# Anniversary

# Celebration

September

8th - 14th

Cheltenham Village

**Founded** — 1690

1940

Cheltenham Township

Incorporated — 1900

### HOW FAR WE HAVE COME!

From the days of the "Town Cryer," to our present modern civilization is the span of time being celebrated in Cheltenham Village.

This little spot in Cheltenham has played an important part in the making of a great Nation. In this same spot 250 YEARS AGO our forefathers had no one to show them the way. These early settlers depended upon tribal guides for barter system trading.

Upon the solid foundation of this pioneer spirit has developed a prosperous interesting community where people are glad to live and work to enjoy the privileges the foundation of which were made possible by these early Americans.

Cheltenham Township also celebrates its 40TH ANNIVER-SARY. And, we are glad to pay tribute to the men behind the wheels of progress in Cheltenham Township.

Today too, the Bank is the hub of the Community. In these days of change and destruction we are proud to feel that reliability and solidity which is so truly an expression of our banking Institutions—SYMBOLS OF OUR DEMOCRACY—In the AMERICAN WAY. Men connected with this Institution of banking are your neighbors, your tax payers. They are now a part of the tradition of Cheltenham Township. By the use you make of this Bank you help the progress of CHELTENHAM.

Today the capable business man and citizen depends upon the Bank for guidance—may we serve you?

STANLEY E. CRAIG, President.

# ELKINS PARK NATIONAL BANK

ELKINS PARK, PA.

# FOREWORD

HIS PROGRAM has been prepared and published to serve as a souvenir of this occasion. For a community to observe its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding is not an every day occurrence and is deserving of a celebration such as has been arranged for this event.

The history of almost every successful community reveals a story of early struggle—sometimes against great odds, by the abiding faith on the part of its founders. It is the purpose of these histories of the various communities that go to make up our great township to show these facts, and pay respect to those early settlers who laid the ground work for the fine community in which we live.

As this program goes to press, the committee has endeavored to incorporate in it all the details complete at this time, and to list all organizations who have signified their intentions to take part in the parade.

The committee extends thanks to all who have assisted in this collebration and in particular, the advertisers by whose generosity this program has been made possible. We urge for them your patronage.

HAROLD C. PIKE, General Chairman

FRANK C. FISHER, Secretary

HAROLD S. ASHWORTH, Treasurer



RICHARD DUNGWORTH'S MILL-1690

## CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Frances Toner

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Mrs. Gertrude Horner
Mrs. Gertrude Kratz
Mrs. Mary Neff
Mrs. Violet Bickstein
Mrs. Mary Wheatley
Mrs. Agnes Blaisch
Mrs. Eleanor Harvey
Mrs. Frances Toner

### **PROGRAM**

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th HOME COMING DAY

As an appropriate and inspiring opening of the week's celebration, Home Coming Day will be observed in all the churches in the township on Sunday, September 8.

Reverend Philip J. Steinmetz of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Elkins Park is serving as chairman with the following churches cooperating:—

Cheltenham Methodist Church Rev. Eugene Harshberger Presentation B.V.M., Cheltenham Rev. H. T. McFall St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Cheltenham, Rev. Herbert B. Satcher First Church of Christ Scientist, Elkins Park Mrs. John Hoffner Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Cheltenham Rev. Theodore A. Fischer St. James' Catholic Church, Elkins Vark Rev. John T. Morton Cheltenham Friends' Meeting Francis R. Taylor Lamott Methodist Church Rev. William Gullins Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rev. Howard J. Bell Ashbourne Presbyterian Church Rev. George Barnes Edgar First Baptist Church of Glenside-Wyncote, Rev. Evarts C. Conover All Hallows Church, Wyncote Rev. Thomas Burgess Glenside Methodist Church Rev. Elias B. Baker Calvary Presbyterian Church, Wyncote Rev. H. Lewis Cutler St. Luke's R. C. Church, Glenside Rev. J. O. Patterson

# WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th—6.30 DEDICATION OF MELROSE PARK PLAYGROUND

Parade formation on Asbury Ave.—cutting of ribbon into park by Miss Anne Catherine Bryan,

Dedication of Playground.

Invocation by Rev. Geo. Barnes Edgar—Ashbourne Presbyterian Church.

Address and presentation by Mayor Robert E. Lamberton.

Acceptance by Col. Fred Jasperson—Melrose Park Commissioner. Band Concert by Cheltenham Township Band under direction of Clair Hower.

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

Declared Cheltenham Township Anniversary Day in all Schools of the Township and appropriate exercises held in each School.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th—11 A.M.

Dedication of Cheltenham Art Center, Ashbourne Road, West of Rowland Avenue.

Cutting of ribbon by Bettimae Wagner of 314 Myrtle Avenue, Cheltenham.

Address by Charles D. Conklin, Jr., Pres. Board Commissioners. Acceptance by Committee.

#### GRAND PARADE 2 P.M.

#### COMMAND GROUP

Chief Marshal ! - - Captain J. R. Dey

POLICE ESCORT-

Two U.S.A. Motorcycles.

MOUNTED ESCORTS-

M. G. Troop 104th Cavalry.

GRAND MARSHAL—Harold C. Pike.

Commissioners of Cheltenham Township.

Cars with Distinguished Guests and Reviewing Officers.

MOUNTED ESCORTS-M. G. Troop 104th Cavalry.

#### FIRST DIVISION

Marshal - - - Commander A. K. Barlow

"Uncle Sam"—William McCann.

Color Guard, Post No. 497—Forsythe-Oldham-Griffith.

Sons of the American Legion, No. 211 Brass Band.

Post No. 497, American Legion, Forsythe-Oldham-Griffith.

A. K. Street Post No. 411, Bugle and Drum Corps.

Troop No. 2, Cheltenham, Boy Scouts of America.

Cheltenham Township Band.

Heller Public School.

Rowland Public School.

