

GERMANTOWN CRIER



Ruins of Hill's Cotton Mill, 1900.

This appears on the 1848/49 map as "Patterson's; Tenant, Hill" (see site marked as 13, p. 62). George Patterson and his heirs (among whom was his daughter Eliza, who married Rubens Peale the painter) held this property from 1808 to 1853, when it was sold to Joseph Hill, the tenant. In 1879 its cotton machinery was sold at auction — the Society has the auctioneer's annotated catalogue — and the property eventually came into the hands of Henry H. Houston, who ran it for some time as a paper mill.

STREET NAMES IN GERMANTOWN

"Where was that?" is usually the first question asked by the out-of-towner who has found his ancestor's place of residence in the city directories. "Is the house still standing?" "How can I find the place?"

Whether this natural curiosity can be satisfied depends upon good luck in large measure. The few early maps are not detailed or precise. Descriptions in deeds too often refer to old landmarks now long gone, like "the large maple" or a little stream since driven underground. As the 18th-century country village grew into a small town and then into a suburb, lanes evolved into roads, mill-owners clustered small houses around their work-places, small-time entrepreneurs named little developments after themselves "McNabbtown" or after familiar places in the old country such as "Manheim" or "Sommerhausen," Pastorius's own birthplace. Most of our knowledge, or assumptions, about German town's topography, at least before our first photographic records in 1855 and 1859, is based on verbal rather than pictorial reminiscence.

After Consolidation in 1854, the city directories pick up German town householders rather quickly. The Society's collection of plat maps or property-atlases begins with that of 1871, which, however, shows few buildings. Our newly rediscovered map of 1848 (reproduced in part in this issue) shows even fewer, naturally enough, since most of the cross-streets of 1871 were not yet even plotted.

The problem of finding one's way about in old Germantown has been recognized for a century at least. The following three documents (the 1885 street-list, the 1897 list of name-changes, and Wallace's summary of his findings in 1902) will help, we hope, though leaving many gaps among them.

I. Streets of Germantown 1885

With Their Location and Termination, Alphabetically Arranged for Easy Reference

In 1894, City Council ordered the renumbering of the entire city to conform to the "decimal" plan of 100 numbers to the block. Consequently, nearly every house built before that date has had two addresses — a fact which frequently confuses inquirers. The following list shows the old numbers for some of the cross-streets on Germantown Avenue, which was called Main Street for many decades.

Lists, as we have remarked before, yield up both information and misinformation. This one comes from the *Germantown Independent Annual* of 1885. We note a number of duplications.

- Abington av (ChHill), e from Gtn av to Gold
Adams, n fr Rittenhouse to Johnson st w of Gtn av
Alfred, fr Penn, s of Pulaski av to Coulter
Allen's la, w from 5730 Gtn av
Apsley, n fr Wissahickon av to Gtn av w of Berkeley
Armat, e fr 4827 Gtn av
Ashland, fr Rittenhouse to Penn
Ashmead, e fr 4611 Gtn av.
Baird, fr Queen to Winona s of Wayne av.
Bass, fr Church to Pleasant bel Crowson.
Baynton, fr Wister to Wisteria la ab Wakefield.
Berkley, n fr Wissahickon av to Germantown av w of Roberts av.
Bethlehem pike (ChHill), n fr Germantown av ne to county line.
Bexley, n fr Wissahickon av to Pulaski av bel Cheltenham.
Bowery (ChHill), fr Gravers la to Chestnut av.
Bowman, w fr Hancock bel Price.
Boyer, fr e Washington to Armat ab Chew.
Branchtown pike, continuation of Mill st.
Bringinghurst, e fr 4659 Germantown av.
Bristol, fr Roberts av to Frankford ck ab Juniata av.
Burbridge, fr Good to Norton ab Green.
Carpenter, w fr 5552 Germantown av.
Cayuga, from Roberts av to Frankford ck ab Bristol.
Centre, e fr 4958 Germantown av.
Cheltenham av, e fr Wissahickon av ab School [Lane].
Chestnut Hill av (ChHill) e and w fr Germantown av ab Summit.
Chew, n fr Wister and Penn to Germantown av.
Church, e fr 5477 Germantown av.
Clapier, w fr Morris to Township line rd bel Manheim.
Clarkson av, s fr Wister e of R R.
Cliveden av, e fr 5320 Germantown av to Morton.
Clifton, w fr Royal to Green.
Collom, n fr Germantown av to Armstrong, n Wister.
Cort, n fr Limekiln pike, Branchtown.
Corson (ChHill), s fr Mermaid la, e of Germantown av.
Cottage lane, s fr Duy's la w Reading R R.
Cottage (ChHill), w fr Main.
Cresheim rd, fr Carpenter to Cresheim ck w of Gtn av.
Crowson, fr Church to Pleasant bel Chew.
Cumberland, n fr 56 Mill. Depot, se fr Bowman.
Division, n fr Sharpnack.
Duval, n fr Adams to Gtn av bel Johnson.
Dickinson st, e fr Reading pike (ChHill).
Ely, e fr Haines to r of Cedar la.
Emlen fr Carpenter to Upsal ab Jefferson.
Engle, n fr Haines nr Hancock.
Evans, n fr Bowman to Centre, e of Gtn av.
Eveland, (MtAiry) e fr Germantown av.
Evergreen, n fr Wissahickon av to county line w of Highland (ChHill)
Evergreen av (ChHill), e fr Gtn av to Montgomery av.
Fildes la (ChHill), e fr Gtn av nr Hartwell.
Fisher, e fr R R ab Wisteria av.
Fisher's la, fr Fisher's station, P G & N RR to York rd.
Forrest av, ne fr Washington la to E Township line.
Frank, fr Wissahickon av to Quincy n Carpenter.
Franklin, w fr 5429 Gtn av.
Garfield, w fr 4511 Gtn av to Wakefield or Clinton.
Germantown av, fr 1000 n Front to county line.
Good, w fr 5411 Main (Franklinville).
Gorgas, e fr 5581 Gtn av.
Gowen's av, e fr 5777 Gtn av.
Graver's la, e fr Gtn av to Township line ab Hartwell av.
Green, n fr Berkeley bel Gtn av to Carpenter.
Haines, e fr 5031 Gtn av.
Hampton av, w fr Reading Pike (ChHill).
Hancock, n fr E Penn, e of Gtn av.
Hansberry, n fr Wissahickon av to Gtn av bel Queen.
Hartwell av (ChHill), e fr Gtn av bel Graver's la.
Harvey, w fr 5046 Gtn av.
Harvey pl, fr 4 Harvey.
Herman, e fr 5118 Gtn av.

High, e fr 5059 Gtn av.
Highland av, e & w fr Gtn av (ChHill).
Hildeburn, e fr Reading Pike (ChHill).
Hillside av (Mt Airy), w fr Gtn av.
Hiram, Gtn (!) Horter [sic], s fr Chew to Gtn av n Church.
Huston, e fr Reading Pike (ChHill).
Jefferson, e fr 4603 Gtn av.
Johnson, e & w fr 5300 Gtn av.
Juniata av, fr Roberts av ab Roxborough to Frankford Ck
Keyser's yard, e fr 5131 Gtn av.
Kirk, n fr Green, n Johnson to Adams.
Knox, n Seymour to Rittenhouse.
Lafayette, fr Wayne av nr Harvey to Gtn av.
Laurel, e fr 4835 Gtn av.
Lawrence, fr School ab Wissahickon av to Manheim.
Lee's ct, w fr 4510 Miller.
Lehman, e & w fr Wayne av ab Chelten av.
Lena, n Wister e Gtn av.
Little Wayne, s fr Lehman e of Wayne.
Locust av, n fr Willow bel Chelten av to Sullivan av.
Logan, e and w fr 4545 Gtn av.
Louden, fr Gtn av ab Wyalusing to 2nd.
Luzerne, fr Roberts av ab Pike to Kensington av.
McCallum, n fr Carpenter e of Green.
Mead (ChHill), w fr N 27th nr Highland av.
McKean's av, w of Pulaski av, n fr Clapier to Manheim.
McPherson av, e and w fr Gtn av (Mt.Airy).
Magnolia, fr Haines bel Cedar la to Mill.
Manheim, w fr 4552 Gtn av.
Mapleshade av (ChHill), w fr Willow Grove av.
Maplewood av, from Gtn av bel Chelten av to Wayne av.
Marion, e fr Rittenhouse bel Green.
Mechanic, e and w from 5045 Morton.
Meehan, e fr 5549 Gtn av.
Mehl, e fr 4481 Gtn av.
Mercer, fr Jefferson e of Wakefield.
Mermaid la, e fr Gtn av ab Eveland.
Mill, e fr 4782 Gtn av.
Mill rd, n Wissahickon.
Miller (Mt. Airy), w fr 5660 Gtn av.
Moreland av, e and w fr Gtn av (ChHill)
Morris, fr Harvey bel Pulaski av to Roberts av.
Morton, n fr Haines ab Hancock.
Mount Airy av (Mt. Airy), fr Gtn av.
Mount Pleasant av (Mt. Airy), e and w fr 5635 Gtn av.
Musgrove, fr Gorgas bel Chew to High.
Nash, e fr Washington av ab Musgrove to Church.
New (ChHill), w fr Reading pike ab Chestnut av.
Norman's pl, w fr 5460 Gtn av.
Norris, w fr McKean's av to Township line rd.
Norris st, w fr Reading Pike (ChHill).
Norton, n fr Wissahickon av w Upsal to Jefferson.
Oakland, ab Duval w of Adams.
Orchard, e fr Evans n of Centre.
Osceola, n fr Herman.
Pastorius, e fr Gtn av ab Herman to Osceola.
Patton, fr Coulter bel Wayne av to Queen.
Peale, fr Mill ab Gtn R R to Penn.
Penn, e and w fr 4676 Gtn av.
Penn's ct, s fr W Penn w of Gtn av.
Philellena, w fr 5470 Gtn av.
Physic la, fr Gtnb av ab Walnut la.
Pike, fr Roberts av ab Butler to Gtn av.
Pleasant, e fr 5537 Germantown av.
Portico row, s fr 3 Seymour w of Gtn av.
Power's la (Pittville), e fr Elmwood av s of S 72d.
Presbyterian la, w fr Gtn av to Township line rd.
Price, e fr 4933 Gtn av.
Prospect av (ChHill), n fr Union av nr county line.
Pulaski av, s fr Manheim ab Lawrence and n fr Coulter to Chelten av.
Queen, w fr 4660 Gtn av.
Quincy, fr Carpenter bel Gtn av.
Reger, s fr Spring al bel Gtn av.
Rex (ChHill), w fr Gtn av nr Evergreen.
Rittenhouse, w fr 4961 Gtn av.
Roberts av, n fr Wissahickon av bel Berkley.
Rockland, fr Gtn av ab Louden to 2nd.
Roset, s fr Spring al bel Manheim.
Ross, fr Mill ab Peale to Penn.
Rubicam av, fr Wisteria av. to Wister bel Wakefield.
Ruscomb, fr E. Logan av to R R.
Schaffer, fr Centre nr Gtn av to Haines.
School, e to Cumberland w fr 4800 Gtn av to Ridge av.
Scuylar, fr Roberts av ab Wissahickon av.
Sedgwick, e and w fr Gtn av (Mt. Airy).
Sevier, fr Roberts av nr Morris to Manheim.
Seymour, e fr Pulaski av bel Manheim.
Sharpnack, e fr 5400 Gtn av.
Sherman, fr Carpenter ab Wayne.
Southampton av (ChHill), fr Gtn av n of Hartwell.
Sprague, fr Mill ab Boyer to E. Washington.
Spring al, w fr 4528 Gtn av.
Springer, n fr 5459 Gtn av.
Springhouse av, e fr Gtn av (ChHill)
Stenton av, n fr 4241 Gtn av to E. Logan.
Stroud, e fr Reading Pike (ChHill).
Sullivan, n and s fr E Washington av e of R R.
Summit (ChHill), e fr Gtn av bel Chestnut.
Sunset av, e and w fr Reading Pike (ChHill).
Thorp's la (ChHill), w fr Gtn av to Roxborough.
Thorp's la, e Wister to York rd.
Tinicum rd (P'ville), s fr Island rd to city line.
Tulpehocken, w fr 5145 Gtn av.
Union av, w fr Gtn av to Township line rd (ChHill).
Upsal, e and w fr 5340 Gtn av.
Wakefield, fr Penn to Logan, e of Gtn av.
Walker av, s fr Mill ab 20th, Branchtown.
Walnut la, e and w fr 5100 Gtn av.
Washington av, e and w fr 5200 Gtn av.
Waters la, e fr Gtn av.
Wayne av (Nictown & Germantown), n fr Tioga nr R R to Johnson's st.
Weaver, w fr 5361 Gtn av.
Weiss, n w fr Mill, e of Stenton av.
Westview, w fr 5489 Gtn av.
Willow av, e fr Haines bel Cedar la to Mill.
Willow Grove av (ChHill) e fr Gtn av bel Hartwell av.
Wilson, e fr Haines bel Cedar la to Mill.
Wingohocking, fr Roberts av ab Cayuga to Frankford ck.
Winona av, fr Wayne av ab Coulter to Morris av.
Wissahickon av, w fr Gtn av to Wissahickon ck, Township line.
Wister, e fr Gtn av bel Manheim.
Wisteria av, e fr 4553 Wakefield to Miller.
Woodbine av, e fr Willow av bel Chelten.
Wyalusing, e fr 4301 Gtn av to N 2nd.
Wyandott, fr Wister ab Rubicam to Wisteria.
Wyoming av, n fr Pulaski av.

