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In Memoriam: Simon Cameron Corson

By Franklin A. Stickler

Every community owes much to those who have given of their best during the years of their active lives and have then quietly passed beyond our mortal ken into the "Land of Leal," leaving a good work and beneficent influence to live after them. Through many centuries men and women dreamed dreams of a better world and labored earnestly to make their dreams come true, and succeeding generations have enjoyed the fruit of their labors.

On the Honor Roll of such men and women in our community it is a privilege to inscribe the name of our late fellow member and vice-president, Simon Cameron Corson, who departed this life on April 12, 1948, aged 85 years.

Mr. Corson had been an active member of our Society for many years, and on November 19, 1938, was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his valuable services rendered to the Society while serving as chairman of the Marker Committee since 1916, and having special reference to the designing and erection of the David Rittenhouse marker erected by this Society on the former Rittenhouse homestead (now the property of the Ballard family), on Germantown Pike near Fairview Village, and dedicated June 3, 1939.

An ardent student of local history, Mr. Corson was considered the best informed historian of his home community of Norristown and Montgomery county, making a number of valuable contributions to our publications through the years. Outstanding among these was his paper, "Old Roads of Norristown," supplemented with a series of original road maps reproduced by Mr. Corson, read before the Society's meeting, November 19, 1921, and published in volume VII, Historical Sketches, 1925.

Mr. Corson not only recorded local history, but for half a century he helped to create it while Borough Engineer,
of Norristown made available to him by virtue of his official position, and also through his own personal knowledge and the data secured from his father, George Norman Corson.

A lifelong hobby was the locating and recording of historical data on big trees of Montgomery and adjoining counties, through the results of his researches among the official records on which subject he was considered as much an authority as on historical places and buildings.

Mr. Corson was a graduate of Treemount Seminary, a nationally known Norristown educational institution for boys from 1844 to 1887. Always a loyal son to his Alma Mater, he became the moving spirit and founder in organizing the Treemount Seminary Association, in 1913, served as its president for many years, and was possibly the last surviving member.

Simon Cameron Corson was the son of George Norman Corson and Maria (Hurst) Corson. He was born in the family home, Main and Cherry streets, Norristown, Pa., February 12, 1863. He received his education in the public schools of Norristown and Treemount Seminary, Norristown, followed by an architectural course with a private instructor of Philadelphia.

On July 1, 1883, he entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad in their Engineering Corps, continuing with them, excepting slight absences, until March 1, 1898, when he became Engineer to the Borough of Norristown, in whose services he remained in various capacities until his death.

During this half century of serving his native town, practically all modern improvements (superseding the so-called "horse and buggy days"), of which our Borough is justly proud, such as permanent street paving, installation of sanitary and storm sewer systems, and sewage disposal plant, the planning and creating of Elmwood Park, and the elimination of grade crossings of the two railroads, were all under his supervision in the Borough's interest, and a vast improvement was given the public.

On July 19, 1899, Mr. Corson married Anne Eliza Ramey, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, who survives him, together with their three sons, David Ramey Corson, S. Cameron Corson, Jr., and Lt. Col. Frederick Ramey Corson. He was a model husband
and father, who took a justifiable pride in his family's public service record in peace and war. It is interesting to note, in connection with the 1948 Presidential election campaign issues on the race question, that Mr. Corson's father was a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1872, and wrote the resolution to strike out the word "white," thereby making it possible for all men to vote in Pennsylvania, regardless of race or color.
The Charcoal Iron Industry in the Perkiomen Valley

By ALFRED GEMMELL *

PREFACE

The purpose of this study is to present as accurate a picture as possible of the charcoal iron industry as it once existed in the Perkiomen Valley. In attempting this task I have read the meager offerings of earlier writers, but I have referred whenever possible to primary sources. The Perkiomen Valley has received scant attention by writers of industrial history, although for approximately 140 years—1730 to 1870—its iron works were furnishing the local and Philadelphia trade with high grade pig and bar iron.

Few manuscript records in the form of account books have been located thus far for the Perkiomen iron industry. This paucity of information necessitates many gaps and omissions in this study and occasions much speculation where I would prefer more definite statements based on precise material. However, this is intended only as a beginning and I am hopeful that the discovery of new material may clear up some of the questions raised by this study. To assist others I have given complete documentation in the text and have added factual appendices in addition to a comprehensive bibliography.

The help of others has made this study possible and I gratefully acknowledge their assistance. Dr. Elmer E. S. Johnson, curator of the Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsylvania, was most cooperative; not only in making accessible valuable manuscripts, but in the liberal sacrifice of

* "A Thesis in American History Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts," 1947. (Read before the Society, November 15, 1947.)
his time and the sharing of his rich knowledge of local history. To his one time assistant and librarian, Miss Miriam Kriebel, go my thanks for cheerful fulfilment of numerous requests for library items. Valuable family records were made available through the courtesy of Dr. D. Horace Schall, of Forge Dale, Pennsylvania. Mr. Peter J. Faust, of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, provided me with an eye-witness account of the dismantling of Hampton Furnace.

The assistance of county historians and their staffs is deeply appreciated. To Horace M. Mann, curator of the Bucks County Historical Society; Dr. Gurney Clemens, past curator of the Berks County Historical Society, and Rudolf P. Hommel, curator of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, I am especially indebted. They were most cooperative in placing their facilities at my disposal. The staff of the Manuscripts Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graciously assisted me in my studies.

The work of public servants often goes unrecognized. The hours spent in tracing land titles and examining assessment records in the court houses at Norristown and Reading would have been far less profitable, had it not been for the assistance of certain county officers.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the able guidance and warm encouragement given me by Dr. Arthur C. Bining, of the Department of History, University of Pennsylvania.

ALFRED GEMMELL,
Instructor in History, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Pennsylvania was eighth among the thirteen original colonies to establish ironworks. The Dutch had settled along the Delaware as early as 1623, preceding the Swedes who arrived in 1683 to establish Fort Christina, now Wilmington, Delaware. These early settlers imported their iron from Europe, and not a single ironworks was established until 34 years after the English Quakers settled at the mouth of the Schuylkill in 1682. It is quite likely that early rivalries between the Swedes and the Dutch prevented the discovery of ore and the manufacture of iron prior to the coming of William Penn.\(^1\)

Gabriel Thomas, writing in the 1680's an account of "Pennsylvania," verifies the early discovery of iron in the following passage: "There is likewise Ironstone or Oar (lately found) which far exceeds that in England, being Richer and less Drossy; some Preparations have been made to carry on an Iron-Work."\(^2\) Although this account was published in London in 1698 there is no record of an "Iron-Work" being established until 1716.

In this year Thomas Rutter built a bloomery forge called Rutter's Forge (Pool Forge) on the Manatawny Creek, which empties into the Schuylkill River at Pottstown.\(^3\) This "bloomery forge" made wrought iron of a crude nature directly from the ore which was heated in an open crucible similar to a blacksmith's forge. The founder of the forge, Thomas Rutter, joined three or four years later with Thomas Potts to erect Colebrookdale Furnace, the first furnace in Pennsylvania.\(^4\)

\(^4\) Colebrookdale Furnace went into blast "about 1720." See Bining, *op. cit.*, p. 187.
This pioneer establishment was located on Iron Stone Creek, a branch of the Manatawny, and, in conjunction with a forge, remained in operation until just before the Revolution.\(^5\) Evidences of the raceways of these iron works, along with the excellently preserved Potts' mansion house, Popodickon, can still be seen in the little town of Morysville, Pennsylvania. An inactive grist mill now marks the site of the old furnace.

From such an humble beginning the iron industry spread rapidly along the Schuylkill Valley, centering in the tributaries east and west of the River. Along such streams as the Manatawny, its tributary, Iron Stone, West Branch of the Perkiomen, Moselem, French, Hay, Allegheny, Tulpehocken, and its tributary, Spring, there sprang up iron industries which soon made Berks County the leading iron producing region of the state. By 1775 there were established six furnaces and nine forges in Berks County, while in the period from 1775 to 1800 eight furnaces and six forges were added.\(^6\) Swank notes that in 1798 there were six furnaces and six forges in operation in Berks County.\(^7\) From this it may be presumed that many of the earlier establishments were abandoned, (for various reasons).

The same phenomenal increase in iron manufacture was evident throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the 18th century, so that by 1750 it led all of the colonies,\(^8\) a position the state still maintains today. In 1756 Acrelius, a Swedish historian, after traveling through the American Colonies, wrote: "Pennsylvania, in regard to its iron-works, is the most advanced of all the American colonies."\(^9\) By 1771 there were more than fifty forges and furnaces in the province.\(^10\) The Revolutionary

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\(^5\) A. C. Bining, op. cit., p. 50.
\(^9\) J. M. Swank, op. cit., p. 95.
War did considerable damage to the progress of the American iron industry, while it put unusual responsibilities and burdens on iron works that were able to escape capture by the British. The furnaces and forges of Pennsylvania, with their keystone position, made the state the arsenal of the Revolution. Samuel Potts prepared a list of fourteen furnaces with an annual capacity of 6,150 tons of pig iron and 34 forges with an annual production of 3,600 tons of bar iron as operating in 1789.\textsuperscript{11} The growth of the iron industry in colonial Pennsylvania in spite of war, economic depressions, and British restrictions indicates the great need for iron products even in a society overwhelmingly agricultural.

Very little of the iron produced in Pennsylvania found its way to England, although the mother country tried to encourage the shipment of pig iron in return for her finished goods.\textsuperscript{12} In the period 1728 to 1755 only 4,604 tons of pig iron were shipped from Pennsylvania to England, and only 416 tons of bar iron were exported in the twenty year period, 1735 to 1755.\textsuperscript{13} Even an act of Parliament in 1750 removing duties on pig iron (as well as on bar iron entering the port of London) attracted no great quantities of iron from the colony. An authority on this period claims that even bounties would have failed to induce manufacturers to ship to England, since the need for iron was so great in the colonies.\textsuperscript{14} These much-discussed bounties were never granted, however, and it remained for the Revolution to settle the impractical mercantile system which England sought to maintain with her American colonies.

The act of 1750, mentioned above, also forbade the erection of slitting mills, plating forges, and steel mills in the colonies, although those already existing were allowed to remain.\textsuperscript{15}

\textsuperscript{12} A. C. Bining, \textit{British Regulation}, p. 76.
\textsuperscript{13} J. M. Swank, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 94-95.
\textsuperscript{14} A. C. Bining, \textit{British Regulation}, pp. 76-80.
This provision was aimed at preventing colonial competition with the English ironmongers in the field of finished iron products such as nails, tools, etc., which it was hoped would be purchased in England. Such restrictions, in addition to making iron an "enumerated" commodity in 1764, only drove the colonists to the surreptitious manufacture of iron in all its processes and stiffened their desire for independence.

With this background in mind attention can now be focused on one small but vital area of the Schuylkill region, the Perkiomen Valley.

In order to better understand and appreciate the factors which attracted the iron industry to the headwaters of the Perkiomen, certain geographical features should be noted. A glance at a map of eastern Pennsylvania will reveal that the Perkiomen is the first stream of any size on the East bank of the Schuylkill after the traveler leaves Philadelphia. The headwaters emerge from the steeply-rising hills of Hereford and Washington Townships in Berks County. It is here along the picturesque West Branch that most of the old iron works on the Perkiomen were located, as the map accompanying this study indicates. The two Milford Townships of Lehigh County and a small portion of Bucks County, as well as half of the entire county of Montgomery, are also drained by the Perkiomen. Its entire length, from Harlem, the origin of the North Branch, to Perkiomen Junction where it joins the Schuylkill, twenty-five miles north of Philadelphia, is about thirty miles. The stream and its tributaries drain an area of about 400 square miles. Although the Perkiomen wound placidly through the farm lands of Montgomery County, its strong headwaters were sufficient to operate grist mills, saw mills, fulling mills, powder mills, and oil mills in addition to iron works.

No primitive industry such as that of making charcoal iron could afford to be far removed from its raw materials in a day when roads were few and often impassable. Besides the water

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power necessary for the blast, the early furnaces required iron ore, limestone, and charcoal in sufficient quantities and proximity to make iron manufacture profitable. These resources were present in abundance in the area under discussion. The Perkiomen rises in a region still pockmarked with limestone quarries and iron "holes"; charcoal hearths are still visible in the hills which are now covered for the most part with second or third growth timber.

Iron ore was the most necessary factor of iron production and its presence usually determined the location of the furnace on the nearest strong stream. Iron works on the Perkiomen were supplied mainly by ore mined in eastern Berks County. The most famous of these mines was the Colebrookdale deposit on the outskirts of present Boyertown. The rich magnetic ore from this area was used at the old Colebrookdale Furnace and was mined until late in the nineteenth century. Brown hematite ore (or limonite) was dug extensively in the neighborhood of Huff's Church and Siesholtzville. The presence of mines at Barto, Bechtelsville, and Macungie further proves that ore was close enough to the Perkiomen to supply the local iron industry. The census of 1880 put Berks third in the list of ore-producing counties in Pennsylvania and seventh in the United States. Berks County produced 252,940 tons of ore in 1880 from over 100 mines. Although this ore was mined later than the period under study and in widely-scattered communities, it does help to show why it was possible for Berks County to lead the counties of the United States in 1850 with a total of 41 iron works. With iron ore so plentiful and accessible that it could be dug from open pits no more than ten to thirty feet below the surface, the early ironmasters were well-supplied with this most necessary ingredient of iron manufacture.

Limestone, necessary to flux out such impurities as silica and magnesiu, was also found in abundance. Berks County is underlaid with a northeast to southwest stratum of limestone that accounts for three-tenths of its surface area. Iron

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17 M. L. Montgomery, Annals of Berks County, pp. 4-5.
18 Ibid, p. 98.
19 Ibid, p. 4.
ore is often found in conjunction with limestone and has even been mined together in certain localities. The upper Perkiomen reaches into a limestone area still dotted with old lime kilns.

The primitive fuel was charcoal and this was made on the spot from the ubiquitous forests which once covered practically all of Pennsylvania. Hickory, oak, and ash were preferred for charcoal making and these were found in abundance throughout the Perkiomen region. The charring of the wood was an industry in itself, since the making of charcoal iron consumed much of the forest and kept many men busy. While wood was found in great quantities in the first half of the eighteenth century, growing difficulty in finding sufficient wood for charcoal was a primary factor in the decline of the local industry.

In addition to water power, then, the three resources necessary to iron manufacture were present in the Valley or on its periphery. These elements were here before the white settlers came, but the Indian knew nothing of the technique of making iron. It remained for the European colonists to discover the possibilities of establishing iron works, to erect the furnaces and forges, and to furnish the market necessary to warrant expansion of the industry.

The natural tendency of settlers to follow the river valleys brought the Perkiomen region to the attention of immigrants soon after Penn established Philadelphia. By a deed dated June 3, 1684, Maughoughsin, the local Indian chief, sold all his land on the Perkiomen to William Penn. As early as 1701 land was being surveyed for settlement at the present site of Schwenksville. The Van Bebber tract of 6,166 acres located along the Skippack Creek was patented on February 22, 1702, and the land was soon taken up by early Mennonite settlers. The New Goshenhoppen Reformed Church traces its history

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21 Perkiomen Region, April, 1923, p. 22.
the upper Perkiomen Valley about that time. In 1733 the Schwenkfelders came up the valley and wandered as far north as Hereford Township in the northeast corner of Berks County. This township had first been settled in 1782 and was established in 1753. Further down the valley near the town of Salfordsville stands the Old Goshenhoppen Union Lutheran and Reformed Church, founded in 1782. Just to the north, and separating Old and New Goshenhoppen districts, Green Lane Forge was established in 1738. This famous iron work will be discussed in detail later but is mentioned here to indicate how quickly the iron industry sprang up in the path of the first settlers. In general summary, it will be noted that the Perkiomen Valley was settled throughout its entire length in the first half of the eighteenth century. The strongest current of immigrants came in the 1730's, led by the Schwenkfelders. Mennonites, as well as the more liberal Lutheran and Reformed elements, also were present in small groups, even before the arrival of the Schwenkfelders. To further complicate the religious complexion of the early scene, the Catholics, led by Reverend Theodore Schneider, established themselves at the present town of Bally in 1741. It must also be observed that the first settlers were predominantly German, whose influence is still strongly evident throughout the valley. The township names of Frederick, Franconia, and Hanover are old German names. Most of these Germans had very little capital when they arrived in the area; in fact, many were redemptioners. In such financial straits few could afford to undertake the erection of ironworks; they were satisfied to work for the wealthier English and Welsh iron masters who had preceded them.

Another circumstance which undoubtedly helped to promote the iron industry in the Perkiomen Valley was its position in relation to the then navigable Schuylkill River. While most of the iron produced was sold locally, some had to be transported to Philadelphia in exchange for certain commodi-
CHAPTER II

IRON PLANTATIONS ON THE PERKIOMEN

The information covering some of the iron works along the Perkiomen is so fragmentary that little more than their existence is known. Care must be taken, when reading their individual histories, against judging the relative importance of the separate works by the quantity of available information.