Capt. Slowe Post V.F.W., Bugle and Drum Corps.

Presentation B.V.M. School.

Rising Sun Post No. 2819, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jr. Bugle and Drum Corps.

Troop 382, Boy Scouts of America.

Ashbourne No. 1 SSS Emil No. 255.

North Penn Post No. 676, V.F.W. Bugle and Drum Corps.

North Penn Post No. 676, V.F.W.

North Penn Post No. 676, V.F.W. Auxiliary.

Penn Treaty Cadets' Bugle and Drum Corps.

Yeoman's F. Post No. 50, American Legion.

Troop No. 226 Boy Scouts of America Bugle and Drum Corps.

Cheltenham Girl Scouts.

#### SECOND DIVISION

Marshal - - - Captain J. G. Pickard

Colors.

Northern Liberties Boys and Girls, Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps.

Happy Hour Men's Bible Class, Cheltenham Methodist Church.

Hatboro High School Band.

Glenalde Public School.

Wyncote Public School.

Oxley Post Bugle and Drum Corps.

Troop 251 Boy Scouts of America.

Herbert Warrimer Post No. 70 Bugle and Drum Corps.

Ladies' Circle of the Cheltenham Methodist Church.

Thomas A. Connor Girls' Bugle Corps.

Betsy Ross Lodge No. 1588.

Doylestown High School Band.

Hawitt-Hausler Post No. 184 V.F.W.

Camp No. 345 P. O. S. of A. Bugle and Drum Corps.

Captains Allyn-Capron Post No. 22 V.F.W. Girls' Drill Corps.

West Oak Lane Jr. Bugle and Drum Corps.

Private Morton Glandon Post No. 298 V.F.W.

Lt. Wm. G. Junkin Post V.F.W. Bugle and Drum Corps.

#### THIRD DIVISION

Marshal - - - Commander R. Hemmerle

Colors.

Corp. Loudenslager Post No. 366, Sons of the Legion Band.

Holly Briggs Post No. 2168 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Liberty Post No. 308, American Legion, Bugle and Drum Corps.

Liberty Post No. 308, American Legion.

Upper Moreland High School Band.

Shoemaker Public School.

St. James Parochial School.

Troop 160, Boy Scouts of America.

Moore Triplett Post No. 451, Bugle and Drum Corps.

Moore Triplett Post No. 451, American Legion.

Moore Triplett Post Auxiliary.

Edge Hill Troop No. 2, Boy Scouts of America.

Olney Troop 203, Boy Scouts of America Bugle & Drum Corps.

Glenside Troop No. 1, Boy Scouts of America.

Arthur U. Savage Post No. 100, American Legion.

Wyncote Troop No. 1, Boy Scouts of America.

Elmwood Cadets Bugle and Drum Corps.

Glenside Troop No. 2, Boy Scouts of America.

Coates-Jordan Post, American Legion.

Wm. B. Dixon Jr., Drum and Bugle Corps.



### Montgomery County Norristown, Pa.

FREDERICK C. PETERS

FOSTER C. HILLEGAS RAYMOND K. MENSCH

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JOHN E. MARSHALL EARL B. BECHTEL

Recorder of Deeds

Prothonotary

MARY H. BEERER FRANK B. K. BARKER

Treasurer

Controller

WINSLOW J. RUSHONG

Coroner

#### FOURTH DIVISION

Marshal - - - Lieut. Sam Street

Colors.

Olney High School Band.

Floats—

Arrival of Penn. First Grist Mill. Rowland Shovel Works. Founding of the School. Stage Coach.

First Post Office and General Store. Harvey's Blacksmith Shop.

First Methodist Church Service.

Shovel Mill Fire.
First Catholic Church.
First Episcopal Church.
First Friends Meeting.
First Lutheran Church.
Needlework Guild.

American Legion & Auxiliary.

W. C. T. U.

Cheltenham Art Center.

Early Cheltenham Charters and Customs—

Milkman. Medicine Man. Butcher Wagon. Itinerant Peddler.

Eliza Larkins

Abington High School Band.

Abington Fire Company.

Cheltenham High School Band.

Ogontz, Elkins Park and Glenside Fire Companies.

Betsy Ross Bugle and Drum Corp.

Cheltenham Fire Company.

Frankford Post No. 211 American Legion, Senior Brass Band.

Pearl of the West Stables—Organizations.

#### ROUTE OF PARADE

East on Jenkintown Road to Ashbourne Road. South on Ashbourne Road to Boyer Road. East on Boyer Road to Rowland Avenue. North on Rowland Avenue to Ashbourne Road. East on Ashbourne Road to Ryers Avenue. North on Ryers Avenue to Jefferson Avenue. West on Jefferson Avenue to Central Avenue, South on Central Avenue to Tookany Park Entrance. Pass reviewing stand and mass Band's colors and units on Tookany Park field.

#### FIELD PROGRAM

America	Miss Joan Messner
Invocation	Rev. Eugene Harshberger
Selection—"The Thunderer"	Bands
Vocal Selection—"God Bless America"	Miss Marjorie Conklin
Patriotic Address	Hon. J. Wm. Ditter
Vocal Selection—"Memories"	Miss Marjorie Conklin
SelectionStar Spangled Banner	Bands and Vocal
Prizes	

#### Benediction—Rev. Henry McFall

- 7 P. M.—Field drill. Maneuvers and firing exhibition. Machine Gun Troop 104th Cavalry.
- 7.45 P. M.—Band concert by Cheltenham Township Band. North Penn Post Bugle & Drum Corps and Visiting Units.
- 8.30 P. M.-Magnificent Fire Works Display.
- 10 P. M.-Dance-Melrose Country Club.

At the conclusion of the events of the day the Machine Gun Troop of the 104th Cavalry will camp for the night on Tookany Drive where an opportunity will be given anyone who desires to visit the camp to view the outfit as they would appear in active service. The troop will break camp at noon Sunday, September 15.



