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WASTELANDS

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**FRANCIS F. EASTLACK.**

THE AUTHOR AT WORK UNDER HIS OWN VINE AND PEAR TREE.

PHOTOGRAPH PRESENTED BY HARRY SCHMIDT, MERCHANTVILLE.

PLATE EQUALLY KINDLY CONTRIBUTED BY GATCHELL & MANNING PHILADELPHIA.



HISTORY

—OF—

MERCHANTVILLE,

CAMDEN COUNTY, N. J.,

—BY—

FRANCIS F. EASTLACK.

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“ Sweet Auburn ! lovliest Village of the Plain,  
Where Health and Plenty cheered the laboring Swain,  
Where smiling Spring its earliest Visit paid,  
And parting Summer's lingering Blooms delayed.”  
(Goldsmith.)

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BINDING BY R. S. BENDER & SON, CAMDEN.

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

"Admitting its brevity, and possible literary blemishes, yet the public must distinctly understand that this work has not been written in a cursory manner nor for pecuniary gain.

"Its merits, if any, stand upon its truthfulness and historical value.

"With this object in view, it has been compiled with the strictest regard for accuracy. Files of old newspapers, aged farmers still living in our neighborhood, eminent authorities, minute books and charters, families of old residents, together with all records of the origin and history of our borough have been carefully consulted.

"It is, therefore, put forward as a standard authority on all important matters pertaining to Merchantville."

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

While all the sins of feeble rhetoric or other want of literary polish should rightfully fall upon my unshielded head, yet I am greatly indebted to the following named gentlemen for much valuable information: Dr. John R. Stevenson, of Haddonfield; the late Frank Thomson (president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company), John S. Collins, Moorestown; W. B. Stewart, Conrad Demmy, Henry Scull, Dr. David H. Bartine, Rev. Richard George Moses, Walter H. Eastlack, Rev. N. M. Simmonds, Dr. Charles W. Greene, C. C. Dickey, Hon. Charles C. Garrison, Gottlieb C. Mick, John Senft, Thomas J. Pancoast, Allyn Brewer, Charles H. Pidgeon, Thomas S. Rudderow, David S. Stetson, Dr. Edward Evans, J. Harry Wilkinson, John Homer, Maurice B. Rudderow, Hon. Howard Carrow, Daniel Carlin, William Longstreth, Benjamin Forrest, A. M. Whilt, Samuel C. Gilmore, William Early, Rev. C. Bridgeman and other kindly interested townsmen whose names I cannot now recall.

And last, though not least, Mrs. E. M. Furber, Miss Annie A. Scull and Mrs. Sarah R. Murray, of the "Colonial Dames of New Jersey."

Also to Gatchel & Manning, of Philadelphia; Harry Schmidt, William Longstreth, Charles F. Homer and Hon. Oliver Lund, of Philadelphia, for many evidences of practical assistance.

## ANTIQUITY OF NEW JERSEY.

Geologists are unanimous in the assertion that at one time, far back in prehistoric periods, the ground now known as New Jersey lay completely under the sea; the whole State, in fact, except possibly the upper northern mountainous section.

This is not simply a theory, but a veritable fact, substantiated by the total absence of coal, besides the existence of immense marl pits, fossils of marine life, shells, and much debris, unmistakably establishing marine origin.

Finally, that there is scarcely a spot in the State in which these traces of matter purely marine cannot be found at the present time.

## ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE GROUND

ON WHICH MERCHANTVILLE NOW STANDS.

The valuable information received,\* if published in full, would indeed make a

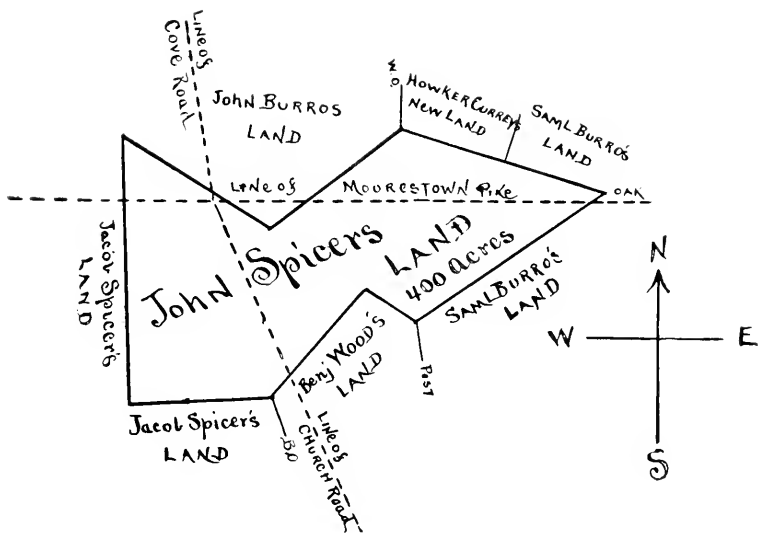
“quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,”

but it must necessarily be condensed. That is to say, Samuel Coles, of Coleshill, Hertfordshire, England, came to this country in possession of a “right” to the one-ninetieth part of an immense tract of land which he obtained by debt or purchase from the heirs of Edward Byllinge; it began at the junction of Coopers Creek and the Delaware River, and extended in a northerly and easterly direction.

On the 13th day of the Third month, 1682, Coles sold to Samuel Spicer (coming from Gravesend, Long Island), 500 acres of this tract, and with it another part of his tract extending to Pensauken Creek (the latter being six miles long and three miles wide.) Coles also disposed of 100 acres to Henry Wood in 1685, and afterward the balance to various parties. Samuel Spicer died in 1691. He left two Sons—Jacob and Thomas. Thomas died in 1760; his daughter—his only child, Abigail, born January 25, 1743—was married to William Rudderow on the 25th of May, 1758. His ancestors came from Hirnant, Wales. He owned considerable property across Pensauken Creek, immediately opposite to the Spicers’ land. He was born October 11, 1732, and died in November, 1808. His son John succeeded him (being born in February, 1759, and dying February 14th, 1840).

Under the will of John’s grandfather (Thomas Spicer), John inherited 400 acres of the original Spicer tract, which is now covered by the Borough of Merchantville. (See map.) After his death it was gradually sold off by his heirs, among whom was included Amos, the father of our postmaster, Maurice B. Rudderow. Amos Rudderow died December 15th, 1808. The last conveyance of this original tract was for 80 acres, made in 1885.

\* Dr. John R. Stevenson, Haddonfield, and his equally scholarly sister, Mrs. Sarah R. Murray, of the “Colonial Dames of New Jersey.”



FURNISHED BY DR. JOHN R. STEVENSON, HADDONFIELD.

RE-DRAWN BY WALTER H. EASTLACK.

NOTE.—The Moorestown pike, also Cove road, (marked by dotted lines) were, of course, not projected when the original map was drawn in 1691.

## THE FOUNDERS OF MERCHANTVILLE.

Matthias Homer, John Louty, Samuel McFadden and Frederick Gerker (four Philadelphia merchants) were the pioneers of Merchantville. They came here together in 1852, building their houses on the north side of Maple avenue near Cove road, except Mr. Gerker, who built opposite (the house now owned by William B. Kempton). Mr. Gerker was an ardent Catholic, and, having few means of attending a church of his own denomination, he built a private room in his new house, in which was erected an altar and confessional, and a Philadelphia priest called at stated times to administer the functions of his office.

At a social meeting at the house of John Louty, the question of naming the new settlement was under discussion; when, after a number of striking names had been suggested to no purpose, Mrs. Louty entered and said, "Gentlemen, as you are all merchants, why not call it Merchantville?" which met the approval of all.

## OLD LANDMARKS.

Where Merchantville now stands there were five houses—one on Maple avenue, above Centre street, once occupied by a Scotchman (whose name I cannot get), but where James C. Finn, who owned considerable property in the neighborhood, lived for some years, and who afterwards built the house now occupied by the Weikel family.

The old farm house on the Curtis property, at the junction of Maple and Wellwood avenues, said to have been built more than a hundred years ago, is still standing.

An old wooden building which stood near where the Millinger house now is was occupied by John Laney. A frame house standing where the Robbins house now is was occupied by Conrad Demmy from 1857 to 1867. It was afterward removed to the race



track, where it still remains. Church (or Cove) road was once a private road from Thomas Spicer, Jr.'s, to Colestown. The present road was laid out April 27, 1809.

Whiskey road was so called from a distillery owned by Ralph V. M. Cooper on the ground now occupied by Samuel Coles. He owned considerable property in the neighborhood, and opened the road to the turnpike.

## TURNPIKE.

A private road ran snake-like through the woods from "Spicer's Ferry" (Cooper Creek) from the earliest settlement. Snake-like is a fitting word. Not knowing by what tortuous trails it took from Camden, we know that it ran close to the old Curtis farm house. Then, starting to the right through a dense forest, found its way to the rear of where our Methodist church now stands; thence, through Dr. Bartine's and other properties, it crossed where Centre street now is, at Mrs. Thomas C. Knight's house; thence struck the Hollinshead homestead; afterwards, turning to the left, it ran close to the "Half Moon Inn" (now Fred Ritter's), and so continued its way to Moorestown.

You must also remember that through this same tiresome route Washington led his troops after the battle of Princeton. It is also a historical fact that some American and Hessian soldiers fallen in that memorable battle lay side by side in the old Colestown Cemetery. The public road was laid out March 8th, 1762. It was straightened out in 1804.

"The Moorestown and Camden Turnpike Company" constructed the present road in 1850. It was opened for use April 1st, 1851. Edward Harris was its first president. Its original cost was thirty-six thousand dollars. The roadbed was of gravel. A two-horse team drew usually from seven hundred to twelve hundred pounds. Afterwards it was laid in stone at an additional outlay of sixty-five thousand dollars, making for construction alone a total of one hundred thousand dollars. At present a span of horses can draw three to four tons weight to and from Philadelphia or Camden.

Its bonds and stock are held in part by widows and the descendants of its original incorporators. Emmor Roberts, of Moorestown, is now president of the road.

## OLD INNS.

"The Cherry Tree Inn" (on ground near the Hollinshead homestead) was built at an unknown date, between 1717 and 1733, tenant unknown. It was occupied by Thomas Spicer, Jr., after his marriage (1740), but not kept as a tavern by him. After his death, in 1760, his widow lived in it. In 1769 her son-in-law, William Rudderow, removed it to the pike above Cove road. At his death it came into the possession of his half-brother, John, who lived there until 1850, when it was left to his heirs. \*

"The Half Moon Inn" stood where Fred Ritter now lives. It was built in 1800; was kept by a man named Cattell. Charles Busby bought it in 1828 and changed its name to the "Spread Eagle Hotel." He sold it to William Hinchman, and he, in 1846, to John A. Vennier, who kept it until his death, in 1876. It afterwards passed into the possession of several other parties. A hotel is now kept there by Fred Ritter.

The "Stockton House" (corner of Maple avenue and Centre street) was originally a two-story shanty, occupied as a cake shop. It was built by James Folwell in 1845 or 1846. He afterwards built around and over it and owned it until 1856, when he sold it to "Benny" Martin, who occupied it as public house for many years. It afterward passed into several hands and has been leased from the Martin estate by William W. Pancoast since.

