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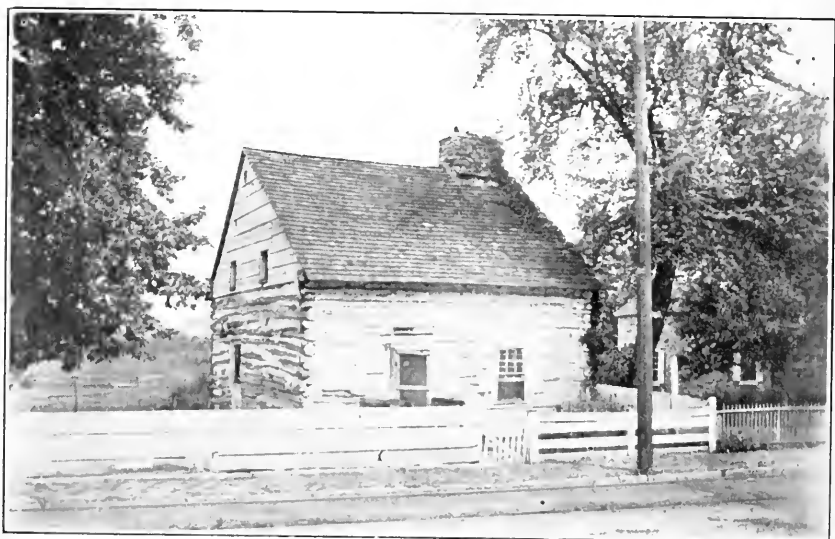
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THE OLD LOG HOUSE. BUILT 1710?

HISTORY

OF

DOWNINGTOWN

Chester County, Pa.

BY CHARLES H. PENNYPACKER, ESQ.

Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the Borough of
Downingtown by the Historical Committee.

1909

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Foreword

In the fall of 1908 there appeared in the *Downingtown* weekly newspaper, an article calling attention to the fact that May 28, 1909, would mark the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Borough of Downingtown, and suggesting its appropriate observance. Attention was especially called to the fact that Downingtown, although an ancient settlement and with an honorable record, had no published history, and proposing that the semi-centennial should be marked by the preparation and publication of a town history. The article was received with marked approbation by many prominent citizens. The Council appointed a committee on the subject, with Mr. Isaac Y. Ash as chairman, and after deliberation it was decided to submit the question of the celebration to a called meeting of representative citizens, and this meeting was duly called, and was held in the rooms of the Alert Fire Company on the evening of March 11, 1909. The assemblage was composed of representatives duly appointed from the churches, benevolent and patriotic organizations and the industrial, financial and other interests of the community, and was largely attended.

Organization was effected by the choice of Mr. Isaac Y. Ash as chairman and Mr. Frank Swarner as secretary. The representatives from the various organizations were heard in order, and the unanimous sentiment expressed in behalf of the organizations that the anniversary should be appropriately observed. The celebration was committed to an executive committee of ten persons, to be appointed by the chair, and of which the chairman should be the presiding officer. This executive committee consisted of the following citizens: Isaac Y. Ash, chairman; Dr. L. T. Bremnerman, Horace Carpenter, J. Havard Downing, Rev. J. H. Earp, James G. Fox, Joseph H. Johnson, Charles F. McFadden, Frank T. McGraw, Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D., J. Hunter Wills.

The meetings have been held frequently in the rooms of Mr. Joseph H. Johnson's office, and the organization of the com-

mittee was completed by the election of Mr. Charles McFadden as secretary and Joseph H. Johnson as treasurer. The committee decided that the main work should be the preparation of the History of Downingtown, and Charles H. Pennypacker, Esq., of West Chester, was engaged to write the history, assisted by the local committee, consisting of Rev. Lewis W. Mudge, D. D., chairman, and Mr. Isaac Y. Ash, associate. This committee charged itself with the task of aiding Mr. Pennypacker in accumulating historical material and with the entire work of securing brief histories of past and existing churches, organizations and enterprises that were worthy of place in such a record. The result is the present volume, which is commended to the favorable consideration of our citizens. Being the first serious attempt to record a history which covers a period of more than two centuries, and with scanty published records from which reliable material could be gathered, it is not presumed that the history is complete, or that it will prove beyond criticism. No history ever written can be regarded as complete. But the committee can assert that it has been successful beyond its expectations, has received the hearty co-operation of numerous present and past residents, to whom our thanks are returned, and may claim to have secured many important matters from oblivion and laid the foundations for a more perfect building. It is a duty which each generation owes both to past and future generations to place on permanent record facts of historical interest and importance, and this duty the semi-centennial committee has fulfilled to the best of its ability.

An enormous amount of time and thought has been freely given to this labor of love, and we are abundantly rewarded if we shall have measurably succeeded in putting into permanent form this record of the past and the conditions of the present, and if the perusal of this record shall awaken the pride of the citizens in the past and their zeal in promoting the prosperity and welfare of Downingtown in the future.

LEWIS W. MUDGE,
ISAAC Y. ASH.

Chapter 1

Earliest Records—First Settlers—The Parke and Downing Families.

Downingtown is situated at the intersection of the Lancaster turnpike and the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek, about thirty-three (33) miles west of the city of Philadelphia, and about seven (7) miles northwest of the Borough of West Chester. It is located in what was originally Caln township, Chester County. The township was so called after Calne, in Wiltshire, England, from which locality some of the earlier settlers had emigrated. Caln township originally included the territory now embraced in Caln, East Caln, West Caln, East Brandywine, West Brandywine and a part of Valley township and that part of Coatesville lying east of the west branch of the Brandywine and the present Borough of Downingtown. In 1702 surveys were made extending from the Welch tract (the western line of Whiteland), on the east, to the west branch of the Brandywine on the west, mostly confining to the Chester Valley. These surveys were afterwards extended northward and northwestwardly, and were among the early purchases in the County of Chester. Chester County was named after the town of Chester, in England, from whence a number of William Penn's companions, in the good ship "Welcome," had departed on their journey to the new world. Chester in England, was so named because, eighteen hundred years ago, it was the site of an encampment of Roman soldiers, and the Latin word castra signifies such a camp, and from "Castra" was derived the title of Chester in our language. The circumstances under which Chester County (which is the mother county of Pennsylvania) was named were these: William Penn and Caleb Pusey landed on the shore of the Delaware. William, addressing Caleb, inquired, "What shall we call this land?" and Caleb replied, "It is a goodly land, and we will call it Chester, in honor of the town on the River Dee, in England, from whence we have come." In 1714 Peter Taylor was constable for Caln township, which shows an organization at that date. The assessment of 1717 bore the following names:

Aaron Mendenhall
 Thomas Moore
 Peter Taylor
 William Cloud
 Isaac Vernon
 Joseph Cloud
 John Mendenhall
 William Memin
 James Swaffer
 Non-resident Land.
 John Baldwin.

William Taylor
 John Parker
 Daniel Smith
 Philip Roman
 Anthony Morris
 Richard Webb
 Free Men.
 John Richards
 Thomas Elford

November 26, 1728, a petition to the following effect was presented to the court:

"That your Petitioners Labouring under many difficulties by reason of the Largeness of the said Township, which was never yet bounded but on the East Side Joyning Whiteland Town: That the said Town Extends in length above fourteen miles, and in breadth near fourteen miles, That the farthest Settlers back from the Great Road leading to Philadelphia, living so Remote from the Said Road Seldom have notice to come down to repair it, which often wants by reason its so abused and cut with the Dutch Waggons which daily pass and Repass along the Said Road.

"Inasmuch as the Said Township is large enough to be Devided into Two, your Petitioners Humbly desire for the Ease of the said Township that it may be Devided and that the Bounds of ye Township of Caln may begin at the line of Whiteland on the South side of the Said Town of Caln and so Extend from the Said line Westerly along the Valley Mountain to the West Branch of Brandywine Creek, then up the said Branch Northerly to the plantation of Joseph Darlington, then Easterly Along the Mountain Between ye plantation of Thomas Elderidg and the Indian Town to David Roberts, then to the Bounds of Uwehland.

"That the Remaining part of the Town being Large enough for a Township, its Humbly desired by your Petitioners it may be called Spelforth. Wherefore your Petitioners Humbly Desire that you will take this into your Consideration and to allow the said Township of Caln to be Devided and Bounded as is before set forth, and yr Petirs will pray, &c.

"William Heald,
 Samuel Bishop,
 John Daveson,
 William Sinkler,
 Will Nichols,
 William Dunn,
 Richard Hughs,
 Thomas Vernon,
 Arthur White,
 William Gregory,
 Edmund Gregory,
 Thomas Dawson,
 Edwarp Thompson,
 Thomas Eldridge,
 Peter Whitaker,
 Thomas Parke,

Pierre Bizallien,
 David Evans,
 Thomas Moore,
 Peter Whitaker,
 Robert Miller,
 Joseph Griffiths,
 Jason Cloud,
 Aaron Mendenhall,
 Llewelin Parry,
 Edward Irwin,
 James Bruce,
 Thomas Heald,
 Joseph Darlinton,
 Samuel McKinley,
 Thomas Ramsey."

In 1702 surveys were made in Caln township in the right of

purchases made in England, viz., for Joseph Cloud, 225 acres; for Jeremiah Collett, 375 acres; for Robert Vernon, 600 acres, and for Daniel Smith, 1000 acres. The Collett tract was sold to Thomas Moore, and Thomas and his brother, John, purchased the Vernon tract, which subsequently became the property of Thomas Moore, who erected a mill on the east side of the Brandywine in 1716. The Smith tract was divided by a north and south line. The eastern half became the property of George Aston, who subsequently sold to Roger Hunt, while the western half was purchased by Thomas Lindley, who subsequently sold in 1724 to Thomas Parke. Roger Hunt came from Birmingham, in England; George Aston came from the same place. They were both members of the Church of England. Roger Hunt was a commissary under Colonel Thomas Dunbar in the Braddock expedition. Joseph Cloud emigrated from the Isle of Skye, along the coast of Scotland. The family name was McLeod. Abraham Cloud, who landed at New Castle, Delaware, early in the century, was the first emigrant to drop the McLeod and write it Cloud.

Among the early families who settled in this neighborhood, or who settled in what is now Downingtown, was that of the Parke family, in May, 1723. After selling their stock of personal property at their home in Ireland, on the 21st of that month, Thomas Parke, aged 64 years; Rebecca, his wife, aged 62; their second child, Robert Parke, aged 29; their fourth child, Rebecca Stalker, aged 26; Hugh Stalker, her husband; their fifth child, Rachael Parke, aged 24; Thomas Parke, aged 19; Abel Parke, aged 17; Jonathan Parke, aged 15, and Elizabeth Parke, aged 13, embarked at Dublin on the vessel Sizarghs, bound from White Haven to Dublin, and then to Philadelphia. The passage from Ireland was a rough one. Robert Parke kept a journal of the voyage by daily notes, and on the 21st of August of that year, it appears that they arrived within the Bay of Delaware. They immediately commenced traveling in the adjacent country to view land. Part of the family remained in Chester about three months from the time of their landing, then they moved to a temporary residence two miles distant, and on December 2 Thomas Parke purchased a tract of land in the Great Valley of Chester County of five hundred acres at the price of three hundred and fifty pounds. Jonathan Parke, son of Thomas Parke, married Deborah Taylor, daughter of Abiah Taylor, who lived on the Brandywine, south of Downingtown, near where Cope's Bridge is located. It was Deborah Taylor who gave the name to the rock on the west side of the stream, near that point, and all the story about the Indian maiden and her suicide from the top of the rock by jumping into the

stream below is a fanciful myth. Bradford Monthly Meeting commended Thomas Parke in these words: "Thomas Parke came from Ireland about the year 1724 well recommended by certificates from Friends there, and some years after was appointed an Elder for Caln Meeting, in which Station he remained until his death, and was well respected by friends in general." He departed this life on the 31st of First Month, 1738, and was buried at Caln. About a year after his (Thomas Parke's) death, his son, Thomas, Jr., at the age of 34 years, married Jane Edge, by whom he had seven children. He died October 17, 1758, aged 53 years. About five years after the death of Thomas Parke, Jr., his widow married James Webb, the father of James Webb, who married Rebecca Parke, daughter of Jonathan and Deborah Parke.

An extract of a letter from Robert Parke to his sister, Mary, gives an interesting picture of the difficulties and opinions of the early settlers of this province. It says, "The land taken up was beautifully situated, stretching from one hill to another, here on the Great Road leading from Philadelphia to the West." The first inn was erected by Abel Parke in August, 1735. It was called "The Ship," and was for many years noted for the excellent character of its accommodations, and it was one of the most popular taverns along the great road leading to Lancaster. Of this 500 acres that Thomas Parke owned, he gave by will to his son, Abel, 100 acres; to his son, Robert, 124 acres, and to his son, Thomas, 275 acres, reserving thereout a maintenance for himself and his wife during life.

Robert continued single, and in 1727 went to Bristol, England, for traffic, and thence to Dublin. In the same vessel went Elizabeth Whartenby, a minister of the gospel of a society of Friends, on a religious visit. This trip was to obtain servants for the new settlers, for on his return, in 1728, there were 63 servants on board, six of whom belonged to Robert Parke. This return voyage was, however, disastrous from the prevalence of smallpox, causing many deaths. Robert Parke, as usual, kept a diary. His style is quaint and sometimes amusing. Thus, "June 11, 1728, this day Margaret Darlington took the smallpox, and three of her children being down with it, our true course is judged to be south." What the following means I do not know: "June 14. This day Samuel Ask and I paid our observing Muggs on the fore staff." July 3 he makes this note: "At 12 last night we seen a light right astern, which some called the half-way house, and said there lived one 'Pegg Trotter.' Then all hands were called on deck to see said house, and if possible to buy some buttermilk for the passengers; it caused great rejoicing

among all hands fore and aft. It continued a light upwards for one hour and a half."

He kept store after returning to the United States and became a conveyancer. He died February 1736 or '7, and Abel, being industrious and thriving, had bought the land from his brother for 200 pounds, thus having 224 acres, the southern section of the tract. This whole tract, however, came into Thomas Parke, Jr.'s, possession, who continued to keep the famous "Ship" tavern.

The following obituary notice of Thomas Parke, Jr., who died in 1758, though in somewhat stilted language, shows the public estimation in which he was held:

"On the death of Thomas Parke, in 1758, to the grief of his family and friends, and, although he kept a public house, he was adorned with so much regularity, that he gave content to most civilized persons that called at his house, indeed his whole economy was so full of decorum that at once the beholder admired and loved him. He was a loving husband, a tender Father. He endeavored to train up his children in the way they should walk; a kind master to his servants, a good neighbor, a friend to the poor, ready to assist in ending disputes, just to all men. A man of bright genius, a ready scribe, making him serviceable both in church and state, he passed through the vicissitudes of this life cheerfully; he was not raised at silly weights. (Not by silly folks.) Not subject to grieve at trifles, and as Kind Providence favored him with riches, he always inclined his heart to seek and serve after a better, and as he lived beloved, so he died lamented. We rejoice we have so many proofs that he is now in the fruition of happiness, feeding upon the increase of his labor, and drinking of the springs of Eternal life, world without end."

"Time would fail and large volumes swell
To trace his virtues, so I drop my quill."

Saith Wm. Perdue.

Many of the descendants of Jonathan are yet living in the vicinity of Downingtown, which the family of Downing named, although one-half of the land belonged to that of Parke. Elizabeth married John Jackson, and oblivion rests upon their descendants. Thomas Parke, Jr.'s, children prospered in life. Robert, the eldest, by his father's will, got the northern section of the 500-acre tract, on which his father built a handsome stone house, intending to make it his residence, but died soon after it was finished. Robert married Ann Edge, and his descendants yet remain on the farm. Sarah, the next child, married Owen Biddle, and settled in Philadelphia. She died in 1794 whilst on a visit to her relatives, the children of her brother Robert, and

was buried at Caln. Rebecca married her step-brother, William Webb, and settled about a mile from Lancaster, and died in 1816. Hannah was united to Benjamin Poultney, and lived some time in Lancaster, afterwards removing to Philadelphia, where she died of consumption, in 1781.

Thomas, to whom the southern section of the land was bequeathed, directed his study to medicines, for which purpose he moved to Philadelphia and placed himself under the care of Dr. Cadwallader Evans three years, and in order to prosecute this with more effect he visited London in 1771, where he enjoyed the friendship and kind office of the celebrated Dr. Fothergill, and, having proceeded to Edinburgh, he attended the lectures of Drs. Cullin, Black and Monro.

Returning to America in 1773, he commenced the practice of medicine at No. 18 Arch street, entering into partnership with his former master, but he dying in June, 1773, he stayed there two years, and then, having married Rachael, the eldest daughter of James Pemberton, April 13, 1775, he fixed his habitation at No. 20 South Fourth street.

Jane, the next child of Thomas Parke, died an infant. Jacob, the last, never married. He resided some time in Lancaster, and afterwards in Philadelphia, and entered into the iron business, in which he continued until near his death, on March 10, 1817, aged 62 years.

In 1811 James Pemberton Parke, who was the son of Dr. Thomas Parke, who was the son of Thomas Parke, Jr., who was the son of Thomas Parke, the elder, who came to America in 1724, made this sketch of the Parke family. I am indebted to it and for many of these particulars to the courtesy of Dr. Thomas E. Parke, now residing in Downingtown. The Parke family, of Friendly origin in England and Ireland, were devout followers of the tenets of William Penn, George Fox and Robert Barclay. In the course of this sketch I shall not use the term "Quaker," because I do not believe in perpetuating the slang of an English Court room and calling it history. This Parke family sent several of its members across the Atlantic to America. Two of its representatives settled in Chester County. One, as we have seen, in what is now called Downingtown, and the other in what is now called Parkesburg. If any relationship exists between the two families it is extremely remote, but that such relationship does exist the writer has no doubt whatever. Family characteristics survive through many generations. The Parkes of Parkesburg, the Parkes of Downingtown and the Parkes of Georgia resemble each other both physically and mentally. The writer has had the pleasure of knowing quite a number of them on the bench, at the bar and in the practice of the profession of medicine, and

their currents of thought run in similar channels. They are sturdy, assertive, characteristic, energetic and exact. They have opinions and do not hesitate to express them, and under all circumstances and in all the exigencies of life they have the courage of their convictions. Some of them have relinquished the Friendly idea, brought by their ancestors from abroad, and have become members of other churches. Dr. Latta once said that the society of Friends had produced a fine crop of Presbyterians. The Downing family conferred its name upon the subject of our sketch.

Thomas Downing was born December 14, 1691, at Bradninch, in Devonshire, England, and died at Downingtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1 mo., 15, 1772, aged 81 years. The name of his first wife is said to have been Ellen, and of the second, Thomazine, who was perhaps the mother of all his children, two of whom were born in England. He was a taxable in Concord township from 1718 to 1732. At Concord Monthly Meeting, 6 mo., 3, 1730, "Thomas Downing and his wife made application to its meeting to come under the care of Friends; they having produced papers from under several Friends' hands of their sober and orderly conversations where they have lived, this meeting receiveth them."

"The 3d of ye 10th Mo., 1723: Recd of James Underwood for Richard Buffington Junr: Sixteen bushels and halfe of Wheat for ye use of Nathani Newlin. Recd by Mee Thomas Downing. Weight 60 pounds per bushel." Nathaniel Newlin was the owner of a mill in Concord, which was probably operated by Thomas Downing.

In 1733 Thomas Downing removed to Sadsbury township, but two years later he was settled in East Caln township, at the place since known as Downingtown, and which was named for him, where he purchased from John Taylor five hundred and sixty-one acres of land by deeds of 3d and 4th of July, 1739. This was part of nine hundred and seventy-five acres, of which the remainder was purchased 11th and 12th November, 1747, by Jonathan Parke, Amos Boake and Thomas Downing. Here they were members of Uwchlan Meeting and of Goshen Monthly Meeting, to which Thomas produced a certificate from New Garden, dated 11th mo., 31, 1736, which represented that they were "Circumspect in Life and Conversation, Diligent in attending our Meetings and in good Unity with us, so we recommend them with their children," etc. This was signed by twenty-one men and twelve women.

Thomazine Downing was living in 1750, but Thomas was again married 12 mo., 1756, at Uwchlan Meeting, to Jane Albin, widow of James Albin and daughter of John and Mary Edge.

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She was a minister among Friends, and died 1 mo., 23, 1779.
Children of Thomas and Thomazine Downing:

1. Thomazine, born 10 mo., 6, 1715; died young.
2. Thomas, born 3 mo., 27, 1717; died 11th mo., 19, 1736-7.
3. Richard, born 2 mo., 27, 1719; died 7 mo., 8, 1803; married 3 mo., 21, 1741, at Uwchlan Meeting, Mary Edge, born in Upper Providence, 7 mo., 2, 1721; died in East Caln 12 mo., 13, 1795; daughter of John and Mary (Smedley) Edge.

In 1764 Richard Downing was assessed in East Caln with one hundred and ninety acres of land and buildings, worth 35 pounds per annum; one hundred and sixty acres uncultivated; a grist mill and saw mill, worth 70 pounds per annum; 76 acres in West Bradford and 100 acres in Uwchlan, 4 horses, 9 cattle and 9 sheep. His tax was £6:3:3, being the largest in the township, and his brother, John, was next below him. Richard was appointed overseer of Uwchlan Meeting, 7 mo., 6, 1763, in place of Evan Jones.

4. John, born 10 mo., 18, 1720; died 1796; married March 5, 1747, before Thomas Cummings, Esq., Elizabeth Hunt, born Aug. 13, 1730, daughter of Roger and Esther (Aston) Hunt, of East Caln.

John Downing continued to reside at Downingtown, where, in 1761, he was assessed with two hundred and forty acres of land and buildings, tavern, etc., worth 100 pounds per annum; sixty acres of uncultivated land, five horses, six cattle, thirteen sheep and one servant. He was a tavernkeeper from 1761 to 1771, at the eastern tavern on the Lancaster Road, then or subsequently called the "King in Arms," and later the Washington Inn.

5. William, born 3 mo., 24, 1722; married 10 mo., 1741, at Uwchlan Meeting, Ellen John, born 2 mo., 26, 1718, daughter of Samuel and Margaret John, of Uwchlan. They received a certificate from Goshen, 4 mo., 20, 1748, to Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, and settled in Bart township, Lancaster County. He married again, 12 mo., 19, 1765, Margaret Miller, widow of Samuel Miller, of New Garden. By the first he had John, Samuel, Sarah, Mary, Jane, Hannah, Ruth, Thomas and William. Some of this family removed to Center County, Pennsylvania.
6. Jane, born 10 mo., 6, 1723; died 10 mo., 29, 1795; married John Roberts, of Merion.
7. Sarah, born 8 mo., 13, 1725; died 7 mo., 16, 1745; married Joshua Baldwin, of East Caln.
8. Thomazine, born 8 mo., 15, 1727; married Samuel Bond,

and they settled in West Whiteland.

9. Samuel, born 6 mo., 11, 1729; died young.
10. Joseph, born 10 mo., 12, 1731; died young.
11. Joseph, born 4 mo., 30, 1734; died 10 mo., 7, 1804; married, 10 mo., 9, 1755, at Bradford Meeting, Mary Trimble, born 8 mo., 8, 1736; died 7 mo., 4, 1807; daughter of James and Mary Palmer Trimble, of West Bradford township. Joseph was born in Sadsbury, Lancaster County, and upon his marriage settled in the Valley, east of Downingtown. In 1764 he was assessed with three hundred and ninety acres of land, with buildings; one hundred and seventy-two acres of uncultivated land, six horses, eight cattle, twenty-five sheep and one servant.

Children of (3) Richard and Mary (Edge) Downing:

12. Hannah, born 1 mo., 19, 1741-2; died 4 mo., 5, 1752.
13. Thomas, born 10 mo., 13, 1743; died 4 mo., 12, 1752.
14. Jane, born 11 mo., 1, 1747; died 4 mo., 20, 1752.
15. John, born 12 mo., 17, 1748; died 5 mo., 20, 1748.
16. Richard, born 5 mo., 14, 1750; died 1 mo., 15, 1820; married, 5 mo., 29, 1771, at Newtown Meeting, Elizabeth Reese, born 3 mo., 2, 1753; died at Pughtown, 10 mo., 5, 1840; daughter of David Reese and Mary Garrett, of Newtown. They settled for a few years in Falls township, Bucks County, but returned to Downingtown in 1778. In 1787 Richard was assessed in East Caln with one hundred acres of valley land, seventy acres of hill land, seven horses, nine cattle and a merchant mill. At the same time his father was assessed with one hundred and thirty acres of hill land, a grist mill, two saw mills, fulling mill and a malt house. Richard and Elizabeth had seven children, Thomas, David, Mary, Richard, William, Elizabeth and Phebe.
17. Mary, born 7 mo., 31, 1752; died 1 mo., 29, 1779; married Daniel Trimble.
18. Thomazine, born 8 mo., 26, 1754; died 5 mo., 4, 1817; married Richard Thomas, colonel in the Revolution and member of Congress.
19. Jacob, born in Downingtown, 10 mo., 25, 1756; died 10 mo., 2, 1823; married, 5 mo., 15, 1787, Sarah Sandwith Drinker, born 10 mo., 23, 1761; died 9 mo., 25, 1807; daughter of Henry Drinker and Elizabeth Sandwith, of Philadelphia. Her mother was the author of "Diary of Elizabeth Drinker," written during the Revolution and published in recent times. Jacob had issue, Henry, Elizabeth, Mary, Henry, 2d, Sarah and Sandwith, all

of whom married except the first. Jacob Downing lived the greater part of his life in Philadelphia. He was engaged in the iron business at Atsion, New Jersey, where he owned a forge and rolling mill.

20. William, born 1 mo., 29, 1759; died 12 mo., 24, 1759.
21. George, born 11 mo., 8, 1760; drowned in mill race, 8 mo., 10, 1765.
22. Samuel R., born 2 mo., 4, 1763; died 1819; married, 10 mo., 28, 1790, at Uwchlan Meeting, Jane Ashbridge, born 10 mo., 11, 1764, who survived him; daughter of George and Rebecca Ashbridge, of Goshen. He left one son, George A., who died unmarried.
23. Joseph R., born 6 mo., 19, 1765; died at Downingtown 1 mo., 17, 1855; married, 5 mo., 4, 1791, at Chester Meeting, Ann Worrall, born 11 mo., 17, 1771; died 11 mo., 7, 1836; daughter of William Worrall and Phebe Grubb, of Ridley township. He inherited considerable land, with mills, at Downingtown, and is styled a fuller in the old records. His children were William W., Samuel J. and Charles, of whom the last was the father of Joseph R. Downing, president of the Bank of Downingtown.

Children of (1) John and Elizabeth (Hunt) Downing:

24. Esther, born 12 mo., 22, 1748; died young.
25. Mary, born 11 mo., 17, 1750; married Israel Whelen.
26. Thomas, born 1 mo., 4, 1753; married Sarah Jacobs.
27. Esther, born 6 mo., 30, 1755; died young or unmarried.
28. Hunt, born 1 mo., 12, 1757; died 2 mo., 15, 1831; married Deborah Miller, born 2 mo., 28, 1760; died 12 mo., 27, 1833; daughter of Joseph and Mary (Williams) Miller. He began tavernkeeping at the Washington Tavern, in Downingtown, 1786, and continued in that occupation for many years. He was the first postmaster at Downingtown, and at the time of the Whisky Insurrection was quartermaster to some of the troops encamped near the tavern. He had children, Joseph M., Isaac and Israel W.
29. John, died 10 mo., 1822; unmarried.
30. Samuel, married Elizabeth Templin.
31. Elizabeth, married Richard Templin.

Children of (11) Joseph and Mary (Trimble) Downing:

32. Thomas, born 10 mo., 11, 1756; died 10 mo., 31, 1829; married, in 1784, Sarah Smith, born 11 mo., 29, 1765; died 11 mo., 19, 1835; daughter of George Smith and Elizabeth White. They continued to live near Downingtown and had children, George, Joseph, Elizabeth

- D., Mary Ann, Thomazine, William S., Thomas and Sarah.
33. Jane, born 7 mo., 27, 1761; died 6 mo., 20, 1813; married John Gordon, of Uwchlan.
 34. Mary, born 10 mo., 14, 1763; died 6 mo., 20, 1813; married Dennis Whelen.
 35. Thomazine, born 3 mo., 31, 1765; married, 1794, Samuel Kennedy.
 36. Joseph, born 4 mo., 9, 1769; died 12 mo., 28, 1841; married, 4 mo., 25, 1799, Elizabeth Webster, born 4 mo., 15, 1777; died 4 mo., 1, 1840; daughter of Richard Webster and Phebe Smith, of Harford County, Maryland. He continued on the homestead in East Caln, and had children, Wesley R., Mary S., Phebe, Richard I., Sarah W. and Thomazine J. Of these, Richard I. Downing succeeded his father at the homestead, and died in 1890.
 37. James, born 4 mo., 11, 1771; died 7 mo., 31, 1831; unmarried.
 38. Sarah, born 8 mo., 1, 1773; died 1857; married Samuel Webster, a Methodist minister, of Harford County, Maryland.
 39. Richard, born 6 mo., 26, 1775; died 7 mo., 2, 1807; unmarried.
 40. Ann, born 3 mo., 1, 1778; died 8 mo., 1811; married Dr. William A. Todd.

The Downing family are peaceful, quiet, non-assertive people. They exemplify in their daily lives the principles and the practices of the Society of Friends. During the Civil War many of them served in the Union Army, but immediately upon the return of peace they returned to their former pursuits. They were followers in England and in America of the tenets of the founders of the Friendly Society. Along with large numbers of people from the midland counties of England they sought an asylum in America, where they could be undisturbed by criticisms or by persecutions. The character of the Friendly inhabitant is much misunderstood and has been made the subject of anamadverson. It has given strength and tone to the County of Chester, past and present, and this mother county of Pennsylvania is strong in the strength of her early settlers. She had the Scotch Presbyterians, and she had the English Friend, and she had the sturdy German to weld and to form the winners of the new Western civilization.

The Downing family and the Parke family were jointly and severally followers of William Penn. They came to America from England actuated by Friendly principles. While the Downings were quiet and loved the silence of retirement, the

Parkes were equally followers of the Prince of Peace, but permitted the world to know that, while the planet moved, they moved with it. These families were at the beginning of Downingtown, and it was their cohesive force that gave vitality to the community. Some of them engaged in the business of public entertainment. In those early days the country inn was the center of business and social activity, dominated the thought and the action of the neighborhood. It was the appointed place for all public gatherings. It was the fixed custom for social entertainments to be there. Arbitrations and suits at law were held and determined at the Country Inns of Chester County, and the landlord was the dominant factor in the affairs of the countryside. It was then Milltown, so called because the grist mill was the first industry of the vicinity. To it came customers as far hence as the eastern portion of Lancaster County, as far north as the Warwick Hills, and as far south as the Doe Run Valley, and as far east as Tredyffrin township, in the Valley, to the Goshens, south of that point. At this distance of time and under present circumstances we cannot underrate the influence of the innkeeper. He possessed it because he deserved it, and he was a strict member of meeting; he was a faithful observer of all the proprietaries of life. His family occupied as good a social position as any in the community. Public houses were places of public entertainment. This was the condition of things in the first half of the eighteenth century. With the advent of a different immigration other conditions arose, but throughout it all the high character and exalted social station of the Friendly member were everywhere admitted and thoroughly understood. Whittier says:

The Quaker of the olden time!
 How calm and firm and true,
 Unspotted by its wrong and crime,
 He walked the dark earth through,
 The lust of power, the love of gain,
 The thousand lures of sin
 Around him, had no power to stain
 The purity within.

With that deep insight which detects
 All great things in the small,
 And knows how each man's life affects
 The spiritual life of all,
 He walked by faith, and not by sight;
 By love, and not by law;
 The presence of the wrong or right
 He rather felt than saw.

He felt that wrong with wrong partakes,
That nothing stands alone ;
That whoso gives the motive, makes
His brother's sin his own.
And pausing not for doubtful choice
Of evils great or small,
He listened to that inward voice
Which called away from all.

Oh! spirit of that early day,
So pure and strong and true,
Be with us in the narrow way
Our faithful fathers knew!
Give strength the evil to forsake,
The cross of truth to bear,
And love and reverent fear to make
Our daily lives a prayer!



Chapter 2

Taxpayers and Taxables—The Hunt Family—Early Petitions for Houses of Entertainment

List of taxables of East Cain in 1785:

Peter Bizallion	Samuel Masteno	Peter Whitaker
Peter Grubb	William Logan	Moses Wright, Jr.
William Pim	James Clark	Nicholas Smith
Thomas Parke	Albert Buntin	James Henderson
Jabin Moore	James MacKalen	Mary Fleming
Thomas Eldridge	William Heald	Robert Irwine
Abel Parke	James Cunningham	Jacob Lockart
Llewellyn Pary	David Johns	George Qurner
Satevich Miller	Robert Buntin	Francis Levis
Edward Thompson	Thomas Moore	Andrew Cook
Moses Wright, Sr.	George Aston	John Rowlton
Thomas Brice	Robert Miller	John Jenkins
James Warde	Thomas Green	James Love
James Fleming	Aaron Mendenhall	James McFarland
James Wellington	James Eldridge	William Hazlett
Samuel McKinley	Manassah Carter	John Stanton
William Smith	William Orton	Edward Irwin
John Arok	Oliver Lewis	John Buntin

The heaviest taxpayer was Peter Bizallion, who was a Frenchman. He was one of the most noted Traders in the Province. He established himself at various points and penetrated the distant wilderness to barter with the natives for their furs. About the year 1724 he settled down on a farm in the Great Valley, a short distance east of Coatesville, where he died in 1742. He names eight (8) slaves in his will, and his personal property was appraised at five hundred and seventy-three pounds. His widow, Martha Bizallion, by deed dated December 22nd, 1762, gave the farm of one hundred and fifty-eight acres to her nephew, John Hart. This land had been patented to them in 1740. He acquired a very considerable fortune at his business and his remains were buried at St. John's Church Yard, just west of the Compass Hotel, on the Lancaster Road, in Lancaster County. The next heaviest taxpayer was Thomas Moore, concerning whom we have already written.

List of taxables in 1773 in East Cain:

Warwick Miller	320 acres and buildings
Robert Parkes	250 " and buildings and tavern

	220	"	of woodland
	88	"	in Bradford, and 1 servant
Curtis Lewis	116	"	and buildings
Thomas Pimm	383	"	and buildings
John Edge	50	"	and a mill
James Stanley	220	"	and buildings
Joseph Long	170	"	and buildings
	37	"	of woodland
John Gilleland	320	"	and buildings
	100	"	of woodland
Moses Scot	110	"	and buildings
	10	"	of woodland
William Long	90	"	and buildings
	9	"	of woodland
Samuel Pikens	150	"	and buildings
Archibal Irvin	100	"	and buildings
James Jack	130	"	and buildings
	70	"	woodland, 1 servant
Robert Lockart	300	"	and buildings
James McGlaughlin	90	"	and buildings
William Green	100	"	and buildings
Thomas Green	80	"	and buildings
Lenord Wilkins	100	"	and buildings
John Clark	150	"	and buildings
Adam Guthery	200	"	and buildings
James Guthery	200	"	and buildings
Peter Grimes	60	"	and buildings
James Clark	200	"	and buildings
Charles Jack	150	"	and buildings
	150	"	woodland
Joseph Downing	650	"	and buildings, 1 servant
Jonathian Valentine	200	"	and buildings
Griffe Mendenhall	200	"	and buildings
Richard Dolbey	100	"	and buildings
John Hoops	900	"	and buildings
Richard Downing	87	"	and buildings
	42	"	and buildings
			2 grist mills, 3 acres of barren land
James Miller	81	acres	and buildings, 1 servant
George Erwin	200	"	and buildings
William Litler	200	"	and buildings
Robert Elton	100	"	and buildings
James M. Calvey	100	"	and buildings
Thomas White	100	"	and buildings
John Walker	50	"	and buildings
James Tomson	100	"	and buildings
Peter Fleming	150	"	and buildings
Joseph Fleming	10	"	and buildings
Alexander Fleming	60	"	and buildings
Thomas Hart	300	"	and buildings
	100	"	woodland
Moses Coates	120	"	and buildings
Isaac Green	80	"	and buildings
James Webb	113	"	and buildings
	75	"	woodland and grist mill
Isaac Coates	120	"	and buildings

James Coates	160	"	and buildings
	80	"	woodland
John Walker	250	"	and buildings
Andrew Cox	115	"	and buildings
Mavey	50	"	and buildings
Thomas Scott	100	"	and buildings
Margaret Phipps	50	"	and buildings
Bartholomon Carrol	90	"	and buildings
James Battin	100	"	and buildings
George Wilson	70	"	and buildings
William Powell	50	"	and buildings
Humphrey Ellis	80	"	and buildings
William Meredith	80	"	and buildings
William W. Farlon	100	"	and buildings
William W. Clean	90	"	and buildings
James W. Farlon	150	"	and buildings
High Glen	60	"	and buildings
Thomas Temple	100	"	and buildings
Rudolph Tuck	200	"	and buildings
Joshue Mendenhall	150	"	and buildings
	50	"	of woodland
Robert Kinkead	150	"	and buildings
Michael Miller	200	"	and buildings
Samuel Culbertson	200	"	and buildings
James Culbertson	200	"	and buildings
Andrew Elliot	100	"	and buildings
Mordica Cloud	300	"	and buildings
Richard Cheney	10	"	and buildings
George Bahanan	100	"	and buildings
Joshue Baldwin	300	"	and buildings, 2 servants
Abiah Parkes	100	"	and buildings
Robert Valentine	30	"	and buildings
Jonathan Parkes	140	"	and buildings
Samuel Hunt	25	"	and buildings
James Shuart	40	"	and buildings
	35	"	of land in Bradford
James Hood	65	"	and buildings
	25	"	of woodland
John Smith	280	"	and buildings
Theophiles Ervin	100	"	and buildings
Thomas Fisher	200	"	and buildings
Robert Darlington	200	"	and buildings
Andrew Culbertson	4	"	and buildings and tavern
John Karmieal	150	"	and buildings
Samuel White	100	"	and buildings
John Baldwin	320	"	and buildings
Lodwick Liget	200	"	and buildings
James Lockart	240	"	and buildings
James Erwin	50	"	and buildings
Joseph McKinley	200	"	and buildings
Richard Dounen	151	"	and buildings
	10	"	woodland and grist mill
James Richeson	78	"	and buildings
John Dounen	200	"	and buildings
	50	"	in Uwchlan
	50	"	in Bradford

Richard Buffington	150	"	and buildings
Thomas Windle	150	"	and buildings
Samuel Tomson	80	"	and buildings
Thomas Stocker	350	"	and buildings
Hannah Pimm	200	"	and buildings
John Culbertson	50	"	and buildings
	200	"	land and fulling mill
Rachel Roman	85	"	and buildings
Obed Lewis	180	"	and buildings
John Lewis	80	"	and buildings
Henry Lewis	200	"	and buildings
Samuel Biars	250	"	and buildings, 1 mill
Phillip Singler	10	"	and buildings
William Wilson	66	"	and buildings
Samuel Underwood	100	"	and buildings
Robert Wilson	100	"	and buildings

List of taxables in East Caln in 1785:

William Anderson,	100	acres	Caleb Baldwin,	300	acres
Samuel Baldwin,	100	"	Joshua Baldwin,	200	"
Samuel Byers,	300	"	James Battin,	200	"
Thomas Brook,	266	"	Joseph Botton,	200	"
Richard Buffington,	170	"	David Brannan,	4	"
William Beaty,	200	"	William Bailey,	123	"
Rev. John Charnichael,	180	"	William Clingan,	80	"
Samuel Culbertson	200	"	John Culbertson,	114	"
John Culbertson, Jr.	150	"	Thomas Ceates,	245	"
Isaac Coates,	125	"	Moses Ceates,	120	"
Mordicai Cloud,	200	"	Elisha Crisman,	12	"
James Clark,	350	"	Mary Cox,	50	"
Andrew Cox,	60	"	Samuel Caster,	40	"
Jacob Carn,	105	"	Joel Davis,	40	"
Richard Downing,	300	"	Thomas Downing,	80	"
Joseph Downing,	600	"	John Downing,	220	"
Joseph Dugan,	70	"	Robert Davis,	125	"
Joseph Darlington,	150	"	John Doulin,	100	"
Robert Eiton,	80	"	John Edge,	20	"
William Elliot	100	"	Peter Fleming,	200	"
John Darlington	100	"	Joseph Fleming,	150	"
John Fleming,	145	"	Thomas Fisher,	150	"
William Fisher,	100	"	John Foreman,	20	"
Able Freeman	100	"	James Green,	60	"
Joseph Gladney,	332	"	James Guthery,	200	"
Joseph Green,	70	"	Joseph Griffith,	30	"
Isaac Gibson,	100	"	Henry Gray,	80	"
Adam Guthery,	220	"	James Miller,	84	"
Mary Green,	20	"	James McFarlan,	150	"
Peter Graham,	81	"	Griffith Mendenhall,	180	"
Samuel Hunt,	150	"	James Miles,	170	"
William Hambleton,	84	"	James McClane,	200	"
John Hughs,	25	"	Elizabeth McKinley,	200	"
Samuel Holladay,	118	"	William Moore,	100	"
John Hoops,	500	"	Samuel McMicken,	100	"
Hannah Hughes,	200	"	Thomas Martin,	33	"
James Hood,	65	"	Joshua Mendenhall,	170	"
Theophilus Irwin,	125	"	James McGloughen,	97	"
William Iddim,	100	"	Roger North,	113	"

Joshua Hunt was a merchant for many years and afterwards

William Johnson,	100	“	Abiah Park,	245	“
James Jack,	146	“	Benjamin Phipps,	100	“
James Jack, Jr.	100	“	Samuel Pickens,	183	“
Margaret Irwin,	200	“	William Powell,	70	“
Elizabeth Kennedy,	30	“	James Pimm,	220	“
James Kinkead,	355	“	James Pimm, Jr.	180	“
Robert Lockart,	1100	“	Isaac Pimm,	200	“
Obed Lewis,	100	“	John Proudfoot,	80	“
William Lockart,	189	“	Rachael Rummon,	50	“
William Long,	200	“	Joshua Rummon,	27	“
James Lockart,	100	“	Hugh Richards,	75	“
Henry Lewis,	100	“	William Ralston,	100	“
Isaac Lewis,	280	“	James Stalker,	180	“
Robert Miller,	140	“	James Stanley,	250	“
Isaac McFarlan,	90	“	John Smith,	200	“
Mary McFarlan,	69	“	James Thompson,	100	“
John Maulsby,	90	“	Francis Taylor,	100	“
James Timey,	50	“	Lamb Tolbert,	120	“
William Temple,	70	“	—— Trimble,	250	“
Jono. Valentine,	250	“	George Valentine,	100	“
Thomas Vickers,	73	“	Robert Valentine,	357	“
Isaac Webb,	210	“	Joseph Wright,	100	“
Rachel White,	250	“	Samuel White,	150	“
John Walker,	150	“	Elias Wampool,	450	“
Peter Whitaker,	20	“	Thomas Windle,	180	“
Thomas Powell,	25	“	Isaac Speakman,	100	“
Samuel McFarlan,	13	“	William B. Hawkley,	150	“

Roger Hunt, one of the Downingtown pioneers, married the daughter of George Aston, and in 1727 built upon property now located in West Downingtown a very fine house, then and ever since known as the Hunt Mansion, though long since passed from the family name. It was built in the old English style. The various colored brick, having been, according to tradition, imported from England, and its wide hall, sharp gables and heavy wainscoting, show that he was a man of no mean pretension, and through his wife, in 1739, Roger Hunt came into possession of a tract of five hundred acres of land on the west side of the Brandywine, partly within the limits of the Borough of Downingtown. Roger Hunt was a surveyor and it has been asserted that he laid out the city of Lancaster, and owned a large part of the ground on which the city is built, which was subsequently allowed to be sold to satisfy claims for taxes. During the French and Indian War, he was a Commissary in the service of George III, and his account books of that service are still in the possession of his descendants. Under the head of “Incident Charges Extraordinary,” though not in his own writing, are the following:

“ 1759, June 18th, to expenses at the “Ship” in East Caln,.....	7s. 6d.
“ June 19th, to expenses at the same place,	6s. 4d.
“ June 19th, to expenses at the “Ship,” from the 20th to	
Sept. 8th at sundry times,	4 £. 11s. 8d.
“ 1759, June 10th, to cash paid John Downing for bringing	
300 bags from Phila. to my house,	1 £.

- " 1759. August 10th, to cash paid Jane Parke for 2 nights
hay for two horses 4s.
- " 1759. October 5th, to pasture of sundry horses impressed
from East Marlbro, London Grove, Newlin, East
Nottingham, West Nantmell and Uwchlan at
Jane Parkes
- " To sundry expenses at the "Ship" from Sept. 8th. to
November 3rd, about the business of contractor. 1 £. 11s. 6d.
- " 1760. January 29th, to 21 bushels of cats of Roger Hunt at
2s., for impressed teams going out. 2 £. 2s.
- Distances from Lancaster to the "Ship" in East Caln, Chester County,
Thirty-one and one-half miles and thirty-two perches.
From the "Ship" in East Caln to Philadelphia, Thirty-four and one-
quarter miles and twenty-six perches.
- Some account of wagens furnished by the Township of East Caln.
Andrew Cox entered two Oct 25th, and James Erwin entered one.
Andrew Cox and brether John credited with nine barrels of flour, Car-
lile to Bedford, also eight barrels of flour from Carlile to Bedford,
Six barrels of flour from Bedford to Ligonier, also eight barrels of flour
from Carlile to Bedford, and four barrels of flour from Bedford to Ligonier.
Mileage for each, 160 miles.

George Aston was a Justice of the Peace, an active citizen and was the owner of five hundred (500) acres of land in Caln Township on the western side of what is now called Downingtown, and it has been stated that he built what is known as the Hunt Mansion, but the authorities upon that subject seem to differ. His wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Peter Hunter, of Middletown, now Delaware County. He died in 1738, leaving a son, George, and a son, Peter, and a daughter, Mary, married to Joseph Few, 2nd mo., 18, 1733, and a daughter, Susanna, beside his daughter, Esther, of whom we have spoken. His son, George, married Esther, daughter of Owen Thomas, of East Whiteland, and became the owner of the Admiral Vernon (now Warren) Tavern. He left one son, Oliver Aston. George Aston, elder, was styled a "Quaker," but there is no evidence to that effect in the records of the Society, and the only evidence we have upon the subject is to be found in the following deposition, made in 1736:

"George Aston, of the County of Chester, in the Province of Pennsylvania, Sadler, aged abt. Fifty years, being one of the People Called Quakers, upon his Solemn Affirmation, according to Law did declare and Affirm, That Upon Some Conversation happening between Thomas Cresap, Robert Buchanan and this Affirmt. on the Road in sight of the city of Philadelphia, upon bringing the sd. Cresap Down from the County of Lancaster, The said Cresap said, Damn it, Aston, this is one of the Prettyest Towns in Maryland. I have been a troublesome fellow; but by this Last Jobb I have made a present of the two provinces to the King, and that if the People found themselves in a better Condition by the Change, they might thank Cresap for it, or words to that Effect.

"Geo. Aston.

“Philadelphia, Decr. 3d, 1736.

“Taken before me,

“Clem. Plumsted, Mayor.”

The estate of Roger Hunt was mostly woodland, and embraced an area of five hundred (500) acres. At his death it passed to his heirs, and Samuel Hunt, his son, inherited the family mansion, and the five hundred (500) acres adjoining it.

Joshua Hunt, the third of a family of five sons and two daughters, was born in the Hunt Mansion, and with his brother, Joseph, upon the death of their father, Samuel, became the joint owners of the property. One of the girls married John Hoopes, of London Grove, and their sons, Samuel H. Hoopes, Cyrus Hoopes, Francis Pratt Hoopes and William B. Hoopes, became distinguished citizens of Chester County in the business world. A daughter of John Hoopes married Abiah Scarlett, of New Garden.

Joseph Hunt was a merchant for many years and afterwards an extensive railroad contractor of Pennsylvania and Georgia, while his brother, Joshua, devoted his time to study and statesmanship. All the race were of stalwart build, slow in action and close observers as well as vigorous thinkers. Joshua was highly esteemed by his neighborhood; was a kind of oracle in the vicinity, and filled all the stations in the township from Constable to school director, and was the umpire to whom all resorted for the maintenance of order, and was an authority on all questions of science and political economy. As a member of the General Assembly, he measured up to the standard of his contemporaries, such as Thaddeus Stevens, James Buchanan, Elijah F. Pennypacker, Nathan Pennypacker and other distinguished politicians.