### PIONEERS ...

We pay tribute to those early Pioneers who had the courage and forbearance to settle and develop our country . . . Pioneers who built such communities as Cheltenham!

We like to think of our organization as "pioneering" in another field . . . the field of printing and newspaper service to this community. We look forward to growing with and serving Cheltenham Township

#### BLAETZ BROTHERS, INC.

Printers and Publishers

PUBLISHERS OF THE BREEZE NEWSPAPERS

# CHELTENHAM

(MILLTOWN)

By FRANK C. FISHER and FRANCIS R. TAYLOR

#### FOREWORD

In preparing a history of any place or section covering a period of 250 years, one is necessarily restricted to the barest of facts, details so often desirable are impossible. However, in dealing with the history of Cheltenham it is the aim of the writers to cover as much literary territory as possible and give to all generous mention.

In passing we would pay tribute to the generosity of the Rowland family for supplying data which assured the success of this article.

On March 16, 1681, William Penn granted to Nehemiah Mitchell, a tract of 250 acres. From this tract on July 20, 1690, a 6½ acre tract was sold by Richard Hall to Richard Dungworth who erected thereon a grist mill operated by the waters of Quesinominy Creek. Since the topography of the country remained unchanged and from information handed down through the Rowland family the site of this mill would be that of the afterward known as the "front mill". The artists conception of the mill, as depicted, is based on old prints and what is known of the dam in later years, for as late as 30 years ago, the gigantic buttonball tree stood on the edge of the falls.

On January 30, 1711-12, by deed poll, the premises passed into the hands of Thomas Canbey and Morris Morris. In 1715, Richard Martin acquired a third interest in this mill and gradually increased his holdings until his death when it became the property of his three grandsons. In 1767, Thomas and John Martin became the owners of the mill together with one hundred acres of ground extending from the Quesinoming or Frankford Creek to what is now known as Cottman Street and the road to Germantown or Central Avenue West. The mill and land remained in the possession of the Martin family for about 60 years.

While real estate movement was apparently slow, there were built during this period at least two roads. One, Martins Mill Road from City Line at what we now call Station Bridge to a point along Ashbourne Road at Heller School. The other, the road "leading from Germantown to Lower Dublin, now known as Central Avenue, and including our present day Ashbourne Road and Oak Lane Road.

Between 1784 and 1796 appeared these individual characters who did much in their day to shape the destiny of Milltown—Jacob Myers (who held an interest in the grist mill and a large agriculture tract), Colonel Samuel Miles and Benjamin Rowland. We, J. W. DEAN & SON, are proud of the opportunity given us by the people of the Village of Cheltenham to place our names in this Historic Booklet.

> WARREN J. DEAN JOHN W. DEAN W. JUDSON DEAN

On August 7, 1792 Richard and Isabella Lake conveyed to Col. Samuel Miles 175.25 acres of land down stream from the grist mill. On this Col. Miles erected a mill with a large dam one mile below for the purpose of slitting nail rods for the manufacturing of cut nails which were in great demand at that time.



Original Rowland Mansion Now Shovel Works Garden

When the first mills were built, highways were needed to bring in raw materials and to take the finished product to market. Roads were few and far between; and one of the most important contributions of the mills to the development of any community lay in giving definite direction to highways and roads. Col. Miles needed an outlet for his newly built slitting mill. About a mile upstream was the road to Germantown and one

#### VOTE REPUBLICAN IN 1940

In addition to voting for

WENDELL L. WILLKIE for President and

CHARLES L. McNARY for Vice President

Give your support to these Republican Candidates:

JAY COOKE, United States Senator

J. WILLIAM DITTER, Congressman

J. F. MALONE, JR., State Treasurer

FRED T. GELDER, Auditor General

LAMBERT CADWALADER—State Assembly
First Legislative District

CHARLES H. BRUNNER—State Assembly Second Legislative District

EDWIN WINNER
LLOYD H. WOOD
HOWARD F. BOORSE—State Assembly
Third Legislative District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Lloyd H. Wood, Chairman

to Frankford; about an equal distance, downstream was the road from Frankford to Milestown. With little delay a road starting at a point about two hundred feet west of Richard Martin's mill and for:ning a junction with the road to Germantown was cut through the orchard of Col. Miles. It continued for some dirtance through the Miles property, then followed the boundary line of the Miles and Amos Jones lands, each owner bearing an equal share in its maintenance—and ultimately joined the road from Frankford to Milestown. This road, known as Slitting Mill Road, retained its name until recent years when the upper portion was renamed Rowland Avenue and the lower part, after being open to public travel since 1793, was closed for the Melrose Country Club's golf course.

In 1793 Benjamin Rowland purchased the mills from Jacob Myers and others but due to difficulty in securing a clear title, owing to the death of Jacob Myers, conveyance was not actually accumumated until 1794 under order of court. The deed was recorded in 1796.

In 1796 Col. Miles sold a portion of his land to Benjamin Rowland who now owned land on both sides of the Tacony. Benjamin Rowland sold a portion of the land on the south side to his nephew Benjamin Rowland, Jr., a blacksmith who began the manufacture of bed screws so much in use for the four poster beds of that period.

Soon homes were built for the workers in the slitting mill, grist mill and bed screw factory; for the mills were breathing life into the quiet valley and a small settlement had formed. Though little is known about the character and interests of the early owners of these industries, it is apparent that they were concerned about the finer things of life and the improvement of the intellect. Hardly two months had elapsed after Penjamin Rowland had purchased his land when, on July 20, 1796, he joined Col. Miles and Frederick Altemus in dedicating a tract of ground to be used for a school. It is interesting to note that the present George K. Heller School fronting on Ashbourne Road occupies the site of the original school built in 1795. It is stated on good authority that this is one of the oldest, if not the oldest free school in Pennsylvania, occupying its original site for so long a period. Miss Carrie V. Speck, at one time, principal of this school, has prepared much interesting data on its life.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, the industrial picture of this community began to change. The French Revolution and Napoleon's ambitions had plunged Europe into an unsettled state. England and France were waging a war of blockades. The cloth and iron which formerly had come to America from the mills of England were needed at home. When the supply of manufactured goods from England was thus cut off, factories to produce these materials were started in the eastern states of the United States. This rapid development of manufacturing in the early 1800's is called the Industrial Revolution of the United States. Factories were built



#### DEEP ROOTED

HOLD tast to that of the past which is worthy. Push forward into the future with renewed vigor — a community united by two and a half centuries of progressive action.