## RAILROADS.

"The Camden and Pemberton Agricultural Railroad" was chartered July 28th, 1854. It ran to Moorestown, Mt. Holly and Pemberton. In February, 1866, its several branches were united

\* Old musty documents being sometimes puzzling and even conflicting, I am not certain that the *final* disposition of the "Cherry Tree Inn," as given is historically correct.

as the "Camden and Burlington County Railroad Company." The road, under its new name, running from Camden to Mt. Holly, was opened for use Monday, October 21st, 1867. It was leased to the Camden and Amboy Railroad and Transportation Company April 21st, 1868, and was finally leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company May 11th, 1872. The conditions of the lease are that the latter company shall pay interest on the bonds of the company and 6 per cent. per annum on its capital stock.

### TROLLEY LINES.

"The Camden Horse Car Company" finished this line from Camden to Merchantville in September, 1893. The fare each way was ten cents for some time. The first monthly ticket was issued to A. Macray on October 24th, 1893. The name of the company has since been changed to the "Camden and Suburban Railroad Company."

### TRADITIONS.

The following two sad incidents have been related to me by more than one old farmer still living in our neighborhood, but which I have no means of verifying:

### THE GYPSY CAMP.

A band of gypsies had encamped in the grove near where our present stand-pipe now is. A young and very interesting maiden (the daughter of a prosperous farmer of the vicinity) was naturally attracted there. After "crossing hands with silver" and with many other nonsensical maneuverings one of the old hags told her that she would surely marry, but not until after the death of her first lover. The maiden, being at that time betrothed to a young and promising lawyer, this foolish prediction made such an impression upon her mind that, notwithstanding all the kindly influences of her family and friends, she fell into a rapid decline from which she never rallied.

## THE GERMAN PEDDLER.

On the grounds now occupied by the hotel, corner Maple avenue and Centre street, stood a little shanty, in which lived a widow named Sarah Green, with her two children, who kept a cake and candy store, besides taking in washing. On a cold and stormy night,

“It was in the bleak December,”

a German peddler, with a heavy sack, making his way toward Moorestown, but cold and blinded by the storm, knocked at the widow's door, pleadingly begging shelter for the night. Notwithstanding she was alone, her woman's sympathies were enlisted, and she built him a sort of rude bed beside the kitchen stove. Locking the doors, she, with her children, retired and slept soundly. Upon arising in the morning she was horrified to find the body of the peddler stretched out upon the kitchen floor, where he had been strangled to death and robbed of all his money and valuables.

Although suspicion pointed to two desperate characters (who had evidently tracked him from Camden), yet no conviction followed.

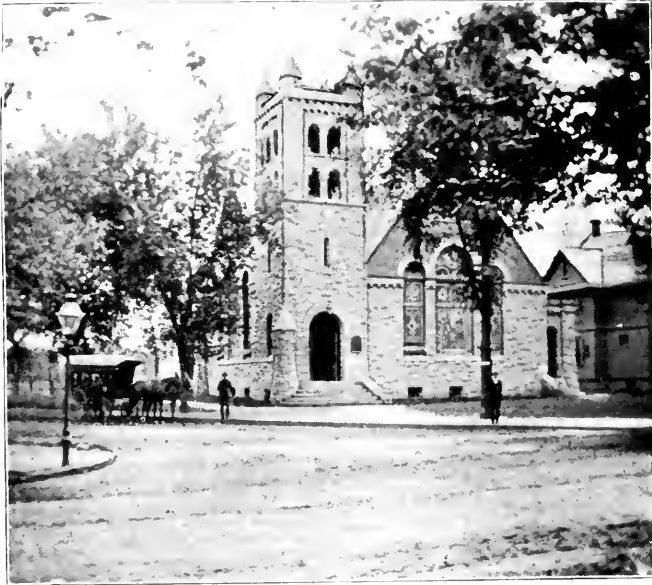
Now allow me to revert to matters more intimately relating to Merchantville.

## CHURCHES.

### OLD TRINITY.

The Trinity Methodist Episcopal Chapel was, of course, the only public place of worship for miles around of any denomination. After a series of meetings held in the little school house (elsewhere referred to), in which Matthias Homer, David S. Stetson, A. G. Cattell, Elijah G. Cattell, James C. Finn, Isaac Hinchman, Isaac Starn, Charles W. Starn and Joseph H. Starn were the





"OLD" TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.

principals, the "Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church" was duly incorporated March 11th, 1865. The corner-stone of the "Chapel" was laid on the third Saturday in October, 1865. It was finished and dedicated in March, 1866, Bishop Matthew Simpson officiating. It was a quaint and cozy wooden structure, standing back from the road, through an avenue of sturdy oaks, and surmounted by a modest belfry.

Some time afterwards the children of the Sunday school, by contributions from every resident, stranger and passing farmer, supplied it with a bell, the same that now swings in the tower of its new majestic edifice.

It was generally known as the "Union" Chapel; the seats were free, and for obvious reasons doctrinal sermons were preached but once a month. The Rev. Robert S. Harris was the first pastor, and David S. Stetson and Matthias Homer were the first superintendents of its Sabbath school.

The present handsome granite edifice was finished and dedicated May 9th, 1894. The Rev. J. B. Haines is the present pastor, since June, 1898. Samuel C. Gilmore is the superintendent of the Sabbath school, supported by eighteen teachers and officers, with 178 scholars on the roll.

## MEMORIAL TABLET.

In a handsome window in this church (representing Christ blessing children) appears imprinted the following significant statement: "This church marks the place where Children's Day was originated by its pastor, Rev. Robert S. Harris, in the year 1866, and this window is lovingly dedicated to the memory of this event."

We might add that the second Sunday of June in every year is set apart as Children's Day, and is now observed in every Methodist church throughout the world, and by many other religious denominations.

The following poetical address was read from the pulpit by the pastor of the church:

## SCHOLARS' GREETING.

To the teachers of the Trinity M. E. Sabbath School at Merchantville, New Jersey, and its Greenville and Pennsville branch schools, on the occasion of their floral festival, May 28th, 1871.

BY FRANCIS F. EASTLACK.

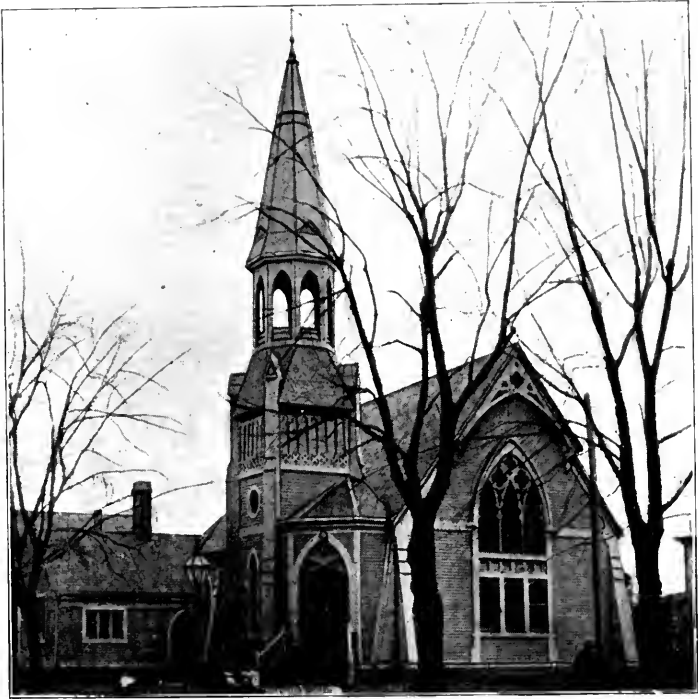
Dear teachers—friends of innocence and youth!  
Guides of our footsteps in the paths of truth,  
To you we turn—for you our hearts o'erflow  
With gentle love and fond affection's glow.  
And we have come with a childish lay,  
This genial, beautiful day of May.  
May! when all nature, as if proud to wear  
Her livery of green—her balmy air,  
Yet speaks in language rich and rare,  
"Each bud and blossom is a voiceless prayer."  
So May has given us what we dearly prize,  
Her choicest flowers in their richest dies,  
And we have gathered them in festoons gay,  
To deck our school-room on this Sabbath day.  
Look at our flowers! So beautiful! So bright!  
So full of perfume! So grateful to the sight!

Dear teachers, are we not like tender flowers,  
Needing the warmth, the dew and the showers,  
The kindly Gard'ner's hand to prune and tie,  
And trail our trembling tendrils toward the sky?

Oh may our hearts receive the warmth of truth above,  
The silent dews of grace—the showers of love;  
And all our aspirations ever fondly bend  
Upward, to please our Heavenly Friend

As flowers exhale their perfume on the air,  
And lull the sense with odors rich and rare,  
So may our feeble prayers arise  
Like incense, till they reach the skies.





THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.



And as the gard'ner plucks the lovely flower  
So rich in glory and in perfume power,  
So at our gleanings may we ready stand  
To meet a greeting at the Saviour's hand.

We come as branches to this holy place,  
And bring our pretty flowers our school to grace,  
Would that the Saviour would our hearts incline  
To be indeed the branches, as He is the Vine!

Like tender branches we are scattered wide,  
'Mid thorns and roses—buckle truth and pride!  
But in the Upper-Land, supreme and blest,  
No separation shall disturb our rest.

Teachers and scholars shall with one accord  
Sing songs triumphant to the living Lord,  
And should ambition rise among the blest,  
'Twill be "who loves our Lord the best!"

It will interest many of my readers to know, that in the frontispiece my left hand is resting upon the original minute book (1865) of Trinity M. E. Church.

## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The first meetings looking up to the formation of this church were held in the Oak Grove Academy in 1871, but it was not until 1872 that an actual organization was effected, which met in the old Merchantville Hall. The Rev. Robert Ellis Thompson was its first permanent pastor, the Rev. Nathaniel L. Upham following in November, 1874. It is but just to say that under the energetic management of Mr. Upham that the church edifice was built and presented to its trustees absolutely free from debt. Its tower was left unfinished. This needed \$240 to complete. Within a week

one of its determined members raised more than the necessary amount from contributions from all denominations.

It was formally dedicated June 12th, 1876. Mr. Upham resigned and was followed by Matthew C. Wood, then by Rev. Roderick Cobb and finally by Rev. J. Mench Chambers. Its Sunday school was started October 13th, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Francis F. Eastlack succeeded in gathering some children who attended no Sabbath school, and on that day thirteen presented themselves at Mr. Eastlack's house. Dahlias were in bloom; each little one, having one of these flowers pinned to his or her bosom, were marched two by two to the Merchantville Hall, where the school was formally opened.

As near as I can remember, the names of the original thirteen were Casper Lord, Kate Miller, Emma Demmy (now Mrs. Frederick Ritter), Walter Knight, John Miller, Hannah Humphreys, Mary Knight (now the widow of William Moses), Walter Rudderow and Francis F., Jr., Ida, Walter H. and J. Dorsey B. Eastlack and Daniel Carlin.

T. E. Atkins is the present superintendent, since March, 1899, assisted by twenty-two teachers and officers and one hundred and eighty-eight scholars on the roll.