He was also noted for the vigor of his judgment on public matters, and occupied an honorable station in the Legislature. His circumstances in life were such that the “bread and butter” struggle gave him no concern, and thus an assured competence engendered the love of ease, which if it had been replaced by ambition and energy might have secured other positions and higher stations in the service of his State.

After he retired from the public service he, with his brothers, engaged largely in agricultural pursuits, and were much interested in fine stock, especially sheep. Joshua Hunt, after the ancestor, Roger Hunt, the most distinguished of his family, died at the family mansion on March 3rd, 1857, aged 72 years. The only descendants of his name are engaged in the manufacture of iron, and so have been occupied for many years at Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. They are the descendants of Thomas Hunt, Joshua’s younger brother. Joshua was never married.

The first petitioner for license at Downingtown was Abel Parke,

in 1735, which petition was as follows:

To His Majesties, Justices of the Peace at the Court of General Quarter Sessions held at Chester the 26 day of August, 1735.—

THE PETITION OF ABEL PARKE

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner being seated on the Great Road which leads from Philadelphia to Lancaster in the Township of Caln whose daly Reports many Travelers passing forward and backward about their lawfule occasions, and particularly many of the Dutch Inhabitant Lancaster County who frequently travel all the Summer Season with their Waggons who have been and still are very troublesom to your Petitiener, upon Sundry ocasions and have often entreated your Petitioner to apply for a Lyence to keep a Public House of Entertainment where he now dwells, there being very good Conveniences for them and other Travelers. Whereupen your Petitioner Humbly prays this Honorable Court that you will be pleased to grant your Petitioner a Lyence to Sell Beer & Syder, and your Petitiener as in Duty Bound Shall pray.....

ABEL PARKE.

We the undernamed, do hereby certifie to the Court that we believe the above Petitioner to be a Suitable person for the above said Imployment and do well know—that he hath good Conveniences, Therefore we pray that you will be pleased to Grant him a Lyence accordingly.

James Jefferis	Nathaniel Kerr	Joseph Townsend
Francis Swayne	Jason Cloud	Robert Miller
James Mather	Samuel Phipps	Aaron Mendenhall
George Willkin	Moses Wait	Samuel James
Thomas Tempel	Moses Wait, Jr.	Lewelin Parry
John Morgan	John Jackson	Phinehas Lewis
Nathan Worley	Daniel Hoopes	Jacob Vernon, Jr.
William Pimm	Joshua Hoopes	
Patrick Miller	Cald'r Evans	

The license continued in the possession of Abel Parke until 1740; the license was then disallowed. In 1745 a petition was presented to the Court, as follows:

TO THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS held and kept at Chester the 27th day of August, 1745.

THE PETITION OF ABEL PARKE

Humbly Sheweth:

That your petitioner being well Situated on the Road from Philadelphia to Lancaster & having formerly obtained your Recommendation to the Governor for the keeping a house of Entertainment, in which business he gave general Satisfaction to travellers, he having the Same Conveniences as formerly & a public house being very much wanted where your Petitioner dwells it being the right stage or Half Way house from Philadelphia to Lancaster. Your Petitioner therefore Humbly prays that you will be pleased once more to grant his your Recommendation to the Governor for the keeping a house of Entertainment & your petitioner as in duty bound shall pray &c.....

ABEL PARKE.

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed do Certify that the above Petitioner being well seated & having good Convenienys for the keeping a house of Entertainment & he & his wife having heretofore approved themselves in the like business to General Satisfaction of Travellers. We therefore pray that you will be pleased to

grant him your Recommendation to the Governor, which we hope may be of benefit to your petitioner & the publick.

Jesse Woodward	Joshua Roman	Caleb Way
Joseph Bishop	Isaac Wilkersham	Jer. Stahr
Charles Reese	Edw. Thompson	Adam McCoull
Francis Long	Andrew Cox	John McDermod
Jos. Long	James Way	Thos. Temple
Tamey Scott	Francis Swan	John McFarland
James Carlile	William Dunn	James Trimble
John Erwin	James Charles	James McFarlan
Robert Stinson	William Sinkler	Moses Waite, Jr.
Thos. Hudson	Wm. Low	Wm. Harlan
William Criswell	Roger Hunt	John Wyeth
William Caunthres	John Jackson	Isaac Whitelock
Andrew Donaldson	Robt. Valentine	Thomas Liget
Samuel Carrell	Evan Hughes	John H. Ewing
Jacen Cloud	Joseph Bourgoin	Thomas Clarke
Thomas Price	Benj. Hawley	Frances Hickman
Thomas Morris	Llewelin Parry	John Murphey
Thomas Paine	John Hunter	
Joseph Roman	Thos. Grubb	

In 1746 Thomas Parke, the brother of Abel Parke, presented this petition to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester County: TO THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS held & kept at Chester the 26th day of the 6th Month, 1746.

The petition of Thomas Parke of the Township of East Caln Humbly Sheweth:

That your petitioner having purchased the house and part of the plantation whereon his brother Abel Parke lately dwelt, which place is known to be very Suitable for the keeping a house of Entertainment, being well Accomodated with water, pasture, & good Meadowing as also a good Stage as to distance, your petitioner therefore prays that you will please to grant him your Recommendation to the Governor for the keeping a house of Entertainment. & your petitioner as in Duty bound will gratefully acknowledge the Same.

THOS. PARKE.

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed, Inhabitants of the County of Lancaster & Chester, having most of us Some knowledge of the above petitioner, do believe him to be a sober, Orderly person & may as far as we know be well qualified for the keeping a house of Entertainment.— We, therefore pray that you would please to Recommend him to the Governor for the keeping a house of Entertainment. which we believe may be of Service to the publick.—

Mat. Atkinson	James Parry	John Wall
Jno. Hannum	James Way	Thos McKean
Robert Miller	Tho. Downing	H. M. Hockley
Phinehas Lowry	Richard Downing	Jas. Mather
Thos. Pim	William Downing	J. W. Mather
A. P. White	Joshua Baldwin	John Owen

Which petition was duly granted and he continued to keep this hotel until his death in 1758, when his widow, Jane Parke, succeeded in the business and continued it until 1763, when she married James Webb. Thomas Parke, this petitioner, was a man

of extensive acquaintance; large influence in the community, and his friendships extended as far as the Township of New Garden, where in 1741 he attended the wedding of Jeremiah Starr and Ann Jackson, at the Friends' Meeting House in New Garden, and was one of the signers of the certificate.

In 1759 Jane Parke filed, in the Court of Quarter Sessions, at Chester, the following petition:

TO THE HONOURABLE THE JUSTICES AT THE GENERAL COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS held at CHESTER FOR THE COUNTY OF CHESTER the 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 1759.

THE PETITION OF JANE PARKE OF EAST CALN IN SD. COUNTY HUMBLY SHEWETH—

That your Petitioner's late Husband Thomas Parke Deceased, was for Several Years Past favored with your Recommendation to the Governor for his licence to keep a Publick House of Entertainment in Sd. Township, and your Petitioner having carried on Said business by Virtue of said licence (Which is now near expiring) During which time your Petitioner Hopes She hath given General Satisfaction, Therefore your Petitioner Prays that you would grant her a Recommendation to the Governor for his licence to Sell Liquors the Ensuing year, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound Shall thankfully Acknowledge the Same.....

JANE PARKE.

We, the Subscribers, being well Acquainted with the Above Petitioner, do hereby Recommend her as a Person Well Qualified to keep a Publick House of Entertainment and do Desire that you may Grant her Request:

Thos. Pim	Richard Downing	Phineas Lewis
Thomas Downing	Roger Hunt	Richard Pim

John Clark rented this Tavern, and succeeded Jane Parke, who had become Jane Webb, as landlord. In the petition the next year for a License the name of "The Ship" first appears. Isaac Webb was the landlord from 1766 to 1771, when Robert Parke, eldest son of Thomas and Jane, having Married Ann Edd, and attained his majority, took charge of the tavern. Jonathan Valentine, whose mother was a sister to Abel and Thomas Parke, came next in line in 1774, and appears to have continued there as landlord until 1788. During the Revolutionary War and a few years later the Records are somewhat deficient or have been lost. John Harley was the landlord at "The Ship" from 1792 to 1795. About the year 1795 "The Ship" was discontinued as a tavern. In 1761 John Downing presented the Court of Quarter Sessions at Chester the following petition:

TO THE HONOURABLE JUSTICES at the Court of Quarter Sessions to be held at Chester in August Term 1761.

THE PETITION OF JOHN DOWNING HUMBLY SHEWETH

That your Petitioner Hath Erected a building which may be Soon Finished, and is very Conveniently Situated for a House of Publick Entertainment, on the East Side of Brandiwine Creek in East Caln Township where the Road toward Unclilan Branches out of Lancaster Road, and Where a good Tavern is much Wanted on many Ocasions, Especially at times of

freshes in the Said Creek. Your Petitioner Therefore Humbly Desires that you may be pleased to Recommend him to his Honour the Governor for his Licence for the Keeping a Tavern at the Place aforesaid and your Petitioner as in Duty Bound shall ever Pray, &c.

JOHN DOWNING.

We, the Subscribers, being well acquainted with the above-named Petitioner and the situation of his building, do give it as our Opinion that he is a Suitable person, and the Place Conveniently Situated to be of Service to the Publick, if the Court Please to Grant his Petition:

Thomas Downing	Jeremiah Poirsol	John Boogs Miller
Jason Cloud	Joseph Cloud, Junior	Robert Lockart
Joseph Downing	Samuel Hughs	Henry Jones
Samuel Bond	William Graham	Robert M. Connahee
Noble Butler	John Campbell	James McCorkry
Denis Whelen	William Trego	James Scott
G. Aston	James Anderson	Sam'l Mackelduff
Phinehas Eachus	Robert Eachus	Robt. Brown
Joseph Cloud	Andrew Elliot	Samuel Caithess
John Perfall, Senior	Win. Roberts	Joseph Parke
Joseph Darlington	Thomas Goon	John Baldwin
John Whitaker	John Heatley	John Perfall, Junior
Joseph Gibson	Phinehas Lewis	
Michael Graham	Richard Downing	

John Downing remained at this Tavern until 1771, when Richard Cheyney became the Landlord, and in the following year the name of "King in Arms" appeared for the house. Richard was there in 1776, and for the subsequent years the Record is deficient or has been lost. Thomas Downing was there in 1780, and in 1786 he was succeeded by Hunt Downing, son of John Downing, and the said Hunt Downing presented to the Court the following petition:

TO THE HONOURABLE THE JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT CHESTER FOR THE COUNTY OF CHESTER THE 30TH DAY OF MAY, 1786.

THE PETITION OF THE SUBSCRIBER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST CALN IN SAID COUNTY:—

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH.....

That your Petitioner now occupies the Public Inn by Downings-Town in the Township aforesaid lately kept by Thomas Downing and hath provided himself with every necessary for the accommodation of Travellers and others, and Requests the Court will be pleased to Recommend him to the Supreme Executive Council for their licence to Sell Rum, Wine, Brandy and other Spirituous Liquors by small Measure, the coming year.....

AND YOUR PETITIONER SHALL PRAY,

HUNT DOWNING.

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed do Recommend the above Petitioner as a Suitable person to keep a Public Inn and Request the Prayer of his petition may be Granted:

Samuel Bond	Richard Downing	John Edge
Mankin James	Caleb Baldwin	Samuel Hunt
Joseph Bond	Jos. A. Weaver	Joseph Downing

John Whitaker
Isaac Webb

John Hughs
Abiah Parke

James Batten

Hunt Downing was the landlord there in 1800, and is said to have continued in that capacity until 1816. John Edge obtained license for the "Half Way House" in 1790, for which license he filed the following petition:

To the Justices of the Court of Quarter Sessions held at West Chester for the County of Chester the 30th day of August A. D. 1790.

The petition of John Edge of East Caln Township in said County Together with a number of the inhabitants of said Township & County Respectfully Sheweth,

That your Petitioner (John Edge) Having for a Number of Years followed the Business of store keeping in a large Commodious House, nearly opposite Rich'd Downing's Mill in Downings Town, on the Great Road from Lancaster to Phila., and nearly where the road from Harrisburg intersects the same and Crosses to West Chester, But finding ye Business of store-keeping (since the late Custom of Tavern keepers opening store has Taken place) is by no means sufficient to raise and support his family according to their former and usual Custom.

Hope therefore you will be pleased to recommend him to the Executive Council as a proper person to keep a publick house of Entertainment, his situation, Building, &c. being very suitable for that purpose to serve the publick with satisfaction, and advantage to himself: And yr petitioner as in Duty bound shall respectfully acknowledge the same.

John Hughs	John Christie	Sam'l Cuningham
John Baldwin	William Trimble, Jr.	Isaac Pim
Joseph Webb	Samuel Bond	Rob't Valentine
Samuel Wilson	Joseph Downing	Griffith Mendenhall
Jacob Fisler	John Edge	Rich'd Robinson
Rob't Miller	Rich'd Jacobs	Wm. Berry
Thos. Worth	James Webb	James Guthrie
Mordecai Cloud	Rich'd Downing, Jr.	

About the same time in 1790, the following paper was filed:

To the Honorable Court of Quarter Sessions to be held at West Chester for the County of Chester August Term 1790.

The Petition of the Subscribers respectfully sheweth:—

That your petitioners with concern perceive serious attempts made by John Edge, evinced by his determination to present a petition to You for the purpose of suppressing a store lately set up by Hunt Downing for the vending of Merchandize, the moderate prices which We receive goods at present to what we did prior to the Erection of a store by s'd Downing, clearly evince the utility of Two stores to the Neighbourhood, rendering the prices of goods less fluctuating, and precluding Extortion, To a Neighbourhood so remote from Market, Dependent only on stores in the Country for a Regular supply of goods. We firmly Trust Your Honors will not by any interference make it necessary that the interest and convenience of your Petitioners should be rendered subservient to that of an Individual. We are now aware that the Risible Pretext of Procuring License for keeping a Publick House is brought forward as an Auxiliary to Effect his purposes, but We feel a Confidence bordering on a Moral certainty that were not the least Possible Necessity can or doth Exist to add to the Accommodation Of the Publick, as the Publick Houses already in the Neighbourhood are amply sufficient, To Wit, Downing's, Webbs, widow Philip's and Cunningshams, Your Honors will not be

accessary to a Sacrifice Of our Interest or convenience, nor add to the excitements (Already Too redundant) of the Immoderate Drinker by Licensing a Supernumerary Tavern.

Isaac Whelen
Sm. Downing
Joseph Downing
Caleb Baldwin
Enoch Pearson
Aaron Palmer
Jacob Fisler
Joseph Bond
Mankin James
Charles Wollerton
John Jacobs

George Valentine
Jonathan Coope
Denis Whelen
Samuel Hunt
John Robinson
John M'Cormick
John Whitaker
John Hughs
Samuel Bond
Benjamin Few
Joseph Downing, Jr.

Isaac McFarlan
James Webb
Rich'd Downing, Jr.
Rob't Valentine
John Pim
Jesse Jones
Wm. Coates
Joseph Downing
Jacob Swayn

And notwithstanding its terms and allegations and its manifestations of local statesmanship and neighborhood diplomacy, the petition of John Edge was granted.

In 1796 his daughter, Sarah Rees, succeeded to a licence for the "Half Way House," which had been obtained by her father, John Edge, in 1790.







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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Chapter 3

Thomas Moore—Thomas Downing's Will—Downingtown in the Revolution—Early Roads and the Lancaster Avenue Bridge—The Old Stage Coach

Early in the Eighteenth (18)th Century Thomas Moore was the owner of three tracts of land in the southern part of Caln Township, which Township at that time extended as far north as Nantmeal and as far west as Lancaster County. East of the Brandywine on one of these tracts in 1716 a "Water Corn Mill" was erected by Thomas Moore. This Mill became well known in all parts of Chester County, and its location gave the name of Milltown to the Hamlet. At that time there were but few buildings at that locality or near that locality. The log house which stands immediately North of the Bridge over the east branch of the Brandywine, is probably the oldest house in Downingtown, and Squire Joseph H. Johnson in his sketch of the Borough, is correct, when he styles it "Where Downingtown started." Some of the people believe that the Hunt Mansion was built earlier than the log house, but the writer is inclined to believe otherwise.

Thomas Moore died in 1738, and the mill and the several tracts of land became the property of John Taylor, who in 1739 conveyed five hundred and sixty-one (561) acres North of the Philadelphia Road to Thomas Downing, and in 1747 conveyed a saw mill and lot of two and a half acres south of the Philadelphia Road to the aforesaid Thomas Downing. Jonathan Parke, who had married Deborah Taylor, purchased in 1747 two hundred and thirty-three acres from John Taylor, which tract was located south of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Road. In the succeeding years, a hemp mill, a fulling mill and several other mills of an industrial character were added, and thus its name was greatly strengthened. In its development the Downing family was prominent, and Thomas Downing, whom we have just mentioned, provided in his last will as follows:

Thomas Downing
Will,

I, Thomas Downing of the township of east Caln in the County of Chester and province of Pennsylvania

yeoman being in good health and of sound and well disposing mind and memory (thanks be humbly offered to God for the same with all others his manifold favors bestowed upon me) and being mindful of my mortality and willing to settle that worldly estate where with it has pleased God to bless me. Do make and ordain this present writing my last will and testament in manner and form following. First my will is that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged as soon as conveniently may be after my Decease. And I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Jane Downing Thirty two pounds a year to be paid out of my estate yearly and every year during her widdowhood together with eight pounds a year which she is Intitled to out of her former husbands Estate together with her mare and the mares colt a chase and the harness thereunto belonging and all the goods and chattles which she brought to me at the time of our marriage to hold to her heirs and assigns forever. And I order and it is my will that my said loving wife Jane Downing shall have the four rooms in the west end of my mansion house, two above and two below stairs and make use of all my furniture that is in the said rooms and the appurtences thereunto belonging together with the use of the kitchen and cellar and what more may be needful for her likewise the use of the water and a convenient piece of ground for a garden near to her dwelling place aforesaid, and to have a good cow found and kept for her and a compleat chair horse to be kept and bridled and saddled or harnessed as often and when she may desire it and cut and bring firewood for her to the Rooms afforesaid during her widdowhood and residence with him my son Joseph Downing and if she should chose to live at my son Richard Downing she shall have suitable accomodation as to house room and Joseph to allow Richard what may be reasonable for her trouble there or his share thereof and my said wife shall have free liberty of ingress, egress and regress at all time into and from the same so as not willfully to prejudice either of them, And whereas my son in law Joshua Baldwin did request of me a piece of ground adjoining his house and lot of ground the north side of Conestoga Road therefore I give and Divise to the said Joshua Baldwin and to his heirs and assigns forever all that piece of ground lying adjoining the north side of Conestoga road in East Caln aforesaid bounded Easterly by the aforesaid lot of Joshua Baldwin and to extend to my west line and to run parallel with the north side of the said Joshua Baldwins Dwelling house at the distance of twenty-one feet and a half be the same more or less provided he the said Joshua Baldwin pay to my Executors twenty five pounds and will at all times hereafter keep and maintain a sufficient fence along the north side of said piece of ground. And whereas I have already Conveyed unto my son William, Downing the dwelling house where he now liveth and the water corn or grist mill and one hundred and fifty acres of land in the township of Bart in the county of Lancaster and took a bond of fifty pounds from him which bond I order my Executors to deliver to my said son William without Money, And whereas I have already by deeds of lease and release bearing date the twentieth day of the fourth Month one thousand seven hundred and fifty six conveyed unto my son John Downing a Messuage tenement and tract of land thereunto belonging containing three hundred and twenty six acres of land more or less being part of the land which I purchased from John Taylor lying in East Caln aforesaid excepting the Mill race across the same with a conveniency of land on each side thereof to answer all advantages for the bringing of the water to my grist mill, which is more particularly specified in the deed aforesaid, All which priviledges therein reserved, I now give and devise unto my said Son Richard Downing his heirs and assigns forever and I give and devise unto my son Joseph Downing and to his heirs and assigns forever all that my plantation and tract of land situate in east caln aforesaid, Containing four

hundred and ninety two acres by such metes and bounds as I purchased the same of Samuel Gilpin (excepting that small part thereof which I have given and conveyed to Joshua Baldwin aforesaid). And I likewise give and devise to my said son Joseph Downing and to his heirs and assigns forever the remaining part of eighty Acres of land which I purchased of Noble Butler in East Caln aforesaid supposed to be between fifty & sixty Acres together with all my right of a piece of land lying and being in the township of Uwchland in the county aforesaid bounded eastwardly by land late of John Jenkins and northwardly by land late of James Thomas and westwardly by land late of Thomas Guest, together with all and singular the right Hereditements and appurtenances thereunto Belonging or Appertaining (Except as before and hereafter excepted). I likewise give unto my son Joseph Downing my impliments of husbandry and all my household goods except my Clock and case which I give and bequeath to my son Richard Downing but reserving such goods for the use of my said loving wife Jane Downing as before mentioned (to her) during her widowhood then to descend to said Joseph Downing at her Marriage or Death upon condition that my said son Joseph Downing perform all the injunctions I have herein laid upon him, And I give and devise unto my son in law Samuel Bond and to his heirs and assigns forever all that parcel or tract of land lying and being in the township of Whiteland in the county aforesaid known by the name of Thomas Blandfords, being on the east side of the welch line adjoining the land of the said Samuel Bond, John Fitzgerald and John Jenkins late of Uwchland deceased be the same more or less, And I give and devise unto my son Richard Downing & to his heirs and assigns forever all my water corn or grist mill and Fulling Mill situate in East Caln aforesaid, with all the buildings, dwelling Houses and Appurtenances thereunto belonging or Appertaining and also all that tract and parcel of land whereon the Said mills and buildings stand as the same was surveyed marked and bounded (by one Richard Thomas) and found to contain Two hundred and thirty acres be the same more or less, And I give and Devise unto my said son Richard Downing and to his heirs and assigns forever, all my Sawmill Tract or lott of land Containing about two acres & forty perches, together with one equal undivided Fourth part of my Saw Mill and Hemp Mill in East Caln aforesaid with the Appurtenances thereunto belonging And I give and devise unto my son Joseph Downing and to his heirs and assigns forever one undivided Fourth part of my Saw Mill & Hemp Mill with the Appurtenances thereunto belonging, And I give & Devise one Equal undivided fourth part of my said Saw Mill & Hemp Mill with the Appurtenances unto my son John Downing and to his heirs & assigns forever And I give and devise one equal undivided fourth part of my said Saw Mill and Hemp Mill to my son in law Samuel Bond & to his heirs and assigns forever with the Appurtenances thereunto belonging and moreover it is my will and I order that if any two or three of those to whom the said Saw Mill & Hemp Mill is Devised as aforesaid incline to keep the said Mills in gait or working order he or they shall have free liberty to do the same in case the other parties decline, Provided Nevertheless that my said sons nor either of them, their nor either of their heirs or assigns shall not nor will not do or cause to be done any Act or Thing on the Premises that may be Detrimental to any one of them without the consent & approbation of all the parties concerned or to the prejudice or damage of my said son Richard Downing Corn Mill & Fulling Mill aforesaid or to the trade or business of either of them, And Whereas I have by many donations already advanced my daughter Jane the wife of John Roberts I now give and bequeath unto her or her heirs the sum of fifty pounds to be paid by my executors within five years next after my Decease, And Likewise having by many donations advanced my daughter Thomzin Bond deceased late the wife of Samuel Bond

aforesaid I now give and bequeath to Samuel Bond the sum of fifty pounds to be paid by my Executors within five years next after my Decease, And having by many donations advanced my Daughter Sarah Baldwin (Deceased) the former wife of Joshua Baldwin as also the said Joshua Baldwin I now give & Bequeath to my granddaughter Sarah Baldwin fifty pounds to be paid within five years after my Decease by my Executors hereafter named, Also I give and bequeath unto Mary the Daughter of Thomas Alcott late of East Caln deceased the sum of twenty pounds when she shall arrive at the age of twenty one years and not otherwise, MOREOVER I bequeath to the use of Andrew Knox ten Acres of cleared land, Land to be taken off of the Farthermost end of north west field being part of the said land before devised unto my son Joseph Downing including the wood land in the north west corner thereof adjoining the said ten Acres the two head lines whereof are to extend from my son Joseph Downing line eastwardly to where the fence now stands which said quantity of land be it more or less shall be for the use of the said Andrew Knox during his natural life if he continue in the same place he now dwells Otherwise the above grant shall cease terminate & be void. *And as many poor people have formerly purchased of me & were become debtors my intent and meaning is that I do hereby forgive the said poor people all the books debts that may stand in my book against them at the time of my decease, and I do hereby frankly acquit and discharge them from paying the same* And I do hereby Declare that whatsoever I have herein before given or Devised unto my loving wife Jane Downing is and shall be taken to be in lieu. Recompence & satisfaction of & for all her Dower or thirds in all my lands tenements Hereditaments & of whatsoever else she may any way claim or demand of in or out of my estate both real & personal And further it is my will that all legacies left by me in the within writing shall be paid by my two sons Richard Downing & Joseph Downing equally, except the twenty pounds left to Mary Alcott which Legacy my son Joseph Downing shall pay exclusive of Richard, and where any sum is mentioned it is understood to be in lawful money of Pennsylvania, And lastly it is my will that all the residue and remainder of my estate of what kind or nature soever or wheresoever the same is or may be found I give and Devise to my said son Richard Downing, And I do hereby constitute and appoint my two sons Richard Downing & Joseph Downing my Executors of this my last will and testament hereby Revoking and making void all former wills & testaments by me heretofore made and do declare this only to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Ninth Day of the Ninth Month (called September in the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and sixty nine 1769 (seal) signed sealed published and declared by the above named Thomas Downing for and as his last will and testament in the presence of us, Rob't Valentine Joshua Way Isaac Jacobs Thomas Pimm.

The Downings and the Hunts and the Parkes and the Mendenhalls and the Baldwins, the Hoopes' and the Bonds began to grow up together. They formed a community, interested in each other, and interesting to the world at large. George Aston had located some property interests across the Welsh Line of Whiteland, and led a Company of men in to the service of King George in the French and Indian War. Roger Hunt was actively scouring the country to secure wagons and horses and men to equip them for transportation purposes in the same war. The Society of Friends was disowning members who were bearing arms in this conflict, and all

the while the Milltown Mills were serving the business purposes of the neighborhood, and that neighborhood extended miles to the Northward, and to the Westward and to the Southward. The people of Lancaster County were very anxious to have a road for the public use. Seven Commissioners from Lancaster County and seven Commissioners from Chester County laid out the Great Road from Philadelphia to Lancaster. Its entire length was dotted with public houses for public entertainment. There were two of them within the area of Downingtown. "The Ship" was the first established, and next the "King In Arms." Then came the war of the Revolution. The policy of the Society of Friends was that of peaceful neutrality. The County Commissioners of Chester County met at "The Ship" in 1778 for the transaction of business. In England, from whence the Friends had emigrated, Committees on Sufferings had been established in consequence of the extensive persecutions to which they had been subjected in that country. During the Revolutionary Period, like committees in America were busily engaged. The Friends were plundered by both parties in the conflict, and the regiment of Colonel Stewart, of the Pennsylvania Line, was quartered all one winter in what is now the limits of Downingtown. These were the times that tried men's souls. The British Army was advancing northward from Turkey Point on the shores of the Chesapeake, marching to the capture of Philadelphia, which was then the most considerable city of the colonies. General Washington had resolved to contest their approach along the line of the Brandywine. The ammunition and the artillery supplies of the American forces were located in Warwick Township, Chester County, north of Downingtown. Peter DeHaven was the officer in charge, and he wrote the following letter to the Vice President of the Executive Council:

French Creek, Sept. 10, 1777.

Sir,

We have got sum information that thare is Part of Mr. Hows' armeey Within four Miles of Downins Town, & I believe thay intend for our Magazene, and Wee are in a Very Poor Situation for defending it, I should be very glad if your Would send a Proper Gard for this Place. I have Rid threw this Naberhood to Procure Waggons, but Could get but 8 or 10 to Move Sum of the Powder toward Reddin, but to what Place I am a stranger.

I Re your Hum. Serv't,

PETER DE HAVEN.

directed,

To Mr. George Bryan, Vice President of the Ex. Councyl.

On the same day Peter DeHaven wrote the following letter, which explains the conditions existing in Chester County on the eve of the Battle of Brandywine:

French Creek, Sept. 10, 1777.

Sir,

I Reced a Letter from Dockter Kanady Requesting me to Let him

have one Hundred Stand of arms at the Yallo Spring, as there was a Subspition of the Towrys Raising, I immediately sent him answer that it is not in My Power to Deliver aney arms or Amunytion Without an order from the Executive Council, I should be glad if you would send me Word if I shall let Him have Aney, I Likewise should be Abledg to you if you give My Son an Order to your Salt Work for one Load of Salt, as Wee Do Stand in Great Need of Sum, I Cant get Aney, and Wee have a great Maney Men to Provide for.

I Remain your
Humble Servant,

Peter De Haven.

Directed.

To the Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Presid't to the Ex's Council for the State of Pennsylv'a.

The Continental Congress, by resolution passed January 15th, 1778, directed, among other things, that two thousand (2000) barrels of flour be delivered for the use of the army at Downings Town in Chester County. Thus at this early period this town was regarded as one of the principal points of supply and distribution for the patriot forces.

Of course there were defections among the Society of Friends arising out of the questions of peace and war. The several meetings undertook to deal with such offenders, but in many cases the dealing was so gentle that no record remains of any action being taken. These were the days of the Church Militant. It was not the era of the Church Acquiescent. When the Battle of Brandywine took place it was an Irishman from Londonderry, in New Hampshire, who commanded the right wing of the American forces, and it was the son of an Irishman from Chester County who commanded the left wing. In the thick of the fray was Colonel John Hannum, whose father had emigrated from Ireland early in the Century, and who after a long and distinguished service in the Revolutionary Army, returned to the Bradford Hills to engage in a somewhat peaceful contention about the location of the County town of Chester County, and we have it as a matter of record in the summer of 1777 that the Presbyterian Church at Brandywine Manor sent every male member of its organization into the Continental Army, and that the women connected with the Church harvested the crops of that summer. Although Milltown was owned, managed, directed, cherished, equipped and established by the members of the Society of Friends, yet in two wars, viz., the French and Indian War and the War of the Revolution a large number of her people engaged in the strife.

The Lancaster Road was laid out and established about the year 1741. It was known as the Provincial Road, and the Philadelphia Road, and the Lancaster Road. Sometimes it was referred to as the "Old Lancaster Road," or the "Great Lancaster Road." As it passed through Milltown it formed the northern boundary of Jona-

than Parke's land and Thomas Downing's saw mill road. It was a part of the boundary line between Peter and Samuel Hunt. It led from Downing's Tavern, known as the "King In Arms," to the "The Ship," west of the Brandywine. Experience during the winter months developed the need of a bridge over the east branch of the Brandywine, and at the February Terms of the Court in 1774, then held at Chester, the following petition was presented:

"That your Petitioners having frequent occasion to travel the Road leading from Philadelphia to Lancaster, find great inconvenience at times, occasioned by the rising of the waters and ice in Brandywine Creek. Therefore request you would, in your wonted goodness, order the building of a bridge across the creek at or near where the Provincial Road now goes near Downing's Mill, which we humbly apprehend will be of great benefit to the public in general, as well as to the inhabitants in those parts. And your Petitioners will gratefully acknowledge your justice. Signed by

John Malin	James Hood	Samuel Conrad
Curtis Lewis	Thomas Meter	John Downing
Jos. Trimble	Robert Lockart	David Evans
John Hoopes	Jesse Green	Caleb Wagner
James Guthery	Ludwick Ligit	George Thomas
Obed Lewis	Abiah Parke	Daniel Evans
Jno. Hoopes, Jr.	Lewis Atherton	John Jacobs
Thomas Hannum	Jno. Hannum	Richard Downing
Joseph Downing	Richard Thomas	Robert Valentine
James Sheward	William Trimble, Jr.	Samuel Bond
James Galbrath	William Hannum	Samuel Hermet
Joshua Baldwin	William Beal	

The petition was recommended by the Grand Jury and approved by the Court, at the May Term, 1774. John Pimm, who owned a plantation near what is now the village of Thorndale, was Foreman of the Grand Jury.

At a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, held June 2, 1774, the petition to the Court for a bridge at Downingtown, and the approval of the Grand Jury thereof being presented to the Board, a number of Justices, together with the Commissioners and local Assessors appointed to view the place, agreed to meet on the 10th of that month. On the day named the Commissioners and others met as agreed upon, and the result of their deliberations is thus recorded: "Pursuant to appointment, the Commissioners, together with most of the Assessors, and a number of Magistrates, met and viewed the place proposed, and agreed there was necessity for a Bridge and proposed meeting on June 18, 1774, in order to let the same." It is further recorded that on the 18th day of June, 1774, the Commissioners, Assessors and Justices met at Richard Cheyney's Public House, and in consequence of the circumstance that the people generally were in favor of a stone bridge, and did not want a wooden bridge agreeably to former proposals, the further consideration of the matter was postponed until the August

term of Court. At a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, held in August, 1774, the following appears among the recorded minutes: "The case respecting the Brandywine Bridge, coming under consideration after consultation had with the Justices, it was agreed to build a bridge with stone pillars and cover with plank agreeably to a plan heretofore made, and Samuel Cunningham has undertaken the same at the sum of four hundred and forty (140) pounds, and it is proposed to sign an article for that purpose on the first day of October." The minutes show that the agreement was complied with. This, however, was not the first movement in Downingtown for a bridge over the Brandywine. In 1752 the following petition was presented:

TO THE COMMISSIONERS AND ASSESSORS FOR THE COUNTY
OF CHESTER, MET AT CHESTER THE 25TH DAY OF FEB-
RUARY, 1752.

The petition of divers inhabitants of the township of East Caln in behalf of themselves and others, come to sheweth:

That the passage for travelers upon the Provincial road leading from Philadelphia to Lancaster is often rendered very difficult and dangerous by reason of freshets and other obstacles in the east branch of Brandywine Creek so that people are often detained in their destination to there from loss and the no small trouble and expense of the neighboring inhabitants who are often crowded with travelers, so detained, and as the intercourse of travelers on said road yearly increases and business becomes more favorable, we humbly conceive that there is an absolute necessity for a bridge to be erected on the said Creek.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you would be pleased to take the premises into your serious consideration and use your endeavors with the other branches of power usually concerned in such cases to grant our request; and your petitioners as in duty bound shall thoroughly acknowledge the same.

Robert Valentine	Roger Hunt	Samuel Bond
John Jones	Thomas Parke	Richard Bond
John Stevenson	Thomas Pimm	John Jenkin
Joshua Baldwin	Thomas Daine	William Beale
William Roberts	Thomas Downing	Lewis Padry.

According to Road Docket A, Page 4, in the Clerk's Office at West Chester, there was a road laid out from Conestoga to Whiteland as early as August, 1726, and such road is thus described:

"East along the line between Joseph Pike and Francis Evits and crossing vacant land 430 perches to a marked black oak standing by a road formerly laid out by Thomas Green's plantation, thence along the said road at right angles crossing vacant land and land of Thomas Parke, George Aston and Thomas Moore 970 perches to a marked white oak on the said Moore's land, thence crossing the land of the said Thomas Moore south 77 degrees, east 18 perches, south 85 degrees, east 31 perches, north 80 degrees, east 34 perches, north 43 degrees, east 144 perches to a white oak, thence crossing the said land north 37 degrees, east 90 perches, north 71 degrees, east 28 perches, east 54 perches, north 85 degrees, east 48 perches, north 70 degrees, east 66 perches, thence crossing land late of John Parke north 63 degrees, east 76 perches, east 36 perches, north 82 degrees, 110 perches, north 66 degrees, east 61 perch-

es to a white oak standing by Philadelphia road on the land of John Spruce in Whiteland."

There was also a road laid out from George Aston's property to Goshen in May, 1731, as set forth in Road Docket A, Page 28, in the Clerk's Office at West Chester, which is as follows:

"Beginning at a white oak standing near the road on George Aston's land leading from Conestoga to Philadelphia, from thence east 9 degrees, north 92 perches to the Great Road in the division line of Moore and Horn's land on the east side of Brandywine, thence east 300 perches, thence east 6 perches, north 90 perches, thence east 40 perches, thence east 6 degrees, north 180 perches from John Baldwin's land, thence south 40 degrees, east 260 perches, thence 68 degrees north 146 perches, thence east, northeast 100 perches, thence east by north 80 perches, thence east, northeast 200 perches, thence from the corner of William Taylor's field east, southeast 66 perches, north along the division line of Thomas Apleton and John Holland north 78 degrees, east 154 perches, thence from Holland's land north 82 degrees, east 110 perches, into the limestone road from the Valley to Chester."

There was also a road from Uwchlan Friends' Meeting House to Thomas Downing's mill, at Milltown, laid out in August, 1734, as shown by Road Docket A, Page 46, in the Clerk's Office at West Chester, which is described as follows:

"Beginning in the road near Uwchlan Meeting House and thence by several courses and distances to the road leading down the Valley Hill into the Great Road and that leads from Conestoga to Philadelphia by Thomas Moore's mill 180 perches."

August 31, 1736, as shown by Road Docket A, Page 57, in the Clerk's Office at West Chester, there was a road laid out beginning at the County line, near John Minchall's, thence by various courses and distances into the Provincial Road, near George Aston's property.

In 1742, as shown by Road Docket A, Page 81, in the Clerk's Office at West Chester, there was also laid out a road beginning in the road leading from Uwchlan Friends' Meeting House to Thomas Downing's mill, on David Jenkin's land, thence to the road leading from Brandywine to Chester, on John Ingram's land.

In 1752, as shown by Road Papers, Vol 6, page 48, in the Clerk's Office at West Chester, there was a report showing the laying out of a part of the little Conestoga Road, leading from Springton Manor to the Township of East Caln, to the Provincial Road, near the mill of Thomas Downing, beginning at the Provincial Road that runs from Paxtang toward Philadelphia, and a little within the line of said Manor; thence by various courses and distances to the lowland in the Great Valley; thence along the road supposed to be confirmed already, as far as the mill of Roger Hunt; thence by various courses and distances near to Roger Hunt's mill; thence by various courses and distances to the Provincial Road, near the mill of Thomas Downing, also the following road leading from Uwchlan Friends' Meeting House to Thomas Downing's mill:

"Beginning at a Hickory tree in the line of Uwchlan Township, thence south 40 degrees, west 36 perches, south 25 degrees, west 28 perches, south 52½ degrees, west 70 perches, south 44 degrees, west 18 perches, south 20 degrees, west 14 perches, south passing by John Downing's house 50 perches, south by west and along said Downing's lane 134 perches to the aforesaid Provincial Road."

The Thomas Downing mill, at the junction of the Brandywine Creek and the Lancaster Turnpike, subsequently became the property of S. Austin Bicking, and the Roger Hunt mill was afterwards known as the Ringwalt mill, and is now owned by John T. Pollock. It is very evident that the people of the neighborhood of Downingtown, living there in the first half of the eighteenth (18th) century, were much concerned about highways and bridges. It would seem that there were two (?) separate bridges across the Brandywine within the limits of the present Borough of Downingtown. At what time they were each constructed, and by whom they were constructed, and of what material they were constructed have formed the basis of several discussions. It is not the purpose of the writer to attempt to decide these matters. He submits some of the papers, which are a part of the records of the County of Chester, and perhaps may aid in reaching a conclusion upon this point. It is also evident that Downingtown, in the first half of the eighteenth (18th) century was the industrial centre of Chester County, and its business activities were very great. As early as 1703 the principal inhabitants of the "Welsh tract" sought to have a road from Powell's ferry, on the Schuylkill, to the principal part of Goshen township, and thence continued in a direct course to "ye upper settlements on Brandywine." The first turnpike in America was built through Chester County. It was the "Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road Company," and was chartered April 9, 1792. It was completed in 1794, and was open to public travel the following year, and at once became a leading thoroughfare between Philadelphia and Lancaster. The travel and transportation of merchandise upon it for many years was enormous. It was lined with houses for public entertainment. These taverns in some parts of its course through Chester County averaged one for every mile. At night the yards of these taverns would be filled with teams, the horses standing on each side of the tongue, on which a trough had been placed. The teamsters carried their beds with them, and at nights spread them on the barroom floors or in rooms appropriated for that purpose. Some of these public houses were known as stage taverns, and others as wagon taverns. The stage taverns were generally more commodious than the wagon taverns. As a rule, these taverns were well kept and were owned by the landlords who conducted them. With the advent of the "iron horse" public travel passed from

the turnpike to the railroad, and a mournful poet of that period inspired these lines:

"May the devil catch the man,
Who invented the plan
That ruined us poor wagoners
And every other man."

The "every other man" was supposed to refer to the innkeepers along the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike.

Immense Conestoga wagons, with their white-covered tops, sometimes styled the sails of commerce, ceased to be seen along the pike. One by one these innkeepers passed out of existence. At the time of the opening of the turnpike for public travel there were three (3) noted taverns within the limits of Downingtown, "The Ship," "The Half-Way House" and the "King in Arms," concerning whose landlords and concerning whose management I have already discoursed. At the end of the eighteenth (18th) century, when Downingtown had been a habitation for almost one hundred (100) years, its industries had not increased. Its resident population was less than two hundred (200) persons. The County of Chester had been divided in 1787, and efforts were made to place the new county seat at Downingtown. Colonel John Hannum, the most distinguished citizen and public-spirited character of the region, was anxious that the new county town should be either at Downingtown or at the junction of the Valley Creek with the Brandywine, at a point some two (2) miles south of Downingtown. Few, if any, of the residents of Downingtown were favorable to the location of the county town at that point. Tradition says that it was the peaceful quiet of a Friendly community that resented the proposition. There is no record of any public action upon the subject, but, considering the attitude of the influential forces of the neighborhood, it is not surprising that West Chester had to begin operations in the vicinity of a tavern, viz., "The Turk's Head."

Stage lines were numerous upon the Lancaster Pike. Daily there could be seen the long, smooth stretch of pike through the village, transportation facilities of every description, and within two miles there was great liberty of choice as to where the noon-day meal could be eaten. Drove of cattle came down from the west along the turnpike, and Downingtown was a very important locality in the business transactions of Chester County. Robert Coleman was one of the wealthiest citizens of Eastern Pennsylvania. He was an extensive owner of iron mines at Cornwall, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and with the Grubb family shared the enterprise of the mining and manufacture of iron. His two daughters were distinguished in the society life of Lancaster, and James Buchanan, then a brilliant member of the

Lancaster Bar, paid assiduous attention to Miss Anna Coleman, and his interest and affections were reciprocated by the object of his devotion. At that time Mr. Buchanan's professional engagements frequently called him to adjoining counties, and he had an appointment to call at Miss Anna Coleman's residence on a certain evening in December, 1819. He did not reach Lancaster by stage from Lebanon, where he had been engaged in an argument before the Court, until evening. As he alighted from the conveyance Miss Auld, a charming and vivacious young lady of Lancaster, insisted upon Mr. Buchanan accompanying her home and taking tea with them. So charmed was Mr. Buchanan with the wit of his hostess that he not only drank tea at the house, but spent the evening there, having utterly forgotten his appointment with Miss Coleman. When he failed to appear she was very much disappointed, and the next morning departed on a visit to some relatives in the city of Philadelphia. Mr. Buchanan was very much chagrined about his forgetfulness, and wrote her several letters in an apologetic strain, but to none of which an answer was returned. Finally he did receive a very short note from Miss Coleman asking him to call upon her at the home of her aunt, in the city of Philadelphia. He procured a horse and gig and started upon his drive to Philadelphia. He stopped at the "Half-Way House," in Downingtown, for dinner. As he came from the hotel to resume his journey a funeral cortege appeared in sight, moving toward Lancaster. Inquiry developed the fact that it brought the remains of Miss Anna Coleman. What were the circumstances surrounding her death were not disclosed to Mr. Buchanan. He immediately returned to Lancaster and addressed a note to Mr. Robert Coleman, asking the privilege of viewing the body and attending the funeral. That note was returned to him, unopened, and after Mr. Buchanan's death it was found among his papers. The parents of Miss Coleman had been bitterly opposed to any marriage with Mr. Buchanan. He possessed great ambition, extraordinary talent, occupying a high position at the bar, but his wealth was very slender. At the same time that he was paying his court to Miss Anna Coleman, Doctor Muhlenberg was paying attention to her sister, and the doctor was received by Miss Coleman's parents with as scant favor as Mr. Buchanan. Both these suitors lived to achieve great distinction, and their names will outlast all material wealth of the family which repulsed them. Mr. Buchanan never married. All the letters bearing upon his love affair with Miss Coleman were ordered by him to be burned immediately upon his death, and Mr. Curtis, his literary executor, carried out his instructions in that particular. The letter written by Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Robert Coleman, which was re-

turned unopened, was preserved by Mr. Buchanan in a separate envelope from the other papers, and that letter Mr. Curtis prints in his life of Mr. Buchanan. It is touchingly beautiful and worded with exceedingly good taste, and the highest appreciation of the unfortunate surroundings of Miss Coleman. It shows conclusively the bitterness of feeling that existed in the mind of Robert Coleman against the suit of James Buchanan. Miss Auld, to the day of her death, most bitterly regretted her involuntary part in this domestic tragedy.





Chapter 4

The First Newspapers—Ann Welch and Her Writings— Downingtown in 1820.

Downingtown, by reason of the enterprise and culture of its inhabitants, attracted to its location men who delighted in the gentle literary delights of peace.

Charles Mowry was born in Litchfield, Providence County, Rhode Island, in 1777. He received a classical education, and came to Pennsylvania about the year 1800 and engaged in teaching. In 1808 he began the publication of a newspaper, called the "Temperate Zone," at Downingtown, Chester County. Its title was subsequently changed to the "Downingtown American Republican" at the expiration of one year. As the "Temperate Zone" it was neutral in politics, but under its new title it became Democratic-Republican. Names Democratic-Republican in those days were convertible terms and were both used, that of Republican being oftener used than Democratic to designate its party or its members in opposition to the Federal party. In the issue of the paper of August 3, 1813, the word Downingtown was dropped from the title and it was called the "American Republican," although still published in Downingtown. Charles Mowry continued to publish it until November 28, 1820, when he sold out to William Schultz and William J. Marshall. This firm was in existence but about a month. The interest of Schultz reverted to Mowry, and he and Marshall published it from January to June, 1821, under the firm name of William J. Marshall & Company. Marshall was a practical printer and had learned his trade with Mowry. Mr. Mowry was not a polished but was a vigorous writer, and sustained Governor William Findlay with such force and ingenuity that he was considered the ablest Democratic-Republican editor in the State, and the leaders in his party insisted on his leaving Downingtown to take charge of a paper at Harrisburg. He acceded to their request and removed to Harrisburg and became editor of the "Pennsylvania Intelligencer," which paper had been previously the "Harrisburg Republican." This Harrisburg paper was eventually disposed of

to General Simon Cameron, who had been associated with him as partner in its management, in order that he (Charles Mowry) might assume the duties of Canal Commissioner, to which he had been appointed by Governor Schultze. During his career Mr. Mowry had become distinguished as a political writer, and exercised a marked influence upon the policy of this party. He died at Harrisburg, July 29, 1838. He married, March 31, 1812, Mary Richmond, daughter of George Richmond, of Sadsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. She died March 28, 1862, aged 72 years. The Downingtown paper passed into the hands of George Crabbe and George Lauman who published it for a number of years. During the time that Mr. Mowry was in the printing business at Downingtown he printed a number of publications of which the writer has two or three examples, among them a book entitled "Fruits of Retirement," written by Ann Welch, a member of the Society of Friends, and which book was published in 1816, and from which publication I make the following extracts:

MEMORANDUM

To answer every week in the year 1781.

I.

The smiling year begins its circling round;
 If thou wilt grant my prayer, gracious Lord!
 Let me, like time, thus constantly be found,
 And to thy glorious present make my will accord

II.

All things in sober sadness do appear,
 Except in vain man, who always should be so;
 Who driveth in folly's wild career,
 Regardless of the coming day of woe.

