

# Delaware Federal Writers Project Papers

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## Volume 6

G. K. Browning.  
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Literature

State Grant  
Literature

V. 6

(DELAWARE BIOGRAPHIES)

ROBERT MONTGOMERY BIRD, was born February 5, 1806, at New Castle, Delaware, in what is now 216 Delaware Street, facing old "Green" or market place. The son of John and Elizabeth Bird, being sixth of seven children. Both families had lived on their Delaware lands for generations, tracing their ancestry to their forefathers in Cheshire, England, when <sup>co</sup> they came from Ireland.

Thomas Bird settled in Delaware about 1700 and bought large tracts of land in what is now Christiana Hundred. John Bird, III, great-grandson of Thomas and father of Robert Montgomery Bird, died in 1810. Foust records the death of Thomas Bird and the fact that in 1815 the widow was married to the Rev. Samuel Barr, who had performed the marriage ceremony of the Birds, 20 years before.<sup>1</sup>

He began writing while attending his first school at New Castle, where he wrote a number of short stories, including Adventures of Robin Hood. Germantown Academy was his first school outside of New Castle, he moving to Philadelphia in 1823, later matriculating in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania and the College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1837.

Assuming practice of medicine, following his graduation, he only continued it for about one year, refusing to accept fees and gave away drugs prescribed by him, believing that to accept fees "was to sell his humanity."<sup>2</sup>

He had written several plays and numerous poems by this time and in 1832, Edwin Forrest, actor, agreed to use four of the former. He in that year going South with Forrest who was acting in the production of his works. Returning from New Orleans, he was among the first to



explore Mammoth Cave, Ky., that having just been located.

The dramas of Dr. Bird were among the first from an American pen to appear abroad, Edwin Forrest using The Gladiator in the Old Drury Lane Theatre, in London, in 1836. In addition to this play he had written Oraloosa, Cavalier, or the Knight of the Conquest and Broker of Bogota, all of which Forrest produced. There was much disputation as to the payment for these plays, Bird receiving very little money for any of them.<sup>3</sup>

In 1842 he entered politics at New Castle as a Whig, advocating election of his friend, John W. Clayton, then a candidate for the Vice Presidency on the ticket with Henry Clay, the then presidential candidate. Clayton greatly admired Bird and left a bequest of \$500 to be used for the erection of a monument to Bird in case of the latter's burial in this state. In addition to this he provided for the wife of Bird, after her husband's death, having a codicil added to his will which raised the weight of debt on Mrs. Bird. <sup>Bird</sup> was buried in Philadelphia.

Governor Maull appointed him a director of the Farmers Bank, at New Castle, in 1846. The following year on June 28, he bought "one third the joint establishment of The North American and United States Gazette, of Philadelphia, for \$30,800." These two papers later combined into The North American, "the oldest daily paper, morning and evening, published in the United States."

Dr. Bird married Miss Mary Mayer, of Philadelphia, on July 13, 1837, her father being the Rev. Philip Mayer who was the first American pastor to hold services for the Lutheran Church in English. One child, Frederic Mayer Bird, was born in June 1838.

He was not in health for several years but began his writing of novels, producing also short stories, among which was Nick of the

Woods, written about 1836. At this period he carried on considerable correspondence with Edgar Allen Poe.

In 1837 he assumed the place of associate editor of the American Monthly Magazine, but in 1839 returned to New Castle and in 1840 moved to a farm near Elkton, Md., where his health was restored. He came to New Castle late in 1840 and in 1841 commenced teaching there. He was offered and accepted professorship of the Institute of Medicine and Materia Medica in Philadelphia, in May 1841, remaining there until the closing of that school in 1844.

Dr. Bird was the author of the following plays, books and stories: Calavar, the Infidel; Hawk of Hawk Hollow; Hick of the Woods; Sheppard Lee; Peter Pilgrims; Robin Day; The Avenger; The Gladiator; The Broker of Bogota, Oralcosa, Metamora and Pelopidas.<sup>4</sup>

His death occurred January 23, 1854, in Philadelphia, his body being interred in the Laurel Hill Cemetery there. His death, due to brain fever, is believed to have been caused by the discovery of the malfeasance on the part of his partners in the newspaper business.

1. Scharfs Vol. I, 491.
2. Prose Writers of America, by Rufus Wilmot Griswold.
3. The Life and Dramatic Works of Robert Montgomery Bird, by Clement E. Foust.
4. A Library of American Literature, From the Earliest to the present time. p. 168.



Written by Wm. H. Conner.  
August 11, 1936

See Mrs. Eckman's copy  
with the changes on it.

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Literature

### DELAWARE WRITERS

Delaware has given no writer to the immortals, nor reared one who approached genius unless he be found in a trio long since dead and now almost without honor in their own State--John Dickinson, "Penman of the Revolution", Robert Montgomery Bird, playwright and novelist, and John Lofland, the eccentric "Milford Bard." The record is creditable enough, for all that, and perhaps, with a population that has only of late reached a quarter of a million, the State measures up well in literature with other commonwealths in proportion to its numbers and theirs.

Delaware is a land almost top-heavy with history and tradition, recorded and unrecorded, and it may be that the effort to rescue from oblivion the stories and tales of stirring days of the past has placed too much emphasis upon their preservation, to the damage of creative fiction and poetry. Yet it must also be admitted that almost every field of literature has been entered by the State's more than three hundred writers of published volumes. In the main, however, each has written the one volume it is presumed every one has in him to produce under favorable circumstances, each has had his little day of local fame, and the volumes are now items in Delawareana and the prizes sought by the collector.

The greater names, to be added to those of the trio mentioned above, are those of novelists and essayists, and are quickly enumerated; George Alfred Townsend (Gath), Howard Pyle, and the moderns, Henry Seidel Canby, Anne Parrish, and Christopher Ward. This is not meant to deny the very considerable merits of other writers in special fields of history, biography, government, science, education, or in poetry, art, and nostalgic reminiscences, but rather that their works have been mostly



local in character and have secured little fame beyond their own bailiwick. Some of the more important will be noted later.

John Dickinson (1732-1808) was born in Talbot County, Maryland, but came to Delaware with his parents when he was eight years old. Tutored by William Killen, later Chancellor of Delaware, and the noted Dr. Francis Alison who founded the Newark Academy, Dickinson took up the study of law in Philadelphia, and completed his training with three years at the Middle Temple, London. The young attorney was eminently successful at the Pennsylvania bar, but was soon strongly attracted by the problems of the Colonies. He wrote many pamphlets, and achieved wide-spread celebrity through his "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the Colonies." In 1767, the series was published in London and Paris, and created a favorable impression, for Dickinson's attitude was always one of conciliation, inasmuch as he was by faith a Quaker.

This same feeling prevented Dickinson from signing the Declaration of Independence. As a delegate from Pennsylvania, he absented himself, with Robert Morris, thus permitting the vote of the colony to go for the affirmative. Once the decision was made, however, he aligned himself with the patriots, took the field, and served as President of Delaware, to which State he had returned, and signed the Federal Constitution on behalf of Delaware. Supporting the Constitution, he wrote the famous "Letters of Fabius" in 1788, which revealed wide knowledge of practical economics and the broad legal principles underlying English liberty. His literary style was persuasive, logical and instanced by much erudition.

Dickinson died in Wilmington, where he resided in the decline of life and was buried in the Friends' cemetery at Fourth and West Streets. (See page ). Dickinson aided in the founding of Dickinson College, Lewisburg, Pa.



The case-history of Robert Montgomery Bird is remarkable in that, after nearly a century of strange oversight, he has landed in the new Dictionary of American Biography with a decisive thud, the result of a University of Pennsylvania student's desire to make Bird's career the subject of a thesis for a doctorate. The student was Clement Edgar Foust, and his thesis, "The Life and Dramatic Works of Robert Montgomery Bird", was published in 1919.

Robert Montgomery Bird (1806-1854) was born in New Castle, became a physician, and then turned to literature because he disliked to take fees. He began by writing four plays, all of them accepted by Edwin Forrest, the reigning American actor. Of these, "The Gladiator" and "The Broker of Bogota" became immediate national successes, and the first-named the subject of international discussion. Forrest took the role of Spartacus in "The Gladiator", and its reception in America caused him to choose it for his opening vehicle when he visited London. By 1853 it had been played for the thousandth time, the first play written in English to be given so often in the lifetime of the author.

Forrest piled up a fortune from "The Gladiator" alone, but Bird's entire pay was \$1,000, the same amount he received from Forrest for the other plays. Forrest was also extremely successful in "The Broker of Bogota", which is by some critics regarded as superior to "The Gladiator." The break between playwright and actor came over the sums paid, inasmuch as Bird understood he was to receive an additional two thousand dollars for each play that proved successful. As it worked out, Bird got the glory and Forrest the cash, but still more unfortunately for Bird's later fame, Forrest kept the dramas from publication and steadily blocked the endeavors of Bird and his heirs to gain the right to public, declaring that copyrights had been



secured by him. Not until 1916 was it discovered this statement was untrue, but the damage was done to Bird's reputation as a playwright. "The fact that Bird's plays remained unpublished until 1917 has prevented his sterling work from receiving its proper place in our literary history," states the Dictionary of American Biography. It might also be said that when the world had a chance to read these plays, they had long since become outmoded.

Disgusted with the stage, Bird returned to novel writing and produced prolifically. His volumes had wide sales, and one of them - "Nick of the Woods, A tale of the Jibbenainosay", became extremely popular abroad, where it was published ten times in London by 1900, and four times in Germany. Bird worked at top-speed, and suffered several breakdowns. At the suggestion of John M. Clayton, Bird's close friend and later U. S. Secretary of State, he took over the editor-ownership of the Philadelphia North American. The pressure of these duties became enormous, and Bird died a few years later of what was called "suffusion of the brain."

The memory of this once-acclaimed Delaware author vanished from American literature, even in his native State. Clayton, who knew his man, left a provision in his will to the effect that a substantial sum would be paid from the estate toward the cost of a monument to Bird were he buried in Delaware. Bird was interred in a Philadelphia cemetery.

John Lofland (1798-1849), the Milford Bard, lies in an unmarked grave in the center of busy Wilmington traffic, perhaps as melancholy a figure in death as he was in life. He was temperamentally akin to Poe and DeQuincey, - from his own admissions a dipsomaniac and an opium eater, though such vices might be forgiven in one who sang with a golden voice. Apparently it was his redeeming gift, for his fame spread far beyond the borders of his much-loved native State.



Lofland was born in Milford, became a doctor like his contemporary, Bird, and like him, relinquished practice for literature. He wrote pleasing and facile poetry and prose, on themes drawn for the most part from Delaware, and especially the historic Brandywine at Wilmington, where many of his tales are laid. His chief claim to fame was as a poet, and he followed the lyrical Thomas Moore tradition. Curiously, as commentary on the literature of the times, he advertised that he would pen the woes and pangs of lovesick lads and lassies for such modest fees as \$3 a poem, and he received many such commissions.

His complete works were published in one volume, "Poetical and Prose Works of Dr. John Lofland, the Milford Bard," in 1848, and a second edition was published in 1853. Both are now items eagerly sought by the collector.

George Alfred Townsend (1841-1914), journalist and novelist, is second in national recognition only to Howard Pyle. He was born in Georgetown, Del., and attended Delaware College. Journalism attracted him and he achieved a nation-wide reputation, particularly as a war-correspondent in the Civil War and the Austro-Hungarian War. For forty years he contributed special articles to leading journals of the country under the pseudonym of "Gath," derived from the initials of his name and the Biblical injunction: "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in Askelon."

His novels and tales remain his principal contribution to literature. He wrote, in 1880, "Tales of the Chesapeake," a collection of colorful folk stories dealing with Delaware and the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula. Then followed his best novel, "The Entailed Hat," which deals with the notorious Patty Cannon, of Delaware, and the kidnapping of free Delaware Negroes into southern slavery. Its recent re-publication testifies to its strong hold on the reading public, and indeed, it



may be said to be the one book above others that depicts the ante-bellum background of Delaware.

Other novels, though they are well received, failed to gain the acclaim of "The Entailed Hat," "Katy of Catoctin" deals with the conspiracy to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Townsend also wrote poems, but these secured only local reputation.

Howard Pyle (1853-1911) is not only Delaware's most famous artist, but he is also rated by many equally high in the literary rank as well. He was born in Wilmington, and made it his home through the productive years of his life. An unsuccessful first venture as a writer of short stories drove him back to art, his earlier love. As he grew in reputation as an artist, he combined this work with literature, illustrated his own volumes, and thus his fame rests upon the combined arts.

Pyle wrote "The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood," in 1883, and he was able by the brush and pen to add reality and vitality to the ancient tales. Uncounted American children have gained their introduction to the merry outlaw through the medium of Howard Pyle. Other popular volumes for young people were "Pepper and Salt," "The Wonder Clock," "Otto of the Silver Hand," and "Men of Iron".

This Delaware writer is probably the foremost teller of pirate tales in America, and the claim is made that he really created the modern buccaneer of fiction. It is evident that he had a warm spot in his heart for the freebooter, who might be the pirate ravaging the seven seas or the outlaw who robbed only the rich to give to the poor. Many of these tales are collected in "Howard Pyle's Book of Pirates" (1921); others are single volumes, such as "Within the Capes", "Rose of Paradise", "The Price of Blood", and "The Ghost of Captain Brand," All, of course, were illustrated by Pyle.



Toward the close of his life, Howard Pyle felt the urge o to profit by the old masters of Europe, for all his training had been on this side of the water. He left for Florence, Italy, in 1911, and died there suddenly in 1911.

The mingling of these two splendid talents has brought Howard Pyle unique fame, and the inevitable argument as to which art he practiced best. Yet it may be said, so far as his purely literary reputation is concerned, that he is known from coast to coast as a writer of vivid tales of the pirate and the outlaw. The more modern estimate is that he excelled as a writer more than as a painter.

Among the modern using the term simply to differentiate the new from the old, Christopher Ward may be said to be the most intensely Delawarean. Born in Wilmington in 1868, he came to literature after having found a successful career at the law. His first efforts were a series of sparkling parodies that became popular, such as "The Triumph of the Nut," and these were succeeded by a novel that showed possibilities, "One Little Man," with a background of his native Wilmington. After "Starling" came a poetical melange, "The Saga of Cap'n John Smith," Next followed the picturesque tales of Jonathan Drew, dated stories of life in the United States beginning in 1820, They are "Strange Adventures of Jonathan Drew," "A Rolling Stone," and "A Yankee Rover." Obedient to the historical urge that overcomes so many Delaware writers, he offered in 1928 "The Dutch and Swedes on the Delaware," a history of the early settlements in his native State. Ward's keen wit is apparent in all his work, his clarity of style makes him a favorite, and all that he writes must be accounted interesting.

Henry Seidel Canby (1878-----) is an editor, essayist, and portrayer of his own times.



He was born in Wilmington, passed his early life there, and then became a Yale institution. He wrote many works of educational value, and his series of "definitions" attained national recognition. A novel, "Our House," was published in 1919. His best effort, outside of education and the essay, has been a tale of Wilmington in his school-days----"The Age of Confidence," which has achieved a very considerable renown, both here and abroad, as a faithful picture of town-life in this country during the period treated. "Alma Mater, the Gothic Age of the American College," (1936) is his latest work and carries forward the youth who appears in "The Age of Confidence." Canby founded the Saturday Review of Literature, and has becoming a leading critic. The scholar is always evident in his writings.

Anne Parrish was born in Colorado Springs, Colo., the daughter of Delaware parents. She came to Delaware and attended Wilmington schools. In 1915, she married Charles A. Corliss, who died in 1936, and now lives in New York. Her first notable success was "The Perennial Bachelor," which won the Harper's Prize in 1925 and became a national best-seller. The background of this novel is Delaware, particularly the neighborhood of Claymont, (near Wilmington) where Anne Parrish lived as a girl. "The Perennial Bachelor," himself is believed still to be among the living. It was in Claymont, too, that she wrote several other volumes, some in collaboration with her brother, Dillwyn Parrish.

One of her later novels, "All Kneeling," has been much applauded for craftsmanship. Anne Parrish is distinguished for her genuine writing ability, and for her deftly effective treatment of minor human failings. Although the plot is at times attenuated, the workmanship is that of a cameo-cutter.



Of other Delaware writers, some have written histories, as witness Israel Acrelius and John Campanius, of the Swedish days, Henry C. Conrad, and Judge Walter A. Powell. During the Revolutionary Period, several diaries were written by Delawareans and have proved of great value in fixing historical truth, while the correspondence of early State worthies has been ransacked with the same thought in view.

A Wilmington pedagogue of the Revolutionary days, John Filson, wrote a much-extolled History of Kentucky, and he rode back from the "Dark and Bloody Ground" to have his manuscript printed at the famous printery of James Adams in Wilmington.

In the earlier days of the 19th Century, Delaware was represented in literature by the pastors, the schoolmasters, early scientists, physicians, and reminiscent writers, not the least of whom was Elizabeth Montgomery, who issued her celebrated "Reminiscences of Wilmington," Oliver Evans, the mechanical genius, wrote several volumes, one of them "The Young Mill Wright and Miller's Guide." In the latter half of the century, many novels, poems, and other works were produced by Delawareans. A notable volume was "Ebba Borjeson," by Pennock Pusey, a tale of the early Swedish settlements along the Brandywine.

The same was true after the turn of the century, with the addition of educators, biographers, scientists, artists, and musicians, all swelling the sum total of Delaware literature. George Morgan, in addition to his biographies, wrote a novel of his native Sussex in "John Littlejohn of J.", and his fellow-graduate of Delaware College, Edward N. Vallandigham wrote a history of that institution as well as a colorful survey of "Delaware and the Eastern Shore." General James H. Wilson wrote voluminously of his experiences in war and peace,



and Colonel Henry A. duPont wrote biographies. Meantime, Arden, a single tax village, had become a literary center of sorts, and Upton Sinclair, Scott Nearing, and others lived and worked there and more recently Victor Thaddeus, biographer. 13

It is sufficient to say that nearly every section of Delaware is by way of being a literary landmark, proportionately, one may remark, to the size of the State. Perhaps Townsend's tales are nearer the Delaware flavor than others, and they are laid in such spots as Newark, Dover, New Castle, and Georgetown, while "The Entailed Hat," roams from Wilmington to the Cypress Swamp. Bird and Pyle wrote less of Delaware than any of the major authors, but even they succumbed to the desire to set down impressions of the home land.

It is impossible in a brief article to list all the Delaware writers, but an effort will be made in conclusion to offer selected names in the several aspects of literature, in addition to those already named.

Among the historians and biographers may be set down Benjamin Ferris, Francis Vincent, Lewis P. Powell, Judge Richard S. Rodney, William W. Smithers, Mrs. Bessie G. dupont, William T. Smithers, Egbert T. Handy, Rev. James L. Vallandigham, and Katharine Pyle. A few of the poets are William Becket, the earliest, Elizabeth Margaret Chandler, Caleb Harlan, George B. Hynson, Thomas Irons, Alden R. Benson, Jerome B. Bell, William Penn Shockley, Margaret T. Canby, Emily P. Bissell. Novelists include John P. Marquand, Marion Calhoun Legare Reeves (Fadette), John Biggs, Mary Biggs, Jonathan S. Willis, Katharine Virden, ( Mrs. Clarence A. Southerland), Charles Wertenbaker, G. Peyton Wertenbaker, George B. Rodney, Sr., and Mary Jane Windle.

Representative in special subjects may be mentioned the following:



Education, Dr. W. Owen Sypherd, George B. Messersmith, Zachariah Jess,  
and Azariah Fobes; medicine, Dr. John J. Black, Dr. Edward Oram  
Shakespear; science, Isaac Lea and Annie Jump Cannon; religion, Rev.  
Robert B. Cook, Rev. Morgan Edwards, Rev. Matthew Wilson, Rev.  
Samuel Davies, Rev. Abel Morgan, Bishop Leighton Coleman, Bishop Alfred  
Lee, and Rev. William A. Vrooman; law, John Bassett Moore, Judge  
Victor B. Woolley, and Dudley C. Lunt.

Written by Wm. H. Conner.

### DELAWARE LIBRARIES

Intensive public library service is afforded Delawareans by a network that covers the entire State, by means of which even the smallest community is in touch with some part of the chain. However, the service is given through several agencies.

The Delaware State Library Commission in Dover serves Kent and Sussex Counties, and in New Castle as far north as the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Its library consists of 19,000 volumes, with a circulation of 62,000. Through the work of this Commission, town libraries are supplied in Dover, Frankford, Lewes, Milford, Milton, Rehoboth, Laurel, Seaford, and the Corbit Library, Odessa.

In New Castle County, library service is had outside Wilmington by means of the New Castle County Free Library, with a collection of 20,000 volumes. A book-truck visits communities, no matter how small, at regular intervals, with the center of activities at the Wilmington Institute Free Library. The places supplied number 119.

The Delaware State Library is located in Dover, and contains 100,000 volumes, including the State Law Library.

Public libraries are also maintained in Newark, Smyrna, Georgetown, and Bridgeville.

Under the supervision of the State Board of Education, high school libraries are set up in twelve of the towns of the State. In Wilmington, the various high school and junior high school libraries are extensive and adequate, while libraries are also maintained in the grade schools, all now in charge of special librarians. The colleges and prep schools within the State likewise have libraries, the most notable being the Memorial Library at the University of



Delaware, Newark, where upwards of 70,000 volumes are accessible. These latter include rare and valuable volumes from the collections of the now-extinct literary societies of that institution.

Among the special private libraries in the State are those of the Historical Society of Delaware, the Delaware Academy of Medicine, the New Castle Law Library Association, and the technical and scientific libraries of the duPont Company and the Hercules Powder Company, all in Wilmington.

The best equipped and most adequate library is that of the Wilmington Institute Free Library, which also maintains three branches within the city limits. Its income is derived from endowments and appropriations of City Council. The collection comprised 178,648 volumes as of June 30, 1935, and pictures numbering 35,000; the circulation was 666,103. This valuable library will be described fully under Wilmington. (See Page - - - ).

Its Delawareana Section is noteworthy. Thousands of volume bearing on every possible aspect of the State are catalogued, and other items range from an advertising-card to the twenty-~~off~~<sup>odd</sup> volumes of evidence in the Delaware-New Jersey boundary dispute recently settled. Endeavor has been made also to secure the published work of every Delaware author, preferably first editions. In addition, a collection of Delaware book-plates has been begun, and it includes three hundred at the present time.

Private collections of books are not extensive nor notable in Delaware. In some instances, first editions have been assembled, with Delaware volumes the subject of special interest. Special private libraries are owned by Judge Richard S. Rodney, J. Stuart Groves, T.C. Geesey, and George P. Bissell.



Submitted by Mariel B. Hull,  
February 15, 1937,

Social Life and Community Activities

*Wilmington Yearbook*  
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### LITERATURE IN WILMINGTON

It was the close of the Eighteenth century before the citizens of Wilmington had time to turn attention to the production of the finer arts, or felt the urge to put on paper for posterity the happenings of those eventful times. Printing and publishing became a local reality, however, with the establishment of the printing plant of <sup>Ames</sup> John Adams and the issuance of his historic "Almanac." One of the first books from Adams' press was "The Citizens and Countrymen's Experienced Farrier," the authors of which were "J. Markham and G. Jefferis and Discreet Indians." It contained 360 pages and was for years the leading authority for the "horse doctors" of the country.

Adams printed many of the early laws as well as the proceedings of the State Assembly in pamphlet form. In 1784 he published the "Historie of Kentucke," by John Filson, the first history of that State. Filson who had been a Wilmington school teacher and had gone adventuring with Daniel Boone, brought his manuscript back over the mountains to his friend for publication.

Zacharias Jess, another of Wilmington's early schoolmasters in 1799 issued a "Compendium System of Practical Surveying and Dividing Land which was used as a text book in the schools. The earliest writers in Wilmington seem to have devoted their energies to educational subjects for we find in 1801 that Peter Brynberg, also owner of a printing plant, brought out "Lessons for Children from Four to Five Years Old," while "The Self Taught Penman," a new



System of Running Hand," by D. Hewitt, made its appearance in 1818. In this same year, Azariah Fobes, a teacher of psalmody in Wilmington, published "The Delaware Harmony, A Collection of Psalms and Hymn Tunes."

This early dawning of literary tendencies grew until it developed into Wilmingtonians of considerable distinction. Perhaps the best known nationally and internationally is Howard Pyle, artist, illustrator, novelist and short story writer. Mr. Pyle was born in Wilmington in 1853 and died in Italy in 1911. Among his well known works are "Merry Adventures of Robin Hood; Buccaneers and Mariners of America; Garden Behind the Moon; Modern Aladdin; Ghost of Captain Brand and Ruby of Kichinor. Katherine Pyle, sister of Howard Pyle was also a writer and artist. She published many volumes of children's stories among which were Nancy Rutledge; Careless Jane and Tales from Greek Mythology. She was also distinguished for her portraiture.

Among the other modern writers is Henry Seidel Canby author of "The Age of Confidence," an intimate story of Wilmington's earlier days. The Gothic Age of the American College and College Sons and College Fathers also came from his pen as well as a novel "Our House" which was published in 1919. He was also editor of several literary magazines including the Literary Digest and professor of English at Yale University. He was born in Wilmington in 1878.

Christopher Ward, Wilmington lawyer, essayist and historian who wrote "The Swedes and Dutch on the Delaware" has also to his credit a number of novels among which are "Starling" and "One Little Nan."



Another native Wilmingtonian, recently appointed United States Judge, grandson of one of Delaware's early Governors, is John Biggs, Jr., who has won himself a place in literature as well. Author of a number of short stories published in Scribners and other magazines, he has two books to his credit: "Demigods," and "Seven Days Whipping."

Pennock Pusey, a native of London who became a citizen of Wilmington in the early Nineteenth century was well known as a writer. His novel "<sup>Borjeon</sup> Ebba Bjorsen" was produced in 1894 and he was for many years histographer for the Delaware Historical Society. His death occurred in this city in 1903. One of the earlier writers was also Elizabeth Montgomery whose "Reminiscences of Wilmington in Familiar Village Tales, Old and New" became amazingly popular and went through a number of editions. Its first edition is highly prized by those fortunate enough to possess a copy. Some of the writings of John P. Marquand, born in this city in 1893 are : The Unspeakable Gentlemen, Four of a Kind and Black Cargo among others. Caleb Harlan, physician who moved to Wilmington in 1847, is known for his novel Fate of Marcel and for Randolph of Virginia in verse. Charles C. Wertenbaker, another physician, a Virginian by birth but who took up his residence in this Delaware city, wrote extensively on medical subjects. Of his volumes "Boojum," is perhaps best known. His brother, Green Peyton Wertenbaker was a novelist, his best known work probably is The Black Cabin. Harriett Penniwell Belt, daughter of a Wilmington druggist, is author of the novel The Mirage of Promise as well as numerous other writings.



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Literature in Wilmington.

There might be mentioned others who have written on specialized subjects such as Eugenia Eckford, who wrote "Wonder Windows" and articles on art for the schools and Emily Bissell whose work in the magazines has been extensive. Of poets we have Jerome B. Bell, editor and illustrator, one of Wilmington's best known. He wrote Harvest of Years, in poems and verse and To the Man of Sorrows and Other Poems. Isabel Nixon Whitely has to her credit "The Falcon of Langen in 1897, and "For the French Lillies" in 1900. Others were Margaret T. Canby with "Flowers from the Battlefields and Other Poems," Marian Ponsonby Gause Canby and Alden R. Benson.

Among the historians there was Benjamin Ferris who in 1899 published the Biographical and Genealogical History of Delaware and also author of The Original Settlers on the Delaware. He was also known for his religious controversy with Dr. E. W. Gilbert in Letters of Paul and Amicus which appeared in the old Christian Repository and were later collected and published in one volume of five hundred pages.

Francis Vincent was an early printer and publisher who founded "The Blue Hens Chickens, a paper which lost its identity through many mergers. Failing in other lines he turned his attention to literature about 1861. He published a history of Delaware in pamphlet form but was never financially able to complete more than one volume. In 1868 he wrote an essay for the Cobden Club of London which advocated an Anglo Saxon Confederation which brought him considerable praise. Although born in England he spent most of his life in Wilmington. Judge Henry C. Conrad produced three volumes of a History of the State of Delaware.



Religious literature received contributions from  
Alfred Lee while Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware  
who was author of Church History from 1638 to 1881 and Eventful  
Nights in Bible History; Bishop Leighton Coleman who published  
The Church in America and the Church-The Age, and William A.  
Vrooman, Unitarian Clergyman who has to his credit "Progressive  
Christianity."



J. F. Pote

E. T. Walls,

February 1, 1938.

Biography

Annie Jump Cannon.

The daughter of Wilson Lee and Mary Elizabeth (Jump) Cannon, Annie Jump Cannon, was born at 34 South State St., Dover, Delaware, December 11, 1863. She received her B. S. degree at Wellesley College in 1884. After her mother's death, she became interested in the stars, as she considered the stars nearer to her mother than any other objects of this universe. She did special work in astronomy at Radcliffe College, in 1896. The University of Delaware gave her an honorary degree D. Sc., in 1918. In 1925 she received the degree LL.D., at Wellesley. The degree D. Sc. was received at Oxford in 1925. A Republican in politics and a Congregationlist in religion, she enjoys music and travel. Miss Cannon is the author of The Henry Draper Catalogue of Stellar Spectra, in ten quarto volumes of the Annals of Harvard College Observatory; also papers on variable stars and stellar spectra; classified the spectra of 300,000 stars, discovered 300 variable stars and five new stars and many peculiar spectra. Miss Cannon attended the Wilmington Conference Academy at Dover, later the Wesley Collegiate Institute. She was awarded the Henry Draper Medal for investigation in astronomical physics in 1931, and the Ellen Richards Research Prize in 1932.

She is Curator of Astronomical Photographs at Harvard University.



2 literature  
23  
G. K. Browning

January 14, 1938,

MARIAN CALHOUN LEGARE REEVES

Ref  
Author, born in Charleston, S. C., about 1854. She received a home education, and began to write about 1866 under the pen-name of Fadette. Her publications include Ingemisco (New York, 1867); Randolph Honor, (1868); Sea-Drift (Philadelphia, 1869); Wearithorne (1872); A Little Maid of Acadia (New York, 1888); and with Emily Read, Old Martin Boscawen's Jest (New York, 1878); and Pilot Fortune (Boston, 1883).

3 em dash

Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography,  
Vol. V. p. 213.

\* New Castle on the Delaware p. 45 says "Marian Calhoun Legare Reeves, born in New Castle", etc.



LOCATION - - Wilmington.

File No. 240

Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney,

Date August 14, 1936.

Betsy Montgomery's Best Seller.

"Reminiscences of Wilmington," by Elizabeth Montgomery perhaps is the only volume from a Wilmington pen to have been reissued after the first edition was exhausted. The second printing was necessary to meet the demands of Wilmington folks. The "first edition," of her small history perhaps has attained a higher price than was ever paid for a like work by a Delaware writer. There is rarely a first edition of Memories of Wilmington, on sale, a copy, however, can be found in almost all Wilmington family collections - - under lock and key. The second edition was issued ~~likewise~~ in 1873 nine years after her demise, has been almost all bought by families or collectors. The popularity of the work places Miss Montgomery in the front rank of Delaware writers, even though she did not claim especially literary merit for her history. The pages are richly interlarded with Biblical references denoting her to have been an inspired student of Holy Writ.

Miss Montgomery as a reporter rates high. It is declared that she obtained <sup>much of</sup> the data for her work at first hand. Indeed, it is set down in type that she assumed to know intimately the great and near great of Wilmington and to have almost interpreted their aims and thoughts before they had actually been expressed by the personages themselves.

It is somewhere recorded that one of her chief desires was to meet and talk with Mollie Vining, but this was never realized.

Literature

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State Drawer



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It is recalled that so determined was she to at least obtain a glimpse of the Delaware Belle that she "crashed" past the door keeper of "The Willows," the Vining home at Tenth and Market Sts., and obtained a glimpse of the beautiful Miss Vining before the latter's maid hastened to the death chamber and urged Miss Montgomery to take her departure at once.

Miss Montgomery's wish was gratified and the Wilmington public school teacher gave the citizens the only authentic report of the "finale" of the once affianced bride of General "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

Obviously Miss Montgomery did not comprehend that her history written piece meal would attain to such popularity for no publisher was anxious to print the little volume and its publication until insistent friends discerned the historic value of her story of "Early Wilmington" negotiated for the printing. It perhaps did not net the author much return, but it has so well fulfilled its mission that when any one writes of Wilmington in its swaddling clothes of infancy he must have "Recollections of Wilmington" at his elbow for a guide.

REFERENCES; Personal Information through reading and interviews.



Submitted by M. Margaret Moor

Date February 26, 1937

*State Drawn*  
Economic and Social  
Development

*Literature & the Press*  
STATE

26

### The Influence of the Press

Conservatism, coupled with an almost purely local viewpoint toward news values, is the hallmark of the Delaware press. That this should be so need occasion no surprise, for conservatism and local viewpoints are characteristic of the people themselves, since their largely agricultural life and background tends toward insularity. Moreover, in the one principal city, Wilmington, the press, which might be expected to show a progressive spirit, is owned by a family of wealthy entrepreneurs, the duPonts, and reflects their industrial, civic, political, and social attitudes. However, the present journalistic standpoint seems to satisfy the industrially-trained mind of today in Delaware as well or better than the variations of former days, when sharp competition brought attacks and appeals of prejudice.

The first press venture in Delaware is attributed to James Adams, who came to Wilmington from Philadelphia in 1761. Adams had worked in the Philadelphia printing-office of Benjamin Franklin, and his new venture was chronicled in the September 24, 1761, issue of the Philadelphia Gazette (Franklin's paper). For nearly twenty-five years he was the only printer in Delaware, printing laws and journals for the assembly, as well as currency that was issued by the State. It is said by Scharf and Conrad, Delaware historians, that shortly after his arrival in Wilmington he published "Proposals for Printing a Newspaper", and started a weekly called the Wilmington Courant or the Wilmington Chronicle.



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This weekly was evidently short-lived, and there are no known existing copies. It is definitely settled, however, that Adams, and his son Samuel, were publishing the Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser in 1789.

The Delaware Gazette, of Wilmington, was the first paper to gain a permanent position of influence in the State. It was started by Jacob A. Killen, <sup>1784</sup> and in spite of many shifts in editors and owners continued in weekly and semi-weekly form until 1882, when it merged with the Every Evening-Commercial under the title of the Every Evening-Commercial-Gazette.

In 1799, James Wilson started the Mirror of the Times in Wilmington, printed on snow-white paper, a novelty invented and made by Thomas Gilpin at his mill on the Brandywine. In September of the same year, Mr. Wilson bought the Delaware Gazette, which he seems to have combined with a new publication called the Mirror of the Times and General Advertiser. Later, he sold the Delaware Gazette to Joseph Jones, who published it from 1809 to 1816.

From 1800 on, many newspaper ventures were started in Delaware. Chief among these were the Museum of Delaware (1804); The American Watchman (1809); the Delaware State Journal (1827); the Delaware Advertiser and Farmers Journal (1829); the Blue Hen's Chicken (1845), all of Wilmington, and the Delawarean (1841) at Dover. <sup>1859</sup>

The decade between 1867 and 1877 was a revolutionary period in the history of the local press, for all the established papers in Wilmington began the issue of daily editions. Three new papers were started--the Daily Commercial, the Morning Herald and the Every Evening.



Before this decade, Henry L. Bonsall, of Camden, New Jersey, had initated the Daily Enterprise in 1857, which was discontinued after six issues.

At present there are two dailies and one Sunday paper in the City of Wilmington. They are as follows:

The Morning News, issued by the News-Journal Company, appears every morning (except Sunday). Established in 1880, with Republican political trends, the News offers a strong display of telegraphic news as well as Wilmington and Delaware happenings. It has correspondents in all State towns and chief points on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Its circulation, A. B. C. statement (1935), is 8,480.

The Journal-Every Evening is a combination of the Evening Journal established in 1886, and the Every Evening, 1871. These were merged in 1932. It is also a product of the News-Journal Publishing Company. Both of these papers are members of the Associated Press, and make liberal use of telegraphic matter, but pay closer attention to winnowing the Delaware and Peninsular news fields. This paper declares itself independent.

The Star, established in 1881, is the only paper in the State issued on Sunday. It is owned by the Star Publishing Company. The Star is independent in politics, and in addition to telegraphic news and special features, devotes much space to local history and allied matters.

The weekly publications of the towns throughout the State contain local news and enterprises, discussions of State political matters, and poems and stories by local folks. Mats are used. Former residents of these towns often subscribe to



These papers in order to keep in touch with the town's doings.

Delaware offers a moderate survey of the worlds' news, a condensed summary of State happenings, but much local news, rarely touching subjects that require broad-minded treatment. The people, on the whole, are apparently acquiescent in the present journalistic situation, but some are dissatisfied with the meager diet. Such esteem the influence of the Delaware press as slight, indeed, and would hail more liberal viewpoints and square dealings with public affairs in these changing times.

Reference:-

Scharf .....pages 450-470

Conrad .....pages 1085-1116

Research work at the Wilmington Library

" " " " University of Delaware      Went over some of the old newspapers.

" " " " Historical Society

Hawkins, Dorthy -- James Adams the first Printer in Delaware

Historical Society in Philadelphia --

Some Delaware Newspapers and a few of the first Alamack's of Fox, printed by James Adams.



By Wm. H. Conner,  
October 26, 1936.

New Castle

Literature 30

### New Castle in Literature

In keeping with its adequate historical and cultural background, New Castle has achieved measurable distinction in the world of literature. The quaint city by the river has served as the locale for novels and tales of the past, its historic houses have been described in works on architecture, while its own contribution to the roll of Delaware writers has been noteworthy.

Robert Montgomery Bird, the eminent playwright and novelist who is now receiving belated recognition for his sterling qualities, was a native of New Castle, and in his veins ran the blood of ancient families who had made it their home. More of Bird is told in another section of this book.

The Rodney family is distinguished in literary endeavor. The Diary of George Brydges Rodney has been published, and a Georges Brydges Rodney of another generation has written a tale of Revolutionary War Day -- "In Buff and Blue". Judge Richard S. Rodney is the author of a number of valuable and authoritative brochures on historical aspects of Delaware and of New Castle County. Marian Calhoun Legare Reeves, born in New Castle, wrote several novels that were published under the pen-name of "Fadette". Anne Rodney Janvier has written delightful "Stories of Old New Castle."



Emily Read wrote historical tales and Elizabeth Booth related reminiscences of New Castle. The historical papers of George Read, the Signer of Thomas <sup>Mc</sup>Ken, and others are too well-known to require discussion here. William T. Read wrote "The Life and Correspondence of George Read."

Dr. John J. Black not only a widely-known physician, but he also wrote several books, among them "Forty Years in the Medical Profession". The Rev. John G. Spotswood, one time pastor of the New Castle Presbyterian Church, wrote a historical sketch of that congregation.

George Alfred Townsend(Gath) placed the scene of one of his "Tales of the Chesapeake" in New Castle--"The Big Idiot". Max Adler (Charles Heber Clark) the humorist, once lived in New Castle and it furnishes the background for "Out of the Hurly-Burly, Or, Life in an Odd Corner." The early portion of Charles Wertenbaker's newest novel, "To My Father," is laid in New Castle, and Katharine Virden(Mrs. Clarence A. Southerland) uses the town as the setting for her story "The Crooked Eye".

"New Castle Sketches", which has become a favorite among those who love the venerable city, was prepared by Albert and Gertrude Kruse.



"The Citizen and Countryman's Experienced Farrier"

(Note. This is not the first book printed in Delaware - See Hawkins - James Adams)

Printed in Wilmington by James Adams in 1764 the authorship

of which was credited on the title page to J. Markham, G. Jefferies and Discreet Indians.

For many years this book was considered to be the first book printed in Delaware, but through extensive research on early Delaware printing made by Miss Dorothy Hawkins and other students on this subject, it has been brought out that there were eight or nine <sup>earlier</sup> ~~other books that were~~ printed in Wilmington before this book. However, this book does have the distinction of being the first published book in Delaware having been printed by James Adams in Wilmington for a Mr. John Millis of Chester County, Pa., who went about the country selling copies to the various citizens.

As the circumstances responsible for the publishing of this book are so picturesque, ~~I think~~ it would not be amiss to relate them minutely.

It seems that John Millis had found it hard to make a profitable living with the sad results that during the February Court of 1761 the said John Millis was sued by a Richard Waggstaff for L 17..10..0 (about \$87.50) and would probably have been sentenced to jail had not Joseph Buffington, a neighbor, agreed to be bound for him for the payment of this debt.

John Millis then tried his hand at marketing having a small cart and two horses. Things went well for several months when his cart overturned and Millis barely escaped with his life. Millis was laid up a long time by this accident, thereby, again running

1st book was published in Delaware



afoul of the law for his debts, so in the spring of 1762 Millis' earthly possessions were sold by a constable to satisfy his debtors.

Still incapacitated by his accident, Millis again turned to his friend and neighbor, Joseph Buffington, who took him into his home.

Millis' sole possession consisted of a book on farrier and horsemanship by John Markham. Millis prized that book greatly as he always had been a lover of horses and had brought this book with him when he came to America from England.

As almost everyone had a horse there was soon a constant demand from the various neighbors for the loan of this book. This gave Millis the idea to have a book published on the breeding and raising of horses. He, therefore, started in earnest to compose his book. He traveled all over this section of the country receiving information on proven experiences of the Indians and other farriers. He finally completed his manuscript by the spring of 1763.

He then began to go about the country to see what encouragement the public would give him as he intended to receive a considerable number of subscriptions before he agreed for the printing. Having sufficient subscribers, he ordered on October 1, 1763 six hundred books to be printed.

By June, 1764, the books were completed and Millis began to deliver them. Money being scarce and Millis anxious to dispose of his books, he left them with the subscribers expecting to be paid later, with the sad results that he again got into financial troubles. In poor health and discouraged over his inability to collect the



money due him for his books, he finally developed consumption and died.

There is no doubt this work was the best of its kind for of the six hundred books printed there remains today less than a dozen copies, all of which show considerable usage.

To the average reader of today it is almost impossible to imagine the work involved in the printing of a book like this in 1764.

In the first place the printer had to design and cut the first fonts of type as the present removable type did not come into existence until about 1800. The typesetter instead of being secured from an employment office had to be made. The printer himself had to teach the apprentice the method of joining together the various letters in a roughly made composing stick in such a way as to maintain regularity in the distance between letters and thus produce a uniform appearance. There were no iron chases in which to lock up the pages of the type so that often there were frequent instances where the type, although secure on the top and bottom, would bulge out on the sides. He made his own paper and ink and did his own binding. His workshop was his home. Here the family life and the making of books were so closely interwoven that you can scarcely tell where one left off and the other began.



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J. P. Pote

March 17, 1938.

State Drawn!  
Signature 47  
~~7~~

Federal Money

D 511 - J 49

Compiled by

Zachariah Jess,

Schoolmaster in Wilmington.

Second Edition, Corrected and Revised by the Compiler.

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Wilmington

Printed and Sold by Bonsal and Niles,

Also sold at their Book-Store, No. 173, Market Street,

Baltimore, 1800

---

Page 57 Cents, by deducting one tenth of their number, are reduced  
to Pence

Pence, by adding one ninth thereof, make Cents:

Reduce 50 cents, or hundredths of a dollar, to pence, or  
ninetieths, and these pence back again to cents.

10) 50 Cents  
5 Subt.  
Facit: 9) 45 Pence  
5 Add.  
Proof 50 Cents.

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The Wilmington Library possesses one of the first four documents published in the State of Delaware, the Wilmington Almanack or Ephemeris, printed in 1761 by James Adams. It is a small volume of thirty-four printed pages each  $3\frac{5}{8} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ . The title page states that the publication is The Wilmington Almanack, or Ephemeris, for the year 1762, Being the Second after Leap Year, on an exceeding good old Plan, containing the motions of the Sun and Moon, the true Places and Aspects of the Planets, the rising and setting of the Sun and the rising, setting and southing of the Moon.

Also  
the Lunations; conjunctions, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, rising and setting of the Planets, Length of Days and Nights, Fairs, Courts, Roads, QUAKERS General Meetings, &c., together with useful tables, chronological observations and entertaining Remarks in Prose and Verse.

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of near five Hours West from London; But may, without sensible error, serve all the Northern Colonies. By Thomas Fox, Philom. The book was "Printed and Sold by James Adams, in Market Street; and to be had in Philadelphia of William Falkner, the second House from the First Presbyterian Church in Market Street.

Turning the title page one notes the sign of the Zodiac, instructions as to its use, the names and characters of the seven Planets followed by "The Five Aspects" being the Conjunction; the Opposition, Sextile, Trine and Quartile. This is followed by the "Common Notes for the year 1762: Golden Number 15; Epact 4; Cycle of the Sun, 7, and the Dominical Letter "C". This latter information is not to be found in any of the volumes which follow the year 1762.

The almanack is printed in a manner similar to the almanacks



of today, although the "judgment of the weather" is given opposite each day. Seven columns are required on one page and five on a second to provide all the information.

The first column shows the day of the month, the second showing the day of the week; the third contains the Remarkable days - designating religious days, historical dates, etc. and also prognostications regarding the weather. Then follows in columns 4 and 5 the rising and setting of the Sun; the sixth column shows the "Moon's place" and the seventh column shows the "Aspects". The right hand page gives the day of the month in the first column, the second shows the moons rising and setting, the 3d column the Noon's Southing, the time of High Tide at Philadelphia, and the fifth or last column gives the old "Stile" date, for example February 1, 1762 new styke, January 21, old style.

The book contains an author's preface, which reads as follows:

" Kind Reader:

Having for some years observed those Almanacks published in America and having formerly, in Europe, learned the use of Mr. Thomas Street's Tables, with some others, and being willing that my Works should croud among the rest, I have calculated an Almanack for the year 1762, where we have four Eclipses, viz. Two of the Sun, and two of the Moon. I hope my works will be found as true as the others and so conclude, (believing you will excuse a short Preface when it is to make Room for something better)

Your Friend and Servant,  
T. Fox.

In addition to the regular tables, the booklet contains the following articles: Rules and Maxims for promoting Matrimonial Happiness, Addresses to Widowers, Husbands and Bachelors in Pennsylvania. An essay towards a Character of the late King George the Second. A poem on the Creation. An account of the Island of Belleisle; Quakers General Meetings, Meetings of the Supreme Court, Court of the Quarter Sessions, Court of Common Pleas, Mayor Courts in Philadelphia, Dates of Fairs, of which there were many, a table of interest rates, and several tables showing the distance between various towns, one of which is interesting as it mentions "Brandywine" but does not mention Wilmington. The first few lines read as follows: From Philadelphia to Darby 7, to Chester 9, to Brandywine 14, to New Castle 6, to Elk River 17, to North East 7, to Susquehanna 9, etc.



"This introduces to our notice the most singular literary partnership that ever was or ever will be. Dumas used to be helped out in his splendid fictions by Maquet, but Dumas and Maquet were Frenchmen, and had plenty of sympathies in common. Charles Reade, however, in his romance of The Wandering Heir, written to minister to the Tichborne excitement, takes for his helper the most unlikely colleague in nature--a grave, tranquil, intensely respectable Friend, a writer of colonial histories in a far pastoral retreat by the Delaware. Such workmen were never matched before; yet the words of Benjamin Ferris, the Wilmington antiquarian, form a part, and a telling part, of the exciting romance signed by Charles Reade. The words of Ferris, unexpectedly earning renown in a work of imagination, trace the true tale of the Quaker prophetess, Elizabeth Shipley, who brought her practical husband to Wilmington through the influence of a brilliant dream. The words of Ferris, adopted and sold to the publishers by Reade, describe the terrestrial Paradise now known as Wilmington in just those glowing and golden terms we should have needed for the prologue to this article if we had not been so anticipated. Reade, so long as he keeps up his partnership with Ferris, is safe, sane and true. It would have been well if he had kept it up a little longer, for the moment he lets go Ferris's coat-cuff he falls into mistakes--calling the Delaware hereabouts s 'bay,' and speaking of a prickly-pear hedge on a farm only sixty miles from Philadelphia.

The Reade-Ferris legend, precluding any necessity of a story from us, brings good Elizabeth Shipley into Wilmington, which was then a garden and is now a mart, from her former home at Ridley, which was



then a forest-clearing and is now a garden, being in truth the site of Ridley Park, the landscape-city which was described in this Magazine last September. The legend gives all proper emphasis to the location, endowing it with beauty enough to tempt a celestial guide from heaven for the meek Quakeress's benefit, and with practical advantages enough to tempt the worldly-minded husband. To get a high idea of the natural attractions of Wilmington, therefore read The Wandering Heir, thus advertised gratuitously.

Wilmington lies, says the author of Peg Woffington, 'between the finger and thumb of two rivers,' and also upon the broad palm of the Delaware. The two minor streams which embrace it are entirely different in character: one is a picturesque torrent, named by the Dutch Brandwijn (Brandywine), from the circumstance of a ship loaded with brandy having foundered at its mouth; the other, serene and navigable, is the Christine, named by the Swedes from Christina, their favorite princess. Hereabouts George Fox, the first Quaker, built a fire in 1672 to dry his immortal leather breeches. 'We came to Christian River,' he says, 'where we swam over our horses.' The stream in that day, before the destruction of inland forests, had about six times its present volume, but it is still good for vessels of considerable burden. The thriving settlers made it carry down the harvests of the interior, and then made the Brandywine grind them. The focus of the rivers became a rich milling centre, and was also a post for whaling-ships. The Otaheitan prince stepped from the deck of the whaler to court with gifts of shells the demure Quaker maidens of Wilmington, and Kanaka sailors were almost as familiar <sup>on its wharves</sup> as Indian chiefs. About the time of the Revolution the town became a well-known station for the export of quercitron bark, and all the while the clacking mills were busy along the uneasy rapids of the Brandywine."



Locality - COOLSPRINGThompson

Submitted by - Virginia F. Cullen

Date - March 5, 1936

Topic - General Description

101- The village of Coolspring, Sussex County, Delaware, took its name from a cool spring flowing into the Coolspring Branch in that locality.

110- Located seven miles southwest of Lewes, on State Highway No. 18, on the Rehoboth branch of the Delmar division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

*Lumber*  
230- Early Settlement: In 1870 a small railroad station was located near the Coolspring Branch, from which large quantities of lumber were shipped. The community is situated in a richly forested section. In 1750 a grist mill was owned by Samuel Paynter. The Society of Friends donated land in 1725, has historic importance, as it was one of the first churches of that denomination in Sussex County. The present structure was built in 1855. (A)

250- Decline: The settlement at Coolspring now consists of four homes and a brick community building. Its only claim to importance at the present time is the ancient church in a beautiful setting of lofty trees, numbering among its membership many Sussex County Presbyterians whose forebears worshipped in the first little log meeting house. An anniversary service is held each October, with prominent speakers eulogizing the founders.

References: Scharf- History of Delaware



cf v. 24, p. 195-7.

## TOWNS OF KENT COUNTY

### FREDERICA

"Johnny Cake Landing" is the earliest name by which the site on which Frederica stands was known. The name is found in Survey Book A in the Recorder's office of Kent County, folios 118 and 183. "A Draught of two parcels of land .....including Johnny Cake Landing ..... is entitled to ground for a road to "Johnny Cake Landing ....."

"Indian Point" was another name for Frederica. Why the name was changed to Frederica no one knows. A possible solution is, that the Emersons, loyal to their native land, took the name of an English Princess, a daughter of King George III and conferred it on the town.

In 1770 Jonathan Emerson purchased a tract of land and laid out streets and lots. About seventeen lots were sold between 1773 and 1776.

Several brick houses were built by the first settlers, one of which is the Lowber House, the bricks, like those in many colonial houses, said to have been brought from England. For many years the space in front of the house was used for a market place. Another of these old brick buildings was torn down in 1936 and with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration replaced by a modern building equipped for community uses.



57

The first effort to incorporate the town of Frederica was made in 1826. In 1855 this act was repealed with the exception of defining the limits. In 1865 by an act of the Legislature the town was incorporated. Originally the town had three streets which, ~~so~~ tradition says, were named, "This," "That" and "the Other."

For many years Frederica was a town of commercial importance. Corn, wheat, rye, oats, staves, bark and wood in great abundance were shipped to Philadelphia. Shipbuilding was also an important industry.

Located on the Murderkill Creek which was navigable to sea going vessels Frederica early became one of the largest shipping points to Philadelphia. Visitors to and from Philadelphia found it a convenient place of departure and entry. "Egypt Mills," the steamboat navigating the Murderkill landed at Frederica June 1, 1858.

Frederica was once noted among the Indians as a place of residence and sepulchre.

In 1870, Frederica boasted of a Dramatic Association that played to an audience of five hundred people, and of a cornet and string Band of which it was said, "the day is not far distant when Frederica will boast of the finest band in the State."

Lank's Shipyard was a prosperous concern with a wide reputation. The ships built at Frederica were built of Delaware White Oak and were considered as among the staunchest vessels afloat. At the launching of a schooner (107 feet keel,

*Cumber*



30 feet beam, 8½ feet depth, 400 tons capacity) built for Governor John Hall who owned, or was interested in, some thirty-five vessels, a newspaper report says there were eight hundred to a thousand people present to watch the ship slide into the water and witness the time honored custom of breaking the bottle of champagne over its bows. In the group assembled at the launching, so it was estimated, over one-and a half millions of wealth was represented. An issue of Harper's Magazine in 1865 contains an account of the shipwreck of the Tritania, one of the Hall vessels. Three of the Captains of the Hall vessels lost their lives at sea, Captain Wheatley, Captain Lollis and Captain Sipple.

About 1870, Frederica had one of the largest canning factories on the peninsula, probably in the world, three buildings, three stories high, 100x30 feet, a packing house, a box-house and solder furnace constituted the factory. All but the tin itself for the cans which came direct from Wales, was manufactured here. One year the S. W. Hall and Company Canning factory contracted in the spring for planting three hundred acres of tomatoes, promising to pay half a cent a pound at the factory. Three hundred and fifty people were employed, a payroll of three to four hundred dollars per day, and an output for the season of a million cans, was the record.

Once Frederica could boast of a millinery store, a hardware store, lime and lumber business, two wheelwrights and blacksmiths, two shoe making establishments, three canning factories, one fertilizing plant, a brush and mattress



factory, a foundry for the casting of plows, a coopering establishment, three drug stores, barber shop, two butcher shops, carriage building and an undertaking establishment.

Frederica's commercial property continued until the opening of the Delaware railroad. Then its glory began to wane. Tradition says that Frederica might have had a Railroad Station, that those having large interests in lumber, *Lumber* bark and sailing vessels opposed the building of the railroad. To-day it is a delightful residential section about twelve miles south of Dover, Route 113, in the midst of a rich farming community.

In 1812 a Church building was erected and used for both school and Church. In 1836 a second building two stories high was erected for church services. A third structure was erected in 1856. This building was also two stories high, and in addition a basement.

Source:

History of Delaware by Scharff.  
Scrap Book with newspaper clippings,  
name and date unknown, owned by Mary Briggs.  
Our Community, a Teaching Plan, by Mrs.  
Anne B. Harrington. Paper by Miss Derrickson.  
Conversations with, Mrs. Ethel P. B. Leach,  
Dr. Cahall Sipple, and Mrs. Mary L. Derrickson.



LOCATION - Sussex County

Co File  
(in State Museum  
Flora)

Submitted by - Anthony Higgins

January 28, 1936.

Topic: The Big Cypress Swamp ( Cedar Swamp)

get Pocomoke Swamp

Of interest to naturalists, foresters, lumbermen, drainage engineers, soil experts, students of history, sportsmen and others is the Big Cypress or Cedar Swamp of approximately 30,000 acres, lying mostly in southeastern Sussex county, Del., and to a smaller extent in northern Worcester and Wicomico counties in Maryland. (Approach from the North: U.S. 113 to Millsboro, thence Del. 24 to Gumboro, where turn left on slag road to be completed through the swamp to Selbyville, Del.).

This great wilderness, largely wet, is most famed for the layers of cypress and white cedar which underlie the deep muck and rotted vegetation of the swamp bed. Successive fires, burning below the surface often for a year at a time, have destroyed most of the peat containing the mummified logs, but small scattered areas remain. The logs are perfectly preserved by the chemical action of the peat in which they have lain for several thousand years (A).

