Celebration of 250th Anniversary of Penn's Landing by The Colonial Society of Pennsylvania October 26th, 1912

Celebration of the Two Hundred and Thirtieth Anniversary

of the landing of

William Penn in Pennsylvania

held at the

WASHINGTON HOUSE

Chester, Pa.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1912

by the

COLONIAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

in association with

THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

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EXERCISES.

At a special meeting of the Council of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, held in the building of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Thirteenth and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 25, 1912, the subject of the observance of the Two Hundred and Thirtieth Anniversary of the landing of William Penn in Pennsylvania, was discussed at length, it being a custom of the Society to recognize annually that anniversary by a gathering of its members in commemoration of that momentous event in the history of this Province and Commonwealth. It chanced that the precise date, October 28, fell this year—1912—on Monday; and after a thorough discussion, it was decided that the function should be arranged for the afternoon of Saturday, the 26th, since that would most likely insure a large attendance of the members at the exercises. It was also determined that the meeting should be held at the old Colonial Inn, now the Washington House, in Chester, located only a short distance from the actual spot where William Penn landed, two hundred and thirty years ago. To make all arrangements for the observances of the day, a committee comprising Harold Edgar Gillingham, Henry Heston Belknap and Henry Graham Ashmead was appointed, clothed with full power to act.

The twenty-sixth of October proved to be a delightful Autumn day. A large number of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania members, as well as those of the Swedish Colonial Society, who had been invited to participate in the ceremonial observances of Penn's Landing, gathered in the Washington House, comprising a representative body whose proceedings on that occasion will enter into and find a prominent place in the annals of Chester. The ancient hostelry was tastefully decorated with the red and white colors of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and with the blue and gold colors of the Swedish Colonial Society. The room in which Washington wrote his report of the Battle of Brandywine, where the guests gathered, presented the same color scheme, with "Old Glory" here and there ap-

propriately displayed. The dining room, similarly decorated, was divided by four tables running lengthwise of the apartment, with a table at the head, at which, during the exercises, sat Hon. Davis Page, President of the Colonial Society, with Hon. William Ward, Jr., Mayor of Chester, at his right, and Garnett Pendleton, Esq., at his left. Hon. William Cameron Sproul, State Senator from Delaware County, and Brigadier-General Davis, United States Army, retired, a descendant of John Morton, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, who had come from Syracuse, New York, to attend the exercises, were among others who were given places at this table.

In addition to the large number of members of the Swedish Colonial Society who are also members of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, the following members of the former Society were present on this occasion by invitation: Brigadier-General Charles L. Davis, U. S. A., (Retired), Count Adam de Trampe, Hon. William C. Sproul, Hon. William B. Broomall, Col. Charles A. Converse, Col. Frank G. Sweeney, Captain Alfred J. Erikson, Hon. David M. Johnson, Howard Edwards, Douglas R. Faith, Samuel Garrett, LeRoy Harvey, Harold Perot Keen, Edward W. Keene, Charles P. Keith, Josiah Marvel, Levi Mattson, Henry D. Paxson, Dr. Francis J. Roth, Ewing Stille and Isaac C. Paxson, Dr. Francis J. Roth, Ewing Stille and Isaac C. Yocum, Hiram Hathaway, Sr., John B. Hannum, Sr., guests of Hiram Hathaway, Jr., Dr. Frank E. Johnson, James Hanna, guests of Dr. John Welsh Croskey, and William A. Irving, guest of Col. T. Edward Clyde.

The menu served comprised:

Celery Olives Almonds
Martini Cocktail
Oyster Cocktail
Cream of Tomato
Baked Blue Fish En Malelotte
Roast Filet of Beef
Stuffed Peppers Potatoes Rissole
Lettuce and Tomatoes
Roquefort Cheese Dressing
Neapolitan Ice Cream
Fancy Cakes Coffee Cigars

WASHINGTON HOUSE, CHESTER, PA.

The menu was printed on the central pages of a booklet, whose cover displayed the colors of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and those of the Swedish Colonial Society—in which was told the following:

STORY OF THE WASHINGTON HOTEL.

While the claim that the Washington House, in Chester, Pennsylvania, is the oldest hostelry in actual duration, in the original thirteen colonies is not advanced in this sketch as a well established historical fact, certain it is that it takes rank well to the fore as one of the most ancient public houses in the United States. Built in 1747, in the one hundred and sixty-five years that are included within its story, it has never been put to other uses than an inn or tavern—for the descriptive word " hotel " is of comparatively modern application to buildings used as public houses for the entertainment of the traveling public. When Aubrey Bevan erected this building, George II had for almost twenty years ruled England and her dependencies; less than two years before Culloden had seen the cause of the House of Stuart sink in hopeless defeat; Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution was a mere lad of twelve; Washington, a youth of fifteen, still attending school; John Morton, the signer, was a stripling of twenty; Wayne, " Mad Anthony," the Prince Rupert of the Revolution, was a prattling infant of less than two; Benjamin Rush, the Father of American Medicine and a signer of the Declaration, was a babe in long dresses, and twenty-two years had yet to come and go before the birth of Napoleon the Great.

The plot of ground upon which the " Pennsylvania Arms " was erected was originally part of the grant of land by the Swedish Crown to Joran Kyn (George Keen) and on March 31, 1686, was patented by Penn's Commissioner to James Sandelands, the son-in-law of Keen. At his death the property descended to his second son, Jonas Sandelands, who in 1720 sold it to John Wright. The latter is distinguished in our State annals as the founder of Lancaster County. Wright in 1727 conveyed the land to William Pennell, who in turn sold it to James Trigo. In the partition of the latter's estate, the tract was allotted to James

Trigo, his son, who early in 1746 conveyed it to Aubrey Bevan, to whom reference has already been made. During the French War in 1747, the company commanded by Captain Shannon, which had been recruited in New Castle and Chester Counties, was cantoned in Chester, and part of the company was quartered for a brief period at the Pennsylvania Arms, the cost of which the county had to pay. Aubrey Bevan died in 1761 and by will he devised the tavern and curtilage to his daughter Mary, who had intermarried with William Forbes. Forbes was the landlord of the inn on November 7, 1764, the day Benjamin Franklin came to Chester where he was to embark for England, whither he went as the Commissioner of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts to present to George III the grievances of these colonies. On that occasion Franklin was accompanied from Philadelphia by a cavalcade of more than three hundred men of affairs in that city. The London packet, as was then not unusual, was to receive its distinguished passenger at this place and the leading men of the city and Province had accompanied the then greatest man in all the Colonies thus far, to wish him "God speed" in his voyage and mission. The "Pennsylvania Arms," as the Washington House was then named, was crowded with the friends of "Poor Richard," and until the bustling scenes of the Revolution came to obliterate its impress, the day when Franklin boarded the London packet at Chester was a theme for reference and remembrance.