III.

Our Maker, when he first did man create,
 He sober was, as we may well suppose;
 And our Redeemer, when he took man's state,
 He serious was, beneath a load of woes.

IV.

Tho' he was truth and innocence and never knew a crime
 Yet when he took our wretched state it sunk him low;
 He was never known to smile at any time,
 But tears they often from his eyes did flow.

V.

Grant me, O Lord! a sober state of mind,
 That I may waiting in thy truth appear;
 And so I may thy loving kindness find,
 For to preserve me from temptation clear.

VI.

Mankind was placed in this world to be,
 Their Maker's favorite, and him to glorify;
 But mark how different the event we see,—
 Most try for to exceed in sin and vanity.

VII.

How long, O Lord! will truth be banish'd from the land,
 And righteousness no more regarded be?
 How long will sinners thy pure laws withstand,
 And lose their souls by not regarding thee?

VIII.

How pure thy laws, to them that doth attend
 On thee who art the only sinner's friend.
 Thou wilt lead their souls unto thy crystal fountain,
 And when they are wash'd will set them on thy mountain.

IX.

Thou art the chiefest good, thy beauty doth excel
 For nothing lovely is compar'd to thee;
 Blessed are those that in thy bosom dwell,
 In full fruition of eternity.

X.

The fullness of thy springs doth still supply the poor,
 That cry to thee in time of great distress;
 And grace doth open to their souls a door,
 And sweetly calls their troubled minds to rest.

XI.

The plant of thy own hand doth set deep root in thee,
 In trouble and distress, thou art the only stay;
 And thou suppliest its tenderness, and sets't it wholly free,
 Thou art their only trust and hope from day to day.

XII.

How great thy glorious name, and worthy of all praise;—
 O, teach my soul thy mercies to adore;
 As I may sing the mercies of thy grace.—
 And follow on to know thee more and more.

XIII.

My life is sure with thee, whatever ills attend,
 Tho' death do seem to threaten very near:
 Thou art to me a faithful constant friend,
 And bears't my soul above the thoughts of fear.

XIV.

To thy all glorious will, let me resigned be,
 Whatever trials may on life attend;
 Thy power o'er all and that can set me free,
 And in all trouble thou wilt comfort lend.

XV.

Tho' dreadful rocks, and lofty mountains rise,
 To stop my progress to the promis'd land;

Thy grace, O Lord, will me alone suffice,
And in thy strength and power I must stand.

XVI.

O, give me faith, that I may look to thee,
And in thy word I shall true comfort find;
In true obedience do thou humble me,
Then shall I find that happy peace of mind.

XVII

Which far surpasseth all this world can give,
With all its fading pomp and vanity;
To be with thee, and in thy house to live,
Where all thy servants shall rewarded be.

XVIII.

With thy great love, which ever doth endure,
And as the master is, so shall they all be pure;
Which happiness thou doth for them provide,
Which doth exceed all other joys beside.

XIX.

This was that happy prince and prophet's choice,
When he requested favor at thy hand;
'Twas in thy house of glory to rejoice,
And in thy presence with acceptance stand;

XX.

Which thou hast purchas'd by our Saviour's death,
Thy only son, whom thou for man did give;
In him we live, from him receive our vital breath,
And by his death, salvation do receive.

XXI.

Well might they sing and raise their voices high,
For their great master he did condescend;
With his eternal Father's fiat to comply,
To raise mankind to be the angel's friend.

XXII.

To bring them unto paradise again,
Which Adam lost, by breaking thy command:
Tho' Eden's garden has been sought in vain,
The Angel there with flaming sword will stand,

XXIII.

To guard the entrance of that lovely place,
Where all the pleasures in this world did meet:
All flowers there did bud and bloom, but grace,
And that alone would make it most complete.

XXIV.

Four rivers from this source here gently rose,
Which winding round this garden took their way,
That to four countries wealth and trade bestow,
And separate sent their streams unto the sea.

XXV.

The first was pison, silver streams so fair,
 Which compasseth Havilah, wealthy land;
 Where other gold and precious diamonds do appear,
 And other nations do with wealth command.

XXVI.

The second beautiful Gihon nam'd,
 Which deep through Ethiopia took its way;
 In Afric's land, by the black people fam'd,
 Its commerce to those nations doth convey.

XXVII.

The fourth Uprates, lofty stream doth roll,
 Through many nations with his silver wave;
 Whose lovely murmurs calm the troubled soul,
 The greatest river that those countries have.

XXVIII.

The gentle streams which from those rivers flow'd,
 Which watered Eden's charming groves and bowers,
 Where our first mother happily bestow'd
 Her time while innocent in rearing flowers.

XXIX.

The beautiful rose, in tints original green, here,
 Unlike to those which our dull gardens wear;
 For they did bloom and blossom all the year,
 With twining jessamine and spotless lilies fair.

XXX.

All lovely plants in every country nam'd,
 Grew with perfection in those charming bowers;
 The Hesperides' gardens once so loudly fam'd,
 Could not compare with those delightful flowers.

XXXI.

Tall cedars there in comely order grew,
 Like those which afterward Lebanon did adorn:
 Likewise the trees of life and knowledge too,
 Whose tempting fruit caus'd poor mankind to mourn.

XXXII.

Is there no power this darkness to remove,—
 The long lost joys of Eden to restore?
 Or raise our views to happier seats above,
 Where fear, and pain, and death shall be no more?

XXXIII.

Yes, those there are, who know a Saviour's love,
 The long lost joys of Eden can restore;
 And raise their views to happier seats above,
 Where fear, and pain, and death shall be no more.

This is all that the authoress prints in her book. She evidently supposes that the thirty-three stanzas can be used for the fifty-two weeks in the year.

MEDITATIONS IN MEETING.

March 23d, 1806.

I was led to consider that text in Scripture where it is said, "The Lord is my preserver; the Lord is my defender and my guardian God," and I thought if he was my preserver, I need fear no evil; for he was the Almighty King, both in Heaven and earth. If he was my defender, I need fear no evil; for his power was over both Men and Devils; and none should be ever able to place me out of his hand. And if he was my Guardian God, what have I to fear? for the child's guardian preserves it from snares and temptations, if it is in his power. Now my guardian is all powerful. The child's guardian likewise secures its estate for it—so doth my gracious Saviour secure my estate for me, until I am of age to heir it—for it is safe with him in his Heavenly City," where moth nor rust cannot corrupt, or thieves brake through and steal." This was wrote the day that Jesse Haines was at Meeting

AN ELEGY

On the death of Patience Barton, who died the 14th of January, 1785.

Speak my sad muse in pensive numbers tell,
 And mournful notes; now take thy sad farewell,
 And grant the small tribute of a parting tear
 Unto the memory of thy friend so dear:
 Thy much lamented friend, who in great grief did go,
 And bitter pangs unto the shades below;
 And left her helpless babe, to mourn with tears,
 Her dreadful loss throughout its infant years:
 Her husband, too, with hopeless grief bewails,
 The deep distress which in his house prevails.
 My mournful friend, thy loss is great indeed;
 Too great I fear to be repair'd with speed:
 For thou hast lost thy kind and constant mate,
 And like the true dove, art left to mourn thy fate.
 The tender mother and thy loving wife,—
 Thy faithful friend, through all the ills of life;
 By death's cold hand is torn from thy embrace;
 How sudden and surprising was the case;—
 When, with the doctor, he return'd that night,—
 Alas, her eyes were closed, no more to see the light;
 And in remembrance to her much loved shade,
 We may suppose, he this sad lamentation made:
 Awake, my dear; O! take a view and see
 The deep distress of poor dejected me—
 See what I suffer by the loss of thee!
 And then farewell, thou bosom friend of mine;
 It grieves my heart, that I'm no longer thine.
 Let other men feel something of my woe,
 That they may tell just what I undergo.
 O! my dejected friend, thy grief is just;
 But to the Lord's decree resign we must,
 Those virtues that made her endear'd below,
 Did from the fountain of perfection flow.
 To that immense sea, those streams do all return,
 Whilst we their loss on earth are left to mourn.
 In deep distress her soul was called away,
 But now, perhaps she smiles in endless day.
 Then let this thought relieve thy heart from pain,
 That thy great loss, is her eternal gain.

IN MEMORY OF JANE HUNT, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE 6TH

MO. 18TH, 1807.

Alas, the fatal moment came,
That call'd my friend away;
I hope she has arrived at home,
And cross'd that narrow sea.

That narrow sea of death divides
This glorious land from ours;
O'er which the soul triumphant rides,
Exulting in her powers.

When Angel bands convey
The stranger to the bar,
To hear what the great judge will say,
And meet its sentence there.

The judge in robes array'd,
Of pure resplendent grace,
Will meet the fair, the bloodwash'd soul,
With smiles upon his face.

The body lifeless lies,
Within the silent tomb,
Until the Archangel rend the sky,
And shout the prisoner home.

When Gabriel's trump shall sound,
And bid the dead arise;
Awake ye nations, under ground,—
Ye saints ascend the skies.

Although she was cut off in bloom,
Ere life's mid-stage was run;
Yet dare we not presume,—
But her day's work was done.

For patient and resign'd she was
To her great Master's will;
Although by sickness long confin'd,
She never murmur'd still.

About her future state,
She thoughtful did appear;
And to her friends was very kind,
As now is proved clear.

No doubt she is at rest,
And has obtained the prize;
But with her husband and her friends,
We truly sympathize.

IN THE MEMORY OF THE REV. JOSHUA VAUGHAN.

Who departed this life, August 30th. 1808, in the 55th year of his age—
Alas, he is gone; his active spirits fled;
His body's laid in dust among the silent dead:
His journey, in his Master's cause is o'er,

And safe arrived on the Heavenly shore,
 No more opprest with sickness, loss of sight and grief,
 His Heavenly Master now does grant relief,
 Sure Jesus whom his faithful soul ador'd,
 Whose praise employ'd his tongue, whose mercy he implor'd,
 Did not forsake his servant in distress,
 But cloth'd his soul with his own righteousness,
 That spotless robe by sovereign mercy made,
 In which, when drest, he need not be afraid,
 To meet that Judge, who fills the middle throne,
 Who for his sins most freely did atone.
 His name he preached—his name he highly praised,
 And in his name he journey'd and baptiz'd,
 How many souls as seals, there doth remain,
 To shew he glorified in the Lamb once slain.
 Bold was he in his Master's quarrels, and,
 Very undaunted to his Lord's command,
 Nor fear'd the face of man; directing all,
 Right in the way that leads out of the fall;
 Open and free to every thirsty lamb,
 Unspotted, pure, in doctrine without blame,
 No doubt he is at rest, and has gain'd the prize;
 But with his widow and his friends, we truly sympathize
 Her darling son is gone, that was her chief delight;
 In grieving for his death, her husband lost his sight,
 Who will her comfort be, in life's declining stage?
 And who will her support, and cheer her drooping age?
 But God, the widow's friend, has promised faithfully,
 That to the widow in distress, he will each want supply
 This satisfied me; down I threw my quill
 Willing to be resign'd to God's pure will.

Thomas S. Ingram was one of the old residents of Downingtown, and to his daughter he gave much recollections, as are embodied in the following article, which was published some years ago in the columns of the "Downingtown Archive." I give it herewith in full, so as to convey to the reader a panorama of the village twenty years after the beginning of the last century:

DOWNINGTOWN IN 1820.

A crisp, cheery morning in October, the sun above the hill-side floods the little hamlet with brightness.

William Frame, the genial host at the John Downing Inn (now the John Fox Home), is all activity and thoughtfulness, incident upon the arrival of the U. S. mail coach.

Far down the Lancaster Pike, far as the eye can reach, it may be seen, with its double span of perfect horses and its proud jehu awakening the echoes of the valley with the ringing notes of the bugle horn, and his steeds well in hand, drawing near, every horse at his best as they take the clean stretch of level valley road, and with a proud flourish draw up at the inn.

Hostlers to their work, and in a twinkling, while mail is

changed and passengers refreshed, other spans are harnessed, and with their driver are speeding on their way through the village. On the north side, as they pass after leaving the inn, can be seen the store of Jesse Meredith, now the home of the Martin sisters; near by the Dr. Fairlamb home, now owned and occupied by John P. Edge, M. D. A side glance on the south side would show you (now the home of Mrs. George Brown) Captain Lowry's cigar establishment, and in close proximity to it an old log house, occupied by people of color.

Confining our glances to this south side, we would next see the house owned by Malachi Parke, and now known and recognized as the home of William Torbert.

Joshua Hoopes, at the Boarding School, is the nearest neighbor the Parke's have, and the fine stone building is at present the home of the Misses Thomas.

We must not fail to notice the Samuel Hoopes store, on the north side of the street and a little east of the Hoopes Boarding School. It is now the home of Mrs. Dennison and daughters, and is adjacent to a saddler shop and malt house. Adjoining that is the Samuel Downing's widow's property, now occupied by A. P. Tutton.

The Whelen home is next, and is now that of Edward Downing, while near by, and over whose fireside Mrs. M. A. Heins now presides, is the home of Richard Downing's widow.

The present modest home of the Downingtown Library is a store.

You can notice in passing the spacious home of William Downing, owned by Shelmire's, with its old, noisy, rumbling mill contiguous.

While there glance across the street you will see a brick house belonging to John F. Parke, occupied by Jacob Downing, now the site of "The Heilbron." Near it, where the Presbyterian Church stands, is an old log house, belonging to the Parke estate, and is next to what is known as the Half-Way House, kept and owned by Daniel and Joseph Fondersmith.

The home of Thomas Parke, now that of Austin Bicking, is almost opposite the inviting home of Richard Downing, grandfather of our present townspeople, Thomas Downing and Louisa Miller. It is occupied by Judson Armor at this writing and several families.

The business interests of the place are represented in an old cooper shop, standing where the carriage bazaar now is—a one-story stone building used for making flour barrels. Opposite the Swan Hotel (kept by Jesse Evans), at the corner of the Forge Road and Lancaster Pike, is the shoemaker shop of Hunter

Rettew. Richard Webster is in business on the same corner.

The horseshoeing business is controlled by Benjamin Fell, in the same blasksmith shop as is at present under the management of George Jones.

The old homestead of William W. Downing is a little to the north at this point, and is near to a palatial log house, used as a store, kept by the Valentine Sisters. John Weldin's undertaking establishment is located thereabouts. The home of Joseph Downing, grandfather of our present Burgess, is the next desirable location, and is yet seen and known as the home of Mrs. Louisa Miller.

After passing the Swan Hotel on the south side, we can stop at the store of Joseph Hunt, built in what we would term the corner at the Race.

To the south of it William Brown enjoyed harmless competition in the same line, in the same place as the Bicking stores now stand.

The very old stone house near by, with the Fulling mill and saw mill, bring us, with the mention of the old log house on the north, to the Brandywine Bridge, in an entire, careful and complete survey of the East Ward in 1820.

Cross the bridge, winding our way westward, we will see the home of the Misses Reese, then that of their grandmother. Next is the house built by Jesse Evans, now the Miller property. We can stop at the old stone house built by George Edge, now enlarged and modernized by Mrs. Thomas C. Hoopes; then, deviating slightly south, notice the double stone house on Viaduct avenue, now owned by John B. Criswell.

After that, west again, to the Thomas Edge home, now the abode of our townsman, William H. Wells. Its nearest neighbor on the south side of the street is an old log house, where, sheltered by an oak of "the forest primeval," it was the privilege of the writer to dwell, while on the north side, where the Samuel Black property is, the Sides' and Roberts' stores and the Masonic Hall, can be counted five houses, stone and frame, occupied by different families.

This village with its forty-two buildings was the Downingtown of 1820, not girded by iron bands on the south side, not in railroad communication with the north; no churches with their spires pointing in mute eloquence to Heaven.

No inviting hostelries with their broad verandas and well-shaded lawns, no mercantile establishments, with their free deliveries; no whistling, screaming steam mills, no iron foundries, no graded schools, no paved, electric-lighted streets; no tasteful cottage homes, no real estate offices, no building associations, no fire companies, no publishing houses, no Justices of the Peace,

no constables, no lawsuits, just a peaceful settlement of good, quiet Quakers, who attended Divine service in their Quaker meeting house home and heard Jesse Kersey expound the way to "deal justly, love mercy and walk humbly."

MARY SALKELD INGRAM.

1892.



Chapter 5

The Friends and Education—Joshua Hoopes—The Pennsylvania Lyceum—The School of the Misses Thomas—Jesse Kersey

Proud, in his history of Pennsylvania, published in 1797, says: "The Friends were so careful in the education of their children and youth that there were none of them brought up without a competency of useful and plain learning." Clarkson, though not a member of the Society of Friends, writing in 1806, speaks thus of Friends in America: "It may also be mentioned as a second trait that they possessed extraordinary knowledge. Every Quaker boy or girl who comes into the world must, however poor, if the Discipline of the Society be kept up, receive an education. All therefore who are born in the Society must be able to read and write. Thus the keys of knowledge are put into their hands. Hence we find them attaining a superior literal and historical knowledge of the Scriptures, superior knowledge of human nature, and a knowledge that sets them above many of the superstitions of those in their own rank in life. If, as a body, Friends have not been distinguished for their liberal learning, it can be truthfully said that it has scarcely ever been possible to find an illiterate member of their Society. Their general policy leading them to prefer an universally educated many to a highly-educated few."

By the time the common school system was agitated in Pennsylvania many Friends had established many schools, which schools were under the control of Meetings of Friends. They regarded it as onerous that they should be taxed to support the common school system, when they had already established a sufficient number of schools in their several communities. This was the cry of the conservative against the progressive. A few years ago the writer conversed with men, then living in Downingtown, who in their early life had opposed the building of railroads, because they alleged that the price of horses would go down so low that they would not be worth their keep, and that farming products would be so diminished in price that agriculture in the eastern counties of Pennsylvania would cease to be profitable.

These good Friends did not feel the pulsation or the vibration of progressive America. It is always difficult either to measure the past by the present or measure the present as developing in the same manner as the past.

Joshua Hoopes opened "Downingtown Boarding School for Boys" in 1817, and continued his school prosperously and successfully until 1834, when he removed to West Chester and established "Hoopes Boarding School for Boys," which he conducted until 1862. Joshua Hoopes was well known to the writer. He was an excellent teacher, and one of the most profound scientists of the day. He was more than six feet in stature and exceedingly active and energetic and thought nothing of taking his boys upon a tramp of thirty or forty miles in a single day. He was a life-long and consistent member of the Society of Friends, and at the time of his death in West Chester, sat "at the head of the Meeting." As I have heretofore stated, the Society of Friends generally were opposed to the beginning of a common school system in Pennsylvania. Of course, there were some notable exceptions in the organization, and in 1835 in Philadelphia, a Lyceum of Teachers was organized, of which Josiah Holbrook was a prominent member. On the 18th day of August, 1835, a number of teachers and friends of education met in the Court House at West Chester, at 10 o'clock, agreeable to public notice. Mr. John Beck was called to the chair and Mr. John Simmons appointed secretary.

The following named gentlemen appeared, and were enrolled as members of the convention: From the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science—Dr. William Darlington, Joshua Hoopes, Dr. Wilmer Worthington, John Rutter, Esq. Chester County Athenaeum—John Hall, William Darlington, Esq.; William P. Townsend. Delegates appointed by a meeting of citizens of West Chester—Francis James, William Williamson, Dr. John B. Brinton, Thomas S. Bell, Ziba Pyle, Dr. Isaac Thomas, Townsend Haines, Henry Fleming. Mechanicsburg Mutual Improvement Society—J. D. Rupp, G. Bobb. School Directors of East Caln—Joshua Hunt, Charles Downing. Bucks County Education Society, also, Newtown Lyceum—Lemuel H. Parsons, James Kelly, Wm. H. Johnson. York Association of Teachers—E. F. Bleck. York Lyceum—David B. Prince. West Bradford Boarding School—Cheyney Hannum. Young Gentlemen's Institution at Lititz, Lancaster County—John Beck. Montgomery County Cabinet of Science—Jonathan Roberts, Esq.; Maurice Richardson, Alan W. Corson. Philadelphia Lyceum of Teachers—Dr. J. M. Keagy; Rev. N. Dodge, Josiah Holbrook, J. H. Brown, Victor Value, John Simmons. East Bradford Boarding School—Joseph C. Strode, Robert Guy. Pennsylvania Association of

Monitorial Teachers—Dr. Wright, Thomas Eastman, J. M. Coleman, and twenty-one volunteer delegates.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

Tuesday afternoon.

The Convention met at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Holbrook, upon request, stated the general objects of the convention. He said there are in the United States about 60 colleges, not far from 500 academies, institutions owned and conducted by private individuals, number not known; about 50,000 common schools, many infant schools, and another class of voluntary or social institutions, viz., lyceums; of these there are about two or three thousand. These are connected with many of our academies and colleges, most of them have libraries, which are read with great eagerness, perhaps about 1000 times as much as the former libraries of colleges. Lyceums give the schools a character of greater efficiency, and make the children more tractable and diligent. A system of co-operation is produced; each pupil recognizes himself as possessing all the means of self-cultivation, and of producing a kindred action between mind and mind—each one exerts an influence upon and receives benefit from his neighbor. These institutions have a social character. Many of our institutions are anti-social; they build up a partition wall; students do not make their Greek and Latin lessons a subject of fireside conversation. But these are social institutions; in them are taken up matters of daily occurrence—the philosophy of things is spoken of without formality. Their operations and results are social—they will form the table talk of the youth. There is a National lyceum, 15 or 16 State lyceums, over 100 county lyceums, 3000 village lyceums, and a great number in academies and schools.

Mr. Neville said the fathers of the republic planted the tree of liberty; we are assembled here to plant the tree of knowledge. Association is our motto. "United we stand, divided we fall." This convention may be hailed with something of the same emotion that would attend the discovery of a reservoir of cool water in an African desert. Mr. N. read an able address on the advantage of an association of teachers, upon the orthodox principles of education; it would promote the independence of teachers, by leading to the adoption of settled rules of conduct, etc.

Judge Darlington requested to know whether the meeting had any other object than the formation of an association of teachers?

Mr. Holbrook replied, that one object of the meeting had in view is to bring the hands of teachers together, that they may strengthen each other; another object it, to induce parents and the friends of education to work with them; to strengthen their

hands and encourage their hearts. How is this object to be effected? It is proposed to have a State, or Eastern and Western Society, auxiliary to which there will be county, township, neighborhood and school societies. The object of this convention, then, is to organize an Eastern District or a State Lyceum.

The Committee of Arrangements reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient to form a State Lyceum, which shall be composed of teachers and the friends of education throughout the State, subject to the rules and regulations hereafter to be established.

Resolved, That the following gentlemen be a committee to form a Constitution for the proper government of said Lyceum, viz.: Dr. William Darlington, Josiah Holbrook, David Townsend, Esq.; Dr. J. M. Keagy and William H. Johnson.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend the formation of county lyceums throughout the State, as auxiliary to the State or parent society.

At the session on Wednesday afternoon, August 19, Dr. Darlington, from the committee appointed to prepare a Constitution for a State lyceum made report, which was accepted, considered by section, and adopted, as follows:

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the PENNSYLVANIA LYCEUM.

Article 1. This Association shall be called "The Pennsylvania Lyceum."

2. The objects of the Society shall be the advancement of education throughout the State, especially through the medium of Schools and Lyceums, and to co-operate with other Lyceums in the diffusion of useful knowledge.

3. The members of the Society shall consist of Delegates from the several County Lyceums and kindred institutions in the State, each of which shall have a right to send five delegates, but any member of a County Lyceum, or any kindred institution, may participate in the discussions and other exercises of the Society, without having the privilege of voting.

4. The officers of the Lyceum shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Recording and a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and nine Curators, to be appointed by ballot annually.

5. The Lyceum shall hold an annual meeting to receive reports from the several County and other auxiliary Lyceums, upon the objects of their association; to hear discussions, addresses and lectures; and to devise and adopt measures to introduce a uniform and improved system of Education throughout the State.

6. Special meetings may be called by the President, upon the request of ten or more members, or of a County Lyceum, stating the object of such call; of which notice shall be given in five or more newspapers in the State, or in such way as may be provided by the by-laws, at least six weeks before said meetings shall be held.

7. All apparatus, books and specimens belonging to the Lyceum shall

be under the care of the Curators; who shall be the Executive Committee and general agents of Society.

8. This Convention may be altered or amended, at any regular meeting, by a vote of two-thirds, provided the members present shall not be less than fifteen.

BY-LAWS.

Article 1. The time and place of meeting of the Lyceum shall be fixed at each previous meeting.

2. The rules and orders of the Lyceum shall be in accordance with parliamentary usages.

The appointed nominating committee reporting, the convention proceeded to ballot for officers. The following gentlemen were declared to be unanimously elected, viz.: President, Jonathan Roberts, Montgomery County; vice presidents, Dr. J. M. Keagy, Philadelphia; John Beck, Lancaster County; Jacob Weaver, Cumberland; John H. Gorden, Bucks; Jonathan Gause, Chester; Corresponding Secretary, John Simmons, Philadelphia; Recording Secretary, E. F. Bleck, York; treasurer, Rev. N. Dodge, Philadelphia; Curators, Victor Value, J. H. Brown and Thomas D. James, Philadelphia; Joshua Hoopes, Chester; Samuel Cross, Dauphin; J. D. Rupp, Cumberland; Lemuel H. Persons, Bucks; John F. Hay, Carlisle; N. R. Smith, Pittsburg.

The LYCEUM was immediately organized, and proceeded to business.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the cultivation of the generous, benevolent and other moral faculties of children ought to be considered the foundation work of education, both in schools and families.

Resolved, That the only effectual mode of cultivating moral faculties is by practical exercise of them in acts of kindness and generosity.

Resolved, That natural history, or the study of minerals, plants and animals, are peculiarly appropriate as an elementary study for children, and that it greatly accelerates their progress in spelling, reading, writing, geography, arithmetic and all other branches usually taught in schools.

Resolved, That cabinets of natural and artificial productions for the use of Lyceums and schools and families, collected by young people generally, are eminently calculated to promote useful knowledge, prevent vice and produce elevation of intellectual and moral character in individuals and nations, and that such cabinets may be easily obtained.

Resolved, That a general system of exchanges in specimens of nature and art by schools and Lyceums in all parts of the country would be well calculated for the diffusion of useful knowledge to strengthen the bonds of our National Union, and for the promotion of universal education.

Resolved, That practical geometry, embracing drawing and mensuration, is of the first importance as a fundamental branch of common practical education, and that it furnishes exercises peculiarly appropriate and agreeable to young children.

Resolved, That it is of fundamental importance to secure the influence and aid of females in the promotion of intelligence and sound morals, and that all ladies engaged or interested in teaching ought to be invited to become members of Lyceums that are or may be formed throughout the State.

Resolved, That the organization of County Lyceums ought to be selected as the first step to be taken towards accomplishing the purposes of the State society, and that township, neighborhood, school and family Lyceums are appropriate and important objects to be aimed at by said county societies.

Resolved, That it be a prominent and immediate object of the officers and members of the State Lyceum of Pennsylvania to encourage and aid the furnishing of schools and Lyceums in counties, townships, neighborhoods, schools and families with cabinets of natural and artificial productions.

Resolved, That the "Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science," and all similar county institutions which are now organized in the State, be requested to act as County Lyceums, and immediately to take such measures towards the formation of district cabinets as they may deem expedient.

Resolved, That ladies who are friendly to the cause of education be respectfully invited to attend the meetings of the Pennsylvania Lyceum, whenever or wherever held.

Resolved, That the Board of Officers of this Lyceum be instructed to procure or recommend at their discretion an agent or agents to act in behalf of the Society.

Resolved, That it would be highly gratifying to this Lyceum if Messrs. J. Holbrook and Rupp would consent to enter into an agreement with the Executive Committee to act as agents for the establishment of Lyceums and the promotion of popular education throughout the State during such time as shall by them be found practicable.

Resolved, That the Publication Committee of the Convention be also constituted a Publication Committee for the Lyceum.

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of the Lyceum be presented to Mr. Josiah Holbrook, of Boston, for his indefatigable and highly successful efforts in promoting the cause of education.

The Lyceum having concluded its business, adjourned to meet at York, on the second Tuesday in August, 1836.

It will be observed that two of the most distinguished citizens of Downingtown, viz., Charles Downing and Joshua Hunt, were members of this convention, and by their presence signified their interest in the purposes of the meeting. The community of Downingtown was always heedful of educational interests, notwithstanding some remarks that were made by a former County Superintendent of Chester County, who wound up his final report upon matters and things in the county with an allusion to the locality of our sketch. The difficulty always has been and exists to-day of New England blood and training understanding Pennsylvania manners and methods. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes speaks of our people being of neutral tint, and while we are admittedly surveyors of all sides of a question, we are not purveyors of a final judgment and an inflexible conclusion. The open mind is always superior to the judgment of the uninformed.

Issachar Price was born in Gallagherville, Chester County, March 7th, 1827. He died in West Bradford Township, August 29th, 1880. His father, who bore the same name, has been for years a storekeeper in Downingtown, and the son was fairly well



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educated, his chief instructor being Jonathan Gause, to whom Issachar dedicated a book of verses, entitled, "School Day Rhymes," published in 1856. Issachar had also contributed several excellent poems to the Chester County newspapers of his day. He attended school at Joshua Hoopes' School, in Downingtown, and he had an excellent solid English education of that time. He sang of the Brandywine thus :

NO. IV.

"Sweet stream, the music calls me forth
 In even's dewy time;
 I come to learn thy mellow psalms,
 Oh, singing Brandywine.

Thou bringest down the balm of flowers
 From meadows bright and green,
 Where flashing wings of joyous birds
 In sunny colors gleam.

Thou bringest on thy silver waves
 The murmur of the groves,
 Where summer birds sing thrillingly
 Their sweet celestial loves.

Thou barest on those dulcet airs
 And every pleasant voice,
 Till e'en this dull, cold heart of mine
 Leaps up at thy rejoice."

Issachar Price had a keen realization of the beauties of "Solitude," a well-known resort just south of Downingtown, along the banks of the Brandywine, and in the first poem in his little book, he thus addresses Dr. J. Stuart Leech :

Come, come, my friend, to yon sequestered grove,
 Where many a bird doth sing its summer love,
 And lie outstretched within the shadows cool,
 And learn a wholesome task from Nature's hallowed school.

The page is open under every tree,
 Broad as the heavens unobscured and free;
 And while the breath of summer floats along,
 Our souls expanding there may learn somewhat of song.

How dear the pleasure of a quiet hour,
 Beside some stream where blooms the woodland flower—
 Unseen by men and unannoyed, alone,
 A devotee at Nature's ever silent throne!

Come to that grove along the Brandywine;
 Come, while the Summer glories in her prime;
 While every breeze is laden down with tune
 From the soft voices, born of happy May and June.

And thus Issachar Price sang of the "Chester" Valley in Winter":

I climb the hills in winter;
 My path is in the snow;
 I see the Chester alley
 Lie broad and white below;
 Ah, what a change! it sleeps no more
 In Summer's golden glow.

The cosy farm house glistens;
 Its walls are white as snow;
 And puffing locomotives
 Are steaming to and fro;
 The steed of commerce heeds no storms
 Nor feels the Summer's glow.

The young usurpers triumph
 Along the snowy vale;
 The lonely turnpike murmurs
 Upon the wintry gale,
 It sorrows for its vanished wains—
 It seems I hear the wail.

How swiftly time is passing
 With courtesies uncouth!
 That age and death are coming
 It is a fact in sooth;
 But thou, oh vale, art always young—
 Thou hast eternal youth!

Oh, charming Chester Valley,
 I love thee all the while,
 Thy beauties ever woo me,
 My lonely hours beguile;
 I love thee in thy robes of snow
 Or when thy lilies smile.

It appears that there was a dancing class in Downingtown, and all the young ladies and gentlemen in society were its members, and our poet Issachar Price printed and published a letter of comment and advice to its members. It was received at the time with considerable interest, and all Downingtown laughed at its cleverness. In 1821 Robert S. Coffin, better known by the appellation of "The Boston Bard," visited Downingtown, and was charmed with the scenery along the Brandywine, and the hospitality of the people of the village. Of course, he had to write a poem on the Brandywine, which inspiring stream has awakened the gift of expression in every poet of America who has ever seen it.

Zebulon Thomas' daughter opened a boarding school for girls in Downingtown, in the summer of 1837, and Miss Priscilla

Thomas, one of the ladies engaged in promoting the enterprise, furnishes the following references to it:

"Mary B. Thomas and Sisters' Boarding School for Girls was opened in Downingtown in the summer of 1837 and continued till 1877. The number of boarding scholars was limited at twenty; the day class was never a large one, but in those forty years many pupils from the neighborhood attended the school.

The course of study included, beside the usual branches of an English education instruction in Drawing, and in the Latin and French Languages, and in Music. German was taught by a native of Germany. As years went by efforts were continuously made to keep the course of study abreast with the ever-rising educational demands, but, while the daily routine was exact, it was always kept in mind that the aim should not be credit marks but the cultivation of a real interest in intellectual pursuits. To forward this end a taste for what is best in our literature was carefully fostered.

In those days our town presented a pleasant usual aspect and the beauties of the surrounding country became well known to teachers and pupils in frequent excursions which gave to all healthful exercise while the students of Botan gathered material for their herbals.

It must be remembered that those were the days of home-schools, when battledore and the game of graces were prized as outdoor exercises, and even in the later years of the institution croquet was in vogue.

Colleges for women were but beginning, offering high privileges to those intellectually ambitious, such privileges as can be given by none but richly endowed institutions."

Jesse Kersey, born in York, Pennsylvania, came to Downingtown early in the 19th century, and distinguished himself as a speaker among the Society of Friends, and in 1828 delivered twelve (12) lectures before the Downingtown Society for the acquisition and promotion of natural knowledge, which lectures were printed and distributed throughout the community. At that time Thomsonianism had somewhat impressed the community, and there was a number of simple remedies embraced within an appendix to these lectures. In 1834 the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad was opened for public travel through Downingtown, and on April 15th, 1835, Norristown and the Valley Railroad was incorporated. They constructed a railroad from some point on the Philadelphia and Columbia road, east of Brandywine Creek, to a point on the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Road. This enterprise was never completed, but in 1850 the Chester Valley Railroad was incorporated, reviving a former charter, and completed the road twenty-two (22) miles

in length from Downingtown to Bridgeport, Montgomery County. In 1854, the East Brandywine and Waynesburg road was incorporated for the construction of a railroad from Downingtown to Waynesburg, now Honeybrook. This road was completed and opened to public travel, and has been in operation ever since that time. Downingtown continued its usual course of development.

People began to discuss the location of the Horse Shoe Road. Folks argued about the beginnings of roads and bridges in Downingtown. The Ringwalt family had come in from New Holland, in Lancaster County. Doctor Wills, Dr. Leech gave zest and spice to the literary ambition of the community. Downingtown was tired of being shackled to East Caln and a movement began for the incorporation of the village into a borough. Every newspaper in Downingtown had ceased to exist. Every printing office had passed out of business. The population within the district proposed to become a borough was about seven hundred (700) in number.

The literary society organized in the early forties had flourished, blossomed and in a few years had ceased to exist. The Hunts, Edges, the Downings, Hoopes and many others, including Dr. Leech, Thomas S. Ingram, Dr. Wills, Henry Eicholtz, Richard Wells, had been its active members and its firm supporters.

As I look back across the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, there is no town in Pennsylvania having more charming retrospect than that of Downingtown. Space does not permit me to discuss the olden time much further. As Charles Dickens observed, "The interesting writer must always leave something for the imagination." John Quincy Adams remarks, "Posterity delights in details." Thomas Carlyle observed, "After a century of struggling humanity, discussion of cause and effects brings on ethical hysteria." I now pass to the last half-century of Downingtown.

Chapter 6

Incorporation of the Borough—The Petition—The Action of the Court—Downingtown and the Civil War.

In January, 1859, the following petition was presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester County, and the papers following the petition describe the action taken thereon.

The petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Village of Downingtown and the territory adjoining thereto as hereinafter described. Being a majority of the Freeholders residing therein, in the County of Chester and State of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully ask of your Honorable Court, that the said village of Downingtown and the territory adjoining thereto, all in the township of East Caln, included within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning in the middle of the Downingtown, Ephrata and Harrisburg turnpike in a line of lands of Joseph Baugh and Allen W. Wills, Esq., thence through lands of Joseph Baugh north fifty-three degrees and fifteen minutes east, to a line of lands of Samuel Ringwalt, seventy-four perches and eight-tenths; thence the same course, through lands of the said Samuel Ringwalt, eighteen perches and five-tenths to a walnut tree; thence north eighty degrees and thirty minutes east through land of the said Samuel Ringwalt to a lime stone, a corner of lands of Samuel Ringwalt, Joseph Baugh, Charles Downing and the heirs of William Downing, deceased, fifty-two perches and six tenths; thence along the line of lands of the heirs of William Downing, deceased, and Charles Downing north eighty-eight degrees and thirty minutes east, sixty-four perches and four-tenths to a lime stone; thence the same course through lands of the said heirs of William Downing, deceased, thirteen perches and one-tenth to a corner of lands of James Humphrey and the said heirs of William Downing, deceased, in the Brandywine Creek; thence the same course along the line of lands of the said heirs of William Downing, deceased, and James Humphrey, twenty-six perches to a corner in a line of lands of Samuel J. Downing; thence the same course, through lands of Samuel J. Downing, forty-two perches to a line of lands of Theresa M. Downing; thence the same course through lands of the said Theresa M. Downing, crossing the Lion Road, one hundred and seventy-eight perches to a line of lands of Hannah Downing; thence the same course through land of Hannah Downing seventeen perches to a stake (making in the aggregate three hundred and forty and five-tenths); thence through land of the said Hannah Downing south two degrees and thirty minutes east, thirteen perches and thirty-six hundredths to a lime stone on the north side of the Philadelphia and Lancaster turnpike road, and in a line of lands of Samuel Ringwalt and Lydia Palmatier; thence the same course, along the line of Samuel Ringwalt and Lydia Palmatier thirty-five perches and nine-

tenths of a perch to a corner of Benjamin Martin's land; thence the same course along the line of the said Samuel Ringwalt and Benjamin Martin land forty-seven and a half perches to a marble stone, a corner of David Shelmire's land; thence the same course along the line of David Shelmire and Benjamin Martin land sixty-two perches to—a corner of land of John Fisler, deceased; thence the same course along the line of the said John Fisler, deceased, and Benjamin land, thirty-two and a half perches to a corner of land of Joshua B. Sharpless; thence the same course along the line of land of said John Fisler, deceased, and Joshua Sharpless, thirteen and three-quarters of a perch, a corner of land of the aforesaid Joshua B. Sharpless; thence the same course along the line of lands of David Shelmire and Joshua B. Sharpless, twenty-nine perches and eight-tenths to the middle of the Pennsylvania Railroad and a corner of land of William B. Evans; thence the same course along the line of lands of the said William P. Evans and Joshua B. Sharpless eleven perches to the north side of the Boot road; thence along the north side thereof south eighty-eight degrees and thirty minutes west, one hundred and eighteen perches to a stake; thence south two degrees east, three perches to a stake on the south side of the said Boot road, thence along the south side thereof south eighty-eight degrees and thirty minutes west, one hundred and twenty perches to the middle of another public road, leading from Downingtown to West Chester; thence through land of Henry Hoopes south fifty degrees west one hundred and sixty-six perches to a stump in the West Bradford Township line and a corner of the said Henry Hoopes and James Harbison's land; thence along the said West Bradford Township line, south seventy-five degrees west, one hundred and eleven perches to a stone, a corner of lands of Dr. John P. Edge and William B. Hoopes; thence along the line of lands of the said Dr. John P. Edge and William B. Hoopes north two degrees and thirty minutes west, forty-one perches and two-tenths to a post, a corner of Stephen Blatchford's land; thence the same course along the line of land of the said William B. Hoopes and Stephen Blatchford, forty perches and eight-tenths to a point near two hickory trees; thence the same course through land of the said William B. Hoopes one hundred and six perches and three tenths to a line of lands of the said William B. Hoopes and the aforesaid Allen W. Wills, Esq.; thence the same course through land of the said Allen W. Wills, Esq., one hundred and twenty-four and a half perches to the place of beginning. Containing about seven hundred and sixty acres of land, "Run to the magnet bearing, variation of the compass, four degrees and thirty minutes west" a plot or draft, whereof is hereto annexed, shall be erected into and incorporated as a borough to be called the Borough of Downingtown in accordance with the Acts of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in such case made and provided.

Downingtown, January the twenty-seventh, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

Petitioners names

Samuel Ringwalt
 James Lockart
 Lebuton Thomas
 Elizabeth Gray
 Charles Leigler
 Ann Walker
 Israel Thomas
 Jacob Sharpless
 Mary D. Sharpless, per order.
 John Webster
 Richard Webb

Isaac Webster
 Daniel Kelly
 Oliver Hawks
 Mary B. Thomas
 John P. Edge
 Wm. Edge
 Mary Ayars
 William Rogers
 Alfred Goodwin Compton
 Allen W. Wills
 Edwin W. Hoster
 Joshua Walton

Robert B. Moore
 Webster F. Hilton
 Webster F. Hilton
 Prest. Board
 Brandywine Lodge
 I. O. of O. F.
 I. P. Baugh
 James Humphrey
 his
 Patrick X Daily
 mark
 Adam Fullerton.
 Richard D. Webb
 Isaac Webster
 Daniel Kelly
 his
 Oliver X Hawks
 mark
 Wm. P. Walkinshaw
 Sarah M. Souders
 Elizabeth Corble

Samuel Black
 Henry Euhotts
 Stephen Blatchford
 Francis I. Hull
 David Shelmire
 James Harboon
 John McGraw
 Jonathan C. Baldwin
 Sarah Cornoy
 Jos. M. Downing
 John Baldwin
 Andrew Cox
 Sarah A. Walton
 James Bennett Chymoweth
 Theodore B. Rambo
 Silas D. Yerkes
 Evans Thornbury
 Joseph Baugh
 M. I. Baugh
 S. E. Shelmire
 Chas. Downing.

To the Honorable Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester County:

We, the undersigned, being a majority of the Grand Jury of Chester County for the January Term, A. D. 1859, respectfully certify to your Honorable Court that after a full investigation of the case contained in the within—application for the Incorporation of the Village of Downingtown into a Borough, we find that the conditions prescribed by the Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in such case made and provided have been complied with, and that we believe that it is expedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners:

M. B. Hickman
 Wm. Davis
 J. M. Beale
 Abel Reese
 Stephen Snare
 Josiah Hoopes
 Alexander Stephens
 David Shields
 Isaiah Knauer
 Isaac M. Anderson
 Isaac Meredith

John B. Temple
 Wm. Patterson
 Moses M. Binder
 Washington Yearsley
 Taylor Pierce
 Jesse A. Strickland
 Abner Davis, Jr
 Joshua Hallowell
 Joseph Kimes
 William Hurton.

DECREE INCORPORATING THE BOROUGH OF DOWNINGTOWN,

May 12th, 1859, filed

In the Court of Quarter Sessions
 of Chester County.

In the matter of the application for the Incorporation of the Borough of Downingtown. Whereas, the petition of divers inhabitants of the Village of Downingtown having been presented in due form to said Court at January Sessions, 1859, praying that the said Village and the Territory particularly described in said Petition and the plot or draft thereof thereto annexed should be erected into and Incorporated as a Borough by the name, style and title of "The Borough of Downingtown"; And the said application or Petition having been regularly laid before the Grand Jury of said County when in Session of the said January Term of said Court, that the said Grand Jury after a full investigation of the case having found that the conditions prescribed by the various Acts of the Gen-

eral Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating to Boroughs have been complied with, and that they, the said Grand Jury, believed that it was expedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners. And the said Grand Jury having certified the same to the Court according to law, which certificate was duly entered of Record.

And now, to wit: May 12th, 1859. The judgment of the Grand Jury aforesaid is approved by the said Court, and it is ordered and decreed that the said petition and this decree be Recorded in the Recorder's Office of Chester County.

And from thenceforth the said Village and Territory adjoining thereto, the boundaries thereof to be the same as described and set forth in the said petition and plot of draft thereof thereunto annexed, shall be deemed an Incorporated Borough by the name, style and title of "The Borough of Downingtown," and shall be entitled to the several rights, privileges and immunities conferred by the various Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating to Boroughs: And that the said Borough be a separate and independent Election District, the Election to be held at the Public House known as Swan Tavern, now occupied by Joseph P. Tucker, in said Borough, and also a separate and independent School District.

The time for holding the annual Borough Election of said Borough shall be the last Tuesday preceding the third Friday in March in each and every year (except the year 1859) between the hours of eight o'clock A. M. and six o'clock P. M. of said days. The said Elections to be held at the Public House aforesaid, now occupied by Joseph P. Tucker, in said Borough, until otherwise ordered by the Court: The first Election to be held on Saturday, the twenty-eighth day of May, A. D. 1859, between the hours of eight o'clock A. M. and six o'clock P. M. of said day: And Samuel Ringwalt is appointed to give public notice thereof by six or more printed or written advertisements affixed at as many of the most public places in said Borough at least ten days preceding said Election: and Morgan L. Reese is appointed Judge and John S. Mullin and James Lockart Inspectors to hold the said first Election.

After the Court had taken into its consideration the application for the incorporation, and had made its decree, the proceedings had therein were recorded in Recorder's Office of Chester County, and as duly set forth, constituted the Charter of the Borough of Downingtown, and said Charter is herewith printed:

CHARTER & Exemplification of Record. The Court &c., to The Borough of Downingtown. CHESTER COUNTY, ss:	At a Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at West Chester, in and for said County the 12th day of May A. D. 1859, before the Honorable Townsend Haines President and William Wollerton and Robert Parke, esquires associates, Judges of said Court.
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In the matter of the incorporation of the Borough of Downingtown whereas on the Fourth day of February, A. D. 1859, at a Sessions of the said Court the petition of Sundry inhabitants of the Village of Downingtown in the Township of East Caln in the said County of Chester, was presented Setting forth that they desire that the said village of Downingtown and the Territory adjoining thereto, all in the township of East Caln included within the following boundaries to wit:

[Then follows the boundaries as already given in the petition.]

CONTAINING about seven hundred and sixty acres of land run to magnet bearing variation of the Compass four degrees and thirty minutes west of a plot or draft of which was thereto annexed and praying the Court that the same should be erected into and Incorporated into a Borough to be

called The Borough of Downingtown in accordance with the acts of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in such case made and provided—: CERTIFICATE OF GRAND INQUEST, To the Honorable, the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester County, we the undersigned being a majority of the Grand Jury of Chester County for the January Term A. D. 1859. Respectfully Certify to your Honorable Court that after a full investigation of the Case Contained in the within application for the Incorporation of the Village of Downingtown into a Borough, we find that the Conditions prescribed by the acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in such Case made and provided have been Complied with and that we believe it is Expedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners.

Marshall B. Hickman
 William Davis
 J. M. Beale
 Abel Reese
 Stephen G. Snare
 Josiah Hoopes
 Alexander Stephens
 David Shields
 Isaiah Knauer
 Isaac M. Anderson
 Isaac Meredith

John B. Temple
 Wm. Patterson
 Moses M. Binder
 Washington Yearsley
 Taylor Pjerce
 Jesse A. Strickland
 Abner Davis, Jr.
 Joshua Hallowell
 Josiah Kime
 William Huston

Filed February 4th, 1859.

