas team of Delaware City included among its players three Reybolds, two Prices, Alexander pitcher,

and John C. Higgins, brother of Anthony Higgins, who played right field. "Fergy" Malone who afterwards became the greatest pitcher of his day was once a member of the Diamond State team. He never lost a game while he pitched here. The players paid their expenses out of their own pockets. Malone got no salary but was assisted in starting a cigar store at Seventh and King streets, afterwards on Market street, which was liberally patronized and became the headquarters for base-ball news. At this time Malone had only "a small part of the science and reputation that he afterwards attained but it was here that his fame rose and it was here that the Athletics found him. He was the trump card of the home team." The Diamond State team defeated the Atlas club 32 to 15.)

Having won the championship of the State, the Diamond State was not allowed to hold the title in peace. A new antagonist as formidable as any that had yet been met, appeared above the horizon in the form of the Wawaset club. This was a local organization and the fame of those contests is still handed down as traditions to the rising generation. Thousands of people went to witness the games between these clubs and the people of this city were divided into factions, each of whom petted its favorite team. Business men closed their places of business and placed in their windows placards such as these: "Gone to the base-ball match. Will return at 4 o'clock." It must be remembered that the games then began soon after noon and lasted from three to four hours. The ladies were as interested as the men and were also as active



in taking sides. The fashion of the town attended the games. The Wawasets had established their grounds opposite to where the middle depot now stands and their team contained such players as Captain William Blizzard, J. N. Kates, chief telegraph operator at the P., W. & B. station, John J. Gallagher, the well-known and popular Ninth ward druggist, Jerman J. McMullen, the P., W. & B. baggage-master, "Tom" Hawkins, a brother of the ex-chief-of-police. "Bony" Litzenberg, "Tony" Windle, still a familar character of this city, John Bateman and Thomas Donnelly, both dead, Al Albertson, a fine pitcher from Camden, N. J., and Messrs. Garrett, Simmons, Wright and Wilson, who were members of the original team.

The games between these two clubs began in May, 1866, and continued throughout the following season. In their first attempt to defeat the local champions the Wawasets were defeated by the score of 24 to 6. Victory perched on one banner and then the other, but in most of their set contests the Diamond State generally showed a superiority. During the first season Malone proved the stumbling-block to the success of the Wawasets, but with any other pitcher it was a nip and tuck contest.

A few of the games won by the Diamond State during that season were with the Chester whom they defeated 40 to 29, Brandywine of West Chester 38 to 21, 39 to 22, Excelsior of Milford 46 to 15, 26 to 24, Germantowns of Philadelphia 27 to 20, 70 to 17, 65 to 41, Lafayette of Wilmington 25 to 10, 32

to 7, Wawaset 40 to 29. They were also beaten by the Wawaset when Albertson pitched by a score of 36 to 26, and the Brandywines once knocked them out of the tune of 71 to 43 with Bush in the box for the home team.

The Wawaset team was only second to the local champions, but with most other competitors of their own calibre, they were more than a match. Among some of their victories were the following: Dirigo of Camden, 42 to 40, 6 to 4, Mosacsa of Salem, N. J., 28 to 20, 37 to 10, Chesapeake City, 42 to 21, Pacifics of this city, 36 to 3, Atlas of Delaware City, 32 to 21, Academics of Middletown, 24 to 19, Brandywines of West Chester, 20 to 19, Newarks, 55 to 23, 40 to 14, Leather Hunters, 43 to 20. They played a tie game with the Atlas, and lost games to the Brandywines by 46 to 45, to the Geary club of Philadelphia, which had Myerle for pitcher and "Dug" Allison and his brother on the team, by a score of 52 to 9. They also lost to the Quaker City club, a professional team, by 62 to 9, but their opponents were among the best players in the country.

In 1871, when the Wawaset had changed its original character completely and included players such as Harry Sherwin pitcher, Cleaver catcher, Lew Cross, G. Reybold, Sam Rogers, Windle, Smith and Taylor, they played a Baltimore club called the Pastimes, a sort of semi-professional team, whose pitcher was none other than the famous "Bobby" Matthews, the veteran twirler of the present Athletics. "Bobby" was then a novice,



comparatively, but he has ever since been in the base-ball arena. His effectiveness at that time landed his club the winner by a score of 26 to 7. The curving of pitched balls had then begun, and none developed this science more rapidly and became more proficient than he. Small in body and scarcely tipping the beam at 100 pounds, this indefatigable little pitcher has since held his own among the greatest pitchers in the country by clear headwork and not brute strength, although his star is now on the wane and the little twirler will soon be relegated to a back seat in the base-ball world, or be required to eke out his living in a more conventional calling.

When base-ball was first introduced here the rules and regulations were of the crudest character, although experience soon taught them to hew off the rough edges and gradually the science of the game developed until the present stage was reached, with the cast iron, tyrannical rules. In those days of primitive base-ball the laws for the government of the game were fewer and less strict than today. They played with a live ball made of India rubber and yarn covered with leather, which accounts for the big scores. They could use bats of any length, to suit the batter. The ball had to be pitched fairly and not jerked, consequently it did not acquire much speed.

A pitch, in those days, was made with the arm straight and swinging perpendicularly and free from the body. If the pitcher's arm touched his person when the arm was swung forward, it was considered a jerk and if the arm was bent at the



elbow at an angle from the body or horizontally from the

.....  
.....

Jerking was afterward allowed and then a throw from below the knees. Gradually the arm arose until it was only required that the ball be delivered from below the waist. As the restrictions were removed and just as often as the arm was allowed to rise higher and higher, the pitcher's effectiveness increased. Then followed the pitching which required the twirler to deliver the ball from below the shoulder, until finally all such restrictions were removed and he delivered it as he pleased. This last-named stage, however, brought on another difficulty in that the pitcher became so effective that the game promised to become uninteresting on account of the light batting. This has been remedied this year by giving the batter more freedom and privileges.

After two years of unalloyed excitement and fun, baseball began to wane here in popular favor and also among the players. A spirit of professionalism began to creep in and occasional quarrels arose creating dissatisfaction, so that the leading clubs gradually dwindled away and the interest was not revived until 1872. Then both the Diamond States and Wawasets reorganized. In the meantime, base-ball had advanced and the reorganized teams were as much superior to the original clubs as the Quicksteps afterwards became superior to the reorganized teams. During 1872, the reorganized Diamond State presented the following formidable



team: J. Paul Brown, catcher; James A. Kelley, pitcher; E. L. Rice, Jr., short-stop; Charles Wilkins, lb.; Frank McClary, 2b.; William Bush, 3b.; Eldon Hagany, lf.; Tilghman Johnston, cf.; Winfield Quigley, and sometimes J. Ernest Smith, rf. The Wawaset club was equally as strong a nine, the composition of which was as follows: Cleaver, catcher; Harry Sherwin, pitcher; Charles Gouert, short-stop; Sam Rogers, lb.; G. Reybold, 2b.; Charlie Smith, 3b.; Cass, lf.; E. Reybold, cf.; Tony Windle, rf. These teams were evenly matched and each won a series from the other during the season. Like the original club of the same name, the Diamond State had a succession of victories during the season, winning 32 out of 37 games played, two of the five games lost being won by the Wawaset, two by the Quickstep, which had then sprung into existence and one by the Germantown club of Philadelphia. The famous battle ground of the base-ball teams has by this time, been transferred to McDowellville grounds.

Both of these famous teams finally disbanded in 1873, and the pride of the rising generation of base-ball enthusiasts, the Quicksteps, held undisputed sway for about five years. This famous club was organized in the meadows about the city by a crowd of young men who took as naturally to ball playing as a duck does to water. Barefooted, they used to chase the leather in the suburbs but their constant practice made them proficient and they soon held undisputed sway in the

local base-ball arena. This club within a short time after its foundation, became the strongest base-ball club which had yet represented Wilmington and the fame of its pitcher Frank B., better known as "Flip" Lafferty, will last as long as the history of the game in this city.

The original team was composed of "Monk" Austin, c.; "Flip" Lafferty, p.; Michael Clinch, ss.; Frank Stock, lb.; Abe Geary, 2b.; Wheeler, 3b.; Tony Splain, lf.; John Brady, cf.; James Stidham, rf. Austin soon gave way to Al Hindle on the nine, and with Lafferty and Hindle as a battery this club won many a famous victory. (The Quicksteps played many teams, among them the Athletic and other Philadelphia and Pennsylvania teams. Their chief rival was the famous Active team of Reading, Pennsylvania. The Quicksteps were invariably successful except over the Actives. With Lafferty in the box the club never suffered a defeat at the hands of a local club. Their battles with the Actives were successively victories and defeats.

The Quicksteps remained in existence until 1877, gradually shifting from amateurs to semi-professionals. Lafferty afterwards played on other outside teams but eventually returned to Wilmington to live.")

\* \* \* \*

Note: The newspaper from which the above was copied was in a very dilapidated condition which accounts for the numerous omissions and brief summaries. Undoubtedly this paper is in



the Every Evening files in the Journal-Every Evening building, should additional information be required. The article seems to indicate that the Quicksteps quit in 1877, but this should be verified because the broken parts of the newspaper from which this was copied may have indicated that it lasted longer.

the very evening after the...  
should be...  
to indicate that the...  
no verified...  
which... have indicated...



## Government

*Wilmington Branch  
Jant. Jant. Jant.*

James R. Allen,  
January 14, 1937.

## GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

The city of Wilmington has a Mayor-Council form of government, under a charter granted by a special Act of the Legislature in 1832, which superceded an earlier borough charter granted in 1739. The title of the government is "The Mayor and Council of the City of Wilmington."

The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the city and receives a salary of \$4,000. He is elected by the plurality vote of the qualified electors of the city for a term of two years; there are no statutory limits as to the number of terms a person may be elected to the office of Mayor. The duties of the Mayor are largely advisory. He signs all ordinances and contracts made by the Council; has custody of the seal of the corporation, and the power of affixing it to documents. He is a member of the Zoning Board, and sits on the Assessment Board in case of tax appeals. He has authority to appoint the City Auditor, the two members of the Board of Assessment, the City Solicitor, the members of the Board of Harbor Commissioners. The directors of the Street and Sewer Commission, the directors of the Department of Public Safety, the members of the Board of Water Commissioners, and the members of the Board of Health. The appointments are confirmed by the Council. Aside from the responsibility for the enforcement of the laws and ordinances on the statute books; he is a conservator of the peace; has power to make inquiries and investigations into any matter pertaining to the municipal government; authority to take acknowledgements of deeds; and to solemnize marriages.



Page 2 - Government of the City of  
Wilmington. - Allen

The Council is composed of a President of the Council and twelve councilmen. The President of the Council is elected at large for a term of two years. He does not have any vote, unless he surrenders his chair and sits as a councilman. In case of absence or inability of the Mayor, the President of the Council is empowered to act as Mayor during such absence or disability.

The members of the Council are elected for two years, at a salary of \$750 their tenure being co-terminous with that of the Mayor. One councilman is elected from each of the twelve wards of the city. The most important powers of the Council are : to make ordinances for the governing of the city; to borrow money for the use of the city; to choose certain city officials including the City Clerk and Bailiff; and to confirm the appointments of the Mayor. Aside from the above powers it has authority to appoint one of its members to act as Mayor in case of absence or inability of both the Mayor and the President of the Council. It has authority to impeach officers of the city, including the Mayor. All contracts of the various departments must be approved by the Council.

The principal executive officers of the city are the City Treasurer, the City Auditor, the City Solicitor, two Receivers of Taxes, one for the northern district, and one for the southern district of the city, and the Board of Assessment.

The City Solicitor is the legal advisor to all the departments of the city, and is, ex-officio, the prosecuting officer in the Municipal Court, subject to the right of the Attorney-General to prosecute any person. He has authority to appoint two assistants.

The City Treasurer, who is elected for a term of two years, aside from having custody of the general funds of the city, is also the



Page 3 - Government of the City of  
Wilmington - Allen.

the custodian of the Police Pension Fund, and the funds of the Board of Education in Wilmington,

The Board of Assessment, composed of two members appointed by the Mayor for a term of four years, devotes its entire time to assessment of property within the city for the purpose of tax levys. When the assessments of the properties have been completed it publishes its assessments, and aggrieved persons have the right of appeal from the ruling of the Board.

By the provisions of the city charter, the functions of the administration and accountability of the city are basically departmental. There is no civil service in Wilmington for municipal positions. The public servants are either elected or appointed by the Mayor, excepting the Members of the Board of Education and the Board of Park Commissioners who are appointed by the Associate Judge of the Superior Court resident in New Castle County.

The Department of Public Safety, comprising both the Police and Fire Departments, was created by an Act of the Legislature on May 16, 1921. The department is under the control of three directors appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the Council, for a term of six years. The terms do not all end at the same time; the term of one of the directors expiring every two years. The directors appoint the Superintendent of the Public Safety and other officers and employees of the Police and Fire Departments. The Superintendent is the ranking officer of the Department of Public Safety, with the Fire Chief and Chief of Police as the heads of their respective departments. Aside from the duty of appointing officers of the several departments, the directors have authority



Page 4 - Government of the City of  
Wilmington - Allen

to conduct investigations; make contracts for the purchase of equipment; and suspend or remove any officer or employee in the department.

The eight hour day for policemen was inaugurated in 1920, and the three platoon system of motorized police was put into effect in 1921. By this system Wilmington is divided into districts thoroughly patrolled by policemen in automobiles and motorcycles.

A Detective Bureau was created in 1914 with one sergeant and to detectives. The Bureau has been increased until today it consists of one lieutenant, one sergeant, twelve detectives, one stenographer, one finger-print expert, and one photographer. It has the latest equipment for use in apprehending criminals. The Ballistic Bureau has equipment to identify bullets fired from guns held in evidence. It has the means of bringing out filed numbers on guns or automobiles or other markings on metal. Here an accurate record of everyone who has passed the portals of any police precinct in the city as a prisoner are kept. Fingerprints, photographs and other information concerning criminals wanted in other cities are filed and classified so that information concerning any suspect can be quickly obtained.

The Gamewell police reporting and fire alarm system is used and permits all men on duty to keep constantly in touch with the station house. A short wave radio system, by which contact can be made with all ~~en~~ cruising patrol cars from the central station, has been installed recently.

The Department maintains a complete workshop in which all its equipment is kept in repair. All automobiles and motorcycles are overhauled and maintained in running order by police mechanics. Other work of various kinds is also performed in this shop.



Page 5 - Government of the City of  
Wilmington - Allen.

The Street and Sewer Department oversees and controls the laying out, paving and repairing of streets and alleys, and the building and maintaining of the sewers and sewerage disposal facilities in the city. It has the authority to supervise all private plumbing and sewer work within the city; also has full authority over the maintenance of sidewalks, and care of trees outside the property line. It requires all persons or firms doing work on any street or alley, or engaged in plumbing to be licensed by the department, and all such work so done must be approved by the inspector of the department. It has a complete line of equipment for building and repairing streets, and maintains a shop where the department's machinery and tools are kept in repair.

The Board of Education is a separate corporation created by a special Act of the Legislature for managing the school system within the limits of the city of Wilmington. It establishes the qualifications for and appoints the teachers of the public schools in the city. It is vested with the ownership of all school property in the city, and has authority to acquire land and erect buildings for school purposes. It is further vested with power to prohibit dependent children from being imported into the city from outside the State.

The Board of Park Commissioners have charge of the city's parks and playgrounds, excepting the playgrounds forming part of the school property which is under the control of the Board of Education. The department has a large force of men constantly employed on its 868 acre park system; and also has its own police officers for maintaining order in the parks and playgrounds.



Page 6 - Government of the City of  
Wilmington - Allen.

The judicial branch of the city government is vested in the Municipal Court. The Court was created by an Act of the Legislature in 1883. The City Judge is appointed by the Governor for a term of twelve years. A Deputy City Judge is appointed for a term of four years by the Associate Judge of the Superior Court resident in New Castle County.

The Municipal Court has jurisdiction over all misdemeanors and the lesser grades of felony committed in the city of Wilmington; and over violations of all city ordinances. The terms of the court commence on the first Monday in each and every month, and sessions are held daily (except Sunday) at 9 A.M. and on Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. to hear cases of traffic violations. An appeal may be made from the decisions of the Municipal Court to the Court of General Sessions in all cases, except for contempt of court.

Wilmington owns and operates its water supply system and also its Port Facilities. The Water Department is under control of the Board of Water Commissioners who are appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the Council. It has entire charge of the construction, operation, and repair of the water facilities in the city. By a recent Act of the Legislature, the Department was given authority to construct water lines to suburban communities.

The Port Facilities are under the control of the Board of Harbor Commissioners appointed for a term of six years by the Mayor, with the approval of the Council. (See Marine Terminal, p --)

The health and sanitary conditions of the city are supervised by the Board of Health. The Board has entire charge of collecting and disposing of garbage within the city, and has a large fleet of trucks and a crematory for taking care of this branch



Page 7 - Government of the City of  
Wilmington - Allen

of its service. Aside from the above duties, it is also empowered to investigate complaints of unsanitary conditions in the city, and order such conditions corrected. It keeps a record of all births and deaths; also requires physicians to report all cases of contagious disease which they are treating. A City Physician is appointed by the Board to furnish medical aid to the less fortunate families in the city.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:- -

Revised Statutes of the State of Delaware. 1915. Title 9, Chapter 67, Article 2, Sections 2139-40-41-42. Pages 1029-30.

Laws of Delaware. 1933. Volume 39, Chapter 127, Pages 506-7.

Laws of Delaware. 1919 Volume 32, Chap.111, Pages 326-334.

Laws of Delaware. 1931. Volume 38, Chap.139. Pages 492-500.

Laws of Delaware. 1931. Volume 38, Chap. 140, Page 501.

Laws of Delaware. 1921. Volume 33, Chap.113

Laws of Delaware. 1929. Volume 36. Chap., 142. Pages 409-410.

Laws of Delaware. 1917. Volume 31. Chap., 123. Pages 369-378.

Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Delaware, October 14, 1936.

Modern radio for city police.

Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware. January 10, 1937. New tools to fight crime given police during past year.

John J. Cunningham. Government. File W-340. April 1, 1936.

John J. Cunningham. Wilmington Police Force. May 25, 1936.





THEOBALD WOLFE TONE LANDS IN WILMINGTON (1795)

Extracts from Life of Theobald Wolfe Tone, 2 Vols., written by himself and continued by his son, William Theobald Wolfe Tone, who edited the two volumes.

Vol. I, page 128:

"On the 13th June, we embarked on board the *Cincinnatus*, of Wilmington, Capt. James Robinson, and I flatter myself we carried with us the regret of all who knew us. Even some of my former friends, who had long since deserted me, returned on this reverse of my fortune, struck, I believe, with the steadiness with which we all looked it into the face. Our friends in Belfast loaded us with presents on our departure, and filled our little cabin with sea stores, fresh provisions, sweet-meats, and every thing they could devise for the comfort of my wife and children. Never, whilst I live, will I forget the affectionate kindness of their behavior. Before my departure, I explained to Simms, Neilson, and C. G. Teeling, my intentions with regard to my conduct in America, and I had the satisfaction to find it met, in all respects, with their perfect approbation; and I now looked upon myself as competent to speak fully and with confidence for the Catholics, for the Dissenters, and for the defenders of Ireland.

We were now at sea, and at leisure to examine our situation. I had hired a state room, which was about eight feet by six, in which we had fitted up three births; my wife and our youngest

little boy occupied one, my sister and my little girl the second, and our eldest boy and myself the third. It was at first grievously inconvenient, but necessity and custom by degrees reconciled us to our situation; our greatest suffering was want of good water, under which we labored the whole passage, and which we found it impossible to replace by wine, porter, or spirits, of which we had abundance. The captain was tolerably civil, the vessel was stout, and we had good weather almost the whole of our voyage. But we were 300 passengers on board of a ship of 230 tons, and of course crowded to a degree not to be conceived by those who have not been on board a passenger ship. The slaves who are carried from the coast of Africa have much more room allowed them than the miserable emigrants who pass from Ireland to America; for the avarice of the captains in that trade is such, that they think they never can load their vessels sufficiently, and they trouble their heads in general no more about the accommodation and stowage of their passengers, than of any other lumber aboard. I labored, and with some success, to introduce something like a police, and a certain degree, though a very imperfect one, of cleanliness among them. Certainly the air of the sea must be wonderfully wholesome; for, if the same number of wretches of us had been shut up in the same space ashore, with so much inconvenience of every kind about us, two thirds of us would have died in the time of our voyage. As it was, in spite of every thing, we were tolerably healthy; we lost but one passenger, a woman; we had some sick aboard, and the friendship of James Macdonnell, of Belfast, having supplied me with a small



medicine chest and written directions, I took on myself the office of physician. I prescribed and administered accordingly, and I had the satisfaction to land all my patients safe and sound. As we distributed liberally the surplus of our sea stores, of which we had great abundance, and especially as we gave, from time to time, wine and porter to the sick and aged, we soon became very popular aboard, and I am sure there was no sacrifice to our ease or convenience, in the power of our poor fellow passengers to make, that we might not have commanded. Thirty days of our voyage had now passed over without any event, save the ordinary ones of seeing now a shoal of porpoises, now a shark, now a set of dolphins, the peacocks of the sea, playing about, and once or twice a whale. We had, indeed, been brought to, when about a week at sea, by the William Pitt, Indiaman, which was returning to Europe with about twenty other ships, under convoy of four or five men of war; but on examining our papers, they suffered us to proceed. At length, about the 20th of July, some time after we had cleared the banks of Newfoundland, we were stopped by three British frigates, the Thetis, Capt. Lord Cochrane, the Hussar, Captain Rose, and the Esperance, Capt. Wood, who boarded us, and after treating us with the greatest insolence, both officers and sailors, they pressed every one of our hands, save one, and near fifty of my unfortunate fellow passengers, who were most of them flying to America to avoid the tyranny of a bad government at home, and who thus most unexpectedly fell under the severest tyranny, one of them at least, which exists. As I was in a jacket and trowsers, one of the lieutenants ordered me into the boat, as a fit man to serve the king, and it was only the

screams of my wife and sister which induced him to desist. It would have been a pretty termination to my adventures if I had been pressed and sent on board a man of war. The insolence of these tyrants, as well to myself as to my poor fellow passengers, in whose fate a fellowship in misfortune had interested me, I have not since forgotten, and I never will. At length, after detaining us two days, during which they rummaged us at least twenty times, they suffered us to proceed.

On the 30th July, we made Cape Henlopen; the 31st we ran up the Delaware, and the 1st of August we landed safe at Wilmington, not one of us providentially having been for an hour indisposed on the passage, nor even sea sick. Those only who have had their wives, their children, and all in short that is dear to them floating for seven or eight weeks at the mercy of the winds and waves, can conceive the transport I felt at seeing my wife and our darling babies ashore once again in health and in safety. We set up at the principal tavern, kept by an Irishman, one Captain O'Byrne O'Flynn, (I think,) for all the taverns in America are kept by majors and captains, either of militia or continentals, and in a few days we had entirely recruited our strength and spirits, and totally forgotten the fatigues of the voyage.

During our stay in Wilmington, we formed an acquaintance, which was of some service and a great deal of pleasure to us, with a general Humpton, an old continental officer. He was an Englishman, born in Yorkshire, and had been a major in the 25th regiment, but, on the breaking out of the American war, he resigned his commission, and offered his services to Congress, who immediately gave him a



regiment, from which he rose by degrees to his present rank. He was a beautiful, hale, stout old man, of near seventy, perfectly the soldier and the gentleman, and he took a great liking to us, as we did to him on our part. On our removal to Philadelphia, he found us a lodging with one of his acquaintance, and rendered all the little services and attentions that our situation as strangers required, which indeed he continued without remission, during the whole of my stay in America, and I doubt not equally since my departure. I have a sincere and grateful sense of the kindness of this worthy veteran.

Immediately on my arrival in Philadelphia, which was about the 7th or 8th of August, I found out my old friend and brother exile, Dr. Reynolds, who seemed, to my very great satisfaction, very comfortably settled. From him I learned that Hamilton Rowan had arrived about six weeks before me from France, and that same evening we all three met. It was a singular rencontre, and our several escapes from an ignominious death seemed little short of a miracle. We communicated respectively our several adventures, since our last interview, which took place in the gaol of Newgate in Dublin, fourteen months before. In Reynolds' adventures there was nothing very extraordinary. Rowan had been seized and thrown into prison immediately on his landing near Brest, from whence he was rescued by the interference of a young man named Sullivan, an Irishman, in the service of the Republic, and sent on to Paris, to the Committee of Public Safety, by Prieur de la Marne, the Deputy on Mission. On his arrival, he was seized with a most dangerous fever, from which he narrowly escaped with his life; when he recovered, as well as during his illness, he was maintained

by the French Government; he gave in some memorials on the state of Ireland, and began, from the reception he met with, to conceive some hopes of success, but immediately after, came on the famous 9th Thermidor, the downfall of Robespierre, and the dissolution of the Committee of Public Safety. The total change which this produced in the politics of France, and the attention of every man being occupied by his own immediate personal safety, were the cause that Rowan and his plans were forgotten in the confusion. After remaining, therefore, several months, and seeing no likelihood of bringing matters to any favorable issue, he yielded to the solicitude of his family and friends, and embarked at Havre for New York, where he arrived about the middle of June, 1795, after a tedious passage of eleven weeks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tone established himself at Princeton, after moving from Wilmington "first to Westchester, and then to Downingtown, both in the state of Pennsylvania, about thirty miles from Philadelphia." The reason why Tone moved to Princeton was that the expense of living in Philadelphia was too great for him. He hired a small house in Princeton for the winter, having agreed to buy a farm of 180 acres within two miles of the town. Before the deal went through, however, Tone received letters from "Keogh, Russell, and the two Simms's ...." They urged him to go to France, and Tone decided to do so, after consultation with his wife and sister.



Page 134-136

"My sister joined her in those intreaties, and it may well be supposed I required no great supplication to induce me to make one more attempt in a cause to which I had been so long devoted. I set off, accordingly, the next morning (it being this time about the end of November) for Philadelphia, and went, immediately on my arrival, to Adet, to whom I showed the letters I had just received, and I referred him to Rowan, who was then in town, for the character of the writers. I had the satisfaction, contrary to my expectations, to find Adet as willing to forward and assist my design now, as he seemed, to me at least, lukewarm, when I saw him before, in August. He told me, immediately, that he would give me letters to the French Government, recommending me in the strongest manner, and, also, money to bear my expenses, if necessary. I thanked him most sincerely for the letters, but I declined accepting any pecuniary assistance. Having thus far surmounted my difficulties, I wrote for my brother Arthur, who was at Princeton, to come to me immediately, and I fitted him out with all expedition for sea. Having entrusted him with my determination of sailing for France in the first vessel, I ordered him to communicate this, immediately on his arrival in Ireland, to Neilson, Simms, and Russell, in Belfast, and to Keogh and M'Cormick only, in Dublin. To every one else, including, especially, my father and mother, I desired him to say that I had purchased, and was settled upon my farm, near Princeton. Having fully instructed him, I put him on board the *Susanna*, Capt. Baird, bound for Belfast, and, on the 10th of December, 1795, he sailed from Philadelphia, and, I presume, he arrived safe, but, as yet, I have

had no opportunity of hearing of him. Having despatched him, I settled all my affairs as speedily as possible. I drew on Simms for £200 pounds, agreeable to his letter, £150 sterling of which I devoted to my voyage; my friend Reynolds procured me Louis d'ors at the bank for £100 sterling worth of silver. I converted the remainder of my little property into bank stock, and having signed a general power of attorney to my wife, I waited finally on Adet, who gave me a letter in cypher, directed to the Comite de Salut public, the only credential which I intended to bring with me to France. I spent one day in Philadelphia with Reynolds, Rowan, and my old friend and fellow-sufferer James Napper Tandy, who, after a long concealment and many adventures, was recently arrived from Hamburgh, and, at length, on the 13th December, at night, I arrived at Princeton, whither Rowan accompanied me, bringing with me a few presents for my wife, sister, and our dear little babies. That night we supped together in high spirits, and Rowan retiring immediately after, my wife, sister, and I, sat together till very late, engaged in that kind of animated and enthusiastic conversation which our characters, and the nature of the enterprise I was embarked in, may be supposed to give rise to. The courage and firmness of the women supported me, and them too, beyond my expectations; we had neither tears nor lamentations, but, on the contrary, the most ardent hope, and the most steady resolution. At length, at four the next morning, I embraced them both for the last time, and we parted with a steadiness which astonished me. On the 16th December I arrived in New York, and took my passage on board the



ship Jersey, Capt. George Barons. I remained in New York for ten days, during which time I wrote continually to my family, and a day or two before my departure I received a letter from my wife informing me that she was with child, a circumstance which she had concealed so far, I am sure, lest it might have had some influence on my determination. On the 1st January, 1796, I sailed from Sandy Hook, with nine fellow passengers, all French, bound for Havre de Grace. Our voyage lasted exactly one month, during the most part of which we had heavy blowing weather; five times we had such gales of wind as obliged us to lie under a close reefed mizen stay-sail; however, our ship was stout. We had plenty of provisions, wine, brandy, and, especially, what I thought more of, remembering my last voyage, excellent water, so that I had no reason to complain of my passage. We did not meet a single vessel of force, either French or English; we passed three or four Americans, bound mostly, like ourselves, to France. On the 27th we were in soundings, at 85 fathoms; on the 28th we made the Lizard, and, at length, on the 1st of February, we landed in safety at Havre de Grace, having met with not the smallest accident during our voyage. My adventures, from this date, are fully detailed in the Diary, which I have kept regularly since my arrival in France.

\*\*\*\*\*

Page 69-71

## CONTINUATION

Of the Life of Theobald Wolfe Tone, by the Editor

In the preceding abstract, written at Paris, from memory, and amidst the most anxious cares, my father brought down the narrative

of his life to the middle of July, 1792. From thence, to his arrival in France, elapsed a space of upwards of three years. I feel it my duty to account and apologize for the scantiness of my materials relative to this period, perhaps the most interesting of his career. It was during that time that, young and unknown, acting against all the power and influence of a party, secure in the long enjoyment of unopposed usurpation and insolent authority, he roused the energies of his oppressed countrymen, and rallied the mass of the people, so long divided by conflicting interests and religious animosities, to assert their national independence.

From the moment he engaged in this cause, he made it a rule to consign in a diary, destined for the sole perusal of his most intimate friends and family, the passing events of the times, his comments upon them, and his own thoughts and actions. Of this spirited and lively journal, we yet possess, and now publish, (Vol.II.) the part which begins at his arrival in France, and extends to the date of the last expedition where he perished. But, on his departure from America, he left in my mother's hands that which contained the diary of his efforts in Ireland, whilst forming the society of the United Irishmen, and acting as Agent and Secretary to the Catholic sub-committee. The experience of our former journey had proved what little respect was then paid by the British cruizers to the neutral American flag, and how unsafe it would have been to have carried such papers along with him.

When, at the close of the year 1796, my mother sailed from America to join him, the same reasons still existed. As he had left with Dr. Reynolds, of Philadelphia, an old friend and associate in his political career, an unlimited power of attorney



to protect his family and manage their affairs in his absence, she trusted to his charge all our little property in America, amounting to some hundreds of pounds sterling, a select library of six hundred volumes, and, above all, my father's papers, essays, and manuscripts, including those journals, and enclosed in a strong corded and sealed trunk, of which she kept the key. I am pained to add, that this sacred trust, this pledge of confidence and of friendship, he violated by an unpardonable negligence. Neither during my father's life, nor after his death, could our repeated demands, nor our letters and messages, by the most respectable and confidential friends who went to America, procure any answer. At length, in the year 1807, when the state of my health compelled us to undertake a sea voyage, and we came to Philadelphia, we called the unfortunate man to an account: but he could give none; and, reduced by repeated and severe illness, was then tottering on the verge of life. What could we do? Serious as the sacrifice was, in our circumstances, we offered him a full release for the remainder of the property, if he could only put us in the way of recovering the papers. But it was all in vain, for he had them not; he begged me to search his house, and I found the trunk broken open, and empty. With a great deal of difficulty I recovered some fragments dispersed in different hands, and now published. But his journals of the most important and interesting years, of 1793, 1794, and 1795, were irrecoverably gone. The manuscripts of the numerous pamphlets and essays, which my father composed at that time - a great number of which were anonymous, and often ascribed to other hands - as well as the materials of a philosophical and political history of Ireland, which he was then

compiling, and had already begun to write, were also lost. Dr. Reynolds died within a few weeks, and we were obliged to give up all hopes of discovering them.

By this loss, inappreciable to our feelings, we are deprived of the means of tracing accurately my father's career during those three eventful years, in which he was constantly employed in supporting the spirit of union and independence in his country, and performing, as agent to the Catholic Committees, those services which, by their parting vote of thanks, they declared "no gratitude could overrate, and no remuneration overpay." As it is not my purpose to write a history of Ireland, nor a political dissertation on the state of that country under its former, and never to be forgotten, nor forgiven, government, I will merely indicate, from my mother's recollections, and from the scanty materials which we have recovered, a few of those prominent events in which he was then engaged, and which may elucidate some passages in his subsequent memoirs.

#### Bibliography

Life of Theobald Wolfe Tone, Founder of the United Irish Society,...  
Edited by William Theobald Wolfe Tone. Washington, D. C.,  
printed by Gales & Seaton, 1826. 2 V. 1:128-132; 134-136; 69-71.





## TOBACCO IN DELAWARE

1630-1680

The sailors who traveled across the ocean with Columbus noted the inhabitants of the West Indies were using a leaf or herb to perfume their bodies. Later they found the Indians growing this herb; when the explorers returned to Spain, they described the Indians' habit of chewing, smoking, and snuffing of it in a dried state. This leaf was called by the Europeans "tobacco," because a peculiar instrument used for inhaling its smoke was called "tabaco" by the inhabitants of San Domingo, who employed it primarily for religious rituals.

To the Indians of what is now the Eastern Coast of the United States, this herb had many sacred characteristics. It was used on solemn occasions only, in ceremonies to ward off disease, distress, allay fear, and to bring good fortune. The ritual consisted of an impressive march or footrace among the young men; the planting of seed, and the building of a ledge of green branches around the seed bed; a visit to a sweathouse, followed by a bath and a solemn smoke; ending at last with a feast among the participants in the divine service.

In Virginia, tobacco leaves were arranged in a circle from whose center adorations were offered by eccentric dancing, clapping of the hands, and gestures of the participant's body. When a drought, tempest, or blowing of a storm and wind occurred, the Indians would crush the leaves into powder and then sow it toward



the sky to appease the spirits. Tobacco was also thrown into the air as an offering of reward to the gods for an escape from some unforeseen danger or when Indians returned from some successful war or hunting expedition.

The cultivation of tobacco for commercial purposes started at Jamestown, Virginia, when John Rolfe brought seed from the West Indies in 1612. This herb not only became the staple crop of the colony but also the principal currency which the settlers traded and bartered for other products of the farm or manufacture. It is recorded that by 1615 the gardens, fields, and even the streets of little towns were planted with seed, and the grown tobacco leaves exported to the old country, especially England.

Tobacco was first taken to Maryland at Kent Island, opposite the City of Baltimore, in the Chesapeake Bay, in 1631 from the Virginia colony down the lower part of the bay, while Delaware received its first shipment of tobacco seed when the Swedes settled on the Delaware River to colonize New Sweden in 1638.

The use of tobacco increased largely in Europe from 1637 until past 1650, and it became a very profitable business to grow and export it from Virginia, New Sweden, and Maryland to the Old World. The tobacco habit gradually made its way into Sweden, evidently indulged in by sailors and laborers who had served in the Colonies, while soldiers who had fought in the Thirty Years' War helped to spread its use during their travels from one place to another on the Continent.

Pamphlets and books presenting the virtues of the herb were circulated in most of the European nations, and when in 1633 a discussion was published on the medical properties of

the herb in Sweden, the Swedes wished to use and enjoy tobacco in its many forms. They imported some from the West Indies, Holland, the Virginia Colony, and their own of New Sweden. In turn it was sold through druggists, factors, and tradesmen in the kingdom without any civil or governmental regulations.

When David Pietersen De Vries discovered the small colony of Dutch settlers established at Zwaanendael (Lewes) had been wiped out by the Indians, he made inquiries of Indians along the South (Delaware) River as to why the settlement had been attacked. He learned that an Indian chieftain had innocently removed a piece of tin, bearing the coat-of-arms of Holland, from a pillar erected to memorialize the taking of possession in the name of the Dutch. The settlers insisted on punishing the Indian, and this led to the attack on the settlement. When de Vries inquired "the reason why they had killed our people," and he was told that a chief wanted to take the piece of tin upon which was figured the emblem of the United Provinces and make of it "Tobacco Pipes."

The groundwork had therefore been prepared, a market created, and a place ready when a Swedish Company began trading in the herb and sent the first cargo of 11,878 pounds from New Sweden (Delaware) on the ship Kalmar Nyckel in 1640.

Peter Minuit, the first Governor of New Sweden, encouraged the planting of tobacco seed. While the Swedes were willing to make money by the sale of tobacco, a promoter of the New Sweden Company, William Usselinx, held very decided views concerning the American herb. He wrote:



"Tobacco is only a filthiness which gives no other use than it distrubs the brain and increases drunkenness, yet more money is spent for it than for all the spices brought from the East Indies."

On January 12, 1641, a charter was granted the New Sweden Company with sole rights to import and export or distribute tobacco in Sweden and its dependencies.

By 1643 the use of tobacco had become so popular and profitable that smuggling had become a very gainful occupation, and tobacco in large quantities was secretly brought in from overseas and by land without the New Sweden Company receiving any benefit from its distribution. It was supplied to the merchants in such amounts that the company could not find buyers for stock on hand in their warehouses. This finally resulted in the government refusing to renew their charter in 1649, and free transportation and sale was ordered to anyone who paid the surtax or wished to deal in the herb.

In New Sweden, the variety of tobacco planted depended upon soil, climate, and market demands. By 1644, a second ship the Fama, was dispatched back to Sweden with a cargo of 20,467 pounds of tobacco for the company, besides 7,200 pounds sent over by the governor for his own account. During the same year, two valuable cargoes were transported by the Swedes in the ships Fama and Kalmar Nyckel destined to Sweden, but were compelled to put into Holland where duties were claimed by the Dutch West Indies Company under their charter as sovereigns of the country from which the vessels came. A long correspondence ensued between the representatives of Sweden and Holland, and then the cargoes were finally liberated on payment of the regular import



duties. Some idea of the value of the tobacco trade might be formed from the fact that these ships had 70,421 pounds of tobacco aboard, most of which was grown in Virginia, and was bartered off to the colony of New Sweden for much needed supplies.

The Colony was greatly reinforced in October 1646 by the arrival of the ship Golden Shark with settlers, and goods for barter with the Indians, and when the ship returned to the old country, its freight consisted of 24,177 pounds of tobacco in 101 casks, of which 6,920 pounds were harvested in Delaware (New Sweden) and the balance in the Virginia Colony.

In the Instruction to Johan Printz, Governor of New Sweden appointed by the Swedish Queen Christina on August 16, 1642, the following chapter is found:

"The Governor may choose his place of residence when he finds most convenient. If, however, he can protect himself with Fort Christina he ought to turn his attention especially to agriculture, sowing enough grain for their support. He may attend to the culture of tobacco and allot for it a certain number of laborers to increase the quantity and that all vessels may bring back a great portion of it."

An ordinance was passed decreeing and assigning for the state and support of the government of New Sweden, its garrison at Fort Christina and others in its employ, 2,000,619 rix-dollars to be collected each year from excise tax on tobacco grown in the colony.