Years ago a pastor of this church in going to a prayer meeting there, found a man stretched out asleep on its front steps. He awoke him, finding him poorly though cleanly dressed and entirely sober. He told the minister that, having walked from Fellowship on his way to Camden, becoming tired and hungry, he had selected this spot for a little rest, but had fallen asleep. Without questioning his word, the good man took him to his own home, and, after giving him a substantial supper, invited him to return to the prayer-meeting with him, which he did, and remained until its close. After some whispering the good man placed a generous sum in his hand, and one of the members walked with him to the railroad station, bought him a ticket for Camden and sent him on his way rejoicing. But similar evidences of practical Christianity were not uncommon in those days.



THE GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.



## THE GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

As early as 1871 the question of forming an Episcopalian Church was agitated. The first actual service was held at the residence of Henry A. Macomb December 2d, 1872, Edward S. Hall reading the services. Similar meetings at private houses followed, until April 16th, 1873, when, at the residence of George Crump, the Parish was incorporated Oct. 5, '73. A neat wooden chapel was erected in 1878 at the corner of Centre street and Park avenue, the pulpit was occupied by several transient ministers, yet the Rev. Richard George Moses became the first permanent minister and still holds that position.

The chapel was removed to the ground of the proposed church in July, 1890. The present imposing edifice was built during 1893 and 1894, and on September 30th, 1894, the first divine service was solemnized. The first Sunday school superintendent was Henry A. Macomb. Arthur Truscott has present charge, assisted by fifteen teachers and officers and one hundred and fifty scholars on the roll.

## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

This congregation was formally organized in 1889. In 1890 their present church, a neat and artistic wooden structure, was erected at the corner of Centre street and Rogers avenue. It has been greatly enlarged and improved since. The Rev. Samuel S. Merriman, its first pastor (then a theological student), was formally ordained as minister at our Presbyterian church, his own father taking a leading part. Immediately afterwards he assumed the pastorship of the church. He was succeeded by the Rev. Newton M. Simmonds, the present pastor, in 1896.

Joseph Wiltshire was its first superintendent and is still in charge, assisted by twenty teachers and officers, with about two hundred scholars on the roll.

## FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE.

A number of "Friends" have for some time been holding meetings in Davenport's Hall, giving occasional public exercises in the grove adjacent to the old Merchantville Hall, and at present in our Centre Public School house. Though quiet in their operations, still I learn that much interest is manifested at their meetings and that their number is increasing.

## MATTHIAS HOMER.

I may say right here, as a reason for the frequent use of Mr. Homer's name through these pages, that there is nothing—either in borough matters, formation of churches, building associations, Free-Mason and Odd Fellow lodges, railroad or political matters—that does not bear the imprint of this honored gentleman's prominence and active participation. He was born in Birmingham, England, in 1812; came to America in 1822; located as one of the founders of Merchantville in 1852, and died December 16th, 1893.

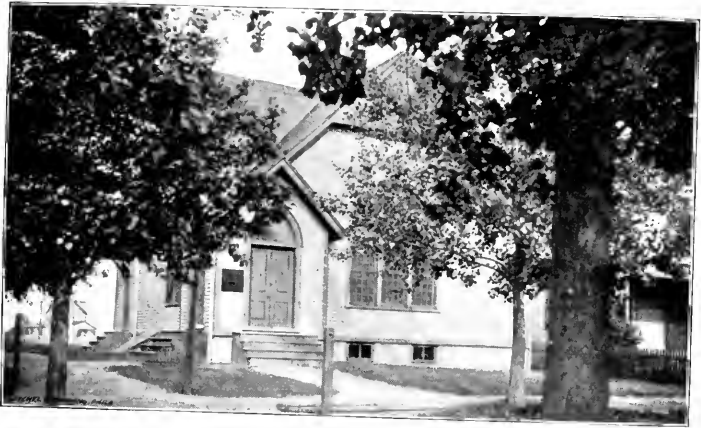
## DAVID S. STETSON, SR.

Nor can Mr. Homer's name be mentioned without coupling that of Mr. Stetson's. He was one of our oldest and most honored public-spirited citizens; he was ardently and heartily engaged in every kind of religious and beneficial work, besides freely contributing for their support and advancement. He was born in the city of Bath, Maine, May 22d, 1819, settled here in September, 1861, and died respected and esteemed September 27th, 1878. His son, David S. Stetson, Jr., is president of our Building Association.

## BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS.

"The Cottage Loan and Building Association" was organized in 1867. David S. Stetson, Sr., was its first president; E. S. Hall, secretary, and Matthias Homer, treasurer. It issued a number of





THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.



series. Mr. Stetson resigned in 1874 and Thomas C. Knight succeeded him. In 1880 the title was changed to the "Merchantville Building and Loan Association." It preserved the same officers until 1888, when David S. Stetson, Jr., became president and still holds that position. Matthias Homer remained its treasurer until his death, in 1893, when he was succeeded by his son, John Homer. It has just issued its eighteenth series.

On account of the destruction of the books of the first association (the Cottage Loan and Building Association) it is impossible to give the total amount of the loans made by it. But since the organization under its present title this association has made loans to its shareholders aggregating \$———. See Note.

### OUR POSTMASTERS.

Charles W. Starn was the first postmaster of the new settlement, also storekeeper, and was located where Dr. Bartine now resides. He was followed by Richard C. Schriener, his widow, Charles Shinn, Gottlieb C. Mick, W. P. Phelps, William Macfarlan and our present postmaster, Maurice B. Rudderow, who assumed charge November 23d, 1897.

### OAK GROVE ACADEMY.

In the year 1869 the Rev. Thomas Cattell (a brother of Senator Alexander G. Cattell) opened what is now known as the "Oak Grove Inn" as an academy for boys, where the rudiments, as well as the higher branches of education were taught. It flourished for a few years, when it was abandoned and turned into a summer boarding house.

### THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE.

This stood on the grounds of Dr. Bartine. It was a small-sized one-story wooden building, erected in 1863 by a close corporation for the purpose of affording some means of instruction to the young children. One of the most emphatic clauses of its incorporation was, "for no cause whatever, shall it ever be used except for religious or educational purposes."

In this little school house the entire settlement worshipped and it became the nucleus of the Trinity Methodist Church. Afterwards it fell into disuse and was diverted from its original purposes. It finally came into the possession of Dr. Bartine, who sold it, and it was removed to Sordantown, where it still stands.

### FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

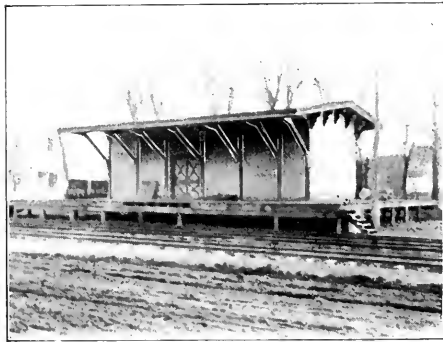
Merchantville Lodge, No. 119, works under a warrant issued from the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons of the jurisdiction of New Jersey, dated October, 1871. It met originally in the old Merchantville Hall, and remained there until the building of Collins' and Pancoast's Hall, where it removed in 1893, and still holds out the second Friday of each month. Really speaking, meetings looking up to its formation were held in what is now the freight station, corner of Park avenue and the railroad. Robert F. S. Heath was its first master, with Matthias Homer as treasurer, a position he held until his death in 1893.

Harry R. Sharp is its present Master; George V. Sharp, Senior Warden; Elmer P. Strang, Junior Warden; Dr. Charles H. Jennings, Treasurer, and John Homer, Secretary.

The Past Masters of Lodge No. 119, F. and A. M., of Merchantville, have been Matthias Homer, Robert F. S. Heath, J. Earl Atkinson, A. Clifford Jackson, John Homer, T. Augustus Beck, George N. Conrow, William R. Lippincott, John S. Morgan, William A. Stavers, Charles P. Spangler, Joseph H. Wilkinson, John H. Sinex, E. Budd Wilkins, William J. Flanagan, Alfred J. Briggs, William M. Duvall, Stacy S. Pancoast, John W. Elliott, Arnold H. Moses, William Mercer, James W. Stevens, W. W. Vickers, Stephen S. Childs, Charles H. Jennings, Millard F. Peterson and Morris S. Smoker.

### NEWCOMERS.

The Messrs. Homer, Louty, McFadden and Gerker, building substantial dwellings and adorning their grounds, were disappointed at the slow growth of the town, for it was not until between the years 1866 and 1872 that much progress was made.



OLD FREIGHT STATION PENNSYLVANIA R. R.

WHERE THE FIRST MEETINGS LOOKING UP TO THE  
FORMATION OF LODGE NO. 119, FREE MASONS, WERE HELD.

KINDLY LOANED BY FRANK E. MANNING, PHILADELPHIA.



During these years it received an impetus by the coming in of such families as David S. Stetson, Alexander G. Cattell, Edward M. Furber, Joseph H. Hollinshead, Amos K. Mylin, Jacob L. Tripler, John Hanna, Elijah G., Rev. Thomas and Senator Alexander G. Cattell, John W. Torrey, Dr. David H. Bartine, Harrison Robbins, D. Tenney Gage, James Millingar, George Crump, Benjamin F. Sausser, Jacob Mick, Edward S. Hall, William D. Kempton, Richard C. Schriener, Francis F. Eastlack, Atwood Porter, Gottlieb C. Mick, Theodore L. DeBow, John C. Miller, William C. Fox, Oliver Lund, Henry A. Macomb, Rev. D. H. Schoeck, John Homer, Charles H. Jennings, Martha Hinchman, John Laney, David W. Keen, Thomas C. Knight, Colonel James P. Mead, R. B. Knight, Joseph Bayliss, Joseph E. Wilkinson, Henry Trout, Christian E., Edwin J. and Charles P. Spangler, Joseph Shivers, John Peace, Rev. Nathaniel L. Upham, Allyn Brewer, Frank L. Kirkpatrick, William Marsden, John Senft, "Benny" Martin and probably a few others whose names I cannot now recall.

The railroad station was at that time located on Park avenue, opposite Gilmore street.

This brings us to about 1872, when the settlement called Merchantville (then forming a part of Stockton township) started on its way to permanent prosperity.

## PLEASING INCIDENTS.

Did space allow, many pleasing incidents relating to our town might be given. The following must suffice:

### A WELL ON FIRE.

As elsewhere said, the well at the Furber residence, on Walnut avenue, was over a hundred feet deep. After the introduction of the present street pipe system this old well was practically abandoned, except for keeping butter, milk, etc., to cool at the end of a suspended rope.

Possibly the servants may at times have thrown down waste paper or other light rubbish. Be this as it may, one day the rope broke, and alas! for the butter and eggs, laying a hundred feet below. A hook with lighted candle was sent down, which, of course, took fire, and the cry of "Well on fire" startled the whole town. Even our Fire Department was called out and general excitement prevailed; the loss, however, was trifling.

### FIVE CENTS OUT OF POCKET.

Many years ago a man and woman presented themselves at the residence of one of our clergymen for the "nuptial tie." They were accompanied by a friend of the minister; the pair were accordingly married, the friend acting as groomsman and the worthy pastor's wife as bridesmaid.