In the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester County. April Term A. D. 1859. Whereas the petition of Divers inhabitants of the Village of Downingtown having been presented in due form to the said Court at January Sessions 1859, praying that the said Village and the Territory particularly described in said petition and the plot or draft thereof annexed should be Erected into and Incorporated as a Borough in the name of Style and title of The Borough of Downingtown, and the said application or petition having been regularly laid before the Grand Jury of said County when in Session at the said January Term of said Court and the said Grand Jury after a full investigation of the lease having found that the conditions prescribed by the various acts of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating to Boroughs had been complied with and that the said Grand Jury believed that it was Expedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners, and the said Grand Jury having Certified the same to the Court according to law. which certificate was duly entered of Record and now to wit, May 12, 1859. The judgment of the Grand Jury as aforesaid is approved by the said Court and it is ordered and decreed that the said petition and thjs decree be recorded in the Recorder's Office of Chester County and from thence forth the said Village and Territory adjoining thereto the boundaries thereof to be the same as described and set forth in the said petition and plot of draft thereto annexed shall be deemed an Incorporated Borough of the name Style and title of The Borough of Downingtown, and shall be entitled to the several rights, privileges and immunities Confirmed by the Various acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating to boroughs and that the said Borough be a separate and independent Election District the Elections in said Borough to be held at the public house known as Swan Tavern now occupied by Joseph P. Tucker and also a separate and Independent School District. The time for holding the annual Borough Elections for said Borough shall be the last Tuesday preceding the third Friday in March in each and every year Except the year 1859 Between the hours of 8 O'clock A. M. and 6 O'clock P. M. of said days the said Elections to be held at the public house aforesaid now occupied by Joseph P. Tucker in

said Borough until otherwise ordered by said Court. The first Election to be held on Saturday the 28th day of May A. D. 1859 between the hours of 8 O'clock A. M. and 6 O'clock P. M. of said day, and Samuel Ringwalt is appointed to give public notice thereof by six or more printed or written advertisements affixed at as many of the most public places in said Borough at least ten days preceding said Election and Morgan L. Reese is appointed Judge and John S. Mullin and James Lochart Inspectors to hold the said First Election.

BY THE COURT.

From the Record.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Court this
twentieth day of May A. D., 1859.

(Signed) Addis M. Ayers.

(Clerk)

Recorded June 29, 1858.

(Signed) E. H. Taylor, Clerk.

Downingtown took on a new era of prosperity after her incorporation.

In 1860 her population was	761
In 1870 it was	1,077
In 1880 it was	1,480
In 1890 it was	1,920
In 1900 it was	2,133

In the early thirties, starting at the Hunt mansion, then occupied by Joshua Hunt, and coming on to the Lancaster Pike, the first property on the north side was occupied by John Canada; the next two by Isaac Hawley; the next was the property of Morgan L. Reese, and on the south side were two dwelling properties of Thomas Edge; then coming further to the eastward, properties of George Edge, John L. Ingram. On the south side of the road, Joseph Hunt and Morgan L. Reese. On the north side, some distance from the highway, was the farm house of Charles Downing, and the home of Samuel Miller, Esq., and on the south side, after crossing the bridge over the Brandywine, were the properties of William W. Downing and Joseph Hunt, and on the north side properties of Benjamin Fell, Joseph R. Downing, William W. Downing, and on the south side the property of Thomas Pattin, Thomas A. Parke, Jonathan Diller, and on the north side W. Wright, T. Springer, Richard Downing, W. Downing's mill, and on the south side Samuel Fondersmith, John F. Parke. On the north side William Downing (miller), S. Bellerjean, Elizabeth Downing, Mary Whelen on the south side. The Academy building on the north side an old brewery, property of Samuel Hoopes, the Masonic Hall house, formerly occupied by Dr. Fairlamb, and on the south side, formerly the property of William Lent, a coppersmith, and Malachi Parke. This description of property owners along the Lancaster Pike is taken from an old draft in the possession of Mrs. Ella C. Rob-

erts, now living in Downingtown, and who is a daughter of William Downing, deceased. I give it at this period of the narrative, so as to contrast the new times with the old times.

After the borough had been incorporated and the Chief Burgess had been elected, and the Councilmen had taken their places of service, public improvements were at once begun. Previous to that time the Road Supervisors of East Caln had allowed all kinds of sidewalks, all sorts of street gutters and every variety of crossing which the property owners chose to have. Although the assessed valuation of the property in the borough limits of Downingtown was equal to all the rest of the township of East Caln, yet such had been the neglect of those in official stations that the improvement brought about by incorporation was immediately manifest. Street gutters were established, sidewalks were improved, gutters were made passable and possible, and at numerous points along the main street facilities for crossing in muddy weather were established. The questions of light and of a borough water supply as well as ordinances for the government and regulation of property and property owners were considered. Downingtown had a new era of development, but in the midst of all these hopeful visions for the future, war clouds appeared upon the horizon, and civil war between the States of the Union approached. The life of the nation was menaced. The people recognized the impending fact that the election of Abraham Lincoln meant a rebellion by the South. This critical period in our country's history largely obliterated party lines in Downingtown. Many of those who had acted with the Democratic party declined to act any further. Many of those whose Friendly environment had instilled into their minds the doctrines of peace, felt and declared that the country was worth fighting for and that the Federal Union should be preserved, even if force had to be used for its preservation. The afternoon in April, 1861, when the news was flashed all over the North that Fort Sumter had been fired on, and that war was imminent, roused the spirit of the entire North. There was a war meeting called at once at Downingtown, and Col. Samuel Ringwalt was at the head of the movement. He had been an active and a staunch supporter of John Hickman, and had followed his course in Congress with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm, and when the sound of war's alarm reverberated throughout Downingtown, no man was more loyal and more determined than Samuel Ringwalt. At that time the population was about nine hundred (900) persons, and during the ensuing four years of bloody conflict, many persons entered the service of their country, and while some of them never returned, having yielded up their lives upon the battle field or in the hospital, yet quite a number survived the shock of battle and

the perils of the service to return to their families and their friends. Among the soldiers who figured in this crisis, and who sought to perpetuate the memory of the living and dead, no man was more active, and more outspoken than Liberty Browne. The writer well remembers him, having associated with him for a number of years, and while he was an excellent soldier in time of war, he was a most distinguished citizen in the days of peace, It was a patriotic family. Five sons served in the army, together with the father.

The Eicholtz family was, like the Ringwalts, from Lancaster County, and was distinguished for its patriotism. Henry Eicholtz, the father, was for many years landlord of the hotel, which was the dining resort of travelers upon the Pennsylvania Railroad. Both his sons served in the war of the rebellion. The father, Henry Eicholtz, was a gentleman of more than ordinary literary attainments. He was a great reader and a keen observer of passing events.

The following is a list of the soldiers of Downingtown in the Civil War:

A.	Carberry, John L.
Ahn, Benjamin F.	D.
Ahn, Edwin T.	Dallar, William
B.	Dugan, Michael
Bailey, George F.	Dowlin, Thomas
Bailey, Reese M.	Dallar, Charles
Bennett, James	Dailey, John
Burnett, James	E.
Burnett, Josiah	Eicholtz, James
Blatchford, Thomas	Eicholtz, George M.
Bailey, Thomas V.	F.
Blatchford, Stephen	Ferrell, John
Bedloe, John	Foreman, George
Burnett, Cyrus	Ford, Peter
Browne, Francis A.	Frame, Issac
Bondfield, George	Ford, John B.
Browne, George W.	Ford, John
Breinar, Frederick	Ford, Lewis J.
Boner, Barnard	Fondersmith, George
Browne, Ellett	G.
Browne, Liberty	Garrett, Eber
C.	Gordon, James R.
Conway, Thomas	H.
Cox, David M.	Hall, Joseph
Caruthers, David P.	Hoffecker, Henry
Crisman, John	Harvey, William

Hickman, John
 Hoopes, Henry L.
 Hickman, Daniel
 Holtsgrove, Henry
 J.
 Jones, Temple
 K.
 Keech, James
 L.
 Laird, David
 Lewis, Joel
 Lewis, Thomas
 M.
 Mullen, John
 Maxton, George
 Mercer, Reuben M.
 Mercer, Evan
 Mealy, James
 MacCullough, Thomas
 Monaghan, Hamilton
 Mercer, Richard
 Mercer, Townsend
 McClintock, James
 Mathews, George T.
 Mercer, William
 McCafferty, Enos
 Moylin, Richard
 O.
 O'Neil, James
 P.
 Price, Issachar
 Packingham, Samuel H.
 Price, George W.
 Peace, Alfred
 R.
 Roberts, John
 Rambo, Nathan
 Rambo, Abram
 Roberts, G.
 Ringwalt, J. E. P
 S.
 Springer, William I.
 Smith, William H.
 Starr, Samuel
 Shelmire, Jacob
 String, Benjamin
 Skeen, Benjamin F.
 Smith, Cooper
 Skeen, Robert, Jr.
 Smith, Columbus
 Smith, Vaughn
 T.
 Thompson, George
 W.
 Webster, William I.
 Wills, F. F.
 Webster, Alfred
 Wilkinson, William
 Wills, J. Hunter
 Webster, William E
 Y.
 Yeager, Arthur B.



Chapter 7

Downingtown Churches—Dwight Farms—Northwood Cemetery.

The following brief histories of the religious organizations in Downingtown are given in their historical order as to age. They have been prepared largely by pastors and others who were specially interested and who had ready access to the records necessary for accuracy of detail. These histories are given as fully as was warranted in a volume which is the record of a community and not the history of any particular organization.

The Friends. To the Friends belong the honor of having first preached the Gospel in this part of Chester County. Their Society in Downingtown was organized in 1807; but almost a hundred years before they met for divine worship in Uwchlan and Caln townships, only a few miles distant from this place. With respect to the origin of Uwchlan meeting we find the following statement in a "History of Delaware County," by George Smith, M. D., p. 220: "At a monthly meeting held (at Chester) the 28th of April, 1712, the representatives of Goshen Meeting 'moved the request of several Friends that live at a place called Youchland to have a meeting at the house of John Cadwalader.' This meeting was allowed to be held every first and fifth days, except when a meeting is kept at James Thomas', they meeting once in six weeks with the Great Valley Friends at James Thomas'." The Uwchlan stone meeting house, now standing at Lionville, was built in 1756. It was preceded by a log house, built perhaps as early as 1715, the foundations of which can now be traced. On the 16th of January, 1716, John Winchester sold a tract of land to Thomas Fell, with the following reservation: "Excepting a piece of ground on the side of the King's Road, which the said Cadwalader allotted for a burying place, and to set a meeting house for the use of the people called Quakers." The ground thus reserved is that on which the Uwchlan meeting house now stands. The land was bought by John Cadwalader the year before he sold it to Thomas Fell. He allotted a portion to the Friends some time between

June and January, and it is likely they built upon it during that period.

Concerning Caln, Dr. Smith says, p. 226: "A preparative meeting was called in Caln in 1716 by Concord Monthly Meeting." P. 238: "It is probable the first meeting house at Caln was erected in 1727 (Dr. Michener says it was built about 1716), as that meeting had selected ground for said purpose upon the further side of the valley upon the mountain, and had secured the consent of Concord Monthly Meeting to proceed." The first meeting house at Caln was built on an acre of land bought of John Mend phall. The acre, with the exception of the bury-



ing ground, was subsequently sold to William Pim with the consent of Bradford Monthly Meeting, held at Caln August 19, 1743. A more convenient location was selected. On the 18th of January, 1759, Richard Pike conveyed four acres of land in Caln township to Robert Miller and Thomas Parke in trust "for the benefit of the people called Quakers," on which ground the present Caln meeting house was built soon after.

As to Downingtown, we found that in 1784 a meeting was allowed to be held on First-day afternoon during the summer at the school house near the corner of Lancaster and Uwchlan avenues, and this privilege was repeated by Uwchlan Monthly

Meeting, 1785-89. In 1795 and 1798 similar meetings were held, and in 1800 an earnest effort was made to establish a permanent meeting, but this was met with opposition. Its advocates persisted in their efforts and obtained an indulgence of holding meetings from time to time until 1806.

On the 22d day of 7th month (July), 1806, the following contract was made for the erection of a Friends' meeting house in East Caln, near Downingtown:

ARTICLE of agreement made and concluded upon, by and between John Roberts, Samuel Downing, Jonathan Parke, John R. Thomas and Sam'el Baldwin, who stand legally appointed and authoris'd Trustees for the Building Friends' Meeting-house in the vicinity of Downing's-Town of one part, and Peter Sheneholts, Mason of the Township of East Caln and County of Chester of the other part, Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Four Shillings and three pence per perch the s'd Peter Sheneholts agrees to find his tenders and boards himself and his hands in order to Build a Meeting-house of the following Dimentions, that is to say the House shall be Forty feet by Thirty-five from out to out and all the pillars and Walls the sd. Trustees shall deem or Judge necessary in or about sd. Building, the whole of the measurement shall be brought into what's Call'd Masons perch of Wall, and in no instance to edge stones less than four inches thick, or otherwise remove them by the Direction of one or more of sd. Trustees, and completely joint and finish the whole of his part of sd. work in a Masterly workmanlike manner, he the sd. Mason nor his hands shall not willingly nor designingly Retard or hinder the Carpenter in his work, but shall pay all customary or necessary attention to the leveling and plumbing all the timbers of sd. Building, Himself and his hands shall assist in raising sd. timbers, unless their own part of the work should necessarily call them at times of raising—the whole of said Mason work (except pointing which is subject to the direction of sd. Trustees) shall be completed within six weeks after said Trustees have made all necessary preparation for sd. Mason and notify'd him thereof, and further he shall set and raise All the scaffold poles find withs and raise the scaffolds for sd. Building—The Trustees to wit John Roberts, Samuel Downing, Jonathan Parke, John R. Thomas and Sam'el Baldwin, do agree on their part to deliver at sd. Building 'at all times during the carrying on of sd. Work a sufficiency of suitable Building Stones, Lime, Sand, Water, Scaffold, Poles, Range-poles, and putlocks, as also suitable materials for gang-ways and a sufficiency of good scaffold Boards—sd. Trustees further agree that when the Scler Joice are laid to furnish sd. Peter Sheneholts with Forty Dollars in part Toward Defraying the expense of sd. Mason work and other Forty Dollars when sd. Building is carried to the square, and the Remaining Part of the money shall be paid when the whole of the Mason work is completed agreeably to contract—All unforeseen accidents and Casualties on both sides to be considered—for the true performance of each and every of the above or foregoing Covenants, the sd. parties bind themselves to each other in the penalty of one Hundred Dollars as witness our hands and seals this Twenty-second day of the Seventh Month Anno. Domini one thousand Eight Hundred and six—1806—

Sealed and delivered
in presence of
T. DOWNING

.....
WM. MITCHENER.

JOHN ROBERTS	(Seal)
SAM'EL R. DOWNING	(Seal)
JONATHAN PARKE	(Seal)
JOHN R. THOMAS	(Seal)
SAM'EL BALDWIN	(Seal)
PETER SHARNHOLTZ	(Seal)

The first recorded minute we have is a request made to Uwchlan Monthly Meeting of Friends, held the 10th day of 1st month (January), 1811, by "Friends of the Downingtown Meeting for the establishing of a preparative meeting there, which, after being solidly deliberated on, is united with, which is proposed to be held on the 4th day (Wednesday) preceding the first second day in each month and known by the name of Downingtown Preparative Meeting; provided, the Quarterly Meeting approve said proposition, which is directed to be stated in our report thereto."

At Caln Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held the 4th day of 2d month, 1811, "Uwchlan Monthly Meeting report that Friends who compose Downingtown Meeting propose for consideration the establishing of a preparative meeting there to be held on the 4th day of the week next preceding the first 2d day in each month, and to be known by the name of Downingtown Preparative Meeting, which, claiming the consideration of this meeting, is united with, and the time for the opening of this meeting to take place on the 4th day preceding the first 2d day in the 4th month next."

At the next monthly meeting, held at Uwchlan on the 7th day of 3d month, 1811, James Cockburn, John Martin, William Trimble, Isaac Jacobs and Joseph Hawley were appointed to attend the opening of Downingtown Preparative Meeting, which was first opened and held at Downingtown on the 27th day of 3d month, 1811.

Meetings have been regularly held there since, some of the most solid and substantial families in Downingtown and Chester Valley being members. One of the most widely known and eloquent resident ministers of the Society of Friends was Jesse Kersey, a potter by trade, who lived near this meeting house.

Uwchlan Monthly Meeting continues to be held at Downingtown, also two of the four Quarterly Meetings of Caln.

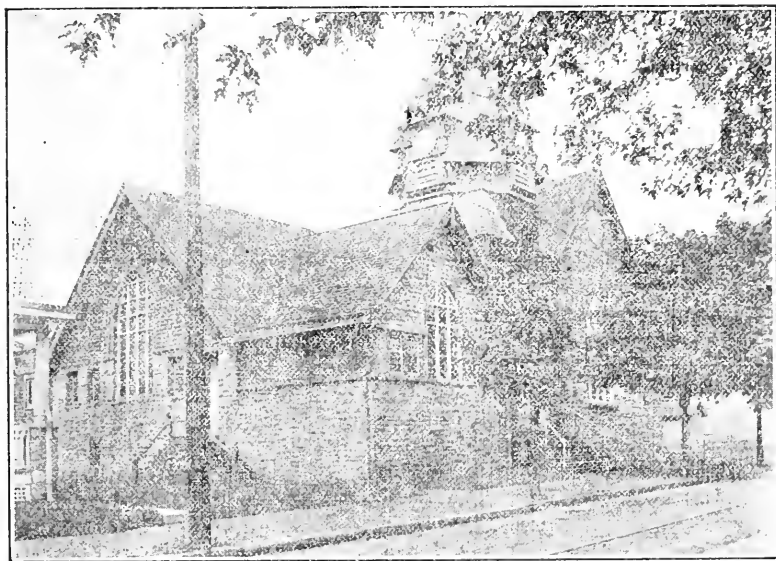
There are now 48 members, our venerable and much-beloved Elder Elhanan Zook being the head of the meeting.

The Methodist Episcopal Church. In looking back over the history of the Methodist Church in Downingtown we find the first authentic introduction of Methodism to be in the year 1824, at which date Henry Boehm and John Woolston, two preachers assigned to the old Chester Circuit, held public serv-

ices at the house of William Wiggins, who was converted and joined the Church during that year. Meetings were also held in private houses and in the wheelwright shop below the toll gate.

Laborers for the Master increased in numbers, and, as the house of Elijah Davis (at which place services were then being held) was found not sufficiently large to hold the numerous converts, application was made on May 5, 1832, for the use of the public school house; this being refused, the meetings were held in the wheelwright shop of Brother Alexander Gary.

On June 30, 1833, a plot of ground was purchased from Thomas Webster, on Lancaster avenue, opposite where the



church—now a school house—stands. Two hundred and fifty dollars was the price paid. On this lot was built a plain church building, 32 x 40 feet, at a cost of six hundred and forty-eight dollars, Richard Webster being the builder.

The property was deeded to Stephen Ayers, Isaac Pauling, Benjamin McDaniels, William F. w, William Wiggins, William Lent and Jacob Zook, who constituted the first Board of Trustees.

On November 17, 1833, the church building was finished and dedicated, its membership numbering twenty-five. James B. Ayers preached the dedicatory sermon.

In the year 1860 the building and lot was sold and a plot

of ground on the opposite or south side of Lancaster avenue was purchased, upon which a much larger and more imposing edifice was erected. The basement of the church building was completed and dedicated the same year, the audience room not being finished until the following year. John Shields was the preacher in charge.

Downingtown had been, up to this date, connected with a circuit and so continued until the year 1867, at which time it became a station, the first appointment to the station being the Rev. D. W. Gordon.

Under the spiritual teachings of the eminent men appointed by the Bishops of the respective Conferences the wonderful growth of Methodism was such that it was found necessary to seek other and more convenient quarters, and at a meeting held at the house of Brother J. T. Pollock, April 9, 1888, the pastor, Thomas Kelly, stated, "That at the recent session of the Quarterly Conference the subject of procuring ground better and more centrally located, suitable for the erection of a new church building, was discussed, with the suggestion that preliminary steps be taken in the matter, resulting in the appointing of a committee comprising Brothers J. R. Gordon, J. T. Pollock and S. A. Bicking, who were also empowered by resolution to offer the present church property for sale.

On April 16 the committee reported they found the only available lot for church building was located on Brandywine avenue, opposite J. T. Pollock's house. The committee was instructed to purchase said lot. At a meeting of the Trustees, held July 30, 1888, the said committee was further instructed to again confer with Mr. Royer, the owner of said lot. The committee, in reply, stated that Mr. Royer demanded an immediate answer, as other parties were negotiating for the lot. Drawings of dimensions of said lot were presented, also draft of lot in rear owned by T. B. Carpenter, which said T. B. Carpenter offered to church for one hundred dollars. On motion it was moved and seconded that the Board purchase the Royer and Carpenter lots, which was carried. At a meeting of the male members of the church, held August 13, 1888, it was unanimously agreed that authority be given the Trustees to purchase said properties.

At a meeting of the Trustees, held September 10, 1888, the Building Committee reported that the deeds for the Royer and Carpenter lots were in their possession, and money paid for same.

At a meeting of the Trustees, held November 19, 1888, the Committee on Sale was instructed to sell the church property on Lancaster avenue to School Board for the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars, it being the price offered by the School

Board for the same, which sale was ratified at a meeting held by the male members of the church on December 13, 1888.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held February 11, 1889, the committee appointed to look after a place of worship until such times as the new church building then in contemplation shall have been built reported having rented Bicking Hall for the term of one year, commencing February 1, 1889.

At a meeting of the Trustees, held February 15, 1889, it was decided that the new church building to be erected shall be of stone.

The first meeting of the church after its removal to Bicking Hall was held March 11, 1889.

At a meeting of the Trustees, held April 1, 1889, it was, upon motion, recommended that the purchase of an additional plot of ground adjoining the lot now owned by the church be made, with and by the sanction of the male members of the church, which, at a meeting held by said male members, April 15, 1889, was so sanctioned.

On June 4, 1889, plans for the erection of a new church building were submitted by T. Roney Williamson, architect. On July 27, 1889, bids for the erection of the building were received, and on July 31, 1889, the contract for its erection was awarded to G. T. Guthrie.

On September 7, 1889, the cornerstone of the church building was laid with appropriate ceremonies, and on May 25, 1890, the building was dedicated to the service of Almighty God, the dedicatory services being conducted by Bishop Cyrus D. Foss.

In the year 1905 a plot of ground belonging to J. T. Pollock, which adjoined to the south of the church building, was purchased and a parsonage erected thereon, G. T. Guthrie being the builder.

The present membership of the church is as follows:

Pastor, Rev. John W. Tindall.

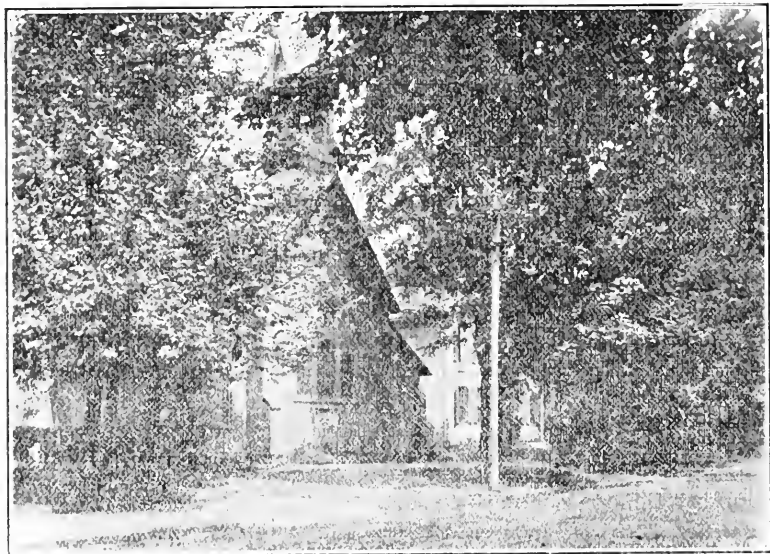
Communicant Members	330
Sunday School Scholars	360
Theo. M. Griffith, Superintendent.	
Epworth League	60
C. M. Keim, President.	
Ushers' Association	40
John Bareford, President.	
Ladies' Aid Society	50
Mrs. Matilda Kurtz, President.	

The officers of the church are:

Trustees—John T. Pollock, S. P. Bicking, Parke Smedley, James R. Gordon, G. T. Guthrie, A. E. Keim, T. M. Griffith, S. D. White, Howard E. Laird.

Stewards—M. C. Holl, H. A. Dennis, E. P. Dolby, E. H. Hunt, J. W. Cummings, W. W. Gurtizen, James Epeheimer, W. A. Byler, William M. Barrett, W. W. Moore, John Happersett, Charles Rambo, John Carr.

St. James' Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The ancient Episcopal Church, planted in Britain in Apostolic days, and coming down through the ages as a sister to the Roman and Greek communions, came to America with the settlers of Jamestown in 1607. Here for a long period her advancement was slow, although scores of beautiful old colonial churches bear witness to the efforts of many of the leading men of those days to provide for the stately worship for which the Church had always been noted.



While many landmarks of the pre-revolutionary period exist around us on every side, as old St. David's, Radnor; St. Peter's, Great Valley; St. John's, Pequea, and others, yet the services of the Church were not begun in our immediate locality until very late. The ancestors of many of our staunchest members were Friends, and that fact in part accounts for the cordial and intimate relations sustained between the older families of the two bodies to-day.

The first services of the Church in Downingtown were conducted in the early fall of 1842 by the Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, then rector of Holy Trinity Church, West Chester. The parish was duly organized by the election of Wardens and Vestrymen at the close of a service on November 20 in that year. The following gentlemen constituted the first Vestry: Messrs. John D. Steele, John F. Parke, J. B. Moorehead, Gideon Taylor, Charles Pusey, Allen W. Willis, John McKinley, J. Dutton Steele, Joshua Hunt, John Hunter, of West Chester; Dr. Andrew Wills and Dr. J. Stuart Leech.

The services were held for some time in the house of Dr. Andrew Wills, afterward owned and occupied by Dr. John P. Edge, and later in Masonic Hall, the building now used as a rectory.

The parish was named St. James', after the Philadelphia parish of that name, which generously contributed for several years to the support of the new work.

The Rev. William Augustus White, of Boston, was elected the first rector, and entered upon his duties Advent Sunday, 1842, the services being held in Masonic Hall. This venerable man long lived to enjoy the memories of a faithful rectorate in this community.

It was while Mr. White was rector that the church was built. The cornerstone was laid June 20, 1843, the following clergymen being present: Rev. Messrs. Rees, Clemson, Kirke and White. The building was consecrated October 26, 1843, by the Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, D. D., then Bishop of Pennsylvania. There were present on that occasion the Rev. Drs. Clay and Freeman, and the Rev. Messrs. Morton, Buchanan, Prescott, Clemson, Colton, Rees, Hirst, Ridgely, Kirke and the rector.

It was while Mr. White was rector also that the first Episcopal Sunday School was started in the large stone residence of Benjamin Hyatt on the hill where the Improvement Building now stands.

Mr. White was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Hazellhurst, who entered upon his duties in October, 1845.

The third rector was the Rev. H. Hastings Weld, who served the parish from 1847 to 1854. Mr. Weld was an able and faithful man. Like many another clergyman, from Apostolic days to the present, he was a sturdy laborer with his hands as well as with his brain, and there are those in the community to-day who worked by his side in the harvest field. He also possessed a facile pen, and, besides editing a monthly magazine, called "The Mentor," he frequently contributed to the current literature of the day. His close relations with George W. Childs, as a contributor to the Public Ledger, are commemorated in the

substantial altar cross which was given to the church in memory of Mr. Weld.

Upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the parish, the Rev. William Augustus White read a poem, in which the following reference is made to the pioneers of those early times:

"One pastor here all hearts in union held—
 The faithful priest, the gentle teacher, Weld;
 Long years by him the precious seed was sown,
 Till plants were seen, like 'goodly cedars' grown,
 The living tokens of his earnest toil,
 The fruits of faith where grace had blest the soil;
 And others, too, the living and the dead,
 Who at God's Table broke the Sacred Bread,
 As in a pleasant picture now we see
 Beneath the wondrous hand of Memory."

It was while Mr. Weld was in charge of the parish that the rectory was acquired. In the year 1820 a Masonic lodge had been formed in the village, and under its ownership the house now used as a rectory was built. For a number of years it was occupied as a residence by the Rev. George Kirke, a missionary in this country, who did faithful work in ministering to the inmates of the alms house and the jail, and rendered other services wherever opportunity opened. He died in September, 1868, and was buried in the graveyard at the rear of the church. The building was at one time sold to the Roman Catholics by Joshua Hunt, but was in their possession only a short time.

In the year 1851 the property was bought by the church, and alterations made at a cost of about \$1600.

The Rev. William Porter Ray served the parish in 1856 and 1857, and was succeeded by the Rev. P. B. Morrison, who also served for one year. The Rev. John B. Henry was rector during the five years from 1858 to 1863.

During the rectorship of the Rev. Benjamin A. Rogers, 1863 to 1866, the church was enlarged and a chancel window placed back of the altar, the gift of the Rev. John C. Bolton, whose artistic skill is to be seen in the beautiful buildings of Holy Trinity Church, West Chester.

The late Rev. Jesse Y. Burk, D. D., became rector in June, 1866, and for nearly four years administered the affairs of the parish with a wisdom which gave promise of the great and honorable career which followed in his after years.

During the rectorate of Dr. Burk the twenty-fifth anniversary of the parish was celebrated, on Monday, October 26, 1868. The following clergymen were present: Rev. Dr. Buchanan (the brother of the President) and the Rev. Messrs. Bolton, Durborow, Lycett, Tortat, Field, Hazerhurst, Weld, White and

the rector. Letters were read from the Rev. P. B. Morrison and the Rev Benjamin F. Rogers.

The Rev. William White Montgomery was minister-in-charge from April, 1870, to April, 1871.

On July 1, 1871, began the rectorship of the Rev. Robert F. Innes, and for ten years he labored with a devotion and success unsurpassed in the history of the parish.

During these years there was built a parish house, made possible largely through the generosity of Miss Susan Gorgas, of West Chester. The rectory was also altered and improved by a frame addition at the rear, at the cost of about eleven hundred dollars.

In 1874, a borough ordinance having been passed forbidding the burying of the dead within the borough limits, it was deemed advisable to secure a tract of land in Northwood Cemetery, and a lot was purchased and set aside, being marked by stone slabs bearing the name, St. James'.

The Rev. W. G. Ware became rector in 1880. During his pastorate further improvements were made in the rectory, and a pipe organ installed in the church.

The Rev. H. Allen Griffith became rector January 1, 1885. It was under his oversight that the church was beautifully decorated in oils by a prominent New York firm and improvements made in the chancel, at an expenditure of about twelve hundred dollars.

The Rev. John C. Fair became rector in 1892. Many faithful communicants date their interest in the church to the days when Mr. Fair served the parish. After the retirement of Mr. Fair several clergymen officiated as occasion demanded, among whom were the Rev. Benjamin R. Phelps, the late Rev. James J. Creigh and the Rev. Norman Van Pelt Levis.

In 1898 the Rev. Charles H. McLane came from New England to St. James' Parish. He had an attractive personality and a well-trained mind, and universal sympathy was expressed both within and without the church at the time of his early death.

He was succeeded in 1904 by the Rev. Joseph H. Earp, the present rector.

The roll of the laity during these sixty-five years includes the names of many who have been a part of the very best life of the community. The church has been, through her communicants and adherents, influential for good in many departments of our social, industrial and political life. Her relations with other religious bodies have always been cordial. Her services have preserved the form of a reverent and scriptural worship through the changing years.

Pre-eminently St. James' Church has been a home-church.

That is, her congregations have been largely composed of certain groups of families more or less closely related; and the affections of the members of these families remain true to the old church. This fact accounts for the many and varied memorials with which the House of God has been so richly furnished. The windows of the church are all memorials of those who have been staunch and true friends of the parish and in many cases very active workers. Among the memorials given during the present rectorship—to go no further back, although to do so would make an interesting story—there have been placed in the church a costly brass eagle lectern, a beautiful processional cross, a silver box for the bread of the Holy Communion, a new silver chalice, and new books for the lectern, altar and prayer-desks. For a number of years Mr. Abner C. Baldwin considered it his Lenten privilege to interest some of the parishioners and others in some gift to be presented at Easter, and in this way a large number of beautiful and exceedingly useful furnishings were provided. It should also be noted that many specimens of exquisite ecclesiastical needlework have been made by ladies of the parish or otherwise provided for use in the services.

During the past year the church has been redecorated under the direction of a committee appointed by the Vestry, consisting of Messrs. William J. Sterrett, J. Hunter Wills, Richard I. D. Ashbridge and John Gilbert McIlvaine. The chancel and aisle were handsomely carpeted by the ladies of the St. James' Guild. Lately a very pleasing improvement was made in the refurnishing of pew cushions, hassocks and carpets, and in the upholstering of all the chancel furniture, the result being a beautiful harmony in the church interior.

Plans are now being drawn up for an enlarged parish house, and it is hoped ere long to see excellent facilities provided for the work of the societies and guilds.

Especial mention should be made of the faithful and capable work of the Primary Department of the Sunday School, which has been under the direction of Miss Jane E. Ringwalt, to whose enterprise has been due also, to a considerable extent, the very creditable activities of the Woman's Auxiliary and the Girls' Missionary Society.

Among the many advanced steps taken within the last few years has been the formation, in 1905, of a vested choir. The services of this faithful group of singers—though entirely voluntary—have given unceasing delight to the congregation. About 30 men and women, and girls and boys have given their time and musical talent to the church, and in doing so have contributed not a little, it is believed, to the elevation of the musical standard of the community.

The church has for some years been greatly indebted to Miss Mary D. Wells, whose fidelity in the position of organist has been a service of constant and loving devotion. On the rare occasions of her absence from town the skilful touch of Miss Mary Edge has produced those strains which render music the very handmaid of worship.

The corporate title of the church is "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of St. James' Church, Downingtown."

The church was admitted into the convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1844, and since that year has been served by many able men in the capacity of Wardens and Vestrymen. The gentlemen at present filling those offices are as follows:

Rector's Church Warden, Joseph Huggins, D. D. S.; Accounting Church Warden, Abiah Parke Ringwalt, who was recently elected for the twenty-first successive term to that office; Secretary, Joseph S. Ashbridge; Nathan Wilson, Howard E. Simmons and Andrew G. C. Breese.

We have not attempted in any degree to record the long list of names worthy of special mention in connection with the varied activities of the parish. Such a list would require much space and would perhaps be fittingly placed in a more private history to be circulated among those whose relations are especially close to St. James'.

No record could, however, justly omit mention of the long and faithful work of our old friend, Daniel Sullivan, who for thirty-five years served as sexton. When he was found dead, lying upon the ground, broom in hand, it became a privilege especially prized by the rector and congregation to arrange a special memorial service in honor of this aged servant of the church.

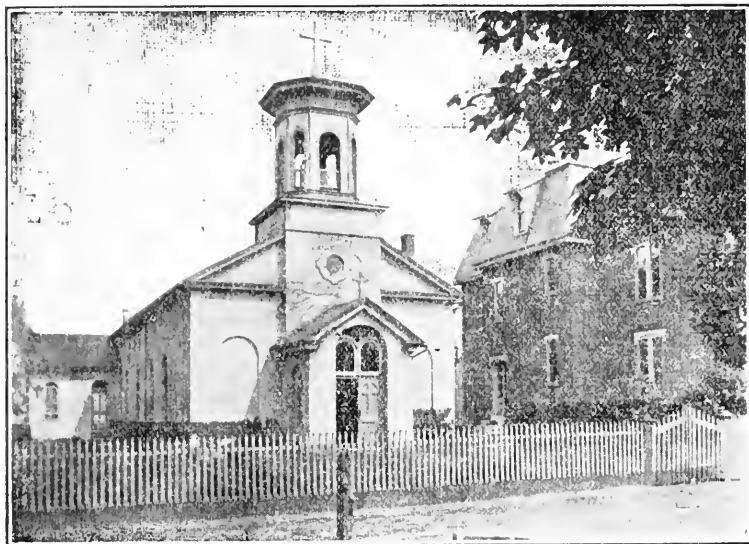
And it is a source of pleasure and pride to the congregation of St. James' Church that Almighty God has given us the long and faithful life of Mrs. Hannah E. Baldwin, who was confirmed in 1839, and is to-day a regular and devout recipient of the Holy Communion. The occasions of the rector's visits, taking to her room that blessed Sacrament, are among the most interesting and spiritually profitable experiences of his pastorate in St. James' Parish.

St. Joseph's R. C. Church. For several years prior to 1851 the Catholics of Downingtown and vicinity were obliged to attend Mass on Sunday and Holydays in the Catholic Church at West Chester.

The late Father John Prendergast was ordained in June, 1851, and was immediately appointed rector of the Catholic Church at West Chester, then called Christ's Church, where he

labored zealously and faithfully until the day of his death. At that time Downingtown, Doe Run and Parkesburg, in Chester County, and Drumore, in Lancaster County, were missions attached to West Chester and were attended by Father Prendergast alternately. St. Agnes' Church, West Chester, at that time was not what it is to-day, a flourishing and prosperous parish. The congregation was small, the missions poor, the church a small affair and the services few and far between. One of the missions was about forty miles distant from West Chester.

The first mass said in the immediate neighborhood of Downingtown, as near as can be ascertained, was said in the old warehouse at Gallagherville, which has since been torn down. Father



Fox, the celebrant of the mass, who was on a visit to Philadelphia from the Southern States, came out to Gallagherville to administer the Sacraments to a sick person. The mode of travel in those days was such that Father Fox was obliged to remain over night and return to the city the next morning. This was about the year 1844.

The first mass celebrated within the present limits of the borough was said in the south side of the double stone house situated at the corner of Bradford and Viaduct avenues, now owned by Mrs. Mary E. Hoopes. This house was at that time occupied by the late Michael McFadden, and the few Catholics

of the neighborhood assembled there once a month to hear mass. This custom continued until Mr. McFadden built the hotel which stood on the site of the present passenger station of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The third floor of this building was used for that purpose until the church was built.

Soon after Father Prendergast's appointment to West Chester he commenced the erection of a church in Downingtown, the cornerstone of which was laid in September, 1851, and dedicated in June of the following year. In 1855 Parkesburg, Doe Run and Drumore were detached from West Chester and made a separate parish; Downingtown, still remaining a mission, was attended from West Chester.

In the summer of 1869 St. Joseph's Church was enlarged and remodeled and was rededicated in November of the same year.

The church under its present rector, the Reverend James O'Reilly, has since been very much improved both in its interior and exterior appearance; it has now a beautiful sanctuary, new altars, handsome frescoes, costly statuary and many other needed improvements which make it very attractive to its numerous worshippers. The sweet-toned bell in the tower was presented by Mr. Michael Murphy, of Milford Mills. Mr. Murphy and his family have been generous contributors to the church. The beautiful side altars were donated by Mrs. M. Murphy.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross which adorn the interior walls of the church were donated by various members of the congregation.

The missions now attached to St. Joseph's are St. Mary's, at Lancaster pike and Ship road, and St. Thomas' Church, at Reilly's Banks. These churches are now attended from Downingtown every Sunday and Holyday.

The following are the names of the rectors who have had charge of St. Joseph's Parish since its formation:

Rev. John Prendergast, Rev. Nicholas A. Bowden, Rev. James F. Maginn, Rev. Thomas Toner, Rev. John J. McAnany, Rev. James O'Reilly.

Father O'Reilly, the present rector, was appointed July 25, 1894.

The following priests have at various times assisted and officiated in St. Joseph's Church:

Rev. J. Bridgeman, Rev. J. P. Moroney, Rev. J. J. Mooney, Rev. J. Fetigan, O. S. A.; Rev. M. T. Lawler, Rev. M. M. O'Farrell, Rev. M. McEvoy, O. S. A.; Rev. E. J. Vandergrift, Rev. John Loughran, Rev. Peter Ryan, Rev. W. A. Carr, O. S. A.; Rev. M. J. Crane, Rev. R. F. Harris, O. S. A.; Rev. James B. Leonard, O. S. A.; Rev. Joseph A. Kelly, Rev. J. P. Leahy, Rev.

D. I. McGettigan, Rev. John E. Bradley, Rev. Joseph L. Wolfe, Rev. N. J. Vasey, O. S. A.; Rev. Joseph F. Nagle, Rev. Joseph L. O'Conner, Rev. Henry S. Hasson, Rev. Francis Ward, Rev. Joseph Campbell, Rev. R. P. Tobin, Rev. James A. McHugh, Rev. Thomas M. Carey, Rev. M. J. Gorman, Rev. Francis X. Wastl, Rev. M. M. Doyle, Rev. William Grace, Rev. Thomas F. Tobin, Rev. William V. McLoughlin, Rev. P. F. Fleming, Rev. D. A. Corbett, Rev. Joseph M. McShain, Rev. James J. Dean, O. S. A.; Rev. J. J. Bowles, O. S. A.; Rev. John Donovan, Rev. J. A. Burgess, Rev. John Martin, the present assistant.

In 1872 ground was purchased in West Bradford township for a new cemetery, to which nearly all the bodies interred in the old cemetery near the church have since been removed. In 1882 the present rectory was built and the old parochial residence, which stood on the south side of the lot, was torn down.

In 1896 Father O'Reilly improved the new cemetery; he had the ground resurveyed and laid out new drives and avenues, along which shade trees were planted. A new iron fence was also erected, the gift of the late Henry Marron. These improvements were much needed, and the cemetery is now considered a very pretty place.

On November 3, 1897, the bodies of Fathers Bowden and Toner were removed from the old cemetery adjoining the church and now rest in the new cemetery. After Solemn High Mass for the repose of their souls, the remains of the two priests were conveyed to their new resting place, there to await the final call to judgment. Many priests and a great crowd of people attended the solemn services of reinterment.

Since the formation of St. Joseph's Parish, 1937 persons have been baptized and 237 marriages performed in the church. The population of the parish and missions is about 1200 souls. The people of the parish are fairly prosperous and are thoroughly united; the clergy and people have always worked together in harmony, and in this way have done much good, and God has blessed their work.

Almost all of the first members of this parish have been called to their eternal reward; they were a grand and noble race, faithful to their faith and its teachings.

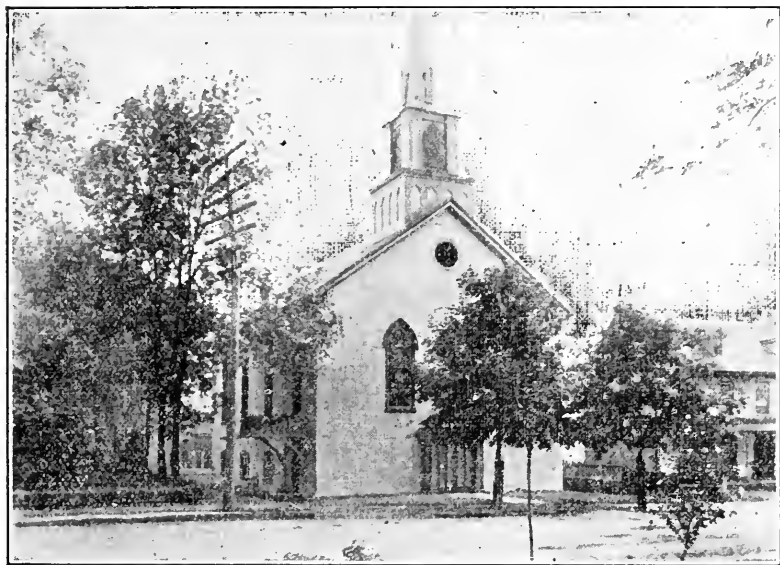
Mention may be here made of a few of the pioneer members of St. Joseph's: John McGraw and wife, Michael McFadden and wife, Francis O'Neill and wife, Dennis Lyons and wife, John Shields and wife, Lawrence Foy and wife, Michael Sheehy and wife, Patrick McPike and wife, Timothy Denny and wife, William Ryan and wife, Miss Fannie McFadden and Miss Rachael Hyatt.

The only persons now living who were members of the con-

gregation at the time the parish was formed are Mrs. John McGraw, Mrs. Francis O'Neill, Dennis Lyons, Miss Fannie McFadden and Miss Rachael Hyatt.

Many and various events occur during a half century of time.

Central Presbyterian Church. The beginnings of Presbyterianism in Downingtown reveal the fact that at one time there was a division of the Presbyterian Church into two rival bodies, known as the Old School and the New School Churches. This breach occurred in 1831, owing to certain differences as to doctrine and the administration of benevolences, and was happily healed by the Reunion in 1869. The New School Presbyterians were the first to labor in Downingtown. In 1843 the Rev. D. H.



Emerson, then pastor of the East Whiteland Church (Frazer), on the invitation of Thomas Hutchinson, a ruling elder in his church and a merchant of Downingtown, owning and occupying the store and dwelling now known as the McCaughey property, began occasional preaching in Downingtown. There were services in Mr. Emerson's yard in summer and also at the public school house, then located on the corner of Stuart and Pennsylvania avenues. How long these services continued is not known.

In 1885-6 the Rev William E. Moore, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, West Chester, preached here once a month in favorable weather. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. S. Drysdale in 1856-9, and under him the First Presbyterian Church of Downingtown was organized, June 9, 1859. In the spring of 1860 the church bought a lot of Thomas Ingram, on Lancaster avenue, and there built a church. A few years later, owing to a spirit of dissension, the congregation was dissolved and their house of worship was sold. For many years it was known as Central Hall, and is now restored to its original use as the church of the Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church of Downingtown. The two most active spirits in this early Presbyterian Church were Gustav Heins and John Baugh.

The Central Presbyterian Church had its origin in a prayer meeting held at the house of Mrs. Ann Walker, on Lancaster avenue, in the fall of 1858, and afterwards in other houses. It was at first a union prayer meeting, but later became a gathering of Old School Presbyterians. At a meeting of the Presbytery of New Castle, held at Head of Christiana, October 2, 1860, Mr. Yerkes made a plea for preaching services, and supplies were granted gratuitously for six months. "Mullin's Hall," on the site of the store of Mr. I. J. Dietz, on Lancaster avenue, was rented and services held there regularly. At the meeting of the Presbytery of New Castle, April 10, 1861, a petition was presented, signed by thirty residents of Downingtown and vicinity, asking that a committee be appointed to visit and, if the way should be clear, organize a church in Downingtown. The request was granted, and the Rev. Messrs. Latta, J. N. C. Greer and Morrison, and Elder William Wilson were appointed. As the result of their visit the Central Presbyterian Church was duly organized July 24, 1861, Messrs. David Shelmire, Silas D. Yerkes and Augustus J. Dowlin being ordained and installed ruling elders, and John F. Vanleer, previously ordained, installed.

The fifteen charter members of the church were the following: David Shelmire, Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Shelmire, Mrs. Margaret Colten, Silas D. Yerkes and Rachel S. Yerkes, received from the Presbyterian Church of Coatesville, Pa.; John L. Withrow, from the Presbyterian Church of Penningtonville (Atglen), Pa.; Miss Sarah Ann Walker, from St. James' Episcopal Church, Downingtown; John F. Vanleer, Mrs. Jane C. Vanleer and Joseph W. Vanleer, from Middletown Presbyterian Church (Elwyn), Pa., and Augustus J. Dowlin, from the Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church. Those received on examination were Alexander McClintock, Mrs. Eliza McClintock, William Thompson and Mrs. Ann Eliza Davis. The last survivor of the original membership in the communion of the church was Mrs. Shelmire,

who died January 15, 1907. Of those who removed from Downingtown, the Rev. John Lindsay Withrow, D. D., is still living a retired minister in Boston, Mass.

The credit of laying the foundations of the church belongs to Mr. John L. Withrow, a Coatesville boy and student in the Princeton Theological Seminary, who preached in Downingtown four months, beginning about May 1, 1861, and during whose period of service the church was organized. When he returned to his studies he recommended Mr. Matthew Newkirk, Jr., a licentiate of the Central Presbytery of Philadelphia. His first service here was on the first Sunday of September, 1861, and after being heard acceptably a second Sabbath he was engaged as stated supply for six months. On March 6, 1862, he received a unanimous call to the pastorate at a salary of \$400, and was duly ordained and installed the first pastor on April 24, 1862. The Methodist Episcopal Church, now the public school building, on East Lancaster avenue, was courteously granted for this service.

The church was incorporated in the first year of Mr. Newkirk's pastorate, under the title of "The Central Presbyterian Church of Downingtown," he having been a member of the Central Church of Philadelphia. The charter was granted by the Court of Chester County, October 27, 1862, and the incorporators were Augustus J. Dowlin, John F. Vanleer, David Shelmire, Silas D. Yerkes, Alexander McClintock, Sr., John Walker, William Miller, George March and S. Stanhope Pinkerton. They met and organized November 21, 1862, with David Shelmire, president; J. F. Vanleer, vice president; S. S. Pinkerton, secretary, and S. D. Yerkes, treasurer. At their first meeting the Board of Trustees took measures for the erection of a house of worship. Mr. Jacob E. Parke gave a lot 50 feet front, on Lancaster avenue, with a depth of about 160 feet, and Mr. Silas D. Yerkes gave a piece of ground adjoining, 20 feet front and about 160 feet deep, and Mr. Newkirk added a lot adjoining on the south. In 1871 the Trustees purchased a piece of ground, by which the church property was extended to Washington avenue.