It was not until about 1850 that the standing bald-cypress and white cedar timber was nearly exhausted, and the raising of the buried logs began.



From then until about 1900 shingles were made (by hand, as formerly) from logs raised in winter flood-time. The mining of cypress ceased practically when cheap redwood and fir shingles began to be brought from the far West. (B)

Oxen furnished the power for working the logs out to where men with cross-cut saws could cut them into sections of shingle length. Tools used now look strange, and have stranger names; among them are: the riving frow, bolting frow, riving maul, ramping stick, shingle-horse, besides mauls and draw-knives.

Most of the houses of early colonial times and later, in the central Peninsula, were sheathed and roofed with these hand-riven cypress shingles, often 30 inches long. In Lewes, Millsboro and Georgetown, Del., in Berlin, Md., and the adjacent countryside are houses of great age bearing original shingles from the Big Cypress Swamp. These shingles are worn thin, but show no sign of decay. It is said that their durability is due to their being split (riven), with the grain, and not sawed like modern shingles. (B)

Bears survived in the swamp until about 1840, a century after their extinction elsewhere on the Peninsula. Deer have been seen from time to time in recent years, though the supposition is that they escape from Maryland preserves. All species of local wild life occur here, including snapping turtles of great size and the rare and beautiful wood duck (summer duck).

Shingles

In flow +  
flood out.



59

Many species of flora distinctly southern in nature, occur in the swamp, including the southern bald cypress, white cedar, gums, hollies, magnolias, smilax. Huckleberries grow extensively, and are in bearing in July. (C)

As the headwaters of the Pocomoke river, the swamp water until the present has always flowed 75 miles southwest to Chesapeake Bay. In 1936, however, a canal was being dug from the upper Pocomoke to a tributary of Indian River, which flows into the Atlantic Ocean to the northeast, to take advantage of the 30-foot natural elevation of the swamp floor which was separated from the Atlantic watershed by only three miles of intervening dry land. Whereas the Pocomoke channel was clogged, crooked and narrow, the new outlet will permit the swamp water to fall nearly 30 feet in five miles, and is expected to permit drainage of excess water to such an extent that several thousand acres of peaty soil, very rich, will be made available for agriculture. (D)

(Note to State editors: The addition of information on flora and fauna of the swamp may be secured, probably from Wilmington authorities).

#### REFERENCES

- (A) W. S. Taber, Delaware State Forester
- (B) N. Jerome Wimbrow, merchant and swamp authority  
Whaleyville, Md.
- (C) Field investigation
- (D) Levy Court of Sussex Co., Del.



## LOCALITY-Millsboro

## INDUSTRIES:

Houston-White Co., Railroad Avenue, Manufactures of Lumber  
Building Material & Shipping Packages. Employs 125 Laborers.  
Capacity: Fifty thousand units daily. Open to the public  
during working hours. (a)

W.B. Adkins & Co., Cannery, Old Landing Road. Tomatoes  
only. Capacity 50,000 cases during the season. Canning sea-  
son August & September. Open to the public. (b)

Sussex Milling Co., W. Main St. Manufactures of flour,  
meal, poultry feed, etc. Largely custom work. Capacity 24  
bbls. flour daily. (c)

Ellis Broom Factory, E. State St. Custom work only.  
Yearly output 2,000. Visitors welcome. (d)

- (a) Clarence Lingo, Millsboro, Del., Secretary
- (b) H. B. Mitchell, Millsboro, Del. Member of the firm
- (c) Gertrude Walls, Millsboro, Del., Member of the firm
- (d) Gardner L. Ellis, Millsboro, Del., Owner



On The Pratt farm Rat  
Barnets Chapel

Delaware's greatest  
white oak, twenty-two feet in girth, stands at Murderkill Neck,  
three and a half miles east of Frederica. This great tree grows  
on low ground near the Bay Shore, and hence is not as old as  
other Delaware oaks of less size.



The following companies are located on Marine Terminal Property:

The Tannin Corporation which imports thousands of tons of Quebracho Logs from South America and from which is extracted Tannin Acid. They also import large quantities of Licorice Root.

The Eastern States Farmers' Exchange which distributes fertilizer throughout the Eastern Shore, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The headquarters of the Eastern Terminal Lumber Company is located at the Terminal where it acts as distributor of forest products.

Immediately adjacent to the Terminal are the Schock Independent Oil Company and the Cork Insulation Company.

None of these five large concerns would have located in Wilmington had it not been for the fact that a seaport was located here.

The following plants are located within one mile of the Terminal property:

The Lobdell Car Wheel Works  
The Malleable Iron Company  
Pyrities Company  
Delaware Floor Covering Products Company

Four hundred thousand cases of canned goods have been stored at the Terminal at one time, but due to various reasons, only a fraction of that amount is stored here now. The warehouses are usually stored to their fullest capacity with Wood Pulp, Newsprint Paper, Fertilizer, Cork, Machinery, Plumbing Supplies, Lumber, etc.

The following gives a comprehensive picture of the volume and value of business going over the dock:

	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>INBOUND</u>		<u>OUTBOUND</u>	
	<u>TONS</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Value</u>
32 to /33	177811	\$5906635.76	156536	\$4763352.68	21275	\$1143283.08
33 to /34	241584	\$8240439.82	214579	\$7032867.51	27005	\$1207572.31
34 to /35	360336	\$11221340.29	271531	\$8387849.71	88805	\$2833490.58
35 to /36	280501	\$9031295.34	201861	\$6207377.95	78640	\$2823917.39



Locality - MILTON*Tom file 63*

Submitted by Blanche C. Stott

March 16, 1936

Topic: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

101 NAME: MILTON.

Named in 1807 in honor of English poet, John Milton. (a)

260 POPULATION: 1135. (b)

ALTITUDE: 6 to 30 ft. (c)

110 LOCATION:

Milton is located in N. E. section of Sussex County, at the head of navigation on the Broadkill (Broad-kill) River, 8 mi. from Delaware Bay. It is 72 mi. S. of Wilmington on (Del) State Highway No. 16, leading W. from State Highway No. 14 to the Chesapeake ferries. (d)

400 TRANSPORTATION:

No railroad has passenger service direct from Milton but connections can be made on Penn. R.R. at Emmendale on (Del) State Highway No. 16, 5 mi. N.W. of Milton. The Short Line buses stop here four times a day; twice going N. and twice going S. on their regular Phila. (Pa) Rehoboth Beach (Del). The Penn. R.R. has purchased the old Md. Del. and Va. Coast R.R. which it uses for freight purposes only. (d)

510 HOTELS:

"Mansion House", historically attractive and home-like atmosphere. Originally the stately old house of Governor James Ponder who was governor of Delaware, 1871-1875. (?) He was a native of Milton and contributed much to the growth and prosperity of the town. (d)

*Manuscript*



## Milton

## EARLY SETTLEMENT:

The tract of land on which Milton now stands is part of a 1,000 acre tract patented April 29, 1686. In 1719 the land was passed to Samuel Paynter and on November 3rd of that year he sold 250 acres to Joseph Hepburn. Soon, all of that portion of Milton on the N. side of the creek was sold to George Conwell and 250 acres on the S. side to Wm. Perry. (e) IN 1720 the town consisted of 17 houses and 3 stores along Broadkiln Creek (Dutch for Broad River). This creek was then 250 ft. wide and 60 to 70 ft ~~wide~~ deep. (f) Milton was early known as Osborne's Landing and Head of Broadkiln. The growth of the village was steady and on March 17, 1865, an act was passed incorporating Milton as a town. William V. Coulter, Robert L. Lacey, George W. Atkins, Samuel Martin and Hon. James Ponder were appointed commissioners and authorized to secure a surveyor and lay out the town. No action was taken by the commissioners until March 30, 1867, when they met to perform the duties prescribed by the incorporation. John C. Hazzard was appointed surveyor at this meeting. (A)

From 1740, until the early part of the nineteenth century, Milton was the main shipping center for eastern Sussex County. Many large boats loaded with lumber, grain and fruits, plied up and down the river to Philadelphia and other ports. Large shipyards were among the best in the United States and engaged both in coast-wise and oceanic trade. The first vessel was built in 1740, by Baptist Lay, (a German), and it was called, "The Broadkiln," Large vessels were stock owned and sailed by their owners



## Milton

who made their homes in Milton. (f) The large number of ships built here from 1861 to 1880, gave employment to many people and made Milton a place of great industrial activity. (g) This, and a number of grist and saw mills, because of the water power furnished by numerous small streams, were the principal industries of Milton at that time.

One of the earliest persons to take up land in Broadkilm Hundred was Hermanius Wilbank, who settled at Lewes previous to 1673. He, and his son Cornelius, took up and purchased large tracts of land on the coast and inland before 1680, some of which is still in possession of their lineal ancestors. (h)

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT:

The abandonment of ship-building has greatly retarded the advancement of Milton. However, as it is located in a very prosperous farming community, a large number of retired farmers reside here now. Also, a number of other industries have been started here in recent years, so that the population has remained about the same for the last sixty years. (j)

Milton has produced a number of notable citizens. The governors of Delaware whose voting place was Milton are, Samuel Paynter, 1824-27; David Hazzard, 1831-33; Joseph Maull (acting governor for 3 mo. until death in 1846) and James Ponder, 1871-75. (i) A son of Robert J. Carey, who moved from Milton to Wyoming, later became U.S. Senator and governor of that state. His son following in his foot-steps was also in turn U.S. Senator and governor of Wyoming.



## Milton

## RACIAL GROUPS:

Ninety-two percent of the residents are of caucasian race and eight percent are negroes of better class.

## INDUSTRIES:

Broadkiln Pearl Co. Inc.; George A. Lippincott (Buttons); W. H. Chandler Apple and Peach Packing Houses, Collin's Chicken Hatchery; White's Hatchery and Poultry Plant; Diamond State Roller Mills (flour and feed mill); Earnest H. Conwell Boxwood Nursery; Graves Garment Factory; Draper Canning Co. (peas); Apte Canning Company (tomatoes); Milton Ice Cream Co.; Milton Sausage and Scrapple Co. and Waples Lumber Company.

The muskrat industry because of the abundance of marsh-land in this vicinity is quite important in the town's business. Owners of large marshes have been able to earn a good living following this industry and many other men and boys rent marsh land for trapping during the muskrat season. They are able to increase their livelihood materially by doing so. (d)

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

The Hazzard Mansion on N. Union St. <sup>ed</sup> surrounding by large gardens with many beautiful old shade trees; House of Gov. David Hazzard, built by his father John Hazzard before 1790. The "Mansion House", on Federal St., built by Gov. James Ponder for his home about fifty years ago. The "Peter Parker Homestead", on Chestnut St. (originally Apple Tree St.) near the R.R. station. It is now occupied by grand-children of the original owner. Built 1835.



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## Milton

1835. The house still retains much of its first garden with boxwood planted in a quaint geometrical design. Standing like tall sentinels over this garden are also most of the original trees, while bordering it on the S. side is an osage orange hedge, planted about sixty years ago. The interior of this house contains much of the original panelling and a number of fine antiques. (d) (It is not open to the public). The "Peter S. Parker Homestead," on Federal St., is also one of Milton's oldest residences. Peter S. Parker was an uncle of Peter Parker and while this house was built by him for his home long years ago, it has changed hands many times. As long as 65 years ago it was run as a hotel by Virden Macklin. (d) The Millstone, at the Atkins corner on Union Street, was placed there for a compass by a government surveyor in 1850. (i)

Lake Fanganisky: Originally known as Milton Pond. Named Lake Fanganisky by ~~David Connor~~ David Connor, old resident and scholar of Milton who was correspondent for the Milford Chronicle for 50 years. Recently a handsome new residential section bordering on this lake has been started. (i)

SUSSEX COUNTY: Office on Federal St., near intersection of Federal and Union St. Milton's local newspaper. Started in 1935, published weekly and has 400 subscribers. Wm. McDaniel, Editor. (d)

## CHURCHES:

Methodist Episcopal Church. This church was built in 1879,



## Milton

pipe organ was installed in 1911. Present membership 248. Rev. Howard Davis, pastor. (4)

There are two colored churches in Milton. The Congregational and the African M. E. Church.

The first Sunday-School was started by Mrs. Sally Maul, with four white boys, John and Nehemiah Dorman, Stephen R. Bennett and Arthur Milby, and two colored children, Sarah and Henry Mosly. They were admitted in the M. E. church in 1836 with Governor Hazzard standing good for any damage and providing fire wood. Mrs. Susan Davis was a teacher and Houston Hall the first superintendent. (1)

## FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Golden Rule Lodge No. 17, I.O.O.F. The Golden Rule Lodge No. 17, chartered Sept. 1848 with several charter members. A building was erected in 1865 and a cemetery established in 1893. The present membership is 75. Endeavor Lodge No. 17, A.F. and A.M. was instituted in September 1848 with 7 charter members. The first meeting place was Ponder's State House, vacated September 29, 1883. Enterprise Council, J.O.U.A.M., No. 16, was organized February 8, 1894 with 26 charter members. (1)

## COOK BOOK:

"Milton-1935 Cook Book and Pictorial History", was published in 1935 by the Fisher Bible Class of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



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## Milton

## 0 EDUCATION:

Milton has two district schools under Delaware Dept. of education. The present building for white pupils was completed in July 1933. It is located on Federal St. in S. Milton and built to care for the consolidation of 7 rural districts, with Milton, and will accomodate nearly 500 pupils. In spring of 1930 an Alumni Association was organized through efforts of Prof. A. J. Bolin. It numbers 222 members and entertains the graduating class at the annual reunion in May. (i) There is also an active P. T. A. organization connected with this school. The colored school is an up to date shingle walled building near Union St. in north Milton. It contains two large rooms with facilities for cloaks and wraps. There are at present 41 pupils. (d)

35 LIBRARY:

"Milton New Century Club Free Library". The new Century Club room houses the library at present. It has 1820 books. With the assistance of the I.O.O.F., it was made a free library in 1931. Miss Sarah Atkins is librarian. (i)

71 MILTON NEW CENTURY CLUB; whose motto is, "No Steps Backward", was organized in 1909 and meets each Wednesday from October to May in the lower room of the I.O.O.F. Bldg., has a membership of 30. An annual program is centered on the objective of keeping up the spiritual level and raising the material standard of the American home; through channels of education, public welfare, legislation and fine arts. Mrs. Charles Barker is the 12th president.

W.C.T.U.; This one of Milton's oldest organizations. It was organized July 4th 1889 with Mrs. Jennie Creamer as first president. Its present membership is 55. President -- Mrs. Carrie Hood.



## Milton

LOCAL HOLIDAYS: "Milton's Home Coming Week". Inaugurated in 1934, this is expected to be an annual event yet no specific date has been set. So far, celebrations have been held over week-end of the second week in August. There has always been noticeable trending toward home and old friends and relatives. During this celebration there are a number of unusual festivities and special entertaining to celebrate reunion of present and former residents. Most important among these are the parade, the song fest where all join in singing the good old songs, the atheletic events and for the grand finale, (for the past 2 years), there has been a bñg get-together service held in the M. E. Church on Sunday evenings. The Rev. Wells Wilson, formerly of Milton, now of Brooklyn, N.Y. officiates. (d)

REFERENCES:

- (a) Scharf-History of Delaware, Page 1263, Vol. II
- (b) U.S. Census of 1930, Joseph Lingo, Milton, Del.
- (c) Geodetic Survey Map. Mosquito Control Office, Lewes, Del.
- (d) Personal investigation.
- (e) Scharf-History of Del. Page 1262, Vol. II
- (f) Sussex Countian, Georgetown, Del. (Special Edition, Oct. 17, 1935)
- (g) Conrad-History of State of Del. Page 712, Vol. II
- (h) Scharf-History of Del. P. 1256, Vol. II
- (i) Milton 1935 Cook Book and Pictorial History
- (j) Wm. H. Welch, (druggist), Milton, Del.



Submitted by - Barbara Williams,

Date - January 24, 1936.

Laurel - Bevan's History Vol. II, Page 861

#260 Laurel is a town of much importance. One bank is 30 years old and the other 25 years old. #616 #101 Originally town was known as Laureltown and is still recorded in Federal Records.

#260 Laurel was incorporated in 1883. Site was part of a tract of land assigned as a reservation territory to the Nanticoke Indians.

#230 In 1768 the land was sold to Barkley Townsend. Delaware Road was opened in 1859.

#43 Fruit growing was generally known, village noted for its peaches. #663 In 1871 a fruit package or basket industry was begun by Joshua H. Marvel. A large plant was erected by him in 1883. In 1894 Mr. Marvel became Governor of the State.

#660 Laurel is the most prosperous community in the State. Marvel plant is still in operation. #616 It has long been a post town with a postmaster.

#640 In school history, Laurel has a record and its churches are large and active. #661 In 1802 a church was erected at Laurel.

#260 In population Laurel is the largest town in Sussex County, if Milford which is partly in Kent County is excepted.

Bevan's Vol. II Page 861



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Pamphlets and bulletins on the fertilization and treatment of different soils are furnished by this company, and expert advice on all matters regarding farming is furnished through their service department. The manufacturing plant, storage houses and testing laboratories are open to visitors upon application at the main office.

The present officers are: William E. Valliant, chairman; John W. Trought, president and treasurer; E. Stephens Valliant, vice president; W. Watson Moore, secretary. (1)

MARVIL PACKAGE CO.

A merger, consummated in September 1903, of five companies engaged in the manufacture of fruit and vegetable packages, resulted in the organization of the Marvil Package Co., with the main plant and home offices in Laurel. The organizations concerned in the merger were: J. D. Marvil & Co., Laurel Del.; A. W. Robinson Co., Sharptown, Md.; Schoolfield, Barnes & Co. Pocomoke, Md.; Crane, Hyson & Valliant, Chestertown, Md.

At the organization of the company the following officers were elected. Harvey F. Marvil, president; Albert W. Robinson, general manager; J. Dallas Marvil, vice president; William E. Valliant, secretary and treasurer.

✓ The products manufactured by this company consist of fruit and vegetable packages, from the pint basket used for the shipment of small berries, to the largest basket used in the transportation of larger fruits and



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vegetables. Crates, carriers and baskets are made to carry any fruit or vegetable.

*Timber* Raw materials consisting of pine, oak, gum, maple and walnut timber are secured from Delaware, Maryland and North Carolina. The supply from North Carolina comes by water route and is transported by the company's barges direct from the extensive gum tracts in that state. Trucks and wagons bring the timber in from nearby points.

Finished packages are shipped to every State in the union but are confined mostly to the eastern States. Boats, railroads and trucks carry the products to the user's door.

The manufacture of fruit and vegetable packages is interesting from the time the raw product is started on its way, until a box or basket is finished. Visitors may inspect the plant, which is located on the north banks of the Laurel river, by making application at the main office. (2)

#### MILFORD RUG CO.

Prior to 1933 the Milford Rug Co. had operated as the Pennsylvania Rug Co. When the plant was installed in Milford, Del., the company assumed the above title. In 1934 the plant was moved to Laurel.

From Georgia comes a large part of the material used by this firm, raw cotton and shoddy being the chief raw materials.



The state forestry dept. is organized to advise all woodland owners on the care and handling of woodlands. Grows and distributes at cost nursery stock for reforestation purposes; maintains a thoroughly efficient forest fire protection organization; manages and operates some 1200 acres of State Forest Property for timber production, demonstration, recreation and legal public Hunting.

The State Forest properties have, during 1½ years been improved by CCC corps, under direction of State Forester.

960,000 acres of the State's 1,259,600 acres were densely forested with a wide variety of valuable tree species.

Much of the forest area in Delaware may be classified as woodlands on farms, but 800 to 1,000 acres and areas comprising 4,000 to 5,000# acres may be found in Delaware.

The commercially important forest trees are loblolly, shortleaf, Virginia pine, red gum, white and red oak and Holly. The pines supply piling, mine props and lumber.

As a special inducement to reforestation and timber growing as a business, the state offers tax exemption for a period of 30 years on classified reforested lands.

In industrial importance Delaware's forests do not rank with those of states ##### farther south in the hard pine belt where operations are on a larger scale.

Through the efforts of the Land Utilization Division of the Resettlement ##### Administration, a large acreage of marginal and submarginal land has been purchased by the Government in various parts of the state to be used for reforestation, game and game food preservation and conservation and public recreation.

The CCC is actively engaged in ditching our tidal marshes to eliminate mosquitoes. The benefits of this campaign are observed at our shore resorts.

By. B. Tracy.



LOCATION: Statewide - Dover.

Submitted by - Gordon Butler.

Date - July 29, 1936.

State Lottery to finish Courthouse.

Resolved, That the State Treasurer be directed to purchase one hundred tickets in the lottery for finishing the Court House in the town of Dover, for the use of the State, which tickets shall be delivered to the Auditor before the drawing of said lottery, he giving a receipt for the same to the State Treasurer, specifying the number of each ticket, and the Auditor shall enter the same, with their serial number on the book of his office.

Passed Jan. 28, 1791.

Page 1197. Minutes of the Council of the  
Del. State from 1776 to 1792 - 1896.

James Kirk & Son, Printer.

Dover, Delaware . 1278 pp.



Lotteries.

State Drawer:  
Folder: Lotteries. 76

Browning

St. James Episcopal Church in Newport built by lottery.

The jail at Georgetown was built by lottery.



Pote

State Drawer:  
Folder: Lotteries.

Lotteries

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1821  
Jan. 30:

Act passed to establish Delaware College.

1838  
Feb. 11:

Legislature authorizes a lottery to raise  
money for State & School purposes.



Butler.  
7-29-36

State Drawer:  
Folder: Lotteries.

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Lotteries

State Lottery to Finish Courthouse at Dover.

Resolved, That the State Treasurer be directed to purchase one hundred tickets in the lottery for finishing the Court House in the town of Dover, for the use of the State, which tickets shall be delivered to the Auditor before the drawing of said lottery, he giving a receipt for the same to the State Treasurer, specifying the number of each ticket, and the Auditor shall enter the same, with their serial number on the book of his office.

Passed January 28, 1791.

Source:

Minutes of the Council of the Delaware State from 1776 to 1792. Dover, Del., James Kirk & Son, Printer, 1886. 1278 p. P. 1197



LOCATION - - Wilmington

R79

File No.W-610

Submitted by Alex Ramsay,

Date July 20,1936.

Bi-Lingual, Isolated, Racial, and  
Religious Communities.

Italian Communities.

Of the few Italian communities located in the State of Delaware, the one in Wilmington is the most important, having as it does its own independent social and cultural activities. Its origin may be said to have commenced, during the decade of 1880-1890 when a large number of foreign born Italians were engaged in railroad construction by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad which resulted in a large number of these workers settling permanently in their present location in the city of Wilmington. There are, however, two or three other numerically unimportant groups one of them being at New Castle.

The approximate boundaries of this Wilmington group are north and south, Second street to Tenth Street while the east and west lies between Union and Scott Streets. The population of the area which is generally known as "Little Italy," numbers approximately about 12,000 with a large and ever increasing proportion of first and second generations amongst it.

Owing largely to traditional custom and early training, the social activities of this community is mainly centered around St. Anthony's Church which functions as the spiritual center of the community. The principal church festivals of which the following three are the most prominent and are attended by a large number of devotees. The Feast of St. Anthony held on the 13th of June each year - The Feast of St. Rocco held August 16th each year



Page No.2  
File No.610

and that of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel held on the Sunday following the 16th of July each year. St. Anthony's Church too not only serves the spiritual needs of the community, but also acts as a center for the recreational, benevolent, and cultural activities of the community.

The community has quite a number of fraternal organizations, principal of which is the Sons of Italy which is an amalgamation of several smaller units, each unit comprised of people from various provinces in Italy, such as Sicily, Calabria, Genoa, Piedmont, Venezia and other Italian provinces. Another large fraternal organization is the Sons of Columbus which has its headquarters at 1715 West Fourth Street.

The political activities of this community <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ mainly divided between the Republican, and Democratic parties who maintain clubs in several of the different wards of the city. And quite a number of the Italian community have held or are holding political positions both federal and municipal.

The cultural level of the community is of a high order, especially among the younger element who not content with the common public school education, are entering the higher branches of education, thus enabling them to acquire a higher and more comprehensive understanding of citizenship and its corresponding responsibilities, thus paving the way, toward a greater assimilation of American ideals.

REFERENCE: Personal interviews with representatives of the Italian Community by Alex. Ramsay, July 6, 1936.



Polish Population in Delaware  
and Wilmington

The 1930 census (Delaware) shows 8,939 Poles residing in our State, with the majority of them living in the city of Wilmington.

The classification is as follows:

Male, 4,617

Female, 4,322

Foreign-born 2,954

Native-born of foreign or mixed parentage 5,985

Rural-farm 327

Rural-non-farm 472

Total rural and farm 799

Foreign born 107

Native-born of foreign or mixed parent-  
age 220

Rural non-farm foreign born 171

Native-born of foreign or mixed parent-  
age 301

In Wilmington 8,068

Foreign-born 2,647

Native-born of foreign or mixed parentage 5,421

Reference: FIFTEENTH CENSUS of the United States,  
1930 - Population, Vol III, part 1, p. 376.



K. A. Horner  
October 9, 1936

*Wilmington Drawn:*  
File 270  
Contemporary Scene  
~~Foreign Groups~~  
*Hand* 82

## RACIAL GROUPS

Wilmington was settled largely as a result of religious persecution in Great Britain which drove many immigrants to America. Quakers and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, with a few Swedes and Dutch, offspring of the earliest settlers, made up the population at the time the community received its borough charter in 1739, and their descendants, with those of other English who settled in the locality during the next fifty years predominate among present inhabitants.

A negro uprising in St. Domingo, a French colony, in 1791 and the French Revolution (1789-1799) drove many of that nationality to Wilmington. They were the first Europeans, other than the English, to arrive following the Revolutionary War.

Following the war of 1812, when the wave of immigration began which brought to America millions of people from Europe, Wilmington undoubtedly received its proportionate share, but apparently no single group predominated, and no records have been kept of the nationalities that made up the population.

The development of the railroads following the Civil War, both in the East and the West, resulted in a rapid expansion of Wilmington industry, and brought to the city a large number of immigrants from North and South Europe. Many Italians were employed in the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1883-86. They later settled in Wilmington, where the machine shops, car and shipbuilding plants, foundries and rolling mills gave employment to them as well as to Swedes, Poles, Irish and others.

The chain-store system of merchandising which began to



develop in the city in the early part of the present century forced hundreds of native born American merchants out of business. Their places were largely taken by Jews, who through industry and frugality and an ability to exist under severe persecution, were able to withstand the economic onslaughts of the monopolies. The latest available figures show 5,310 Jews in Delaware, most of whom are in Wilmington.

Many restaurants, candy stores and some fruit and vegetable stands are operated by Greeks. Italians are engaged in the latter as well as in other lines of trade and in many factories. Mexicans, Spaniards, Chinese, and Japanese have found little to attract them and only a few make their home in Wilmington.

A slave-holding State prior to the Civil War, Delaware contained a large number of negroes, the descendants of whom still reside within its borders. Eleven per cent of the population consist of this race.

Nearly 25% of the inhabitants are either foreign born or are of foreign and mixed parentage. Of a population of 106,597, 25,029 are thus classified. Foreign born number 12,592; negro 12,080; aliens, not naturalized, 3,771. Of the foreign born Italians predominate with 3,041; Poles follow with 2,647; Irish 1,780 and Russians, 1,226.

#### THE UKRAINIANS

An interesting group of foreign born American residents in the city is the Ukrainian group, a small colony of whom reside in South Wilmington in a cluster of homes in the vicinity of Heald and "B" Streets. They number about a hundred families,



upwards of 500 inhabitants. They are for the most part from Galicia, a Polish province on the border of Russia. The bread winners are manual workers or skilled mechanics employed in the railroad and car shops, and all have contributed largely to the communal welfare in the erection and maintenance of a community house and place of worship. The women are adept in embroidery and similar work, and the members of both sexes have a love for music that is being carefully developed under the guidance of a professional choir-master. The children attend the public schools, but in addition receive their religious instruction in their native tongue and have special studies after the close of the school session.

#### POLES

Prominent among the bi-lingual groups is that of the Polish group. In a wedge-shaped piece of land south of Lancaster Avenue, East of Broom running to the city limits, some five or six thousand of these people live within ten minutes walk of the center of Wilmington. It is a densely populated section, a municipality in itself. Having their own trades and professions, operating their own stores and places of business, the Poles ply their way apart from their fellow Wilmingtonians. Held together by the common bond of nativity and heritage, they mingle little outside their own group, even with the people of other nationalities who are their neighbors. They rarely marry outside their own racial boundaries.

About 90 per cent of the Poles are Roman Catholics and worship at St. Hedwigs church, located at Linden and Harrison Streets. They are interested in athletics, numerous "teams"



engaging in nearly every sport. They have contributed some outstanding performers to the ranks of local amateur and professional sports. Their thrift and industry are notable. It is said that 90 per cent of them own their own homes. They are scrupulous about their obligations and look upon a contract as a sacred trust.

Wilmington Poles are of the German type. Blonde, rather below the stature of their Anglo-Saxon neighbors, with fine white skin, light eyes and wide expressive mouths.

### ITALIANS

While many Italians live in various parts of Wilmington, the area bounded by Second and Tenth Streets, Union and Scott Streets, houses most of them, and has come to be known as "Little Italy." The population of this community is approximately 5,000, with a large and ever increasing proportion of first and second generations amongst it.

Owing largely to traditional custom and early training, the social activities of this community are mainly centered around St. Anthony's Church, which functions as the spiritual center of the community. The principal church festivals of which the following three are the most prominent are attended by a large number of devotees; The Feast of St. Anthony, held on the 13th of June; the Feast of St. Rocco, held August 16th, and that of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, held on the Sunday following the 16th of July. St. Anthony's Church not only serves the spiritual needs of the community, but also acts as a center for the recreational, benevolent and cultural activities.

The Italians have quite a number of fraternal organizations, principal of which is the Sons of Italy, an amalgamation of



several smaller units, each comprised of people from various provinces in Italy, such as Sicily, Genoa, Piedmont, Venice and others. Another large fraternal organization is the Sons of Columbus.

The cultural level of the Italians is high, especially among the younger element who not content with the common public school education, are entering its higher branches, thus enabling them to acquire a better and more comprehensive understanding of citizenship and its corresponding responsibilities.

#### THE NEGRO

There is only one group in Wilmington that has become segregated due to a racial difference - the Negro. This group is not confined to any one section of the city, but is to be found mostly in the older sections. Some of the homes have an air of refinement, but most of them are poorly kept and Wilmington's slum districts are largely occupied by negro residents.

Negroes in Wilmington number almost as many as all the foreign groups combined, representing about 11 per cent of the total population. Typically negro, with few of the superstitions of the Southern cousins, they retain most of their love for music, singing and the usual negro pleasures. Carefree, irresponsible, hard and willing workers, they are deeply religious, a number of churches testifying to this trait.

Their living conditions are similar to those of most industrial cities. They earn their living in unskilled labor and domestic service. "Jim Crow" laws do not exist in Wilmington and the negro is free to mingle with the whites, although he seldom takes advantage of this privilege. They are provided with the same educa-



tional advantages as the white population; they have their own  
schools with teachers of their own race and sincere efforts are  
made to equip them with the means of furthering their advancement.



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THE NEGRO~~1639~~

Negro slavery along the Delaware dates back to the very beginning of white settlements in this vicinity. In 1639, one by the name of Coinelisse was "condemned on the third of February to serve the company with the blacks on South River for wounding a soldier at Fort Amsterdam. He was also to pay a fine to the fiscal, and damages to the wounded soldier." Intestifying in the case against Governor Van Twiller, (before Kieft,) charged with neglecting and mismanaging the company's affairs, a witness said, "he had in his custody for Van Twiller, at Fort Hope and Nassah, twenty-four to thirty goats and that three negroes brought by the director in 1636 were since employed in his private service."

A roll list of the people who were alive in New Sweden on the first of March, 1648, gives us to know that slavery existed with the Swedes, although Dr. Stevens in his History of Georgia, vol. 1, p. 288 says "negro servitude was disallowed." This list in the handwriting of Hans Kramer, bookkeeper for the New Sweden Co. contains the record: "Anthony, a Morian or Angeler, who was a purchased slave, brought here on the 'Crip' in 1639." "Morian (negro) or Angeler indicates that he came from Angola, the Portuguese Colony in West Africa near the river Kunene."

On the fifteenth of September, 1657, complaints were made that Jacob Aldricks, at New Amstel, used the company's oxen and negroes.

The intermixture of races began and a tract of land in Sussex County bore the name of "Mulatto Hall."

An Act was passed by the "three lower counties under Lieut. Gov. Patrick Gordon, (1726-1727) providing for a special form of trial for the Negro and Mulatto slaves."

To Justices of the Peace were to be "particularly commissioned by the Governor for that service within the respective counties thereof, and six of the most substantial freeholders of the neighborhood." This Court was to try Negroes and Mulattoes "accused of committing any murder, manslaughter, buggery, burglary, robbery, rape, attempts at rape, or any other high and heinous offences." Section three of this Act provided that in case a slave be sentenced to death, the master of the slave was to be paid two-thirds the appraised value of the slave. Section five provided, "That if any Negro or Mulatto slave within this government, shall attempt to commit a rape on a white woman or maid, they shall be tried in manner aforesaid, and shall be punished by standing four hours in the pillory at the Court House on some court day, with both his ears nailed to the pillory, and before he be taken down from the same, shall have both his ears cut off close to his head."



Sect. 6. "And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any negro or mulatto slave shall presume to carry any guns, swords, pistols, fowling-pieces, clubs, or other arms and weapons whatsoever, without his master's special license for the same, and be convicted thereof before a Magistrate, he shall be whipt with twenty-one lashes, upon his bare back."

Sect. 7. "And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any negroes, above the number of six in one company, not belonging to one owner, shall meet together, and upon no lawful business of their masters or owners, and being convicted thereof, by the view of one Justice of Peace, or the testimony of one credible witness, such negro or negroes so offending shall be publicly whipped at the discretion of one Justice of the Peace, not exceeding twenty-one lashes, each negro." This Act continued in force until February 3, 1789.

Article 26 of the Constitution of 1776 says, "No person hereafter imported into this State from Africa ought to be held in slavery under any pretence whatever, and no negro, Indian or Mulatto slave ought to be brought into this State, for sale, from any part of the world."

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Feb. 3, 1789 An Act was passed of which section 3 reads: "And whereas it is but just and reasonable that negro and mulatto slaves should receive a trial by jury in capital cases; Be it therefore enacted, That all Negro and Mulatto slaves, after the passing of this Act, shall be tried, for all capital offences, in the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the several counties, where the same offences shall be committed, by the usual mode of proceeding in said courts for the punishment of crimes against the state now cognizable in said courts."

Sect. 5. "And be it enacted, that so much of an act, instituted, An Act for the trial of Negroes, as gives to two Justices of the Peace, and six freeholders, the power of trying, determining and convicting, any negro, mulatto, or other slave, and punishing the same with death, for any capital offence whatsoever, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and made void.

Wilmington had a population in 1775 of 1229. Of this number 1172 were whites and 57 were colored.

On Sept. 13, 1783 Richard Allen, afterwards raised to the office of a bishop, preached the first sermon known to have been delivered by a negro in Wilmington.



THE NEGRO

90

The first government census in 1790 showed Delaware with 46,310 White, 3890 Free Negroes, and 8887 Negro Slaves.

In 1805 the Negro members of Asbury ME Church in Wilmington withdrew and formed a society and built a place of worship on the site of Zion Church.

Peter Spencer and William Anderson in 1813 withdrew from the Congregation mentioned above and founded the "Union Church of African Members". This was the first church in the United States organized and entirely controlled by Negroes. It appears the main objection these two men had with the church formed by the former Asbury members, (in which they were numbered), was the fact that a white Pastor was furnished them, and he insisted on taking charge of all the business of the church.

Delaware unlike the south had never devoted itself to the production of one exclusive crop such as tobacco. Its experience was that life time slaves was an expensive economy. The laboring class in this section and farther north had been largely made up of indentured white servants who gained their freedom after serving a set number of years. The slaveholding farmers of those days knew they could hurry their slaves and get their summer crops harvested and stored away sooner if some prize, as it were, was offered as an incentive to this end. So we see as early as 1812 the Negroes from the Delmarvia Peninsula going to Wilmington to the August Quarterly Conference of the M E Church. This is now the largest Negro celebration of the state, and is known as Big Quarterly and occurs the fourth Sunday in August. Many negroes come from great distances to attend this celebration which is held in the African Union Methodist Protestant Church, on French Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Services begin at 9 o'clock in the morning and continue until 11 o'clock at night. Besides the main services in the church there are "overflow" services in the yard back of the church. Though the religious services have always had a prominent part in the celebration, and the advantage is taken to show ones clothes, that which is given attention by all is the eating. The more one eats that day the better impression they are supposed to take home with them. Booths offering all kinds of food (hot and cold), for sale, are along the curbs and in the houses of that part of French Street. Anyone interested in music should hear the "Singing Band" at the Big Quarterly Service. It is composed of singers who have been singing at different Camp Meetings throughout the country.



A few people even today expect to see traces in Delaware of the old "Underground Railroad" whereby runaway slaves were successfully transported from the south to Canada. After a slave had once reached Philadelphia he or she was reasonably sure of safely arriving in Canada, but absolute freedom was not assured until the international boundary was crossed. This by no means was a tunnel of any kind but a secret transportation, accomplished a good bit "by dark" in the nights.

"The Underground Railroad took on its "Southern passengers" at Elkton and Havre-de-Grace, Md., from whence the fugitives made their way to Oxford, Kennett Square, Hockessin, and a very large number of them came to Wilmington.

The great liberator in Wilmington was Thomas Garrett. Co-workers in this transportation of runaway slaves to Canadian Liberty were Thomas Walker, Benjamin Williams and Thomas Webb, Isaac S. Flint, Daniel Gibbons, Dinah and Isaac Mendenhall, John and Hannah Cox, Robert Purvis and William Stille.

Maryland slave owners offered \$10,000. reward for the capture of Mr. Garrett. His reply was "make it \$20,000. and I will come and give myself over to you." But the reward offer was never increased.

Former Governor John Hunn used to tell the following about the history of the "Underground Railroad"; his father having been "The leading figure in this state, in the ante bellum days", in charge of the "Underground Railroad." "When his old father was on his death-bed he called his son to him and exacted from him a promise to burn a history of the "Underground Railroad" which he had prepared, and which minutely detailed every fact and circumstance of the memorable secret chapter in Delaware's history. The son promised to do so; but as he was turning away, something in his face caused his father to recall him. "Son, thee meant to copy that diary before thee destroyed it, is it not so?" The son admitted he had intended to make a copy, whereupon his father made him promise to burn the record uncopied, which was done. This valuable and doubtless interesting recital was fully prepared for publication; but as the senior Hunn said, the issue was closed, and inasmuch as some of the actors in the affairs were yet alive, and might be compromised thereby, he thought it best to cover the whole episode with oblivion by burning what was probably the only full and authentic account of this stirring drama of Delaware's Underground Railroad."

December 14, 1860 Sarah Jane Bradley (colored) was hanged at Georgetown.



The Negro

92

Chapter 168

An Act concerning Free Negroes and Free Mulattoes.

Whereas slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, is strictly forbidden to exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction, by Article 13 of the Constitution of the United States;

And Whereas, though the said constitutional provision legalizes the selling of criminals into slavery or involuntary servitude, yet that slavery is virtually abolished, by said provision, so that when a person is offered at public sale, as a servant, to the highest bidder, as a punishment for crime whereof the party is duly convicted according to Title Twentieth of the Revised Statutes of the State of Delaware, entitled "Of Crime and Punishments," the sale of said party is rendered impracticable for the want of bidders on account of said constitutional provisions, whereby subjecting white persons to the extreme penalty of the law, and subjecting them to a greater punishment than free negroes or free mulattoes;

And Whereas it is useless for a law to remain upon our statute book that is not executed;

And whereas it is necessary and proper that free negroes and free mulattoes should be amenable to our laws as well as white persons; therefore

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met,



The Negro

Section 1. That from and after the passage of this act, upon the conviction of any negro or mulatto of any of the felonies or misdemeanors enumerated and defined in the Title Twentieth of the Revised Statutes of the State of Delaware, entitled "Of Crimes and Punishments," the penalty and punishment of said negro or mulatto shall be the same as is or may be provided by law for the penalty and punishment of white persons for like offences.

Section 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all acts or part of acts inconsistent with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Passed at Dover, March 12, 1867.

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"On June 15, 1903, "a murder, surrounded by the most heinous and aggravated circumstances, was committed in that neighborhood, and a negro by the name of George White was arrested and placed in jail to await trial. The crime was so revolting, that when the prisoner made a confession to the officers of his guilt, the public mind became so excited and incensed that on "June 22nd" "the workhouse <sup>was</sup> surrounded by an armed mob of several thousand people, who demanded the surrender to them of the prisoner. This was refused by the Warden, and although he had doubled his guards and was reinforced by City Chief Black, and a faithful band of his officers, it was soon made manifest that resistance to the infuriated mob would be useless, even with a great loss of life and property, and after a work of hours the prison doors and bolts were broken down, and the prisoner was taken out by the mob.



LOCATION - - New Castle County.

Submitted by - - Franklin Pote

Date - December 30, 1935.

ETHNOLOGY  
Negroes

Negro slavery along the Delaware dates back to the very beginning of white settlements in this vicinity, in 1639 one by the name of Coinclisse was "condemned on the third of February, to serve the company with blacks on South River for wounding a soldier at Fort Amsterdam."

Anthony( reported by Hans Kramer bookkeeper for the New Sweden Company as a purchased slave brought here on "Grip in 1639) must have been the negro slave, left by the skipper of the "Grip" as all the company's profit, after ten months pirating in the West Indies.

September 15, 1657 complaints were made that Jacob Aldrichs at New Amstel used the company's oxen and negroes.

The intermixture of races began and a tract of land in Sussex County bore the name of "Mulatto Hall."

The negroes now have their own separate schools throughout the State. There is a State College for Colored Students two miles north of Dover. They are represented in the different professions. A good many of the women are employed as domestics. The men are employed in the industrial plants, on the farms, in general labor, and a number are chauffeurs.



### JEWS

During the time Derk Smidt was in charge of affairs at Fort Casimir, in 1655, permission was given to Abraham Lucenna, Salvador deAndrade and Jacob Cohen to trade on the South River. The first Jew definitely known as a resident of Delaware was Solomon Solis, born in Wilmington, March 13, 1819. But few Jews were in the State prior to 1850, when Nathan Lieberman located in Wilmington, and his brother Henry in Dover. In 1927 the Jewish population in Delaware was 5310; the majority of these were engaged in mercantile business. The tendency is for advanced education and improved social conditions. They<sup>re</sup> are both Orthodox and Reformed Synagogues in Wilmington.

### EARLY WHITE GENTILE SETTLERS.

The Swedes and Finns settled here as early as 1638. The Dutch came in 1640. There were but few English before William Penn came in 1682. Under his patronage a number of Scotch Irish took up their residence here. From Wales the Thomases, Rees, and Griffiths came, with red freckled faces, shaggy bears, and pedigrees dating back to Adams. The insurrection of the negroes in San Domingo in 1791 forced great numbers of the French families to flee, many of which came to Wilmington. In 1793 a scourge of Yello<sup>w</sup> Fever in Philadelphia drove a large percentage of the population to seek refuge elsewhere. At this time the population of Wilmington was materially increased.



### GERMANS

Though Francis Daniel Pastorius, a young lawyer, came to Philadelphia in 1683 and there represented the Frankford Land Company until 1700, and settled many Germans in that locality, it appears that but few Germans resided in the, "Three lower Counties". The Revolution in Germany in 1848 caused many to emigrate to America. Delaware received its share of these people. The German emigration to Delaware continued until about 1880. Their organized musical societies have influenced the public greatly to appreciate music of a better class. They have done much to popularize chorus singing.

### ITALIANS

Petro Locasto who was naturalized in Wilmington, October 25, 1884 claimed to be the first Italian resident of Wilmington. He was the sole representative of his nation in the city for several years. In 1882 and 1883 there were a number of Italian laborers who came to Wilmington. The first work of most of these was on the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Now a large number of Italian people are employed in the contracting and building trades. There are some who conduct fruit and vegetable stores, some shoe repair shops, and the majority of barber shops in Wilmington are conducted by Italians. There is a resident Italian Consul in Wilmington. "Little Italy" embraces the district from Lancaster Avenue to Eighth Street, west of Dupont Street.



## POLES

The Polish section of Wilmington is in "Browntown," bounded by Maryland Avenue, Lancaster Avenue and Broome St. Over thirty years ago these people came from West Prussia. There is a smaller colony of later origin around Old Swedes Church. Though these people are all employed in tilling the soil before coming to America, practically none work on farms in this State. The Poles appear to like working in factories where large numbers of them labor together. They are employed in morocco plants and ship yards. The women work in morrocco plants and cigar factories; but few are employed as domestics. Some of the younger generation of the Polish people are employed in underwear and dress factories, as cigar making is not carried on in Wilmington at this time. Medicine, dentistry, science and law are being invaded by the present day Poles. There are but few spinsters or bachelors. The average home has four children. The Polish people have altered the steps in dancing in the vicinity of Wilmington so as to give it a distinctive air.

## UKRANIANS

The Ukranian population of Wilmington is in what is known as South Wilmington, in the vicinity of Heald and "D" Streets. They came from Galacia, an Austrian province twenty or thirty years ago. The men are mostly skilled mechanics, especially interested in wood carving. The women do splendid embroidery work. Both sexes take part in music and dramatic performances in their own community hall. They are keen for education. Though they keep pretty well to themselves, intermarriage with other Wilmingtonians



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is not infrequent.

# GREEKS

In Wilmington a good many of the restaurants are operated by Greeks. The Greeks are well educated and interested in municipal progress.

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Delmarvia Sunday Star - Magazine Section 1-20-35

UKRANIANS

Delmarvia Sunday Star - 10-4-25



Joseph W. Dabrowski,  
July 27, 1938

Racial Picture of Wilmington

POLISH HOUSING IN WILMINGTON

The first Polish immigrants to settle in Wilmington were from that section of Poland then controlled by Prussia.

These people, not familiar with the customs and language of this country, tried to get as nearly as possible to the German-speaking population that were already established in Wilmington in the southwestern section. This portion of Wilmington, from Front Street and Maryland Avenue, Justison to South Street, became known as "Polska" or "Little Poland."

The homes that were rented to these Poles were two-story dwellings, two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs, with pump water in the yard, white-washed walls in all of the rooms, outside toilets, and scarcely any adequate mode of sewage disposal.

With the attraction of building and industrial employment in the early years of 1900, the Poles from that part of Poland controlled by Russia, and Austria began to arrive and move into this section. Immediately a housing problem arose, for it was not unusual to find as many as ten persons living in one of these homes. In some instances, where men were employed in shift work, they would double up, some occupying the bed at night and others during the day.

The Poles, as a race noted for their immaculateness, would not tolerate the over-crowded condition of their colony and the health menace that had been created, began to move further in the southern direction of the city into the section long called "Browtown."



Meanwhile, Frederick Pyle, owner of tanneries or morocco plants in the vicinity and recognizing the plight of these people, conceived the idea of building new homes in the territory located west of Maryland Avenue. To accomplish this, he employed a building contractor, William M. Connelly, familiarly known as "Boxer" Connelly.

The Poles, a thrifty and frugal race, with the assistance of their children (who at the age of eleven or twelve were employed in leather plants) were able to save and were now in a position to move into a more modern area of dwellings.

As an added incentive, Mr. Pyle made it possible for these people to buy homes that were priced at \$1,000 with a down payment of \$50, and a promise of employment in one of his factories to help pay the balance. For the Poles who were in a position to pay more, the sum of \$200 as a down payment was given, and the balance for a \$1,600 home was to be paid during continued employment in one of Mr. Pyle's factories.

A monument still stands to the memory of "Boxer" Connelly, a study in architecture, in the crowded section of neat and modest homes at the southeast corner of Maple and Van Buren Streets, now occupied by Mr. Peter Bionkowski, a druggist.

The Polish community of today, often referred to as "Polska," has expanded so that it covers all of that portion in the City of Wilmington bounded by Lancaster Avenue, lower Madison and Broom Streets.

In a Real Property Inventory, taken in 1934, statistics show that the "Polska" community in the section bounded by Beech Street, Maryland and Lancaster Avenues, 52 percent of the homes are in good condition



both as to the interior and exterior. Over 50 percent of these homes have central heating. Indoor toilets and baths are to be found in the majority of these homes. In comparison, that portion of the original "Polska" bounded by lower Madison Street and including some parts of "Browtown" where the poorer group of Poles is located, practically all have no central heating, no running hot water, and over 50 percent are without indoor toilets or baths. This is known as the tenement section, with an average rental of \$16 per month.

Another small colony of Poles may be found on the East Side of Wilmington, in the section bounded by Front and Poplar Streets, and further east to the Old Swedes Church at the foot of Seventh Street near Christina River. These people, who are later comers, exhibit the same manifestations of neatness and immaculateness as the earlier arrivals, as shown when tenants became owners of their own property.

In Wilmington, the Poles, proud of their heritage, and appreciating the opportunities afforded in the new country, are conceded to be excellent citizens.



Source: Pamphlet: The So Called Moors of Delaware by Judge George P. Fisher. Interviews with Peter H. Beckett and P. J. Durham (Moors), and W. S. Scarborough.

### THE MOORS

There are two communities of people called Moors in the State of Delaware, one near Lewes, and the other near Cheswold. They live on farms and most of them own their own homes. Between one and two hundred is the estimate of their number near Cheswold.

*Moors* They have two churches, one near Dupont Station, the other on the road to Cheswold near the Dupont Highway. They also have their own school.

Are they negroes with a mixture of white and Indian blood? The State Board of Education classes them with the negro, and provides colored teachers for their schools. The ministers of their churches are sent them by the conference composed of colored ministers.

One tradition says that a company of Spanish Moors by chance reached the American shores prior to Revolutionary days and that the present inhabitants of these communities are descended from them.

In 1895 Judge George P. Fisher published in the Milford Chronicle the results of an investigation into the origin of the Moors. The following is a resume of Judge Fisher's findings: "About fifteen or twenty years before the Revolutionary War there was a lady of Irish descent living on a farm in Indian River Hundred, a few miles from Lewes, which she owned and operated herself."



"Being in need of a slave, and hearing that a slaver was in Lewes Creek, she purchased one from the ship. She selected a very tall, shapely and muscular young fellow who claimed to be a prince or chief of one of the tribe on the Congo River, that as a prisoner of war he had been sold into slavery. After a few months they were married and reared quite a large family.

Not being allowed to mingle with those of pure Caucasian blood and not disposed to marry with those with negro blood, they intermarried with Indians of the Nanticoke tribe.

Another version is that the woman was of English birth, highly connected of refined associations and highly educated, that she met the man whom she married at a dancing school, that he represented himself as a Spanish of wealth and good family and of Moorish descent, and that she did not learn until afterwards that the supposed taint of African blood meant ostracism.



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Racial Groups 105

STATE EDITORIAL IDENTIFICATION FORMS

1653

STATE: DELAWARE

RECEIVED FROM: (State office) Wilmington

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PREFINAL NEW:           

VOLUNTEER CONSULTANT:

Name State Department of  
Adult Education

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Position           

Address           

By Francis E. Egan

Position State Director

Date March 4, 1938



RACIAL GROUPS

Little more than a century ago, ninety percent of the white inhabitants of Delaware were the immediate descendants of colonists from the British Isles, chiefly English, along with Scotch from the north of Ireland and a few Welsh, who had settled in the State before 1700 or shortly afterwards. Included in the population were the descendants of the early Swedish, Finnish, and Dutch settlers. A group of French refugees from Santo Domingo, who established themselves in Wilmington during the 1790's, together with a later trickling of immigrants from other European countries, did not materially alter the racial proportions, which remained the same until 1845-6, when famine initiated the "great exodus of the Irish race."

The Federal census of 1860 showed 9,165 foreign-born persons residing in Delaware, out of a total population of 112,216. Of this number, 5,832 were from Ireland, 1,581 were from England, and 1,263 were from "German States." The racial content of the population was, in proportion, remarkably the same in 1880, although there had been an increase of 34,392 in the total number of inhabitants. The Germans, as well as the English and Irish, were quickly merged with the older stock. The only noteworthy changes have occurred in the last half-century.

The construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad through the northern part of the State (1833-6), coupled with



with advances in industry and building construction, raised the foreign-born Italian population from 43 to 1,122 during that decade, and also attracted 1,527 Poles, about 300 Swedes, and the same number of Russians. In the same period, over 1,000 Germans arrived. The percentages of other foreign-born groups remained nearly stationary.

According to the 1930 census, 16,885, or 7.1 percent of the total population of 238,380, were foreign-born whites, while 33,785, or 14.2 percent, were native-born whites of foreign or mixed parentage. Negroes constituted 13.7 percent, and the native white offspring of native parents formed the remaining 65 percent.

Although the Italians in Delaware came from both North and South Italy, they do not retain the wide differences in behavior that exist between the natives of Milan and Palermo. "Little Italy," with an area of twenty small city blocks, containing more than one-half the Italian population of Wilmington, is extremely American. With only homes and styles of dress as clues, it is doubtful whether a stranger could find "Little Italy," for on the surface it does not appear different from other sections of the city. The women are chiefly concerned with home and church, the men are employed mostly as barbers, building contractors, cobblers, quarrymen, stonecutters, and tailors. Except for a few druggists, policemen, lawyers, and physicians, they occupy few professional positions of responsibility. Many of the older Italians, who were well educated in Italy, have had an influence upon educational interests here and many of the younger generation



are being given a higher education than is offered by the ordinary public schools.

Polish residents of Wilmington occupy rows of modest houses, chiefly in the southwest section. These are generally neat on the exterior and immaculate in the interior. Many of the Poles were agriculturists before coming to Delaware, but it is now difficult to find a Polish family looking to the soil for livelihood. Instead, most of the men are employed in shipyards and similar industries, the women work in textile shops, and both toil in morocco factories. They also own and operate many stores and barrooms. A stranger of another race who enters a Polish home may find the parents reticent and retiring at first, but should he impress them favorably he may find a delightful air of congeniality, and be as genuinely made welcome as a distinguished visitor of their own race. The men, and sometimes the women, like to indulge in small games of chance and to some extent in intoxicants. Nevertheless, the Poles "pay their way"; most of them own their homes. Many of the women, especially the grown girls, make and alter their own clothes in accordance with current styles and embroider articles of intricate beauty for the home. In general, the Poles worry little about political and governmental doings. Yet they maintain institutions -- Polish Library Association, Wilmington; Polish Orphanage, Ogletown, for example -- which offer recreational facilities and urgently-needed social assistance. Poles own a pleasing racial pride, and every year they honor Casimir Pulaski and an even more famous countryman,



Thaddeus Kosciusko, who went home to oppose the "Benevolent Despots" after assisting George Washington in the American Revolution.

### The Moors

Along a part of the north shore of the Indian River and Bay, and in a small settlement near Cheswold, live Delawareans whose admixture of racial strains has not been determined with certainty. These people call themselves Moors, the term based on a variety of traditions, the most generally advanced being those of a marriage of a Moorish prince, who was saved from the wreck of a Spanish privateer, with an Indian maiden; the marriage with Indian maidens by the children of a Moorish prince, or slave; and the marriage of an Irish lady of culture and breeding with her handsome Negro slave, as a result of which the children could not marry among the whites, and therefore married Indians.

The Indian strain, from a remnant of the Nanticoke tribe in southern Delaware, is quite marked in many of these people. Kinky hair and broad features, in a few cases, indicate a negroid mixture. Although the color of the skin varies from white to so dark a brown as to appear negroid, the features, hair, and physical build are no different from those of the descendants of Anglo-Saxons who make up the white population, unless the difference lies in being, in general, more robust and stalwart people. Chiefly farmers owning their own land, they are a self-reliant, serene, and kindly group. Yet, in spite of their often white skin and



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Caucasian features, they are regarded by their neighbors as a superior class of Negroes.

Partly within and partly separate from this group are the members of the Nanticoke Indian Association, consisting of a few families in whose traditions and customs Dr. Frank G. Speck recognized indications of Nanticoke ancestry (see Tour ).

### The Negro

The Negro, figuring in the population on Delaware soil from the time of the settlements, had increased to twenty-one percent of the inhabitants at the first Federal census in 1790. By Civil War times, the percentage had increased to 25 percent; today, 13.7 percent of the people are Negroes, or approximately one out of every seven persons.