In our position as printer and publisher we are carrying forth a responsibility which has always

been the very liber of our life and our nation — free speech and free press for enlightened citizenry.

The TIMES CHRONICLE is proud to be the standard bearer, of this deep rooted American right. The way is clear. We go forward together!



#### TIMES CHRONICLE COMPANY, Inc.

PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS SINCE 1894
421 JOHNSON STREET, JENKINTOWN, PENNA.

along the small streams with a steep fall. They were owned by individuals, partners or members of a family. The owners and workers knew each other and had mutual interests. The typical mill town was a small self-containing community nestling among the hills in a beautiful rural setting. The Milltown of our story, like numerous other communities was to respond to these influences of the outside and wider world; and the old gristmill was gradually being pushed into the background for King Steel to begin his reign.

Benjamin Rowland, Junior, the nephew had, in the meantime, expanded his activities to make spades by hand in addition to bed screws. In 1802 he purchased from his uncle additional ground on the south side of the stream. With this went the privilege of using for power the water of the stream that remained after Benjamin Rowland, Senior, had drawn off sufficient water to operate the two wheels of his mill. The manufacture of spades proved to be a good venture even though the methods were crude.

In 1802 Benjamin Rowland, Sentor, purchased from William Shannon, an auctioneer and Sheriff of Philadelphia County, seventy-seven acres of ground along what is now Jenkintown Road west of the road to Germantown. He sold nineteen and three quarter acres of this tract to his nephew, Benjamin Rowland, Junior, who erected thereon, at a site on the Tacony Creek near the present Jenkintown Road, a tilting and blade mill, in which the two Rowlands each had a half interest. From the time of its construction this was known as the Upper Mill. Its power was derived from a large dam with about 25 feet fall, located about 250 feet above the mill on a branch of the Tacony and also from a dam on the Tacony itself southwest of Jenkintown Road. The race way or flume of this dam was built under the road way. Forges were erected and plates were hammered until they assumed a spadelike form. These were carted to the lower mills where they were shaped and finished. As much work as possible was done in the Upper Mill because of the greater power.

In 1810, Benjamin Rowland, Senior, sold the Lower, or grist mill property to John Black and Samuel Peeky, and retired to live at Shoemakertown. Samuel Peeky in 1813 sold his half interest to John Black who held ownership until 1834 when the entire property was re-sold to Jacob Peeky.

It was during this period that an effort was made to increase the output of the grist mill by enlarging the two wheels which powered the mills. This would have robbed the shovel mills across the creek of all its power since the entire stream would have been diverted through the gristmills. Thomas Rowland, who had purchased the shovel mill from his father, Benjamin, sought and obtained an injunction against such a procedure.

The grist mill, thereafter, changed hands several times and became the property of Charlotte C. Black, who built a frame general store across the road from the mill. This was the first of its kind in the community.

### Elkins Building & Loan Association

of Philadelphia

Meets First Wednesday Evening of each month 3314 GERMANTOWN AVENUE — ORGANIZED 1912

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HENRY W SCARROROUGH, Jr. 1	216 Rea	ii Esi	late Trus	g Blog.

Our Record Speaks For Itself — New Series Opens October 2nd List of Maturities Which Were Paid In Cash When Due

LIST O	Maturine	2 Milicil Mele I al		
Series	Amount Paid In	Average Amount for Entire Length of Time	Profit per Share	Percentage of Return On Investment
A	\$141.00	<b>\$</b> 70.50	<b>\$</b> 59.00	7.07%
B	141.00	70.50	59.00	7.07%
B C	140.00	70.00	60.00	<b>7.29</b> %
Ď	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
1	138.00	69.00	62.00	<b>7.76%</b> .
2	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
D 1 2 3 4 5	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
4	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
5	134.00	67.00	66.00	8.76%
ñ	135.00	67.50	65.00	8.50%
6 7	135.00	67.50	65.00	<b>8.50%</b>
8	135.00	67.50	65.00	8.50%
ğ	135.00	67.50	65.00	8.50 <i>%</i>
10	135.00	67.50	65.00	<b>8.50%</b>
ii	135.00	67.50	65.00	8.50 <i>%</i>
12	136.00	68.00	64.00	8.24%
13	136.00	68.00	64.00	8.24%
14	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
15	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
16	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
17	144.00	72.00	56.00	6.44%
18	144.00	72.00	56.00	6.44%
19	144.00	72.00	56.09	6.44%
20	145.00	72.50	55.00	6.24%
21	145.00	72.50	55.00	6.24%
22	146.00	73.00	54.00	6.04%
23	145.00	72.50	55.00	6.24%
24	145.00	72.50	55.00	6.24%
25	144.00	72,00	56.00	6.44%
26	144.00	72.00	56.00	6.44%
27	141.00	70.50	<b>59.00</b>	7.07%
28	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
29	138.00	69.00	62.00	7.76%
30	137.00	68.50	63.00	<b>7.99</b> %
31	137.00	68.50	63.00	7.99%
OI	20			

In 1846, Charlotte C. Black sold her entire holding in the mill to Thomas and Benjamin Rowland for \$9000 who used it for grinding chocolate and spices and at the same time continued to make spades and shovels in the mill across the creek as well as in the Upper Mill. Gradually, however, all of the mills were devoted to the manufacture of spades and shovels.