The contract for the church was given to Thomas H. Doan, a stone building 40 by 60 feet with basement. Ground was broken in June, but the work was suddenly suspended by the enlisting of the workmen to repel the invasion of the State by the Southern army. The corner-stone was laid September 1, 1863, and the completed structure dedicated September 1, 1864, although the basement had been in use certainly as early as May. The church cost about \$7000.

After a successful pastorate of nearly seven years, Mr. Newkirk resigned to accept a call to the North Tenth Street Presby-

terian Church, Philadelphia, and he was released from the Downtown charge on December 8, 1868. During his pastorate 123 persons were added to the membership of whom 60 were received on examination.

About two months after Mr. Newkirk's departure the congregation gave a call to the Rev. John Rea, of Pittsburgh, and he, having signified his acceptance, was ordained and installed as pastor May 6, 1869. After a faithful service of three years he was relieved at his own request April 8, 1872, in order that he might undertake missionary work in Washington Territory. During his pastorate ten substantial horse sheds were built at a cost of \$445. Fifty persons were added to the membership, twenty-three being on examination.

The pulpit had been vacant but a brief period when a call was extended to the Rev. Francis T. Collier. He held the call for a considerable period during which he frequently supplied the pulpit, and having decided to accept the call, was formally installed by the Presbytery of Chester, October 9, 1872.

The Church, which had been connected with the Old School Presbytery of New Castle, became a member of the Presbytery of Chester in the readjustment of Presbyteries and Synods consequent to the Reunion of 1869.

Including the period during which Dr. Collier was the stated supply of the pulpit, his ministry here exceeded sixteen years, or more than one-third of the life of the church to the present day. Among the most valuable assets of his faithful ministry was the erection in 1879 of the parsonage on Washington avenue. The lot was donated by Mr. A. P. Tutton and the money for the erection of the building (\$2300) was subscribed chiefly through the efforts of Mr. William B. Torbert. Miss Clara Downing gave one thousand dollars.

During the years 1874-76 the church felt the influence of the remarkable religious awakening which was general throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, and during these years the membership was greatly strengthened by the addition of ninety-three members on examination and twenty-six by certificate.

In the year 1867 the congregation decided upon extensive alterations and improvements on both the interior and exterior of the church edifice. Circular pews were introduced and electric lights. Memorial windows to Mary E. Miller and Emily Downing were placed in the front of the church, the pulpit platform and choir gallery were lowered and new furnishings provided throughout. A legacy of \$950 from Miss Mary E. Miller was appropriated to this work and there were numerous gifts. The cost of the improvements and furnishings was \$3700 and

the entire amount having been subscribed the Church was re-dedicated on February 16, 1888.

At a congregational meeting held April 6, 1888, Dr. Collins presented a request for a dissolution of his pastoral relation to the Church. The affection of the people and their devotion to their pastor were strongly marked by the vote which showed a majority of only one to accede to the request of Dr. Collier. Action was delayed, but the pastoral relation was finally dissolved at his request by the Presbytery of Chester in session at Kennett Square, September 16, 1888. There was no growth in Downingtown during this pastorate and the losses by removal and death were large, but Dr. Collier left the church in a healthy condition and with attractive church and parsonage properties. During his pastorate of sixteen years there were added 229 members of whom 143 were added on examination and 86 were received on certificate from other churches.

The pastorate was not long vacant. On December 12, 1888, a unanimous call was extended to the Rev. Charles E. Craven, of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and the call having been accepted, he was duly installed as pastor by the Presbytery of Chester, January 17, 1889. His resignation was presented to a congregational meeting held on September 10, 1894, and the pastoral relations dissolved December 12, 1894. During this pastorate the present pipe organ was purchased and installed; at an expense of about \$1300, largely contributed by Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton. During this period also the peace and prosperity of the church were seriously disturbed by dissensions which arose at first concerning the place of the organ in the auditorium, but extended to conflicting views as to the relative duties and powers of the session and board of trustees, resulting in the resignation of a number of officials and the withdrawal of a number from the communion of the church. Notwithstanding these unfortunate circumstances the additions to the church membership were considerable, numbering in all, for the seven years of pastorate, eighty of which fifty-two were on examination and twenty-eight by certificate.

After the interim of nearly a year, during which the congregation extended a call to the Rev. U. F. Smiley which was declined, at a congregation meeting held June 18, 1895, a unanimous call was extended to the Rev. John S. Helm, and having been accepted, he was duly installed as the fifth pastor in September of the same year. His pastorate extended less than a year, during which ten persons were received into the membership of the church. The resignation was presented at a congregational meeting held July 29, 1896.

On December 14, 1896, the congregation extended a unani-

mous call to the Rev. William P. Patterson and the same being accepted, he was duly installed the sixth pastor on February 11, 1897. After a faithful pastorate of four years Mr. Patterson died February 23, 1901, after a lingering illness. His pastorate was marked by numerous improvements to the church properties, including the installation of a water motor for the organ, repairing sheds, and the pavement on the Washington avenue side of the church property. The additions to the church membership were thirty-four, of whom twenty-one were on examination.

Again the church was vacant for a year. A call for the pastoral services of one minister having been declined and the congregation having failed to unite on any one candidate at a second congregational meeting, it was decided December 7, 1901, to invite the Rev. Lewis W. Mudge, D. D., of Princeton, New Jersey, to supply the pulpit for a series of Sabbaths. In January he was requested to permit his name to be presented for the pastorate, but declined as he had not been a candidate for the pulpit. Finally he consented and at a congregational meeting held April 12, 1902, he was unanimously elected pastor and was installed by the Presbytery of Chester April 28, 1902.

The present pastorate has therefore passed its seventh anniversary at this writing. During these years the old floating debt has been removed, extensive improvements have been made in the church building, an addition has been built to the parsonage and over two thousand dollars is at interest, the nucleus of a fund for a new church edifice. The number of additions to the church have been two hundred and seventy-six, of which eighty-six have been on certificate from other churches and one hundred and ninety on examination.

The present membership of the church is two hundred and ninety-seven exclusive of the absent list and the reserved roll.

The Sunday-school enrolls two hundred and two with an average attendance for the year of sixty-four per cent. There are ninety-six in the Home Department and fourteen on the Cradle Roll. The present board of elders consists of Isaac Y. Ash, clerk; Eben Garrett, James Porter, Charles W. Robinson, William B. Stauffer and Josiah Swank. Deacons: Herbert Ash and Charles B. Gantt. Church organist: Miss Mary B. Garrett; Choir Master, Frederick B. Mudge; Assistant Organist, Mrs. William H. Carey

The Board of Trustees is constituted of Judson Armor, president; William McClure, Jr., vice-president; James Porter, secretary; Joseph T. Miller, treasurer; John Dennis, Thomas Eachus, Arthur T. Hess, J. Harry Reed and Charles W. Wilson.

The officers of the Sunday-school are: James Porter, superintendent; William B. Stauffer, assistant superintendent; Joseph

T. Miller, secretary-treasurer; Joseph T. Miller, Jr., assistant secretary; Miss Phebe D. Whelen, primary superintendent; Mrs. William P. Patterson, superintendent of the Home Department; Mrs. James Porter, superintendent of the Cradle Roll; Mr. Frederick P. Mudge, music conductor; Miss Eva Allen, pianist.

The officers of the Christian Endeavor Society are: S. Earl Stauffer, president; Carl Greth, vice-president; Miss Mary B. Garrett, corresponding secretary; Miss Adelaide McCaughey, recording secretary, and Miss Eva Allen, treasurer. There are sixty-six members. Miss Phebe D. Whelen is in charge of the Junior Christian Endeavor with sixty-five members.

Mrs. William R. Patterson is president of the Ladies' Missionary Society. Mrs. Frank P. Miller and Mrs. Joseph T. Miller vice-presidents; Miss Mary H. Mudge, secretary and Mrs. William Mittell, treasurer. Of the Mite Society, Mrs. William B. Stauffer is president, Mrs. J. Harry Reed, secretary, and Miss Mary B. Garrett, treasurer. The Young Woman's Club has as officers: Mrs. Frank T. Weaver, president; Mrs. J. Harry Reed, vice-presidents; Mrs. Frank Parke, secretary, and Miss Maude Dixon, treasurer. Brotherhood: Evans Miller, president; Frederick P. Mudge, vice-president; James Porter, secretary; S. Earl Stauffer, treasurer.

First Baptist Church. Rev. E. C. Romine, Missionary of the Central Union Association held services in Central Hall, Sunday, February 4, 1883. A Sunday-school began February 11. A church was organized March 4 with six members. A number of baptisms took place. Among the first members were: S. C. Bareford, Martin Bair, Wm. Baldwin, Lizzie B. Glisson, J. T. Irwin and wife, Rebecca J. Irwin, Hannah M. Lewis, Henrietta K. Roberts, E. C. Romine and wife, Thura J. Temple, Temple Rambo, James Shunk and wife, Sarah M. Temple, Lizzie Walley, and Amor Wilkinson.

A council from seventeen churches met April 13, 1883, and recognized the church. Sermon by Rev. N. C. Naylor; hand of fellowship, Rev. Wm. Barrows; charge to the church, Rev. T. M. Guthrie; charge to the pastor, Rev. N. B. Randall. Rev. C. H. Thomas preached in the morning.

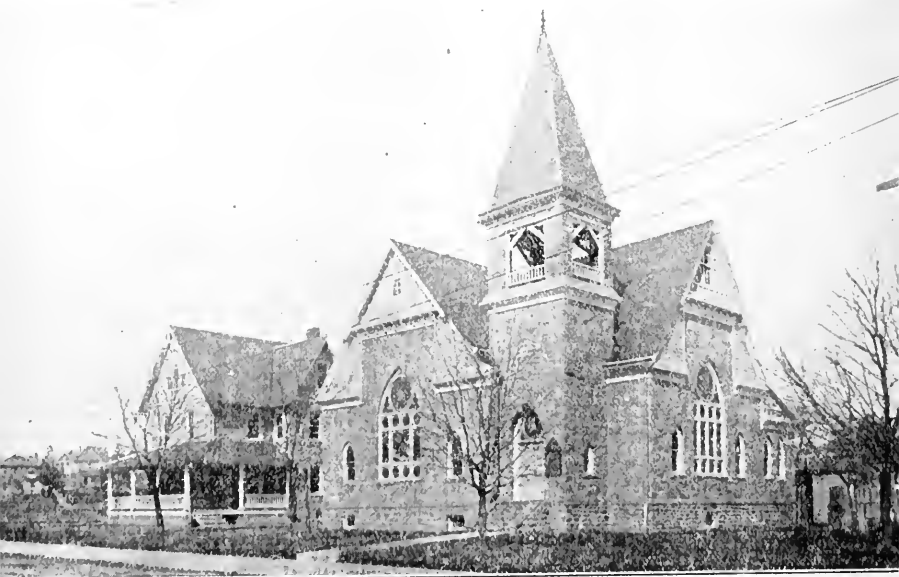
In May, 1883, the church united with the Central Union Association reporting twenty members. Mr. Romine also was supplying the Brandywine Church, and held some grove meetings at Oakland, also published a monthly paper called "The Shower."

In one year's time the Sunday School had an average attendance of over a hundred. The superintendent was Rev. E. C. Romine; teachers, Anna C. Ball, Annie Brown (now Downey), S. C.

Bareford, Rebecca J. Irwin, Jos. H. Johnson, Laura A. Johnson, Laura Mercer, Mary T. Romine, Henrietta K. Roberts, James Shunk, Salinda Shunk, Wm. H. Slanter, Sallie D. Stringfellow, John L. Weldin and Lizzie Walley.

On October 26, 1884, Brother Romine resigned his pastorate, which was a source of great disappointment to the little flock.

By great effort the pulpit was kept supplied for some months, but the church was not financially able to call a pastor, and under these discouraging circumstances a council was called, which resulted in the union of the East Brandywine and Downingtown churches under pastor A. B. McCurdy, of Saltillo, Pa., who entered upon his duties on April 1, 1885, the C. U. B. Association assisting with the finances.



The first Board of Trustees was elected on February 26, 1886, and the members of the Board were Samuel C. Bareford, John L. Weldin, Thomas J. Irwin, Joseph H. Johnson and William Morgan (the last two named not being members of the church), and an application was made to the Court of Chester County for a charter, which was granted. A plot of ground on the corner of Viaduct and Lancaster avenues (where Philips' mill is now located), was purchased for a building site, the Berean

Church at West Chester having disbanded contributed \$385.50, and the Phoenixville Church \$38.50 towards paying for the same, and gradually the debt was worked off. This lot was afterwards sold and the present site procured, as being better suited to the purposes of the church.

February 5, 1887, Rev. A. B. McCurdy resigned his pastorate, to take effect March 1. Supplies were again secured, and the church maintained regular preaching services, and on June 5, of the same year, again united with East Brandywine Church in calling Rev. Walter L. Mayo, of Hermitage, New York. In the summer of the following year the East Brandywine Church severed its connection with the Downingtown Church, and about the same time the pastor was taken seriously ill with typhoid fever, and the illness extending to his family, his eldest son, a promising lad, died. The pastor did not recover his usual health until the following summer. During his long and tedious illness the pulpit was supplied by the kindness of neighboring pastors, not only of the Baptist, but other denominations.

In April, 1889, his health still continuing poor, he severed his connection with the church. These were times of trial and matter of disbanding was seriously considered, but the possession of the lot kept the little band together, and with forty members, a determination was made to build a house of worship, and the faithful few, mostly women, undertook the work. The services of Clarence Larkin then pastor of the Baptist Church at Kennett Square, were engaged as architect, and the contract was given to G. T. Guthrie, of Downingtown. The corner-stone was laid October 9, 1890, with appropriate services. Rev. A. R. Wilson, of Redbank, N. J., who served the church for a short time, was pastor at this time.

On November 3, 1890, a unanimous call was given to Rev. T. C. Brewster, of West Chester, to become our pastor, which was accepted, and he entered upon his new field of labor, and on the 18th of December was ordained as a Baptist minister. On April 26, 1891, the church was dedicated, Rev. Jas. W. Putman, of Philadelphia, making the address. The cost of the building, with land and other improvements was reported as about \$8400. Subscriptions were taken at the corner-stone laying, dedication, and other occasions which reduced the indebtedness to an amount that could be readily carried, and so faithfulness, energy and perseverance won finally. In the fall of 1891 revival services were held in which Pastor Brewster was ably assisted by Evangelist George Williams, and the church received a great flood-tide of blessing, many souls being added.

March 27, 1892, Pastor Brewster resigned to take effect March 31st, and on April 27th following a call was extended to

Rev. F. W. Randall, of the Hepzibah Baptist Church, the same being accepted. He preached his first sermon on May 15th following. Under his faithful leadership the church increased both materially and numerically, and an interest was again awakened at the East Brandywine Church, which had been closed for some years, a Sunday School being established and held in the afternoon, which has not since been totally abandoned. On August 25, 1895, Brother Randall tendered his resignation, and the little flock was again without an under-shepherd. After hearing several candidates, Rev. H. B. Garner was called to the pastorate, and he began his work early in the new year, 1896. During his four years and a half of service revivals were held, and many new names added to the church roll, largely from the Sunday School.

In August, 1900, Rev. James A. Jolliffe, of Philadelphia, received and accepted a call to the pastorate, and as there was no empty house in the neighborhood for him to occupy, it became evident that a great need of the church, now, was a parsonage. An effort was made along that line during the fall and winter, and the lot adjoining the church property was bought and paid for by the Ladies' Aid Society, but as there was opposition to the movement, the matter of building a parsonage was allowed to rest for a time. Brother Jolliffe's stay was short and on March 3, 1901, the Rev. T. G. Eiswald, of Milford, Delaware, was called as pastor, which call was accepted, and he remained with the church for two years, severing his connection therewith in March, 1903, he accepting a call to Blossburg, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. April 12th of the same year a call was extended to Brother William Grant, of Concordville, who filled the position of pastor for the space of six months, when he resigned, to the regret of many.

During Brother Grant's pastorate further improvement was made to the church property by the laying of a granolithic pavement at a cost of about \$200, to replace the brick walk, which had long done service.

On December 2, following, Rev. J. A. Hodgkinson was called to the pastorate of the church, and on January 7, 1904, a council was called for his ordination, and he was set apart for the gospel ministry. Rev. J. A. Hodgkinson served the church one year, severing his connection therewith on December 4, 1904. Candidates were heard through the winter, which resulted in the calling of Rev. L. A. Schnering, the present pastor, who came upon the field in April, 1905. During his pastorate the neat and comfortable parsonage he occupies was built, and has recently been papered throughout, making it a pleasant home for the pastor.

Under the leadership of the present pastor the church has taken on new life, and all departments have been growing and active. The Bible School has rapidly increased in numbers, new

classes formed, and many of the scholars have united with the church and others of the community, with newcomers to town have increased the church membership by about 95 additions.

Pastor Schnering has completed a pastorate of four years, with continued interest and frequent additions.

Officers—Pastor, Rev. L. A. Schnering; Clerk, Jos. H. Johnson; Treasurer, Josiah Philips.

Deacons: W. P. Downey, President; R. J. Russell, E. C. Lewis, Robert M. Lewis, Palmer Keech, E. V. Philips, S. W. Matlack.

Trustees: E. V. Philips, President; Jos. H. Johnson, W. P. Downey, W. H. Durnell, E. C. Lewis, Jos. Philips, Oscar G. Darlington, J. Wesley Laird, W. C. Filkins.

Sunday School, E. C. Lewis, Superintendent.

Women's Foreign Missionary Circle, Mrs. L. A. Schnering, President.

Farther Lights Missionary Circle, Mrs. R. M. Lewis, Superintendent.

Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Jos. H. Johnson, President.

Baptist Young People's Union, Mrs. M. S. Powell, President.

Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, S. W. Matlack, President.

Board of Ushers, B. H. Millard, President.

Messiah Lutheran Church. Early in the month of September, 1902, Rev. S. D. Daugherty, missionary superintendent of the Philadelphia Conference, in company with Rev. C. R. Streamer, then pastor of the Lutheran Church of Lionville, and H. C. Harman, a resident of this town, made a canvass of Downingtown, with a view of establishing an Evangelical Lutheran Church in this place. The canvass showed that there were a sufficient number of Lutherans in the community to warrant further steps in the matter. The first meeting preparatory to an organization was held in the Central Presbyterian Church, on Sunday afternoon, September 28, 1902. The attendance was large and the outlook seeming to warrant it, a committee of organization was appointed, consisting of the following persons: Rev. C. R. Streamer, H. P. Harmer, John P. Noll, R. B. Parke, C. F. Zinn, John Cummings and Fred Runk.

Another meeting was held October 5, when the organization committee submitted a constitution, but its adoption was deferred. Other meetings followed and on October 12, a Sunday School was organized with the following officers: Superintendent, John P. Noll; assistant superintendent, Fred Runk; secretary, C. F. Zinn; treasurer, John Cummings.

A committee was appointed at one of the preliminary meetings to secure a place of worship. The building known as Central Hall, located on West Lancaster avenue, was offered for sale about that time, and the committee purchased it for the new congregation about to be organized. Formal organization of the congregation was not effected until November 7, 1902, when the constitution was adopted and the organization took the name of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church. There were thirty-four (34) charter members and the members of the first Official



Board elected were: Elders, H. C. Harman, C. F. Zinn, I. E. Fraim, R. B. Parke. Deacons, J. P. Noll, J. W. Cummings and Charles Dapp.

A call was extended to the Rev. F. H. Crissman on May 3, 1903, to be the pastor, and the call was accepted, and regular pastoral administration began the latter part of the month. The building, which had been purchased, was at this time thoroughly

renovated into a comfortable and pleasant church building, the same being dedicated with appropriate services on Sunday, September 30, 1903.

The congregation under the leadership of its first pastor had a steady and healthful growth, during which time a fine new parsonage was erected and other improvements made. Rev. Crissman severed his connection with the church about September 1, 1906, and was succeeded by the Rev. W. H. Derr, who began his labors January 1, 1907, the pulpit in the interim being supplied.

The congregation at the present time is in a flourishing condition. The present enrollment is one hundred and fifteen (115). The Council is composed of the following persons: Elders, H. C. Harman, L. E. Fraim, B. F. Fahenger; Deacons, S. A. Glauner, Fred Runk, C. F. Zinn.

The Sunday School is well organized with the various departments: Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Primary, a Home Department and Cradle Roll. A teachers' training class is also conducted. The present total enrollment is one hundred and twelve. The officers are: Superintendent, Fred Runk; assistant superintendent, H. C. Harman; secretary, C. F. Zinn; treasurer, L. E. Fraim.

The Colored Churches. There are two churches within the bounds of the borough that minister to the spiritual interests of the negro population. The mother church is at Lindley Hill, without the borough limits. The reliable data cannot be obtained as the early records are lost, and the records possessed are imperfectly kept. The ministers have frequently been men who pursued other avocations on week days for the support of their families and changes in the pastorate have been frequent. The older of the two churches is the Mount Raymond Union American Methodist Episcopal Church; the younger the Mount Pisgah Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Mount Raymond Union American M. E. Church, situated on the corner of Stuart and Manor avenues, Downingtown, Pa. In the year 1874 a Sunday School was organized by Mr. Thomas Blackson, with 12 scholars at Rock Raymond, in Mr. Blackson's house. In 1875 a mission church was organized in the same house by Rev. B. T. Ruley, then stationed at Coatesville, Pa., now Presiding Bishop of the Delaware Annual Conference. Rev. J. N. Gasby was sent as their pastor. Through hard struggle in 1876 they succeeded in purchasing the ground where the church stands to-day. The corner-stone was laid and building erected the same year, and the trustees chosen were Mr. J. Hunter Wills, white; Mr. James Hamilton, white;

Mr. Robert Skean, white; Mr. Harry L. Skean; Stewards, Penrose B. Flowers, Thomas Blackson. Some of the original members were Priscilla Blackson, Phebe Jones, John Johnson. The following pastors have served the church: Rev. J. N. Gasby, Rev. P. Sulvy, Rev. W. James, Rev. W. H. Decker, Rev. C. H. Lewis, Rev. W. J. Ryder, Rev. E. S. Rice, the present pastor.

The Trustees now are J. Wesley Wilson, John P. Taylor, George America, John Miller, William Tinson, Thomas P. Flowers, John W. Trowery. Stewards, Evan E. Nugent, Isaac H. Prowery, Alfred Hemsley, Calvin W. Norman, Charles W. Wilson.

Colored Mission. A union mission school for colored children was started in February, 1909, in the interests of the negro population of the town. It has met with fair success and promises to bring the same encouragement and support to the existing colored churches, which similar enterprises have secured in other communities. There is an enrollment of 49 teachers and scholars. It is held in the Sunday School room of the Central Presbyterian Church, on Sunday afternoons, but the various churches are interested in the work. The officers are: Rev. Charles D. Mudge, superintendent; William Standley, secretary; Mrs. Frank P. Miller, treasurer. A boys' club, under the direction of Miss Katharine Schnering has been organized and sewing school for colored girls is in contemplation.

Dwight Farms, in West Bradford Township, adjoining the Borough line and stretching along the wooded heights and the valley of the Brandywine for a mile, containing 437 acres, was presented to The Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, in 1896, by the late Edmund Parsons Dwight, who died on May 24th, 1903.

Mr. Dwight was a prominent business man of Philadelphia and a well-known member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

The Young Men's Christian Association determined to make of this place a summer or vacation resort for working young men of Philadelphia, where they could spend their summers at a small cost in genuine country life, under wholesome, moral and religious influence. A club house, dining hall and sleeping cottages have been erected and the place to-day has all the attractions of a country club, with the added features of farm work and life. It has grown rapidly in success and popularity, until now more than 1000 young men spend a part or whole of their vacation at Dwight Farms under ideal conditions. It was the first undertaking of the sort by any Young Men's Christian Association, and to-day is much the largest and best equipped, although other

great metropolitan associations are planning or carrying on similar resorts on a smaller scale.

The season at Dwight Farms opens, always, the day before Memorial Day and closes one week after Labor Day, in September.

Northwood Cemetery Company. The proper sepulture of the dead appeals to the tenderest feelings of the human heart and "God's acre" is always a place of interest to those whose loved ones have gone before. The men who promoted Northwood Cemetery were very fortunate in selecting an ideal location, convenient of access and overlooking the borough of Downingtown and the Chester Valley.

The company acts under a charter granted by the Courts of Chester County dated April 27, 1871, and controls twenty-five acres of land. The first interment, (John B. Boger's) was made November 23, 1871.

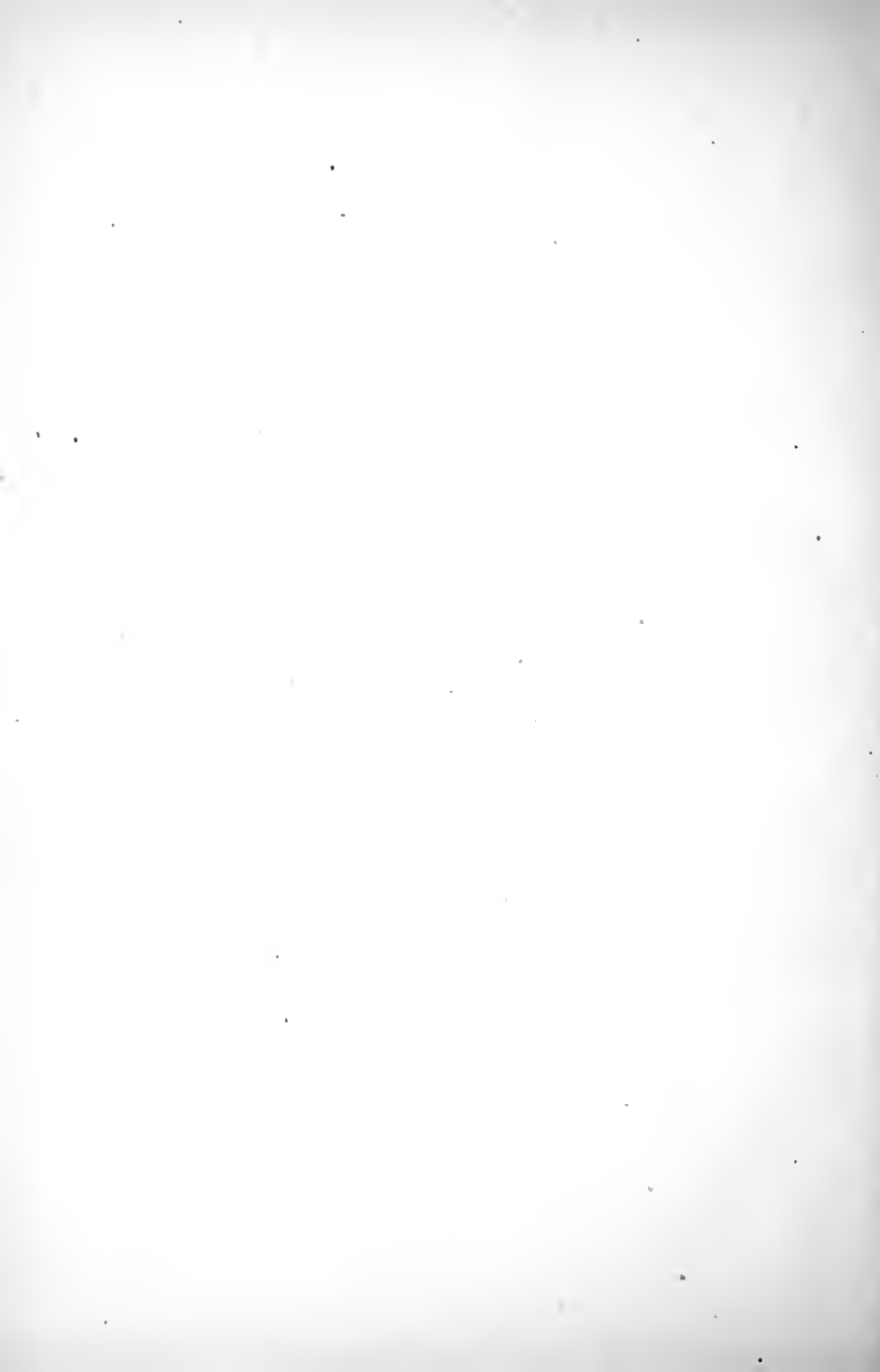
The first officers were: Caleb Baldwin, president; Joseph R. Downing, secretary; Jno. P. Edge, M. D., treasurer; J. Howard Downing, Geo. T. Jones, W. S. Garrett, W. M. Oglesby, R. D. Wells, J. T. Lewis.

The present management desires to combine art and nature in making this sleeping chamber of the dead appropriately beautiful as a tribute to the dead and an inspiration to the living who seek the communion which this peaceful place invites.

A plan is now in successful operation building up a trust fund, the income of which is to be used for the perpetual care of the lots. These funds are deposited with the Chester County Trust Company as trustee and are kept separate from the general funds.

There are two attractive entrances, a chapel, a vault and a lodge for the residence of the Superintendent.

The present officers are: J. Hunter Wills, president; Thomas Eachers, secretary; Downingtown Bank, treasurer; A. P. Tutton (deceased), Joseph H. Johnson, Thomas E. Parke, M. D., J. Howard Downing, John L. Weldin, Guyon Miller, Joseph S. Ashbridge.



Chapter 8

Educational—Board of Education—Public Schools—High School Alumni Association—Downingtown Public Library

The Public Schools of the Borough of Downingtown.—By a decree of the Court of General Sessions of Chester County, held at West Chester, on the 12th day, 5th month (May), A. D. 1859, the village of Downingtown and certain specific lands adjoining were erected into a borough, and also a separate and independent school district, including three of the public schools formerly a part of the school district of East Caln.

Under the same decree an election was held at the house of Joseph P. Tucker (the Swan Hotel), in the village, on the 28th day of May, for the purpose of electing persons to fill the several offices.

The following named persons were duly returned by the officers of election as having been chosen School Directors:

Charles Downing, Allan W. Wills, three years.

Samuel Black, Dr. John P. Edge, two years.

Rev. Alfred G. Compton, John S. Mullin, one year.

These gentlemen are all deceased, except Mr. Jno. Mullin, now of West Chester.

All the members of the above elected board being present at a meeting held at the house of Jos. P. Tucker, Charles Downing was unanimously chosen president; John P. Edge secretary, and Allan W. Wills, treasurer. Under the organization of the borough the school year was to begin June 6, 1859.

It was determined to open the schools the 29th of August, 1859, to continue for a term of six months, and to employ female teachers, at a salary of twenty-four dollars per month.

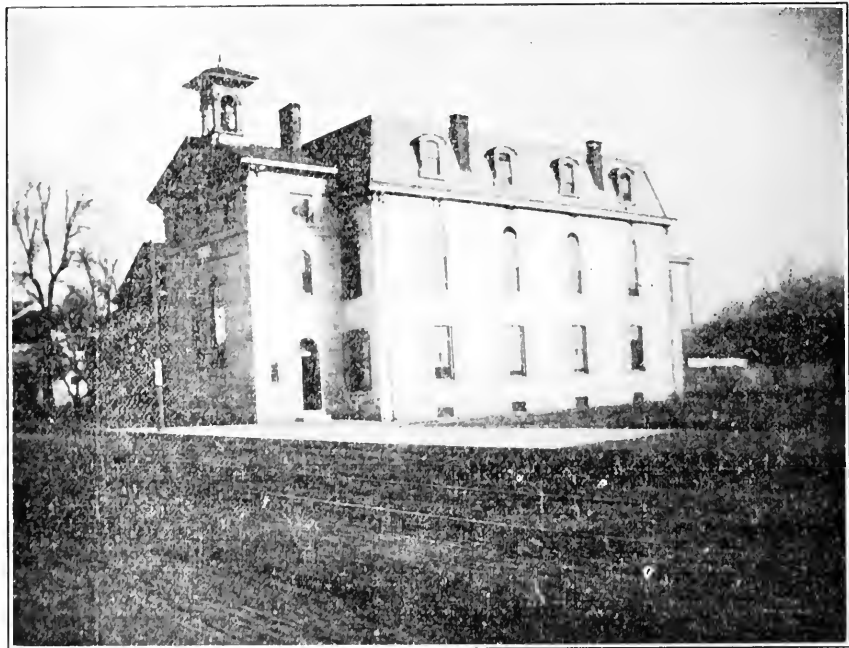
The number of pupils of legal school age at this time was one hundred and forty-four (144). It was resolved to open three schools, two at the west and one at the east end of the borough, designated as follows: No. 1, was the second story of the White School House (now the old residence located near the corner of Pennsylvania and Stewart avenues); No. 2, the first story of the White School House; No. 3, was at the east end of the town in

the stone school house (which was located on a spot about where the new barn of John T. Fox now stands).

The teachers in schools Nos. 1 and 3 were employed for a term of six months. In room No. 2, or the Primary School, for two months, and were to be continued thereafter at the discretion of the Board.

The first teachers were Miss Sarah Hughes, for Room No. 1; Miss Cora Thornbury, for Room No. 2, and Miss Margaret Hapsett for Room No. 3.

The following textbooks were adopted: Brown's "First Lines



and Institutes of Grammar," Sander's Series of Readers; Stoddard's "Mental Arithmetic, Greenleaf's "Written Arithmetic," Davies' "Algebra" and Monteith and McNally's "Geography."

The valuation of property at this time was two hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (\$213,000). The tax duplicates, six hundred and seventeen dollars and twenty-six cents (\$617.26). Exonerations, fifteen dollars and twenty-three cents (\$15.23).

The total expenses for operating the schools for one year were four hundred and twelve dollars and fifty-two cents (\$412.52).

The total attendance the first year was one hundred and eighteen pupils.

There being sufficient funds on hand after paying the expenses for a term of six months, the Board decided to continue two of the schools for a term of two months.

The town increased in population and wealth, and more adequate school accommodations were needed. Additional rooms were opened from time to time. The first state appropriation of sixty-eight dollars and forty cents (\$68.40) was for the school year 1863. During the years 1862-63 and 64, there was constant turmoil in reference to increased school facilities. In the year 1864 a lot was purchased from John E. Parke (present site of J. Hunter Wills' store) and a school building was erected thereon. Two rooms were furnished. During the next few years matters pertaining to the schools moved along quietly. At a meeting held February 14, 1872, it was unanimously decided to build and arrange for a graded school. At a meeting held March 7, 1872, the Board decided to purchase a lot at the corner of Lancaster and Viaduct avenues, and to erect thereon a two-story school building. The probable cost of the building, as estimated by the architect was fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) and it was agreed to present a petition to the electors for their signatures. The petition to be presented to the Court asking for authority to borrow eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000).

Later on this whole project was abandoned. On October 22, 1872, the Board met and were informed that the Institute Building (now Central School Building), would be offered at public sale on October 23, by the assignees of Joshua Kames, and it was resolved that the School Board purchase the building. At the next meeting, November 6, 1872, the treasurer, Dr. John P. Edge, reported, "that with the approval of a majority of the Board he had purchased the three-story stone and mansard roof building on Lancaster avenue, known as the Institute Building, for six thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$6950). The lot being sixty (60) feet front and extending back two hundred and twenty (220) feet. It was considered to be one of the most substantial buildings in the town, and at the price paid was acknowledged on all sides to have been a great bargain."—(Extract from Minutes.)

On April 8th, the Board held the first meeting in the new building. It was necessary to employ an architect in order to make the changes necessary. This was accordingly done; the building was remodeled, and properly furnished for school purposes at a cost of about eighty-one hundred dollars (\$8100), making the entire cost of the building in round numbers fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

On July 22, 1872, Mrs. Worrall was elected a teacher, at forty-five dollars (\$45) per month. She began her work in the following autumn, and continued until the fall of 1890. Mrs. Worrall's work was characterized by earnestness and efficiency, and she left her impress on the schools. The year 1874 marks the beginning of the graded schools. In July of that year the Board decided to grade the schools. There were to be two primary teachers, two intermediate teachers and a principal, the latter to have general oversight of the schools and to teach the higher branches. The first principal, Mrs. Mary C. Rogers, was chosen July 21, 1874, at a salary of fifty-five dollars per month. The State appropriation for this year was two hundred and sixteen dollars and eight cents (\$216.08). The Board disposed of their old school properties May 12, 1874.

The old White School Building, known as Schools Nos. 1 and 3, and the building in the east end (on site now occupied by Wills' store) were sold. The first to G. C. M. Eicholtz for one thousand one hundred and thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$1137.50), and the second to William B. Torbert for eighteen hundred dollars (\$1800). The proceeds of this sale were applied toward liquidating the school debt, the balance of the bonded indebtedness being \$10,500.

The following year Mrs. Rogers was re-elected principal and Miss Tilile McPherson was chosen as assistant principal. Mrs. Rogers offered her resignation on February 1, 1876, and Miss McPherson was chosen to fill the position. Miss McPherson acted as principal until August 4, 1882, when she resigned. Under her administration the first class graduated from the High School. Miss McPherson was a fine teacher, a woman of strong personality, and was highly regarded by her pupils and the community.

Miss Ida Hawley was elected and held the position until July 7, 1885. Miss Hawley was a fine scholar, an excellent administrator, and her work has been greatly praised.

On her resignation Miss Mary Ball was elected principal July 7, 1885, remaining until 1887.

Prof. J. F. Byler succeeded Miss Bell as principal, and remained for three years. In July, 1890, Prof. John R. Hunsicker was elected principal and has remained until the present time. Through all these years, by the earnest and faithful services of the teachers, principals and directors, the schools have steadily advanced. The High School is now classified by the State Department as a High School of the first class, and an appropriation of four hundred and fifty dollars has been received from the State for the High School at Downingtown for the year 1908. When the appropriation for High Schools is adequate Downingtown

High School will receive under the present law eight hundred dollars. The State has realized the importance of education and has been generous in the matter of appropriations. Downingtown's appropriation for 1908 was \$3301.48.

The entire enrollment for the year 1908-09 is 660. There are now fifteen teachers, with names and grades as follows: East Ward, Primary, No. 1, Miss Mabel Chrisman; Primary, No. 2, Miss Effie Davis; Primary, No. 3, Miss Sue Byler; Intermediate, Miss Hannah Bicking; Central Building, Primary, No. 1, Miss Carrie Wanzel; Primary, No. 2, Miss Ethel Mower; Primary, No. 3, Miss Cora Irwin; Primary, No. 4, Miss Ethel Metcalf; Intermediate, Miss Mabel Wilson; First Grammar, Miss Ella Smith; assistant, Miss Elizabeth Bingaman; McCaughey Building, Second Grammar, Mrs. Mary R. Swayne; High School, Mr. Stacey Peters; assistant principal, Miss Anna L. Whitehead; supervising principal, John R. Hunsicker. Board of Education—President, Dr. L. T. Bremerman; Secretary, Eber Garrett; Treasurer, Nathan Wilson; E. Vinton Philips, Theo. M. Griffith, Francis L. Weaver.

The ever-increasing prosperity of the school, the advances in its curriculum and the scholarship evinced by the success of its graduates in the institutions of higher learning are due to the indefatigable and often self-sacrificing labors of the supervising principal, John R. Hunsicker, who, during the long years of his connection with the school, has grown steadily in the confidence and esteem alike of directors, pupils and citizens.

Of the directors who comprised the first Board (1859) Mr. John S. Mullin is the only one now living. Mr. Mullin took a very active part in school affairs for many years, and served in various capacities in the Board. His services were highly appreciated.

Mr. Francis O'Neill was for twenty-six years a director. During this long period he served faithfully. The community recognizes his worth.

Mr. Eber Garrett has served as a director for thirty-one years. He is now the secretary, and has acted in that capacity for sixteen years. His associates in the Board recognize his worth and efficiency.

New School Building.

After much discussion and agitation for several years, it was decided at the February election (1909) to erect a school building on the present site of the old central building, the cost not to exceed \$60,000.

That building is now in the process of erection. It will be a modern structure (106 x 120 feet), well furnished, properly heated and ventilated, a building that will be a source of pride

and satisfaction to the community and a healthful, cheerful home, where the youth of the town may in the future receive that education and training which is the birthright of every boy and girl in this community.

Downingtown High School Alumni Association. The Alumni Association of the Downingtown High School was organized on the evening of April 20, 1884, at the home of Miss Hattie Miller (Stout) (deceased), Washington avenue, East Downingtown.

The purpose of the organization was "the promotion of the cause of education in the interests of our alma mater and to excite and keep alive those interests in the same, to strengthen the bonds uniting us by social friendship and intercourse, to do all in our power to make our alma mater the one that we may all feel proud of and to be glad to say that from its walls the foundation of what we are or what we hope to be has been gathered."

The first officers of the Alumni were as follows: President, John M. Patton; Vice President, William Johnson; Secretary and Treasurer, Allie M. Gibson; Orator, Paul Cobb; Historian, Hattie Miller (Stout); Essayist, Ella P. Smith. The first meeting took place in the High School building the Saturday afternoon before commencement, at 2.30 o'clock, April, 1884. Since this time meetings have been held annually and a great deal of pleasantry and good fellowship is always with us on these occasions.

Every graduate of the High School is entitled to active membership, and if one of our fair alumni is so fortunate as to indulge in the rights of matrimony his or her partner becomes an honorary member of the Association. On the occasion of our banquets we have with us as invited guests our Board of Directors, faculty of the school and the clergy of our town. The present active membership consists of 173 graduates. Of this number all are living with the exception of nine.

The deceased members and residences at the time of death are as follows: Miss Hattie Miller (Stout), California; Miss Willmera A. Kline, Philadelphia; Miss Elizabeth G. Haley, Downingtown; Mr. Richard Silvis, Philadelphia; Miss Eleanor A. Ash (Perry), Downingtown; Miss Anna M. Morgan (Stouff), Thorndale; Miss Mabel A. Davis, Downingtown; Miss Eva E. Cox, East Downingtown; Miss Mary E. Moore, East Downingtown.

We have, in addition, our honorary members, which number fifty-seven, thus making a total membership of two hundred and thirty-five, and with our large graduating classes each year our number is rapidly advancing.

The twenty-fifth annual banquet was served by the ladies of the Central Presbyterian Church, in their lecture room, on

Friday evening, April 16, 1909, with the largest attendance in the history of the Alumni.

The officers of the Association for the year 1909 are: President, Dr. Wesley Barrett; Vice President, Charles F. McFadden; Secretary, Miss Elizabeth D. Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Simmons; Chairman of Arrangement Committee, Dr. D. Edgar Hutchison; Chairman of Program Committee, Edgar I. Griffith.

The Downingtown Library Co. In the earlier history of the town a public library was kept in the store of Jacob Edge, on the site now occupied by the Downingtown National Bank, and was patronized by a considerable number of the citizens. The Downingtown Library Company was organized January 27, 1876, and formally opened to the public in the present building, April 4, 1876. The first Board of Managers consisted of Archibald Dick Thomas, Jacob V. Edge, Eber Garrett, William McClintock, Rev. Robert F. Innes, J. Hunter Wills, Thomas W. Downing. The officers were Archibald Dick Thomas, president; Jacob V. Edge, vice president; J. Hunter Wills, treasurer; Thomas W. Downing, secretary. Miss Jane Thomas was appointed librarian May 18, 1876, and served during the remainder of her life.

The present managers are Thomas W. Downing, Mrs. George H. Fisher, Ellis Y. Brown, Mrs. Frank P. Miller, Miss Mary B. D. Thomas, Joseph H. Baugh, Jacob Edge. The officers are Thomas W. Downing, president; Mrs. George H. Fisher, vice president; Ellis Y. Brown, treasurer, Jacob Edge, secretary. The librarian is Miss Priscilla H. Thomas.

Mr. Archibald Dick Thomas, the first president, was largely instrumental in organizing the Downingtown Library, and took a great interest in it up to the time of his death, and it was mainly through his efforts that it was started.

A legacy of \$500 was left to the library by the late Joshua Springer, from which fund a large number of books was purchased.

The late Dr. John P. Edge, who for a number of years was president, took an active interest in the library and was one of its early managers and supporters.

The number of volumes now on its shelves is between 2200 and 2300, and it maintains a free reading room to the public.

The Downingtown Choral Society was temporarily organized at a called meeting of persons interested, held in the rooms of the P. O. S. of A., on January 4, 1909, and the organization was fully effected at a meeting held in the same place, January 15, 1909. During the past season Uselma Clarke Smith, of Philadelphia, was conductor and Miss Beula Elston accompanist. The first concert of the society was given April 13, 1909 in the Downingtown Opera House. There are one hundred and three

members, and the officers for the past season and also for the ensuing year are Frederick P. Mudge, president; R. J. Russell, Jr., vice president; A. H. Standley, treasurer; John P. Noll, secretary.



Chapter 9

Downingtown Banks—Building and Loan Association.

The Downingtown National Bank of Penna. On April 19, 1860, there appeared the following public notice: "The citizens of the Borough of Downingtown and surrounding country, favorable to the establishment of a Bank of Issue, Discount and Deposit, to be located at Downingtown, under the provisions of the General Banking Law, are requested to meet at the Public House of Joseph P. Tucker, in said Borough, on Saturday, April the 28th, 1860, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements—Many Citizens."

As a result of this meeting "The Downingtown Bank" was organized September 3, 1860, and commenced business May 16, 1861, with a capital of \$50,000, increased in 1863 to \$100,000. On December 30, 1864, it became a national bank under the present title, "The Downingtown National Bank of Penna."

The bank opened for business May 16, 1861, in a room on the first floor of the Odd Fellows' Hall, opposite the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, and remained there until April 1, 1862, when it removed to the brick building on East Lancaster avenue owned by Caroline R. Bremmerman and occupied by the Cohansey Glass Company's offices. The present building was erected in 1900 and occupied for business from April 1, 1901, to the present time.

The first Board of Directors were Charles Downing, Abram S. Ashbridge, John P. Baugh, Jonathan C. Baldwin, John K. Eshelman, Wm. Rogers, David Shelmire, Samuel Ringwalt, Allen W. Wills, Jacob Edge, R. D. Wells.

Officers: President—Charles Downing, September 3, 1860, to May 3, 1863; David Shelmire, June 1, 1863, to November 23, 1863; William Trimble, November 23, 1863, to December 19, 1863; William Edge, December 28, 1863, to May 29, 1865; Jacob V. Edge, May 29, 1865, to March, 1889; Joseph R. Downing, April 4, 1889, to the present time. Cashier—Mordecai T. Ruth, 1860 to 1863; Joseph R. Downing, 1863 to 1889; Thomas Downing, 1889, to date.

The present officers are: Joseph R. Downing, president; Eber Garrett, vice president and secretary; Thomas M. Downing, cashier; Charles Downing, assistant cashier; Everitt T. Fisher, Ernest Smedley and Howard Baldwin, bookkeepers. The Board of Directors consists of Joseph R. Downing, Jacob V Edge, Eber Garrett, William Marshall, Thomas E. Parke, Jesse H. Roberts, William T. Smedley, Charles T. Thomas and James Wagenseller.

Report of condition, April 28, 1909:

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	\$248,088.21
Overdrafts secured and unsecured	386.45
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation.....	100,000.00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds	4,068.00
Bonds, securities, etc.	234,721.66
Banking house, furniture and fixtures ..	12,000.00
Due from National Banks, (not reserve agents)	1,072.95
Due from approved reserve agents	18,400.30
Checks and other cash items	76.05
Notes of other National Banks	510.00
Fractional paper currency, nickels and cents	301.59
Lawful Money Reserve in Bank, viz:	
Specie	18,041.20
Legal tender notes	1,400.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5% of circulation)	5,000.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$644,061.41

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in	\$100,000.00
Surplus fund	100,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	28,125.88
National Bank Notes outstanding	100,000.00
Due to other National Banks	7,601.96
Individual deposits subject to check ...	305,243.12
Demand certificates of deposit	2,035.05
Cashier's checks outstanding	1,055.40
	<hr/>
Total	\$644,061.41

The Grange National Bank of Chester Co. This young and enterprising banking institution was organized March 7, 1907, with a capital stock of \$100,000. During the period awaiting the

purchase of a site and the erection of a building, business was conducted in West Chester, Mr. W. E. Baldwin acting as trustee. The handsome structure on East Lancaster avenue now occupied was opened January 14, 1908. The officers are as follows: Jos. T. Miller, president; F. P. Willets, vice president; J. Hastings Whiteside, vice president; M. S. Broadt, cashier; W. E. Baldwin, assistant cashier. The Board of Directors are: Robert Cook, Jos. T. Miller, J. Hastings Whiteside, Ames Barnard, F. P. Willets, Dr. Arnold, Hon. John Gyger, Clarence B. Hope, Penrose Larkin, W. Irwin Pollock, John G. McHenry, George Kerr, Jr., E. J. Young, Morris T. Wood, John Barr.