The term "plantation" is used in the literal sense in referring to typical Pennsylvania iron works of the charcoal era. The reasons for this have been summed by one writer in the following manner:

Many of the "iron plantations," as they were sometimes called, consisted of several thousand acres of land, and can be compared in many respects with the Virginia tobacco plantations. The mansion house, the homes of the workers, the furnace and forge or forges, the iron mines, the charcoal house, the dense woods which furnished the material for making charcoal, the office, the general store where supplies of all kinds could be obtained, the grist mill, the saw mill, the blacksmith shop, the common bake oven, the barns, the grain fields, the orchards, were part of a very interesting and almost self-sufficing community. Pig iron, bar iron, and castings were hauled from the furnaces and forges in heavy open wagons over tortuous roads to the main highways and thence to the boroughs, towns, or to the capital city, Philadelphia. The close connection between iron making and agriculture during the early period contrasts very strangely with the industrial organization of the present day.²

Not many of the plantations on the Perkiomen were as large or complete as to answer this general description, but the atmosphere of self-sufficient sturdy enterprise was common to them all.²

To avoid confusion it is wise to make a distinction between the functional nature of furnaces and forges. The fur-

²One of the finest existing examples of an elaborate iron plantation of the eighteenth century is Hopewell Village near Birdsboro, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The above graph should prove helpful in determining the contemporary nature of certain of the Perkiomen iron-works. While some of the industries may not have been in continuous operation for the periods indicated, an effort has been made to represent the over-all life of each industry. Question marks follow dates which lack definite confirmation.
nace provided the first step in iron manufacture by reducing iron ore to molten metal which, when run into pig iron moulds or other special forms, cooled into cast iron. The forge processed the pig iron from the furnace by subjecting it to the heavy forge hammer, after it had been brought to a malleable condition by heating in the forge fire. This forge fire was similar, although larger, than the hearth of the blacksmith shop. The rough products of the forge were crude bars or "blooms," as they were called commercially. By further heating and working under the forge hammers, the bloom could be refined and drawn into bars of any required size. It was then referred to as "bar iron." In this state the wrought iron had tensile strength and malleability, ready to be sold to blacksmiths or manufacturers who would further work it into finished products such as nails, horseshoes, latches, tools, wheel tires, etc. Although it was a common practice for an ironmaster to operate a forge along with his furnace in order to more effectively supply the local market with a wider range of products, there were occasional isolated furnaces and forges to be found.*

The time graph accompanying this chapter lists the most important iron works established in the Perkiomen Valley during the period under discussion. In addition, mention has been found of several other small works such as foundries, machine shops, and "hammers," about which so little is known that they are treated collectively.

* For an authoritative discussion on the technical aspects of charcoal iron manufacture, the reader is advised to refer to George W. Schultz's article "Antique Iron Works and Machines of the Water Power Age," in the April, 1947, issue of the Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.
PART ONE

GREEN LANE FORGE — 1733 to 1849

GREEN LANE FURNACE — 1836 to 1843

The earliest ironworks in the Perkiomen Valley of which there is any record is Green Lane Forge, or, as it was sometimes called, Green Lane Iron Works. It was built in 1733 by a Thomas Mayburry of whom little is known. This famous forge was situated at the mouth of a narrow ravine just above the present town of Green Lane. The borough of Green Lane, situated twenty miles above Norristown, was incorporated in 1875, named for the evergreens overhanging the tortuous lane which formerly ran from the highway to the forge.

The enterprising Thomas Mayburry showed good judgment in erecting a forge at a spot well-endowed by nature. The strong stream was easily dammed between the steep banks, providing an abundance of water power. The forge property included what is now the entire borough of Green Lane, as well as 1200 acres of surrounding land. This woodland supplied the necessary charcoal to heat the pig iron for forging.

The absence of iron ore in the vicinity prevented the early erection of a furnace and necessitated the hauling of pig iron from Durham Furnace, at least before 1747. This represented a haul of twenty-five miles from this early furnace located along the Delaware River in upper Bucks County. The iron was brought in the heavy Conestoga wagons along the famous "River to River Road" which connected the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. This old road, following the paths of least resistance, ran from Durham through Springtown, Richland-

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5 Ibid., p. 22.
town, Quakertown, Tylersport, Green Lane, Frederick, Fag-leysville, and terminated at Sanatoga on the Schuylkill.

In 1745 Thomas Maybury erected Hereford Furnace, located fifteen miles northwest of Green Lane on the West Branch of the Perkiomen. Doubtless he supplied his forge at Green Lane with his own pig iron from this furnace. This illustrates in a simple way that the tendency toward vertical organization of industry so common today has an early origin.

The task of tracing the ownership of Green Lane Forge has been accomplished by one writer in a very thorough manner. A general summary of William F. Dannehower's study indicates the following transfers of title: The land was acquired by Thomas Maybury in two separate purchases. When William Penn died in England on July 30, 1718, he left to his grandson, William Penn, 10,000 acres to be laid out in the province of Pennsylvania. Part of this became known as "The Thousand Acres," forming part of the Green Lane Forge property, but not the tract on which the forge was built. By August 29, 1728, William Penn, the grandson, had deeded the entire 10,000 acres to William Allen, a Philadelphia merchant, for a price of 741 pounds, 15 shillings ($2,000). The title for the "One Thousand Acres" property was not transferred to Thomas Maybury until October 7, 1742, for a consideration of 1,000 pounds ($2,700). On December 28, 1742, Maybury purchased what was to become the "Forge Property" from the proprietors of Pennsylvania, John Penn, Thomas Penn, and Richard Penn. This included four tracts of land comprising 1,280 acres, on the Perkiomen Creek in Marlborough and Frederick Townships, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery

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9 The name "Maybury" has been variously spelled; Maybury, Mayberry, Moyberry, Mayburry. The last form will be used here, since actual signatures by the Mayburrys on old deeds at the Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, confirm this spelling. Stove plates cast at Hereford Furnace also use this form.
County). Our authority for this information states that the forge was not erected until after 1742, although the best study yet made on the iron industry in colonial Pennsylvania claims the forge was built in 1738. It was quite possible that Thomas Mayburry erected the forge prior to his purchase of the land.

The original Thomas Mayburry was a man about whom little is known. He was of English origin and a wealthy member of the Society of Friends. He married a descendant of the first Pennsylvania ironmaster, Thomas Rutter. After establishing the forge at Green Lane and the furnace at Hereford, he died on March 2, 1747, intestate, leaving the property to his wife, Sophia, and four children. His heirs, jointly managed the forge from 1747 to 1757. Then the son, William Mayburry, Sr., assumed complete control. He operated the iron works until 1764 when he died, also without a will, leaving his widow, Anna, and five small children to share the control of the forge until 1784.

No information has yet been found which reveals the part Green Lane Forge played, if any, in the Revolution. One recorded letter from Robert Levers to President Thomas Wharton, dated December 27, 1777, reads, in part, "Iron, I learn, may be had at Mayburry's works, the nearest, at 150 pounds per ton." This price, asked while Washington and the Continental Army were suffering eighteen miles below at Valley Forge is staggering when compared to the Philadelphia market price of 22 pounds, 10 shillings per ton for bar iron in 1775. Undoubtedly the emission of continental currency and

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10 W. F. Dannehower, Esq., op. cit., p. 31.
12 W. F. Dannehower, Esq., op. cit., p. 22-23.
14 Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, VI, p. 141.
its continued devaluation was largely responsible for these increased prices.

In a transaction of 1781 there is evidence that Green Lane Forge was again getting some of its pig iron from Durham. On October 29 of that year Thomas "Mayberry" purchased ten tons of pig metal at 11 pounds per ton, the bill of 110 pounds being paid in cash. This Thomas "Mayberry" was the son of the original Thomas Maybury; in 1783 he bought control and almost complete interest in the property for the sum of 1,910 pounds ($5,157).

A special tax levied in 1785 called for the following assessment of the Maybury estate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 acres and Dwelling</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 acres Rock Land</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 horses</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 cows</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Forge</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Servant</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,965</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The property at this time carried by far the largest assessment value in the township.

In 1797 Thomas Maybury died, intestate, leaving the property to his wife, Rebecca, and nine children. Most of the land was sold in October, 1797, to meet debts of $17,000. Control now went to William and Willoughby Maybury, sons of Thomas.

The only manuscript material available on Green Lane Forge consists of three journals pertaining to the years 1795-1818. They represent a mine of information on the period of William and Willoughby’s managership. These records indi-

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16 Durham MSS., Ledger Folio Number 83, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pennsylvania.
17 "Assessment Record for Marlborough Township," The Perkiomen Region, December, 1923.
cate that business was conducted with a wide circle of neighboring industries. Of the approximately 1850 tons of pig iron purchased during the period from May, 1795, to May, 1812, the books reveal that 1234 tons were obtained from James Willson at Reading Furnace. Some of this, if not all, was boated down the Schuylkill from Reading to Pottstown, thence by wagon to Green Lane. Other important sources of pig iron at this time were Dale Furnace, Sally Ann Furnace (Nicholas Hunter) and the enterprises of David Potts. Purchases of pig iron were also made at the following furnaces: Cumberland, Oxford, Joanna, Hopewell, Warwick, and Mary Ann. Most of the bar iron produced at the forge was sold to quantity purchasers in and about Philadelphia, although much was sold to local blacksmiths. During the period, 1795-1812, the price of pig iron rose from £9 to £12 per ton while the price of bar iron increased from £32 to £50 per ton. World trade conditions at this time undoubtedly had a strong influence on the local iron market prices.

On March 9, 1813, Willoughby sold his share to his brother, Thomas, for $16,000. A year later, April 4, 1814, William and Thomas sold the entire property to the Company of Walker, George, Willis, and Yardley for $46,500. Thus the Maybury family had controlled the forge for seventy-two years (Dannehower's figures), during all of which time it had remained active.

A statement of the property as it existed when the Maybury family released it is found in the following notice appearing in a Norristown newspaper of the day:

PUBLIC SALE

Will be sold January 11th, 1813, at public sale, Green Lane northwest of Philadelphia on the main road to Mascatawny Forge, with 270 acres of land on the Perkiomen Creek, 35 miles and Kutztown, about 90 acres woodland, 40 os [sic], 50 prime

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\(^{18}\) Green Lane Forge MSS., passim. These three well-preserved journals have recently been donated by William Maybury, of Glenside, Pa., to the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Norristown, Pa.

\(^{19}\) W. F. Dannehower, Esq., op. cit., p. 23.
meadow, 2 story stone mansion house, large stone barn, coal house, smith shop, and a saw mill, all of which with the dam, race, and forebays are in excellent repair. The water of the Perkiomen Creek affording excellent water power. The Forge would afford materials for any men's establishment.

WILLIAM and THOMAS MAYBURY
Green Lane Forge, December 18, 1813

The title transfer was not completed until April 4, 1814. There is no evidence that the forge was operated by the new owners. One writer claims that for "... twenty years the forge was idle and the land was rented." Indeed, the assessment records do not list the forge as taxable property from 1813 until 1834. (See assessment record, Appendix A). Of the four men comprising the original company, two were bought out; by 1821 Jonathan Willis owned three-fourths and William Yardley, one-fourth. The property seems to have been no source of profit to the new owners; not only did the assessed value continue to decline, but the forge estate (buildings and 1,240 acres) was sold to William Schall by the sheriff on November 19, 1833. The price paid for the property, called at that time the "Green Lane Farm," was $5,500.

General William Schall was born on April 18, 1812, the youngest son of Senator George Schall, and a brother of Judge David H. Schall, who at that time, 1833, was operating Dale Forge on the West Branch of the Perkiomen. William had received experience in the iron business at District Forge in District Township, Berks County, where he had spent most of his early childhood. In January, 1831, at the age of nineteen, he married Caroline Trexler, daughter of Reuben Trexler, ironmaster at Mary Ann Furnace in Berks County. Fourteen

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*Ibid., p. 28.


2 W. F. Dannehower, Esq., *op. cit.*, p. 29.

3 In 1847 he was chosen Brigadier-General of all the county militia. M. Auge, *Lives of the Eminent Dead and Biographical Notices of Prominent Living Citizens of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania* (Norristown, 1879), pp. 471-475.
children resulted from this union; eight were sons who fought with the Union forces during the Civil War.\textsuperscript{24}

Although only twenty-one years old when he took over the decadent Green Lane Forge, William Schall put new life in the forge with the use of second-growth timber. In 1835 he built a large, two-story stone mansion house at the forks of the turnpikes. This building is still occupied and is in an excellent state of preservation. Next he built the Green Lane Hotel and a large grist mill, later called Weber's Mill, but now dismantled.\textsuperscript{25}

In addition to such community buildings the ironmaster built the little known Green Lane Furnace in 1836. One authority describes this furnace as follows: cold blast, uses brown hematite ore; largest annual production, 450 tons; 50 men and boys employed, 18 oxen, mules and horses employed; one tuyere (diameter, two and one-eighth inches); bosh, 7.4 feet; height, 33 feet; power-water; made close grey iron; Philadelphia market; capacity, 900 tons.\textsuperscript{26}

To prove that not all of the pig iron produced at Green Lane Furnace found the Philadelphia market, available records show that at least 121 tons were received by Dale Forge from Green Lane during the period from 1837 to 1840.\textsuperscript{27}

According to the assessment records, the Green Lane Furnace was taxable for the last time in the year 1843. (See Assessment lists, Appendix A). It is likely that a shortage of timber was a strong factor in the decline of this short-lived furnace.

The Forge continued to operate at least until 1849, since in that year it was credited with a production of eighty tons of blooms and fifty tons of bars. This same source also describes the forge as follows: water power; three forge fires, two ham-

\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{26} W. F. Dannehower, Esq., \textit{op. cit.}, p. 29.
\textsuperscript{27} Dale Forge MSS., Pig Iron Records, Private Collection.
mers; largest annual production, 140 tons blooms, 100 tons bars; men and boys employed—thirty; horses and mules employed—nine; market, local and Philadelphia.\(^{28}\)

In 1848 William Schall moved to Norristown, and there he erected a nailworks in 1853. In 1857 he built Lucinda Furnace, also in Norristown, and added a rolling mill in 1864. One authority states that he was financially ruined in the early 1870's "... by the government's policy of accepting only gold."\(^{29}\)

The Green Lane Forge property was sold piecemeal by William Schall from 1849 to 1852.

The exact year in which the Green Lane Forge ceased to operate is unknown, although one authority indicates that as late as 1856 the forge was busy. In that year William Schall is listed as owner, with Smith and Bro. as lessees. Under the management of James Smith in 1856 the forge produced 180 tons of blooms and bars.\(^{30}\)

The idle forge was sold on March 21, 1871, with ninety-nine acres of land, to Thomas Shaw, mechanical engineer of Roxborough, for $8,000. After being subsequently used as a site for making ice by the John Hancock and American Ice Companies, the property today belongs to the Philadelphia Water Company.\(^{31}\)

\(^{28}\) Convention of Iron Masters Publication, op. cit.

\(^{29}\) M. Auge, op. cit., pp. 471-475.


\(^{31}\) W. F. Dannehower, Esq., op. cit., p. 29.
PART TWO

MOUNT PLEASANT FURNACE

1737 to 1796 (?)

Mount Pleasant Furnace, erected in 1737,1 was probably the second to be established in what is now Berks County, being antedated only by Colebrookdale Furnace which was built in 1720. It was located on the West Branch of the Perkiomen, seven miles north of the Colebrookdale Furnace and thirteen miles northeast of Pottstown. The site is just a short distance beyond the village of Barto, the terminus of the Colebrookdale spur of the Reading Railroad Company.

This furnace is somewhat unusual in that there is more information available on its earlier years than on its later history. Authorities agree that it was erected in 1737 by Thomas Potts, Jr., son of the noted Thomas Potts, Senior, known as the “Father of the American Iron Industry.” Various members of the Potts family and families associated by marriage appear to have operated the furnace throughout most of its obscure history, although there is no evidence that its production was continuous during the years ascribed to its existence.

Something must be said concerning the confusing intermarriages between the ironmasters’ families. In a day when budding industry created families of social prominence, when furnaces and forges were named in honor of eligible daughters, such marriages often linked the names of pioneer ironmasters. One writer makes this observation: “The unions between the Potts, Rutter, and Savage families tended to keep a large part of the industrial wealth in the hands of a few families in that[Schuylkill] region. Among the iron works owned by the united Potts and Rutter families, for instance, were Colebrookdale Furnace and Forge, Mount Pleasant Fur-

nace and Forge, Warwick Furnace, Coventry Iron Works, Rutter's Forge, Spring Forge, Pool Forge, Pine Forge, Little Pine Forge, McCall's Forge, and others." It was the Potts family that was most instrumental in the founding of Mount Pleasant Furnace.

The progenitor of this prominent family was Thomas Potts, Sr. Born in Wales in 1680, he came to the Colonies (year unknown) and settled in Germantown, then a thriving center for the manufacture of iron products. He undoubtedly acquired his iron-making interests at that time, for when his wife died in 1716 he moved to the Manatawny region and became associated with Thomas Rutter in the latter's Colebrookdale Furnace. When Rutter died on March 8, 1729, Potts became the principal owner and manager of several iron works in the Manatawny region. His sons intermarried with the heirs of the Rutter and Nutt families, and the stage was set for the erection of other iron works to absorb the energies of this pioneer industrial family.

Mount Pleasant Furnace was jointly operated in its early years by two of Thomas Potts' sons, Thomas, Jr., and John. Thomas Potts, Jr., gave his son, David, a one-sixth interest in the furnace in 1743. This same David Potts married Rebecca Rutter, granddaughter of the original Thomas Rutter, and continued as manager of the furnace until his early death in 1752. This was the same year in which his illustrious grandfather, Thomas Potts, Sr., died.

The other son, John Potts, was probably more closely associated with Mount Pleasant Furnace than his brother. The only account books extant for Mount Pleasant, covering the years from 1738 to 1748, are inscribed as "John Potts' Books." This John Potts is perhaps better known as the founder of Potts Grove, today the industrial community of Pottstown.

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1 Arthur C. Bining, op. cit., p. 144.
2 James M. Swank, Introduction to a History of Ironmaking and Coal Mining in Pennsylvania, p. 16.
According to one source, a Thomas Rutter and John Potts were joint managers of Mount Pleasant Furnace in November, 1742.5

While there is little question that Mount Pleasant Furnace remained in the Potts family after 1752, the year of Thomas Potts, Sr.'s, decease, it is necessary to rely on scattered sources to further trace its history. The earliest map extant of Hereford Township is a draught by David Schultz, drawn in 1753.6 This plainly locates Mount Pleasant Furnace on the West Branch of the Perkiomen in what is now Washington Township.