This good lady, seeing in prospective a generous fee for her husband, sent out a servant and expended thirty cents for tea-cakes and lemons. After the usual prayer and good advice had been given she brought on a tray the cake, supported by a glass of lemonade (which, of course, was appreciatingly disposed of). Upon leaving, in the dark vestibule, the man slipped a coin in the hands of the minister. Fancy his astonishment (particularly his wife's,) when the good man entered the lighted parlor and found the coin to be a silver quarter of a dollar.

### STRINGED ICE.

A resident of our town, on a hot August afternoon, was seen trudging along from the railroad station carrying the remains of a huge cake of ice (by means of a strong cord), which he brought from Philadelphia. He could easily have gotten it right in our town from the private ice houses of Homer, Stetson, Cramp or others.



WORSHIPFUL MASTERS  
—OF—  
LODGE No. 119, FREE MASONS

RESIDING THEN OR NOW IN MERCHANTVILLE.



MATTHIAS HOMER  
FATHER OF THE LODGE



ROBERT F. S. HEATH  
FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER  
1871-1872



JOHN HOMER  
W. M. 1875



HARRY R. SHARP  
PRESENT WORSHIPFUL MASTER



CHARLES P. SPANGLER  
W. M. 1881



J. HARRY WILKINSON  
W. M. 1882



JOHN H. SINEX  
W. M. 1883

PLATES KINDLY CONTRIBUTED BY FRANK E. MANNING, PHILADELPHIA.

was unknown. Each new-comer, conscious of the rectitude of his own character, felt himself neither superior nor inferior to any of his neighbors.

Every new-comer was gladly welcomed; his family visited at once without invitation. A general interchange of good feelings was manifested for the health and happiness of one another. Consequently there were no "bosses." Each was animated by the love of a quiet home and the progress of its surroundings. Evenings were spent from house to house in social intercourse. There being but one church in the town, all worshipped God together. Their wives and daughters were equally of the same mind. "Dorcas" and sewing circles were planned; the sick and the poor were cared for, Sunday school scholars hunted up, and in every way motherly and sisterly affection existed between them.

Happy, oh! happy Merchantville in those olden days.

## THE CENTRE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL.

This building was erected on a lot one hundred by one hundred and seventy-five feet (purchased from James Homer) in 1871. It was of one story and had two rooms (one front and the other back). William Way was, strictly speaking, its first principal. It has from time to time been greatly enlarged, having at present six rooms, with Professor R. Howell Tice as principal (since 1896), assisted by five lady teachers and two hundred and forty scholars on the roll.

The last school census (made May, 1899) shows three hundred and seventeen children of school age living within our borough limits.

Our borough authorities have appropriated four thousand four hundred dollars for its maintenance during the present year.

Harry Knox Oakford is president of the board, composed of Mrs. E. H. Nash, Mrs. H. J. Stiles, Mrs. E. W. Preston, John W. Kohlerman, Arthur Truscott, Alexander B. Porter and William Early. John Homer is the clerk.

The results of this school are incalculable. Architects, farmers, mechanics, lawyers, ministers, civil and naval engineers, artists,

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS  
—OF—  
LODGE No. 119, FREE MASONS

RESIDING THEN OR NOW IN MERCHANTVILLE.



WILLIAM M. DUVALL  
W. M. 1887



STACY S. PANCOAST  
W. M. 1888



ARNOLD H. MOSES  
W. M. 1891



WM. MERCER  
W. M. 1892



JAMES W. STEVENS  
W. M. 1893



W. W. VICKERS  
W. M. 1894



CHAS. H. JENNINGS  
W. M. 1896



MILLARD F. PETERSON  
W. M. 1897



MORRIS S. SMOKER  
W. M. 1898

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besides citizens in many other walks of life, received their early education in this same building.

Before it was built the children of our early settlers were forced to trudge to the "Union School house," on the Burlington turnpike, a distance of fully three miles from Merchantville.

## THE INCORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Our community, after vainly petitioning the officials of Stockton township (which then embraced Merchantville) for the return of some part of our taxes for many needed improvements, determined to cut free from it and form a new local government. For this purpose George Crump (a lawyer by profession) drew up a proposed charter, and a "steering committee," composed of George Crump, John Homer, Edwin J. Spangler, Thomas C. Knight, Joseph Bayliss and Colonel James P. Mead, volunteered to take it up personally to Trenton and urge its adoption by the Legislature then in session.

This was in March, 1874. How successfully they accomplished their mission may be briefly stated. Upon the first day of their arrival in Trenton the proposed charter passed its first and second readings. The second morning it was enacted by both houses; was immediately signed by the then Governor, Joel Parker, and, with the big seal of the State attached, the "boys" brought it home in triumph.

Some necessary time elapsed before the date of its actual incorporation, May 18th, 1874.

Matthias Homer was made Burgess, and occupied that position for thirteen consecutive years. The first Councilmen were Thomas C. Knight, Joseph Bayliss, D. Tenney Gage, Elijah G. Cattell, James Millingar, Edwin S. Hall and Christian E. Spangler. John Homer filled the position of Clerk of the Board, retaining it for the twelve following years.

Hon. Charles S. Ball, our present Mayor, was the first to be elected bearing this new title.

Matthias Homer was succeeded by Joseph E. Wilkinson, John H. Sixsmith, Harvey Knight, Herbert W. Johnson, Charles P. Spangler and J. E. Van Kirk.

A bonded debt of \$2500.00 was created the first year, to provide for the payment of State and county taxes, besides immediate current expenses. The collections for the year 1874 amounted to \$3105.50. The first annual report was not made until May 2d, 1876, which may be thus summarized:

Balance from 1875 .....	\$154.49	
Receipts from all sources .....	4,025.30	
		—————\$4,179.79
Total payments .....		3,203.70

Leaving a balance of ..... \$976.09

Now compare this with the last annual report, made February 23d, 1899:

Balance, February 23d, 1898 .....	\$3,796.23	
Receipts from all sources .....	31,947.84	
		—————\$35,744.07
Total expenditures .....		30,527.49

Leaving a balance in hands of treasurer..... \$5,216.58

Appropriations were made for the ensuing year, that is, for 1899, aggregating \$11,175.00.

At a meeting of Council July 14, 1874, the Finance Committee reported that \$1155.00 would be a suitable appropriation for the year. A tax levy of 41 cents per \$100 was at once ordered. The whole tax rate was \$2.00 per \$100, made up as follows:

State tax .....	\$0.34
County tax .....	.70
School tax .....	.55
Borough tax .....	.41
	—————
	\$2.00



THE CENTRE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.





The borough taxes (August 1, 1899) are predicated on the following basis.

Assessed valuation of borough real estate.....	\$633,250.00
Assesser valuation of borough personal property....	65,475.00
	<hr/>
Making.....	\$698,725.00
A tax of \$2.70 per each \$100 is levied in this manner:	
State tax .....	.27
County tax .....	.54
School tax .....	.28
Borough tax .....	1.61
	<hr/>
	2.70

Which, with \$302 from poll tax and \$133 from dog tax, produces a total of \$19,300.57.

The Burgess' office and the "Lock-up" were built in 1874.

The first official survey of our streets was made in 1890.

Stone pavements were laid in 1898.

Gas was introduced in 1889.

Electricity—The first experiment made in our town was by Gottlieb C. Mick in a small frame building adjoining Pancoast's Hotel in 1889. Electricity was formally introduced about 1890.

Water was introduced by the street-pipe system in 1887.

#### FREEHOLDERS.

Edwin J. Spangler was the first Freeholder of the borough. The position has been subsequently filled by Charles B. Coles, Charles P. Spangler, Gottlieb C. Mick, Herbert W. Johnson, and again by Gottlieb C. Mick, elected March 14th, 1899, to represent Merchantville and Pensaukin township.

#### "THE ORIGINAL MERCHANTVILLE WATER WORKS."

as it was facetiously called, was certainly a novel and ludicrous affair. It is necessary to state that on account of the great depth that water could be found, few houses were built north of the rail-

road until the introduction of the present pipe system; for instance, at William M. Furber's residence (the first house built on Walnut avenue), the well actually measured 107 feet from the top of the pump to the bottom. He succeeded in reaching water, but the exertion of getting it up was heroic.

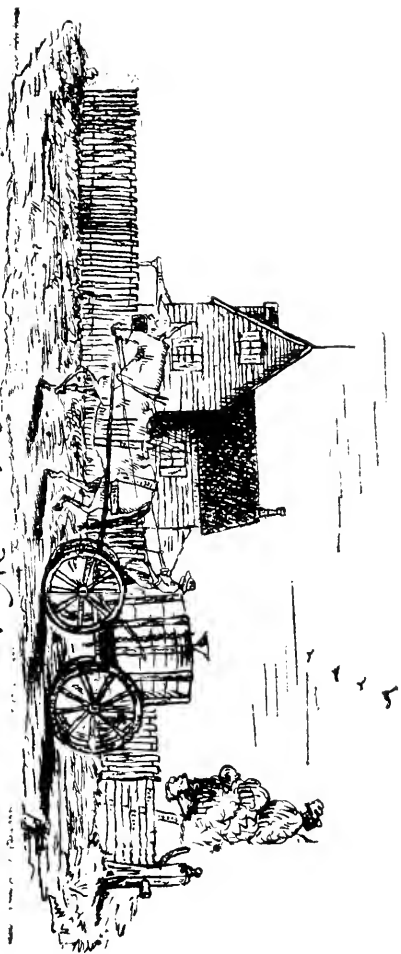
This, of course, retarded building in that section; while we may add that an ordinary hogshead, sunk even with the ground, fully supplied the water for the building of the Episcopal chapel, at the corner of Park avenue and Centre street. But to resume. This outrageously comical looking affair consisted of a huge unpainted hogshead (loaned by Jacob L. Trippler), placed on four wheels by Jacob Mick, and the horse supplied by Richard C. Schreiner. The "works" were located at the bottom of "Father" Homer's barn well, where the "plant" made morning calls, supplying the "over-the-railroaders" with pure sparkling water.

Our present worthy policeman, Daniel Carlin, was the "president, director, engineer and general forwarder," besides filling the important positions of cashier, secretary and treasurer. Such amusement did it create that Frank Haviland made a drawing of it and transferred it to stone, printed and distributed copies. Nor did the fun end here, for the Camden and even the Philadelphia newspapers noted it, and "wrote it up," to the amusement of their readers. (See illustration.)

## POLITICAL MATTERS.

### 7 The First Democratic Mass Meeting

Was held in the fall of 1884 over Jacob Mick's blacksmith shop (derisively called from this occurrence Mick's Hall). Judge Charles T. Reed and J. K. R. Hewitt, of Camden, Gottlieb C. Mick and Francis F. Eastlack made speeches. There were only six Democrats in the borough, but a large number of Republicans greeted them and applauded their audacity.



# Merchantville Water Works.

Dan<sup>l</sup> Carlin Esq. Sup<sup>t</sup>

Expressly designed, to enable the residents to run their  
fontaines and machinery velces with more profusion than they do  
now" For further particulars see Eng. Telegraph Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 1871

THE ORIGINAL DRAWING BY FRANK HAVILAND, CONTRIBUTED BY HENRY A. MACOMB, MERCHANTVILLE.  
PLATE GENEROUSLY PRESENTED BY LOUIS B. COX, CARCEN.