The Negro, as a worker, fills an important niche in Delaware economy. Approximately sixty out of every one hundred Negroes of working age in the State were gainfully employed in 1930, and of these, twenty-one were in agriculture, twenty in industry, thirty-three in personal or domestic service, and twelve in transportation. Women were engaged principally as domestics, although some were teachers and beauty shop assistants.

On the farm, most of the Negroes were hired hands, although 827 Delaware farms in 1935 were owned or tenanted by Negroes. Road construction draws the greatest number of Negro workers, outside of domestic employees. In a few occupations, the skilled Negro is paid the same wages as white workers, and



he is welcomed into trade-unions. However, the majority of Negro males are employed as laborers and at low wages.

Delaware Negroes exhibit a wide divergence of physical types, color, and cultural status. The cultural differences range from farm toilers to honor scholars and doctors of philosophy. But white Delaware in general places all Negroes in the same category, and makes few distinctions. Nowhere in the State may it be said a Negro is free in the same sense as a white person.

The disposition seems prevalent to arrest Negroes more freely than whites, to convict them oftener than whites, and to give them longer sentences. Negro crime in Delaware occurs oftenest at the lowest income level, and there are factors of overcrowding, segregation, and lack of adequate institutional supervision for delinquents, feeble-minded, and juvenile offenders to account in part for crime figures.

On the other hand, while Delaware is the first State to the south where the Negro is segregated in schools and public gatherings, he escapes the feelings of race-hatred, and so long as he attends his own schools, lodges, theatres, and lunchrooms, is unmolested.

Less than two-fifths of the thirty-two thousand Negroes of Delaware live in urban areas. In the matter of housing in the towns, he is, in general, herded into squalid flats without proper water supply and heating, and, of course, lacking sanitary facilities. By shrewd management, however, some Delaware Negroes have bought houses and farms, and these in general are well equipped and managed. There is little brightness in the present economic outlook for the Delaware



Negro; when the economic upheavals came, he was replaced in industry by whites and shunted to relief rolls. He is undoubtedly at the bottom of the economic heap, and subject to disadvantages common to such position.

Enjoying the privilege of suffrage unrestricted, he has elected members of his own race to City Council in Wilmington, and usually there are two serving in that body, representing almost solid Negro wards. Three Negro policemen serve in Wilmington.

Leaders of the race have endeavored to improve the status of the Negro, and secure more cultural and economic opportunities for him. In most public offices, a sprinkling of Negroes is to be noted; even in the legal profession, long closed, a Negro lawyer has been admitted to practice. In the church, Delaware Negroes have risen to high distinction. Recognition is granted to dramatic, artistic, and musical talent. Edward Loper, artist of the Federal Art Project, won honorable mention for his painting, After a Shower, at a recent exhibition of the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts, and the painting was bought by the Society for its permanent collection.



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NEW LITTLE POLAND IN OLD BROWNTOWN

Extract from Every Evening, Wilmington, Delaware, June 11, 1921.

If one were to walk on Maryland Avenue from Chestnut Street to the city's western boundary, with his eyes partly closed, he might readily imagine himself to be in Warsaw or in some town of western Silesia, for he would hear almost nothing but an unfamiliar tongue, rather soft and pleasant to the ear, oddly accentuated and seemingly run together in long, unending sentences. He too would hear the voices of children as they played together calling to one another in pretty Polish patois, for in the small area of ten by six or seven squares, live a community of Poles numbering more than 6,000. Indeed, it is a surprise to find such a densely populated city of men and women of foreign nativity set down here within five minutes ride of the busiest part of Wilmington, and to discover this Little Warsaw to be a town within a city, tradesmen and professional men speaking their own language and supplying all the needs of the community.

Here the thousands of our Polish people live almost apart from the rest of Wilmington, that is so far as their participation in our affairs goes. They come into but little-very little-with the peoples of other nationalities, their neighbors, and it is exceptionally rare that the young men or women marry outside of their own racial boundaries.

\* \* \* \* \*

The pioneers of this Polish town or community found their way to Wilmington more than twenty years ago. Their extreme poverty, governmental oppression and lack of opportunity in their European



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homes, had long filled them with an ambition to come to America, and when the way eventually opened, a small number came here, and in the industrial plants found the opening sought. From the first money saved above the cost of bare living, in the humblest way, went a share for those left behind, and with this brothers, sisters, wives, and sweethearts were brought to this country, and to this city. And so the little stream of immigrants of twenty years ago expanded into a strong and swelling tide of these persecuted people until today there are more than 9,000 persons living in Wilmington, who regard Kossuth with the love and veneration that the American holds for Lincoln or Washington.

On the east side of the city, in the section adjacent, partly to Old Swedes Church, is another Polish colony, but here they are more recent arrivals. As they came to America later than their compatriots of the Maryland avenue section they have not progressed so far in the acquirement of riches, and in the display of visible manifestations of prosperity, and one will find the west-side Polish community the more interesting of the two perhaps. Another reason is that these people are the dominant factors in the entire west-side section, or at least the community reflects their presence more distinctly than does any other foreign quarter here denote the nationality of its residents.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here one may walk along the main street of the Polish settlement and see little to indicate the presence of the Anglo-Saxons or other people in trade or industry. The painted sign



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board that directs shoppers are amazing to the American combinations of seeming alphabetical disorder in an apparent wild state of disarrangement, spelling out names pronounceable only by the Polish tongue and utterly unintelligible to other peoples; and almost all revealing the final "ski" which declares the unadulterated Polish purity of the bearer of the cognomen. Indeed, the sense is so disturbed at the promiscuous distribution of the alphabet on the store guides, that one may declare they seem as if the letters had been arranged by spilling a box of alphabet crackers over a board spread with glue and many had stuck fast and the result is a sign. Nevertheless to those home-proud people these signs are the tie that seems to impart a homy atmosphere to that old section of our city.

After centuries of more or less independent action at home or dissensions at critical periods and the attendant weakness, the Poles here have evidently awakened to the value of cooperation and unity in all matters, that affect them as a people. Out in this little Poland there are many associations and organizations, and in all of them the title emphasizes and underlines the mutual features, and we find these, our new neighbors, compactly and tightly organized ready to act as a unit in all matters of moment. It would seem that the interest of one is the interests of all the race here and we may quote one of the leaders who said that while the Poles were almost wholly Democratic heretofore the entire thousand men and women who are naturalized and were qualified to express their preferences at the polls, in



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November, had cast their votes for the Republican ticket at that time, because the natural aspirations of their people had not been met at the Versailles conference, and the Democratic administrations was held responsible for "not treating our people right."

\* \* \* \* \*

Along this line, to assure the desired unity of action may be cited the existence of the Polish Citizens' Committee, which is supposed to, and doubtless does, voice the will of that community, and carefully considers the best action for the welfare of the Polish people. Edward Galicki, is the acknowledged leader of the Committee and its work. He probably is less autocratic than the American political boss but he is the dominant, undisputed leader and there is never a doubt as to the location of the head of the conference table when Galicki is present. He probably is more the counsel and guide and adviser than a boss, for many of the Poles are unfamiliar with American political problems, customs and language and trust to this sagacious, level-headed chief who is well grounded in public affairs and matters of policy.

Here in this well-organized community are societies and many associations aimed to mutually benefit and protect and advance the Polish members from almost all angles. One beneficial group seems to have all the west-end Poles on its membership rolls. Another society for mutual aid has 500 members with assets of \$29,000, and a National Beneficial Association has 400 members



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on its list and assets of \$30,000. Then there is a National Alliance, the three group of which have a very large membership, and there is another alliance that includes in its membership the gymnasts and athletes of the colony.

\* \* \* \* \*

These Poles live in a community of their own, as stated earlier in this resume of their activities, and depend upon themselves for all supplies that may be required in their daily living. Stores of various kinds provide food, clothing, medicines, the essentials and luxuries. Polish doctors minister to the sick, nurses speak words of cheer to patients in the language of their own race, and undertakers of the same nationality lay the dead to rest. The Rev. John S. Gulcz, as should have been noted first, christens the babies, marries the lovers, in the tongue that one would hear in the churches at Warsaw, hears the confessions of the erring, prays for the dying, and commits those who have passed on to the mercies of the Father. Indeed he is the spiritual leader of the community, and on Sunday the big, St. Hedwig's Church is filled and refilled six times or even more often as ~~to~~ the devout followers gather for worship and prayer throughout the Sabbath. Ninety per cent of the people of this Polish village are followers of the Catholic Church and only a comparatively few attend the smaller Baptist Church which also conducts its services in the mother tongue.

\* \* \* \* \*

Two parochial schools, under the direction of Father Gulcz, provide for the education of the younger boys and girls



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of little Poland, teaching the English essentials, Polish grammar, literature and history. So no material nor spiritual need is left for others to supply. There too is a theatre where the heroes and heroines of the film world are shown and where Polish youths and adults may laugh at the custard pie comedies of Charlie Chaplin, and weep or smile with Mary Pickford, rejoice with Douglas Fairbanks, or even cheer the undaunted William Hart, who never fails to kill the pursuing villain of the situation while his high-bred mount watches with interest the duel from the corners of his eye. Perhaps the youth of the Polish sires and the American boys are closer in kinship on the films than on any other feature of their diversions or daily life. All understand the language of the movies, and all can applaud with equal understanding when the exterminator of evil persons, the said Mr. Hart, demonstrates that he is not willing to let one day go by without adding a notch to his death list of bad men.

\* \* \* \* \*

As the Polish people are the best dancers in the world it follows that they have dance halls and other assemblage rooms for such amusements and other public gatherings. Perhaps no other form of diversion affords them so much delight as comes through the measured steps of the modern and their own folk dances, the young men perhaps excelling the women in the pasttime.

A Polish bank, the Poleonia, is ready for business so that this need of the community will be met within a few days, and thrift and saving still further encouraged, while a weekly



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newspaper-it is the Polonia, too-keeps the people advised of the local happenings of interest, and tells them of affairs back home, and emphasizes the news relating to the activities of the Bolshevik, a matter of deep concern to Poles everywhere.

\* \* \* \* \*

These people also have a notary, Vincent J. Kowalewski, with the inevitable "ski" as a mark of good family. It may be interesting to refer to him further to recall from his signs some of the more obvious intricacies of the Polish orthography. An advertisement posted on the wall of his office elucidates this point, and reads thus in Polish:

"Czy masz od Ognia zabezpieczona twoja ciezka prace, jak nie to zaraz powinien zabezpieczcie, bo jutro moze bedzie za pozno."

Here is the translation of the paragraph above; it will untangle the alphabetical puzzle to Wilmington-born neighbors who may happen into this general clearing house, where the Poles seem to go for matters that require the services or advice of one of their own people educated in English and American business customs:

"Have you got your hard work insured from Fire if not, you should insure it at once, because tomorrow may be too late."

The English rendering of this appeal to insure shows also that the Poles are not less appreciative of the value of publicity than the Jews, their old home neighbors. We can see "insure your hard work" is more forceful than "insure your home"



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would be, and the meaning is the same. Probably the reasoning is that the hard work and self-denial that were necessary to obtain the money to buy the home still remains more clearly in mind than the acquisition of the home itself, for it is recalled that all of these 9,000 people came to this country with little money - owing their passage to friends - and in the interval of their climbing from the depths of poverty they had many impressive experiences, in a strange land and among strangers.

Polish food bonds are now being sold, \$15,000 worth of the \$3,000,000 having so far been disposed of here.

Indeed, the Polish people who are living here with an abundance of the things that impart zest and interest to life about them, were born and reared in the most blighting, hopeless poverty. Almost their only inheritance was health, and a proud racial spirit, that has never shown white through centuries of hardships and oppression. Coupled with these was patience to labor and to wait, with the understanding that in the fullness of time their deliverance from intolerable oppression would come, so if these people are proud of their heritage, and of their advancement and progress and accumulations they are wholly justified, and in another quarter of a century we will find them a tremendous factor in our economic and industrial affairs; and too it is not at all unlikely that they will have increased in population from one-twelfth of our whole people to twenty per cent of that total, for, be it remembered, that in Little Poland each family unit averages six persons - four children to each household -



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and there are few spinsters and fewer bachelors.

The thrift and industry of our adopted people is obvious in the assessment lists which, as one of the representative men out there declared, show that "90 per cent of our people live in houses they have bought and own outright or are paying for," for one is told there are no drones nor unproductive persons in this stirring community of men and women who are always busy in normal times, when there is work to be done. Nor has any member of the Polish group been sued to compel him to discharge his financial obligation to his fellows nor to the city.

It seems strange, to follow a logical course of reasoning, that these Poles, of the peasant class, whose families have been tillers of the soil for generations have turned their backs entirely on the country and insist on working in factories or shipyards, preferring employment where there are large numbers of men engaged. They do not even consider agriculture here, although they have no trades when they come to America. They, however, appear to make up for this loss of manual training by a natural aptness for whatever work to which they apply themselves, and they become proficient in a fraction of the time required for other people to attain to like skill, so the newspaper inquirer was informed. It seems incredible that these people trained only for the most taxing manual labor can, with a few weeks experience become among the most proficient workers in factories or in shipyards, where it is said they held the records for speed and splendid work during the war period when haste was the chief essential. However, such is the fact.



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The women, too, are no less apt than the men in training their minds and hands for expert service in industrial undertakings. They are proficient in the morocco plants, in the cigar factories and other similar industries, but, like their sisters of other European countries, few, if any of them, hire their services for home work, as domestics. However, it must not be understood that they are not trained in home making, in cooking, baking, and cleaning, and in the rearing of children. The exacting maternal cares seem to come to almost all of these healthy, strong, self-set-up women. The mothers attend to it that their daughters have thorough practical experience in all of the branches of housework, and there are usually children enough in every family to afford at least kindergarten training for the older sisters. Indeed, the time of these young Polish girls is so busily occupied that there seems little leisure for diversions, the dances, the movies, the outings, the church and Sunday school, but they accomplish much by their continuous effort.

Except that those from far away Russia dress a little less extravagantly than the young women of our other peoples, their homelife is much the same. They go to school, usually, from their eighth until their fifteenth year and then find employment in a factory of some kind, remaining a wage earner and perhaps contributing to the upkeep of the home, until they are seventeen or eighteen when "Prince Charming" usually comes to claim them and to take them away to a plain little home that they have helped



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in advance to prepare.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Polish people we meet here are of the German type. They are blonde, rather below the stature of their Anglo-Saxon neighbors, with fine white skin, light eyes, wide expressive mouths. They admit a close physical resemblance to the Teuton but insist the likeness ends right there. Both the young men and girls are seeking higher education than is afforded by the schools teaching their own language and more and more are enrolling in the Grammar and High school classes of our public institutions year by year.

The young men are taking to the professions, medicine, dentistry, science and the law, and to the trades where they can educate their hands and brains and lift themselves above the ranks of the manual laborers. It may be inferred that they are highly ambitious, and is improbable that the second generation of those born in this country will be found in the morocco shops and ship yards; those who have watched the advance of these people, the first of whom came here a little more than twenty years ago from West Prussia, have noted with amazement their rapid advancement under the invigoration of the opportunity they found awaiting them.

However poor and patient they may have been in their humble homes on the other side of the Atlantic under the devilish oppression of Russia, Germany, and Austria or Turkey--for the Poles have been the footballs of cruel fate that would have destroyed,



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heart and soul, any other nation--they are still loyally proud of their nationality and deeply sympathetic for the sorrows of those of their own people left in the old world to continue the fight for the right to live free and untrammelled and unhampered. In earnest of this the people of our Little Poland sent back to their old homes \$125,000 which they exchanged for war bonds, to aid the motherland in her recovery from the devastations of war and to guard against the torch and bomb of the Bolshevik.

\* \* \* \* \*

These people are proud of their nation, and of its heroes, and they never cease to sing the praises of those great souls of the past who have long been their inspiration. No May 3d passes that the faithful ones here do not celebrate the anniversary of the first constitution that was adopted by the home government. It meant equal rights for the poor as well as the rich, but the hope it contained was never realized, for Germany, Austria, and Russia could not have endured with such an example of political equality existing across the borders and they nullified this great step for the advancement of the nation and the rights of the Polish plebian had never found recognition until the recent overthrow of autocracy and tyranny in those old world nations brought this long fought for right almost to the point of consummation with only the Reds intervening for the moment in some parts of Polish Russia.

So these people with a glorious past are warranted in the pride they maintain for their country, and for their forbears,

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and here under the new, stimulating conditions, with liberty in the largest possible measure assured, with ample outlet for their energies and ambitions and in full realization of the opportunities now opened to them without let or restraint, we shall be proud of "Little Poland" or whatever we may designate this Polish town within our own gates, for it will require but short time for these people, for ages in the leash of tyranny and restraint, to come into their own and to play a big part in the further advancement of the cause of liberty and equality under the Stars and Stripes.

\* \* \* \* \*

It will be interesting to watch the progress and development of the Poles in America, where there are more than 4,000,000 of the race, and especially we shall be surprised to note the rapidity of their progress growth and usefulness here in the future.

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POLISH SOCIETIES, ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS  
IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

St. Joseph Society. First Polish Society in Wilmington.  
After twenty-five years disbanded, and remaining members joined  
other local Polish organizations.

St. Stanislaus Mutual Aid Society.

Polish Library Association.

Henry Sienkiewicz Society, group 136, Polish National Al-  
liance.

Mater Admirabilis Benefit Society (Formerly Delaware Po-  
lish Beneficial Association of Mater Admirabilis).

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

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

St. Stanislaus Kostka Benefit Society.

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

Polish Falcons and Auxiliary, Nest 20.

John Sobieski Society, group 291, Polish Union of America.

Liberty Society, ladies group 1742, Polish National Alliance.

Kosciuszko Building and Loan Association.

Ladies Society of the Rosary.

Girls Sodality of Immaculate Conception.

Pulaski Legion, Delaware Unit No. 1. (Formerly branch 98,  
Military Alliance of America).

Pulaski Legion Boy Scouts, Troop No. 7.

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

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

Veterans of Polish Army, Post 48.



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Polish American Citizens Club.

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

White Eagle Athletic Association.

Bennett Athletic Club.

Council of Polish Societies and Clubs in Delaware

Polish Commercial Association.

Family Mutual Life Insurance Company. This is not a strictly Polish organization, although it was the outgrowth of the division of the Delaware Polish Beneficial Association. The main offices are located in the Company's own building, at Sixth and Shipley streets, this city. (Formerly the Diamond State Telephone Company Building). This is the first Life Insurance Company, organized in Delaware by Americans of Polish descent.



THE SCOTCH-IRISH  
or  
THE SCOT IN NORTH BRITAIN, NORTH  
IRELAND, AND NORTH AMERICA

By  
CHARLES A. HANNA

Volume I

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The Continental Congress of 1776 made an estimate of the population of the thirteen original colonies as a basis from which to apportion the expense of the war.<sup>7</sup> The figures of this conjectural census of Congress are as follows:

New Hampshire .....	102,000
Massachusetts (including Maine) .....	352,000
Rhode Island .....	58,000
Connecticut .....	202,000
New York (including Vermont) .....	238,000
New Jersey . .....	138,000
Pennsylvania .....	341,000
Delaware .....	37,000
Maryland .....	174,000
Virginia (including Kentucky) .....	300,000
North Carolina (including Tennessee) .....	181,000
South Carolina .....	93,000
Georgia .....	<u>27,000</u>
Total white population .....	2,243,000
Slave population	<u>500,000</u>
	2,743,000

This estimate is now generally conceded to have been too large, since the census of 1790 showed a total white population of only 3,172,006.

<sup>7</sup> Pitkin's Statistics, p. 583; Harper's Magazine, vol. 11., p. 399.



<sup>8</sup> John Adams gives the following estimate as one made by Congress in 1744: "In the year 1774 there was much private conversation among the members of Congress concerning the number of souls in each colony. The delegates of each were consulted, and the estimates made by them were taken down as follows: New Hampshire, 150,000; Massachusetts, 400,000; Rhode Island, 59,678; Connecticut, 192,000; New York, 250,000; New Jersey, 130,000; Pennsylvania and Delaware, 350,000; Maryland, 320,000; Virginia, 640,000; North Carolina, 300,000; South Carolina, 225,000; total, 3,016,678."—Works, vol. vii., p. 302. "Governor Pownall thinks that 2,142,037 would come nearest to the real amount (of whites) in 1774." — Ibid., vol. vii., p. 304. See, also, Holmes's Annals, vol. ii., p. 533, etc. "An estimate of the white population of the States made in 1783 for purposes of assessment gives the number as 2,389,300 (American Remembrancer, 1783, part ii., p. 64)." — McMaster, History of the United States, vol. i., p. 9.



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12 The following estimate of the white population in 1775, which does not vary much from that given in the table quoted, is found in Seaman's Essays on the Progress of Nations, New York, 1852, pp. 579-583: "Maine, 45,000; New Hampshire, 90,000; Vermont, 40,000; Massachusetts, 280,000; Rhode Island, 50,000; Connecticut, 195,000 (total for New England, 700,000); New York, 175,000; New Jersey, 120,000; Pennsylvania, 275,000; Delaware, 35,000; Maryland, 160,000; Virginia, 360,000; North Carolina, 200,000; South Carolina, 90,000; Georgia, 25,000 (total, outside of New England, 1,440,000); total for the thirteen colonies, 2,140,000." Mr. Seaman's estimate of the population of Maryland is perhaps based on a census taken in 1755, giving it 107,208 white inhabitants; but as there were but 208,649 whites in 1790, the population could not have increased as rapidly during the interim as in the other States, where it usually doubled in from twenty to twenty-five years. Hence, it is probable that 160,000 is too large an estimate for the population of Maryland in 1775, and, on the other hand, 134,000 (about 64 per cent. of the population in 1790) may be somewhat below the true figures. In New Jersey in 1830, out of a total white population of 299,667, there were about 44,000 communicants in the various churches, representing with their families perhaps 200,000 persons. Of these, 13,517 were Presbyterians; 15,567, Methodists; 6,000, Quakers; 4,173, Dutch Reformed; 3,981, Baptists; and 900, Episcopalians. It is safe to say the Presbyterians were chiefly Scottish; and likewise a considerable proportion of the Methodists and Baptists, because in the



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South, for instance, there are more persons of that blood in those two churches than in the whole membership of the Presbyterian Church. Smith, in his History of the Province of New Jersey, published in 1765, gives information respecting the number of the various congregations in the province, from which the following table is compiled: Episcopalians, 21; Presbyterians, 65; Quakers, 39; Baptists, 20; Seventh-Day Baptists, 2; Low Dutch Calvinists, or Reformed, 21; Dutch Lutherans, 4; Swedish Lutherans, 4; Moravians, 1; German Lutherans, 2; Separatists, 1; Rogerians, 1; Lutherans, 1; total, 179. In Pennsylvania in 1760 there were 31,667 taxables (Colonial Records, vol. xiv., p. 336). At that time a large part of the frontier inhabitants were not entered on the tax-lists (see Proud's History of Pennsylvania, vol. ii., p. 275, note). Delaware formed part of Pennsylvania prior to 1776, and was largely overrun by the Scotch-Irish before they reached the Susquehanna valley. A considerable part of western Maryland was settled by Scottish emigrants, as well as Cecil and Somerset counties on the Eastern Shore, and many districts around Baltimore. Jefferson states in his Autobiography (p.31), that in 1776 a majority of the inhabitants of Virginia were Dissenters (at that time chiefly Presbyterians and Baptists), and as one-fourth of the total white population was in the upper country and west of the mountains (see Virginia Militia returns in 1782, annexed to chapter ix., Jefferson's Notes on Virginia), and that fourth almost to a man of Scottish ancestry, we may safely conclude that of the whole white population those people comprised nearly one-fourth. Williamson (History of North Carolina, vol. ii., p. 68) says that the Scottish race was the most numerous in the northwestern part of Carolina; and we know that they comprised nearly the whole of the



population of Tennessee (then part of North Carolina). Ramsay says they were more numerous than any other race in South Carolina (History of South Carolina, vol. 1., p. 20); and they likewise formed, if not a majority, at least a controlling element in the population of Georgia. To-day their descendants in the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia form the most influential and presumably the most numerous element in the white population of those States; and in all probability the same thing is true of the native-born population of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

In the Orkneys, a portion of the land is still owned by odallers, or peasant proprietors; but the Shetland Islands and several of the Hebrides, including Lewis, the largest amongst them, belong to a single proprietor, who thus disposes indirectly of the lives of the inhabitants, whom he can compel to abandon their homes whenever it suits his interests. Several islands, such as Barra and Rum, which formerly supported a considerable population, have in this way become almost deserts; and amongst the inhabitants left behind there are even now many who live in a state of extreme poverty, who look upon carrageen, or Iceland moss, as a luxury, and who are dependent upon seaweeds and fish for their daily sustenance. Owing to the inferiority of the food, dyspepsia is a common complaint, and certain physicians declare that the gift of "second sight," which plays so prominent a part in the history of the Highlanders, is traceable to a disorder of the organs of digestion. The villages of Lewis are perhaps unique of their kind in Europe. The inhabitants gather the stones embedded in the peaty soil to construct rough concentric walls, filling the space between them with earth and gravel. A scaffolding made of old oars and boughs supports a roof covered with earth and peat, leaving a wide ledge on the top of the circular wall, upon which vegetation soon springs up, and which becomes the favorite promenade and playground of children, dogs, and sheep. A single door gives access to this unshapely abode, within which a peat fire is kept burning throughout the year, in order that the damp which perpetually penetrates through the wall and roof may evaporate. Horses, cows, and sheep, all of diminutive stature, owing to the want of nourishment, occupy one extremity of this den, while the



fowls roost by the side of the human inhabitants, or perch near the hole left for the escape of the smoke. To strangers the heat and smoke of these dwellings are intolerable, but the former is said to favor the laying of eggs.<sup>23</sup> Such are the abodes of most of the inhabitants of Lewis. Yet the claims to comfort have increased since the commencement of the nineteenth century, and a perringer is no longer looked upon as a veritable curiosity.

<sup>23</sup> Anderson Smith, Louisiana.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH  
OR  
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By  
CHARLES A. HANNA

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The following letter, written from what is now Delaware county, Pennsylvania, by Robert Parke, an Irish Quaker, to his sister in Ireland, in 1725, gives a minute account of the experiences of the early emigrants from Ulster to America. The original letter is in the possession of Mr. John Hill Martin, of Chester, Pennsylvania:

Chester Township the ——— of the 10th Mo.  
1725

Dear Sister Mary Valentine:

This goes with a Salutation of Love to thee, Brother Thomas and the children & in a word to all friends, Relations & well Wishers in Generall as if named, hoping it may find you all in good health, as I with all our family in Generall are in at this present writing & has been since our arival, for we have not had a day's Sickness in the Family Since we came in to the Country, blessed be God for it. My father in Particular has not had his health better these ten years than Since he Came here, his ancient age considered. Our Irish Acquaintance in general are well Except Thoe: Lightfoot who Departed this Life at Darby in a Good old age About 4 weeks Since. Thee writes in thy Letter that there was a talk went back to Ireland that we were not Satisfyed in coming here, which was Utterly false: now let this Suffice to Convince you. In the first place he that carried back this Story was an Idle fellow, & one of our Ship-Mates, but not thinking this country Suitable to his Idleness, went back with Cowman again. He is Sort of a Lawyer, or Rather a Lyar as I may term him, therefore I wod not have you give credit to Such false reports for the future, for there is not one of the family but what likes the country very well & wod If we were in Ireland again come here Directly it being the best country for working

folk & tradesmen of any in the world. But for Drunkards and Idlers, they cannot live well any where. It is likewise an Extradin. healthy country. We were all much troubled when we found you did not come in with Capt. Cowman as we Expected nor none of our acquaintance Except Isaac Jackson & his family, tho at his coming in one thinks it Something odd, but that is soon over. Land is of all Prices Even from ten Pounds, to one hundred Pounds a hundred, according to the goodness or else the situation thereof, & Grows dearer every year by Reason of Vast Quantities of People that come here yearly from Several Parts of the world, therefore thee & thy family or any that I wish well I woud desire to make what Speed you can to come here the Sooner the better. We have traveled over a Pretty deal of this country to seek the Land, & (though) we met with many fine Tracts of Land here & there in the country, yet my father being curious & somewhat hard to Please Did not buy any Land until the Second day of 10th mo: Last and then he bought a Tract of Land consisting of five hundred Acres for which he gave 350 pounds. It is Excellent good land but none cleared, Except about 20 Acres, with a small log house and Orchard Planted, we are going to clear some of it Directly, for our next Sumer's fallow. We might have bought Land much Cheaper but not so much to our Satisfaction. We stayed in Chester 3 months & then we Rented a Place 1 mile from Chester, with a good brick house & 200 Acres of Land for ( ) pound a year, where we continue till next May. We have sowed about 200 Acres of wheat & 7 acres of rye this season. We sowed but a bushel on an acre, 3 pecks is Enough on new ground. I am grown an Experienced Plowman & my brother Abell is Learning. Jonathan & thy Son John drives for us. He is grown a Lusty fellow Since thou Saw him. We have the finest plows here that Can be. We plowed up our Sumer's fallows in May & June, with a Yoak of Oxen & 2 horses & they goe with as much



Ease as Double the number in Ireland. We sow our wheat with 2 horses. A boy of 12 or 14 years old Can hold Plow here, a man Comonly holds & Drives himself. They plow an Acre, nay some Flows 2 Acres a day. They sow Wheat & Rye in August or September. We have had a crop of oats, barley & very good flax & hemp, Indian Corn & buckwheat all of our own Sowing & Planting this last summer. We also planted a bushel of white Potatoes Which Cost us 5 Shills. & we had 10 or 12 bushels Increase. This country yields Extraordinary Increase of all sorts of Grain Likewise--for nicholas hooper had of 3 Acres of Land & at most 3 bushels of Seed above 80 bushels Increase so that it is as Plentifull a Country as any Can be if people will be Industrious. Wheat is 4 Shills. a bushel, Rye 2s. 9d., oats 2.3 pence, barley 3 Shills., Indian Corn 2 Shills. all Strike measure, Beef is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pence a pound; Sometimes more Sometimes less, mutton  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , pork  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pr. pound. Turnips 12 pence a bushell heap'd measure & so Plenty that an acre Produceth 200 bushells. All Sorts of Provisions are Extraordinary Plenty in Philadelphia market, where Country people bring in their comodities. Their markets are on 4th day and 7th day (Wednesdays and Saturdays crossed out). This country abounds in fruit, Scarce an house but has an Apple, Peach & cherry orchard. As for chestnuts, Wallnuts, & hazel nuts, Strawberrys, Billberrys & Mulberrys they grow wild in the woods and fields in Vast Quantities. They also make great Preperations against harvest; both Roast & boyled, Cakes & Tarts & Rum, stand at the Lands End, so that they may Eat and Drink at Pleasure. A Reaper has 2 Shills. & 3 pence a day, a mower has 2 Shills. & 6 pence & a pint of Rum beside meat & drink of the best; for no workman works without their Victuals in the bargain throughout the Country. A Laboring man has 18 or 20 pence a day in Winter. The Winters are not so cold as we Expected nor the Sumers so Extreme hot



as formerly, for both Sumer and Winter are moderater than they ever were known. In Sumer time they wear nothing but a Shirt & Linnen drawers Trousers, which are breeches and stockings all in one made of Linnen; they are fine Cool wear in Sumer. As to what thee writt about the Governours Opening Letters it is Utterly false & nothing but a Lye & any one Except bound Servants may go out of the Country when they will & Servants when they Serve their time may Come away If they please but it is rare any are such fools to leave the Country Except men's business require it. They pay 9 Pounds for their Passage (of this money) to go to Ireland. There is 2 fairs, yearly & 2 markets weekly in Philadelphia also 2 fairs yearly in Chester & Likewise in new castle, but they Sell no Cattle nor horses, no living Creatures, but altogther Merchant's Goods, as hatts, Linnen & woolen Cloth, handkerchiefs, knives, Scizars, tapes & treds buckels, Ribonds & all Sorts of necessarys fit for our wooden Country & here all young men and women that wants wives or husbands may be Supplied. Lett this Suffice for our fairs. As to meetings they are so plenty one may ride to their choice. I desire thee to bring or Send me a bottle of good Oyle fit for guns, thee may buy it in Dublin. Martha Weanhouse Lives very well about 4 miles from James Lindseys. We live all together since we Came into the Country Except hugh Hoaker (or Stoaker) & his family who lives 6 or 7 miles from us, & follows his trade. Sister Rebecka was Delivered of a Daughter ye — day the 11 month Last past; its name is mary. Abel's wife had a young Son 12 months Since; his name is Thomas. Dear Sister I wod not have thee Doupt the truth of what I write, for I know it to be true Tho I have not been long here. I wod have you Cloath yourselves well with Woolen & Linnen, Shoes & Stockings & hats for Such things are dear hear, & yet a man will Sooner Earn



a suit of Cloths here than in Ireland, by Reason workman's Labour is so Dear. A wool hat costs 7 Shills., a pair of men's Shoes 7 Shills., women's Shoes Cost 5 Shills. and 6 pence, a pair of men's stockings yarn Costs 4 Shills., feather beds are very dear here and not to be had for money. Gunpowder is 2 Shills. & 6 pence a pound. Shott & Lead 5 pence a pound. I woud have you bring for your own Use 2 or 3 good falling Axes, a pair of beetle rings & 3 Iron wedges, for they are of good Service here. Your Plow Irons will not answer here, therefore you had better bring 1 or 2 hundred Iron. You may bring your Plow Chains as they are also a good --- Iron. Letters going to you with these gives you Accompt what to bring into the Country & also for your Sea Store or else I should not omitt it. But be sure you come with Capt Cowman & you will be well Used for he is an honest man & has as Civell Saylors as any that Cross the Seas, which I know by Experience. The Ship has been weather bound Since before Christmas by reason of post & Ice that floats about the River & the Saylers being at a Loose End Came down to Chester to See us & we have given them --- Dear Sister I desire thee may tell my old friend Samuel Thornton that he could give so much credit to my words & find no Iffs nor ands in my Letter, that in Plain terms he could not do better than to Come here, for both his & his wife's trade are Very good here. The best way for him to do is to pay what money he Can Conveniently Spare at that side & Engage himself to Pay the rest at this Side & when he Comes here if he Can get no friend to lay down the money for him, when it Comes to the worst, he may hire out 2 or 3 children. & I woud have him Cloath his family as well as his Small Ability will allow. Thee may tell him what things are proper to bring with him both for his Sea Store & for his Use in this Country. I woud have him Procure 3 or 4 Lusty Servants & Agree



to pay their passage at this Side he might sell 2 & pay the others' passage with the money. I fear my good will to him will be of Little Effect by reason he is So hard of beleif, but thou mayest Assure him from me that if I had not a particular Respect for him & his family I Should not have writ so much for his Encouragement. His brother Joseph & Moses Coats Came to See us Since we came here. They live about 6 or 7 miles apart & above 20 miles from where we live. Unkle James Lindly & Family is well & Thrives Exceedingly, he has 11 children & Reaped last harvest about 800 bushels of wheat, he is a thriving man as any where he lives, he has a thousand acres of Land, A fine Estate. Unkle Nicholas hooper lives very well. He rents a Plantation & teaches School & his man does his Plantation work, Murtha Hobson. Dear Sister I think I have writ the most needfol to thee, but considering that when I was in Ireland I never thought a Letter to Long that Came from this Country, I wod willingly give thee as full an Account as Possible, tho I could have given thee a fuller Account of what things are fit to bring here, but only I knew other Letters might Suffice in that point. I desire thee may Send or bring me 2 hundred Choice Quills for my own Use for they are very Scarce here, & Sister Raichell Desires thee wod bring hir Some bits of Silk for trashbags. Thee may bring them in Johns Zane (or Lane) also —yards of white Mode or Silk for 2 hoods & She will pay thee when thee comes here. I wod have brother Thomas to bring a good new Saddle (& bridle) with Croopper & Housen to it by reason the horses sweat in hot weather, for they are very dear here. A Saddle that will cost 18 or 20 Shills. In Ireland will cost here 50 Shills. or 3 pounds & not so good neither, he had better get Charles Howell to make it, Lett the tree be well Plated & Indifferent



Narrow for the horses here are (not) So Large as in Ireland, but the best racers & finest Pacers in the World. I have known Several that could Pace 14 or 15 miles in an hour, I write within Compass. As for women Saddles they will not Suit so well here. I wou not have thee think much at my Irregular way of writing by reason I write as it offer'd to me, for they that write to you should have more wits than I can Pretend to.

### THE SEABOARD COLONIES

During the first two decades of the eighteenth century the following additional Presbyterian churches were organized in American colonies by emigrants from Scotland and Ulster:

In Delaware -- Head of Christiana, Drawyers, Cedar Creek, Dover, Murderkill, White Clay Creek (or Lower Brandywine).

In Pennsylvania -- Norriton, Great Valley, Abington, Upper Octorara.

In Maryland (just south of the Pennsylvania line) -- Rock (or East Nottingham), and Lower Octorara (or Lower West Nottingham).

In South Carolina -- Cainhoy, and probably James's Island, John's Island, Edisto, Bethel, and Wilton.

In New Hampshire -- Londonderry.

In New Jersey -- Hopewell, Maidenhead, Whippany, and, probably, Baskingridge and Bound Brook.

In New York -- New York City.

Aside from these were a number of Puritan churches, organized on the Presbyterian plan by emigrants from New England on Long Island and in New Jersey.

The Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia, the first in America, held its initial meeting September 17th, 1717. It was composed of the four presbyteries of Philadelphia (Pa.), Snow Hill (Md.), Newcastle (Del.), and Long Island (N. Y.). At the meeting of this Synod in the fall of 1720, there were on its roll twenty-six ministers. Their names are given below, with the congregations to which they ministered at that time:

Daniel McGill -- Patuxent, or Marlborough, Md. (the congregation chiefly Scotch and English).

Jedediah Andrews -- Philadelphia, Pa. (Scotch, Welsh, and English).



- George Gillespie -- White Clay Creek, Del., including Red Clay Creek and Lower Brandywine, Del., and Elk River, Md. (Scotch-Irish).
- David Evans -- Great Valley, Pa. (Welsh and Scotch-Irish).
- John Bradner -- Cape May, N. J. (English, Dutch, and Scotch).
- Robert Cross, Newcastle, Del. (Scotch-Irish).
- Malachi Jones -- Abington, Pa. (Scotch-Irish, Welsh, and Dutch).
- Joseph Morgan -- Freehold, N. J. (Scotch).
- Jonathan Dickinson -- Rahway, Westfield, Connecticut Farms, Springfield, and Chatham, N. J. (English, Dutch, and Scotch).
- Henry Hook, Cohansey, N. J. (English, Dutch, and Scotch).
- Samuel Young -- Drawyers, Del., and Elk River, Md. (Scotch-Irish).
- William Stewart -- Manokin and Wicomico, Md. (Scotch-Irish and English).
- John Clement -- Pocomoke, Va. (English and Scotch).
- James Anderson -- New York City (chiefly Scotch and Scotch-Irish).
- Joseph Webb -- Newark, N. J. (English, Dutch, and Scotch).
- John Orme -- Upper Marlborough, Md. (Scotch and English).
- Hugh Conn -- Bladensburg, Md. (Scotch and English).
- John Thomson -- Lewes, Del. (Scotch-Irish and English).
- John Hampton -- Snow Hill, Md. (Scotch-Irish and English).
- Samuel Pumry -- Newtown, L. I. (English).
- John Pierson -- Woodbridge, N. J. (English and Scotch).
- Samuel Gelston -- Southampton, L. I. (English).
- William Tennent -- Bedford, N. Y. (English).
- Samuel Davis -- Without a charge.
- George Phillips -- Setauket, L. I. (English).
- Joseph Lamb -- Mattituck, L. I. (English).

## PENNSYLVANIA

While the settlements of the Scotch-Irish in New England, Virginia, and the Carolinas were numerous, and represented a population of many thousand families, the great majority of the Ulster emigrants to America first landed on the Delaware shore. Most of the passenger ships sailing from Ireland during the eighteenth century were bound for ports in the Quaker colony. Pennsylvania thus became the centre of the Presbyterian settlements in the New World, and from that province, after 1735, a continuous stream of emigration flowed to the South and West.

The emigrants to Pennsylvania usually landed at one of the three ports, Lewes, Newcastle (both in Delaware, which was then part of Pennsylvania), or Philadelphia. Presbyterian congregations were gathered in all of these towns before 1698. During the first decade of the eighteenth century the Scotch-Irish made settlements along White Clay, Red Clay, and Brandywine creeks in Newcastle county, Delaware, and at the head of Elk creek on both sides of the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary, at its intersection with the Delaware line. John McKnitt Alexander, who took a prominent part in the Mecklenburg (North Carolina) Convention of 1775, was descended from one of the four families of that name who had settled at New Munster on the east side of Elk creek, in Cecil county, Maryland, "some years before 1715" -- possibly as early as 1683, in which year the tract had been surveyed for Edwin O'Dwire, and "fifteen other Irishmen."

The settlers upon the New Munster tract were the founders of the two Presbyterian churches, "Head of Christiana" and "The Rock." The former was located in the triangular part of Pennsylvania which extends south of Mason and Dixon's line, and the latter at what is now Lewisville, -- both in Chester county, Pennsylvania. The church at the head of Christiana creek was organized before 1708, by a few persons living in



the vicinity who had previously worshipped at Newcastle.

Two years after that date the congregations of Drawyers and Pencader, in Delaware, and Bensalem, in Pennsylvania, were gathered, the first composed chiefly of Scotch-Irish, the second of Welsh, and the third of Hollanders. The year 1714 brought into existence six more Presbyterian churches: Norriton and Abington, in what is now Montgomery county, and Great Valley, in Chester county, all in Pennsylvania; and Cedar Creek, Dover, and Murderkill, in Delaware. The congregations of these churches were composed of Scottish, Dutch, and Welsh settlers.

Before 1720 the Scotch-Irish had extended their settlements westward to the mouth of the Susquehanna, and were sufficiently numerous to form three new congregations. The first of these was probably that one which was called, from its location on Octorara creek, "Mouth of Octorara," afterwards "Lower Octorara," and, subsequent to 1730, "Nottingham" (now "West Nottingham"). Judging from the fact that in 1720 their meeting-house is referred to on the records as "the old meeting-house," there must have been enough Scotch-Irish people settled there to organized a church and erect a house of worship several years before 1720. The second congregation was at the head of Elk creek, afterwards called "The Rock Church," now "East Nottingham." In the records of the Presbytery of Newcastle, under date May 18, 1720, the following record appears: "A certain number of people, lately come from Ireland, having settled about the branches of Elk river, have by Thomas Reed and Thomas Caldwell, their commissioners, supplicated this Presbytery, that, at what time this Presbytery think convenient, they would appoint one of their number to come and preach among them, and then to take such note of their circumstances and necessities as, by his report made to this



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Presbytery at their next session, the Presbytery may the more clearly know how to countenance their design of having the Gospel settled among them." The Rev. Samuel Young was sent by Presbytery, and at its meeting a few weeks later made a favorable report as to the ability of the people to support a minister. The Presbytery thereupon voted for the erection of a new congregation at the "head of Elk." The third congregation, organized in southeastern Pennsylvania at about the same time, was that of Upper Octorara, near the present village of Parkesburg, in Chester county. This congregation was originally known as that of Sadsbury from the name of the township in which its church building is situated. It was first ministered to by the Rev. David Evans, a Welshman, who was settled as pastor of Pencader Church in the Welsh Tract, Newcastle county, Delaware, before 1720. He resigned from this charge in May of that year, and went as supply to the people of Tredyffrin, or the Great Valley, and was also sent by Newcastle Presbytery to the region now called Octorara, to the "Forks of Brandywine," and to Conestoga. The whole territory thus included was missionary ground and Mr. Evans preached at various places in the different settlements which had been formed.

The district called "Conestoga" embraced much of the present county of Lancaster. On August 1, 1721, application was made to Newcastle Presbytery for supplies by the people living along Chiquesalunga creek, and two ministers were sent. This was the origin of Donegal Church, situated near Mount Joy, Lancaster county. In the same year the congregation of White Clay Creek was detached from that of Head of Christiana; and the following year, Red Clay Creek Church was organized in the same territory; Broad Creek Congregation was gathered in Cecil county, Maryland, in 1723. Pequea, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania,



in 1724; and Oxford, Chester county, in 1725. The next year saw the organization of the church of Duck Creek, near Smyrna, Delaware, and the united congregations of Neshaminy and Deep Run, both in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. Middle Octorara, in Bart township, Lancaster county, came into existence in 1727; and in 1728, Cool Spring, near Lewes, Delaware, and New London, in Chester county, Pennsylvania. The three churches of Middletown, in Delaware county, and Derry and Paxtang, in Lancaster (now Dauphin), were organized in 1729; and five more during the succeeding year, being those of Plumstead in Bucks county, Lower Providence in Montgomery, Fagg's Manor in Chester, and Little Britain and Chestnut Level in Lancaster.

The families which made up these congregations mostly came into the Province between the years 1720 and 1730. At first, they generally settled in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, near the disputed Maryland boundary line. Long before 1730 they had occupied much of the lower lands in the townships of East and West Nottingham, in Cecil county, Maryland, and East and West Nottingham in Chester county, Pennsylvania; as well as Mill Creek and White Clay Creek hundreds, in Newcastle county, Delaware. In Pennsylvania, besides the Nottinghams in Chester county, they settled in the townships of London Britain, New London, Londonderry, London Grove, Upper and Lower Oxford, East and West Fallowfield, East and West Caln, Sadsbury, and the newer townships between; in Little Britain, Colerain, Bart, Sadsbury, Salisbury, Drumore, Martic, and Donegal, in Lancaster county; and in Derry, Paxtang, and Hanover in that part of Lancaster now included in Dauphin county. They had also entered Bucks county in considerable numbers, settling in Warwick, Warminster, Bedminster, and Tinicum townships.

James Logan, at that time secretary of the Province, and himself



a Scottish Quaker, in writing of the Ulster emigrants to the Penns in 1724, states that they had generally taken up the southern lands, towards the Maryland line, and as they rarely approached him with proposals of purchase, he refers to them as "bold and indigent strangers, saying as their excuse, when challenged for titles, that we had solicited for colonists and they had come accordingly." These Scotch-Irish, however, were understood to be a tolerated class, exempt from quitrents by an ordinance of 1720, in consideration of their being a frontier people, and forming a cordon of defence around the non-fighting Quakers. The newcomers thus served to protect the followers of George Fox from the murderous incursions of the Indians, and also from the Maryland and Virginia invaders who claimed part of the land as within the boundaries of their own colonies.

In a letter to John Penn, written November 23, 1727, Logan further expresses himself upon the subject of the Ulster emigrants as follows:

We have many thousands of foreigners, mostly Palatines so-called (the Scotch-Irish, of course, were not "foreigners," Pennsylvania being a colony of Great Britain) already in the country, of whom some fifteen hundred came in this last summer, many of them surly people, divers Papists among them, and the men generally well armed. We have from the North of Ireland great numbers yearly. Eight or nine ships this last fall discharged at Newcastle. Both these sets frequently sit down on any spot of vacant land they can find, without asking question. The last Palatines say there will be twice the number next year; and the Irish say the same of their people. Last week, one of these latter applied to me in the name of four hundred, as he said, who depended all on me for directions where they should settle. They say the Proprietor invited people to come and settle his country; they came for that end, and must live. Both they and the Palatines pretend that they will buy, but not one in twenty has anything to pay with. The Irish settle generally towards the Maryland line, where no lands can honestly be sold till the dispute with Lord Baltimore is decided.

The number of emigrants that arrived in Pennsylvania from December, 1728, to December, 1729, was 6208, of whom but a small



proportion (243 Palatines) were aliens. Of the others, there were 267 English and Welsh, 43 Scotch, and 5605 Scotch-Irish, some 4500 of the latter having come in by way of Newcastle. In 1729, Logan expresses himself as pleased to find that Parliament is about to take measures to prevent the too free emigration from Ulster to America. "It looks," he writes, "as if Ireland is to send all its inhabitants hither, for last week not less than six ships arrived, and every day, two or three arrive also. The common fear is that if they thus continue to come they will make themselves proprietors of the Province. It is strange that they thus crowd where they are not wanted . . . The Indians themselves are alarmed at the swarms of strangers, and we are afraid of a breach between them -- for the Irish are very rough to them." In another letter, written in 1730, Logan says: "I must own, from my experience in the land-office, that the settlement of five families from Ireland gives me more trouble than fifty of any other people. Before we were broke in upon, ancient Friends and first settlers lived happily; but now the case is quite altered." Again, in the same year, he complains of the Scotch-Irish as having in an "audacious and disorderly manner" possessed themselves about that time of the whole of Conestoga Manor, a tract of about 15,000 acres, which had been reserved by the Penns for themselves, as it contained some of the best land in the Province. In taking this land by force Logan says that the Scotch-Irish settlers alleged that "it was against the laws of God and nature, that so much land should be idle while so many Christians wanted it to labor on and to raise their bread."

John Cuthbertson, the first missionary of the Reformed Presbyterian Church to reach America, labored in Pennsylvania and the adjoining colonies for nearly forty years, visiting families and communities of his faith, ordaining elders, establishing churches, and organizing Presbyteries. During the period of his missionary travels (1751-1790), he rode on horseback more than 60,000 miles, preached on more than 2400 days, baptized 1600 to 1800 children, and married nearly 250 couples. The congregations to which Cuthbertson preached before the time of the Revolution (~~the~~ most of them having been organized by him) were as follows: Octorara, Lancaster county; Muddy Run, Lancaster county (organized before Cuthbertson's arrival in America); Pequea, Lancaster county; Lower Chanceford, York county; Rock Creek, Adams county; Paxtang, Dauphin county; Junkin's Tent, Cumberland county; Carlisle, Cumberland county; Big Spring, Cumberland county; Rocky Spring, Franklin county; Greencastle, Franklin county; Licking Creek and Cove, Fulton county; Forks of Youghiogheny, Allegheny county, and Miller's Run, Washington county -- all in Pennsylvania; Wallkill, Orange county, and Cambridge, Washington county, New York. In this connection it will be interesting to present a few extracts from the earlier pages of Mr. Cuthbertson's JOURNAL, which begins as follows:

After being forty-six days at sea from Derry Loch, landed safely at New Castle, Delaware, August 5th, 1751, about eight o'clock in the forenoon. Lodged in T. Griffith's. In good health, laus Deus. Then 5th, at four, afternoon, took horse and rode twenty miles to Moses Andrews.



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\* \* \* \* \*

(Aug.) 8th. Met and conversed with many. Found difficulty among  
Presbytery (of Newcastle).

\* \* \* \* \*

(Sept.) 16th. Rode one mile to Forks of Brandywine, Dean's Meeting-house.  
. . . . . Then rode sixteen miles to Humphrey Fullerton's . . . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

(Oct.) 18th. Rode twenty-two miles to George Gray's, Forks of Delaware. . .

## THE SETTLEMENTS ENUMERATED

The extent to which the Presbyterian settlements of Scottish people had become spread over the American colonies down to the year 1760 may be inferred from the fact that there were one hundred and five ministers on the roll of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, which met in that year. It is stated by Dr. Alfred Nevin that there were at that time two hundred Presbyterian congregations in the country. This estimate is very much below the actual number. Three hundred would be nearer right. There were more than sixty congregations in New Jersey; from eighty to one hundred in Pennsylvania and Delaware; upwards of forty in New England; about forty in Maryland and Virginia; more than twenty in New York; from fifteen to twenty in North Carolina; and about twenty in South Carolina. In the following list, the names of the ministers on the roll of the Synod in 1760 are given, with the names of the congregations under their care, and the probable date of organization of each congregation. From this data, we can determine approximately the time of settlement of many of these communities:

PRESBYTERY OF DONEGAL, PENNSYLVANIA.-- George Duffield, Carlisle (organized about 1735) and Big Spring (1735); John Elder, Derry (1729) and Paxtang (1729); John Hoge, Opequon (1736), Cedar Creek (1737), Tuscarora (1738-43), and Back Creek, Va., (1738-43); Robert McMordie, Upper Marsh Creek (1740) and Round Hill (1748); John Roan, Derry and Paxtang (New Side); Robert Smith, Pequea (1724); Sampson Smith, Chestnut Level (1730); John Steel, Carlisle (1735) and Silvers's Spring (1734); Joseph Tate, Donegal (1721); Samuel Thomson, Great Conewago (1740).

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER, VIRGINIA.-- Samuel Black, late of Rockfish Gap (1738-40) and Mountain Plain (before 1752); John Brown, Timber Ridge (1746) and New Providence (1746); John Craig, Augusta (1737) and



Tinkling Spring (1737); Alexander Craighead, Rocky River, North Carolina (1758); Samuel Davies, President of Princeton College and late of Hanover county (three meeting-houses, 1743), Caroline (1748), Goochland (1748), Henrico (1748), and New Kent (1748); Robert Henry, Cub Creek (1738) and Briery (1748); Hugh McAden, Goshen (1755), and Welsh Tract (1755), both in North Carolina; John Martin, Albemarle (1750-56); Alexander Miller, Cook's Creek (1756) and Peaked Mountain (1756); Henry Patillo, Wyllis's Creek and Mountain (1748-55), Byrd (1755-58), and Buck Island (1758); William Richardson, Waxhaw (1755), Fishing Creek (1755), etc., in South Carolina; Richard Sankey, Buffalo (1759-60); John Todd, Providence, Louisa county (1748); John Wright, Cumberland (1748-55).

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES, DELAWARE.-- John Harris, Indian River, Del. (1756); Hugh Henry, Rehoboth (1684), Wicomico (1684), and Manokin, Md. (1684); John Miller, Dover (1714) and Duck Creek, Del. (1726); Moses Tuttle, Kent county (Drawyers), Del. (1710),; Matthew Wilson, Lewes (1692) and Cool Spring, Del. (1728).

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY.-- John Carmichael, licensure reported 1760; John Clark, licensure reported 1760; David Cowell, Trenton, N. J. (1726); John Guild, Hopewell, N. J. (1709); Benjamin Hait, Amwell, N. J. (1715-30); John Hanna, licensure reported 1760, Kingwood (1742), Bethlehem (1730), and Alexandria, N. J. (before 1752); Samuel Harker, Black River, Morris county, N. J. (1752); Samuel Kennedy, Baskingridge, N.J. (1720-25); William Kirkpatrick, Trenton, N. J. (1726); James McCrea, Lamington (1739), Lebanon (1740), Peapack (1740), and Readington (White House), N.J. (1740); Charles McKnight, Allentown (1721), and Bordentown (Crosswicks), N.J., (1740-50); Alexander McWhorter, Newark, N.J.; William Mills, licensure reported 1760; John Prudden, Milford, Conn. (1640); Israel Reid, Bound Brook, N.J. (1720-25); Elihu Spencer, supply at Jamaica, L.I., and Shrewsbury, N.J. (before



1727); William Tennent, Freehold, N.J. (1692); Conradus Worts, Rockaway, N.J. (1758).

PRESBYTERY OF NEWCASTLE--DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA, AND MARYLAND.-- Hector Allison, late of Drawyers, Del. (1710); supply at Albany, N.Y.; (1760) Andrew Bay, Deer Creek (Churchville), Harford county, Md.; Samuel Blair, Fagg's Manor, Pa. (1733); Adam Boyd, Upper Octorara, Pa. (1720); James Campbell, Fayetteville, N.C. (1745); John Ewing, Philadelphia, Pa. (1698); James Finley, Rock (East Nottingham), Md. (1720); Samuel Finley, Lower Octorara (West Nottingham), (1720), Md.; George Gillespie (d. January, 1760), White Clay Creek, Del. (1721); Alexander Hutcheson, Bohemia Manor and Broad Creek, Md. (1723); Alexander McDowell, White Clay Creek, Del. (1721), and Head of Elk, Md. (1721); William McKenna, Red Clay Creek (1722), and Wilmington, Del. (1740); John Rodgers, St. George's (1742) and The Forest, Del. (1742); Andrew Sterling, Upper Octorara, Pa. (1720); John Strain, licensure reported 1760; Charles Tennent, White Clay Creek, Del. (1721); Daniel Thane, Newcastle (1698) and Christiana Bridge, Del. (1738).