Of the furnace's history from 1753 until after the Revolution there is little trace. If the furnace was in operation, it was not continuous. The Hereford Township Assessment Records for 1761 list no other furnace than "Mayberry's" (Hereford Furnace), while assessment records of 1778 for Hereford Township reveal no iron works whatsoever in operation. That stove plates were cast at Mount Pleasant sometime after 17677 is indicated by a unique stove plate at the Lehigh County Historical Society, Allentown, Pennsylvania. It is a side plate from a ten-plate cook stove, undated, inscribed "Mount Pueasant," and significantly emblazoned with the superscription, "Be Liberty Thine." The most thorough study yet made on old stove plates lists a plate bearing this same liberty pattern, which this source states was cast after 1785.8

A draught of a proposed road through what is now Forge Dale, dated 1779, describes the road as "... beginning at the old Mount Pleasant Furnace. Near the House of William Butz

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6 This valuable draft can be found in the Hereford Township File, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennewarburg, Pennsylvania. A photostatic copy is at the Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.
7 This was the year that the first ten-plate cooking stove is reputed to have been cast at Hereford Furnace.
from Pottsgrove Road . . .” Although William Butz lived at the furnace as early as 1776,10 he was not taxed for any iron-works until 1780.11 Then he was taxed for a stamping mill which was used to crush furnace slag for further smelting purposes. This same property was assessed to Christian Butz (probably a brother of William Butz) in 1781.12 It is likely that Christian Butz retained ownership of Mount Pleasant Furnace property until 1785. In this year neither Butz is listed as taxable, but the name of Charles Drukenmiller appears. He is listed as being assessed for a forge in this year.13 While this may refer to Mount Pleasant Forge, located a mile above on the same stream, it is more likely that the assessor was confusing furnaces with forges. This was a quite common mistake and one which offers no end of difficulty to the student doing research in this field.

In 1789 Samuel Potts compiled a list of iron industries in Pennsylvania for the information of Congress. Mount Pleasant was listed as being active at that time, but it is credited with an annual production of only fifty tons.14 This was the smallest production of any Pennsylvania furnace listed as being active at the time.

In 1791 Charles Drukenmiller was assessed in the following way:15

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8 This draft can be found with others in the Hereford Township File, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsylvania.

10 This is indicated by a draft of this property made for him on June 17, 1776, a copy of which can be seen at the Schwenkfelder Historical Library.

11 Hereford Township Assessments, 1780, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.

12 Ibid., 1781, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.

13 Ibid., 1785, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.

14 Mrs. Thomas Potts James, Memorial of Thomas Potts, Jr. (Cambridge, 1874), p. 74.

15 Hereford Township Assessments, 1791, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.
The assessment for the furnace rose to 850 pounds in 1792. This indicates that the furnace was in operation and a source of income. In 1793 a Charles “Miller” was assessed 540 pounds for the furnace. The assessments records for 1794 and 1795 continue to list the furnace as taxable but do not give it a separate assessment. In 1796 it is not listed as taxable; the following notice appearing in a Reading weekly explains the reason:

TO BE LET OR SOLD

MOUNT PLEASANT FURNACE AND CO.

The Estate of the late Charles Truckenmiller, situated in Hereford Township, Berks County, consisting of

Firstly, 25 acres of Land, partly good meadow and partly arable—upon this part of the Estate is erected a convenient Dwelling House built of stone two stories high. A Furnace for making Iron, a Furnace House, Pot House, Casting House, a large Coal House, a Smith Shop, and a Number of small Houses for the accommodation of Working People, a Stamping Hill, for Stamping Cinders, a Comuting House, Barn and Stables, etc.

Secondly, 58 acres of good arable land, adjoining the Former.

Thirdly, 100 acres of Land adjoining lands of William Shank, Michael Keely, and others. There is a quantity of Iron Ore upon the two first mentioned Tracts, but the last mentioned Tract contains a large Body, of the best Kind.

Fourthly, 34 acres of good Arable Land with some build-

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25 Hereford Township Assessments, 1792, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.

27 Ibid., 1793.
ings thereon erected adjoining of John Wechter, Martin Burckhart, and others. With the premises will also be Sold or Let a number of Flasks, Patterns, etc.

Mr. Daniel Bob, Miller, near the premises will show them to any Person desirous to see them.

The whole of this Estate will be sold by the Executors of Mr. Truckenmiller, pursuant to a Power given them in his last Will and Testament, but if a Purchaser or Purchasers cannot be found before the first of April next, the same will be let and in either Case Possession given upon the First Day of April.

For Terms apply to the Subscriber No. 118, North third Street, Philadelphia. (19)

November 16, 1796

John Hay

This advertisement evidently attracted few customers, for it was continued throughout 1797 and on September 1, 1798, it was listed as property "To Be Sold." In 1799 the furnace was assessed at $300 in a total estate of $650. This would not indicate that the furnace was in blast.

There is no record that Mount Pleasant Furnace ever operated again. A ledger, properly identified as a Mount Pleasant Furnace account and covering the years 1790 to 1796, is extant (see Bibliography); but it contains old balances which shed little light on current activities. At the time Mount Pleasant Furnace was advertised for sale, Dale Furnace (1792 to 1821), only two miles above, was in blast. This competition probably was a factor in the cessation of Mount Pleasant.

However, a map of the proposed town of Mount Pleasant, dated 1865, is evidence of the high hopes held that the site would once again be utilized in the making of iron. This map shows the dam, the furnace, the iron mines nearby, sawmill and other buildings, and the proposed town to be built just to 1869 but failed to stimulate the town of Mount Pleasant beyond

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20 Ibid., September 1, 1798, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.

21 Hereford Township Assessments, 1799, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pa.

22 Map in possession of D. Horace Schall, Forge Dale, Pa.
the south of the old furnace. The plan probably grew out of speculation based on the proposed thrust of the Colebrookdale Railroad into the neighborhood. This spur was completed in the blueprint stage. In 1886 Morton Montgomery, the Berks County historian, wrote that only the base of the stack remained to identify the exact location of the furnace.22

Today the site guards the picturesque entrance to a narrow valley cut by the West Branch of the Perkiomen. A stone-crusher occupies what was probably the base of the furnace. To the rear is a great mine hole, undoubtedly enlarged by later stone-crushing operations. Quantities of high grade ore can still be found in the hole, while not far from the furnace site is a short horizontal shaft or drift, said to have been cut in a search for ore veins. Mount Pleasant Furnace most likely received its power through a long race leading from the dam of what is now Saylor's Grist Mill, formerly Bobb's Mill, located about 150 yards upstream. Vestiges of a tail race can still be seen on the right, as one turns to enter Forge Dale Road from the Bally-Barto road. Mount Pleasant Furnace, while not outstanding in production nor especially colorful in history, is significant not only as the second furnace to be established in what is now Berks County, but it was the first furnace to use Perkiomen water power. As such, it foreshadowed the many iron industries soon to be established in the region.

PART THREE

THE MOUNT PLEASANT FORGES

THE LOWER FORGE—1743 TO 1864

The earliest indication that there was a forge associated with Mount Pleasant Furnace is contained in the statement that "... in 1743 Thomas Potts, Jr., gave to his son, David, one full and undivided sixth part in a certain furnace and forge commonly called Mount Pleasant, and of and in several tracts of land there unto belonging."¹ No mention of this forge is found in the early account books, but its existence and location are now well established. Concerning its origin, one authority on the early Pennsylvania iron industry states it was erected in 1743 by Thomas Potts, Jr.²

The forge was located one mile above the Mount Pleasant Furnace³ on a site where the stream is strong and easily dammed. The spot today reflects little evidence of a once busy forge, for freshets and time have erased all but the faintest vestiges of the industry.

Like Mount Pleasant Furnace, the forge's history is for the most part obscure. Concerning its pre-Revolutionary operations, no information, if available, has yet been found. In the assessment records of Hereford Township for the year 1778 no iron works are listed; it may thus be presumed that the forge was idle at that time. The road plan, dated 1779,⁴ and already referred to in regard to Mount Pleasant Furnace, contains no mention of the Mount Pleasant Forge, even though the road had to pass by the forge on the opposite side of the stream. It does say, however, that the road will pass "... by

¹ Mrs. Thomas Potts James, Memorial of Thomas Potts, Jr., p. 71
⁴ Draft of Forge Dale road drawn in 1779, Hereford Township Drafts, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
the New Forge of William and Christopher Butz . . .” This reference to a “new forge” was confusing to the writer until it was established by a rare map that there were, two Mount Pleasant Forges, the second being the “New Forge of William and Christian Butz,” erected about 1779. This “upper” forge, as it will now be called, was 700 yards above the lower and much earlier-established ironworks now under discussion.

The two Mount Pleasant Forges must be discussed separately, for they were not under continuous joint ownership. Most of the following information was secured from the assessment records and tax lists. The reader is referred to the appended table which condenses this information and forms the basis of the forges’ later histories. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions from the assessment records. Often the lessee of the property, rather than the property owner, is assessed. Very often, too, mistakes were made by the assessors in spelling names, in identifying the property, and in listing property values. Nevertheless, the assessment lists form a valuable mine of information when correlated with other established facts.

It is difficult to find any mention of the lower forge being active in the immediate post-Revolutionary period. Within the recognized limitations of attempting to trace ownership and identify property through the tax assessment records, it is not until the year 1788 that it is certain the lower or older forge was again active. In this year Thomas Walker was assessed for two forges. In 1789 Mount Pleasant Forge was listed as being active, by Samuel Potts in his compilation of information for Congress.

Joint assessment for the two forges passed to John and Peter Richards in 1791, and the forges remained under their management until 1802; in this year Jacob Focht was assessed for the same property. Since the assessment records are not complete for the years following 1802, the year 1805 represents

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the last year in which it is known that both forges were jointly controlled by Focht. A map of 1816 reveals divided control of the forges. This source refers to the lower forge as "Hunter's" and the upper forge as "Focht's." Evidently Jacob Focht had retained control of the upper forge, while selling or leasing the lower one to Nicholas Hunter. The map also designates both forges as the "Mount Pleasant Forges."

Nicholas Hunter's career at the lower forge must have been short, since the tax lists refer to him for only the years 1814 to 1816. He was at that time owner of Sally Ann Furnace, located about ten miles to the north.

The name of John Fisher, son-in-law of Nicholas Hunter, has been given as an operator of the forge. He is first taxed in 1823; following his decease in 1828 the control of the forge apparently went to John Rush. He is listed as owner of Mount Pleasant Forge in 1845. This fact probably explains his earlier assessment in 1837, viz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Rush—ironmaster</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 houses</td>
<td>$325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114 acres, clear @ $26</td>
<td>$2,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 acres, wood @ $18</td>
<td>$648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 acres, sprout @ $5</td>
<td>$115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Forge</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 horses @ $35</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 cows</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tax $12.85

The Hampton Furnace records connect still another member of the Hunter family with Mount Pleasant Forge. On

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2. Hereford Township Tax Lists, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.
April 12, 1839, Jacob Van Reed Hunter is billed as follows: 
"... delivered to his team and John Rush, as pr Order to sundry times, send to Mount Pleasant forge 16 Ton Pig Iron, up to March 23 as pr Iron Book at the rate of 30–30 Dollars per Ton—$480." This would indicate that Jacob V. R. Hunter owned the forge and John Rush was managing the enterprise for him. However, later in the same year, October, 1839, the billing reads: "To Jacob V. R. Hunter—Delivered to his carter, Mutter, sent by Fred. Sigmund, Esq., at Mount Pleasant forge..."

This Frederick Sigmund who was to purchase an interest in Hampton Furnace in 1850 was evidently gaining experience, working for the Hunters at Mount Pleasant. He was still listed as manager in 1840. Probably he was still there when he was named assignee of the bankrupt Hampton Furnace in 1844.

In the absence of assessment records for the years immediately preceding and following 1837, it is necessary to refer to tax lists. A review of the tax history of John Rush indicates that his taxes for the year 1826 ($12.76) doubled over the preceding year and maintained this high level until 1839, in which year he was still referred to as "Ironmaster."

In the years 1840, 1841, and 1843 the forge was assessed to John Fisher's Estate in Washington Township. John Rush was listed as a "farmer" in 1841 and assessed for property in Hereford Township. There is no clear explanation for his being reported as the owner of Mount Pleasant Forge in 1845, as revealed earlier.

In 1843 the property is listed as 55 acres, 6 horses, 1 forge, and 4 houses, with a total value of $4,060. At this time the forge was operated by J. N. H. Fisher, son of John Fisher.

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12 Ibid., p. 90.
13 Ibid., p. 156.
14 Hampton MSS, Day Book, p. 62.
15 Washington Township Assessments, 1843, Court House, Reading, Pa. Washington Township was created in 1839, largely from territory formerly in Hereford Township.
16 M. L. Montgomery, op. cit., p. 92.
For the years 1847 to 1852 a son-in-law of the original John Fisher, Abraham B. Bechtel, was taxed for the forge property; from 1852 to 1855 "Bechtel and Fisher" are listed as the taxpayers.\(^{17}\)

A description of the forge made in 1850 is as follows: water power, built in 1799;\(^{18}\) post office, Dale; owner, A. B. Bechtel; forge fires, 2; Hammers, 1; Largest production (annual), 95 tons; actual make in 1849, 95 tons; men and boys employed, 14; mules, horses, and oxen, 8; market, interior, at works or local.\(^{19}\)

Production at Mount Pleasant Forge in 1856 is given as 50 tons of blooms and 63 tons of bars.\(^{20}\)

On June 20, 1857, the forge property was sold to Samuel W. Weiss for a consideration of $1,000.\(^{21}\) He continued to operate the works until 1864, when the forge was shut down forever.\(^{22}\) The dam of the lower Mount Pleasant Forge is clearly shown on a detailed map of the locality, published in 1876.\(^{23}\) However, Morton Montgomery, writing in 1886, states, "The dam was washed away by a freshet several years ago."\(^{24}\)

Mount Pleasant Forge, then, although not in continuous operation, had existed for over 120 years (1748 to 1864). Today the site is marked by a picturesque swimming hole known locally as "The Rocks."

\(^{17}\) Washington Township Assessments, Court House, Reading, Pa.

\(^{18}\) This date is erroneous, as already proven, although the forge may have been inactive during the years 1797 to 1798.


\(^{21}\) Deed Book 66, p. 225, Court House, Reading, Pa.

\(^{22}\) M. L. Montgomery, op. cit., p. 92.

\(^{23}\) Historical Atlas of Berks County, 1876, Published by Reading Publishing House.

\(^{24}\) M. L. Montgomery, op. cit., p. 92.
THE UPPER MOUNT PLEASANT FORGE
1779 TO 1869

If the story of the lower Mount Pleasant Forge seems obscure, the upper forge is more so. In fact, if it were not for the 1816 map reference to the "Mount Pleasant Forges," as well as a deed describing property which begins "... at a sassafras in the bend of the creek at the head of lower Mount Pleasant Forge dam ..." there would be no proof that the two forges had any association.

For the bulk of the information on the upper forge it is again necessary to refer the reader to the appended table of assessment and tax records.

The earliest reference to the forge of Christian Butz is in the assessment records of Hereford Township for the year 1779. Although Butz had been a resident of the township in 1778, there is no mention of a forge in his assessment. This fact, plus the road plan reference of 1779 to the "... New Forge of William and Christian Butz ...", supports the thesis that this upper Mount Pleasant Forge was built in 1779; but it is possible that its erection may have begun during the previous year.

The assessed value of the forge in 1779 was 800 pounds, but this high valuation must be regarded in terms of the devalued "Continental Currency." According to one source this continental currency had depreciated in 1779 until one pound specie money was equal to twenty-seven pounds of continental money. The actual value of the forge is more accurately seen in 1781 when it was assessed for sixty pounds and fifty pounds in two separate assessments.

In 1784 William Butz was assessed as living at the forge and Christian Butz had a saw mill. Neither Butz was listed

220 BULLETIN OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

26 Road draft in the file of Hereford Township Drafts, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pa.
28 See Hereford Township Assessments, Appendix B.
in 1785, but a Joseph Walker was credited with a forge that was not assessed. In 1788 Thomas Walker was assessed for ownership of both forges; with this began a common history for the two Mount Pleasant Forges. A Mount Pleasant Forge was listed by Samuel Potts as being active, presumably in the year 1789. Immediately following the mention of Mount Pleasant Forge he lists “Fosh’s.” This reference has not been further identified, as far as this writer can determine. It may refer to Focht who, however, was not assessed for the upper forge until 1802.

Beginning in 1791 the forges were assessed to John and Peter Richards, until Jacob Focht took them over in 1802. Sometime after 1805, the last year of certain joint operation of both forges by Jacob Focht, the lower forge was sold to Nicholas Hunter, who was the operator in 1816.

Because the assessment records are missing between the years of 1805 to 1837, the tax lists furnish the only information concerning change in ownership. Unless the names of successive owners are known, the tax lists do not furnish sufficient information to warrant definite conclusions. It is known that Jacob Focht owned or operated the upper forge in 1816, while the tax lists reveal that he was taxed for the last time in 1821.

After 1821 the trail of ownership of the upper forge is very indistinct, although it was converted into a foundry about 1840. Mention is made of a “Washington Foundry” account in a Dale Forge ledger for the years 1840 to 1841. In 1844 a writer of the period listed the iron works of Washington Township as consisting of two forges and one iron foundry. The two forges would be Lower Mount Pleasant Forge and Dale Forge with the foundry occupying the site of the former Upper Mount Pleasant Forge.

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30 Mrs. T. P. James, op. cit., p. 71.
31 Henry M. Richards, Map of Berks County, 1816; copy of Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pa.
32 Ibid.
The next known owner of the property was Aaron Covely, whose tax history begins in Washington Township Assessment Records in the year 1847.\textsuperscript{34}

Covely died intestate in 1852, with Anthony Eltz being named administrator. The property was sold on December 26, 1853, to Joseph Kemp.\textsuperscript{35} The assessment records of Washington Township in 1855 credit Anthony Eltz with foundries, thirty acres, three horses, and three cows.\textsuperscript{36} Bridgen's township map of 1862 refers to the site as being occupied by Anthony Eltz's "Foundry and Machine Shop." In 1864 Eltz was listed as an "Ironmaster" by occupation, and the high taxes sustained by him in that year continued until 1869.\textsuperscript{37} In 1870 he was referred to as a "farmer." Although he finally secured title to the property on April 29, 1876,\textsuperscript{38} there is no record that he ever reopened the foundry. One source reveals that under Anthony Eltz's operation the foundry building burned down and he converted it into a forge.\textsuperscript{39} There is no further information on this later re-establishment of the forge.