Hon. Alexander G. Cattell (Republican).

This honored gentleman was appointed United States Senator by Governor Marcus L. Ward March 27th, 1866. He served as such until March 3d, 1871, when he retired full of honors. His public career is too well known to need comment here. President Grant afterwards sent him to London to negotiate a United States Government loan of two million dollars, which he successfully accomplished. He died here amid universal sorrow in May, 1894.

Hon. Oliver Lund (Republican).

Was elected in the fall of 1875 to the State Assembly of New Jersey. He was re-elected in 1876. A remarkable feature of his first election was that he received the unanimous vote of the borough. Such was his popularity that, in addition to the support of his own party, every Democrat in Merchantville voted for him.

While in the Legislature he offered a number of wholesome laws, which were enacted and which still stand as statute laws of the State.

Gottlieb C. Mick (Democrat).

Though twice previously elected, he was again elected in March, 1899, as Freeholder (representing Merchantville borough and Pensaukin township). His past commendable record in the former Boards of Freeholders insures an equally satisfactory one for the present and future. We might add that among his many meritorious actions was the urging and successful construction of the new stone road on our Park avenue.

Hon. Herbert W. Johnson (Republican).

Ever since this gentleman moved into our town (1887) he has been identified with every matter conducive to the best interests of Merchantville. For instance, he served several years in our Borough Council; was one of the Burgesses, besides filling the position of Freeholder.

In 1896 he was elected State Senator, representing Camden county, by a plurality of 9859. He has offered (and through his

efforts have been enacted) many important laws (far above local conditions). I can here only cite a few.

The "Kindergarten Act," legally making this invaluable method of infant instruction an integral part of our State public school system. An "increase of State appropriation for public roads," amounting to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which practically means the construction of about a half million dollars' worth of "good roads" in New Jersey during the coming year alone.

Sufficient has been given to show the trend of his industry. It might be added that he has served as chairman on many State committees, such as "Finance, Labor and Industries" and "Miscellaneous Business," besides being a member of important committees, "Militia," "State Library," "State Printing" and "State Corporations."

Another important matter should not be overlooked. He drafted a number of clauses in the new "Borough Act" in 1897, giving certain enlarged powers to the charter of our town.

Such industrious and useful work has naturally given Senator Herbert W. Johnson, from Camden county, an enviable reputation throughout our entire State. In a word suffice it to say that the interests of Camden county in the State Senate have never been confided to a more watchful or more capable representative.

## PUBLIC HALLS.

### Old Merchantville Hall.

Its corner-stone was placed in position in October, 1870, by the Right Worthy Grand Master of Masons of the jurisdiction of New Jersey. It was for years our only resort for public meetings and entertainments, besides the meeting place for various secret and social organizations.

## Collins and Pancoast's Hall.

Was built in the spring of 1893. The first entertainment given there was by the St. Agnes Guild of the Grace Episcopal Church. It is largely used for fashionable entertainments. It is also the seat of our United States postoffice and the Merchantville Lodge of Free Masons.

## SECRET AND BENEFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Amity Lodge, No. 166, I. O. O. F., was chartered June 6th, 1872. John Homer was its first Noble Grand and Francis F. Eastlack its Secretary for many years. It removed afterward to Cramer Hill, where it remained for some years, and has recently returned to its birthplace. John Crawford is its present Noble Grand, with F. A. Buren as Secretary, and George H. Amon, Treasurer.

Lodge No. 29, Knights of the Golden Eagle.\* Chartered October 10, 1887. John Homer was its first presiding officer. That position is now held by Edward M. Wright.

Washington Camp, No. 29, Patriotic Order Sons of America, was instituted September 28th, 1894, with William D. Stanger as President. Walter H. Eastlack fills that position at present.

Archimedes Senate, No. 27, Order of Sparta. Organized August 22d, 1895. Its first presiding officer was J. E. VanKirk. It is a practical relief association, based upon a new system. Say, for instance, a member dying within

- 1 year, his family receives \$1875.00.
- 2 years, his family receives 2000.00.
- 3 years, his family receives 2375.00.
- 4 years, his family receives 2500.00.

Each member being fully beneficial at the expiration of five years. It has paid \$5000.00 of death claims since its formation. Robert Riddle is the present presiding officer.

\* Formally disbanded July 11th, 1890, dividing the funds and surrendering its charter.



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION IN MERCHANTVILLE.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.





## CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

### "The Half Hour Club"

Was started in 1897. It is located in the Borough Council chamber and has about 2000 volumes. Mrs. Frank S. Walton is the present very efficient librarian.

## INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

### Merchantville Protective Association

Was formed January 15th, 1894, for the purpose of protecting the business interests of its members. Ellis Parker, its president, and Walter H. Eastlack, its secretary, at the date of its formation, still hold these positions.

### Merchantville Improvement Association,

Among other objects, has old paper and other similar refuse removed from our streets. It was started March 28th, 1898, with John B. Morton as president and William Early as secretary, who still remain as such.

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Miss Emma Culin has for years been engaged in educational work, such as the preparation of advanced students for college and imparting knowledge in the English classics.

The Misses Lucy and Edith Moses opened, in 1899, a kindergarten, to which has since been added an academy for instruction in the higher branches of English education.

Francis F. Eastlack gives instruction in practical double-entry bookkeeping, besides private reading lessons in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, etc.

## OUR FIRE COMPANY.

### The Niagara Hose Company

Built its present house in 1889. John B. Hamel, Jr., was its first president. The hose carriage now in use formerly belonged to the Niagara Hose Company of Philadelphia. The bell now swinging in its tower was set up in 1897. John Senft is now president and Gottlieb C. Mick its chief.

NIAGARA FIRE COMPANY has a chemical extinguisher and 1200 feet of hose always ready for use. Our borough contributes annually \$200 and Pensauken Township \$150 towards its support. We have thirty fire plugs within our limits.

## NEWSPAPERS.

The "Beacon" (a juvenile experiment), edited by William Pilling in 1873.

The "Plain Speaker" (also of same class), edited about 1878 by George A. Crump.

The "Weekly Record," edited by J. K. Miles and J. Fred Dunleavy in 1894.

The "World," in 1895, edited by William Early.

The "Trinity News," published by the Epworth League of our Trinity Methodist Church, in 1897.

The "Merchantville Review," edited by W. H. Lewis, made its first appearance June 2d, 1889.

The "Star" was started in 1895 by F. C. Alexander as editor, but ceased to exist in July, 1899.



THE NIAGARA HOSE COMPANY.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.



The Merchantville "Press," W. G. Taylor, publisher, and Francis F. Eastlack, editor, issued its first number September 2d, 1899. It is claimed it has "come to stay."

The "Review" still flourishes, and though locally circumscribed, is lively and sprightly and much appreciated by our community.

## DIRECTORIES.

The first directory of Merchantville was issued in 1893 and followed in 1895, 1897, 1898 and 1899.

## HISTORICAL.

William Longstreth published a pamphlet, "A Glance at Merchantville," in 1898, which attracted much attention.

## MERCHANTVILLE CHICKEN FARM.

Possibly in the entire State of New Jersey, either in grounds, model houses and skill exercised, is there a handsomer result than that in the chicken farm of Harry Schmidt (assisted by his son, Leonard), right in our own town, on Centre street. Here can be seen magnificent specimens of first-class breeds of fowls, say, for instance, "Buff Cochins," "Wyandottes," "Black Minorcas," "Plymouth Rocks" and many others. After a personal inspection of all its details I can only say, "it must be seen to be appreciated."

## OUTDOOR SPORTS.

Early in the eighties a number of our citizens played cricket in a field either adjacent to or within the race-track grounds. I don't think there were any officers, nor had it a distinctive title. It was usually called the "Cricket Club." Senator Cattell, Harrison Robbins, George Crump, Thomas C. Knight and Henry A. Macomb were among the principals. This was succeeded by the "Athletic Club," on ground loaned by Senator Cattell at the west side of Prospect street, south from Maple avenue. This was regularly officered. It started in 1888, and W. H. Dole was its first president. It existed until the Senator sold the ground for building purposes; it then vacated it and removed to grounds diagonally opposite. These two clubs thus formed the nucleus of our present handsomely equipped Merchantville Field Club, which is the favorite resort for lovers of outdoor sports—base ball, cricket, tennis, football, golf, etc. It controls six acres of ground, conveniently laid out, with suitable buildings and grand stand, on Prospect street, south of Maple avenue. It was started

, with John B. Morton president. Frederick W. Kleinz holds that position at present. It has a membership of nearly 200, and is one of the most flourishing organizations of its kind in New Jersey. \*

In addition to its sports, attended by vast crowds of our best society, our wives and daughters, it gives during the winter season (usually at Collins & Pancoast's Hall) a series of entertainments, whether of balls, hops or music. Particularly is what I might call an annual "oddity" where theatricals (home talent), local hits, songs, squibs, "takings off," in fact a conglomeration of comicalities and refined nonsense, draw the largest and the most thoroughly amused audiences.

\* Owing to the inability of its officers to give me date of organization, I am forced to subscribe blanks.

## THE MERCHANTVILLE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

Occupies the entire second floor of the old Merchantville Hall. Its rooms are handsomely furnished with billiard tables and all the accessories of a club of this character. In fact, it is the resort of our best society. Ladies patronize it for the pleasure afforded in progressive euchre. It was founded April 1st, 1889, John H. Sixsmith being its first president. Henry J. Stiles now occupies that position.

## THE RACE TRACK.

Harrison Robbins originally opened the race track as the "Gentlemen's Driving Park" and ran it for some time. It fell into the hands of disreputable parties, making it a nuisance and a disgrace. It has been recently started under different auspices and is now known as the "West Jersey Country Club." The splendid reception given it on Decoration Day, when our pretty little jewel, "Merchantville Girl," triumphed over all contestants, speaks well for its future. J. I. Chalfant is now its president.

## LAYING PARK AVENUE IN STONE.

Work is already begun, under the personal supervision of the company's capable general superintendent, Mr. J. W. Craig. The public may look forward to its early and satisfactory construction. The contract price is \$12,900, which has been awarded to the B. M. & J. F. Shanley Company, of Jersey City. There will also be an iron bridge across Pensauken Creek costing \$2600 additional, Camden and Burlington counties each paying one half.

## FIRES IN MERCHANTVILLE.

Since the very inception of our town there have been few fires, comparatively speaking, and none involving life or serious loss. Before the formation of our present admirable Fire Department may be mentioned the burning of the stables of David S. Stetson, Benjamin F. Sausser and Harrison Robbins.

Immediately preceding its formation was the burning of Dr. Bartine's stable and the destruction of many valuable books and public documents belonging to the late Senator Cattell, stored in a stable on the old Hanna property.

But, independent of these, while there were, of course, numberless small fires in and around our borough, yet they really narrowed themselves down to two of any importance, the McIntyre house and Oak Grove Inn.