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK.-- Timothy Allen, Ashford, Mass.; Enos Ayres, Blooming Grove, Orange County, N.Y.; David Bostwick, New York City (1707); John Brainerd, Newark, N.J.; Abner Brush; Alexander Cumming, New York (1707) or Boston (1727); John Darby; Jonathan Elmer, New Providence, N.J.; Chauncey Graham, Rumbout (before 1748) and Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Jacob Green, South Hanover (Madison), N. J. (1747); Simon Horton, Newtown, L.I.; Timothy Johnes, Morristown, N.J. (1733); Abraham Kettletas, Elizabethtown, N.J. (1667); Hugh Knox, Saba Island, West Indies; Silas Leonard, Goshen, N.Y. (1720); John Maltby, Bermuda Island; John Moffatt, Wallkill, Orange county, N.Y. (1729); John Piersen, Mendham (1735-38), N.J.; Aaron Richards, Rahway, N. J. (1741); Azel Roe, licensure reported 1760; Caleb Smith, Orange, N. J.



John Smith, Rye and White Plains, N. Y.; Nathaniel Whitaker, Chelsea, Conn; Benjamin Woodruff, \_\_\_\_\_. Vacancies: Florida (1750); Pittsburgh (1747); Union (1743); Cherry Valley (1741); Albany (1760); Middlefield (1755); Cambridge (1761); Salem (1761-64).

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.-- Francis Alison, Philadelphia, Pa. (1698); Charles Beatty, Neshaminy, Pa. (1726); Benjamin Chestnut, Charlestown (1740), and Lower Providence, Pa. (1730); Robert Cross, late of Philadelphia, Pa. (1698); Nehemiah Greenman, Pittsgrove N. J. (1719); John Griffith; Andrew Hunter, Greenwich (before 1715) and Deerfield, N. J. (1737); John Kinkead, Windham, N. H. (1742); James Latta, Deep Run, Bucks County, Pa. (1726); Daniel Lawrence, Cape May, N. J., (before 1721); Henry Martin, Newtown (1734) and Salisbury, Bucks County, Pa.; Joseph Montgomery, licensure reported 1760; William Ramsey Fairfield, N. J. (1690-97); Gilbert Tennent, Philadelphia 2d, Pa. (1743); Richard Treat, Abington, Pa. (1714).

PRESBYTERY OF SUFFOLK, LONG ISLAND.-- Eliphalet Ball, Bedford, Westchester county, N. Y.; Moses Baldwin; James Brown, Bridgehampton, L. I.; Samuel Buel, East Hampton, L. I.; Thomas Lewis, Hopewell (1709) and Maidenhead, N. J. (1709); Ebenezer Prime, Huntington, L. I.; Abner Reeve, Moriches and Ketchabonock, L. I.; Samuel Sackett, Hanover and Crompond, N. Y.; Benjamin Talmage, Brookhaven, L. I.; Sylvanus White, Southampton, L. I.

From the foregoing lists and reports, and from a variety of other sources, including the principal town, county, and local histories which relate to colonial America, and the collections of the Presbyterian Historical Society at Philadelphia, the following list has been prepared, showing the principal centres of Scotch and Scotch-Irish settlement in America during the eighteenth century. An alphabetical arrangement of the list will be found in the index, under the heading "Scotch-Irish Settlements."

COLONIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE.

(Established in Eastern Pennsylvania before 1760).

Lewes, Lewes P. O., Sussex county, Del., established 1692,  
Philadelphia, First, 1698.

Newcastle, Newcastle county, Del., 1698.

Head of Christiana, White Clay Creek hundred, Newcastle county, Del.,  
1708.

Drawyer's Appoquinimy hundred, New Castle county, Del., 1710.

Pencader, or Welsh Tract, Pencader hundred, New Castle county, Del.,  
1710.

Bensalem, Bensalem township, Bucks county, Penn., 1710.

Norriton, Norriton township, Montgomery county, Penn., 1714.

Great Valley, Tredyffrin township, Chester county, Penn., 1714.

Abington, Abington township, Montgomery county, Penn., 1714.

Cedar Creek, Sussex county, Del., 1714.

Dover, Dover hundred, Kent county, Del., 1714.

Murder Kill, Kent county, Del., 1714.

Lower Brandywine, Newcastle county, Del., 1720.

Head of Elk, or Rock, or East Nottingham, originally in Elk township,  
Chester county, now in Fairhill township, Cecil county, Maryland, 1720.



- Upper Octorara, Sadsbury township, Chester county, Penn., 1720.
- White Clay Creek, Mill Creek hundred, Newcastle county, Del., 1721.
- Donegal, East Donegal township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1721.
- Red Clay Creek, Mill Creek hundred, Newcastle county, Del., 1722.
- Pequea, Salisbury township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1724.
- Oxford, Lower Oxford township, Chester county, Penn., 1725.
- Duck Creek, Duck Creek hundred, Kent county, Del., 1726.
- Neshaminy, Warwick township, Bucks county, Penn., 1726.
- Deep Run, Bedminster township, Bucks county, Penn., 1726.
- Middle Octorara, Bart township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1727.
- Cool Spring, Lewes and Rehoboth hundred, Sussex county, Del.,  
1728.
- New London, New London township, Chester county, Penn., 1728.
- Middletown, Middletown township, Delaware county, Penn., 1729.
- Derry, Londonderry township, Dauphin county, Penn., 1729.
- Paxtang, Lower Paxtang township, Dauphin county, Penn., 1729.
- Plumstead, Plumstead township, Bucks county, Penn., 1730.
- Providence, Lower Providence township, Montgomery county, Penn.,  
1730.
- Fagg's Manor, Londonderry township, Chester county, Penn., 1730.
- Little Britain, Fulton township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1730.
- Chestnut Level, Drumore township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1730.
- Newtown, Newtown township, Bucks county, Penn., 1734.
- Silvers's Spring, Silvers's Spring township, Cumberland county, Penn.,  
1734.
- Forks of Brandywine, West Brandywine township, Chester county,  
Penn., 1735.
- Meeting House Spring (Carlisle), Middleton township, Cumberland  
county, Penn., 1735.
- Big Spring, Newton township, Cumberland county, Penn., 1735.

Hanover, East Hanover township, Dauphin county, Penn., 1736.

Mossy Spring, or East Conococheague, Antrim township, Franklin county, Penn., 1737.

Falling Spring (Chambersburg), Guilford township, Franklin county, Penn., 1737.

Christiana Bridge, White Clay Creek hundred, Newcastle county, Del., 1738.

Allen Township, East Allen township, Northampton county, Penn., 1738.

Mount Bethel, Lower Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, Penn., 1738.

Little Conewago, Conewago township, Dauphin county, Penn., 1738.

Upper West Conococheague (Mercersburg), Peters township, Franklin county, Penn., 1738.

Tinicum, or Tehicken, Tinicum township, Bucks county, Penn., 1739.

Durham, Durham township, Bucks county, Penn., 1739.

Leacock, Leacock township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1739.

Middle Spring, Southampton township, Cumberland county, Penn., 1739.

Rocky Spring, Letterkenney township, Franklin county, Penn., 1739.

Wilmington, Newcastle county, Del., 1740.

Doe Run, East Fallowfield township, Chester county, Penn., 1740.

Upper Marsh Creek, Cumberland township, Adams county, Penn., 1740.

Great Conewago, Strabane township, Adams county, Penn., 1740.

Lower West Conococheague (Welsh Run), Montgomery township, Franklin county, Penn., 1741.

St. George's, St. George's hundred, Newcastle county, Del., 1742.

Forest, St. George's hundred, Newcastle county, Del., 1742.



Muddy Run, Martic township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1742.

Philadelphia, Second, 1743.

Monaghan, Carroll township, York county, Penn., 1745.

Lower Marsh Creek, Highland township, Adams county, Penn., 1748.

Round Hill, Strabane township, Adams county, Penn., 1748.

Indian River, Indian River hundred, Sussex county, Del., before 1750.

Slate Ridge, Fawn township, York county, Penn., 1750.

Paxtang Reformed, Lower Paxtang township, Dauphin county, Penn.,  
1752-54.

Octorara Associate, Bart township, Lancaster county, Penn., 1754.

Oxford Associate, Oxford township, Chester county, Penn., 1754.

Chanceford Reformed, Lower Chanceford township, York county, Penn.,  
1754.

Stony Ridge Reformed, Silvers's Spring township, Cumberland county,  
Penn., 1752.

Guinston Associate, Chanceford township, York county, Penn., 1754.

Rock Creek Reformed, Cumberland township, Adams county, Penn.,  
1753.

Hopewell, or Shrewsbury, Hopewell township, York county, Penn., 1759.

York, York county, Penn., 1759.

EARLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS OF MARYLAND

Patuxent, Charles county (established by Puritans from New England),  
1649.

Upper Marlborough on Patuxent, Prince George county, before 1669.

Snow Hill, Worcester county, 1683-84.

Rehoboth, Somerset county, 1683-84.

Wicomico, Somerset county, 1683-85.

Manokin, Somerset county, 1683-85.

Pitt's Creek, Worcester county, 1683-85.

Bladensburg, Prince George county, 1715.

Bohemia Manor and Back Creek, Chesapeake township, Cecil county,  
1723.

West Nottingham, or Lower Octorara, Rising Sun township, Cecil  
county, before 1720.

Deer Creek (now Churchville), Harford county, 1738.

Buckingham (now Berlin), Worcester county, before 1740.

Church Hill, Queen Anne county, before 1740.

Antietam (now Hagerstown), Washington county, about 1741.

The Ferry, Worcester county, 1743.

Chestertown, Kent county, before 1750.

Tom's Creek, or Monocacy, Emmittsburg district, Frederick county,  
1760.

Piney Creek, or Pipe Creek, Taneytown district, Carroll county, 1761.

Captain John's (now Cabin John's), or Bethesda, Bethesda district,  
Montgomery county, 1761-63.

Rockville, Montgomery county, 1761-63.

Baltimore, 1763.

Sharpsburg, Sharpsburg district, Washington county, before 1775.

Georgetown, District of Columbia, before 1782.



Frederick, Frederick county, 1782.

Bethel, Harford county, 1777-86.

Centre, Harford county, 1777-86.

Soldier's Delight, Harford or Baltimore county, before 1788.

SWEENEY, J.  
Dec. 1937.

## RACIAL ELEMENTS, FOLKLORE AND CUSTOMS

Outside metropolitan Wilmington, a bird's-eye view of Delaware reveals a sort of landed aristocracy, possessing in not a few cases the same estates that were granted to their forefathers during the administrations of the second Duke James of York and William Penn. True, a few Scandinavian and Dutch families continued to reside in Delaware after British rule began, in 1664, but after one hundred years of Colony and State (about ninety years ago) the greater part of the white inhabitants were immediate descendants of those colonists from the British Isles, mostly English and Welsh, who settled all over Delaware before 1700 and immediately afterwards. A group of French refugees, fleeing from political disturbances in France and Santo Domingo,<sup>1</sup> established themselves in Wilmington during the 1790's, but these and a subsequent trickling of immigrants from Europe and other States are not credited with having materially altered the racial status quo before famines in 1845-46 brought to America "the great exodus of the Irish race."<sup>2</sup>

The Federal census for 1860 showed 9,165 foreign-born persons in Delaware, of which number 5,832 were from Ireland, 1,581 from England, and 1,263 from "German States." These figures were still remarkably the same in 1880, notwithstanding an addition of 34,392 to

1 K. A. Horner, "Contemporary Scene," October 1936.

2 C. R. Taylor (Edit.), The World Wide Illustrated Encyclopedia. New York, 1935. II, 2660.



the total population; hence, as the Germans as well as the English and Irish became quickly assimilated with the older inhabitants, any noteworthy changes of the long-standing racial strains were destined to occur during the past half century.

The total population of Delaware was 146,608 in 1880, or less than one-half the 238,380 population in 1930 — and an estimated 259,000 in 1936.<sup>3</sup> During these fifty years the population of the city of Wilmington increased from 42,478 to 106,597, so that through a noteworthy increase during the past five years it is at present almost one-half that of the entire State and exceeds by approximately 30,000 the combined population of Sussex and Kent Counties. Figures for these two counties are still nearly the same as they have been for several decades; therefore, it follows that a large number of persons have entered New Castle County in general and Wilmington in particular during the past fifty years, and that these persons constitute the salient racial elements other than non-white and descendants of Colonial and early State inhabitants.

Construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad through the northern part of the State (1883-86),<sup>4</sup> plus increased building and industrial advancement, attracted 1,527 Poles and about 300 each of Swedes and Russians, and raised the foreign-born Italian population from 43 to 1,122 between 1880 and 1900. The same period marked the arrival of over 1,000 Germans, and an almost stationary continuation of other foreign-born figures of pre-Civil War compilation.

3 D. Crowe, "Delaware Today," February 1937.

4 K. A. Horner, "Contemporary Scene," October 1936.



These newcoming Poles and Italians congregated at Wilmington in a "colony" and a "Little Italy" which through subsequent enlargements still exist with rather definite boundaries, forming, with a small cluster of neighboring immigrants from the Ukraine, the only perceptible foreign racial ripples in the pool of population.

The 1930 census shows 16,885, or 7.1 percent of the total population, foreign-born whites, and 33,785, or 14.2 percent, native-born whites of foreign or mixed parentage. In both of these categories the countries represented with more than 500 persons are: Italy, 10,285; Irish Free State and Northern Ireland, 9,648; Poland, 8,939; Germany, 5,560; England, 4,199; Russia, 3,488; Scotland, 1,380; Austria, 1,192; Canada, 1,146; Sweden, 718; Greece, 604; and France, 543. All other countries — and there are more than a dozen — are represented with only 2,698 whites.

The same census shows a total of 84 Chinese, Mexicans, Filipinos, Japanese and Indians, hence the foreign-and-semi-foreign element seems small when the larger of the two largest constitutive races represents but 4.3 percent of the total population which is 13.7 percent Negro and 65.0 percent native white offspring of parents who were themselves born in the United States.

The Negro percentage of the total population is at present about ten percent less than that of 1860, though the 32,602 listed in the 1930 census exceed by more than 10,000 the official number of seventy years before. Practically all of this color are life-long inhabitants of the State and are widely distributed.



During the past few years an uncounted number of persons have come to reside in Delaware in order to continue in the employment of companies who came to take advantage of low terms of taxation. Most of these newcomers from other States live in and about Wilmington, and besides increasing the population they are not noticeably altering the racial picture, which, when briefly exhibited, is: Cosmopolitan Wilmington radiating its influence over the northern part of New Castle County, while the remainder of the State — predominantly agricultural without a town of 5,000 population — remains "Mayflower American," with the inherent independence (now mostly political) of their ancestral plantation princes.

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- / \* "... the (1790 census) returns for the state of Delaware .. having been destroyed when the British burned the Capitol at Washington during the War of 1812." — Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States taken in the year 1790; Connecticut. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908./



File no. 168

State Drawer:

Folder: Religion  
*ethnic group*

Source: "The Mennonites in America," C. Henry Smith.  
Published by the Author in 1909.  
Confession of Faith - Pamphlet.  
Interview with John D. Hochstetler, Bishop  
of the community.

### THE MENNONITES

Among the first Mennonites to settle in America was a colony locating in the Horekill District, in southwestern Delaware, with the consent and assistance of the Dutch government.

Cornelisz Pieter Plockhoy of Zerick Zee was a liberal minded Dutch Communist and social reformer. Plockhoy was anxious to secure a place where he could put his theories into practice and sought help from the Dutch government. The territory was then in control of the Dutch. The city of Amsterdam anxious to secure colonists for the newly acquired territory and promised Plockhoy financial aid and the privilege of establishing a colony of Mennonites on the Horekill.

This region had been described in a report sent to Amsterdam in 1657 by one of the Commissioners of the colony on the Delaware.

"I have already stated that there is a very fine country called the Whorekill abounding very much in wild animals, birds, fish, etc. And the land is so good and fertile that the like is nowhere to be found. It lies at the entrance of the Bay about two leagues up from Cape Hinlopen. I shall send a draft of it by the next opportunity. Please to keep it recommended. The place can be visited by a yacht of eight or ten lasts but some people must be there for security. This can be regularly done after numbers are sent and have arrived here and more of the place is taken up."--O!- Callahan, Documentary History of New York, 11. p. 19.



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Twenty-four Mennonites under the leadership of Plockhoy made a contract with the burgomasters of Amsterdam in which a certain tract of land was to be conveyed to them for the purpose of establishing a colony in Delaware. The contract provided that two hundred guilders should be loaned to each of the twenty-five families, the whole body being responsible for the repayment of the loans. A tract of land on the Horekill was granted, and was to be free of taxes for twenty years. The colonists were authorized to make such laws and rules as were necessary for the government of the settlement.

A letter written May 5, 1663 states that Plockhoy sailed in the ship St. Jacob for the Horekill. Another letter dated August 4, 1663, tells of his arrival, and that forty-one souls with their baggage and farm interests were left there. The year following their arrival (1664) the Dutch settlements on the Delaware were plundered by the English who were at war with the Dutch. What happened to the Mennonites is unknown.

Since their organization the Mennonites have divided into sects or branches. The colony near Dover, Delaware are called Amish Mennonites. They derive their name from Jacob Amman who advocated a "closer observance of earlier and more conservative customs."

When the first Amish Mennonite settlements began is doubtful. Among the early settlers of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (1715-27) there are Amish names. Since then they have spread to all parts of the country, but numerically they have never been large. The total number of Mennonites in the United States is estimated at less than seventy thousand, of which number about eight thousand are Amish.



The Dover group call themselves the Old Order Amish. A group near Greenwood are designated Conservative. The only difference between the two groups is, that the old order Amish do not use automobiles, tractors, telephones and such modern inventions. The Conservative Group make use of them.

When the Amish group broke away, their founder, Jacob Amman, instituted the use of hooks and eyes to fasten their clothing. One tradition is that the hooks and eyes was to distinguish the followers of Amman from the other Mennonites. Another tradition is that the use of hooks and eyes for fastening their garments began as a protest against what was deemed unjust taxation. A tax was placed on buttons by the State. Rather than submit to what seemed injustice a boycott on buttons was proclaimed. This use of hooks and eyes only applies to the outer garments.

The old order Amish have a church organization but no church buildings. Services are held in the homes, each household taking its turn to entertain the congregation. Benches are moved from house to house to provide seats.

Services are held on Sunday morning, beginning at nine o'clock and continuing till twelve. For an hour they sing, one preacher will read the scripture, another will preach.

Amish preachers are not trained for the office. When a preacher is needed a vote is taken by the congregation of the district and some one of their number selected for the office and ordained.

The hymn book used at the services contains



no music. The tunes sung have been committed to memory and transmitted from one generation to another. The hymn book has been reprinted but never revised. It contains hymns written and sung two hundred years ago. Many of the hymns were written by men and women in prison because of their faith, and awaiting their execution. Some of the hymns recite the story of the death of a martyr; others expound various doctrines of the church. A few of the hymns are devotional in character.

The Amish Mennonites have no formal creed, but do have a confession of faith printed in 1632. This confession contains many of the doctrines commonly believed by other Protestant churches. They differ in their attitude to civil government. They accept the arrangements for civil government and obey the laws, but they do not hold office, nor do they vote for offices of the civil government. In their own communities, in the case of a school election, they are permitted to cast their ballots.

Another article in their confession of faith forbids the use of force and the exercise of revenge. In times of war this belief has caused them much inconvenience and suffering, and has subjected them to imprisonment. The government, knowing their beliefs, has listed them among the Conscientious Objectors, and though compelling them to do military service, it has assigned them to tasks that would not violate their convictions. The confession of faith deals also with the taking of oaths. Believing the swearing of oaths is forbidden in the gospel they refuse to bind themselves.



When the time comes for a young man or woman to become an active member of the church he or she must submit to a rigid examination. Three or four months instruction usually precedes final acceptance.

They accept the provision made by the State for their education up to the sixth grade. For the seventh and eighth grades they have their own school and teacher. German being their mother-tongue the children are taught this language in the last two grades of their schooling.

Tuesday or Thursday are the days usually chosen for a wedding. In former times, before the State required a license, a couple wishing to be married had the banns published on two successive Sundays. At the expiration of ten days the ceremony was performed. A service, much like the Sunday morning service, is held and the two united in marriage.

For funerals a barn is frequently used. The home is usually too small to accommodate those attending. In Pennsylvania notice of the funeral is sent to those who are to attend. Those not receiving the notice remain at home. This custom has been adopted because of the large number usually attending the funeral service.

There are some thirteen branches of the Mennonite Church, differing not in doctrine or beliefs but in certain customs and practices. The manner of dress is one of the separating causes; interpretation of worldliness another.

The Old Order Amish Mennonites do not believe in education beyond the eighth grade, believing further education to be a ruination of the children. The more



liberal Mennonites have established two colleges, one at Newton, Kansas and known as Bethel, the other at Goshen, Indiana.

The people have always been a rural people, showing little interest in public affairs. But a more law abiding industrious people are not to be found anywhere.

State Drawer:  
Folder: Religion.

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LOCATION: State of Delaware.

*Ethnic groups.*

Submitted by - Alex Ramsay.

Date - July 21, 1936.

Bi Lingual, Isolated, Racial and  
Religious Communities.The Dunkards.

Amid the colorful sports' costumes of the vacationists, one sees on the beach at Rehoboth the gaunt folk who are members of a religious sect but little known to the average urban dweller.

They are the Dunkards, who may be recognized by their distinctive raiment, the men marked by their beards and drab garments, the women in equally drab garb except for their sun bonnets.

A colony of the Dunkards is to be found several miles west of Dover, but better known is the long-established group located west of Milford in Sussex County.

Twenty five or more years ago a number of Dunkards settled in and around Oakley and Owen's Station in Sussex County. There were several families and they devoted themselves to farming. They came from Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and elsewhere and have formed a considerable colony. They own their own farms, are always prompt in paying their bills are progressive in farming work, indifferent to the curiosity of others, go on their way in plain garb, and practice faithfully the highest ideals of Christian fraternity.



The colony is located about seven miles west of Milford, and the people are noted for their hospitality. About ten years ago they dedicated and opened a Dunkard meeting-house in the auditorium in Greenwood - On Easter they hold special services, which were attended by many people from outside of the State. It is interesting on Sunday to see these good people as they leave their place of worship, arm in arm, the women wearing black bonnets and shawls and carrying their Bibles; pausing at times to greet others. The women are then joined by their husbands and sons, who wear coats of sombre black and vest of clerical cut. Most of them own their own automobiles.

In addition to the Dunkards, there are a number of people of the Amish and Mennonite faith, centered around Greenwood and Bridgeville.

According to the most recent religious census taken by the Department of Commerce, there are 1279 "Dunker" Churches in the United States with a total of 158,248 members. The term comes from the German word meaning "to dip", also providing the familiar "dunking."

In Delaware, the Church of the Brethern (Conservative Dunkers) listed in the 1926 census two churches, both rural, with a total of 95 members, 44 males and 51 females. The Church of the Brethern is classed as orthodox trinitarian. Baptism is by forward immersion, the person baptized being confirmed while kneeling in the water. The rite of foot washing and the love feast or agape immediately precede communion or eucharist, the entire service being observed in the evening.



Plain attire, excluding jewelry, for adornment, is advocated. Taking an oath is forbidden, all affidavits being made by affirmation. Non-resistance is taught and all communicants are asked to be non-combatants, not because of personal fear nor out of a desire to be disloyal citizens, but because war is outlawed by the teaching and example of Jesus. Any connection, direct or indirect, with the liquor business is prohibited and there is a corresponding insistence on total abstinence.

The ideal in all ceremonies and beliefs is the reproduction and perpetuation of the life and activities of the primitive Christians, and while its effect in a somewhat stern and legal type of religious life, mysticism or the pietistic temper has modified it in the direction of a quiet moderation in all things.

The local congregation usually presided over by the bishop of that body, is governed by the council of all the members. The power of discipline including trial and excommunication, rests with the local congregation. Ministers are elected by individual ballot by all the members of a congregation, from members of that congregation, but one feeling the call to the ministry may present his desires for acceptance.

In 1885 regularly organized missionary endeavor in both home and foreign fields was undertaken.

"A Peculiar People", by Howard Pyle, in Harpers Magazine for October, 1889, describes their celebration of the Lord's Supper which they do after the manner of the primitive Christians.

Pyle also tells of attending a Dunker meeting and describes the meeting house. "The ceiling was low, the room was sunny and



bright, there were two stoves, one at either end of the building, at which warmed themselves the white capped sisters at one end, the long bearded brethren at the other, the latter standing with their backs to the stove, with their horny palms to the warmth, and rubbing them together. Presently the minister entered, and as he moved to the long table where his two confreres sat facing the congregation, he passed by the bench of the elder brethren; One after another of those nearest to him arose, the two right hands were clasped, and the two long, gray beards met in the kiss of peace.

"A hymn was sung in English with a peculiar quavering of the voice and lingering upon each word. A hymn in German followed, then a sermon in German, then a second in the same language. A sermon in English followed, and the service was concluded by another German hymn, and the reading of a portion of Scripture.

Article contained in the magazine section of the Sunday Delmarvia Star, published in Wilmington, Delaware, issue of August 12th, 1934.



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LOCATION - - Wilmington

(3 pages total)  
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File W-610

Submitted by Alex Ramsay,

Date July 20, 1936.

Bi Lingual, Isolated, Racial and  
Religious Communities.

(The Polish Community)

The principal bi lingual communities consisting of Polish, Italians, Ukrainians and a very small Jewish group are located in the city of Wilmington, each, within its own district, while the isolated village, racial, and religious groups are mainly settled in Kent and Sussex counties.

Prominent among the bi-lingual groups in the city of Wilmington is that of the Polish group. In that wedge shaped piece of land bounded by Lancaster Avenue and Broom Streets, some 5 or 6 thousand of these industrious people live still holding their autonomy within ten minutes walk of the center of one of the oldest American cities.

It is striking to come upon such a densely populated city within a city, - a municipality of trades and professions, plying their own way apart from their fellow Delawareans. Held together by the common band of nativity and heritage, they mingle little outside their own group, even with the people of other nationalities who are their neighbors. It is rare that the young men and women marry outside their own racial boundaries.

Another smaller colony is to be found on the East side, around Old Swedes Church, but this is of much later origin. Because these people have been here a shorter time, the manifestations of worldly wealth do not appear there to such an extent as on the West side, where many Poles have acquired



real social standing. And no other foreign quarter in Wilmington so clearly denotes the strain of its people than *as* does "Little Poland."

Most of the Poles living here are Democrats and the Eleventh Ward is usually to be found on the Jeffersonian side of the Council. Some 90 per cent of the Polish people are Roman Catholics, and at St. Hedwigs located in the center of the section, the Rev. John S. Gulez is the spiritual leader and guardian of his charges. Each Sunday the huge auditorium of the church is filled and refilled half a dozen times and more as devout worshipers gather to praise and pray throughout the Sabbath.

Athletics, too play a prominent role, with several teams engaging in nearly every sport. They have contributed, too, some outstanding performers to the ranks of local amateur and professional sports.

The thrift and industry of the Poles is obvious from such an adroit barometer of material gains as the assessment list. As one representative citizen of the section puts it, "nearly 90 per cent of our people live in houses they have bought and either own outright or are paying for." There are few drones in this stirring community of men and women who are always busy. They are scrupulous about their obligations, and look upon a contract as a sacred trust.

The Polish people here are of the German type. They are blonde, rather below the stature of their Anglo-Saxon neighbors, with fine white skin, light eyes and wide expressive mouths.

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They admit a close resemblance to the Teuton but insist the likeness ends ~~right~~ there. Both the young men and girls are seeking high<sup>er</sup> education than is afforded by the schools teaching their own language and more and more are enrolling in the grammar and high school classes of public institutions year by year.

The pleasures of the Polish people are few, and nearly all of them are carried out within the confines of their own districts. As the best dancers, possibly in the world, the light fantastic provides a large part of their social wants. Many dance rooms and assemblage halls are scattered throughout the colony, and the measured steps of the modern and their own traditional folk dances supply a source of great pleasure.

REFERENCE: Newspaper Article contained in the Sunday Star, magazine section, issue of January 20, 1936. published in Wilmington, Delaware.

SOURCE: Reference Room, Public Library, Wilmington, Del. Vertical file, population, Wilmington, Del.



Ramsay, Alex  
July 20, '36.

Wilmington - Foreign Groups,

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### The Ukranian Commu ity.

One of the most interesting of all groups of foreign born American residents in this city is the comparatively small colony of Ukranians who live in South Wilmington in a cluster of neat houses in the vicinity of Heald and "B" Streets. Most of them have made their homes here for ten or twelve years, some of them so long as twenty years, but they have attracted little general attention to themselves other than as most exemplary citizens. They are rated by their neighbors as among the most desirable of all our alien peoples and by those engaged in uplift activities they are praised still more highly. Interest was centered in this little colony when their church in South Wilmington was consecrated to worship, and when the splendid communal activities of the people were demonstrated and their thrift was revealed.

There are about one hundred families, upwards of 500 Ukranians, in the community with a few scattered to other sections. Those living in South Wilmington are from Galicia, an Austrian province on the border of Russia, but are not otherwise, except racially identified with the Ukranians of Ukraine across the border of the Czar's broken down empire. Most of the bread winners are manual workers or skilled mechanics employed in the railroad and car shops here, and they have all contributed very largely to the communal welfare in the erection and maintenance of their school and community house and to the new church.

Many of the men are highly skilled as craftsmen and the women are likewise adept in embroidery and similar works, and the members of both sexes have a love for music that is being carefully developed under the guidance of a professional choir-master. In addition to attending the public schools the children receive their

religious instruction in their native tongue and have special studies after the close of the regular school session. They are keen for education. In addition to all these activities frequent dramatic performances are given in the community house in English or the mother tongue and there are various musical entertainments in which the young men and women take part.

While they live pretty much apart from their neighbors the marriage of young men and women Ukrainians with the native Americans is not infrequent.

It is interesting to note that this group is showing other nationalities the way to better living, to the attainment of higher ideals, and the development of the community and individual units. They adhere to the faith of their childhood, and in their new Orthodox Greek Church - differentiated slightly from the Russian Orthodox Church - they will share the offices of a priest, who also ministers to a congregation of Greek Catholics at Chester.

REFERENCE: Newspaper Article contained in the Delmarva Star, published in Wilmington, Delaware, issue of October 4, 1935. page 20.

Source of Reference Room, Public Library, Wilmington, Delaware.  
Reference: V.F. Wilmington population.



Mariel Hull,

January 13, 1937.

*Guide - Wilm. Journal*FOREIGN GROUPS

Racial inhabitants of the borough of Wilmington in the early 18th century included Swedes, Finns and Dutch, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who had found England religiously unsympathetic and German Friends or Mennonites who had followed the leader Pastorius, friend of William Penn and founder of Germantown, in addition to the English Quakers.

By the time war was an actuality in 1776, however, a common cause had amalgamated these races so that they were practically one with a singular sense of allegiance to Great Britain. And England has always maintained a predominating influence. Thomas Jefferson complained after Independence had become assured that "Delaware will always remain a county of England."

No other nationalities arrived from Europe in any numbers until the close of the French Revolution when great numbers of refugees from France came to Wilmington. French street was named <sup>no</sup> for these immigrants and many of their homes still standing testify to their fondness for luxury and beauty. Because of the negro uprising in Santo Domingo in 1892 <sup>?</sup> boatloads of French Huguenots with their Priests and some Irish <sup>?</sup> made their way to these shores adding numbers of industrious people to the colony already established in this city. These established Catholicism in Wilmington. Among them was Peter Bauduy, the architect of the old Town Hall, owner of Eden Park and father-in-law of J.P. Garasche.

Following the war of 1812 the real trend of immigration began, bringing to America millions of people from Europe. Undoubtedly some of these came to Wilmington, but no records have been kept

of the nationalities that made up the population.

When the Civil War ended the country turned to its neglected business and began to build railroads to join the East and the West. This resulted in immediate expansion of Wilmington industry, which, in turn, attracted large numbers of immigrants from Northern and Southern Europe. Many Italians were employed in the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1883-1886. They later settled in Wilmington where the machine shops, car and ship-building plants, foundries and rolling mills offered employment to them as well as to Swedes, Poles, Irish and other nationalities.

The chain-store system of merchandising which began to develop in the city in the early part of the present century, forced hundreds of native-born American merchants out of business. Their places were filled to a great extent by merchants of the Jewish race who through industry, frugality, and the ability to exist under severe persecution, were able to withstand the economic onslaughts of the monopolies. The latest available figures show 5,310 Jews in Delaware, most of whom are in Wilmington.

Many restaurants, candy stores and some fruit and vegetable stands are operated by Greeks. Italians are engaged in these lines as well as in various other lines of trade and in many of the factories. Traces of the Mexican and Spanish races are negligible. The Asiatic races have found little to attract them although there are several Chinese restaurants and the usual laundries, and a few Japanese and Filipinos.

Prior to the Civil War Delaware was a slave State and contained a large number of negroes. Their descendants still reside within its borders and 11 per cent of the population of Wilmington consist



of this race.

Nearly 25 per cent of the city's inhabitants are either foreign born or are of foreign or mixed parentage. Of a population of 106,597, the classification of 25,029 is as follows: foreign born, 12,592; negro, 12,080, aliens, not naturalized, 3,771. Of the foreign born, the Italians come first, with 3,041; Poles come next with 2,647; Irish, 1,780 and Russians, 1,226.

There is considerable German population in the city which, however, has assimilated with the life of its inhabitants and does not hold itself apart as a foreign group. They have their Saengerbund, the Turngemeinde, established after the great German immigration of 1840 to answer their need of physical culture. They also have their library.

#### THE UKRAINIANS

An interesting group of foreign born American residents in Wilmington is the Ukrainian group, a small colony of whom reside in South Wilmington in a cluster of homes in the vicinity of Heald and "B" Streets. They number about one hundred families with about five hundred inhabitants. They come principally from Galicia a Polish Province on the border of Russia. The bread-winners are manual laborers or skilled mechanics employed in the railroad and car shops. All have contributed to the communal welfare in the erection and maintenance of a community house and a place of worship. The women are expert in embroidery and similar work, and both men and women have a love for music that is being carefully developed under the guidance of a professional choir-master.

The children attend the public schools, but receive, in addition, religious instruction in their native tongue and have special studies assigned them after the close of the school session.

#### THE POLES

Prominent among the bi-lingual groups are the Poles. In a wedge-shaped piece of land south of Lancaster Avenue, East of Broom street, running to the city limits, about eight thousand of these people live within ten minutes walk of the center of the city of Wilmington. It is a densely populated section, a municipality in itself. Having their own trades and professions, operating their own stores and places of business, preparing the Polish type of food, they live their lives apart from their fellow Wilmingtonians. They have their own physicians, lawyers and undertakers. Held together by their common bond of nativity, they mingle but little outside their own group even with those of other nationalities who may be their neighbors. They marry but seldom outside their racial boundaries.

About 90 per cent of the Poles are Roman Catholics and a large proportion of them worship at St. Hedwig's Church at Linden and Harrison streets. They are interested in athletics and have numerous "teams" ready to engage in nearly every sport. They have contributed some outstanding performers to the ranks of local amateur and professional sports. Their thrift and industry are notable. It is said that 90 per cent of them own their own homes. They are scrupulous about their obligations and regard a contract as a sacred trust.

Wilmington Poles are of the German type. Blonde, rather below



Page No.5  
Contemporary Scene  
Foreign Groups. (Full)

the stature of their Anglo-Saxon neighbors, they have fine, clear skin, light eyes and expressive mouths. They are sensitive and sympathetic.

The parochial school teaches the children Polish as well as English, but the tendency of the people is away from their native manners and toward the English methods of living. They do not continue their native craft.

An interesting feature of their life is their Polish Library Association at Maple and VanBuren Streets. This organization has been in existence for thirty-nine years. In addition to its social activities including card playing, billiards, etc., it donates money to the needy, loans money to its members at a low rate of interest, and for twenty cents a month it issues a death benefit of a hundred dollars for a man and fifty for his wife. It has fifteen members ranging from forty five to seventy five who were members when it was organized.

Not long ago an exhibition of Polish art was on view at the Public Library which attracted considerable attention.

#### THE ITALIANS.

It is estimated that there are about twelve thousand Italians in the city and while they live in various sections, the area bounded by Second and Tenth, Union and Scott Streets, has come to be known as "Little Italy." The population of this community is approximately five thousand with a large and ever increasing proportion of first and second generations amongst it.

Owing to traditional custom and early training, the social activities of this community are mainly centered around St. Anthony's

Church, which functions as the spiritual center of the community. The principal church festivals:- The Feast of St. Anthony, held on the 13th of June; The Feast of St. Reece, held August 16th, and that of Our Lady of Mr. Carmel, held on the Sunday following the 16th of July, are attended by large numbers of devotees. St. Anthony's Church not only serves the spiritual needs of this community, but also acts as a center for the recreational, benevolent and cultural activities.

The Italians have quite a number of fraternal organizations the chief of which is the "Sons of Italy," an amalgamation of several smaller units composed of people from various Italian provinces such as Sicily, Genoa, Piedmont, Venice. Another of their large fraternal bodies is the "Sons of Columbus."

The cultural level of the Italian is high, and the younger generation has developed ambition which carries them beyond the basic education of the public school to its higher branches thus enabling them to acquire a more comprehensive knowledge of citizenship and its responsibilities.

#### THE HEBREW

The Hebrews in Wilmington are industrious and thrifty and engage in business and professional activities to a great extent. They stand well in the professions, and are citizens of loyalty and worth.

The chief organization connected with Hebrew activities is the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association with headquarters at 515 French Street. Included in the program of this association are complete series of social, physical and educational activities,



studies in dramatics, contract bridge, Judaism, history, the Hebrew language, dancing for children as well as adults; public speaking; first aid, debating. The physical training department gives instruction in swimming, basketball, handball, and other games, besides life saving.

This institution was the outcome of a demand for a character-building agency for Hebrew boys and girls and was started in 1925.

#### THE NEGRO

There is only one race in Wilmington that is segregated due to racial differences and that is the Negro. This group is not confined to any one section of the city, but is to be found chiefly in the older sections where the rents are cheaper. Some of their living quarters show an inclination toward refinement, but the majority of them are poorly kept and the slum districts of the city are largely occupied by negro residents.

The Wilmington negroes represent about 11 per cent of the total population. They have few of the superstitions of their Southern cousins, but have retained the racial love for music. Carefree, irresponsible, they are hard and willing workers and are deeply religious.

They earn their living chiefly by unskilled labor and in domestic service. "Jim Crow" laws do not exist in Wilmington, and the negro is free to mingle with the whites although he seldom takes advantage of the privilege. They are provided with the same educational advantages as the white population. They have their own schools with teachers of their own race, and sincere efforts have been made to equip them with the means of furthering their advancement.



Submitted by J. Barton Cheyney  
December 6, 1936

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WILMINGTON UKRAINIANS' CHRISTMAS  
*Wilmington, N.C.  
Folder: Russian Elements*

The considerable colony of natives of Ukrainians, from the large southwestern unit of Old Russia; facing the Black Sea, who have found homes in Wilmington adhere to the Christmas celebration of their homeland and church by observing the nativity on the sixth of January. The festival is prolonged three days. The observances connote with the doctrine and discipline of the established Russian <sup>Orthodox</sup> (Greek-Catholic) Church and have continued essentially unchanged for centuries. The ceremonies <sup>N</sup> festivities begin with Christmas Eve, January 5th, for they have adhered to the <sup>Gregorian</sup> ~~Julian~~ method of computing time-fourteen days behind the more modern ~~Julian~~ calendar. The homes of the colony here are decorated with colored ribbons or flowers, the evening before the holiday; the children sing the carols of the nation during the evening. The Ukrainians prepare for Christmas by fasting 42 days. On the eve of their religious holiday they wait until they see the first star of the night to appear. As soon as it is discerned in the heavens, all sit down to their "holy supper" which consists of twelve dishes served without meat of any kind. In accord with ancient rites each family breaks the proskurka - bread which has been blessed in the church - and exchange felicitations and good wishes. Beneath richly embroidered fine table cloths - the best in every house - hay is smoothly spread, <sup>to represent the manger bedding of Jesus</sup> Kutia is the most important and significant food on the table. It is made of whole grains of boiled wheat served with poppy seed and honey. A scarcely less outstanding feature of the holy supper is cabbage cooked with rice and boiled dumplings stuffed with potatoes. Doughnuts filled with jellies, fruit, prunes and many other delicacies find place in the supper. No table is without dandles on such occasions. None of the Ukrainians are so poor that their Christmas supper cannot



thus be lighted. While at the same time no family is so rich that candlelight does not illuminate the supper table that night.

After the supper no work whatever is done in the home. Even the dishes are set aside for washing next day. According to an ancient custom each girl of the family makes a wish above her plate. Then when the dishes are finally washed they are set back on the table just as they were during the holy feast. Perhaps their wish will come true, perhaps some Ukranian mother, ages ago, had the happy idea of how to get the dishes washed without coaxing.

All the members of each family stay at home until midnight strikes, then every one goes to church where over and over again they chime in together that call of faith and exaltation "Z Namy Boh" or "God is with Us" and the great old Christmas Carol of "U Boh predvichny Narodysia" or "The Anti-Age God is Born."

Immediately following high mass in the church the Ukranian Choir sings carols in the streets of the Russians. Groups of young men after the holy supper, don ~~masquerade~~ costumes of death, kings, wise men, shepherds and even old "Saint Nick," and sing carols in the streets of the section of the city wherein their countrymen live. They carry with them a big star brilliantly lighted and decorated - an ancient home custom that is never omitted here.

There is no Santa Claus in Ukranian Christmas but there are generous exchanges of gifts and tokens. The celebration ends on the third day-the 9th of January, - mass at 10 a.m. is the requiem of the Old Christmas of the Russian colonists from the Black Sea regions of Russia, - now a Soviet republic.

If these kinsmen of the valorous Cossacks yield to the temptation to join in the celebration of Christmas with the rest of the citizens - December 25 they emphasize more strongly the festival features of their own festal religious day. But Christmas holiday

for Ukaranians is a great national holiday - one which unites them in all lands into one great inseperable family of common ideals and aspirations.

REFERENCES: John Hrynyshyn in Every Evening of Jan. 6, 1934.



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The Negro Today

Personal  
Observa-  
tion.

*Today* It has been less than seventy-five years since slaves were given their absolute freedom. Descendants of those slaves are found in every part of Delaware. Of the thirty-two thousand Negroes in <sup>the State</sup> Delaware, <sup>fewer</sup> less than two-fifths live in urban areas, leaving the remainder scattered throughout the rural districts.

There is the widest possible divergence of physical types, color, and cultural status. There is the "typical" Negro, as distinctive as the true African, and there is another so fair that no lay person could with certainty identify his racial origin. There are cultural differences that range from the illiterate, shuffling, lazy and dull-witted toiler on the farm to honor scholars in the Nation's leading universities, and Doctors of Philosophy. There are thugs, murderers, thieves, prostitutes, and the humble, honest, hardworking citizen. There are "middle-class" ordinary working folk; there is the "climber"; those ashamed of their race, and those proud of it. There are teachers, preachers, doctors, lawyers, editors, writers, business men, as well as porters, day laborers, cooks, laundresses, charwomen, and beauticians. Each class has its good, bad, and indifferent.

White Delaware, in general, places all Negroes together and makes few, if any allowances for class <sup>or other</sup> distinction. Prejudice and color line are the unifying factors. Yet it is only when they face white Delaware that the Delaware Negro may be viewed as a composite. The treatment to which they are subjected varies greatly between Wilmington and the southern tip of the State. One common barrier they experience is that nowhere in Delaware is

a Negro free in the same sense of the word as a white person. He may be rich or poor, intelligent or ignorant, but he must bear to some degree the stigma of belonging to an "inferior race" "

~~ALLEGED CRIMINAL TENDENCIES.~~

It is generally thought that the whole moral tone of Delaware Negro life is low, and it is also assumed that he furnishes more than his share of crime, vice, illegitimacy, and juvenile delinquency. Negroes are presumed to be particularly prone to sex promiscuity, to slashings, and petty theft; other assumptions are that his family life is a wholly unstable institution and that Negro women are seldom virtuous. This is the broad indictment that the Negro of Delaware faces. The further assumption that the Negro is by nature a criminal because of African racial traits makes the indictment all the heavier. There seem to be no facts to support the theory that the Negro is criminal because of African heritage or racial custom, and the more logical explanation would be to attribute alleged criminal tendencies to slavery, and to the fact that the conditions under which the Negro is forced to live make it hard to maintain a high standard of moral conduct. In other words, any such tendencies, should they prove to exist, are more certainly defects of environment than of heredity.

Figures, often quoted as evidence of Negro crime proclivities, are in many instances misleading. In most towns of the State, accurate crime records are not kept, and there is the disposition to arrest Negroes more freely than whites, to convict them more readily, and to give them longer sentences. It is also true that



most of Delaware's Negro crime occurs in the group at the lowest income level.

Other important factors in the Delaware Negro's crime record are overcrowding, segregation, the abnormally high number of Negro mothers who "work out", scarcity of parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, and a failure in Delaware to provide adequate institutional supervision for colored juvenile offenders, delinquent girls, feeble-minded persons and other defectives.

Among the middle and upper class of Negroes there is no more vice, crime, delinquency or family disorganization than among corresponding whites. Unfortunately, the Delaware Negro in this class is seldom known to the white, and the whole group in respect to crime is judged by the behavior of its weaker members.

The Delaware Negro occupies a unique position in the race's docket. In such a "border" State, he is submitted to a combination of feeling which includes both northern and southern prejudices. Delaware is the first State proceeding southward on the Atlantic Coast that segregates the Negro in schools and public gatherings. A few miles to the North, he shares these privileges almost to the same degree as his blonde fellow-citizen. In Delaware he has his own school, church, lodge, and theatre, and he dare not attempt to enter any motion picture house or the smallest lunchrooms patronized by whites; his progress is barred at the door.

Yet he is far enough North to escape the feeling of race-hatred that prevails in the South.

His home is not the well-appointed one of the Southern Negro, yet he has in some instances secured a comfortable domicile. Throughout the State, thrifty Negroes have by shrewd managing

bought houses and farms. Yet this is not true of the mass since even today the average Delaware Negro is without a semblance of modern living quarters.

It has been brought to the attention of housing officials that the Negro actually pays \$5 or \$6 per week for homes which are without ordinary conveniences or adequate sanitation. Still others, unable to pay the high rents, secure quarters by "doubling up," and many <sup>who</sup> do not "double up" live in cheap rent areas, usually tenement dwellings.

DISPARITY IN RENTS

A study of the amounts paid for rent by Negroes in comparison with their incomes shows a great disparity. It is general knowledge that Negroes pay rent in excess of their proportionate ability in terms of yearly incomes. This same disparity has prevented the wholesale purchasing of homes by Negroes and accounts for the low home ownership percentage of the group in Delaware. Especially true is the aforementioned when applied to the urban Negro; in his case, cost of real estate has kept the Negro home ownership percentage down to a negligible one. At variance with the urban Negro's hapless position, the rural Negro has real estate holdings far in excess of his city brother. This is true primarily because the respective prices are vastly different, and in most cases the rural Negro has the advantage of securing better properties at attractive prices.

Another condition that <sup>?</sup>mitigates against Negroes possessing proper housing accommodations in urban areas is the reluctance of whites to live in the same neighborhood. The entrance of a Negro



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family into a heretofore "lily-white" neighborhood places a "blight" upon the vicinity, which results in an exodus of the white families and a decrease in the valuation of the properties. Thus, Negroes seldom get to live in modern homes unless they are able to build or remodel after the departure of the previous tenants.

In the matter of housing, the Negro of Delaware suffers the same difficulties as other low income groups, plus those added by enforced segregation. In the towns he is herded in squalid flats without proper water supply and heating, with insufficient sanitary facilities, and overcrowding. In the smaller towns where conditions are less crowded, paving, sewerage, street cleaning and garbage removal usually stop where the Negro quarter begins.

ECONOMIC FUTURE NOT BRIGHT

The present economic position of the Delaware Negro is not particularly bright. The recent economic upheaval has resulted in his being shunted on to the relief rolls by virtue of his being replaced in industry by whites. The current procedure in the State is the replacement of Negro help when and wherever possible. This practice has served to increase the usual percentage of unemployment of the group and the economic standard of the Negro has declined drastically.

~~The vocational color line is not rational.~~ In Delaware a Negro may be employed to drive a private car but he cannot drive a milk wagon, he may be a policeman, but he cannot be a fireman (Delaware had two colored patrolmen). ~~It has only been recently that a Negro was admitted to legal practice.~~

The Negro shares all the hardships of other low income groups,

Conversa-  
tion  
with  
Rouselle,  
Sr.

VP

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with the added disadvantages that certain jobs are closed to him, that white workers are given preference in some fields, and further that residential segregation creates a problem of transportation and family disorganization. As result of the above, his relief figures have increased and he is faced with the burden of proving that the explanation is not to be found in racial habits.

#### DEPENDENCE OF THE NEGRO

It is far from fair to say that the burden of the Negro in Delaware is all of the white man's making. The Negro has been ready too often to slip into roles of dependence and to follow the line of least resistance. Many thoughtful white people have been baffled by the Negro's easy acceptance of injustices, by his tendency to place his failures at the door of prejudice instead of placing it to his own inefficiency where it many times belongs. He has too often sat waiting for a white man to give him rights and recognition that men gain only by self-effort. He is widely known for distrusting his own people and meekly accepting the dominant group's opinion that anything white is better than anything black.

He has appealed to his race for support without having anything to offer. In his dealings with the Delaware white he has upon numerous occasions sold his rights and heritage for a mess of pottage. These persons known to their race as "Uncle Tom's" are themselves one of the Delaware Negro's heaviest burdens.

#### THE NEGRO'S FAULTS.

Yet in recognizing the loads which the Delaware Negroes lay up on their own shoulders, the sins which the white man must



Personal  
Observa-  
tion.

answer for should not be minimized. Flattery, clowning, and treachery have frequently been the white man's price and the Delaware Negro has had it to pay in order to survive. Often in Delaware the Negro has had to submit to discriminations or do without those things necessary for a normal development.

Faced with the task of trying to change an unjust and undesirable system, the Delaware Negro finds himself curiously trapped. He cannot ~~get wholly within~~ <sup>become identified with</sup> Delaware life nor can he wholly withdraw from it. Segregation and discrimination help to keep him poor and ignorant, while poverty and ignorance are used to justify differential treatment.

Generally speaking the social position of the Negro in Delaware is above that of Negroes in other border States and equal to that of the Negro in the Northern States. Actually he occupies a unique position in that apparently he enjoys the freedom of the North yet on the other hand his position is more nearly identical with that of the Southern Negro. However, it may be said that proscription is not the impenetrable bulwark in Delaware that it is in the South. In Delaware, the Negro because of traditions, has established a definite niche in which he uncomplainingly remains.

Personal  
Observa-  
tion.

Whether this acquiescence to conditions as they are has hurt the Negro or not is a moot question <sup>among the negroes themselves</sup>. Race leaders of the State take various stands on the question. The most popular trends of thought are those <sup>for</sup> "racial isolation" and "racial dispersion." <sup>opposing</sup> The former argues that the Negro can develop far better as an integral unit in national life, and the "dispersionists" advance the thought that through intermingling greater benefits will accrue.

The Negro of Delaware enjoys the privilege of suffrage franchise.

MISCELLANEOUS\*\*NEGRO

A well known voice was that of an old Negro peddler of lime, who used to drive around in an open wagon dragged by a horse as nondescript as its master; and as he passed along the hilly streets, under the shade of the mapels, he used to sing in his high pitched quavering voice.

Oh John, oh John , wha hev yew ben?  
Oh, I'm so glad fo't see yew again,  
Oh John, oh John wha hev yew be~~en~~?  
Oh, I'm so glad fo't' see yew agin  
Any lime-lime

reference-Howard Pyle-Old Time Life in a Quaker Town contained in Harpers New Magazine 1880-1881, v 62 pp178-190, New York City, Harper Publishing Company.



Laws of Del.

C H A P. LXIX.

Vol. 4, page 221.

An ACT to repeal an act, entitled, "An act for the better regulation of free negroes and free mulattoes".

Be it inacted by the Senate and House of Representatives met, That the act of assembly, entitled, "An act for the better regulation of free nigroes and free mulattoes", passed on the sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord, ~~one~~ thousand eight hundred and seven, be, and the same is hereby repealed, made null and void.

Passed at Dover, Feb. 2, 1808.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

I. Participation in local life

Attending churches, school assemblies, and classes, court sessions, political rallies, labor meetings, clubs etc.

II. Documentary Material

A. Literature on immigration

B. Literature of individual ethnic groups

C. Historical records

1. Naturalization records
2. Census reports
3. Church records
4. Cemetery records
5. Vital statistics (births, marriages, deaths, divorce, inheritances, wills)
6. Tax records, real estate and mortgage records
7. Professional register
8. School records
9. Board of Social Welfare records
10. Newspapers
11. Minutes of organizations

III. Interviews

A. Casual

B. Detailed

1. Testing in individual families certain hypotheses as to trends observed in the behavior of the ethnic group.

IV. Questionnaires to representative organizations, school groups



August 24, 1936.

Survey of Vocational Education and Guidance of  
Negroes. - - - - - Reese Hammond

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Education  
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The Survey of Vocational Education and Guidance of Negroes in Delaware closed here several days ago after five months of original research.

Delaware was included in the National Study of Vocational Education and Guidance of Negroes conducted by the United States Office of Education, Department of The Interior. Success of the study in Delaware was largely the result of co-operation by the State W.P.A. Administrator and the Director of Professional Projects. The department of professional projects gave time, facilities, and experience, and was directly responsible for the personnel of the survey staff.

Dr. Ambrose Caliver, Senior Specialist in the Education of Negroes, was the director. Mr. Harold L. Trigg, Supervisor of Colored High Schools of North Carolina, served as associate director. Dr. Walter R. Chivers was regional director and Reese Hammond, State Supervisor.

The purpose of the survey was to find out how many vocational courses are available for negroes, what provisions exist for vocational guidance and placement, how many prepared vocational teachers are in service and the extent of their preparation; the amount of adequate equipment available for training purposes, and to learn of the training, home background and vocational aspirations of the students themselves.

The findings of this study are not expected to be mere statistical compilations only. They represent an effort to determine and to interpret the facts governing present conditions and it is the hope of the personnel associated with this study that, when printed, it will make public, sufficient information regarding the Negro student of Delaware to influence the course of Vocational Education and Guidance to his advantage in the future.

Many aspects, some comic, some tragic, but all revealing the condition of Negro youth today came to the attention of the survey investigators.

In many instances there was the deplorable lack of any knowledge of the pre-requisites for a particular vocation; in others there were exceedingly vague notions in the minds of many youths concerning the vocations they wished to follow. Ofttimes a student was found with complete apathy toward any vocation or the need for a vocation.

Preconceived notions about vocational guidance of young people held by some instructors mitigated against a comprehensive program in several instances. A total absence of follow-up work by schools and colleges and the lack of records on students who had graduated was discovered.

Already serious thinking on the part of some educators has brought the realization that a large amount of unsuitable vocational training is being offered,



and a new attitude toward vocational training education and guidance is evident among workers in this field.

The Delaware Negro youth is fortunate in that many States in which the Survey has been made no effort to prepare the Negro vocationally had been made.

In recent years great strides have been made in the vocational setup in Delaware schools. The survey has focused the attention of educators on the need for intensive vocational preparation as a corrective for current Negro economic ills.

The survey when published will present a challenge to the Negro of Delaware in that it will enable him to see the fallacies of the present vocational offerings. The survey will do more, for it will offer a working plan for a complete re-adjustment of the Negro's economic status in Delaware.

State Drawn  
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Survey of Vocational Education and Guidance of  
Negroes; Reese Hammond, State Supervisor of  
National Survey of Vocational Education and  
Guidance of Negroes.

The precarious status of the Negro on the fringe of economic security has caused leaders to search for a means of improvement.

Until recently no definite effort has been made to ascertain the relation between the economic position of the Negro and his opportunity to prepare himself for a vocation. Now several government agencies have coordinately sponsored surveys of various nature to gather data to determine such position.

The key survey of this movement has been the Survey of Vocational Education and Guidance of Negroes conducted by the United States Office of Education, Department of The Interior with the co-operation of the Works Progress Administration of the various States.

Educationally, the Negro of Delaware enjoys the privilege of attending schools better than those of any other border state. Whether his economic opportunities are equal to his educational advantages will only be known upon publication of the findings of the surveys.