II. Changes Tabulated to 1897

From Names of Intermediate Streets in the City of Philadelphia, as Approved by the Board of Surveyors, February 23, 1897...

NEW NAME	From	To	Location	OLD NAME
BAYNTON	Penn	Duval	Germantown	HANCOCK
BELLFIELD	Haines	Chew	22d ward	CEDAR LANE
BENEZET	W of Sullivan	Reading RR	NW of Springfield	LYDIA
BRIDGET	Hermit	Walnut Lane	Germantown	SARAH
BRINGHURST	Archer	Laurens	Germantown	COMLYN
CHURCH LANE	G'tn ave	Twentieth	Germantown	MILL
CLAPIER	Baynton	SW	22d ward	MECHLIN
CLAPIER	Wakefield	Germantown	22d ward	MECHLIN
CLIVEDEN	Emlen	Belmina	22d ward	NORTON
CONCORD	Harvey	Northwestward	22d ward	HARVEY PLACE
COSGROVE	Baynton	Southwestward	Germantown	DOUGLAS
DEVON	Stenton ave	Chelten ave	22d ward	BOCKIUS
DUNCANNON	Shedaker	Wister	Germantown	WYNNE
DURHAM	Cresheim	G'tn ave	22d ward	MILLER
EARLHAM	Lena	Southwestward	Germantown	PINDER
GARFIELD	Greene	Northeastward	Germantown	CLIFTON
GRANGE	Beechwood	Stenton ave	22d ward	BLOYD
HAINES	Wayne ave	G'tn ave	Germantown	LAFAYETTE
HERMAN	Stenton ave	Cemetery	Germantown	HANNAH
HORTTER	Wissahickon av	G'tn ave	SE of Phil-Ellena	FRANKLIN
ISABELLA	Wash'ton lane	Johnson	22d ward	NORWOOD
JOHNSON	Walnut lane	Wissahickon av	21st ward	NICE
KENYON	Woodlawn	Northward	NE of G'tn ave	SHOEMAKER'S COURT
LAURENS	Abbotsford	Clapier	Germantown	FERN
LAURENS	Woodlawn	Chelten ave	Germantown	BEXLEY
LENA	Penn	Armat	Germantown	CUMBERLAND
LENA	Stafford	N of Rit'hse	Germantown	EVANS
LENA	Chelten ave	Stafford	Germantown	KINNIER
LIVEZEY	Ridge ave	Shawmont ave	21st Ward	CREASE'S LANE
MAGNOLIA	Penn	Church lane	Germantown	ROSS
MAGNOLIA	Haines	Walnut lane	Germantown	CEDAR LANE
MAGNOLIA	Duval	Sharpnack	Germantown	NASH
MAYLAND	Baynton	Morton	Germantown	MAY
MAYLAND	Sullivan	Stenton ave	Germantown	MAY
MAYLAND	Stenton ave	Cemetery	Germantown	WEAVER
MEADE	Thirty-second	Thirty-third	Chestnut Hill	WEST CHESTER
MECHANIC	Carswell	Magnolia	Germantown	PLOYD
MECHANIC	Crittenden	Cemetery	Germantown	MOHAWK
MEEHAN	Chew	Sprague	22d ward	UNRUH
MEEHAN	Mansfield	Woolston	22d ward	STALLMAN
MORTON	Church lane	Price	Germantown	WILLOW
MORTON	Rittenhouse	Haines	Germantown	SCHAEFFER
MOWER	Allens lane	Gowen	Germantown	RURAL
MUSGRAVE	Church lane	Musgrave	Germantown	CEDAR LANE
NASH	Church lane	Bellfield	Germantown	WINGOHOCKING
NEDRO	Nineteenth	Stenton ave	N of Grange	COSTELLO
NELSON	Locust	Woodlawn	22d ward	DEVON
NEWHALL	Apsley	Northwest	22d ward	WHITTIER
NEWHALL	Queen	Coulter	22d ward	BAIRD
NEWTON	Bethlehem	Stenton	Chestnut Hill	NEW
NEWTON	Sullivan	Bethlehem	Chestnut Hill	PIPER
NIPPON	Seminole	G'tn ave	NW of Mt Airy	LEVERINE
NORMAN	W of 29th	G'tn ave	22d ward	NORRIS
NORWOOD	Church lane	Godfrey	W of 21st	OTTO
OSCEOLA	Price	Haines	Germantown	ENGEL
PARA	Crefeldt	Southwestward	Chestnut Hill	HOBENSACK
PARA	Sprague	Southwestward	Chestnut Hill	ORANGE

NEW NAME	From	To	Location	OLD NAME
PHIL ELLENA	G'tn ave	Cheltenham ave	Germantown	CHURCH
PHYSIC	Stenton ave	Cemetery	22d ward	HARKER
POMONA	Wayne ave	Sherman	Germantown	DUVAL
PORTICO	Seymour	Manheim	Germantown	ROYAL
PRICE	Wissahickon av	Marion	Germantown	LEHMAN
PRISCILLA	Queen	Coulter	Germantown	PATTON
REX	Shawmont	Wissahickon av	21st ward	SUMMIT
REX	Bethlehem tpk	Stenton ave	22d ward	SUMMIT
RITTENHOUSE	G'tn ave	Musgrave	Germantown	CENTRE
RITTENHOUSE	Underhill	Chew	Germantown	LADLEY
ROSS	Sharpnack	Phil Ellena	Germantown	NASH
RUBICAM	Collom	Bringhurst	Germantown	MERCER
RUBICAM	Bringhurst	Penlyn	Germantown	SHOEMAKER
SCHUYLER	Hansberry	Queen	Germantown	MARSHALL
SEVENTH	Oak lane	Northward	22d ward	UNION
SEYMOUR	G'tn ave	Wakefield	Germantown	MEHL
SHARPNACK	Pelham road	G'tn ave	Germantown	GOOD
SHAWNEE	Abington	Hartwell	22d ward	RORER
SHAWNEE	Hampton	Bells Mill rd	22d ward	VANDALIA
SHEDAKER	Wakefield	Duncannon	Germantown	WISTERIA
SHELDON	Shedaker	Wister	Germantown	MILLER
SLOCUM	Chew	Sprague	22d ward	RUSSELL
SLOCUM	Michener	Pickering	22d ward	VALE
SPENCER	Old York rd	Twentieth	22d ward	MILL
SPRAGUE	Abington	Hartwell	22d ward	GOLD
STAFFORD	SW of Lena	Baynton	NW of Cheltenham	BOWMAN
SULLIVAN	Allens lane	Cresheim	22d ward	ARDLEIGH
SULLIVAN	Hillside	Mermaid	22d ward	CORSON
SULLIVAN	Ch Hill av	New drive	22d ward	NORWOOD
TACOMA	Price	Rittenhouse	Germantown	DONAT
UNDERHILL	Haines	Northward	Germantown	SEMINOLE
WAKEFIELD	Price	Rittenhouse	Germantown	FAIRFAX
WASHINGTON	Park line	Wissahickon av	21st ward	W WASH'TON AVE
WEAVER	Chelt'hm ave	Limekiln tpk	22d ward	CHERRY LANE
WINGOHOCKING	G'tn ave	Greene	Germantown	KNORR
WISTER	G'tn ave	Southwestward	Germantown	ROSETTE
WOODLAWN	G'tn ave	Northeastward	Germantown	LAUREL
WOODLAWN	Morton	Anderson	Germantown	WOODBINE

Name-Changes of Chestnut Hill Roads and Streets

By J. MacArthur Harris, Jr.

Gravers Lane	was	Union Avenue
Milman Street	was	Bowery Avenue
Ardleigh Street	was	25th Street
Ardleigh	was	26th Street
Shawnee Street	was	27th Street
Crefeld Street	was	28th Street
Navajo Street	was	29th Street
Seminole Avenue	was	30th Street
St. Martin's Lane	was	31st Street
Towanda Street	was	32nd Street
Huron Street	was	33rd Street
Huron Street	was	34th Street
Cherokee Street	was	35th Street
McCallum Street	was	36th Street
Chestnut Hill Avenue	was	Tedyuscung Avenue

Mr. Harris notes that it was Mrs. George Woodward who designated the Indian street-names.