The McIntyre house (Chestnut avenue and Centre street) (of supposed incendiary origin), broke out Sunday night (or, rather, Monday morning), about 12.20, June 24th, 1894. The interior was pretty well gutted. Our Fire Department was in service three hours. The damages were said to be about five thousand dollars.

The Oak Grove Inn fire started at 10 o'clock on the morning of September 5th, 1892. The Niagara Fire Company was in service four hours. The third and fourth stories and parts of the roof were practically consumed.

The insurance was \$16,000 and the loss \$6000. At one time was feared its total destruction. The perseverance, skill and energy of our own firemen averted widespread disaster.

The Fire Departments of Stockton and Camden were rung up and dashed in just when our "boys" became the victors. The chief of the Camden Department was surprised and pleased with everything. Calling aside Gottlieb C. Mick, the chief of the Niagara Fire Company, he said:

"Chief, Niagara's boys have done handsomely; any error on your part would have resulted in its total destruction! Give your boys my compliments! Tell them I feel proud of them; that I see in them the stuff that dignifies the name of firemen!"



## UNITED STATES ARMY AND NAVY "BOYS."

### MERCHANTVILLE'S CONTRIBUTION.

ARMY.—Company M, (Captain John A. Mather), Third Regiment, N. J. Vols., Colonel Benjamin A. Lee. Jay B. Wilson, Jr., Abram Morris Browning, Harry Kirby, Harold Browning, Howard Marsden and Frederick W. Klein, Jr. Enlisted April 27, 1898. Honorably discharged and disbanded at Athens, Ga., February 11, 1899.

The "boys" were principally instructed in coast defences at the Pompton Lakes, N. J. They bore themselves well throughout, and it was no discredit to them that they saw no actual war, for which they nobly enlisted.

NAVY.—Marine Corps—John C. Megonegal, enlisted August 4, 1897. During our late war with Spain he was on the U. S. cruiser Columbia, guarding in Cuban waters. He is still in the U. S. Navy.

NAVY.—Landsmen Corps—Harry Mick (son of the late Louis Mick), enlisted June, 1895. Was carpenter's mate aboard the U. S. flagship New York. Was actively engaged in several bloody battles during our Spanish War. His officers spoke highly of his gallantry. He resigned the navy and immediately re-enlisted in Company E, Third Cavalry, Regular Army, where he still is. One of the "boys" that Merchantville feels proud of.

U. S. NAVY.—Lieut. Reynold T. Hall, (son of E. S. Hall,) was educated at our Centre Street Public School. He was appointed Assistant Engineer in the U. S. Navy in 1880; thus making a continuous service of nearly twenty years. Among his other services was the search for the "Jeannette" in the frozen Arctic Seas. He took a conspicuous part throughout our late War with Spain. Managed the engines of the "Petrel" at the bloody battle in front of Cavite, Phillipine Islands, May 1st, 1898,

where the "Petrel" ran in closer to the Spanish guns than any other of our fleet. He was also at the final attack and the surrender of Manilla, August 13th, 1898. He is now (September 1st, 1899,) at San Francisco in charge of the U. S. S. "Boston," just returned from Manilla. At home a Public Reception and handsome Sword await him at the hands of the people of Merchantville (taking place at Collins & Pancoast's Hall, October 5th).

### OUR JUDGES.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY.—Hon. Charles G. Garrison (Democrat), was appointed by Governor Robert S. Green, February 1, 1898, for a term of seven years. He was re-appointed by Governor George T. Werts, in 1895, and is still serving. His judicial abilities and career on the bench are too well known to make comment here necessary.

DISTRICT COURT OF CAMDEN COUNTY.—Ex-Judge Howard Carrow (Democrat). This noted criminal lawyer was appointed by Governor Leon Abbett, April 1, 1891, his term expiring in 1896.

Judge Charles V. D. Joline (Republican) was appointed by Governor Griggs, April 1, 1896, and still performs the functions of that office.

OUR COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS.—Richard C. Schreiner, Edwin J. Spangler, Joseph Bayliss, Francis F. Eastlack, Charles Shinn, Robert B. Knight, John S. Matthews, George P. Bush and William Longstreth.

OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT.—James Wright, William Marsden (6 years), William Naylor (10 years), Daniel Carlin (9 years), William H. Linderman (6 years), Robert Graham (2 years). This means continuous service in each case.

## FLAG THAT WAVED O'ER MORRO'S WALLS.

### MERCHANTVILLE'S OLD GLORY.

This national emblem has a peculiar history. At the breaking up of "Union Camp," September 1st, 1862, the "boys" of the Corn Exchange Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, started for the front.

Senator Cattell, being the originator of this regiment, was presented with its camp flag and pole, which he sent over to Merchantville, planting the flagstaff on his grounds, but religiously preserving the flag for holidays and special occasions.

General Grant, who was a warm personal friend of the Senator, on a visit to Merchantville, in September, 1875, hoisted the flag himself, in the presence of many of our citizens.

Upon the death of the Senator (May, 1894) the flag came into the possession of our fellow-townsmen, George W. Algor. The old flagstaff was purchased by William Longstreth and presented to the "Merchantville Field Club," and now adorns their grounds.

At the breaking out of our war with Spain a number of our citizens, among whom were George W. Algor, Walter H. Eastlack and Marshall G. Stevens, conceived the idea of floating her over Morro Castle so soon as that fortress should come into our possession. With this end in view a public meeting of our citizens was called May 18th, 1898, in which all our ministers made eloquent remarks, Judges Charles G. Garrison and Howard Carrow taking leading parts. It was then decided that the flag should be borne personally to Washington and the request of our people be made known to the War Department. This was done May 24th, 1898, and, January 1st, 1899, when the morning sun rose over humbled Morro Castle, it was greeted by Merchantville's "Old Glory" floating defiantly from its ramparts. In February, 1899, the flag was returned to us with an autographic letter of thanks from the Secretary of War. It is now in the possession of Mr. Algor.

## THE OLD CANNON IN FRONT OF PIDGEON'S.

This old cannon has a peculiar history, which, I understand, Society of Pennsylvania," at Twelfth and Spruce streets, Philadelphia will be found in greater details in the archives of the "Historical

A careful examination will show the following inscriptions near the touch-hole, "G. J. O. 3. 1. 2.," and on each of its trunnions "456." It was part of the armament of the British frigate "Augusta."

On September 23d, 1777, freighted with gold to pay the British army in this section, with the royal standard of St. George floating from her masthead, she sailed defiantly up the Delaware River. But when she stood abreast Fort Mifflin and particularly a little shore battery at Red Bank (near where the "National Park" now is), she met her doom at the bottom of the Delaware. Here she remained until 1875, when she was raised, one of our townsmen (the ex-Postmaster William Macfarlan) being present. Her hulk is still to be seen at Gloucester. After passing through several hands, the old cannon came into the possession of our produce dealer, Charles H. Pidgeon, and now adorns the front of his place.

As an evidence of its present sound condition a number of salutes were fired from it July 4th, 1890, in front of our Niagara Fire Company's house.

## CRIME IN MERCHANTVILLE.

I now approach a subject of great importance, not necessarily to our own people, but more particularly to new-comers. I make this statement in all the consciousness and all the solemnity of a sworn oath.

I have searched the records of the criminal courts at Camden, the "dockets" of every committing magistrate in our borough, and I fail to find a single instance of a heinous crime having ever been committed within the limits of Merchantville. Chicken stealing, petty burglaries and other minor offenses have, but even these have been committed by outside parties. I make this public statement because the fame and fair name of Merchantville have been tarnished, and many drawbacks to our prosperity have been caused by sensational newspapers in which matters of a criminal nature occurring miles outside of us have been continuously attributed to Merchantville.

Take as prominent subjects the Leconey and Mrs. Miller murders. Now every resident of Merchantville knows that by the nearest route the former took place three miles and the latter one and a half miles outside of our borough limits.

## POINTS CONCERNING PRESENT MERCHANTVILLE.

Merchantville has a population of over 2500. It is situated on the Moorestown turnpike four miles northeast from Camden.

One takes either the Pennsylvania Railroad, via Market Street Ferry, Philadelphia (round trip, 20 cents, or monthly ticket \$4, time, 25 minutes), or the trolley cars at the foot of Market street, Camden (round trip, 10 cents; time occupied, about forty minutes). It stands on ground 100 feet above water mark at Camden. The soil is neither clay nor sand, but a happy combination of both, being sufficiently porous to absorb all dangerous moistures and noxious odors, consequently there is not a stagnant pond for miles around, thus insuring a total absence of malaria or kindred diseases.

The air is of the utmost purity, and, having no factories, we have no smoke. Its water, whether bubbling up in private wells or from a reservoir three miles away, from a series of artesian springs, is cold, sparkling and pure as crystal. Its streets run at right angles, are wide and shady, and the pavements throughout the town are handsomely paved with stone. Many of the houses are palatial in size and architectural beauty; but, in any case, they are substantially built of diverse pleasing designs, while particular attention is given to the adornment of our grounds, lawns and gardens. It has four handsome churches, with flourishing Sabbath schools attached, besides a "Friends'" Meeting; an up-to-date public school, with experienced teachers, full supplies, large airy rooms and expansive playgrounds. In fact, in its teachers, its range of studies and supplies, it has no superior among the grammar schools of Philadelphia. It has, besides, two private schools and a commercial institute, where double-entry book-keeping is taught and reading lessons given in English, German, French, Spanish and Italian.

It has a first-class fire company, occupying its own house, fully equipped with fireplugs in every street; is well lighted with gas or

electricity, both in street lamps and in our houses. We have two drug stores, five experienced physicians, a dentist and a monthly nurse.

The Philadelphia and New York newspapers are served early in the morning, while the weeklies, monthly magazines and current literature generally are for sale at the newsman's store or stand at our railroad station. The Knickerbocker and the Wilson Ice Companies supply the town daily.

About thirty trains arrive and depart from our railroad station daily, and the trolley cars run every ten minutes. We have daily expresses, bringing and taking trunks, packages and furniture.

We have a town street sprinkler; also carts to collect all kinds of loose papers and rubbish generally. There is also a beautiful public hall, with walls splendidly frescoed, with a seating capacity of 400, with stage, scenery, footlights and other theatrical appliances, besides kitchen, retiring rooms and a smooth dancing floor.

We have an association to protect our merchants and business men, a circulating library, various religious organizations, such as Guilds, Christian Endeavorers, Epworth Leagues and the Young People's Meetings.

Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of the Golden Eagle, Patriotic Sons of America and Order of Sparta are all well represented. So far as sporting and athletic matters are concerned, we have our Driving Park, our Field Club, with extensive grounds and convenient buildings.

We have a Gentlemen's Club (faithful to its name in every particular), with billiard tables, sumptuously furnished smoking and reading rooms, which is situated in one of the most prominent positions in the town.

Of course, we have a government postoffice, with the free delivery system going into effect January 1st, 1900, a weather bureau and a public telegraphic and telephone service. An old and reliable Building Association, which has lately issued its eighteenth series.

The municipal government consists of a Mayor, assisted by a Common Council. These gentlemen are all property owners, and, of course, residents of our town, so that, while every improvement to the general benefit of the town is adopted, yet their nat-

ural self-interest prevents the borough from being extravagantly governed. In this connection we might add that we have a first-class police force and two committing magistrates.