After 1824 the growth of the steel industry was rapid.

In 1831 the Rowland family began to manufacture saws. It is claimed they were the first saw manufacturers in the United States. While there is no doubt concerning the truth of this statement there is some question as to whether the first saws were actually made in Cheltenham or Philadelphia. An earlier record of 1802 refers to William Rowland, saw maker of Philadelphia. The saws that were made in Cheltenham were fabricated in a little stone building along Ashbourne Road, long since razed. The blades of these saws, before having the teeth cut, were taken to different grist mills, throughout the country surrounding, where they were smoothed by being passed between the wheels.

Later this firm, T. and B. Rowland, joined with William and Harvey Rowland under the firm name of T. Rowland and Brothers.

In August 16, 1851, the four brothers bought out James and Nathan Saw Works in Kensington and formed a new firm, William Rowland and Company, thus removing the saw industry from Cheltenham.

By the middle of the 19th century, a good sized village called Milltown had grown up about the mills.

In 1816 a group of men decided to form a Methodist Church and selected the public school for the purpose of holding a meeting. The prejudice against the Methodists was so strong that the ministers were not permitted to enter the building but stood on the outside. However, the movement continued to grow in strength until 1846 when Thomas Rowland deeded a piece of ground for the erection of the first Methodist Episcopal Church. He later also deeded a tract of ground for the parsonage. This was the first church to be erected in this village. The lot in the rear of the church was used for a burial ground and even at the present time is the only burial ground within the limits of Cheltenham Village. In connection with the cemetery it might be stated that though the deeds prohibited the burial of any person of the colored race, exception was made in connection with the death of Eliza Larkins an old slave who had been in the service of the Rowlands for a number of years and who, when she died, was buried in the Rowland Burial lot.

Until 1855 the mail for the Village had been brought by horseback from Philadelphia by Slitting Mill Road and later by stage coach from Frankford. In 1852, John Haines of Frankford, ran the mail route from Philadelphia to Newtown, 27 miles. For the Department's requirement of "2 h. c." (two horse coach) he received \$489. a year for three round trips a week, man

# A DUTY AND A RESPONSIBILITY

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and beasts. His route left the Central Office, 5½ miles to Feltonville, thence up Rising Sun Avenue to Oxford Station (changed to "Oxford Church" in 1857) and so on to Fox Chase, Huntingdon Valley, Sorrel Horse and other places still familiar to us. At each of these places, a local Post Chice was maintained. In 1855, Thomas Rowland made application for a local post office which was denied by the Department because there was another post office by the name of "Milltown" in the State. John Cooke, who owned the property now occupied by the Ashbourne Country Club suggested the name of Cheltenham. This was accepted by the Post Office Department. Thomas Rowland, appointed June 4, 1855, was the first Post Master, and his "compensation" for the first year was \$29.32.

When Thomas Rowland opened Cheltenham Post Office in 1855, the Mail Stage Route was increased by a mile and John Haines was allowed \$15 a year extra, for deflecting from Rising Sun Avenue. He undoubtedly would have entered along Martin's Mill Road to the Post Office in Myers' (now Houldin's) Store, returning by the same way, to serve Oxford Church P. O. That was a very, very long mile.

Quite evidently John Haines thought so too. Although mail carriers made considerable profit in carrying passengers and local parcels, John's bid in 1856, for the same service, was \$1200, and he lost out to George M. Lodge, of Newtown, who assumed the route, including Cheltenham P. O., for \$700. It was an arduous run. The two horse coach, under Lodge, left Newtown every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5 A. M. It was due in Philadelphia at 11 A. M. Returning the same day, it left the Central Post Office, Philadelphia, at 2 P. M., due to arrive at Newtown at 8 P. M.

One can well fancy the importance of this contact with the outside world, to the villagers along this, and hundreds of similar routes, in the days before postage stamps were in use and when the Post Master had to mark the postage rate upon each letter, in ink.

On September 27, 1866, Albert J. Myers, who owned the general store, received the appointment as Post Master. His first year's salary was \$160. He served for nearly 31 years—the longest incumbency in the history of the Post Office. He was succeeded, June 25, 1897, by his son, Eugene Myers and on February 3, 1900, by his daughter, Mary W. Myers.

In 1868, the "High Mill," as it was called, because of its four stories, was burned to the ground. This mill was originally the merchant and grist mill and spice grinding mill, which had been operating from 1690, although it had been enlarged at the time of its purchase by Thomas Rowland. This was replaced by a one story building over 200 feet in length.

In 1860, Edward Waln, purchased a tract of land along Ashbourne and what we now know as Jenkintown Roads, from James Caskey and Benjamin Rowland, Sr. This land of Benjamin Rowland was part of the

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Upper Mill tract. Edward Waln was a lawyer and sportsman. He erected on this tract a beautiful house, racing and breeding stables. The Estate received the name of "Walthamstowe." The large field along Ashbourne Road was used as a race track and it was not an uncommon sight to see the spirited horses of the Waln's stable being exercised on the tract preparatory to a race.

Mrs. Waln, whose maiden name was Ellen Nixon, was a lineal descendent of John Nixon, who read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of Independence Hall in 1776 and also of Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution. The house itself was a show place of the community, standing on the summit of the hill reached by a lane a quarter-mile in length, flanked on either side by rows of Norway Maples. It is regretable to note that at this time none of the Waln family remains alive.

Those who have died include, Mrs. Chas. Custis Harrison, wife of the ex-provost of the University of Pennsylvania; Mrs. R. B. Shepherd, wife of the arch-deacon of New Jersey; Jacob Waln, Morris Waln, Nicholas Waln, and Edward Waln.

Mr. Morris Waln who acquired a country wide reputation as a horseman frequently entered horses in races in different sections of the country. Failing to obtain the consent of Miss Rhawn's parents to their marriage, Morris, in company with Mr. Strong, the son of a wealthy New York family, started on an extensive trip horseback through the unbroken southwest, where both were murdered by their half-breed cook.