Today the last of the old foundry buildings has been dismantled. Only the over-grown and breached dam walls mark the site of the first-mentioned "New forge" of Christian and William Butz.

\textsuperscript{34} Deed Book, Number 126, p. 278, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
\textsuperscript{35} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{36} Washington Township Assessments, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{38} Deed Book, Number 126, p. 278, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
\textsuperscript{39} M. L. Montgomery, History of Berks County (1886), p. 1001.
PART FOUR

HEREFORD FURNACE

1745 to 1768 (?)

Of all the early furnaces, the history of Hereford Furnace (or Mayburry's Furnace) is the most difficult to follow. Some of the earliest writers, such as Swank and Pearse, make no mention of the Furnace, while others, although noting its presence, dispute its location. The very valuable David Schultz map of Hereford Township, drawn up in 1753 upon the birth of the Township, settles all arguments by locating a "Maybury's Furnace" in the northwest part of the township on the West Branch of the Perkiomen, about three miles above Mount Pleasant Furnace. So prominent was the furnace that a road bisecting the township from the south led directly to the iron works, through what is now Huff's Church, and was designated as the "Road to Maybury's Furnace." The furnace stood on the west bank of the stream, close to the present dam which later furnished power for the grist mill of Adam L. Mensch. Today the mill property is used as a church camp.

In the absence of any easily accessible information the usual differences exist concerning the date of the erection of this furnace. It is competently reported to have been built in 1745 by the same Thomas Maybury who had twelve years previous established Green Lane Forge. Further support for the year 1745 as the probable birth year of Maybury's Furnace is furnished by a property deed which states that in 1744 the Proprietors surveyed a tract of 667 acres, in what was later Hereford Township, for Thomas Maybury.  

1This map is in the Hereford Township File, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
2Arthur C. Bining, Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the 18th Century, p. 188.
3Deed Files, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
though Thomas Maybury died in 1747, the warrant for this land was obtained by his widow, Sophia, in 1748, according to the deed.

Throughout its brief history the furnace, as far as can be determined, was owned by various members of the Maybury family. A stove plate cast at the furnace in 1747 is initialed “T M,” referring to Thomas Maybury, the ancestor, who died that year. Since these initials usually were those of the ironmaster operating the furnace at the time the castings were made, they are of some help in tracing a furnace’s history. One authority states that Thomas Maybury, Jr. was ironmaster at Hereford Furnace in 1753. This is not confirmed by any other source. Further, this seems unlikely, for William, the eldest son, did not become of full age until 1755; and Thomas, Jr. was much younger.

William Maybury who operated Green Lane Forge from 1757 until his death in 1764 was evidently ironmaster at Here-
ford Furnace during these same years. A stove plate cast at Hereford in 1757 is initialed "W M." In addition to these interests, William Mayburry was one of the first justices of the peace in Berks County and was a shareholder in Shearwell Furnace at Oley in 1760.

The earliest tax assessment record for Hereford Township available (1761) lists William Mayburry as owning 1,000 acres of land, 50 acres of cleared land, 20 acres of corn, 4 horses, 2 cows, 1 grist mill, and 1 Furnace. The tax was eighty pounds. Assessments for the years 1767, 1768, 1772, and 1774 and 1778 fail to mention a furnace, but there is evidence that Hereford Furnace was in blast as late as 1767. In that year what is said to have been the first ten-plate cook stove in America was cast at Hereford, although this claim may be challenged; a plate from such a stove, dated 1765 and cast at Mary Ann Furnace in West Manheim Township, York County, Pennsylvania, is listed by an authority on the subject. The cook stove cast in 1767 has a lower medallion inscribed with "Thomas Mayburry," which indicates that the younger brother of William Mayburry became ironmaster at Hereford upon the latter's death in 1764. The last stove cast at Hereford of which record is available is a ten-plate stove made in the year, 1768. A side plate for such a stove is to be found at the Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the last figure in the date is illegible, although it closely resembles a "9." There is no evidence that Hereford Furnace operated during the Revolutionary years. An explanation for the failure of assessment records, during the 1770's, to mention the furnace is offered in the following excerpt from the report of a Swedish traveler writing in 1783:

— H. C. Mercer, op. cit., p. 99. Five replicas of this stove plate are at the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa.; two additional replicas are at the Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pa.

—Ibid., p. 99.

Hereford Township Assessments, 1761, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pa.

—H. C. Mercer, op. cit., pp. 141 to 143.

—Ibid., p. 142.
The Mayberry [Maybury] blast furnace in the same county is abandoned partly because of [lack of] timber and partly because the ore must be transported from Maccongg [Macungie], ten miles away.¹⁴

The only physical description we have of Hereford Furnace depicts it as follows: The masonry stack was fifteen feet high with a massive base of approximately twenty-five feet square. Its greatest inside diameter at the “bosh” was only four feet, and its maximum production was probably no more than 1,000 pounds every twenty-four hours.¹⁵ This was indeed a small output, since most of the early furnaces produced at least fifteen to twenty tons weekly.¹⁶

That pig iron, as well as stoves, was cast at Hereford is proved by an original bar of pig iron bearing the name “Hereford,” which is in the possession of the Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania. It is reasonable to assume that most of the pig iron produced at Hereford would have been used by the Mayburrys in their forge at Green Lane.

The name, Hereford, now applied to the Township, has been associated with Hereford (Har-a-ford), England; since Thomas Maybury was of English origin, it is assumed by some that he named the furnace, “Hereford,” the name being later adopted by the Township in 1753. However, since the Schultz map of 1753¹⁷ is entitled “Draught of Hereford Township” and designates the furnace under discussion as “Maybury’s” Furnace, it is more reasonable to conclude that the furnace received its name from the township which was established in 1753.

Today the site of Hereford Furnace has been marked by the Berks County Historical Society with a stove replica of the famous 1767 cook stove. The dam which supplied the water

¹⁵ Proceedings of Berks County Historical Society, Pamphlet concerning pilgrimage of September 24, 1915.
¹⁶ A. C. Bining, op. cit., p. 79.
¹⁷ This map is in the Hereford Township file, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
power is still much in evidence about two hundred yards above the furnace site. Vestiges of the unusually long head race can be discerned along the west bank of the small stream, but no slag and only a very small portion of the furnace base can be found to further distinguish the location as the site of the second oldest furnace on the Perkiomen.
PART FIVE

SALFORD FORGE

1768 TO 1810

The Swedish visitor, Hermelin, writing in 1783, compiled a list of "Bar Iron Hammers in Pennsylvania," including the following intriguing reference: "Moyberry's [Maybury's Green Lane Forge] hammer at Perkong [Perkiomen] Creek and one [hammer] four miles below at the same stream—200 tons."¹ (Annual production). Further investigation reveals that a "Salford Forge" was listed by Samuel Potts (presumably in 1798) next to Green Lane Forge.² This juxtaposition of names would not be significant, if Hermelin's hammer had not been located just below Green Lane.

References to Salford Forge in secondary sources are very brief, revealing almost nothing of its history or location. One reliable authority states only that it was built in 1771 and was located in Montgomery County.³

Acting on the premise that a "Salford Forge" would quite probably have been located in one of the three Salford townships, the writer examined possible forge sites, working up the Perkiomen from Salford Station. At Kratz's Dam, about three miles below the site of Green Lane Forge, specimens of soft iron with infused charcoal were found near the foundation of an old grist mill. This indicated the location of the forgotten Salford Forge, but confirmation was made by tracing the present owner's title back to the original proprietary grant.

The earliest recorded deed relates that on July 28, 1770, the Proprietors granted John Cryder (alias Krider)⁴ and his wife,

¹ S. G. Hermelin, Report About the Mines in the United States of America, 1783, p. 73.
³ Arthur C. Bining, Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the 18th Century, p. 189. This date seems questionable in light of this study.
⁴ The name was variously spelled; Cryder, Creider, Kryder, Kreider, and Krider. The last form was most common and will be used in this study.
Mary Barbara, 72 acres comprising "... the Forge Tract in Upper Salford Township on the east bank of the Perkiomen..." This same deed, indentured in 1779, further identifies the property as follows, "Together with the Forge for making of Bar Iron thereon erected and built..."

Many maps were examined by the writer in an effort to confirm the location of Salford Forge. A map of 1792 drawn by Reading Howell and inscribed to Governor Thomas Mifflin locates the forge in the general area of Kratz's Dam. This fact, in conjunction with the forge refuse uncovered and the deed statement unquestionably locates the site of Salford Forge.

There is proof, too, that Salford Forge was in existence before 1771, the year given for its origin by at least two sources. A very informative manuscript consisting of a ledger for Salford Store, covering the years 1766 to 1774, lists John Krider's account as beginning on January 20, 1767. The storekeeper, Michael Croll, evidently transported some of John Krider's iron to Philadelphia, for the ledger contains this entry under the date line, July 21, 1768: "John Krider, dr. Carriage of 1 Tun Iron to Philadelphia—one pound, five shillings." This establishes the Forge as being in operation as early as 1768; moreover, it is listed in the Upper Salford Township Assessments for 1769, the earliest year for which such records are available.

The story of Salford Forge which follows is derived mainly from the assessment records and reference to the appended table will be found helpful in supplementing this commentary.

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5 Conveyance of October 9, 1779, between William Bird, party of the first part, and John Patton and Samuel Moore, parties of the second part. Recorded in Deed Book Number eight, pp. 668 to 669, Court House, Norristown.

6 A. C. Bining, op. cit., p. 189.

Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Publications III, Forges and Furnaces in the Province of Pennsylvania, p. 188.


8 Ibid., p. 80.

9 Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, V. 14, p. 55.
Scant information exists concerning John Krider and his Salford Forge during the years 1770 to 1773. He paid his bill at the Salford Store on July 8, 1771, although his account was not completely settled until January 15, 1776. The assessment records for 1773 value his property at thirty pounds and show his tax as seven shillings, six pence. It was in this year that a famous ironmaster named Robert Coleman rented Salford Forge.

Robert Coleman had come to America from Ireland in 1764 when he was but sixteen years old. Working under Peter Grubb at Hopewell Forge for six months, and next under James Old at Quitapahilla Forge, Speedwell Forge, and Reading Furnace, he rose rapidly in the iron industry. On October 4, 1773, he married Ann Old, daughter of his employer, and soon after that he rented Salford Forge for a period of three years.

A rare document, quoted by Swank, was entitled "Robert Coleman's memorial presented August 26th, 1776, asking permission for his clerk and three forgemen to be exempted from marching with the army to Amboy." It represented Robert Coleman as an officer in Colonel Potts' battalion, who was then on his march to Amboy; that he had rented a forge (Salford Forge) for three years at a rental of "two hundred a year," the lease of which would expire in three months. It further stated that the "principal part" of his workmen were Associators, who, if obliged to march with the militia, would cause him great loss and entirely prevent him from working up his stock in hand. Swank informs us that Coleman's request was granted the same day by the Council of Safety to whom it was addressed. While at Salford Forge, Coleman manufactured chain bars designed to span the Delaware River in the defense of Philadelphia against British ships. An interesting letter,

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10 Salford Store Ledger, op. cit., p. 165.
11 Sources of assessment information are given on the table appended.
12 James M. Swank, Introduction to a History of Ironmaking and Coal Mining in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, 1878), pp. 26 to 27.
13 Ibid., p. 27.
14 Ibid., p. 27.
addressed to Coleman on October 11, 1776, by the Council of Safety, stresses the urgency of forging these bars:

The Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania earnestly request you to lay aside all other business, that you may dispatch the Large chain bars wch Mr. Peter Brown of this city has bespoke of you, ... Your compliance will greatly promote the public Service, ... Please to send down immediately such parts as our [sic] done.\textsuperscript{16}

This is the only instance so far discovered in which a Perkiomen Valley iron works directly supplied requisitioned articles of defense during the Revolution.

Robert Coleman removed to Elizabeth Furnace, Lancaster County, when his lease expired in December, 1776, and he rose to great prominence in the iron industry before his retirement in 1809. He died on August 14, 1825, at the age of seventy-seven.\textsuperscript{17}

Although the records are not complete for the Revolutionary years, it is presumed that John Krider operated the forge from 1776 to 1779, since he is assessed for the property in the latter year. On June 24, 1779, John Krider and his wife, Mary Barbara, granted the 72 acres, forge, and dwelling to William Bird, of Reading, Pennsylvania. Bird, on October 9 of the same year, sold the property to John Patton, of Heidelberg Township, Berks County, and Samuel Moore of Reading, Pennsylvania, for a consideration of 20,000 pounds. This last transaction was made subject to a yearly quit rent of "... One half penny Sterling per acre for the whole of said tract now due and hereafter to become due and payable to the Chief Lord or Lords of the fee thereof and the said William Bird."\textsuperscript{17} The high cost of 20,000 pounds for the property must be inter-

\textsuperscript{16} Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, V. 5, p. 39.

\textsuperscript{17} J. M. Swank, op. cit., p. 27.

interpreted in light of the inflated money values for 1779. By contrast, the property is given a total assessment of 1,545 pounds in 1781, only two years later.\(^\text{18}\)

From the assessment records it can be seen that Samuel Moore was heavily assessed for the forge (6,000 pounds) in 1780, sustaining a tax of 348 pounds. John Patton did not share in this heavy assessment, by far the largest for the township. It will be noted that the forge property had increased to 420 acres.

In 1781 a Colonel Thomas Edwards was listed as “Ironmaster” and was assessed for the forge property then including only 375 acres. In that year John Swiceford, John Goudcher, and Fred Aaron Clay were listed as forgemen, bearing occupation taxes of 35, 55, and 55 pounds respectively.\(^\text{19}\)

Richard Patton, probably a relative of John Patton, is listed as “forgeman” in 1783. The itemized assessment on the Salford Forge property for that year is interesting:

Richard Patton

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{120 acres and Dwelling } & 360 \\
\text{300 acres Rockland} & 300 \\
\text{1 Forge} & 500 \\
\text{10 Horses} & 145 \\
\text{4 Cows} & 16 \\
\text{1 Servant} & 10 \\
\text{2 Negroes} & 145 \\
\text{3 oz Plate} & 1 \\
\text{Occupation} & 80^{20} \\
\end{array}
\]

1557

Colonel John Patton, one of the co-purchasers of the Salford Forge property in 1779, was assessed for the forge in the period from 1785 to 1789. Like Robert Coleman, he was a

\(^{18}\) See assessment figures appended.


\(^{20}\) Ibid.
Revolutionary War officer, elected Colonel of the Fifth Battalion of Associators from Berks County. Also, like Coleman, he married into a famous ironmaster's family when he took the widow of William Bird for his wife in 1762. In this way he became part owner of Roxborough Furnace, later Berkshire Furnace, in Heidelberg Township, Berks County.

Assessment figures for the Salford Forge property during the years of John Patton's term as ironmaster there indicate an active forge. In 1785 the forgemen were listed as William Cotter, Andrew Loreman, and William Mills, each sustaining an occupation tax of fifty pounds. A possible source of pig iron for Salford Forge was Berkshire Furnace, in which Patton had an interest. In March, 1788, John Patton was billed for 45 tons of pig iron at seven pounds 10 shillings per ton at this furnace.

Patton probably left Salford Forge in 1790. Unfortunately the assessment records are missing for that year, but one source states that in 1790 he sold his Berkshire Furnace interests to George Ege, who had been operating the furnace under lease, and proceeded to Centre County. There, in 1791, he and Colonel Samuel Miles erected Centre Furnace.

John Patton was still assessed for 363 acres of land in 1791, but another famous ironmaster, James Old, was assessed for the 78 acres comprising the forge property proper. He (Old) was the father-in-law of Robert Coleman and was responsible for the erection of several forges in Pennsylvania. John Patton's one half interest in the Salford Forge property was sold by the sheriff on August 16, 1791, to Michael Zigler.

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23 Upper Salford Township Assessments, 1785, Court House, Norristown, Pa.
26 A. C. Bining, op. cit., pp. 144, 188, 189.
27 Deed Book Number 37, pp. 502 to 504, Court House, Norristown, Pa.
The records for 1792 and 1794 are missing, but from 1793 to 1796 the forge appears to have been actively operated by two partners, Richards and Jolly. It is interesting to note that the assessed value of the forge was changed from 350 pounds in 1795 to $900 in 1796 when the new monetary denominations first appear in the assessment records.

Management of the forge was exclusively in the hands of John Richards in 1797, and except for the two years following, when his brother, Mathias Richards, sustained the assessment, he operated the forge until it closed. John Richards, like Coleman and Patton, represents another influential ironmaster and public servant to have come to Salford Forge. Of German origin, Richards was elected to the Fourth United States Congress in 1796 to 1797, and from 1801 to 1807 he served in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He died in 1822 at the age of 69.\(^8\)

John Richards' estate of ten acres was added to the forge property in 1799, bringing the total acreage to 83. In 1800 the assessment records list a "Grismill" as existing on the property. This represents the first diversion of water power away from the forge.

There is evidence that Salford Forge acquired part of its pig iron from another Perkiomen Valley iron industry in 1801. Dale Furnace, still to be discussed, debited John Richards for four tons of pig iron at 10 pounds, seven shillings, six pence on January 3 of that year.\(^9\)

Jonas Weaver, who was associated with Salford Forge at least as early as 1802, was also charged with 34 tons of pig iron, delivered in 1800 and 1801.\(^10\)

Ownership of the forge property came into the hands of one person, Michael Zigler, on November 9, 1801, when the executors of Samuel Moore's estate deeded the remaining half


\(^10\)Ibid., p. 90.
of the land to him. However, John Richards, who was operating the forge during this period, purchased the entire property from Michael Zigler on July 5, 1808.