We have a well-kept and old-established hotel with twenty rooms (the only hotel in our town), to which is attached livery stable and service. We have also a Board of Health, which carefully takes care of the sanitary conditions of our town. A large boarding house gives ample accommodations to a large number of summer boarders. So far as provisions are concerned, there is not an article exposed in Philadelphia markets that cannot be found at our many local stores. The juiciest of "roasts," fresh and salted meats of every description, sweet country butter and eggs right from the farm, all manner of groceries, the very earliest of Southern and Jersey fruits and vegetables, fish just caught in our neighborhood, oysters, clams, flour and ham, and, in fact, everything befitting the table of an epicure, and all brought right to our doors.

Dry goods, notions, hardware, hay and feed are all well represented. We have our bakers, with fresh bread and cakes; our ice cream parlors and eating saloons.

Independent of these we have a real estate exchange, shoe and gents' furnishing store, barber and hair-dressing parlors, an undertaker, an upholsterer, coal dealers, tobacconist, watchmaker, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tinsmiths and wheelwrights, nursery grounds, commissioner of deeds, notary public, harness and whips, bicycle depot, florist, laundries, dressmakers, milliner, stationery store, music teachers, paperhangers, poultry farm and others.

There is no lack of skillful mechanics and artisans in our town. We may say in a word every trade necessary to build, ornament or repair a house from roof to foundation is well represented, as the many handsome edifices in our town fully testify. Taking into consideration all these conveniences, all these attractions, the tax rate is not high; houses are rented at fair prices and real estate is offered at reasonable and inducing figures. As a class the men of Merchantville are law-abiding, intelligent and hospitable; they are generally what is called "well-to-do in life," and in a few instances are wealthy.



They are an assemblage of good fellows and business men, pursuing their various vocations generally in Philadelphia, but whose good judgment has selected our town, simply from its general adaptation to all the conveniences of a luxurious or a modest home.

But the women of Merchantville! God bless them! Every one of them is an earth angel! Be she matron or maid, old or young, she is a physical beauty and a mental paragon!

Sufficient has been said to raise the thought in the mind of any intelligent man, "Now here is a place differing from many" projected "towns, where (except on paper) there is only a railroad station and a few cottages, where everything is in prospective, where myself and family would be subjected to many wants and inconveniences, and the absence of churches, schools and the necessary benefits of social life. Where, in a word, one must "grow up with the town." That is the whole matter in a nutshell. Here you have an already established town, healthy, pure air, crystal water, streets broad and well shaded, stone pavements, well lighted, well governed, with every convenience befitting a wideawake, prosperous town, and where the people are hospitable and will gladly welcome all who seriously think of locating with them.

## SOME SERIOUS AND WELL-MEANING ADVICE.

To Every Party Who May Have in View the Buying of Ground or Locating in Merchantville.

We have a long-established Building and Loan Association, one whose operations have been so honorable and successful that it has lately issued its eighteenth series. It charges \$1 per month for each share (the series run out generally in eleven years). Money is exposed for sale at every meeting to the highest bidder. Full \$200 is loaned on each share at the legal rate of interest. A mortgage taken as security. This mortgage may be paid off at any time or allowed to stand until the closing of the series (just as your own means or convenience may suggest).

Of course, it is much more satisfactory to buy the ground, get out plans and contract and have the house built under your own supervision on a purely cash basis. But this cannot be done in every case. You would be surprised were I to enumerate one-half of the houses in our town now free of debt which were built through the agency of this same liberal association.

You have two easy means of procuring a home. Assuming that you have sufficient cash ready to buy the ground, and a house is already built on the lot, then join the Building Association, taking as many shares which producing \$200 each as will enable the association to loan you the necessary amount. Or, if there is no house on the ground, get out plans, make the application for loan and have the building contract signed, hand it to the association, which will pay the builder as the work progresses, according to the terms of the contract. Of course, some necessary forms must be observed, such as the taking out the shares, applying for loan, awaiting the report of the Loan Committee and possibly a few other minor matters, will need your attention, but all these can be readily understood and followed.

But, before buying ground or renting, place the matter in the hands of a reliable and experienced real estate agent, of which we have several.

## THE PARTING SHOT.

### The Merchantville Building and Loan Association.

The aggregate amount of LOANS, given by the combined "Cottage Building Association," and the "Merchantville Building and Loan Association," approximates (\$1,244,400) one million, two hundred and forty-four thousand, four hundred dollars. The exact figures would not vary \$20,000 either way.

My readers must remember the books and papers of the "Cottage Building Association," have been destroyed; hence the seemingly impossibility of quoting identical figures; yet careful and conscientious calculations (based upon official statements) justify the figures as given.

The following facts, (taken from the sworn statement) of its operations for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1898, are well worthy of perusal and reflection:—

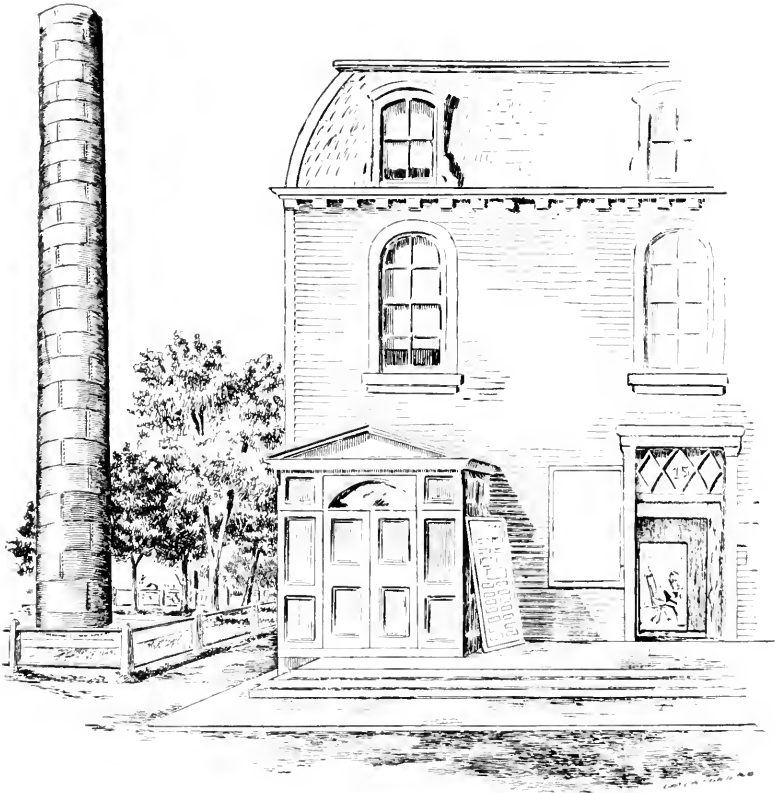
Cash received during that period,	\$102,693.35
Loans given " " "	51,850.00
Assets at that date, . . . . .	223,869.78

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Building and Loan Associations, wherever spread over broad America are silent benefactors, giving encouragement and dignifying TOILERS with the proud title of OWNERS; owners of that sacred spot—HOME—the result of industrious LABOR and the husbanding of SMALL ECONOMIES.

Far may they spread, throwing out their giant arms laden with encouragement and practical assistance!

Among these honored many, may I not rightfully—yet modestly—claim that the "Merchantville Building and Loan Association," shall stand somewhere near the top?



"OLD" MERCHANTVILLE HALL.

LOANED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK BY WM. LONGSTRETH.

## AN OLD-FASHIONED GHOST STORY.\*

Samued Spicer (see page —) died at his home near the rear of the steam soap factory, on our pike near Coopers Creek bridge. An aged farmer (nearly eighty), still living on the outskirts of Merchantville, assures me that the following nonsensical story was believed in his childhood days by "almost everybody" in our neighborhood. His grandfather oftentimes related it (in this fashion) to many a wide-eyed and open-mouthed crowd of listeners.

"Oh! yes, old Sam Spicer's sperritt! (Now don't break into me.) Sam went off sottin' one stormy night, nigh unto Christmas, in his old arm cheer, a-front of a roarin' kitchin fire, with his long clay pipe an' a mug of ale on his table, his old gun in a corner, an' his alminicks hangin' on the wall.

"Well, they give him a decent buryin', but lo! an' behold! the next mornin' in comes Sam, an' sotted hisself in his old arm cheer. An' it didn't matter, day nor night, thar sot Sam. (None of your botherin' to mix me up.) No, neighbor, it warent Sam hisself; it war' his ghost! Well, there he sot, an' he sot, an' he sot.

"He didn't bother nobody; it 'pears he was ginerilly in good humor, watchin' ev'rything goin' on. He never got mad, 'cept some fool would touch his gun or rumple his lot of alminicks. Then he would git red in his face and stamp his foot. (No, niny, he didn't make no noise.) Then once in a while he tuk from his s-h-r-o-u-n-d his l-o-n-g c-l-a-y p-i-p-e a-n' l-i-t i-t. (Now don't bother me.) How kin I tell how he got it on fire? I only hearn that it was rale fire, an' the smoke smelt like y-a-l-l-e-r b-r-i-m-s-t-o-n-e.

"Howsomever, so many folks come in to see him that the floor 'gin to git thin. They 'lowed he was gittin' to be a disgrace."

\* Foundation furnished by Thomas S. Rudderow.

(The grandfather evidently meant a nuisance.) "So what to do to git his sperritt to rest?"

"Well, after a heap of trouble, they got three yarb doctors. They argued with him, an' tole him if he would stay away fer a hundred years, they would put him at the bottom of a nice dry well on Josiah Wilson's ground, and kiver the top over with lumber, so as rain nor snow wouldn't bother him. (Now, how do I know if he talked like us? Mebbe it was g-h-o-s-t talk.) But, howsomever, they got him down there. All the folks 'maged he was laid to rest, but lo! an' behold! inside two days in comes Sam an sots right down in that big arm cheer agin; an' he sot, an' he sot, an' he sot.

"Well, the 'soothers' was agin called; they was mad, an' tole Sam he lied! He made them understan' he didn't like the dry well; he wanted to go somewheres in the nice cool water, where he could see something lively-like aroun' him.

"Arter a spell of coaxin' they put his sperritt down softly at the bottom of Cooper's Creek. The old cheer was burnt up, an' Sam never darted them doors again. But my father used to say that when anybody went up Cooper's Creek at night and seed s-o-n'-t-h-i-n' w-h-i-t-e i-n a w-i-n-d-i-n' s-h-e-e-t jump up a-front of the boat they knowed it was old Sam Spicer's sperritt trubblin' the water."

## THE UNHINGED BARBER.\*

"It was many and many a year ago," long before our borough barbers were born, that an old white-haired Irishman lived in an unpainted shanty somewhere near us on our pike. In addition to eking out a scanty living at cobbling he kept an oddly-arranged barber shop in the front.

He was fearfully eccentric. One of his oddities was the loquacity usually ascribed to barbers, besides an uncontrollable desire for gathering news about horse racing. In fact, he stopped all passers-by (going or coming), asking them for the latest news from "the turf." Was he unsuccessful, then he would manufacture nonsense from his own brain and pour it out with much gusto and volubility to every neighbor and customer.