Another incident connected with the old hostelry is not without interest, particularly to the bench and bar of Philadelphia. On August 15, 1768, the Supreme Provincial Court was in session in the old building just across Market Street. Chief Justice William Allen (for whom Allentown is named and later attainted of treason) and his associates, Thomas Willing (who as a member of the Continental Congress voted against the adoption of the Declaration of Independence) and John Lawrence, a lawyer of prominence, presided at the trial of John Dowdle and Thomas Vaughn, who were indicted for the murder of Thomas Shay, in the preceding March. It chanced that day a tall gangling lad of seventeen, attired in the smock frock which farmers and field hands then wore, had brought a load of hay from

Edgmont township to deliver to William Forbes, at the "Pennsylvania Arms." When the stripling had unloaded the wagon he strolled across the street and timidly glanced in at one of the windows. Benjamin Chew, the Attorney-General, was haranguing the jury. The awkward lad listened with awe-struck attention and at last inquired from a bystander whether he could enter the court room. He was told it was open to everyone, whereupon he shamefacedly entered and took a seat near the door. Enrapt, he lingered until the case was ended, the men convicted and the sentence of death imposed. Next morning at breakfast, for he did not reach home until a late hour of the night, amid the laughter of the family he announced that he was determined to be a lawyer and sway juries. He did both, for fifteen years later William Lewis was a leader of the Philadelphia bar, all due, he believed, to his visit and delivery of the load of hay to Mine Host Forbes at the "Pennsylvania Arms."

April 1, 1772, Forbes sold the tavern to William Kerlin. The troublesome times at the eve of the Revolution were at hand. Kerlin, a wealthy man for that day, was an ardent Whig, and his house during all the war was a designated post for the reception and dispatching of intelligence for the patriots. On Christmas, Saturday, 1774, Richard Riley, whose dwelling on the water front at Marcus Hook was also a post, sent word to Kerlin that the tea ship "Polly," Captain Ayre, was following another ship up the Delaware, for no pilot in the then heated condition of the public mind dare venture to bring the "Polly" up the river. The peculiar dark patches in her sails disclosed her identity. From the "Pennsylvania Arms" Kerlin dispatched two express riders on fleet horses to Philadelphia to notify the committee that the long-expected vessel was on her way to that port. It was late in the evening of Wednesday, July 3, 1776, when a mud-bespattered horse and rider stopped at the "Pennsylvania Arms" and a tall man with a green patch over his right eye to conceal a cancer, alighted. It was Caesar Rodney who was making his noted ride of eighty odd miles to cast his vote for the Declaration of Independence. The day had been one of sweltering heat; in the afternoon a heavy thunder storm had visited Delaware, but Rodney,

the delegate, had never slackened rein, but urged the high-mettled roan mare he rode through the deluge of falling water, covering himself and his horse with mud. Here Rodney refreshed himself, and baited his roan pacer. The night was well advanced for those days, when people retired early, before he resumed his ride to Philadelphia, where what he did the next day, July 4, 1776, is part of the history of this nation.

It was the evening of August 24, 1777, a sultry Sabbath day, when the American Army, sixteen thousand strong, on its southward march to meet General Howe, encamped in and around Chester. The hillsides were illuminated with their campfires. That night Washington established his headquarters at the " Pennsylvania Arms," while Lafayette was entertained at the house of Caleb Coupland, an old dwelling which until recently adjoined the " White Swan " Inn, at Fourth and Market Streets, to the south. Eighteen days later, Tuesday, September 11, 1777, the same army, defeated that day at Brandywine, from early eve until long after midnight straggled into Chester and assembled to the east of Ridley Creek, extending along the old Queen's highway up and beyond what is now known as Leiperville. Washington, as before, made his headquarters at the " Pennsylvania Arms," where, at midnight, in the east room in the second story of the old hostelry, he wrote the only report of that battle he ever made to Congress. The ancient mahogany chairs which were part of the furniture of the room that night and at other times when he was a guest, are still preserved among the descendants of William Kerlin.

Sixty-eight days later Tuesday, November 18, 1777, the " Pennsylvania Arms " presented a scene of unwonted activity. The day was cool and raw. Lord Cornwallis that morning, with three thousand troops, comprising the Fifth, Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Thirty-third and Fifty-sixth Regiments, as well as a battalion of Hessians and Light Infantry, together with twelve pieces of artillery, several howitzers and a train of baggage, had marched from Philadelphia, which he had left the day before. His design was to cross the river at this point and reduce Billingport, N. J., in which he succeeded. Major John Clark, of General Green's staff, (who had been assigned by Washington on secret service,

without the knowledge of Green, and who reported Clark to the Commander-in-chief as a deserter), stood on the second-story porch of the "Plow and Harrow," the tavern kept by Mary Withy, then standing where is now the Cambridge Trust Company's building, watching the movements of the troops.

Cornwallis made his headquarters at the "Pennsylvania Arms," where, surrounded by his brilliant staff, he was the observed of all observers. The grandfather of the writer, then a young man of nineteen, remembered the bustling scene which in advanced years he would describe to his children. Cornwallis, then in his thirty-ninth year, as grandfather remembered him, was short and stocky in figure, his prematurely gray hair, unpowdered, was worn in a queue, his features were regular, but he suffered from an affection of his left eyelid, which caused it to blink incessantly, detracting somewhat from his appearance. He was excessively nervous and his habit of raising his hand to change the position of his hat every few minutes, was very noticeable that day. Major Campbell, "handsome Mad Archey," of his staff, was in excellent humor, as he always was when battle was in the air. His bearing that day was as reckless as it was three years later, when by a threat to kill the lady, the clergyman and himself, he compelled Rev. Edward Ellington, rector of the little English church at Goose Creek, South Carolina, to perform the marriage ceremony between the lovely Pauline Phelps, of Charleston, and himself, an incident which has furnished a chapter or two for William Gilmore Simms' novel "Katharine Walton."

It required nearly eight hours for the troops to be transported from Chester to the New Jersey shore. The eighty British men-of-war and transports lying off this place furnishing the boats for the troops, while floats in tow of launches from the vessels, carried the horses, artillery and baggage wagons. Cornwallis and his staff were among the last to embark, hence for half a day the "Pennsylvania Arms" was absolutely in control of the ablest British soldier entrusted with the command of an army in all our war for Independence. Some of the overzealous Whigs later charged Kerlin with disloyalty because, as they alleged, that day he had furnished food supplies to the soldiers and

sailors of the enemy. But nothing further came of this complaint.

It was at this hostelry that Washington, on Wednesday, September 5, 1781, while hastening with the Continental forces and the French auxiliary to Yorktown, "received the agreeable news of the safe arrival of the Count de Grasse in the Bay of Chesapeake with 28 sail of the line and four frigates, with 3000 land Troops, which were to be immediately debarked at Jamestown and form a juncture with the American Army under the command of the Marquis de la Fayett." Cyrus Townsend Brady in his "American Fights and Fighters" in the article "Yorktown," (page 150) says that "Washington was so delighted with the news that he rode back to Philadelphia and informed Congress and Rochambeau." That Washington sent an express from Chester informing Congress and the French general of the great news he had received agrees with the tradition of the event in the Kerlin family, but that he rode personally to Philadelphia is open to grave question, inasmuch that the following day he wrote from the Head of Elk, Maryland, to Count de Grasse, acknowledging the receipt of "Your Excellency's favor of the 2d instant, and do myself the pleasure to felicitate you on the happy arrival of so formidable a fleet of his Most Christian Majesty in the Bay of Chesapeake under your Excellency's command."

The war cloud having passed, the citizens of remote parts of Chester County renewed their efforts to remove the County Seat to a more central location, and during that agitation, Joseph Hickman, an ardent removalist, penned a doggerel ballad entitled, "Lament Over Chester's Mother," in which Kerlin is thus referred to:

"And then poor helpless Billy cries—
'Oh, how shall I be fed?
What shall I do if Mamma dies?
I cannot work for bread.