Report of condition April 28, 1909.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	\$114,060.87
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	99.81
U. S. Bonds, to secure circulation	50,000.00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds	1,750.00
Bonds, securities, etc.	50,098.88
Banking house, furniture and fixtures ..	28,500.00
Due from National Banks (not reserve agents)	71.66
Due from approved reserve agents	6,190.00
Notes of other National Banks	870.00
Checks and other cash items	169.46
Fractional paper currency, nickels and cents	45.13
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz.:	
Specie	\$ 811.20
Legal Tender notes	2,750.00
	<hr/>
	3,561.20
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5% of circulation)	2,500.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$257,917.01

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in	\$100,000.00
Surplus fund	10,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	5,982.67
National Bank notes outstanding	50,000.00
Due to other National Banks	900.98
Individual deposits subject to check	69,575.61
Demand certificate of deposit	20,957.75
Cashier's checks outstanding	500.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$257,917.01

Building and Loan Associations. The history of Downingtown would be incomplete, without at least a brief account of the various building and loan associations that have from time to time existed within her borders and contributed to her growth.

The Progress Building and Loan Association. The first building and loan association that was ever established in Downingtown was known as the Progress Building and Loan Association. The first meeting for its organization was held November 21st, 1868, which was about nine years after the incorporation of the borough. Temple Jones presided at this meeting. James Good acted as secretary and Richard D. Wells was made treasurer. James Good presented a constitution for the proposed association, and on motion of Richard D. Wells it was adopted. James Good was also appointed a committee to take the necessary steps to procure a charter. Another meeting was held a week later, presided over by Richard D. Wells. At this meeting a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions of stock, composed of William Calhoun, John McCune, James Good, James E. Cox, William Clark, Peter McAnulla, Downing Webster, Elisha Webster, Thomas Binns, James McClintock, James McCune and R. D. Wells. The charter was granted January 28th, 1869, and at a meeting held January 30th, a permanent organization was effected by the election of William McClintock, president; John S. Mullin, vice president; James Good, secretary; Richard D. Wells, treasurer. The other members of the Board of Directors were Isaac Webster, Richard M. Boldridge, Joseph R. Downing, George C. M. Eicholtz, David M. Cox, Thomas S. Ingram, Jacob Fondersmith, James E. Cox, Jesse B. Dunwoody, and Thomas S. Binns. At the following meeting of the Board of Directors James Good resigned as secretary, and Joseph R. Downing was, at a subsequent meeting, elected to take his place. William McClintock continued to serve as president during the entire period of the existence of the association. Joseph R. Downing served as secretary until July, 1876, when he was succeeded by J. Hunter Wills, at which time Richard D. Wells was succeeded by Joseph R. Downing as treasurer; with this exception there was no further change in the officers. Naturally, however, there were numerous changes in the Board of Managers of which the scope of this article cannot enumerate. In the earlier history of the association loans were made at a premium ranging from 18% to 30%, the first loan ever made having brought the price last named. Later in the history of the association, however, there were loans made without premium.

The association was what is termed a single series association. These kind all start out well, but after the borrowers are supplied, there are no new members coming in, and the money

of the stockholders, who are in for the investment, accumulates and fails to earn dividends. In order to relieve this condition it was decided to wind up the affairs of the association, which was done in May, 1879, at which time the stock had accumulated a value of about \$170 per share. With this adjustment of the business, the first building and loan association ever established in Downingtown passed into history. Before this association had wound up its affairs, however, another association had been organized, and the charter had been granted to it April 30, 1874. The name of this association was The Downingtown Building and Loan Association. The application for the charter was signed by George C. M. Eicholtz, D. M. Cox, Thos. E. Parke, W. F. McCaughey, Thos. S. Parke, L. J. Baldwin, Jesse H. Roberts, B. F. Lewis, R. D. Wells, S. B. Buchanan, J. B. Criswell, John R. Johnson, Chas. L. Wells, Charles Downing, James R. Gordon, Chas. A. King, J. A. McCaughey. The officers seem to have been: Jesse H. Roberts, president; William McClintock, secretary; Richard D. Wells, treasurer. Thus it will be seen that some of the members of the Progress Building and Loan Association were active, as well, in this later association. It, like its predecessor, was a single series association, and after flourishing for a time, met the same fate, by disbanding before it matured its stock. There seems to be no record of the charter of this association ever having been recorded, although the decree of the Court requires such action to be taken before they are legally qualified to transact business. They assumed all the functions of a building and loan association, however, by making loans, taking mortgages, foreclosing the same, taking and making title to real estate. No one seems to know what became of the books of this association, but from what can be gathered from the records of the Recorder's Office they ceased to do business about March 30th, 1882.

About five years after the closing up of the affairs of the last named association another association sprang into existence under the name of the Brandywine Building and Loan Association.

Instead of being a single series association, this was what may be termed a perpetual association, with the privilege to issue a new series as often as the management may think necessary. The history of the origin of this association perhaps can not be better set forth than by incorporating herein the minutes of the first meeting, which are as follows:

“Downingtown, Pa., June 7th, 1887.

“Pursuant to a call published in the Chester County Archive and Downingtown Review, a large number of citizens of the borough of Downingtown and vicinity met in Odd Fellows' Hall on Tuesday evening, June 7th, 1887, for the purpose of taking action toward organizing a building and loan association. The

meeting was called to order by Joseph H. Johnson, and upon sundry motions, R. D. Wells was made chairman, and Joseph H. Johnson secretary. Mr. Wells, upon taking the chair, stated the object of the meeting. The books were then opened for subscription, when 364 shares of the stock were taken. On motion a committee of twelve, six from each ward, were appointed to solicit subscriptions to the stock. The motion prevailed and the following named gentlemen were appointed by the chair:

EAST WARD—

J. Hunter Wills,
John L. Weldin,
John T. Fox,
Dr. Wm. H. Matlack,
Charles G. Hess,
Wm. H. Broschard.

WEST WARD—

Jesse H. Roberts,
Robert McGraw,
Howard B. Sides,
Dr. L. T. Bremerman,
Isaac Y. Ash,
G. C. M. Eicholz.

"On motion the name of Thomas Pedrick was added to the committee. On motion it was agreed that the above-named gentlemen be a committee on permanent organization and be instructed to take immediate action toward the procuring of a charter. On motion it was agreed that this meeting adjourn to meet in this room June 21st, at 8 o'clock P. M."

At the meeting of June 21st the committee reported that there had been about 800 shares of stock subscribed. They also recommended the following organization for the association: For president, J. Hunter Wills; vice president, Jesse H. Roberts; secretary, Jos. H. Johnson; treasurer, H. B. Sides; the other Directors being named as follows: Joseph Beale, John T. Fox, G. C. M. Eicholtz, Dr. Thomas E. Parke, D. Morgan Cox, Thomas Pedrick, Wm. H. Broschard, Charles G. Hess and John McGraw, all of whom were duly elected.

A constitution was drafted by a committee appointed for the purpose, and formally adopted at a meeting held June 21st, 1887. The newly elected Board of Directors prepared the by-laws, and they were adopted at a meeting held July 11th. The third Monday evening in each month was set for the meeting night, and the Council Chamber in the old Masonic Hall was rented for the use of the association.

They continued to meet at this place until April 8th, 1892, at which time the Masonic Hall building was burned, after which they removed to Alert Fire Company's hall, where they remained until July, 1902, when they removed to the office of the secretary, No. 66 West Lancaster avenue, where they have remained since. The first meeting for the reception of dues was held July 18, 1887, the receipts of which meeting amounted to \$1089.21. This money was sold at the same meeting at 1% premium and was used in the erection of a house on Brandywine avenue.

At the August meeting H. B. Sides resigned as treasurer and Dr. Thomas E. Parke was elected his successor, and he served to the end of the year, when he declined re-election, and Charles G. Hess was elected. Mr. Hess continued to serve the office until the time of his death, which occurred February 13, 1903, when he was succeeded by Ernest Smedley, who is the present incumbent. J. Hunter Wills served as president of the association until January, 1899, when he declined further service and Joseph T. Miller was elected to take his place, which position Mr. Miller has continued to hold until the present time. Joseph H. Johnson was the first secretary, and has continued to serve the association in that capacity from the first meeting night of the association until the present date.

For the first few years of the association there were frequent changes in the Board of Directors, but latterly the success of the association has been so pronounced and the stockholders seem so well satisfied, that they continue to re-elect the old directors until they either die or resign. There have been four deaths in the board since the formation of the association: Captain G. C. M. Eicholtz, James Copeland, Charles G. Hess and Kennedy Duff. These men all served the association faithfully and were valuable men to the board, but others have been raised up to take their places and the business goes on.

The association was able to collect small premiums on money loaned for the first twelve years, amounting in the aggregate to \$2307, the rate, however, never exceeding 3%, and at times there was difficulty in those earlier years to find use for the money, and at one time the association had to compel investors to borrow some of their money. The conditions set hard with the association and discouraged many, so that the original series, when it came to mature, had shrunk from over 800 shares to 416. The second series was not opened until January, 1890, two years and a half after the association was organized, and this was opened only to borrowers, as indeed were several of the succeeding series. There has been a series issued each year since 1890, and the association is now starting its 21st series and will mature its tenth series at the May meeting. In order to dispose of money that was accumulating, in August, 1902, the association bought a tract of land in the west end of Downingtown, subdividing the same into sixteen building lots, upon which they built houses from time to time, until they had built all of the sixteen houses. All of these houses were speedily sold to home-seekers, who carried their loans with the association. Again in the Fall of 1901 there was a great demand for houses in the east end of the town to accommodate the Cohansey Glass Manufacturing Co., who had just established a large plant here, and the association furnished

all the necessary capital for the erection of twenty houses, to supply this demand.

The association had to borrow considerable money to meet the demands made upon it on this occasion, and upon this money they always made at least one per cent. or more profit, which margin made a good substitute for the premiums formerly collected. All the real estate propositions turned out exceedingly profitable to the association, and netted them a profit in addition to securing investments for otherwise unoccupied capital, and yet to-day the association does not own a single house or foot of land, and with the money borrowed and the maturing yearly of a series of stock there is no prospect in sight of lacking for investment. The association has been maturing its stock in from 134 to 137 months, and while it charges its borrowers 6% interest, yet it nets them 8% on their investments, so that it does not really cost the borrower, after deducting his share of the earnings, more than from 4½% to 5% interest.

The association has prospered beyond every expectation of its promoters, and to-day is second only to one in size in the county, while it stands pre-eminently first in the financial returns it affords its stockholders.

The Brandywine Building and Loan Association has now been in existence for twenty-two years, and every year it is becoming more popular, and gaining a firmer hold on the confidence of the people, and each succeeding series is having more subscribers. It now has an established place of business at the office of the secretary, which is constantly open at all times for information and the transaction of such business as may require attention. This is a novel feature in the practice of local building and loan associations, and is only made possible by its secretary having other business of a kindred nature connected therewith. This feature of an open office is a great convenience to the patrons of the association, and tends to the increase of business. There is also a large fireproof vault in the equipment of the building, in which space is provided for the protection of the books, securities and other valuable papers of the association. During the existence of this association it has erected, or furnished capital for the erection of 164 houses, and also has furnished capital for the purchase of, or the liquidation of the indebtedness on 150 other properties, many of which have been fully paid for, and others are following in the line, and many members are saving in contemplation of buying or building.

Downingtown is greatly to be congratulated in the happy combination of all elements, natural and otherwise, that go to make it the ideal residence town, for not the wage earner only, but for all classes, as it affords all the combinations of city and

country life that can unite to make the ideal. As a matter of interest it may be fitting that a few statistics be given of the Brandywine Building and Loan Association in closing. There are about 700 individual shareholders, among whom is distributed about 4800 shares of stock. The association has about \$335,000 invested loans, and the monthly receipts amount to about \$6500. Some of the present officers and directors have been connected with the management ever since the organization of the association, while many of the others, with a few exceptions, have been connected with the board for long years, and the great success that the association has attained, and the uplift that it has given the town, is doubtless due, in a great measure at least, to the business ability, perseverance, integrity and foresight of the management. "They have fought a good fight, they have kept the faith, and henceforth," that there may be a crown of remembrance laid up for them, the editor will perpetuate their memories by closing this article with a list of the names of the present officers and members of the Board of Directors: President, Jos. T. Miller; vice president, F. J. McGraw; secretary, Jos. H. Johnson; treasurer, Ernest Smedley; Loan and Real Estate Committee, J. H. Roberts, Wm. Copeland, Thos. Pedrick, J. L. Weldin; Committee on Finance, S. A. Black, F. J. McGraw, Howard E. Laird, John M. Patton, Herbert Ash, Allen E. Keim.



Chapter 10

Alert Fire Co., No. 1—Minquas Fire Co., No. 2—Downingtown Opera House.

Alert Fire Co., No. 1. Previous to 1887, Downingtown had no organization or apparatus for protecting the town against a fire. One or two attempts had been made prior to this time to form a fire company, but without success.

On August 18th, 1887, Robert McGraw, E. Vinton Philips, Edward M. McCaughey, W. Howard Buckwalter, John Stout, T. Filmore Lewis, Samuel P. Brown, G. B. Stringfellow, Walter Gracie, William Krautter and Ezra Brown met in the office of the Downingtown Review (a weekly newspaper then published in the brick building on the south side of Lancaster avenue near Viaduct). These men met for the purpose of discussing the urgent need of some protection for the lives and properties of the citizens of the town against fire, and the result of this meeting was the organization of the Alert Fire Co., No. 1.

The first officers chosen were as follows: President, Robert McGraw; vice president, E. Vinton Philips; secretary, Edward M. McCaughey; treasurer, J. Leighton Guest; trustees, W. Howard Buckwalter, John Stout and T. Fillmore Lewis.

A committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for an equipment reported at a subsequent meeting having met with little success.

The organization of a fire company did not seem to be a popular movement, particularly among those who should have been most interested.

At a meeting held September 12 it was decided to hold a fair in Odd Fellows' Hall. This was done, and the Fair being patronized quite liberally the boys were much encouraged in their efforts.

Some difficulty was experienced in securing a permanent meeting place, but finally the second floor of the Excelsior Paint Building was procured. This building stood on the site on which the new High School Building is now being erected. The company occupied these rooms from December 19, 1887, to April 1st, 1889.

On December 19th, 1887, the new hook and ladder truck purchased of Rumsey & Co., Seneca Falls, N. Y., arrived, and on the following night the company had its first run, fire having broken out at the Stove Works, located along the Downingtown & Lancaster R. R., near Park Run. Heroic work was done by the company in saving the moulding rooms connected with the building. The only means of fighting fire was by buckets, water being secured from Park Run.

During the years 1888 and 1889 the company had a struggle for existence, the only source of revenue being the annual dues of \$1.00 from its members. Borough Council was petitioned for aid, but could give no assistance.

In the Fall of 1889 a fair was held on the vacant lot at the northwest corner of Lancaster and Downing avenues, and a neat sum of money was realized, which relieved the wants of the Company, and enabled them to purchase additional buckets for the truck.

On April 1st, 1889, the place of meeting was changed to the G. A. R. rooms in the Masonic Hall, corner Lancaster and Stuart avenues. These quarters were occupied until December 7, 1891.

On May 4, 1891, a lot on the east side of Downing avenue was purchased for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for housing the truck and also for a place of meeting. Considerable difficulty had been experienced in securing a place to house the truck.

On the night of July 2d, 1891, the frame livery stable of McFadden Bros. was totally destroyed, and with great difficulty the adjoining property was saved. Assistance was asked of the First West Chester Fire Co., and they responded promptly, bringing their large Hayes Extension Ladder over seven miles of rough country road on a dark night.

July 12, 1891, the contract was signed for the erection of the two-story brick building on the lot on Downing avenue. The building was completed December 1st, and the first meeting held therein December 7th, 1891.

On the night of April 8th, 1882, fire broke out in the Masonic Hall, which stood on the site of the Improvement Building, and the building was entirely destroyed, the apparatus of the company being entirely inadequate to control this fire. Assistance was asked of the Washington Fire Co., No. 1, of Coatesville, who promptly responded, bringing their engine and men on cars provided by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the run being made from Coatesville in six minutes. A supply of water was secured from the old quarry of the P. R. R. Co., the site now being used as a freight yard.

The lesson learned by the experience of this fire and also of

the livery stable fire in 1891, so impressed the citizens of the necessity of procuring suitable fire apparatus, that when Mr. Thomas Pedrick canvassed the town with a petition to Council, every property-owner, with the exception of two, immediately signed it.

On the petition of the citizens, Council promptly purchased the latest type of Silsby Steam Fire Engine, and on July 16th, 1892, formally turned the same over to the care of the company. The building not having been dedicated, this ceremony was also performed on this day. A great number of visiting firemen being present to participate in the parade and ceremonies, a large demonstration was made to commemorate the event.

The membership of the company was largely increased at this time, and with the new Silsby Engine and 1500 feet of hose was well equipped for fighting fire. The efficiency of the company was further augmented by the installing of the new water plant and fireplugs by the borough, which were completed and tested December 24th, 1894. Previous to that time water could only be secured by pumping from the streams.

Fairs were held at various times and the proceeds applied to the debt on the building. On November 27th, 1899, the last payment was made and the company was entirely clear of debt.

On October 27th, 1902, the first appropriation of \$100 was received from the Borough Council. Since that time Council has been making an annual appropriation to the company. The method of giving the alarm of fire, up to this time, has been by striking a bell. The first bell purchased was a very small one, and was not satisfactory. A locomotive tire was placed in the tower and used for some time. This, too, proved unsatisfactory, and a larger bell was purchased. This bell has since been exchanged for the present 1500-lb. bell, and is now doing service on the Baptist Church.

In May, 1905, a pair of horses, street sprinkler and wagon were purchased, which were a great source of revenue to the company.

In 1906 the company was in a prosperous condition and working in perfect harmony. Early in this year a change in the location of the fire house was agitated and a committee was finally appointed to investigate the advisability of purchasing the Opera House, on Brandywine Avenue, a number of shares of the stock of the Opera House Company having been donated for the benefit of a fire company east of the Brandywine Creek.

The committee, after viewing the building and site, reported unfavorably. Some time after a committee was appointed to select a suitable site.

Two reports were submitted at a meeting of the company,

November 26, 1906, one recommending the purchase of the Thomas Downing lot, on East Lancaster avenue, for \$5000, and the other the purchase of the lot on West Lancaster avenue, on which the new High School is being erected, for the sum of \$1575. A large attendance was present, at this meeting, and on motion action on the matter was indefinitely postponed.

During the year 1907, the membership from the East Ward was considerably increased, giving that section of the town the majority and on February 24, 1908, a resolution was offered to remove the Alert Fire House and apparatus to a location to be selected east of the Brandywine Creek. This action aroused intense feeling. The resolution being put to a vote was declared carried. Legal action was threatened, and in order to adjust the difference, it was decided to make a division of the property, giving to the new company to be organized east of the Brandywine Creek, the horses, wagon, street sprinkler and cash on hand, amounting to \$1925. It was also agreed that Council be requested to turn over to the new company the Silsby Fire Engine and that they purchase a new combination chemical wagon for the use of the Alert Fire Co.

The cash on hand and all the personal property having been turned over to the new company, a committee was immediately appointed to purchase a new outfit, consisting of a pair of horses, a street sprinkler and a wagon.

A fair and carnival was held on the lot adjoining the fire house early in July and sufficient funds realized to pay for the team, and leave a balance of over \$1000 in the treasury.

Previous to holding this fair, a Ladies' Auxiliary was formed, with a membership of one hundred and fifty (this was the first organization of the kind in connection with a fire company, that was formed in Chester County). The ladies were very enthusiastic to aid the company, and it was mainly through their untiring labors that the fair proved such a success.

The Ladies Auxiliary is a permanent organization, with monthly meetings on the first Thursday evening of each month. The membership now numbers over two hundred.

On November 1st, a new addition to the fire house was completed, providing for the stabling of the horses and the housing of the wagons, etc.

On November 2d, the new combination chemical wagon arrived, and the Silsby Steam Engine was turned over to the Minnas Company, No. 2.

On November 7th, the new annex was dedicated, and the chemical wagon, after being christened by Miss Marguerite Gibney, was housed by the Brandywine Fire Co., No. 2, of Coatesville.

Several visiting fire companies were present to participate in the parade and ceremonies, and the occasion was made a memorable event.

The company issued a handsome program of the events of the day, with a short history of the borough. The book was much appreciated, and without doubt will be preserved as a souvenir of the occasion.

The company at this time is in an exceedingly prosperous condition, with the membership working in perfect harmony. The roll now contains 329 members.

The present executive officers of the company are as follows: President, Joseph H. Johnson; vice president, Allen E. Keim; recording secretary, Howard E. Laird; financial secretary, Lewis Moses; treasurer, Thomas Pedrick.

The Minquas Fire Company, No. 2. After the division in the Alert Co., No. 1, already noted, steps were taken to organize a company in the East Ward, and the Minquas Fire Company was duly incorporated May 4, 1906. Several locations were considered and the present property, formerly a part of the Matlack Estate, on East Lancaster avenue, was selected, and purchased. The cornerstone of the new building was laid with appropriate ceremonies October 8, 1908. Chief Burgess J. Hunter Wills read a history of the organization, and addresses were made by Howard Coates, representing the Washington Fire Company of Coatesville, and Joseph H. Johnson, Esq., representing Alert Fire Co., No. 1. The handsome structure just finished will be dedicated with formal ceremonies on Saturday, May 29, in connection with the semi-centennial celebration. The old barn has also been remodeled and connected with the new structure, forming a convenient and commodious stable for the fire horses. The fire house is a credit to the building committee and an ornament to the town. The parlor, meeting room and game room have been tastily furnished. There is a strong and efficient ladies' auxiliary, which at a fair held in the opera house, realized a large sum for the treasury, and the company is in excellent financial condition. There are two hundred and eighty members. The complete list of officers and committees is as follows:

President, Samuel P. Bicking; vice president, John P. Noll; recording secretary, William W. E. Ash; financial secretary, Charles W. Reel; treasurer, Everett P. Fisher; trustees, Horace A. Feters, Ellis Y. Brown, Jr., J. Penrose Moore; chief, J. Harvard Downing; assistant chiefs, Andrew G. C. Breese, T. Vance Miller; engineer, Frank P. Miller; assistant engineers, Harry Magill, Albert Moore, William H. Carey, B. Frank Zittle; truck director, Harry Worrall; assistant truck director, Dr. Isaac H.

Whyte; hosemen, E. E. Entrekin, E. J. Griffith, Horace S. Carpenter, J. Kirk Smith, Frank Laird, Clemson King; fire police, Levi A. Moore, August Dickman, William McClure, Jr.; Representative to State Firemen's Convention, John L. Weldin; Alternate Representative to Firemen's Convention, John W. Dennis; Bill Committee, Wilmer K. Biles, T. Vance Miller, William McClure, Jr.; Team Committee, Harry Worrall, Horace A. Fetters, Joseph A. Bicking.

The Downingtown Opera House Company was incorporated March 10, 1902. The applicants for charter were Alexander P. Tutton, Charles G. Hess, Howard E. Laird, Dr. Edward Kerr, & S. Austin Bickin. With authorized capital stock, \$20,000, 400 shares at \$50 each. The directors for the first year were Theodore Hallman, Joseph T. Miller, J. Hunter Wills, Joseph H. Johnson, & J. T. Carpenter. Eber Garrett, a stockholder, was elected treasurer. Upon organization of the Board of Directors, Theodore Hallman was made president, J. T. Carpenter secretary.

Theodore Hallman offered a site in "Center Square," next to "Coral Hall," 60 by 90 feet, at a very reasonable price as a suitable location for the opera house. Frank H. Keisker, architect, was employed to prepare plans for the opera house in keeping with the location. Bids were received for the erection of the same, and also for its erection on a modified and less expensive plan; but the bids for both plans being in excess of the subscriptions and the legally authorized capital stock, said plans had to be abandoned.

Subsequently a new plan for the opera house was prepared by J. T. Carpenter, of Downingtown, and approved by the stockholders, another site selected, and in the year 1903, the "Downingtown Opera House," as it now stands, was erected with all its paraphernalia at a cost of about \$13,000.

In the year 1907 a large block of the capital stock was purchased by the company and retired, the remainder of said stock outstanding was donated by the holders thereof to Minquas Fire Company, No. 2. Said fire company is now virtually the owner of the opera house, having control of all the stock of the said opera-house company, but the same being a separate corporation, must be officered and conducted under the name, style and title of "Downingtown Opera House Co." The original stockholders numbered sixty-four, holding two hundred and five shares, and of those Theodore Hallman and Mary H. Hallman held ninety shares.

Chapter 11

The Borough Council—Interesting Events—Fire Protection—Street Lights—Water.

Isaac Yearsley Ash, of Downingtown, furnishes the following compilation from the Minute Books of the Borough of Downingtown, which books are in his possession, and the historian desires at this point to acknowledge the zeal and interest manifested in this work by Mr. Ash:

On June 2, 1859, the first meeting of Council was held in the office of William Edge. The Chief Burgess and all the Councilmen-elect being present, the "oath of office was duly administered to each and all of them by Esquire Rogers," and organized by electing William Edge secretary pro tem." David Shelmire was duly elected Assistant Burgess; James Humphrey, Secretary, who afterwards declined, and J. Stuart Leach succeeded him. William Edge was elected Treasurer. The security of the Treasurer was fixed at two thousand (2000) dollars, and his salary twenty dollars. The compensation of the Secretary was fixed at fifteen dollars. Rev. A. G. Compton was chosen Street Commissioner.

The question of organization of a borough was under consideration for more than two years before final action was taken, and one of the strongest arguments set forth by the projectors of the act was the utter inability to secure a good, clean thoroughfare between the two ends of the town by constant appeals to the township supervisors, who, in their long-legged cowhide boots, had no sympathy for the dudish villagers, who once a week, at least, brushed and polished their fine boots to wear to meeting and on other laudable and interesting occasions. It was quite natural, therefore, as an act of good practice for Council to consider the betterment of the principal highway in town for pedestrians, for, be it remembered, that trolley cars, automobiles and even bicycles were then unthought of, and perhaps would not have been tolerated. The very first act, therefore, of the first Council at their first meeting was to appoint a committee, consisting of William Edge, David Shelmire and R. D. Wells, to confer with the president of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company to make certain arrangements in

reference to sidewalks along the said turnpike. At this meeting a committee was appointed, consisting of the Burgess and Councilmen, to draft a constitution and set of by-laws. William Edge and James Lochart were appointed to secure a seal, and William Butler, Esq., of West Chester, was elected the "legal counsel of the Corporation."

The next act was an ordinance naming the point of intersection of the Lancaster Pike and the Wilmington State Road "Centre Square," and naming the other established roads leading to or through the borough—sixteen in all.

On July 28, 1859, J. Stuart Leech and William B. Hoopes were appointed a committee to procure a map of the borough, and on August 3, same year, the Chief Burgess was authorized to procure a lock-up, and an ordinance passed "for the punishment of disorderly conduct in the Borough of Downingtown."

On September 1, 1859, an ordinance for raising supplies to defray expenses was enacted, fixing the rate at 3 mills. On October 15, 1859, Esquire Lewis was paid the sum of (\$7.50) seven dollars and fifty cents for five days' leveling and surveying on the streets, civil engineering evidently being at a low ebb. On December 29, 1859, Rule 27 was enacted, granting citizens the privilege of attending the meetings of Council, but to take no part in the deliberations, except by invitation determined by a majority of the members present.

On January 6, 1860, communication received from William Butler, Esq., Borough Counsel, enclosing a decision of Supreme Court in reference to non-taxing money for borough purposes.

On April 4, 1860, the first street committee (or "Street Regulations") was appointed, being the only standing committee of Council, to whom complaints from sundry citizens from time to time were referred.

September 27, 1860, a petition of citizens was presented to Council, asking that an ordinance be passed prohibiting interments within the borough limits, which was referred to William Edge and R. D. Wells, who were directed to consider the subject of organizing a cemetery company and report to a subsequent meeting.

January 31, 1861, Committee on Public Cemetery made a report, which was accepted, their selection of ground being a part of lands of Joshua B. Sharpless, containing about twenty acres, on the road from the borough to West Chester, outside of the borough limits, with some preparation to having same incorporated, which project, however, was never completed, for what reason is not stated, although the subject was "earnestly recommended to the public spirit and enterprise of the citizens of the borough and surrounding neighborhood to consummate the de-

sign." (For a description of Northwood see another chapter.) On May 21, 1861, it was resolved, in repairing Bradford avenue, to have the western line straightened from "Walton's gate to the hydraulic ram," or further, if necessary, landmarks now obliterated.

Much concern was exercised in the repairs of streets and bridges and in requiring citizens to repair and keep in good condition the sidewalks on their respective properties, and on May 1, 1862, the sum of two hundred and twelve dollars (\$212) was appropriated for repairs and improvements on bridges and avenues for the ensuing year.

The matter of grade crossings engaged the attention of the young borough, for as early as 9th mo., 4th, 1862, Robert W. Forrest and Enos Worrall addressed a communication to Council representing that on that day they ran a very narrow chance of being killed on crossing the East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad, on account of want of proper care and attention of those in the management of the road. The matter being referred to a special committee, all further danger was avoided by the railroad company erecting a board at the crossing reading, "Look Out for the Locomotive."

The borough, composed largely of members of the Society of Friends and Democrats, was none the less patriotic, for, on June 17, 1862, pursuant to a request made at a town meeting held in Odd Fellows' hall, at which Rev. M. Newkirk and Caleb Baldwin were appointed to represent them, a special meeting of Council was held and the following resolution was presented:

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the president, whose duty it shall be to call on the Burgess of the borough with the request that he convene the Council for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of pledging the faith of the borough in raising a sum sufficient to relieve the necessities of the families of those patriotic citizens who have volunteered to march in defense of our invaded State. Signed, M. Newkirk, Jr., Secretary of the meeting."

When, on motion, it was resolved that the Borough of Downingtown be pledged to supply the families of such volunteers residing within the borough limits as are now leaving their homes in defense of the State with such necessaries as may be needed for their support during the absence of such, the said supplies to be purchased as directed by a committee appointed for that purpose.

R. D. Wells and C. Zigler were appointed a committee to attend to the same.

Sanitary conditions were not neglected, for, on May 14, 1866, at a special "session," the Burgess was requested to have printed

and distributed to every housekeeper within the borough limits notices setting forth the necessity of cleaning and purifying their cellars, sinks, gutters and all places about their premises calculated to create disease, especially the apprehended cholera, and in view of a committee from Council visiting their premises.

During the war of the Rebellion it was thought necessary to resort to draft to secure recruits for the depleted ranks of our soldiers, and certain townships and boroughs, anticipating such methods, would raise by subscription enough money to "fill the quota" of their respective districts by paying substitutes to enlist, the price ranging from a few dollars to many hundreds of dollars for each substitute, who, in many cases, would desert on the first opportunity and engage somewhere else, called bounty jumpers.

Downingtown entered into this method of escaping the draft, for we find where Joshua Kames, in October, 1864, petitioned Council to pay to the First National Bank the sum of one thousand dollars, which had been advanced by said bank.

On May 19, 1866, on motion, the whole Council resolved itself into a committee to wait upon every citizen within the borough limits and inspect all places liable to invite disease, and especially cholera.

The grade crossing of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Bradford avenue was considered so dangerous that on October 4, 1869, a committee of Council was appointed to confer with the officers of the said railroad company as to their intention of making a culvert under their road on Viaduct avenue, and on December 2, 1872, Bath alley ordained, and Bradford avenue from Lancaster avenue to Bath alley vacated, the Railroad company having opened the culvert under their tracks at Viaduct avenue.

Among the many improvements and enterprises introduced by Joshua Kames was the erection of a large hotel on the south side of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in the West Ward, known as the "Aston Terrace," which was destroyed by fire about the time of its completion, supposed to be the work of incendiaries, on the night of June 18, 1870, for the arrest and conviction of whom the Borough Council offered a reward of five hundred dollars, the same to be published in the "Journal," "Record" and "Jeffersonian."

March 4, 1872, a map of the borough, made and presented by Messrs. Townsend, Hoopes and A. V. Trimble, was accepted and adopted as the official borough map.

In order to encourage the erection of manufacturing establishments in the borough, an ordinance was passed, February 10, 1873, exempting from borough tax for a period of ten years all

property used directly in the manufacture of woolen, cotton, iron, glass or paper goods.

March 3, 1874, Council Chamber moved to Masonic Hall, West Ward. June 26, 1876, the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars was appropriated by Council for fireworks in celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of American independence on July 4, 1876, and the Chief Burgess was directed to issue a proclamation requesting a general observance of the day.

A citizens' meeting was held July 25, 1877, and J. T. Carpenter was appointed a committee to wait on Council and request the Chief Burgess to apply to the Governor for the loan of arms and ammunition and equipment for one hundred men enrolled as an organized force for the protection of the Borough of Downingtown, as per the Governor's proclamation. This was in view of the unsettled condition of society owing to labor troubles and strikes and riots in various places.

In 1884 the borough was divided into two wards by a decree of Court, with costs amounting to \$47.87. Some discord began to show itself between the two wards, and to avoid the same some prominent citizens advocated dissolution as the only remedy. On November 3, 1890, resolution passed Council condemning the efforts of certain persons to have the Borough of Downingtown divided into separate boroughs.

May 13, 1892, an agreement was made with the Pennsylvania Railroad, by which Brandywine avenue was made to pass under the railroad and thus avoid a very dangerous grade crossing at that point.

March 13, 1893, the Lancaster and Philadelphia Street Railway applied for permission to lay tracks on Lancaster avenue, but the project was abandoned.

Later the West Chester Street Railway extended its tracks to Coatesville over two of the most important streets, giving Downingtown good trolley service, which has proven a benefit to the town.

At this, the closing days of the semi-Centennial, the borough is in good condition financially, has an abundant supply of pure water, which reaches the town by gravity; has well-lighted streets, good sidewalks and much care taken to keep the streets and avenues in smooth and clean condition. Two well-equipped fire companies, who own their teams; a large steam roller, two United States Post Offices, two Pennsylvania Railroad passenger stations, one Philadelphia and Reading station, one large steam flour mill, several other industries mentioned in other chapters, flourishing churches of several denominations, between the pastors and members of which there exists a most cordial feeling of sympathy and fidelity. A large proportion of the inhabitants

own their homes, assisted largely in many cases by the liberality of the well-managed Brandywine Building Association.

All the lodges and beneficial organizations are prosperous, the merchants are trustworthy business men and prosper, the town is growing and many beautiful building sites are being improved in the western or resident section, while valuable buildings are being erected in the eastern or business section. Health and prosperity is the heritage of the populace in the heart of the beautiful Valley, and, seated on either side of the historic Brandywine, within the shadow of the Heights of Valley Forge, we are a happy and contented people, anxiously waiting to see the new school building completed, and, ever grateful to the Giver of all blessings, we stand upon the threshold of the last half of our century full of hope and confidence.

FIRE PROTECTION.

For the protection of property from fire the question of securing apparatus for equipping a hook and ladder company was considered at a meeting of Council, held May 5, 1873, and Dr. Thomas E. Parke was appointed a committee to inquire into the cost of same.

May 5, 1884, a committee from a citizens' meeting appeared before Council and asked that measures be taken for protection of property in the borough from fire, when a committee was appointed to confer with citizens' committee on the subject and to ascertain the lowest rates to be obtained from the water company for fire protection. August 4, 1884, the question of fire protection was brought up, and the committee directed to make inquiry as to cost of certain apparatus and cost of building for same, the further consideration of which was, September 1, 1884, indefinitely postponed. January 9, 1888, the Alert Fire Company, No. 1, of Downingtown, having been organized, Council was asked for an appropriation for providing a house for their hook and ladder truck, referred to committee, who, on February 27, 1888, reported, "The company at present consists of 28 active members; whole amount of money received from various sources, \$710.95; amount expended, \$655.45; of this, \$400 was paid for hook and ladder truck, the balance for charter, printing by-laws and other incidental expenses. They have a handsome and fully rigged hook and ladder truck, 12 rubber buckets, one extension and two small ladders, picks, drag chains, bars, axes, etc. They own no horse. The company asks assistance to erect a building 20 x 40 feet for housing their truck and for holding meetings.

"The committee finds the company a respectable and vigorous band of young men. Their constitution and by-laws are based upon such principles as the most law-abiding citizen must

approve. The committee approves of aiding the company in such sum as may be considered prudent."

Masonic Hall, at corner of Lancaster and Stuart avenues, having been entirely destroyed by fire in the early hours of April 6, 1892, the borough authorities purchased a Silsby fire engine, No. 4, which was placed in charge of the Alert Fire Company, No. 1, they having erected a suitable building for housing fire apparatus. An agreement was entered into by the borough authorities and officers of Alert Fire Company.

STREET LIGHT.

December 7, 1874, Joshua Kames appeared before Council on behalf of the Gas and Water Company and made an offer to erect one hundred lamps without expense to the borough and supply the gas for street lighting on the same terms and conditions upon which it will be furnished to private consumers, which was accepted, and the Street Committee was directed to assist in locating the same, having due regard to street crossings. On March 6, 1876, Joshua Kames appeared before Council and stated that, under the contract with the borough, fifty street lamps had been erected, and desired to be informed where the additional fifty agreed upon should be placed, stating also that the gas made had been of good quality and carefully measured, and the consumption for January and February was seventy-five thousand feet, which, at \$3.50 per thousand feet, would amount to \$262.50, which amount would be in accordance with the contract. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, which reported at a subsequent meeting that no such contract was made binding the borough, and refused to pay any bills or charges for gas that had been used in lighting the streets, and the borough would not be responsible for any future lights under the alleged agreement, which report was accepted and a committee appointed to communicate in writing with the Gas and Water Company on the subject. On June 7, 1876, the Gas and Water Company made an offer in writing to light the borough with gas at the rate of \$22 per lamp per annum, but the offer was not accepted. May 6, 1878, a committee was appointed to confer with the Downingtown Diamond Lamp Company in relation to furnishing street lights, which reported in favor of erecting two lamps on the turnpike bridge, to be used on dark nights for the safety and convenience of citizens, to be erected by the Diamond Lamp Company for one year at \$7.00 per lamp, which was not approved by Council.

This matter was again brought before Council on September 4, 1882, by petition of citizens, and referred to committee, which approved at a later meeting having the lamp erected.

April 6, 1885, the question of street lights was again considered, and a committee was appointed to inquire into the costs and feasibility of same, and on June 1, 1885, a contract was entered into with the Downingtown Gas and Water Company for 25 lights for \$400 per year, which contract was annulled on February 1, 1886, on account of poor service.

May 3, 1886, 37 oil lamps were installed at \$8.25 per lamp per year. June 6, 1887, proposals for erecting and maintaining 75 street lights were advertised. September 3, 1888, a contract was executed with Brooks Gas Company for 50 gas lights at \$7.50 per annum. For the last four years the town has streets well lighted with gas and electricity.

WATER.

The first mention made of the introduction of water pipes is on November 7, 1870, when a petition was presented by sundry citizens asking for the insertion of fire plugs. The Water Company being a private corporation (another one of Joshua Kames' enterprises), April 11, 1873, a resolution was passed earnestly requesting the Governor to veto an act of the Legislature authorizing the Burgess and Town Council to borrow the sum of fifty thousand dollars to purchase water works, as the act was passed without their knowledge or consent. Trouble now commences with the Gas and Water Company, who, by virtue of their charter, as decided by the Borough Solicitor, have the right to go where they please, doing as little injury as possible, and the Burgess, on July 7, 1873, was directed to notify John Webster, secretary of the Gas and Water Company, to fill up ditches within one week, or Council will proceed to do the same without delay. December 8, 1873, Council wished to be heard by the Governor on the Kames water bill enacted by the Legislature, but not as yet signed by the Governor.

It was proved beyond any doubt that the borough could not depend upon the existing water company, owned principally by outside capitalists, and the borough authorities were requested to take measures to secure control of the water supply. Failing in this, they conceived the idea of establishing a plant owned and operated solely by the borough. Water rights were purchased and a large basin built at the headwaters on Pine Run, on the farm of Mrs. Young. From this a good supply of pure spring water was obtained, but the old company brought suit against the borough for trespassing on their chartered rights, which gave the old company exclusive control of the service. The decision of the lower Court, confirmed by the Supreme Court, was against the borough, which was now compelled to

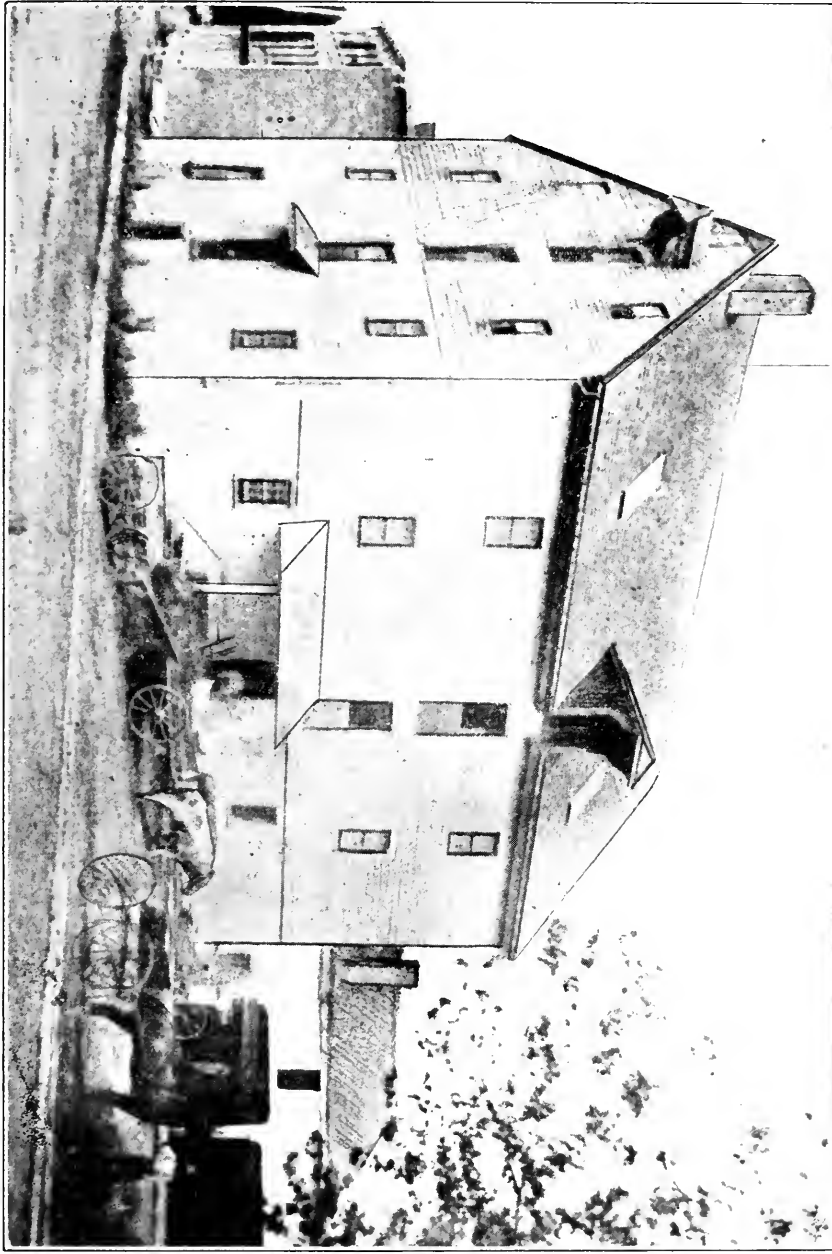
purchase the rights, titles, etc., of the old company. This gave a supply from another source and gave the town an abundant supply, though at heavy cost. The revenue, however, from private consumers, manufacturing establishments and the Pennsylvania Railroad has enabled the Council to reduce the indebtedness at an increasing rate.

The present equipment, with the completion of the large reservoir now in contemplation, will supply all demands for many years.





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Chapter 12

Early Industries—The Vicker's Pottery—The Bicking's and Paper Mills—Various Enterprises.

Among the early industries in Downingtown was that of a pottery, carried on by John Vickers, who formerly lived in Sadsbury, and who began business in Downingtown as early as 1807. His pottery was located in the eastern portion of the town on property now owned by George H. Fisher. An examination of the old account book of the Caln Pottery, which accounts extend from 1808 to 1813, shows the names of purchasers as follows:

Meredith & Hoopes purchased in 1808; John Taylor, of Kennett Square, purchased the same year, as did Thomas Edge. In 1809, John Hoopes, Jr., and Sharpless & Windle. Purchasers in 1810 were Joseph Quarll, Abner James & Company, Evan Evans & Company, Jesse Kersey, and in 1811, David Jones & Jesse Gause were purchasers.

These entries show that ware was shipped to Wilmington, Delaware, Kennett Square, Columbia and Christianabridge. It is also interesting to note that bricks appear to have been made here, as one entry under date of 9th month, 19th, 1809, refers to "500 bricks." It is also interesting to note that Phineas Whitaker is credited with two loads of clay at \$1.00, and John Hoopes, Jr., is frequently credited with loads of clay at \$0.50, such credits extending from the year 1808 to 1811. 8th month, 9th, 1813, Samuel R. Downing is charged with seven dozen porter bottles. Whether these bottles were made at this pottery, or whether they were simply sold, the record does not explain. A sample bill will give a general idea of the articles made here during the early years of the pottery. It is in the name of Meredith & Hoopes, and under date of 9th month, 1809, as follows:

	£	s.	d.
To 1 doz pots at 17s. 6d. & 1½ doz. at 12s...	1	15	6
1½ doz. do. at 6s. 6d., ¾ doz. at 5s. & 2 doz. at 3s		19	6
1 doz. milk pots		6	6
1 doz. dishes 10s. & 8s. and 1-3 doz. at 5s.		10	8

2 doz. do., 3s. and 4 doz. at 1s. 6d.	12	
1½ doz. basins, 8s. & 5s., and 1½ doz., 9s.	14	3
1½ doz. two-gal. jars, 22s. 6d.	11	3
1 doz. gal. do.	15	
3 doz. ½-gal. jugs, do. & pitchers, 10s. ..	1	10
2 doz. qt. bowls and mugs, 5s.	10	
3 doz. pt. do., do., and cups, 2s. 6d.	7	6
½ doz. sugar pots, 18s and 14s.	8	
1 doz. Jordans, 12s. and 9s.	10	6
½ doz. jar lids, 2s.	1	
4 doz. Toy ware, 9s.	3	
¼ doz. 3-pt. green enameled pitchers, 11s.	3	
¼ doz. qt. do. do., 12s.	3	
Drawing	3	
Drawing	10	4
1 doz. gal. jugs	15	5
Total	(29.25)	10 19 5

Much of this ware was queensware and white ware, and was shipped to various points in Chester County and the State of Delaware, and some of it was shipped to the city of Philadelphia, "5 mo. 27, 1809," the following entry was made:

FINE WARE.

	£	s.	d.
1 doz. half-gal. coffee pots	2	1	3
1 doz. three-pint do.	1	13	9
1 doz. half-gal. pitchers		18	9
1 doz. three-pint do.		15	
½ doz. quart do., 12s.		6	
1 doz. large tea pots	1		
1 doz. less do.		16	
1 doz. large cream cups		5	7½
2 doz. small do., 3s. 9d.	7	6	
2 doz. salt cups, 2s. 9½d.		5	7½
1-6 doz. half-gal. bowls, 18s. 9d.		2	1½
¼ doz. three-pt. do., 15s.		3	9
1 doz. qt. do.		10	
2 doz. pt. do., 3s. 9d.		7	6
1 doz. qt. mugs		8	
2 doz. pt. do., 5s.		10	
2-3 doz. Jordans, 18s, 9d.		12	6
½ doz. sugar bowls, 10s.		5	
¾ doz. small do., 7s. 6d.		5	7½

John Vickers continued at this pottery until about the year 1822, when he sold out the concern and started a new pottery

about half a mile northeast of Lionville, in Uwchlan township, Chester County. During the time that Friend Vickers was at Downingtown, among his workmen was Jesse Kersey, who was quite a noted speaker among the society of Friends. Jesse exercised his joints at the pottery during the week, and exercised his gift of speech at Friends' meeting on the first day of the week. He forgot that then, as now, the audience always look behind the speaker to the consistency of his personality. However eloquent is the orator, if he lacks stability of character, his words fall upon heedless ears. A century ago the personal equation was as much in evidence and of as great an importance as it is to-day, and any one who speaks in the "limelight" of public criticism is influential more by his schedule of living than he is by his flow of language.