The present owners of this tract are no less distinguished. This property was purchased in 1929 by Joseph S. L. Levering Wharton who was connected with the Wharton Steel Works. His widow, Amelia Bird Shoemaker Wharton who now resides there, is a lineal descendent of Toby Leech who was responsible for naming Cheltenham Township.

About 1868 the Shovel Mill discontinued the manufacturing of shovels at the Upper Mill by the process of hammering out steel bars and began the manufacturing of a type of shovel known as "Patent Work". Since this process was known only to the Ames Shovel and Tool Company, Thomas Fisher was sent by the Ames Company at North Easton, Mass., to Cheltenham to instruct the workmen in the art of making the rew type of shovel which was then made from blades to which a front strap was welded.

In 1872 the only means of transportation to the City proper was by way of stage coach to Frankford, thence by "dummy" and horse car to the center of the city.

In 1872 work was began on the Philadelphia, Newtown and New York Railroad. In 1875 it was completed and opened as far as Cheltenham. In 1876, the extension was laid to Fox Chase and service opened to that point. In this year of the Centennial trains were run over this branch and transferred over to Pennsylvania Railroad, at North Penn junction to the Fair Grounds in Fairmount Park, conveying visitors from this section direct to the grounds.

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In October, 1886, Charles D. Conklin, Sr., who was then beginning to develop as a builder, contracted to construct a second story to the Mill office, located in the corner of the mill facing directly on Central Avenue. While the building was in the course of construction a fire started at night at the mill from an overheated bearing and flames spread throughout the entire long building. The only water supply was that furnished by a bucket brigade formed by the workers who were roused from their beds and carried water from the creek. Edwin S. Rowland rode hastily to Frankford to secure the aid of a Philadelphia Fire Company and on the return to the fire, the engine became stuck in the mud. Mr. Rowland rode his horse through the glare of the fire and ordered the teamsters to get their horses from the stable in the rear of the mill, ford the stream and pull the engine to the fire. Despite the efforts of the bucket brigade and the Frankford firemen the main part of the mill was burned. Mr. Conklin lost all his tools in this fire.

While the ruins were still smoldering a mill wright was engaged, lumber was ordered and the work of re-construction began immediately. This mill became the second largest shovel factory in the United States. However, with the opening of the Century, it became apparent in view of the rapid practice of mergers that this company could not successfully compete, so in 1901 the entire land was sold to the Ames Shovel and Tool Company which operated it until June 2, 1928 when it was finally closed.

In 1891, the Church of Our Lady of Presentation was built from material brought from the Church of the Visitation in Richmond, Philadelphia, and re-erected in Cheltenham.

During the nineties, both the Myers and Beecher farms had been plotted for development. All the present, well known streets were laid out, and Central and Ryers Avenues soon became actualities. The cross streets developed more slowly.

Under the visions of William B. Gayde, Charles D. Conklin, James Mitchell and John Pike, the houses grew and Cheltenham gradually became a united Village with the first consciousness of that local loyalty to, and pride in its own citizens and institutions that impresses everyone even superficially acquainted with it.

Mrs. Bawn, widow of Robert W. Ryerss fulfilled her desire of long standing by conveying the lots at the corner of Cottman street and Central avenue for the erection of an Episcopal Chapel. Departing for China, where she died soon after, she provided for the erection of the beautiful St. Aidan's which we know today, and which long will attest the architectural mastery of Edward H. Wigham.

In 1914 the Methodist Church, under the inspired leadership of the Rev. Abram Vivien, moved its congregation to a new Gothic building at Myrtle and Central Avenues, and the simple and stately old "Meeting House" on Rowland avenue, hallowed by years of worshipful recollections, was demolished.

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The former Episcopal Chapel at Laurel and Central Avenues was shortly afterwards conveyed to the Pilgrim Lutheran Congregation. In 1921, the Friends' Meeting House was erected on Ryers Avenue and with that, the present complement of Church properties in the Village was completed.

During these same decades, the secular interests of the Town flourished surely and securely. The two calamitous fires already described, had left their impression upon the men of the growing community. In 1896 Cheltenham Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 was organized. Now, ensconced in its perfectly appointed home on Ryers Avenue, as a part of the marvelously efficient Township Fire Department, it stands ready, day and night, to prevent and extinguish fires in line with the most enlightened modern technique. Its former home, lower down on Ryers Avenue was purchased by Forsythe-Oldham-Griffith Post No. 497, American Legion, and within its walls are now sponsored several of the town's public spirited activities.

In 1907 the New York Short Line was constructed, and since that time, Cheltenham has seen much of the heavy passenger and freight traffic of the Reading, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad systems.

When Ernest Rieben opened his Drug Store at Central and Beecher avenues in 1904, he pioneered at a corner which is now the important business center of the upper part of the Village. The growth of Philadelphia to the Northeast, and of Rowland Park, to the south, have longated the town and developed Central Avenue throughout its length into a primary business artery.

The Post Office, beyond other public institutions, marked the steady growth of the Village in population, correspondence and business interchange. Harry L. Shull, appointed Postmaster in 1904, resigned in 1910 and the first competitive Civil Service examinations for the office was then held. Frank C. Fisher qualified and on January 16, 1911 was appointed for the period which ended in 1934, the next to the longest incumbency in that office.

Under Mr. Fisher the Post Oifice was removed from the corner of the Village store, which it had occupied since 1855 into the Laird property immediately opposite. In 1913 it attained a third class rating; in 1915, it was removed to its present location, 502 Central avenue, where in 1930 it was raised to second class rating. From this building, at Christmas time, 1920 and 1921, Mr. Fisher instituted Cheltenham's first postal delivery, a service which was quite voluntary on his part and entirely at his own expense. In 1934, the present incumbent, George Ramsey, was provisionally appointed, and he was permanently confirmed on June 10, 1935.