There is reason to believe that John Richards was no longer in charge at Salford Forge after 1807. In 1808 the assessments were credited to “John Richards, Estate”; Jonas Weaver was listed as “Ironmaster.” The records for 1809 are lost; those of 1810 list the forge as usual; but the assessments of 1811 reflect the last days of Salford Forge: “Jonas Weaver, forge-master, moved to Northampton County in 1811 [or 1810], Adam Moser, forgeman, moved to Marlborough Township in 1811.” To complete the picture, a forge is listed under the usual “John Richards, Estate” heading, but it is then crossed out, with no assessment listed. Thus the year 1810 appears to have been the last year of activity for Salford Forge. A continued examination of the assessment records on the property up until the year 1830 did not reveal any later forge operations on this site.

Throughout the 42 years of Salford Forge's known history at least eleven different forge masters shared its management. Generally, as lessees of the forge, they were responsible for the payment of the taxes on the forge property. It can justly be concluded that probably no iron work in the Perkiomen Valley saw the presence of so many distinguished ironmasters and Revolutionary personages as did Salford Forge.

**Miscellaneous Iron Works in the Area of Salford Forge**

**Daniel Krider's "Hammer," Listed in 1785**

Daniel Krider, brother of John Krider, the founder of Salford Forge, was credited with the following property in the Marlborough Township assessments for 1785:

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31 Deed Book Number 37, pp. 502 to 504, Court House, Norristown, Pa.
32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Upper Salford Township Assessments, 1811, Court House, Norristown, Pa.
35 Daniel Krider is referred to as John Krider's brother in the Salford Store Ledger, *op. cit.*, p. 80.
Daniel Kryder [Krider]

[Assessed value in pounds]

62 acres and Dwelling .................. 124
1 small hammer .......................... 25
2 horses ..................................
1 cow ...................................
1 hemp mill ............................ 100\(^{35}\)

abated 25 pounds ............. 249

This mention of "1 small hammer" doubtless refers to a tilt hammer (or plating mill) at which bar iron from the forges was hammered into sheet iron or tin-plate iron.\(^{36}\)

A review of the available assessment records revealed that Daniel Krider did not own a hammer in 1783, nor was it in existence in 1786. It would appear, therefore, that this small industry was of short duration—two years at the most.

**THE TILT HAMMER OF PETER SHULL—1820 TO 1831**

Unlocated, other than having existed in Frederick Township in 1832, is a "Tilt-mill" mentioned in a history of Montgomery County.\(^{37}\) Reference to the assessment records furnished the only information discovered on this hammer by the writer. This data has been appended for the reader's examination.\(^{38}\)

Assessment records for the years prior to 1820 do not mention the tilt-hammer. It was recorded as part of Peter Shull's property from that year until 1831. After 1831 the property was assessed to Peter Renninger, the hammer no longer being listed. It is interesting to see that, throughout the eleven-year period of his ownership of the tilt hammer, Peter Shull was listed merely as a "farmer."\(^{39}\) This is an example of the way such small industries furnished off-season employment to men whose main occupation or source of income was farming.

\(^{35}\) Marlborough Township Assessments, 1785", The Perkiomen Region, December, 1923.

\(^{36}\) A. C. Bining, op. cit., pp. 45, 87, 122.


\(^{38}\) See Appendix D.

\(^{39}\) Frederick Township Assessments, Court House, Norristown, Pa.
Dale Furnace was built in 1791 on the West Branch of the Perkiomen, just two miles above Mount Pleasant Furnace and a mile below the inactive Hereford Furnace. It hugged the west bank of the stream about 300 yards below the dam. The furnace today is nothing but a tumbling pile of masonry, so reclaimed by undergrowth and forest that it cannot be seen from the road. The long head race extending from the dam several hundred yards above furnished water power necessary to operate the two big bellows producing the blast. This race way has long since been obliterated by farming methods. While no details are available on the dimensions of Dale Furnace, observation of its remains gives the impression of a small furnace, probably not over twenty feet in height.

The erection of Dale Furnace is credited to three men: Thomas Potts, Joseph Potts, Jr., and John Smith, all well known iron masters. In 1791 they purchased from Lewis Walker a tract of land in Hereford Township (since 1839, Washington Township). The assessment records tax “Smith, Potts, and Co.” for 250 acres in 1791, but the furnace was not assessed until 1792. (The reader is referred to the appended table of assessment and tax statistics). One reliable authority lists Samuel Potts as the builder of Dale Furnace. It is presumed that he sponsored the undertaking, since it took considerable capital to erect a furnace.

3 Hereford Township Assessments, 1792, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.
In 1793 Joseph Potts, Jr., sold his one-third interest to Robert E. Hobart. A series of changes in the partnership arrangements for the Dale Company is indicated throughout the late 1790's. In 1796 a "Lueys" Walker was assessed for the Dale Property, but the furnace was not listed and probably was not in blast that year. The records for 1797 are missing, but an advertisement which appeared in a Reading newspaper on March 4 of that year listed for sale, among other items, "...One full, equal, undivided Third Part of Dale Furnace, and the Lands thereunto belonging, consisting about 250 acres, situate in Hereford Township, Berks County," There is no knowledge as to whose share was here being put up for sale.

The assessments from 1798 until 1801 were made on the Estate of Miles and Hobart. For the years 1799 to 1801 there exists the only manuscript material available, consisting of a day book and ledger. Information obtained from these sources will be discussed in a later chapter, but it is helpful in tracing the controlling interests at the furnace to note the following entry in the Day Book for October 14, 1800: "Furn. Dr. to Stephen Potts for 1 yrs. services as Manager up to this date @ 300 dols.—112 pounds, 10 shillings."

Iron ore was hauled from the rich deposits at Colebrookdale during the years 1799 to 1800. This is indicated by many entries in the Day Book, of which the following is typical: "December 24, 1799—Furnace Dr. to John Seischold for hauling 30c Mine [iron ore] from Colebrookdale—13s-6d."

Although the best studies made in tracing stove plates back to their respective furnaces make no mention of existing Dale plates, many ten-plate stoves were made and sold there in the years 1799 to 1800. Indeed, so heavy was the trade in stoves

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5 M. L. Montgomery, op. cit., p. 95.
6 Reading Weekly Advertiser, March 4, 1797.
8 Ibid., Day Book, p. 70.
and country castings that little pig iron was produced during the same period.\textsuperscript{10}

Jacob Focht, who at the time was also operating the Mount Pleasant Forges, was assessed for Dale Furnace in 1802 and 1803. It is noteworthy that the assessed value of the furnace had jumped from $500 in 1799 to $1,000 in 1802, with a commensurate rise in taxes.

The records for 1804 are missing, but that was the year in which the forge is reported by one source to have been erected on the property.\textsuperscript{11} However, the assessment records, usually all-inclusive, do not list a forge in 1805, the last year for which we have an itemized assessment up until the year 1837. Although the property value represents an increase of $1,000 over that of 1802, it will be noted that this is accounted for by rises in the assessed value of the land and the furnace. That the question of the year of the forge's erection is a matter of controversy is indicated by two other suggested dates, 1803\textsuperscript{12} and 1811.\textsuperscript{13}

After the addition of the forge the whole enterprise became known as the Dale Iron Works. In 1811 it was owned by Thomas Bull, Robert May, John Smith, and John Thompson.\textsuperscript{14} A description of the property as it existed at that time depicts a large estate. In addition to a furnace and a forge there were the following: a saw mill, blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, stone quarry, superior dam (covering 14 acres), and several hundred acres in Hereford and Colebrookdale Townships.\textsuperscript{15}

From 1805 to 1819 the taxes were charged to John Thompson Co., Ironmasters. It would appear that, throughout this period, the furnace was active. The finding of many small can-

\textsuperscript{10} Dale MSS, Day Book, passim.
\textsuperscript{11} Reading Eagle, September 24, 1915, Quoting speech delivered by D. Horace Schall to a delegation of the Berks County Historical Society.
\textsuperscript{13} M. L. Montgomery, op. cit., p. 95.
\textsuperscript{14} Ibid., p. 95.
\textsuperscript{15} Reading Eagle, September 24, 1915.
non balls and some six-inch diameter round shells in the slag heaps and fields near the site indicates that munitions for the War of 1812 were cast at Dale Furnace.¹⁶

In 1820 the property was taxed to “Jacob Leaser,” more correctly identified as Dr. Jacob Loeser. Under his management Dale Furnace was “blown out” in 1822.¹⁷ Only the forge continued to operate. Dr. Loeser died in 1823, and in the following year the taxes were levied on his “Estate.” In 1826 the property was purchased by George Schall and his son, David Schall, for $11,900.¹⁸ Following this transaction, Dale Forge became the chief industrial activity, since there is no indication that Dale Furnace ever resumed operations after 1822.

**DALE FORGE — 1804(?) TO 1868**

Dale Forge, which had been erected sometime earlier (probably 1811), continued as the chief interest of the Schalls from their acquisition of the property in 1826 until its abandonment in 1868. It stood just below the dam on the west side of the stream no more than 200 feet from the mansion house.¹⁹

It was a large forge, details of which have been revealed by a member of the family, David Horace Schall, who died in 1927. The building was 40 by 50 feet in ground dimensions, with walls twelve feet high. It was covered with a double-pitched tile roof, with two hearths and massive chimneys at the gable ends inside. Two separate hammers, one, 500 pounds and the other, 600 pounds, were worked by undershot water wheels at the gable ends outside. These wheels were eight feet wide and fourteen feet in diameter. The hammers were

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¹⁹ Morton Montgomery reports that when Dale Forge was first started it was known as “Focht’s Forge”. This might be evidence that the forge was erected in 1803 or 1804 since they represent the years in which Jacob Focht was assessed for the Dale property; although the assessment of 1805 does not mention a forge.

attached to heavy wooden handles which, when forced up against spring-like oak beams, struck the hot blooms on the anvils with increased momentum. The anvils weighed about 800 pounds; they were set on several layers of chestnut logs, which in turn rested on large circular oak blocks imbedded eight feet in the ground. Blast for the hearths was supplied by two big bellows operated by an overshot wheel, four feet wide and twenty feet in diameter, located outside on the northeast corner of the forge. The blast was conducted from the bellows to the fires by tin flues. When this account was made in 1915 one of the chimneys was still standing, but today only the foundations of the forge can be discerned, outlined by the walled-up tail races. The charcoal house, located between the forge and the dam site, can be identified only by vestiges of its sturdy walls.

The mansion house, originally built in 1791 to 1792 together with the furnace, was extended in 1827. It is still occupied by the Schall family and is the repository of many interesting account books covering the operation of the forge. A one-story stone office building, rebuilt in April, 1854 and used as early as 1828 as the Dale Post Office, is directly across the road from the mansion house. Tenant and farm buildings that still exist indicate a plantation of considerable size.

The father and son, George and David Schall, who purchased Dale Forge in 1826, sprang from an old patrician Rhineland family. In 1748 Tobias Schall and his wife, Magdaline, landed at Charleston, South Carolina, with their twelve-year-old son, George. Later George Schall settled in Pike Township, Berks County. He served faithfully as a Lieutenant in Colonel Daniel Hunter's Regiment during the Revolution. He died on December 5, 1802 and is buried with his wife at Hill Church—a church of which he was one of the founders.

20 Reading Eagle, September 24, 1915.
21 Dale Forge MSS., Time Book Number 3, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
His son, the Honorable George Schall, born in Pike Township on December 26, 1768, is credited with having been an agriculturist, blacksmith, and miller, as well as serving as a State Senator during the years from 1825 to 1828. When the Senator and his son, David (born on May 25, 1801), leased Dale Forge in 1825, he entered still another industry. His death at Dale is graphically recorded by his son: "Monday, May 23, 1831,—My Father died at 30 minutes before [sic] 5 o'clock in the afternoon by a fall he had received from his wagon near Drunkiller's on Sat. evening the 21st."22

The central figure in the further history of Dale Forge was this same David Schall who, like his brother, William,23 became an influential ironmaster, a noteworthy public servant, and a man of means. He manufactured bar-iron and blooms at Dale Forge for at least 45 years. Concurrently he operated the large farm connected with it. The records which he kept during these years prove he was an industrious and careful manager. These records have been of great assistance to the writer and furnish much of the material produced later in this study.

As a public official, David Schall was a member of the Democratic Party, just as his father had been. He served as county auditor from 1842 to 1845 and Associate Judge of Berks County from 1856 to 1866. In addition, he was Postmaster at Dale and a Captain in the old State Militia. His wife, Catherine Endy (1805 to 1873), mothered four daughters and five sons, many of whom brought added distinction to a family traditionally noted for its industry, culture, and public service. David Schall passed away on January 22, 1877, at the age of 75.24

The history of Dale Forge from the standpoint of ownership is simplified by the fact that, upon the death of George

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22 Dale Forge MSS., Time Book Number 1, p. 51, Schwenckfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
23 Ironmaster at Green Lane Forge, 1833 to 1848.
Schall in 1831, the entire estate became the property of his son, David, who retained ownership throughout the life of the forge. Since the itemized assessment lists are not available for the years 1805 to 1837, we do not have a statement regarding the extent of the property until the latter year. In 1837 David Schall was assessed for the following:

David Schall

[Assessed Value in Dollars]

Occupation Tax ........................ 100
175 acres clear ........................ 4375
200 acres wood @ 12 ................. 2400
20 acres wood @ 20 .................. 400
25 acres sprout @ 5 ................. 125
22 acres sprout @ 6 ................. 132
 1 Forge ............................. 900
Saw Mill ............................. 30
10 horses @ 45 ....................... 450
4 cows .............................. 40
7 Houses ............................. 500

9452
Tax—20.40

This is an interesting assessment, revealing the varying land values for cut-over land in contrast to cleared land and woodland. This tax figure of $20.40 was collected in 1838 according to the tax lists.²⁵

When Washington Township was formed in 1839, chiefly from land formerly in Hereford Township, it evidently resulted in confusion as to which township could legally assess the valuable Schall property. The line between the townships as finally established passed just north of Dale Forge, locating most of the property permanently in Washington Township. However, from 1840 to 1843, David Schall was assessed in both townships for a forge, while his other property was divided. Neither the assessment records nor tax lists are available for the years 1844 and 1845, but in 1846 the Forge Dale

²⁵ Hereford Township Assessments, 1837, Court House, Reading, Pa.
²⁶ See tax list figures appended.
property was assessed in Hereford Township, while David Schall was listed as a non-resident and assessed for a property valued at only $2,875 in Washington Township. This curious state of affairs finally resolved itself in 1851 when Hereford Township claimed the Dale Forge property for the last time. In 1855 the Washington Township records list the bulk of the Schall property, comprised of 370 acres, 10 horses, 4 cows, $3000 in bonds, and $8000 in buildings for a total assessment of $15,345. The dispute evidently settled, the estate “remained” in Washington Township from that year on.27

The last detailed description of the forge proper was made in 1860. This listed 3 forge fires, 2 hammers, 16 men and boys employed, a maximum annual production of 100 tons of blooms and 104 tons of bars; an actual production in 1849 of 15 tons of blooms and 95 tons of bars, and supplying an interior market at the works or local.28

Pig iron was secured by David Schall from a circle of furnaces, only two of which (Hampton and Green Lane) were located along the Perkiomen. The Time Books reveal the many ironworks which the teamsters visited in quest of pig iron. In the period from 1827 to 1841 the following furnaces supplied Dale Forge: Mary Ann (Trexler’s); Hopewell; Oley; Sally Ann (Hunter’s); Moselem; Balliet’s; Hampton; Joanna. From 1841 until 1869 pig iron was acquired at Trexler’s, Easton, Stony Point, Glasgow, Coventry, Green Lane, Joanna, Oley, Hampton, Hopewell, Manatawny, Douglasville, Pottstown, Shamrock, and Sally Ann. The business relationship between Dale Forge and Hampton Furnace was particularly close during the period from 1832 to 1868.

Dale Forge was the last forge to continue to operate in the Perkiomen Valley. In May, 1869, David Schall wrote “Forge” at the top of his monthly time sheet for the last time; henceforth he listed his establishment as “Dale Farm.”29

27 See appended list of assessment and tax figures.
29 Dale Forge MSS., Time Book Number 3, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pa.
The coming of the Colebrookdale Branch of the Reading Railroad in 1869 to Barto, a few miles below Dale Forge, arrived too late to save this local industry. It is unlikely, however, that this improvement in transportation could have long saved the picturesque old charcoal forge. Too many technological advances had been made prior to and during the Civil War period to justify operation of the old forge hammers on a profitable basis. The more modern and efficient rolling mills were supplanting the old forges by producing a better product in quantities more likely to meet the demands imposed by the industrial expansion following the Civil War.

**Miscellaneous Ironworks in the Dale Forge Area**

**The Forge of Peter Weller—1837 (?) to 1841**

The Hereford Township assessment records for 1837 list the following:

Peter Weller

[Assessed Value in Dollars]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ironmaster</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Houses</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Acres Clear @ 18</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Acres Sprout @ 5</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Horses @ 35</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Cows</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Forge</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Acres Warrant-clear @ 18</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Acres Warrant-sprout @ 8</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2148

Tax ........ 46530

The location of this small forge was on the West Branch between Dale Forge and the site of the old Hereford Furnace. The authority for this information gives the location after discussing the grist mills of Adam Mensch and John Rush: "Between these there was a forge carried on for a time by [Hereford Township Assessments, 1837, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.]

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80 Hereford Township Assessments, 1837, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
Peter Weller, but which was abandoned and the building converted into a smith-shop.\(^{31}\) The site is still recognizable today several hundred yards below Mensch's Dam. A long head race carried the water under the road and across a field to the forge site.

Peter Weller was a tax-payer in Hereford Township as early as 1826,\(^{25}\) but the exact year in which the forge was built is not certain. It is last mentioned in Peter Weller’s assessment of 1841, with a reduced valuation of $250.\(^{33}\)

Weller purchased modest quantities of pig iron at Hampton Furnace in the years 1839 to 1840. One entry for March 28, 1840, reads in part: “. . . Sold to Peter Weller and delivered to his carter from Nov. 6/39 to Jan. 14/40—26½ Tons Pig Metal at $30 per ton—$795.00 . . . .”\(^{34}\)

The same source reveals that Weller was buying his pig iron on credit, offering as payment some bar iron, but generally giving his notes which were seldom paid when due.\(^{35}\) On Jan. 12, 1842, it was recorded that his financial difficulties had finally involved him in a court suit, “Hunter and Heimbach vs Peter Weller,” to recover a debt of $37.74, owing John V. R. Hunter.\(^{36}\)

According to a search of the title for the property upon which the forge was located, it was sold by the sheriff to Horatio Trexler on November 20, 1841, as part of the property of Amos Schultz. The consideration was $1700. Trexler conveyed the estate to William Bauer on March 29, 1855.\(^{37}\) A map of 1862 refers to the site as “William Bauer’s Machine Shop.”\(^{38}\)

\(^{22}\) Hereford Township Tax Lists, Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pennsylvania.
\(^{23}\) Hereford Township Assessments, 1841, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
\(^{24}\) Hampton MSS, Day Book, p. 161.
\(^{27}\) Deed Book Number 364, p. 356, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
\(^{28}\) Bridgen's *Township Map of Berks County*, 1882, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
After Bauer's death the site was sold to Augustus Kehs on April 2, 1865. Kehs conveyed the property to Franklin Rohrbach (Rohrbach) on April 3, 1865, with the "Wheelright shop and water power" included. The last note to be made on the later history of Peter Weller's forge site is found on a map of 1876 which identifies the location as "Franklin Rohrbach's Blacksmith Shop."

THE TILT HAMMER OF JOHN BAUER (BOWER) 1837 (?) TO 1842

The Hereford Township Assessments of 1837 credit John Bower, blacksmith, with a tilt hammer for which he was assessed $50. This small iron work is still mentioned in the assessments of 1841 and 1842, but there is no reference to it in 1843, the last year for which an itemized assessment list is available. The exact location of this hammer is uncertain.

That John Bower's (Bauer) establishment was a small enterprise is reflected in the extremely small purchases of bar iron at Hampton Furnace:

De. 17, 1838—276 lbs. @ 5.50 cwt. ........ 15.05
Jan. 15, 1839—153 lbs. @ 5 cts. ............ 7.65
Nov. 2, 1840—15 lbs. @ 5 cts. ............... .75
Jan. 19, 1841—586 lbs. @ 5 cts. ............ 29.30

THE TILT HAMMER OF JOHN SMITH (MENTIONED IN 1840)

The only mention of this hammer occurs in the first assessments for the new Washington Township in 1840. John Smith, who did not own a hammer in 1837, is credited with a house,

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39 Deed Book Number 364, p. 356, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.
40 Historical Atlas of Berks County, 1876, Published by Reading Publishing House, Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.
41 Hampton MSS, Day Book, pp. 40, 44, 197, 207.
42 Hereford Township Assessments, 1837, Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania
32 acres, 3 cows, and one hammer (value, $50). The total property assessment is $1300; the tax, $2.60.\textsuperscript{43}

The Washington Township assessments for 1841 and 1843 reveal no further information on this hammer. The exact location is unknown.

**THE TILT HAMMER OF REUBEN RICHARD**
(MENTIONED IN 1840)

Reuben Richard's tilt hammer is mentioned only once—in the Washington Township Assessments for 1840. The owner, according to the tax lists, was a taxpayer since 1832; in 1837 he is listed as a "forgeman."\textsuperscript{44} The hammer, valued at $25 in 1840, is not assessed in 1841 and 1843, although Reuben Richard is still classed as a forgeman and hammerman.\textsuperscript{45} It can be assumed from this that he probably worked at one of the larger forges in Washington Township—Mount Pleasant or Dale. Like the hammer of John Smith, the location of Reuben Richard's establishment is unknown.

\textsuperscript{43} Washington Township Assessments, 1840, Court House, Reading, Pa.

\textsuperscript{44} Hereford Township Assessments, 1837, Court House, Reading, Pa.

\textsuperscript{45} Washington Township Assessments, 1841, 1843, Court House, Reading, Pa.
PART SEVEN

HAMPTON FURNACE (LATER SIGMUND)
1809 TO 1869

Hampton Furnace was erected in 1809 by Heimbach, Wisserman, and Coverly. This furnace, assumed to be the first in Lehigh County, stood in Upper Milford Township on the North or Main branch of the Perkiomen, close by the Berks County line. It was the only iron industry located on this branch.

Little is recorded concerning the three original founders of Hampton Furnace. David Heimbach, whose family can be traced to 1743 when Matthias Heimbach came to this country from Germany, soon bought out his partners; as sole owner he operated the furnace until 1832. On August 13 of that year it was sold with a tract of ninety acres to John V. R. Hunter, who operated the works for two years. The Hunter family at this time owned five furnaces—Moselem, Windsor (later Greenwich), Oley (later District), Sally Ann, and Hampton.

On May 20, 1834, John V. R. Hunter conveyed to Daniel V. R. Hunter and his wife, Anna, Hampton Furnace and 24 acres 82 perches of land for the sum of $9,000. On the same date two other tracts of land totaling 65 acres 114 perches also changed hands between the same two parties for an additional sum of $1,000.

Daniel Hunter must have found the venture unprofitable, for on March 31, 1838, he sold the entire property back to John V. R. Hunter, in partnership with Paul Miller, for the sum of $10,000. However, since 1836, two years previous to...
this transaction, Hunter and Miller had been operating the furnace under the name of the New Hampton Works. This information is found in account books covering the years from 1836 to 1844.6

Many interesting details concerning the New Hampton Works are revealed in these account books, as well as a wealth of information on prices and wages. For the two years 1836 to 1838 a “forge” was listed in the accounts that produced a profit of $1,244.91 1/2. This is the only reference found to date to a forge having been in operation at Hampton. The two years mentioned above seem to have been the limit of its existence. Another interesting detail concerns a canal boat, the “Boat Albany,” which was purchased in June, 1836, for the sum of $280.00. There are many references to cargoes carried on this boat, including “Stone-coal from Mauch Chunk” and “28 tons of Plaster of Paris from Philadelphia to Allentown.”

On March 14, 1838, Hunter and Miller renewed the partnership with a total inventory of $3,194.34, having sold the whole movable stock on January 28, 1837, to Thomas M. Smith and Thomas S. Richards. The inventory for the sale and the amounts received give an interesting view of the establishment at this time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Movables comprising teams, etc. for the sums of</td>
<td>$3590.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Albany and Furniture belonging thereto for</td>
<td>$318.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forge-utensils, cinder, Pigs, Iron and scraps belonging to it</td>
<td>$974.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace-utensils and Hearthstones</td>
<td>$708.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith shop - utensils, etc</td>
<td>$143.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise, the whole stock from store</td>
<td>$1893.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm, sundries belonging to that acct.</td>
<td>$477.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Iron, the whole remaining on hand</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig Metal, the whole remaining on hand</td>
<td>$546.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Expense—Oats, Hay, etc. on hand</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9888.81</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Hampton Furnace MSS., Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Penns-burg, Pennsylvania. The artistic script and scroll work found in these books makes them unusual.

7 Hampton Furnace MSS., Day Book, 1836 to 1844, passim.

8 Ibid., p. 38.
The fact that over a year transpired before the furnace was again in blast may reflect the unsettled business conditions of the panic year of 1837.

In the fall of 1838 a stamping mill to crush old cinder and slag was added to the works. A cupola also is mentioned after 1838 and is credited with a profit of $1,674.67\frac{1}{2}$ for the period from April, 1841, to April, 1843. This profit was largely due to a brisk business in casting stoves. Further, the accounts show that the blast of 1838 consumed 420 tons of iron ore, 58 tons of limestone, and 339 loads of charcoal. The furnace produced 226 ton, 16 cwt., 1 qr. of pig iron during the same blast, valued at $29 per ton.\(^9\)

Only 110 tons of pig iron were produced during a fifty-three-day blast in 1840. In the following year the Daybook records that a seventy-eight day blast produced a total of 93 tons of pig iron, valued at $28 per ton. How the furnace became a liability is shown in the following figures taken from the Hampton Ledger:

\[\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Furnace Account} \\
\text{Period} & \text{Debit} & \text{Credit} & \text{Loss} & \text{Profit} \\
\text{(April to April)} & & & & \\
1836—38 & 7,415.50 & 14,643.72 & & 7,228.22 \\
1838—39 & 7,139.94\frac{1}{2} & 6,630.04 & 509.90\frac{1}{2} & \\
1839—40 & 11,188.64\frac{3}{4} & 10,767.87\frac{1}{4} & 420.77\frac{1}{4} & \\
1840—41 & 4,147.03\frac{1}{2} & 3,626.70 & 520.33\frac{1}{2} & \\
1841—Aug. 28, 1844 & 4,369.86 & 3,555.66 & 1,014.19 & \\
\end{array}\]

The Cupola appears to have done better toward the end of this same period:

\[\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Cupola Account} \\
\text{Period} & \text{Debit} & \text{Credit} & \text{Loss} & \text{Profit} \\
\text{(April to April)} & & & & \\
1838—39 & 905.57 & 704.38\frac{3}{4} & 201.18\frac{1}{4} & \\
1840—41 & 5,155.83 & 4,060.27\frac{3}{4} & 1,096.55\frac{1}{4} & \\
1841—43 & 4,676.47\frac{1}{2} & 6,351.15 & & 1,674.67\frac{1}{2} \\
\end{array}\]

\(^{9}\) Hampton Furnace MSS., Day Book, February 5, 1838.

\(^{10}\) Ibid., Ledger, p. 226.
On October 11, 1844, Paul Miller billed the furnace $4,000 for six years' services as manager, but there was little chance of his collecting; the firm was then bankrupt. The profit and loss account for October 11, 1844, showed a total loss of $2,526.78 which had been accumulating since 1838. The last entry in the Hampton Ledger under the date of November 25, 1844, reads, "Here they got stopped by the Sheriff."

To satisfy the claims against the property it was sold by the Sheriff to John Gross of Allentown. There is scant information on the operation of the furnace under Gross' management, but some significance might rest in the fact that Dale Forge, a good customer of Hampton Furnace since 1832, made no hauls of pig iron from Hampton during the period from August, 1841, to February, 1847. This would indicate that the furnace was out of blast during that period.

A sheriff's announcement of a sale dated February 3, 1849, furnishes the next link in the chain of unhappy events at Hampton. The announcement states that John Gross' property, composed of Hampton Furnace and three tracts of land totaling 67 acres, 42 perches, is to be sold to satisfy a debt of $1,230.82; a debt which Frederick Sigmund and Horatio Trexler, assignees of Hunter and Miller, wish to recover. The sale was held on January 28, 1850. At this time Frederick Sigmund bought the property for $3,525. However, this must have represented only a one-fourth interest in the Hampton estate, since a deed of April 15, 1858, conveyed to Sigmund an additional "one-fourth part of the Hampton Furnace property, including the three contiguous tracts of land in Upper Mifflord." This share was sold by various members of the Hunter family for a consideration of $9,000. The following year Frederick Sigmund got complete control of the property with

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11 Ibid.
13 Dale Forge MSS., Time Book Number 2.
14 Sheriff's Announcement, in possession of Peter J. Faust, Emmaus, Pennsylvania.
15 Deed in possession of Peter J. Faust, Emmaus, Pennsylvania.
a conveyance of the remaining half-interest by John McManus and Jacob V. R. Hunter, both of Reading, for the sum of $3,500. This deed is dated October 29, 1859.\(^{16}\)

Details on the furnace's construction are meager; a description made in 1850 furnishes a few facts on the enterprise. It was a cold blast, water powered furnace, with a nine-foot bosh, a single tuyere (diameter, 2 inches), and a height of 32 feet. It employed 46 men and boys, 26 draft animals, and used local brown hematite ore. The furnace had an annual production capacity of 800 tons, but its largest production was 650 tons. It made close “Grey Iron,” as well as mottled or white hard iron, which was mainly marketed in Philadelphia. The owners in 1850 were listed as Seyfert, McManus, and Co.;\(^{17}\) although from information already provided, it is clear they could not have had more than a small ownership interest—probably lessees.

When Frederick Sigmund took over in 1850 the furnace was renamed Sigmund Furnace. In contrast to its previous history, prosperous days followed. The new manager practically rebuilt the furnace, added more land, and erected tenant houses. Improvements were made “... until it became one of the most prosperous and desirable charcoal-iron plants in the State. The metal made there was first class, always commanding the highest prices and a ready sale. During our Civil War it was largely used for the manufacture of government cannon ... .”\(^{18}\) Here Dr. Leisenring, who married Emma E. Sigmund, daughter of the ironmaster, writes of the period from 1852 to 1857. Another source states that in 1857 Sigmund Furnace produced 722 tons of “first-class car-wheel iron” in 28 weeks.\(^{19}\)

Frederick Sigmund died at Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, on June 25, 1860, intestate. The furnace property was sold for

\(^{16}\) Ibid.


\(^{18}\) H. A. Schuller, *op. cit.*

\(^{19}\) B. L. Miller, *op. cit., p. 253.*
$7,337 and was purchased in equal shares by the three heirs, Henry M., Albert M., and Emma E. The two brothers operated the furnace until November 1, 1865. In that year Albert sold his share to Henry for $3,500. During the Civil War Henry managed the furnace, while Albert was a surgeon in the Federal Army. After selling out to his brother in 1865, Albert moved to Shimnersville to continue his medical practice until his death in April, 1872.20

The furnace was definitely in blast as late as 1867, although it may have operated in 1868. In December, 1867, David Schall wrote from Dale Forge that both Trexler (Mary Ann) and Sigmund furnaces were out of blast and probably would not be in blast until May (1868).21 Dale Forge teams were contacting the furnace as late as 1869, although this is not absolute proof that the furnace was in blast in that year. It is worth noting that both Dale Forge and Sigmund Furnace closed in the same year, after a business relationship established as early as 1832.22

An agreement, dated October 25, 1869, sold the real estate to Peter Faust for $6,000. In this same document Henry Sigmund gave his brother power of attorney to sell the Hampton Furnace Property "...with Mansion House and five tenant Houses."23 Henry Sigmund died at Shimnersville on August 11, 1876, leaving two daughters.

The entire property came into possession of Peter Faust on March 14, 1870. He proceeded to establish a powder mill, which blew up in March, 1874, killing an operator, James Watson.24 Mr. Peter J. Faust, son of the owner in 1870, is still living (1948) and he helped dismantle the old furnace. He testifies that when his father purchased the property it was with the purpose of operating the furnace. However, condi-

20 H. A. Schuler, op. cit.
22 Dale Forge MSS., Pig Iron Books.
23 Agreement in possession of Peter J. Faust, Emmaus, Pennsylvania.
24 H. A. Schuler, op. cit.
tions in the iron industry discouraged such a venture. In 1886 the Fausts built a creamery on the site of the old Hampton Furnace and today the same building, since used for other purposes, marks the spot.

Two dams and raceways are still visible above the furnace site, while the steep hill to the northwest will always be "der Furnace-Berg." There is little else to identify the site as the location of an industry which, for sixty years, supplied the local market with a superior iron product.
PART EIGHT

DUBS FORGE (APPROX. 1734-1890)

A little known ironworks, which probably qualifies as the first iron-working establishment of any type in the area now comprising Lehigh County, was Dubs (also Dubbs) Forge. It was situated on the Hosensack-Limeport road in what is now Lower Milford Township. It drew its waterpower from a small brook which represents one of the sources of the Hosensack Creek which in turn joins the Perkiomen at Mill Side, near Palm. A detailed Lehigh County atlas drawn up in 1876 locates an "Old Forge" in Dubbs District which is without question the Dubs Forge referred to in other sources.¹

The following information is gleaned from the only account of Dubs Forge and the Dubs family yet to come to the writer's attention.²

The forge was built about 1734 by Jacob Dubs, an immigrant from Zürich, Switzerland, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1732 and probably took up his land at Great Swamp, in what was then Bucks County, in 1733. A survey by Nicholas Scull dated September 28, 1734, showed a "home farm" of 150 acres, plus 6% allowance for roads. This was increased by later purchases.

Having come from a family of European armorers, Jacob proceeded to ply the same trade at his small forge with the manufacture of arms and iron implements. Although he was first of all a gunsmith he was so versatile that the surrounding German neighbors called him "ein Tausendkünstler," or Jack-of-all-trades. It is reported that his ingenuity even led him to produce a harpsichord. His marriage to Veronica Welker resulted in five children, two sons and three daughters.

In 1772 Jacob sold the real estate to his only surviving son, Daniel, for £350. After his father's death about 1775 Daniel

built a sturdy brick house just below the forge. This was the first brick house in the present Lehigh County and can still be seen, occupied and in good condition. Under Daniel Dubs the forge was enlarged and took on the nature of a chafery and machine shop. It was often referred to as "die Schleifmühle" or grindmill. This was probably due to the large number of sickles, scythes, and screw augers that were produced. During the War of 1812 a large number of muskets were made on government order. Other industries established by the Dubs on the stream below the forge at this time included a grist mill, saw mill, oil mill, and tannery.

In 1824 Daniel sold the real estate to his three sons: John got the forge; Daniel, Jr., the grist mill; and Jacob got the tannery. After the death of his father in 1828 John remained on the homestead and continued to operate the forge until his death on November 25, 1869. The industry then passed to his only son, Aaron K., who kept the enterprise active for some time later. The forge was dismantled about 1900 and some of the clay tiles from the forge roof can still be seen on a farm building nearby.

It is noteworthy that during the more than 150 years that the Dubs family operated the forge at least three separate generations saw action in three wars: Jacob Dubs (1710-circa 1775) tracked Indians in the French and Indian War; his son, Daniel (?-1828) was a veteran of the American Revolution; and his son, John (1788-1869) saw action in the War of 1812. Many of the Dubs are buried in the older portion of the cemetery at Great Swamp Church not far from the old homestead.

Today the forge site lies to the right of the road as one travels toward Limeport. The location can be identified only by the vestiges of the dam usually discernible only when the swamp vegetation has been flattened by winter. The very small amount of water flowing through the area leads to the conclusion that the water-propelled hammer must have been

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*One source (C. R. Roberts, Hist. of Lehigh County, p. 801) states that the forge was "put up" in 1825. This probably refers to the expansion or renovation of the forge rather than its erection.*
Side Lights on a Family Tree

By Thomas Warnock Bigoney and Catherine Morris Bigoney*

Our interest in family history was first aroused some twenty-five years ago by Clara Knipe, widow of Dr. Jacob O. Knipe, of Norristown. She was then nearing eighty, but sprightly in mind and body, and able to recall, in detail, childhood days on her grandfather Joseph Bigoney's farm on Pleasant View Road at Sanatoga, (an Indian name meaning "Crooked Hill"). A visit was made to this place under Mrs. Knipe's guidance, and also to a house where Joseph's father, Francis Bigoney, lived nearby on the Pike, about 1790. There was a story about a French artist having done mural decorations for this latter house—evidently a matter of considerable family pride. A quarter of a century after this interesting visit, the writer and his wife, being in the vicinity and in a sentimental mood, took a notion to look up and photograph the old Bigoney farmhouse where eleven children had been born to Joseph and his wife Rachel. This was to prove the first of many excursions in a region rich in historic interest.

It is hard to realize that a locality so close to central Philadelphia in terms of automobile travel, was once the hinterland of Penn's Commonwealth. It was here the German and French Huguenot pioneers established their homes and churches and set up their arts and crafts. Their rewards, measured by Old World standards, were, no doubt, considerable, but it must be remembered; they were no common lot. They brought culture and dignity with them as well as bone and sinew to work the fields. They had, above all, faith in themselves and in the rightness of the moral principles they professed. They fostered common education and a regard for basic verities. It has been shown that more books were printed in Pennsylvania than in all the other Colonies put to-

* Read before the Society, February 23, 1948.
gether and this remained true well into the republican period. Francis Daniel Pastorius (1651-1719), founder of Germantown, established the first school there in 1701, and produced the first school book printed in Pennsylvania. The first Bible printed in America was published in Germantown by Christopher Sauer in 1743, and his grandsons are believed to have cast the first American printing type in 1772. As to the quality of the Huguenot immigrants, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, writing in 1891, has this to say:

“If we add the French and the French Huguenots together, we find that the people of French blood exceed absolutely, in the ability produced, all the other races represented in Appleton’s Encyclopedia of American Biography, except the English and Scotch-Irish, and show a percentage in proportion to their total original immigration, much higher than that of any other race.”

In his book “French Colonists and Exiles in the United States.” Rosengarten says:

In the lower Schuylkill Valley were Boyers, DeFrains or DeFresnes, Pechins, Purviances, Tregos, DuBois, LeQuais, De la Cours, Bigonets, Loreaux who became Lorah, LeChar, (Leshers), Rettaus, (Rettew), Perdeaus (Barto) while in the rich Oley Valley of Berks County were DeTurks, Bertolets, DeBonnevilles, DeVaus, De la Planche, now Planks.

If we get back from the main travelled roads in the region to which Rosengarten refers, we will find many lovely scenes which retain their original character, and it is possible to sense a rhythm of life which, from time immemorial, has been identified with broad fields and meandering brooks and wooded, wind-swept hills. An occasional cluster of farm buildings seems rooted in the red earth where generations have come and gone over familiar lanes and pathways. There is a water-powered mill which has been grinding the golden bounty of neighboring fields since 1743, and just over the rise are the old church and burial ground where life swings full circle and earth receives again that which was given out.

Starting from City Hall in Philadelphia and driving out through Fairmount Park, beneath the leafy arches of East River Drive, it is not difficult to imagine the tranquil beauty of the Schuylkill as it appeared to William Penn and his followers. This is the river the early Dutch explorers first passed
without seeing, hence the name Schuylkill, or "hidden stream." Crossing Wissahickon Creek where it joins the Schuylkill, our winged wheels spin over a smooth highway where it was once rough going on the deep-rutted Great Manatawny Road snaking along the ridge of hills between the Schuylkill and the Wissahickon. It was here in Roxborough that Jean Bigonet, coming from Nîmes in the old province of Languedoc, France, set up the looms of his weaver's trade in 1752, at what is now the corner of Roxborough and Ridge avenues.

Bearing northwest from where Jean Bigonet brought up his family and from where his sons fought during the Revolution in the nearby Wissahickon Hills, we pass Plymouth Meeting—with which some of our Quaker ancestors are identified—and, in about an hour, arrive at the site of the first Reformed Church and Seminary in America, in New Hanover. For striking contrast with our present mode of travel as well as for its genealogical interest, let us travel the same route over two hundred years ago with one of our forefathers, Philip Brandt, of New Hanover, and his friend, the Reverend Henry Melchior Mühlenberg, Patriarch of the American Lutheran Church, and progenitor of many distinguished Americans.

Philip Brandt was educated in Germany, and came to America some time before 1734, when he owned a plantation in New Hanover, near the present New Hanover Lutheran Church. Mr. Brandt happened to be in Philadelphia on November 25, 1742, and met Rev. Mühlenberg who had just arrived from abroad. In his Selbstbiographie, 1711-1748, Rev. Mühlenberg reports the incident and what followed in these words:

"I inquired of the English innkeeper, with whom I stopped, where New Providence and New Hanover were located. He did not know, but brought in a German from the country, who was just then in town but lived in New Hanover. The man's name was Philip Brandt. He said one might ask a long time in vain for New Providence and New Hanover, for these places were known by the names Trappe and Falkner Schwamm. He said further that New Hanover was thirty-six English miles distant, and that he must start this evening on his return home, although the roads were in bad condition. I was still weak and swollen from the sea voyage, but not wishing to lose any time resolved to accompany him, and had my effects brought from the vessel to my rented room."
Mr. Brandt in the meantime hired a horse for my use, and in the evening we rode quietly out of town. We fed the horses ten miles out of town at a tavern kept by a German, and remained here for the night. Friday, November 26, we continued our journey with several Germans; but made slow progress, as we could only walk our horses, on account of the heavy roads. It was evening when we came to the two creeks, Skip-pack and Perkiome, which we had to cross. The first was low, the other high. My companion rode ahead. I was to follow. My horse was light and weak, and the stream being violent he was carried down with the current a distance of several rods. Nevertheless, he made his way, diagonally, across the stream, and brought me up safely on the other side. I was soaked with water up to the chest, and still had ten miles to ride in the dark, to reach New Hanover. This gave me a severe cold. Reached Brandt's home, under God's gracious providence. Here I stopped over night, and was hospitably entertained. On Saturday, November 27, I rode with Brandt farther up to visit a deacon of the congregation, whom I requested to call a meeting of the officers. In the afternoon, two deacons and four elders met. At my request Mr. Brandt read to them the letter of the Reverend Court Chaplain Ziegenhagen."

Philip Brandt died in July, 1744, about 50 years of age. His will (Book G 130, Phila. Co. Wills) makes his wife Elizabeth sole executrix, and directs her to take over the management of the plantation and the education of his children. These were: 1, Michael, born in 1724; 2, Christina, who married Jacob Leibegut; 3, Margaret, who married Cassimer Misesimer; 4, Jacob; 5, Philip, who "went to some foreign country"; and 6, George, who married Susanna Reinert.

After Philip Brandt's death, Rev. Mühlenberg wrote of his "first fellow traveller" in Pennsylvania, as he called Mr. Brandt, as follows:

"He lead a Christian, quiet life; heard the word of God attentively: and at home found edification in the perusal of Arndt's "True Christianity." In his youth he enjoyed good religious instruction, which enabled him to give a reason for the hope that was in him. Towards other sects he was circumspect and peaceable, and he sought to be neighborly with everyone, yet so to live as to give away nothing of love and truth. At length his maladies increased, and his end seemed near. I was with him a few days before his death. Regarding his walk in this life, he found therein numberless faults and shortcomings, but he believed that the Intercessor with the Father in Heaven had blotted all out and cast them into the depths of the sea for the sake of His promise. When he was yet living, he charged me in his name most sincerely to thank the worthy patrons and benefactors in Europe."

The records of Falkner Swamp Reformed Church were originally written in Latin, and contain notes of parish events from 1720 on, such as: a child's death "of some boards unwisely laid," and the baptism of "Michael Brandt's ethiopian." These records were preserved by the second pastor, Johann Philip Leydich, and a translation is in the possession of Wallace Leidy, now 77, a sixth generation descendant, whose farm lies directly across from the church. We thus learn that Michael Brandt was, like his father, a pillar of the church. He and his wife Anna appear often as sponsors in baptism, and the Church accounts show him to have been a most generous contributor. On May 21, 1754, he purchased 250 acres in New Hanover from Frederick Antes, whose family was active in both the religious and the musical life of the community.

Michael Brandt died intestate on August 13, 1794, aged 70 years 2 months, still possessed of 146 acres. His son Philip acquired this tract by purchasing the interests of the other six heirs: Jacob Brandt and his wife Mary, Mary Bigoney and her husband Francis, Elizabeth Pool and her husband Nicholas, Hanna Badman and her husband John, Susannah Peterman and her husband John (all of New Hanover, except the Pools, who lived in Limerick), and Henry Knauss, of Exeter Township, Berks County, and his minor children, owners of the interest of Catharine Knauss, deceased daughter of Michael Brandt.

The conveyance was made under and subject to a yearly ground rent of 2s 6d sterling to John Henry Sprogell, and to a reservation of one sixteenth of all mines and minerals on the land, evidently a continuance of the original reservation by the Frankfort Land Company, which bought from William Penn in 1686.

Gravestones of Michael Brandt's children in the churchyard at Falkner Swamp are quite legible at this date, including that of the Revolutionary soldier Philip (1757-1835). At the end of the line are two badly crumbled brown stones which, no doubt, are those of Michael and his wife Anna.
It was here at the Falkner Swamp Reformed Church that Francis, son of Jean Bigonet (1725-1793), was married, November 23, 1779, by Rev. Johann Philip Leydich, to Maria Magdalena Brandt, daughter of Michael. At the time of his marriage, Francis was a member of the Sixth Company, Seventh Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, in Roxborough, and was included in the tax lists there, but was assessed in 1781 and thereafter in Hanover Township.

From the records of the German Reformed Congregation in Germantown we learn that Jean Bigonet was married to Catharine Elizabeth (Schardt) Ozias, widow of Heinrich Ozias, on May 27, 1753, by Rev. Conrad Steiner, shortly after Jean's arrival in Philadelphia, September 23, 1752. From a descendant of Heinrich and Catharine Ozias, just mentioned, we learn that Catharine Schardt, daughter of Jean Schardt, was first married to Henry, eldest son of Etienne and Elizabeth Ozias, January 29, 1743, in St. Peters Church, Durmenz, Württemberg, Germany. It is interesting to note that Henry Ozias' grandfather, Antoine Ozias, and his grandmother, Isabeau Lorraineassse, were natives respectively of Vivarais and Nimes, Languedoc, France. Doubtless, there were Old Country Huguenot connections between the Bigonets and the Oziases.

Jean Bigonet instructed all of his sons, including his stepson Christopher, in the hosier's art, although we know that son John later conducted a cooperage business which included Stephen Girard (1750-1821) among its patrons, making the casks in which gold and silver bullion was shipped.

Jean's sons Francis, Joseph and John, and his stepson Christopher Ozias, were members of the Roxborough troops during the Revolution. In Capt. John Levering's Sixth Company, Seventh Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, we find: Ensign Joseph, Fifer John, Private Francis and Private Christopher Ozias. (Penna. Archives, 6th Ser., Vol. 1, pp. 927, 928, 929) We are fortunate in having a first-hand account of the drilling, departure and action of the Roxborough troops, given by
Christopher Ozias to Horatio Gates Jones, historian of the region and later Vice President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Mr. Jones, writing in 1845, says that although Mr. Ozias was very old, his testimony proved to be accurate. We can imagine the parents, younger brothers and sisters, keeping step with the troops on their way down the Ridge as Mr. Ozias describes it, bidding tearful farewells as they marched on to Philadelphia and thence by way of Trenton and Princeton to Perth Amboy. Later, just before the battle of Germantown, Washington ordered General Armstrong to move down Ridge Road and cross the Wissahickon above John Van Deering's mill dam, with the Militia acting on the flanks. The Bigonet boys and their step-brother Christopher were with these latter. As they moved into position they passed their father's house, and Wood's barn, just across the road from Jean Bigonet's property. Wood's barn was the scene of the massacre on December 19th of that year (1777) of eighteen Virginia troopers of Lee's Dragoons, after they had put up for the night. Christopher Ozias, before his death, December 27, 1845, aged 94 years 7 months 15 days, described the action of the Roxborough troops in the battle of Germantown, to Horatio Gates Jones, as related in the latter's "Historical Notes," from which we quote:

"Mr. Ozias, my aged informant, said he well remembered the incidents of that day as they had rather warm work. The troops marched down the Ridge Road in the night and halted first at Andrew Wood's house. Fifty men were then detailed to go down toward the Wissahickon and a corps of riflemen were ordered to cross over to Chestnut Hill. Quoting the language of Mr. Ozias—'To join the main army, we marched up to Wises' Mill Road, (then Liveseys) and crossed the Wissahickon at that point. Our brigade lay in a valley, (doubtless Cresheim Creek), and a company was ordered to advance up the hill and reconnoitre. The Roxborough Company was directed to do this. When they reached the top of the hill, the first sight we saw was a detachment of British Infantry and Light Horse, who were in a field of Indian corn. We were going to fire when they retreated, but they soon rallied and fired on us. We returned their fire and fired eight or nine rounds. Their Grape shot did little damage, but it plowed up the dirt, which was thrown in our faces. Only one of our men was wounded, he was shot in the heel. Fearing they would cut off our communication with the main army, we
hastened to make our escape and went up to what is called the Swamp. Such is the account given me in the year 1845 by a participant in the action. At that time he was not aware that his party was the last on the ground. His statement I have since corroborated by proof of the highest authority."

As a result of the war, Jean Bigonet's property was damaged "since 1775" to the extent of £54. He was a trustee for the property of the German Reformed Congregation and, according to the records of this Church, he died May 16, 1793, aged 68 years 18 days. In his will Jean mentions sons Francis, Joseph, John and Anthony, and daughter Catharine, wife of Garret Rittenhouse; leaving residue of his estate to beloved wife Catharine. It is said that a family Bible, printed in French and brought to this country by Jean, was last in the possession of a granddaughter, and was discarded in a dilapidated state. There is credible report, also, of an old box in which record papers were brought from France. How fortunate for the historian when the apparently worthless contents of such "old boxes" are preserved!

John Bigoney received a Captain's commission in 1794 and was active in community affairs. (Penna. Archives, 6th Series, Vol. 4, p. 425). He had property on the "Great Road" and on Mill Road in Roxborough, and was a Trustee of Leverington Cemetery, holding lot No. 71. Anthony held lot 73 and Joseph lot 102. Joseph died intestate in 1828, as did Anthony, who was drowned while fishing in the Schuylkill in March, 1799.

Garret Rittenhouse, who married Catharine Bigonet, appears in the list of Rangers on the Frontier, 1778-1783, Northampton County. (Penna. Arch., 3rd Ser., Vol. 22, p. 304). He died in 1822, and made his wife Catharine sole heir. She and George Moyer of Roxborough are named executrix and executor.

In 1781 Francis Bigoney, first son of Jean Bigonet, established his residence in Hanover Township, then in western Philadelphia county, but three years later included in the newly formed Montgomery county. Early progress in New Hanover is evidenced by the fact that 45 boys were in school there in 1760. The community included weavers, tailors, husbandmen,
cordwainers, joiners, tanners, cooperers, innkeepers, blacksmiths, etc. Their names, largely German and French, will be found in the several companies of the Fourth Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, in Pennsylvania Archives, 6th Series Volume 1.

There are the Brandts, including Adam the clockmaker, and Francis Bigoney's brother-in-law, Philip; there are the Rhoads, whose name seems to have metamorphosed from Roth to Rodes to Rhoads; there's Henry Warley (the Huguenot name is spelled Werlle); there are the Herbsts whose sister Barbara married Henry Warley; there's Captain Fred'k Beit tenman whose son and namesake married Henry Warley's daughter Catharine; there are the Missimers, including Capt. John; there are Chris Shaner, Nick Pool, Kepner, Potts, Shantz, Fritz, Boyer and the Limerick Evans, Brookes, Davis, Updegrave, scion of the Quaker Abraham op Den Graef of Germantown (1688), and Penhybaker—a future Governor of Pennsylvania spelled it Pennypacker.

In 1785 Francis Bigoney bought property in what is now called Lower Pottsgrove on the "great road leading from Reading to Philadelphia," and later, bought several other tracts, including 45 acres on what is now Pleasant View Road at Santogna where he built, with his son Joseph's help, the stone house, where Joseph and his wife Rachel were to raise eleven children, and great-grandchildren were to play about the wide porch overlooking miles of fertile valley. Francis Bigoney died January 15, 1827, and is buried (with his wife Mary, who died April 1, 1839) in Old Zion's, the second oldest graveyard in Pottstown—the first being Sproegell's, originally located just east of the borough line. A new site, however, was provided in 1906 at the northern edge of the borough. Francis' will leaves all real and personal estate—except what is given to son Joseph—to wife Mary Magdalen. Joseph receives the coarse loom, with all utensils and $250, as "compensation for his labour while we were building the House." After wife Mary's death, estate is to be sold and proceeds equally divided among daughters Mary, who had married Samuel Yost;
Susanna, who had married George Rinehart; and son Joseph, who is named executor.

It may be noted here that, although historical writers and the most carefully kept early Church records agree in spelling Francis' surname BIGONET, Francis signs his will BIGONEY. This latter spelling is also used on his tombstone, and no doubt evidences a common practice to Anglify European spellings and pronunciations.

Joseph Bigoney was married December 15, 1811, by Rev. F. L. Herman, at Old Zion's in Pottstown, to Rachel Warley, daughter of Henry and Barbara Warley, who were married November 14, 1775, in New Hanover Lutheran Church, according to the record there. An inscription in a family bible similarly records the marriage of George Henrich Werly to Anna Barbara Herbst in November 14, 1775. The Historical Society of Montgomery County has this bible, which was printed in German, in 1805, by Gottlob Jungmann.

Joseph W. Bigoney, son of Joseph and Rachel (Warley) Bigoney, married Phebe Wood Galloney, daughter of Edward and Anna (Evans) Galloney, of Limerick, on January 8, 1843. Joseph W. was a tanner at Pottstown and Sumneytown and received an Exposition Medal for the excellence of his leather. He died, and is buried at Lock Haven, Clinton County. Joseph W.'s wife Phebe lived until 1901, and is buried in Dr. F. G. Payn's plot in Moravian Cemetery on Staten Island, N. Y., near her sister Susan, wife of the doctor.

Phebe Wood (Galloney) Bigoney, or "grandmother Bigoney," as the writer remembers her, was a sweet little old lady, with silken curls beneath a white lace cap, wearing a dark grey satin dress with trim white ruching at the neck and a simple circular brooch at the top of a long row of cloth-covered buttons. In her middle eighties, she used to sit very straight in her little flower-decorated black rocker on the side porch of Dr. Payn's house. There were climbing roses on either side, and many large trees shading an expanse of lawn dotted with those iron dogs, deer and Dianas which were characteristic of the late Victorian period. Grandmother used the plain language,
and spoke with calm assurance. She and little boys held con-
verse with the same sort of people—angels and fairies and such.
Her understanding was deep, and strength of character was
evident in every attribute of her personality.

Grandmother's mother (born Anna Evans) came from a
family which was identified with Gwynedd Monthly Meeting
from an early date. In the minutes for 2 Mo. 28, 1813, we find:
"Women Friends inform that Ann Galony (late Evans) has
married one not a member by aid of a magistrate."

The records of Michael Freytag, Esq., Justice of the Peace
of Philadelphia County, show the marriage of Charles Edward
Galoney of Germantown to Mistress Evans of Whitemarsh on
February 12, 1812. The Philadelphia Directory for 1811 lists
"Galloyne and Rumsey, Merchants, 26 North Front St.," and
from other sources we learn that Edward Galloney's name was
spelled Gallonnye by his mother, in a letter written to him
shortly after he came to this country in 1809. This letter is in
possession of a descendant from whom we have the following:

Guillaume de Gallonnye, of Lorraine, had Claude Etienne,
had ditto, who had Charles Francis, who died during the
French Revolution. The widow of Charles Francis then moved
to London with her son Edward, and married a banker named
Bayard. Edward did not get along with his stepfather, and
came to America about 1809.

The lineage of Anna Evans who married Edward Galloney
has been traced directly to the renowned Elystan Gladrydd,
Prince of Fferlys, founder of the fourth tribe of Wales, who
was originally seated in Carmarthenshire, whence a branch
including John Evans, removed to Ireland in the reign of
James I. This John Evans lived in Limerick, Ireland, in 1628,
and is the ancestor of Evans of Ash Hill Towers, County Li-
merick, Ireland, and Limerick, Montgomery county, Pennsyl-
vania. He married Ellen de Verdon, and had five children.
The first of these was George, who became a Member of Par-
liament and High Sheriff of County Limerick in 1672. The
second son, John, was a Colonel in the English Army, and had
three sons; Simeon, William and John. Simeon and John both
died in Ireland, but William and his wife Ann came to America in 1698 with their first born, settling temporarily in Gwynedd before Ann acquired from the London Company, in 1716, two tracts of land aggregating seven hundred acres in what was later to become Limerick Township. A three hundred acre tract was conveyed directly to the oldest child William Evans. (Deed Book. E 7, Vol. 10, pp. 386-388 and pp. 394, 395, Phila.) Ann Evans was a widow at this time and died about four years later. Her will (Book D, p. 160, Phila. Co.) proved June 18, 1720, names the children of William and Ann in the following order 1. William, 2. Owen, 3. George, 4. Elizabeth and 5. David.

Owen, the second son of William and Ann, who inherited his mother's 400-acre plantation, lived there until his death, November 28, 1754, in the house which was built in 1716. He was Justice of the Peace, Member of the Provincial Assembly and a vestryman in St. James Episcopal Church, at what is now Evansburg, Montgomery county. In an Oath of Qualification, signed June 1, 1752, the signature of B. Franklin immediately follows that of Owen Evans.

Owen's elder brother William, who was brought over from Ireland by his parents, built, in 1731, a house which is still standing, on the 300-acre tract purchased for him by his mother. He had, with his wife Rachel, nine children, named in his will in the following order (this is not, necessarily, the order of their birth, as we find Mary, seventh on the list, was born in 1721—before George, who was born in 1723.)

1. George, married Susanna ——
2. Mordecai, married Catharine Evans
3. John
4. Owen, died unmarried, 4-6-1791
5. Elihu, married Mary Pugh
6. Ann, married Hugh Hillis
7. Mary, married (1) Geo. Brooke; (2) Thos. Evans
8. Margaret, married (1) Sam'l Nixon; (2) Wm. Hix
9. Naomi, married Jonathan Pugh

The will of William Evans, dated November 18, 1756, (Book L, p. 115, Phila. Co.) gives to son George 200 acres of
a 300-acre tract on Schuylkill, subject to some legacies, etc. To Mordecai, remaining 100 acres; also horses, sheep, swine, etc. Executors to sell 150 acres purchased from Owen Evans in Hanover Township. To son John, 2/3 proceeds, or 100 acres, at his choice. To son Owen, £180 due from sundry persons, and riding horse, etc. To son Elihu, £100 at 21, to be paid by son George; also 1/3 of proceeds of 150 acres above mentioned. To daughter Ann, widow of Hugh Hillis, 20 shillings. To daughter Mary, wife of George Brooke, ditto. To daughter Margaret, wife of William Hix, £5. To daughter Naomi, £40.

The reference to riding horses in William Evans’ will is significant, particularly the provision that wife Rachel is to have William’s riding mare “when she may occasion.” There were at this time (1756), “cartways” between main settlements, but the usual and most expedient method of travel, for all members of the family, was by horseback; the roads being at their worst in spring and early fall. The Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike, a stone road starting from what is now Collegeville, was not completed until 1815. Gwynedd Monthly Meeting authorized meetings at William Evans’ house by the river during the worst seasons, and we can imagine the neighboring Friends arriving, sometimes two on a horse, muffled deep in their sombre homespun robes. As we ponder this scene with its inherent dignity and warmth of human fellowship, we may well question the net worth of our vaunted progress in this “Atomic Age.”

George Evans and his wife Susanna were active members of Gwynnedd Monthly Meeting. They lived on the two hundred acre plantation in Limerick, inherited from George’s father. He was Assessor in the Township in 1776. Three years later Susanna died, and daughter Phebe took over the management of the household until the death of her father in November 1785. Of the six children born to George and Susanna Evans, three survived and married, namely: William, who married Sarah Evans; Amos, who married Mary Evans; and Phebe, who married Septimus Wood.
In the lists of enrolled militia from Limerick are William and Amos Evans (Penna. Archives, 6th Ser., Vol. 1, pp. 662 and 798). Amos would have been fourteen in 1776, and presumably enlisted after his brother William, who was his elder by three years. There must have been great excitement when Washington and the American troops marched through the Evans property after crossing the Schuylkill at Parker’s Ford on the way to Trappe, just fifteen days before the battle of Germantown.

The will of George Evans (Book 1, p. 58, Montg. Co.) provides for the three children then living as follows:

Sons William and Amos receive jointly the 200-acre plantation in Limerick. William receives separate bequest of £15, testator’s weaver’s loom with all utensils, young sorrel mare, etc. Amos receives separate bequest of £75, best plow, horses and gear. Phebe receives separate bequests totalling £465, furniture, plate, china, pewter, etc. Residue is equally divided. Sons and daughter Phebe named executors and executrix. Brothers Owen and Elihu, and brother-in-law Jonathan Pugh, trustees. Owen Evans, Mary Evans and Francis Hobson, witnesses.

After the death of George Evans, Phebe Evans and Septimus Wood “declare their intentions” in Meeting. Soon after their marriage they settle near Plymouth Meeting where they “eat not the bread of idleness,” and become prominent exponents of the Quaker way of life. They are buried in Friends’ burial ground at Plymouth Meeting. At this point we introduce a letter which provides an intimate tie-in with what has already been recounted. Phebe’s Aunt Mary, at the time the letter was written, was the widow of Thomas Evans of Gwynedd, her second husband. She died, without issue, 7-14-1805, aged 84.

Gwynedd, Third Month 20th 1802

Dear Phebe,

I received by Jonathan Pugh, who craves forgiveness for his delay, thy letter dated 6th instant, and was glad to know of thyself and husband being in health, which it is a great blessing among the many received, we ought to be thankful for. Indeed many are the obligations
we are under to that bountiful hand, from which all our blessings flow.

Elizah's death is the last bereavement which has afflicted us, and leaves me the last to survive.

My father was often wont to say we were not long lived, for we come from stock, which it died early.

Jessie Evans staid with us overnight while on way home, and brought full particulars of doing in Nantmeal. I doubt if he belongs to our kith, but think not, all I know is what father told me years ago when I was a young girl, about grandfather William Evans having brothers, John and Simeon, and that their father was John, and an officer in the Army, it did not interest me then as now, this is all from memory, and of but little use, as I have no dates, and am old and forgetful.

Come often to see me, for since the last attack, my legs have well nigh given out, and I can scarce get out of the room, my race is nearly run, thou dear Phebe are in the prime of life, be true to thyself and strong in faith, and may peace attend thee.

Thy loving Aunt
Mary Evans

Phebe (Evans) Wood was recommended as a Minister and approved in the Fourth Month, 1825. After her death, 1-18-1843, a memorial honoring her exemplary life and Ministry was read and approved by Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, signed by the Clerks, and forwarded to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, 4-27-1843.

Following their father's example, George Evans' sons, William and Amos, married second cousins. Amos and his wife Mary died without issue—Amos on September 26, 1822, and Mary, August 11, 1836. They are buried in St. James burial ground in Limerick. Amos, in his will (Book 6, p. 52, Montg. Co.) provides for his wife Mary, and leaves considerable property to his nieces, in trust for their children. He makes special bequests of stock of the Bank of Montgomery County, Perkiomen & Reading Turnpike, Schuylkill Navigation Company and Pottstown Library.

William Evans and his wife Sarah lived on the old Evans homestead in Limerick, and had two children—Anna and Susanna. William Evans died intestate and letters of administration were granted to his sons-in-law, Edward Galloney,
and Jacob Lewis who had married Susanna. Anna, born March 13, 1791, married, February 12, 1812, Edward Galloney, born in France, May 1, 1785.

Edward and Anna (Evans) Galloney lived on a 27-acre farm in Limerick on which Anna's uncle Amos held a mortgage in the amount of $2,101.20. This mortgage was willed by Amos to Edward in trust for Anna together with other bequests, including 45 acres of Amos' 238-acre plantation, stock in the Perkiomen & Reading Turnpike, and one fourth part of residue of Amos' estate. Jacob Lewis received 61 acres in trust for his wife Susanna. In each case, these legacies were to go, respectively, to the children of Anna and Susanna when the latter died.

The first girl child of Edward and Anna (Evans) Galloney was born January 19, 1815, and named Phebe Wood for her great aunt, the Quaker Minister. In her youth she rolled paper spills to carry fire from the hearth to light tallow candles. When she became the benign little grandmother of our childhood memories, she made light at the touch of a button and, although she lived to see the horseless-carriage, she still cherished legends of her mother's people in the early Eighteenth Century when they gave the name of their county in Ireland to Limerick Township in what is now Montgomery county, Pennsylvania.

NOTES
3. The Falkner Swamp Reformed Church is the oldest Reformed Congregation in America, organized in the year 1720 by the Rev. John Philip Boehm. A frame church which stood on this site served as a hospital during the Revolutionary War, according to the Church records.
4. All of the Evans data relating to the British Isles and several items concerning the "William and Ann" line in America are derived from A Genealogical History of the Dupuy Family, by Charles Meredith Dupuy; Lippincott; 1910. References cited therein are: Lodge's Genealogy of the British Peerage and Baronetage, Edit. 1859, and Burke's Landed Gentry, Edit. 1852.
Librarian’s Report

The Library of our Society, of which we are justly proud, has grown increasingly powerful and popular. Our facilities evoke the high praise of workers in every field of research. The splendid work done by those faithful workers of the past must be kept up. It is a continual challenge to the present regime.

Many school groups have been conducted through the museum and library rooms within the past months, also many hundreds of small individuals paying us a casual visit. The interest of the young people is very important to us and they always receive a cordial welcome. We are particularly happy to be of assistance to a growing number of students and teachers who come here in the preparation of their school and college theses.

The Library again expresses its deep appreciation to its donors for their generosity. It must depend in a large measure upon gifts for the development of its manuscript collections. It welcomes consultation about the disposal of personal and organizational papers. The following list of donors is from the record of material received since the publication of our BULLETIN of April 1948.

George K. Brecht, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Bigoney, Mrs. Anna F. Clark, Mrs. Marguerite Porter Davison, Edward J. Dybiecz, H. H. Ganser, Herbert Harley, David Heebner, Charles F. Jenkins, Mrs. Irvin P. Knipe, Septimus C. Kriebel, William F. Lukens, Mrs. Clara Summers Murray, Edward Morrow, Mrs. F. Spencer Roach, Miss Idora Supplee, Mrs. Edward C. Shoemaker, Isaac C. Sutton, J. Henry Specht, Norris D. Wright, Chester County Historical Society, Reunion Association of St. James, Evansburg and The Utah Genealogical Society.

Special mention is made of the material received from the libraries of two noted genealogists, that of George F. P. Wanger, late of Pottstown, with manuscript records on such early families as Benner, Bergey, Bach-Baugh, Bechtel, Clemens, Cressman, Grubb, Reiff, Showalter, Price and Wanger; and Mrs. Anita L. Eyster, of our own membership, who recently among many other valuable publications presented us with The Fulton Family, The Fell Family in America and The Genealogy of the Descendents of John Kirk.

JANE KEPLINGER,
Acting Librarian.
April Meeting

The regular meeting of the Historical Society was convened at 2 P.M., on April 26, 1948, at the building of the Society, with President Bryan presiding. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Bryan reported the resignation of Mr. Hommel as librarian and curator of the Society. Mr. Hommel was given a rising vote of thanks, in appreciation of his work for the Society.

Mr. Bryan reported the resignation of Mrs. Stuart B. Molony as chairman of the Prize Essay Committee. A rising vote of thanks was given Mrs. Molony in appreciation of her work. Following this, Mrs. Molony commented on the fine response to the essay contest this year. She introduced the several winners of the awards, and those who had been given honorable mention. The first prize was awarded to Sally Jean Robertson, of Lower Merion High School, for her paper on Charles Thomson, "The Irishman They Used for Bait." David Doelp, of Springfield High School, received the second award for his essay entitled "Charles Thomson." First honorable mention was given to Sylva Daub, of Pottstown High School, for her essay, "Peter F. Rothermel." Second honorable mention was given to Clonie Smith, of Upper West Moreland High School, for her paper, "Christopher Dock."

J. Bennett Nolan, Esquire, of Reading, spoke on "Our River, The Schuylkill." His recounting of the history of the river and its cities and towns, and the river lore, was most excellent and inspiring. There was an exhibition of Schuylkill River items, and of the books which Mr. Nolan has written.

At the close of the meeting, the Hospitality Committee served tea.

EVA G. DAVIS,
Recording Secretary
Report on Membership

At the Spring Meeting of the Society, on April 24, 1948, eight new members were added to our membership which now stands at 551. We regret to report that we lost several members through delinquency, one by resignation and two through death.

NEW MEMBERS
William E. Andersen       Miss Helen M. Moyer
Miss Helen G. Arment      Mrs. P. Spencer Roach
Mrs. Ella C. Buckman      George Winterhalter Schultz
Mrs. L. H. Morrison       Miss Mary Watkin Snell

DEATHS
S. Cameron Corson         William F. Moyer

We again enlist the aid of our good members to strengthen and enlarge the arc of our membership. Our Society enjoys an enviable reputation in the state of Pennsylvania and in the nation at large. It now remains for Montgomery County to appreciate and support her own. Let us set a future goal of 1000 members. This is a modest aim for the vast county of Montgomery.

HELEN E. RICHARDS,
Corresponding Secretary
The Historical Society of Montgomery County has for its object the preservation of the civil, political and religious history of the county, as well as the promotion of the study of history. The building up of a library for historical research has been materially aided in the past by donations of family, church and graveyard records; letters, diaries and other manuscript material. Valuable files of newspapers have also been contributed. This public-spirited support has been highly appreciated and is earnestly desired for the future.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons, whether residents of the county or not, and all such persons are invited to have their names proposed at any meeting. The annual dues are $2.00; life membership, $50.00. Every member is entitled to a copy of each issue of The Bulletin, free. Additional Copies, One Dollar Each.

Historical Hall, 18 East Penn Street, Norristown, with its library and museum, is open for visitors each week day from 10 A.M. to 12 M. and 1 to 4 P.M., except Saturday afternoon. The material in the library may be freely consulted during these hours, but no book may be taken from the building.

To Our Friends

Our Society needs funds for the furthering of its work, its expansion, its growth and development. This can very nicely be done through bequests from members and friends in the disposition of their estates. The Society needs more funds in investments placed at interest; the income arising therefrom would give the Society an annual return to meet its needs. Following is a form that could be used in the making of wills:

I HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH TO THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
 PENNSYLVANIA, THE SUM OF ......................

................................. DOLLARS ($ )