One day "George," the son of a prosperous farmer near Moorestown, visited his place (for the first time) to be shaved. Now, though "George" was somewhat of a "sport," yet he did not possess that kind of courage which characterizes the "Deweys" and "Hobsons" of to-day.

However, being pleasantly received, he submitted to the usual napkin and lathering with bad-smelling soap, and while the old man was giving his razor some generous manipulations on the long black strop he said to "George," "Be you over in town the day?" "No!" came from "George;" "not to-day, but yesterday." "Ah! yesterday; then belikes you seen the big horse race, where Bill Butts' black Mare, 'Trullano,' won?" "You are mistaken, sir; Sam Hustin's chestnut horse, 'Layout,' won the day!" "What?" exclaimed the old man, now resting his left hand on "George's" head and holding aloof a gleaming razor in the other, his eyes staring and face in rage. (Of course, my readers must understand the old man spoke a pure Irish brogue, which I cannot master.)

"What?" he now thundered into "George's" ear, "Trullano

\* Foundation furnished by Benjamin Forrest.

didn't win? Didn't put her nose over the gate, after doing her pretty mile in 2.37? Didn't leave ten horses a half mile back of her heels? Owner didn't get two hundred thousand dollars? Mebbe you'd say there weren't a million people there?"

Well, to put the matter mildly, "George" wilted, what! at the mercy of a lunatic with a razor at his very throat! But he was equal to the emergency. Instantly (though trembling inwardly) he blurted out, "Certainly! that neat, that purty jewel Trullano won! Really I was thinking about another race. Oh, I'll tell you all about it. Don't I wish you'd bin along. Why, if I knowed you was fond of races, by gosh! I would of taken you down there myself. I'd a vittled you, dranked you and smoked you, and the hull thing wouldn't have cost you one derned cent. Why, let me tell you! It's just as you say, Billy Butts' little slick mare Trullano's the purtyest piece of horseflesh that ever pranced a race track! She can throw dust from her hind legs into the nose of any four-footer in this United States.

"Don't I wish I had taken you along. I'd a-fed you, drunk you and smoked you, and it wouldn't ha' cost you a derned copper for the hull thing! Why! she made her mile in two ten and three-quarters; the other hosses didn't come in for two minutes afterwards! They give her owner four hundred thousand dollars and her little jockey, Tommy Burke, a big solid gold pitcher.

"Why, when her nose touched the gate you could hear the yells for five miles. Why! there was over three million sports there." Seeing the effect of his words, he continued, "Now, I'll tell you something; she's goin' to run agin on Monday. If you will only say 'yes' I'll take you down! I'll put you clean in, vittel you, smoke you and drink you, and the rull thing won't cost you one derned cent."

Of course, the old man was delighted, fairly danced with joy. The beard was soon removed. The heart of George leaped with joy when he saw that razor closed.

"Have a bit of bay rum on yer face?"

"Never mind that or brushing my hair; I hear my horse kicking up the sand outside, and that means I want to go."



The old man's eyes now danced with frenzied joy, and he cried out:

"Won't we have a jolly old time? Egad! fed, drank and smoked and not a cent to pay."

"George" stepped out as if in a hurry, unhitched his horse, and, whip in hand, looked in the open door. There sat the old one chuckling to himself. "George" yelled out to him:

"You old white-haired liar, Layout won the race, time 3.15; her owner got forty-one dollars, and there was only a hundred and sixty-seven people there."

Jumping in and lashing his horse, he was soon in the distance. It is perhaps needless to add the old man's mind was really deranged. In fact, he died in a lunatic asylum shortly afterwards. But what a lucky escape for "George!"

## A VISION.\*

I was ill, "sick unto death." I stood alone within a vast unfinished edifice. I knew not were it a Christian church or Jewish synagogue; yet certain evidences convinced me it was a temple reared to the true and living God. Many signs of unwrought work lay strewn around—carved and uncarved blocks of marble, pilasters, cornices. Three finished columns of white, graceful in outlines, majestic in proportions, caught my eyes. They were ornamented by chapiters of Corinthian, Ionic and Doric. The floor was laid in marble squares, white and black alternately, known as Mosaic.

There was no covering, no ceiling—the pallid moon and silent stars alone shone down on an altar surrounded by three dimly burning tapers.

Then came strains of unearthly music, grandly beautiful, but oh! so sorrowful, so majestically solemn, breathing a wealth of woe, of lamentation. From an obscure quarter came a woman in black, of pale face and raven hair. She approached the altar, when suddenly went out the dimmed tapers. She sang in unison with that outburst of bewailment. The refrain of her song, "Oh God how sinful is man," overpowered me. I fell.

But what a glorious transformation! Shall I stop right here, or feebly attempt description?

A round halo of light came down, surrounding the altar and dispersing the gloom from every nook and corner. Even the before dimly burning tapers now gave out mystic flashes, seemingly dancing in joy.

A being in the glorious form of womanhood came in some way, kneeling at the altar. A white-winged dove came down and fluttered there, then rested upon her bosom. She was in white, of golden hair, eyes of blue and cheeks laden with health and joy-

\* This is absolutely truthful. I myself experienced it. No poor words of mine, however, can even feebly depict its actual granduer and glory.

ousness. Upwards she turned those eyes, and from her pearly mouth issued a glorious hymn of thanksgiving!

A burst of angel song of which the Diety was choir-master.

Oh! Being from the inner chamber of the Holy of Holies! Personification of angel. "Israel," "whose heart string are a lute, and who has the sweetest voice of a'l God's creatures." †

\* \* \* \* \*

I can go no further; I trod upon the borders of the God-land! My pen drops from my nerveless fingers. I can give only the mere words of that ravishing refrain, "THANKS BE TO THE LORD GOD JEHOVAH! WHO CREATES AND WHO SAVES."

I turned and met at my bedside the kindly eyes and extended hand of good Dr. Bartine, who exclaimed, "The crisis is past; you are out of danger."

There will be some who may doubt its truthfulness. Be it so. Yet ofttimes, in the quiet hours of night, in my chamber, darkened save by the silent stars, I still see that upturned face, that flowing golden hair, those eyes of blue, and even my ear can catch that glorious anthem, "Thanks be to the Lord God Jehovah, who creates and who SAVES."

† Edgar Allen Poe.

## A CLOSING THOUGHT.

I present the following—not because it is in any way connected with the history of our town—but that it occurred to me in the course of this work. Without egotism, I claim it is entirely original—the result of musings under the shade of my own quiet porch.

I feel that it will prove of incalculable benefit—especially to our up-growing youth. It is this :

That from Creations' dawn until the present moment—there has never been a structure reared by man—whether a human habitation, pyramid, tower, dome or citadel—without the original aid of a single grain of barley !

And is thus explained ; such is God's unerring accuracy, that the ancients finding every individual grain of barley so undeviating in length—undeviatingly to the width of a single hair—that plucking them and placing three lengthwise, they formed an inch—the only basis of universal measurement.

This was indeed a crude measure, but one easily comprehended by every one of the millions of toiling slaves who reared the awful pyramids. This barley corn was of uniform size throughout the then known world.

And even to-day—adown the corridors of centuries—beneath the very shadows of those awe-inspiring pyramids—the barley stalk still throws upon the desert air her generous seeds—three of which measure a perfect inch.

Who but an imbecile dare, from this fact alone, doubt the existence of a Creator, wise, good and of unspeakable accuracy ?

So may this modest little book, (based upon accuracy), continue to uprear *its* head and be appreciated by the thoughtful, long after the trembling hand that writes it has gone

“To mix forever with the elements,  
To be a brother to the insensible rock  
And the sluggish clod, which the rude swain  
Turns with his share, and treads upon.” —Bryant.

## MERCHANTVILLE BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

(Only Such as Are Actually Engaged Here.)

- Bakery and Candy Stores—William Kohler, George T. Richardson.
- Barbers and Hair Dressers—William G. Kuehr, John H. Krantz.
- Boots, Shoes and Gents' Furnishings—Walter H. Eastlack.
- Builders and Carpenters—Joseph M. Morgan, Charles E. Castle, William Marsden.
- Coal—Marion Knight, Collins & Pancoast.
- Commissioner of Deeds—William Longstreth.
- Dressmakers—Mrs. Fanny Hewitt, Mrs. Amos Blake, Mrs. Parker Lewis, Miss Jennie Bailey, Miss Lizzie Eastlack, Miss Edith Millingar.
- Drug Stores—Dr. Charles H. Jennings, J. W. Kohlerman.
- Dry Goods and Notions—Samuel Lewis.
- Eating Saloon—Frank Vergason.
- Florists—John Tully, Henry Millingar, H de Snyder.
- Flour, Feed, Hay, etc.—B. M. Beideman.
- Fruits—Charles H. Pidgeon.
- Gas and Electricity—Merchantville Light, Heat and Power Co.
- Groceries—C. C. Dickey, Ellis Parker, H. H. Brown, Cramer Bros.
- Harness, Whips, etc.—William G. Wetzel.
- Hardware, Lumber, Builders' Supplies, etc.—Collins & Pancoast.
- Horse Shoers—A. W. Haney, Geo. E. Lewis, G. C. Mick.
- Hotel (Stockton House)—William W. Pancoast.
- Ice Cream Parlors—Arthur E. Craig, William Kohler.
- Justices of the Peace—William Longstreth, J. B. Wilson.
- Laundry (Chinese)—Fing Fong.

Lawyers—Hon. Charles G. Garrison, Hon. Howard Carrow,  
William Early, F. A. Rex and Judge C. D. V. Joline.

Livery Stables and Service—William W. Pancoast, John Thomas.

Meat Stores—Fred Seeger, Ellis Parker, William Macfarlan.

Ministers of the Gospel—Revs. J. B. Haines, Richard George  
Moses, N. W. Simmonds, J. Mench Chambers, C. Bridgeman.

Music Teacher—David Frye.

Newspapers—"Merchantville Review," "Merchantville Press."

Nurse (monthly)—Mrs. Hannah Polk.

Oysters, Fish, etc.—Charles H. Pidgeon.

Painters (Fresco)—August Heulinger, H. T. Fox.

Painters (House)—Harry S. Matthews, Conrad Krantz.

Paperhanger—E. T. Johnson.

Physicians—Dr. David H. Bartine, Dr. Charles H. Jennings, Dr.  
J. W. Marcy, Dr. William H. Armstrong, Dr. Joseph D. Lawrence.

Plasterer—William A. Boyd.

Plumbers and Gas Fitters—George W. Algor, J. Reid & Co.

Public Coach—Harry Whitlock.

Real Estate Agents—William Longstreth, R. B. Knight, J. B.  
Wilson, Arthur E. Craig, Harry Schmidt.

Shoemakers—Adam Yeakel, James Linahan.

Stationery Store—George T. Richardson.

Tailor Store—Theodore Meyer.

Tinsmiths and Roofers—George A. Fisher, George Meiler.

Undertaker—John Crawford.

Upholsterer—Richard E. Neumann.

Veterinary Surgeon—Harry B. Cox.

Water Service—Merchantville Water Company.

Wheelwright and Carriage Builder—Gottlieb C. Mick.

Violinist—Atwood P. Eastlack.













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