Until 1924 all the banking business of Cheltenham had been conducted through outside banks, either at Frankford, Fox Chase or other sections. In this year a strong movement developed to institute a bank in Cheltenham. This movement met with considerable opposition as it was

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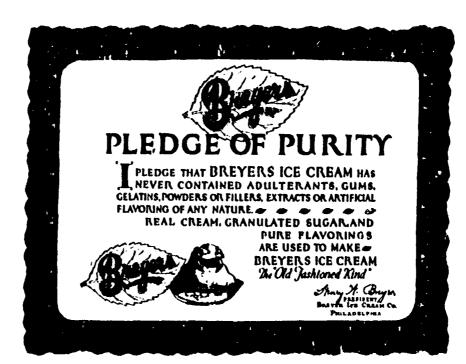
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felt that, located as it was, Cheltenham had no need for a bank. However, Francis R. Taylor, who had sponsored the movement, persevered in his intentions and The Cheltenham National Bank was opened in 1924 with Mr. Taylor as President. Needless to say, the wisdom of the movement has long since been apparent, it now having total assets of \$1,700,000. This Institution has been a credit to the town and a medium of assistance to many, especially during the Great Depression, beginning in 1929.

In the same year the Rowland Mansion and estate was sold for a dwelling development which as a sub-division of Cheltenham was named Rowland Park. Many attractive homes have been built that have added materially to the population of the town.

In 1931 a movement developed sponsored by the Cheltenham Improvement Association to have the entire tract of the Ames Co. purchased for a recreation center. The price set for the property at that time by the Ames Company was deemed prohibitive but on December 4, 1934 a compromise was reached by which the Township acquired the entire holdings of the Ames Shovel and Tool Company for a fractional part of the original price. Today it stands as a monument to the efforts of those whose fcresight and vision supplied the necessary energy to continue the fight for a place where the youth of the Township can be trained along athletic lines without the hazard of playing in the street. Tookany Park with its 36 acres will stand as a thing of beauty and a joy for the youths of today and the future.

Returning once more to the site of the slitting mills. In February 23, 1800, Samuel Miles conveyed ½ interest in his slitting mill and the land adjoining Slitting Mill Rd. to James Rowland, no relation, however, to the Rowland family. Later the entire interest passed to John Rowland whose wife, Harriet, acquired the property at his death.

In 1849, Alired Hunt, who had previous experience persuaded Mrs. Rowland to utilize the power of the mill dam to operate a steel rolling mill. Two plants, a puddling mill on one side of the dam and a rolling mill on the other were constructed. These mills produced boiler plates which were rolled into "blooms" and were hauled by string teams along Slitting Mill Road through Milltown to Frankford. In 1858 these mills were abandoned, Mr. Hunt who had been in charge became the first president of the Bethlehem Iron Company when it was organized in 1860. This property finally passed into the hands of Mr. Andrews, a distributor and at his death became the property of his daughier, Mrs. John Emery. The Curtis Publishing Company finally purchased it for the club, for their amployees. The place now is known as the Melrose Country Club. Briefly in conclusion there are several high-lights in the narrative which I had previously omitted to mention.

In 1935 I wrote an account of the outstanding personalities of the town. At that time I mentioned one, William T. Johanns who lived in obscurity and whose work I predicted would not be appreciated until after his passing. Recently, after his death, many beautiful works of art were discovered in his studio of which even his family were not aware. It is indeed to be

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regretted that a man possessed of such outstanding ability should have preferred to live as he did, passing up a possible chance to fame and fortune.

The property owned by Chas. Llewellyn, at Beecher and Elm Avenues ence owned by a Mr. Beecher. Several years ago a report was circulated that it was in this house that Harriett Beecher Stowe wrote the first ten chapters of Uncle Tom's Cabin and also the poem entitled "The Elms". Evidently this was a revival of an old story since the writer's mother, who was a friend of the Beecher family as well as Miss Phoebe Krewson who resides on Laurel Avenue had both spoken of the same rumor and had stated that Mr. Beecher and his family laughingly disclaimed any relation to the August Beecher family, and stated that Mrs. Stowe had never even visited Cheltenham. Communication with the family of Henry Ward Beecher in Connecticut a few years ago confirmed this statement.

Of the families who have resided in the village continuously for 100 years are very few. Among which are the Rowland, Gayde, Harvey and Lockard families.

Among those who have held outstanding positions have been Mr. Howard Rowland, owning the proud distinction of not only holding the position of first Commissioner of Cheltenham but also that of being the first president of the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township. Mr. John R. Pike, who in 1900 was a Republican Delegate when the Convention for Wm. McKinley was held in Philadelphia. One of his sons, Harold C. Pike, who was born at this place, followed in his footsteps in public life becoming successively the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners, Member of the Legislature, Executive Secretary of the Board of Commissioners, the present Township Manager as well as Republican Leader of the Township. Mr. Chas. D. Conklin, Sr., who had been active in civic and political circles and at his death was real estate assessor of Cheltenham Township. His son, Charles D. Conklin, Jr., being the present president of the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township.

In 1868 Jacob Krewson purchased from Thompson and Lardner families a large tract of land at the northwestern section of the town. His son, James Krewson later developed it into a large nursery. Mr. James Krewson, himself, having served in the position of County Commissioner and his son, Howard, later became a Township Commissioner.