The bake shop was a scarce industry in Chester County. There were a few of them, but there was none in Downingtown. The bread that was consumed in the Downingtown dining room was baked in the Downingtown kitchen, and the manufacture and consumption of pies was something astounding. In every harvest field in Chester County there was what was known as the 10 o'clock piece, and the piece was generally a piece of pie. Such bake shops as did exist in country towns at that time kept the account with the patrons by means of "a tally," and the notches on one side of the tally meant three-cent loaves and the notches on the other side of the tally meant six-cent loaves. There were no electric lights; there were no gas lights; there were no coal oil lights, but there was plenty of candle light. There was much sociability and a great deal of family visiting, and while in the Society of Friends the first day of the week was devoted to visiting and social intercourse when time and opportunity would permit, the practice was discouraged among other religious denominations. The present remarkable sized hats and bonnets is only a revival of what was usual and common a century ago. There were communities in Chester County in which the head gear of the gentler sex was so great as three feet in height, and one visiting Friend in Oxford township said to her hostess, after the large-sized creation had been lifted from her head, "Please be careful to put it in a clean place," and the hostess promptly replied, "Where do you keep it at home?" And yet that head gear adorned its wearer in a Presbyterian church in Chester County and excited the astonishment of all beholders.

There were some superstitions prevailing in Downingtown. Almost every dwelling has its vegetable garden, in which various things were planted according to "the sign," and there were numbers of people prepared to show that such signs were worthy

of observation. The moon, by its position, was supposed to convey to the planter the proper indication as to when certain things should be placed in the earth. Seventy-five years ago Downingtown houses were furnished with walnut furniture made by different artisans in various sections of Chester County. It was good material, plainly fashioned, well seasoned and honestly put together. Few if any of the houses had furniture in them made from mahogany. The walnut lumber which was used came from the Brandywine Hills. It was excellent in texture, hard, firm and solid, and some of it beautifully grained. It was reserved for the New England merchant or the Southern planter a century ago to indulge in mahogany lumber. In Pennsylvania such extravagance was scarcely countenanced.

Since the time of the old grist mills, paper making has been the principal industry of Downingtown and its vicinity. Downingtown is probably more widely known for its paper mills than in any other respect. The history of this industry, therefore, holds an important place in this record.

The inception of the paper industry in America was almost coincident with the granting of patents for the manufacture of paper in England. William Rittenhouse, a Mennonite preacher, built the first paper mill on the Western Continent in 1670, in the borough of Roxborough, now a part of Philadelphia, on Paper Mill Run, that emptied into Wissahickon Creek. The production was printing, writing and blue paper. In 1710 William DeWees, a brother-in-law of Nicholas Rittenhouse, erected a paper mill on the banks of a small stream that flowed into the Wissahickon in Ceofeldt, a section of Germantown. The manufacture of paper was introduced into Massachusetts, near Boston, in 1717. Thomas Wilcox, an Englishman, established the third paper mill in the Pennsylvania Colony in 1729, in Delaware County, on Chester Creek.

In 1750 John Frederick Bicking came from Winterberg, Germany, and established a paper mill on Mill Creek, a small stream emptying into the Schuylkill River near Philadelphia, and made paper for the colonial government. John Frederick Bicking had five sons, three of whom were paper makers. Joseph Bicking erected a paper mill at Wagontown, in West Brandywine township. John Bicking erected a paper mill on Beaver Creek, at what is now known as Fisherville, East Brandywine township. These two mills were the first paper mills operated in Chester County. S. Austin Bicking, who in 1881 erected the first paper mill in Downingtown, was a great grandson of John Frederick Bicking, and a son of Samuel Bicking, who operated the Fisherville Mill, after the decease of his father, John Bicking.

Mr. Bicking purchased the old saw mill property at the corner of Lancaster and Brandywine avenues, and erected a mill for the purpose of manufacturing paper. Mr. Bicking later purchased the Shelmire Mill and converted it into a modern paper mill. The production of the mill in 1881 was about one ton per day. At the present time the capacity of both mills is over forty tons per day.

Since the decease of Mr. Bicking (July 13, 1906), the business has been conducted by his heirs, three of his sons, Samuel P. Bicking, Joseph Austin Bicking, Parke Bicking, and a son-in-law J. P. Moore, being actively engaged in the management of the two mills. Frank S. Bicking, another son, operates a paper mill at Bridgeport, Pa. A market for the products of the mills is found from Maine to the Pacific coast.

Frank P. Miller Paper Co. This industry was originally started by Frank P. Miller in March, 1881, on the property then known as Solitude Mill, which he leased from George Kerr to manufacture paper for bookbinders' use.

Mr. Miller having completed his four years' course of mechanics in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops at Renovo, Pa., located in Downingtown in the spring of 1880, and started the machine business with his brother Guyon Miller, under the name of G. & F. P. Miller. At the end of one year he withdrew his interests from this concern, which continued under the name of G. Miller & Co., and the first paper mill machinery built in Downingtown was made for Frank P. Miller's mill. This mill was operated for seven years, employing seven men, making one ton per day.

In 1887 he bought fourteen acres of land located on the south side of the Pennsylvania Railroad, between Brandywine avenue and Brandywine creek. This was one of the first mills to run exclusively by steam for the manufacture of binder boards, and an ideal location for handling raw material, also drying boards by steam. The output was gradually increased from four tons per day to ten tons a day of finished product.

On January 30th, 1900, fire destroyed the stock house and about 900 tons of paper stock, and it seemed as if the entire plant would be destroyed, but by the combined efforts of the Downingtown Fire Department and the employees of the mill it was checked before it did any damage to the main buildings, which contained most of the machinery, so that in two days the mill was again running, making paper, but it was six months before the fire was entirely put out, which could only be done by the removal of this smouldering mass of paper. This portion of the mill was rebuilt with a view of changing the plant to another kind of paper, and in December, 1891, Frank P. Miller Paper Co.

was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania, the officers being: J. Gibson McIlvain, president; Hugh McIlvain, vice president, and Frank P. Miller, secretary and treasurer. The enlarging and success of this business was due to the assistance it received from J. Gibson McIlvain, who is one of the largest stockholders to-day.

In 1893 there were large additions made to the plant and a six-cylinder board machine was installed to manufacture all grades of folding box boards and white-lined board for lithographing, and a year later a two-million gallon filter plant was built to supply water for the manufacture of white paper, and the mill has been constantly improved and equipped with new machinery, and the capacity increased to an average daily product of thirty tons. The largest run being made of forty-four tons. The number of men employed, seventy-five, with apay-roll of over \$50,000 a year.

During the years of this mill's operation it might be well to add that all the men have had steady employment even through three business depressions.

The Kerr Paper Mills. Although situated outside the borough limits, the Kerr Paper Mill is properly one of the industries of Downingtown. It was conducted at first by Frank P. Miller, and after his removal in 1887 was continued by William Kerr. The plant was recently burned down, and a new company was organized of the Kerr brothers, under the corporate name of the Kerr Paper Mill Co., which has rebuilt the mill, greatly enlarging and improving the plant.

The Downingtown Manufacturing Co. A machine shop was started in 1880 by G. & F. P. Miller. The next year F. P. Miller withdrawing to engage in the paper making enterprise, the concern continued under the name of G. Miller & Co. In 1881 Mr. Miller became associated with his father-in-law, A. P. Tutton, and the Downingtown Manufacturing Company was established. The plant on Washington avenue has been several times enlarged. A piece of land one hundred feet front and forming a portion of the land sold by Mr. Tutton to the Pennsylvania Railroad was purchased from that company for an extension and again a piece twenty feet front, both on the west side of the old building. A large addition to the east side has been made in recent years. The principal business is the making of paper mill machinery. The president of the company, A. P. Tutton, died February 12, 1909.

The Cohansey Glass Manufacturing Company was established in 1856 at Bridgeton, N. J. It was incorporated March 17, 1870, and located at Downingtown, Pa., in the spring and summer of 1900. They have three continuous tanks and give employment to about 600 people. They make a general line of blown hollow-ware in flint, amber and green glass.

The officers are: President, W. G. Millikin; vice president, Walter H. Bacon; treasurer, Alexander N. Bodine; secretary, John P. Noll.

The ancient **Ringwalt Grist Mill**, erected in 1765, is still in operation, and is owned by John T. Pollock. This venerable structure remains substantially as when first built, with the original walls and the original timbers, and constitutes one of the most interesting relics of the past.

The Viaduct Roller Flour Mills, corner Viaduct and Lancaster avenue, were built by the owner, E. Vinton Philips, in the year 1889. The lot was bought originally for the Downingtown Baptist Church. The mill enjoys a large patronage, employing five men. The business is conducted by E. V. Philips, the owner, who is Chief Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners of Chester County, and is assisted by Fred W. McClure, as superintendent.

The Downingtown Publishing Co.--The printing and newspaper publishing business in Downingtown is largely a record of serious attempts, resulting in failure. Its vicissitudes would make a long story, and in its details an uninteresting one. Many of the dates are so uncertain as to be without historical value. In later years the name of Harry L. Skeen is more prominent. **THE ARCHIVE** is in its seventeenth year of publication. In 1907 the paper came into the possession of Harry F. Van Tassell and George H. Stockin, and the plant has since been conducted as the Downingtown Publishing Company, and has taken a leading place among the printing establishments of Chester County.

Florey's Brick Works, Inc., were established in 1893. They employ, when running at their full capacity, eighty-six men and have a capacity of twenty-four million bricks annually. The officers are William Florey, president; James Florey, treasurer; James Florey, Jr., secretary.

The Solgram Color Photo Company was established in March, 1905, with a capitalization of \$60,000 fully paid for the

manufacture of a photographic paper which would take photographs in natural colors. The plant is operated by W. C. South, the inventor and patentee.

The Railroad Companies constitute important contributors to the industrial prosperity of Downingtown, employing in numerous capacities as nearly as can be ascertained about two hundred of the residents of the town.



Chapter 13

Patriotic, Benevolent and Fraternal Organizations

Free and Accepted Masons. The earliest organized Masonic Lodge in this section was probably Lodge 50, at West Chester. A sermon delivered by Nathaniel Kennedy, A. M., P. M., on December 27, 1817, before the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of this lodge and printed in 1818 by Charles Mowry, at Downingtown, is extant. This lodge, however, passed out of existence.

Downingtown Lodge, No. 174, of the Masonic Order, was instituted May 1, 1820. The Master of the Lodge was George Fairlamb; Senior Warden, William H. Browne; Junior Warden, Charles Mowry; Secretary, Samuel McLean; Treasurer, Jesse Evans. The by-laws of the Lodge were sanctioned February 5, 1821. In 1824 there were twenty-four members. About 1832 the Lodge went out of existence.

Williamson Lodge, No. 309, was instituted Oct. 19, 1857, with Horace A. Beale, Worshipful Master; J. Benner Evans, Senior Warden; J. Brown Morrison, Junior Warden. As the number (309) would indicate, it is the oldest existing Masonic Lodge in this section. It is in a flourishing condition, having a membership of about one hundred and twenty-five. The officers are as follows: Warren P. Keech, Worshipful Master; Samuel M. Davis, Senior Warden; Edward W. Young, Junior Warden; Howard B. Sides, Secretary; Samuel A. Black, Treasurer.

Brandywine Lodge, No. 388, I. O. O. F., was instituted January 22d, 1850, with the following officers in the chairs: Noble Grand, R. R. Wells; Vice Grand, Moses Hiddleston; Secretary, James Buffington; Assistant Secretary, Moses Woodward; Treasurer, Clinton Woodward. There are two members still living and in good standing who joined in 1850, namely Isaac Humphrey, now residing in Kansas, and George McFarlan, now residing in Marshallton, Pa. The lodge has continued active to present day, with a membership of 87 at the present time, with a fund invested and in treasurer's hands of over \$6000, and is in charge of the following officers at this date: Noble Grand, August Dick-

man: Vice Grand, P. W. Lightcap; Secretary, Charles W. Reel; Treasurer, S. A. Black. Trustees, S. A. Black, Dr. B. G. Arnold and S. P. Bicking.

Winfield S. Hancock Post, 255, G. A. R. Pursuant to a public call by Liberty Browne for the soldiers of Downingtown and vicinity, to be held in the Central Hall, Downingtown, Pa., May 20, 1882, for the purpose of organizing a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, Captain G. C. M. Eicholtz was called to the chair, and Liberty Browne was chosen secretary.

When, after the reading of a portion of the rules and regulations of the National Post, G. A. R., there was an opportunity given for all that wished to unite themselves with the Post to make it known. There was a response of eleven members, who were enrolled.

At an adjourned meeting, held the third day of June, Saturday evening, there was an invitation read to all who wished to sign the application for a charter for a Post of the G. A. R., when the following names were enrolled:

Reese M. Baily	J. T. Carpenter
Robert Walker	John D. Beaver
G. C. M. Eicholtz	Liberty Browne
George M. Anderson	Abner Evans
Sylvester M. Makens	Ellett L. Browne
James L. Gunn	John Knauer
S. B. Evans	James McClintock
Thomas D. Smith	Judson Armor
Joseph H. Moore	

J. T. Carpenter was chosen treasurer for the meeting, and the chairman appointed a committee to procure a charter.

At a regular stated meeting, held Saturday night, June 10, 1882, the following names were enrolled:

David M. Cox	James Monaghan
William Mercer	Daniel Daller
James O'Neal	Elwood H. Lewis
Samuel C. Lilley	Patrick Gallagher

Then, on motion, the election of officers, when G. C. M. Eichholtz was elected Commander; Joseph H. Moore, Senior Past Commander; Reese M. Baily, Junior Past Commander; Liberty Browne, Post Adjutant; D. M. Cox, Quartermaster; Dr. J. F. Evans, Surgeon; Rev. F. J. Collier, Chaplain; Ellett L. Brown, Officer of the Day; Samuel C. Lilley, Officer of the Guard; Samuel Daller, Sergeant Major; James L. Gunn, Quartermaster Sergeant.

The following names were mentioned for the Post, namely: Frank A. Browne, Ringwalt, Fondersmith and Sedgwick.

The name adopted by the Post was that of George Fondersmith Post, and the organization continued under this name until 1896, when it was changed to Winfield S. Hancock Post, No. 255, under which title it has continued until the present time. The Post has on each and every occasion observed Memorial Day; has conducted the funeral exercises of such of its numbers as have passed away; has met regularly in its Post room, and has a room well furnished for all the purposes of its organization, in a building in West Downingtown, immediately over the Post Office. Its present members and officers are as follows:

Armor, Judson	Makens, S. C.
Ayers, James	Mercer, William
Browne, E. L.	Martin, George
Banghart, S. T.	McCauslin, John
Carpenter, J. T.	Miller, John R.
Clayton, Oswald	Mercer, Richard
Carr, William	McClintock, James
Connor, Silas	Matson, James
Conquest, Harry	Ralston, Robert
Davis, Wills	Snyder, Levi
Donnaly, George A.	Smith, Columbus
Deets, Ephraim	Smedley, John F.
Derr, John	Swank, Josiah
Garner, Rev. H. B.	Tindall, Edward F.
Griffith, Elias	Thomas, E. R.
Holstein, John	Todd, William E.
Harman, H. C.	Tice, Archibald
Hoffecker, Harry	Thompson, H. B.
Harris, Allen W.	Wilson, Nathan
Jones, George T.	Wills, J. H.
Knauer, John	Watson, N. G.
Kay, Thomas	Walker, Robert
Leiben, Edwin	Wilkinson, William

Nathan Wilson, Commander; John Knauer, Senior Vice Commander; George Martin, Junior Vice Commander; H. C. Harman, Quartermaster; J. H. Wills, Chaplain; Oswald Clayton, Surgeon; John R. Miller, Officer of the Day; Allen H. Harris, Officer of the Guard; E. L. Browne, Adjutant; S. T. Banghart, Quartermaster Sergeant; Thomas Kay, Sergeant Major.

Yemassee Tribe, No. 134, Impd. O. R. M., was instituted at Downingtown, Pa., in the old Masonic Hall, corner Lancaster and Stuart avenues, March 18, 1886, with 64 charter members.

Since its institution it has adopted 263 brothers. Some of

these have been called to the Happy Hunting Grounds Beyond, some have withdrawn to join other tribes, and others have been suspended from the rolls of the tribe for the non-payment of their dues, and to-day the present membership is 109 members in good standing.

The tribe meets every Thursday night in its wigwam in the Downingtown Improvement Building, corner Lancaster and Stuart avenues. Its present officers are: Sachem, W. Bently Miller; Senior Sagamore, Leonard H. Walker; Junior Sagamore, Charles H. Baen; Prophet, Carl Springer; Chief of Records, J. W. Dennis; Keeper of Wampum, Samuel A. Black; Collector of Wampum, Wm. G. Baldwin. Trustees, William A. Irwin, John T. Hamm, S. Lewis Moses.

Downingtown Council, No. 804, Order of Independent Americans, was instituted (as Downingtown Council, Junior Order American Mechanics, No. 804), March 30th, 1892, in the old Masonic Building, Downingtown. To this Order the Council was connected for several years, until at a stated meeting held October 21, 1904, it was unanimously carried that we be affiliated with the Order of Independent Americans.

Since the organization we have paid out for relief, sick and death benefits, \$8480.76. Membership of Council, 119.

Officers for present term: Frank Hughes, Councilor; Leon H. Williams, Vice Councilor; Friend G. Baldwin, Recording Secretary; Horace Miller, Assistant Recording Secretary; S. Arthur Glauner, Financial Secretary; J. Frank Walbert, Treasurer; Willis F. Beck, Conductor; Nathan G. Eachus, Warden; Charles Wilson, Inside Sentinel; Jesse M. Gabel, Outside Sentinel; James T. Kelley, Chaplain; Herbert R. Hughes, Junior Past Councilor; Harry S. Greenleaf, Wm. P. Hughes, George M. Strongfellow, Trustees; Jesse M. Gabel, Rep. to State Council; S. Arthur Glauner, Alternate to State Council; Friend G. Baldwin, Rep. to Funeral Benefit Association of Chester County; Harry S. Greenleaf, Alternate.

Meets every Friday evening in G. A. R. room, Downingtown Improvement Building, cor Stuart and Lancaster avenues.

Windsor Castle, Knights of the Golden Eagle, No. 92, was instituted at the Public Inn, at Gallagherville, Chester Co., Pa., on April 3, 1886, in one of its waiting rooms on the lower floor, without any paraphernalia, and a store box for an altar for God's holy book to rest on. G. C., George W. Crowtch; G. H., P. Harry Witsel; G. S. H., Wm. Townsend as grand officers, with twenty-nine charter members.

There has been paid since the institution of the order, in sick benefits, six thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven dollars, (\$6387) and in death benefits, one thousand, two hundred and forty dollars (\$1240). Contributions of the order since organization, for different charitable purposes, in addition to regular sick and death benefits, three hundred and eighty-five dollars, fifty cents (\$385.50).

The Castle was removed from the dismantled building at Gallagherville to its present location at Downingtown, Pa., on Jan. 5, 1897. The present officers are: P. C., William Christman; N. C., William Timbler; V. C., Ezra Brown; H. P., Harry L. Holden; M. of R., W. T. Renshaw; K. of E., E. Vinton Philips; C. of E., Edward Torbert; S. H., M. Johnson; G., Frank Donley; V. H., Allen Lawrence; E., William Donley; Trustees, Ezra Brown, James G. Fox, Wm. D. Timbler.

Washington Camp, No. 338, Patriotic Order Sons of America, was instituted June 21, 1888. It has 138 members and meets every Tuesday evening in the Grange National Bank Building. The money in the treasury and invested amounts to four thousand dollars.

There is also connected with the Order a uniformed Rank, entitled the Commandery General Sons of America, which is controlled by a code of laws prepared for its own government. Downingtown Commandery No. 35 meets in the Camp rooms, and to this Commandery most of the members belong. The members of the Commandery are nicely uniformed and well-drilled and have taken several prizes in parades. There is a side degree to Camp No. 338 called the Strawthresher's degree, which adds much to the social features of the order and holds an annual banquet.

The officers of the Camp are: President, Josiah Philips; Vice President, Marshal Walton; M. of F., Robert C. Laird; Financial Secretary, John M. Patton; Recording Secretary, Herbert Ash; Conductor, Wm. Gurtizen; Chaplain, Edge C. Lewis; Guard, H. S. Carpenter; Inspector, J. K. Smith.

St. Joseph's Beneficial Society, No. 608, I. C. B. U., was organized March 18, 1894, with 15 members. The first meeting was held in the parlor of St. Joseph's Rectory, where the meetings continued to be held for several years.

A building lot was purchased July 5th, 1899, on the west side of Bradford avenue, for the purpose of erecting a hall, but the erection of same was not commenced until May, 1902. Two houses were built in connection with the Hall, and the same were sold as soon as completed.

The hall was occupied for the first time April 1st, 1903. The first floor is provided with a pool table, shuffleboard and other games for the amusement of the members, the room being open every evening. The second floor is used for the meetings and entertainments. The room is neatly furnished and a piano installed for the use of the members. On this floor a circulating library has been established, a large number of volumes of good and interesting reading.

The membership numbers sixty-three in good standing. A number of members have removed from Downingtown, but still continue their membership. Since its organization sick benefits to the extent of \$1155 have been paid, and death benefits to the amount of \$330. The Society is entirely clear of debt and has a very substantial treasury.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday and third Sunday of each month. The present officers are as follows: President, P. Edward Rowan; Vice President, William Davis, Jr.; Recording Secretary, Walter Snyder; Financial Secretary, V. Joseph Snyder; Treasurer, F. J. McGraw.

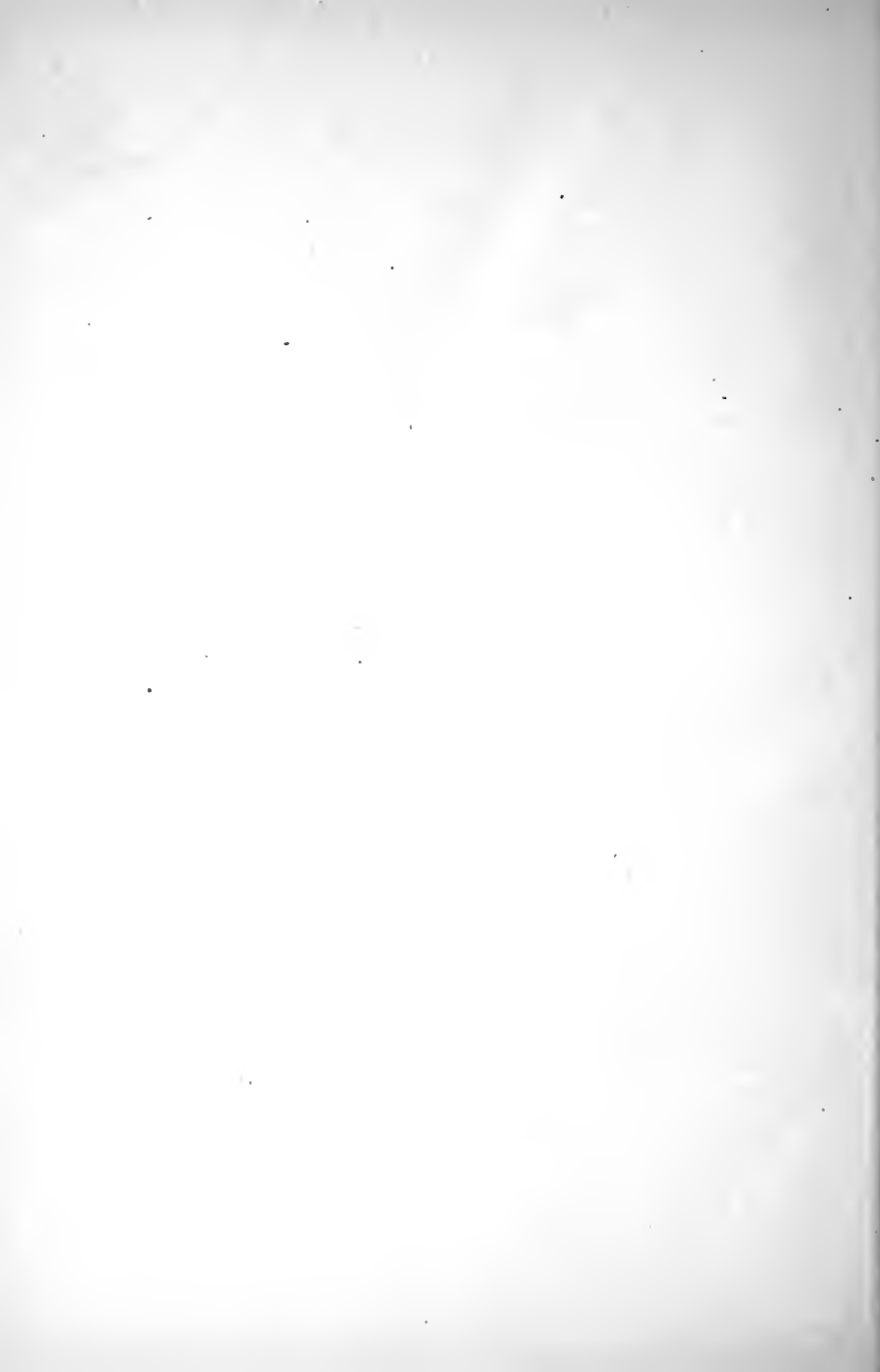
Downingtown Council, No. 38, Daughters of Liberty, was instituted on October 18, 1895, with 25 members, and at the present time has a membership of 110. During this time they have lost nine of their members by death. They have paid out about \$5300 and are possessed of \$21000. The officers at present are as follows: Councilor, May L. Greenleaf; Associate Councilor, Leon Williams; Vice Councilor, G. M. Stringfellow; Associate Councilor, Harry Greenleaf; Recording Secretary, Adah H. Kelley; Assistant Recording Secretary, Rebecca Hoopes; Financial Secretary, Minerva Williams; Treasurer, Mary E. Knauer; Guide, Carrie Lenhardt; Inside Guard, Elsie R. Hoopes; Outside Guard, Natoria Hoopes; Junior ex-Councilor, Sallie Gabel; Junior ex-Associate Councilor, Charles Hoopes; Trustees, Elsie R. Hoopes, Rebecca Hoopes, G. M. Stringfellow; Representative to State Council, Minerva Williams; Alternate, Adah H. Kelley; Deputy, Clara Stroh.

Knights of the Maccabees of the World. Tent No. 330 of Downingtown was organized October 19, 1903, with thirty-six charter members. It has now a membership of about fifty-five. Its interests lie largely in the mutual life insurance and sick and accident beneficial features. The officers are: Supreme Commander, William McClure, Jr.; Record Keeper, William P. Harrison; Trustees, W. F. Blake, J. Penrose Moore and John L. Weldin.

Camp No. 11, P. O. of A. The first ladies' lodge of Downingtown was instituted in November, 1903, and held its first meeting November 13, 1903, under the name of Camp No. 8, P. O. D. of A., with a charter membership of twenty-five. In 1898, on the 10th of January, it was changed to Patriotic Order of Americans, P. O. of A. The camp has paid out for deaths two hundred and fifty dollars, and for sick benefits five hundred and twelve dollars. The membership is thirty. The present officers are: Past President, Lillie Way; Assistant Past President, Georgetta Connor; President, Laura Bailey; Assistant President; Fannie E. Guiney; Vice President, Linda Pawling; Assistant Vice President, Catherine Hedricks; Conductor, Laura Ralston; Assistant Conductor, Roxanna Davis; Recording Secretary, Mary E. Knauer; Assistant Recording Secretary, Annie Kurtz; Financial Secretary, Minerva Williams; Treasurer, Tillie H. Kurtz; Guardian, Frances Hoskins; Sentinel, Martha Null; Chaplain, Emily R. Pawling.

Windsor Temple, No. 79, Ladies' Golden Eagle, was instituted April 17, 1906, with thirty-six charter members. This Order is an auxiliary to the Knights of the Golden Eagle. There are at present forty members in good standing. They have paid out one hundred and ten dollars for sick benefits. The officers are: Past Templar, Laura Bailey; Noble Templar, Mary E. Knauer; Vice Templar, Adah H. Kelley; Prophetess, Bertha Holman; Priestess, Margaret Brown; Marshal of Ceremonies, Belle Miller; Guardian of Inner Portal, Martha Null; Guardian of Outer Portal, G. M. Stringfellow; Guardian of Records, Minerva Williams; Guardian of Finance, Ida F. Pawling; Guardian of Exchequer, Fannie Guiney; Guardian of Music, Sarah A. Martin; Trustees, G. M. Stringfellow; Adah H. Kelley, Belle Miller; Representative to Grand Temple, Minerva Williams; District Grand Templar, Helen Putny.

St. Mary's Beneficial Society, No. 705, I. C. B. U., was organized December 1, 1904. The meetings are held on the second Thursday evening of each month, in St. Joseph's Hall. The membership numbers twenty-six. The society is in a very flourishing condition. The present officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Charles McFadden; Vice President, Mrs. George McEuen; Secretary, Miss Mary E. Davis; Treasurer, Mrs. Andrew Walker.



Chapter 14

Sons of Veterans—Chester Valley Academy—Old Times—Joshua Kames—Hotels—"Banks of Brandywine."

Captain G. C. M. Eicholtz Camp, No. 255, Sons of Veterans, Pennsylvania Division, U. S. A., was mustered October 10, 1899. The membership at the present date is fifty-six (56) in number, and the officers are as follows: Commander, William McClure, Jr.; Senior Vice Commander, George A. Myers; Junior Vice Commander, Joseph M. Smith; Chaplain, L. C. Myers; Quartermaster, James Eppehimer; Quartermaster Sergeant, Veteran Harry C. Harman; First Sergeant, Aften A. C. Wilkinson; Color Sergeant, James Burnett; Sergeant of Guard, Allen S. Ney; Patriotic Instructor, Abiah P. Ringwalt; Camp Guard, Charles Davidson; Picket Guard, Charles R. Gurtizen; Camp Council, L. C. Myers, Merton G. Myers, Charles B. Gantt; Delegate-at-Large, James Eppehimer; Alternate, Joseph M. Smith.

In 1870 F. Donleavy Long, A. M., established the Chester Valley Academy in the old Downingtown Academy Building, of which academy it was really a continuance. It was soon, however, removed to the other side of the Lancaster pike, or Main street, to a house enlarged and improved, for the purpose which Mr. Long had purchased from Rev. Dr. Newkirk. Here the school prospered for a number of years, requiring further enlargement and improvement of both grounds and buildings. A. W. Long, a brother of Professor Long, became a teacher in the school in 1871, after his graduation from Lafayette College, and in 1872 another brother, William Long, became an additional teacher. There was usually a young lady teacher in the primary department. It was a boarding school for young men and boys, with English and classical courses, preparing for business and for college. The boarding pupils were mostly from Philadelphia. A. W. Long left his position in the academy in 1874, and his brother, William Long, left in 1879, both for theological seminaries. Mr. Long, in consequence, with the death of his wife and his growing interest in other enterprises,

deemed it best to lease the school, but the successor did not prove to be successful, and the building became a summer hotel, and no further efforts were made to continue it as an academy.

The manners and customs of seventy-five years ago in rural Chester County were quite different from what they are to-day. The smallest piece of silver money was known as a "fip," and that was the price usually charged and received for a drink of rum. Many of the county storekeepers sold several kinds of intoxicating drink, such as gin, whisky, brandy and rum. In 1812 the storekeepers in East Caln were as follows:

William Rogers,	Wm. D. McFarlan,
Samuel Hoopes,	Issachar Price,
Jacob Edge,	Sarah Atkins,
Thos. Hutchinson,	Abigail Fisher,
Wm. H. Buchanan,	E. S. McCaughey

How many of these storekeepers sold rum we have no means of knowing at this distance of time. Those storekeepers who kept a general assortment of everything possible to be wanted, usually sold as freely and extensively as the licensed hotel. The United States Government was coining half pennies, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents was a frequent charge upon the merchants' books. The equivalent of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents in silver was known as a "levy." The "fip" was a shortened term for five-penny bit, while the "levy" was a shortened term for an eleven-penny bit. Credits extended a whole year, and the first of April was the general settling day for all such accounts. It was also the general settling day for purchases and sales of real estate; for the removal of tenants, and the beginning of real estate leases. In short, the first day of April was a financial "day of judgment." Those were also the days when the two ambitions of the rising youth centered in "a round-about" and a pair of boots. All over Chester County there was the local tailor and the local shoemaker. One of the most distinguished members of the bar of Chester County was the son of such a local tailor.

"Honor and fame from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

The cloth and the trimmings were purchased at the country store, and alongside of the store was a tailor shop, to which they were taken and where the purchaser was measured for his clothing.

Corn, apples and peaches were dried for winter consumption. There was no artificial preservation. There was no benzoate of soda taken into the human stomach to poison and destroy its functions, and the user to land in some graveyard and be subjected to meditation upon the "dispensation of Providence." A

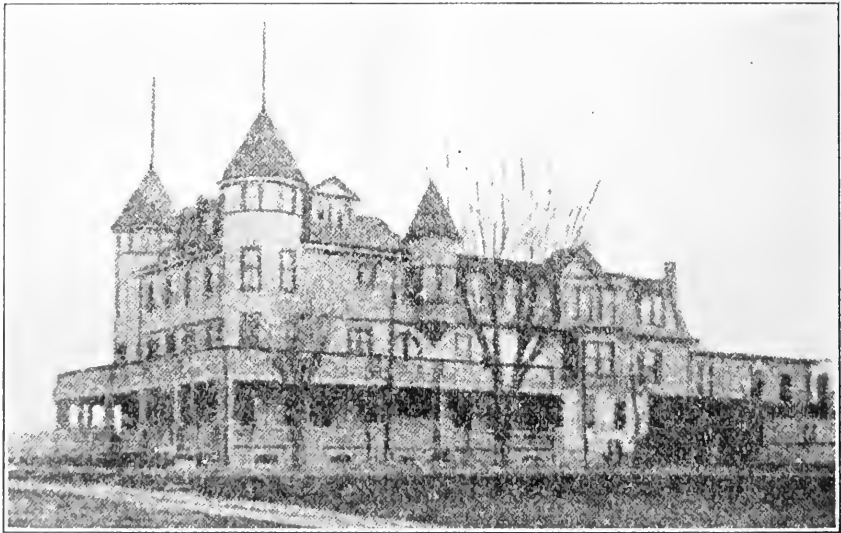
journey to Philadelphia or a journey to West Chester was an episode among the domestic friends of the neighborhood. Few, if any daily papers reached rural Chester County. The almanac purchased at the beginning of the year and the newspaper received weekly from the saddlebags of the post rider, furnished the literary repast for the household. The hours of labor were from sun to sun. Carpenters, masons and men of all work were satisfied with wages at \$0.50 per day. Banks were few and far between. Neighborhood finances were carried on with confidence and satisfactory results. Sugar of the best grade came in the form of a loaf, and it was the genuine article. The leading sugar refiners of the country were Robert Stuart & Brother, in New York. After years of successful enterprise they ceased refining sugar because of the prevailing adulteration, which they would not imitate, because to do so, they said, "they would not be sure of heaven." Flour was furnished by the country mill. There was no gypsum in it to whiten it. There was no "roller process" to grind out the good, and grind in the doubtful. As I think of all these things, and the mind compares the past with the present, I am constrained to remember Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes' remark:

"There are no times like the old times,
When you and I were young."

Joshua Kames came to Downingtown from Philadelphia soon after the close of the war of the rebellion. He had been in the service of the United States Government, and had been engaged in various speculations in the south, which enabled him to control a considerable amount of capital. He found Downingtown somewhat conservative, and not very ambitious along the lines of progress. Mr. Kames procured a Charter for the Downingtown Gas and Water Company, purchased a considerable tract of land on the western side of the town, in conjunction with several other gentlemen in Downingtown, started a National Bank, and upon the hill immediately south of the Pennsylvania Railroad built a hotel, which he called "Aston Terrace", which unfortunately was destroyed by fire about the time of its completion. In the meantime, however, Mr. Kames built about forty (40) houses in Downingtown, some of them quite large and commodious. He also built a mansion for himself, which is a very fine dwelling house. Mr. Kames' activities were praiseworthy, but brought him in conflict with numerous other interests in Downingtown, and he finally left the town, his properties having been disposed of. A great deal has been said about Mr. Kames, but more than fifty (50) years of life has taught me the lesson that "No tree is ever clubbed unless it has fruit upon it.", and I think that Mr. Kames' activities have been, and are now, of considerable

advantage to the growth of the Borough. A part of the Borough of Downingtown, which he endeavored to build up and modernize has been called for many years "Kamestown". Mr. Kames died a few years ago, and one daughter edits a paper at Ardmore, and another daughter lives upon the Moore Hall property in Schuylkill Township south of Phoenixville.

The Swan Hotel property "harks back" to the early days of the Province. By lease and release William Penn conveyed in March, 1681, to Robert Vernon, six hundred and twenty-five acres (625). January 11th, 1709, Robert Vernon and wife conveyed to Isaac Vernon two hundred and eighty-five (285) acres of land. April 3d, 1721, by deed of lease and release, Isaac Vernon and wife conveyed two hundred and eighty-five (285) acres to



SWAN HOTEL. BOROUGH ORGANIZED HERE MAY 28, 1859

Thomas Moore. By deed of lease and release, on the 26th day of September, 1681, William Penn conveyed five hundred (500) acres to William Bayley, and William Bayley, by his will dated in 1691, gave this land to his nephew, Jacob Button, and Jacob Button, by deed of lease and release, dated October 3d, 1701, conveyed to Jeremiah Collett, and May 29th, 1705, Jeremiah Collett conveyed to Joshua Hickman, and May 5th, 1713, Joshua Hickman and wife conveyed to Thomas Moore, and subsequently

Thomas Moore died intestate, and letters of administration on his estate were granted to his widow, Mary Moore, and Joseph Cloud. On the 6th day of April, in the eleventh (11th) year of the reign of King George, these administrators petitioned the Orphans' Court for permission to sell real estate of Thomas Moore, amounting to about 1050 acres of land in East Caln, to pay the debts of the decedent. The Court granted the order and on the 25th day of June, 1738, Mary Moore and Joseph Cloud, administrators of Thomas Moore, then conveyed nine hundred and seventy-five (975) acres to John Taylor, and John Taylor and wife conveyed to John Jackson, and John Jackson and wife, in connection with John Taylor and wife, on November 11th, 1747, by indenture of lease and release, conveyed two hundred and seventy-three (273) acres of this land to Jonathan Parke. Jonathan Parke died intestate, leaving to survive him a widow, three sons and three daughters. On the 27th day of March, 1769, Joseph Parke and Samuel Coope, and Deborah, his wife, a daughter of the said Jonathan Parke, conveyed three sevenths of the intestate property to Abiah Parke and Jonathan Parke, sons of Jonathan Parke, deceased, which conveyance is recorded in Deed Book Y, Page 14, in the Recorder's Office of Chester County.

Proceedings for the settlement of Jonathan Parke's estate were had in the Orphans' Court of Chester County in the year 1769. Abiah Parke, one of the sons of Jonathan Parke, deceased, was not satisfied with the decisions and actions of the Orphans' Court of Chester County, and he appealed to the Supreme Court, but like many others who delight "in the joy of battle," his appeal met with little success.

In 1782 John Hannum, the hero of the Revolutionary battlefield, and the man of business affairs throughout the Bradfords, the Calns, and the Goshens, was appointed guardian of Elizabeth Parke, and in connection with the other Parke heirs, asked the Court for a writ of inquisition for the purpose of settling the estate. Other proceedings were had and the business was concluded.

Abiah Parke's will, dated March 31, 1800, gave and devised to his son, Thomas A. Parke, some of the land on which the present "Swan Hotel" stands, thus described:

"Beginning at a corner of John Edge's land by the turnpike road, then by said land southeasterly and northeasterly to line of Wm. Parke's land and by the same southerly to Chester road and by the same in the line of John Hoopes' land westerly to the line of John Edge's land, and by the same up the west side of the Brandywine Creek, then crossing the creek easterly to the line of Downing's sawmill, and by the same until it meets the turnpike road, and along it to place of beginning. Supposed to

contain 33 acres more or less."

During the occupation of this property by Thomas A. Parke, the Mansion House was devoted to purposes of an inn and tavern for public entertainment, and Thomas A. Parke, in his will dated February 23d, 1841, thus provides:

"Item. I give and bequeath to my son, Jacob E. Parke, the tavern, house, sheds, stables and barn and all my land and the buildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, lying between the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike and the Pennsylvania R. R., except the two lots heretofore devised to my wife. The said premises to be held by him, the said Jacob, his heirs and assigns forever, subject nevertheless to the payment into my estate of the sum of \$4000.

"I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Ann, the house in which we now live and the lot of ground on which it stands, bounded north by the turnpike, east by the lands of Daniel Fondersmith and John F. Parke, south by Pennsylvania R. R. and west by Pat Little, near a line from his northeast corner to Jos. B. Stringfellow's west corner, the other lot on the west side of the Brandywine Creek.

Jacob E. Parke, on or about January 1st, 1866, died possessed of the hotel property in the Borough of Downingtown known as the "Swan Hotel," and a tract of land bounded on the west by the Brandywine Creek, on the south by the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the east by land of John E. Parke and Thomas Parke, and on the north by the Lancaster turnpike. Proceedings were had in the Orphans' Court of Chester County designed to bring about the sale of the property, and on the 11th of December, 1871, the property was sold to Samuel Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins subsequently sold to Joseph Gravell and Joseph Gravell sold to Isaac S. Royer, and at a public sale of Mr. Royer's right, title and interest in the hotel property, the same was purchased by Theodore Hallman, the present proprietor. At the time of Mr. Hallman's purchase the property was greatly in need of repair and improvement, and the new owner proceeded to remodel, repair and improve the property, which he has done until it has become, and is one of the most pretentious, commodious and well-managed hotels in the county of Chester. It is modern in all its appointments, and no traveler will make any mistake when he puts his name on the hotel register and asks when dinner will be ready.

The Pennsylvania Hotel property, located in the western section of Downingtown, was composed of two parcels of property, the first, conveyed by Edith Edge and Joshua P. Edge,

administrators of Thomas Edge, deceased, late of East Caln, by deed dated January 2, 1832, recorded February 11, 1841, to James B. McFarland, and James B. McFarland and wife, by deed dated March 22, 1848, recorded March 25, 1848, conveyed all that messuage or tavern house known as the "Pennsylvania Hotel," and two lots of land situate in the township of East Caln, to Henry Eicholtz. The tavern house had been built previous to this conveyance, and had been occupied as a hotel by Mr. Eicholtz from 1840, and such occupation by Mr. Eicholtz continued to 1866, during all of which time it was a licensed hotel. On the 12th day of February, 1866, license was transferred by Henry Eicholtz to Caleb B. Sweazey, who continued as the landlord until his death, after which license was transferred to Richard M. Boldridge, who occupied it as a public house until 1893, when it was transferred to Thomas W. Taylor. Thomas W. Taylor remained the landlord until February 1, 1897, when it was transferred to Joseph B. Peirce. Mr. Peirce continued as landlord until August 1, 1898, when the license was transferred to Louis L. Gibney. Mr. Gibney continued there as landlord until March 30, 1903, when the license was transferred to William C. Armstrong, administrator. Mr. Armstrong continued there until August 1, 1904, when the license was transferred to William H. Snyder. William H. Snyder continued there as landlord until May 7, 1906, when the license was again transferred by Mr. Snyder to Louis L. Gibney, who is its landlord at the present time, and who keeps and maintains a most excellent hotel for the entertainment of the public. When the tavern was started there it was called the "Pennsylvania Hotel." It is now mentioned in the conveyance as the "Pennsylvania Railroad House." For a number of years, while Mr. Eicholtz was its landlord, nearly all the passenger trains between Philadelphia and Pittsburg stopped at this house for meals, and the service was everywhere regarded as most excellent, and the patronage was very extensive. Those were the days before dining cars were in use. As I have given a list of the landlords, it is only proper that I should also mention the several conveyances of the property. On the 12th day of February, 1866, Henry Eicholtz conveyed to Caleb B. Sweazey, of Philadelphia, for the consideration of \$17,800, subject to the payment of a certain mortgage of \$199.65 to the heirs of Thomas Edge at the death of his widow, Edith Edge, also subject to what was granted to the railroad company. Caleb B. Sweazey died, and letters testamentary were granted upon his estate April 18, 1867.

By deed dated January 5, 1869, Daniel Sweazey, executor of Caleb B. Sweazey, deceased, sold to Richard M. Boldridge, subject to certain payment and certain obligation, Richard M.

Boldridge, by deed dated January 22, 1895, sold to Margaret Murphy, for \$22,000. Michael Murphy and Margaret, his wife, by deed dated June 7, 1902, sold to Louis L. Gibney. Louis L. Gibney and wife, by deed dated April 1, 1903, sold to William C. Armstrong, for the consideration of \$50,000. In this conveyance it was specified as the "Pennsylvania Railroad House." William C. Armstrong and wife, by deed dated August 1, 1904, sold to William H. Snyder, for the consideration of \$70,000. William H. Snyder and wife, by their deed dated May 7, 1906, sold to William R. Yeakel, for the consideration of \$15,000, subject to two mortgages amounting to \$40,000, in which conveyance it was mentioned as the "Pennsylvania Railroad House." William R. Yeakel, by deed dated May 7, 1906, sold to Louis L. Gibney, for the consideration of \$21,000, subject to the payment of two mortgages amounting to \$10,000, in which conveyance it was mentioned as the "Pennsylvania Railroad House." The hotel on the south side of the railroad, known as McFadden's Hotel, was first licensed as a tavern house in April, 1854. It continued in operation under direction of various members of the McFadden family until March 31, 1888, when Ann E. McFadden, executrix of Michael McFadden, deceased, sold the property to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which corporation demolished the buildings and erected a railway station upon its site.

Thomas Buchanan Read was born at Corner Ketch in East Brandywine Township a short distance from Downingtown. Among his works in prose and poetry was "Paul Redding", a tale of the Brandywine, published in Boston in 1845. In this work he thus mentions the Brandywine:

Not Juniata's rocky tide
That bursts its mountain barriers wide,
Nor Susquehanna broad and fair,
Nor thou, sea-drinking Delaware ;
Nay with that lovely stream compare
That draws its winding silver line
Through Chester's storied vales and hills,
The bright, the laughing Brandywine,
That dallies with its hundred mills.

It sings beneath its bridges gray
To cheer the dusty traveler's way,
Or courting for a time his glance,
It rests in glassy stillness there,
And soon gives back his countenance
Beguiled of half its care.

Or wide before some cottage door
 It spreads to show its pebbled floor;
 And there while little children meet
 To gather shells at sunny noon,
 Its ripples sparkle round their feet,
 And weave a joyous tune.

Yet I have seen it foam when pent
 As wroth at the impediment;
 For like our noble ancestry,
 It ever struggled to be free!
 But soon along some shady bank
 In conscious liberty it sank,
 Then woke and sought the distant bay
 With many a blessing on its way.

Oh, when our life hath run its course,
 Our billowy pulses lost their force,
 Then may we know the heavenly ray
 Of peace hath lit our useful way;
 Yet feel assured that every ill
 Hath sunk beneath a steadfast will.
 May we, when dying, leave behind
 Somewhat to cheer a kindred mind;
 That toil-worn souls may rather bless
 Then curse us in their sore distress.
 For Oh, his is a hateful lot
 Who dies accursed, or dies forgot,
 But sweet it is to know the brave
 May conquer, with good deeds, the grave;
 And leave a name that long may shine
 Like that of memory divine,
 The far-famed "Banks of Brandywine."

The scene of this tale is located at Marshalton and Downingtown, and the upper part of East Bradford, and one of the characters in the story is a Dutch Landlord of the "Half Way House" in Downingtown. It is interesting; showing the taste of the writer for the scenes of his youthful days.

POSTMASTERS—1798-1899

DOWNINGTOWN

Hunt Downing,	April 1, 1798
William Frame,	September 20, 1816
Jesse Evans,	April 23, 1823
Isaac Downing,	March 30, 1827
Isachor Price,	January 9, 1836
Thomas Hutchinson,	July 24, 1841
William B. Hunt,	February 10, 1846
James Lockhart,	July 21, 1849
Thomas Scott	February 23, 1853
Richard D. Wells,	December 10, 1860
William McFarlan	October 12, 1885
Nathan Wilson,	April 26, 1890
D. Morgan Cox,	April 24, 1894
Jesse H. Roberts,	June 24, 1898

EAST DOWNINGTOWN

Charles W. Chandler,	March 27, 1890
William McFarlan,	October 19, 1894
Joseph Havard Downing,	March 3, 1899

ROLL OF CHIEF BURGESSES

1859-60	*James Lockhart	1875	*Wm. B. Torbert
1861	*A. W. Wills	1876	J. T. Carpenter
1862	*Charles Downing	1877-79	*J. S. Leech
1863	*Morgan L. Reese	1880-83	Dr. Thos. E. Parke
1864	*S. Stuart Leech	1884	*J. S. Leech
1865	*David Shelmire	1885-86	Dr. Thos. E. Parke
1866	5) *John S. Mullin	1887-90	Dr. L. T. Bremerman
1867	*William Edge	1891-93	Joseph R. Downing
1868	*Allen W. Wills	1894-96	James R. Gordon
	*Temple Jones	1897-99	Abiah P. Ringwalt
1869	3) *Eber Garrett	1900-02	J. Hunter Wills
1870	3) *John S. Mullin	1903-05	H. B. Sides
1871	*Wm. B. Torbert	1906-08	J. Hunter Wills
1872	*D. M. Cox	1909-	Thomas Pedrick
1873 74	*J. C. M. Eicholtz		

* Signified deceased. Temple Jones filled out the unexpired term (1868) of Mr. Will's, who died in office.

The following have been in the Council, the names being given in the order of their earliest service :

Daniel Ringwalt, David Shelmire, R. D. Wells, William Edge, J. S. Leech, M. D., Wm. B. Hoopes, Isaac Webster, Charles Down-

ing, W. F. Hilton, W. Rogers, Temple Jones, Robert B. Miller, John P. Baugh, Charles Ziegler, John S. Mullin, George W. Gordon, Andrew W. Cox, Eber Garrett, Joseph Edge, Jacob Fondersmith, James Good, Samuel Black, Wm. McClintock, Nathan J. Sharpless, Benj. F. Lewis, Silas D. Yerkes, J. C. M. Eicholtz, Chas. E. Elston, D. M. Cox, James R. Gordon, Wm. B. Torbert, Jesse B. Dunwoody, Joseph Pepper, Garrett Staddon, James Gibson, George E. Wills, John R. Jonson, R. M. Boldridge, John McGraw, Thomas E. Parke, Wm. McFarland, John B. Wollerton, J. Don Leavy Long, Samuel Buchanan, W. F. McCaughey, F. O'Neill, George A. Cobb, Wm. Morgan, Jos. H. Lewis, A. McQuirus, Samuel Hawkins, James L. Bean, John B. Creswell, Uriah P. Brown, Dr. L. T. Bremerman, Nathan P. Wilson, Joseph Friday, Dr. John P. Edge, James Hamilton, Thomas Pedrick, S. P. Brown, S. A. Bicking, Jacob Shelmire, Ezra Brown, Ellis Y. Brown, Howard B. Sides, A. P. Tutton, Levi B. Dowlin, G. T. Guthrie, Charles G. Hess, Moses Marshall, Guyon Miller, H. R. Brownback, Wm. Sheesley, Robert A. Boldridge, E. V. Philips, S. Austin Bicking, Samuel D. White, Frank J. McGraw, W. Irwin Pollock, Mark Connell, Isaac Y. Ash, Dr. Edward Kerr, L. L. Gibney, A. P. Ringwalt, Jos. A. Bicking.

PRESENT BOROUGH OFFICIALS

CHIEF BURGESS—Thomas Pedrick.

COUNCILMEN—Frank J. McGraw, President; Isaac Y. Ash, Jos. A. Bicking, L. L. Gibney, Dr. Edward Kerr, Guyon Miller.

Ellis Y. Brown, Jr., Secretary; Downingtown National Bank, Treasurer; Alfred P. Reid, Esq., Solicitor; Joseph H. Johnson, Esq., Surveyor; Thos. W. Gray, Chief-of-Polic; John Corcoran, Patrolman.

BOARD OF HEALTH—Dr. B. G. Arnold, President; Dr. H. Y. Pennell, Secretary; H. B. Sides, Allen E. Keim, Harry Worrall, H. E. Simmons. Health Officer, Wm. H. Beale.

BOARD OF EDUCATION—Dr. L. T. Bremerman, President; E. V. Philips, Vice President; Eber Garrett, Secretary; Nathan Wilson, Treasurer; Theodore Griffith, Frank Weaver.

BOROUGH AUDITORS—Howard E. Laird, Fred. W. McClure, John M. Patton.

BOROUGH FINANCES

Receipts.....	\$21,632 42
Expenditures:	
Streets.....	\$6,458 53
Water	918 78
Light.....	2,774 54
Police.....	804 05
Fire.....	2,630 15

Salaries.....	784	20
Miscellaneous	1,103	63
Bonds.....	4,697	17
Balance.....	1,461	37
		<hr/>
	\$21,632	42
Assets.....	\$115,152	96
Liabilities.....	58,065	30

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT BY DECADES, SHOWING TAXATION
FOR BOROUGH PURPOSES:

Years	Assessed Valuation	Tax Rate	Amount of Tax
1859	194,010 00	3 mills	582 03
1869	161,052 00	5 mills	805 26
1879	No data given		2,000 00
1889	"		2,500 00
1899	"		No report
1909	1,991,745 00	4 mills	7,966 98

AUDITORS' REPORT OF THE DOWNINGTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 3, 1908:

Receipts.....	\$15,294	72
Expenses.....	12,824	87
		<hr/>
Balance	\$2,469	85

LIABILITIES

Outstanding Bonds.....	\$14,000	00
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ASSETS

Outstanding Tax.....	\$	324	72
East Caln Township Tuition.....		200	16
Real Estate, East Ward.....		5,000	00
Real Estate, West Ward.....		10,000	00
Personal Property (both schools).....		4,779	00
		<hr/>	
	\$20,303	88	

SINKING FUND ACCOUNT

Balance last audit.....	\$1,236	73
September 4, 1907, deposited.....	584	00
Interest	38	08
Dime Savings Fund.....	\$1,858	81

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Page 95. For Dr. Collins read Dr. Collier.

Page 105. NORTHWOOD CEMETERY. Unfortunately the corrected proof with delayed material was overlooked. For John B. Bogers read Rogers, and the date of interment April 24, 1872. In the list of first officers for W. S. Garrett read Eber Garrett, and for S. Howard Downing read J. Havard Downing. Before the organization of the Northwood Cemetery, Eber Garrett and Caleb Baldwin, on their own responsibility, purchased twenty acres of the Thomas tract at private sale and five acres of the Lindley tract at public sale, being the Cemetery plot. The old tradition that there was a cemetery at Northwood previous to the present one is incorrect. A number of persons, however, were buried there, especially the bodies of certain Irish laborers, who died of cholera during the epidemic of 1832. They were employed on the Pennsylvania Railroad and their homes were unknown. These graves lie in the eastern part of the cemetery, near the gully.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman, Isaac Y. Ash; Secretary, Charles F. McFadden; Treasurer, Joseph H. Johnson.

Historical Committee, Rev. Lewis W. Mudge, D. D., Isaac Y. Ash; Finance Committee, J. Hunter Wills, Joseph H. Johnson; Advertising, Rev. Joseph H. Earp, James G. Fox; Invitations, Joseph H. Johnson, Rev. Lewis W. Mudge, D. D.; Entertainment, Dr. L. T. Bremmerman, Charles F. McFadden; Parades, Horace Carpenter, F. J. McGraw; Decorations, James G. Fox, Rev. Joseph H. Earp; Sports and Pastimes, Charles F. McFadden, Horace Carpenter; Souvenirs, J. Howard Downing, Dr. L. T. Bremmerman; Banquet, F. J. McGraw, Isaac Y. Ash.

These chairman and their associates were assisted by numerous citizens, of whom it is impossible to give a complete list. Owing to the happy concurrence of notable events during the celebration the direct expense of the committee has been correspondingly small. The Council generously appropriated two hundred and fifty dollars. The Finance Committee gathered over two hundred dollars, a considerable portion of which was in unsolicited contributions. The Executive Committee has, however, co-operated with the various interests included in the Semi-centennial program, and the expenditures connected with the dedication of the Minques Fire Co.'s building, the Memorial Day parade and exercises of the Grand Army, the Baccalaureate exercises and cornerstone laying of the Board of Education and some special outlays in connection with the history are not included in the committee's budget. As these exercises would

have taken place in any event, their occurrence in connection with the Anniversary secured the proper celebration of the Semi-centennial with a very moderate outlay.

POSTSCRIPT

The task of the Historical Committee has been performed. The assertion as to the difficulties encountered, in the Foreword, may be emphasized here. Almost everything in this history has been dug up from the records, the minute books and the memories of the past, or has been freshly written. Even cherished traditions have required verification, and in cases have been found mythical. The order of the history would in some respects have been different if the committee and the historian had had three or four months instead of one in which to do the work, and some repetitions would have been avoided. It has been necessary from the beginning to give the copy to the printer as rapidly as it could be prepared. Nor can the committee hold itself responsible for the spelling of names, the giving of dates and other matter by the many who have furnished material and to whom the thanks of the committee for their aid is heartily given.

The review of these pages will doubtless stir memories and provoke research, and we hereby make the request that any corrections or additions to this history be communicated to the committee, and if sufficient information of importance is received it will be printed in some form that can be placed in the history. We regret that the program of the Semi-centennial Anniversary is not as yet in full and definite form for insertion here, but it will be given separately to the public. The committee would also suggest that persons having any ancient or modern documents or books or relics of historical value would do well to present them for safekeeping to the Downingtown Public Library.

LEWIS W. MUDGE,
ISAAC Y. ASH.

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

History of Downingtown

The Semi-Centennial Anniversary Exercises and
Historical Addenda

BY THE

SEMI-CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

1912

The Semi-Centennial Celebration

As the History of Downingtown was intended to be a part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Borough of Downingtown and was, therefore, prepared and published in time for issue in connection with the anniversary it was impossible to include the observances of the five days of celebration. A general desire has been expressed for a permanent record of the various exercises and events, which is here attempted. This opportunity is embraced to make certain corrections and omissions in the history. The necessity of compiling and issuing the history within a period of four weeks and the numerous names and dates involved prevented the careful review which otherwise would have been given.

Anniversary Day—Friday, May 28.

While the Borough of Downingtown may in one sense be said to have been incorporated by the Act of the Court, yet, by the very terms of that act, it did not begin its corporate existence until, by the verdict of the polls, the citizens of Downingtown had selected the various officials empowered by their election to set in motion the wheels of government. This occurred at 6 P. M. on May 28, 1859, and this hour was therefore selected as the birth hour of the borough. The Executive Committee in charge requested that the signal should be given by three long blasts of the whistle of the historic Shelmire Mill, to be followed by the simultaneous blowing of whistles and ringing of church and fire bells for five minutes. Miss Madeline Bicking had the honor of giving the signal whistles, and the response was general throughout the town.

The decorations throughout the borough were abundant and appropriate. Arches spanning the streets were placed by professional decorators, who also beautifully dressed the banks and a number of private dwellings. The citizens, however, generally attended to their homes and stores, and exhausted their ingenuity and artistic skill in their designs. Between 8 and 9 o'clock on Friday evening residences and stores were brilliantly

illuminated. The opening exercise of the anniversary was a town meeting held in the rooms of Alert Fire Company, No. 1. The design of this meeting was to give opportunity to the older citizens now residing here or elsewhere to recall the past, and the object was fully accomplished. On the motion of Mr. Isaac Y. Ash, chairman of the Executive Committee, Joseph H. Johnson, Esq., was called to the chair, and Charles McFadden was chosen secretary. A paper giving the names of the male adult citizens of Downingtown at the time of incorporation, and prepared by John S. Mullin, of West Chester, one of the inspectors at the election in 1859, was read by Mr. Johnson. After the reading of the paper addresses were made by John S. Mullin, Dr. John M. Batten, Jacob Ringwalt and J. Hunter Wills. Short speeches were made also by William H. Lindley, William H. Gray and Samuel C. Leininger, who were minors at the time of incorporation.

Firemen's Day—Saturday, May 29.

The delightful weather with which the town was favored throughout the entire five days of the celebration made Saturday an ideal day for a parade. The former residents, who began to arrive in numbers on Friday, were largely added to this day, until there were hundreds who were guests of relatives and friends throughout the town. In addition there were large crowds brought by the railroad and trolley cars, which filled the Centre Square and considerable portions of Lancaster avenue in both wards.

The principal event of the day was the parade of firemen, in connection with the dedication of the new fire house and the housing of the engine of Minquas Fire Company, No. 2. The chief marshal was Dr. Joseph Huggins, and his aides Horace S. Carpenter, J. Penrose Moore, Ellis Y. Brown, Jr., Alfred L. Crowe, J. Lewis Baldwin and Edward I. Griffith. The committee in charge of the day was J. Hunter Wills, Dr. D. Edgar Hutchison, Dr. Joseph Huggins, Horace S. Carpenter and John P. Noll. The order of parade was as follows, including several bands and drum corps:

FIRST DIVISION

West Chester Fire Police
West Chester Fire Company, No. 1
Brandywine Fire Company of Coatesville
Malvern Fire Company, No. 1
Berwyn Fire Company, No. 1

SECOND DIVISION

Fame Fire Company, No. 3, West Chester

Radnor Fire Company, No. 1, Wayne
 Downingtown Fire Police
 Alert Fire Company, No. 1, Downingtown
 Minquas Fire Company, No. 2, East Downingtown

The route of parade was as follows: Form on Brandywine and Washington avenues, march west to Lancaster avenue, to Downing avenue, to Pennsylvania avenue, to Stuart avenue, to Highland avenue, to Hunt avenue, to Lancaster avenue, to Whiteland avenue, countermarch to Chestnut street, south to Jefferson avenue, to Green street, north to Washington avenue, to Chestnut street, to Lancaster avenue, to Minquas Fire House.

THE PROGRAM.

- Music Bryn Mawr Band
 Prayer Rev. Joseph H. Earp
 Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church.
 Dedicatory Address..... S. P. Bicking
 President Minquas Fire Company.
 Address of Welcome Chief Burgess, Thomas Pedrick
 Music Bryn Mawr Band
 Address Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D.
 Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church.
 Housing of Engine West Chester Fire Co., No. 1
 Address Gibbons G. Cornwell, Esq., West Chester
 Presentation of silver trumpet bearing the inscription, "Presented to the Minquas Fire Company, No. 2, by the First West Chester Fire Company, on May 29th, 1909."
 The presentation was made by Dr. Jesse C. Green, of the West Chester Company, ninety-two years of age, the oldest volunteer fireman in the county.
 Music Bryn Mawr Band

Following the exercises the visiting firemen and their friends were entertained at the Opera House by the Ladies' Auxiliary. It is estimated that some 1500 persons were entertained.

Church Day—Sunday, May 30.

The morning was devoted to the services in the various churches of the borough, the pastors generally preaching sermons appropriate to the occasion.

In the afternoon at three o'clock the Opera House was filled, the occasion being the Baccalaureate Exercises of the Graduating Class of the Downingtown High School.

PROGRAM.

- Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D., Presiding.
 Hymn—"O Paradise" Congregation
 Invocation Rev. J. W. Tindall

Scripture Reading Rev. Joseph H. Earp
 Song—"Jesus the Shepherd" Junior Chorus
 Sermon Rev. William H. Oxtoby, D. D.
 Pastor of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

Prayer Rev. Wm. H. Derr
 Song—"Love That Passeth Knowledge" Junior Chorus
 Hymn—"The Lord is My Shepherd" Congregation
 Benediction Dr. Mudge

Dr. Oxtoby's text was from Matt. 8: 2: "If thou wilt, thou canst."

In the evening there was a Union Memorial Day service under the charge of the town pastors. It was held in the Opera House. W. S. Hancock Post, No. 255, G. A. R.; Capt. G. C. M. Eicholtz Camp, No. 255, Sons of Veterans, and Washington Camp, No. 338, Patriotic Order Sons of America, attending. The Rev. Dr. Mudge, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, presided.

ORDER OF SERVICE.

Hymn—"O Lord of Hosts, Almighty King."
 Prayer Rev. William H. Derr,
 Pastor of the Lutheran Church.

Scripture Lesson Rev. Joseph H. Earp
 Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church.

Hymn—"Battle Hymn of the Republic"
 Offering for Grand Army Relief Fund.
 Offertory—"Ein Feste Burg" Choir
 Sermon Rev. L. A. Schnering
 Pastor of the Baptist Church.

Hymn—"My Country, 'Tis of Thee"
 Benediction Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D.

The hymns were led by the combined choirs, members of the Choral Society and the Downingtown Orchestra, Mr. Frederick P. Mudge conducting and Miss Mary B. Garrett, accompanist.

The congregation was the largest ever seen in Downingtown. All available space was occupied by chairs and the hall was crowded, including the gallery, while scores of people were unable to obtain entrance. Mr. Schnering's text was from Exodus 12:26, "What mean ye by this service?"

Memorial Day—Monday, May 31.

In the morning the usual ceremonies connected with decorating the soldiers' graves were conducted by comrades of the Grand Army at Northwood and St. Joseph's Cemeteries.

In the afternoon there was a parade of Grand Army and patriotic orders, with industrial floats and exhibits.

ORDER OF PARADE.

FIRST DIVISION.

Chief Marshal, S. F. Banghart.

Aides, Judson Armor and William McClure, Jr.

Clergy in Carriages.

W. S. Hancock Post, 255, G. A. R., in Carriages.

Capt. G. C. M. Eicholtz Camp, No. 255, Sons of Veterans.

I. C. B. U. Society.

Washington Camp, No. 338, P. O. S. of A.

Washington Camp, of Parkesburg, Commandery, P. O. S. of A.

Cohansey Glass Blowers' Association.

SECOND DIVISION.

FLOATS AND EXHIBITS.

P. O. S. of A. Camp, Strawthreshers, Independent Order of Red Men, Cohansey Glass Company, Alert Fire Company, No. 1, Minquas Fire Company, No. 2; A. B. Downey, milliner; I. J. Deitz, department store; J. Swank, ice and coal; Zinn's, stoves and tinware; McGraw & Sons, ice, coal, wood, paint and flour; Philips, flour; Furlong, cigar emporium; South, solgram paper; Hertel, baker; Chester County Gas Company, stoves; Trego's restaurant; Carpenter, snowflake; Bicking, paper; L. T. L., temperance; Trego, laundry.

The order of the parade was: Bradford avenue to Viaduct, to Downing ave., to Pennsylvania ave., to Stuart ave., to Highland ave., to Hunt ave., to Lancaster ave., to Whiteland ave., to Washington ave., to Brandywine ave., to Opera House, counter-march on Brandywine ave. and dismiss. At the Opera House the order of exercises was as follows:

Parkesburg Band.

Prayer Rev. Joseph H. Earp
Scripture Reading Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D.
Address J. Hunter Wills
Address Wilmer W. MacElree, Esq.
Benediction Rev. Wm. H. Derr

Glen Moore Band.

THE BANQUET.

In the evening a subscription banquet was held in the Pennsylvania House, and proved one of the most enjoyable parts of the semi-centennial program. By inclosing the west porch Mr. Gibney, who outdid himself in providing for the comfort and pleasure of the guests, was enabled to seat the one hundred and twelve attendants. The blessing was invoked by the Rev. Chas. O. Mudge, and this menu followed and was ably served:

	Grape Fruit	
	Little Neck Clams	
Radishes	Pickles	Queen Olives
	Rice Croquettes	
Bread Sticks		New Peas
	Squab	
Saratoga Chips		Banquet Rolls
	Chicken Salad	
Neapolitan Ice Cream		Assorted Cakes
	Nuts	
Fruit	Mints	Salted Peanuts
	De Brie Cheese	Crackers
	Tea	Coffee

The guests at the banquet were the following:

Rev. and Mrs. L. W. Mudge, D. D.; Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Earp, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Tindall, Rev. and Mrs. L. A. Schnering, Rev. W. H. Derr, Rev. Charles O. Mudge, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Philips, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ash, Dr. and Mrs. L. T. Bremerman, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Fox, Harry McFadden, J. Hunter Wills, Miss Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eachus, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. E. Ash, Jesse H. Roberts, Thomas Pedrick, Joseph A. Bicking, Professor John Hunsicker, Ezra Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Dapp, Mr. and Mrs. Shelly Matlack, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harry Reed, J. T. Carpenter, James Eppheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Philips, George Burke, John P. Noll, Jacob Ringwalt, Oscar Wilson, R. M. Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Townsend, Josiah Swank, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Weldon, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Holl, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Darlington, P. E. Rowan, Hugh Gormley, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Simmons, William Gertzen, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carey, A. M. Hoster, George W. Brown, Miss Mary Mudge, Mrs. George Dennisson, Dr. and Mrs. John Batten, Miss Edith Sides, Mrs. H. B. Sides, Miss Mary Wells, B. Frazer, Charles McFadden, Frank McGraw, Charles Tindall, Park Smedley, W. W. MacElree, J. K. Stewart, William McClure, Jr., Miss Jane Ringwalt, Evans Miller, Fred Mudge, Dr. I. H. Whyte, Mr. and Mrs. Edge Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher, J. Kirk Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Patton, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hess, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Bicking, Allen E. Keim, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Dennis, S. Lewis Moses, Dr. Edgar Hutchison, Ernest Smedley, Fred McClure, Howard E. Laird, William Harrison, John Woodward, E. L. Browne, S. A. Black, Isaac Y. Ash.

After the banquet Mr. I. Y. Ash installed Dr. L. T. Bremerman as toastmaster and after-dinner speeches were made by Wilmer W. MacElree, Esq., Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D., Isaac Y. Ash, William McClure, Jr., J. Hunter Wills, J. H. Johnson, Esq., E. Vinton Philips, A. M. Hoster, John P. Noll, Rev. J. H. Earp, Rev. L. A. Schnering, Rev. J. W. Tindall, Rev. W. H. Derr, Dr. D. Edgar Hutchison, Prof. J. R. Hunsicker, Dr. John M. Batten, Jacob Ringwalt.

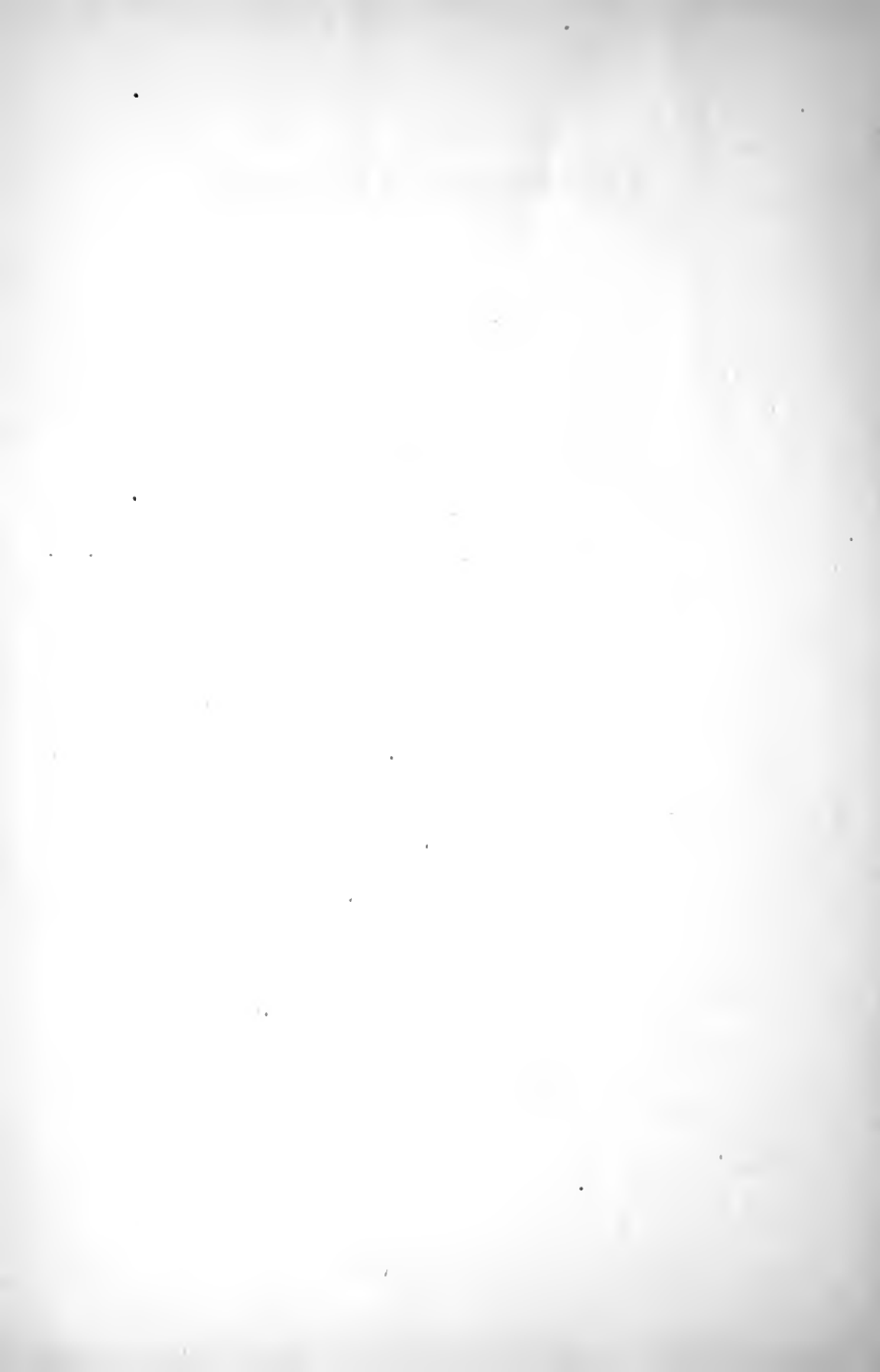
EDUCATIONAL DAY.

Tuesday, June 1.

The closing event of the celebration was the laying of the corner-stone of the new Public School Building on Tuesday afternoon, by Dr. L. T. Bremerman, President of the Board of Directors, and, notwithstanding the severe heat, a considerable number of citizens were present.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Music	School Chorus
Invocation	Rev. J. H. Earp
Address	Dr. L. T. Bremerman
Music	School Chorus
Address	Rev. J. W. Tindall
Address	Prof. George W. Moore
Music	School Chorus
Address	Thos. W. Baldwin, Esq.
Address	Prof. John W. Miller, of Swarthmore College
	Laying of Corner-stone.
Benediction	Rev. L. W. Mudge, D. D.



Historical Addenda

The effort to trace the first school in Downingtown extended in the history only to 1784. Further research has enabled us to fix quite definitely the erection of the first school house. There is record that John Downing, proprietor of the "King in Arms," in 1774, after reciting the inconvenience under which "the inhabitants residing in or near the place commonly called and known by the name of Milltown," lay, "for want of a house wherein a school may be kept for the instruction of their youth in literature," donated a lot on the side of the road leading from Milltown to Uwchlan. The building was probably erected soon afterward and is called School No. 3, on pp. 107 and 108, of the History. The second school house was on Pennsylvania Ave., near Stuart Ave., and is spoken of as Schools Nos. 1 and 2, on page 107 of the History.

Dr. Thomas E. Parke furnishes a copy of the following interesting ancient document, giving the subscriptions of prominent Friends, for a school fund, 1793 to 1798. A large number of the subscribers were Downingtown residents, at that time connected with Uwchlan meeting.

Subscription to School Fund, 1793.

A plan for raising and instituting a fund for the promotion and encouragement of schools agreeable to the recommendation of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends.

We, the subscribers, members of the Monthly Meeting of the people called Quakers, held at Uwchlan, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, do hereby severally for ourselves, our executors and administrators, promise to pay unto George Thomas, Treasurer of Friends' school or schools within the verge of the said monthly meeting, or to his successor for the time being, the sums of money respectively to our names hereunder annexed; and that upon demand or interest therefor, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, from the dates respectively thereunto prefixed until paid, which principal so subscribed to be and remain a permanent fund under the care and direction of the Committee appointed by the said Monthly Meeting for that and other pur-

poses relative to schools; to be by them laid out, or lent on interest, in such manner as they from time to time shall judge most conducive to the securing an interest to said school or schools; which interest or annuity so arising to be applied to the encouragement of suitable school masters; educating such poor Friends' children, as now do, or hereafter may belong to the said Monthly Meeting; or such other poor children or purposes, as the said Committee, or a majority of them, shall from time to time direct, consistent with the design of this Institution.

On payment of either principal or interest the subscriber to have the Treasurer's receipt for the same.

DATES SUBSCRIBERS AND AMOUNTS

Rudolph Haines, £100 pd.

	Jane Downing,	
By Will	Mary Phipps	£20 10s., pd.
	Dennis Whelen	
15th, 8mo, 1793.	Joshua Baldwin,	£10, pd. 1st mo., 3rd, 1799.
15th, 8mo., 1793.	Thomas Lightfoot,	£15, pd. 4-17-1800.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	Richard Downing,	£10, pd. in boarding by R.D., Jr., 5-12.
6th, 8mo., 1791.	John Downing,	£10, rec'd ten pound 18th, 1st mo.
By Will	Cadwalader Jones,	£10, pd. to J. R.
6th, 2mo., 1795.	John Roberts,	£10, pd.
4th, 2mo., 1795.	Abiah Parke,	£7 10s.
23rd, 1mo., 1795.	Simon Meredith,	£2, pd. 3. 1798, one dol.
23rd, 1mo., 1795.	Nathan Sharpless,	£5, pd. 25, 1mo., 1811.
23rd, 1mo., 1795.	Jesse Jones,	£5, pd. 23, 1mo., '93.
23rd, 1mo., 1795.	John Martin,	£2, pd. 23, 8mo., 1808.
23rd, 1mo., 1795.	George Massey,	£5, pd. 4mo., 17th, 1806.
3rd, 2mo., 1795.	George Valentine,	£7 10s., pd. 1st of 11th mo., 1806.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	Sm'l R. Downing,	£5, pd. 9mo., 1815.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	Joseph R. Downing,	£5, pd. 4th of 1st mo., 1816.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	John Baldwin,	15s.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	Malachi Parke,	£2 5s.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	Jonat'n Parke,	£2 5s.
17th, 1mo., 1797.	Thomas Parke,	£2, 5s., pd. by schooling poor children.
17th 1mo., 1797.	Abiah Parke, Jr.,	£1 10s., pd. 10th, 12th mo., 1828.
1st, 2mo., 1797.	Elihu Evans,	£1 10s.
1st, 2mo., 1797.	Josiah Kirk,	£5, pd. 1st mo., 2nd, 1800.
	David Hilles,	£1, pd. 4th of 3rd mo., 1813.
	Samuel Rea,	£1 10s.
	James Pugh,	£1 10s., pd. 1st mo., 10th, 1814.
	Jonathan Williams,	15s., pd. 11th mo., 11, 1800.
	Jonathan Evans,	15s.
	James Meredith,	£1 2s. 6d.
	Joel Meredith,	£1 2s. 6d.; pd. 7th mo., 1st, 1797.
	Jesse Harry,	15s., pd. 7mo., 1797.
16th, 1mo., 1798.	Jonathan Rogers,	£2 5s., pd. 16th, 2nd mo., 1811.
16th, 1mo., 1798.	John Edwards,	15s., pd. 27th, 3rd mo.
16th, 1mo., 1793.	Barth'n Fussell,	15s., pd. 7mo., 7th, 1814.
27th, 2mo., —	Fredrick Fultz,	left by will, £4 13s. 9d., pd. by Ex-ecutor.
16th, 1mo., 1796.	Joseph Star,	15s., pd. 5th mo.
16th, 1mo., 1796.	Charles Rogers,	7s. 6d., pd. 16th, 2nd mo., 1811.
16th, 1mo., 1796.	William Rogers,	7s. 6d., pd. 16th, 2nd mo., 1811
15th, 3mo., 1796.	William Beale,	£10, pd. same time.

It is with satisfaction that we are able to record something definite concerning Carl Heins, Ph. D., and his school. Dr. Carl Heins began his school in Downingtown in 1854, first in the house now occupied by his widow, and then in the building now known as The Downingtown Public Library. He was a master teacher and many of the residents of Downingtown, now past middle life, were among his pupils. Among his assistants was Mr. Adam H. Fetterolf, who afterward, for a brief period, conducted his own school in Central Hall, now the edifice of the Lutheran Church. Dr. Fetterolf is at present the president of Girard College, Philadelphia. After a successful career, leaving the impress of his work on a Downingtown generation, Dr. Carl Heins died November 17, 1866.

DOWNINGTOWN IN 1859.

One of the most interesting events of the semi-centennial exercises, especially to the older residents, was the reading of a paper prepared by John S. Mullin, of West Chester, giving the roster of the adult male residents of the town at the time of incorporation as a borough, including some youths near their majority. This paper, revised by Mr. Mullin, is given entire.

Allen W. Wills, a farmer, Justice of the Peace, and second Chief Burgess of the Borough, and his sons, George E. J. Hunter Wills, ex-Burgess; Abner E. and Allen W. Wills, Jr. Col. Samuel Ringwalt, farmer, with drove yard; Porter Ringwalt, school teacher; Luther, Jacob and Abiah Ringwalt, afterward Burgess. Joseph Levy, self-constituted mail carrier. Charles Downings, one of the fathers of the borough, and his sons, Joseph R., Charles and Edward. George Whelen, called "Watty," a coal dealer. Joseph Hunt, Justice of the Peace. James Wilcox kept store in the old building where the post-office now stands. Sold whiskey for twelve and a half cents a quart and segars four for a penny. Samuel Black, merchant tailor, with his sons, William and Samuel A. Richard D. Wells, of the firm Wells and Miller, who did business in the Odd Fellows' building. Henry Eicholtz, proprietor of the Pennsylvania House, with his sons, Leonard, James and Captain S. C. M. Eicholtz. Doctor J. Stuart Leech, the most popular man in town, and for whom Stuart avenue was named. Frank O'Neil, bottler. James and William McConaghy. Benj. W. Hyatt, shoemaker. Lewis Dennison, shoemaker. Jacob Foundersmith, saddler and confectioner. John McGraw, railroad manager. Liberty Brown, auctioneer and wheelwright. Stephen Blatchford, with his two sons, Thomas and Stephen, Jr. Daniel Kelly, wheelwright. George Rembaugh, undertaker. The Webster family was extensive. They were: Isaac, John, James, Richard, Joseph, Samuel, Downing, and Elisha, of which the last two are the only ones living. Isaac and Joseph at this time, 1859, ran a market car to Philadelphia every week. They had a large warehouse at this place and dealt in lumber, coal and feed. Edwin and William Hoster. Adam Fullerton, a one-legged man, bridge watchman. Michael McFadden, hotel man. Webster F. Hilton, butcher. John Pawling, blacksmith. William Wilkinson, conductor on Chester Valley Railroad. Thomas S. and Humphrey Ingram, cattle dealers. William Evans and Morgan L. Reese. John P. Baugh and sons, Edwin and Daniel, who kept store and manufactured phosphate. Frederick Andress, tobacconist. Jesse R. Kirk. Frank McGraw, Sr., and William B. Hoopes, farmer. The above were all residents of the west end of town and those east of the Brandywine were: Thomas Bailey,

living in the log house, supposed to be the oldest house in town. Thomas Scott, postmaster. James Lockhart, first Burgess, a merchant. Evan Thornbury, blacksmith. John S. Mullin, merchant, doing business where the bank now stands. L. Wesley Ayers, salesman. Charles Zeigler, saddler. Joseph P. Tucker, proprietor of Swan. Jonathan and Thomas Parke, stone cutters. Abiah Parke, farmer. Jacob E. Parke, land owner. John E. Parke and his son, Oscar, and ex-Burgess Thomas E. Parke. Professor Carl Heins. Edward Broomall, a livery boy, bartender. Thos. J. Bones, conductor on Chester Valley Railroad. William McLaughlin, George Ryan and Washington Arters. Temple Jones, afterwards Burgess. George T. and William Jones, carpenters. James and Harvey Humphrey, shoemakers. David Shellmire and son, merchant millers. A. G. Compton and James Harbison, coopers. George Koons, Zebulon Thomas. John F. Parke. Ellis Miller and Richard Downing. Doctor Klotz kept a drug store in half-way house. William Edge, superintendent of Chester Valley Railroad. Richard Meredith. Samuel P. Miller, merchant. Silas D. Yerkes, dealer in lumber and grain. Doctor Sharpless, oldest physician in town. Dr. John P. Edge, physician and school director. John Fisher. William and John Rogers, merchants. Milton Hoopes, potter. Andrew, David M., and Andrew Cox, Jr., were brickmakers and the first bricks they furnished went into the buildings now partly occupied by J. Harry Reed, which was the second brick building in town. Reuben Evans, weaver. Joshua Springer, Nelson and William Lea, laborers. Isaac Hunter, section boss. Rev. George Kirk, Episcopal minister, who rode on horseback every week to Kennett Square, and on his way took in the County Home, preaching to the inmates. William W. Kirke, undertaker. William Lent, cooper and tinsmith. Hamm W. Gray, wheelwright. Eugene Downing, farmer. Samuel J. Downing. William W. Downing, surveyor. George W. Gordon and Robert Shecan, tinsmiths. Samuel Lincinger, shoemaker. Robert Miller, plasterer. Silas Walton, plasterer. George Brown, Joseph Y. Clark, carpenters. John Hoopes, livery stable. Baldwin Keech, dentist. Jno. Grave, watchmaker. Thomas Kutchler, mason. T. D. Lindley, farmer. Jas. T. Mullin, salesman. Abel Patterson, ticket agent at Chester Valley. Eli V. Peacock, blacksmith. George A. Downing, retired. Jonathan Peckett, painter. Charles L. Wells, Jr., salesman. John F. Vanleer, P. R. R. agent. Richard Webster, Jr., saddler. John Knauer, railroad man. James R. Gordon. Joshua Sharpless, retired. The following comprise mostly workmen: Patrick Dailey, Abner Evans, Jesse Johnson, John Carlisle, Aaron Lukens, Theodore Rambo, Hazel Thomas, Wimer Alm, Robert, George and Reese Bailey, Allee Brown, Ezra Cummins, William Davis, William Devine, Andrew Fricze, George Gray, Morris Hoster, Jesse Jones, John Mitchell, John B. Mullin, John W. Powell, George Sweeten, Edgar Schofield, William Thompson, Daniel Sullivan, William Whiteley, Henry and Robert Walker, R. W. Rhyhurst.

EARLIEST DOWNINGTOWN.

It seems hopeless at this late date to obtain anything like a consistent story of earliest Downingtown. The following facts or inferences may, however, be of interest:

Geologically, Downingtown lies in the centre of a primitive limestone belt about two miles wide, extending along the valley from the east to Atglen, at the western border. As to the aborigines, the Indians of this district belonged to the numerous body scattered over a wide region and known as the Lenni Lenape, signifying "original people," but there were numerous lesser tribes. Considerable numbers occupied the Chester Valley. As a whole they were known by the settlers as the Delawares, and those occupying the region drained by the Brandywine were known as

the Nanticokes. As to the Brandywine stream, there is evidence that it was earliest known as the Fishkill. After the grant of land to Andrew Brandywine in 1670 it is referred to in the records as Brandywine's kill or creek, and the name was later corrupted into Brandywine.

Just when slavery ceased in this district cannot be determined. It probably died out under the strong sentiment against it among the Friends. An Act of General Assembly, March 1, 1780, provided for registration of slaves, directing that existing slaves should remain in servitude, that all persons born after that date should be free, except children born of registered slaves who should be servants until they reached twenty-eight years of age. In this connection there is an exceedingly important historical record. In view of the resistance of the Colonies to the Stamp Act and the consequent severe action of England, conventions were held and committees appointed in many cities and colonies. A Chester County Committee was appointed and its third meeting was held March 20, 1775, at the "King in Arms," kept by Richard Cheyney. At this meeting a committee was appointed "to essay a draught of a petition to present to the General Assembly of this Province, with regard to the commission of slaves, especially relating to the freedom of infants hereafter born of black women within this colony." This is the earliest action on this subject we can find by any body competent to express public opinion and the remarkable correspondence between the action of the committee and that of the General Assembly warrants the belief that the Act of the Assembly securing the gradual extinction of slavery in Pennsylvania finds its beginning in the resolution of the committee passed in our township. The registry of 1780 shows only four slaves in East Caln, of whom William Allison held three and David Gill one. The interest of the Friends in slaves escaping from the South is well known. The main route of this "Underground Railroad," as it was called, passed through Downingtown and along the line there were earnest philanthropists to whom the refugees were directed for harbor and further guidance. The refuge in Downingtown was with Zebulon Thomas and daughters, who passed the fleeing slaves to Micaiah and William Speakman, Uwchlan, thence to John Vickers and Charles Moore, Lionville, and so on.

Downingtown, in the Revolution, is a most difficult subject to trace. The muster rolls are so wanting in particulars or utterly lost that no roll of soldiers can be made and it would not be wise to presume too much on the similarity of names received with those given in the early list of taxables in the township. But Downingtown was too near the battlefield of the Brandywine and the subsequent stirring period in the Chester Valley and at Valley Forge not to have been deeply interested. We

find under date April 3, 1777, the Board of War, made a requisition on Isaac Webb, Milltown, for wagons.

The barn of Joseph Downing, just east of the borough, was used as a hospital and forty soldiers were buried on the farm. In the fall of 1777 Mr. Downing's team was with the army and the seeding was done with an old mare and oxen driven by Joseph Downing, Jr.

In a partial list of revolutionary pensioners from Chester County we find the name of Robert Wood, Downingtown. It is said that the host of the old "Ship" tavern, west of Downingtown, remained loyal to the crown and on one occasion some Continentals shot thirteen bullets through the effigy of the ship. The old sign carried the marks as long as it swung at the old stand or at the new one in West Whiteland. The sign of the Downing Hotel bore an effigy of Washington and a civilian standing side by side.

The inhabitants of our town were not rich in silver plate, as in the list of 1777, returned by the assessors for taxation the only name in East Caln is that of John Carmichael, who possessed five spoons. They were better off in carriages, for, in an assessment made February, 1781, to pay the United States and State debts we have this list and valuations. Widow Carmichael, chair, £15; Hunt Downing, Jr., chair, £25; Richard Downing, Jr., chair, £15; John Edge, chair, £25; Wm. Trimble, chair, £25.

To the list of Civil War heroes should be added the names of Col. Samuel Ringwalt, who served as Brigade Quartermaster in the Second Brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserves, Gen. Meade, commanding, and Captain William R. Downing for many years owner of the "Egypt Farm," who served as Brigade Quartermaster under Gen. Rosecrans in West Virginia.

"THE SHIP."

"The Ship," the oldest of the Downingtown taverns, is identified as the present residence of Mr. A. Robinson McIlvaine. It is always spoken of as a Downingtown tavern in the histories, probably because of its vicinity and because its local patronage was from Downingtown. Its present location, with reference to the Lancaster Pike, necessitates further information concerning this, the oldest of stone roads. Robert Brooke, who completed his survey of the Lancaster Pike in 1806, says that from the 29th mile-stone, east of Downingtown, to a point ninety-seven perches west of the 31st mile-stone, the course of the pike and the old Lancaster Road were practically the same. This would bring "The Ship" on the pike, but we ascertain from Pennsylvania railroad officials that the building of the railroad has made some changes in the original line of the pike, which accounts for

the distance of "The Ship" from the present road. At the point named, ninety-seven perches west of the 31st mile-stone, the old Lancaster Road leaves the turnpike, returning west of the residence of James G. Fox, where stood in olden days Wm. Hawley's tavern, Sign of the Waggon. This vacated road is easily found. It may be well to state here that the rear of the old tavern on the "Oil Farm," of the P. R. R., was formerly the front facing the road. The variations of the course of the present Lancaster Avenue from the old road may be seen east of the bridge in the strange angle made by the "Half Way House," next to the Presbyterian Church. Standing at the east end of the bridge the eye will give the direction of the old Lancaster Road, which passed to the rear of Squire Johnson's office and crossed the present site of Philips' mill. This accounts again for the strange angles made by the oldest houses on both sides, of Lancaster avenue, of which the McCaughey residence is a notable illustration.

EARLY INDUSTRIES.

Several citizens have thought that Dowlin's Forge, although not within the limits of the borough, is worthy of a place in the history of the early industries as contributing measurably to the business and somewhat to the population of the town. The subjoined story has also been contributed by John S. Mullin:

DOWLIN'S FORGE.

"Dowlin's Forge," situated about one and one-half miles north of Downingtown, on the Brandywine, was an interesting spot 50 years ago. One could hear it thumping four or five miles away, as it hammered out the pig iron into blooms. These they hauled to Thorndale or Coatesville with six-mule teams, through our borough. There they were rolled out into iron plate or bar-iron. John Dowlin bought all the hills north and south of Downingtown for the purpose of obtaining the wood. This he had cut and made into charcoal, which he used for heating the iron, as bituminous or anthracite coal would not answer.

Their mode of making charcoal was this: They leveled off a piece of ground and, having made a pyramid of fifty or sixty cords of wood and covered it over with dirt to keep it from blazing, they set fire to the pile. It would require about one week to char it. The smoke, when the wind was favorable, would envelop the town. They employed twenty-five or thirty men at the forge and in the woods. These men purchased their goods mostly in Downingtown and were quite a help to the trade, but, alas! the day of the old mill and the old forge has passed and the owls and bats have taken possession.

The mill will never grind,
The forge will never pound,

With the water that is past.

It may be added that the earlier name of the forge was the Mary Ann Forge, so named for two daughters of Samuel Hilbert, a previous owner and to whose children the property descended. The unsatisfactory conditions of forest growth in the hills along the Brandywine, which has been matter for remark by later Downingtown residents, is explained by the denuding of the hills for forge purposes and the level spots on the hills which look like abandoned gardens are the ancient hearths where the charcoal was made.

Mention may be made of a tannery which occupied the position of the tenant houses in the rear of the A. P. Tutton property on Lancaster avenue.

ADDED ITEMS.

In the diary of Shepherd Ayars, of date August 3, 1834, there is this important item.

"This morning we opened our Sabbath school in the M. E. Church. There were 20 scholars present. This is the first Sabbath school ever held in Downingtown. May it prove a great blessing to the neighborhood."

In his address at the dedication of the House of the Minquas Fire Company, No. 2, President S. P. Bicking added important historical facts to the record in the History. The charter of the company was granted May 1, 1909. After the organization a Finance Committee was appointed and a canvass resulted in the subscription of \$4500 and, as a result of the fair held by the Ladies' Auxiliary, \$2500 was added.

CORRECTIONS.

In view of the haste necessary in issuing the History, we are pleased that the errors are so few and that so generally they correct themselves. One galley of corrected proof was overlooked in the hurry of the last days and most of the errors were in this. The following are, perhaps, all it is necessary to note:

P. 18. Omit bottom line. See p. 21, l. 16.

P. 72. Civil War Soldiers, for James R. Gordon, read George W. Gordon.

P. 79. On the authority of Mr. Mullin, l. 5, for Elijah Davis read Err Davis, and l. 16 for Stephen Ayers read Shepherd Ayars.

P. 87. Add J. Hunter Wills to vestry of St. James Church.

P. 92, l. 1. For 1885 read 1855.

P. 96. Trustees, for Charles W. Wilson read Chas. W. Robinson.

P. 105, l. 32. For Thomas Eachers read Thomas Eachus.

P. 107. For Stewart Avenue read Stuart.

P. 166. Roll of Chief Burgesses—John S. Mullin and Eber Garrett are living; D. M. Cox is deceased. For Mr. Wills, who died in office read resigned his office. In list of Councilmen for Daniel Ringwalt read Samuel.

OK

SEP 30 1969