The Survey of Vocational Education and Guidance of Negroes of Delaware was conducted by an all-Negro staff gathered through the interest and co-operation of Miss Jeannette Eckman, Director of Women's and Professional Projects and Bankson T. Holcomb, State Works Progress Administrator in conjunction with



central and regional staff officers outside of the State.

The fine degree of co-operation exemplified by Works Progress officials in Delaware was a typical example of the sympathetic interest among several Delaware white groups in racial problems. In view of sinister and subtle barriers erected to prevent the functioning of this project in many states, the administrative staff of Dr. Ambrose Caliver, director; Harold L. Trigg, associate director, and Walter K. Chivers, regional director, is deeply grateful to its white friends in Delaware.

The purpose of the survey was to find how many vocational courses are available for Negroes, what provisions exist for vocational guidance and placement, how many prepared teachers are in service and the extent of preparation; the amount of adequate equipment available for training purposes, and to learn of the training, home background and vocational aspirations of the students themselves. The study was also intended to learn the number of Negroes who have achieved success without vocational training or guidance.

The statistics of the survey were gathered by a corps of investigators who made personal contact with selected cases and transcribed data from institution records, where available.

An example of one phase of the survey is the census of high school graduates and "dropouts," taken from school records and a subsequent follow-up of the person indentified by the census card and the completion of a

schedule at the residence of the person.

This procedure is expected to provide a history of the person through his high school career, whether graduate or not, into the field of economic endeavor. Thus a tabulation of the findings in cases studied will allow very certain conclusion as to the benefits or shortcomings of vocational training and guidance. This procedure will also allow educators to estimate the vocational needs of the future student in accordance with the opportunities in his locality for work.

From the beginning of the survey certain glaring discrepancies in the present vocational training system were evident. Perhaps the most regrettable of these was the absence of data on student enrollment cards and the total lack of any knowledge of the student other than his academic standing.

The failure to follow up or advise the student in matters pertaining to placement left many aspiring students in a difficult situation. Here schedules revealed that guidance counselling would have been an asset to a number of students.

Several cases of over-zealous instructors who lacked the rudiments of good guidance procedure were counselling students in a manner detrimental to the future of the recipient were found. This lack of preparation of the teacher in vocational educational and guidance annually sends a number of persons into fields for which they have no qualifications. The finished survey will undoubtedly recommend



new methods and standards for teachers of courses in vocational education and guidance.

The survey also served to show the amount, condition, and type of machinery available for students in courses of vocational nature. Inspection for age and performance of equipment uncovered the use of type and model not currently used in industry. This lack of proper equipment has made the task of counselling students a difficult problem.

Housing facilities were in many instances inadequate for the type and amount of training to be offered. Often more than one type of work was offered in the same building at the same time, and lack of concentration on the part of the student resulted from this congested state of affairs. In cases of this type, the student was allowed to shift for himself and consequently worked according to his initiative or desire.

Administrative heads of several schools found with this condition realized the disadvantages and had appealed to their superiors for funds with which to remedy the situation.

Perhaps an interesting sidelight to the survey was the discovery that the high "repeat load" of the academic department in one of the schools resulted in a program to enlarge the scope of pre-vocational and vocational training offered. This was evidenced by a building program with the aid of funds from the Public Works Administration.

To indicate the degree of interest manifested by educators brought in contact with the survey, the school above had designated the new building as one primarily to house pre-vocational and vocational training courses. Included in the new curricula of this annex will be courses never before offered the Negro student of Delaware. These will consist of barbering, shoe repairing, tailoring, and printing. Already, teachers have been selected to lay out intensive courses in each of the new vocations to be taught.

From the beginning it might be possible to construe hastily that Delaware is far behind other States in what it has offered vocationally for the Negro. This could not be a fair conclusion until the study has been published and the findings in the various States compared. And on the contrary much worth-while work has been done in Delaware with a <sup>7</sup> medium of facilities and a secondary interest in vocational education and guidance.

The personal follow-up of the census of high school graduates and "drop-outs" shows that in the State a large number of persons are earning their livelihood by means of the small amount of vocational training received in the schools of the State. Some are engaged in business ventures of their own that return them fair incomes; others are employed in the industries of the State. These persons are pointed to with pride by the instructors as examples of what could be done with adequate vocational training facilities.

Much good has been done for the adult who failed to secure an education during his earlier years. Especially



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well have the females of the group been afforded the opportunity of earning their way by vocational training.

Citing specifically, the field of beauty culture has a number of well equipped shops that afford the owners incomes of no mean proportions. These resulted from vocational training, for many of the owners have less than secondary academic preparation.

Beauty culture is now an accredited course in several schools. In these institutions the students are prepared according to the requirements of State Board of Beauticians Examiners.

The trend in the forthcoming years will be to place vocational education upon a plane of parity with academic preparation if the interest currently being manifested can be taken as a criterion. In conversing with educators of the State, this is found to be their opinion and some advocates of vocational training argue that this type of training properly taught is the solution to the Negro's economic problem in Delaware. The crux of their argument is that in times of normalcy industry offers employment to the properly prepared person.

In view of the handicaps encountered by vocational education and guidance in Delaware in past years the findings of the survey are expected to show encouraging results. The awakening to the possibilities of vocational education as a corrective for the economic ills of the Negro is expected to cause a decided swing to this type of education.

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The findings of the survey will be published and are expected to be a compilation of facts for future use of persons interested in vocational education and guidance of Negroes.



The population figures of 1930 show the Negroes standing at 32,602, or 13.7 per cent of the total of 238,380. In 1920 the percentage was 13.6, and in 1910, 15.4. 12,380 of these were in Wilmington; the total urban negro population was 15,037 as compared to 11,157 in 1910.

The Negro rural population was 17,565 as compared to 17,343 in 1920 and 20,024 in 1910. The first number is 15.2 per cent of the rural population as compared to 19 per cent in 1910. Negroes form 12.2 per cent of the urban population as compared to 11.5 per cent in 1910.

#### Agriculture.

# ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Industrial School, located on the outskirts of Clayton, Kent County, Delaware, was founded about 1890 by the Josephite Fathers who have given their lives to work among the colored people, for colored boys of good character who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity for better moral, intellectual and industrial training.

The farm consists of four hundred acres part of which is in New Castle County. Twelve buildings and a chapel, three of the buildings being dormitories, house the faculty, the students and the activities of the school.

Boys between the age of ten and fourteen years are admitted to the school and may remain for at least five years. Grammar and high school courses are open to the boys. Vocational training is also provided. General farming, dairy and poultry work, interior and exterior house painting, printing, (including linotype) carpentry, shoe repairing, cleaning and pressing clothing, domestic sciences, dining room service, cooking and laundry work are some of the trades available for the boys.

For the boys with musical ability there is an opportunity to exercise his talents in the forty-piece band and the harmonica band. For recreation the boys engage in the seasonable sports.



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The Rev. John F. Neifert, with the co-operation of an able corps of assistants is in charge of the school.

## DELAWARE

Racial Groups

*first two pages*

A century ago more than 90 percent of the white inhabitants of Delaware with the exception of an admixture of the original Swedes and Dutch, were immediate descendants of those colonies from the British Isles, mostly English, with a few Welsh, Scottish and Irish, who settled all over Delaware before 1700 and immediately afterwards. The group of French refugees from France and Santo Domingo who established themselves in Wilmington during the 1790's, together with a subsequent trickling of immigrants from European countries and from other States are not credited with having materially altered the racial proportions up to the time, 1845-46, that famines in Ireland started the "great exodus of the Irish race."

*not the same as p. 106 ff.*

*112, 216*

The Federal census for 1860 showed 9,165 foreign-born persons in Delaware, of which number 5,832 were from Ireland, 1,581 from England, and 1,263 from "German States." These actual figures as to racial content of the population, were still remarkably the same in 1880, notwithstanding an addition of 34,392 to the total number of inhabitants. The Germans as well as the English and Irish became quickly assimilated with the older inhabitants, and the noteworthy additions to the long-standing racial strains occurred during the past half century.

Construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad through the northern part of the State (1883-86), plus increased building



and industrial advancement attracted 1,527 Poles and about 300 each of Swedes and Russians and raised the foreign-born Italian population from 43 to 1,122 between 1880 and 1900. The same period marked the arrival of over 1,000 Germans, while percentages of other foreign-born groups remained nearly stationary.

The 1930 census shows 16,885, or 7.1 percent of the total (238,380) population to be foreign-born whites; 33,785, or 14.2 percent to be native-born whites of foreign or mixed parentage. In both of these categories the countries represented by more than 500 persons are: Italy, 10,285; Irish Free State and Northern Ireland, 9,648; Poland, 8,939; Germany, 5,560; England, 4,199; Russia, 3,488; Scotland, 1,380; Austria, 1,192; Canada, 1,146; Sweden, 718; Greece, 604; and France, 543. All other countries -- and there are more than a dozen -- are represented by only 2,698 whites. The same census shows a total of only 84 Chinese, Mexicans, Filipinos, Japanese and Indians. Negroes constitute 13.7 percent and native white offspring of native parents, 65 percent of the total population.

The Italians have come from both North and South Italy, so while it is impossible to portray them in one typical picture it can be said that they do not retain here the wide differences in behavior which exist between the natives of Milan and Palermo; for instance the long-headed, dark Calabrians and Sicilians from South Italy appear to have overcome their violent tendencies. "Little Italy," with an area of twenty small city blocks, containing more than one-half the Italian population of Wilmington, is extremely American compared to the New York "Bowery Colony of Italians." With homes and styles of dress as clues, it is doubtful whether a stranger could even find "Little Italy," for on the



surface it does not appear different from other average sections of the city. Unlike their countrymen in large industrial cities of other States, the Italians in Delaware are seldom fired with the single desire of acquiring enough wealth for the purpose of returning to Italy to stay; and their spirit of contentedness together with family responsibility tends to assist the State program of Americanization. While Italian women are chiefly concerned with home and church, the men are employed mostly as barbers, building contractors, cobblers, confectioners, quarrymen, stonecutters, and tailors. Some of their fruit and vegetable stores in Wilmington are operated on a wholesale or commission basis, but if it were not for a few druggists, policemen, lawyers, and physicians, they would occupy hardly any professional positions of responsibility. However, many of the older Italians, who were well educated in Italy, have had an influence upon educational interests here. Many of the younger generation are being given high<sup>er</sup> education than is offered by the ordinary public schools and it is presumed that they will give a final Americanizing touch to "Little Italy," where even in this year several young men politely answered, "I don't know; I'm American," when asked some questions pertaining to Italy.

Polish residents of Wilmington occupy crowded rows of modest homes, generally neat on the exterior and immaculate in the interior. The fastidious attention to neatness by these Poles from West Prussia is comparable only to that of the Ukrainians from Polish Galicia, and inasmuch as it does not conform to the general picture of these Slavic peoples it is an item worthy of record. The Poles were agriculturists before coming to Delaware, but it is now difficult to find a Polish family looking to the soil for



livelihood. Instead, the men are employed in shipyards and similar mechanical industries, the women work in textile shops, and large numbers of both toil in morocco factories. They also own and operate many stores and barrooms. A stranger by race who enters a Polish home may find the parents reticent and retiring, but should he impress them favorably he may find himself enveloped in a delightful air of congeniality, and be as genuinely made welcome as a distinguished visitor of their own race. The men, and sometimes the women, like to indulge in small games of chance and to some extent in intoxicants, nevertheless the Poles "pay their way"; most of them own their homes. Through hereditary skill and experience in textile shops, many of the women, especially the grown girls, make and alter their own clothes in accordance with current styles and embroider articles of intricate beauty for the home. In general, the Poles worry little about political and governmental doings. Yet they maintain institutions (Polish Library Association, Wilmington; Polish Orphanage, Ogletown) for example, which offer to the people recreational facilities and urgently-needed social assistance. The textile workers express a wish for new Federal legislation along the lines of the NRA. Poles possess a pleasing racial pride. Every year they honor Casimir Pulaski and their greater countryman, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who went home to oppose the "Benevolent Despots" after assisting George Washington in America.

In Delaware, as elsewhere a common problem among the foreign-born groups is disagreement between parents and children. Being able to speak English and having associated with American children, the children of the foreign-born are disposed to rebel against the strict home discipline of Europeans. They may even consider



themselves superior to their parents in every respect. This and a variety of other problems are being dealt with successfully from year to year by the Division of Adult Education and the Service Bureau for Foreign Born People, agencies through which the State conducts an elaborate program designed to orient the foreign-born and to promote a domestic and communal harmony that makes them immensely more useful to the country than those who are merely citizens on paper.

The undetermined number of persons who have come to reside in Delaware during the past few years, in order to continue in the employment of companies entering the State to take advantage of low terms of taxation, live mostly in and about Wilmington. Although increasing the population, they are not noticeably changing the racial picture.

#### Moors

Along part of the north shore of Indian River and Bay, and in a small settlement near Cheswold that is an offspring of the Indian River group, live Delawareans whose admixture of racial strains has not been determined with certainty. For generations they have called themselves Moors from traditions of origin that include the marriage of a Moorish prince, saved from the wreck of a Spanish privateer, with an Indian maiden, or marriage with the Indian maidens by the children of a Moorish prince, or slave, and an Irish lady of culture and breeding. In another version, the lady of Irish extraction bought a handsome Negro slave by whom she had several children, who could not marry among the whites so they married Indians. The Indian strain, from a remnant of the Nanticoke tribe in southern Delaware, is marked in many of



these people. In a very few, kinky hair and broad features indicate a negroid strain. But though the color of the skin varies from white to so dark a brown as to look negroid, the features, hair, and physical built are no different from that of the descendants of Anglo-Saxons who make up the white population -- unless it is in being generally more robust and fine looking. They are chiefly farmers owning their own land, a self-reliant serene and kindly people. In spite of their often white skin and caucasian of features, they are regarded by their neighbors as a superior class of negroes. Partly within and partly separate from this group are the members of the Nanticoke Indian Association belonging to a few families in whose traditions and customs Dr. Frank G. Speck recognized indications of Nanticoke ancestry (see Tour .....).

### The Negro

The Negro has represented a substantial part of the population of Delaware since the time of the Penns. The first census, taken in 1790 showed that 21 percent of the population was of that race. At the time of the Civil War the percentage had increased to 25 percent, and today 13.7 percent of the people are Negroes, approximately one of every seven persons.

As a worker the Negro fills an important place in the local economy. Approximately 60 of every 100 Negroes of working age in the State were gainfully employed in 1930. Of these, 21 of each 100 were in agriculture; 20 in manufacturing and mercantile industries, 12 in transportation, 6 in fisheries, 1 in mining, 1 clerical and 33 in personal and domestic service. Women were en-



gaged principally as domestics, although many were teachers, clerks, beauty shop operators and assistants. Of Delaware farm workers, 21 percent were Negroes, and of the 10,381 farms in Delaware in 1935, 827 were owned or tenanted by members of that race. Fifty percent of all persons engaged in domestic service and 35 percent of those in road construction were Negroes, the latter two classifications containing the greatest number of Negro workers. In industry, the foundries and blast furnaces employ the highest percentage. The skilled Negro is now welcome as a member in several trade unions and in a few occupations he is paid the same wages as white workers, but the majority of males are engaged as laborers and receive very low wages.

The first Negro to appear in Delaware was Anthony, "an Angoler or Moor," who arrived the first year of Swedish occupancy as the sole prize of a freebooting expedition to the West Indies by the Grippen after that ship had assisted in bringing over the first Swedes. Anthony was the only slave in the Swedish colony. The Dutch, who followed, used slaves on the Delaware chiefly as personal servants of a few of the officers. Court records indicate the presence of a number of slaves during the Duke of York's period. William Penn and the Quakers appreciated the value of slave labor, and although they later became zealous in their efforts to stamp out slavery, they were responsible for bringing large numbers of Negroes to Pennsylvania of which Delaware was then a part. Other English including those who came from Maryland and Virginia either brought slaves with them or purchased them after their arrival. The first census in 1790 showed 59,094 inhabitants of whom 12,786 were Negroes.

The free, or manumitted Negro also made his appearance very



early. In 1682, a Sussex County slaveholder agreed to manumit his slave, "Black Will," as may be seen in the following copy of the document:

"Where As William Clark did buy ... an negor man Called and known by the name of black Will for and during his natrill Life; never the Less the said William Clark doe for the Incourigment of the sd neagor servant hereby promise Covenant and Agree; that if the said Black Will doe well and Truely sarve the said William Clark ... five years ... then the said Black Will shall be Clear and free of and from Any further or Longer Sarvice time or Slavery ... as withniss my hand this Thurteenth day of ... June Anno: Din; 1682."

This instrument is typical of many that were to follow. Records of Old Swedes Church at Wilmington show that a free Negro, "Dick," mixed the mortar and carried it to the mason, Joseph Yard, when the church was built in 1698.

The Society of Friends, from the time of its beginning, opposed slavery and urged its members to set their slaves free. Individuals freed their slaves because of unwillingness to support them when they had outlived their usefulness, or when, because of sickness or accident they were unable to perform their duties. So many were liberated for these reasons, that a law was passed requiring the owner to give bond in the sum of thirty pounds to indemnify the county against its being compelled to support and perhaps bury such Negroes.

Of the 12,786 Negroes in the State, in 1790, 8,887 were slaves and 3,899 were free. Ten years later, 6,163 were slaves and 8,268 free. At the beginning of the Civil war the number of slaves had been reduced to 1798, while free Negroes numbered 19,827.

Efforts to curtail the slave traffic were made as early as 1700, before the assembly of the Three Lower Counties had withdrawn from the Province of Pennsylvania. A duty of twenty shillings was laid on each slave brought into the colony. This duty was



continued and increased from time to time. In 1773 it reached its highest amount, twenty pounds. The first Act, imposing the duty, stated as a reason that "divers Plots and Insurrections have frequently happened ... by Negroes, which have been carried on so far that several of the inhabitants have been barbarously Murthered..." This fear of insurrection persisted for years and was responsible for numerous Acts of the Three Lower Counties, designed to keep the Negro within bounds, to prevent his assembling in groups, or to own firearms. As late as 1832 the Legislature enacted a law to disarm free Negroes and Mulattoes and to prevent them from holding even religious meetings of over twelve persons, except under the direction of three responsible white persons.

The efforts of the British to enlist Negroes in their army, the continued fears of a Negro uprising and the belief of many local citizens that slavery as an institution should be abolished, led to the inclusion in the first State Constitution, 1776, of a clause declaring that "No person hereafter imported into this State from Africa ought to be held in slavery under any pretence whatever, and no Negro, Indian, or Mulatto slave ought to be brought into this State, for sale, from any part of the World." The clause did not actually prohibit slavery or the importation of slaves; when a new State Constitution was adopted in 1792, the subject was not mentioned.

By the law of 1787 any person bringing a slave into the State was subject to a fine of twenty pounds and the slave declared free. Free Negroes and Mulattoes could not be exported without a permit. They could not vote, be elected to office, give evidence in court, or enjoy any other rights of a freeman other than to hold property and to obtain redress in law and equity.



As far back as 1723 slaves sold for as high as forty-five pounds. When the Rev. Samuel Hesselius, the new pastor of Old Swedes Church desired a Negress as a servant, fifty acres of the church lands were sold for forty pounds and Hesselius paid the other five pounds to secure her. Eighteen years later, however, when she became "old and contrary," she was sold at public auction for seven shillings.

Following the War of 1812, when ordinary farm servants in the South were valued at from \$800 to \$1,000, and mechanics at as high as \$2,000, these prices and the lack of an adequate Delaware police force, led to the kidnapping of Negroes here, both slave and free. Negroes were slipped over the line into Maryland and sold to the planters of that State and Virginia. Patty Cannon and her son-in-law, Joe Johnson, were active in this work. (See Tour). The Legislature passed an act in 1819, and another in 1826, to restrain kidnapping and punish violators. Penalties were severe, including imprisonment, whipping, standing in the pillory with both ears nailed thereto, after which "the soft part of both ears to be cut off."

Thousands of slaves escaped from bondage during the half century preceding the Civil War via the "Underground Railroad." Thomas Garrett, a Wilmington Quaker, was the most prominent of those who handled the affairs of the "road" in Delaware (See History). His records, containing names and dates, showed that more than 2700 Negroes found freedom through his efforts.

An early Delaware Negro was Adoniram Abrahams, born in Seaford Hundred in 1686. He was considered the best educated member of his race, and, later in life, formed a society for the uplift of the Negro in Philadelphia, which built the first colored



Episcopal Church in America. Richard Allen, founder of the African M. E. Church, the first Negro to preach a sermon in Wilmington, 1783, was a Delawarean. Born a slave of Benjamin Chew of Philadelphia, Allen as a young child was sold with his family to a planter near Dover where he grew to manhood. Peter Spencer, a prominent Wilmington Negro founded one of the first churches in the country completely controlled by Negroes.

Slaves were admitted into the churches of Delaware very early. The Rev. Hugh Neill, of the Episcopal Church at Dover, in 1750 reported, "But what gives me the greatest concern is my poor negro flock. I have baptised within the last half year of them 36 adults. Each of them say the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, with a good part of the catechism, although few can read." Pews were set apart for their use. At Barratt's Chapel, near Frederica, they were in the gallery. At Asbury Church, in Wilmington, they were in the rear of the first-floor auditorium. When the church was first organized, 19 of the first 49 members were Negroes. Of the 39 members of Old Drawyers, near Odessa in 1807, 8 were Negroes.

Details of early attempts to educate the free Negro are unknown. The first directory of Wilmington, published in 1814, shows a school for Negroes on Shipley Street between Fifth and Sixth, and two years later the African School Society, a group of Quakers, purchased a piece of land on Sixth Street between Tatnall and West Streets and built a school for Negroes at a cost of \$800. Other schools, some private, existed at various points in the city, but as late as 1866, there were only seven schools for Negroes in the State, three in Wilmington, one at Newport, one at Odessa and two at Camden. One school at 1003 Orange Street, in Wilmington, contained six rooms and seated three hundred pupils.



Following the formation of the Freedman's Bureau, a Government Agency, after the Civil War, interested Wilmington citizens formed an organization known as the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the Colored People. Its activities resulted in an immediate increase in the number of Negro schools. Within six months fourteen schools were opened with an aggregate of more than seven hundred pupils. Teachers' salaries, averaging about \$14.00 per month, were paid from funds of the association, and Negroes in the vicinity of the schools boarded the teacher and paid the incidental expenses of the schools.

The association was also responsible for the erection of the Howard School in Wilmington. It secured a contribution of \$5,000 from the Freedman's Bureau of which General Oliver Otis Howard was commissioner, which was matched by City Council, and the school was erected on Orange Street above Twelfth. Beginning in 1921 private means and a reorganized public school system put educational opportunities for the Negro on an equality with those for white children (see Education).

Of the thirty-two thousand Negroes in the State today, fewer than two-fifths live in urban areas, leaving the remainder scattered throughout the rural districts.

There is the widest possible divergence of physical types, color, and cultural status. There is the "typical" Negro, as distinctive as the true African, and there is another so fair that no lay person could with certainty identify his racial origin. There are cultural differences that range from the illiterate, shuffling, lazy and dull-witted toiler on the farm to honor scholars in the Nation's leading universities, and Doctors of Philosophy.



There are thugs, murderers, thieves, prostitutes, and the humble, honest, hardworking citizen. There are "middle-class" ordinary working folk; there is the "climber"; those ashamed of their race, and those proud of it. There are teachers, preachers, doctors, lawyers, editors, writers, business men, as well as porters, day laborers, cooks, laundresses, charwomen, and beauticians. Each class has its good, bad, and indifferent.

White Delaware, in general, places all Negroes together and makes few, if any allowances for class or other distinction. Prejudice and color line are the unifying factors. Yet it is only when they face white Delaware that the Delaware Negro may be viewed as a composite. The treatment to which they are subjected varies greatly between Wilmington and the southern tip of the State. One common barrier they experience is that nowhere in Delaware is a Negro free in the same sense of the word as a white person. He may be rich or poor, intelligent or ignorant, but he must bear to some degree the stigma of belonging to an "inferior race."

It is generally thought that the whole moral tone of Delaware Negro life is low, and it is also assumed that he furnishes more than his share of crime, vice, illegitimacy, and juvenile delinquency. Negroes are presumed to be particularly prone to sex promiscuity, to slashings, and petty theft; other assumptions are that his family life is a wholly unstable institution and that Negro women are seldom virtuous. This is the broad indictment that the Negro of Delaware faces. The further assumption that the Negro is by nature a criminal because of African racial traits makes the indictment all the heavier. There seem to be no facts to support the theory that the Negro is criminal because of African heritage or racial custom, and the more logical explanation would



be to attribute alleged criminal tendencies to slavery, and to the fact that the conditions under which the Negro is forced to live make it hard to maintain a high standard of moral conduct. In other words, any such tendencies, should they prove to exist, are more certainly defects of environment than of heredity.

Figures, often quoted as evidence of Negro crime proclivities, are in many instances misleading. In most towns of the State, accurate crime records are not kept, and there is the disposition to arrest Negroes more freely than whites, to convict them more readily, and to give them longer sentences. It is also true that most of Delaware's Negro crime occurs in the group at the lowest income level.

Other important factors in the Delaware Negro's crime record are overcrowding, segregation, the abnormally high number of Negro mothers who "work out," scarcity of parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, and a failure in Delaware to provide adequate institutional supervision for colored juvenile offenders, delinquent girls, feeble-minded persons and other defectives.

Among the middle and upper class of Negroes there is no more vice, crime, delinquency or family disorganization than among corresponding whites. Unfortunately, the Delaware Negro in this class is seldom known to the white, and the whole group in respect to crime is judged by the behavior of its weaker members.

The Delaware Negro occupies a unique position in the race's docket. In such a "border" State, he is submitted to a combination of feeling which includes both northern and southern prejudices. Delaware is the first State proceeding southward on the Atlantic Coast that segregates the Negro in schools and public gatherings. A few miles to the North, he shares these privileges almost to



the same degree as his blonde fellow-citizen. In Delaware he has his own school, church, lodge, and theatre, and he dare not attempt to enter any motion picture house or the smallest lunchrooms patronized by whites; his progress is barred at the door. Yet he is far enough North to escape the feeling of race-hatred that prevails in the South.

His home is not the well-appointed one of the Southern Negro, yet he has in some instances secured a comfortable domicile. Throughout the State, thrifty Negroes have by shrewd managing bought houses and farms. Yet this is not true of the mass since even today the average Delaware Negro is without a semblance of modern living quarters.

It has been brought to the attention of housing officials that the Negro actually pays \$5 or \$6 per week for homes which are without ordinary conveniences or adequate sanitation. Still others, unable to pay the high rents, secure quarters by "doubling up," and many who do not "double up" live in cheap rent areas, usually tenement dwellings.

A study of the amounts paid for rent by Negroes in comparison with their incomes shows a great disparity. It is general knowledge that Negroes pay rent in excess of their proportionate ability in terms of yearly incomes. This same disparity has prevented the wholesale purchasing of homes by Negroes and accounts for the low home ownership percentage of the group in Delaware. Especially true is the aforementioned when applied to the urban Negro; in his case, cost of real estate has kept the Negro home ownership percentage down to a negligible one. At variance with the urban Negro's hapless position, the rural Negro has real estate holdings far in excess of his city brother. This is true primarily because the



respective prices are vastly different, and in most cases the rural Negro has the advantage of securing better properties at attractive prices.

Another condition that <sup>?</sup>mitigates against Negroes possessing proper housing accommodations in urban areas is the reluctance of whites to live in the same neighborhood. The entrance of a Negro family into a heretofore "lily-white" neighborhood places a "blight" upon the vicinity, which results in an exodus of the white families and a decrease in the valuation of the properties. Thus, Negroes seldom get to live in modern homes unless they are able to build or remodel after the departure of the previous tenants.

In the matter of housing, the Negro of Delaware suffers the same difficulties as other low income groups, plus those added by enforced segregation. In the towns he is herded in squalid flats without proper water supply and heating, with insufficient sanitary facilities, and overcrowding. In the smaller towns where conditions are less crowded, paving, sewerage, street cleaning and garbage removal usually stop where the Negro quarters begins.

The present economic position of the Delaware Negro is not particularly bright. The recent economic upheaval has resulted in his being shunted on to the relief rolls by virtue of his being replaced in industry by whites. The current procedure in the State is the replacement of Negro help when and wherever possible. This practice has served to increase the usual percentage of unemployment of the group and the economic standard of the Negro has declined drastically. In Delaware a Negro may be employed to drive a private car but he cannot drive a milk wagon, he may be a policeman, but he cannot be a fireman (Delaware had two colored patrolmen).



The Negro shares all the hardships of other low income groups, with the added disadvantages that certain jobs are closed to him, that white workers are given preference in some fields, and further that residential segregation creates a problem of transportation and family disorganization. As result of the above, his relief figures have increased and he is faced with the burden of proving that the explanation is not to be found in racial habits.

It is far from fair to say that the burden of the Negro in Delaware is all of the white man's making. The Negro has been ready too often to slip into roles of dependence and to follow the line of least resistance. Many thoughtful white people have been baffled by the Negro's easy acceptance of injustices, by his tendency to place his failures at the door of prejudice instead of placing it to his own inefficiency where it many times belongs. He has too often sat waiting for a white man to give him rights and recognition that men gain only by self-effort. He is widely known for distrusting his own people and meekly accepting the dominant group's opinion that anything white is better than anything black.

He has appealed to his race for support without having anything to offer. In his dealings with the Delaware white he has upon numerous occasions sold his rights and heritage for a mess of pottage. These persons known to their race as "Uncle Tom's" are themselves one of the Delaware Negro's heaviest burdens.

Yet in recognizing the loads which the Delaware Negroes lay upon their own shoulders, the sins which the white man must answer for should not be minimized. Flattery, clowning, and treachery have frequently been the white man's price and the Delaware Negro has had it to pay in order to survive. Often in



Delaware the Negro has had to submit to discriminations or do without those things necessary for a normal development.

Faced with the task of trying to change an unjust and undesirable system, the Delaware Negro finds himself curiously trapped. He cannot become identified with Delaware life nor can he wholly withdraw from it. Segregation and discrimination help to keep him poor and ignorant, while poverty and ignorance are used to justify differential treatment.

Generally speaking the social position of the Negro in Delaware is above that of Negroes in other border States and equal to that of the Negro in the Northern States. Actually he occupies a unique position in that apparently he enjoys the freedom of the North yet on the other hand his position is more nearly identical with that of the Southern Negro. However, it may be said that proscription is not the impenetrable bulwark in Delaware that it is in the South. In Delaware, the Negro because of traditions, has established a definite niche in which he uncomplainingly remains.

Whether this acquiescence to conditions as they are has hurt the Negro or not is a moot question among the negroes themselves. Race leaders of the State take various stands on the question. The most popular trends of opposing thought are those for "racial isolation" and for "racial dispersion." The former argues that the Negro can develop far better as an integral unit in national life, and the "dispersionists" advance the thought that through intermingling greater benefits will accrue.

The Negro of Delaware enjoys the privilege of suffrage franchise which is in direct variance with the Negro of the South, in most instances. In the past, political propagandists have had a firm hold on the vote of the Delaware Negro.

Within the past few years leaders among the race, long concerned and active for the betterment of environment and of cultural and economic opportunities, have redoubled their efforts. The more liberal attitude throughout the nation that includes the Negro in the general programs of advancement has been their inspiration along with the increasing achievements culturally of individual local Negroes. Among the generation now in its twenties and thirties, dramatic, artistic, and musical talent has compelled by its own merit a spontaneous recognition free from race discrimination. Notable is the work of Edward Loper, artist of the Federal Art Project, whose painting, After a Shower won honorable mention in a recent exhibition of the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts, and was bought by the Society for its permanent collection.



Submitted by James R. Allen,

April 6, 1938.

### Russians In Delaware Since 1850

1850. There was only one foreign born Russian in Delaware at the time of taking the census in 1850. (The Seventh Census of the United States. Table 15. Page 36.)
1860. The census taken in 1860 showed a gain of only one foreign born Russians in Delaware. That year there ~~were~~ two such persons residing in Delaware. (Population of the United States in 1860. Table 5. Page 48).
1870. There were three foreign born Russians in Delaware. (The Statistics of the Population of the United States. 1870. Table 6. Pages 336 to 342 Inclusive.)
1880. There were nine foreign born Russians in Delaware. (Statistics of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census. Table 12. Pages 490 to 495 Inclusive.)
1890. During the ten year period from 1880 there was a noticeable increase in the foreign born Russian population in Delaware. In the year 1890 there were 197 such persons residing in Delaware. (Abstract of the Eleventh Census. Table 10. Pages 36 to 39 inclusive.)
1900. There were three hundred and eighty foreign born Russians in Delaware. (Census Report. Twelfth Census. Population. Part I. Table 34. Page 741.)
1910. There were 3,428 foreign born Russians and 1999 persons born of Russian parentage residing in Delaware. (Population. Volume II. 1910. Table 5. Page 277.)

1920. There were four thousand two hundred and twenty-six foreign born Russians in Delaware. (Fourteenth Census of the United States. Table 6. Page 171.)

1930. There were fourteen hundred and fifty foreign born Russians in Delaware. (Population. Volume II. Fifteenth Census of the United States. Pages 234 to 236 inclusive. Table 5.)



Submitted by James R. Allen,

March 29, 1938.

### Polish Population

Over 125 Poles, or Americans of Polish origin fought in the American Army for the freedom of the New World between 1775 and 1783. (Poland and the American Revolutionary War. Miecislaus Haiman. Chicago. The Polish Catholic Union of America. 1932. Page 65.)

### Polish Population in Delaware from 1850.

In 1850 there were 28 foreign born Polish people in Delaware.

In 1860 there were 5 foreign born Polish people in Delaware.

In 1870 there were 4 foreign born Polish people in Delaware.

In 1880 there were 8 foreign born Polish people in Delaware.

In 1890 there were 337 foreign born Polish people in Delaware.

In 1900 there were 1527 Polish people in Delaware, of which 553 were foreign born.

In 1910 the Polish population was not listed separately, but under the Nation which controlled them, such as Germany, Russia and Etc.

In 1920 there were 7599 Polish people in Delaware, of which 3847 were foreign born.

In 1930 there were 2954 foreign born Polish people in Delaware.

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Robert Armstrong, Public Printer. Table 15. Page 36.

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Submitted by James R. Allen,

March 30, 1938.

Swedish Population After 1850.

1850. There were two foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (The Seventh Census of the United States. Table 5. Page 36. )
1860. There were eight foreign born Swedes in Delaware. ( Population in the United States in 1860. Table 5. Page 48. )
1870. There were nine foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (The Statistics of the Population of the United States. Table 6. Pages 336 to 342. )
1880. There were Seventy-one foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (Statistics of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census. Table 12. Pages 490 to 495 Incl. )
1890. There were two hundred and forty-six foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (Abstract of the Eleventh Census. Table 10. Pages 36 to 39 Incl. )
1900. There were three hundred and two foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (Census Report. Twelfth Census of the United States. Population. Part I. Table 34. Page 741. )
1910. There were three hundred and thirty-two foreign born, and two hundred and ninety-two native born, Swedes in Delaware. (Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Population. Volume II. Table 5. Page 277. )
1920. There were five hundred and thirty-nine foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (Fourteenth Census of the United States. Population. Volume II. Table 6. Page 171. )
1930. There were two hundred and ninety-four foreign born Swedes in Delaware. (Abstract of the Census. Table 62. Page 133. )

April 6, 1938.

NORWEIGENS IN DELAWARE SINCE 1850.

880. The first record of people from Norway residing in Delaware was made in the Census of 1880. In that year there were six foreign born Norweigans residing in Delaware. (Statistics of the Population of the Tenth Census. Table 12. Pages 490 to 495. Government Printing Office. 1883).
890. There were fourteen foreign born Norweigans residing in Delaware. (Abstract of the Eleventh Census. Table 10. Pages 36 to 39 Incl. Washington. Government Printing Office. 1894).
10. There were thirty-eight foreign born Norweigans in Delaware. (Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Population. Volume II. 1910. Washington. Government Printing Office. 1913. Table 5. Page 277).
30. There were one hundred and forty-one foreign born Norweigans in Delaware. (U. S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States. Population. Volume II. 1930. United States Government Printing Office. 1933.)



# Racial Strains

*Old Duplicates* File S-230

241

Location - State Wide

Submitted by - Franklin Pote

Date - March 23, 1936

*State Project*

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

*Early French*

"In France, Louis XIV, in 1679, renewed the persecution of the Protestants, and on October 18, 1685, revoked the famous Edict of Nantes, by which Henry IV of blessed memory had granted toleration of the reformed religion. Then followed the migration of the Huguenots that impoverishing France enriched with their best blood the nations who granted them refuge. Out of a million and a half of French Protestants, five hundred thousand fled the country. On that rock the French king went shipwreck. Writing of 1707, twenty-two years later, Lecky says: "The persecution of the Protestants, which had driven a vast part of her capital and commercial energy to other lands, even more than the distress of many years of desperate warfare, aggravated by financial incapacity, had at length broken the proud spirit, which had aimed at nothing short of complete ascendancy in Europe."

To that migration we owe the many French families that settled here and who constituted the congregation of 1708. No finer ingredients could enter into the original stock or help lay in an enduring structure the foundation of a state. Not many, so far as we know, but some at least, of the German migration came to Delaware. No part of Germany was more fertile, or with a civilization more highly developed than the Protestant Palatinate, bordering on the Rhine.

Thrice was it deliberately and cruelly ravaged by the Marshals of France; first by Turenne, in 1674, next by Duras, in 1689, and last by the Duke of Lorges, in 1695. Macaulay says, "Duras received orders to turn one of the fairest regions of Europe into a wilderness. The ravages by Turenne, though they have left a deep stain on his glory, were mere sport in comparison with the horrors of this second devastation." That by Lorges in 1695 was equally dreadful. The country, which, however, made the largest contribution of Presbyterians to America, if not to Drawyers, was Ireland. It took both starvation and persecution to drive those hardy forebears of ours from their homes to the wilderness. The facts are all the more singular when it is remembered that the people thus expelled constituted a large part of the Protestant garrison in Ireland. For a time beyond the memory of man the North of Ireland had been peopled from Scotland, their shores being within sight. But with the reign of James I, in 1603, the movement became larger. It was greatly increased after Cromwell's devastations, and these Scotch-Irish were Presbyterians all. The established church drew its strength, of course, from the English, but impartiality against all Ireland, whether Catholic, Presbyterian or Episcopalian the commercial selfishness of England levelled its successive blows. Up to the time of the restoration no legislative disability rested on Irish industry, but between 1665 and 1680 all exportations of Irish cattle, sheep or swine, or their products into England were forbidden. In 1696, all importations from the colonies into Ireland was prohibited. The Irish then, turned their efforts to wool, but in 1694 exportation of Irish manufactured wool to any country whatever



was prohibited. Of this Lecky says: "So ended the fairest promise Ireland had ever known of becoming a prosperous and happy country. The ruin was absolute and final." During the same period, however, the religious oppression was equally vigorous. By the famous "Test Act" of 1673, to take the oath of allegiance and supremacy, was made a condition of holding office, civil or military, or of owning property in corporate towns. A special section for Ireland provided that no person should have the benefit of the act who did not conform to the Church of Ireland as by law established. On the death of a Protestant land owner, the right of an heir, if a Presbyterian, passed over to a more remote member of the established church. At last, after George I came on the throne, a Lutheran in religion, the Whigs, who were again in control of the English government, were anxious to grant the dissenters of Ireland relief; so in 1719 a bill to repeal the sacramental test clause was introduced into the Irish Parliament. Instead of passing it in that form and thus granting the relief sought, it was made even more oppressive. An amendment merely gave the non-conformists a bare permission to meet for worship in their own chapels, while the tests were sternly upheld, and in this form it became a law. For nearly fifty years had the Presbyterians of Ireland, writhed under the Test Act and its opposition exercised by the bishops. Under a Lutheran king and an English Whig ministry, at last they hoped for relief. Incapacitated from holding public employment, or any office above a petty constable, their marriages invalid, and forbidden to

open a single school, they asked for bread and got a stone. And now, as Froude says: "And now commenced the Protestant emigration which robbed Ireland of the bravest defenders of English interest, and peopled American seaboard with fresh flights of Puritans. Twenty thousand left Ulster on the destruction of the woolen trade. Many more were driven away by the first passage of the Test Act. The stream had slackened in the hope that the law would be altered. When the prospect finally closed, men of spirit and energy refused to remain in a country where they were held unfit to receive the rights of citizenship; and thereupon, until the spell of tyranny was broken in 1776, annual shiploads of families poured themselves out from Belfast and Londonderry. The resentment, which they carried with them, continued to burn in their homes; and in the War of Independence, England had no fiercer enemies than the sons and grandsons of the Presbyterians who had held Ulster against Tyrconnel."

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#975.1  
H 62



File W-270

Submitted by Kenneth A. Hornor,

Date - - - April 6, 1936.

ETHNOLOGY

Wilmington was settled largely as a result of religious persecution in England. The Quakers and Scotch-Irish were about equally divided at the time the community received its borough charter, and their descendants as well as those of other English who settled in the locality predominate among the present inhabitants.

After the French revolution <sup>(1789-1799)</sup> and following a negro uprising in St. Domingo, in 1791, the first Catholics and the French, the first nationalities other than British, arrived. The community remained distinctly English <sup>however</sup> for a century and a half.

The development of the railroads and the great western surge resulted in a rapid expansion of Wilmington industry and brought to the city a large number of immigrants from North and South Europe who worked in the foundries, rolling mills, car building and ship yards. These were largely composed of Swedes and Italians. The latter came in large numbers in the early 1880's. Poles, who now comprise about five per cent of the population, began to settle in the community about the end of the century.

The development of the chain-store system of merchandising in the early part of the twentieth century forced out of business hundreds of American merchants who had formerly owned and operated their own establishments. Their places were taken largely by Jews, who through their industry and frugality and the Jewish trait of existing under the severest persecution, were able to withstand the

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economic onslaughts of Wall Street controlled monopoly. Census figures for the State of Delaware for 1927 (latest figures available) show 5,310 Jews in Delaware, most of whom reside in Wilmington.

Many restaurants and candy stores are operated by Greeks; Italians are engaged, in a large part, in the fruit and vegetable business, but it is safe to estimate that approximately 75 per cent of all retail business is conducted by Jews.

Nearly 25% of the inhabitants are either foreign born or of foreign or mixed parentage. Of a population of 106,597; 25,029 are classified in this manner. Foreign born number 12,592; negro 12,080; aliens, not naturalized 3,771.

Of the foreign born, Italians predominate with 3,041; Poles follow with 2,647; Irish 1,780 and Russians 1,226.



International labour office

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### Ethnology

Aside from the native whites, the largest racial group in Delaware is the Negro. They number 32,602 or 13.7% of the population. They were first brought to this State as slaves. The first one mentioned was Anthony, brought from the West Indies in 1639.

The State maintains separate schools for Negroes. There is a State State College for colored students, two miles north of Dover. The Negro is represented in the different professions. A good many of the women are employed as domestics. The men are employed as farm hands, in industrial plants, in general labor, and a number are commercial and private chauffeurs.

### British Isles and Canada

About 7% of the population are British and Canadian. They are mingled with the earlier residents and do not compose a distinctive group.

### Italians.

The Italians comprise about 4.3% of the population. They first came to the state in large numbers in the years 1882 and 1883. The majority of them are employed in the contracting and building trades. Most of the barber shops in Wilmington are operated by Italians. Fruit and vegetable stores, and shoe repair shops operated by Italians are numerous. There is an Italian consulate in Wilmington, located at 818 West Fourth Street. The district from West Fourth Street to Pennsylvania Avenue west of duPont Street in Wilmington, is so occupied by Italians, as to be known as "Little Italy."

### Poles

Of the population of Delaware about 3.7% are Polish, and practically all reside in Wilmington, the majority in "Browntown," bounded

by Maryland Avenue, Lancaster Avenue and Broome Street. Over thirty years ago these people came from West Prussia. There is a smaller colony of later origin around Old Swedes Church. Though these people were all employed in tilling the soil before coming to America, practically none work on farms in this State. They are employed in morocco plants and shipyards. The women work in morocco and other plants, few are employed as domestics. The Poles in this vicinity enjoy dancing and have altered the original steps, making them more distinctive.

#### North Central Europe.

The influx of people from North Central Europe began about 1848 with the Germans. The Austrians and Hungarians who are comparatively few came a little later. For their nationalistic fraternization they depend upon organizations located in Philadelphia, Pa. The Germans have their own societies, and have influenced the public to appreciate high class music. This group is about 3% of the population.

#### Eastern Europe.

This group includes Russia, Lithuania and Latvia, about 1.6% of the population. The greater portion of these are Jews. In South Wilmington there are about thirty-five Russian families, members of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church. They have a chorus of good singers. In the same section of the city there is a larger group of Ukrainians members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They have a good orchestra and dramatic performances are given in their Church Hall.

#### Northwest Europe.

Natives of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Netherlands and Belgium form .65 of our population. They are employed about the same as the native white population.



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### Southwest Europe

France, Spain and Switzerland represent about .4% of our population. They do not materially alter conditions in the state.

### Southeast Europe.

A trifle .3% of the population is from Greece and Roumania. A number of the restaurants in Wilmington are operated by Greeks.

### Oriental.

There are but thirty-eight Chinese in the State. The most of these are laundry-men. The Japanese number eight, and the Filipinos nine.

### Original Inhabitants.

There are but five Indians reported in the State.

### Jews.

There  
There were but few Jews in Delaware prior to 1860. In 1927 the the Jewish population was 5,310 or 2.18%. Most of these are engaged in mercantile business. There are some tailors, and cleaners and dyers.

Kent and Sussex Counties to submit articles on Moors and Nanticoke Indians.

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File # 270

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Note

Dec 30 - 1935

-2-  
ETHNOLOGY-  
JEWS

During the time Derk Smidt was in charge of affairs at Fort Casimir, in 1655, permission was asked and not given to Abraham Lucinna, Salvador de Andrade and Jacob Cohen to trade on the South River. The first Jew definitely known as a resident of Delaware was Solomon Solis, born in Wilmington, March 13, 1819. But few Jews were in the State prior to 1860, when Nathan Liberman located in Wilmington, and his brother Henry in Dover. In 1927 the Jewish population in Delaware was 5310; the majority of these were engaged in mercantile business. The tendency is for advanced education and improved social conditions. There are both Orthodox and Reformed Synagogues in Wilmington.

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Extracts from  
"Old Roads Out of Philadelphia"

by  
John T. Faris

Page 60

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

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

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

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"In 1745, David Bush wrote to Thomas Hopkinson:

"The Country sixty years ago, particular on the Creek & River Side, was settled by Dutch & Sweads which seldom went from the Settlement and when they had occasion to cross the Creeks, their usual method was to swim over their Horses, while they crossed in a Canoe; between forty and fifty years ago, the English beginning to settle and make a figure in the country, and perceiving a real



Continued

necessity for the Safety of Travelers that a Ferry should be Erected, application being made to the Court, then held at Newcastle, for liberty to erect a ferry on Christeen, the Court granted it.

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

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

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

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

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

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



...nued)

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

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

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

G. K. Browning  
HABS  
May 26, 1937

Points of Interest 256  
(complete set of 4 papers  
on Jacquet in State  
Drawer: Biography)

LONG HOOK FARM,

J. Thomas Scharf, "History of Delaware" p- 152 says:

"The History of Taxation in Delaware dates to the administration of Jean Paul (?) Jacquet<sup>t</sup>, who was appointed Vice-Director on South River, Nov. 29, 1655."

P 153: "Peter, Jan and Paull Jacquet" mentioned in the list of taxable persons.

P 613: "Jean Paul Jacquet was appointed Vice-Director of the territory on the Delaware, and assumed command of the fort (evidently Fort Cassimir at New Castle), early in December 1655. He was removed in March, 1657."

P 630: " x x x x x territory now embraced in Wilmington was mostly in five large tracts that about 1671 came into possession of Jean Paul Jacquet" and four other residents under the Dutch, either at New Amstel (New Castle) or at Fort Altona, etc.,"

"Jean Paul Jacquet, who was Vice-Director in 1655-56, was the owner of 'Long Hook', a property on the Christiana, opposite the old town of Wilmington," etc.,

P 855: "On Nov. 29, 1655, Jean Paul Jacquet, who had been in the service of the West India Company, was appointed Vice-Director xxxx and became the founder and first ruler of New Castle."

P 857: March 20, 1657, Jan Schaggen xxxxxx made complaint xxxxx against Vice-Director Jacquet<sup>t</sup> charging the latter drove him from land where he lived with consent of Stuyvesant xxxxxx causing him loss of 1,000 pounds of tobacco. A similar complaint caused his removal from office. Jacquet<sup>t</sup> left office after which he continued to reside at New Amstel several years."



G.K. Browning  
HABS  
May 26, 1937

-2-

Points of Interest  
Long Hook Farm.

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The tract of land, 290 acres, known as Long Hook, lay south from Wilmington and was owned, until about the middle of the present century (17th), by his descendants, of whom Major Peter Jacquet and Captain Peter Jacquet were well known in the Revolution.

The Long Hook Farm traces back to the "York Records" by means of which grants of land were made by the Duke of York to a number of early settlers in Delaware. These records are on file in the Recorder of Deeds Office, Wilmington, that conveying land contained in this farm, although not accurate as to the amount, reads:

"A Confirmation granted to Pauls Jacques (?) for a piece of unmanured land at Delaware:

"Francis Lovelace Esq. & C. Whereas there is a certain piece of unmanured land at Delaware now in yee tenure and occupation of Jean Paul Jacquet conteyning by estimation in woodland and valley or meadow about two hundred acres stretching from ye neck of land where ye sd Jean Paul Jacques now lives in length South South West and North North East and in breadth alongst Christeen Kill, North North West and South South East, behind along by ye land and fence of Peter Claesen and Jan Claesen from ye mill to a great swamp haveing some valley or meadow on both sydes, now for a confirmation unto him ye sd Jean Paul Jacques & c. The patent is dated March 26, 1669. The Quitt rent 2 bushells.

For 11 "

George Fletcher Bennett in "Early Architecture of Delaware" mentions in "Early buildings not included in this volume" etc.,

"Jacquette House, 1763, called 'Long Hook'. Jean Paul Jacquette lived on this tract 1684. Washington and LaFayette often visited here and the house was at all times a social center."

(OTHER REFERENCE JACQUETTE OWNER LONG HOOK)

J. Thomas Scharf's "History of Delaware" p 630, second column, second paragraph, says:

"Jean Paul Jaquette, who was Vice Director in 1655-56, was the owner of "Long Hook", a property on the Christina, opposite the old town of Wilmington, which embraced a tract at the foot of Market Street, east and west."

---

Wilmington's business section, about 800 acres was originally granted to John (Anderson) Stallcop. It was bounded on the North by Stidham's land; on the West by Rattlesnake Run and a line of marked trees; on the South by the Christiana and the meadows and extended eastward."



Reference to Jean Paul Jacquette--

J. Thomas Scharf, "History of Delaware" p 855 says:

On November 29, 1655, Jean Paul Jacquett, who had been in the service of the West India Company, was appointed Vice-Director on the Delaware Bay and River, with full civil and military powers, and became the founder and first ruler of New Castle.

Vice-Director Jacquett took oath of office December 8, 1655 and appointed a council, consisting of Andreas Hudde, who was chosen secretary of the council and surveyor, together with several others.

A letter from the Directors of the West Indies Company, dated Stockholm, November 25, 1664, to Petrus Stuyvesant, Director at New Amsterdam- now New York- says:

"On the ship 'De grote Christoffel' goes over a free man, Jan Paul Jacquet, with his family, and as he is unacquainted in the country and intends to devote himself there to farming, we have not been able to refuse him the desired recommendation, the more so because he has served the company in Brazil for many years; therefore we recommend your Honor to assist him as much as possible, without disadvantage to the Company and after having indicated some suitable place, to allot, under the customary conditions as much land to him as he may be able to cultivate." Jacquette served the company in various capacities on the Delaware. After the capture by the English, in 1664, he became a subject of Great Britain, was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and served until the delivery of the territory to William Penn, in October, 1682. He took up a tract of land containing 290 acres on the south side of Christiana Creek, the warrant for which was granted 22nd of 12th mo. 1664, and lived here many years. The tract was known as Long Hook, lay south from Wilmington and was owned until about the middle of the present century, by his descendants of whom Major Peter Jacquett and Captain Peter Jacquett were well known in the Revolution."



## Long Hook.

Reminiscences of Wilmington by Betsy Montgomery- there are pages devoted to 'LONG HOOK' and the Jaquetts-

The first part of Long Hook, that was built by Jean Paul Jaquet, is made of laths and plaster-two rooms down stairs- four upstairs-the largest room down stairs has the big beams standing out on the sides-almost half the room has an old red hearth of bricks- there is the old time fire place for a spit--two Dutch ovens-with a big twisted brick chimney-and in the room above is a little wooden slide-to push in and out for heat.

The doors down stairs have bars across them. *The ceilings are low* It has low ceiling. There is a little circular stairway-to four small rooms with high ceiling-with small windows very high up-so they could get on something and fire down on the Indians-but the Indian's arrows would go in the little high windows--go over their heads and strike the high ceiling-with the little window ledge high up protected them from the arrows. The little porch Betsy Montgomery speaks of is there just the same. Every thing has been kept just the same as much as possible.

This part of the house joins on to the newer part around 1664. The bricks were brought from England-the flowers <sup>came</sup> from France. Three Mahogany trees-there are only about nine in the Country-the same kind of old trees are still there. There are large rooms in this newer part-marble mantles-secret panel that slides over one of the mantles-mahogany railing on the white stairway- very good cellars- There are four rooms that run the width of the house-some of the boards on the floor-are two feet wide-there are 15 rooms and a bath room- the only thing different is the bath room- and electric lights- I put those in- Some of the things belonging to Long Hook I brought Home so they would be safe- to be put back.



Wm. H. Conner  
J. F. Pote  
June 3, 1937

*Arlington Shaver*  
Points of Interest

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## EDEN PARK

### Chain of Title

It appears that on Nov. 5, 1669, a Pieter Claesen was granted "a certaine lott of ground in Christeene Kill at Delaware" by Governor Francis Lovelace, the "lott" containing about 100 acres. This holding was increased by his descendant, Peter Clawson, to 280 acres, and Peter Clawson by will left the property to his sons, Jasper and John. These sons sold to John Malcolm in 1765.

On July 25, 1780, Malcolm sold to George Haynes, late of the Island of St. Eustatia. Haynes sold to Robert Morris, Sept. 25, 1783, 280 acres "heretofore called and known by the name of Monckton Park now called and known by the name of Eden Park." Price 3,600 pounds. Morris increased the estate to 333 acres, by "Croxall's Elbow Room" and "Croxall's Additional Elbow Room."

Louis Philippe, Count Segur d'Aguesseau (1753-1830) purchased the property August 26, 1791, for 135,000 livres. Segur could not hold land in Delaware at the time, since he was a foreigner, and Morris retained the property in his name. Morris on behalf of Segur conveyed the property, Aug. 5, 1805, to Peter Bauduy. It appears that General Alexandre Bauduy, Peter's brother, owned half of the property, Peter Bauduy giving him a declaration of trust. Peter rented the General's half of the property.

In 1820, Peter Bauduy sold his half to General Bauduy, who thus became sole owner. General Bauduy sold to John Keating, Jr., of Philadelphia, on June 29, 1823, the 333 acres of Eden Park for one dollar and other considerations.

On Feb. 3, 1831, John P. Garesche, son-in-law of Peter Bauduy, purchased the property at sheriff's sale for \$17,000--the acreage having been increased from 333 acres to 353 acres, the "Grave yard" field of 10 acres being included. Garesche sold 25 acres, including the mansion, to Zedock Townsend for \$2,200. (This was called and known in 1787 as "Croxall's Additional Elbow Room").

The Townsend heirs sold to Henry C. Robinson, March 3, 1877, for \$9,400, 11 acres, including the mansion house. Robinson sold, Jan. 23, 1882, to the Lobdell Car Wheel Co. 11 acres for \$15,000. The Lobdell Car Wheel Co. sold to The Mayor and Council, on July 9, 1890, for \$10,000, 7.35 acres. In 1909, 6.07 acres, was purchased by the city, making 13.42 acres in all. The residence was torn down between 1892 and 1895.



January 17, 1938

E. Thompson-Walls

State Inquirer: Rehis

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MARY VINING.

Mary Vining, did play the piano, had one when she lived on the Green, in Dover. The home in which she lived while in Dover, was on the south east corner of the Green, or did stand where the south wing of the State House, now stands.

The piano that was in the home, cannot be located now, but it was believed to have been moved to Wilmington when the Vining family moved from Dover.

Information given by Mrs. Ridgley, who lives at present in the RIDGLEY HOUSE, on the Green, in Dover.

See also, p. 269.

January 17, 1938

E. Thompson-Walls.

EARLY DELAWARE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Mrs. Lydia Warrington Slocomb of #1600 Washington Street, Wilmington, Delaware, is the present owner of a very beautiful old MELODEON, which was made in the year 1795 (or about) by Taite and Davis at New Haven, Conn. Was originally owned by Grandmother Warrington, was later given to her mother, Lydia Warrington, and later her mother gave it to her.

It has been in the family all the time.

The case is made from Rosewood, and is in very fine condition.



January 18, 1938

E. Thompson-Walls.

State Treasurer

Relics

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see also p. 264

EARLY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

IN

DELAWARE

There is a very beautiful, old HARPSICORD, in the Ridgley House, at Dover. This instrument was made in Cheapside, London, England, between 1794 and 1799. Made by Muzio Clementi. The case is made from Rosewood.

Mr. H. M. Ridgley's Grandmother, Sarah Banning Ridgley, was the first owner. This instrument, arrived in Dover in the year of 1807, and has been in the Ridgley family all the time. The serial #2236.

An old Aunt, one rainy day, was making some artificial flowers, and needed some wire to continue her work, so she proceeded to strip the Harpsicord of its wires. Mrs. Ridgley says: "If we ever meet the old Aunt in Heaven, it will not be Heaven for a while."

The above information was given by Mrs. Ridgley, who lives at present, in the Ridgley House, on the Green, in Dover.

COPY

State drawer: 266  
Folder: Relics, Antiques  
etc.

Miss Elizabeth Johnson  
218 Washington Street  
Milford, Delaware

Miss Ellen Samworth  
1502 Lancaster Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware

*See next page*

My dear Miss Samworth:

Miss Draper brought me your letter last night and I apologize for letting the stress of living and the press of circumstances ~~to have~~ delayed writing you the promised letter.

As a family we have been much given to "reminiscing", and consequently there is a considerable body of family tradition garnered by older generations and passed on to the present. The writer is fifty<sup>th</sup> generation in line from the first John Johnson who came to this country from Londonderry, Ireland about 1700; his "stick" (cane) is still in possession of yet another generation, with engraved plate, etc. (Wm. M. Cooper, Salisbury, Md.). The patentee papers were taken out from Lord Baltimore, though the land known as "The Island" - being surrounded by the head waters of the Nanticoke River, - is only ten miles from this town.

Early in the 19th century my great-grandfather, Jas. Johnson, riding the countryside as a surveyor, saw a young red haired man at a wood pile making very awkward attempts to split the wood. He dismounted to talk with the stranger, whose name was Michael Daly, and finding him an educated man, in the near future offered him a home with board if he would use some of his spare time, teaching the children of great grandfather's household. The arrangement proving satisfactory to both parties he was an inmate of the home until his death, and at his own request, was buried in the family



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burying ground. After his death, his certificate from Dublin University was found in his chest; that he was an Irish political refugee was undoubtedly true but he left no notes of kinspeople etc. There is in my possession a manuscript Arithmetic by Machael Daly, in a most beautiful chirography, and each sheet of foolscap size, dated at its completion - 1814-1817 January 29th. This however, as you will observe, is not pre-revolutionary period.

Three other text-books in manuscript have come under my notice - a very beautiful grammar in Eastern Shore Maryland; a spelling-and-reading book in North Carolina; and Miss Lincoln of the Historical Society tells me there is a mixed manuscript text-book there. In another Johnson homestead - old Coon Den (1850) is another ingenuous example of the crude instrument made by a young teacher for his school to illustrate the movements of the earth. Made with pen knife is a crocheted frame mounted on a 3-step base with a lath-turned ball which hung by brads in the opposite poles of the ball. The tropics marked and named in ink.

Another old relic in my possession is an old-fashioned valentine (1810-1813) cut with a penknife out of folded paper. A photograph of this appeared in "Antiques" magazine a few years ago.

Also a very intricate cross on a base cut in the same manner from the perforated cardboard such as was used for embroidering mottoes, copied from Godey's Ladies Book. Both of these items are mounted and framed. Also in the family along with old invitations to quilting bees and chopping parties, is a curious old letter of proposal of marriage every word of which,



excepting articles, conjunctions and prepositions, ends with -ion, nevertheless it makes perfect sense, and is not nonsense.

\* Also in the family is the aforementioned great grandfather's wedding vest, sprigged with gold vines and spangles, and  
\* his knee buckle of brilliants and shoe buckles of cut steel. In an  
\* old box of ancient embroideries, - beaded bag, combs, fans, etc. I  
\* have quite a number of pieces of old fabrics - delaines, bareges, chintzes, mulls, etc. If you are interested in such. Did you know that in an old house (1739) not far from this town is an oil portrait  
\* and some silver spoons of Cynthia Loffland Wallace, mother of the Milford Bard?

That in Christ Church yard here lies a man who once served as A.B. on the ship Constitution? Not however at the famous fight. That sailing vessels came to the Old Red Mill in this town and loaded wheat and potatoes for the Irish famine of 1840? These last two items on the authority of an uncle by marriage, Jos. S. Truitt (1820-1889). Should you in the near future come to this town you would also find that my friends, the Misses McKim at the Old Rectory on Second Street have a wealth of lore about ancient times and happenings. Since I am expecting to close the house for a couple of months in another week or so, I might not be here to show you. But at any time I am at home I will be glad to let you see any of the articles I have in which you may be interested.

Cordially yours,

February 10th, 1937.

Elizabeth Johnson



January 17, 1938  
E. Thompson-Walls.

State Paper: Relics

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CHINA SET GIVEN TO MARY VINING  
BY  
ANTHONY WAYNE.

This set of china which was presented to Mary Vining, at Dover, by Anthony Wayne....is at present in the Ridgley House, on the Green, in Dover, Delaware.

It can be seen on display in the living room in the Ridgley House. It is kept in a glass enclosed closet, in the above room.

The portrait which was painted by the unfortunate Major Andre, has been stolen, but copies had been made before. Mrs. Ridgley, has a copy of the portrait, but it is not on display.

Mrs. Ridgley was kind enough to let the writer see and touch this china.

J. B. Davis

July 14, 1938.

SAFETY EDUCATION.

1c-2  
State of Hawaii: Safety Education.  
See also Pamphlet drawn

Safety is first of all a local problem -- a problem for each City, Town or Village.

Courteous drivers make driving more pleasant, safer highways reduce deaths and maimings, better control of traffic saves delay and loss of time.

Safety activities falls into three classes -- education, engineering, and law enforcement.

The educational work is to teach safe driving practices and to encourage public support of necessary engineering and enforcement programs.

In elementary grades, the safety of the pedestrian is first importance. In high schools the emphasis is on the use of the auto, and many high schools are giving instructions in safe driving.

Schoolboy Patrols increase the safety of children on the streets and highways, their use is spreading rapidly in elementary schools and in Junior Highschools and they are doing excellent work.

The enforcement of the law by showing fair and impartial treatment of traffic violaters is essential to the reduction of the present enormous toll of accidents. Methods of enforcing the appearance of violaters in the traffic courts.

In 1937, approximately 39,700 persons were killed by motor vehicles; 26,000 by falls; 8,000 by burns; 7,000 were drowned.

In six major wars our nation was involved in since 1776, covering fifteen years, the number of soldiers killed was 244,912. The peace time record of death on highways from 1923 to 1937 is 441,912.

In wars our soldiers fought and died for a cause, but what purpose can there be in killing of these thousands on the highways? This slaughter is worse than war!

The bill for Wilmington for 1937 was:

Accidents	1156
Injuries	586
Fatalities	18

P The bill for the  
State of Delaware was:

Accidents	2226			
Injuries	1475			
Fatalities	107	(Passengers 59	Adults 95	N.C. County 57
		(Pedestrians 48	Children 12	Kent " 25
				Sussex " 25

Mileage per traffic death- State of Delaware- 4,802,231

Total vehicles involved in accidents - 3,628

Private cars	2864
Com'l Vehicle	656
Taxis	11
Buses	26
Motorcycles	30
Wagons	6
Not Stated	35

Drivers involved in accidents -1,893

Delaware	1657
Foreign	221
Not Stated	15



Enforcement budget programs went into effect in Wilmington June 1st, 1937.

Wilmington cut its deaths from 23 to 18, slashed personal injury accidents from 550 to 475, and the number of persons injured from 649 to 551, in 1937, as compared with 1936. Pedestrian deaths were reduced 50 per cent and all pedestrian accidents were cut 23 per cent.

A summer school at the University of Delaware, opened June 20 to July 29, with fifty-six persons enrolled as students, most of them public school teachers, for a course in safety education. After completing their studies they will go into the field as missionaries, to make the public safety conscious.

This is the fourth year, at the University of Delaware sponsored by the Delaware Safety Council, this year the training course instructions are being given by Miss H. Louise Cottrell, Vice-Principal of the Stockton School, at East Orange, New Jersey, an author of note in the safety field.

The course is designed for the purpose of giving instructions in the materials and methods of teaching safety education, analysis of the needs for, philosophy of grade placement of instructional materials, the organization and administration of, and best methods of teaching safety in schools.

#### THE 1937 ACCIDENT TOLL

106,000 Dead	1 in every 300 families
9,999,000 disabling injuries	1 in every 4 families
Direct costs * \$3,600,000,000	\$ 115 - average cost to every family.

#### PRINCIPAL TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

BURNS	24%	
Motor Vehicle	18%	
Mech. Suffocation	14%	From 0 to 4 years
Poison	8%	

MOTOR VEHICLE	38%	
Drowning	19%	From 5 to 14 years
Burns	12%	
Falls	9 %	

From 15 to 24 years	
Motor Vehicle	52 %
Drowning	12 %
Falls	8 %
Firearms	6 %

From 25 to 64 years	
Motor Vehicle	41 %
Falls	16 %
Burns	7 %
Drowning	6 %

\*\*\*\*\*

From 65 years and over	
Falls	54 %
Motor Vehicle	19 %
Burns	6 %
Railroad	2 %



## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS BY INDUSTRIES

1937 TOTAL ---19,500		
AGRICULTURE	-4,500	23 %
TRADE & SERVICE	- 4,500	23%
CONSTRUCTION	-3,100	16%
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES 2,900 deaths		
MANUFACTURING	-2,600	13 %
MINING, QUARRING, OIL & GAS WELLS - 1,900 deaths 10%		

Approximately 700 deaths and 35,000 injuries occurred during 1937 in collisions between bicycles and motor vehicles.

The ages of the persons killed are as follow:

from 5 to 14 years of age	--300
" 15 " 24 " " "	--300
" 25 " 64 " " "	--100

## DEATHS AT HOME DURING 1937

FALLS	17,500
BURNS	5,600
EXPLOSIONS	
POISONINGS	1,700
POISON GASES	1,100
FIREARMS	800
MECHANICAL SUFFOCATION	1,000
OTHERS	4,800

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

1 every 5 minutes  
12 every hour  
290 per day  
2,000 each week  
106,000 killed during the year

## ACCIDENT COSTS

\$ 115 per second  
\$ 10,000,000 per day  
\$ 3,600,000,000 for the year

## ACCIDENTAL INJURIES

1 every 3 seconds  
19 per minute  
27,000 per day  
190,000 per week  
9,900,000 injuries in 1937

## MOTOR VEHICLES DEATHS

1 every 13 minutes  
108 deaths per day  
39,500 fatalities for the year

Motor Vehicle Injuries  
3 per minute  
3,700 per day  
1,360,000 during the year



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LOCATION - Wilmington.

Submitted by Gordon Butler.

Date - March 31, 1936.

Free Museum of  
The Society of Natural History of  
Delaware.

The Society was founded here in October 1891, by 18 enthusiasts of natural history, who held their first meeting in the Friend's School. The Society was established for the purpose of the cultivation and study of natural science and the encouragement thereof, by establishing and conserving a permanent collection of natural objects. On October 24, 1910 the present museum building was acquired and since used for a free museum open to the public 3 or 4 afternoons per week, from June to September inclusive. The building is of one story brick construction and is part of Cool Spring's Reservoir pumping plant building. It is <sup>situated</sup> ~~located~~ at the N. W. Corner of 10th & Van Buren Streets adjoining Cool Springs Park.

The museum has a collection of about 30,000 plant specimens collected in part by the first president, William Canby, with extensive additions by Edward Tatnall, and now being built to a full representative of the flora of the Delmarva Peninsula by Dr. Robert R. Tatnall. *to here*

In Mineralogy, the local collection represents the results of intensive collecting over nearly forty years by Frederick J. Hilbiler.

In ornithology a collection of bird skins and mounted birds of this region assembled many years ago by Walter D. Bush, with additions by Richard Smith and others. Natural history of other branches are also included but are of less importance; several hundred volumes of natural history books are in the custody of the Wilmington Public Library where also are deposited written records of the natural history of the peninsula compiled from observation by the members of the society over all the years of its existence.

Wm. Canby, the first president, was a botanist of national repute. During the course of his activities in studying pollination of flowers, he carried on a correspondence with Charles Darwin, father of evolution.

Walter D. Bush, the first Vice-President was the only scientific ornithologist in Delaware in his day. Miss Emma Gawthrop was the first secretary and John W. Pennypacker, the first treasurer. Throughout the existence of the society, one of the leading men has been Frank Morton Jones, entomologist, and the present president. He has contributed liberally to the society's collection of insects.

Robert R. Tatnall is the present vice-president and Archibald Crozier the second vice-president. Dr. Lewis Rumford, treasurer; and Authur L. Bailey, secretary.

The society has approximately 75 members and hold meetings in the lecture room of the Public Library on the second Monday of each month, except July, August, September and October.

Portraits of Wm. M. Canby and Dr. Wm. Darlington now hang in the museum.



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Bibliography:

Mr. Jones, President of the Society. N. E. Corner  
Riverview & Willard Streets. E.E. 6-19-26 pp 1 &  
3. E.E. History of Wilmington.

~~Final Rewrite~~ by Wm. H. Conner  
Previous Rewrites by  
W. H. Conner and F. H. Squillace  
February 9, 1937

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State Drawer

## Sports and Recreation

In spite of its limited area, Delaware has long been esteemed as a land of sports and recreation, with the emphasis laid upon the simpler outdoor phases that involve individual participation, enjoyment, and prowess, rather than those which require organized or group effort. It is in such natural sports <sup>as</sup> like fishing, swimming, boating of all kinds, and hunting that the Delawarean finds ample scope for the exercise of his marked individualism.

In respect to the water sports, this favorable estimate is not difficult to understand when the eastern coastline of river, bay, and ocean is viewed, as well as the numerous small streams and ponds within the State. As to hunting, an abundance of cover for small game is evident, especially in the southern sections where there is much waste land and marshy areas, and where, too, the gleanings of crops is perhaps not always so thorough as in the north. Another factor that cannot be too highly praised is the work carried on, both in protection and restocking, by the Board of Game and Fish Commissioners of Delaware.

In 1935, a total of 14,595 hunting and fishing licenses was issued, of which number 11,286 were hunting and 2,708 were fishing licenses. (No license is required to fish with hook and line in Delaware River, Delaware Bay, Indian River Inlet, and the Atlantic Ocean as the latter borders Delaware).

In the Annual Report of the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners (1935), it is estimated that the hook and line salt-water fishing



from licensed boats, rowboats, and the shores in Delaware Bay and on the Atlantic Ocean provided in that year recreation for 124,000 anglers, that in the pursuit of the sport between \$400,000 and \$500,000 was expended, and that the 5,000,000 fish caught had a food value of \$250,000. When to these figures are added the expenditures in connection with fresh-water fishing, and corresponding disbursements for hunting "no imagination is required to see that this is a million-dollar business, with a food value of about one-half that amount."

Bowers, Little Creek, Lewes, and Rehoboth are well-known salt-water fishing grounds upon which anglers of nearby States converge in the season, while Slaughter Beach, Leipsic, and other spots are favored by many. Most of the anglers fish with hook and line from boats, though there are many who secure good sport by surfcasting from the shore. The varieties of fish caught are croakers or hardheads, trout or weakfish, channel-bass or drumfish, flounders, and kingfish. Shad, sturgeon, and turtles are also landed, as well as small sharks and sea-curiosities. Crabbing is excellent along the Delaware shores.

The Laurel, Indian, and Nanticoke Rivers and nearly fifty ponds and lakes offer fresh-water fishing at spots easily accessible. The varieties sought in season are bass, pike or pickerel, brook trout, carp, perch, catfish, and crappie. The better-known fishing spots are Noxontown Pond and Silver Lake, near Middletown; the Shallcross Pond, near Middletown, private for the Delaware Anglers and Gunners' Association; Duck Creek and Lake Como, near Smyrna; Laurel and Milton Ponds, near those respective towns.

Gunners enjoy good sport throughout the State, and the hunting becomes better progressively to the south. Rabbits, squirrels, wild ducks, and quail furnish the bulk of the bags.

Sometimes referred to as the State's "Summer Capital", and visited by many thousands of Delawareans as well as those from other States each year, Rehoboth has become the center of water sports of all kinds. The foremost attraction, of course, is the splendid ocean beach upon which the bathers disport themselves and breast, from time to time, the rolling surf. Lifeguard protection is given, and progressively, as has been the case particularly during the last decade, improvements and safeguards are being added to the beach front. Bethany Beach, Lewes, Oak Orchard, and other beaches lure their own groups of followers in search of bathing, boating, and kindred sports. In Wilmington, the appetite for bathing is catered to by large swimming pools located in the public parks-- they include Price Run, Canby, Brandywine, Kirkwood, and Kruse Pools, the latter used by Negro bathers.

Canoeing is a popular sport along the Indian River Bay, the Brandywine Creek, and the Christiana River, in addition to the lakes and small streams that weave their way through pastoral and primitive scenes. Motorboating is a preferred sport in all sections where facilities are afforded, while sailing vessels and power-driven yachts, among the latter many outboard motor craft, literally swarm the waters of the State. Indeed, so great is the interest in boating that regattas are held even for the sailing of toy or model yachts, a source of entertainment for young and old.

Among the general sports that muster up their devotees as the seasons come and go are baseball, football, basketball, golf, tennis, trapshooting, midget auto-racing, horse-racing, fox hunting, boxing, wrestling, coasting (usually called sledding), skating, and flying, while the hikers follow their favorite recreation the year around. Local and sectional leagues of amateur and semi-professional



baseball and football teams battle for championships.

The golfers of Delaware are fortunate in having a number of links at their disposal. In Wilmington, three major organizations own excellent courses--The Wilmington Country Club, The duPont Country Club, and The Municipal Golf and Tennis Association, the latter group controlling Rock Manor, a public course. Newark, Dover, and Rehoboth have country clubs which own private courses. Tournaments are arranged between the various clubs of the State and invitation meets are held from time to time, these latter attracting leading golfers of the country. Until King Winter intervenes, disciples of the old Scotch game may be seen on the many courses trudging away in the effort to better their scores. In addition to the regulation courses, driving ranges and putting greens are provided for enthusiasts who desire to improve their technique.

Tennis is also a favored sport in the Diamond State. In addition to the many private courts, a number of public courts are maintained in the parks of Wilmington, and are in constant use. The Middle States Tennis Championship is contested annually at the Wilmington Country Club, and this event brings the better players from all sections. Likewise, State and local contests are conducted to determine ratings and champions.

For many years Delaware has been a widely-known center of trapshooting, and much enthusiasm marks the annual shoots. Several gun clubs, chiefly in New Castle County, hold special and private shoots each Saturday in the season. However, one of the outstanding trapshooting events of the country--the T. Clarence Marshall Shoot--is staged annually for three days at Yorklyn. The Delaware Clay Targets Events and the Delaware State Trapshooting Championship are important meetings that alternate between the State clubs.

With such love for the natural outdoor sports and recreation, it may be surmised that horses and dogs are much in favor in Delaware. Fox hunting has been popular in the State from ancient days and today there are several hunt clubs and riding academies, and kennel clubs and kennels. Among the hunt clubs are the Vicmead and St. Georges organizations. In various sections of the State, informal chases are held at intervals by neighborhood groups. Each year the Wilmington Horse Show is held, as well as the St. Georges Spring Show and the Cinder Lane Show.

Bridle trails, back roads, and open fields, all bordered by picturesque scenery, are utilized by the devotee of horseback riding, and this is a pastime engaged in by many. Recently, horse-racing was legalized in Delaware, and a racetrack has been constructed at Stanton to permit flat racing as well as steeplechasing.

The canines make their bow to the public at the Wilmington Dog Show, and there are also field trials at the Delaware Setter and Pointer Club, the Beagle Dog Show, and the Kennel Club Show.

Midget auto-racing provides thrills and, in the season, large crowds gather at Hare's Corner to cheer on their favorite drivers.

Among the indoor sports, the bulk of entertainment is furnished by boxing, wrestling, basketball, and bowling. Several clubs promote amateur and professional matches among the boxers and wrestlers, with prominent athletes competing. Basketball is played by many school and college teams, and by independent organizations. Bowling is also a popular diversion, and a number of leagues engage in sharp competition each winter.

The climate of Delaware is such that there is less opportunity for winter sports than in sections immediately to the north. Whenever there is an old-fashioned winter, the sledders and skaters are



out in force, renewing their acquaintance with the once extremely popular recreations. Coasting, or sledding, has in the past been a major sport in Wilmington because of the many long hills--modern motor traffic and dearth of snow has made this sport dwindle, although sleds are still popular as Christmas contributions by Santa Claus. Several excellent hills in the vicinity of Wilmington, or just inside its limits, are utilized, with danger of traffic collisions removed. Sleighing was at one time so popular in Wilmington and rural towns that certain streets became veritable speedways for the duration of the snow, the jingling carnival marked by many brisk encounters and record-making.

Straw-rides, or hay-rides, once common on moonlight nights, are now seldom held, and when observed, the motortruck has taken the place of Dobbin and the farm wagon.

New Castle County's rolling country offers pleasing sections for walking, while picturesque scenes greet the hiker in southern Delaware. However, Delaware's most popular recreation of all is that of driving over the splendid highways that make practically every part of the State accessible.

Location - Laurel, Delaware

Submitted by - W. T. Bennett

Date - February 20, 1936

Topic: RECREATION

Boating, both sail and motor, on the Laurel River  
and Records Lake. Swimming in municipal swimming pool ~~an~~  
natural



LOCATION: Statewide.

Submitted by - J. E. Bero.

Date - August 4, 1936.

State  
Sports & Recreation

Marksman Club.

Delaware State Police.

The main purpose of this club is to further the knowledge of policeman of Wilmington and adjacent small towns with the shooting arms they carry. The scope of this has been extended to civilians, such as Bankers and their employees, Sheriffs, their Deputies, Armoured car operators, and to any other persons who finds it necessary to legitimately carry arms or maintain them on their premises to protect their business or homes.

The primary object in so far as the civilian is concerned is to train them in marksmanship and the necessary instructions regarding the particular firearm used, so that a degree of safety and accuracy will be attained, for instance when firing at a target in the vicinity of crowds.

Through the cooperation of Mr. Fred. R. Lesney of The Pennsylvania Railroad Athletic Association, the range at Farnhurst has been generously loaned for the matches.

Captain Ray of the state police has charge of the necessary instructions for these pistol matches.

Matches are open to anyone who may be interested, and are held on the last Thursday of the month. Practice periods are in the evenings of each week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The police force cooperates in giving instructions on shooting and general information pertaining to pistol arms and they also

furnish necessary targets.

Generous support is rendered by prominent business men of the city enables the program to attain the success it now enjoys.

Several successful twilight matches have been held with seventy-five men taking part, and Captain Ray states that good progress has been made. The general average has reached the score of 853 out of a possible 1000.

The qualifications of the participants are judged by the following percentages and titles: 75% Marksman, 80%, Sharp-shooter and 90% Expert.

The Wilmington Police and Police forces in adjacent states have competitive pistol matches at stated periods in which wide interest in law enforcing circles are manifest.

Reference: Henry C. Ray, Captain.  
Delaware State Police.



Carey, George R.  
5-11-36

Folder: Sports

285  
(1 c. in Survey Co.  
Folder)

### Fox Hunting in Eastern Sussex

To many of the farmers and rural residents of eastern Sussex, there is no music equal to a chorus of hounds on the warm scent of a fox. Fox hunting in this section has several peculiarities which mark its difference to the sport in other parts of the country. The hunters never follow their hounds by riding on horses. They go on foot and trust to luck that they can stay within hearing of the pack. When the course or direction in which the fox and pack are heading is determined, the hunters take to their "flivvers", and go through by-ways and woods' roads to keep in touch with the hounds. The fox is never shot except it be a grey fox. The grey fox does not make good running for the dogs because it travels briar patches and breaks the pack. They also run down rail road tracks and leave no scent unless the tracks are wet.

The red fox furnishes the best running for the hunters as it goes through fields and woods and does not break the pack. Many are the tricks that this kind of fox uses to elude its pursuers. Sometimes the fox runs until it comes upon another of its kind and then begins a relay while the first pursued rests. Another favorite trick is to run up a tree that has been blown close to the ground and then leap as far from the trunk as possible. This makes it hard for the dogs to pick up the scent.

The season for fox hunting in Delaware begins October and closes April 30th. It is unlawful to kill the fox except by the owner of the hounds chasing it. The owner may also give permission to any person who wishes to kill it.

In the region about Nassau, Del., located on highway No. 12, about one mile north of Belltown, there are about 20 residents who engage in this sport. The average number of dogs kept by

Carey, George R.  
5-11-36.

individuals is six. The most intensive hunting is done in the fall and spring seasons. No fox hunt would be a success without the jugs of cider or apple-jack. There is no hunt club nor is there any organization. The bond of comradeship and neighborly traits is the law of the section. Should a man discover his farm is receiving undue attention from a fox and he suspects that it is because of the young to be fed, he notifies some of the hunters and they locate the den. The young is captured and cared for until it has reached a mature age then released. This practice preserves the game. It also helps the farmer for when the young is taken the old ones do not bother him so much.

A kennel of fox hounds is kept by William E. Lowe, who lives at the junction of highways No. 14 and No. 18, known as Wescoat's Corners. All persons who are desirous of participating in a fox hunt or who have dogs and wish to try them, are welcomed by him.

Reference:

William E. Lowe, Lewes, Delaware.



LOCATION - Statewide.

Submitted by - J. E. Bero.

Date - July 20, 1936.

State  
Sports + Recreation

Trapshooting.

Location: Basin Road near New Castle, Delaware.Business Office: J. C. Guenveur, Secretary. 5090 Dupont Bldg.,  
Wilmington, Delaware.Appointments: 5 Electric Traps  
1 Skeet Field.Shooting Days: Every Saturday, special or private parties  
arranged by communicating with Secretary.Membership: Memberships open but restricted to acceptance by  
special memberships committee.Dues: \$2.00 payable annually.High Spots: Delaware Clay Target Events.Mid April each year: Delaware and open Skeet  
Championship at Wilmington Trapshooting Association.Mid May each year: Delaware Trapshooting champion-  
ship, alternates between various state clubs.Annual: T. Clarence Marshall Trapshooting Tournament,  
2nd week in August each year at Yorklyn Gun Club,  
Yorklyn, Del. Third largest Trapshooting Event in  
the United States.Ref. J. C. Guenveur, Secretary,  
Wilmington Trapshooting Association.  
5090 Dupont Bldg., Wilmington, Delaware.

## BOWERS BEACH -- A POINT OF INTEREST

Twelve miles from Dover, the state capital, and three miles off U. S. Route 113, is situated the town of Bowers, the mecca of the fisherman, and the goal of every human seeking a quiet, restful and healthful summer residence.

Although rivaled by two other fishing hamlets, Bowers Beach still seems to retain the leadership as Delaware's chief bid for the fisherman's "paradise". From near and far, visitors come to enjoy the fine fishing in the Delaware Bay, the fresh salt air, the bathing and the relief from summer heat. When the rush of the fishing season and the oyster season is over, and the winter has settled in, the town goes into a hibernation to awaken again with the coming of the new fishing year. However, be it winter or summer, it is destined to remain one of those picturesque, quaint little fishing hamlets, the end of the artist's quest for a "natural", and a rendezvous for the most critical Izzac Walton.

Although situated a meagre twelve miles from the state capital, and easily reached by one of the state's fine concrete roads, it's atmosphere transports the new-comer many years into the past. Here the fisherman mends his nets as he did for decades past, and here the "old salts" gather on the several large wharves to discuss the prospects of tomorrow's fishing success as predicted to them by the sun, sky and wind. And few are the times that they are wrong, though the methods they use are proven, time and time again by modern science, to be undependable and useless.

Modern methods and equipment have been welcomed reluctantly, on the part of the inhabitants, and though practically all the boats are now equipped with the latest types of marine or automobile engines, little, if any, of the "aged" atmosphere has been lost.



-2-

The first tract of land in the South Murderkill Hundred, (Bowers is situated on the Murderkill Creek) was settled on what was then called, "Whitwell's Delight", located and taken up by Francis Whitwell under warrant from Governor Edmond Andros in 1675. The tract was assigned by Whitwell in 1685 to William Frampton, and patented by him January 5, 1686, as "Dover Peere". It containing 1,374 acres. Frampton did an extensive business in the hundred and when he died in 1686, his executors sold the property to William Bassett. "Dover Peere" descended to Joseph Booth, who on August 2, 1750, sold it to Benjamin Chew. 420 acres of this tract, consisting of meadow and marsh-land were purchased by Nathaniel Hunn, prior to Booth's acquiring title to the balance. Hunn's children sold 320 acres of this land on "Mulberrie Point" on August 16, 1734 to John Bowers, from which time it has been known as Bowers Beach. The Bowers family retained it until 1847 when it passed to a son-in-law, Joshua Adams, husband of Elizabeth Bowers, who was a grand-daughter of the first John Bowers.

According to the last census (1930) the permanent population was 246, although it swells to more than double that number in the summer.

For the devotee of deep-water fishing, or the passer-by who desires to try it, there are a variety of craft for hire, ranging in length from 25 to 65 feet in length. In 1935, there were approximately 155 boats available, and the rush in patrons was such that many days found this supply exhausted. Prices will also be found reasonable. The average week day price is less than fourteen



dollars for a party of eight or less, and for a larger boat, a larger group, or Sundays and Holidays, the prices are slightly higher. The boats are of all sizes and descriptions, though practically all of them offer a cabin or some other protection from the weather. The captains are able men and the boats are equipped with safety devices according to government regulations with a life-preserver for each passenger and fire extinguishers, etc.

Boats may be hired on the spot, or reserved ahead, the latter being considered the most satisfactory. "Chartering" the boat costs little more and excludes all outsiders save the captain and possibly his helper or mate. In other than a chartered boat, the captain may secure any number of odd fishermen to complete a party large enough to make it worth his while to put out from shore.

Boats usually start leaving the wharf about five o'clock in the morning, although some parties desire an earlier hour and some a later one, this left entirely up to the wishes of the patrons. "Quitting time", unless the captain desires to stay longer, or has already set a definite time as some do, is generally one or two o'clock in the afternoon, and the party staying past three is sure to be termed a "sticker", and often effects the desire of the captain to be a willing helper. His help is not to be slighted, for there are many small things that he can offer which may prove a tremendous comfort for one who is sea-sick or any other minor troubles which are apt to arise.

For persons limited by time, a short pleasure trip into the bay may be found enjoyable, boats being obtainable, for this purpose at a price usually less than fifty-cents per person for a family-sized group.



Summer cottages may also be rented by the week or month and for the week-end visitor, there are several hotels, room and board range between three and four dollars per day. There are several surprisingly complete stores, and an up-to-date garage. There are also some expert mechanics available for work on either the boat or automobile.

Fish caught from boats operating from Bowers, Little Creek, and Slaughter Beach consist for the most part of hardhead (croakers), trout, and occasionally flounders and channel bass (drum fish), but usually a day's catch will include six or more different kinds. The average catch in 1935 for a party of eight men fishing from five to two(8-9 hours) was 400 fish. Sharks are occasionally caught and may range from the dog-shark which averages five to ten pounds to the larger ones weighing close to 400 pounds. The bay also contains turtles(some as large as a washtub), sturgeon and shad(obtained by net fishermen) and various other varieties. Whales were once seen occasionally, as were seals, but this is nearly impossible in the present day. However, there is almost always some unexpected oddity brought up from the bottom during the fishing day. Last year (1934) one visitor took home with him a sea-horse, while ballon fish and sea robins are occasionally hooked.

One day, strictly typical of Bowers and the immediate region, provides a custom that is found nowhere else in the United States. This day, similar to the country "Fair Day," is called Big Thursday. This gala holiday falls on the second Thursday of each August and is an occasion for much hustle, bustle and merriment. People from the surrounding countryside assemble at the beach on this day of days by the thousands, al-



though this number is gradually declining, and spend the day and evening indulging in recreation, good cheer and amusements of all kinds. It is an annual picnic day for the Kent County folk, and now with the coming of the good roads, it is not unusual to see a car bearing license plates from any state this side of the Mississippi River. Last year (1934) there was a car from Canada, containing the family of a man who was born and raised in Delaware, and had returned to meet some of his friends and folks at this gathering. At Bowers on this day, old acquaintances are renewed and new ones made, and it might well be called a public reunion of all the families of the region.

The origin of the day came from an act of legislature which provided open and closed seasons for oystering in the creeks and waters controlled by the state of Delaware. In 1852, the act was passed and ruled that oysters could not be lawfully dredged between the days of May 1st and August 10th of any year. The law remained on the statute books until 1877. As the first day of the oyster season fell on a Thursday the first year the law was in effect, and as the Thursday was the second one in the month of August, the oyster gatherers and their families made this an occasion for a gala celebration, and it has lived on down through the years to this day. In the past, the oysters were stored by the Big Thursday crowds by packing them in hay and salt water, and then coming for them during the winter months. This custom has, as far as is known, become obsolete.

The colored people of the section also have a similar day, although it compares in no way with the size of the Big Thursday affair. This day falls on the second Saturday of the month of August and is called Black Saturday.



For the yachtsman or owner of a pleasure boat desiring to visit Bowers Beach, the following information should be useful.

Although the charts list Bowers as having a channel of six feet depth at mean low water, the condition of the surrounding under-water terrain often has changed those readings as soon as six months after the departure of the government dredge. The channel is a treacherous one for the navigator not familiar with it. On either side are sand bars and tidal flats which extend far out into the bay. The end of the government range terminates with a lighted buoy, and a little more than half way between the buoy and land is the channel entrance. Coming into the creek channel, and following the range, the pilot will observe to the port side of the boat a well defined row of small stakes made from trees. If they are followed in, keeping them close to the port side (left) they will prove a tremendous help if the day is hazy or the range not clear. When the shore is quite near, it will be observed that the creek takes a sharp turn to the starboard (right). This point directly ahead should be passed as close as possible without danger of grounding and with any approaching boat passing on the port side with sufficient room left for it between the point and the entering boat. Once into the creek, the channel lies on the starboard side of the entering boat.

Facilities for repairs will be found satisfactory, and ~~refueling~~ and provisions are easily obtained. There are two marine railways in operation and rates are reasonable. They handle boats up to ten or twelve tons, and 65 feet in length. There are portions of the beach which may be used for drydocking for minor repairs in accordance with the tides. For assistance in this and other



information, the visiting yachtsman will find the local captains willing to advise.

There is a legend that there is buried pirate gold in the marshes beyond the town, but there is nothing to provide the least confirmation of this possibility. During prohibition the marshes made an excellent hideout for smugglers, and frequently boys in the neighborhood find abandoned cases of liquors while hunting. Crabbing is also done to some extent, but not commercially. Clams may be dug on the tidal flats at low tide. The South Bowers section of the beach or that tract south of the creek is more of a summer colony than the northern part, or the town proper. It may also be entered by a good road and is protected by a fire engine which has been installed in a new two-story fire house. However, the engine was not capable of handling the last serious fire which destroyed almost one-half of the cottages on the South side which fronts on the creek, before being stopped by the arrival of outside engines from Dover and Milford. In the several years since the fire, most of this has been rebuilt.

The pleasures derived from a visit to this central Delaware summer resort which lies on the eastern shore of the Delaware Bay at its widest point, with its picturesque appearance, will be found well worth the effort necessary.

One of the major industries of the Beach, when in season, is the catching of king crabs (horse shoe crabs). Tabulations in 1928 show a catch for the season of that year of over three hundred thousand animals. However, they are fast becoming extinct, and may be considered in that light within the lifetime of a man now living. They are not really crabs although they are called that, and their nearest ancestors died out millions of years ago. They are the last survivors of their class now living.



They are considered excellent fertilizer after they have been ground up and dried, because of their high ammonia content. They resemble a much battered army helmet with a long spiney tail that is bone, as is their shell covering. Underneath they resemble a brown crab. Bowers is believed to be the only place along the eastern seaboard where they come in such large numbers in the early spring to spawn. They are only found along the eastern seaboard.

So conveniently situated, it would be well worth the while of the passer-by and even the native Delawarean to visit this quaint and interesting village, where occasionally one may see the oyster boats out in the bay on a clear day, under full sail. Truly an artist's paradise, and one for the sightseer and fisherman as well.

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Milford & Dover are the only towns in the State  
that have professional baseball teams. They belong to  
the Eastern Shore League.



Submitted by Donald Crowe  
Date November 6, 1936

Social Service

297

*State Prison*  
*Folder - Social Service*  
*Relief Programs*

WORK AND RELIEF PROGRAMS  
WILMINGTON AND STATE OF DELAWARE  
(1930 ---- 1936)

To relieve the existing emergency caused by unemployment as well as to study methods of avoiding its recurrence as far as Wilmington, as a unit of population was concerned, Mayor George W.K. Forrest, on December 4, 1930, called together a representative group of men and women and charged them with the responsibility of organizing a committee to handle the situation. This resulted in the formation of the following committee:

"Wilmington" C of C publication April 1931  
page 4 excerpts from Article by J.B. Rumbf.

Mayor George W. K. Forrest, Honorary Chairman; Frank A. McHugh, chairman, E. P. Bardon, Vice-chairman; Lamot duPont, chairman Finance Committee; H. F. Brown, Vice-chairman Finance Committee; Henry P. Scott, treasurer; Francis E. B. McCann, secretary and 89 additional citizens.

The next step was the organization of an executive committee, composed of the same officers as above together with John Dugan, William M. Francis, Mrs. James N. Ginns, John J. Powel, sr., John C. Saylor, Wilmer Stradley, and Mrs. F.G. Tallman.

The executive committee called for support from all existing commercial, social, business, labor, charitable and philanthropic associations and organizations, and at their first meeting appointed a sub-committee whose duty it was to find employment projects. It solicited work from the Park Board, from City Council, from the Board of Health, from the Street and Sewer Department, from the State Hospital, from Community Service and from general citizens interested in a civic clean-up campaign.

Men registered at the Federal-State Municipal Employment Bureau,



which operated in cooperation with the United States Employment Service, and were directed to the employment committee's headquarters. At first hundreds were employed in 3 day stretches, 8 hours daily, and paid 40 cents an hour for their labor. Later a full week's work of 6 days was arranged at the same hourly rate. Married men came first; <sup>next</sup> single men with dependents. There were no discriminations, men were put to work regardless of creed, color, or religious denomination. Necessary investigations were made to determine the actual necessity, and financial condition of those applying for work relief.

The first \$10,000 was subscribed by P.S. duPont, before the campaign for raising funds started. It was estimated that \$100,000 or over would be needed. Later the sum was raised to \$150,000; still later to \$200,000. Subscriptions were solicited by the Mayor's committee from people of all walks of life. The finance committee issued two appeals by letter. Money came in daily and labor organizations, having full confidence in the aims and objects of the Mayor's committee, subscribed to the fund and enthusiastically supported the work or relief program.

Up to April 4, the committee had expended \$160,286.17 in wages paid out for employment. At the relief unit at 602 West Street, the committee had paid out \$28,967.60 for food, fuel, rent and clothing. The Salvation Army unit, which looked after single men, paid out \$3,821.13 in food and lodging.

Wilmington refused to permit apple sellers on its business streets, right from the first day the Mayor's committee organized. The positive slant was taken. Employment, rather non-unemployment, was stressed. Those out of work were advised by the superintendent of the Federal-State-Municipal Employment Service, in a radio broadcast and the local newspapers, how they could register with



the Mayor's Committee for employment. While it may not be said that every person out of work secured employment on the Mayor's Committee payroll, most of the exceptions were the usual unemployable type, as well as single men with no dependents, or men refusing to do the civic clean-up and improvement work laid out for the day.

The relief part of the program was taken care of by an emergency unit at 602 West Street, established under a trained personnel, provided by Associated Charities. Immediate relief was extended to families as well as jobless women. Soup houses which existed prior to the organization of the Mayor's Committee, ceased to function, for the committee's endeavor was to prevent the breaking up of homes by providing direct relief to them. Over 900 families were aided up to the first of April, 1931; some substantially; others relieved to the extent required; by providing food, shelter, clothing and the necessities of life. Relief cases for single men were provided for by the Salvation Army with funds provided by the Mayor's Committee. Merchants cooperated with the committee by sending clothing for men, women and children to the units recognized as relief stations by the committee.

Most of the work done up to April 1st, was in the nature of a civic cleanup, however, quite a lot of permanent improvements were accomplished, such as the grading of streets, building sidewalks at public schools and hospitals, digging ditches to drain off surface water at the Marine Terminal and the construction of a new swimming pool and other improvements at the Boys' Community Club's camp site near Hockessin, Del.

Up to February 4th: the Mayor's committee gave work to



3,617 individuals, and these repeated in such manner as to show 7,290 names on the payroll. 87% of the workers actually needed <sup>later</sup> employment according to investigations.

p.5

Towards the end of February, contributions to the Mayor's committee for unemployment became so low that it was decided to conduct a 3 day intensive campaign for personal solicitation. Nearly 200 workers were selected through the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce and these workers sought contributions throughout the city and as a result of this latest appeal, the sum of \$28,644.20 was added to the Mayor's committee.

This amount was not sufficient, however, in the opinion of the members of the committee to attempt to continue the employment unit which was closed, the money in hand, it was decided, would be better applied if distributed for relief at the relief unit.

About this time, Irene duPont, suggested the removal of highway hazards to utilize the unemployed, and agreed to finance this work. Nearly 40 places throughout New Castle County were selected and the work began at once.

About this time City Council decided to assume the responsibility for the expenses incurred in soliciting funds for a stadium, a short time previous. Many who had contributed to the stadium fund had suggested that the money be turned over to the Mayor's committee for relief work.

The action of City Council resulted in several thousands of dollars that had been given to the stadium fund being paid to the treasurer of the Mayor's Relief Committee. It was then decided that because the money had been originally intended to be used for recreational purposes, it would be spent in leveling and grading tennis courts, football fields, baseball diamonds and



park land that was being used for athletic activities.

An immense amount of work beneficial to the community was accomplished by the work relief program in 1931 and direct relief was handled in such an efficient manner that many thousands of families were fed and sheltered. It kept homes together and opposed open display of mendicancy and panhandling. It kept up the community morale and proved that Wilmington truly had a civic conscience.

About the middle of June the Family Society Inc., an established welfare organization took over the operation of the family relief unit. On September 5, 1931 the Honorable Frank C. Sparks, the new Mayor of Wilmington, who had assumed office July 1, 1931, announced the appointment of the new Mayor's Employment and Relief Committee. The appointment of a new committee was necessary because of the change in the city government. The committee was charged with the responsibility of (a) raising funds by public and private subscription, (b) with these funds operating an employment and relief program for the Wilmington Metropolitan district.

The committee was headed by William B. Foster who early in November tendered his resignation as general chairman due to the condition of his health. On November 20, 1931, Frank A. Mc Hugh, who had served as general chairman of the 1930-31 committee, was drafted to serve again as chairman. The general committee consisted of 58 well known citizens, who, the Mayor announced, would engage in a co-operative effort to fight the Saylor community's common enemy, unemployment. A pay roll deduction plan was adopted in numerous industrial establishments, banks, stores, city and county departments and bureaus, whereby workers regularly employed were made continuous subscribers to the Mayor's



committee fund: their weekly, semi-monthly or monthly contributions being deducted from their pay envelopes or salary checks. The employers by the plan, made regular remittances to the Mayor or the treasurer of the committee. Through this plan approximately \$170,000 in cash was received.

Through quiet and effective planning, the committee raised \$350,057.18 by personal solicitations.

The budget endorsed on February 17, 1932 totaled \$650,057.18. This included allotments for non-competitive work, State Road work, Traffic Survey, Clothing Supply Unit, Women's Sewing Unit, Direct Relief and general expenses. The finance committee realized at this time that additional funds would be necessary to meet the budget requirements and decided to conduct a public fund-raising campaign for \$300,000. The opportune suggestion of Governor Buck made in a letter February 26, 1932, to Chairman McHugh, that income taxpayers contribute some of the saving occasioned by the reduction of 50% in the State Income Tax undoubtedly had a stimulating effect upon the campaign, which went "over the top" March 11, 1932.

Frank A. McHugh, General Chairman of the Mayor's Committee, personally guaranteed that all overhead of the committee's program was being met by subscription of Mr. P.S. duPont, and that every dollar given applied to relief or paying wages. No deductions were made and no commission was paid to anyone.

In addition to the above budget total, the Mayor and Council of Wilmington, through a \$400,000 bond issue, afforded employment to workers recruited through the U.S. Employment Service, the official recruiting and placement agency of the Mayor's Committee, to the extent of approximately \$260,000; while through a



cooperative arrangement with the Delaware State Highway Department certain state road contracts were assumed by the Mayor's Committee, making it possible for the Committee through an expenditure of \$75,000 from its funds to supplement the payment of \$106,000 additional from State funds. This made a grand total of \$1,044,000 to be expended for Wilmington's Work and relief program of 1931-32.

Mr. H. Fletcher Brown, chairman of the Social Agencies Committee, supplied the sound recommendation that the Family Society, Inc., should be officially recognized as the agency to administer relief for families and single women. Chairman Brown's recommendations, adopted by the executive committee, divided relief into five divisional activities: <sup>(1)</sup> Family relief and relief of single women; agency, the Family Society, Inc. (2) Relief of single men without dependents; agency, the Salvation Army, Inc. (3) Relief of transients; agency, the Travelers Aid Society. (4) Medicines for special cases; agency, the Visiting Nurses Association. (5) Milk and lunches for undernourished school children; agency, the Wilmington Board of Public Education. In addition the committee approved the establishment of a clothing unit, with two divisions one to supply school children and the other to take care of families.

Special attention was given to the ex-service man whether or not he was physically disabled. Surveys of the extent of unemployment among the veterans and the physical fitness as to their ability to perform laborious work have been made from time to time by the State Director's Office of the U. S. Employment Service.

Upon the establishment of this office a concentrated effort was made to register all unemployed ex-service men in Wilmington and vicinity, and six unemployed veterans were employed for one



week to facilitate the registration. The veterans' department of the Mayor's Committee with the cooperation of the various American Legion Posts throughout the State conducted a statewide registration of unemployed. Many of the down state towns were of the impression that they had no unemployment problem, but the down state registration proved that most of them did have a situation to cope with, and it was pleasing to note that those towns started working toward the relief of their unemployed citizens.

In all there were a total of 1486 ex-service men registered. Careful investigations were made and in over 250 cases it was found that immediate relief in the way of medicine, food, clothing, fuel, hospitalization, etc., was impreative and this was furnished immediately by either the ladies auxiliaries of the various war veterans' posts, which had been organized in a join committee, or through the Mayor's Committee. These investigations also revealed that the majority of war veterans wanted work, not charity.

The winter program got under way in such an efficient manner that by the week ending December 4, 1931, 950 men and women were employed on non-competitive work with a weekly payroll of \$13,300. The Salvation Army applied relief for single men at Fourth and Shipley Streets at a cost of \$1,000 monthly. The method of feeding single men was in the form of a meal ticket supplied by the Salvation Army and honored by a groupe of restaurants. At the Emergency Relief Unit, Sixth and Shipley Streets, relief for family cases and single women was administered at the rate of \$20,000



monthly. By December 11, the payroll reached the sum of \$14,500 and the direct relief \$6,500 weekly. During the following few weeks the payroll remained about the same, with 1,000 men employed. A sewing unit employing 200 women was started at Sixth and Shipley Streets and clothing made at the unit and also collected by the special collection unit was distributed from the same address.

By January 8, 1932 the total relief for family cases and single women totaled \$27,000 monthly and that of single men \$2,000 monthly. The report issued February 5, for the month of January showed an aggregate sum of \$52,788.00 spent: \$42,121.12 was expended for family relief; \$2,521.44 was spent for single men; \$8,145.44 was the cost of clothing supplied to families and children by the clothing unit. In addition \$67,200 was spent for wages and payrolls through the co-operation of the city and State as well as direct Mayor's Committee projects, outside of direct relief.

From November 1, 1931 to April 5, 1932, the Salvation Army with appropriations made by the Mayor's Committee, supplied:

57,188 meals to single men without dependents; 1,374 lodgings to shelterless single men. Meal tickets were given to investigated clients from Salvation Army headquarters at Fourth and Shipley Streets and were honored by a number of Wilmington restaurants.

During April, 2,800 families received food orders each week at a cost of \$45,000 for the month. 2000 men were employed on the dual highway project in co-operation with the State Highway Department.

By May 20, 1932, 3,000 families containing 12,000 persons were being taken care of by direct relief and the funds were rapidly being depleted. To raise the additional funds so badly needed the "Block Aid" idea was put into operation about June 1. This consisted of a house to house canvass by volunteer workers who asked



Block  
Aid  
bulletin  
no date

the householder to subscribe a few cents a week over a period of time to help alleviate the distress of their neighbors. The goal was \$10,500 weekly for 20 weeks. When the campaign ended 11,228 individuals had subscribed to Block Aid and were contributing money each week.

Report of  
th Unem-  
ployment  
Relief  
Commission  
of the  
State of  
Delaware

While the Block Aid Committee was taking care of the relief situation, the Unemployment Relief Commission of the State of Delaware, appointed by the Governor "to determine the extent and method of unemployment and relief to be afforded our jobless citizens in the near future," was making a study of the situation so that they could recommend a program of work and direct relief.

page 3

While recognizing that under normal conditions the securing of employment is primarily the responsibility of the individual and that relief when it becomes necessary is primarily the function of local as opposed to State agencies, the Commission was convinced the emergency was so severe and wide-spread as to imperil the public health and safety of the State and its inhabitants and had thus become a matter of public concern. It was further convinced that the situation could not be adequately handled much longer by local resources but that there would be imperative need of further assistance by the State.

The commission visited Wilmington, where because of its industrial population the emergency was most severe, and personally investigated the relief agencies there, discussing with officials in charge, the details of their work and their forecast of future needs. They also requested information on conditions which was freely furnished in great volume by the Mayor's Committee and Block Aid Committee of Wilmington, the Mayor's of incorporated cities and towns throughout the State, County Welfare Committees



and Trustees of the poor.

pg. 4

An analysis of figures obtained from questionnaires mailed to all listed applicants for work in New Castle County, indicated a total throughout the State of approximately 18,000 men and women out of work. Of this number about 12,500 were heads of families or men and women with dependents. This was 21% of the 59,000 families in Delaware according to the 1930 census. In other words, it was indicated that about one-fifth of the families who were normally employed were out of work in addition to the unemployed single men and women.

The commission was advised by the Block-Aid Committee that the plan of taking care of the needs of the Wilmington District by private subscriptions until November could be carried through to completion, after which early extension of State aid would be imperatively needed. It had required the expenditure of over one and three-quarter millions of dollars on the part of the State, communities, and citizens' committees to ameliorate the unemployment situation. No attempt had been made to estimate the private expenditures of individuals or of fraternal organizations, company benefit plans, etc., applicable to the relief of unemployment. Moreover all calls for assistance have not been adequately met for the amount of help given had never been determined by the extent of need, but by the amount of funds available.

According to the records of the Mayor's Relief Committee, 11,932 different families and 851 different single men in the Wilmington District were aided by work or direct relief from November 1, 1931 to July 25, 1932. During this time \$952,000 in wages and direct relief was distributed by the Mayor's Relief Committee and by Block-Aid to these families in varying amounts. This was approximately equivalent to an average of \$80 to each



of the total number of different families in the nine months' period, or if it were reckoned on a monthly basis, it would be equivalent to slightly less than \$9 per family per month. The average number of families per month continuously supported by

Commission

Jasper E. the wages and direct relief furnished by the Wilmington Mayor's  
Crane, Committee was 5,300. Of this number an average of 2,400 families  
Chairman. Wallace  
Woodford per month were continuously helped by direct relief with the  
Vice.ch. meagre allowance principally for food of slightly over \$17 per  
Margaret W. Grimm. family per month, all that the funds available would allow.  
Reba T. Holcomb.

Pierre S. The funds to carry on this relief work were obtained prin-  
duPont. cipally by private subscription, \$872,000 being raised in the  
Ernest A. Wilmington District and \$41,000 throughout the rest of the State,  
Simon. a total of private subscriptions of \$913,000, assisted by the  
Ruby R. Vale. \$400,000 bond issue of the City of Wilmington, and the \$482,000  
W. Dent Smity, in State Highway Emergency contracts. The City of Wilmington  
Sec'y. had practically reached the limit of its borrowing capacity by  
this time and while the response from the public for aid had  
been magnificent, private resources were becoming depleted and  
future subscriptions from individuals could not be expected to  
equal those of the past.

After careful study of the resources of communities and welfare organizations, the Commission recommended that the State contribute 80% of the Direct Relief Fund required in any community upon the condition that the community itself raise the balance of 20%. The Commission further recommended that General Assembly be called into special session to appropriate the amount of \$2,000,000 to finance the State's contribution to relief over the year November 1, 1932, to October 31, 1933. The Commission also recommended that the Highway Department should carry out



emergency highway contracts amounting to \$718,000 for the same period for which they already had the funds available.

The Block-Aid Committee's activities ended November 1, 1932 and Mayor Sparks' Relief Committee was called upon to take charge of the relief administration until the General Assembly had acted upon the recommendations of the Unemployment Relief Commission. The Mayor's Committee directed relief from November 1, 1932 until December 15, 1932 and was provided with an operating fund of \$75,000 by the General Assembly for the six weeks period. Finally, an act, effective December 15, 1932, creating the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission and the appropriating \$2,000,000 from the General Fund for relief purposes was passed by the General Assembly and approved December 1, 1932. Excerpts from important sections of the act areas

(1) follow: Purpose; (2) To relieve the people of the State from  
Rules #1 effective the hardships and suffering caused by unemployment, creating  
Dec. 15, 1932 also rules and organization for such purpose a temporary emergency relief  
#2 revised to May 15 commission, prescribing its powers and duties, making an ap-  
1933.

(2) an Act proposed pamphlet form  
appropriation for its work, supplying deficiencies in the general fund of the State by directing the payment of the proceeds of corporation franchise taxes into the general fund, and authorizing the State highway department to perform work as an independent contractor for the purpose of providing relief here by contemplated. (2) "Emergency period" as defined in the Act means the period between the first day of November, 1932 and the 31 day of October, 1933, or such extension of such period as may be made by the Governor under the authority of this act or by the General Assembly, or such shorter period as may be fixed by the Governor by his termination of the existence of the commission on 30 days' notice in accordance with the provision



of this act.

(2)

"WORK RELIEF" means wages paid by or under the supervision of the Commission to persons who are needy and involuntarily unemployed or whose employment is inadequate to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their dependents, from money appropriated by this Act or contributed under the provisions of this Act, for the performance of services or labor connected with work undertaken by or under the supervision of the Commission.

(2)

"DIRECT RELIEF" means food, shelter, clothing, fuel, light and other absolute necessities furnished under the provisions of this Act, by or under the supervision of the Commission, to needy persons or their dependents in their abode or habitation whenever possible.

(1)

Eligibility for Relief.

In furnishing work relief and/or direct relief no discrimination shall be made against any applicant on the grounds of race, color, religious belief or political affiliation. No such relief shall be furnished except to persons who are in actual need and who are involuntarily out of employment yet capable and willing to work or whose employment is not sufficiently remunerative to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their dependents, and who have been residents of the State at least one year immediately prior to their applications for relief. No direct or work relief shall be furnished to any person who had refused a suitable offer of regular employment. The following classes of persons shall not be eligible for relief under this Act.