This in a brief dis-jointed way the condensed history of Cheltenham has been covered. Owing to the limited space, we close our narrative in the hope that some day this material may be of use to some historian who may write of a pleasant valley which was the mecca of artists from New York and elsewhere whose people had lived at peace for 250 years and of whom can be truthfully said

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By LOUIS A. HIRSCH, JR. and HORACE J. SUBERS

Cheltenham Township was one of the earliest surveyed divisions of Philadelphia County. The Survey appears upon Thomas Holme's map of the "Improved Part of the Province of Pensilvania in America" begun in 1683 and published in London in 1687. It shows 14 owners upon the rectangular strip which is in the extreme southeast corner of what is now Montgomery County set off from Philadelphia in 1784. The most prominent of the 14 purchasers of land who came to live in Cheltenham Township were Toby Leech and Richard Wall—two Quakers from Cheltenham in Gloucestershire who undoubtedly gave the township its name. The township is 5½ miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is bounded by Abington and Springfield Townships and by Philadelphia County. The first record of its name appears to be in the minute creating what is now Abington Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. In this minute, passed December 3, 1683, a meeting place for the Society was established at the house of Richard Wall near Cheltenham.

The home of Richard Wall, at what is now York Road and Church Road, became the center of a considerable settlement. As we have seen, Wall came from Hasfield near Cheltenham in Gloucestershire, with his family which consisted of his wife, his son Richard Wall, Jr., and his wife who was Rachel Leech, a sister of Toby, and their daughter Sarah. The Walls had 700 acres here.

Arriving in the mid-summer of 1682 he undoubtedly constructed his residence before winter set in. Whether this was of logs or of stone we do not know, but as there was stone immediately available, it is probable that he soon built a two-story stone house of two rooms without a collar, which now forms the northwest corner of the present house. It was added to about 1725, and the large portion was built about 1800. It is now part of the Wall Park, a fitting memorial to the first settlers. Richard Wall, Jr. died in 1689, and his father in 1698. Sarah thus became the heiress of the estates.

The Wall House was one of the very earliest meeting places for Friends, who then met in the homes of members, as no Meeting Houses had yet been built, and it seems to be one of the oldest still standing. On account of a bequest in 1697 of 120 acres in Abington Township by John Barnes, a meeting House was built there in 1699-1700 and the Meeting removed to its present location.

The marriage of many of the prominent Friends of the district took place in Richard Wall's house during the time that the Meeting used it.

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Through the marriage of his granddaughter and heiress, Sarah Wall to George Shoemaker, the house became the home of the progenitor of that important and numerous family which gave its name to the village that sprang up around the adjacent mill built by Dorothy Shoemaker, Richard Mather and John Tyson in 1746. Shoemakertown was changed to Ogontz in 1889 by Jay Cooke, and now is called Elkins Park.

Sarah Wall married George Shoemaker Jr., a Dutchman, son of George and Sarah Shoemaker, who was born in Kriegsheim, Germany about 1663. He came to Cheltenham with his mother and a large family, his father having died on the voyage. The widow Sarah Shoemaker purchased from Patrick Robinson 200 acres between Richard Wall and John Russell in 1686.

Dorothy Shoemaker, daughter-in-law of George and Sarah Shoemaker, built the grist mill, already mentioned, in partnership with Richard Mather and John Tyson and is described in the agreement, dated November 6, 1746, as follows: "Ye s'd mill and for other conveniences abovt ye s'd mill (ye race and dam excepted) is to begin at Toxony Crick, opposite ye s'd Dorothy's garden at ye place of s'd crick commonly called and known by the name of ye Sheep's-Washing-Place and from thence to extend down ye east side of ye s'd crick to the fording place of s'd crick in ye York Road." The fording place has long since disappeared and a stone arch took its place which remained for 136 years.

The last Shoemaker to own the property was Charles H. Shoemaker, born 1812 and died 1897. On April 1, 1847 the estate was sold to Charles Bosler, one of Charles H. Shoemaker's employees, who continued to operate the mill. His son and grandson, Joseph and Charles kept it going until about 25 years ago. In 1927 it was demolished.

The Friends Meeting, the grist mill, and the residences of some of the most important people in the township made this place a distinguished one and the first center for many miles about. It was undoubtedly the nucleus about which grew the town which so unfortunately lost the name that rightly belongs to it.

Other business ventures in the neighborhood were Toby Leech's tannery and bakery near his house on Church Road below Shoemakertown, in 1683, Jacob Leech's grist mill there in 1751, Jacob Myer's fork factory in this mill in 1848, Myers and Ervien's fork factory and C. Hammond & Son, edge tools, across the road in 1840. Later Horace Ervien made carriages on the York Road at Shoemakertown.

The earliest villages that appeared are Shoemakertown, Cheltenham, Bountytown—later Ashbourne, Camptown—later LaMott, and Harmer Hill or Green Summit at Church Road and Limekiln Pike, which has now disappeared. When the North Penn Rail Road was constructed in 1855, the towns were greatly developed. The first stations hereabouts were Ashbourne, Old York Road, Church Road, Chelten Hills, Tacony—later Cheltenham

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and now Jenkintown, and Abington—now Glenside. The last two are the only ones that remain today. York Road, 1711, and Lin Itiln Pike, 1716, were the principal roads with Abington Road—now Washington Lane, and Church Road appearing about 20 years later. Church Road was built and so-called in 1736 to connect Trinity Church, Oxford near the Second Street Pike, with St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh. These two parishes were served by one rector who no doubt rode the 15 miles on horseback.

The other prominent original settler and owner of several of the original strips of land was Toby Leech whose house was on Church Road just below his grist mill, later part of the extensive establishment of Myers and Ervien, at Mill and Church Roads. It is supposed the name Cheltenham was given to the township by Toby Leech. There were no roads near his house when it was first built, but in the spring of 1704, a road was laid out from his place to Germantown. It later became a part of Church Road.

The vast estates of the original settlers were divided up as new families came out to the suburbs. One of these, Richard J. Dobbins, a prominent Philadelphia builder, purchased a large amount of land once part of the Leech tract, comprising the greater part of the village of Ashbourne and vicinity. Adjoining Dobbins on the south were the estates of Edward M. Davis and Charles Sharpless.

Although the original settlers were Quakers, other churches were established as the new families came out. The first one in this district, St. Paul's P. E. