

GERMANTOWNE *CRIER*



KING OF PRUSSIA TAVERN
5516-18-20 Germantown Avenue

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Old Inns and Taverns of the Great Road

By ERNEST HOWARD YARDLEY

IT IS, primarily, the aim of this paper to enumerate, as far as limited research permits, the early hostelries along the German Towne Road, during the formative and development periods of a century or more; also, to give a suggestion of the civic attitude which was beginning to make itself apparent. However, in forming a mental picture of the early inns, taverns, and hotels, with their surroundings, we must direct our thinking to the primitive conditions then existing, and not to conditions of the present. Previous to the consolidation of the City, in 1854, the public houses particularly those which were the stopping places of the stage coaches, were the accepted sources for civic information and general neighborhood affairs. No doubt many of the traditions and legends which have come down to us, were circulated through these village centers. The old inns and their inn-keepers played a prominent part in the affairs of the early days, and in much of our history, reference is frequently found connecting a memorable incident to one of the early taverns.

Evidence of a growing civic mindedness became especially apparent in the first half of the 1800's, in the form of public meetings when the local affairs seemed to require concerted action in making for township betterment; or if an election was to be held, one of the local inns would provide a meeting place. The "big room" was generally available for social events, such as a coaching or sleighing party, coming from town. Stage stop inns catered more to the particular guests, and their registers have contained many signatures of interest.

In an article describing the inns along the Lancaster Pike, there is a significant reference to the variety of hostelries: "These were sharply distinguished into classes, stage houses, waggon houses, and drover's houses. No stage driver would stop at a waggon stand, nor might a waggoner put up at a stage house, while drovers were excluded from both."

Truckers and teamsters were more attracted by inns having ample stabling facilities and wagon yards, which became market places on certain days of the week, where buyers and sellers "dickered and liquored." Frequently the vehicles would be in such numbers that they would overtax the tavern yard and form long lines along the sides of the roads. Likewise the sleeping accommodations were limited, and the trucker patrons would have with him a bag of hay as his bedding on the bar room floor.

The actual housekeeping was generally within the province of the landlord's wife, she saw that the larders were well stocked and the meals generous. In the more desirable houses cleanliness was apparent; in many of the rooms, and always in sleeping rooms, the floors were without coverings but immaculate by being frequently scrubbed with a strong solution of home-made soap, applied by the muscular arms of the "hired girls" brought in from the neighboring farms. The walls were given coat after coat of thick white-wash.

It has been said that the inns and taverns were of every variety, and so were the travelers; in a diary entry was found: "I also succeeded in procuring what was still rare, fresh sheets which had not already been used by some other traveler." When John Adams and the other delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774, were in Philadelphia, Mr. Adams recorded in his diary that he "oated" at one inn, but dined at another, we may presume that it was only his horse that "oated."

Photographs and sketches show that some of the earlier hostelries were not as pleasing architecturally as, perhaps, the "King of Prussia" or the "Green Tree" inns; but the many examples of "Germantown Colonial" have aroused the admiration of architects practicing in distant fields. The late Charles Follen McKim, an American architect of international fame, has said that he learned more of the colonial style



Green Tree Tavern, 6023 Germantown Avenue, erected 1748 by Daniel Pastorius. Date stone bears letters "D. S. P."

from the old buildings of Germantown, than from any other source. Ralph Adams Cram, the dean of church architecture in this country, and so recognized abroad, volunteered the opinion that the esthetic value of many of our buildings was due, in a large measure, to the use of stone, described as "mixed with glimmer" taken from our once famous local quarries. Incidentally, much of this stone came from the quarry of Godfrid Lehman, located at what is now Main and Price Streets, where the old round house once stood.

An adjunct always considered as necessary standard equipment was a painted sign mounted on a sturdy pole erected in front of the inn. Signs would give the name of the establishment, and in many examples, it would also show some character or device, in an attempt to make the name more significant; or if a lettered sign, it might contain a jingle. The paintings may be executed by artists of acknowledged ability. Woodside was known to have painted several; Matthew Pratt, who later became a pupil of Benjamin West, in London, also left evidences of his art in this form.

The idea of elaborate signs seemed to originate in England, and here is the inscription found on an inn sign in Sevenoaks, Kent, England:

*I, John Stubbs, liveth here,
Sells good brandy, gin and beer:
I made my borde a little whyder
To lette you know I sell good syder.*

Watson, the annalist, mentions a sign of the character type: "The Quiet Woman" with her head cut off. This seemed to be in bad taste, but the annalist said: "I have found the origin of this sign, and it was no merry jest. The Quiet Woman was Marie Antoinette, after the guillotine had done its work."