Page No 15  
Work and Relief Program

viz:-

Those who receive old age pensions from the State;

Those who receive Mothers' Aid from the State;

Those who are listed in the State Tax Office as physically or mentally incapacitated from earning a living;

Those who are incapable of undertaking any regular work;

Those who have never been regularly employed and have been in whole or in part charges upon the Community.

Those who are provided for by Law, private charity or otherwise.

(1)

NATURE OF RELIEF PROVIDED.

The Emergency Relief shall be confined to work relief and direct relief. No money shall be paid to any person for direct relief and no money shall be paid to any person for work relief except in the form of day's wages for day's work or hour's wages for hour's work. The payment of any money to any person in the form of a dole is hereby prohibited. No claim may be made for cash to be given to needy persons and - or their dependents.

(1)

DIRECT RELIEF

Direct Relief may be granted as -

Food, in the form of food orders determined by number, ages and needs of individual members of family in accordance with food schedules and allowances supplied by the Commission.

Allowance toward shelter when such allowance is absolutely necessary to provide shelter for a person eligible for relief.

Allowances for light, gas, fuel, water, for emergency needs.

Clothing in the form of orders for such articles sufficient for emergency.

In no case will allowance be made on over-due obligations.

(1) WORK RELIEF

All work must be expressly approved by the Commission.

Work Relief shall be given only to employable persons who have been investigated and found eligible.

ADDITIONAL WORK RELIEF:

The State Highway Department is authorized and empowered to execute and perform as an independent contractor the work of clearing, grubbing, grading, planting trees and drainage incident to the acquisition, construction and improvement of State Highways.

Work relief employment rates will be set by the commission, based upon rates for the type of work called for prevailing in the locality where the work is to be performed.

All applicants for Direct Relief or work Relief will be investigated and any intentional mis-statement made by the applicant shall constitute a misdemeanor under the Act setting up the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission.

(2) The Commission shall be dissolved and cease to function upon the termination of the emergency period or so soon thereafter as it shall have completed all work previously undertaken for the purpose of furnishing work relief and settled its obligations and completed its records and accounts. Upon such dissolution all unexpended money of the State hereby appropriated for the purpose of furnishing the emergency relief provided by this Act shall fall into and become a part of the general fund of the State and shall be so credited.



Interim  
Report  
of the  
Temporary  
Emergency  
Relief  
Commission  
for  
period  
November 1  
1932  
to  
September 30  
1933

Page  
3

The Commission at its first Meeting December 7th 1932 elected the following officers:- Jasper E. Crane, Chairman, Everett G. Ackart, Vice-Chairman; Thomas M. Monaghan, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Dent Smith, Relief Director for Wilmington; Mrs. W. R. Gawthrop, Relief Director for Rural New Castle County; Mrs. J. H. Hughes, Relief Director for Kent County; Landreth L. Layton, Relief Director for Sussex County. On June 30, Everett C. Ackart, resigned as Vice-Chairman, remaining a member of the Commission, and Frank Collins was elected Vice-Chairman, also serving as Acting Chairman for 2 months after that date. On September 25th 1933 the resignation of Landreth L. Layton from the Commission was accepted to take effect upon the appointment of his successor. In accordance with the procedure in the Relief Act J. Wiley Trought of Sussex County, was appointed a member of the Relief Commission on September 30th 1933 and he took office and was designated as the Relief Director for Sussex County, October 6th.

Page  
4

The Relief Directors for Wilmington and rural New Castle County agreed, and the Commission approved, to consolidate these two regions into one, under the joint management, in order to save office expense and to promote efficiency.

The extensive relief program, which had been carried on for two years in the Wilmington district by the Mayor's Relief Committee, and which had been operated on State funds since November 1st 1932, under the supervision of the Temporary State Relief Director, was transferred to the Commission on December 16th. On the same date other local relief agencies



Page No. 18  
Work and Relief Program

throughout the State were taken over by the Commission. Relief work was rapidly extended through out the State to administer to all those in need on account of unemployment.

As the depression deepened the number of unemployed people increased to a peak in March 1933. A comprehensive survey of unemployment was made as a work relief project in June and July of the same year, and disclosed that 5,936 families totalling 23,700 persons in the State were without resources and required full relief. Besides this group, 3,861 families had to have occasional relief to supplement their slender resources. They comprised a total of 15,500 persons. In July 1933, therefore, according to this survey 9,800 families comprising 39,200 persons, one-sixth of the population of the State were dependent in whole or in part upon unemployment relief.

The unemployment survey listed as fully unemployed 24,925 persons an increase in unemployment of 7,000 from the estimate of the preceding September, 30% of the employable persons in Delaware were out of work in July. They were distributed as follows:-

New Castle County	21,068	- 84.5% of the total
Kent	2,546	- 10.2% of the total
Sussex	1,311	- 5.3% of the total

In addition the survey reported 8,396 persons on part time employment, or an additional 10% of all employable persons. Not all of the unemployed or partially employed required relief because of their own resources or the assistance of others. In fact, the total number of families on relief was slightly less than half of all of those experiencing unemployment. Between March and October 1933 employment increased and relief declined but the improvement in the



situation ceased in October and the call for relief increased slightly. Thus in New Castle County from a peak of 6,974 families on direct relief in March, there was a decline to 5,529 families in July, and 4,674 in September, a total drop of 32% but an increase of 118 families in October.

One of the most depressed industries was that of building construction, and in Wilmington district half of all the people on relief were formerly engaged in the construction industry. Thus it may readily be seen that the revival in building in the last year or so had been a most potent influence in the reduction of the need for relief.

The status of Commission funds on October 1st 1933, with certain credits for September approximated, was as follows:-

Appropriations by General Assembly from the General Fund,	\$2,000,000.
New Castle County Committee	318,998.
Kent County	5,568.
Sussex County	<u>17,372.</u>
Net State Funds and Local Contributions.	2,341,938.
Rebates from State Highway Dept. received and due	<u>110,000.</u>
Total State and Local Fund	2,451,938.
Federal Relief Administration; received	<u>481,815.</u>
Total Funds from all sources	2,933,753.
Total Expenditures and Commitments to Sept. 30th	<u>2,397,044.</u>
Balance available October 1st 1933	536,709.

If no funds had been received from the Federal Government, the appropriations intended to finance relief work for the twelve months November 1st 1932 to October 31st 1933 would have become exhausted by



the middle of October. This was due to the fact that the depression become worse in the winter of 1932-33 and relief expenditures somewhat greater than anticipated.

In the latter part of April and early May 490 boys were sent to Forestry Camps, under the direction of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Corps, where they were given the opportunity of working in the forests and sending home to their dependents \$25.00 per month. There was some defection of the boys during the early period of their camp life, so that in August 453 Delaware men remained in the camps.

31 sewing units were operated during the winter and spring. the garments made were distributed on direct relief orders thus adding greatly to the support of the unemployed.

The Single Men's Units functioned very successfully and solved satisfactorily the tremendous problem of caring for unemployed single men in a large city.

The Delaware products Package Unit furnished relief clients staple foods at a minimum cost, was self-sustaining and gave employment to 14 unemployed men. It was a very substantial outlet for potatoes and canned goods grown and packed in rural Delaware.

An extensive subsistence garden program was operated in and about Wilmington, 290 gardens being worked by relief clients. In addition 1100 packages of seeds were furnished to clients in rural districts, and 175 Wilmington families were provided with seeds for their own garden space. Foodstuffs of the approximate value of 60,000. were thus made available to relief clients, increasing their food allowance and the variety of their diet. These gardens also gave great opportunity for unemployed to engage in wholesome work. The total cost of seeds for this purpose was \$1,321.



The school children from unemployed or partly unemployed families were furnished free lunches. This was one of the most valuable things accomplished. Some of the children who got lunches formerly had to walk miles to school and then go out to play at noon instead of eating.

The relief programs was expertly planned and efficiently administered. Administration costs were kept low, the overhead on family relief being 7.6% for the entire 11 months. Thus out of every direct relief dollar, over 92 cents went in direct aid to families. Moreover, the discounts afforded the commission by grocers, landlords, milk dealers, increased considerably the amount of relief given the clients. The overhead expenses too were largely salaries to the staff, who were recruited from the unemployed.

The offices of the Relief Directors for New Castle County and headquarters staff were furnished gratis by the Delaware Trust Company. The West Side Relief Unit was housed in the old telephone building, 6th & Shipley Sts. without any rent being charged by the Diamond State Telephone Company, The East Side Relief Unit at 10th & Spruce Sts. and the excellent quarters occupied by the Single Men's Unit at 3rd & Washington Sts. was furnished gratis by the City of Wilmington.

The work in Kent County was ably directed and carried out thoroughly and conscientiously. The figures show that few families were given regular or entire relief. The County was small and the relief office was in the center of it, making it easy and possible for clients to come in often when necessary. There were very few cases refused help, and the orders of those living in the county who were assisted, often lasted several weeks. They were able



Page No. 22  
Work and Relief Program

to have a few days work and thus supplement the order with their own money. Kent County also had quite a few jobs for men under the Made Work Program, Highway jobs, and N.R.A. projects. The school children of unemployed or partly employed in Kent County were also furnished lunches and the sewing unit operated very successfully.

Subsistence gardens were also operated in Kent County and proved to be a useful adjunct of relief. The total cost of seeds furnished for this purpose was \$153.

Page 15 Owing to the smaller volume of work and the greater distances to be covered overhead expenses were greater than in an urban district but those were kept as low as possible averaging about 20%. Thus of each relief dollar, 80 cents went directly to the clients.

In Sussex County a different picture was presented from that in the rest of the State. Charges were made from the start that the work was badly mis-managed, two of the accusations were that the director purchased cotton goods for sewing units outside of the State and that he distributed seeds to farmers of Sussex County at the expense of approximately \$26,000. This was claimed to be contrary to the State Relief Act which permitted distribution of seeds to raise foodstuffs for self-subsistence and not for sale. Regardless of differences of opinion as to the charges made the fact remains that for every \$1.56 spent in New Castle County in the period of from November 1932 to October 1933, \$6.87 was spent in Kent County and \$18.58 in Sussex County. They may be accounted for by the fact that the farmers in Sussex may have been given assistance that the Relief Act did not provide for. The result of all of this however was the resignation of the director, Landreth L. Layton taking effect September 30, 1933 and his successor, Mr. J. Wiley Trought being appointed that evening.



Delaware's  
Unemploy-  
ment  
Relief  
Problem"  
published  
by  
Temporary  
Emergency  
Relief  
Commission  
1934.

The problem of providing relief to the unemployed having long since become far too great to be handled by the municipalities, the greater part of the burden as has been shown was taken over by the State with the formation of the Relief Commission in December 1932. Continued economic depression soon caused this situation to grow to such proportions that the States themselves became unable to carry the whole load, and at the same time provide adequate relief.

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The Federal Emergency Relief Administration in accordance with the law passed by Congress May 12, 1933, granted to the State of Delaware one-third of the amount expended by the Relief Commission, including sums raised by the County Committees where these sums came from tax sources. Up to February 1, 1934 these grants amounted to nearly \$800,000, and only by the receipt of these funds was it possible to carry on the work of the Relief Commission to this point.

From October 1, 1933 to December 8, 1933, relief needs continued to be handled by the same administrative personnel which had been set up by the Commission. However, during December Mr. Jasper E. Crane, Chairman of the Commission was forced by business requirements to resign his post. This necessitated a temporary readjustment in the organization of the Commission. In the process of reorganization, Mr. Frank Collins was made Acting Chairman. Mr. Thomas M. Monaghan was elected Vice-chairman and Walter Dent Smith was elected Secretary and Treasurer, clothed with executive authority for the entire State. On January 1, 1934, Mr. J. George Stewart was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. E. G. Ackart.

In a telegram November 10, 1933, Harry L. Hopkins



Revised  
Review  
of  
CWA Activi-  
ties in the  
State of  
Delaware

Federal Administrator, designated the Delaware Temporary Emergency Relief Commission as the Civil Works Administration for the State. The Commission accepted this appointment promptly, and the officers and administrators for the various areas accepted similar functions for the C.W.A.

Throughout the program, the relief commission continued to act as the governing body of the State CWA. When Walter Dent Smith became Executive Director of Relief for the entire State he was placed in similar capacity in relation to Civil Works. Mrs. James H. Hughes, of Kent County and J. Wiley Trough of Sussex County, in addition to being Relief Directors, were named Civil Works administrators for their respective Counties.

Through State-wide press notices, the different State and local governmental agencies were notified of the proposed Civil Works Program. The response to this program was immediate. Projects were prepared in conformity with the existing regulations and during the first week of the program, 17 different projects were started, 14 for men and 3 sewing unit projects for women. These employed a total of 785 men and women.

The quota for the State at the outset of the CWA program was 6,000 persons. During the period November 15th to December 1st, 1,055 persons were placed on CWA projects. All of these were taken from the relief rolls of the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission, with the exception of a headquarters staff who were for the most part employees transferred from the made Work Division State Relief Commission in the City of Wilmington and adjacent New Castle County. Men were placed at work on projects as near as possible to the district in which they resided. The only

page 3

page 4



occasion Wilmington men were used in rural districts was when the supply of men in the county was exhausted. In the City of Wilmington the supply was always greater than the demand, hence, with a few exceptions, men residing in rural New Castle County were not given employment in the City of Wilmington.

In Delaware there was very close cooperation between the National Re-employment Service and the Civil Works Administration. In each of the counties the Assignment Officer issued to the Re-employment Service lists containing the names and addresses of those placed on work from Relief Rolls. This enabled the Re-employment Service to change many applicants for work from the active to the inactive file. A check of these lists showed that many of the persons placed on work from Relief Rolls were not registered at the Re-employment Service.

Later, if the Re-employment Offices sent workers to CWA, lists were furnished the Relief Agencies. In addition the names of those referred to PWA and private projects were also furnished to the Relief Organizations. A check of these lists showed that 36% of those picked on the basis of ability rather than need, although married men were given preference, were known to the Relief Organization. There was no indication that the type of work or locality of the project had any material influence on this ratio.

In Delaware the rule was adopted that employment through the National Re-employment Service to Civil Works Projects would not become operative until after the full half of the quota to come from Relief Rolls were first employed. Consequently only 128 placements were made from the



Re-employment Service in the first six weeks.

Orders from Washington curtailing activities of the CWA prevented balancing of the number of workers from Relief and from Re-employment Offices on a 50-50 basis, so that it is estimated that only 27% of CWA workers were taken from Re-employment Service.

pg. 5 Since 36% of these were known to relief, it was estimated that only 17% of the persons employed on CWA in Delaware had been self-sustaining. However, a later survey by CWA personnel division showed the following percentage of CWA employees had not received relief of any kind before employment by CWA: New Castle County, 33%; Kent County, 25%; Sussex County, 25%; State 27.66%.

pg.15 Perhaps the most beneficial effect which CWA had on its employees was the dissipating of the natural feeling of discouragement near hopelessness resulting from months of idleness. There has been no specific study made in Delaware of the effects of this employment, but those directly associated with it had seen men and their families regain their self-respect and usual dignity and once again becoming independent and self-supporting. In many instances family financial problems became more acute and pressing with the arrival of wages because of the fact that creditors became more insistent and landlords, for example, demanded full rent payments where before they accepted reduced remittances in the form of relief orders. However, in the majority of cases listlessness was replaced by a feeling of fitness and a new self-reliance, and men were willing to accept these increased burdens because of the morale-sustaining effect of regular jobs at decent wages. Often the wages received were little if any greater than the amounts furnished by the relief organization, and no actual financial rehabilitation took place but the psychological re-habilitation in being freed from the indignity of accepting "charity", and the feeling



of a more complete self-reliance made up sufficiently for the lack of actual financial increase.

Although it was intended that Civil Works employment be regarded as regular work, large numbers of persons, especially in the rural sections of the State, considered the program throughout as one of work relief, and on that basis called its administration very unjust. The complaint that was heard most was that work was being given to persons who did not need it, and many who were in distress could not get jobs. Repeated explanations would not dissociate from the minds of a large groupe of people the thought that CWA was a badly handled work relief program.

Although the attitude of the public in general seemed to be that CWA was at best a make shift proposition which could accomplish no permanent good, it was generally conceded that a work program is superior to direct relief. On the other hand, a group of citizens, probably as large as any other group gave CWA an intelligent appraisal, and regarded it as a wise and sensible means of handling a situation ~~the~~ which at best was difficult. It was widely recognized that the best way to support a mass of idle people was to put them to work at decent and regular wages. Furthermore, the work accomplished by the CWA projects was in most instances sufficiently useful and desirable to satisfy the most practical-minded persons that from a utilitarian point of view, the money was not wasted.

The winter of 1933-34 made an especially heavy demand upon the resources available for direct relief. Due to unusually bad weather it became necessary to supplement reduced wages with relief. For this reason many families were continued on relief rolls while working on CWA jobs.

In November, 1933, the sharp rise in commodity prices, es-



1. Unem-  
ployment  
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pecially food, made necessary a readjustment in the scale of food allowances. Accordingly, the food schedule was raised 20% in order partially to offset the hardship which the price rise had worked on relief clients.

pg.17/

Beginning with October 19, 1933, the Federal Surplus Food Corporation made available to the State Relief Administrations such commodities as pork, butter and eggs to be distributed to families on relief. In accordance with Federal regulations, these commodities are allotted over and above the regular requirements and standards of food relief set by the State Administrations.

A Federal grant of \$80,000 was set aside by the Federal Food Corporation for distribution of food for the State of Delaware. The costs of the foods issued to Delaware are charged against this grant. The relief visitors distributed the commodities to the clients according to the size of the family.

During December, 1933, the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation made arrangements to have surplus coal allocated to the various States for distribution to relief families. Coal distributors co-operated with the Government by giving a discount of 10%, and carriers assisted by allowing a reduction of 20%. The purchase price of the coal and the freight charges were paid by the Federal Government and deducted from the relief allotments to the various States. Charges covering delivery from the local dealer to the client were paid by the State administrations.

In Delaware, agreements between the Commission and coal dealers established delivery charges with a range of from \$2.00 to \$2.25 per ton, according to the locality. During January, approximately 2,500 tons of Federal coal were delivered in Delaware at a value of approximately \$27,000.



For the purpose of handling clothing, one of the largest and most important single items of relief, separate units were operated in 1933. In addition to the usual items--shoes, underwear, dresses, pg.19 suits, layettes, etc., a number of essential household articles including bedding and blankets were carried in stock.

Purchases of stock for the clothing units amounting to \$190,600 were made from Delaware merchants in addition to the articles made in the sewing units and articles furnished by the American Red Cross. During 1933 clothing donations from the Red Cross amounted to \$15,000. Sewing unit operations produced clothing, sheets, pillow cases, etc., to the amount of approximately \$65,300.

In variance with the policy of most States, the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission adopted the system of paying a rent allowance, sufficient to insure the landlords the fixed charges of mortgage interest, taxes, water rent, etc., on their properties. A maximum rent allowance of \$9.00 per month is permitted.

In New Castle County a monthly average of 2,144 families has been furnished with shelter. Totaling expenditures to January 31, of \$215,417.80. This sum not only insured the vital necessity of shelter to the unemployed, but aided thousands of landlords to make mortgage payments on their properties.

On February 13, 1934, Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator in a letter to Governor Buck, stated that inas-  
much as the matching provision of the Federal Emergency Relief Act pg.4 was suspended shortly after October 1, 1933, all future grants would be made on the basis of the specific needs of the State. He further stated that if the Legislature would enact legislation to provide two-thirds of the costs of public unemployment relief from March 1st, on, he would approve grants from time to time, representing one-third of the total obligations incurred for relief out of public funds.



pg.7. In early 1934 private industry manifested a slight upward trend but it was hardly enough to increase employment opportunities to any appreciable extent. Plants had moved out of the state, employment was reduced by mergers and consolidations, others closed on account of lack of credit and bankruptcies, and the merchandization of industry had increased to such a point that fewer men were needed.

In addition other sources of income had been curtailed. Government pensions were materially reduced or entirely discontinued. Many insurance companies were unable to grant loans or to give cash surrender on policies held. On account of the long duration of this period of depression, relatives were no longer able to aid many of their kin. Home owners at this time had great difficulty in obtaining mortgages and loans on their property. Credit had been greatly restricted and business and personal loans were difficult to obtain. Savings of wage-earners were largely exhausted. Moreover, CWA employment did not reduce the relief load to the extent anticipated. In February 1934 CWA was furnishing employment to 3,384 persons on a part-time basis made necessary by the depletion of Federal funds, but as explained before a large number of these were not relief clients.

By the middle of February 1934 due to the increased need and consequence extra heavy drain on relief resources, the people of Delaware faced a critical situation. Funds available to the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission were exhausted; yet they were confronted with the necessity of providing the essentials of life to over 28,000 persons. Few realized that nearly one-eighth of the population of Delaware looked to the State for direct relief. Included in that number were about 12,000 school children. From



every outlook it was evident that the burden of furnishing relief, approximating \$200,000 a month must be continued for months to come.

With relief case load and disbursements at the second highest point since the inception of organized relief, the Legislature convened on March 6, 1934. In Special Session and received a message transmitted by the Governor asking for relief provision.

In the meantime Mr. Harry Hopkins advised he would make available to Delaware, funds sufficient to provide for Delaware's needs, from the point of exhaustion of the Commissions funds, only until such time as the Legislature had had a reasonable opportunity to act on a program of unemployment relief. The sum of \$175,000 was there upon forwarded by the Federal Government to the Relief Commission. It was decided that amount would suffice until approximately March 24, which in the ordinary course of events was time enough for the State Legislature to act. At the opening of the Special Session, the Governor also disclosed that the members of the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission were anxious that they be relieved from further duty.

Many plans were proposed in the House and one by one rejected until finally on March 23, with only funds enough left in the Relief Commission to last another day, Legislature appropriated \$108,000 for direct relief until the end of April, over opposition mostly from Kent and Sussex Counties. This was only one-half of the amount and therefore caused a drastic reduction in relief. No more coal or clothing orders were given and rent allowances and medical attention were discontinued. Only food orders were given out and these were cut one-third. Shortly after these conditions were made public, many doctors offered medical attention free but no money was available for prescriptions and it was estimated that not 1,000 relief clients were sick. Finally on March 29, conditions

E.E.  
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ar. were such that the Commission was forced to resume the practice  
9 of giving medicine and fuel orders. To make matters worse all  
ar. CWA projects ceased on March 29, and approximately 2,000 persons  
4 returned to relief rolls.  
g.2

ay 1 The crisis in the relief problem arrived at 5 p.m. on April  
934 30, when the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission ceased to exist,  
g.22 due to the fact that the administrative authority invested in  
them by legislature, for a definite period and later extended by  
the Governor under the provisions contained in the original act, ended  
at that time. All relief work of any nature whatever was brought  
to an abrupt halt. Mayor Speer made a personal visit to the single  
men's shelter and advised the men that he personally would be  
responsible for the expense of keeping it operating for a few days  
longer if no other way could be found. Bread was contributed by  
two local bakeries and this helped some, but the morning of May 1,  
1934 found practically all organized emergency relief at a stand  
still with Legislature dead locked on the relief question.

Governor Buck realized the seriousness of the situation caused  
by thousands of people suddenly cut off from the necessities of  
life and immediately set about to find means to provide relief for  
these people regardless of the actions of Legislature. On May 3,  
ay 3 1934, five of the original members of the Associated Charities which  
934 was chartered in 1885 and whose broad charter had never been can-  
g.1 celled attended a conference in the Governor's office. The  
directors decided to form a new organization as a subsidiary, to  
be called Relief Commission Inc., the Associated Charities under  
the provisions of the old charter had authority to receive funds  
and administer relief, and the Levy Court was empowered to raise  
and contribute money to the Associated Charities for relief purposes.

The officers of Relief Commission Inc., elected at this



meeting were: Mrs. A. D. Warner Sr., President; George A. Rhoads, Vice-President; John S. Rossell, Treasurer; Clifford E. Isard, Secretary; Walter Dent Smith was retained in an advisory capacity. The machinery for the administration of relief in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County started to function on May 3, with resources expected to be obtained from public funds, private subscription and Federal monies.

May 5  
1934  
pg. By May 5, restricted relief was being carried on by the Commission, the resources were such that only food orders were distributed, but on May 8, Levy Court unanimously voted \$300,000, to be given at the rate of \$50,000 monthly for six months, to the Associated Charities, (Relief Commission) to back the Governor's plan.

May 8  
1934  
pg.1 Legislature by this time had been dead locked for 78 days on the relief question. It had originally met in Special Session in October 1933 that lasted 32 days until adjourned by the Governor for 60 days after a dead lock on the relief question. It reconvened March 6, 1934 and once again became dead locked on the problem of relief. The clock was stopped shortly before four o'clock on April 20, the time set for adjournment and the legislative day continued until May 7, midnight a record of 403 hours, when the body finally adjourned without passing a resolution on the relief question.

May 15  
1934  
pg.20 On May 14, 1934 the State Highway Department adopted a resolution agreeing to assume jurisdiction of and supervise and pay for construction and maintenance of bridges and roads in New Castle County during 1934 to the extent of \$300,000. The decision meant in effect that the action of the Levy Court in agreeing to appropriate \$300,000 for direct relief in the county for six months would cost the taxpayer nothing. In other words, the Highway Department in taking over and paying for this work, which the Levy



Court in the usual course of events would have had to do, allowed the court to appropriate the same amount of money as the cost of the work, for relief purposes without any additional expenditures on the part of Levy Court.

Relief Commission Inc., came into actual existence May 29, 1934, after a meeting of the governing body of the Associated Charities, when a certificate of amendment to the original charter was approved. The original members of the corporation were augmented and a bi-partisan board of directors of eight members to have charge of all relief in Wilmington and rural New Castle County was elected.

The eight directors, four Republican and four Democrats, four of whom were Wilmingtonians and four residents of rural New Castle County were: Irene duPont, (R), Pierre S. duPont (D), Bishop Phillip Cook, (R), James T. Skelly, (D), Mrs. Helen Gawthrop, (R), Mayor Frank Collins, of Newark, Delaware, (D), Richard Sellers, (R), Herbert Renshaw, (D).

New members of Relief Commission Inc., included members of the old Temporary Emergency Relief Commission and others, two members of the old TERC, Miss Gawthrop and Mayor Collins, as may be noted above were elected to the board. Miss Ethelda Mullen was named executive director for the board and was given control of the administration of relief. As the problem of unemployment was most acute in Wilmington, the only large industrial center in the State, and in the surrounding suburbs situated in New Castle County, a relief program to include New Castle County and Wilmington only was undertaken.

The relief Commission, Inc., from the inception of its program, had available for relief expenditures \$100,000 a month for an average caseload of 4,150 cases or 16,800 individuals.



The Commission faced with the difficult problem of limited funds, and a relatively large caseload could not inaugurate a work relief program, at first, as much as the manifest advantages of work relief made this form of aid desirable.

However, beginning in June, preliminary surveys were made to determine whether a work program would be feasible. The municipal departments of the city of Wilmington were anxious to have several projects, which they had sponsored under the CWA program, and which were left uncompleted in March, finished, as in the case of some projects materials had been ordered and delivered, and only required the necessary labor to complete them.

The Relief Commission Inc., was aided and encouraged to undertake a work program by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and during June, July and August several conferences were held between officials of FERA and executive members of RCI for the purpose of launching such a program.

When the first installment of \$50,000 of the \$300,000 appropriated by Levy Court was received, it was matched by an equal amount from the Federal Government. This allowed some of the restrictions of the first days of RCI's administration be removed and wider program to be inaugurated.

On June 20, 1934 an announcement was made of outright and conditional grants of \$2,223,395 made by the Federal Government for road work in Delaware. \$923,395 of this money was made available at once and the bill provided \$650,000 a year for two years provided the State appropriated like amounts. This work was expected to employ 2,000 men and thus lighten the relief disbursements.

It was also announced on June 20, 1934, that PWA had employed 3,800 from April 1, 1934 until that time and had expended \$150,250 in wages. This unquestionable helped a great deal during the time funds were so low restricted relief was in effect.



June 21 1934 page 12 The first report of Relief Commission Inc., on June 21, 1934, showed direct relief in full operation again with commitments of \$77,362.85 during May. This was on the basis of restricted relief for part of the month.

From June 1934, the lowest point in relief disbursements and case load since October 1932, the relief expenditures and number of clients steadily increased until the peak was reached in December 1934. The low relief expenditures in May and June and through the summer could not be taken as a relief trend. This was by reason of the fact that for several months after May 1, money was not available to fully meet the relief burden. The reduction in these months, therefore, may be considered as representing restricted funds rather than in the reduction of relief needs. However, some of the reduction of 1934 under 1933 could be properly termed need trend and was therefore indicative of a decided improvement in general conditions.

E.J.E.E. Aug. 7 1934 pg.34 About August 6, the third carload of Federal food stuffs donated by Federal Emergency Relief Administration was received greatly augmented the resources of the Commission. Later large herds of cattle from the mid-west drought area. Most of the animals had to be pastured for about three months to fatten them sufficiently for good beef before slaughtering, however, some were in good enough condition to be killed at once.

On August 10, 1934, a formal invitation to participate in a work program was addressed to the City Council of Wilmington, by the Relief Commission. After some delay occasioned by problems of finance, the Council replied on September 22, stating that it

TERC for New Castle Co. would pledge its financial support toward sponsoring projects which would benefit the community, with the emphasis on park and street improvements.



Delaware  
Review  
of Work  
Relief  
Activi-

ties.  
Apr. 1 1934 to June 1, 1935  
The existence of Relief Commission Inc., reached a critical point in October, because at the time it began operations in May, it was agreed by the Levy Court and by the City Council, that funds would be provided for a six months period, until some other arrangements could be made for the relief of the destitute unemployed of Wilmington and suburbs. In October at the end of the six months of RCI's functioning during this emergency period, no definite plans had been made to supplant this organization's relief activities. An agreement was reached between the Levy Court, the City Council, the Governor of the State, and members of the Commission for RCI, that RCI should continue to function until January, 1935, when a plan for unemployment relief would be presented to the Delaware General Assembly, which would meet on January 3. Levy Court made an emergency appropriation of \$20,000 which was matched by the government. To assist RCI in meeting its commitments during the latter part of October and early November.

On October 5, the City Council voted \$200,000 to the credit of RCI, with the provision that \$120,000 of this amount was to be used for general relief purposes during the month of November and part of December. The remaining \$80,000, it was stipulated, was to be used for a work relief project, the construction of a drainage and sewerage system in South Wilmington. The Council had been petitioned by the residents of this section for over a year prior to this grant to have more adequate sewerage arrangements in this area.

It was also agreed by the RCI, at the time that the \$200,000 grant was made, that other work projects would be undertaken for the benefit of City Departments. It was further agreed that the South Wilmington sewerage and drainage project would be financed entirely by the appropriation of \$80,000, including the payment of



relief wages, while in the case of other projects, relief wages would be paid out of relief funds and materials would be paid for by the sponsors.

However, the first project undertaken by RCI, a community renovize campaign, began on November 15, 1934 and was made possible through the allocation of special grants by the FERA, for this purpose. Other projects were begun during the week beginning December 3. Operation began on the South Wilmington sewerage and drainage project on December 11, this project being somewhat delayed because of the necessity of ordering special materials.

The early days of January 1935 found RCI faced with the old J.E.E. question of depleted funds, the situation being so serious that on Jan. 5, 1935 January 4, City Council appropriated an additional \$25,000 for Jan. 8 relief in the city. This was matched by FERA on January 5, but until this Federal allotment was received all relief work in the Jan. 9 county ceased as City Council's appropriations could not be used for relief outside of the city. On January 9, the Levy Court of New Castle County, which had appropriated a total of \$350,000 in 1934 for relief, allotted an additional \$25,000 for county relief Jan. 11, and this was matched by FERA on January 11. Shortly before this 1934 pg. 14 appropriation, the Federal Government also allotted an additional \$12,000 to Delaware to be used for work relief and student aid. These new funds were sufficient to meet RCI's commitments until January 16.

The program of Relief Commission Inc., had been set up for a period of 6 months, thus its term was due to expire January 29. It was quite evident by this time that some arrangement must be made for a regular source of funds if relief was to be continued for any appreciable length of time.



The Governor in his message to the Delaware General Assembly which met on January 2, 1935, suggested the matter of unemployment J.E.E. relief was properly the function of the local government where it Jan. 2, 1934 exists and should be so treated. He said in part. "As a State in which agriculture is the chief industry, a state with but a single industrial city within its borders, Delaware's experience in furnishing relief to the unemployed with public funds from the State pg.2 treasury has been such as to lead me to believe that the State will not again be allowed to enter this field of welfare work. The fact remains, however, that there is some distress in the lower counties and a great deal in the City of Wilmington and its suburbs. Certainly in the case of Wilmington provision must be made to extend further assistance to those families now on the relief rolls while the emergency lasts, and in Kent and Sussex Counties there are no doubt some cases where help is needed." He brought to the attention of the members of Legislature, "the successful manner" as he said in which relief was then being locally supervised in New Castle County and he maintained it aptly illustrated the merit of localizing the administration of relief to destitute families.

In line with the Governor's suggestions, the State Legislature, on January 15 and 17, passed the Heal Bill authorizing the creation of emergency unemployment relief commissions on a county basis.

Jan.16 The bill was signed by Governor Buck, on January 21. An enabling 1935 act was also passed on January 28 and 29, to provide a method of pg.16 obtaining funds for the maintenance of the commissions so authorized. This was known as the Dugan Bill and was signed by the Governor, February 4, 1935.

For the purpose of providing funds to repay money borrowed for relief, the enabling act created a county income tax effective



in these counties where relief commissions were organized. The relief act provided for a commission of four members, residents of the county, appointed by the Governor of the State. New Castle County was the only one, of the three counties to establish a Temporary Emergency Relief Commission under the terms of these acts.

On February 6, 1935 the Governor appointed a new relief commission, to be known as the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission for New Castle County. The four members comprising the commission

J.E.E. as specified in the Dugan Bill were: Pierre S. duPont, Mayor Frank  
Feb. 6 Collins of Newark, Delaware, Bishop Phillip Cook, and Richard Sellars,  
1935 all members of the old commission.

In the meantime, the Relief Commission Inc., continued to function until January 15, when its responsibilities were assumed by the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission for New Castle County.

The new organization was somewhat handicapped at the outset because the county income tax from which it was to derive its funds was not payable until March 15. However, funds were advanced by the Levy Court, this body had been named in the enabling act as disbursing agent for the money derived from the income tax, for the months of January, February, and March, repayable out of taxes when available.

The FERA, continued as before, to match local funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and the combined funds gave the new organization an operating revenue of approximately \$100,000 for resident relief. This limited amount was insufficient to provide a work program of any extent, being barely sufficient to provide an adequate direct relief program.

On December 31, all work projects were discontinued by the Relief Commission, Inc., with the exception of the South Wilmington drainage and sewerage project. It was possible to continue this



one project, in operation because the entire cost of this project was being paid for by the City of Wilmington; the others were halted because of lack of funds to pay relief wages.

LOCATION - State wide.

*Gov. Stali;  
Institutions*

Submitted by - Gordon Butler.

Date - June 12, 1936.

The Minquadale Home.

The Minquadale Home, located in Minquadale, is a home for aged men.

To be eligible to admission, applicants must be at least 60 years of age, residents of Delaware and of good character and health. This home charges an admission fee of \$350.00 for a single person. Receives contributions and bequests.

The home is a large and beautiful one and has a capacity of 14 persons, however, at present only 10 persons reside here.

Reference: Delaware State Board of Charities.

Directory 1932.

page 95 pp. 128.



Tour Insert

## LOCALITY - Minquadale

THE MINQUADALE HOME, ( M.- L - ) is a large and attractive home for aged men. Applicants must be 60 years of age, resident of Delaware, and of good character and health. The home is a private institution and charges an admission. The capacity is 14 persons.

LOCATION - State wide.

*Reference*

Submitted by - Franklin Pote.

Date - June 12, 1936.

**State Philanthropic Societies.**

Homes in private families are provided for destitute, neglected or wayward children by The Children's Bureau of Delaware and by The Delaware Children's Home Society. Both of these societies receive State appropriations as well as private contributions.

The Visiting Nurses Association, in Wilmington, and the Claymont Community Nursing Service render valuable aid in these localities. The State appropriates a part of the funds needed to operate each of these societies.

Other philanthropic organizations receiving no State appropriations are the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, and Prisoners' Aid Society of Delaware. The Sunday Breakfast Mission, and the American Rescue Mission are local missions devoted to rescue work.



NEMOURS HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.341  
340

Not in Wilmington phone book, Jan. 1946.

p. 2 is b1 in v. 22  
as p. 24

Construction of the million dollar hospital for crippled children at "Nemours" estate of the late Alfred L. duPont, northwest of the city, will begin about Nov. 1st, 1938. Bids will be asked Sept. 1st, and it is expected that the hospital will be completed by fall of 1939.

The hospital will be of six wings and of French Chateaux Architecture, and will be one of the most modern medical units in the country. The new hospital will have every facility from scientific museum, research laboratories and therapeutic swimming pool, to an auditorium built so beds can be wheeled into it.

Massena & duPont, Wilmington architects and Crisp and Edmonds, a Baltimore firm of architects are preparing the plans.

Approval by the Nemours Foundation Trustees and Dr. Shands, who is in charge has been given on all plans to date.

There will be the main building, and a large auxiliary service building, housing the heating plant, dynamos and laundry.

Several convalescent cottages will be constructed, after the main buildings are completed.

The main building will be 250 feet back from the Rockland Road entrance to the estate. It will be 800 feet southeast from the carrillon tower, a memorial to Mr. duPont.

The main building will be 260 feet deep and 320 feet wide, measured by its longest wing. It is designed to provide the highest efficiency and the greatest amount of sunlight where it is needed most - in the wards. From a wide front wing facing toward Rockland Road, the 260-foot wing will extend directly backward. Midway along this wing, other wings will extend to ### either side to form a cross, with the front wing as a base.

The main wards will be on the first floor in the left midway wing and the rear half of the center wing that extends directly back from front.

The rear half ~~really~~ forms a separate wing, the two ward sections thus making a right angled triangle the wards opening onto a triangular flagstone and glass court where patients can be wheeled for sunbaths. there will be a fountain in the court.

One side of the front wing, will be a dispensary with social service offices, six examining rooms for "out patients", a room for # working with plaster casts, and clinic rooms with waiting room to seat 100 persons.

Administration offices will be to the right in the front wing. They will include a large lobby, business offices with adjoining waiting # room, an office for the superintendent of nurses, a combination library and board room, a room for physicians on the visiting staff, and the director's office with secretary's office and waiting room.

Four X-Ray rooms, a dentist's room, and a rest room will be in the center wing to the left directly back of the main wing. Opposite the X-ray rooms will be classrooms for the children. The wards will # have a common diet kitchen back of the X-ray Rooms and in connection with each ward will be four smaller rooms for patients.

The therapeutic swimming pool will be in an addition extending backward from the right midway wing. It will be 20 by 13 feet with a depth from 2.5 to 4 feet and with adjoining dressing rooms for boys and girls.



Location - Dover, Delaware  
Submitted by - G. Ashworth Burslem  
Date - February 21, 1936

State Drawer!  
Social Welfare  
342

Social Service Agencies  
THE ELIZABETH MURPHY SCHOOL

Sanford S. Murphy, son of the Rev. Thomas G. Murphy, minister of the Dover Presbyterian Church, spent his youth in Dover, Delaware. Then Delaware had a law which permitted boys to be bound out to farmers. It was required that they should receive an elementary education but the system was so abused that in many cases it amounted to nothing more than slavery.

This condition made a deep impression on Mr. Murphy, and through years he never forgot what he had seen. Sometimes during his lifetime he made a compact with himself, that he would do something to remedy the evil and give boys and girls deprived of home privileges the opportunity to be reared in surroundings conducive to a healthful and happy upbringing.

Mr. Murphy cherished this desire through the years. He had in mind something far removed from the institutional idea. Acquainting himself with the latest methods for the care of dependent children, he planned accordingly. In 1923, having acquired a fortune beyond his own needs he determined to devote it to an enterprise such as he had cherished through the years. Selling what was in his mind he said, " I am going to do this somewhere. Is it needed in Delaware?"



Delaware had a number of agencies caring for dependent children, with competent officials, but no institution patterned after modern ideas. These organizations had their offices in Wilmington. Kent and Sussex counties had no organization to care for children who through loss of one or both parents were left to the charity of friends and relatives.

Informed of this condition, Mr. Murphy purchased land on Division Street, fourteen acres, and began the erection of a home for the superintendent, two cottages, each cottage to house sixteen children, and a power house.

These cottages are modern in their furnishings and equipment, comfortable and homelike. A house mother and assistant care for the children.

A few years later a beautiful auditorium which may be used for cultural or philanthropic purpose, and for such entertainments as the school children give, an infirmary with provision for those having communicable diseases were completed. In 1929 two more cottages were erected giving house capacity for sixty-four children. Additional cottages are to be erected as it is required.

Children between the ages of two and ten are admitted, and must live south of the canal.

The grounds behind the cottages have a well-equipped playground and sufficient room for healthful recreation.

George Ehinger is the superintendent. Mr. Ehinger has spent his life in children's work and brings to his office a mind fully equipped by theory and practice for the office.



J. F. Pote  
February 8, 1937

Economic and Social  
Development  
Welfare

344

Robert G. Ingersoll's Attitude on Delaware

"Question. How are getting along with Delaware?

Answer. First rate. You know I have been wondering where Comegys came from, and at last I have made the discovery. I was told the other day by a gentleman from Delaware that many years ago Colonel Hazelitt died; that Colonel Hazelitt was an old Revolutionary officer, and that when they were digging his grave they dug up Comegys. Back of that no one knows anything of his history. The only thing they know about him certainly is, that he has never changed one of his views since he was found, and that he never will. I am inclined to think, however, that he lives in a community congenial to him. For instance, I saw in a paper the other day that within a radius of thirty miles around Georgetown, Delaware, there are about two hundred orphan and friendless children. These children, it seems, were indentured to Delaware farmers by the managers of orphan asylums and other public institutions in and about Philadelphia. It is stated in the paper, that: "Many of these farmers are rough taskmasters, and if a boy fails to perform the work of an adult, he is almost certain to be cruelly treated, half starved, and in the coldest weather wretchedly clad. If he does the work his life is not likely to be much happier, for as a rule he will receive more kicks than candy. The result in either case is almost certain to be wrecked constitutions, dwarfed bodies, rounded shoulders, and limbs crippled or rendered useless by frost or rheumatism.

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J. F. Pote  
February 8, 1937

Economic and Social Development  
Welfare

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The principal diet of these boys is corn pone. A few days ago Constable W. H. Johnson went into the house of Reuben Taylor, and on entering the sitting room his attention was attracted by the moans of its only occupant, a little colored boy who was lying on the hearth in front of the fireplace. The boy's head was covered with ashes from the fire, and he did not pay the slightest attention to the visitor, until Johnson asked what made him cry. Then the little fellow sat up and drawing an old rag off his feet said, "Look there." The sight that met Johnson's eyes was horribly beyond description. The poor boy's feet were so horribly frozen that the flesh had dropped off the toes until the bones protruded. The flesh on the sides, bottoms and tops of his feet was swollen until the skin cracked in many places, and the inflamed flesh was sloughing off in great flakes. The frost-bitten flesh extended to the knees, the joints of which were terribly inflamed. The right one had already begun suppurating. This poor little black boy, covered with nothing but a cotton shirt, drilling pants, a pair of nearly worn out brogans and a battered old hat, on the morning of December 30th, the coldest day of the season, when the mercury was seventeen degrees below zero, in the face of a driving snow storm, was sent half a mile from home to protect his master's unshucked corn from the depredations of marauding cows and crows. He remained standing around in the snow until four o'clock, then he drove the cows home, received a piece of cold corn pone, and was sent out in the snow again to chop stove wood till dark. Having no bed, he slept that night in front of the fireplace, with his frozen feet buried in the ashes. Dr. D. H. Richards found it necessary to cut off



the boy's feet as far back as the ankle and the instep. This was but one case in several." ..... "I have seen many people from that state lately who really wish that Colonel Hazlitt had never died."

Washington Correspondent, Brooklyn Eagle, March 19, 1881.

### An Interview

"Only a few years ago, any man speaking in favor of the rights of man, endeavoring to break a chain from a human limb, was in danger of being mobbed by the Christians of this country. I admit that Delaware is still a Christian State. I heard a story about that State the other day."

"About fifty years ago, an old Revolutionary soldier applied for a pension. He was asked his age, and he replied that he was fifty years old. He was told that if that was his age, he could not have been in the Revolutionary War, and consequently was not entitled to any pension. He insisted, however, that he was only fifty years old. Again they told him that there must be some mistake. He was so wrinkled, so bowed, had so many marks of age, that he must certainly be more than fifty years old. 'Well' said the old man, 'if I must explain, I will: I lived forty years in Delaware; but I never count that time, and I hope God won't.'"

What a glorious world heaven must be! No reformation in that world - not the slightest. If you die in Arkansas that is the end of you! Think of telling a boy in the next world, who lived and died in Delaware, that he had been fairly treated! Can anything be more infamous?

A lecture on - Orthodoxy:



Frank H. Squillace  
March 1, 1937

(History)

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Industry

### Ships and Shipping

Situated between two good creeks and near the broad expanse of the Delaware River, Wilmington was predestined to come early into the field of shipping and to develop to the point where it is now third in the United States in the number of documented vessels. Wilmington, as the Delaware runs, is thirty-five miles nearer the sea than Philadelphia; a fact of great significance in severe winters when floating or fixed ice-fields dangerously impede navigation in the river bends.

Shipbuilding is an ancient art in Wilmington. It originated in the local demand for vessels for river, coastwise and West Indies traffic, early in the eighteenth century. Wooden shipbuilding thus commenced, has continued to the present day, while the modern art of iron ship construction has given the city both national and international fame.

The first ship to be built in the city was the brig, Wilmington, in the year 1740. At that time she set sail for the Island of Jamaica with a cargo of foodstuffs and so successful was the venture that it encouraged a traffic with foreign countries which flourished until the Revolutionary War, languishing during that period and reviving shortly after.

Nearly all the leading citizens, from 1741 to 1775 owned or were interested in one or more sailing vessels, the majority of which were home built. In 1750 Thomas Willing built the first sloop packet that ran between this port and Philadelphia. Other merchants prominent in shipping at that time were Joseph Tatnall, Joseph Shallcross, Jacob Broom and



Job Harvey. William Woodcock and Barney Harris were shipbuilders and merchant traders of considerable note and were succeeded by John Harris.

An interesting yarn is told of one of the ships built by Barney and owned by Joseph Shallcross, Joseph Tatnall and other citizens of Wilmington, and commanded by Captain Hugh Montgomery. This is the story of the brig Nancy. She was chartered in March, 1775, and proceeded to the West Indies to procure a cargo of munitions. In March 1776 she sailed for Porto Rico under English colors taking the Spanish consul, Don Antonia Serona, to procure arms and ammunition under a contract previously made with the Spanish government. In order to avoid suspicion she made frequent trips to other islands in the vicinity. While at St. Thomas her captain received the news of the Declaration of Independence and the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the national colors. Captain Montgomery immediately procured materials and had a flag made, and as he sailed out of the harbor pulled down the English flag and hoisted the stars and stripes, saluting it with thirteen guns. This was the first time that the American flag had been raised in a foreign port.

On arriving in the Delaware he was chased by the English fleet and to escape and save as much of his cargo as possible, Captain Montgomery ran the Nancy ashore and began to unload her. The English kept up a constant fire, which he returned with his own guns. At last he succeeded in getting the cargo all landed except a few barrels of powder, but the fire of the British had reduced the brig to a wreck. Determined that she should never be captured, Montgomery made his preparations for blowing her up. Taking the flag which had been floating defiantly from the stump of the mast, he left the vessel and rowed away. Seeing him



leaving the brig, the British sent their barges to take possession and just as they were going aboard she blew up, destroying many lives. Of course such a tragical end to a vessel built and owned in Wilmington created an immense amount of excitement in the town, and for that matter, throughout the country. Captain Montgomery was complimented and feted as a hero and the Nancy was the theme of songs and stories.

Isaac Harvey owned several brigs and schooners and did a large shipping business. Captain Mendenhall succeeded to the ownership of his wharf engaging in the flour trade and running his packets to Philadelphia where he found a ready market. William Hemphill succeeded Joseph Shallcross and engaged in foreign commerce. Another resident, Jonathan Rumford, was an extensive shipper in 1780, and for many years owned a wharf. During the Revolution he was known as a Royal sympathizer although not an avowed Tory. He was a victim of some over-zealous patriots and in consequence of the treatment received from them, his health was permanently affected. His business failed to prosper and in 1791 he died. In 1787 George Taylor, a resident of Wilmington ran a packet to New York.

With the increase of water traffic in Wilmington there grew a need for greater facilities. Consequently, when vessels began to make regular trips to Philadelphia and New York, many wharves were built.

When independence was secured, Delaware hastened to pass laws putting foreign trade on a more liberal footing than the neighboring commonwealths, thus securing for her mills the enviable commerce with the West Indies. Much shipping was attracted to the City in this manner and the trade with Cuba was particularly large.



Dried meal was delivered at Havana and pay received in barter of Jamaica rum, sugar and coffees. As early as 1789 a foreign trade was also carried on with Ireland from whence ships brought back linen and glassware as well as passengers.

The West Indian traffic developed a feature which was not so pleasant to the colony. In 1760, a two-masted vessel, laden with colored slaves, sent by their British owners from the West Indies, dropped anchor at the mouth of the Christiana. An early writer describes "the appearance of a gang of thirty or more of these human beings, fresh from Africa, driven through the streets of Wilmington like so many animals and offered for sale." The following year another cargo of them arrived.

About 1800 the coasting trade with the Eastern states and with Nova Scotia was very extensive. Numerous vessels came into Wilmington from coastal ports with plaster of Paris, smoked salmon and other varieties of fish and potatoes. They returned with cargoes of flour, corn meal and grain.

A prominent and unique figure in the coasting trade was Paul Cuffee, whose father was an African slave and whose mother was an Indian. Paul adopted a sea-faring life at a very early age and developed unusual intelligence and business capacity. He soon owned a sloop and later became the possessor of a schooner, then a brig and eventually a large ship, with a crew of colored men; a novelty in that age. Later in life he became well known in American and foreign ports. He was frequently in Wilmington, where he stood high and spent much of his time. He joined the Society of Friends and sometimes "spoke in meeting." Cuffee was an advocate of civilization among the Negroes although he owned



slaves in Sierra Leone. He is known in history as a Negro mariner and philanthropist.

An interesting ceremony incident to the early commerce of Wilmington was that of "Chairing the Captain." It was a compliment extended to a popular skipper at the end of a successful voyage. An arm-chair was procured from "The Foul Anchor Inn," or from Captain O'Flynn's tavern, at Third and Market Streets; two poles were attached to it and the skipper was carried triumphantly up Market and down King Streets, followed by his cheering crew.

Prior to the War of 1812, beef, pork, flour, grain and cheese were exported in large quantities from Wilmington. After that war, however, the demand of the States on the eastern seaboard was so great that the foreign trade declined, and agricultural interest grew correspondingly.

Whaling vessels sailed from Wilmington to the South Pacific and returned with oil as early as 1800 and the Wilmington Whaling Company was formed in 1833. Up to this time the whaling industry had been confined almost exclusively to New England, but the demand for sperm and whale oil became so great and the profits so large that Delaware capitalists were induced to go into the business. The company prospered until 1846 when it met with reverses due to accidents and a general decline in the business and the company sold its property in 1846 and went out of business.

The Christiana was navigable to Wilmington in 1814 to vessels drawing fourteen feet, and Christiana Bridge was the head of navigation on that stream; when the Wilmington Whaling Company was at the height of its prosperity, large vessels laden with oil were unable to get up to their wharves. In order to deepen the channel, Congress was



appealed to in 1836, and appropriated fifteen thousand dollars "for improvement of the Harbor at the port of Wilmington." In 1870 the work of improving the harbor was again undertaken and has continued to date. In 1917 action was begun to build a modern harbor for the city. Construction was started in 1921 and the Marine Terminal was opened for business in 1923.

The custom house was originally at New Castle but was removed to Wilmington about 1800. For nearly fifty years it was located in a small building on Water Street, between Market and King Streets. It remained there until the building on the corner of Sixth and King Streets was erected.

A prominent figure who did much to revolutionize the shipping industry was John Fitch, inventor of the steamboat. He accomplished this milestone of navigation years prior to Fulton's Clermont and actually ran a commercial line from Philadelphia to Trenton long before the time from which the invention dates in most histories.

On February 3, 1787, the Delaware Legislature granted "to John Fitch, esq., the sole and exclusive right and advantage of making, conducting and employing the steamboat, by him lately invented, for a limited time."

Immediately following the granting of his "charter" by the Delaware Assembly he formed a company and built a 45-foot steamboat. On August 22, 1787, this ship sailed down the Delaware and was enthusiastically greeted in Wilmington. A larger boat followed it in October 1788, and in December 1789, Fitch placed a 60-foot steamboat in service on a regular run between Philadelphia and Trenton.

Wilmington men had long sailed before the mast but with the launching of the steamboat Vestal, at Grace's shipyard in Philadelphia,



on April 23, 1812 was inaugurated the first steamboat line between the "First City of the First State" and the "City of Brotherly Love." She made a trial trip on April 24, 1812 and her arrival in Wilmington was the occasion for much enthusiasm and hundreds of citizens visited her at the wharf. She was called the Vesta after 1815

The Vesta was followed by many other steamboats which plied the same route. The most notable of these was the New Castle which made the first round trip in one day, compared with the eight hours required for a one-way run. The W. Whildin was the first iron steamboat with side paddles to operate on this route.

This steamboat traffic between Wilmington and Philadelphia was responsible for the origin of the Wilmington Steamboat Company. This company later operated under the trade name of "Wilson Line". In 1929 the "Line" was purchased by a syndicate of Philadelphia and Wilmington business men and renamed "Wilson Line, Inc." In 1930 The Wilson Line Inc. and the Bush line, a freight transportation company were merged into one service.

Two commercial houses that have played prominent parts in Wilmington shipping history are the Bush Line from 1774 and the Warner Line from 1790. Samuel Bush, in 1774, owned a small sloop, the Ann, which made weekly trips between Wilmington and Philadelphia. The Revolution hampered his service, but after the war he expanded his operations, adding passenger boats as well as freighters.

The Warner interest began with a sloop to carry freight between Wilmington and Philadelphia. John and William Warner went into the business in 1790. In 1816 they established the first passenger steamboat service between the two ports, thirty years later putting the first propellor ship on the freight service. Out of this effort



developed the Wilmington and Philadelphia Propellor Line, which ran for forty years on the route. The company also had two large craft of 225 tons each, the Anna and Mary to handle the increased trade between the two ports. These were superceded by two barges, the Caleta and Minquas, each of 250 tons.

In 1870 a favorable arrangement was made with the Delaware and Rariton Canal Company enabling the establishment of a safe and advantageous inland route to New York and other ports on the eastern seaboard. At Trenton, on the Delaware River, boats would enter the Canal which eliminated the necessity of sailing the open sea in hazardous weather. This venture encouraged cheap transportation and the development of extensive manufactories especially the iron industry. The line was discontinued in 1886, its usefulness having been in a large measure neutralized by railroad extension.

Shipping has necessarily meant shipbuilding, the extent of the needs of one line developing the other. Wilmington has done considerable shipbuilding in the last century and no story would be complete without some word of the development of the industry in the City.

In 1883 Enoch and Charles Moore began the building of small boats at the foot of Poplar Street. They were both shipwrights, and the business thus started was continued for many years with the firm becoming well known for the construction of staunch and reliable shipping craft. The speciality of this firm was the construction of steam freight barges which were sent to various parts of the country. There were ample facilities for the docking and repairing of all kinds of vessels, and in this respect, their yard was



comparable to those at larger ports in the east.

Ten years after the Moores began their venture, the machine firm of Betts, Pusey and Harlan entered the shipbuilding field. The manner in which destiny laid their course and opened this field to them provides an interesting sidelight. A captain Whillden asked the firm to repair a crack in the cylinder of the engine of the Sun. At this time, Mr. Betts was alone and, "being a man of sedentary habits, the impression made upon his mental tranquility by this sudden intrusion approached dangerously near to being one of panic." He immediately called for Mr. Harlan who replied abruptly, "I can see no great trouble in the way of getting out a new cylinder, except that Mr. Hollingsworth, (later to become a partner,) happens to be sick in bed just now and is likely to stay there for some time to come."

The decision of Mr. Harlan to accept the job led to the establishing of the first iron shipbuilding yard in the United States. Shortly afterward, the firm of Betts, Harlan and Hollingsworth built the Bangor, the first iron sea-going propellor steamer constructed in this country.

The first steamers on record to be built by the Harlan Plant were the Ashland and the Ocean, delivered to George W. Aspinwald of Philadelphia and New York. The plant also constructed several monitor type fighting boats for the government, one of which was the double turreted monitor Amphtrite. This ship was considered the last word in naval war craft at the time of her launching, June 7, 1885.

The years between 1880 and 1886, known as the "high speed period" called upon the plant to excel all previous achievements in

production. At this time, Mr. Charles Morgan, president of the Morgan Line, ~~and at that time~~ called "the largest ship owner in the United States", had no less than thirty-one large iron steamers constructed. The most famous of these was the iron screw steamer Excelsior built in 1882. She was three hundred and fifty feet long, with a beam of forty-two and one half feet, and in 1886 was the largest coastwise steamer afloat. She became internationally famous by lowering all records for speed between New York and New Orleans. Her time was five days, forty-five minutes, the distance being sixteen hundred and ninety-five nautical miles.

A famous river steamer, Albany, was completed for the Albany Day Line, for service on the Hudson River. The Albany was known to attain a record speed of twenty-seven and one-half miles an hour, which is excellent speed even for present day steamers. Another luxurious steamer, City of Worcester, was launched by the company for traffic on Long Island Sound.

In 1883, the Olympian, said to be the first steamer ever to be constructed with steel was built at this plant. After several trial runs she completed a successful trip around Cape Horn, a distance of eighteen thousand miles.

X The first steam pilot boat was built at the Harlan Plant in 1880. Named the Pilot she was completed for the Maryland Board of Pilots.

The company enjoyed the patronage of some of the wealthiest men in the country as a center for the building of palatial steam yachts. The largest yacht built was the Alva for Commodore William K. Vanderbilt. Other famous yachts built were the Nourmahal, for William Astor in 1884; Electra for Elbridge T. Garry of New York



in 1884; Victor for J. Taylor Gause, in 1878; Mischief for J. R. Busk of New York in 1878; and the Falcon for Morris Peters in 1880.

The firm built many oil tankers the largest of which was the W. H. Tilford, for the Standard Oil Company in 1917. The vessel was eleven thousand tons burden and four hundred and sixty-five feet in length.

During the World War the plant was commandeered by the Emergency Fleet Corporation, a section of the United States Shipping Board. The plant made an enviable record in turning out ships for government. Twenty-four boats with a total tonnage of one hundred fifty-eight thousand, one hundred seventy-nine were built and delivered in addition to a great amount of work done on other government craft. During its many years in the business five hundred and nine vessels had been built by the company up to 1926 when shipbuilding was suspended in favor of other plants of the Bethlehem Company of which this plant was a subsidiary.

Another shipbuilding firm that played an important role in industry and became world famous was that of Pusey & Jones. In the year 1848 Joshua L. Pusey and John Jones started a business, manufacturing all kinds of heavy machinery, engines and boilers and iron and steel ships. Various changes took place in the constitution of the firm from time to time. In 1851 Edward Betts and Joseph Seal joined the original proprietors, and the firm was known as Betts, Pusey, Jones & Seal. These partners retired in 1857, and Alfred Betts succeeded them, the style of the house becoming Pusey, Jones & Betts. Alfred Betts gave place to Wm. G. Gibbons in 1860 and the firm became Pusey Jones & Co. In 1866 John Jones withdrew



and Thomas H. Savery succeeded him, the firm name remaining unchanged to date.

One of the outstanding achievements of the company was the casting of the large anchors for the Brooklyn Bridge, which weighed twenty-three tons each, the dimensions being so great the castings could not be transported by rail, and had to be made at a foundry having direct water communication with New York.

In 1853 the Pusey & Jones Corp. accepted their first ship contract, an iron side-wheel freight and passenger steamer for use on the Cape Fear River. Since that time they have built ships and ship machinery for service in all parts of the world, having furnished over one hundred river steamers for use in various South American countries.

The Pusey & Jones Company had the distinction of building the first iron sailing vessel in the United States. This was the Mahlon Betts, a ship of two hundred and fifty tons.

Another accomplishment in which the firm takes a great deal of pride was the building of the steel-hulled racing yacht, Volunteer. This splendid vessel, built in 1887, successfully defended the Queen of England's cup against the English yacht Thistle.

During the World War their yards were a beehive of activity, launching fourteen vessels for the Shipping Board, each of a dead weight capacity of four thousand tons. After the World War, although the company built a few large ships, the majority of their efforts were confined to building yachts and other small pleasure craft, as well as steamers up to four hundred feet in length.

Another organization which dominated the shipbuilding industry was the Jackson & Sharp Plant, a subsidiary of the American Car and Foundry Company. The company had specialized in the building of



railroad cars for years, but now stress is being placed on the production of fine yachts and pleasure craft, ranging from twenty-six to one hundred feet. These are mostly launched on the Brandywine Creek while the ship ways on the Christiana River are used for repairs and reconstruction of larger ships.

During the latter part of the 19th century the company built many large wooden vessels which were used in the coastwise and foreign trade. A few of these which have interesting histories are the H. R. Tilton, launched in 1875, Sarah S. Ridgeway, launched in 1877 and the Asenath H. Shaw launched 1878.

The H. R. Tilton was a three mast center board schooner that engaged in coastwise shipping. On July 9, 1892 she was sunk by a practice shell from the old Sandy Hook Battery, just off Sandy Hook, on the Jersey coast. She was salvaged by the government at a cost of twelve thousand dollars.

The Sarah S. Ridgeway was a bark with a keel of one hundred and forty-nine feet, 177 feet over all. She was lost off the coast of China in 1895. She was known as a very fast boat making the trip from Hong Kong to New York in 120 days. Later she made a passage with a cargo of coffee from Rio de Janerio to New York in twenty three days, under sail. She bettered the time of the Gatlina, a steamer, by two days and for six days averaged better than three hundred miles a day.

The Asenath H. Shaw had a comparatively short life for a staunch old sailing vessel. On October 7, 1900 she was rammed by the Old Dominion liner Hamilton and sank three miles east by southeast of the <sup>North East End</sup> northeast and of the lightship near Cape May. All of the crew was saved but the ship of the biblical name found her grave in Davy Jones' locker.

The Dravo Construction Company is the latest of Wilmington's shipbuilding industries. This company assembles barges and scows from steel fabricated in its Pittsburgh Penna. plant.

While much of the glamor and romance of early shipping in Wilmington, when adventurous Delawareans stood before the mast and yelled, "that she blows" or puzzled over strange and balking engines has died, Wilmington still receives ships from strange lands, and in turn, sends her ships to strange shores the world over.



# Port of Wilmington, Delaware

**W**ILMINGTON, Delaware, has been an important manufacturing center since colonial days. Located on the Delaware River, approximately 30 miles nearer the sea than Philadelphia, water-borne commerce has always played its part in the development of the city. As a colony, and in the early years of the republic, this port was a conspicuous one, but with the advent of the steamship and its constantly increasing size, this trade waned until the only remaining part consisted of a movement by inland routes to neighboring ports. The ship-building industry, which had existed through all these years, survived, however, and steamships built on Wilmington Ways continued to sail the seven seas.

At the time of the war no facilities were available in Wilmington for the accommodation of deep-sea shipping. Spurred on by the national emergency, the aspirations of the people of Wilmington, which had been expressed by a referendum vote in 1913 in the ratio of seven to one in favor of the construction of harbor facilities, resulted in the creation of a Board of Harbor Commissioners and the preparation of a plan for a terminal development at the confluence of the Christiana and Delaware rivers.

In 1921 construction of the first

unit of the Wilmington Marine Terminal was begun, and in September, 1923, it was completed. The Board of Harbor Commissioners, charged with the construction and operation of this new civic venture, consisted in 1919 of three of the outstanding business men of the city—Willard A. Speakman, president; Charles Warner and Joseph Bancroft. To-day, sixteen years later, we find no change in the membership of the board, which in itself is the best evidence of the opinion of Wilmington as to the manner in which they have fulfilled their trust.

The facilities built in 1921 to 1923 and extended in 1928 to 1929 consist of a quay wharf, 2,060 feet long; a transit shed, 400 feet by 120 feet; two storage sheds, each 500 feet by 120 feet; a coastwise cargo shed, 200 feet by 30 feet; an open storage area of 25 acres; seven miles of railroad tracks and yards; together with a complete sewer and fire protection system, as well as other appurtenances required for a plant of the character. Mechanical equipment has been provided to meet the demands of traffic. Five cranes ranging in capacity from 5 to 35 tons, tractors and trailers, electric winches, chisel trucks and similar devices, all designed for the economic and expeditious handling of cargo, are now employed at the terminal.

The depth of the entrance channel,

which was 21 feet in 1923, has been increased to 30 feet at mean low water.

To the 105 acres originally included in the terminal property, approximately 35 acres have been added by reclamation.

Clustered on and adjacent to the terminal property are the plants of the Tannin Corporation, the Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, the Crane Hook Oil Storage Company and the Cork Insulation Company, all of which were attracted to Wilmington primarily because of the terminal facilities. The board still has under its jurisdiction considerable land which may be leased by industries seeking sites at seaboard. Considerable care and investigation have been given to the preparation of a form of lease which adequately protects the interests of the lessee, and permits the investment of substantial sums in buildings and machinery with as little concern as if the land were owned in fee simple.

This problem has been satisfactorily solved, and the arrangement set up is a rather attractive one.

The trend of business of the terminal has been definitely upward since the first year of its operation. In that year to June 30, 1924, a total of 17,063 tons of cargo were handled. The growth since that time



Steamers Discharging Cargo at the Wilmington Marine Terminal Pier

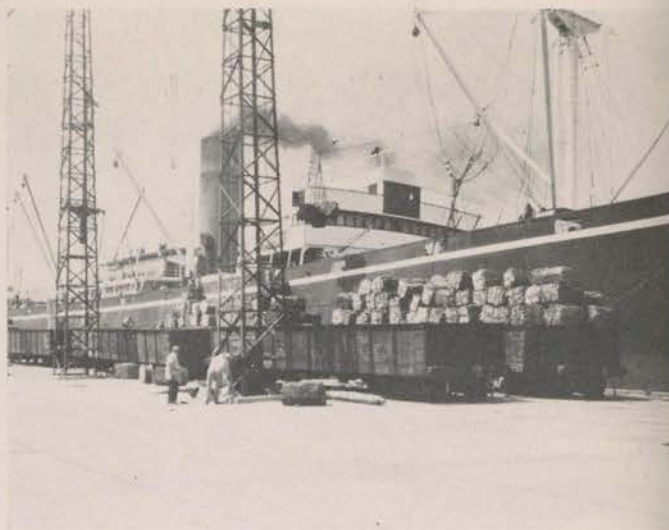


Discharging Wood Pulp from Baltic Ports to Warehouse and Lighter





Wood Pulp Stored in a Section of the Wilmington Marine Terminal Warehouse



Discharging Cork from Mediterranean Ports Into Gondola Cars

is best represented by the following statement of tons of cargo handled:

1924-1925 .....	122,258 tons
1925-1926 .....	81,387 "
1926-1927 .....	98,704 "
1927-1928 .....	199,587 "
1928-1929 .....	240,258 "
1929-1930 .....	267,106 "
1930-1931 .....	261,511 "
1931-1932 .....	210,832 "
1932-1933 .....	177,811 "
1933-1934 .....	241,584 "
1934-1935 .....	360,336 "

It will be observed that in the fiscal year ending this past June 30, the figures of the best previous year were exceeded by almost 100,000 tons. The depression has hit Wilmington, of course. There is still an unemployment problem. Many of the industries in and around the city are still operating on a part-time basis, and consequently their shipments through this port have been reduced. But even the most pessimistic must see some evidence of a break in the clouds. Plants in Wilmington are resuming operation, others are increasing their production schedules, and a still more important sign is the opening up of two new large industrial establishments, both of which will make material contributions to the business of the port. A somewhat unique event in these days is the recent announcement by both the city and county of a reduction in tax rates for the current year.

Wilmington now has a substantial backlog for its water-borne traffic. The bulk of the inbound tonnage moving is found in a few commodities: quebracho from South America, cork

from the Mediterranean, ilmenite ore from India, wood pulp and barytes ore from northern European ports, lumber from the Pacific Coast and petroleum products from the Gulf. There is, however, a steady growth not only in the number of tons handled annually, but also in the diversification of cargoes and points of origin and destination of shipments.

The word "service" has been a badly overworked one in recent years. Yet it is necessary to comment on the slogan of the Port of Wilmington—"The Port of Personal Service." The organization of the Board of Harbor Commissioners is a comparatively small one. The terminal itself, when compared with the extensive developments at the large ports, is almost insignificant in size. Business must be secured either on the basis of savings in cost or on the quality of service rendered. Because the port is small and because all of its activities center under one head, attention can be devoted to the slightest detail which may be of importance to a shipper. The staff at the terminal is an experienced one, the facilities are most modern, and, as a consequence, personal service can be given to the business of those shipping through the Port of Wilmington; the terminal staff can function as the shippers' own traffic organization at the port. This is the Personal Service of the Port so far as it relates to the shipper. But there is a broader field than that. Attention is also directed to the interest of the ship operator. Familiarity with the problems of loading and discharge of ships over a long period of years has indicated little things which may be done to facilitate

the dispatch of vessels and to make the stay of the master in port more agreeable. Telephone service on shipboard and automobile transportation are two of the services of this character.

A traffic department maintains a file of ocean, rail and truck rates. Detailed analyses of transportation problems are worked up on request. It has been found that these personal services are appreciated, and there is a satisfaction in the realization that they have resulted in the establishment of many friendships.

The Port of Wilmington looks forward to the future with confidence. The early experimental period is over. With the revival of business generally will come the building and relocation of manufacturing enterprises on a large scale. Wilmington will not be overlooked by those who make an investigation of its possibilities. There is a definite field for the outport. The Wilmington Marine Terminal is designed to meet the requirements for success in that field.

#### LYKES ORGANIZATION INCREASES GDYNIA SAILINGS

According to a recent dispatch, Lykes Bros.-Ripley Steamship Company, Inc., in consideration of the increased importance of the Port of Gdynia, Poland, as a cotton importing center, have decided to increase the infrequent service that they have maintained to that port during the past few years by regular monthly sailings, effective with the sailing of a steamer (to be named later) to sail from New Orleans during the middle of September.



Ship and Boat Yards of Delaware

Town	
Naamans Creek	Built ships--no record who built them.
Holly Oak	J. Morris Boat Works.
Bellevue	No record who built ships.
Wilmington	Lucas Persson, 1639 to 1655. (Last Record)
"	R. H. Barr and Son to 1860 on Brandywine.
"	A. and W. Thatcher to 1859 " "
"	Asa Poinsett and John Poinsett on "
"	Burk and McCaulley on Christina.
"	Barrett's " "
"	J. R. Kirkman at The Rocks on Christina.
"	Capt. A. Thatcher to 1832 " "
"	J. and J. A. Harris to 1858 on "
"	E. and C. Moore to 1832 " "
"	Thos. Young " "
"	C. Empson to 1768 " "
"	Geo. Taylor to 1814 (?) " "
"	Wm. Shipley " "
"	Wm. and Abijah Brown, 1798 " "
"	S. T. and Wm. Banner Boat bldg. on Christina.
"	Thos. Drein " "
"	Thos. Gilpin Shipyard " "
"	Barney Harris " "
"	Wm. Woodstock " "
"	Chas. Rumford " "
"	Simon Edgell " "
"	Thos. Willing to 1731 " "
"	Henry Witsel Boat and Spar yard " "

Ships and Shipping  
Amos C. Brinton

Wilmington	Wm. Witsel Boat and Spar yard on Christina.
"	Abish Sherpe " "
"	Harlan and Hollingsworth " "
"	Pusey and Jones 1842 to date " "
"	Delaware Marine Construction Co. on "
"	Jackson and Sharp Co. " "
"	Dravo Corporation " "
Newport	John McCalmont
"	Lew Stone
"	Simon Cranston
Stanton	Simon Cranston, on Christina Creek and at Wilmington
Christiana	Solomon Maxwell " " "
"	Levi Adams " " "
New Castle	John W. Hall to 1845 on Delaware River.
"	Beebe Boat Shop
"	Jas. Tatlow
Delaware City	
Port Penn.	Ships built until about 1798. No record of builders on Delaware River.
Odessa	No record of boatbuilding on Appoquinimink River.
Blackbird Landing	No record of boatbuilding on Blackbird Creek.
Smyrna Landing on Duck Creek	John Mustard to 1854.
"	Sutton and Cloud, 1854 to 1903.



Ships and Shipping  
Amos C. Printon

Smyrna Landing  
on Duck Creek

R. F. Hastings, 1866 to 1874.

"

Capt. Alexander Scott, Largest ship built, 540  
tons, H. B. Howe, a four-mast schooner.

Leipsic, on Lit-  
tle Duck Creek

James G. Waples

"

Wilson L. Cannon, 1836 to 1854.

"

Geo. Farris 1854 to \_\_\_\_

Little Creek on  
Little Creek

Jas. Deputy

"

Berney Harris )  
Simon Cranston ) about 1770

Fredrica on  
Murderkill River

John W. Hall

"

1844 Nathaniel Lank and John Lank

"

1869 Thos. T. Lacey and Nat Lank, Jr.

"

1887 Nat Lank, Jr.

"

Hall and Lank, first steampacket line, steam-  
boat Egypt Mills (1858), Postal line.

Bowers on  
Murderkill River

Wm. Hutchinson 1846 (?)

Lebanon on St.  
Jones River

Edward Burton

Milford, on the  
Mispillion River

Robert Russell

"

David West

"

M. R. and Wm. F. Revill (1830 to 1850)

"

Manlove and Thos. Carlisle

"

Sylvester A. Deputy and son James H.

"

Wm. A. Scribner

"

John Lank and son David

Ships and Shipping  
Amos C. Brinton

Milford on the Mispillion River	Wm. Abbott	
"	Wilson Vinyard	
"	J. Manlove	
"	_____ Wallace	
"	First yard, DuFrie, about 1784.	
"	D. S. Mershon	
Milton	Baptist Lay, 1787 to 1800	
"	Cornelius Coulter, 1800 to 1825	
"	Wm. V. Coulter, 1825 to _____	
"	Jacob White	1861
"	Samuel Martin	"
"	Samuel Stephenson	"
"	John Mustard	"
"	Geo. W. Atkins	"
"	Jas. Ponder	"
"	David H. Atkins	1880
"	Ponder and Russell	"
"	Cornelius C. Davidson	"
"	Wm. C. Prettyman	"
"	Wm. Lamb	"
"	Joseph L. Black and Brother	"
"	H. F. Hastings	

This town made large shipments by Schooners to Haverstraw,  
N. Y., and also tan bark as far East as Boston.



Ships and Shipping  
Amos C. Brinton

Lewes Ship Yards	John Brown, 1683
"	Wm. Beverly, "
"	John Beverly, "
"	John and Peter Maull to 1866
"	Peter and Cato Lewis (Colored Men of Belltown)
"	F. C. Maull, 1879
"	John Paynter, 1883
"	A. L. Burton and Nathaniel Hickman, vessel owners and shippers.
Blackwater, on Indian River Bay	Jabez Townsend
	C. Dukes
	J. Tunnell
Millsboro	<u>      </u> Marvel
"	<u>      </u> Starr, at Whadem's Wharf on Indian River.
Laurel, on Broad Creek	Isaac Giles, 1804 to 1883
"	Barkley Townsend, Portsville
"	Caleb Baldwin, at Portsville on the Nanticoke River
Bethel	Kendall Lewis
"	John Windsor
"	Jonathan Cathell
"	Geo. K. Phillips
"	John M. C. and Wm. T. Moore
"	Smith and Terry

Ships and Shipping  
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Seaford (This was where packets from Baltimore landed, then stage to Dona Landing on Dona River near Dover, then Packet to Philadelphia. (1830 to 1838)

" \_\_\_\_\_ Wright  
" Capt. Hugh Martin  
" Capt. Isaac Bradley  
" Capt. Solomon Boston  
" Wm. Lamb  
" Michael Coulbourn  
" W. R. Adams (1884)  
" Delaware Ship Bldg. Co.  
" Seaford Marine Railway Co.

Woodland, on  
Nanticoke River Wm. B. Ellis  
" \_\_\_\_\_ Powell  
" Wm. T. Moore

Concord, on  
Nanticoke River John Houston (1888) at Concord, Delaware.

\* \* \* \* \* --- \* \* \* \* \*

Bark Sarah S. Ridgeway  
J. E. Ridgeway, Owner  
Captain B. B. Townsend,  
Barnegat, N. J.

From the New York Shipping News of July 12, 1893.

The Bark Sarah S. Ridgeway, which arrived here on Monday last from Rio de Janiero, has made one of the most remarkable runs on record for a sailing vessel, beating the time of the famous Grey Eagle of Baltimore, Md., and arriving in port two days



Ships and Shipping  
Amos C. Brinton

in advance of the Steamship Gatlina, which left Rio in company with her. The Ridgeway sailed from Rio at noon on June 11, 1893; carried strong Southerly winds to Lat.  $17^{\circ}$  S- where she found the South East Trades which carried her to the line in eight days from Rio. Here light and baffling winds were met for several days and the vessel made slow progress to Lat.  $5^{\circ}$  North where North East Trades set in strong and over 300 miles per day were logged for six days straight running, the entire distance in this time being 2,100 miles. On Saturday last at noon the Ridgeway was off Cape Henry and had she been bound for Baltimore she could have run in past the Capes making passage in 23 days. She arrived at this port of New York on Monday at 12:00 P.M., making the run between ports in 26 days, 14 hours.

The Ridgeway brought cargo of 8,000 bags of coffee, less than one-half of her capacity, but enough to put her in excellent sailing trim and show her remarkable qualities of speed. She was built in Wilmington, Delaware in 1877 by the Jackson and Sharp Company. Designed by Captain Kershaw, of Wilmington, she was commanded by Captain B. B. Townsend, of Barnegat, N. J., who has well earned the cock he is now entitled to fly at his main Truck. Story also in New York Shipping and Commercial News, July 14, 1893.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note: In those days any vessel making the fastest run on any of the tracks of trade was entitled to carry a wind vane on her main Truck made in the shape of a rooster. Later, they carried a new broom.

Ships and Shipping  
Amos C. Brinton

Bark Sarah S. Ridgeway

Owner, Jacob E. Ridgeway, Philadelphia, Pa.

Captain, B. B. Townsend, of Barnegat, N. J.

177'-0	L.O.A.
149'-0	On Keel
36'-0	Beam outside of Planking
11'-6"	Depth of hold
24'-6"	Moulded Depth on Main Beam
6'-6"	Between Decks-- 2 Deck
4'-6"	Poop Deck above Maindeck= Total Depth of Poop 22'-6" to Rabbet from on Poop Deck.

Date Contracted, November 14, 1876.

Designed Barkentine.

Changed to Bark, February 21, 1877.

Keel laid, January 25, 1877.

Completed, August 10, 1877.

Carpenter Measure, 1016 34-100 tons.

Official # 115544      Code # J. S. K. T.

C. House Measure, 869 62-100 tons.

Lost on Coast of China in 1895.

From the Shipping News of March 20, 1884, states:

The Philadelphia Bark, Sarah S. Ridgeway, Captain Townsend, which arrived at New York on Sunday night (19th) from Hong Kong with a load of tea, made the remarkable passage in 93 days. This is one of the best runs on record, 120 days being considered fast time heretofore.

(Shop #38)



Submitted by James R. Allen.  
January 26, 1937

*Wilmington Weaver*  
O.Ked by Mr. Gant  
for Bd. of Harbor Com-  
missioners

### Wilmington Marine Terminal

Wilmington was famous as a port a century or more ago. In the early nineteenth century, the city had many square-rigged vessels engaged in trade between the West Indies and European ports, and schooners and sloops engaged in coast-wise trade. But, with the advent of the steamship and its constantly increasing size, trade waned until it consisted merely of two lines between Wilmington and Philadelphia.

After the turn of the present century considerable agitation developed to re-establish its former maritime commerce and bring to Wilmington the glory of early days. A referendum on the subject of "establishing a port in Wilmington" was conducted in 1913 which resulted in a ratio of seven to one in favor of constructing harbor facilities. Later, in 1916, a committee was appointed to investigate its advisability. A survey made by John Meigs was favorable and the committee sponsored a bill in the Legislature creating a city Board of Harbor Commissioners.

The Legislature, on April 12, 1917, created the Board of Harbor Commissioners for the city and invested the commission with wide discretionary powers relating to the construction and operation of the terminal.

Willard A. Speakman, Charles Warner, and James P. Winchester were appointed commissioners, and the first meeting of the board was held May 19, 1917, when plans were made for

a terminal development at the confluence of the Christiana and Delaware Rivers. Delayed by the World War nothing was done until 1919, when City Council authorized a bond issue of \$2,500,000 for the construction of the terminal.

On March 15, 1920, title was taken to the Lobdell tract, of 105.66 acres, to serve as a site. After public hearings on February 3rd., and 18th., the harbor lines were approved by the chief of engineers of the War Department. These new harbor lines provided for a turning basin 1000 feet in width at the mouth of the Christiana River, and the widening and deepening of the channel to 25 feet. Congress appropriated \$630,000 for this purpose, and authorized the U.S. district engineer to perform the work.

Actual construction of the Terminal was started in August 1921, when a contract was awarded for the first unit to cost approximately \$2,000,000.

Steps were taken by The State Highway Department to have the highway paved to the terminal. The first unit was completed in 1923 at a cost of approximately \$2,500,000, including the price paid for the land, and equipment. During 1928 and 1929 extra wharfage space was added at a cost of approximately \$450,000.00. and in 1935-36 improvements were made by W.P.A. projects amounting to \$170,000.00.

The facilities consist of a quay wharf, 2060 feet long; a transit shed, 120 feet by 400 feet; two storage sheds, each



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120 feet by 500 feet; a coastwise cargo shed, 30 feet by 200 feet; and an open storage area of 25 acres; seven miles of track and yards; together with a complete sewer and fire protection system, as well as other appurtenances required for a plant of this character.

The mechanical equipment consists of five cranes, ranging in capacity from 5 to 35 tons, tractors and trailers, electric winches, chisel trucks, and similar devices, all designed for economic and expeditious handling of cargoes. The bed of the channel has been lowered to thirty feet at low water. Approximately 35 acres of reclaimed land has been added to the original 105 acres of the terminal property.

The board has leased land to several companies which have erected large factories and warehouses on the sites, and still has under its jurisdiction considerable land which may be leased by industries seeking sites at seaboard. The form of lease protects the interests of the lessee and permits the investment of substantial sums in buildings and machinery with as little concern as if the land were owned in fee simple. Provisions are also made for variations in rent in accordance with increased value of the improvements.

The terminal itself is comparatively small, when compared with port facilities in other large seaboard cities. But, this is an advantage, as the activities are centered under one head and personal attention can be devoted to the slightest detail which may be of importance to the shipper. The terminal staff is experienced in traffic routing, and functions efficiently. The Traffic Department maintains a complete file of ocean, rail, and truck rates, and can furnish immediate detailed analyses of

transportation rates to those desiring to ship through  
Wilmington.

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Delaware, March 3, 1935. Page 3.

"Local Port Shows <sup>Steady</sup> Increase." Sunday Star, Wilmington,  
Delaware. December 1, 1936.



Franklin Pote  
March 17, 1937

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Port of Wilmington. 8/7/1830.

Arrived August 1 - Ship Plate, Wise, Havre in 47 days,  
Burstones, Plaster, Mdse. and 174 passengers.

Ship Majestic, McLelland, Havre, in 42 days. Spoke on  
the 14th of July, ship Margarett, Capt. Adams, 12 days from  
Baltimore, in lat. 42 N. long. 42 west, bound to Marseilles.  
Spoke the 25th of July Brig Susan, 40 hours from Malta, in lat.  
42,15 deg. lon. 66 west.

Brig. Donegal, Forrest, from Londonderry in 56 days, Mr.  
Wm. Hyndman, and 53 steerage passengers. Passed on the 6th of  
July, in lat 40.57, lon. 38.7, a white bottomed vessel, of about  
200 tons, lying bottom upwards, with her rudder unshipped.-  
Apparently not long in that condition; could not ascertain her  
name.- Gazette.

LOCALITY-- Milford, Sussex Co.

Submitted by Charles G. Prettyman, Jr.

January 20, 1936

Topic -- Manufacturing and IndustryShipbuilding

Shipbuilding, since the discovery of the excellence of Delaware White Oak for this purpose, has been one of Milford's leading industries, and although the number of shipyards has decreased from five or six during the latter part of the nineteenth century, to one to-day, it still must be classed as among the first three industries of Milford.

OK  
In 1901 Wilson Vinyard, present mayor of Milford, built a small steamer in New London, Wisconsin, and brought it by water, to Milford, a trip of some 4000 miles, where it burned at the dock. He then decided to go into shipbuilding as a business and located his yards on the south bank of the Mispillion Creek. His yard to-day is the sole remaining one in Milford, and is given over to the building of pleasure craft in the \$20,000-and-up class. These boats, known as the Vinyard Cruisers, have lately attained a national reputation.

In the making of these boats Mr. Vinyard still uses Delaware white oak for the frames; Honduras and Philippine mahogany for the cabins and Douglass fir from Washington for the planking. The high point of this industry came in 1928 when \$120,000 was grossed and the yards employed 40 men. (1)



### Dress Factory

In 1920 David Coopersmith moved from Philadelphia to Milford where he started a dress factory on the S. E. corner of Walnut and N. Front Streets in what used to be Lowry's Hotel. In 1923 he erected a brick building which now houses two chain stores, a dress shop, and an electric appliance store. In back of these is his dress factory which employs 100 men and women at the peak season in early summer.

Last year Mr. Coopersmith, who does nothing but sub-contracting, sent 7,000 dozen dresses out of his factory. (2)

### Ice Manufacturing

During the Centennial exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia there was exhibited the first ice plant to be assembled in the U.S. This was bought by a man from one of the southern states. Some ten or twelve years later (c 1886 -88) upon finding it too small for his use he sold it to Mr. George S. Grier of Milford. Mr. Grier began manufacturing ice with this plant on the eastern bank of Haven Lake where to-day stands the Wollen Mill. Thus did the ice industry in Milford get its start. (3)

In 1911 Mr. Charles Verney bought out the plant owned by his father-in-law, Mr. George H. Draper, and has had it in operation ever since, building a new and modern plant in 1926. This plant during the last year had an out put of 3000 tons of ice and employed twelve men. (4)

### Canning Factories

Since the middle of the last century, when canning was first started in Milford, it has been one of the leading industries. To-day Milford has two canning factories, one which houses The Drakeleys Inc. and Draper and Co., and the other the Torsch-Stevenson Corporation, which has its home office in Baltimore. (5)

In 1880 the father of the present owner, George Draper, started the Draper Canning Company on the N. side of W. Front St., South Milford. This company has grown until to-day it employs 350 people during the peak season of early summer to which it pays weekly \$3500.

Last year there were canned here 200,000 cases of lima beans, spinach, peas, cranberry sauce and broccoli, with a gross value of \$700,000. This factory is said to be one of a very few canning broccoli in the U. S. This vegetable is grown on Mr. Draper's farm; the others come from neighboring farmers whose crops are contracted for during the winter. (5)

The Torsch Stevenson Corporation founded its plant in Milford in 1906 in the old Grier factory on the N. side of the Mispillion and in 1908 moved to its present location on E. Front St., So. Milford. A modern plant in 1935 canned 100,000 cases of peas, string beans, lima beans and mixed vegetables, all of which are grown by local farmers, with the exception of some of the ingredients in the mixed vegetables. In the peak season from 300 to 400 persons are employed on a payroll of \$3500 to \$4000 a week.



John H. Mulholland Co.

The J. H. Mulholland Co., ~~was~~ founded in 1920, manufacturing veneered specialties, <sup>such as</sup> ~~its products include~~ wooden ice cream spoons, mustard paddles, sticks for lollypops, forks, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ice cream plates, ~~and other specialties.~~

This company holds the patent on the "Bentwood Spoon", which is made of gum wood veneer bent into the shape of a spoon. ~~To-day~~ <sup>The</sup> concern, ~~operating with~~ <sup>uses</sup> machinery made to its own design, ~~and~~ <sup>mostly women,</sup> employs 140 persons in peak season, ~~and 90 in less active seasons of the year.~~ ~~Of the employees 75% are women whose job is to pack the products.~~ The wood used ~~is entirely gum which~~ is hauled from all parts of the lower Peninsula. (7)

Dairies

Geyer's Dairy was founded in 1928. Here milk is pasteurized and ice cream made. The sale of milk and ice cream grossed \$8000 in 1935. (8)

Woodwork

During the year of 1917 Mr. N. B. Downing, seeing the need for a plant to manufacture building materials for houses in Milford, founded the company bearing his name.

This mill, which makes doors, window sashes, mantels, etc; furnishes work for four men and last year grossed \$17,000. (9)

Flour Mill

To-day the only remaining flour mill is called Callaway's, but has recently been bought by J. F. Wilson. In this mill flour and meal are ground, feed mixed, and laying mash

made. From this \$16,688 was grossed last year and employment furnished for two men. (10)

#### Light and Water

In 1884 the Johnson Bros. started the first electric light plant in Milford. Three years later the town of Milford bought out this plant and in 1891 also started water works in conjunction with it. At this time a Light and Water board was created by an act of legislature, but in 1931, when Milford adopted the town manager form of government, this board was put out of existence.

For years the plant has shown a profit and has helped to pay much of the town's bonded debt.

The light is generated by steam turbines which are capable of producing 2050 K. W. This is enough to furnish Milford as well as Lincoln, Ellendale and Slaughter Beach, neighboring towns.

The water supply comes from three artesian wells ranging in depth from 240 to 290 feet. The water is stored in a stand-pipe capable of holding 75,000 gallons of water.

This plant employs ten men and last year it grossed \$116,887. (11)

#### Woolen Mill

On the location at the east end of Haven Lake where once stood the ice plant operated by George Grier is the Woolen Mill operated by W. A. Pearce. This mill takes woolen remnants, second hand garments, etc., and puts them through a

interesting, why not a little more about garmenting?



process called garnetting. This process, done by machines operating from direct water drive, prepares the wool for re-knitting into coats, dresses, sweaters, etc.

This mill was founded in 1914 and to-day employs 22 men. (12)

#### Grist Mill

In 1921 W. R. Hitchens bought from Augustus Holsten the Old Red Mill which, standing at the western end of the Maspillion has long been one of Milford's land-marks.

To-day Mr. Hitchens with two men grinds feed, makes his "Milford Laying Mash," and chicken feed. This grossed \$25,000 last year.

It is interesting to note that from its beginning the Red Mill has ground its feed and flour by water. To-day three water wheels are used to supply the power for the machinery. (13)

#### Creamery

During the World War there was founded The Milford Creamery Co. with Louder Hearn as its president. To-day it is the only manufacturing creamery in lower Delaware.

Here is made "Silver Lake Brand" butter. This is churned by two men twice a week. These churnings produce 1000 lbs. per week in winter and 1600 lbs in summer. The market for the butter is local. (14)

### Burial Vaults

One of the newer industries of Milford is the making of concrete burial vaults. This factory is owned by E. R. Callaway, who in addition to the vaults, manufactures concrete flower boxes and concrete blocks for buildings. (15)

### Brick Yards

On the eastern out-skirts of Milford stands the brick yard owned by J. H. Wilkerson and Son. Here during the season from April to October bricks are manufactured from blue clay which is plentiful along the shores of the Mispillion. This clay is dug by hand and hauled to the supply box where it is conveyed to a mixer. Here the clay is pressed and mixed with iron oxide and the bricks cut. These are allowed to dry for a number of weeks and then are burned. The whole process takes from 3 to 4 weeks and 200,000 units can be made at a time. Last year this plant produced 600,000 bricks. To do this ten men were employed. (16)

### Publishing Companies

In 1878 Col. Theodore Townsend and Julius Scott founded the Milford Chronicle Publishing Co. This paper has grown until to-day it is the largest weekly in Delaware and last year was picked by the National Editorial Association of Chicago, Ill., as one of the ten leading weekly papers in the United States.

The plant is fitted out for complete job printing,



File No. S-630

including letter-heads, books, color-printing, etc; and this end of the business to-day is considered the principal item in its work.

The plant is located on W. Front St. South Milford and employ 21 men. (17)

#### Fertilizer Manufacture

In 1930 the Valliant Fertilizer Co. bought out the concern of Draper Davis and Co. and have since operated the plant on E. Front St.

The factory has the advantage of being located on the Mispillion Creek. Boats owned by the company bring the raw products (fish, tobacco, stems, bone meal, potash, etc.) directly to the factory, where the fertilizer is manufactured during the spring and fall. This factory employed in 1935 eight men in the manufacturing season and grossed \$60,000. (18)

#### Dental Equipment

##### The L. D. Caulk Company

In 1877 Dr. Levin D. Caulk founded the L. D. Caulk Co. in Camden Delaware. His first factory was in his kitchen, but to-day the company has grown until it is the largest manufacturer of plastic filling materials in the world, employing 445 people and having branches in Canada and Japan as well as offices in the principal cities of the United States.

In the home plant at Milford the Caulk Co. manufactures about 100 products used by dentists. Some of these are "dentocoll" (this product, for taking mouth impressions, is made from a sea -

weed called Agar-Agar), synthetic procelain, dental cement, tooth-cleansers, mouth wash, and amalgam for tooth-filling.

One of the more interesting departments is the one for research where are employed three men who ~~constantly~~ work constantly to improve the old and develop new products. (19)

(Note: This report is necessarily short because the company did not care to have anything else written about it.)

#### Monuments

On the N. E. corner of W. Front St., South Milford is located the Marble Yard of William V. Sipple and Son, founded in 1869. Six persons are employed in the making of tomb-stones, monuments, corner stones, etc; which grossed last year between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Most of their business of this concern is local. (20)

Note: Any of the above industrial plants may be visited on any day.



1. Mayor Wilson Vinyard
2. Mr. David Coopersmith
3. Mr. Walter Grier and Mr. Charles Varney
4. Mr. Charles Varney
5. Mr. George Draper
6. Mr. Kirby (Manager of Milford factory of Torsch-Stevenson Co.)
7. Mr. Harry Mulholland
8. Mr. Geyer
9. Mr. H. B. Downing
10. Mr. J. F. Wilson
11. Mr. Charles Banning
12. Mr. W. A. Pearce
13. Mr. W. R. Hitchens
14. Mr. Louder Hearn
15. Mr. E. H. Callaway
16. C. H. Wilkerson and Son
17. Mr. Frank Harder
19. Mr. W. Vaules Grier
20. Mr. W. V. Sipple

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## Industrial Survey of Wilmington

Submitted by - Donald Crowe

Date - June 27, 1936

Practically from the time of its founding Wilmington has been noted for its manufactures. In the 18th century advantage was taken of the water power of the Brandywine and other streams, and flour and grist mills ground the grains of the surrounding countryside. The flour formed the bulk of exports at that time when Wilmington was in the early heyday of being a port. This period lasted from 1740 to 1800. To-day Wilmington is a city of diversified industries and while it is recognized as the center of glazed kid manufacture and of hard fibre its many other industries give employment to a wide diversification of skilled and unskilled labor.

The United States Department of Commerce biennial census for 1933, shows that the total value of products manufactured in 151 establishments in the city of Wilmington was \$42,559,062. The 1929 census figures disclose that there were 193 firms, who produced goods valued at \$90,521,387.

The number of people employed in these industries in 1933 was 9,820, as compared with 14,910 workers in 1929. The wages exclusive of salaried officers and employees, paid these workers was \$9,636,120 in 1933, and \$19,828,881 in 1929.

Of the Delaware industries separately classified by the department of Commerce, the principal industry is leather. Upper leather, made chiefly of goatskins, by the chrome process, is the leading leather product. But among the industries not separately classified and showing a total product in 1929 of \$49,350,217 are some of the most important manufacturing industries. Belting,



machine tools, plumber's supplies, steam fittings and steam and hot water heating apparatus, yachts, ships and barges, paper, steel and wooden railway cars and coaches, car wheels, iron and steel casings, chemicals, cigars, clothing, collapsible tubes, elevators, floor coverings, varnishes and lacqures, tanning extracts textiles and wooden ware.

Located at 12th., and Dure Streets, in the northeastern section of the city is the plant of the Electric Hose and Rubber Company, manufacturers of braided hose, with an annual output approximating nearly half of the combined production of this type of hose in the United States.

The Wilmington Mills, manufacturers of jute products, one of the city's oldest industries is located at 16th., street and Railroad Avenue.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company maintains large car shops at 30th Street and Railroad Avenue, employing a large number of expert mechanics. A few blocks west at 30th., and Spruce Streets is the plant and main offices of the Speakman Company, one of the world's largest manufacturers of shower baths, bathroom and kitchen fixtures and general plumbing supplies. The Company also maintains an office and showroom at 816-22 Tatnall St., in the central section of the city, where the present <sup>day</sup> mode of color and beauty of design in plumbing fixtures and accessories may be inspected.

The north and western section of the city contains many diversified industries such as brick and lumber yards, woodworking mills and two of the oldest establishments of their kind in the country. One the J.E.Rhoads Company, manufacturers of leather belting is the second oldest firm in the United States,



having been established in 1702. This plant is located at 11th., Street and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and may be visited during working hours. Near the entrance to the main office may be seen an original stone wheel used in the early manufacture of leather by the founders.

The other is the Joseph Bancroft and Sons Company. Its main plant and general offices are located on the banks of the Brandywine Creek at the foot of Rockford Road, and is one of the largest general finishing and dyeing plants in the country. The firm was founded by Joseph Bancroft in 1831.

In 1859 he began the bleaching and dyeing of cotton goods. Since his death in 1874, the buildings have been greatly enlarged and extended until today about 1,200 employees are required in the operation of the plants.

The Delaware Paper Mills Inc., for half a century the Augustine Mill of the Jessup and Moore Paper Company, is located one mile from Market Street bridge on one of the prettiest spots on the Brandywine Creek. The mill at present is engaged in the manufacture of news and chip board, used largely in the paper box industry. The method employed is known as a conversion process because of the fact that old news, and other kinds of old paper are used as a base instead of rag or wood pulp as used in other manufacture.

The leather industries including both leather manufacturers and leather goods manufacturers, have plants in several sections of the city. Two large and important units of this industry are located in the southwestern part of the city. They are the Standard Division of the Allied Kid Company, and the Amalgamated Leather



Companies, Inc. The Standard Division is located at 4th., and Monroe Streets and is a large producer of glazed kid in all colors. The Allied Kid Company also operates a large plant at 11th., and Poplar Streets for the production of glazed kid. This was formerly the plant of the New Castle Leather Company. The Speciality Division of the Allied Kid Company is located at 701 East Fifth St., Here the company produce embossed leather, imitation reptile, enameled and suede leathers. The plant of the Amalgamated Leather Companies Inc. is located at Front and Adams St. The Company is well known through out the industry as a large producer of glazed kid and reptile skins such as snakes, lizards, etc.,

Other leather companies, including the Beadenkopf Leather Company and the Youngco Company together with the larger aforementioned amalgamations, place Wilmington in the front rank in the glazed kid industry.

The Picot Laboratories located at Maryland Avenue and E. Liberty Street manufacture grape flavored effervescence salts, the greater part of which is exported to Spanish-speaking countries in South and Central America and the West Indies.

At Maryland Avenue and Beech Street, the main plant and general offices of the National Vulcanized Fibre Company are located. This spot is the center of the fibre industry.

Directly opposite the machine shop of A.L. Henderer's Sons manufactures a very unique tool known as a tube expander. It is used to flare the end of a metal pipe so as to insure



a tight fitting joint. This is practically the only plant in the world making this tool, so the company's business is world wide especially in the oil refining industry. The shop was founded in 1872 by the father of the present owners.

X The ship and car building industries for which Wilmington was once known the world over has undergone some drastic changes in the past few years. The Harlan plant of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, once the well known Harlan and Hollingsworth Company, has discontinued after a notable career, the building of ships, and is confining its activities to the building of railway cars, and doing general machine work. This plant, a Wilmington landmark, located at the foot of West Street between the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Christiana River, constructed 509 craft from the company's inception in 1836 up to 1926 when ship building was suspended in favor of other plants of the Bethlehem Corporation. It is worth while to note that this plant built its first passenger railway car in 1836, only four years after the running of the first railway train in the United States. In 1840 the company constructed its first luxury car, it was styled in the contract "an eight wheeled passenger and ladies accommodation car." Since that time many thousands of Harlan cars have been shipped to all parts of the world.

The Pusey and Jones Corporation at Front and Poplar Streets, also has had a notable career. The company had its beginning in a small machine shop in 1848 and has steadily progressed until today in addition to ship-building, it is also



in the front rank of the paper-making machinery industry. Many celebrated yachts were built at this plant, among them the steel hulled racing yacht "Volunteer," This splendid vessel, built in 1887, defeated her competitor, the English yacht "Thistle," in the International Cup Race of 1887 thereby retaining the cup for America.

The Jackson and Sharp plant of the American Car and Foundry Company located at the foot of east Eighth Street east of the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad is one of Wilmington's oldest and best known establishments. This company also one of the country's pioneer car builders, has for the present, due to business conditions, suspended this line of endeavor and is confining its activities to yacht-building. Motor cruisers and yachts from 26 feet to 100 feet are constructed. Large ship-ways on the Christiana River are used for repair and over-hauling of larger vessels. The company has an enviable reputation in the fabrication of architectural woodwork.

Across the Brandywine Creek from the Jackson plant is the Wilmington works of the Pullman Company. This establishment whose office and entrance is at 12th and Railroad Avenue, was originally started as a private enterprise in 1871 by Bowers and Dure. They made all kinds of railway and street cars. Mr. Dure finally became sole proprietor and sold out the plant and real property around it to the Pullman Company in 1886. In this plant the first "Palace Car," built east of the Mississippi River was constructed.



Wilmington has many other large and unusual industries such as the Benjamin F. Shaw Company, whose plant at 2nd., and Pine Streets is equipped to fabricate and construct high pressure piping in any part of the country, having done this work in some of the largest plants in the world.

Another, the Bond Manufacturing Company at 5th., and Monroe Streets, produce large quantities of crowns and seals for bottles, and collapsible tubes, made from tin and lead. The Company also manufactures cork expansion joints for concrete pavings and other cork products.

The Modern Bond Company located at 819 West 5th Street are manufacturers of all kinds of special machinery, including bottle filling machines and cartridge loading tools.

The Warner Company at South Market Street and Christiana River, originally a transportation company, supplies the territory drained by the Delaware River and many other communities with gravel for building and road construction. The company is said to be the largest producer of sand and gravel in the United States. It also produces over 300,000 pounds of burned lime products yearly. They furnish lime for both the building trade and for agriculture.

The Delaware Floor Products Company's plant located on Christiana Avenue east of New Castle Avenue makes enough felt-base floor covering each month to pave a road from 6 to 9 feet wide, extending from Philadelphia to Washington, a distance of 142 miles.

The eastern section of the city is the location of



some very important and unique industries; for example, the Tannin Corporation which imports quebracho logs from the River Platte in the Argentine Republic. The company's plant located adjacent to Wilmington's new Marine Terminal, manufactures an extract from these logs used extensively in the tanning of leather.

The Lobdell Car Wheel Company's plant at Christiana Avenue and G. Street is said to be the oldest car-wheel establishment in the country. The company founded in 1836 began the manufacture of chilled car-wheels when the railroads were in their infancy and has maintained its prestige ever since. The plant which at this time employs 132 persons, occupies several acres and in addition to car-wheels, makes chilled rolls for paper-making machines, flour mills and many other industries. It also makes all kinds of iron castings and does general machine work.

One of the later industries to locate in Wilmington is the Cork Insulation Company, Inc., fabricators of cork pipe covering and fittings. The company also manufactures cork board used in general building construction, and ship these materials from their plant near the Marine Terminal to all parts of the country.

The Pyrites Company, Inc., located at the foot of Christiana Avenue is one of the most active and rapidly growing plants in Wilmington. The company imports iron pyrites from Spain which are first shipped to acid manufacturers where sulphur is extracted and manufactured into sulphuric acid. The



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The pyrites cinders are then sent to the Pyrites Company, where from 300 to 400 tons of copper and precious metals per month are removed from the cinders along with impurities. The residue in the form of pure iron ore ready for the blast furnace is then shipped to steel companies where it is made into iron and steel products.

The Eastern Malleable Iron Company located at New Castle Avenue and F. Street has doubled its force in the last 16 months due mostly to the fact that the company moved two of its out of town plants to Wilmington and consolidated the three plants at the above location. The Company makes all kinds of castings including grey iron and alloys.

Industry in the last 10 years has undergone a decided change in Wilmington. Many of the old established "landmark," plants have curtailed or changed their production, causing a great many of the fine artisans and mechanics formerly employed in these industries to either leave the city or find work in other lines of endeavor. However, while this condition has been going on, many large corporation have been either increasing the clerical forces of their main offices located in the city, or as in some cases, companies formerly represented only in a small way in Wilmington, have in the last few years greatly extended their local offices or moved their entire main offices to this city.

The Coca-Cola Company has in the past two years, been increasing its force in this city, until today the entire executive offices and Export Corporation are located in the duPont Building.



The E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company Inc., one of the largest corporation in the world maintains its general offices in Wilmington. The duPont building owned by this company is located in the heart of the city and occupies an entire block extending from Market to Orange and from 10th to 11th., streets. An addition of 17 stories is at present being constructed between Orange and Tatnall and 10th and 11th., Streets.

The company known for more than a century as a manufacturer of powder, began its existence in 1802. Today the growth of the company, as a chemical industry, has been such that at this time not more than 2 per cent of the company's business involves explosives and only one-half of one percent could be considered munitions. Contrary to the general impression, no explosives are manufactured at the present time by the duPont Company in Delaware. The last lot of powder was made in Brandywine Mills, the company's first plant, on October 22nd 1921. The company maintains a large experimental station at Henry Clay on the outskirts of Wilmington and two large pigment and chemical plants within a few miles of the city. duPont factories manufacturing chemicals, imitation leather, imitation ivory, paints, lacquers, varnishes, and hundreds of other materials whose base in many cases is nitrocellulose, the base of smokeless powder, are located in many sections of the country.

After the reorganization of the company by T. Coleman, Alfred I., Pierre S., and Charles I. duPont in 1902, many companies were purchased and dissolved. This process of amalgamation was still going on in 1907, when the United States Government brought



suit against the duPont Company and others under the Sherman anti-trust act. Up to this time, over 60 corporations had been dissolved and their property by outright purchase, vested in the duPont Company. The court's decree was handed down June 13th 1912, ordering a distribution of the business among three corporations, one to be the existing duPont Company.

On October 17th, 1912, the Hercules Powder Company was incorporated in Delaware to comply with the decree. The name was chosen as being an historic one and representing the principal brand of dynamite assigned to the new company.

The Atlas Powder Company was organized in 1912 to also comply with the Federal decree. Both of these companies have also entered into lines of business other than explosives, though largely identified with the smokeless powder base, nitrocellulose. In the case of the Hercules Company, a large naval stores business has been developed, and today Hercules wood turpentine, pine oil and their many allied solvents are known throughout the trade using products of this kind. These last two mentioned companies have their main offices in another of Wilmington's large structures, the Delaware Trust Building, located at 9th., and Market Streets.

The home office of the Continental-American Insurance Company is located in the duPont Building. This Company had its origin in Wilmington in 1907, doing business at first only in Delaware and Maryland. It gradually extended its operations until today it is licensed to sell insurance in 12 states from Massachusetts to Virginia and including Ohio and West Virginia.



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The Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, located at 833 Market Street is a Delaware Company, having been formed in 1839 by a group of farmers for their own protection. The business was conducted at Mermaid Tavern, Mill Creek Hundred, until 1862, when the company decided to extend its business and moved its main office to Wilmington. The first location was in the Odd Fellows Hall, but in 1865, the company erected a building at #833 Market Street, and this is its address at the present time.

The New Castle County Mutual Insurance Company is 10 years younger than the Farmers' Company, having been incorporated February 6, 1849. The Company had its first quarters on the east side of Market Street four doors below the City Hall. Its present location is #304 Delaware Avenue.

Wilmington as an industrial center has been singularly free from strikes and labor disputes of all kinds. As this article is being written, one of the largest employers of clerical and office workers has announced a 10 percent increase in salaries, showing a decided improvement in business among the companies employing Wilmington's large white collar population.

For details of the 1922 Railway Shop strike in Wilmington See H.C. Reed's History of Del. Chapter by Connor on events in Del. 1914-44

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LOCATION - - New Castle

File S-NC

Submitted by K. A. Horner,

Date August 18, 1936.

### New Castle - Pennsville Ferry Fight

The people of New Castle will never forget the excitement caused by the fight for passengers which ensued during the stirring days of the summer of 1928 when the Wilson Line, who operated ferries across the Delaware River at Wilmington, began the operation of a similar line at New Castle in competition with the local company, the New-Castle-Pennsville Ferry Co.

The year before a number of citizens of New Castle, believing that a ferry line at that point would prove profitable, had formed a corporation, sold stock, much of it to the people of New Castle, and to citizens of nearby points, built the necessary slips, purchased ferry boats and begun the operation of a line, which proved highly profitable.

Before engaging in the business they had secured the necessary permits and believed that they had an exclusive franchise to operate ferries at that point.

The Wilson Line, at Wilmington, suffering the loss of business occasioned by the new route, determined to salvage as much of it as possible. They were able to secure a permit from the City Council through methods which many believed to be unscrupulous, which led to threats of violence to the majority members of City Council who had granted it. The rival line was able to begin operations the following summer.

Then began a fight for business between the lines, the like



of which has seldom been seen in a community of the size of New Castle. The citizens were nearly unanimous in their desires to see the local company win, and the sympathies of thousands from nearby communities were with them. Merchants from Wilmington and nearby communities boycotted the Wilson Line. It was necessary to employ guards to protect the property of the two lines. Scouts were sent out throughout the State to meet incoming cars and to solicit the business of the traveling public. Tourist camps, hotels and inns, wherever motorists stopped east of the Mississippi river, were placarded, maps presented and motorists urged to use either the "White Line," or "Red Line," as the two were designated. On Sundays and Saturdays crowds of motorists converged upon New Castle either to witness or take part in the contest between the lines. The State Police of both New Jersey and Delaware were called upon to keep order, and numerous fist fights were engaged in between proponents of the two companies.

Throughout the entire summer the fight continued with both companies spending thousands of dollars advertising their business and protecting their property, the result being considerable loss to both. During the winter months successful efforts were made to affect a compromise, the Wilson Line formed a new ferry company, guaranteed the stock of the old one, took into their employ the principal officers of the latter company and peace again reigned in New Castle. One of the two lines was dropped and the affair ended happily, although the memories of the conflict have remained from those days to these.



New Castle Iron industry.

P.24: - 1655: The Dutch had iron forges on the square on which was located an old frame County Court House, northerly, but a little distant from the recently abandoned New Castle County Court House.

P.24: - The curious may look now for the remains of an ancient iron furnace of no tradition herein, built perhaps by the early Dutch, at Iron Hill; while from 1627 to 1638 the Dutch and Swedes both claimed ownership; Gustavus Adolphus, of Sweden, conceived the idea of this colony as early as 1624. Kieft's protest against the Swedish settlement is dated May 6, 1638. Kieft is said to have known of the Iron Hill ore. Jacob Alrich, commissioned Governor from Amsterdam, Holland, 1656, published in 1657 from the "New World" to the "Old World" a description, map and drawing, of the territory of the present Wilmington metropolis (of 1898) in part, setting forth an earlier discovery by the Dutch of a "Rich Iron Mine", situated in a certain mountain, near which is a cataract or waterfall on a river that runs close to the place. The waterfall is adapted to the turning of mills. The river affords facilities for bringing away such substances in a boat .....

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