'These little hands have never wrought,
Oh, how I am oppressed!
For I have never yet done aught,
But hang on Mamma's breast.'"

On Monday, April 20, 1789, Washington, then on his way to New York to be inaugurated the first President of the United States, reached Chester at 7 o'clock in the morning. He was accompanied by General Thomas Mifflin, Governor of Pennsylvania; Judge Richard Peters, the Speaker of the Assembly, and First Troop of Philadelphia as a guard of honor, who had met the President-elect at Naaman's Creek, the State line, whither he had been escorted by the authorities of Delaware. Washington traveled to Chester in a coach and four, attended by Col. David Humphreys, his aide, and Charles Thomson, "the perpetual secretary of Congress," who had been dispatched to Mount Vernon to officially notify the General of his election to the Presidency. Thomson was well known in Chester, his first wife, Mary, being the daughter of John Mather, a noted resident of the town in the eighteenth century. The inhabitants of this place flocked to the inn as the distinguished guests alighted at the "Washington House," for Kerlin had changed the name of the tavern to the one it has now borne for one hundred and thirty years. All the urchins gazed with admiration as the troops rode into the yard of the inn; the jingling of swords, the champing of the bits by the horses, the showy uniforms of the men, and the blare of the trumpet, combined to produce a picture in the memory of the onlookers that was never effaced. After Washington had broken fast, the leading citizens of the town assembled in the travelers' waiting room, now the bar room, where Washington hearkened to the address of welcome delivered by Dr. William Martin, then Chief Burgess of Chester. His speech, which has been preserved, is as follows:

"To His Excellency, George Washington, Esq.,
President of the United States:

"Sir: The inhabitants of the town of Chester, impressed with the liveliest sentiments of esteem and veneration for your Excellency's character, congratulate themselves upon this opportunity being afforded them to pay their respects to, and assure you of unfeigned joy that swells their bosoms, while they reflect that the united voices of millions have again called you from the bosom of

domestic retirement to be once more the public guardian of the liberty, happiness and prosperity of the United America. From this event they entertain the most pleasing expectations of the future greatness of the Western world; indeed they cannot but observe to your Excellency that the torpid resources of our country already discover signs of life and motion, from the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Accept, sir, our fervent wishes for your welfare—may you be happy; may a life spent in usefulness be crowned with a serene old age; and may your future reward be a habitation not built with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Washington made a brief and unostentatious response, after which a number of the then prominent residents were presented to the President-elect. A delegation from Darby followed in a formal presentation of a beautiful white steed, which Washington accepted and rode during the rest of his journey to New York, and during much of the exercises in that city.

William Kerlin did not remain mine host of the Washington House until his death, for his will, proved April 29, 1805, in his devise of "the tavern house" to his daughter, Sarah Piper, he states it was then "in the tenure of Isaac Tucker," of whom I have no definite knowledge. Sarah Piper, or Sarah Odenheimer, for she was a blooming widow, noted for her figure and expert horsemanship, when Joseph Piper first met her was riding, so that he saw her at her best. The chanced visitor to Chester, for he was then employed in the Custom House of the Port of Philadelphia, was presented to the attractive woman. He wooed and won the dashing Widow Odenheimer. When the lease to Issac Tucker expired, Joseph Piper resigned from the Custom service and assumed direction of the Washington House. Mine Host Piper was accorded the title of Major, and the family tradition states that he had been an officer in the War of the Revolution, but as he was a child of less than ten years when that struggle ended, if he won that title by service, he must have been in the Whisky Insurrection. He died in 1829 and for nearly four years his widow carried on the business, until 1833, when she leased the tavern to Evan S. Way, who for one year had kept the Providence

ROOM IN WHICH WASHINGTON WROTE ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

Inn in Nether Providence township. Way was a politician and while conducting the Washington House was nominated and elected Sheriff of Delaware County. He succeeded Major Samuel A. Price in that office. A peculiar incident was that Major Price succeeded Way as landlord of the hostelry in Chester in 1837. The latter had conducted a hat manufactory in this city, was an influential and genial gentleman, and in early life was reputed to be a strikingly handsome man. In 1840, after William Henry Harrison had received the Whig nomination for the Presidency, the old general, accompanied by a number of gentlemen from New York, in returning from Washington, stopped to dine at the Washington House, and while here received the congratulations of our citizens. After dinner had been served, the cloth was drawn, wine, as was usual on such occasions, was placed on the table, and several toasts were drunk. It was observed that Harrison drank only water, and being thereupon urged to take wine, he arose and said: "Gentlemen, I have refused twice to partake of the wine cup, that should have been sufficient; though you press the cup to my lips not a drop shall pass the portals. I made a resolve when I started in life that I would avoid strong drink, and I have never broken it. I am one of a class of seventeen young men who graduated, and the other sixteen fill drunkards' graves, all through the habit of social wine drinking. I owe all my health, happiness and prosperity to that resolution. Will you urge me now?"

This incident and the remarks made by "Old Tippecanoe" were related by one of the gentlemen present on that occasion nearly forty years thereafter, hence the language used by Harrison at this dinner at the Washington House may not be strictly accurate in words, but the substance of what he then said is doubtless correctly rendered.

Sarah Piper, in her will probated September 13, 1841, directed that "the tavern house and thereto belonging, be sold within one year after my decease." In compliance with that provision, although a longer time than one year did intervene, her executors sold, April 2, 1844, the premises to Henry L. Powell, an ardent temperance advocate, who declared that at the Washington House no intoxicating

liquors should thereafter be sold to its patrons. On October 11, of the same year Powell conveyed the property to Edward E. Flavill, who was also active in the cause of temperance in Delaware County. Samuel West, an earnest temperance advocate, engaged Edward Hicks, a Quaker artist, to paint a swinging sign—one side delineating The Landing of Penn at Chester and the other Penn's Treaty (?) with the Indians at Shackamaxon, which when completed, West presented to Flavill. The sign was first hung in jaws which crowned a high pole planted near the curb at the driveway to the stables in the courtyard. Early in June, 1845, the sign was put in place with imposing ceremonies. It was Saturday afternoon and temperance lodges from many of the townships in the county were present in regalia, with banners, and in some instances accompanied by bands of music. Rev. Anson B. Hard, Associate Rector of St. Paul's, and Rev. Isaac R. Merrill, pastor of the Methodist Church, conducted the religious exercises, while the oration was delivered by John Wayne Ashmead, my father. Mr. Band recently has had the old sign hung from the second story of the porch on Market street, so that each side can be seen by persons in the street.

The experiment of conducting the house on strictly temperance principles proved an unprofitable venture and Flaville at length disposed of the property January 1, 1849, to Thomas Clyde, who had formerly conducted an extensive general store in Chester and was largely interested in quarries on Ridley Creek. During the panic of 1837 he lost heavily by the failures of contractors, who were carried down in the slump in business and values that followed. For nine years Mr. Clyde continued to be landlord of the Washington House, but as he insisted in continuing it as a temperance inn, it was conducted with but little financial success. His namesake and nephew, the late Thomas Clyde, of steamship fame, a child of seven, on the death of his parents in Ireland, was sent over to the United States, and was an inmate of his uncle's household in Chester until he attained his majority. In April, 1856, Thomas Clyde sold the property to his son-in-law, John G. Dyer, who had been an Inspector of the Customs at the Lazaretto, and later interested in manufacturing. A man of pleasing address

and an attractive conversationalist, Mr. Dyer, who had received license for the ancient hostelry, soon re-established the Washington House as one of the most popular public houses in the county. In 1868 he conveyed the premises to his son, Col. Samuel A. Dyer. The latter was a man of unusual business ability and forethought, and one to whose liberality the City of Chester owes much for its present prosperity. In after life he became a banker, was the founder of the Chester National Bank, of which for a number of years he was president. To his enterprise and energy the City is indebted for its present street railway system. Col. Dyer, on June 1, 1870, sold the Washington House to Henry Abbott, Jr., who continued as its landlord for nearly a quarter of a century. Henry Abbott died January 16, 1911. A clause in his will attracted widespread attention throughout this country and was largely copied by the press of Great Britain. He had had during all his life a horror of being buried alive, hence it was to guard against such a contingency that he inserted the following clause in his will:

"It is my desire that for forty days after my decease my body shall be kept in a vault with the lid of the coffin unfastened, and be visited daily during that period, and subsequently be interred in my burial lot in the grave where my wife, Margaret J. Abbott, is buried in Chester Rural Cemetery. If my body be interred before this my desire is known, I direct that it be immediately disinterred and these provisions fully carried out."

The obligations imposed by the will were faithfully carried out by the executor, but it was a revolting duty to the official, who daily visited the tomb to watch the slow process of dust returning to dust.

On January 22, 1895, Henry Abbott sold the Washington House to Charles E. Morris. On Saturday afternoon, April 19, 1902—the hundred and twenty-seventh anniversary of the Battle of Lexington—the Delaware County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with appropriate ceremonies unveiled a bronze tablet, which had been placed in the wall on the right side of the main entrance to the Washington House, whereon in raised letters were inscribed several of the noted historical incidents

which are associated with the story of the old hostelry. Mine Host Morris had had the building tastefully decorated for the occasion. Draping the door opening into the room in which Washington wrote the only report he ever made to Congress in reference to the defeat at Brandywine, were two large silk American flags which twenty-six years before had been used as part of the decorations of the Roach Shipyard exhibit at the Centennial Exposition in 1876 at Philadelphia. The colors of the Daughters of the American Revolution were everywhere conspicuous in the apartment which Washington had occupied. Addresses were made by Mayor Howard H. Houston, Henry Graham Ashmead and Rev. Philip H. Mowry, D.D.

Charles E. Morris, on January 29, 1910, conveyed the Washington House to William Band, Jr. Mr. Band is peculiarly fitted to be in control of the old Colonial tavern, with its wealth of historic associations. He venerates its glorious past while still desirous that the Washington House shall be equipped with all the conveniences of a modern hotel. Recognizing that age is one thing which money cannot buy, Mr. Band has carefully preserved in all the changes made at the hotel, the dominant fact that the old Washington House is one of the best examples of Colonial architecture existing to-day in these United States, and has historical associations clustering about it beyond that of any other public house in all America.

HENRY GRAHAM ASHMEAD.

Chester, Pa., October 26, 1912.

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT PAGE.

When the cigars were lighted, President S. Davis Page rapped for silence. Then he said:

"Gentlemen of the Colonial Societies: When I picked up your menu here and found that I was down for 'Remarks,' I was a good deal astonished; for, although one who has been put in this exalted position by your votes must expect to stand and deliver whenever called upon, yet, upon this occasion, I thought we came down here for instruction and entertainment at the hands of those who are more familiar with the locality, and certainly vastly better informed as to its history than I am. Since I have been

sitting here, however, although but a few minutes, I have gotten some very interesting information on the subject from the distinguished gentlemen who hold up my hands, the one on the right and the other on the left (alluding to the Mayor and Garnett Pendleton, Esq.).

" It occurs to me that if that remarkable citizen of the world, William Penn, who landed so near this very spot, the 28th of October, two hundred and thirty years ago, were here to-day, the changes wrought in that time would be bewildering indeed to him. What do you suppose would be the emotions of that man if he could step out from the grave, or land from that fabled boat that carried him across the Styx—old Charon at the helm—what do you think would be his emotions if he landed at this time in the year of Grace, 1912, and looked at this fair town, to which we have come, at the hospitable call of Mr. Ashmead and others of our associates residing here?

" You have a town here of 40,000 people, particularly noted for its manufacturing industries. You have on the one side the great works of Baldwin, enormous in their potential production—if not in their present realization—and on the other you have great silk and other mills of varied activities. When I was told that the silk they have produced in that silk mill is made out of the wood of the mulberry tree, without the properties of the tree contained in the leaf passing through the silk worm at all, it occurred to me that perhaps William Penn, were he to come back in this day of Grace, would be even more surprised at the progresses and changes that have been made in the relation of man to man, in the improvements, in the utilities and comforts of life, in the development of the power of man over the elements of nature, even to harnessing the lightning of the thunderbolt and bringing it here for our comfort and entertainment, as we see it in the lights before us, than were the dwellers of Jerusalem when they saw the lame walk and the dumb speak and the lepers cleansed, nineteen hundred years ago.

Altogether, as I get older, and there are not many here who are older than I, it seems to me that the longer you live the more astounding are the miracles that each day brings forth; and when I sometimes hear people talking

about the story of the miracles in the Bible as being perhaps too great a tax on their credulity, I feel like pointing to the daily occurrences that we read of in the papers as really presenting miracles as astounding almost as those which God Incarnate, with a full and complete knowledge of all the powers of nature, and with all of them within the grasp of His hand, was able to and did do here on earth. Really, we are living in a miraculous age; and, with all that we have and know and see, we can hardly realize, gentlemen, what men like Penn did 230, 250 or 300 years ago, when they left the centers of civilization and faced the wilderness and the savagery beyond the seas; for the good, not only of themselves, but of mankind, and for the human race. What man of all of them did more for the human race, in respect to its deliverance from the thraldom of religious intolerance, and of civic oppression, than this man whose landing on these shores we here and now do celebrate? Let me say just here—I think it was a most happy suggestion that we should come down here to Chester at this time, near that sacred spot. Our meetings, as you know, are usually held at this time of year to celebrate this very event, the Landing of William Penn; and where better could we celebrate it than right here, where, after stopping at New Castle, he made his first landing? It was a particularly happy suggestion of our fellow members living here and it has given great pleasure and gratification to all of us, and I am sure I am speaking on behalf of the members of both societies, of our own, the Colonial Society, and the Swedish Colonial Society, of which some of us are also members, enjoying together this charming hospitality.

"I congratulate you all that we are here to-day. I congratulate you for the kind Providence that has smiled upon us, and who gave us such a lovely day to be here; but particularly do I congratulate you that the Mayor of the City of Chester will address us to-day and that my friend, Mr. Garnett Pendleton, will instruct us as to the associations connected with the place and recall some of the men of it and their doings of long ago. I have the pleasure of presenting to you the Hon. William Ward, Jr., Mayor of Chester."

MAYOR WARD'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Ward, as he arose, was welcomed with much clapping of hands. This having ceased, he said:

"Mr. President and gentlemen of the Colonial Societies: The City of Chester extends to you to-day, gentlemen, a-visiting, a cordial, hearty welcome. We are always glad to welcome the stranger within our gates, but we are particularly honored this day and extend a most generous welcome to you, the descendants of our early settlers and pioneers.

"We of the City of Chester and the County of Delaware, claim prominence in the story of this great Commonwealth. Within a radius of five miles of this city of ours, all of the history of Pennsylvania was made during the first four decades of our Colonial life. Over this particular locality have floated as the emblem of sovereignty, the Swedish and Dutch flags, the red-crossed standard of St. George, and our own "Old Glory," the best flag of all, that at the conclusion of every struggle in which it has engaged, has emerged from the smoke of battle, wreathed with victory.

"Four miles to the east of where we meet to-day, in what is now the township of Tinicum, the first permanent settlement of the white man, within this State was made, two hundred and seventy years ago.

"It was at Tinicum where Governor Printz, whom we are told weighed near to four hundred pounds, and had a capacity of four quarts of strong liquor each day, built and erected Fort Gottenberg.

"There the Governor established his fort and his colony and issued his decrees, and despite famine, misfortune and disease held to his post and sowed the seed from which has grown this glorious Commonwealth. He it was who first inaugurated the policy of conciliation toward the Indians, an idea which the Proprietary in later years, shrewdly adopted and emphasized.

"The Redman and the Swede lived in harmony and perfect amity. The white man taught to the Indian his latter day arts and perchance, some of his imperfections and frailties. The Redman taught to the Swede his lore

of the forest primeval and drilled him in the conquest of the woods and river stream.

"We know that the Swede used his foot as a weight in trading with the Indians for their peltry, but the Redman was not slow to learn and quickly sent forward the tallest brave to act as yard-stick when the Swedes were paying for furs or land with gaudy calico.

"This fact I would particularly impress; that the Swedes in 1654 entered into a treaty with the Indians at Tinicum, of which it is recorded that it 'has ever been faithfully observed on both sides.' This treaty was made twenty-eight years before the oft questioned meeting of Penn with the aborigines, said to have taken place under the great elm at Shackamaxon; an incident so noted whether it be fact or myth, as to call forth Voltaire's often quoted expression that 'It was the only treaty which has not been sworn to, and which has not been broken.'

"And it would be as well to recall the fact that it was the brush of the Quaker artist West, born at Swarthmore, within four miles of where we are now assembled, that has so largely contributed to the prominent place held by Penn's treaty with the Indians, in the history of this Commonwealth, of this country and in the annals of the world.

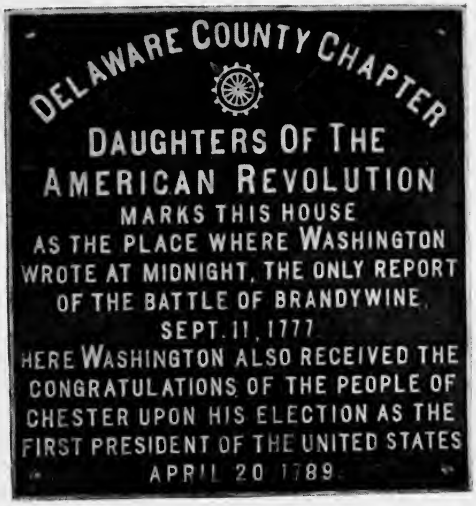
"We first learn of Chester in 1644, then called Upland, as a tobacco plantation, land afterwards granted by the Swedish authorities to Joran Kyn.

"It may be noted that in the same year—1644—was born William Penn, a peculiar association of incidents, worthy at least of passing attention.

"The land on which the building stands in which we are now gathered was included in that Swedish grant to George Keen, for that is the English name of our foremost early settler.

"I learn that among those with us this afternoon are quite a number of the direct descendants of George Keen, and I desire particularly to extend to those gentlemen a hearty welcome to this city, the site of which two hundred and sixty years ago was in the undisputed ownership of their ancestor, the first permanent settler of Chester.

"The tide of life ran evenly and slow in the colony and the years rolled on till 1682, the year that marked



TABLET ON THE WASHINGTON HOUSE

the coming of William Penn, for it was in that year that our Quaker Proprietary first placed foot in his territory and gave to the Province his name, and to the Nation of the future the Keystone State of Pennsylvania.

"Chester claims the honor and distinction of containing the spot of ground where William Penn first landed in this State. There has been much discussion as to the accuracy of the spot designated and some criticism of the style of marker erected.

"These are the facts: On November 8, 1850, the corrected date from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania visited Chester, in celebration of the one hundred and sixty-eighth anniversary of Penn's landing in this town, then a borough, and after the literary exercises which were held in the old Methodist Church on Fifth Street, now a cigar factory, were concluded, the assemblage in a body visited the site where Penn first trod the earth of the Province, which then and now bears his name.

"The places where the ancient trees had stood, under which the Proprietary landed were still visible, the last of the old pines had been up-rooted in a violent gale in October, 1846. A survey was then made and as portions of the stumps of the five trees, to one of which the boat which bore William Penn from the 'Welcome' to the shore was made fast, were still discernible, it can be accepted as a well ascertained fact that the marker, which was erected in 1882, thirty-two years later, during the Bi-Centennial observances, stands within at least twenty feet of the precise spot where the landing took place two hundred and thirty years ago.

"As to the marker: It was not intended as an elaborate monument nor designed as a work of highest art. The idea as to the form of the memorial stone was that of John Struthers, whom it will be remembered, supplied and superintended the placing of the stone work that entered into the City Hall of Philadelphia, who suggested that the marker should be in the form of a mile stone, as symbolizing an epoch in the history of the Nation, just as the old mile stones represented a measured distance on the surface of the earth.

"I am informed that since the locating of this stone in Chester the idea has been adopted in many of the countries of Europe and that on the Island of Runnymede, where the great Magna Charta was signed by King John, a stone of like shape now marks the spot forever associated with the story of human freedom.

"So passed the years. For the first forty odd years Chester was the stage upon which was enacted almost the entire history of the Province; and while the fears that Penn and his advisers entertained that it was possible that the claim of Lord Baltimore to its ownership might be maintained, led him to select Philadelphia for his "Green Country Town," Chester as a borough and city has held prominent place in the annals of the Keystone State. From this neighborhood came John Morton, whose decisive vote gave Independence to the Colonies and as a consequence birth to the United States.

"From the windows of this apartment we look down upon the street where "Mad Anthony" Wayne drilled the Continentals of this section from raw levees into martial form. Here Commodore David Porter, one of the conspicuous heroes of the second war with England made his home and here was born his son, Admiral David Dixon Potter, a brilliant figure of the Civil War. Only a stone's throw from here Admiral David Glasgow Farragut went to school and in this town he passed much of his boyhood days. Here were born Rear Admiral Frederick Engle and Pierce Crosby and here in Roach's Shipyard the present Naval establishment of the United States had its birth. Out of the receding past I have alluded to but a few incidents, which we as residents of Chester, and you, gentlemen, as citizens of Pennsylvania, may well be proud.

"To-day we welcome you to a progressive city of almost fifty thousand souls, a hive of industry and toil, not content to live only in the past—but striving for moral, industrial and municipal betterment.

"Rich in our history, proud of our progress, loyal to our people and to our glorious Commonwealth, Chester to-day extends to you, gentlemen, a generous and cordial welcome." (Applause.)

PRESIDENT PAGE:—

"Gentlemen of the Colonial Societies: After having been admitted to the gates of Chester in the charming manner in which the Mayor extended the welcome of the town to us, let us now look beyond those gates, and throw our minds back, not so far as two hundred and thirty years ago, but one hundred and thirty years ago, or thereabout, and think of the great men of that time, to whom we, as descendants of some of them, and as those who have profited by their sufferings and by their work, should look back with veneration and the greatest regard; but that veneration and regard is a matter simply of lip service, if we do not lay their examples to our hearts and endeavor to lead a little of the altruistic lives led by those men who camped not far from here during that terrible winter at Valley Forge. Among those men who did and suffered so much, there was one man, who dared and did so much that he was thought really to be beyond the control of reason; and that man, forgetting himself, forgetting even his surroundings at times, pressed on to any risk, any danger, to any chance of suffering, to achieve and to accomplish the design which he had in hand, in the furtherance of the great plans which the General in command of the army at Valley Forge had conceived and eventually carried to such a successful completion and fruition; "Mad Anthony Wayne" had reason in his madness, and in the toast which comes next, he is presented to our contemplation as "Soldier and Citizen." Some men in the discharge of one duty sometimes forget the other, and there are men who would carry into their citizenship some of the ideas perhaps which they may have imbibed while filling the role of soldiers. The swords of Anthony Wayne and of those who fought with him, wrote into the hearts of their countrymen with the blood of their owners' 'regard for law.' And, in the discharge of their duty as citizens, they obeyed the law; not the law founded on the will of one man, but the law founded upon the consent of a multitude of men, all equal before the law, but formed in such a way that the power of the majority shall never be exercised to the injury of the rights of the minority. (Applause) Never can that principle be preserved should

there be any successful effort made at any time by any men, under any call, by God or Devil, to override the written law of the land and the Constitution of the United States established by the labor and the blood of men like Anthony Wayne—established I pray as the everlasting law of these States, its object being the control and limitation of the powers of Government in the land; for there can be no slavery greater than an unlimited exercise of the powers of government, even if ostensibly and ostentatiously for the good people, who should learn rather to govern themselves, if we are to remain a free people.

"You who have paid any attention to history know something of the efforts of our ancestors and forebears, throughout all the ages, of the record, to limit and control the powers of government. We want no extension of the powers of government; the fewer laws we have, the better; the more restricted the powers of government, the safer the rights of the governed.

"Gentlemen, I have the honor to present to you Mr. Garnett Pendleton, who will talk to us of 'Anthony Wayne, Soldier and Citizen.'"

GARNETT PENDLETON'S ADDRESS.

Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and Gentlemen of the Swedish Colonial Society: It is eminently fitting that organizations whose prime object is the collection of data concerning the early history of Pennsylvania should meet within the limits of the old town and County of Chester; within the walls of the ancient hostelry that so often sheltered majestic Washington and chivalrous Lafayette, and in plain view of a town hall replete with civic associations and redolent of martial memories, eight years the senior of that historic edifice whence issued the declaration and the prophecy of American independence.

"We are engaged in the manifold activities of modern life, and enjoy the privileges of a high and complex civilization. But are not unmindful of the rock whence we were hewn. We realize that the present, with its wondrous achievements and its magnificent possibilities, is the child of a vigorous, an energetic and a glorious past.

"We honor and revere our ancestors and their contemporaries. They were men of resolute heart, iron nerve and stern determination. We owe them a debt forever insoluble. They braved the terrors and the perils of the trackless wilderness that for us that wilderness might bud and blossom as the rose. They battled with and expelled the ruthless savage, that we here might have peace and safety. They broke the rod of the oppressor that we might bask in the sunlight of liberty.

"The proper study of mankind is man. The history of the human race is an absorbing topic. American history —the recital of our development from colony to Commonwealth, from a group of communities lying along a narrow seaboard into a compact and powerful and continent-wide Republic, is a theme of ever-engrossing interest.

"The soldier is the great hero of secular history. His courage, his apparent indifference to danger and death, the battle array, the impetus of the charge; the pomp and glorious circumstance of war elicit the enthusiastic admiration of him who sees and of him who reads. The soldier looms large in the annals of mankind. Peace is the offspring of war; and liberty, the outcome of struggle; civilization rears her marts and her palaces on the conquered domain of barbarism.

"Too much of the work of the soldier has been in furtherance of the personal ambition of the general. We admire the transcendent military genius of Napoleon; but realize that in his quest of glory and self aggrandizement he prostituted his great gift to the subjugation and oppression of his fellowman, and in his pursuit of world-wide dominion drenched the earth in blood.

"To us as philanthropists and as patriots is offered another and a fairer picture. For the character of Washington we cherish filial reverence and rejoice in the achievements of a soldier who fought for the liberation, and not for the enslavement of his kind.

"To your consideration to-day is presented another herald of freedom—a man, great in his willingness to serve in a subordinate position, and great in his ability to fill with distinction the highest station of danger and responsibility, and by his strong personality, ardent patriotism and

courageous example, to lead armies to battle and to victory.

"We offer him as a splendid type of American—the soldier-citizen, versed alike in the arts of war and of peace. We feel pardonable pride in the fact that this soldier-citizen was a native of the County of Chester, of which our own County originally was a part.

"Anthony Wayne was born in Easttown Township, January 1, 1745. He died at Presquisle, Erie, December 15, 1796. The intervening period between birth and death covered one of the most momentous eras in the history of mankind. Its opening found us a group of dependent colonies. Its close left us a nation of free people.

"Wayne was born a subject, and died a citizen. In the great drama that marked the transition from colony to Commonwealth, this son of Pennsylvania, as an actor stood very near the bright center of the stage.

"Anthony Wayne was a soldier by heredity, by natural bent, and by reason of environment. His grandfather led a regiment of dragoons and fought under William, of Orange, in the Battle of the Boyne. His father repeatedly joined in expeditions against the Indians.

"Wayne, in his early school life, was more distinguished as a leader in sports of a military character than by devotion to his books. This is not strange. He was reared in an atmosphere of strife. It was a time of wars and rumors of war. As he emerged from infancy his mind must have been filled and his imagination fired by stories of the French and Indian struggle. Children breathe the spirit of their sires. The child is father to the man; the pastime of youth not seldom merges into the lifework of maturity.

"For a time, however, it seemed as if such was not to prove the case with our hero. As he approached manhood he grew more studious, entered the Philadelphia Academy, an institution afterward developed into the University of Pennsylvania, and devoted himself to the science of mathematics. He adopted the calling of surveyor, in which art he became so proficient as to attract the friendly interest of Dr. Franklin, through whose influence he, not yet of legal age, was sent to Nova Scotia to ascertain the natural advantages of that Province and to act as agent for a pro-

ject of colonization. A satisfactory report of his investigations was followed by a grant to his company of some two hundred thousand acres of land. Lots were laid out and sold, a town plotted and a colony planted. He remained in charge of the settlement till 1767. Further development of the enterprise was arrested by the increasingly strained relations between the Mother Country and her American dependencies.

"Apparently drawing still further away from his destined life-work, he returned to his farm and tannery at Waynesborough, where he pursued the arts of peace until summoned to the military activities of the Revolution. Meanwhile his fellow citizens honored him by election to various county offices.

"As the great crisis grew more imminent, men of influence gravitated to the control of affairs as inevitably as water seeks its level. As we to-day look upon the animated face and martial figure of the man, so well portrayed by the heroic equestrian statue at Valley Forge; as we think of his winning personality, his grace of manner, his forcefulness of speech, the depth and positiveness of his convictions and his uncalculating patriotism, we do not wonder that his neighbors heaped political favors upon him and that his soldiers gladly followed him, even to the deadly breach—all reckless of the truth that too often, paths of glory lead but to the grave.

"My theme is Anthony Wayne, soldier and citizen. My aim was to sever the two and treat them separately. But the aim has proved futile. Logically and chronologically the two are inseparably interwoven. The soldier is the citizen, the citizen is the soldier, and the two are merged in the patriot.

"Take an inventory of the man's activities in those throbbing and eventful years of 1774-1775, and we see as opposed to oppressive measures the policy of resistance, constitutional, if adequate, by force of arms, if necessary. Chairman of the committee proposing resolutions condemning the course of the ministry; chairman of the committee to carry out recommendations of the assembly in reference to a military organization; and non-importation agreement; member of the provincial convention to encourage

domestic manufactures, in anticipation of non-importation of English goods; author of the proposition that the freemen of the county should be organized for military purposes; member of the committee of safety; member of the committee of correspondence; member of the legislature. These employments by no means exhausted the energies of this man, destined for a yet more active field of operations. Prior to the clash of arms he was of those who hoped and worked for a peaceful solution of the burning questions that agitated the mother country and her Colonies. Even at that early date, as one of his biographers has shrewdly phrased it, he believed in conducting negotiations with sword in hand. Closely observing the progress of events, he soon became convinced that the controversy could only be settled by the arbitrament of battle. Prescient of the coming struggle, he devoted himself to the study of military tactics, his principal text books being Marshal Saxe's Campaigns and Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic Wars.

"Possessing all the ardor of a patriot, coupled with an inborn courage and capacity for heroism, he yet realized that raw recruits, led by inexperienced officers, however ardent their patriotism, however elevated their heroism, must fight an unequal battle with veteran soldiers commanded by generals expert in all the arts of war. Combining in person and bearing all the elements of popularity, he found no difficulty in attracting large numbers of young men to his frequent drills. Into the minds of those young men he instilled the principles and the technicalities of military science. The news of Lexington and Bunker Hill intensified patriotic fervor and the drilling and military instruction became more assiduous and practical.

"In the exercise of a patriotic imagination let us revert to those epochal days of the summer of 1775, when history was in the making; when in front of, within and around the old Town Hall, were marshalled the yeomanry of Chester County; when the fife and drum, the tread of armed men awoke the echoes in old Market street, and excited to new enthusiasm the aspirations of a liberty-loving people. The central figure, the dominant spirit of the animated scene is Anthony Wayne—of handsome face, flashing eyes,

noble physique—a man born to command; every inch a soldier. We can understand something of his mastery over men; something of his genius in the art and science of military evolutions, when we know that in a few weeks of training and instruction, he developed those volunteers into a body of soldiers, soon, on many a bloody field, to prove equal to the dread exigencies of war.

"Wayne was a strict disciplinarian. He brooked no insubordination. When, later in his career, he encountered the problem of disaffection and desertion, he met it with characteristic energy and meted out swift and condign punishment to all offenders. He believed firmly in the inspiring influence of well-appointed accoutrements, and of neatness in apparel and appearance. There is such a thing as the psychology of dress. Some wit has declared that the consciousness of being the most handsomely gowned woman at a social function will afford more solid comfort to the average woman than the assurance of her salvation.

"It is related of Dr. Joseph Parker, the great London preacher of a past generation, that he kept in his vestry a special suit of clothes and always donned this before entering the pulpit. His theory was that in a very true sense, clothes make the man, and that the public speaker enjoys the freest mental activity and power and is most effective and most impressive when suitably attired.

"Wayne shared this feeling, and in a letter to Washington set forth his views on the subject and his preference for the bayonet as a weapon of warfare. He writes thus: 'I have an insuperable bias in favor of an elegant uniform and soldierly appearance. So much so that I would rather risk my life and reputation at the head of the same men, in an attack, clothed and appointed as I could wish, merely with bayonets and a single charge of ammunition, than to take them as they appear in common, with sixty rounds of cartridges.'

"Upon the eve of battle it was his order that his men be washed, shaved and with hair cut. Sometimes the close shave came in the midst of the conflict, but this did not affect the principle.

"The men drilled at Chester in 1775 were soon to figure in history as the Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion. On Janu-

ary 3, 1776, the Committee of Safety unanimously elected Wayne colonel of this body. This was the opening of his distinctively military career—a career with some intermissions coexistent with his remaining life; and covering operations extending from Canada to Georgia and from Ticonderoga to the great territory northwest of the Ohio River.

"In an after-dinner speech it is not expected that we shall enter into details of a story to which historians have devoted hundreds of pages. We can do little more than refer to salient points in the character and achievments of a soldier declared to have been the most picturesque figure of the Revolution.

"The Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment was not long to remain inactive. In the early Summer of 1776 it, with other regiments, was ordered to Canada to reinforce the army that had suffered defeat before Quebec. The battle of Three Rivers was fought on June 7. The attack was made by some fifteen hundred American troops, who thought to surprise a British force estimated at four hundred. It was, however, a surprise to the assailants, as they encountered three thousand men under Burgoyne. The fighting was desperate, resulting in an American defeat. Wayne received the first of many wounds, but he, with other officers, rallied their men, checked the advance of the enemy and saved the army in Canada. His superior officers having been captured and incapacitated by wounds, the command devolved upon Wayne, who warded off the attacks of the pursuing British and led his troops in safety to Ticonderoga.

"The nerve and poise that remained unbroken by defeat, and that enabled the young officer successfully to conduct a dignified retreat in the most trying circumstances attracted the favorable notice of General Schuyler, who, in November of 1776, placed Wayne in command of the fort at Ticonderoga. Here he remained until April of 1777, when having been commissioned a brigadier-general, he joined Washington at Morristown and took command of the Pennsylvania line.

"It was a critical time in our history. The English ministry had adopted a policy the successful execution of which might have meant the collapse of the Revolution.

This was the proposed junction at Albany of the armies of Howe and Burgoyne. The plan involved the control of New York and the Hudson River, thus bisecting the colonies with a line of fleets and military posts extending from the St. Lawrence to the Chesapeake. Howe's army was in New Jersey near New York. Washington was at Morristown. Howe's manifest course was northward. But his eyes looked longingly at the capital. His idea was to dash across New Jersey, seize Philadelphia, then return to New York, meet Burgoyne and crush the Revolution.

"Washington's aim was to prevent the union of the British forces and if possible, protect the capital city. He was on high ground, whence he could watch the movements of the enemy. To harass that enemy, in which ever direction he might proceed, it was necessary to have at hand a body of well disciplined troops, in command of an officer alert, resourceful, intelligent and able to move his men at a moment's notice and with celerity. The Commander-in-Chief did not hesitate in his choice. This difficult, delicate and perilous task he assigned to General Wayne and the Pennyslvania line. It was a campaign of successful strategy. The menacing attitude of Washington, at each sign of activity on the part of Howe at last convinced that general that rushing across New Jersey would prove a hazardous enterprise. Hence he embarked at Sandy Hook and put out to sea. Washington divined his purpose, the reaching of Philadelphia through the Chesapeake, and sent Wayne to Chester county to organize the militia.

"Howe reached Elkton early in September and on the eleventh of that month the battle of the Brandywine was fought. Through misinformation as to the movements of the enemy, the American cause was betrayed and our army defeated. But Wayne rendered signal service to his country by repelling the advance of Knyphausen, and by checking the pursuit of the main army, covered the retreat of the Americans, who retired to Crum Lynne, near Chester.

"At Chadd's Ford the British were twenty-five miles from Philadelphia, yet were unable to enter that city until after fourteen days of almost constant skirmishing.

"In great measure, influenced by the advice of General Wayne, three weeks after the American reverse at Brandy-

wine, General Washington electrified the world by that brilliant and audacious attack on the British at Germantown, an attack which but for an unforeseen accident of war, would have annihilated the English army and brought the Revolution to a speedy and successful close.

"Brandywine and Germantown are chronicled in history as American defeats, yet they were factors in the masterly strategy that held Howe in Pennsylvania; that thwarted the scheme of the English ministry and brought disaster and defeat to Burgoyne at Saratoga.

"The two most brilliant achievements in the military career of General Wayne were the victories at Monmouth and Stony Point. In point of time these engagements were a year apart. But they so well illustrate the differing qualities that go to make up the consummate soldier, that they may properly be considered in conjunction.

"At Monmouth the cowardice and treachery of Charles Lee had thrown the American army into confusion. What should have been easy victory was turned into disgraceful retreat. Washington arrived at the psychological moment; halted the fleeing men and ordered Wayne to check the pursuit until new lines of defense and attack could be formed.

"Two assaults were successfully repulsed. Then came that awful test of nerve and courage—the bayonet charge at double quick. The flower of English soldiery, the Guards and Grenadiers, par excellence the fiercest warriors of the world, thundered across the plain with the ardor and fury of relentless fate. It seemed a resistless force; yet that force quailed and wavered and flew into fragments before the moveless mass. A murderous fire mowed down those serried columns as the scythe cuts the ripened grain. When the conflict was over fifteen hundred British lay dead or wounded on the field. Redcoat and Continental had met in mortal combat and victory smiled on the patriot. Wayne wrote joyfully to his wife: 'Pennsylvania showed the road to victory.' We may pardon his exultant letter to Mr. Richard Peters: 'Tell the Philadelphia ladies that the heavenly sweet, pretty Redcoats, the accomplished gentlemen of the Guards and Grenadiers have humbled themselves on the plains of Monmouth.'

" Stony Point presented an entirely different military problem. It is one thing, in the fervor and excitement of battle, to withstand and repulse and defeat an oncoming foe. It is quite another thing, in the dead and darkness of midnight, to advance noiselessly across a morass, realizing that the faintest sound will arouse the pickets and precipitate a galling and fatal fire from vessels of war; that escaping this, the assailants must pass two lines of abattis, bristling with cannon, and after this must enter a presumably impenetrable stronghold, garrisoned by valiant soldiers under a capable officer. Not all of the course was to be pursued in silence, for, simultaneously with the bayonet charge, a warm fire of musketry was to be opened on the center, so as to secure the attention of the enemy. This, while a wise stratagem of war, greatly increased the peril of the attacking party.

" Wayne, who had full charge of the movement, was keenly conscious of the situation. He had little hope of surviving the onset. In a pathetic, hastily written letter to his friend Delany he said: 'This will not meet your eye until the writer is no more. I know that friendship will induce you to attend to the education of my little son and daughter. I fear that their mother will not survive this shock.' This is not the language of the reckless daredevil, seeking danger for danger's sake. It is the sublime utterance of a patriot, calmly counting the cost and placing country above wife and children.

" The time for action came. He met his problem and gloriously solved it. The world applauded, and history has crystallized the achievement.

" Wayne had good cause to look kindly upon the bayonet as an implement of warfare. In the hands of the British at Monmouth it was ineffective. In the hands of the Americans at Stony Point it scaled the heights and seized the fortress.

" Over five hundred prisoners were taken, but not one unresisting man was put to death. When we recall the Massacre of Paoli and the outrages in Connecticut and Virginia, such clemency in an age when a captured garrison expected and received no quarter, will ever redound to the

honor of him who never more must be called 'Mad' Anthony.

"The surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown occurred October 19, 1781. Grandly significant as was this event, it did not mark the actual cessation of hostilities. To Wayne was assigned the task of dislodging the British in Georgia and South Carolina. So effectually did he accomplish his mission that by December, 1782, the enemy had evacuated Savannah and Charleston, and with their departure came rest and peace to the Southern colonies.

"After ten years of private life, in the course of which he was a member of the Council of Censors and also a member of the Pennsylvania Convention assembled to ratify the Constitution, he was once more summoned to military service.

"The Indians in the territory west of the Ohio River, instigated by the British in the garrisons on the lakes, were inflicting fiendish cruelties upon our frontier settlers. Fifteen hundred of these had been massacred in seven years. The aim of the British and Indians was to make the Ohio the permanent boundary of the United States. To prevent a recurrence of these atrocities; to defeat this aim, was the two-fold purpose and policy of our government. President Washington placed this burden on the shoulders of his old friend and companion in arms. He commissioned Wayne Major-General in command of the army of the United States. The veteran patriot accepted the trust and undertook the arduous task. Details are needless. The result is known to history. The murdered settlers were avenged. Savagery was crushed. The British posts at Detroit, Oswego and Niagara were abandoned. More significant than all was the consecration of that 'magnificent national domain of the West' to the purposes and employments of civilized life. We offer heartfelt response to the noble sentiment of Dr. Stille: 'The millions of freemen who now occupy the energetic and vigorous Commonwealths lying between the Ohio and the Mississippi should cherish the memory of Wayne as that of the man who by his sword made it possible for white men to live in peace and security in that garden spot of the world.'

"This achievement, brilliant in execution and far-

reaching in effect, was the last and crowning service of this apostle of freedom.

"General Wayne died at Presquisle, Erie, December 15, 1796. His remains were removed to St. David's Church, Radnor, where they rest under a monument, on whose south front is this inscription:

"'In honor of the distinguished military services of Major-General Anthony Wayne, and as a tribute of respect to his memory, this stone was erected by his companions in arms, The Pennsylvania State Society of The Cincinnati, July 4, A. D. 1809, Thirty-fourth anniversary of the Independence of the United States, an event which constitutes the most appropriate eulogium of an American soldier and patriot." (Applause.)

Mr. Edward Stalker Sayers: "Mr. President, I move that the thanks of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and that of the Swedish Colonial Society be tendered to the gentlemen of those Societies, residents of Chester, for all that we have enjoyed this afternoon, both physically and mentally."

There was a general seconding of the motion.

President Page: "It has been moved and seconded that the thanks of the two Societies represented here to-day be extended to the members of these Societies, residents of Chester, for this delightful occasion. Those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye. The motion is carried unanimously."

On motion adjourned.

Colonial Society of Pennsylvania

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