Little seems to have been recorded as to the charges made by the inns and taverns, but it was found that a

British guest objected to an account of ten dollars a week for a room and board. At an opposite extreme, it is noted, that the usual rate of exchange, around 1794, was "quarters for quarters." In 1756, Philadelphia had 112 taverns and inns, which included three in Germantown, operated individually by Sarah Pastorius, Margaret Whitman and Martin Grove.

The county tax for the required license was two pounds, six shillings for the places selling wine; and one pound, sixteen shillings for the wineless taverns.

Names of the various hostelries, or the number of landlords, is far greater than places in existence. The advent of a new landlord, frequently meant a new name for the establishment; some names were quaint, some fantastic, and some devoid of significance, as the fancy of the operator dictated.

Present-day efforts to locate old structures or their sites is impeded by the irregular relationship of the old system of house numbering, with the method adopted at the time of City consolidation. When the locating numbers were originally determined, there were but few intersecting roads (in 1704 there were but two), the numbers were continuous, presumably from the start of the road at Maiden Lane, now Front and Laurel Streets. As the cross streets came into being, it was necessary to advance each successive block "or square" by a hundred. The King of Prussia Tavern first numbered 4812-16 became 5516-5520. Still another factor added to the confusion, the first plotting of land between the Lower Burying Ground or Hood's Cemetery, and the Upper or Concord Burying Ground, established "farm lots" in widths of 231 feet, or half lots of 115½ feet in width; about equal to five or more lots in our now congested areas.

One of the first items of Philadelphia history refers to an inn; it recites that William Penn, after sailing up the Delaware in 1683, landed at the Blue Anchor Inn, on the west side of King (now Front) Street at Dock Creek. The City Tavern on Second Street above Pool (now Walnut) Street; also the Indian Queen, on the east side of Fourth Street above Chestnut (then Wynne) as well as the Francis Hotel nearby gave temporary abode to some of the early visitors who we now venerate.

It was in the riverfront area that there occurred the first action by Pastorius towards the founding of the German Towne, and by which the local scene is enhanced by the only historic inn structure, still remaining in substantially its original aspect. Although its function has been radically changed, we still can view the Green Tree Inn as an example of the typical architecture of that early period. Fortunately, the old structure has been carefully restored and is meticulously cared for by the present owner, The First Methodist Church, as their parish offices.

The first settlers in the German Towne were from Crefeld on the Rhine about fifteen miles east of the boundary line of Holland. They had purchased land in their new country through the efforts of the Frank-

fort Company in Germany, their agent being Francis Daniel Pastorius, who incidentally remained in that capacity in this country until 1700. Pastorius arrived in Philadelphia on August 6, 1683, preceding the other settlers by several months. Leaving their old homes in Germany on the 24th of July, 1683, thirteen families consisting of thirty-three persons headed for London, where James Claypoole, a Quaker merchant, had arranged passage for them to Pennsylvania, on the ship *Concord*; Claypoole also being one of the emigrants; Pastorius meeting them here on the sixth of October. Thomas Fairman, as the surveyor of the Province, laid out their plots and on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, the newcomers assembled in the "dug-out" of Pastorius, on the banks of the Delaware, at approximately the line of Pine Street, to select by lot, the land on which they were to settle.

Research reveals that Pastorius first built a small house in Philadelphia, but later came to Germantown and settled along the Great Road, above Poor House Lane, now Rittenhouse Street, on land which became the site of our heirloom. He married Anna Klosterman in 1688, and they became the parents of a son in 1690 and a second son in 1692. It was one of these sons who finally became the father of Daniel Pastorius, thereby we have a definite beginning for the story of the Green Tree Inn.

Very meager records appear to be available as to many of the inns and taverns named, and with some, the historical facts are as extinct as the structures. However, some interesting facts are before us, and we may begin our four-mile journey up the German Towne Road from shortly above Wayne Junction, through Germantown and Mt. Airy, to the "Dust Pan" at Chestnut Hill. As we pass the almost forgotten landmarks, we may visualize the scenes of the earlier days, and how the growing civic intent

progressed in contributing so much to the history of our country.

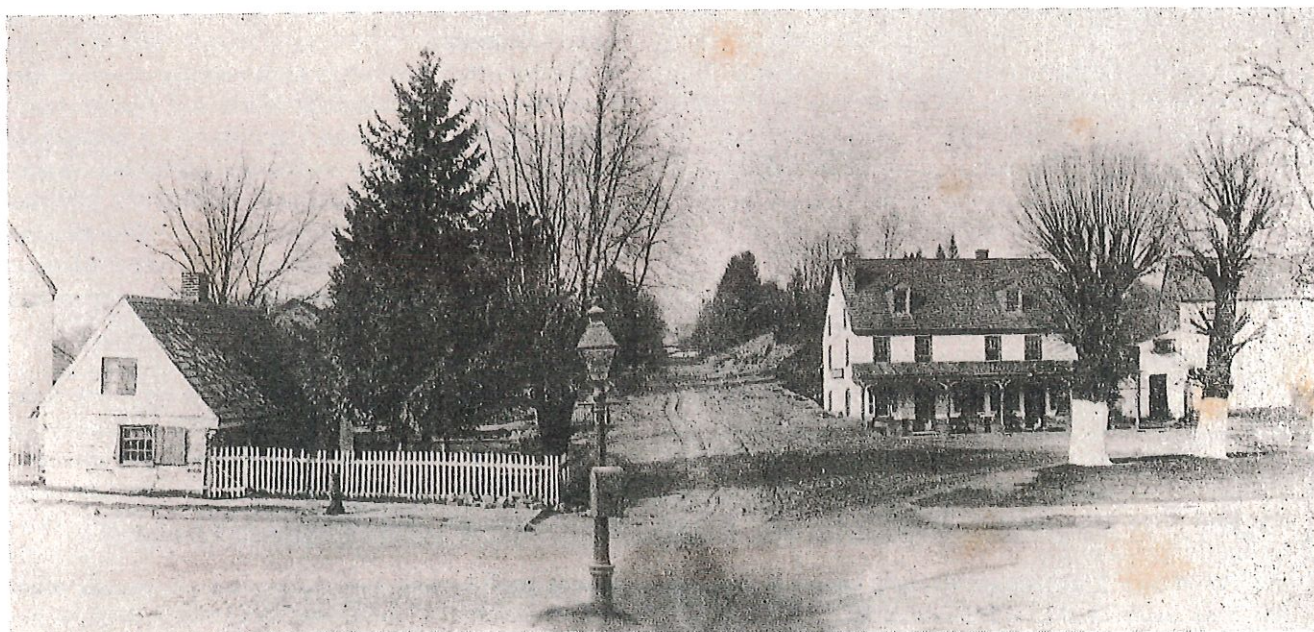
In Sower's newspaper, issued sometime in the 1750's, it is noted that the WHITE HORSE TAVERN; and the RED OX INN, with Peter Werle as landlord, existed in lower Germantown; unfortunately, no further record of these two resorts could be found.

The FARMER'S AND MECHANIC'S HOTEL at the southeast corner of Wister Street, Duy's Lane as it was anciently known, was built by Jacob Duy in 1809. The existing structure at this location, while unquestionably of great age, has been so altered by subsequent changes that colonial characteristics do not appear, and we cannot claim this as the original building. Various proprietors of the hotel included William Stallman, Hamilton Boyer, and Baltzer Naphley.

Approximately opposite at numbers 5048 to 46, stood the STAR HOTEL, erected in 1820. It was the headquarters for the early cricketer's Star Club, as the place was kept by an ardent devotee to the game. William Jarvis was the proprietor in 1840.

At the lower side of Manheim Street, the GENERAL WAYNE has had a record for unbroken succession of yearly licenses. It was erected in 1803 by Jan Streeper; originally a two story building, a third floor was added in 1866, and still later, various changes have destroyed its ancient appearance. The inn held the distinction of being headquarters for the enlistment of volunteers for our fighting forces. It was known in its early days as COX'S TAVERN, who was succeeded by Samuel Butcher as landlord and still later by John M. Bockius.

Returning to the east side of the road WIDOW LESHER'S TAVERN was at 5109, on the site of Tones Kunder's house, the north wall of which was



The Mermaid Inn (right), Germantown Avenue and Mermaid Lane



Roebuck Inn, Ashmead Place
and Germantown Avenue.
Original house erected 1709
by Joseph Shippen, also
known as Buttonwood
Tavern

supposed to be still standing until 1888 when an entirely new building was erected. At the rear of the tavern was a separate building of two stories, in which the first protest against slavery was drafted by four early German settlers. Friend's meeting was held here at various times, and it was also the occasional meeting place of the Hiram Masonic lodge. At one period when the fraternity was not in public esteem, attempts were made to disrupt the meetings on the second floor, where an exterior door served as the entrance from a ladder, which the tyler would pull up into the lodge room after the members had assembled.

Where Ashmead Place extends westward from the Main Street, there originally stood a large house erected, in 1709, by Joseph Shippen, son of Edward Shippen, first mayor of Philadelphia. In 1740, Joseph deeded this property to his three sons, the deed naming the place the ROEBUCK; supposedly taken from the name of an English Man-of-war. The property was purchased in 1819 by George Heft, who changed the name to the BUTTONWOOD, apparently influenced by two seven-foot-diameter buttonwood trees that stood in front of the inn. When it first served as an inn is a mystery.

In June 1840, Fanny Elssler, a famous dancer, drove from Philadelphia in a "coach and four," and with her suite stayed at the Buttonwood. During George Heft's management he provided an attraction described as "A new and splendid menagerie of birds, beasts and reptiles." The property finally reverted to Casper Heft, who established one of the notable gardens. The stockholders of the new railroad company held their first meeting here on May 3, 1831. The building was removed in 1854.

At Bowman's Lane the INDIAN QUEEN TAV-ERN was built about 1750, and was probably the incentive in changing the street name to Queen Lane. Michael Riter was the operator in 1809, later Joseph

King appears as the proprietor, as he discontinued the sale of liquor in 1838, making it the first temperance hotel in Germantown. An application to the Legislature for a bank in Germantown was presented, as the result of a public meeting on January 2, 1814, Michael Riter providing the meeting place at the Indian Queen. Apparently the ownership must have remained in the Riter family, or, perhaps, the property reverted to them, for in 1864 it was sold to Naaman Keyser, for other commercial purposes.

On the northwest corner of Coulter Street, now occupied by the inn of that name stood the LINDEN. Unfortunately the date of the old structure cannot be determined, but its site was the farmstead of Christopher Bockius, and the building was the typical two and one-half story Germantown type. A feature of the vocation of Farmer Bockius was to chase the school boys, when crossing his land on their way to the Academy.

Watson, the annalist, is authority for the statement that "General Washington, Knox and Green slept in 5504, which was next to the corner (of Schoolhouse Lane)." This building was occupied by the Bank of the United States during a portion of 1798. Elizabeth Drinker records, "September 25th, Ye United States Bank removed ye contents thereof from Philada, ye 22nd inst. to Germantown—to a house lately occupied by ROCHARDET as a COFFEEHOUSE or TAVERN."

Some of the early inns and taverns were less prominent in community matters, but their antiquity may be of considerable help to complete a picture of old scenes. Research tells us that John Stuckert was a storekeeper at 5431-5433, in 1809; in 1840, this is given as the residence of Charles Ralph; at one time it was used by the Y.M.C.A., and afterwards altered into a tavern by Ambrose Reiber. At 5501, a hotel was established in 1829, by landlord Wade. (It is a

(Please turn to page 24)

OLD INNS AND TAVERNS

(Continued from page 10)

question if these numbers refer to the new or the old method for locations).

The KING OF PRUSSIA Tavern, built about 1740-41, was located on the west side of the main road, above Schoolhouse Lane. Its architecture was of a residential type, a third floor enclosed within the lines of the gambrel roof. When it was demolished, about 1910, its well proportioned main entrance doorway and some of its fireplace mantels were built into a residence then in the construction stage in Chestnut Hill.

Information as to the first use of the building seems to be obscure, but it is recorded by an advertisement appearing in the Pennsylvania Gazette issued on December 15, 1757:

"Andrew Weckesser begs leave to inform the publick, That he has opened a House of entertainment in Germantown, at the sign of the King of Prussia, near John Jones's, Esq: where all Gentlemen, Ladies, Travelers, & c., may depend on the best usage. Their favors will be gratefully acknowledged by their humble Servant.

Andrew Weckesser."

The first stage coach "with an awning," operated by Coleman, ran three times each week, from here to the George Inn, at Second and Arch Streets. In an early visit to Germantown, Thomas Jefferson could not be accommodated with a room and was obliged to sleep in the common room; later, however, in November 1793, he remained at the inn for most of the month, having as dinner guests Alexander Hamilton and General Henry Knox.

On the sign standing in front of the inn was shown an equestrian figure of King Frederick of Prussia, painted by Gilbert Stuart; but the artist had more ambitious plans and was reluctant to acknowledge this evidence of ability. It was known that he aimed to have, as the subject for a portrait, George Washington, who was then living at the Morris house. Stuart lived at the inn for some time before he "hired" the house and studio (the old barn) at 5140, he found the bar of the "King" extremely magnetic.

The portrait of Frederick was finally obliterated, and the name of the place was alone displayed. This sign is still preserved in Germantown. Meetings of the Hiram Masonic Lodge were occasionally held here, and the members of the volunteer fire brigade made it their gathering place. As a special attraction, the proprietor displayed in 1830, a living elephant, and charging 12½ cents for a "ring side" view. This odd charge was the face value of a "levy," a coin circulated here but issued beyond our borders previous to 1857.

The use of the building as a public house ended in 1834.

Close to where Price Street extends eastward, there were several taverns on the east side of the Main street, and many times the number of proprietors. Here William Bowen's tavern acted as host on January 23, 1832, when sentiment in favor of a borough government became strong enough to warrant holding a public meeting; John Fanning Watson presiding. February 6, 1835, a meeting was held at Jacob S. Wunder's Hotel, in reference to the proposed removal of the State Capital; thirteen days later a second meeting suggested that Germantown should have equal chances with any other community for consideration as the seat of the Commonwealth. At Joseph Mullen's Railroad House, a number of citizens assembled on August 31, 1837, to form an organization in the township to maintain native rights, which, it was contended, were menaced by foreigners.

At indefinite times, taverns in this vicinity were also operated by Shingle and by Reeder. In 1838, a number of robberies in Germantown aroused the citizens to hold a meeting in Wunder's tavern.

Directly opposite on the west side of Main Street stood the FOUNTAIN INN, operated by Anthony Hergeshimer, during the war with England in 1814. William Endt or Ent recruited the "Germantown Blues" at this inn, and was thereby entitled to the rank of Commander, but his modest demeanor compelled him to reject this opportunity. He was later appointed as Orderly Sergeant. In 1804, the place had been known as the AVENUE HOTEL. The site of the Fountain Inn was later made part of Vernon Park.

The CONGRESS HOTEL was in existence for a short time in the building historically known as Dr. William Shippen's residence, "The Laurens," at Walnut Lane. Before its use as a hotel, it was known as the Manual Training Academy. After the release of Indian Chief Black Hawk, who had been imprisoned for insurrection, Mayor John Swift, on June 6, 1833, accompanied a party to this inn, to demonstrate to the chief the futility of revolt by his tribe.

The WIGWAM Hotel was in operation at 6211, about 1800, by Conrad Redheffer. It became the Democratic party headquarters, and was finally altered for domestic occupancy.

One of the favorite resorts of the teamsters was the WASHINGTON INN, erected in 1793, at the southeast corner of Washington Lane. It was first owned and operated by Winfrid Nice, and after his death, by his widow. When the Jefferson Society held their annual dinners there, Jesse Benner was the host. In 1831, proprietor Daniel Hein served as host for a community gathering to request that an additional county be formed, owing to the wide extent of Philadelphia county, in relation to the scant population. At election times, this was the official place for counting the votes for the several wards of the township.

Nothing remains of the inn buildings, but the name

is perpetuated by renaming its northern boundary, which was earlier known as Abington Road. During its last days it was owned by Henry Freas and managed by Matthias Ifill.

On the west side below Duval Street, believed to be the present 6336, stood THE SHIP HOUSE, the front part was erected about 1769, by a former sea-captain, Wigard Miller, who had bought the site from Jacob Hall, the owner since 1761. It was a plastered structure with a relief model of a sailing vessel built into one of the gables. Back of the building was a barn which was used in Revolutionary times for stabling the horses of the American army; later this building was enlarged by constructing a second floor hall with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty—the first hall in the township.

At one time it was operated by George Peters, who changed the sign wording to PENN'S TREATY WITH THE INDIANS. The inn was especially popular with students who would journey here on their sleighing parties; it was also one of the regular stage stops.

In 1836 its use as an inn ended and it became a boarding and day school for young ladies, James Ford being the master, for a number of years. A daughter of annalist Watson was one of the students.

It was in this hall that Horace Greely and Wendell Phillips gave their discourses around 1840.

THE SADDLER'S ARMS—THE GREEN TREE—THE HORNET'S NEST. Carrying on from connecting Pastorius and the start of what has been left for our time in the form of the Green Tree Inn, with the first act of the settlement of Germantown, we may bring this chapter on to the present Daniel who built his house in 1748. D. S. P. can be seen on an incised stone in a gable. He had adopted the trade of a saddler, and with Sarah Shoemaker becoming his wife, they opened the SADDLER'S ARMS. His death occurred in 1754, and subsequently his widow married Daniel Mackenett, carrying the family name as the Mackenett's Inn. It was more or less the custom with the old inns to have the wife of the proprietor supervise the dining facilities and the culinary features, here Sarah soon became famous and the inn popular. Unfortunately for Sarah, she became a widow for the second time, and in 1761 married Andrew Heath. About 1797 the property and the business was bought by Charles Mackenett who named his new venture the Green Tree. Of many relics and curios that had accumulated to attract the interest of the patrons, the most popular seemed to be an extremely large hornet's nest which was hung "out front" and the inn became commonly known as the HORNET'S NEST. However, the title—THE GREEN TREE—has been more generally used by the historical writers. During the Battle of Germantown, the attacking American troops under General Wayne, were aiming to approach the center of the town from the east of the road, and managed to penetrate as far as the inn.

Lafayette was invited to visit Germantown in 1825, and arrangements were made to honor him with a dinner at the Green Tree. The evening before the event was to be celebrated, it was concluded that the accommodations were too limited, so a delegation visited the Chew homestead, where new arrangements were made for the dinner party, and with sixteen-year-old Ann Chew presiding as hostess.

The BUCK is referred to by John Russell Young, the historian, as "among the famous Philadelphia inns before the close of the 18th century." Johann Frederick Hesser arrived in this country in the year 1732. He purchased a property on the Great Germantown Road, part of a parcel known as Lot No. 10, and immediately set about building a house facing on the highway. This structure which was used as a bakery and an inn, was located at the upper end of the village across the road from St. Michael's Lutheran Church, where Frederick Hesser attended. It was torn down about 1900, to make way for Phil-Ellena Street to be cut westward from the main road.

In design, it was considered as one of the good examples of "Dutch" colonial, with two beautiful dormers on the front roof, a long wing extended to the rear, the house contained twenty some rooms. Here, also, was another place constructed of the local gray stone.

Hesser and his wife, Anna Maria Hofman, had eight children born at the inn, and son Johannes,

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rather than his father, built up the popularity of the house, so that it was thriving in the 1750's. It remained in the possession of the Hesser family until 1848, when it was purchased by George W. Carpenter.

One of the landmarks of many changes in name and proprietors was above Hartwell Avenue (probably 8223). At the various times it was known as GRAVERS, KLINES, HART'S, CHESTNUT HILL INN, but as GOLD'S HOTEL it was the stopping place for the teamsters and farmers, until this source of revenue in the 1880's.

The site was bought from Hannah Keyser, the daughter of Wigard Miller, by William Ottinger in 1797, and later transferred to William Ottinger Klein, his grandson. Subsequently it came into possession of Henry Broudt, then of Charles Heebner and finally of James Gould as its last landlord.

The GOLDEN SWAN TAVERN was in operation at McPherson Street in 1840 and continued most probably as a temperance house until some thirty years ago.

At Mt. Airy Avenue Jacob Mason conducted the SIGN OF THE SWAN, which for a number of years has been used as a store.

Definite action by the residents of the township for the construction of a railroad to Philadelphia was adopted here on November 13, 1830.

The MERMAID at the lower corner of the lane of the same name is probably the only old hotel which still continues its original function. Its exterior has

been extensively changed, from its appearance in 1795, when it was opened by Martin Painter. A deed of 1819, when the property was transferred to Israel Gilbert, describes it as "a messuage or tenement occupied as a public tavern, containing three acres." It was later transferred to George Cress and still later to George W. Carpenter. The names of Webber, Beans, and Clark are also given as hosts. Eighty years ago it was owned by the Carpenter estate and operated by John Hinkle.

The Mermaid was not a stage stop, but was popular for turkey shooting contests, for coaching parties, and for the training of prizefighters.

On the west side of the road, about a half mile from the Mermaid, was a hotel kept by Anthony Hinkle, who was succeeded by his son John. In the tax lists of 1769 and 1774 John's occupation is given as innkeeper.

At the corner of Carpenters Lane, where the fire department is now stationed, there was the GERMANTOWN HOTEL, which, at an earlier time had been known as the FARMER'S AND DROVER'S HOTEL.

Of the STEAM BOAT HOUSE little beyond the name has been found, but it is supposed to have been on the east side of the road between Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Sedgwick Street. Formerly a Mr. Erasmus James Pierce was the landlord; he was succeeded by Mrs. Bostwick.

The old MT. PLEASANT INN is another mystery; old records tell us that in 1824 Edward Bonsall had a drug store in the building, and later, that John Miller enlarged the house, and kept a store there. The location is given as near the lower depot of Mt. Airy.

SHEPHERDS INN. There seems to have been little fear of competition due to the close proximity of the inns and taverns in the Chestnut Hill center, as the same nearness was evident in the Price Street region.

In the upper section, William Streeper was an extensive land holder. In 1739 he sold to John Shepherd, a plot which included the starting point eastward of Highland Avenue; in turn Shepherd, who, in deed of 1763 is called a "shopkeeper alias innkeeper" transferred to Samuel Bachman, "a certain messuage

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or two story house on the northeast side of the North Wales Road, in Cresam (anciently called Sommerhausen, or Chestnut Hill).

SCULL'S INN. In the same general area and shortly later (1750), Edward Scull acquired twenty-five acres from Streeper, on which he built a hotel. This tract extended northward from the Pennsylvania Railroad terminus to the Presbyterian parsonage and westward to the Thomas's Mill Road. Scull was indicated as the owner of the property, on a map of the Colonies published in 1759.

A decade later J. Henry Antes, son of Henry Antes, bought the Scull Hotel and sufficient additional land to increase his holdings to one hundred acres. Antes borrowed from Abraham Rex, money to purchase the property and the tax list of 1769 credits him as the proprietor of the tavern. This location was a most desirable one for a hotel, its being on the direct line connecting the Reading and Bethlehem sections with the northern settlements of Philadelphia, provided daily a goodly number of people passing by; the Scotch-Irish from the upper settlements along the Delaware, and the Germans of the counties of Berks and Montgomery. Antes' father was in the good graces of the Germans, and his uncle and a brother were both Justices of the Peace.

In 1773, Antes sold his interests in the tavern and settled beyond the Susquehanna River. The property continued as a hotel until the 1860's; it was for a time the headquarters of the Democratic party, then being known as the General Jackson Hotel, later it was known as the Titlow Hotel. As a source of public amusement, a black bear was chained to a large buttonwood tree in front of the building.

More of the Streeper land provided the site for DONAT'S HOTEL at the southwest corner of Highland Avenue. It was claimed that a date stone on the chimney gave the date of 1712, but the earliest deed transferred the land from William Streeper to Jacob Colladay in 1754. Blasius Machenett became the owner in 1763, Jacob Geiger in 1780, and in 1785 it was transferred to Nicholas Berndollar; and in 1800, Levi Rex, the landlord, converted it into a temperance hotel. Christian Donat bought the property in 1842, and continued as owner until his death about 1890. This was a teamsters hotel as long as that class of hostelries existed, and after the through highway was opened in 1804, numerous farm vehicles would form long lines on the fronting road. The hotel finally became the muster place of the Republican faction, and known as the American-Republican Hotel.

In Revolutionary days Henry Cress operated a hotel diagonally opposite Donat's. This place served as a hospital for the American troops during the Battle of Germantown. Later it was burned by the opposing troops but shortly after, was rebuilt. When the yellow fever was rampant in the city in 1794, it was the refuge for many Philadelphians.

Henry Cress, Sr., died in 1798 and the property re-

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verted to his son Henry, Jr. In 1817 it passed to Charles Nice, and in 1818 to Leonard Kittinger; three years later it was sold to Jacob Peters, in whose family it continued for a hundred years, finally under the name of Peter's daughter, Mrs. Catharine Comly. Peters was also a stage line proprietor, and this hotel served as a stage stop until the railroads began operating. Then the hotel lost most of its overnight trade and became entirely a drinking place, and ceased operation as a hotel.

At the junction of Germantown Road and Bethlehem Pike stood the MAPLE LAWN INN. The date of its erection remains a question, and as to its first use the earlier historians have left little for posterity; however, the one point in the memory of those who recall this old inn, is that the common name by which it is generally recalled was the DUSTPAN. Situated in the fork of the two main dirt highways, the wind coming from any direction was sure to carry an ample amount of dust, on the dry days.

During the times that it functioned as an inn it was attractive to city residents who came here to escape the summer heat, and to be assured of the cooler breezes. Present memories give the date of removal as about 1920 to 1925.

At the time of the Revolution it served as the temporary quarters of General Howe. In 1777 it was a target for foraging parties of British troops, and a legend tells us that on days when the supply of bread was being taken from the oven, each "Tommy Vandal" would charge and then march on with a loaf of bread on his fixed bayonet. Foraging in Chestnut Hill was not an uncommon diversion of the "unwelcome guests." After peaceful days arrived the American government paid in claims of the residents, sums varying from one hundred fifteen pounds to seventeen hundred and fifty pounds. Matthias Bush, then owner of the property, was paid six hundred forty pounds for the damage which he suffered.

The old building housed a store for some time, in 1790 it was bought from Bush by James McCawley; it was successively kept by James Lentz and later by Bates and Yeakel.

Several writers have suggested names of taverns as existing in the Germantown-Chestnut Hill areas, but no descriptive matter of The Crown, or Crown and Cushion; The Indian King; The Lamb Tavern; Sign of the Bonny Jockey, 1783; The White Swan, 1800; Sign of the Swan, 1790, Germantown; Washington Hotel, 1850, Germantown Avenue and Schoolhouse Lane; or The Stag Inn; has been found.

It is hoped that more complete data, regarding the various public houses may eventually come to light; whereby posterity can appreciate conditions surrounding the growth and advancement, from the primitive beginning to a place of national historic fame. While most of the old inn structures have disappeared, our heritage embraces many other buildings of antiquity and merit; therefore we should be alert for every opportunity to stop ruthless destruction or mutilation

of our hallowed shrines, to strengthen the slogan "Germantown—a page of American History."

Data connecting the Hesser family with the Buck Inn, is from "A History of the Hesser Family" as compiled by George Ernest Hesser in 1947, and graciously furnished to the author by Paul M. Hesser, Jr., now residing on the land of his ancestors.

The Mills at the Mouth of the Creek

(Continued from page 15)

Thomas Livezey of "Glen Fern" on the creek—secondly he married Elizabeth Heath also of the Livezey family, an able preacher in Friend's Meeting.

Peter died in 1833 and willed his land and mills to his sons, Andrew 4th and Jonathan. Andrew settled in New Bedford, Mass., a far cry from the Wissahickon. Here he manufactured cotton goods and was interested in the whaling industry. He retained his interest until his death, for subject to his will of October 5th, 1856 his executors, Wm. R. and Andrew, together with his widow, sold the mills in 1862 to John and James Dobson. The large cotton mill (mill no 2) had developed by this time on the East side of the creek. The Dobsons at first leased it, but purchased the whole tract after the mill burned down in '62. They built a much larger mill on the site. Here, then, was one of the famous Dobson Mills that made blue woolen cloth for the Union Army. Mill no. 1 at the mouth of the creek was still standing—as was the original blacksmith shop.

In 1869 the city purchased all the land through which the Wissahickon flowed, and removed the Dobson Mill.

One must not leave the story here, but must follow

the history of the little building on the edge of the Schuylkill, already referred to as mill no. 1. Chadwick, the historian of Roxborough, says that it was the first cut-nail factory in America, and also later the rolling mill of Amos Jones. In a survey of 1850 it is called a log-wood mill, which meant dyemaking. It was then under lease by Minister and Moore, both of whom had married into the Robeson family.

From 1877 to 1887 the mill was occupied by the famous State-in-Schuylkill Fishing Club, and in 1905 there was located here the Philadelphia Canoe Club.

Such then is the story of the mills at the mouth of the creek; it is particularly interesting from the point of view of the continuous industry at the site for nearly two hundred years, saw mill, grist mill, dye-works, and cotton factories, and for the names associated with the ownerships: Penn, Richard Townsend, the Robesons and Dobsons.

Andrew Robeson, 2nd (1654–1719), married Mary Spencer in 1685. She is buried in Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church yard, while her husband was buried at St. Gabriel's Swedish Church in Douglassville on the Schuylkill. Andrew 2nd was judge of Gloucester County, N. J. in 1692 and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania (1693–1699). In 1714 he purchased 1,000 acres of iron ore land near Reading where with Thomas Potts, whom his daughter Magdalena married, he promoted the newly developed iron industry in that neighborhood. He was chiefly responsible for opening up the Ridge Road from the city to his iron mines at Manatawny.

Acknowledgements are made to the studies and writings of Jas. F. Magee, published in The Suburban Press, Roxborough, 1934—now collected and filed, with these studies in the Free Library of Philadelphia.

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