In 1648 it was found that the revenue from the excises on the tobacco, according to the decree of 1642, did not ordinarily produce more than one-half that sum, it was now judged proper



"to permit and grant that the company of the south may for the state of New Sweden and support of the government there, retain and require the third of the excise of the crown upon all confiscated tobacco, and also whatever profit the fines imposed for the controvention of our prohibition against the secret introduction of tobacco into Finland and the Kingdom itself."

to 1645

They also found that the excise on tobacco from 1641/inclusive had been employed for other purposes of the crown.

For the decade ending about 1656, the cultivation of and trade in tobacco developed into one of the chief products of the Colony and therefore stood high in the attention given its development and growth. On November 9, 1656 the community was summoned to the fort to nominate four persons out of whom to elect two expert persons as tobacco inspectors, and on December 12 of the same year, a placard was posted stating that

"as it is ascertained that this river has become renowned for its tobacco and persons are daily encouraged to settle within its limits if this product is managed as it ought to be, and properly cured and packed and all sorts of fraud which might be used is carefully avoided and whereas all this cannot well be effected except if it examined and inspected before it is exported, and faithful persons are required for this inspection."

Meens Andriessen and William Mannts were selected from the nomination as inspectors to inspect and examine all the tobacco before it may be delivered, shipped or exported, and give a certificate to the owner.

An Isaac Allen in 1657 protested to the commander because a quantity of tobacco was seized at New Amstel; a certificate of possession, being a true copy, was signed by Johan Rising, Jr., probably a son of the former governor.

In 1662, D'Hinoyossa, the Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam,



met the English Governor Calvert, of Maryland, with some Indian chiefs of the Colony to make a treaty of peace, and during these meetings Calvert made an offer to deliver to New Amstel two or three plows and a hogshead of tobacco if the Dutch governor would give him Negro slaves in exchange.

In March 1662, it was proposed that a warehouse be established in New Amstel to store the tobacco which Calvert was to send into New Sweden for barter and trading purposes.

In June 1677, the court appointed Cornelis Post as viewer and packer of tobacco to New Amstel and precincts; his salary to be, in case he packs tobacco with the help of another, three guilders, and without help, four guilders per hogshead; and for reviewing, one guilder if good, and if refused, ten stivers per hogshead.

A notation in the records of the Court of New Castle for March 1678 is as follows:

"Joseph Holding, Thomas Jones, Robert Talant and John Sweet were each fined 200 pounds of tobacco by the magistrate for failure to do highway work; while William Grant and Daniel Makerty were each fined a similar amount for leaving highway work against the overseer's will. They could have been fined up to 400 pounds of tobacco under New Castle law."

In the same year, the overseers of the highways were made liable to a 1,000 pound tobacco fine if the highways were not made clear between March and December of each year.

In February 1680, the court at New Castle asked Governor Edmund Andross to accept tobacco instead of wheat for quit rent offered it at two pence per pound.

At a court held in Horekil, now Lewes, Delaware, from June 7 to 18, 1680, Luke Watson, John Roades, John Kipphaven,



William Clark, and Otto Wolgart, magistrates, delivered to Governor Andross a survey and recommended the building of a new prison and court house in the following manner:

"Honorable Governor: The Commission we have received and in obedience thereunto have proceeded & whereas there have hitherto been a neglect in getting A prison here; for want of which there have been not long since a prisoner for debt, whose was A stranger made his Escape; which may prove damage either to the County or Sheriff for the preventing of the like: for the future we have ordered a prison stocks and whipping post, forth with to be built, which will cost between three or four thousand pounds of Tobacco: here is also a great want of a Court house which will cost five thousand pounds of Tobacco: our request is that thee will be pleased to Impower us to make a Tax: to Levy the same on the Inhabitants."

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Johnson, Amandus. The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware ...1638-1664... Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, 1911. 2 v.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica. New York, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. v. 21.
- American Historical Association. Annual Report for Year 1919. 1: 385-407: "Tobacco. Some Features of Tobacco History." By George K. Holmes.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia, L. J. Richards & Co., 1888. 2 v.
- Hazard, Samuel. Annals of Pennsylvania from the Discovery of the Delaware, 1609-1682. Philadelphia, Hazard & Mitchell, 1850. 664 p.
- Turner, C. H. B., comp. Some Records of Sussex County, Del. Philadelphia, Allen, Lane & Scott, 1909. 387 p. P. 19.

N. 21  
P. 19





DELAWARE BIOGRAPHY  
LIST   OF  
VERBATIM COPIES FROM THE  
DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

Copies filed in second draw of Biography file  
under Compiled Biography

See following list for minor biographies  
and for some persons still living  
Complete to January 1, 1940

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

---

"A"

Addicks, John Edward O'Sullivan	(1841-1919)
Allen, George	(1808-1876)
Alison, Francis	(1705-1779)
Andros, Edmund, Sir	(1637-1714)
Asbury, Francis	(1745-1816)

"B"

Bannister, Nathaniel Harrington	(1813-1847)
Bassett, Richard	(In Fed. Govt. File) (1745-1815)
Bates, Daniel Moore	(1821-1879)
Bates, George Handy	(1845-1916)
Bayard, James Ash'E(ton	(The Elder) 1767-1915)
Bayard, James Asheton	(1799-1880)
Bayard, Richard Henry	(1796-1868)
Bayard, Thomas Francis	(1828-1898)
Beauchamp, William	(1772-1824)
Bedford, Gunning	(1742-1797)
Bedford, Gunning	(1747-1812)
Bird, Robert Montgomery	(1806-1854)
Bonwill, William Gibson Arlington	(1833-1898)
Bradford, Edward Green	(1819-1884)
Brinckle, William Draper	(1798-1862)
Brown, John Mifflin	(1817-1893)



DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

"B" - "C"

"B"

Burton, William (1789-1866)

"C"

Cannon, William (1809-1865)

Cass, Lewis (1782-1866)

Chandler, Elizabeth Margaret [1807-1834]

Clark, John (1817-20)

Clayton, John Middleton (1796-1856)

Clayton, Joshua (1744-1798)

Clayton, Thomas (1777-1854)

Coit, Henry Augustus (1830-1895)

(X Ref.) Cities & Towns:

Earl of Wilmington, Compton, Sir

Coke, Thomas (1747-1814)

Coleman, Leighton (1837-1907)

Collins, Thomas (1772-1789)

Coram, Thomas (See Encyclopedia File)

Cummins, George David (1822-1876)



DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

"D" - "E" - "F"

"D"

Darley, Felix Octavius Carr	(1822-1888)
Davies, Samuel	(1723-1761)
Dickinson, John	(1732-1808)
Dickinson, Philemon, General	(1739-1809)
Du Pont, Henry	(1812-1889)
Du Pont, Henry Algernon	(1838-1926)
Du Pont, Samuel Francis	(1803-1865)

"E"

Emerson, Gouverneur	(1795-1874)
Evans, John	(1703-1731)
Evans, Oliver	(1755-1819)

"F"

Fisher, George Farnell	(1817-1899)
Forwood, William Henry	(1838-1915)



DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

"G" - "H" - "I"

"G"

Garrett, Thomas	(1789-1871)
Garretson, James Edmund	(1828-1895)
Gibbens, James Gibbons	(1810-1892)
Gilpin, Edward Woodward	(1803-1876)
Gray, George	(1840-1925)

"H"

Hall, Willard	(1780-1875)
Harrington, Samuel Maxwell	(1803-1865)
Hersford, Eben Norton	(1818-1893)
Howell, Richard	(1754-1802)

"I"

Verbatim Copies

"J" - "K" - "L"

"J"

Johns, John	(1796-1876)
Johns, Kensey	(1791-1857)
Jones, David	(1736-1830)
Jones, Jacob	(1768-1850)

"K"

Keating, William Hypolitus	(1799-1840)
Keith, William, Sir	(1680-1749)
Kollock, Shepard	(1750-1839)

"L"

Lea, Isaac	(1792-1886)
Lee, Alfred	(1807-1887)
Learned, Marlon Dexter	(1857-1917)
Lewis, William David	(1792-1881)
Logan, James	(1674-1751)
Lord, William Paine	(1839-1911)
Lovelace, Francis	(1621-1675)



DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

"Mc" &amp; "M" - "N" - "O"

"Mc"

MacDonough, Thomas	(1783-1825)
McCullough, John Griffith	(1835-1915)
McKean, Thomas	(1734-1817)
McKean, Joseph Borden	(1764-1826)
McKenna, Thomas McKean Thompson	(1794-1852)
McLane, Louis	(1786-1857)
McLane, Allen	(1746-1829)
McKinley, John	(1721-1796)
McWhorter, Alexander	(1734-1807)
McLane, Robert Milligan	(1815-1898)

"M"

Markham, William	(1635-1704)
Miller, Edward	(1760-1812)
Miller, Samuel	(1769-1850)
Mitchell, Nathaniel	(1753-1814)

"N"

Newbold, William Romaine	(1865-1926)
Niles, Ezekiah	(1777-1839)

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

## Verbatim Copies

"O" - "P" - "Q" - "R"

"O""P"

Palmer, William Jackson	(1836-1909)
Parke, John	(1754-1789)
Polk, Trusten	(1811-1876)
Porter, John Addison	(1822-1866)
Pyle, Howard (Artist)	(1853-1911)

"Q""R"

Read, George	(1733-1798)
Read, John	(1769-1854)
Read, Thomas	(1740?-1788)
Richards, C. H., Dr.	(1827-1899)
Ridgely, Nicholas	(1762-1830)
Rodney, Caesar	(1728-1784)
Rodney, Caesar Augustus	(1772-1824)
Rodney, Thomas	(1744-1811)



DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

"R" - "S" - "T"

"R"

Ross, George	(1730-1779)
Rowan, Archibald Hamilton	(1751-1834)

"S"

Saulsbury, Willard	(1820-1892)	
Saulsbury, Willard (2)	(1861-1927)	(Saulsburys under one heading, "Saulsbury Family.")
Saulsbury, Cove	(1815-1881)	
Saulsbury, Eli	(1817-1893)	
Squibb, Edward	(1819-1900)	
Sykes, George	(1822-1880)	

"T"

Thomas, Lorenzo	(1804-1875)
Thomas, George	(1695-1774)
Thomson, Charles	(1729-1824)
Tilton, James	(1745-1822)
Torbert, Alfred Thomas	(1833-1880)
Townsend, George Alfred	(1841-1914)

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

VERBATIM COPIES

"U" - "V" - "W"

"U"

"V"

Van Dyke, Nicholas (1738-1789)  
Van Dyke, Nicholas II (1770-1826)  
Vincent, Francis (1822-1884)

"W"

Wales, Leonard Eugene (1823-1897)  
Wayne, Anthony ("Mad Anthony")  
White, Samuel (1770-1809)  
Whitefield, George (1714-1770)  
Wiley, Andrew Jackson (1862-1931)  
Wilson, James Harrison (1837-1925)

"X-Y-Z"



EXTRA BIOGRAPHIES NOT YET ACCEPTED

BIOGRAPHIES

Note: Copies to be found in lower drawer of file  
in Typist Room, marked "TOURS."

Allee, James F,  
Anderson, William Spencer  
Ashbrook, Donald S.

Bates, Daniel M.  
Bates, Chancellor Daniel M.  
Berl, William C., Jr.  
Betty, John Elmer  
Biggs, Benjamin T.  
Biggs, John, Jr.  
Biggs, J. Franklin  
Bird, Levi C.  
Black, George  
Borton, Edward Everett  
Boyce, William H.  
Brosius, Lewis W.  
Brown, Jr. , John Draper, Dr.  
Burr, Horace, M. D.  
Bush, Lewis Potter, M. D.  
Bye, Charles C.



UNACCEPTED

"C" - "D" - "E"

Cann, John Pearce

Cappelle, George S., Sr.

Carpenter, Joseph L. Jr.

Conner, John Christy

Cook, Rt. Rev. Philip, D.D., S.J.D.

Cranston, John A.

Crichton, Alexander F.

Crozier, Eli

Cummins, Albert W.

Curtis, Charles M.

Davis, Millard F.

Deakyne, Walter C.

Deakyne, Herbert, General

Deakyne, Walter C.

Dean, William

Eastburn, Horace G.

Edison, William L.

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

UNACCEPTED

"F" - "G"

179

Fennimore, William, M. D.  
Forrest, George W. K., Dr.  
Foster, William B.  
Foulk, William Henry  
Fowler, Burton P.  
Fraim, Clarence  
Frantz, Abram H., Dr.

Garretson, C. D.  
Gawthrop, Allen  
Gawthrop, Joseph Newlin  
Grant, James Morgan, D. D.  
Green, Percy Warren  
Grier, Frank L., D. D. S.



175

\* 5 \*

DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

UNACCEPTED

"H" - "I"

Handy, Levin Irving

Handy, Wallace S.

Harvey, LeRoy

Haskell, Henry G.

Hastings, Daniel C.

Heald, William N.

Hellings, Edmund C.

Hepburn, Cheretien Yeatman Pyle

Herbert, William

Hilles, William S.

Hilles, Eli and Samuel

Hughes, James H., Jr.

Huxley, John W.

Isaacs, Henry R., Judge

176

-4-  
DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

UNACCEPTED

"J" - "K" - "L"

Jenkins, Bernard A., M. D.

Johnson, Henry

Johnson, Mary (Woman Lawyer)

Kane, John Kent, M. D.

Kenney, Richard E.

King, Smiley

~~LaxMotte, William, Sr. M.D.~~

Lattomus, J. Walter

Leach, Elmer J.

Lewis, Dorsey, W. M. D.

Lodge, George

Luff, Nathaniel, Dr.

Lukens, J. Paul, M. D.



(17)

-5-  
DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

UNACCEPTED

"M" - "H"

Mammele, Canby C.  
Marceau, Browning Endicott  
Marshall, J. Clarence  
Martin, Edward William  
Marvel, Josiah  
Massey, George V.  
Medill, George L.  
Melsch, Elwood F.  
Miller, Charles R.  
Mitchell, Edmund  
Montgomery, Joseph T.  
Moore, Chester J.  
Morton, Donald R.  
Nott, Lucretia (Quakeress Abolitionist)

Nields, Benjamin  
Nields, John F. U.S. District Court Judge  
Noblit, Dell (Centenarian Patriarch)  
Nowland, Otho

178

-6-  
DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

UNACCEPTED

"O" - "P"

---

"O"

"P"

Palmer, John, M. D.

Palmer, Charles E.

Pennewill, James E.

Folk, Albert F.

Preston, Willard Fallon, M. D.

"Q"



UNACCEPTED

"R"

Reed, Archibald S.  
Reynolds, Robert J. (Governor)  
Rheuby, Gould Grant  
Richards, Robert H.  
Richards, Charles Sudler  
Richardson, John  
Roberson, Alvin B.  
Robinson, Alfred P.  
Robinson, Robert P.  
Rood, Norman P., Sr.  
Ryan, Leon H.

"S"

Samuel, Meredith Ivor, M. D.  
Schutt, Harold S.  
Shipley, Anna Conwell, M. D.  
Skelly, James T.  
Smith, Linton, M. D.  
"Sparre, Fin"  
Speakman, Frank L. Judge  
Speakman, Harry E.  
Speakman, William C. Dr.  
Spruance, William C.  
Stockley, Charles G. Governor

184

-8-  
DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES

UNACCEPTED

"S" - "T"

---

Speakman, Willard Allen

Speer, William H., Dr.

"T"

Tallman, Julia, Mrs.

Taylor, Herman C.

Taylor, Merris

"U"

"V"

Vale, Ruby R.



Wales, Leonard E.  
Wales, Leonard E., Jr.  
Wales, Leonard E., Sr.  
Ward, Christopher L., Sr.  
Warner, Alfred, Jr.  
Warner, Alfred D., Sr.  
Warner, Charles  
Washburn, Victor D., Dr.  
Wertebaker, William, M. D.  
White, Robert G.  
Whiteley, William G.  
Whiteside, II, G. Morris  
Willis, Jonathan S.  
Wilson, Horace  
Wootten, Edwin, Judge  
Worth, William A. & Edward J.  
  
Young, Henry S.

*Journalism* 96  
*Cheney* (1) 196  
*Newspapers*

File No. 250 182  
Delaware Newspapers  
Conrad Scharf Clippings  
Personal Notes. R

The first venture into the morning newspaper field was that of John O'Byrne, a Philadelphia lawyer, who acquired the "Wilmington Advertiser", published by George Chance as a side issue of his job printery and changing the name to the "Morning Herald" he issued the first number in August 1876, and upheld Democratic doctrines. Three sons of the owner and his sister, Miss Catherine O'Byrne, ("Kate" in business circles) constituted the firm of publishers and business managers. The paper started out auspiciously and the public was pleased with the brilliant incisive editorials of the Irish barrister-editor. Unfortunately for the "Herald" the report became current, and was generally accepted, that Mr. O'Byrne was utilizing his newspaper as a possible stepping stone to a seat in the United States Senate. It was said that the editor himself admitted that he had high political ambitions and had believed that little Delaware would easily yield to his editorial blandishments and his personal popularity - which seemed largely the reflection of his geniality brilliance and good fellowship. He soon ascertained, however, that a Delaware newspaper had never boosted the ambitions of an "outsider" into either house of our national legislation, and he further discerned - as many others have since - that Delaware has amply able "native borns" to represent her in Congress.

Mr. O'Byrne, however, did not yield and admit his defeat until March 1880. During those four years of



newspaper making Miss Kate O'Byrne became the real head of the publication but she was unable to dispose of the accumulating burden of debt and the "Morning Herald" was purchased by Issac H. Emerson, the outstanding newspaper publisher and editor of the Peninsular country.

The "Morning News" born out of the wreckage of the "Morning Herald" was issued March 1, 1880, by Emerson & Conrad, Henry C. Conrad, a member of the Delaware bar having purchased a half interest in the paper and plant.

It was a progressive Republican organ in almost solidly Democratic state - at that period - and early encountered the experiences that had beset its predecessor and at the end of four months Mr. Emerson sold his interests in the "News" to Issac R. Pennypacker, a Philadelphia journalist whose writings on the old "Philadelphia Press" had attracted much attention in Republican circles.

Mr. Emerson subsequently removed to Connecticut and established a daily newspaper and job printing plant. It brought him a gratifyingly large income.

After two years editorship of the "News" Mr. Conrad decided to return to the practice of law and severed the co-partnership of Conrad & Pennypacker in January 1882. The property was then purchased by the estates of the late Issac Henderson and William Cullen Bryant, former owners of the "New York Evening Post", and Watson R. Sperry, a son-in-law of Mr. Henderson, became editor-in-chief. Mr. Sperry was an alumnus of Yale '71 and had been managing editor and editor of the "Post" almost from the time he finished his university course at New Haven.

The new owners erected a building for housing the News and it moved from just around the corner, on Shipley street, to a spacious home and office, 511 Market street. There it remained for many years until the News was acquired by the late Alfred I. duPont, who removed the publication office to Sixth and King Streets the site of old Hanover Presbyterian Church, from where it was issued until Mr. duPont turned the "News" over to the Christiana Improvement Company - a holding duPont subsidiary - when it was removed to the Evening Journal Building at the southwest corner of Fourth and Shipley streets. There it was continued several years until 1932, when it followed the "Evening Journal" into the "Every Evening Building" at the corner of Orange and Girard streets - at the time of the merging of the two afternoon papers in January of that year. The News has assumed front place in the hyphenated News-Journal Printing Company.

Since the consolidation the News has taken on new life comparing favorably in news values and typography with the metropolitan dailies and its great number of pages devoted to advertising practically refutes the hitherto existing belief the Wilmington could not support a morning newspaper.

Mr. Sperry, was the most scholarly cultured of all Wilmington editors. He wrote with charm and brilliance and often with a fine touch of humor - droll and dry. But much of his fine writing failed to register with the masses of Wilmington people. This must be blamed on the constant



contentions that were being waged by one faction of the Republican party against the other and with a split party his editorial "uplift" was difficult. It also was discerned that the "News" editor had political ambitions and that he had relied on his influences as the editor of the only morning newspaper in the State to further his aspirations. Democracy was then in the Diamond State's saddle and Mr. Sperry directed his fiercest editorial batteries against the tax receipt provision of election laws of the state. A receipt to designate that electors had "personally" paid a capitation tax was necessary in order to vote, and Mr. Sperry kept up a barrage against tax receipts, declaring-reiterating and reiterating - that the Democrats were able to remain in power perpetually through the "fraudulent" possibilities of the tax receipt law.

The "News" eventually won the fight and among the first fruits of the victory was the election of Anthony Higgins, to the United States Senate - the first Republican from Delaware since the Civil War. Even though Mr. Sperry favored the election of another aspirant for the seat, it was through Mr. Higgins' influence that he was appointed as U.S. Minister to Persia, a courtesy or expression of "gratitude", that was not exactly fortuitous. It was declared that Senator Higgins was anxious to have the editor of the News far from the political battles of the state for a few months. Just a breathing spell.

With the return of President Cleveland for a second term the ministerial post to Teheran went to a

"deserving" Democrat and Mr. Sperry returned to Wilmington and to his editorial post, but he never quite reestablished himself on his former popular footing. Making the inconceivable mistake of urging the election of J. Edward Addicks, for U.S. Senator his star went into eclipse, and Mr. Sperry shortly afterwards quit Wilmington for Hartford, Conn., and was editor-in-chief of the Hartford Courant at the time of his demise.

It was never explained why Mr. Sperry made such a political blunder as to suggest for the Senate the outlander and his defiant efforts to buy his way into the United States Senate - and boasted of it.

It, however, was asserted later that Mr. Addick had the seat practically won - or bought - and would have had his "henchmen" elected had his backers in a lower hundred of Sussex county not become over zealous and physically assaulted an election officer who closed the polls before a small vote was cast. Had the balloting proceeded Addicks would have had one majority in the general assembly. But for that down state blunder possibly Mr. Sperry might have realized his ambition for high political office and honors.

The affection of Mr. Sperry's co-workers on the "News" and his popularity in circles whither men of erudition gathered gives a brief glimpse of the scholarly, gentlemanly editor of the "Morning News."

Fred Eden Baches, associate editor of the News was aggressive in his political attitudes and he wrote with pens of gall when attacking a Democratic foe. His chief object of



worship, perhaps was the Republican party and its emblems, He however wrote with an "understanding pen" when touching on Delaware and national politics. He was one of the foremost of the active members (or organizers) of the Young Men's Republican Club and doubtless, if he were alive when this is written he would denounce President Roosevelt, the "New Deal" the "Square Deal" and anything anti-reactionary. He was first of all a politician, secondly an editor. He came here as a young man from Kennett Square and after teaching school for a time he turned to newspaper work. Later he was secretary to Senator Higgins, but after the conquest of Cuba he was sent to Havana to reorganize the post office service on an American basis. Subsequently he was elected Recorder of Deeds, a lucrative office at the time and soon after the completion of his second term, died.

Edgar M. Hoopes, who came from the West to the Morning News, was its business manager three decades or more. He succeeded to the head of the "News" after Mr. Sperry had removed to Hartford. He was the chief owner at the time of its disposal to Alfred I. duPont, and during the long editorial incumbency of W.H. Hill, who succeeded Mr. Sperry and who was followed by Albert W. Cummins, who came back after the sale of the "Evening Journal" to the duPont holding Company. Edgar L. Haines assistant manager, remained with the News after the retirement of Mr. Hoopes but was not included in the reorganization of the staff. Under the subsequent management the names of William Maple, Martin A. Klaver and Charles L. Reese, Jr., appears at the

the top of the editorial page. The former as Executive Editor of the "News", and the "Journal-Every Evening" as well. Mr. Mapel came to Wilmington to the dual editorial position, in 1934, from Lexington, Virginia where he headed the School of Journalism of Lee University.

Henry C. Conrad figured notably as an editor, but he is best recalled as an historian. His birth occurred when the country was rapturously acclaiming the great Whig leader for the Presidency, and in common with hundreds of American infants of the fifties he was proudly given the name of Henry Clay. Mr. Conrad was more richly rewarded and honored by public office than any of the professing letters in the history of Delaware. He went fresh from Reynolds Classical Academy to Harvard where he was awarded a LL. D. in 1873. Back from New Haven he read law in the office of Anthony Higgins, and was admitted to practice the next year. He soon turned his attention to public service and was president of the Wilmington Board of Education in 1880-82, and occupied a similar post in the City Council from 1882-85. Mr. Conrad rose higher and higher in public life. He resigned from Council in 1885 to make the "race" for the mayoralty of Wilmington but was defeated by Calvin B. Rhoades possibly his only failure to reach any political station he sought. Mr. Conrad served as city solicitor from 1897 almost until named for Postmaster at Wilmington by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. His appointment to the bench of the Supreme Court of the state rounded out his long career of



public service, but later this was agreeably supplemented by his designation as State Archivist for which task he was well equipped, having familiarized himself with Delaware's past and present in gathering data for his "History of Delaware" issued in three volumes in 1907 and which has become recognized as a standard authority of the State. Mr. Conrad was born to the hustings and was always active in the campaigns of his party. During one of his extemporaneous political speeches in a campaign urging upon his Republican party the need of reforming the public school free educational system - which was admittedly needed. In one of his explanatory clauses he became rhetorically involved and his Democratic opponents were quick to translate his proposal to mean "mixed schools" for Delaware children. Mr. Conrad's slip of the tongue was played upon by every Democratic orator in that Gubernatorial campaign, and, indeed, the fictitious advocacy of having children of the whites taught in the same schools as the colored children was distorted into the paramount issue of that election which resulted in the defeat of Mr. Conrad's candidate for the Governorship and the whole State G.O.P. ticket.

The charge of advocating Mixed Schools was accepted more readily than it otherwise might have been had Mr. Conrad not been identified then with the Freedman's Bureau which concerned itself with the welfare of the race liberated by President's Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. Conrad, however, declared at that time that his interest in "uplifting" the colored people had not blinded him to Delaware's assured reaction to anything approaching "mixed schools" in a former Slave state.

Fifty years later (as this is written) the subject of "mixed schools" is never even discussed by either political party but at time, and at present, "mixed schools" attended by both white and colored children carry on within a stone's throw of the northern arc of Delaware's twelve-mile circle - just across the boundaries of Pennsylvania

However the mixed school issue has been forever removed from Delaware politics or social economics by the establishment of the best schools and school house - and efficient teachers of the same race - in this country. Colored schools have been raised from the lowest place to almost the top, a blessing that came to the Negroes of Delaware through the wealth and interest of Mr. Pierre S. duPont whose philanthropies in the interest of public schools is but partially expressed in gifts totaling \$10,000,000 for public education.

Mr. Conrad, who was a native of Bridesburg, Pa., spent the later days at Georgetown, in the ancient shingled mansion known as "The Judge" surrounded by his precious souvenirs of earlier times, antique furniture made by the best of old craftsmen, equally precious ceramics and objects of vertu and art. His years had extended beyond four score at the time of his demise in 1930.





REPORTS  
of  
CASES ARGUED AND ADJUDGED  
in the  
SUPERIOR COURT  
and  
COURT OF ERRORS AND APPEALS  
of the  
STATE OF DELAWARE,  
From the  
ORGANIZATION OF THOSE COURTS  
Under the  
AMENDED CONSTITUTION  
With  
REFERENCES TO SOME OF THE EARLIER CASES

---

Published at the Request of the General Assembly  
By Samuel M. Harrington,  
One of the Judges of the Said Courts.

---

Stare decisis--Leg. Max.  
VOL. I.

---

DOVER:

Printed by A. M. Schee  
1837

PP 454, 457, 458, 464.



Harrington's Delaware Reports -- Volume 1, Page 454

Jesse Chandler and others vs. Benjamin Ferris.

Issue from the register sent to try the question "whether the paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Thomas Chandler dec'd., is or is not the last will and testament of Thomas Chandler dec'd."

The will in question bore date the 24th May, 1833, and was made when the testator was in his 73d year of age. It was in the hand writing of Benjamin Ferris, who was constituted an executor and trustee as hereafter mentioned. It contained a great number of small bequests, amounting in the whole to about seventeen thousand dollars, most of which were to the testator's relatives; and it then disposed of the rest and residue of his estate, real, personal and mixed, in the following manner.

"And whereas it hath frequently occurred to my mind that the African race or descendants of African natives in the United States, are in a deplorable degraded condition, and considering that neither the federal government nor any other institution has made adequate provision for their improvement in education, morals and industry I have thought that a great and permanent benefit might accrue, not only to that people but to the white population of our country, if a foundation could be laid, though in a small way, of a fund to be appropriated to the promotion of these important ends. With the hope therefore that benevolent individuals who may survive me, may be disposed to aid in this concern, and contribute towards its accomplishment, until a fund may be raised sufficient to commence an institution to carry into effect the views before expressed, so far at least as to educate



male children of the African race, so as to render them useful to themselves and the community by a course of instruction in morals, science and productive employment, agricultural, mechanical or otherwise; I do hereby give, devise and bequeath to John Clark, now of the city of Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, Benjamin Ferris and Eli Hilles of the same place, David Wilson, of Hockessing, in the State aforesaid, Jacob Heald and Haines Jackson, of the same place and Bennet Jefferis, of Christiana hundred in the State aforesaid, all the rest and residue of my estate, real, personal and mixed or of whatever kind the same may be not herein otherwise disposed of in trust, nevertheless, that they the said John Clark, B. F., E. H., D. W., J. H., H. J. and B. Jefferis and the survivor of them and their successors appointed as herein after directed, shall faithfully appropriate and apply the said residue of my estate or the proceeds thereof, to the purpose aforesaid, and to no other. And in order to carry into effect the object of this devise and bequest, I do hereby authorize and empower my executors herein after mentioned, to sell any real estate which I may own at the time of my decease, included in the residue of my estate as aforesaid, and by a good and sufficient deed or deeds of conveyance duly executed and acknowledged, to grant and confirm to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, all my estate, right, title and interest in the same, as fully and effectually as I myself could now do, and I do hereby direct my said executors to pay over to my trustees herein named, the net proceeds of all such sales to be by them appropriated as herein before directed.

And in order to prevent any failure of the trust committed to the said John Clark, B. F. &c., I do hereby authorize and



empower them and their successors and a majority of them and their successors forever, upon the death, removal out of the State, refusal to serve or total neglect of any one or more of the said trustees or of their successors to appoint another or others to fill his or their places, and the person or persons so appointed shall have and exercise all the power and authority which is hereby delegated to any one or an equal number of the trustees herein before particularly named.

And it is my will and I do hereby direct that all the estate or proceeds of the estate hereby given in trust to my trustees herein before named and to their successors, shall be as far as practicable kept out upon interest or so invested as to be productive, and that all the interest or net proceeds arising from dividends on stocks or other investments shall be from time to time added to the estate hereby devised or bequeathed, during the space of seven years after my death, if the principal shall so long remain unappropriated in the manner aforesaid.

And it is further my will and a condition of the afo's'd. devise and bequest to my trustees as afo's'd. that the estate so given to them in trust shall be appropriated and applied to the uses and purposes afo's'd. within seven years after my decease; and if within that time no such institution shall be established or commenced, and no other funds raised for the purposes of such establishment, then and in such case all the said residue of my estate shall go to and be equally divided among all the children of my nephews and nieces and their legal representatives, share and share alike, and I do hereby give and bequeath the same to them accordingly, to hold the same, to them and to their heirs and assigns forever. Excepting nevertheless out of such bequest the sum of five hundred dollars, part of the said residue which I do



hereby give and bequeath to the African school society of Wilmington, incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Delaware, for the purpose of instructing the descendants of the people of Africa, -- the same to be paid to the said society on failure of the said institution and not otherwise.

And as it may be useful and proper that I should express my mind in relation to the plan of the institution proposed, I hereby add an outline of such plan as appears to me most likely to attain the object of my concern.

First. That a tract of land should be purchased sufficiently remote from any city, town or village, to prevent all improper intercourse between the resident pupils and every person connected with the institution.

Second. That commodious and substantial buildings be erected thereon for the accommodation of the pupils and officers of the institution, and for workshops, barns, stables and for other purposes.

Third. That children should be admitted at seven years of age and older, as pupils from any section of the United States, but those from the State of Delaware to have the preference in all cases when it may be necessary from the state of the school to make a choice.

Fourth. When pupils arrive at fourteen years of age, having had a competent share of learning to fit them for business, they should be permitted, if they so choose, to be apprenticed to suitable persons at the discretion of the managers, to learn trades, agriculture or other business, in which they may be useful to the community and of advantage to themselves -- otherwise they may at the discretion of the managers, be kept on the farm or in the workshops under the care of the institution, until



they arrive at the age of twenty-one years.

Fifth. The pupils should be maintained and educated without other charge or compensation than their own labor, and should be found in food and good plain clothing during their residence in the institution.

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

Seventh. The managers should have power of course to discourage all improper conduct on the part of the pupils, and to encourage them in their pursuits and for good behavior, by dismissal or punishment in the former case and by rewards or promotion in the latter.

Eighth. The farm ought to be managed in the best manner, and according to the most approved system of agriculture, so as to be a proper model or pattern for others. All the labor should be performed by the students, which should be so regulated that each pupil should do his proper share of labor and have his fair proportion of literary instruction daily.

Ninth. As the funds and resources of the institution may authorize, workshops should be built and mechanics employed to teach the pupils in their several branches, such as smiths, shoemakers, cabinet-makers, turners &c., seeing that the elevation of this class of people much depends on their usefulness as members of the community.

Tenth. Each pupil on admission <sup>in</sup> to the institution, should come under written obligations to remain under the government of the

-6-

officers or superintend<sup>ants</sup> of the establishment, and to comply with such instructions as may be given them. And it might be advantageous and proper to have legislative authority to bind them out under the age of twenty-one years, to such persons as might be suitable, in order to attain the objects in view as before expressed.

And I desire that at no time more than two of the trustees in future to be appointed, should be resident in the city of Wilmington or any other town -- at least five in number should always be inhabitants of the country."

And he appointed Amor Hollingsworth, Jesse Gregg and Benjamin Ferris, executors.

The estate amounted to between thirty and forty thousand dollars.-



Harrington's Delaware Reports --Volume 1,

Garrison' letter, P. 458

During the examination of plff.s' witnesses, the following letter was produced by the deft. at the request of the other side, and read in evidence by them with a view to show the extent of influence exerted over testator's mind.

Copy of letter from William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the Liberator, to Benjamin Ferris.

The first page contained printed "proposals for establishing a school on the manual labor system for the education of colored youth," and a printed plan for such school, in substance similar to the one contained in Chandler's will. The manuscript was as follows:

"Boston, Feb. 16, 1833.

Respected Friend;

I presume the enclosed plan for the establishment and government of the manual labor school for colored youth will be acceptable to you and your benevolent friend. The managers of the anti-slavery society deem it unnecessary to urge upon either of you the importance and need of the contemplated school. It is desirable that whatever is done, should be done speedily. Subscriptions have been commenced, in this quarter, under very favorable circumstances. Your friend, we trust, will add his name to the list of donors.

We are cheered in view of the progress of the anti-slavery cause in this country. The example, so long given by the society of friends, is beginning to have its legitimate influence.

Benjamin Ferris."

Your humble friend,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison



Harrington's Delaware Reports --Volume 1, P. 464,

Opinion of the Court

The Chief Justice (Thomas Clayton) charged the jury, (After stating the question and reviewing the evidence,) that if they were of opinion from the evidence that the testator was capable of exercising thought and judgment and reflection; if he knew what he was about, and had memory and judgment, his will could not be invalidated on the ground of insanity. Neither could it be set aside on the ground of undue influence, unless such influence amounted to a degree of constraint such as the testator was too weak to resist; such as deprived him of his free agency, and prevented him from doing as he pleased with his property. Neither advice, nor argument, nor persuasions, would vitiate a will made freely and from conviction, though such will might not have been made but for such advice and persuasion. Another and more material ground of objection to the will is a supposed discrepancy between it and the instructions on which it was founded and from which it was drawn. If the jury are of opinion that these differences exist to such an extent as to make the will essentially different from the instructions, they must then judge from the evidence whether these deviations were made with the knowledge and consent of the testator. If they were not made known to him, if the will was not read over, or its contents and variations from the instructions otherwise explained to him, then this is not his will; but if he knew of and approved the alterations he adopted them by the execution of the will, and the same ought to be continued.

Verdict setting aside the will.

J. A. Bayard and J. M. Clayton, for caveators.  
Latimer, Read, jr. and Rogers, for executors.



The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the smell of the sea. It was a salty, bracing scent that seemed to fill the air. I had heard that the weather in this part of the world was perfect, and now I knew why. The sun was shining brightly, and the breeze was just what I needed after a long drive. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of peace wash over me. The beach was wide and sandy, with a few people scattered in the distance. I walked towards the water, feeling the sand between my toes. The waves were gentle, lapping at the shore. I stood still, watching the horizon where the sea met the sky. It was a beautiful sight, and I felt like I had found a hidden gem. The day was perfect, and I was exactly where I needed to be.

J. F. Pote  
J. Sweeney  
March 31, 1941

280  
BIOGRAPHY  
Robert Coram

ROBERT CORAM AS DEED WITNESS  
(1791 - 1795)

K-2-41 to 43, April 21, 1791

John Pierce to Frederick Wirt, 23 acres in Brandywine  
hundred. "Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of  
Robert Coram Fred<sup>k</sup> Craig"

\* \* \*

K-2-155 to 156, February 25, 1792

William Temple (Yeoman) and Alice, his wife, to Isaac  
Starr son of William (Tanner).  
Brick Messuage on East side of Market St. to King St.  
"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of Robert Coram,  
Janny Hook."  
Proven by Robert Coram, August Term, 1792.  
Recorded September 18, 1792.

\* \* \*

P-2-68 to 73, September 20, 1792

Bancroft Woodcock to Nehemiah Tilton. "Sealed and  
Delivered in the presence of us Thomas Marriott,  
Isaac Woodcock, Robert Coram." Proven by Robert Coram,  
December Term 1795. Recorded March 5, 1796

\* \* \*



M-2-175 to 178, September 30, 1792

Joseph Gilpin to Charles Barret (Carter) Front St.  
"Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of John Hayes,  
Robert Coram." Proven by Robert Coram, November  
Term, 1792. Recorded July 13, 1793.

\* \* \*

M-2-158 to 161, October 4, 1792

Joseph Gilpin (Mariner) and Elizabeth his Wife Daugh-  
ter of John Giles (Mariner) and Jane his wife both  
deceased, to Gideon Gilpin of Delaware Co. Pa.,  
(Innholder). "Whereas Branson V<sup>n</sup> Leer formerly of  
said Borough Practitioner of Physic and Rebecca his  
wife." NE Front St. between King & French Sts.  
(Will Records I-1-331). "Sealed and Delivered in  
the presence of John Hayes, Robert Coram, Edw.  
Gilpin." R. Coram witnessed payment of £60. Proven  
by Robert Coram, November Term, 1792. Recorded July  
8, 1793.

\* \* \*

K-2-158 to 160 October 8, 1792

Charles Barret (Yeoman) and Ann his wife, to John  
Hayes (Merchant). Two messuages & lots (1. west  
side of French St. south of Broad St.) (2. Front &  
King Sts.) "Sealed and Delivered in the presence of  
John Martin, Robert Coram" Proven by Robert Coram,  
November Term, 1792. Recorded January 1, 1793.

\* \* \*

202

P-2-114 to 116, December 31, 1792

This Indenture made this thirty first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two. Between Frederick Craig of the Borough of Wilmington in Christiana hundred and New Castle County in the State of Delaware Bookbinder of the one part and John Dickinson of the same Borough Esquire of the other part." Two lots on Market street...

Fred<sup>k</sup> Craig

Witnesses

Ziba Ferris Robert Coram

\* \* \*

M-2-262 to 265, January 10, 1793

Frederick Wirt (Yeoman) and Anna Dorothy his wife, to John Ferris (Ironmenger). Orange to Shipley St. "Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of us Fred<sup>k</sup> Craig Robert Coram."

\* \* \*

M-2- 96 to 98, February 8, 1793

Samuel Preston Moore (Yeoman) and Susanna his wife, to Benjamin Burrel (Mariner) E. side of Walnut St. at Muberry Dock, Witnessed by "Ellenner Love, Robert Coram." Proven by Robert Coram, February Term, 1793. Recorded March 15, 1793.

\* \* \*



M-2-532 to 534, March 13, 1793

John Sperry (Brick maker) and Catharine his wife  
Executrix of the last Will and Testament of Jonas  
Walraven, to John Lynam (Yeoman)

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of  
Terhilis Cristym, Robert Coram"

Proven by Robert Coram, August Term, 1793. Recorded  
March 6, 1794.

\* \* \*

O-2-411 to 413, April 23, 1793

John Field (Phila. Merchant) to John Hayes ( Wilm.  
Merchant) on Market st. near High st.

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us  
James Wilson Robert Coram

Thomas Bliss witness to the signature of John &  
Deborah Field"

Proven by Robert Coram December term 1795. Recorded  
May 4th 1796.

\* \* \*

O-2-315 to 318, May 19, 1793

Jonas Stidham (Yeoman) to Isaac Stidham only son of  
the said Jonas Stidham "Sealed & Delivered in the  
presence of us

Rachel Stidham Robert Coram"

Execution proven by Robert Coram in open court  
December term A. D. 1795. Recorded January 30th 1796.

\* \* \*

M-2-373 to 375, June 19, 1793

Archibald Little (Cordwainer) and Jane his wife, to  
Charles Paulson (Yeoman) East side Market St.

"Sealed and Delivered in presence of  
Joseph Warner, Robert Coram."

Proven by Robert Coram, August Term, 1793. Recorded  
October 28, 1793.

\* \* \*

O-2-351 to 356, July 29, 1793

Griffith Minshall (Yeoman) and Mary his wife to Anne  
Lewis Tousard formerly of the Island of St. Domingo,  
(Gentleman)

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us  
Buporz Robert Coram"

Proven by Robert Coram May term 1795. Recorded March  
9th 1796.

\* \* \*

M-2-376 to 379, August 3, 1793

Anne Louis Towsard (Gentleman) and Reine Tou(b?)ert  
his wife, to Griffeth Minshall (Yeoman). 75 acres

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us  
Buporz Robert Coram "

Proven by Robert Coram, August Term, 1793. Recorded  
October 29, 1793.

\* \* \*



205

O-2- 5 & 6,

December 31, 1793

"This Indenture made the thirty first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three. Between Joseph Lawson of the Borough of Wilmington in the county of Newcastle and State of Delaware Innkeeper of the one part and John Dickinson of the same place esquire of the other part." (on Market & Shipley street and south side of Chestnut St.) ...

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Mary Dickinson, Robert Coram.

\* \* \*

N-2- 55 to 57,

March 26, 1794

Samuel Hogg, Tatlow Chandler and Catharine his Wife, to Griffeth Minshall (Yeoman) on Shipley St.

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of Jehu Hollingsworth, Robert Coram."

Proven by Robert Coram May Term 1794. Recorded August 5, 1794. Also witnessed payment.

\* \* \*

O-2- 93 & 94,

May 31, 1794

"This Indenture made this thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four. Between John Lea of the Borough of Wilmington and county of Newcastle and State of Delaware esquire and Christiana his wife of the one

part and Peter Bauduy late of the Island of St.  
Domingo but now of the said Borough gentleman of  
the other part." (on Pasture street)  
Sealed and delivered in the presence of us  
Robert Coram, Isaac H. Starr. (also witnesses of  
Peter Bauduy's payment of 250 lbs.)

\* \* \*

N-2-383 to 385, July 31, 1794

William Clenney (Yeoman) and Betty his wife, to  
Rumford Dawes (Phila. Merchant)  
"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of  
Isaac Harvey Jun., Robert Coram, Jehu Hollingsworth."

\* \* \*

N-2-239-to 244, August 29, 1794

William Shipley the elder (Yeoman) and Sarah his  
Wife, to John Shipley, Joseph Shipley, Thomas Ship-  
ley, James Shipley and Robert Shipley, Sons of the  
above. Witnessed by Rich<sup>d</sup> Buckingham, Carson Dickin-  
son, Robert Coram. Also witnessed payment, and  
proved in December Term 1794. Recorded March 25th 1795.

\* \* \*

O-2-270 to 272, December 24, 1794

Frances Way (Malster) to Anne Louis Tousard (Yeoman)  
one acre & twenty perches in Christiana hundred,  
near Wilmington.  
"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us  
Caleb Way. Robert Coram."



The Execution of the within was proven by Robert Coram one of the witnesses, thereto in open court of common pleas held at Newcastle for the county of Newcastle of the May term A.D. 1795. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said court."

Gun Bedford per

Recorded December 8th 1795.

\* \* \*

N-2-470 to 472, May 1795

John Ferris (Merchant) and Ann his wife, to David Stidham (Yeoman) 96 acres

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us

Harlan Cloud Robert Coram"

Witnessed payment of £ 37:10:0

Proven by Robert Coram, May Term 1795. Recorded November 14, 1795.

\* \* \*

N-2-518 to 521, February 4, 1795

Isaac Hendrickson (Merchant) to Joseph Capell (Practitioner of Physic), Chestnut St. to the Brandywine - French

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of

Ellis Newlin, Robert Coram"

Witnessed payment £57:16:3

Proven by Robert Coram, May Term 1795. Recorded January 4, 1796.

\* \* \*

O-2-426 to 429, November 4, 1795

Margaret Gillis (widow) to Daniel Drinker (Phila  
Merchant)

"Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us  
John Hayes Robert Coram."

Proven by Robert Coram December term 1795. Recorded  
May 17th 1796.

\* \* \*

By deed dated December 28, 1795, and witnessed by  
"Robert Coram, Jeremiah Woolaston" and Matthew Crips,  
Frederick Craig, "bookbinder" of Wilmington, released  
Dorothy Wirt, executrix of the last will of Frederick  
Wirt, "Tailor deceased" of Wilmington, of all or any  
obligations of the deceased Frederick Wirt. — Deed  
R-2: 455-56.

Deed Record

mentioned in I-2, 1789-93.

\* \* \*

Q-2-233 to 236, December 29, 1795

Frederick Craig to Joseph Grubb. 144 acre south side  
of Naamans Creek.

"Sealed and delivered in the presence of us  
Peter Brynberg Robert Coram"

#





Location - Wilmington

Submitted by - J. Barton Cheyney

Date - March 10, 1936

City file

#### COUNTRY CLUBS AND GOLFING

The designation "swank" in the parlance of 1936 may be correctly applied to the Wilmington Country Club despite its humble beginning almost seventy years ago in 1877. Its first ancestor the Young America Cricket Club, preliminary to its organized existence, had played two games of cricket and thus became wise to the fact that Wilmington had such cricket talent that was going to waste, lacking opportunity for physical expression. It was assured of this truth after winning two matches from competing elevens one at Scheutzen Park, now the somewhat patrician Wawaset section in or about 1887. These successive victories developed a strong crease complex and the players assembled of summer afternoons or evenings on the lawn of Harry L. Tatnall's residence, Delaware Avenue and Jefferson Streets, practiced bowling and batting and talked cricket and every phase of that "imported" pasttime. The players eventually became imbued with the idea that organization should be the next step, consequently they followed out the impulse and called themselves The Young American Cricket Club, leasing a plot of ground in the Ninth Ward at Twenty-third to Twenty-fourth Streets and from Washington to West, and floating shares of stock---400 at five dollars each--- the erection of a club house was inaugurated and formally opened with eclat in 1883.



This was the first country club owning its own "home" in Delaware---indeed, the "alpha" of Country Club Life in this city and state. Therefore it was the great grandfather of the Wilmington Country Club, The Delaware Cricket Club (1885-1889) its successor the grandfather, and finally, The Delaware Field Club (1889-1901) the parent of the newer organization. However, the Wilmington Country Club dates officially its genesis from the merging in 1901 with the Delaware Field organized in 1885.

In addition to the cricket crease, there were a dozen tennis courts, diamond for baseball, and gridiron for football---and ladies invited. The much beloved William M. Canby logically was the first president and was succeeded by J. Ernest Smith, father of "sports for gentlemen" in Delaware. His wife, Mrs. Josephine Tatnall Smith, was the first president of the Ladies' Associate Organization. William S. Hilles and Joseph P. Wales were captains of the cricket teams---the latter of the juniors. The cricketers were Tilghman Johnston, W. L. Tatnall, Jr., John E. Nicholson, Edward Gibbons, Henry L. Fulenwider, Edward B. Downing, Walter H. Hayes, Charles R. Jefferis, William Homewood, Fontaine Le Maistre, Joseph H. Wales, Dr. Henry R. Wilson. It is recalled from memory, also, that J. Ernest Smith, who is still winning golfing trophies at 85, and his brother, W. Harold Smith were captains of early teams. The latter passed on in 1936 at 88, while another brother, Dr. Linton Smith, of the five brothers, reached his 85th birthday before his death. Tributes, these brothers, to the health-giving qualities of outdoor sports. The unpretentious little club house staged many social functions of minor

magnitude. On occasional afternoons, the Lady Associates brought well-laden baskets of cakes and sandwiches, made lemonade or poured tea, and later danced or engaged in other diversions.

The club house being far removed from the centre of the city, a flag on top of the building, would proclaim the presence of a waiting member ready to meet all comers at the nets, and thus saved players seeking exercise from a needless walk in hunt of a friendly rival. Later, a bus line conveyed passengers to and from the club for a five-cent fare. The members played frequent matches and tournaments at cricket and tennis. The men attempted football, but it never got far into the sports curriculum of the club. Baseball became more popular, but it was always frowned at as too boisterous and <sup>VIOLENT</sup> ~~plebian~~ for gentlemen and gentlemen's sons. The coming of golf in 1901 swept diamonds and gridirons from the grounds of all country clubs so thoroughly that football and baseball are almost forgotten as features of the early <sup>WILMINGTON</sup> Country Clubs.

Pressure for indoor and outdoor space necessitated a change to a larger ground. At Elsmere, along the tracks of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, a mile or so west of the city, six and a half acres of land were purchased and a club house---modern for that time, was built in 1889. It was palatial compared with the one abandoned in the Ninth ward, for it contained a large assembly room, lockers, bowling alley and showers that sprayed members with almost ice-cold water from a fifty-foot well. It, however, lacked warm or hot water. The grounds were apportioned for cricket, baseball,



football and tennis; there were twenty-four courts. It employed professional cricketers, imported instructors and teachers in bowling and batting and met on the crease some of the leading cricket teams in the then "cricket-conscious" section, Philadelphia and Germantown.

The new club house offered better and bigger accommodations for an enlargement of the social functions inaugurated at the former club. Cakes and ice cream and sandwiches reappeared with lemonade, ginger ale or sarsaparilla, but never a "cocktail" nor highball. Intoxicating drinks were banned, though not by rulings nor voiced inhibitions, but abstemion was easily "sensed" in the atmosphere and no one dared break the implied "commandment." A guest or member who might have appeared at any of the functions with the "bouquet" of rye on his breath would have been unable to find a dancing partner all evening and the offense would be held up against him for a long time. No cocktail hours then. While the members were still enthusiastically stressing cricket and taking lessons from English experts, J. Danforth Bush returned from a tour of the Old World by way of Scotland, bringing along golf balls, clubs and sufficient knowledge of the game, as he had witnessed it on St. Andrew links, to enthuse most of the members of the Delaware Field Club. They became more and more interested in the national game of the Scots until the officials began to see the necessity of meeting that demand. Nine holes were set out, number one being on the club grounds.

This was the real introduction of the game to Wilmingtonians. The golf fever spread rapidly until it became

a dominating obsession, and the Club discerning the passing of baseball, football, and even cricket, sought larger grounds, and eventually leased a 150 acre tract along the Kennett Pike, extending southward three quarters of a mile. Its members in cooperation with other gentlemen sportslovers, at once were incorporated in 1901 by J. Ernest Smith, Andrew C. Gray and Benjamin Nields. The Delaware Field Club vanished and the Wilmington Country Club stepped into the limelight. It speedily erected a club house in 1902, which was destroyed twelve years later as the aftermath of a Blue Hens Dance. The conflagration is laid to a cigarette butt. The loss perhaps exceeded \$50,000. It was replaced with a two and a half story house of concrete with brick and stucco finish that suggests the grace and stateliness of Colonial design, and cost upwards of \$500,000. It is sumptuously appointed and furnished. The lounge on the first floor alone cost \$25,000. It also provides private and public dining rooms, banquet hall, lockers for 3,000 members, and showers innumerable---indeed, all such luxurious appointments that fit into an organization of persons of large wealth.

The rush for the golf links at once overcrowded the original eight holes before they were completed, and nine more were ready within two weeks after the first were finished. The Wilmington <sup>Country</sup> Club, in addition to its 2,000 or more active members, has Associates, Army and Navy (officers), Junior, and Non-resident groups. The popularity of its links may be gauged by the fact that the average daily golf players exceeds 300. The ground also has 14 grass and two composition <sup>(Ex-Tout-Las)</sup> tennis courts, four single and a double squash courts. Tournaments



in golf and tennis are held every season, the club being affiliated with the national bodies of both divisions of sports. There is no provision in the large grounds for cricket games; baseball and football also have been banished forever from the County Club repertoire. How unsophisticated were the Club's members when golf first attracted their interest. It is recalled that one of Delaware's Supreme Court judges bought two clubs and set out to study practically the intricacies of driving and putting. It was observed that he walked at top speed between the holes, going through all other groups. He had regarded speed as the purpose of the game, and declared confidentially to a friend that after six months play, he could go round in two hours but hoped to better the time by thirty minutes before winter closed the play.

Private golfing links were laid out about 1900 on the farm of General James H. Wilson on the "Stokebridge" New Castle Road, by Henry B. Thompson, a wealthy industrialist, and later, Henry P. Scott erected an eighteen hole course on his large estate "Lexington" near Delaware City, while in more recent years, Pierre S. duPont constructed an 18-hole course at his Chester County home estate "Longwood." What is regarded by golfers as the finest and best golf course in the country is the 18-hole hole links of Henry B. duPont on his 6,000 acre estate "Guyencourt" near Centerville. Portions of a large farm recently acquired has been utilized to expand the course which brings week-end parties of 80 or 100 players in early summer, who are entertained as house guests of the master and

John J. Jackson  
also had a private  
course on his  
former estate at  
Claymont, Del.  
K

mistress of the great French chateau of the hosts.

The Rock Manor Club on the Concord Pike just north of Wilmington was established by the Wilmington Water Commission and is maintained by the Municipal Golf and Tennis Association. The acreage adjoins the Porter Reservoir. It began operations in 1920 with eight holes, but was obliged to double them in 1924. The membership and golfing fees meet the \$12,000 cost of upkeep of house and grounds. The club house was ample when occupied directly after the organization of the club, but the increased membership demands more indoor room as well as additional links. An average of 400 golfers play on Sundays the rush being so strong that members, to assure themselves of a game, place their bags and clubs in line Saturday night and come back---many of them after church---to claim their turns at play. The members are looking with wistful eyes on an adjacent farm tract in the hope that some good philanthropist and lover of outdoor sport may make them a gift of the property.

The duPont Country Club is across the Brandywine from Wilmington on the site of an early black powder mill, ~~the present site was formerly~~ and subsequently, ~~the headquarters of the Wilmington Gun Club.~~ It is organized exclusively <sup>for</sup> by employees of the duPont Company. Starting with a membership of less than 200 in 1920, its rolls list in 1936 upwards of 800 men and women. ~~Beginning to function with eight holes, it was necessary to duplicate the course within two years.~~ Tennis also has gained additional attention, for the score of courts have recently been supplemented by two others. While baseball <sup>& Volley Ball</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> reckoned with in the early days of the club, it has disappeared entirely in these later times. The grey stone Club House is likewise in

new, (6-10-39)  
27 holes, 36  
contemplated



need of extension. It offers restaurant and dining facilities, bridge clubs, dances and similar social functions. It is regarded as highly useful in bringing a majority of the employees and attaches of the great duPont corporation into more intimate acquaintanceship.

The Concord Country Club at Painter's Cross Roads--- the half way point between Wilmington and West Chester, may almost be rated as a Wilmington organization. It was set going by Wilmingtonians largely, and it, too, reflects the increasing love for the driver and putter in the expanding membership. The course spreads over <sup>378</sup>~~220~~ acres and was constructed at a cost of \$30,000.<sup>(1)</sup> The Club House was the home of a wealthy gentleman farmer and with additions and a few modernizing touches, it is ample, dignified and appointed for the convenience and comfort of its growing membership.

The Kennett Golf and Country Club also attracts many Delawareans to its beautiful country and its 18-hole course. It is on a high, <sup>rolling</sup> well-shaped elevation above the town and in close proximity to Cedar Croft, the home of Bayard Taylor. It has a finely remodelled stone house for the entertainment of members, and there are frequent social affairs, dinners, teas, card parties, etc. within its four ancient walls. Several of the members have built homes along the shady lane leading to the club, which seemingly give the place the atmosphere of ideal club life.

West Chester Country Club is also interesting to Delawareans who are guests and host of many Chester County golfers. Its attractive Club House occupies an elevation from which all of the 18 holes are in sight and discloses to

Mr. Martin (author  
of Club.)

view sections of the picturesque Chester Valley. Like other golfing clubs, its house and grounds, which also invite tennis players, are becoming overcrowded. The club house is the clearing house of West Chester Society, and the membership literally a Blue Book of the Who's Who in the Athens of Chester County.

Tennis is the only other outdoor sport at country clubs that seeminly can hold on to its long-lived popularity. All other aspirants for "tops" at country clubs have been defeated and humbly put in the dark closet. Golf's growth in popular favor seems to keep apace with the cost of keeping up with the Scots. It is possible that the outlay of the Wilmington Country Club for three months of 1936 would have paid for the total cost of maintenance of the Cricket and Field Club predecessors of the "swank" organization with headquarters on the Kennett Pike and surrounded by Wilmington on all sides yet not within its boundaries.

#### References:

From an article and interview with J. Ernest Smith by writer and one under his own signature on Wilmington, <sup>1930</sup> 1930, published by the Chamber of Commerce of Wilmington.

Country Club Annual Reports on File in Wilmington Public Library.





T. L. Harrison  
Feb. 13, 1940

WILMINGTON PARK AND THE WILMINGTON  
BASEBALL TEAM

After a series of attempts that spanned a period of least eight years, Wilmington is to have a stadium and a baseball team in a league higher than Class E.

Although both the stadium and the team are as yet non-existent, it has been definitely promised that by April 10 of 1940, both shall be in operation at 30th Street and the Governor Printz Boulevard.

It was from outside Wilmington that the impetus for both propositions came. Equally strange is the fact that the New York Yankees' dominance of the American League is probably responsible for the creation of both the stadium and the team.

For the last four years the closest that the other teams in the American League could get to the Yankees in the pennant race was when they were playing in the same park. Never did they win the flag by less than 12 games. Baseball experts attributed this success of the Yankees to the fact that they possessed the best "farm system" in the game, able to replace aging veterans by younger men tried in the baseball battles of the minor league.

The other clubs in the league, as time went on, decided to get "farms" of their own. To this end, Connie Mack, manager of the Philadelphia Athletics dispatched Eddie Glennon to Wilmington to confer with local business men on the advisability of placing an A's "farm" here. (1)

The Interstate League is composed of four teams, representing Sunbury, Allentown, and Hazleton in Pennsylvania, and Trenton in New Jersey, respectively. Glennon divulged that next year the League is



to be raised to a Class B classification, and proposed a new baseball park in Wilmington.

This plan met with hearty assent, and there were three applicants for the Wilmington franchise. (3) The bid of Ira Thomas, well-known A's scout, was accepted by the League officials.

According to present plans, the expense of building a modern field, which could also be used by the Wilmington "Clippers" of the American Football Association as a home grounds, will be raised by Wilmington interests, with the A's furnishing the players and the manager. (3)

The field is to be equipped for night baseball which will be played with the exception of Saturday and Sunday. (3)

Wilmington Park, Inc., effected permanent organization on December 7, 1939, at a meeting of the Board of Directors in the offices of Harry W. Lunger, counsel and director of the company.

At the outset the corporation put itself on record as favoring as wide a participation as possible in the financing of the project. While more than half of the \$100,000 required to purchase land and erect stands, seats, and other necessary facilities has been subscribed, the directors expressed the wish that everyone be given an opportunity to purchase stock in the venture. (4)

Issuance of 2,000 shares of preferred stock was authorized. This stock is to be sold for \$50 a share, and with each share a bonus of one-half a share of common stock will be given to subscribers.

Many persons, it was stated at the meeting, have expressed a desire to become stockholders, and under the plan, anyone wishing to subscribe will have that opportunity. The directors feel that a wide distribution of the stock among the people will tend to create greater interest in the team.



The corporation organized with the election of the following officers: President, Clement B. Hallam; vice-president, Lammot du Pont, Jr.; secretary-treasurer, H. B. Mearns. With J. Simpson Dean, R. R. M. Carpenter, H. B. du Pont, and former Rep. J. George Stewart, they comprise the board of directors. Mr. Stewart, Lammot du Pont, Jr., and Mr. Hallam were named as the executive committee.

Mr. Lunger wrote to Connie Mack, outlining an informal plan for leasing the park to him for its use by the Wilmington team in the Interstate League.

Mr. Lunger, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. du Pont were designated as a committee to confer with Mr. Mack and arrange for a formal contract. The same committee was authorized to confer with the officials of the Wilmington Clippers of the American Football Association, and enter into a contract with them for the use of the field for their games next season.

The directors approved the plans advanced by W. W. Laird, Jr., for a series of concerts to be given at the park during the coming season. A committee conferred with Mr. Laird and worked out arrangements with him for the use of the place for outdoor musical presentations, which are expected to prove popular. A large shell to provide the proper acoustical requirements and an amplifying system so that the singing and orchestral programs may be heard throughout the park are to be among the field's facilities.

Mr. Stewart and Mr. Lammot du Pont, Jr., were named as the building committee. It is proposed to have the new park open and ready for the opening of the baseball season. (4)

The proposed site of the field was inspected on December 29, 1939, by a group representing the A's and Wilmington Park. At this



inspection, the definite location of the baseball diamond was decided upon, although the plans will be submitted to the board of governors for final approval.

It was the consensus of opinion of the group that the grandstand, originally intended to be built at the corner of 30th Street and the Boulevard, should be constructed on 30th Street about 450 feet from the corner. This change was agreed upon because it was found that the batter would be facing the sun under the original layout, which would prove unsatisfactory both to players and spectators at afternoon games.

It was also decided that the football field would be laid out parallel to the right field bleachers, because this direction would meet with the least interference from the winds. (6)

Officers of the Wilmington Baseball Club, Inc., were soon elected. They are: R.R.M. Carpenter, president; Connie Mack, vice-president; Roy F. Mack, treasurer; and Edward F. Glennon, secretary.

It was announced that Charles Albert (Chief) Bender will manage the locals while Glennon will handle the business end. Schooled in the era when a home run was a novelty, Bender is qualified to teach the younger players the tricks that make all the difference between a minor leaguer and a major leaguer. He should be especially helpful to young pitchers, because he was one of the greatest pitchers of the game.

Officials of the club are lining up 27 players who will make the southern training trip, and to date 14 players are on the roster. Plans call for the squad to leave for the training base, at Sanford, N.C., the last week in March. Of the 14 players assigned here, four are pitchers, four are outfielders, four infielders, and two catchers.

The twirlers are Severne Wright and Sam Lowry, recently purchased from Williamsport of the Eastern League; Philip Hauck, Pewamo,



Mich., hurler; and Danny Smick, from the University of Michigan. Smick, 6-foot, 5-inch, 210-pounder, was named top hurler in the Western Conference in 1938. Last year he pitched in the Coastal Plains League.

Catchers coming here are John Dyer, a youngster who batted .363 in the Twin States League, and George Harrington, of the Boston Twilight League.

The outfielders are Emil Kreshka, a Bethlehem, Pa., lad from the Appalachian League last season, who led the circuit in most hits and runs-batted-in, and Frank Zamatoni, Gus Juskey, and Elmer Vallo, purchased from Williamsport.

From the Eastern Shore League come two Federalsburg stars. They are Bob Detwiler and Jackie Wallasea, and it is expected they will form the nucleus of the infield, along with Johnny Martens, 6-foot, 2-inch first-baseman from Battle Creek, Mich., and Bill Hogseed, third baseman obtained from Williamsport.

Contracts have also been sent to a number of other players. The team is due to return from the training camp late in April, and no games will be played here until the opening of the League season, tentatively set for May 3, in Wilmington. (7)

"Chief" Bender officially became manager of the Wilmington team on December 31, 1939, when he stopped off at this city to sign a contract. Bender was enthusiastic over the baseball prospects in Wilmington. Glennon is as enthusiastic as Bender over the team and Wilmington.

Contracts were awarded on February 7, 1940, all to Wilmington firms. The one remaining preliminary was cleared away with the



Sports

reaching of an agreement with Connie Mack for rental of the park by the Wilmington team.

The athletic park will cost approximately \$180,000, instead of \$100,000, as originally contemplated.

Desire to use the athletic park not only for baseball, football and other sports, but also for musical concerts, pageants, and other cultural entertainments actuated the sponsors in their decision to create a center that will cost nearly double what was contemplated at the outset.

Of the total costs \$47,500 already has been paid for the land. The necessary buildings and other equipment will entail an expenditure of about \$130,000.

Contracts for \$113,500 of the work were as follows: General contract, R. F. Engler, Inc., \$68,810; Electrical Installation, McHugh Electrical Co., \$12,495; Heating, W. D. Shelladay, Inc., \$6,675; Seating, R. F. Engler, Inc., \$12,940; Sound System, Raymond and Rosen Sound Equipment (RCA installation) \$1,687; Grading, E. Earl Downing, Inc., \$8,933.

Additional seating and other detailed work still to be arranged for the football season, but not awarded, and additional items, will run the entire cost of constructing the park, aside from what was paid for the land, up to about \$130,000, as stated above.

Some points remained to be adjusted because of the increase in the cost of the field, part of which was necessitated by the Wilmington building ordinance which required a fire-proof grandstand and allied buildings to be erected. (9) When the situation was explained to Mr. Mack, the terms of the lease were agreed upon, and Mr. Lunger drafted the agreement.



Starting with a minimum rental of \$3,000 annually, the owners of the park will receive a percentage of the receipts above the rental price. While the club will take over the concessions for the entire year, it was with the understanding that it will enter into an agreement with the owners of the Wilmington "Clippers" Football team as to the concessions during the football season.

The Wilmington baseball team will have the use of the field from April 1 to Sept. 15 of each year, and the "Clippers" will lease it for the following football season. Whenever the club is not playing home games, the park can be rented by the owners for concerts, entertainments, and other outdoor entertainments. (9)

Included in the general contract award was the construction of a large movable bandstand and shell and stage for the presentation of the concerts, outdoor plays, and spectacles.

J. George Stewart, chairman of the building committee, and John F. Mullins, architect, presented a tabulation of the 28 bids received, and Mr. Stewart also submitted an estimate of the receipts and expenditures in connection with operation of the park. Mr. Stewart will supervise the grading and sodding work and look after the engineering details. (9)

The grandstand will seat 3,600 persons and will have a row of boxes in front. The walls are to be of concrete, and the framing and roof supports will be of steel. Individual seats will be constructed in the grandstand, with the seats in the bleachers going to the first comers, as usual. The dressing rooms and other auxiliary buildings will be of concrete.

In general construction the new stand will be somewhat similar to the enclosed stand at Delaware Park. Bleacher seats will accommodate 4,500 persons, with more being added if the occasion demands.



About \$80,000 worth of stock in the park has been subscribed, and an intensive effort will be made to sell additional stock. The directors voted to increase the capitalization to \$300,000 of preferred stock and additional common stock to finance the enterprise. It is expected, now that actual construction has started, that numerous persons will desire to subscribe to shares in the venture that is to give Wilmington a commanding place in the sphere of sports. (9)

Ground for the park was broken on February 12, 1940 by Mayor Bacon. Several directors of the club were present at the ceremony. It was also announced that the Wilmington Baseball Club, Inc., will open offices in this city in the near future.

Negotiations have practically been completed for an exhibition game with the Chicago White Sox, of the American League, on June 10. The contest will be played under the lights. The Athletics, parent team of the local nine, also will be booked for a game later in the season, and effort is being made to secure a National League team for a third exhibition.

Reports received from Sanford, N. C., are that the club will train in a modern plant with lighting facilities. This was done to accustom the players to the Kleigs, as a majority of the team's exhibitions and league encounters are to be played under the lights. (10)

Organized baseball is no novelty in Wilmington, although the best records of local teams were secured in non-organized baseball, such as the almost forgotten Quicksteps of the late 19th century, and the bitter rivals, the Wilmington A.A. and Wilmington B.B. teams, of the beginning of the present century. Wilmington's first plunge into organized baseball was its Atlantic League team of the late 19th century. For a number of years, Wilmington was represented in the

Tri-State League.

During the war, the Harlan Plant was in a Shipyard League, and Horsby, Merkle, and Joe Jackson are listed in their boxscores.

With the building of a new stadium, and an earnest effort to provide a winning team, it would seem that baseball will experience a long-delayed revival in Wilmington.

#### Sources

- (1) Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 8-17-1939: Sport page.
- (2) Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 8-27-1939: Sport page.
- (3) Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 10-14-1939: Sport page  
and Editorial
- (4) Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 12-8-1939: Sport Page.
- (5) Morning News, Wilmington, Del. 12-20-1939: Sport page.
- (6) Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 12-29-1939: Page 1,  
and Editorial.
- (7) Morning News, Wilmington, Del. 1-1-1940: Sport page.
- (8) Morning News, Wilmington, Del. 2-8-1940: Page 1.
- (9) Morning News, Wilmington, Del. 2-12-1940: Sport page, page 1.
- (10) Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. 1-24-1940: Sport pages.





DELAWARE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Digest and Summary

Of

Instructions from Washington

On

American Encyclopedia Series

In Hand February 10, 1939



SUMMARY OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON

AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIES

The series will consist of 52 volumes which will be compiled by each State and also will include volumes from New York City, District of Columbia and territories outside U. S. A.

The books will be uniform containing a maximum of 800,000 words and 800 pages in alphabetical order with cross-references.

An Introductory Essay will describe the contemporary scene of the State in terms of resources, industrial and agricultural development, and present-day government.

A list of Annual Events, Points of Interest, Famous Firsts, Historical Chronology and Table of Voting in presidential elections should also appear in the book, with cross-references.

Illustrations will be confined to a folding map to show the most important features of the State, and three small county maps.

Two Indices will be included, consisting of a topical index of the major topics of the book, and a alphabetical index devoted to names of places or people.

Bibliography will be topically arranged following the topical index.

Biographical material should be secured from the following sources:-

1. Dictionary of American Biography--if dead
2. Who's Who in America--if living
3. Who's Who in American Art
4. American Men of Science
5. Who's Who in Government
6. Who's Who Today in the Music World
7. Living Authors and Authors Today and Yesterday
8. American Women: The Official Who's Who Among the Women of the Nation
9. Who's Who in Law
10. Who's Who in the Clergy
11. Who's Who in Commerce and Industry
12. Who's Who in the Theatre
13. The American Labor Who's Who

An inclusive list should be made of notable people born in the state who have made major contributions in their particular field. Any other biographical sources used should be submitted to Washington explaining the reason. Source books may be obtained from Washington if not available locally.



(continued)

SUMMARY OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTONAMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIESBIOGRAPHICAL (CONTINUED)

Distinguished persons may appear in several sources--see method of procedure in Letter No. 2.

Delaware Topical Heads have been revised as follows: Agriculture, Archeology, Architecture, Arts and Crafts, Biographical Sketches, Cities, Towns and Villages, Conservation and Reclamation, Counties, Education, Ethnic Groups, Flora and Fauna, Folk-lore, Geology, Government, History, Housing, Industry, Commerce, Finance and Labor, Lakes, Rivers and Mountains, Medicine and Public Health, Milita and Navy, Natural Resources, Penology, Place Names, Points of Interest, Political History, Press and Radio, Public Utilities, Recreation, Religion, Science, Social Welfare, Societies, Sports and Transportation.

It is suggested that 5x8 cards be used as a cross index to regular file and arranged alphabetically in treating the Topical Heads. The following information should appear on these cards: Title of article, Length of article, Date written, Person who wrote it, Character (complete? reliable? checked? comments?) Evaluation should be done by editors.

This index inventory should give a estimation of the material gathered, material available, need of rechecking and verification and anticipated requirements.

The following six topics should be treated first:

1. Biographical Sketches
2. Cities, Towns and Villages
3. Counties, Townships and Parishes
4. Education
5. Lakes, Rivers and Mountains
6. Place Names

These topics will occupy more than half of the space in the final book, so it is imperative to prepare them before any other topics.

It is also important that sources should be clearly indicated.

Almanacs, Yearbooks, American Yearbook, 1938, Social Work Yearbook, World Almanac, and National Almanac and Yearbook are suggested sources for material.

Washington will prepare a list of standard works on statistical material. We are expected to submit lists of State publications that we use.

Highly technical terminology should be avoided and great stress should be given to items that portray difference rather than similarity.

Contemporary factual materials are essential while historical backgrounds of any activity should be brief.



(continued)

Delaware Encyclopedia

SUMMARY OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON

AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIES

Washington requests an inventory of all manuscripts in our files which have been assembled from the beginning of this project to December 31, 1938, allowing until March 1, 1939 to complete the inventory.

The encyclopedia will not go to Washington until it is in pre-final typescript which leaves the entire responsibility with the State Directors and the Regional Office.

Letter No. 1Digest of Condensed OutlineAMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIESGeneral Information

Series will consist of 52 volumes.

- (a) One volume for each state.
- (b) One volume for New York City.
- (c) One volume for District of Columbia.
- (d) One volume for territories outside U.S.A.

The books will be uniform and encyclopedia proper should be strictly alphabetical with cross reference information.

800,000 words--800 pages.

Contents should also consist of:

Introductory Essay--describing contemporary scene in state, rather than impressionistic description.  
(a) In terms of resources.  
(b) Industrial development.  
(c) Agricultural development.  
(d) Present day government.

Annual Events--with cross reference.

Points of Interest--with cross reference--treat fully.

Famous Firsts

Historical Chronology

Table of Voting in presidential elections.

Illustrations--folding map showing most important features of state and small county maps.

Indices (two)

- (a) Topical index.
- (b) Alphabetical index of places and people.

Bibliography--topically arranged, following topical index.

Treatment of people (undecided) ? relation to events.  
? brief biographical notes.

Suggested treatment--assemble data on cards and use this procedure:

- of people (a) Use names from Dictionary of American Biography if person is dead.



Letter No. 1 (continued)

Digest of Condensed Outline

AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIES

- (b) Who's Who in America if person is living.
- (c) Exception to the rule--reason must be indicated if other sources are used.

Suggested treatment--5x8 cards recommended as cross index to regular file--arrange in alphabetical order according to major topical heads then divide into sub-heads.  
of Topical Heads

Note following information on cards:

- (a) Title of article.
- (b) Length of article.
- (c) Date written.
- (d) Person who wrote it.
- (e) Character? Complete? Reliable? Checked? Comments? (Evaluation should be done by editors)

Purpose of Index Inventory--

- (a) Estimation of work done.
- (b) Indication of material available.
- (c) Need of rechecking and verification.
- (d) Anticipated requirements.

Letter No. 2Digest of Condensed OutlineAMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIESBiographical Material--(supersedes instructions as outlined in Letter No. 1)

Use names of persons secured from following sources:-

- (a) Dictionary of American Biography--if dead.
- (b) Who's Who in America--if living.
- (c) Compile a inclusive list as possible of notable people born in the state. People who have made major contributions in their particular field. Where the state has a legitimate right to claim them as its own.

The following books should be used as sources:-

- (1) Who's Who in American Art.
- (2) American Men of Science.
- (3) Who's Who in Government.
- (4) Who's Who Today in the Music World.
- (5) Living Authors and Authors Today and Yesterday.
- (6) American Women: The Official Who's Who Among the Women of the Nation.
- (7) Who's Who in Law.
- (8) Who's Who in the Clergy.
- (9) Who's Who in Commerce and Industry.
- (10) Who's Who in the Theatre.
- (11) The American Labor Who's Who.

Any other biographical sources used should be submitted to Washington explaining the reason for using them. Too much time should not be spent on highly specialized Who's Who and particularly "vanity publications."

Distinguished persons may appear in several sources--see method of procedure in Letter No. 2.

Source books may be obtained from Washington if not available locally.

Revised list of Topical Heads--see Letter No. 2

First Topics to be treated--The following six sections:

1. Biographical Sketches
2. Cities, Towns and Villages
3. Counties, Townships and Parishes
4. Education
5. Lakes, Rivers and Mountains
6. Place Names

These topics will occupy more than half of the space in the final book, so it is imperative to prepare them before any other topics. It is important that sources should be clearly indicated.



Letter No. 2 (continued)

Digest of Condensed Outline

AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIES

Place Names

Their Derivations and Meanings

Of states, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc. (See details-Letter No.2)

Suggested Sources

Almanacs and Yearbooks  
American Yearbook, 1938  
Social Work Yearbook  
World Almanac  
National Almanac Yearbook

Statistical Material

Washington will prepare a list of standard works. We are expected  
to submit lists of state publications that we use.

Some General Principles

Highly technical terminology should be avoided as the encyclopedia  
is intended for the use of the general public and schools.

Greatest stress should be given to items that portray difference  
rather than similarity. (See details-Letter No. 2)

Contemporary factual materials are essential. Historical back-  
grounds of any activity should be brief.

Amplify the American processes of work--the way things are done--  
what is done.

The factual portrayal of the state is important but people should  
not be neglected.

Letter No. 3

Digest of Condensed Outline

AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SERIES

Work Method

Washington will not expect to see the encyclopedia before it is in pre-final typescript. The entire responsibility will rest with the State Directors with assistance from the Regional Office when required.

First Topics to be Treated

1. Biographical Sketches
2. Cities, Towns and Villages
3. Counties, Townships and Parishes
4. Education
5. Lakes, Rivers and Mountains
6. Place Names

Treatment of Topics

See Letter No. 3 for detailed treatment.

Index of Materials

Washington requests an inventory of all manuscripts in our files. All material should be assembled from the beginning of this project to December 31, 1938, and allow until March 1, 1939 to complete the inventory.

Method of Reporting this Inventory to Washington--see Letter No. 3

R.A.M.



1947-48

Annual Report of the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

1947-48

The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48. The work was done in accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council of the Institute in 1946-47. The work was done in accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council of the Institute in 1946-47.

1. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.

1. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
2. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
3. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
4. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
5. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
6. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
7. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
8. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
9. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.
10. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.

2. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.

3. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.

4. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48.

5. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48. The work was done in accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council of the Institute in 1946-47. The work was done in accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council of the Institute in 1946-47.

6. The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1947-48. The work was done in accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council of the Institute in 1946-47. The work was done in accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council of the Institute in 1946-47.

V. E. Shaw  
June 25, 1940

Encyclopaedia File 236  
Education: Public Schools  
1792-1830

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR  
NATIONAL EDUCATION

(Taken from Liberalism and American Education in the  
Eighteenth Century. By Allen Oscar Hansen.  
With an Introduction by Edward H. Reisner.  
New York, The Macmillan Company, 1926. 317p.)

Summary from pages 20-21:

Summary. The doctrine of the indefinite perfectibility of man and of institutions was defined and its implications elaborated in the eighteenth century. It became the dominant motif of the Enlightenment and of the revolutionary democratic movements in America and France. The idea that man was progressive by nature stimulated an analysis of the conditions that govern progress. This led to the conception of man as a being governed by natural law, the discovery of which was necessary in order that progress might be scientifically directed. The institutions that prevailed were in general obsolete and had been the result of chance and superstition. Institutions could alone be justified if they contributed to the advancement and welfare of mankind. In order that mankind might progress maximally, institutions must be flexible, fluid, and evolutionary. The only adequate means for freeing man from the limitations of superstition and archaic institutions would be a system of education that would make inevitable a scientific, objective, experimental attitude that would lead to creative innovation and that would energize reconstruction of everything related to the progress of man. The lines of progress could in this way be scientifically determined.

\*\*\*

Summary from page 43:

Summary. The separation from England was based not so much upon the economic issues that occasioned the protest, as upon an outlook which was the result of pioneer experience and the eighteenth century liberal view of man. The mercantilist policy caused a reaction against its



fundamental philosophy. This new outlook was set before the American nation through the writings of Thomas Paine and other pamphleteers, and in the various petitions and proceedings. This outlook involved a recognition of the natural rights of man, the natural basis of society, the mutability and perfectibility of institutions, the utilitarian, creative conception of their functions, and the necessity of a form of education uniquely fitted to further democracy.

\*\*\*

Summary from page 63:

Summary. The system of education, then, for American youth, advocated by Benjamin Rush, demanded training for both sexes for the understanding of the principles of democracy, for understanding the machinery whereby democracy might be made effective, and for creating a seriously purposeful attitude for the maintenance of democratic institutions. The youth were to be so trained that they would have the experimental attitude and see that the science of government demanded constant improvement and readjustment according to the exigencies that might arise. These schools were to be supported liberally, and provided with well trained teachers.

\*\*\*

Summary from page 78:

Summary. Analyses of conditions convinced Coram that there was a need for reformation in education. He did not feel that the principles of democracy had failed, but he was keenly conscious of the necessity of making conscious provision for their fruitful operation. If democracy failed it would be because no provision had been made for education that would train for democracy. Schools were not so run as to produce intelligent citizenship. Both the private and public interests of persons in a democracy called for education peculiar to that form of social control. He believed that the system recommended by Noah Webster — a system that would insure control from within the individual — was altogether essential. Education must be incorporated as a part of the government. Hitherto, education



had not been fitted to promote progress, but rather the very opposite. As long as educational opportunity was solely for the few, so long would these get higher education in order that they might exploit the many. Opportunity must be universal. Through education also must society be integrated. This problem of social integration and maximal individual achievement demanded a new type of education. The very nature of a representative government demanded equalization of educational opportunity. Hence, there should be a tax-supported national system of education, available to all alike.

\*\*\*

Summary from page 88:

Summary. The general disturbances following the Revolution were ascribed by Sullivan to a lack of preparation for democracy. The logical conclusion was that there must be a national system of education to meet the unique demands of popular social control. This education must be of such a character as would result in a broad national outlook, and such as would assure loyalty to democratic principles. He believed that a nation might set up definite objects related to the happiness and welfare of man, and that it was the duty of the United States to set up such objects and achieve them through education. We were morally obligated to create whatever instruments might be necessary for the realization of democratic ideals. The national government should provide universal opportunity for education, and it should stimulate researches into the basis of happiness. This it could do through an education that would encourage progress and seek revision of customs and institutions. That "Education forms the man" was considered beyond dispute.

\*\*\*

Summary from pages 103-104:

Summary. Out of Nathaniel Chipman's belief that revolution arose because of a lack of harmony between the nature of man and the institutions that sought to control him, and out of his wide contact with the reactionaries and the liberals during the anarchic period following the Revolution, grew his plan of a national system of education that would make possible straight thinking. He believed that social control could be scientific, that is, in harmony with the nature of man and conditions. To live fruitfully



man must live not according to arbitrary laws, but according to the laws of nature which were as universal as existing things. He held that man is a social being capable of indefinite improvement and that it is the office of the state to aid man in making the greatest improvement possible. This progress would not take place in a mythical fashion, but must be scientifically provided for in a very particular way. Education could be the means of banishing the innumerable absurdities that tended to retard man's development. America was the one place on earth where there were no powerful vested interests and where the church had lost its power to dominate dogmatically men's minds, and where we were remarkably free from "habitual veneration" and could construct a system of education on a scientific basis. We did not have "unalterably perfect" institutions. By the nation providing universally a scientific system of education, the experimental progressive attitude could be made permanent and a fluid institutional life could be developed in harmony with the principle of progress in man's nature. Here public opinion was the basis of government, and that opinion could be made democratic, responsive to the growing needs and knowledge of man. Happily we had here a long experience in self-determined social control while we were colonies. The history of that experience and the history of all that had aided human progress, if embodied in education, would make it possible to create institutions for "the progressive improvement of the mind." A national system of education was necessary, one that would lead to the broadest conception of citizenship.

\*\*\*

## Summary from pages 138-139:

Summary. In response to the offer of a premium of the American Philosophical Society for the best essay on a national system of education, Knox presented his comprehensive plan of a system adapted to the genius of democracy. He conceived of the function of the school as intimately related to the function of the state, and maintained that the superiority of American principles of social control demanded a new kind of education, an education that would mean universal enlightenment and progress. The welfare of society demanded an education based upon science instead of superstition and prejudice. Man was by nature "formed for a progressive state of



improvement," and it was the business of the state to provide universally every opportunity for man to realize this advancement. While education was to be universal, it was also to be sufficiently flexible to change with the changing needs and to help each student discover and develop his peculiar genius. As the nation would rapidly develop new opportunities, there would be a great need of leaders; education should be so conducted that there would be a strong stimulus toward leadership. Public education supported by the nation would be the surest and only means of effecting this. Universal support for universal education was inherent in democracy. If education were left to the precarious uncertainty of local encouragement instead of being promoted by the "wisdom and exertions of a whole nation," democracy would thereby be sacrificed. The United States had such a diverse population, being "inhabited by citizens blending together almost all the various manners and customs of every country in Europe," that unless a uniform, universal system of education were provided, no unity could be achieved. Freed from the bondage of religious dominance, we were in a position to set before the world an example of scientific control of all forces for human progress, which would reveal the great secret of happiness and achievement.

\*\*\*

#### Summary from pages 166-167:

Summary. The approval by the American Philosophical Society of Smith's essay on a national system of education, is an evidence of the liberal conceptions of that organization. Smith took the point of view that one who should propose an adequate system, must divest himself of fear and prejudice, — for such a system must be free from the limitations of local, racial, and religious prejudices, — and he must be dominated by an objective, universal aim. The scientific attitude should be the chief aim of American education. The openminded, impartial outlook that would put to the test of utility the most sacred creeds and customs and consider nothing as beyond question and scientific investigations, was the sine qua non of democracy. Such a system must be in every way flexible. If there were to be the greatest progress, growth must be the end of education. The chief emphasis must be upon invention, experimentation, personal initiative, discovery, resourcefulness, and flexibility of institutional life in order that "the power of growth" might become greater. The business of education would be to discover



the individual's capacities, to discover the natural laws governing his development, to train the individual in the methods of scientific procedure, and to cause him to see that individual and social progress could best be achieved through a creative society with indefinite progress as its aim. To assure this open-minded scientific attitude the state should take charge of the child before parents could instill dogmas and superstitions inimical to progress. The nation was obligated to enforce the principle of universal education and to provide the means necessary for all to prosecute it. Economic provision was a necessity. Each citizen should be given the greatest possible opportunity to achieve. Man's genius for invention was what separated him from the other animals. Democracy must harness this genius for humanitarian progress. In the development of this power of invention lay the future of mankind. In order that man might continue to grow in effective living after he left school, some means of continuation education should be provided. In order to energize universal education a Board of Education should be established that would have supervisory and certifying powers. This board should represent the best scholarship and genius of the nation. A vigorous spirit of research into whatever would make for the progressive improvement of the nation, should be supported and stimulated as a part of the national system of education. This humanitarian scientific type of education should become the unique character of the nation. We were obligated to set such an example before the world.

\*\*\*

## Summary from page 199:

Summary. Du Pont saw in the United States conditions favorable to broad education. These conditions were such as to demand a national control and support of universal education from the lowest to the highest institutions. A peculiar code of ethics or principles obtained in the democratic form of control, which demanded a peculiar type of education. The principle of growth was inherent in democracy, and the real aim of education must be to stimulate this growth, to keep the youth of the nation "constantly developing." The habit of continual growth should be so firmly established that it would "never be lost." In order that each might become sensitive to responsibility and its noble discharge, the school should be a place where the youth would live naturally, not artificially, and where in this natural association and endeavor each would be



actually living in a democracy. General and natural diffusion of responsibility must be an essential principle of American education. Achievement, self-government, experimentation, were fundamental in the national system. If learning were to take place on this natural basis, then "the Philosophy of knowledge will remain with them; they will use it with profit all their lives." Because of the demand for intelligent guidance in national development there should be a careful selection and nurture of geniuses. Since the principle of national supervision must be extended to the colleges and the higher institutions as well as the lower grades, the whole system could be directly related to the immediate economic and social problems. The most scholarly education would be immediately practical. To administer such a system effectively, there should be a "General Council" and "Committees of Public Instruction." The latter would be organized in each state. Control would in this way be both democratic and highly centralized. Such centralization would be necessary for effective administration.

\*\*\*

Summary from pages 254-255:

Summary. Noah Webster's early training and experience gave him a uniquely American outlook. He very early began to work for the realization of a distinctive American character, a national tongue, flexible institutions that would make for, rather than against, national freedom of development, and a system of education that would train citizens in the scientific, objective, humanitarian attitude. His main stress was upon flexible institutions that would be democratic so that there could be a maximal development of the experiment being made in democracy. He believed that the utmost of freedom should be encouraged in social experimentation. Influenced by Helvetius, Rousseau, and Thomas Paine during the period following the Revolution, he sought to make permanent the philosophy of change and reconstruction that had dominated during the war against Great Britain. The essence of democracy lay in the change from external control to control from within, from the control motivated by fear to that motivated by a sense of values, from acceptance on authority to a scientific, experimental attitude. Each generation was to be engaged in furthering human progress through scientific procedure and not in following the obsolete laws and customs of past generations. The tyranny of opinion and custom was to be broken. The United States were peculiarly free from the venerable institutions of European nations, and here could be perfected the various institutions that were essential to human progress. Change was inevitable. In the United States



the nation could work out a broad, scientific, humanitarian basis of social control. Changes would not then be the result of caprice or accident, but of scientifically controlled procedure. A mode of education must be created that would respect every human value and that would raise up a body of creatively constructive citizens. A national system of education would be the only adequate means for forming such a national character.

\*\*\*

111 - VES;  
6/35740

11



*State Training  
Agriculture*

LOCATION - Harrington.

Submitted by - ~~Anthony Higgins~~*Stearns*

Date - March 11, 1936.

The City of Harrington can rightfully give credit to the Delaware Railroad for its existence today, for prior to the building of the railroad in 1856, what is now Harrington was then called Clark's Corners and consisted of only one store and one dwelling house. After the depot was built and regular train service established, Matthew Clark, a descendant of the man for whom the town was first named, laid out some building lots which he succeeded in selling very quickly. The town continued to be known as Clark's Corner until the year 1862, when by an act of Legislature, the name was changed to Harrington in honor of the Hon. Samuel Harrington, then Chancellor of the State. Due to the excellent shipping facilities afforded by the railroad, the town grew rapidly and within thirty years became the principle railroad center south of Wilmington. The Junction and Breakwater Railroad having been built by that time with its terminus at Harrington, further added to the growth and prosperity of the town. The farmers of the surrounding country were quick to avail themselves of the advantages the railroad afforded and the town soon became the shipping center for the surrounding country, corn, wheat, peaches, cannery and lumber products being the main products shipped.



The railroad supplying the quickest and best means of transportation, continued to increase its business, finally reaching its peak during the World War days and started to decline, shortly after when the State started to build the concrete roads. The new concrete highways, together with the motor truck, finally took most of the business. Today, trucks haul thousands of tons of strawberries, sweet potatoes, apples, corn, wheat, watermelons, cantalopes and even cattle and sheep to the city markets, making it possible for the shipper to have his produce on the city markets in ten hours from the time it leaves the farm.

In 1880 the population of Harrington had increased to eight hundred, due principally to the railroad. About that time several industries were started which attracted workers to the town. A canning factory was built in 1877 by Sharp & Quillen, giving employment to 200 persons during the canning season. Sharp & Quillen operated the factory until 1882 when it was purchased by James Reed. As many as 50,000 cases of tomatoes and peaches were canned in one season at this factory. In 1880 Sharp & Fleming erected a fruit evaporating factory and was sold by them to Frederick Arnold, who resold it to Mr. Reed. In 1887 Mr. Reed evaporated 75,000 pounds of peaches. The factory and evaporator continued in operation until around 1890, when both were destroyed by fire. Mr. Reed immediately built another factory and continued in business until about 1905 when fire again destroyed his cannery.



The largest and by far the most important manufacturing interest in Harrington before the turn of the century was that of E. Fleming, who, in 1872 started a large saw mill with a capacity of 6,000 feet per day. Shortly after starting his saw mill, Mr. Fleming added a wagon spoke factory, the product of which won a reputation in the larger cities for excellence. A grist mill was later added, continuing until after Mr. Fleming's death, when it was sold by his heirs to C. D. Murphy in 1911. Mr. Murphy continued to operate it until his death. The mill is now operated by Quillen Brothers.

Franklin Brothers in 1879 erected a basket factory and stave mill which they operated until 1908, when they closed their plant and entered the lumber business in Virginia.

In 1895 W. A. Smith built a basket factory which he operated for several years and then sold half interest in his business to O. C. Sapp, who continued to operate the factory until 1910 and then sold it to A. C. Creadick, who still owns and operates it, giving employment to about 70 men.

In 1891 another cannery was erected in Harrington that of Fleming and Sheldrake. This partnership continued for several years, Mr. Sheldrake finally buying his partners' interest and continued the business alone, canning peas, corn, tomatoes and apples until 1919, when he closed the factory.

In 1922, Mr. Sheldrake sold out to Satterfield and McKnatt, who operated the factory for several years. After lying idle for several years, the factory was sold to R. Vane; who dismantled it.

In 1901, E. C. Reese built a large cannery, which he operated until about 1930. Tomatoes and Peas being the main crops canned.

In 1911, the Harrington Canning Company was started by a group of Harrington business men, who ran it until 1921, and then sold it to the present owner, R. W. Vane, who has operated it continuously since he purchased it. Tomatoes and string beans being the principle crops canned.

*Agriculture*  
Dairying, now one of the main sources of income of the farmers in this locality, had its start in 1915, when the Supplee, Wills, Jones Company of Philadelphia, opened a milk cooling station in Harrington. With the opening of the cooling station, dairy farming soon forged to the front and today Harrington is one of the largest milk shipping centers on the Eastern Shore. The milk after being cooled is loaded into glass-lined express cars and rushed in Philadelphia.

Realizing the need of a Chamber of Commerce in Harrington, a group of business men in January, 1923, met and organized the present Chamber, which from that time up to the present has devoted its time and energy to the betterment of the town. The Chamber being instrumental in having the Sol Edmon Shirt Company locate here in 1927. The Company erecting a factory building at a cost of \$30,000.00, and have given year-round employment to about two hundred workers ever since its start.



In 1938, the Chamber induced another Shirt Company to locate here, the D. Roum Co., of New York City, who now employ about one hundred people.

The Kent and Sussex Fair, located at Harrington, was started in 1919 and from the beginning has filled a much needed want, as it is the only Fair in the State. Enjoying a steady growth year after year, the Fair now is one of the largest on the peninsula.

The City of Harrington, despite the fact that it is no longer the Railroad and canning center of former years, has shown a steady growth and today the population is 1836.

Harrington enjoys adequate police and fire protection. A municipal police force is maintained and fire protection of a high order is provided by the Harrington Volunteer Fire Company, which serves the rural districts as well as the City. The company has an active member list of 35 men and is equipped with two modern fire trucks.

The citizens of Harrington today enjoy utility service that is progressive and modern. The town owns and operates its own water system which provides 130 gallons per person per day. Electrical service is furnished by the Eastern Shore Public Service Company. In 1934 the City was bonded for \$125,000.00 to install a sanitary sewerage system, work being started on the project in July and the sewer completed in November of the same year.

Harrington's public schools date back to 1862, when the first public school was built. It being a one room, single story frame structure that stood at the

corner of what is now known as Mechanic and Dorman streets. In 1884, the need of larger and better school facilities becoming apparent, a new school house was built at a cost of \$6,000.00. The building was of frame construction and was built "T" shape, with six rooms and accommodations for six teachers and 400 pupils. This school was in use until 1912, when it too became too small for the then fast growing town and construction was started on the building that is still in use. This school cost \$26,000.00 to erect and has fourteen rooms. In 1929, a new addition was added at a cost of \$155,000.00, the addition containing 13 rooms and a large auditorium. To-day, Harrington with its fine new red brick school is the educational center for 14 school districts, the area of which is 80 square miles, the outlying districts having been consolidated shortly after the completion of the new addition in 1929.

Churches of the following religious faiths are found in Harrington: Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Episcopal, Holiness, and Nazarene, the Methodist Episcopal being the oldest structure in the town, being built in 1870.

While Harrington today cannot be classed as an industrial center, there are located in the town all the representative industries of this section. A weekly newspaper, the Harrington Journal is published and maintains a job-printing shop. There are two banks in the town, The First National Bank and the Peoples Bank.



The First National being organized in 1888, and the Peoples Bank in 1905, the combined assets of both institutions being close to the \$2,000.00 mark. Two lumber companies, The I. D. Short Lumber Co., and Quillen Brothers operate in Harrington. The A. C. Creadick Basket Factory, a milk cooling plant, owned and operated by Supplee, Wills, Jones, of Philadelphia, one cannery, owned by R. W. Vane, two shirt factories and one flour and grist mill. The Harrington Bakery, owned by Mr. Sibzsky, serves the town and surrounding territory daily. Harrington has excellent hotel facilities in the New Swain Hotel, owned and operated by Geo. Swain. The Atlantic Refining maintains a distributing station in the town, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company a watering station, terminal and general offices for the division supervisory forces.

Following the example set by the larger towns in the State, the merchants of Harrington in 1934 decided to decorate the town for the Christmas holidays, a fund of \$300.00 being raised for that purpose and a community tree together with street decorations of electric lights and laurel were put up. On Christmas Eve, cash prizes were awarded to the holders of lucky numbers at the community tree. Christmas business of 1934 showed such a large increase over the previous year, the merchants decided to make it an annual affair and 1935 saw the town decorated again. A concert by the High School Band, together with a street dance and the giving away of \$250.00 in cash on Christmas Eve being the program followed out. Plans are now in progress for the coming year, to enlarge out the town's decorations.

WILLIAM COBBETT IN WILMINGTON

Extract from Life of William Cobbett, G. D. H. Cole,  
page 51-55, page 68.

Cobbett landed in America early in October, 1792, and, after visiting Philadelphia, took up his abode for a time at Wilmington, a small port on the Delaware, rather less than thirty miles below Philadelphia. There his first child was born -- a boy, who died in June, 1794, just when he "was beginning to prattle." "I began my young marriage days," he wrote later, "in and near Philadelphia. At one of these times to which I have just alluded, when life is always more or less in danger, in the middle of the burning hot month of July, I was greatly afraid of fatal consequences to my wife for want of sleep, she not having, after the great danger was over, had any sleep for more than forty-eight hours. All great cities, in hot countries, are, I believe, full of dogs; and they, in the very hot weather, keep up, during the night, a horrible barking and fighting and howling. Upon the particular occasion to which I am adverting, they made a noise so terrible and so unremitted, that it was next to impossible that even a person in full health and free from pain should obtain a minute's sleep. I was, about nine in the evening, sitting by the bed: 'I do think,' said she, 'that I could go to sleep now, if it were not for the dogs.' Downstairs I went, and out I sallied, in my shirt and trousers, and without shoes and stockings; and, going to a heap of stones lying beside the road, set to work upon the dogs,



going backward and forward, and keeping them at two or three hundred yards' distance from the house. I walked thus the whole night, barefooted, lest the noise of my shoes might possibly reach her ears; and I remember that the bricks of the causeway were, even in the night, so hot as to be disagreeable to my feet. My exertions produced the desired effect: a sleep of several hours was the consequence; and, at eight o'clock in the morning, off I went to a day's business which was to end at six in the evening."<sup>1</sup>

It is extraordinarily difficult to give any picture of Cobbett's wife. He spoke and wrote of her often. "One hair of her head," he said, "is more dear to me than all the other women in the world." He was, in later years, always telling his children, who were very loving children to both their parents, how wonderful a mother they had. But, save in his account of the ideal qualities of a wife in Advice to Young Men -- clearly a picture of his own -- he tells us little of her, and this account is rather of her qualities than of her personality. Visitors to Botley in later years, including Miss Mitford, the novelist, and Tom Moore, the poet, spoke of her very highly. She was a homely woman, an admirable housewife, wrapped up in her family, and intensely in love with and anxious for her husband. He did not, as we shall see, talk to her much about his public affairs. She was not a politician, or an educated woman. She managed his house and made for him a home, often under conditions of the greatest difficulty. He had always, when the affairs of the world upset him, a

1. Advice to Young Men, par. 166.



harbour in which his tranquillity was restored. "The truth is," he wrote many years later, "that, throughout the whole of this long time of troubles and labours, I have never known a single hour of real anxiety; the troubles have been no troubles to me; I have not known what lowness of spirits meant; I have been more gay, and felt less care, than any bachelor that ever lived. 'You are always in spirits, Cobbett!' To be sure; for why should I not? Poverty I have always set at defiance, and I could, therefore, defy the temptations of riches; and, as to home and children, I have taken care to provide myself with an inexhaustible store of that sobriety which I am so strongly recommending my reader to provide himself with."<sup>1</sup>

Cobbett gives a further picture, in Advice to Young Men, of the conditions of his early married life. "Till I had a second child, no servant ever entered my house, though well able to keep one; and never, in my whole life, did I live in a house so clean, in such trim order, and never have I eaten or drunk, or slept or dressed, in a manner so perfectly to my fancy, as I did then. I had a great deal of business to attend to, that took me a great part of the day from home; but whenever I could spare a minute from business, the child was in my arms. I rendered the mother's labour as light as I could; any bit of food satisfied me; when watching was necessary, we shared it between us; and that famous Grammar for teaching French people English, which has been for thirty years, and still is, the great work of this kind throughout all America and in every nation in Europe, was written by

1. Advice to Young Men, par. 92.



by me in hours not employed in business, and in great part, during my share of the night watchings over a sick, and then only, child, who, after lingering many months, died in my arms."<sup>1</sup>

The writing of this famous Grammar arose out of the occupation by which Cobbett first earned his living in the United States. He always strongly urged emigrants, before committing themselves in a new country to a settled way of life, to find some temporary work which would keep them until they had given themselves time to look round and find their real place. His own immediate design on landing in America was to maintain himself by putting some of his new-found knowledge to good use. He had learned French thoroughly: he had mastered English. Well and good: he could employ both his accomplishments by setting up as a teacher of English to the numerous Frenchmen who were flocking to the United States. His bent for teaching he had shown already. While he was in New Brunswick, he had constituted himself volunteer instructor to many of his colleagues. "When I was in the army," he wrote later, "I made, for the teaching of young corporals and serjeants, a little book on arithmetic; and it is truly surprising in how short a time they learned all that was necessary for them to know of that necessary department of learning." Cobbett had, all through his life, the itch to be teaching his fellows.

Cobbett's first occupation in America was the teaching of English to French émigrés, mostly moderate Republicans,

1. Advice to Young Men, par. 161.



who had fled to America after the fall of the Girondins. Before long he moved to Philadelphia, a better centre for his work; and there he remained for more than six years. His first work, written in French to aid his students, was the book mentioned above. It was entitled Le Tuteur Anglais, an English grammar written in French. This was not actually published until 1795; but it seems clear that Cobbett used it, as he had used his Arithmetic in the army, making his pupils copy out of the book and get it by heart as a means of learning the rules of the language. The little volume afterwards had an enormous circulation. Reprinted in France under the title Le Maître Anglais, it passed through forty or more editions, and was still widely used in a revised form half a century after the author's death. He had trouble more than once over pirated editions revised without his sanction.<sup>1</sup>

Cobbett, in his later years, thought poorly of the book, which he described as "a very hasty production";<sup>2</sup> but he claimed for it -- what was indeed the cardinal virtue of all his writings -- the quality of "clearness, and of making the learner see the reason of the rules." "It is esteemed," he wrote, "because its ideas are simple, and because it appeals to the reason of the scholar."<sup>3</sup>

His teaching work was, apparently, fairly remunerative, and he estimated his earnings from it at about £ 330 a year,

1. P. R., February 21st, 1818.
2. Ibid.
3. P. R., December 6th, 1817.



then a considerable sum. But, in addition to it, he began to get his hand in for original writing by a good deal of translating. Of one book which he translated, Martens on the Law of Nations, he writes as follows, showing that his habit of industry remained with him to the full.

"I translated it for a quarter of a dollar (thirteen-pence halfpenny) a page; and, as my chief business was to go out in the city to teach French people English, I made it a rule to earn a dollar while my wife was getting the breakfast in the morning, and another dollar after I came home at night, be the hour what it might; and I have earned many a dollar in this way, sitting writing in the same room where my wife and only child were in bed and asleep."

So far, Cobbett's American career is uneventful enough. He was doing well; for, as he wrote, "this country is good for getting money, that is to say, if a person is industrious and enterprising." He made friends also, especially among the French; but he did not like the country or the people. In 1794 he described the Americans, or at least the Philadelphians, as a "cheating, sly, roguish gang." He planned a removal to St. Domingo or Martinique, and even a return to England within a few years. But perhaps the discontent manifest throughout his letters of this time came of his misfortunes -- of the death of his son, of the still-birth of a second. He was to have many adventures before he left the United States.

\*\*\*\*\*

Page 68.

Two had left England: four returned. Cobbett's first child, as we saw, died at Wilmington in the early days of his residence in America, and a second was still-born. But in 1795 he had a daughter, whom he named Anne, and in 1798 a son, William.

Bibliography:

Cole, G. D. H. The Life of William Cobbett. With a chapter on "Rural Rides" by F. E. Green. London: W. Collins Sons & Co., Ltd., 1925. 458 p. p. 51-55, 68.



## Foreign Language Press in America

Questionnaire for the Use of  
Supervisors and Field WorkersExplanatory note:

This questionnaire is to be used as a guide in gathering material for local studies of the foreign language press. These studies will embrace all daily and weekly newspapers printed in languages other than English. They will also include the few newspapers printed in English but devoted to the interests of immigrant groups, such as the Irish, West Indian Negroes, etc. They will not include monthlies, trade journals or house organs.

The questions on the following pages are to be fully answered, point by point, for: (a) the oldest (first) newspaper (daily or weekly) in the language assigned; (b) those newspapers that had the longest life; (c) contemporary newspapers. Newspapers of short duration or of little importance in the life of a group, should be listed, and information should be supplied in condensed form particularly for points 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

First issues of the oldest newspapers and interesting front pages, or their photostatic (or photographic) reproductions, should be obtained wherever possible. These are to be used as illustrations.

Questionnaire

The following questions should be answered separately for each newspaper. Questions on which satisfactory answers cannot be obtained should be marked "unobtainable."

1. When was the paper founded, and where? Give exact date and address. Describe the house, where possible, and locality (workers' section, foreign quarter, etc.). Any unusual circumstances connected with the founding of the paper should be described.
2. Who were the founders (groups, clubs, etc.), the publishers and the editors of the paper? Were they immigrants or native-born of immigrant parents? Why did they leave their country? Did they play an important role in the life of their colony here, or in American public life, or after severing connection with their paper? (For instance, Rossoni, one of the editors of the IWW paper, Proletario, became minister under Mussolini; and another (Serrati), became the leader of the Socialist Party of Italy, etc.
3. Capital with which the paper started (if possible to obtain).
4. How was the paper issued? As a daily, semi-weekly or weekly? Note shifts in issuing the paper. Sometimes weeklies became dailies, and vice versa. Give dates of such changes.



5. Give the number of pages, and the circulation at various periods--its rise and decline. Give the dates of smallest and largest circulation. When did the decrease in circulation set in? (This information can be obtained partially from old issues of the International Year Book of the Editor and Publisher, Ayres Handbook, etc.)
6. If the paper disappeared give date, how long it existed and reason for disappearance. Was it revived under another name, or replaced by a similar paper? If paper merged with another publication, give date and details, and whether the paper with which it merged had the same or a different policy.
7. What was or is its tendency, purpose or policy? (propagandistic or informative, political or party paper, educational or cultural, fraternal, union or society organ.) Was or is it edited down to its readers or does it try to be "intellectual?" does or did it work for Americanization? Does or did it emphasize sports or support the labor movement or nationalist movements here and abroad, or religious and cultural traditions? Was or is this newspaper for or against the national policy of the government of the country of origin; was or is it more concerned with the interests of the foreign colony here?
8. The social status of its readers (whether workers, skilled or unskilled, business people or intellectuals).

9. Give the proportion of the news devoted to local news of the group, local news of the community in general, national news of this country, and foreign news. Describe the nature of the foreign news. Give also the proportion of news devoted to politics, labor, religion and cultural activities (including folk arts and folklore).
10. What was or is the paper's attitude in important national events and emergencies, such as the Civil War (if it existed at that time), the World War, the New Deal, the WPA, etc., toward such personalities as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt; toward the split in the labor movement (CIO, AFL)?
11. Was or is the paper subsidized directly or indirectly by groups or parties abroad, or in this country? (See following Question.)
12. Had or has it advertisements; what kind, what was the proportion of advertising pages to the news pages? What was or is the influence of the advertisements on its editorial policies? Does it or did it publish advertisements for large corporations or government institutions, or enterprises such as national railroads, shipping lines, tourist offices, national and international fairs and exhibitions, and does or did it get gratis news services from foreign news agencies?



13. Does or did the paper support or oppose local bosses, individual leaders, abuses, ward heelers, Tammany, Hagueism, etc.?
14. Does it maintain the purity of the mother tongue, extent of unification of the local dialect terms of the various sections of the home country into a common native language, penetration of American terms into the language used in the paper? How and to what extent, and in what lines, did the language gradually become corrupted by American-English ingredients?
15. Did or does this paper have an English language column or section? When and how many years after the foundation of the paper did this English section start? Was it abandoned, and if so when?
16. Characteristics or curiosities of make-up, format and size, typography, layout, titles, similarities in name and appearance to important foreign papers, "feuillets." Does the paper use photos, illustrations, cartoons, or comic strips, and when did it start them?
17. How did or does the newspaper get its news?--A.P.; U.P.; Havas, Wolff or Deutsches Nachrichten Bureau, City News service, Federated Press, Hearst's international or universal services, from Legation releases, from clubs, associations, etc., from foreign correspondents, from foreign papers received here, or by pilfering English language newspapers.

- 6 -

18. Trace the migration of the paper (for instance from New York to Chicago and back), or whether newspaper is published outside of the metropolitan area and has an office or address here (for instance, whether the paper is printed or published in New Jersey and read mainly in New York and vice versa).



Bibliography

A few books dealing with the foreign language

Press in America:

Park, Robert E. -- Immigrant Press and its Control.  
New York, 1922. 488 pp. Carnegie Endowment  
Study.

North, Simon D. -- History of Periodical Press of  
United States. 1881.

Soltes, Dr. Mordecai -- The Yiddish Press as an  
Americanizing Agency. New York. 1924.

A chapter on the "Characteristics of the American  
Jewish Press" in the Jewish Yearbook. 1938.

A chapter on the "Foreign Language Press," by  
Mark Villchur in the book Racial and National  
Minorities, by F. J. Brown and Rousek. New  
York. 1937. Prentice Hall.

Lee, Alfred McL. -- The American Press. New York.  
1938.

More complete information will be sent shortly.

...the ... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..



James Spain  
Sept. 5, 1940

265  
Encyclopedia File  
GOVERNMENT IN DELAWARE  
Present Government  
County: Criminology

II-B-2-b

#### THE HONOR SYSTEM OF THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE

Two decades ago the inauguration of the penal technique called the "Honor System" at the New Castle Workhouse aroused widespread curiosity and discussion. It represented an innovation in penal method, and was an experiment based on progressive moral principles. It attempted to combat crime, not with punishment, but with reformation. It placed trust in the fundamental soundness of the law-breaker. It aimed to built up the moral fibre of the prisoner through fair treatment and responsibility, rather than to destroy it by the infliction of pain and humiliation.

Mordecai Plummer, warden of the Workhouse at the time, introduced the system. Its inception was much like the dawning of new era in the lives of the inmates, coming after a period of unwholesome conditions that culminated in the dismissal of the prison head. The system took root when Plummer assumed office on May 1, 1920.

Plummer was a man who had great faith in the basic goodness of humanity. He considered a prisoner social "driftwood." He taught that a prison should be an institution where every inmate could be given the chance "to regain the lost status of a man.....A prison should

make a man and not break him." In his eyes the old penal set-up, far from eliminating or lessening crime, increased crime instead. Most prisons, he believed, defeated the purpose of their existence. His opinion was that "the old system of penology is a crime factory....," handicapping the prisoner so that "he cannot rehabilitate himself..." instead making him sink lower in institutions that mostly "are foul, leprous, and graves of blasted hopes...where abnormal condition exist and where men and women become mere elemental beasts." He wanted to inject an idealism into prison life that even in civilian life is distant from realization. He said: "Establish the Golden Rule, which is the very foundation rock of the Honor System, and the prisoners will do their own reforming."

The Honor System provided for a court composed of the prison inmates, who held their own trials and rendered verdicts against offenders of the prison law. There were eight members in this "honor court." A chief justice, two associate judges, a prosecutor, a clerk of the court, court crier, and two lawyers for the defense. The customary "Hear Ye, Hear Ye!" opened each session. The usual court procedure followed the reading of the indictment. The defendant had his own lawyer and such witnesses as he cared to summon. After hearing all evidence, the judges retired to an ante room, where the testimony was reviewed and a verdict agreed upon. Among the



possible sentences were a reprimand; a suspension of sentence or parole with the understanding that if the prisoner came before the court again the original sentence would stand, in addition to another; a curtailment of certain privileges or solitary confinement. The warden was the supreme court of appeal, but few cases ever came to him.

This Honor Court was intended to help the inmates in acquiring a feeling that the maintenance of prison regulations and order was a duty devolving upon them. Its administration aided in imbuing a sense of social responsibility and an insight into the necessity for the discipline of law and order into the prisoners. It also gave the inmates a confidence and pride in being able to stand as models for the world outside. The court was a large psychological force in the process of reforging ideas and attitudes.

Plummer said of the Court: "We have free justice-- the accused is not immured, and when he appears before the Honor Court his heart is not in despair, without friends or hope, nor does he have to struggle for the beneficent right of justice. We seek the ascertainment of truth in all cases irrespective of his race, religion or money. Equality before the law..democracy of justice, as it were in jail. We carry to all who come before our Honor Court the inspiration of confidence and receiving a square deal."

The spirit of this system could not leave the inmates unaffected. The result was that they needed progressively less observance by paid guards, to the point that at one time there were only <sup>three</sup> guards on duty. Guarding was efficiently done by fellow prisoners, the most reliable being chosen for this responsible work. Plummer thought that if any ferreting out of trouble among the prisoners was to be done, it was better done by the prisoners themselves. However, if they failed to fulfill their responsibilities, it was understood that they lost rather than gained, by so doing. Realizing this, the men as a whole cooperated.

As the Honor System began to function, journalists and penal authorities speculated on its practicability. Some declared that it was an "idealist's dream," incapable of materialization. In short time, however, such criticism had to be retracted, because Plummer's plans were successfully assuming concrete shape. Plummer never lived to see the later development of his system; he died in December, 1922. Warden Elmer J. Leach took his place, entering office the following spring. The new executive sought to carry on the ideas of his predecessor. Much as he believed in the essential soundness of the principles behind the Honor System and endeavored to practice them, certain factors precluded eventual success. A chief factor was the rapid turnover of inmates at the institution. Short termers claimed to detect an



inclination in favor toward the long termers, an argument that formed the ground for discontent. Moreover, short termers had not sufficient time to grow into a confident loyalty toward the warden, it was held. A series of escapes in the early thirties finally brought the axe down on the penal project. A sensational escape in which an inmate guard participated led on into more major breaks until mounting numbers of civilian guards and an increased rigidity in prison discipline put an end to Plummer's handiwork.

Former Warden Leach commented thus on the Honor System:

"An honor system among 600 men of any type would be impractical, and certainly among 600 prisoners, many of whom are hardened and seasoned criminals, it is a fallacy to expect it to work out.

"We do not believe that harsh punishment for crime is essential to the best interests of society. We do not believe in punishment per se: we believe in trying, although it is frequently unsuccessful, to look for a cure. Our most important function is to insure society that when we release a man he will have undergone a mental and spiritual transformation that will prevent him from repeating his offense.

"A prison is not primarily a place of punishment. It is in reality a hospital where men suffering from their criminal inclinations are sent."

Leach, then, was neither disillusioned nor dissatisfied with the system. He still maintained faith in the ideas of reformatory penology. He still believed they could work; however, only under decent conditions of trial, not under the unfavorable conditions presented by the nature of the inmate population at the workhouse. As something of an experiment, the system rightly deserved experiment conditions--~~amplified~~ controlled conditions--including a picked category of prisoners to be worked on. The system obviously was ineffective applied upon a small quota of incorrigibles, just as a medical cure is out of the realm of possibility in certain definitely incurable cases. This, plus its impracticability in the face of a rapid inmate turnover, brought about an understanding that its end was necessary. Under fair test conditions, perhaps, the system would have been more fruitful.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sunday Star, Wilmington, Del., 4-21-1940.

M. S. Plummer Address at the New Castle New Century Club  
11-21-1922.



SUSSEX COUNTY

The lowermost county of the three, almost exhausted the vocabulary of homely, hand descriptive names in labelling her streams and waterways, that are legion, and comprise the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, Mispillion, Cedar, Prime Hook, Cool Spring, Love, Middle, Miry, Ferry, Iron, Pepper, Turkey, Herring, Sheal's, Gray's, Broad, Coal, Tussocky, Little, Deep, Sum, Gravelly, Clear, St. John's, and Marshy Hope Creeks. In addition may be added Assawaman Bay, Pocomoke, Indian and Nanticoke Rivers (three Indian names), the latter the only major Delaware waterway emptying into the Chesapeake Bay. There, too, is the suggestive names, Big Ditch, Cape Inlopen (Henlopen), Vineyard, Prat's and Herman's Choyce, Kimball's Neck, Johnson's Delight (in addition to the tangle of Dutch and Swedish titles). Pilot Town (now Lewes) was named for the reason that it was the home of Delaware River pilots. It fitted exactly. William Penn's secretary added another explanatory as well as euphonious appellation to his tract near Lewes, calling it "Welcome Settlers" after the title of the ship that brought the Quaker proprietor to Delaware in 1682. In contiguous sections are found the names the Fancy, Fairfield, Delight, Colline's Purchase, Harte's Range, Owner's Delight, Strife, Maiden's Plantation, Walker's Folly, Ralph's Delight, Abe's Folly, Reed's White Mould, Rich Farms, Penn's Manor, or Worminghurst.

Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred had a Tower Hill on Dragon Creek, which was the earliest land grant in the hundred. Pot Hooks, Wolfe's Creek, Peach Blossoms, Sun Dial, and West

Chester, Middleborough, and Midway were also applied to tracts in that section.

Georgetown Hundred was a part of Broadkiln until 1833 and most of the names applied by original grantors are listed in that original section. There are, however, recorded Hound's Ditch, Inclosed, Great Drain, Ye Great Savannah; Georgetown, the Sussex County seat, is approximately the center of the county.

Cedar Creek's name fits exactly into the self-revealing pattern, for the banks of the stream were lined with cedar trees. One plantation of 1,000 acres was known as Pleasant. Other large slices of the terrain were named the Fancy (1000 acres), Marsh Patent (2000 acres), Cullin's Purchase (900 acres), Mounty Holly (410 acres), and Porter's Folly (309 acres), Slaughter's Neck, Fairfield (600 acres), Musmellon Neck, Hart's Delight, Little Graves End, Strife, Thorn Point, Prog's Rock, Cypress Swamp, doubtless served their purpose in designating the Who's Who and Where's Where in Cedar Creek.

Cherry Tree appears in Broad Creek, as does Gumborough, Nanticoke, Dagsborough. There are Wimbesocom and Care's Neck, Assacation Neck, Third Choice, Right's Choice and Cook's Chance; also Peter's Choice, Adam's Folly Puzzle, Wolf Pit Ridge, Jacob's Inheritance, Second Thought, and Isabella's Choice. Pilson's Lot, Old Meadow, Rathbone, and New Ireland, in addition to Isabella's Choice, all of which show that the expression of delight, chance or choice was employed largely in imparting the names.

Harold's Fortune was the first tract conveyed to a settler



in Broadkiln Hundred (1682). Stretcher's Hall also took the name of its original owner. Green Meadow, Jersey Branch, Prine Neck Creek, White Oak Plantation Stretcher's Island, Rich Farms, Dreams, Pemberton Branch, Maiden's Plantation, Come-by-Chance, Ralph's Delight, Walker's Folly, Reed's White Mould, Cave Neck were applied to the chief points of the Hundred in the early days of the Eighteenth Century.

Indian River folks were strong for descriptive titles. Here, too, land was distributed with lavish prodigality. Long Neck included thousands of acres, Brother's Venture (600 acres) and Good Hope (the same acreage). There, too, are recorded a variety of names, almost all in accord with the Delaware pattern of two centuries ago. Bachelor's Lott, Timber Hill, Cruder's Neck, Angola Neck, Bottle and Cakes, Robert-His-Fortune, Neighbor's Agreement, First Purchase, Black Savannah, Swan Creek, Saw Mill Church, Muddy and Mine Creeks. Shankland's Discovery and Unity Forges, hundreds of acres were bequeathed by their owner John Elliott to his four sons, three of whom bore the names of the youths who walked through the firey furnace unscathed: Shadrack, Meshack, and Abnego. The fourth heir bore the plain name, John, and perhaps was glad of it. Young Man's Venture, a seemingly favorite title appears in Indian River Hundred and many other sections. Indian River was the favorite hunting and fishing ground of Aboriginies whose descendants (it is claimed) still linger in their old haunts. They long were designated "Moors."

Ventures seem to have been the favored surname to North West Fork titles. There were Young Man's, Ross', Safford's,

Timoth's. Other names followed the usual Delaware custom in bestowing titles on plantations. Polks had a monopoly in names having fancy, regulation, Chance and Out Lot. Brown's and Daniel's Regulations are listed with Dublin, Advantage, Merritt's Discovery, Triangle, Partnership, Neighborhood Agreement, First Purchase, Hard Fortune, Luck by Chancy, Turkey Point, Hog Quarter.

Nanticoke Hundred also followed the custom of applying local significance to the outstanding points. There were Sowbridge Swamps, Forked Neck, Truthful Plain, Noble Quarter, Tusky Branch, Conclusion, Little Neck Branch, Double Purchase, Stony Branch, Ezekiel's Chance, Prospect Hill, Brown's Inheritance, Tyrone, Goodwill, Gum Neck, Hunting Ground, Unity Forge Tract, Fancy, Goodwill, Indeace. There was little inclination to apply Indian names to the farm tracts or waterways.

Little Help and Twin Pen, Shad Point, Straight, in Seaford Hundred leave no clue to the present occupants of the lands or as to what their names signified. Perhaps the outline or boundaries of Penn's Manor may be recalled as it was half a mile wide by four miles long. The list of defining names like Venture, Choice, Discovery, and Regulation were drawn upon liberally. There were Cannon's Choice, Cannon's Regulation, Meadow and Conclusion. There were, too, Jacob's Choice, Kinder's Effort, Long Lot, People's Projection, Straight, Gibraltar, Hooper's Forest, Mulberry and Brig Landings. Turtle Creek may have meant that terrapin were there for the catching.

Little Creek Hundred adhered to this odd nomenclature



with Pick and Cull (70 acres), The Desart, Nutter's Anglum, Providence, Puzzleland, Advantage, King's Venture, Tussey's and Rossa, Ratur Branches, Dublin, Bee Island, White Oak Swamp, Cod Creek, Fishing Island, Lost Conclusion, Lodsgate Hall, Liberty Plain, Ricket's Delight, Advantage, Horsey's Enclosure, Intention and Delmar, which takes the first syllables of the two States, and the Wicomico River almost the only Indian name retained in that hundred.

Dagsborough Hundred was named for General Dagsworthy and was also the birthplace of John M. Clayton, distinguished statesman. It was a part of Maryland until 1763. The early landed proprietors adopted almost entirely descriptive or explanatory names for the chief points in the hundred. These include Gumborough, Cypress Swamp, Pleasant Grove, Yellow Branch, Rock Hole, Timberland, Enlarged, Houston's Falls, Pepper Creek, Wilderness, Archibold's Discovery, Fishing Creek and a grant of 20,400 acres to John Hance.

Baltimore Hundred was regarded as a part of Maryland until the final adjustment of the Delaware-Maryland boundary. Its early titles included Inlopen (Henlopen), Fenwick Island, Choptank, Hap Hazzard, Stockley's Adventure, Pearson's Choice, Tomas Dasey's Plantation, Cherry Park, Elbow Room Retreat, Young Man's Adventure, a favored label in the lower counties, Sloop Point, Blackwater, Long Lot, Dog Ear Corner, Assawaman, Summerfield, Crooked Lot, Choptank, Fowl's Delight, Little Worth, Sloop Point, Bald Eagle Roost.

Gumborough bestowed Hound's Ditch on a small sluice, Newfoundland on a plantation, Pleasant Grove, Inclosed,

Terrapin Mill Dam, Friendship and Old Field after she became detached from Maryland and was taken in by the Diamond State.

It cannot be questioned that the original settlers of the three counties especially those of Kent and Sussex were restricted in any direction in naming the places of their communities. It is noted that the state of mind of the emigres is reflected in many of the titles chosen, such as are expressed in fortune, adventure, last choice, hope, realization, etc. Doubtless the first occupants of the land were too much otherwise occupied than holding neighborhood conferences for the naming of rivers, lakes, marshes, necks, kills, plantations, etc. On the whole however, it is not denied that they made a rather interesting and self-explanatory selection even though they obviously were not restricted by "balance" or "euphony" that was later sought.

Newspaper files.





## NEW CASTLE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

An act passed by General Assembly in 1931, and approved by the Governor on March 30 of that year, established the New Castle County Regional Planning Commission. This Commission is intended to maintain and improve present standards of living in New Castle County, in regard to playgrounds, parks, public buildings, sewers, civic centers, water supplies, roads, streets, etc., being constructed outside city or town limits. In effect, it will keep the growth of New Castle cities and towns harmonious, unified, and well-planned.

Commission members serve without pay. The County Road Engineer of New Castle, Alban P. Shaw, and the Chief Engineer of the Street and Sewer Department of Wilmington, Harry L. Maier, with five other members, form the Commission. Charles C. Kurtz and Sylvester D. Townsend were appointed by the Mayor and Council of Wilmington; J. Simpson Dean and Lemmot duPont, Jr., were appointed by the Levy Court; and Edgar M. Hoopes was appointed by the State Highway Department. Mr. Hoopes died and the State appointed Edward R. Mack. Future terms of service will be five years in length, but first members' terms were arranged so that there would be a member appointed every year. All members must be residents of New Castle County. Should a vacancy occur before the expiration of a term, a member shall be appointed for the balance of the term by the same person or body who appointed his predecessor.

The Commission meets and elects a chairman every year on the first Monday of July. All members must take the con-



stitutional oath of office.

The Commission's duty is to make or have made one or more maps of New Castle County, to be recorded in the Recorder of Deeds' office, and to make or have made a master plan for the developement of the county. This master plan is to show the Commission's recommendations by means of descriptive matter, maps, charts and plates, a plan to be extended as the Commission sees fit. The Levy Court's approval is necessary for the plan, and any amendments to it. Within thirty days after such approval, the plan or amendment is to be recorded in the Recorder of Deeds' office. In the process of surveying the Commission is authorized to enter public or private lands and has free access to all public records.

The Commission is required to supply information and plans at the request of the Levy Court, Highway Department, or City Council of Wilmington at the expense of the body making the request.

The Commission went into office in July 1931. It is now unlawful to record any map or plan, bearing the location of a proposed road, in any public office in New Castle County without the endorsement of the Commission and the approval of Levy Court. This approval and endorsement does not make Levy Court or the Highway Department responsible for maintaining or improving the roads indicated. A map or plan so submitted will, however, become a part of the master plan.

A fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars is imposed upon any recorder who files a map or plan contrary to this law; such an act is

considered a misdemeanor.

The Levy Court has the power to construct, maintain, and improve any public roads approved and recorded in the manner here set forth. Such roads shall be classified as roads for the general use of the public; roads for the use of the residents of the Hundred in which they are located; roads for the use of property owners on or nearby which were dedicated to the public before July 1931; and roads for the use of property owners on or nearby which were dedicated to the public during or after July 1931.

Levy Court has the power to acquire the land and right of way for laying out and opening any roads in the first, third, and fourth classes for the use of the public. Roads in the last class are taken over by Levy Court under rules which it adopts.

The Commission has the authority to sub-divide, add to, or take from any road district, which has been laid out and described according to the provisions of this law, subject to the approval of Levy Court.

For the purpose of carrying out the functions of the Regional Planning Commission, Levy Court can appropriate annually not over ten thousand dollars. This money is not to be used for maintaining and improving roads, which are cared for, like other county expenses, by taxes.

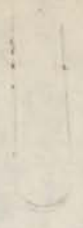
The Act is not intended to affect the authority of the State Highway Department, nor shall it affect the rights, powers and duties of any municipal corporation.



Regional Planning Commission of New Castle County, Del.  
Report to the Levy Court of New Castle County.  
Wilmington, Del., August 16, 1933. 3 page letter.

Regional Planning Commission of New Castle County, Del.  
A Guide for Real Estate Developments. Wilmington,  
Del., January 1, 1933. 23 p.

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





James B. Cheyney  
July 16, 1940

"HONORABLE" SAM TOWNSEND

"Sam" Townsend (1812-1881) christened Samuel by his doting parents and titled "honorable" by his neighbors and political affiliates almost invariably omitted the last three letters "u e l" except in legal papers or other formal documents. Though a humble farmer who came up from the ranks of canal workmen, he was perhaps better known than any other Delawarean in civic life - with the possible exception of Major Keybold, his neighbor. He was the very outstanding man in politics who stood for honesty and for legislation to benefit the whole people. To the dismay of his Party (Democratic) he attended every state and county convention and like a faithful watchdog, fought against the election of unfit men for public office or legislative action for the benefit of the man with a pull. He raised his voice in thunderous tones against any measure or proposal that could not bear up under the scrutiny of the limelight and consequently became a sort of thorn in the side of his political associates who did not come clean and honestly before the voters. His integrity and his courageousness gave strength to any measure of proposal that he championed and spelled almost sure death for legislation he reprobated. Sam Townsend was long regarded as the Nemesis of dishonesty and what came to be known as political graft. His courage, integrity and inexhaustible store of common sense with his feeling of the responsibility of citizenship made him a worthy upholder of the traditions of Delaware.

Before conventions, he spoke with such clarity of force and conviction that he was able to "scotch" questionable

planks in Democratic political platforms for he usually drew to himself a following that almost invariably clinched victory for whatever he advocated. In addition to his strong personal appeals for right, Sam Townsend often turned to the newspapers to spread his views. While his very scant education was responsible for his lack of syntax conventions, the force of his arguments carried conviction. Even though his articles were lengthy, often a column or two, his writings were read with avidity and accepted almost as gospel truth. When an article from his pen appeared in the newspapers of the middle decades of the last century they were regarded as the most interesting and valuable feature of that issue. His writings, like his voice, carried his messages far beyond the boundaries of Little Delaware and there were even hints that the force of the pen had been strengthened by the vigor of his thinking, which must have included the mild cuss words that were manifested in his speeches.

Beginning life as a canal boatman, Sam Townsend worked his way through the various stages of opportunity until he acquired a goodly fortune and became one of the outstanding peach orchardists of Delaware. Through buying large areas of timber land, he was an extensive producer of lumber and one of the big landowners of the Three Counties.

Sam Townsend professed a hatred for the Negro race. He regarded them as shiftless, improvident and liable to appropriate other peoples' property wherever they found it. When, however, any of his black neighbors were caught in the act or suspected of being implicated in the disappearance of



neighborhood chickens or turkeys, they invariably turned to him to intercede with the administration of the law and save their backs from the cat o' nine tails at the whipping post. If there was any ground for regarding the verdict of the jury as doubtful, Sam Townsend usually tried to have the lash of the sentence omitted.

The blacks turned to him for advice and for aid when troubles overtook them and in the Winter, even though he had "cussed them out," he had his team harnessed to a great sled and loaded high with pork, vegetables and flour, he himself drove through his neighborhood and distributed the food to the Negro families. At Christmas he saw to it that the colored children were remembered with some gift of warm clothing or with candy or toys. They all came to understand when the cold came or when snow fell "Mars Sam" would be along next day with his food and gifts and perhaps would cuss them as he passed it over <sup>to</sup> the heads of families. They were sure, however, that he never would fail them and he never disappointed them so long as he lived. There was great grief among his "unfavored folks" when he died at his Townsend home, named in honor of "Honest Sam" Townsend.

There are many interesting stories of "The Sage of Townsend" one of which is at least characteristic in revealing him as a host. His wife was a Methodist communicant and when the Wilmington M.E. Conference met in annual session in that vicinity, Sam Townsend suggested that they entertain some of the visiting preachers. In provision for the event they laid in good supplies of edibles and on the evening of the date set

for their invited clergy to arrive the dining table groaned - as groaning was the custom of those days - under its burden of yellow-legged chickens (a Methodist preference was stewed yellow-legged chicken), beef, veal, mutton, pork and all the vegetables that grew on their farm. The table load was increased with pickles, preserves, pies and different kinds of bread biscuit, etc. - a typical demonstration of Delaware's welcoming hospitality. The preachers were expected at six o'clock in the evening and the family waited an hour before in walked a small dyspeptic looking dominie with a caba which brought his nightgown and some anti-indigestion pills. After a few minutes more waiting, the visitor was invited to table and after the family were seated and grace said, Sam Townsend asked the preacher guest if he would have beef, chicken, mutton, veal, duck. The reply being "No, thank you," he enumerated the vegetables and then the pies and desserts, to all of which the reply was the same "No, thank you." The hearty host was nonplussed for the moment for the dinner comprised everything that grew on the farm, but at the end of an awkward moment, the son, in an aside (but audible) said: "Pap, perhaps the ---- - --- would like to suck an egg."

That irreverent story has gone round the world besides serving as the basis for innumerable kindred narratives of its leaning. It may be mentioned that the three other preachers of the trio assigned to Sam Townsend's home for entertainment were accommodated elsewhere - they possibly had doubt of his actual fear of the Lord. But he was a believer.

Another story by Sam Townsend in which he explained the



Gulf Stream's origin, in his bellicose voice, amused New York clubmen for almost a decade after it had been carried from Delaware by a former editor of "Every Evening." All effort to recall it failed.

Pain and misery never appealed in vain to the "Honorable" Sam Townsend who was never other than interesting and who had the faculty of employing cuss words to stress his conversation after first stripping them of profanity.

Newspaper clippings.

WILMINGTON WPA ORCHESTRA  
Carl Elmer, Conductor

Todd Memorial  
18th and Washington Streets  
Wednesday, August 14, 1940  
8:00 o'clock

"National Emblem" March	BAGLEY
"Orpheus in the Underworld" Overture	OFFENBACH
"Southern Roses" Waltz	STRAUSS
Three Selections	
1. Miserere from "Il Travatore"	VERDI
2. Walther's Prize Song from "Die Meistersinger"	WAGNER
3. Farandole from "L'Arlesienne"	BIZET
Selection from "Irene"	JACOBI
"Sunapee" March	GOLDMAN

-----  
PRESENTED BY WPA MUSIC PROGRAM  
OF THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION FOR  
DELAWARE  
-----

The Orchestra will be pleased to play request numbers.  
Write your request below and hand to the conductor or  
any of the musicians.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY SING TONIGHT



WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
100 and 101  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
100 and 101  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
100 and 101

WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON  
WILLIAMSON

WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS

WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS

WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS

WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS

WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS

WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS  
WILLIAMSON & CO. ENGINEERS

## WILMINGTON WPA ORCHESTRA

Federal Arts Center  
909 West Street  
Thursday, April 4, 1940  
8:15 P.M.

"Robespierre" Overture	LITOLFF
Valse Espagnole "Sierra Morena"	MARCHETTI
Hymn to the Sun from "The Golden Cockerel"	RIMSKY-KORSAKOFF
Song "In the Silence of the Night"	RACHMANINOFF
Selection from "The Vagabond King"	FRIML

## INTERMISSION

"Second Symphony"	HAYDN
1. Adagio-Allegro	
2. Andante	
3. Menuetto-Allegro	
4. Allegro spiritoso	

-----  
CARL ELMER, Conductor

PRESENTED BY WPA MUSIC PROGRAM  
OF THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION FOR  
DELAWARE  
-----





WILMINGTON WPA ORCHESTRA

Federal Arts Center  
909 West Street  
Thursday, April 11, 1940  
8:15 P.M.

"Barber of Seville" Overture	ROSSINI
Waltz from the Ballet "Dornroschen"	TSCHAIKOWSKY
Selection "Un Ballo in Maschera"	VERDI
Concerto in G Major	BEETHOVEN
I. Andante Con Moto	
II. Rondo-Vivace	
Miss Betty Rose Bock - Soloist	

INTERMISSION

Scenes Poetiques	GODARD
1. In the Woods	
2. On the Mountain	
3. In the Village	
"Rhapsody Norwegian"	SVENDSEN

-----  
CARL ELMER, Conductor

PRESENTED BY WPA MUSIC PROGRAM  
OF THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION FOR  
DELAWARE  
-----



Religion      Big Quarterly      1940      Barbara Trac

The focal point of the observance of Big Quarterly in Wilmington was at the Mother African Union Methodist Protestant Church at 819 French St. Centering around this Church founded June 1, 1813 the annual celebration commemorates the work of Peter Spencer, a humble Negro layman who strove to free the Negro Churches of white control.

He succeeded in establishing in 1809 at Third & Walnut Sts an independent Union Church of African members.

More than 14, 000 Negroes thronged the city from half a dozen States. The largest group some 4, 200 came on Wilson Line from Philadelphia, Chester - Southern New Jersey.

Ref. - Clippings.

WILMINGTON WPA ORCHESTRA

Federal Arts Center  
909 West Street  
Thursday, December 7, 1939  
8:15 P.M.

"Jubel" Overture	WEBER
Suite "Dance Miniature de Ballet"	ANSELL
1. Allegro Grazioso	
2. Andante Con Moto	
3.. Tempo Di Valse	
Red Poppy Ballet "Russian Sailors Dance"	GLIERE
Selection "Madame Angot"	LECOCQU

INTERMISSION

Symphony in B Minor	Adagio Lamentoso	TSCHAIKOWSKY
Spanish Fantasie	"A Day in Spain"	DEMERSSEMAN

-----

CARL ELMER, Conductor  
PRESENTED BY WPA MUSIC PROGRAM  
OF THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION FOR  
DELAWARE

-----



1939

## WILMINGTON FEDERAL ORCHESTRA

Claymont High School  
Claymont  
Wednesday, November 1, 1939  
8:45 A.M.

March: Herculean

BARNARD

Overture: Apollo

HAYDN-WOOD

Waltz: Militaire

WALDTEUFEL

Symphonic Poem: "Dance Macabre"

SAINT-SAENS

From Sonata in E minor: A La Polka

SMETANA

Selection "The Firefly"

FRIML

March: Federation

KLOHR

-----

CARL ELMER, Conductor

PRESENTED BY FEDERAL MUSIC PROJECT  
OF THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION FOR  
DELAWARE

-----



1940

Thomson

## Buildings and Architecture

ARTS & DECORATIONS MAGAZINE. New York, Arts & Decorations Pub. Co. Inc. V. 22 Nov. 1924; Read House, illus.

BELKNAP, MAITLAND. The Town that Time Forgot. Country Life, V. 38 - Oct. 1920: also illus. of Immanuel Church, Old Town Hall, Read House, The Strand.

BENNETT, GEORGE FLETCHER. Early Architecture of Delaware. Wilmington Historical Press. 1932. P.61: Amstel House, above door, date 1730. P.45: Court House (formerly State House) detail of cupola. P.39: Immanuel Church. P.49: Old Dutch House (built in middle of 17th century). P.40: Old Presbyterian Church. P.112: George Read II House. P.101: Thomas Thomas House. P.60: Van Dyke House. P.80: Van Leuvenigh House. Also details of panelling, mantels, interior doors, ceilings, high inset cupboards, exterior dormer windows, blinds, entrance doors.

FOSTER, WILLIAM D. An Architectural Monograph. New Castle, Delaware, an Eighteenth Century Town. New York. R.F. Whitehead. 1926. 10p. illus. plates, plans. Cover entitled: White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs.

HAMMOND, JOHN MARTIN. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware. Phila. London. J. B. Lippincott. 1914. 304p. P.247: Amstel House. P.255: Kensey Johns House--distinctive feature of wing and much fine carving. P.248: Read House--Georgian. (Historically inaccurate)

KRUSE, ALBERT. Photographs of historic houses and buildings in Wilmington and New Castle, Del., to accompany Historic American Buildings Survey, made by U. S. Dept. of Interior, Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. Includes Amstel House, Old Town Hall, Kensey Johns House and Van Dyke House.

KRUSE, ALBERT AND GERTRUDE. New Castle Sketches--drawings by Albert Kruse; notes by Gertrude Kruse. Phila. Univ. of Penna. Press. 1932. 35p. Includes Amstel House, Booth House, Burnet House, Court House Immanuel Church, Kensey Johns House, Old Dutch House, Read House, Van Dyke House. Shows some unusual carvings, key plates and handles on doors.

KATHROP, ELISE. Historic Houses of Early America. New York. Robert M. McBride & Co. 1927. 464p. illus. Includes Amstel House, Chief Justice James Booth House, Read House. (Historically inaccurate)

U. S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR. Office of National Parks, Buildings & Reservations, Branch of Plans & Designs, Historical and American Building Survey. Kensey Johns House, Survey No. 9-6 sheets 1 to 10; New Amstel House, Survey No. 9-3 sheets 1 to 6; Old Town Hall, Survey No. 9-4 sheets 1 to 5; Van Dyke House, Survey No. 9-5 sheets 1 to 8.



WISE, HERBERT CLIFTON. An Architectural Monograph- The George Read II House at New Castle, Delaware. v.11, No.6 of the White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs. New York. R. F. Whitehead. 1925. Measured Drawings from the George P. Lindsay collection of early American documents and reproductions of photographs by Kenneth Clark. (Some historical errors)

WISE, HERBERT C. & H.F. BEIDLEMAN. Colonial Architecture. Phila. London. J. P. Lippincott Co. 1924 207p. illus. P.116-129: New Castle. (Some historical errors)

Nolan, John New Towns for Old

#### HISTORY

ASHMEAD, HENRY GRAHAM. History of Delaware County, Penna. Phila. Everts. 1884. 767p. illus. maps.

BOOTH, ELIZABETH, Reminiscences (of New Castle). Privately Printed. New Castle 1884. 200p.

BRANDT, FRANCIS BURKE. The Majestic Delaware- The Nation's Foremost Historic River. Phila. Brandt & Dummere Co. 1929

BREVIATE- PENN. vs BALTIMORE. August, 1742. Philadelphia. Historical Society of Penna.

BUCHANAN, ROBERDEAU. Life of the Hon. Thomas McKean. Lancaster, Pa. 1890. 136p.

COMEGYS, JOSEPH P. Memoir of John M. Clayton. Paper LV, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington. Hist. Soc. of Del. 1882. 307p.

COOPER, ALEXANDER B. Fort Casimir- The Starting Point in the History of New Castle. Paper XLIII, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington. Hist. Soc. of Del. 1905.

COOPER, ALEXANDER B. History of New Castle. Serially in the Wilmington Sunday Star, Jan.21, 1906 to May 12, 1907.

COUNCIL of the DELAWARE STATE. Minutes from 1776 to 1792. Paper VI, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington. Hist. Soc. of Del. 1867. 128p.

DANKERS, JASPAR AND SLUYTER, PETER. Journal of a Voyage to New York and a Tour in Several of the American Colonies in 1679-80. Translated from the original MS in Dutch and edited by Henry C. Murphy. Memoir of the Long Island Historical Society. Brooklyn, N.Y. Long Island Historical Society. 1867. 440p.

DUKE OF YORK LAND DEEDS. Three Deeds of Feoffment from Duke of York to William Penn, Aug. 1682, from New Castle Town and Circle and Kent & Sussex Counties. Delaware State Archives. Dover.



293  
DUKE OF YORK RECORDS. Original Land Titles in Delaware, 1646-1679. P.6-17, grants around Fort Casimir given by Stuyvesant.

FERNOW, BERTHOLD. Documents Relative to the History of the Dutch and Swedish Settlements on the Delaware. Albany. The Argus Co. 1877. 669p. (Vol.XII in Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York).

FERRIS, BENJAMIN. A History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware. Wilmington. Wilson & Heald. 1846. 312p. (Fort Casimir. New Amstel names.)

FISKE, JOHN. Dutch and Quaker Colonies. Boston. Houghton-Mifflin Co. 1899. 2 Vol. maps.

HAY, PROF. HENRY HANBY, Amstel House. A paper read before the Delaware Branch of the Colonial Dames in the Amstel House. In pamph. form in Del. Univ. Library.

HAYES, MANLOVE. William Penn and His Province. Paper XXIV, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington. Hist. Soc. of Del. 1898. 51p.

HAZARD, SAMUEL. Annals of Penna. 1609-1682. Phila. Hazard & Mitchell, 1850. 664p.

HAZARD, SAMUEL. Penna. Archives. 1st Series. Vol.4. 1664-1776. Published 1852-56. 12 vol.

HOUSTON, JOHN W., HON. Address on the History of the Boundaries of the State of Delaware. Paper 11, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington. Hist. Soc. of Del. 1879. 108p.

JANVIER, ANNE R. Stories of Old New Castle. Published by the Amstel House Committee of The New Castle Historical Society. Current.

JOHNSON, AMANDUS. Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1664. Univ. of Penna. 1911. 2 vol.

JOHNSTON, GEORGE. History of Cecil County, Md. Pub. by author. Elkton, 1881. P. 425-427.

LINDESTROM, PETER. Geographia Americae, based on Surveys and notes made in 1654-1656. Trans. from original MS by Amandus Johnson. Phila. The Swedish Colonial Society. 1925.

LORE, CHARLES B., HON. Life and Character of Edward W. Gilpin. Paper XXXIV, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington, Hist. Soc. of Del. 1902. 17p.

Map, drawings, and elevation survey of New Castle streets and houses, 1804, by order of Assembly. Original in New Castle County Recorder of Deeds Office, Wilmington, Del.

Minutes of House of Assembly, New Castle, Kent and Sussex, 1739. Reprint. Pub. Archives Com. of Del. 1929.



Minutes of the Provincial Governor's Council, 1683-1776. First 10 volumes. V. 17: general index to Colonial records and to first series. Pennsylvania Archives.

MYERS, ALBERT COOK, ed. Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey & Delaware, 1630-1707. New York. Chas. Scribner's Sons. 1912. 476p.

O'CALLAGHAN, EDMUND BAILEY, ed. Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York. Albany. Weed, Parsons & Co. Vols. 1, 11, and 111.

POWELL, LYMAN P. History of Education in Delaware. Washington, D. C. Govt. Printing Office. 1893. 186p.

Proceedings of Convention of the Delaware State- August 1776. Reprint. Pub. Archives Com. of Delaware. 1927.

READ, WILLIAM THOMPSON (grandson). Life & Correspondence of George Read. Phila. J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1870.

Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware- 1676-1681. Colonial Society of Pennsylvania. Lancaster, Pa. Wickersham Print Co. 1904. 543p.

RODNEY, HON. RICHARD S. The Colonial Leader, Col. John French, of New Castle, an address delivered at the annual meeting of the Society of Colonial Wars in Pennsylvania, in Phila. March 14, 1935. 18p. v.4, No.8 of the Publication of the Society.

RODNEY, HON. RICHARD S. Development of Education in New Castle. n.p. 1931 18p.

RODNEY, HON. RICHARD S. Early Relations of Delaware & Pennsylvania. Wilmington. Historical Society of Delaware. 1930. 32p. New Series No.2.

RODNEY, HON. RICHARD S. Colonial Finances in Delaware. Wilmington. Wilmington Trust Co. 1928. 68p.

RODNEY, HON. RICHARD S. Early Delaware Judges. MS in possession of author. (Unpublished 1936).

SCHARF, J. THOMAS. History of Delaware. Phila. L. J. Richards & Co. 1888. 2 vol.

SCOTT, JOSEPH. Geographical Description of the States of Maryland and Delaware. Phila. Kimber. 1807. 191p.

Three Lower Counties. Grant from Charles 11 to Duke of York- Mar. 1683. Delaware State Archives. Dover, Delaware.

TURNER, G. H. B. comp. Rodney's Diary and Other Delaware Records. Pennsylvania Archives. 1911. P.80 to 103.



VALLANDIGHAM, EDWARD NOBLE. Delaware & The Eastern Shore. Phila. London. J. B. Lippincott Co. 1922. 330p.

VAN RENSSELAER, MRS. SCHUYLER. History of the City of New York in the Seventeenth Century. New York. Macmillan Co. 1909. 2 vol.

VINCENT, FRANCIS. History of State of Delaware-From First Settlement to Present Time. Phila. John Campbell. 1870. 478p.

WARD, CHRISTOPHER. The Dutch & Swedes on the Delaware-1609-64. Phila. Univ. of Penna. Press. 1930.

WHITELEY, WILLIAM G., HON. Revolutionary Soldiers of Delaware. Paper XIV, Historical Society of Delaware. Wilmington, Hist. Soc. of Del. 1896. 78p.

WOLF, G.A. comp. Ideal New Castle in the State of Delaware as it Appears in 1899. Wilmington, Del. Wolf.n.d.illus.48p.

#### CHURCHES

HANNA, REV. JOHN D.C. ed. Centennial Services of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, Wilmington. Delaware Printing Co. 1889. P. 287: History of New Castle Methodist Episcopal Church.

HOLCOMB, THOMAS. Sketch of Early Ecclesiastical Affairs in New Castle, Del. and History of Immanuel Church( New Castle, Del.). Wilmington, Del. Del. Printing Co. 1890. 254p.

SPOTSWOOD, REV. J.B.D.D. Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Delaware. Philadelphia Joseph M. Wilson. 1859. 39p.

VALLANDIGHAM, REV. JAMES LAIRD. History of the Presbytery of New Castle from its Organization, March 13, 1717 to 1888. Wilmington, Del. James & Webb. 1876. 36p.



PRESS and RADIO

PRESS

First newspaper published

1760--The Wilmington Chronicle

Early newspapers

1762--The Wilmington Courant

1765 to 1786--The Wilmington Almanac (intermittently)

1785 to 1882--The Delaware Gazette (merged with Every Evening)

---- The Faithful Centinel

1786--Delaware Courant and Wilmington Advertiser

1789--Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser

1799--Mirror of the Times (changed to American Watchman)

1803--Monitor and Wilmington Weekly Repository

1803--Federal Ark (Dover)

1804--The Museum of Delaware

---- Wilmington Mercury

1809--American Watchman

1822--The Dawn

1828--Delaware Gazette and American Watchman

1831-- Delaware State Journal

1839--Republican

1840--Delaware Sentinel

1841--Delaware Republican

---- The Blue Hen's Chicken

---- Delaware Farm and Home

---- Conference Worker

---- Wilmingtonian

---- The Cathedral Chronicler

297

PRESS and RADIO (continued)

PRESS

Early newspapers

- 1854--The Statesman (sold to Journal 1855)
- 1855--Delaware State Journal and Statesman
- 1859--Delaware Pioneer (first newspaper in German language)
- 1866--Daily Commercial
- 1872--Every Evening
- 1874--Daily Republican
- 1876--Morning Herald
- 1878--Sunday Despatch
- 1880--Sunday Mirror
- 1880--Wilmington Morning News
- 1881--Sunday Star
- 1881--Freie Presse (German)
- 1886--Evening Journal
- 1898--Sun
- 1901--Delaware State News (Dover)
- 1932--Journal-Every Evening



298

PRESS and RADIO

PRESS

Early printers, publishers and editors

James Adams  
Jacob A. Killen  
James Wilson  
Peter Brynberg  
Samuel Andrews  
Joseph Jones  
William C. Smyth  
Bonsal and Niles  
Hezekiah Niles  
John H. Emerson  
Henry C. Conrad  
Caleb P. Johnson  
Francis Vincent

First publisher

1761--James Adams. Most notable publication - The Discovery, Settlement and present State of Kentucky, by Filson.  
After his death in 1792, his sons, James, John, and Samuel carried on the business.

Niles' Register--established by Hezekiah Niles in Baltimore.

State newspapers (early)

Newark--Newark Post  
Delaware Ledger

Middletown--Middletown Transcript

Smyrna--Delaware Herald  
Smyrna Times

Harrington--Harrington Journal

Georgetown--The Republican  
Peninsula Advertiser  
Union Republican  
Sussex Journal  
Sussex Republican

Seaford--Seaford News

Laurel--Laurel Register

Milford--The Milford Chronicle  
13 newspapers in Milford since 1848

PRESS and RADIO

PRESS

State newspapers (continued) early

Dover--Delaware Register and Farmers' Magazine  
The Delawarean  
The State Sentinel  
Index  
Delaware State News  
Delaware Republican

Retail associations

Del-Mar-Va Press Association  
Independent Retailers Association

RADIO

Naval (Bethany Beach)  
Cape Henlopen  
WDUP (Private)  
WDEL - WLIM



PRESS and RADIOPressNewspapers

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 now defunct; The Delaware Farm and Home,  
Conference Worker, Wilmingtonian, The Cathedral  
Chronicle and many others

13 newspapers in Milford since 1848--current newspaper,  
The Milford Chronicle

Retail associations

Del-Mar-Va Press Association  
Independent Retailers Associations

RadioStations

Naval (Bethany Beach)  
Cape Henlopen  
WDUP (Private)  
WDEL - WLIN

Wilmington's first daily newspaper came into being in 1866 nine years after the abortive effort of Henry L. Bonsall, (of Camden, N. J.) to establish the "Daily Enterprise". He was confident that the city would support his venture, but at the end of the first week he had demonstrated the error of his judgment and concluded its career after six days issues.

In 1866 a Mr. Tyler canvassed Wilmington for subscribers and advertisers but before he had finally decided on what action to take, Howard M. Jenkins and Wilmer Atkinson, then conducting a Norristown Pa., newspaper, bought out the interests that Tyler had acquired in the local field and they established the "Wilmington Daily Commercial" with a job office and modern printing equipment at the Southwest corner of Fifth and Market streets. The first number of the "Commercial" was issued October 1, 1866. Howard Jenkins was the editor and Mr. Atkinson the business and advertising manager. The former was a man of culture and erudition and set a new literary note for Journalism in Wilmington. He also contributed to some of the better class magazines of that day. The "Commercial" was a live, well-edited interesting and seemed on the high road to prosperity until the general public came to believe that it was meant only for the upper class of citizens, which misunderstanding with the long period of financial depression,



beginning in 1873, affected its patronage and its finances reached a threateningly depressed state. To overcome this condition the "Commercial" was reduced in size, in 1876, and the price dropped to one cent from two. These heroic measures failed to restore the "Commercial" to its former state and on April 2, 1877 Jenkins and Atkinson announced the sale of their paper to the proprietors of "Every Evening" which had been started five years before. Ferris Brothers bought the job plant of the "Commercial" and Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Atkinson both returned to Philadelphia, the former to assume editorship of a large weekly publication and eventually to edit the publications of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends. The latter soon after leaving Wilmington formed a partnership with Cyrus H. K. Curtis. They established the "Farm Journal." During a brief illness of Mr. Atkinson who was the editor - his partner's wife was pressed into service as a contributor and by publishing the receipes for cooking and housekeeping which were the vogue in her youthful New England home, the circulation of the Farm Journal rose rapidly. Upon the return of Mr. Atkinson to his editorial desk, he was displeased that the policy of the Journal had been shifted from the "farm to the kitchen" and in a controversy immediately following, Mr. Curtis sold his half interest in the Farm Journal for \$300, and at once

launched the "Ladies' Home Journal" which step eventuated in the fabulously rich Curtis Publishing Company.

Mr. Atkinson likewise prospered and accumulated a large fortune from the "Farm Journal" before retiring in the early decade of the present century, presenting the Journal its plant and equipment to a kinsman. It was, however, sold a few years subsequent and reorganized.

The failure of the "Commercial" is attributed by no less an historian than Conrad to the political ambitions of Howard Jenkins who in 1876 offered himself as a candidate for the Delaware State Representative - perhaps the first step in the direction of Washington he had planned. Jenkins' defeat caused a breach in Republican party, and both Mr. Jenkins' and Mr. Atkinson's disappointment was back of the sale of their paper to a rival. Misjudgment of the public that the "Commercial" was too exclusive, too good for "the man with the hoe", too respectable in fact - perhaps contributed most to the shrinkage in subscriptions and advertising and the eventual disposal of the first daily in Wilmington, and its weekly edition, "The Delaware Tribune", to its younger rival.

"Every Evening", established in 1871, by William T. Croasdale and Gilbert G. Cameron issued its first number on September 4th of that year.



Mr. Croasdale had attained experience as the editor of a Georgetown weekly and had been city editor of the "Daily Commercial", during its short-lived career. Mr. Camerson was a printer and served as business manager. The start was in an humble office two rooms at No. 4 East Third Street; the press work was done near by in the office of James & Webb.

Mr. Croasdale was of the opinion that the public would patronize a clean, able, independent afternoon newspaper at one cent a copy, and his views were confirmed by the popularity that came immediately to the new venture. In the second year of its history, the "Every Evening" was incorporated and bought the "State Journal's plant" on Market next door to City Hall and moved into the office buying, in 1873, the "Journal" of Henry Eikel, and four years later its rival contemporary the "Delaware Daily Commercial." The weekly edition of the latter, "Delaware State Journal and Statesman" which was merged with "The Delaware Tribune", the weekly edition of the "Every Evening".

The immediate success of "The Every Evening" fulfilled the most roseate expectations of its owners; before the end of its first year the circulation had reached the phenomenal total of 6000 copies daily. With the purchase of the "Commercial" the "Every Evening" moved into the former's office building Southwest corner of Fifth and Market streets. At this time it was decided expedient to increase the size of the paper and raise the

price to two cents - an unwise move as it was proved. However, the circulation a few months later resumed its upward trend and the "Every Evening" boomed again.



*Journalism*

*State Printer 306  
Folder 1, Newspaper*

Submitted by Mary Margaret Moor,

Date February 17, 1937.

Union List of Newspapers.

Claymont----- New Castle County Herald, Weekly --1931-1932 -L

Clayton----- Clayton Herald. Weekly. Weekly --1868-H -1868-L 1869-H  
Ap-25 Je-13

Dover-- Delaware Republican. Weekly 1923 My-date -L  
May 4  
Delaware Sentinel. Weekly 1885 - L  
Delaware State News. Weekly (with exceptions ) L 1919  
Delaware State Reporter. Weekly 1854 -U  
Delawareen. Weekly 1850-U semi-weekly 1898-1900  
National Recorder. Weekly 1820 Historical  
Political Primer; or a Horn Book to the Jacksonites. Weekly 1828  
State Sentinel - Weekly 1876  
Constitutionalist; or, The Defender of Peoples Rights U 1804

Georgetown-- Messinger, Weekly 1858 -U  
Rescue Weekly 1873  
Delaware Democrat Weekly 1882  
Delaware Inquirer Weekly L 1880 Not a Newspaper.  
Sussex Journal. Weekly. 1874  
Sussex Journal. Weekly I 1874  
Sussex News Weekly 1853 I  
Union. Weekly U. -1863

Grubbs Brandywine Hundred News. Monthly I 1894

Laurel Sussex Countian. Weekly I 1894

Lewes Breakwater Light. Weekly I 1873  
Delaware Coast News. Weekly --1928  
Delaware Pilot. Weekly H. 1895

Middletown

Middletown Transcript. Weekly H. I 1871 1894

Milford

Diamond Globe. Weekly 1855\*H

Diamond State and Milford Beacon. Weekly I-1855

Milford Argus. Weekly I-1867

Milford Beacon. Weekly I-1851

Milford Chronicle. Weekly \*-1883

Our Mutual Friend. Weekly I-1869

Peninsular News and Advertiser. Weekly I-1873

Newark

Delaware Ledger. Weekly. I -1923

Newark Post. Weekly I 1923 My-date

Our Sunbeam. Monthly 1856 U.

Newport

Newport Enterprise. Weekly H. 1889

Rehoboth

Delaware Coast News. Weekly I 1928

Rehoboth Beach News.-Weekly 1927-K.A.Horner, editor and Pub.

Seaford

Sussex County Index. Weekly 1879 I

Smyrna

Delaware Herald. H. 1851 Weekly

Smyrna Telegraph. Weekly H-1850

Smyrna Times. Weekly. H. -1861

Wilmington

Advertiser. Weekly H. 1879

American Watchman. Semi-Weekly H.-1814

American Watchman and Delaware Advertiser. S-W H-1822

American Watchman and Delaware Republican S-W H-1809

Blue Book; or, Whig Looking-Glass. Weekly. H-1840

Blue Hen's Chicken. Weekly I-1847

Brandywine New. Weekly. I 1931 - Brandywine Bulletin (now)



Wilmington

Business Index. Weekly. H-1876

Christian Repository. Weekly I-1821

Commonwealth. Weekly H-1858

Critique. Daily H-1872

Daily Delaware Inquirer. Daily . U 1861

Daily Enterprise. Daily H-1858

Daily Gazette. Daily 1875

Daily Journal. Daily. H-1874 Published by Mechanics Fair.

Daily Journal and Statesman. Daily -H 1859 (Daily Issue during  
meeting of Pres.  
Gen. Assm.)

Daily Republican. Daily H-1874

Daily Journal and Statesman. Daily - H-1859

Delaware Abolitionist. I-1848 (Lost)

Delaware Advertiser and Farmers Journal. Weekly -H-1829

Delaware Advertiser and Star. Weekly U.-1832

Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser. Semi-weekly

Delaware Blue. Weekly. -H-1840

Delaware Democrat. Weekly H-1857

Delaware Free Press. Weekly H-1830

Delaware Gazette - (1786) ✓

Delaware Gazette and General Advertiser (1789) ✓

Delaware Gazette and Peninsular Advertiser (1814-1819)

Delaware Gazette and American Watchman (1829-1836)

Delaware Gazette and State Journal (1884-1902)

Delaware Intelligencer. Weekly H.-1821

Delaware Journal. Semi-weekly H-1828

Delaware Patriot and American Watchman. semi-weekly  
1828

## Wilmington

Delaware Register - or Farmers, Manufacturers and Mechanics  
advocate. Weekly 1828

Delaware Post 1933

Delaware Republican. Semi-weekly 1841

Delaware State Journal. semi-weekly 1834-1882

Delaware State Journal, Statesman and Blue Hen's Chicken  
semi-weekly 1856 E.

Delaware Statesman H-1812 Weekly

Delaware Straight-out Truth Teller H-1872

Delaware Tribune. Weekly 1867-1868-E.

Delaware Veteran. Daily H-1887

Delaware Weekly Republican. Semi-weekly I-1862

Delmarvia Leader. Weekly I.-1923

Delmarvia Monthly Review -I 1924 My

Evening Journal. Daily I 1888

Every Evening. Daily

Holiday Journal. Weekly 1879-H

Independent Delawarian I-1848

Labor Herald. Weekly 1923-I

Mirror of the Times and General Advertiser I-1799 ✓

Monitor and Wilmington Repository. Semi-weekly H-1800

Morning Herald. Daily I-1875

Morning News

Museum of Delaware and General Advertiser. Weekly H-1804

Peninsular Trade Record. Weekly H-1882

Statesman and Blue Hen's Chickens. Weekly H-1854

Suburban News. Monthly I 1929

Sun. Daily 1897-I



## Wilmington

Sunday School Worker. Bi-Weekly H-1873  
Sunday Morning Star I-1881  
Times - Daily H-1884 (  
Tygodnik Polonia. Weekly I. 1925  
Union News - Weekly - 1927 K.A. Horner, Editor and Publisher  
Water Witch News. Daily H-1882  
Weekly Delaware State Journal - H-1856  
Weekly Post H-1889  
Weekly Times H-1886  
Wilmington Advertiser. Weekly H-1884  
Wilmington Argus. Weekly 1880  
Wilmington Daily Commerical I-1866  
Wilmington Daily Gazette -E-1849  
Wilmington Daily Republican 1874-1890 as daily  
Wilmington Home Weekly. H-1855  
Wilmington Mercury (printed occasionally)  
Wilmington Morning News H-1880  
Wilmingtonian. Weekly 1882  
Wilmingtonian and Delaware Advertiser. Weekly H-1824.

## Wyoming

Baptist Visitor. Monthly 1870

PROGRAM OF STUDIES FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
ON THE BASIS OF EIGHT 40 MINUTE PERIODS (NET) DAILY

NINTH YEAR

9B Semester

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Periods Weekly</u>
English	6
Mathematics	5
Social Studies	5
Science	4
Physical Education	2
Fine Arts	2
Music (1)	
Art (1)	
Practical Arts	3
Boys--Shop & Draw. (3)	
Girls--Clothing (3)	
<u>ELECTIVES (Choose One)</u>	5
Foreign Language	
Latin, or	
French	
Fine Arts	
Music, or	
Art	
Practical Arts	
Boys--Shop or Draw.	
Girls--Foods or Cloth.	
Activities	3
Auditorium (1)	
Home Room (1)	
Clubs (1)	

Total 35

9A Semester

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Periods Weekly</u>
English	6
Mathematics	5
Social Studies	5
Science	4
Physical Education	2
Fine Arts	2
Music (1)	
Art (1)	
Practical Arts	3
Boys--Shop & Draw (3)	
Girls--Foods (3)	
<u>ELECTIVES (Choose One)</u>	5
Foreign Language	
Latin, or	
French	
Fine Arts	
Music, or	
Art	
Practical Arts	
Boys--Shop or Draw.	
Girls--Foods or Cloth.	
Activities	3
Auditorium (1)	
Home Room (1)	
Clubs (1)	

Total 35



TENTATIVE PROGRAM OF STUDIES  
HOWARD PREVOCATIONAL CLASSES

A. Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the program is to aid backward pupils to live broader, richer, more integrated lives today while at the same time revealing to them possibilities for continued enrichment in proportion to their abilities to utilize such opportunities.

B. The Academic Activities

One-half of the school time of the pupils in this class each day is given to academic activities organized as a closely integrated whole to the environment or out-of-school experiences of the pupils and the shop program offered within the school. This program is organized around large units of life experiences such as "Personal Health and Cleanliness," "Foods in Relation to Health," "How People Earn a Living in Wilmington." These units are organized on the same principles as the social studies units already constructed for the regular class groups. The teacher is urged to stress first hand situations in the learning and to make application to practical home and community problems. The units make provision for all necessary learnings in social studies, language arts, and science.

1. Health

- a. Physical Health--exercise and recreation
- b. Mental Health and personal adjustment problems
- c. Community health--sanitation, hygiene
- d. Personal health--hygiene and related problems of personal living
- e. Orthopedics wherever necessary.

2. Social Studies

- a. Understanding of community activities and various inter-relationships
- b. How people earn a living in Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, in other communities and states of a similar type
- c. How the community is governed and how government works in other communities and in the state
- d. Participation in the activities of the school community, and participation in problems of reconstruction in the larger community wherever possible
- e. Individual, personal, social adjustment problems

## Howard Prevocational (continued--page 2)

## 3. Science

- a. Some understanding of industrial life in the community, including inventions, machines, labor-saving devices, employment, wages, etc.
- b. General science of any type related to the interests of the individual pupils
- c. Such science as may be needed for health, social studies, or any of the other activities mentioned

## 4. Home-Making

- a. Foods--their preparation, serving, combination to insure a balanced diet
- b. Clothing--construction, selection, repair, alteration
- c. Management of home--selection, furnishing, decorations, budget, expenditure of income

## 5. Fine Arts

- a. Vocal and instrumental music
- b. Dramatic and rhythmic activities
- c. Arts and crafts
- d. Creative art expression of any type suited to the individual

## 6. Language Arts

- a. Reading for information and pleasure
- b. Wide experience in the use of oral English as a medium of communication
- c. Limited amount of written composition of a simple type related to some specific experiences

## 7. Arithmetic

- a. Limited amount of practice computation when related to solution of problems arising out of life experiences of the pupils

## C. The Shop Activities

The program is arranged so that the shop activities consume approximately one-half of the school time each day and consist of a wide variety of types in each year selected on the basis of:



1. Interest of pupils
2. Importance in the immediate life of pupils
3. Importance in the community
4. General educational values

The shops are organized to be of the general rather than the specialized type; that is, they are shops in which many different kinds of activities go on simultaneously--carpentry, cobbling, painting, printing, and the like. Adequate facilities are provided for homemaking activities.

#### Administration of the Program

The responsibility for the integration of the entire program of the prevocational groups is centered in the Vice Principal of the school and the group of teachers who have been assigned as instructors in these courses.

### PREVOCATIONAL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

#### Typical Distribution of Subject Matter in Schedule

The following time allotments are typical and approximate only. They are not to be considered in any way as rigid or binding. The very nature of the prevocational program demands the utmost flexibility in schedule making and time distribution in order that the work can be adapted to the needs of special pupils and special groups.

#### English

#### 5 periods

Spelling  
Oral Composition  
Grammar

Approximately 15 minutes a day  
1 period weekly  
1 period weekly--specifically grammar drill, but much incidental grammar  
2 periods for one group  
2 half periods for another group  
4 periods--or all their reading time for another group  
1 period for some  
2 periods for others  
None for those who need most remedial reading

Remedial Reading  
(depends upon needs of specific group)

Recreational Reading

#### Social Studies

5 periods for one group  
4 periods for another group

#### Mathematics

5 periods for one group  
4 periods for another

#### Science

1 period approximately  
(Some take their science as part of Social Studies; therefore they have four Social Studies periods, one Science period. Another group takes science as part of Mathematics and have four Mathematics periods, and one Science period.)

<u>Physical Education</u>	<u>1 period</u>
<u>Music</u>	<u>1 period</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>1 period</u>
<u>Assembly</u>	<u>2 periods</u>
<u>Shop or Laboratory</u>	<u>13 periods</u>
<u>Club</u>	<u>1 period</u>
<u>Home Room</u>	<u>1 period</u>
Total - - - 35 periods	



## SOCIAL SERVICE SURVEY

Hammond:

The social service field in Delaware presents a mixture of conditions that definitely react to curtail the possibilities of achievement commensurate with the opportunities therein. In Delaware social service activities have long been entrusted to persons divorced from the general state of mind of the professional social worker. This in itself admits of shortcomings and failure for the program. However, nothing has been done to correct the condition and propagate a program where maximum efficiency would be a determining factor in the work.

Impartial investigation of the social agencies in Wilmington disclose a pseudo-sincerity in many instances that indicate the lack of trained social workers. This perhaps is one of the reasons for many of the current ills of the present social service set-up. It is universally accepted that the true social worker is the less prejudiced of public workers and has a single objective- the correct solution of the problem. Without this conscientious attitude social work is a farcial gesture. This is unfortunately true of much of the social work as done here.

On the contrary there are in the field of social service here a few highly trained , efficient, open minded social workers. These in most instances are handicapped by an unwieldy board of society

#2

matrons, whose knowledge of the requirements of the work is nihil, or the limitations of private funds. Thus, the few social workers here with capabilities have little or no opportunity to function at their best.

Any attempt to survey the social service field in Delaware would of necessity require much time, money and a well staffed organization. A cursory viewing of the picture has revealed some of the more obvious ills. These in the opinion of the writer are lack of centralization of functions into one ~~agency~~ <sup>Bureau</sup>, and the prejudicial attitude of ~~agency~~ <sup>bureau</sup> heads and workers.

Quietly but plainly in a great big way a new but potent factor has entered the field of social rehabilitation. It is the ~~scientific~~ scientific social viewpoint. This viewpoint is based upon the sum total of all that is reason, after careful study and investigation, decrees to be right in ordinary human relationships. It is the viewpoint of the true social worker. It is the viewpoint derived from the necessity of applying the principles of sociology, economics, psychology and kindred subjects to the everyday life problems of individuals.

Plainly today we have a growing profession called social work and a rapidly increasing army of professionals called social workers. These social workers maybe black, white, southern or northern, young or old, men or women. Color, sex, age, section, mean little so far as they are concerned. However it is important that their training and outlook on social affairs be scientific. Prejudice is a disturbing factor which



#3

they must always remove if they are to do their best work. This they have failed to do in Wilmington. Prejudice, which is unreasoned pre-judgment, muddles up the social worker and results in a false solution to the problems encountered.

As a result there are in Wilmington a huge bloc of citizens whose brains are on the side of the <sup>needy</sup> ~~Negro~~ but whose hearts are elsewhere. True social sciences apply with equal force to all human beings alike under the same set of given conditions. Thus a social act that is scientifically good for the white man is just as good for the ~~Negro~~, and vice versa. True social workers daily face problems in which ~~Negroes~~, whites, and ~~Negroes~~ and whites are involved. If given two problems, one with white principles and one with Negro principles and the answers are different though conditions are identical, social workers know that one or other of the answers is wrong.

Prejudice, therefore, is offensive to the pride of good social workers because it induces the wrong answer. A social worker cannot be good who is always getting wrong answers. That is the fallacy in Wilmington where either social worker manipulate conditions to justify the answers, or lack scientific training whereby correct answers would be forthcoming.

The reason for the higher percentage of fairness among true social workers than there is among preachers, lawyers, doctors, journalists and other craftsmen is that part of the good social worker's job is to locate and destroy all the elements of prejudice. This can be seen, not only in the everyday work of sterling members of this profession, but also in the courage which they, as a group, show when confronted by



#4

the race issue. White churches, bar association, medical bodies, trade federations and whatnot bar the Negro, and justify the exclusion. For the most part elsewhere, social workers' organizations, do not bar the Negro, for with their training they cannot justify exclusion.

Social service and its workers in Wilmington would do well to get out pencils and see why two and two equal four in some of their problems and equal five in certain problems affecting Negroes. More and more of them would discover their error and prove that the agency and worker that continues to get five is stupid and prejudiced. As a result of this prejudice local agencies have fallen far below their capabilities and Negroes and other groups of unfortunate citizenry have suffered untold misery.

Under the present set-up each agency proposes to be responsible for a certain phase of social service. Each agency has its directing executive. Obviously, this set-up should prove ideal but from practice here in Delaware much of the possibilities of fine social service have been lost.

Few of these bureaus are headed by person specifically prepared for the type of work done and gifted with the ability and judgment necessary for the successful operation of the bureaus. Of the few being properly administered by capable and efficient executives much of their ability is restrained by unwieldy and assuming boards of directors. Each of the aforementioned are evils that could be remedied by centralization of social service under a common head with departmentalized supervision responsible only to the executive director.



~~Currently,~~ In many cases there is no agency which can not refuse or accept a case on some flimsy technicality, manytimes leaving the hapless applicant without any place to turn for succor. There is no general agency under which borderline cases refused by one agency can be diagnosed and solved. The responsiblity for cases not to theliking of any agency cannot be determined . This lack of a clearing house for cases of all types has provoke much adverse criticism from various sources. This condition could be corrected by centralization of social service.

The present set-up has a financial handicap in that it requires more high salaried officials from which the comparative results are less. This condition would disappear with centralization for under this plan a capable executive would be responsible for the entire social service program.

There are many opponents to each plan but indications point to a better work being done here through centralization of the agencies and employment of trained social workers.

## HISTORY OF THE EDUCATION OF THE COLORED POPULATION

By Henry C. Conrad

*Check this source*

"Delaware having been a slave State, no provision was made during the slave holding days to educate the colored people. On the other hand every obstacle was put in the way of their advancement and improvement, so that at the close of the war in 1865, a large number of colored children were growing up in the State without any school advantages, giving but little, if any more promise than their fathers before them.

4 Toward the close of the year 1866, after the establishment of the Freedman's Bureau in Washington, and when an organization had been formed in the city of Baltimore looking toward <sup>the</sup> aiding and assisting the colored people of Maryland, it entered into the minds of several gentlemen residing in Wilmington, whose Philanthropy and generosity were well known, to organize an association having for its aim, the establishment and maintenance of schools for the colored people residing in Delaware. The initial meeting was held at the house of William S. Hilles, an influential citizen, on the evening of December 13th, 1866, and the following were present: Samuel Hilles, William A. Reynolds, Thomas Kimber, William S. Hilles, William H. Corse, John R. Tatum, Edward Tatnall, Joseph Tatnall, Howard M. Jenkins, Charles W. Howland, Joseph Griffith, Richard S. Griffith, Samuel Woolman, Ashton Richardson, and Dr. William R. Bullock, all residents of Wilmington, and Francis T. King <sup>and Dr. Thomas</sup> of Baltimore. Out of this preliminary gathering grew a public meeting which was held in the Scientific Room of the Wilmington Institute on the evening of December 27th, two weeks later.



At this meeting the venerable Judge Williard Hall presided, and addresses, giving full particulars as to the work among the colored people of Maryland, were made by Francis T. King and Judge Bond of Baltimore, and Major General Gregory of the Freedman's Bureau. At a meeting held one week later, January 3rd, 1867, the "Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the colored people" was regularly organized with Thos. Kimber as President, and Wm. R. Bullock as Secretary.

" At that meeting the number of colored schools in the State were reported as seven. Three in Wilmington, one at Newport, one at Odessa, and two at Camden. Contributions were asked from persons interested in the work of the Freedman's Bureau and other charitable disposed associations was solicited and the progress of the work at once began to appear in the building of school houses, and the opening of schools in different localities throughout the State. Rev. John G. Furey was appointed to superintend the work, and at the end of the first six months he was able to report that fourteen schools were open and in good condition, seven of which were in New Castle County; (two in Wilmington) three in Kent, and four in Sussex County, containing an aggregate of 700 pupils.

" The rules first adopted was to pay the teacher from the funds at the disposal of the association, a certain sum per month, leaving the colored people in the vicinity, of the schools to pay the teacher's board and incidental running expenses of the schools. During the first six months of the year the Freedman's Bureau had furnished lumber for school houses in ten places, under the care of the association.

11  
This was the work started and so it continued from year to year, until 1875, when an act was passed by the General Assembly of the State providing for the taxing of colored people for the support of their own schools. The association during these years received large sums of money from interested individuals, and in some instances from benovolent socities. The colored people throughout the State heartily seconded the work of the association. The pittance which was donated by the association from month to month was added to by the contribution of the colored people who had children in the schools , and thus a sufficient sum was raised to keep the schools open for a short term during the winter months. Rev. J. G. Furey was the first <sup>actuary</sup> or Superintendent of the colored schools. Under his wise direction the beginning was made, and many of the most important <sup>points</sup> ~~plants~~ were well covered before he gave way to Samuel Woolman, his successor. Mr. Woolman's efforts were crowned with abundant success. His task was indeed a wearisome one but by dent of persverance and good management he accomplished much. He was succeeded by Miss Abbie C. Peckham, who became actuary in the fall of 1868 and continued to serve, rendering valued service, until 1874, when Miss Mary S. Casperson succeeded her, who in turn was succeeded by Mrs. Kate Irvine, and in 1876, Henry C. Conrad was elected Actuary and has continued in office until the present time (July 1882). As before stated , the General Assembly of the State passed an act at the session of 1875 taxing the colored people for the support of their schools. The money arising from this scource is paid to the Association and by it distributed to the respective schools.



There was

The amount raised by taxation has not been sufficient to meet the expenses of the schools; on the contrary it has met only about one-third of the expenses, the other two-thirds being raised by the colored people among themselves. It can (be readily) seen that this has imposed a very heavy burden upon the colored people, and the spirit of heroism and sacrifice shown by them in their efforts to advance their children's welfare is deserving of the highest praise and commendation. The Act referred to which provided for the taxing of the colored people for school purposes, was the only recognition ever given by the law-making powers of the State as regards to colored education, until during the winter of 1881, when the General Assembly made an annual appropriation of \$2400 to be distributed share and share alike to the colored schools of the State. This appropriation has served as a great incentive to the colored people. It has resulted in relieving somewhat from the burden of carrying the schools, and has materially increased the number of schools and the number of pupils.

" During the last school year 67 schools have been open in the state, with an enrollment of about 3500 pupils. The work of the Association has been thoroughly and efficiently done. With the limited means at its disposal it has sought to lend a helping hand to a cause which has been dear to the heart of each one of its members. With a quietness which of itself betokens earnestness, the work has been continued from year to year, and looking back over fifteen years in which the work has gone, it is a matter of congratulation to see the Colored Schools of the State a recognized institution in which the great majority of the people, regardless of party lines, take a just pride.



The achievements made are but a sound beginning. The near future it is hoped has in store much better things. A revised school system for the entire state, which will include separate schools for colored people, with every facility accorded the colored children, is demanded by the times. A system should be devised whereby white and colored people bear equally the burden of taxation, and out of a common fund, schools of both classes should be maintained. To this end the friends of the colored schools who have borne "the burden and heat of the day" are anxiously looking, and the evidences of darkness and prejudice now disappearing, lead to hope that the day is beginning to break.

November 18, 1938

CURRENT FILE

(Extract)

"W. C. Hodgkin's Report"

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey for 1893.

Washington, 1895.

Grants were given by both sides (Pennsylvania and Maryland) in the disputed territory, and for many years the border was the scene of disputation and of conflict carried at times to the verge of open war. If Baltimore had the better title, Penn had the greater influence at court, and moreover had possession of a large tract claimed by Baltimore.

Several efforts were made by the proprietors to come to some agreement in this matter, but for one reason or another the negotiations repeatedly miscarried.

But justly or unjustly, Penn, who was high in favor, prevailed over Lord Baltimore who found it prudent to yield for a time lest worse evils should befall him.

And thus we see the village of Swaanendael so soon swept away in fire and blood, rising from its ashes to sever the Delaware Shore from Maryland.

Mason and Dixon's work.

From the southern end of their 15 mile meridian M. & D. began laying off a parallel of latitude to the westward. After running several miles of this line, which was temporarily marked by wooden posts, the surveyors left it for a time and turned their attention to the southern portions of the boundary. Accepting as settled the "base line" which had already been run across the peninsula by their predecessors, and the Middle Point marked by the same persons M. & D. endeavored to run out the Tangent Line from the Middle Point of the



T. C. Morris

BOUNDARIES

November 18, 1938

## Hodgkin's Report

base to the tangent point. This extremity of the 12 mile radius laid out by the former surveyors was also accepted by M. & D. who found that it was nearly at right angles with the line which they laid out between its western end and the Middle Point of the base line.

(Tangent Point 108 feet too far from belfry of New Castle C. H. )

In laying out the Tangent Line M. & D. were much assisted by the trial lines run by their predecessors. From these abortive lines they computed the direction which the line should follow, and then they ran it out by transit until they reached the Tangent Point. They found that their line ran 16'7" east of that stake. They then computed the proper offsets for each mile of their line to bring it out to the true line and moved their posts accordingly. This done, they reported to the Commissioners that the posts so placed were, as nearly as practical in the true tangent line.

After running the due North Line to the intersection of the parallel of latitude 15 miles south of the southernmost point of Philadelphia, they began to mark that portion of the 12 mile circle which lay to the westward of the due North Line from the Tangent Point. Here M. & D. fell into an error in computing the length of this small arc. As was pointed out by Col. J. D. Graham in 1850, they seem to have obtained their angle of deflection from the tangent to the North Line, upon which their computations of the chord depended, by measuring the angle their due North Line and the visible portion of the radius laid out by their predecessors. They had previously found that this

T. C. Morris

## BOUNDARIES

November 18, 1938

## Hodgkin's Report

radius was sensibly perpendicular to their own tangent line. Evidently, however, one of these angular measurements was considerably in error. They computed their chord and offsets with a deflection angle of 3 28' while the actual angle between the tangent and the true North Line was found by Col. Graham to be 3 36' 06". As the arc cut off by the due North Line would be twice the deflection angle, this made an error of 16'12" in the angular value of the intercepted arc and shortened the chord about 300 feet. Owing to the flatness of the curve the middle ordinate was not greatly in error, and the area of the segment was only about an acre too small.

The Tangent Line, supposed to be a little less than 82 miles long, is probably about  $84\frac{1}{2}$  miles in actual length. Curiously enough all of the errors in measurement made by M. & D. or their predecessors seem to have resulted in loss of territory by Maryland except the trifling error in the area of the circular segment.

The error in locating the northern boundary of Maryland putting it about 5 chains too far south, meant the loss of a strip of land of that width along the whole length of the boundary, about 196 miles. This area would amount to nearly 8000 acres.

The area in measuring the radius from New Castle which placed the Tangent Point 108 feet too far from the center, took a strip of that width from the eastern border of Maryland to the northward of the Tangent Point while south of that point assuming that the southwest corner of Delaware was correctly placed, Maryland lost a wedge-shaped strip about  $84\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and 108 feet wide at the base.



T. C. Morris

BOUNDARIES

November 18, 1938

Hodgkin's Report

As these various lines were located by M. & D. they were marked by suitable stone monuments which were generally 1 mile apart. This work was done by other persons under the supervision of the Commissioners. These stones were made in England from oolite limestone and were sent out from time to time as they were needed. They are stout square posts surmounted by a rather flat pyramid. Upon the side facing Maryland the letter M is cut, and on the opposite side the letter P. As Delaware was then a part of Pennsylvania the whole length of the line was surveyed and marked in the same manner. Every fifth milestone, however, was more elaborately marked, having the arms of the respective proprietors carved upon the opposite sides in place of the initials.

One of these stones carved with the arms of the proprietors has found its way by some strange chance into the town of Newark where it supports one of the pillars of the porch in front of a very old house. It is probably one that was intended for the 85 mile of the Tangent Line; but this being 82 miles long, as measured, it was not used, though it might well have been placed at the intersection of the arc with the due North Line instead of the rough, unmarked stone which stood there until 1849.

The stones placed at the Tangent Point and at some other points on the small part of the circle laid out by M. & D. were of different and far less durable material - a dark granite rock

T. C. Morris

BOUNDARIES

November 18, 1938

Hodgkin's Report

of very poor quality. It appears from the minutes of the Commissioners under date of June 17, 1765, that it was intended to replace these stones with more durable monuments marked with the arms of the proprietors. For some reason this never was done, and most of the old stones still remain. The top of each is rounded to indicate that it is on the circle. The arms of the proprietors can barely be perceived upon the old stone at the Tangent Point, the only one which was so marked.



## INTRODUCTION

The generation of today, careless or not knowing, feels that everything has been the same through the years. Yet habits and customs have changed in every phase of our lives, and an "oldtimer" coming <sup>back</sup> today would find it hard to adjust himself to our modern way of life. The advent of the automobile has changed the aspect of our streets, not only in amount of traffic, but in the form of the various types of vehicles. Likewise, the widening of the streets and narrowing of the sidewalks to meet the demand for space for motor vehicles has at the same time robbed the city of many of the shade trees, so essential in a summer climate such as ours. And with the disappearance of the horse have also gone many of the businesses associated with them.

In the field of amusement, the moving pictures have largely pre-empted the place held by the speaking stage, with its varied assortment of entertainment. In years past, road shows and stock companies were more prevalent, and our people would be regaled with a week of the Boston Ideals or Corse Payton in repertoire, along with the stars of that day, supported by good casts. These attractions, as well as the magicians, and minstrel shows, kept the Grand Opera House a center of interest throughout the winter months. During the summer, the amusement parks were well patronized, offering the customer a ride on the scenic railway or merry-go-round, a boat ride on the lake or a trip through a maze, as well as a short vaudeville show in the open air theater. As there was very little opportunity for many to get out in the

country, the trip to these parks was an added feature.

Not only the layout of the home, but the habits and customs that ruled there, have given way to more cultural tastes, especially as regards the family table. Many of our elders of that day were farm-bred, folks who flocked to the city with the increase in industrial employment, and bringing with them habits and customs developed in their original environment, that were to be changed by a new generation. Our elders were a God-fearing people, and the church and home their chief interest. Inured to hardships and an economic existence, they brought to the city splendid traits upon which to build the future generations.

Family life lacked the various outside attractions of today. The family in the evening was generally to be found around the table lamp, each with special interests—Father with the evening paper, Mother plying the needles, and the children engaged with their home work or games. Should company come, they would be entertained with conversation, selections on the piano or organ by one of the younger group, or a game of cards. As a last resort, especially if they were new friends, the family album might be brought out, even then the old types of people and dress affording a certain amount of amusement. Today, the dinner dishes are no more than cleared away than the family is off to the movies, or for a ride in the family car.

For a city the size of Wilmington fifty years ago, its various industries took first rank, and the car and shipbuilding plants, as well as those for the manufacture of different types of machinery, carried the name and fame of the city into far places.



The Quaker element predominated largely in these industries, and their conservative outlook laid a firm foundation upon which such concerns were built. Many of these old firms, either because of the death of the leaders, or the changing methods of doing business, are now longer factors in the present life of the community, and their places have been taken by new firms.

Of those who peopled the city fifty years ago, the whites were largely of English, Irish, or German stock, the other nationals, such as the Poles, Italians, and Jews, not making their appearance in numbers until the first of the twentieth century. Each race seemed to find its favored niche, the English and Irish in industrial employment, and the latter race particularly in politics, while the Germans catered to the "inner man," with breweries, corner saloons, and bake shops.

The old-time Negroes were a happy-go-lucky race, living from day to day, with very little education, but a soul full of music. They were often envied by the poorer whites who had the worries of a large family and the problem of money. There was no clamoring then for equality with the whites, as they were content to serve that they might enjoy some of the necessities of life.

Many of the sports, such as baseball, basketball, and bowling, were in their primitive state, but bicycling and horse-racing were favored sports. Many business and professional men throughout the city owned fast horses, which they would hire an experienced horseman to drive in the races. Every means was employed to make the use of the bicycle as widespread as possible, and with the limited means of public transportation, they developed into



a necessity in the transaction of business.

The fashions of the men and women of that day looked stiff and formal. While men were not given the latitude in dress, especially in the warmer months, enjoyed by the men of today, their dress gave them a dignity often at the expense of comfort. The same might be said of the women. Their voluminous skirts and tight basques, along with the corsets, left them little chance for an active life. This, coupled with the conventions with which they were bound, called from the men those gallantries and graces which they later on largely sacrificed for the new-found freedom. The women of that period were only slightly removed from those who lived in what some writer has called "an atmosphere of elegant anonymity."

That period also gave birth to the dress reformers, who agitated for a more comfortable mode of dress, and set the example themselves. Like the pioneer suffrage movement, it met strong opposition from the more conservative women, who desired to hold fast to the traditions of the past. The freedom which came to them through the reform in dress, and the acquiring of the ballot, lost for them much of that early feminine allure.

The city government has expanded to meet the growing needs of the city. The Municipal Judge sitting on the high rostrum, with the curved railings at the stairs on the side, coupled with the "Oyez! Oyez!" of the court crier, gave the sessions of the court a colonial atmosphere. When the old City Hall failed to meet the needs of the growing city, different departments were moved to adjoining buildings—the Street and Sewer Department to the building on the S.W. corner of Sixth and King, the City



Treasurer to a building on Sixth Street, between Market and King, and the police lockerroom to a building on the present site of the Arcadia Theater. With the removal of the city departments to the new building at Tenth and King Streets, in 1916, an agitation began to preserve the older building as a symbol of the past.

The early public school buildings were of a stereotyped design, having short halls and a yard for exercise. They were so placed throughout the city that no student had to travel far to reach his school. Those modern features, such as manual training, guidance teachers and orchestras were lacking, and the Friday afternoon literary exercises were the only respite from the daily grind.

One wonders whether fifty years from now a story can be written of the present days that will show the interesting changes that have marked the last fifty.

J. E. Schell  
Sept. 26, 1939

TRANSPORTATION  
CURRENT FILE

336

"Trading with Philadelphia" Wilmington as a Port

While a number of citizens of Wilmington owned or were interested in one or more sailing vessels as early as 1741, most of which were built in Wilmington, it was not until 1750 that Thomas Willing built the first sloop packet that ran between the port of Wilmington and Philadelphia. (A)

Just prior to the Revolution, in 1774, Samuel Bush established the first freight line between Wilmington and Philadelphia, operating the sloop Ann of 30 tons capacity, which made weekly trips. (A)

Captain Bush carried produce to Philadelphia, which he sold for the account of shippers, and while in Philadelphia he purchased merchandise for the various Wilmington merchants. This service was something altogether new and was a success from the start.

Finding the Ann was getting all the freight she could carry, another sloop was started from French Street wharf by John Foudray, who continued the business until about 1790, when he sold out his property from the river to Front Street to Samuel Bush. (A)

Captain Bush's service was suspended during the Revolutionary War; he was forced to scuttle his sloop Ann on the Jersey shore to prevent its capture by the British fleet who had come up to Delaware to occupy Philadelphia. (A) After the British evacuated Philadelphia, however, he raised his sloop, refitted her, and commenced running again to Philadelphia as before.

By this time the millers and distillers of Lancaster and Chester Counties, Pa., found it was much cheaper to send their products to Wilmington and then ship them to Philadelphia than to send them direct to Philadelphia in wagons, as they had been doing. (A)



Finding the Ann too small for the trade offering, Captain Bush built a new sloop of 60 tons capacity, which he called the Nancy. She was fitted up to carry passengers, as well as freight. The passenger fare was about fifty cents, and it took from six to nine hours to make the trip, the hour of departure being so arranged as to take advantage of the tides. Meals were also served on the Nancy.

Later, another sloop, the Mary Ann, was built and a semi-weekly service was put in operation. (A)

Having purchased the property at the foot of Market Street in 1790, William Warner ran a sloop to and from Philadelphia to carry freight. (A)

In 1799 James Brian, having purchased the property at the foot of Orange Street from the McComb estate, and being the owner of the packet Sarah Ann, he placed her in the Philadelphia trade, and she plied in this service for many years. (A)

The Brandywine Mills, in 1814, owned nine sloops of from 40 to 60 tons capacity and used them in shipping flour from their mills on the Brandywine to Philadelphia. (A)

The first steamboat to ply between Wilmington and Philadelphia was the Vestal, launched at Grice's shipyard, Philadelphia, April 23, 1812. The arrival of the Vestal at Wilmington the next day was the occasion of much enthusiasm and hundreds of citizens visited her at the wharf where she was laying. After 1815, she was called the Vesta. (A)

The steamboat Delaware was put on the river Aug. 20, 1814, to run between Wilmington and Philadelphia during the blockade, by water, to Baltimore by the British. (A)

The Superior was built in 1820. It took her eight hours to go to



Philadelphia and two days were required for the round trip. The fare to Philadelphia was one dollar. The Superior was owned by the Wilmington Steamboat Company.

In the year 1833, the steamboat Telegraph carried passengers of the Wilmington and Baltimore R. R. (later the P.B. & W.R.R.) to and from Philadelphia, as this railroad, at the time, had not been extended to that city. (B)

The Emerald, owned by Wilmon Whilldin, also ran between Wilmington and Philadelphia, in 1835. Whilldin bought the Newcastle in 1836, and this was the first boat to make the round trip to Philadelphia in the same day. This brought active competition between the various boats and the newly-constructed railroad. The latter put the fare down to twelve and one-half cents and the steamboats, for several months, carried passengers for ten cents. Other boats operating on the river were the Lineas in 1835; Robert Morris in 1838; Balloon in 1842, and the Sun in 1843. (A)

The steamboats Balloon and Rainbow in 1843 charged twelve and one-half cents between Wilmington and Philadelphia. (A)

In 1845, the "Whilldin" was built for the Wilmington and Philadelphia trade. She was the first iron steamboat with side wheels to run on the Delaware, and she continued in this trade until 1857. (B)

Up to 1837, the Warner Company had operated two small sloops, making four trips per week, between Philadelphia and Wilmington. (A)

About 1846 the Charles Warner Company used the first propeller in their carrying trade, and from this beginning grew the Wilmington and Philadelphia Propeller Line which for forty years maintained a daily line between the two cities, with a system of express delivery at each end of the route. (A)



In 1850, the Zephyr was placed in the Wilmington and Philadelphia service, by the Wilmington Steamboat Company, continuing in this trade for thirteen years. (B)

The sloops Fame and Mary Warner, each of sixty tons capacity, were placed in the service and continued to make four trips per week until 1866, when they were found to be inadequate, and were replaced by the barges Anna and Mary, each of 125 tons capacity. These barges were towed by steam tugs operating a daily line between Wilmington and Philadelphia. The traffic, however, increased to such an extent that these two barges were eventually replaced by the Coleta and Minquas, each of 250 tons capacity.

The Ariel also ran between Wilmington and Philadelphia, to be succeeded in 1866 by the Samuel M. Felton, the property of the Philadelphia and Wilmington Steamboat Company. She operated between Wilmington and Philadelphia until the summer of 1885, when she was taken off the route as the competition between her and other boats running in this trade was so keen and fares were cut so low that she could not pay operating expenses. (B) The fare had been reduced to ten cents one way and fifteen cents round trip. (A)

About 1869 or 1870, the rivalry between the Felton and the Eliza Hancox and the John Sylvester was quite lively. (B)

In 1882 with the establishment of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Steamboat Line (later known as the Wilson Line) the Wilmington was put in the service of this line and proved a worthy competitor of the Felton; in 1885 the Brandywine, a companion boat to the Wilmington, was placed in the service. The Brandywine, built by the Harlan & Hollingsworth Company was one of the fast propellers in the country at the time.



For several months, in 1885, M. Green Wright & Company, of New York placed the Morrisania on the river to run between Wilmington and Philadelphia; she was succeeded by the Shady Side, and for a time Wilmington had three passenger steamboat lines operating between Wilmington and Philadelphia. The Shady Side and the Felton withdrawing from the service, two passenger boats only were left on the river in 1887, namely, the Wilmington and Brandywine, both owned by the Wilson Line. In the service of this line were added the following steamers: in 1888, the Chester; in 1910, the City of Wilmington and City of Philadelphia; in 1915, the City of Camden; in 1922, the State of Delaware and State of Pennsylvania. (A) In 1937, the City of Philadelphia was rebuilt and given the name of Liberty Belle.

In 1909, the Charles Warner Company sold its transportation business to the Bush Line and, in 1929, the Wilson Line purchased the Bush Line interests. The Wilson Line discontinued its freight service between Wilmington and Philadelphia in 1937, and at the same time discontinued its all-year-round passenger service to Philadelphia, operating their passenger service only from the middle of May until the middle of September, each year.

Since the Wilson Line withdrew its freight service in 1937, there has been no regular freight service between Wilmington and Philadelphia for the first time in over a century.

#### Bibliography

- (A) J. T. Scharf. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Vol. 2 pp. 1358. L. J. Richards & Co. Philadelphia, 1888. References used, pages 749 to 754 inclusive; pages 757 to 759 inclusive.

- (B) The Harlan & Hollingsworth Co. Wilmington, Del. Semi-Centennial Memoir - 1836 to 1886; pp. 490.

References used page 88.

OK:  
J. E. Schell  
9/29/39



G. K. Browning,  
December 7, 1939.

(Verbatim copy from Dictionary of American Biography 4:4345)

CURRENT FILE  
EDUCATION

341

THOMAS CORAM.

"CORAM, THOMAS (1668-Mar. 29, 1751), merchant, colony promoter, was the son of a mariner of Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire, England. Left motherless, he went to sea "at 11 years and (a) half old until 5 years after "his<sup>father</sup>/apprenticed him to a London shipwright. It was as a shipbuilder, a factor for Thomas Hunt of London, that he began an acquaintance with the colonies which led Horace Walpole to describe him in 1735 as "the honestest the most disinterested, and the most knowing person about the plantations, I ever talked with." (Coxe, Walpole, 1798, III, 243). In 1693 he carried over a party of shipwrights to Boston; and in 1697 he removed for a time to Taunton, and set up a shipyard in South Dighton, drawn thither by "the Vast great plenty of oak and fir timber, and iron ore." But as forthright personality and sturdy Anglicanism soon involved in quarrels and litigation in that primitive Puritan community -- a "generation of vipers," as he afterward described his neighbors. He won his lawsuits, upon appeal, and escaped two murderous assaults. In 1703 he took characteristic revenge by deeding in trust fifty-nine acres--- awarded him as indemnity by the Superior Court-- for building a Church of English edifice, "If ever hereafter the inhabitants of the town of Taunton... shall be more civilized than they now are." (Compston, post p. 32).

Those ten stormy served, however, to fix Coram's interest in the material and spiritual development of the Colonies. He naturally supported various efforts to extend the Church of England in New England, and himself projected a King's College at Cambridge.



But his Anglicanism was not inflexible. At Boston he married (June 27, 1700) a Puritan wife, Eunice Wayte (1677-1740). For years he corresponded with the Boston divine, Benjamin Coleman, and enlisted the Associates of Dr. Bray and other agencies to supply books for the New England missionaries to the Indians, and for other dissenting ministers. The American project of this "indefatigable schemist" ranged from missionary efforts "to Beat down the old Goliath's (the French Jesuits," and plans for the relief of distressed New England seamen in foreign ports, to full-fledged enterprises of colonization. Probably no contemporary promoter showered so many memorials upon the Board of Trade. He returned to England in 1704, and at his own expense, so he claimed, solicited the act to encourage the making of tar pitch in the plantations (3 and 4 Anne, c.10). For several years he was employed in supplying the Admiralty with American naval stores. He was a strong mercantilist; as his first biographer remarked, "He loved the daughters dearly: but he loved them as daughters." In a memorial of 1732 he recommended the suppression of various Colonial manufactures in their infancy, though at other times he pressed the claims of the colonial iron manufacture. He vigorously exposed the complaints of the London Company of Felt Merchants against colonial competition, and lobbied for the Hat Act of 1732 (5 George II, C.22). In Hogarth's portrait of Coram there appears conspicuously the hat which he accepted from time to time as his sole fee from the Company.

For some years after the Peace of Utrecht, Coram was engaged in the shipping trade, but infrequently he devoted himself to philanthropic projects: to his famous scheme for the



Foundling Hospital, chartered in 1739, and to his less successful colonial plans. In 1730 he incited a group of officers and soldiers, unemployed after the war, to petition for a grant of the eastern lands between the Kennebec and the St. Croix, from the Atlantic to the St. Lawrence. For thirty years this was the favorite scheme of his projects, in which he proposed to employ Ghelsea pensioners, Huguenots, convicts, Palatines, Ulster Scots, and the "graduates" of the Foundling, to raise hemp and provide naval stores. Several times the Board of Trade indorsed his designs, but after 1717 the opposition of Massachusetts and of rival claimants defeated his obstinate efforts to prove the Crown's title to the Sagadahoc lands. From the beginning, moreover the Board of Trade, had preferred for strategic reasons, that he colonize Nova Scotia. Accordingly in 1735 Coram turned his energies toward the settlement of unemployed artisans in Nova Scotia and in one of the Bahamas. Meanwhile as a friend and parishoner of Dr. Thomas Bray [q.v.] he had been drawn into the Georgia Trust. But he had soon quarrelled with the "Oglethorpians" for neglecting the religious aims of Bray, and over their land-tenure system and "military rule"; and he now hoped to draw off the Georgia malcontents to his northern colony. In his own schemes, though he had proposed as early as 1717 that the soil be vested in eminent trustees; he had consistently urged a singularly free government under the Crown, "the Nearest to the English government in America." But such an establishment was ill-adapted to a frontier colony. The Board of Trade endorsed his Nova Scotia plan in 1737, but the approach of war gavit it the quietus. Coram lived to see Halifax settled, but upon a footing contrary to his

generous proposals.

[For a fuller account of Coram's career and his great English philanthropy consult H. F. B. Compston, Thos. Coram, (1918). See also sketch in the Dict. of Nat. Biog., XII, 194-95. On Coram in New England see an essay by Hamilton A. Hill in Proc. A. Antiquarian Soc., n. s., VIII, 133-48, Apr. 1892; and another by Charles A. Reed in Old Colony History Soc., Colls., II, 5-36. A contemporary eulogy of some interest is [Richard Brocklesby?], Private Vertue and Public Spirit Display'd. In a Succinct Essay on the Character of Captain Thomas Coram (1751). The correspondence of Coram with Benj. Coleman, 1734-40, was printed by W. C. Ford in Proc. Mass., Hist. Soc., LVI, 15-56. A memorial of colonial manufactures is in the Archives of the State of New Jersey, 1 ser., V, 308-14. The Colonial Office Papers, Public Record Office, contains much unpublished material. On Coram and Georgia see also the Diary of John Lord Viscount Percival (3 vols., 1920-23).]

V. W. C.

Dict. of American Biography,  
Vol. 4, pp. 434-5.



Verbatim copy for Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography  
1:736:

THOMAS CORAM

CORAM, Thomas, English philanthropist, b. about 1668; d. March 29, 1731. He was a sailor in early life, rose to be captain of a merchantman, lived several years, in Taunton, Mass., where he followed farming and boat-building, returned to England in 1703, and devoted himself to charitable works, especially the establishment of a foundling hospital in London, which, after 17 years of exertion, was opened on 17 Oct., 1740. He was also a promoter of English settlements in Georgia and Nova Scotia. Having expended his fortune in benevolent enterprises in his old age, he was the recipient of an annuity obtained by subscription. He was instrumental in promoting American commerce by securing an act of parliament granting a bounty on naval stores of colonial production. At the time of his death he was engaged on a scheme for the education of Indian girls.

Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography,  
Vol. 1, p. 736.

Cherry

Wilmington Newspapers  
Conrad Scherf clippings  
and Personal Memoranda.

Perhaps no other Wilmington editor so strongly stamped his personality on any of his writings as did the first editor of "Every Evening" William T. Crossdale had perhaps a higher conception of his responsibilities as an editor than any of his contemporaries. He was aggressive and progressive and wrote with a pen of fire in denouncing evil or corruption, in high or low places; he scored and scorched obnoxious legislative or councilmanic measures pending before either body and condemned hypocrisy almost as severely as he execrated graft and all forms of robbery. He spared no one because of station or rank, if it was decided that the readers should be informed as to the real self of candidates for public office. His relations with the community were straightforward and those who liked clean, wholesome, unafraid editorial opinions praised Mr. Crossdale's deliverances while the subjects of his enlightening condemnations never forgave him <sup>for</sup> of the sting he had administered. But those who knew him intimately well were his greatest admirers, unless one considers the real affection inspired by his contacts with those who worked with him and absorbed his enthusiasms and love of fairness.

Possibly he was too radical to mould public opinion in a small community of neighborly friends,



and responding to an invitation from a larger field he transferred his editorial services to the "Baltimore Day" of which he was the first editor in chief, and which immediately developed amazingly under his able direction. He subsequently listened to the siren once called aspiring journalists to Gotham and he was editor of the "The New York Star" the organ of Democracy of Empire state Democrats, and later joined Henry George in editing "The Standard" the organ of Single Tax propagandists, and he lectured on the economic policies of Mr. George in pulpit or from platforms.

He died in middle life.

Edward N. Vallandigham successor to Mr. Croasdale as editor of "Every Evening", was <sup>N</sup>Delaware college alumnus, and had taught country school before he turned to journalism on "The Morning News" from whence he went to "Every Evening" where he remained a year rejoining, Mr. Croasdale, who had shifted to New York, and was editor of the leading Democratic paper of that city. Vallandigham free lanced in New York several years and served on two or three of the newspapers until, removing to Boston, he contributed to the Boston "Herald" and "Transcript" both in editorial matter and special articles. His innate fondness for Delaware always brought the state and its people to the fore of anything he wrote touching on the Diamond state. He also contributed articles to the Philadelphia Record and he published some of his Delaware and Eastern Shore contributions in a volume which had a large sale. He also was the author of a monograph on Delaware College which detailed its early history and its staff and the students.

Vallandigham was fond of Delaware and preferred spending a Summer in Newark to foreign travel. He was a delightful, genial companion and one of the few newspaper editors who wrote only what he wanted to - that is only on topics that appealed to him. He died in Spain the day his last newspaper article was printed in "Every Evening", and was buried at Seville.

George W. Humphrey ("Judge" to his associates) was perhaps one of the best mentally equipped editor of his Wilmington associates. He had a marvelous memory and it was recorded of him that he studied the difficult Pittman system of short hand writing during the intervals between waiting on customers of a small grocery store he started after a career as whaler, frontiersman, Arctic traveler and prospector for gold. He too sailed the Seven Seas before the mast - "knew everything and remembered it all". His editorial debates against tariff for protection with the scholarly editor <sup>of</sup> a morning contemporary attracted great attention and general interest. His opponent while a free trader in New York was obliged for political reasons to advocate protective Tariff, and came out second best in the two handed contest.

The "Judges" endurance was remarkable as was illustrated by his reporting a two-hour address of Ambassador Bayard for which three expert stenographers had been engaged, but were unable to pace up with the speaker. The "Judge" performed the entire task unaided and had the final sheet in the printers' hands before noon the next day - then deliberately turned to his



routine daily tasks. He walked a mile and back every day no matter about the weather, ate dinner and was back at his desk as the clock denoted that he had been absent exactly one hour. Always insisting, earnestly and seriously, that he would be alive to celebrate his 120th birthday he barely reached half that number of years.

Merris Taylor was the last of the old time editors of Wilmington to pass on. He was doubtless the best versed writer on Delaware politics of the scores who sought to enlighten their readers. He knew practically every Delaware contemporary, and was in and part of the political life of the state for seventy years. He came into journalism via the printing office and above everything else he developed the virtue of accuracy in his writings. Editors of Metropolitan newspapers for years sought his predictions on the eve of elections and the figures he furnished were usually accepted and proved almost uncannily near the totals recorded at the polls. But he wrote with equal lucidity and interest on every theme that attracted his pen, especially history. He had a remarkable sense of news values and even to the last hour of his 84 years he kept abreast of the happenings of the day through a companion who supplied the sight that had almost entirely departed from his own eyes.

Wm. H. Conner  
December 12, 1941

Special Study ENCLOSURE FILE  
Robert Coram

350

#### EXPORTING SLAVES PROHIBITED

The following provisions on exporting of slaves from Delaware is taken from the Laws of the State of Delaware Revised Edition, 1829, under Crimes & Misdemeanors. VI Sect. 9-11 P. 153-156.

Sect. 9. If any person or persons shall export or attempt to export, directly or indirectly, any negro or mulatto slave from this State to any other State or country, or shall sell or transfer, purchase or receive any negro or mulatto slave, with intent or for the purpose that such slave shall be exported from this State to any other State or country, or shall fraudulently decoy any negro or mulatto slave from this State to any other State or country with intent there to sell or in any manner dispose of such slave, or shall abet or procure any person or persons to export or to attempt to export or to decoy any negro or mulatto slave as aforesaid; every person so offending shall be deemed to be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay to the State a fine of five hundred dollars; and if any person or persons shall bring into this State any negro or mulatto slave to be held, sold or disposed of, or to reside, within this State; every person so offending shall be deemed to be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay to the State a fine of one hundred dollars; except that any person, removing with his or her family from this State to any other State or territory to reside, may lawfully remove his or her slaves to such State or territory; and that any person moving into this State and settling therein, may lawfully bring at the time of his or her removal or within one year afterward any slave the property of such person at the time of his or her removal; and that any slave, which shall by virtue of a bequest by, or in the course of distribution of, the



estate of any deceased person, who, at the time of his or her death was an inhabitant of any other State or territory, or by means of marriage with a woman an inhabitant of any other State or territory become the property of an inhabitant of this State, may be lawfully brought into this State by or on behalf of such inhabitant or his or her executors or administrators within one year after the right to take the said slave shall be complete; and that any slave belonging to any inhabitant of another State or territory, if lawfully within this State, may be seized and sold by virtue of an execution or attachment bona fide issued at the suit of any inhabitant of this State against the owner or owners of such slave; and that a slave escaping from this State may be lawfully brought back; and that any person travelling through this State or coming into this State upon a visit or for a transient purpose or making a temporary stay within this State may lawfully bring into this State and keep any slave or slaves for his or her attendance and carry back the same; and that any person or persons occupying a farm or tract of land, through which the line of the State runs, may lawfully employ his, her or their slaves upon every part of such farm or tract of land and pass and repass them over said line for that purpose; and that the Supreme Court or the Court of Common Pleas, in term time, may make an order permitting the owner or owners of any slave to export such slave from this State: and that such owner or owners or his, her or their executors, administrators or assigns may, pursuant to such order and at any time within six months from the date thereof, export such slave from this State or sell the same for the purpose of exportation.

Every negro or mulatto slave which shall be exported or attempted to be exported from this State, or sold, transferred, purchased or received with intent or for the purpose that such slave shall be exported from this State, or fraudulently decoyed from this State, or brought into this State against the form or effect of this section, except as before excepted, shall thereupon become and be free; except that the right of the owner or owners of a slave shall not be impaired nor affected by the commission of a misdemeanor against the form of this section, if it shall satisfactorily appear that such owner or either of the owners (if there be more than one) was not implicated in, nor privy nor accessory to, said misde-



meanor: Provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed to include or extend to any negro or mulatto slave sentenced to be exported from this State or any negro or mulatto slave escaping from any other State or territory into this State, or to oppugn or affect any privilege heretofore granted or allowed by any Act of Assembly to any person in respect to any slave or slaves.

Sect. 10. If any vessel or boat shall be brought into, or prepared or stationed in, any harbor or place within the limits of this State with intent or for the purpose of receiving on board any negro or mulatto slave to be exported from this State against the form of the ninth section of this Act, except as therein excepted, the captain, master or commander of such vessel or boat, and every the owner, factor, agent or other person, who shall wittingly abet, procure or be concerned in, the bringing, preparing or stationing of such vessel or boat with the intent or for the purpose aforesaid, shall each forfeit the sum of one thousand dollars, the one moiety thereof to the State, and the other moiety to any person who shall sue for the same, to be recovered with costs of suit in the Supreme Court or Court of Common Pleas, by action of debt: every such vessel or boat shall be liable for any penalty under this section, upon affidavit made by the person suing therefor or any other credible person before any Judge or Justice of the Peace or clerk or prothonotary of the court, in which the action is to be instituted, or his deputy, and filed in the office of such clerk or prothonotary, it shall be in the election of the person suing to have issued a writ of capias against the defendant, upon which he may be arrested and held to special bail, or a writ of attachment against the vessel or boat, in respect to which the cause of action shall arise: if a writ of attachment shall be issued, the defendant may, with sufficient surety or sureties to be approved, before the return of the writ by the sheriff and, after such return, by the court or any Judge thereof, execute to the State a bond in the penalty of two thousand dollars with condition to be void, if the defendant shall fully satisfy the debt and costs, which shall be recovered in the plea mentioned in said writ: upon executing such bond the property shall be restored: otherwise, the property attached shall be held, or the court if it shall be deemed to be for the interest of



all parties, may order the same to be sold at public vendue by the sheriff, who shall give like notice of such sale as required by law of the sale of goods under execution; the money shall be disposed of as the court shall direct: any bond given shall be filed with the writ, and shall be recorded among the records of the action; the defendant may appear, plead and go to trial: and if judgment be for him, the vessel or boat attached, or in case of a sale thereof, the purchase money shall be restored without charge to the owner; if the defendant shall not appear at the first term, judgment shall be given against him by default, unless the court shall deem proper to allow further time for appearance: the property attached, if not sold under order of the court, may be taken and sold on execution against the defendant: or if the property have been sold under an order, the purchase money shall be applied to such execution: if there be a surplus, it shall be restored to the owner of the property.

Sect. 11. The term "slave," as used in this Act shall be construed to signify a slave for a limited time according to the Act entitled "An Act concerning free negroes and mulattoes," passed at Dover February first, one thousand eight hundred and ten, as well as a slave for life or indefinitely; and any negro or mulatto being deemed to be a slave according to the said Act or otherwise according to the laws of this State shall be deemed and taken to be a slave in construing or applying any provision of this Act: but a person disposed of as a servant pursuant to any judgment, sentence or order of any court, shall not be deemed to be a slave within any provision of this Act.

Passed at Dover, February 7, 1827.

✓  
G. K. Browning,  
February 28, 1938.

*Agriculture*

### Silk Worm and Mulberry Tree Culture in Delaware.

Production of silk has taken place in Delaware, in addition to the cultivation of the white mulberry tree, in large quantities, the silk worms, after emerging from the cocoons, being fed on the leaves of these trees.

The General Assembly of Delaware on January 25, 1837, passed an act forming a corporation with a capital stock of \$100,000, to promote culture of silk in New Castle County, the name of which was the "New Castle county Silk Company". The following ten commissioners were named to receive subscriptions on the 5,000 shares issued, they being priced at \$20 per share: Edward Tatnall, James J. Brindley, Doctor James W. Thomson, Merritt Canby, James Delaplaine, Samuel Canby, Doctor William Gibbons, J. P. Gareche, Thomas Garrett and Phillip Reybold.

Kent County Agricultural Society organized in 1835, and at its third annual exhibition Mrs. Ann Hayes was given a premium for the best specimen of sewing silk of her own manufacture. Mrs. Charles Kinney, Sr., exhibited a beautiful specimen of white silk in large hanks, her own raising from silk worms.

Probably the first Agricultural Society in New Castle County was organized in 1804, <sup>and</sup> from the minutes of a meeting on May 21st, 1830, on motion of Dr. Thomson, the chairman of the Agricultural, Horticultural and Silk Committees, the latter were authorized to appoint an agent, if they deemed it expedient, to visit different parts of the county to procure members of the society. They offered premiums and held a fair October 19, 1836, in the City of Wilmington, and the same time the society held a meeting at the City Hall. The subject



Page 2.

of silk culture received considerable attention, and Dr. William Gibbons made an address on the subject. A committee was appointed to memorialize the legislature to grant a premium on cocoons.

Through an act of the General Assembly, passed on June 16th, 1836, the sum of \$5 was ordered paid Jehu Reed, "for the purpose of procuring a silver medal for his successful exertions in raising the white mulberry in this state state, demonstrating, as he has fully done, that the climate and soil are adapted to the cultivation of the food of the silk worm."

Another act passed February 17, 1837, provided for a bounty of per pound for silk cocoons 10 cents to be paid to any person in the State who produced one pound or more. This act was to remain in effect for ten years from date of March 1, following.

An additional<sup>supplement</sup> to the act entitled "An act providing for the punishment of certain crimes and misdemeanors" was passed February 18, 1839, directed at the wilful or unlawful destruction of mulberry trees, their theft, barking, skinning or peeling of trees or scions. Also<sup>destruction</sup> of silk worm cocoons was forbidden, as was the malicious destruction of houses where cocoons were fed, or even of the mulberry leaves used for feeding them.

The General Assembly on January 17, 1839, took further action as to rewarding those engaged in the cultivation of cocoons by increasing the amount of premium per pound paid to producers, to 15 cents.

There was evidently considerable difficulty experienced for some unstated reason, ~~but~~<sup>since</sup> on February 27, 1843 is recorded an act of the General Assembly by means of which the several laws previously passed were to continue in force for two years. Thereafter there is no record of any further activity in the matter of silk.



Pennsylvania was experimenting with the growth of cocoons as well as the mulberry tree as early as 1726. It is recorded Lieut. Gov. Keith of Pennsylvania, at that time, as well as Benjamin Franklin had begun to think much of silk culture.

Many of the states east of the Mississippi River tried out the growing of silk as well as cocoons, which called for the mulberry trees upon which to feed the silk worms.

Thomas, Garrett, the Wilmington Abolitionist, was offered by a South Carolinian, a number of young mulberry trees in payment of an obligation. He accepted the trees and planted them in a seven acre plot South of the Christiana. When the trees had reached their proper stage of development he realized \$7,500 by sale of them. The purchaser of the young trees cleared \$2,500 on them by sale to a third party, who in turn realized \$15,000 from ~~them~~ his sale. This man in turn sold the trees again for the sum of \$18,000. Then the mulberry tree fever quickly subsided and the last purchaser was left alone with his costly stock of trees which became worthless in sale value.

A silk farm is said to have been established on the Concord pike about four miles north of Wilmington. Here mulberry trees were grown and a large cocoonery started on this spot as late as 1845. About 5,500 pounds of cocoons were raised in Delaware that year.

When Lieut.-Colonel Johan Printz was commissioned governor of New Sweden on August 15, 1642, by the Swedish crown, among the voluminous instructions issued for his guidance he was requested to investigate the condition of the country with reference to the propagation of silk worms. However, no attempt was evidently made at silk worm culture until nearly 200 years later and this was without appreciable result in a financial way for those interested.



Page 4.

An act was passed by the General Assembly of Delaware in 1829 which provided that all lands within the State "which are now and futurely shall be, actually employed and occupied in the growth of white mulberry trees with a view to raising silk, shall be exempt from taxation for 10 years from the time of planting of such trees."

This law also provided that each individual who planted and brought to perfection within the state 200 such mulberry trees, within 5 years from May 1829, would be given by the state a silver medal valued at \$5. There is no record of any claims ever being made for such medals, however.

Penn a short time previous to his death, when Delaware was still in his province, wrote "Providence seems to have pointed out one more method of employing even the Mean and Weak, as well as others of both sexes to considerable advantage by raising silk, which, as I am credibly informed, is produced here as fine and good as the world affords, and with as much ease." It is further stated that that "there was a distant prospect of some advances toward a silk manufacture, and some among them had shown how practical a design of that kind was by making some small quantities equal to French and Italian."

It was not until November 7, 1765, ~~that~~ after the separation of Delaware from Pennsylvania, that a London paper records the departure within four days of 100 silk throwsters for New York and Philadelphia. Beniman Franklin then being in London was responsible for the coming to America of these men.

### EARLY WILMINGTON RESTAURANTS

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

James Spain  
Sept. 20, 1940

GOVERNMENT IN DELAWARE 362  
Present Government  
County: Criminology

II-B-2-b

### THE PRISONER'S AID SOCIETY IN DELAWARE

The stated purpose of the Prisoner's Aid Society may be divided into four parts:

- (1) The securing of such laws and prison methods as will help the prisoner to become a useful citizen.
- (2) The aid of discharged prisoners in their efforts to become useful members of the community.
- (3) The assistance of prisoners in obtaining pardons, commutation of sentences, or legal aid when necessary.
- (4) The aid of prisoners' families that are left destitute.

The organization seeks for employment of released prisoners in the belief that an economic foundation of some security will help their way to rehabilitation. In the same way, it strives to give hope to families, left without provision when the chief bread-winner is imprisoned, by securing work or extending another form of aid for those who are needy. In this connection, Dr. Vrooman, a leading official of the Society, has pointed out:

"The State pays a dollar a day to take care of the criminal, while his wife and children, who are innocent of any wrong doing, are the victims. They are left to subsist on the fifty cents a day or so that they may receive from the relief organizations - and some of them cannot even get relief while the lawbreaker is whisked off to prison and relieved of the worry of providing the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter."



Should medical attention be necessary for a member of a prisoner's destitute family, the Society does whatever it can to satisfy the need. Many a prisoner's family suffers from the stigma of the father's incarceration, which is no fault of theirs. In sundry ways the organization tries to support the morale of such ill-fortuned.

A great deal of work is also done, with little expense, in friendly investigation of the prisoner's claims, and, when the case seems meritorious, it is presented before the proper authorities. Almost all prisoners have grievances, claiming they are innocent. An opportunity is given them to plead their case to a representative of the Society, who visits the Workhouse every week. Occasionally certain grievances seem to warrant rectification. The Society spends considerable effort in investigating these claims to verify their truth. When the evidence justifies vindicating action, papers are prepared for the Board of Pardons. The argument is heard judicially by officers of the State, along with views of the Attorney-General and others. A decision is rendered on the merits of the case.

The Society works for the improvement of laws touching prisoners when it considers that the need arises. In this regard, it feels that work could be done for a new law covering habitual offenders. The Society has drafted a proposed law to meet this situation. The proposed law would provide that any offender arrested three times in one year would, on the fourth offense, and each offense thereafter, be sentenced

to from six months to one year, at the discretion of the judge.

The Society prepared a bill for the State legislature, providing for the exclusion of the public from the scene of a whipping. Says Vrooman:

"No good benefits from gratifying morbid curiosity seekers to gather in numbers to watch a whipping. Why should a prisoner be whipped in public any more than be publicly confined in the stocks as in colonial days?"

Vrooman might as well have added - Why have whipping altogether? - since it, as well as the public exposure, is no more than a relic of "colonial days." What matters it whether the medieval vestige is concealed or in the open, so long as it is still there. A sickening ulcer hidden by a garment thereby does not magically become non-existent. One wonders how to reconcile the Society's ostensible humanitarianism with its espousal of the whipping post as a proper penal instrument. On the one hand, the organization believes that prison (to illustrate how deep this contradiction goes) should be no "bed of roses," and on the other hand, it exhorts the abandonment of "medieval notions of punishment," asserting that "A modern prison is operated to improve the character of its inmates and fit them, if possible, for a return to society, not to brutalize them."

The positive force of the organization touched the following legislation:

The present parole law, funds for a separate women's building at the Workhouse, an amendment to the parole law enabling the board to parole a prisoner after one-half of a sentence



which has been commuted by the board of pardons, the abolition of the minimum sentence for highway robbery, so that the length of sentence is left to the discretion of the court. The organization also took part in defeating a bill before the legislature that would have committed prisoners to jail in the county where the crime was committed. In respect to the last, the position of the Society is:

"This proposed act would have transferred more than thirty life prisoners from the New Castle County Workhouse to the other county jails which have no proper facilities for the care of long term prisoners."

The organization depends upon public subscription for financial support, claiming that for a year's adequate work no less than \$4,000 are needed. Clothing and other useful articles frequently are received by donation. Whatever aid, financial or otherwise, the Society extends is only after the closest investigation, so that its meagre resources are spread as far as possible.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Sunday Star, Wilmington, Del. March 24, 1935, Mag. Sec.  
Journal-Every Evening, Wilmington, Del. Oct. 5, 1936, p. 23  
Declaration of Activity, Prisoner's Aid Society of America.

T. L. Harrison  
April 12, 1940

Sports

#### THE DELAWARE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The Wilmington Table Tennis Association, forerunner of the Delaware Association, was organized in the Delaware Trust Building on September 26th, 1939. (1)

Seven men were present, and to them must go the credit for bringing the sport to this city. They included the following: Guy Graybill Jr., in whose office the meeting took place, William M. Pawley, C.F. Caddell, C. Rosenblum, Rodney A. Johnson, Charles Paschall and Samuel Cohen. (1)

The committee was determined to bring about the conversion of the game of ping pong into the realm of table tennis, a jump that included the formation of teams, leagues, and other items that distinguish one game from the other.

Wilmington was sadly lacking in table tennis adherents, and nowhere was the game in a more backward stage than here. Few people even knew of the U. S. Table Tennis Association. Fewer were aware of the scores of chapters affiliated with it, the hundreds of leagues in those chapters, the thousands of players in those leagues, and the tens of thousands of spectators who watched the tournaments. (1)

Large crowds have been drawn in all cities of the country by table tennis, and one audience in Denver was larger by 200 than that which attended the lawn tennis match between Fred Perry and Don Budge in Denver a week previously.

It was into this national organization that the local group was admitted as a member.

Mr. Graybill sounded the keynote of the meeting when he said;



"It is our hope to organize 16 teams who will play under the Swaythling Cup rules; that is, each team will consist of three players with one or two alternates. A team match will consist of a round robin of singles with possibly one double match as a finale.

We expect to provide a league championship trophy and an individual performance cup." (1)

The activities of the club were soon under way with two leagues-"A" and "B"-functioning. Each league was composed of seven teams.

News that the leagues were operating gave impetus to the movement, and early in November 1939, Grady's opened up a table tennis room as a supplement to their bowling alleys. (2)

Such an addition to the table tennis facilities of the city enabled an even greater expansion of the activities of the Wilmington Association. It allowed the locals to bring down teams from other cities and run exhibition matches and tournaments, besides playing their own league games here. (2)

U By this time the team from Newark had been humbled in an intra-city match and the number of teams in the league had swollen to 16. (3)

On November 25, the new tables at Grady's were christened by several of the ranking players in the nation. The exhibition was sponsored by the U.S. Table Tennis Association and the Wilmington Association, with Guy Graybill, president of the local group, presiding. (4)

The Sunday Star won the division pennant, finishing with 110 games in the win column as opposed to 25 on the wrong side of the ledger.

It was decided to change the title of the organization from the Wilmington Table Tennis League to the Delaware Table Tennis Association. At a meeting at Breck's Mill on February 8, 1940 the following officers were elected: Guy Graybill Jr., president;



Rodney Johnson and Harry Mayer, Vice-presidents; Samuel Cohen, secretary; Alan Hart, treasurer; and Elmer Nichols and James Brown, directors. President Graybill appointed William Sparks to act as chairman of the newly formed "A" league and George DuBois of the new "B" league. (5)

All "B" league games were to be played on Monday nights, with the "A" league contests on Thursday evenings.

On or about February 11th, the name of the organization was changed from the Wilmington Table Tennis Association to the Delaware Table Tennis Association. It is by the latter title that the group is now known. (5)

Several trophies were won by local players in the Philadelphia County Championships, held late in February of 1940.

Chief among these was Miss Thelma <sup>a</sup>Brewer's capture of the women's singles crown in the novice class; she was also runner-up with Paul Capelle for the mixed doubles gonfalon in the master's group. (6)

The Association brought two of the notables of the sport here to give an exhibition on March 27th at the Mount Pleasant school. The Hungarian team of Tibor Hazi and his wife Magda Gal were paired off against Paul Capelle and Thelma <sup>a</sup>Brewer, and showed the form that brought them <sup>sub</sup>national recognition and victory in over 1,000 championships. (7)

Surprisingly enough, Mr. and Mrs. Hazi agree that the Middle West is now outstripping the East in interest in the sport, although the largest crowd of their tour came in Boston, where 4,000 watched their exhibition. The second largest was in Milwaukee, where 3,000 attended. (8)

Rodney Johnson and Paul Capelle were responsible for the arrangements for their Wilmington appearance.



The newly formed "C" league for learners is now functioning, with four teams battling for top honors. (6)

The U. S. Table Tennis Association puts out a weekly publicity release showing the actions of almost all the members. The financial standing of the Association is also divulged, with itemized accounts of receipts and expenditures.

Bibliography:

- (1) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
10-1-39: Sport Page
- (2) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
11-5-39: Sport Page
- (3) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
11-12-39: Sport Page
- (4) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
11-26-39: Sport Page
- (5) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
2-11-40: Sport Page
- (6) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
3-3-40: Sport Page
- (7) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
3-24-40: Sport Page
- (8) The Sunday Star, Wilmington, Delaware  
3-31-40: Sport Page.

LOCATION: Wilmington and Vicinity

Subject: Scenic Trips - Hikes.

Submitted by: Jerry Sweeney

Date: March 6, 1936.

(1) The following hike to Faulkland is approximately 8-1/4 miles from and to starting point along the routes mentioned.

Starting at the DuPont Hotel travel south to Front and Market Streets, along the latter. Then turn right, or northwest, and proceed in a straight line for 2-1/8 miles along W. Front Street and Lancaster Avenue to the city-line at DuPont Road. From there turn left, or south, and journey along Dupont Road past Silverbrook Cemetery on the right for 1/4 of a mile to Richardson Road. Follow the latter due west to Center Road at the Ferris Industrial School. From there proceed in the same direction along the Faulkland Road, past the industrial school on the right and Brookland Terrace on the left. Cross Centerville Road, the Baltimore and Ohio R. R., and Red Clay Creek to Faulkland.

When returning from Faulkland recross the creek and turn left or due north along the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Follow the track of the railroad and Red Clay Creek through the woods, and emerge on the Lancaster Pike near Wooddale. Now, turn southeast along the Lancaster Pike, enter the city and continue via Lancaster Avenue to where it is intersected by Cleveland Avenue.



Scenic Trips - Hikes:

At this point board a street car and ride back to starting point, or reach starting point on foot if such is desired.

(2) This hike to Wooddale and the Hoopes Reservoir is over 14 miles from and to starting point along the routes mentioned, if a walk around the reservoir is <sup>included</sup> effected.

Starting at the Dupont Hotel travel south to Front and Market Streets, along the latter. Then turn right, or northwest, and proceed in a straight line for 2-1/8 miles along W. Front Street and Lancaster Avenue to the city-line at Dupont Road. Proceed from there in the same direction along the Lancaster Pike past the Dupont Airport on the right at the intersecting Center Road. One mile farther along the pike pass the Breidablik Farms and the Owls Nest and Centerville Roads diverging to the right and left respectively. On arriving at the road which branches to the right along the east side, or left bank, of Red Clay Creek turn north and follow that and Hillside Mill Road, near Old Mill Stream, to Hoopes Reservoir.

~~The reservoir is an interesting sight.~~ Its cost of approximately 3 million dollars <sup>ing</sup> included the building of the dam, the purchase of land, and the clearing of the basin of trees. It was formally completed and dedicated on June 4, 1932 as a memorial to Edgar M. Hoopes, Jr., a former chief engineer of the Wilmington Water Department and a member of the Board of Water Commissioners at the time of his death in 1931. - See File No. 618, reservoirs.



Scenic Trips - Hikes:

why?  
A journey through the woods around the reservoir will be found entertaining.

When returning to Wilmington along the routes mentioned for the outward journey one may board a street car at Lancaster and Cleveland Avenues and ride back to starting point.

(3) The following hike to Mt. Cuba is approximately 14 miles from and to starting point along the routes mentioned.

Starting at the city-centre travel south to Front and Market Street, along the latter. Then turn right, or northwest, and proceed in a straight line for 2-1/6 miles along W. Front Street and Lancaster Avenue to the city-line at Dupont Road. From there continue along the Lancaster Pike to the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. near Red Clay Creek. Turn north and follow the track of the railroad to Mt. Cuba, passing the Wooddale quarry, Hoopes Reservoir and the Wilmington Rifle Range on the way.

Return to the city from Mt. Cuba by walking east on Montchanin Road to the Kennett Pike, where a bus may be boarded and a ride effected over the remaining 4-1/4 miles. Otherwise, continue on foot southeast along the Kennett Pike to the city-line at Rising Sun Lane, thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and Tenth Street to starting point.



Scenic Trips - Hikes

(4) The following hike to Montchanin and Rockland is approximately 8 miles from and to starting point along the routes mentioned.

Starting at the Dupont Hotel travel along W. Tenth Street, Delaware Avenue, and Pennsylvania Avenue to the city-line at Rising Sun Lane. Follow the Kennett Pike which begins at this point for 2-1/8 miles to Montchanin Road, passing the intersecting Philadelphia and Reading Railroad en route. Turn right, or east, on Montchanin Road, and follow it to Montchanin. After leaving that village, proceed northeast across the tracks of the railroad to Rockland Road and the point where the intersecting Rockland and Montchanin Roads for a "Y" in the woods. Now turn east and cross the Brandywine Creek on Thompsons Bridge. Thence journey south and southeast along the Rockland Road to the Concord Pike - U. S. Highway No. 202, passing on the way the estate of Alfred I. duPont where an imposing memorial carillon tower may be seen.

From the Concord Pike at Blue Ball continue to walk or board a bus and ride the remaining 2-1/4 miles back to starting point via the Concord Pike, Concord Avenue, and Market Street.

James B. Cheyney  
May 24, 1940

### WHEN WILMINGTON WENT AQUATIC

Memories of the once famed Christiana Navy are pleasantly recalled by some clippings in an aged scrap book of the 1874-1876 period. It represented Wilmington's most ambitious effort to utilize the creeks and river hereabouts for aquatic sports. Nearly all the community was interested in the regattas of the local oarsmen during that brief period.

There were three crews organized and equipped for racing and rowing. The oldest ~~clipping~~ clipping records the clubs and active members as: Pioneer Club - W. Harold Smith, stroke; James H. Cameron, second; J. Ernest Smith, third; Arthur H. Smith, bow; A. D. Pool, coxswain. The oarsmen were uniformed in blue and white.

The Undine Crew (also of 1875): J. H. Lewis, stroke; J. D. Conrow, second; J. Paul Brown, third; William H. Hamilton, bow; Joseph L. Jackson, coxswain. The uniform was white with blue stockings.

The Bachelors: T. S. Lewis, stroke; William H. Bowers, second; Edward Sparks, third; C. J. Campbell, coxswain. Costume was blue and white. Perhaps the prominence of blue in all the clubs' rowing toggery was a gesture of gameness - borrowing the color from the chickens of Delaware's Blue Hen, who seem to have won as many battles in the Revolution pits as the troops from this state did on the fields.

What may be regarded as the initial race (a cub race at that) to feel out the regatta course was on the Christiana



from Third Street Bridge to the Wilmington & Northern Railroad span. The Bachelors were represented by the barge Idalia (with J. H. Rile, at third oar, and George Mc Call at fourth - Lewis and Campbell at their regular posts.

The Undine's White Cap had George N. Caleb at second oar for the race. He was the only substitute in the crew.

The banks of the Christiana swarmed with spectators; the interest in the clubs and the races was intense. It was an exciting race with the White Cap finishing first by a length. The weather was so insufferably hot that the Undine oarsmen suffered keenly - one of the crew requiring medical attention. The closeness of the race required every man to put the very limit of his strength in his oar. The race occurred May 24, 1875.

Five days later, regatta enthusiasts turned out in force to witness the review of the Christiana Navy, the crowning aquatic event of the brief existence of the organization. The pageant was reviewed by Commodore W. Harold Smith, who from the deck of a steam yacht at the foot of Shipley Street, took the salute of the crafts as they passed up the Christiana. The White Cap barge of the Undines led the fleet, followed by the barges of the Bachelors and the Pioneers. The smaller boats followed in the wake of the barges. There were two singles in the flotilla; one with William H. Heald at the oars, another powered by Edwin Hamilton. The smaller craft were almost foundered by the rough water of the course.

Probably the blue ribbon aquatic race occurred on June 28, 1875 when the three clubs picked their best oarsmen to decide the supremacy of the local navy. This race was regarded with



great sporting interest; the river banks swarmed with spectators - cheering crowds. So important was the contest that shipping on the river stood aside off the course - Third Street bridge to Mill Creek and return. The excitement was intense for it was a battle of strength and skill and every oarsman was at top form.

Directly after the start, the Pioneers broke an oar and the boats were recalled and started again. In the second get-away the White Cap of the Undine shot ahead and made the goal far in advance of her rivals, with the Pioneers next and the Bachelors far in the rear. It is reported that the Bachelor's barge fouled by the Pioneer's craft, which in turn had the misfortune to foul the Undine's Idalia, which, however, recovered her stride and swung over the goal line six lengths ahead of the Bachelor's barge. The Pioneers were outrowed easily and finished at the tail end of the race.

On the preceding June 8, 1875, a gig race brought out Washington Hastings as Umpire. The contest was marked with much fouling and such adversities, but the flag trophy was won by the Undine gig with the Bachelors second. The Pioneers were obliged to withdraw their barge because of the illness of one of the crew. The last two races aroused great heated rivalry and contention.

Interest in regattas began to wane soon after <sup>that</sup> ~~the final~~ race. The course was not entirely satisfactory and the enthusiasm of the clubs seemingly oozed entirely out during the ensuing winter. It had been submerged so completely that when the Christiana Navy was invited to enter the regatta on the Schuylkill River - a feature of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition - it declined and it gradually abandoned, slowly disintegrated.



The yen for rowing, however, soon passed by and baseball and cricket with tennis supplanted the oar. Wilmington had never been a community that fostered outdoor sport, either amateur or professional, until eventually golf was imported from Scotland and it has since swept almost every form of diversion out of the field.

J. Ernest Smith and his brothers were the active organizers of the Christiana Navy. He also was foremost in the forming of earlier outdoor clubs which have been merged into the Wilmington Country Club. Colonel Smith himself is still active with his ninetieth birthday not far distant. He spends the winters at Palm Beach, Florida, where he is regarded with ~~high~~ favor as a sportsman who has kept the faith for three quarters of a century; his first venture having been as an undersized youth who piloted the Pioneer barge in 1875. The trophies that have been awarded him for his skill in winning match games of golf and for his excellence in other outdoor sports half fill a large storeroom.

W. Harold Smith, a brother of the Colonel, who died but  
(1838)  
a few months ago/~~1838~~ was likewise active in all outdoor sports and he too was nearing four score and ten. The brothers have been referred to frequently as demonstrating the longevity that comes from activity in outdoor sport.

Personal recollections.

Newspaper files.







brother and aunt that "he had seen everything worth seeing in Europe, and that he would remain at Queenstown to fish, photograph, and sketch!

The young gallant was left alone with his sweetheart, and the romance progressed fast. On "Tottie's" days off they drove together about the country in a jaunting car and the townspeople soon came to realize that the handsome wealthy young American was in love with their barmaid.

Upon one occasion they drove to Blarney Castle where "Tottie" kissed the Blarney Stone, which foretold a fortuitous life, and again to the Queenstown Regatta, the paramount social fixture of successive years, attended by the aristocracy of Erin. For that event he was accompanied by his sweetheart's aunt and was attired in the most notably correct clothes -- obviously on purpose to suggest to the amazed spectators that he was a suitor for the hand of Ireland's most beautiful young woman.

A week later Maurice took leave of "Tottie" and returned to New York and then to Wilmington, and before his family confessed his love for an Irish barmaid. In those days, marrying out of the duPont family was frowned on, but perhaps the head of the "Barony" did not oppose, or was unable to exercise his usual feudal authority and prevent the "miscegnation", as he must have regarded the proposed marriage of a scion of the House of duPont to an Irish girl who served drinks in a barroom)

Maurice perhaps had proposed to his sweetheart - or they had reached an understanding - for he hurried back across the Atlantic again. "Tottie" had gone to her aunt's home in Dublin.

The impetuous lover immediately joined her and together they went shopping for a trousseau which was very elaborate, and the gifts showered upon her were more beautiful and costly than she had



-3-

Newspaper Stories -Cheyney  
DuPont - "Tottie" Fitzgerald Marriage

dreamed of ever possessing.

The first public announcement of the marriage appeared in the Cork Examiner of December 13, 1889, almost six weeks after the ceremony. The same notice was cabled to Wilmington the next day, which was the first notification that Maurice duPont's infatuation for "Tottie", the Queen's barmaid, had had its sequence in a church ceremonial. The announcement simply stated:

"DUPONT - FITZGERALD - On October 12, 1889, at SS. Peter's and Paul's Church, (Cork) by the Rev. Canon Sheehan, Maurice duPont, second son of E. I. duPont of Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.S., to Margaret, daughter of P. Fitzgerald, Inchimore, Broana, County Kerry."

It was explained that the bride, being a Roman Catholic, was granted a dispensation that enabled her to marry the rich American gentleman of another faith.

Notice of the marriage brought the bride a flood of gifts and felicitous notes from the patrons of the Queen's hotel. Many of them were sent from the country, all expressing the high regard and esteem of the writers. "Tottie" was twenty two.

Soon after the nuptials, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice duPont went to Switzerland, where report declared the bride was to be "school<sup>d</sup>" in the usages of polite society. That course completed they sailed for home where they were welcom<sup>e</sup>d by the duPonts, at a family reception. It had been planned to introduce the bride to her sisters, cousins, uncles, and aunts (in-laws) in the Breck's Lane home of E. I. duPont, the father, but an explosion and the wrecking of many of the Company's powder mills with heavy list of dead and injured postponed the formal gathering.

Within a few months the duPont Company shifted Maurice to its office on the Pacific coast and upon the business retirement of Maurice



-4- Newspaper Stories -Cheyney  
DuPont - "Tottie" Fitzgerald Marriage

they established themselves in a New York home. Part of the clan maintained intimate relations with Mr. and Mrs. DuPont. The late Alfred I. duPont manifested a brotherly affection for his brother and wife, and in the distribution of his great wealth gave them a large share to add to their already generous fortune.

After the Cork wedding, it was announced here that Margaret Fitzgerald was the daughter of a distinguished Irish family, but her father had lost his property, and was obliged to permit his daughter to earn her livelihood. The report added that she had been educated in a convent and had thus acquired the accomplishments and culture that shone even in the role of a barmaid.

Those who admired the Irish bride of Maurice duPont, as she on her fine mount rode the highways and byways of Christiana hundred - the Breck's Lane section declared her a young woman whose beauty was equalled by her charm of manner, and one who was a mistress of the side saddle when on a high-bred steed. Her brief stay in Wilmington enabled her to demonstrate that she was possessed of a background of culture and mistress of the social diversions of her Irish ancestors.

Every Evening December 23, 1889, page 1; col.3; with comments on subsequent issues of the same paper.

## Biography

William Spencer Anderson (1829-1872)

Submitted by Reese Hammond

William Spencer Anderson, the second son of Daniel B. and Isabelle James Anderson, was born in a small frame house near what is now Fifth and Walnut Streets in 1829.

The early days of Anderson were spent in the <sup>a</sup> then sparsely-settled Eastside district of Wilmington, <sup>then</sup> which consisted of several mills and a brickyard. In this brickyard, Anderson first learned to work and formed a friendship with "Tommy" Garrett (~~XXXXXX~~ no kin to the <sup>Thomas Garrett, the</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ abolitionist). Garrett took a keen delight in helping the Negro youth get a semblance of an education, for at this period few Negroes were <sup>given</sup> ~~allowed~~ the privilege of learning to read and write. Anderson applied himself and soon mastered the fundamentals of elementary education, but this smattering of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ learning caused an unrest that helped carry him to a height never before attained by a Delaware Negro.

As Anderson became older, his ambition to achieve became an obsession; ~~but~~ faced with the dismal outlook of life in a slave State, his yet untrammelled spirit sought means of escape from the handicaps of a pernicious ~~slave~~ system. ~~Thus,~~ Thoroughly disgusted by the limitations of the Negro in Delaware, Anderson made arrangements to go to Liberia, then an embryonic republic on the west coast of Africa. Friends of the indomitable youth scoffed at the possibilities of life in Liberia but Anderson continued his preparations and



#2-Anderson

sailed in 1847.

Several years after his arrival in Liberia, he married the daughter of Bishop Roberts, missionary from this country. Mrs Anderson visited this country in later years and was received with great acclaim by friends of her husband here.

The industry and thrift of his father was part of the inheritance of young Anderson who, after several years in England, ~~XXX~~ succeeded in one of his ambitions and was graduated from Oxford University. He then threw his immense physical resources into acquiring a plantation, and in a short while ~~XXX~~ amassed holdings of ten thousand acres along one of the principal Liberian rivers. Bumper crops of coffee, raffia, cocoanuts, and other products were soon bringing a steady stream of cash into the Anderson coffers and the following years were prosperous and plentiful for ~~Anderson~~ <sup>him</sup>. Much of the coffee raised on the plantation was shipped to this country, where it was ground and sold by his father at the old Anderson coffee shop in Andersonville--- then in the vicinity of Second and Clayton streets. Wilmingtonians traveled from all points in the city to purchase coffee from Daniel B. Anderson, for it was of the finest quality available at the that time. William S. Anderson's success as a planter soon earned for him great affluence among the Liberians.

By virtue of his honest dealings and position as a leading planter, Anderson attracted the attention of political leaders and <sup>he</sup> was elected ~~XXX~~ Speaker of the House of Representatives for a complete term. His demeanor in this important

#3-Anderson

office was ~~XXXXXXX~~impeccable, and upon completion of the term he and Henry Washington Johnson were commissioned to ~~negotiate~~ <sup>negotiate,</sup> May 21, 1871, a loan of \$500,000 from England.

After the successful ~~negotiation~~ <sup>negotiation</sup> of the loan, Anderson made a short trip to Wilmington. His return was the occasion for a gala celebration and the Negroes of the City tendered him many social honors in appreciation of his auspicious service in Liberia. While here he exhibited native African gold, ivory tusks, elephant's tails, and other African curios and trinkets. This collection is now the property of his brother (A.G.B. Anderson) who lives quietly in Wilmington.

His short visit here over, Anderson returned to his adapted home and became embroiled in political strife then about to shake Liberia <sup>3</sup>~~from~~ its tottering financial foundation. Political uprisings culminating in the assassination of the president and vice-president placed Anderson in a position of ascendancy. Upon leaving a meeting at Monrovia, September 14, 1872, Anderson was shot by Jesse Sharpe, a political rival. The wound, at first, was thought to be a minor one, but thirteen days later the ~~ex-speaker~~ <sup>ex-speaker</sup> died from the effects of the shot. Thus came <sup>to an</sup> the untimely end ~~of~~ Delaware's first Negro of international repute.

Anderson was buried in Liberia, <sup>He left</sup> ~~leaving~~ a wife and four children, Daniel, Manville J., Eloise and William Spencer. The former two were partially educated at Lincoln University (Chester County, Pa.) but left school after the demise of their



#4-Anderson

father and returned to Liberia.

---30---

#### References

Personal observations of A.G.B. Anderson, Wilmington, Del.,  
brother.

Scrap book of Daniel B. Anderson, father.

Daily Commercial Newspaper, Wilmington, Del., 11/?/1872.

Letter to Mr and Mrs Daniel B. Anderson, 9/20/1872,  
from William Spencer Anderson.

V. E. Shaw  
G. deS. Hannigan  
March 20, 1941

Encyclopedia File  
CORAM: Naval Service  
Notes from South Carolina  
Hist. & Geneo. Magazine

386  
1c 9-9  
2c Shaw

Additional Notes Concerning the South Carolina Navy, Commodore  
Gillon, and Robert Coram's Service

1926, p. 85: Records of the Mayrant family include John Mayrant's statement concerning his naval service, made in a pension application. He claimed to have been commissioned to the South Carolina Navy in May 1778, to have gone forthwith to Havana, where he joined Captain Robertson on the Gustave, and accompanied him to Nantes. In June 1779, with Gillon's permission, he joined John Paul Jones aboard the Bon Homme Richard. He was wounded in the battle with the Serapis and out of action for several months. In the late fall, after his recovery, he rejoined Gillon, who promoted him from his previous rank of midshipman to lieutenant. With Gillon he sailed on the South Carolina on the voyage that ended in Philadelphia in June 1782. From Philadelphia he was sent to Charleston on special duty, and did not go with the South Carolina on her final voyage.

NOTE: Coram is recorded as arriving in France with Robertson aboard the Gustave, after a long delay in Havana; Mr. Morant is another of those mentioned. It seems certain that this is the same man whose record is stated above, for spelling was not one of Commodore Gillon's strong points, and the record in other respects matches almost exactly the one we have reconstructed for Coram. Though Mayrant's career is of no immediate importance to the present inquiry, its details startlingly confirm the conjectures made from the existing mentions of Coram.



The notes on Mayrant mention that he was an orphan, raised by his aunt, whose name was Pringle. Any connection with Ashmead Pringle?

1935, p. 81: Mention of Gillon and Company in an account book of another firm; 1768.

1928, Alexander Gillon married Mrs. Mary Cripps, a widow with one son, on July 6, 1766. There were no children. But this is corrected by the two following:

1920: Death record of his daughter, Mary, in 1770, just before her third birthday. The first Mrs. Gillon died in 1787, and the Commodore remarried in 1789. His second wife, Ann Purcell, bore him several children before his death in 1794.

1921: Marriage records give date of Gillon's first marriage as July 5, 1766.

1906, p. 104: A. Gillon was a delegate to the "Second Provincial Congress" from Charleston in 1775-76.

1906, p. 219: Gillon's name appears on the list of recipients of bounty grants, vol. 4, pp. 163-64.

1933, p. 79: A list of South Carolina refugees made Dec. 31, 1791, includes the name of Mary Gillon. No children or servants are mentioned.

1909, p. 1-9: Gillon stated in a letter to Col. Laurens that his South Carolina command had been offered before the congressional

contract was tendered him; that he held it under advisement for some time waiting for final ratification of the continental commission and funds to carry it out. He stated that, although he preferred the State offer, and had tentatively accepted it, he would carry out the congressional business if they held him to his contract and supplied the necessary funds promptly. In his answer, Laurens stated that he did not know why the business had been held up, except that money was extremely scarce and there were demands for it on every side. He added that he had heard a committee member who had been absent at the time of the contract with Gillon say that he would have opposed it had he been present, on the grounds that Gillon had on a previous occasion sent "an agent" on a commission he had promised to attend to personally, and that his accounts for it had been settled slowly.

Laurens, however, wished Gillon well in his venture in connection with the State navy, implied that Gillon had ample reason for believing the arrangements void and would be unwise in refusing an opportunity to be of immediate service to the country, and expressed his hope that events in France made prospects for American success bright.

1917, p. 160: A communication of Oct. 4, 1781 indicated that Gillon was already in financial difficulties with South Carolina members of Congress for having given Col Laurens his choice of two thirds of the cargo he had taken to Europe "at original cost," and for having obligated himself to take a considerable cargo "on continental account" when the Carolina returned. The implication is clearly marked that the Commodore was assisting the general govern-



ment at the expense of the profit of South Carolina, in the eyes of that State's representatives.

1909, p. 79-80: The officers named as having arrived for the South Carolina navy in the Gillon letter of March 1779, referred to elsewhere are: Capt. Janier (elsewhere spelled Joyner), Mr. Spencer, Mr. Warters and Mr. Denville, Capt. Robeson (elsewhere spelled Robertson), "with Mr. Lindwaith, Morant, and Coram." Mr. Theus had been with the last-mentioned group, but had died of smallpox shortly after landing.

1909, p. 133: In June 1779, one of Gillon's letters speaks of fruitless efforts to arrange passage for "a few" officers who were still in France and who wished to go home to defend "their invaded country."

1909, p. 216 The South Carolina was chased eighteen hours. (Correct statement in Coram paper). The same article mentions that, despite the savage criticism to which he was subjected, Gillon continued in public service until his death; he was a member both of Congress and the State legislature. During the period while both were in France, Gillon and Franklin were at swords' points with one another; Franklin suspected the South Carolinian's motives and business honesty; Gillon charged the American minister with refusal to cooperate wholeheartedly in measures for the common defense if he had not initiated them.

V.E. Shaw  
G.deS. Hannigan  
March 18, 1941

Encyclopaedia File  
CORAM, Robert  
Education

390

1c J.E.  
1c Comm  
1c Shaw

EXTRACTS FROM DELAWARE GAZETTE

August 13, 1791

"Ac ne forte rogas quo me duce, quo Laretuter;  
Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri,  
Quo me cunque rapit tempestas, deferor hospes.

"A new constitution for the Delaware State having of late caused some speculation among politicians, I beg leave to solicit the public attention while I offer a few observations of that subject.

"The great fault in the present constitution is, that the legislative, judicial, and executive powers which in all free governments ought to be kept separate and independent of each other, are not even judicially blended but wretchedly entangled together. The legislature which is divided into two branches consists of a legislative council and a house of assembly, and is elected by the people. The two branches by joint ballot chuse the supreme executive. The supreme executive, and both branches, by joint ballot, appoint the judiciary. Justices of the peace are appointed by the house of assembly: a privy council of four members is chosen by both branches, two by the legislative council and two by the house of assembly. The executive with the privy council appoints the Secretary, Attorney General, Register, clerks of the courts &c. Sheriffs and Coroners are elected by the people: All military officers are appointed by joint ballot of both houses; and the executive appoints all civil officers not provided for in the constitution. From the defects of this constitution arise all



the corruption, intrigue, and disorder of the government. In the first instance the elections are influenced: parties are formed who instead of voting for men of the best abilities and fittest qualifications for representatives, they vote only for men who will keep them or their friends in office, or find offices for them. This evil is increased by running sheriffs on the same ticket with assembly men. When the assembly are convened, cabals are formed for the distribution of offices, which influence the proceedings of the house, and interrupt the business of legislation.

"The magistrates in many instances are members of the assembly, they appoint themselves, and their influence extends as far as their magisterial jurisdiction: and thus they form a powerful and dangerous aristocracy.

"The scheme of representation is defective, each county sends seven members to the assembly: but in all free governments representation is founded on population, as it is men and not land to be represented.

"The executive is appointed by the legislature, hence he is not sufficiently independent; and if he should happen to be a weak man he is a proper tool for the assembly. To remedy these disorders there is an absolute necessity of a new constitution.

- - - -

"I do not use this opportunity, merely to express my dissatisfaction of the general government; I live cheerfully under it because I am convinced, from the jarring interest, and opposite policies of separate states, no better can be expected.

- - - -

"In short, if any other qualification is necessary to a candidate for public office except those of freedom and residence, it is perhaps that he be a married man: for certainly a man's children are better security for his attachment to his country, than any pecuniary qualification that ever was devised."

\* \* \* \*

December 3, 1791 (First paragraph, verbatim and complete, of a longer article)

"It is agreed that men are what education makes them. Why then do we neglect to provide for it? Why do we not enjoin it by law upon citizens and districts of the country to support free schools, as it is practiced in New England? It is doing more than Sparta did to make the youth the children of the public. The uses of this provision cannot be numbered -- still less can they be estimated. It is probable, that during twenty ages, time will continue to disclose new advantages, resulting from proper establishments for instructing the body of the people. Who can say how much vice will be eradicated, how many social habits will be formed. The rich can buy learning -- it is a luxury. But to the poor it is necessary, and to them Oh Americans it is denied. Let this reproach be wiped off. We are proud of our citizens, of their wealth and ~~and~~ extent, their public works, and edifices -- we make a parade of our luxury -- and shall we not blush at the degraded state of great numbers of the laboring poor! What the town of



Boston has done to remove this stigma, deserves to be read."

\* \* \* \*

December 31, 1791 (First paragraph, verbatim and complete, of a longer article)

"Some writer, I forget who, has said, knowledge is power. This is an important political maxim. If we should banish despotism, let us banish ignorance -- for ignorance is another name for gullibility. By infusing knowledge into the body of the people, we remove them from the influence of the aristocratic few. Instead of being the tools, they become the partners, perhaps the rivals, of the men of wealth and education: we may consider that power as harmless, which instead of being engrossed by an aristocracy is diffused among the people. The superiority of the mind is the most imposing. Why then are those who make a noise about the people, and the rights of man, so much at their ease about the neglect of education. The people never can be imposed upon when they shall be as well informed as their teachers, for surely it is disarming the aristocracy to put their weapons into every man's hands. It is a kind of confiscation of the wealth of the supposed aristocrats of the country. Men of America, let your zeal take this course. The greatest enemies of Freedom are among the lukewarm friends to a general diffusion of education among the people."

\* \* \* \*

(Quotations under dates Dec. 3, and Dec. 31, 1791 are first paragraphs which give essence of entire articles from which they are quoted).

SOCIAL-ETHNIC SURVEY OF DELAWARE

The tentative title adopted for the Social-Ethnic Survey, as embodying its content and purpose is, "Racial Composition of Delaware's Population in its Effect Upon the Present Scene." Our plan is to trace the activities of each ethnic group from its inception in the state up to and including the present time. The main stress, of course, is being laid upon immigrants who arrived during the last half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries since it was during these periods that the preponderance of immigration took place, of the people who make up the largest foreign born groups.

As can be seen from the "Outline of Subject Matter," already forwarded, we intend telling the whole story of the immigrant: an account of the original migration from his native land, the various conditions attending his life in this country, his emotional and physical adaptation of American ways of living and working, changes in his way of living through the years, and finally his present lot and that of his children.

The subject of "technological unemployment" has entered into our discussions often and we hope later to dig up some vital information concerning this, since several of our group believe that this industrial ghost is the possessor of that "moving finger" which writes the fate of many an immigrant in Delaware and elsewhere.

The survey began with four persons assigned to full-time duty; several others were called in to supplement the work of the original four. Assignments were given to various members



-2-

of the staff to collect book information upon the following subjects: History of industries in Delaware from their beginnings and racial representation within these industries; The story of Jewish immigration in Delaware; European backgrounds of majority ethnic groups now living in Delaware.

The group as a whole did reading in books about immigrants in order to familiarize themselves with the subject in general. Since our original purpose is to get away from a cut and dried treatment which almost always results from using only books and the like as sources of information, we prepared a questionnaire (already forwarded) which will serve as a basis for interviews for "family circle" studies. This questionnaire is to serve more as a guide to the interviewer since a direct list of questions shot at an interviewee will scarcely elicit the living information we want.

For several weeks now the group has been transcribing the Americanization cards, which though seemingly a mine of information presents several drawbacks. In the first place there are more than ten thousand such cards and at the rate of progress being made with the present number of workers the job would seem almost interminable. Consequently, cards which contain only a little information are being passed over; the cards which are more or less filled in are being transcribed in full. Although the case histories within each race are much varied, a general pattern has become discernible for each race so that we always expect, for instance, that a Pole will be-- married, have several children, own his home, working in a leather concern or the like, and formerly a farmer in Europe.



-3-

Merely from working through these records we have come to admire the race for its industry, its family spirit and its pride of ownership. When the case history of a Pole diverges more than slightly from this norm we consider it an anomaly and exhibit slight surprise. The Italian and the Jewish races also adhere to a pattern. The other races, which are here in much lesser numbers, present a more diffuse picture, for that reason.

What struck us forcibly and even moved some of us emotionally was the contrast between occupations in Europe and occupations in this country. Of course the industrialization of peasants in "our America" is a much rehashed subject but seeing the fact reiterated again and again on the Americanization cards clinched our realization of the changed tempo in the life of the immigrant in America.

Herein is submitted the form being used to collect the data from the cards and instructions issued regarding the work. The form enclosed contains several samples from all the cases we have already collected. In our actual work all persons of the same race are together, but on form here samples from several races are included.

The interests of our group, on account of its racial make-up, seemed to center about the Pole and the Jew and it was advantageous to let the group dig into sources concerning these races as a background for dealing with the races with which they are less familiar. Consequently, a list of all the Polish societies and organizations, as well as a history of



" " "

-4-

Polish newspapers in Wilmington, has been assembled. The Polish organizations will be of use to us for later field visits.-- The source which promises to be most prolific for information about Jews is the Wilmington Jewish Welfare Association, a highly centralized agency for Jewish affairs in the city, but we have had to bide our time as they are still busy with their annual campaign for funds.

In its final form we want the Survey to be, 1. factual and 2. interesting. Already we have found it difficult to get away from a statistical point of view, which does not mean that statistics will be excluded. But we do want to have a study which will be read, enjoyed, and give people a better understanding of their community.

James B. Cheyney  
February 29, 1940

*Crime...*

NEWSPAPER HISTORY <sup>398</sup>  
ANECDOTES

*OK on Carbon*  
*Encyclopaedia File*

### "Stolen" Horse Companies

When horses were a necessary adjunct to the farm and an irresistible temptation to thieves, there were Horse Companies in every rural section of Delaware during the Nineteenth Century. A good horse for farming, driving, or heavy hauling would bring as much as \$100 to the "stealers" and the idle classes of the countryside readily discerned that money could not be so easily had by any means other than taking farmer's teams. In winter they stole the horses from their stables after night, while in summer they lured the animals toward the nearest gate of their pasture, then mounted them and galloped away, fully aware that the whole countryside of farmers would be on their trail as soon as the theft was discovered.

Consequently every cross roads community had its own Horse Protective Association. As soon as a horse was missed the organization was notified, and in a few minutes a score of men were in the saddle scouring the country roads. Membership was assembled in an amazing brief time and the hunt began without delay. The riders stopped at every house and also quizzed all pedestrians to inquire if a man riding a horse of the description they sought had been seen; if not a change in the line of pursuit was taken at once.

One of the assurances that the stolen animal would be recovered lay in the fact that after an hour's going at top speed the animal would be exhausted and perhaps hidden in a thicket or woods until the next night, <sup>and about</sup> In New Castle County there seemed to have been numerous hide-outs for the stolen animals. Along the Susquehanna River and in the Welsh Mountains, a day's journey



from the State Line was a favored hide-out. Once secure in the overgrown highlands, the thieves could regard themselves and their plunder safe from the arms of the law. There were instances where thieves sought to induce the farmers to buy their stolen horses and such transactions were often effected especially when the stolen horse was ~~ex~~ exceptionally good for working or driving or a family favorite. Possibly more than fifty percent of the horses stolen were recovered by the Horse Protective Associations, or Horse Companies, but many of them had been ridden so hard by the thieves that they rarely returned to physical normalcy.

Practically every horse ~~in the State, especially~~ in New Castle County, was protected by the companies. Even if the owner of a stolen horse was not a member, the neighborhood company turned out and lent their aid in trying to recover the animal. The horse was the most important animal in farm life until half a century ago; for the farmer to lose one of his equine workers often meant that he might not be able to crop his land. In such emergencies, however, the neighbors <sup>often</sup> supplied the missing place in the work team, and avoided ~~the~~ potential crop losses.

The annual meetings of the companies when officers were elected and a great dinner eaten at the house of a member, or at a hotel, brought the Club together in reminiscent jubilation. Some of the feasts on those occasions were sumptuous - especially those served at the Delaware House when Brooke Turner was host. There was not only a superabundance of the viands of Delaware origin but there are still extant records to prove that "two bottlers" were real men of the flesh and blood and not legendary characters. At those festive gatherings the horse hunts of the previous year were recounted in detail and there were pithy

discussions on how to increase the efficiency of the pursuits of horse thieves. The last New Castle Horse Company maintained its organization long after the automobile had been recognized as an inescapable medium for connecting the thieves with the whipping post and the cat.

20



HEZEKIAH NILES

Born, Chester Co. Pa., October 10, 1777.

Died, Wilmington, Del. April 2, 1839.

Printer, publisher, journalist and  
historian.

Submitted by Muriel B. Hull

Biography

December 1, 1937.

HEZEKIAH NILES

Historians regard Hezekiah Niles as Delaware's most illustrious and useful contribution as journalist and historian, in the United States. His "Niles Register" supplies the most complete and reliable record of occurrences in the first half of the 19th century to be found. It has been written of him that "as an industrious, painstaking and accurate gatherer of the public events of his time, he has never been surpassed in the field of journalism."

He was born October 10, 1777, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, at a farm house near Jefferis' Ford where his parents had taken refuge during the campaign which included the battle of the Brandywine and the British occupation of Wilmington. Subsequently educated in Wilmington, he was apprenticed to a printer and earned the reputation of being able to set type faster, and "turn out cleaner copy than any other compositor in America."

In 1800 he joined the firm as junior member, of Bonsall and Niles, book publishers, in Wilmington, but the firm did not prosper. It is claimed that the firm failed because of their attempt to republish "The Political Writings of Governor John Dickinson," the large investment brings no commensurate returns. Mr. Niles thereupon entered the field of journalism, contributing humorous papers called "Quilldriving, by Geoffrey Thickneck." He also edited a paper in Baltimore. September 11, 1811, he began to issue, in Baltimore, his "Niles Register" a weekly publication devoted to the faithful portrayal of the news of the times. On September 3, 1836,



Hezekiah Niles retired from the active management of the Register and turned it over to his son, William Ogden Niles, who removed it to Washington the following year and renamed it Niles National Register. In May, 1839, however, the publication was returned to Baltimore.

Hezekiah Niles, having suffered a stroke of paralysis which left him badly disabled, returned to Wilmington "to die and be buried with his kindred." His death occurred April 2, 1839.

Bibliography- Scharf. Vol. 1. pp 465-466.

Submitted by M. Margaret Moor  
January 26, 1937.

*Wm. Conner*

Dover Newspapers

- 1802        The Federal Ark recognized as the organ of the Federalist party, was started by Augustus M. Schee, and continued for about two years.
- 1805        The Record and the Federal Advertiser, that were published by Joseph Robertson.
- 1825  
2-1        The Delaware Intelligencer was started by Samuel Shinn, and published in the interest of the presidential candidacy of John Quincy Adams.
- 1828        The Political Primer or a Home Book for Jacksonites, sponsored the re-election of John Quincy Adams as President. The nominal editor was Joseph Robertson, but the contributions to its columns were made by the leading politicians of that time. The Primer was published about six months.
- 1830        The American Freeman and Legislative Reporter was issued at Dover during the legislative session of 1830 under the direction of Henry W. Paterson, who kept a book and stationary store. But six numbers were issued.



1838  
Feb.

The Delaware Register and the Farmers Magazine, started by William Huffington, a member of the Bar, was the first monthly magazine in the state. This magazine showed careful editing especially in its historical and biographical departments. It deserved to succeed, but the publisher became discouraged, and its publications were discontinued at the end of the year. Huffington resided in Wilmington in his later life, and was mayor of Wilmington from 1848 to 1850.

1851

The Sentinel, published by William Wharton was the first newspaper organ of the Whig party in Kent County.

1853  
5-7

The Delaware State Reporter, edited by George W. S. Nicholson was democratic and strongly anti-Prohibition, was published from May 7, 1853 to August 8, 1859.

1859  
5-7

The Delawarean, an ultra-Democratic organ, was issued by the Delawarean Company, James Kirk was the editor and kept his position until March 4, 1876, when Hon. Eli Saulsbury became proprietor, and Charles E. Penn, manager. It became the recognized State organ of the Democratic party, known throughout the Eastern States as an embodiment of high class journalism of that day. The paper is still published.

1874  
May

The State Sentinel, a Republican paper, was started in Dover by Henry W. Cannon, where he edited and published the paper until 1874, when he sold out to Edward W. Louderbough. The Sentinel is still published by the Sentinel Printing Company.

1887

The Index, started by Francis M. Dunn. A Democratic paper it was anti-Saulsbury of Kent County, and its editorship has been credited to various leading Democrats of the county including the late Chancellor Wolcott.

1901

The Delaware State News was established by Monroe Ashmore. In 1904 he sold his interest to the Delaware State News Publishing Company. It is an ultra-Democratic paper in policies, and is published weekly.

1907

The Delaware Republican was established and the Delaware Republican is the Publisher.

References:

Scharf- page- 460

Conrad- page- 1106-1109

The Check List of Union Newspapers compiled by Dorothy Hawken, etc.  
Historical Society, U. of D. Wilmington Library.



J. Barton Cheyney

February 3, 1937

*Bum 407*  
~~Economic and Social Development.~~  
~~Industry~~

*Industry*

### Silk Worm Culture in Delaware

In common with the New England and Middle States, Delaware became obsessed with the mania for the cultivation of mulberry trees for the production of cocoons which were to have been manufactured in <sup>long</sup> to silk fabrics. The Far East had supplied the world with silks at a price which suggested the calling as highly profitable to farmers and land owners in this country. The propaganda for *morus multicaulis* found fertile soil. The assurances of great profits in the cultivation of the trees, and most of the states east of the Mississippi had ventured into the business, and mulberry trees soared to astounding prices. — The public was <sup>greatly</sup> enthused over the promises of great fortune that would surely come through *morus multicaulis* (meaning white mulberry tree).

The mania for silk culture reaching its crest by 1845 in almost the entire country and had its origin, so early as 1836. Major Reybold, alert for new uses for his land, headed the Agricultural Society of New Castle county whose chief aim was a careful scientific survey of the importance and profit of silk culture. The widely known Dr. William Gibbons <sup>outlined</sup> ~~explained~~ the <sup>methods</sup> ~~routine~~ of cultivating cocoons and silk and at his suggestion was named a committee to petition the State legislature to purchase cocoons. Dr. J. W. Thompson, explained during a prolonged meeting <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ cocoon cultivation, and requested the legislature to grant a premium on those embrytic offspring of the silk moth. The leading capitalists and wisest business men and scientists seemingly agree that the

J. Barton Cheyney

Industry

February 3, 1937

- 2 -

prosperity of Delaware farmers depended largely on whether they engaged in the cultivation of mulberry trees for the subsistence of of the cocoon in its embryotic stage of development. The morus multicaulis, <sup>venture</sup> ~~short cut to wealth~~ appealed to Thomas Garrett, the Wilmington abolitionist, and he was induced to accept of mulberry trees in payment for a claim against a South Carolinian. He planted the trees in seven-acre plot in South <sup>of the</sup> Christina and when they had reached the proper stage of development he sold the cuttings for \$7,500. The buyer cleared \$2,500.00 by selling them to a third party, who consented to part with them for \$15,000. The latter sold them to a <sup>fifth</sup> ~~fourth~~ party for \$18,000. Before the latter could find a buyer and reap a profit from his "bargin", the morus multicaulis bubble had burst and the mulberry grove was unsought further and left to blossom and bear its fruit undisturbed except by birds and lads of a school age.

[Previous to the decline, that foretold the collapse of silk culture in Delaware, a silk farm was established on the Concord pike about four miles north of Wilmington. Here mulberry trees were grown and a large cocoonery started there as late as 1845. About 5,500 pounds of cocoons were raised in Delaware that year. Kent county had strongly entered the morus multicaulis field. Indeed Mrs. Charles Kimney was awarded first premium for her exhibit, of a beautiful hank of silk of her own raising exhibited at Kent county fair in 1853 while Mrs. Ann Hayes was won a premium for the best sewing silk of her own making.



J. Barton Cheyney

Industry

February 3, 1937

- 3 -

After the prolonged experiments in silk culture it was discovered that the Old World could manufacture silks and ship them to this country cheaper and better than they could be made in America. Consequently after an emotional ten years <sup>etc</sup> of experimentation quickly ended as did the cultivation of the mulberry, so that the infantile ~~silk~~ moth could <sup>undisturbed</sup> feast upon its leaves and spin its silken web within its incubating cocoon, ~~to be spun into silken fabrics when the silk lined bed of the moth had grown wings of its own and taken to flight,~~

Victims of mania wondered why they had not ascertained the fact concerning the manufacture of American silks before rather than after, they had shared the rest of the country's wild spending on morus multicaulis which soon manifested themselves as a total loss.

Even though almost a century has passed since America's venture into the silk field in competition with the cheap labor of the Far East. The echoes of the bursting of the morus multicaulis bubble is still grouped with other and similar schemes that have reduced the bank balances of even the wisest financiers and business men and especially farmers of Delaware and the adjacent states.

Reference: History of Delaware J. Thomas Scharf, A.M., L.L.D  
(2 Vols) Vol 2, p 596, pp 1358  
L.J. Richards & Company, Philadelphia  
1888; Magazine and newspaper clippings.

John Wynne

CURRENT FILE

August 30, 1938

Delaware Ships and Shipping

## John Fitch's Steamboat

"Poor John Fitch," who was born on January 21, 1743, at Windsor, Connecticut, suffered the fate of many great men. He devoted practically all his life to the invention and furtherance of the steamboat and then was robbed of the fruits of his victory.

After many years of experimentation John Fitch, on September 27, 1785, laid the drawing and description of a steamboat for stemming the current before a special meeting of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. On the second of the following December he displayed a model of the above-mentioned craft.

In 1786 Fitch made several trials with his invention on the Delaware River. The first was with a small one-inch cylinder engine which had not sufficient power; on the twentieth of July of the same year, he tried an engine with a three-inch cylinder. He placed this engine in a small screw skiff and experimented with a "screw of paddles, a screw propellor, the endless chain of blocks and a side wheel," with very little success. The next night while in bed he thought of a plan which he subsequently used, to wit: the boat should be propelled by a series of twelve paddles, six to a side, arranged like those of an Indian canoe, and operated by steam power. He at once rose and prepared a plan of the design he had just thought of, and in the morning it was approved by Henry Voight, a watchmaker who assisted Fitch in all his experiments. This plan was afterwards tried on the skiff in which he had the steam engine, and the result was "the first successful propulsion of a vessel by steam in America." This trial took place on the Delaware River on July 27, 1786 and gave very flattering promise of the future use-



fulness of the invention.

On February 3, 1787, Fitch was granted exclusive rights by the Delaware Legislature to use the steamboat invented by him.

In July, 1787, Fitch launched a sixty-foot boat propelled by a steam-paddle wheel. In it he carried as many as thirty passengers on numerous round-trip voyages between Philadelphia and Burlington.

In 1790 he built a third and larger boat that was put in regular service on the Delaware River. On July 30, 1790, the Federal Gazette carried the following advertisement:

"The steamboat sets out from Arch Street ferry on Sunday morning at eight o'clock for Chester to return the same day. And on Thursdays following at seven o'clock for Wilmington and Christeen Bridge."

During this time, Fitch allegedly resided in a house on Market Street between Front and Second Streets, and directed his line "from this end."

The only encouragement Fitch received for this accomplishment was the grant of a U.S. Patent on August 26, 1791. Late in the same year he started to build a fourth boat, appropriately named "Perseverance," which was wrecked by a storm before completion.

While Fitch thus constructed four successful steamboats, he gave little or no attention to construction or operating costs, failed completely to see the need for demonstrating the economic aspects of steam navigation, and accordingly lost all financial support.

Fitch was truly the victim of an ill fate. His unhappy childhood, martial life, many unfortunate business adventures,

capture by and subsequent escapes from the Indians and British, his great invention scorned and practically ignored by his contemporaries (history has been no less unkind) finally led him to kill himself on July 2, 1798, by taking an overdose of opium pills downed with a huge draught of whiskey.

## Bibliography

Harland & Hollingsworth Company. The Semi-Centennial Memoir, 1836-1886. Wilmington, Del., 1886. 481 p. illus., diagr. P. 23-24.

Boyd, Thomas. Poor John Fitch, Inventor of the Steamboat. New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1935. 315 p.

Dictionary of American Biography. Published under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies. New York, Scribner's Sons, 1928-36. 20 v.



1-1-44  
(Type)

...and ...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...

...  
...  
...

...  
...  
...

...  
...  
...

W. H. W.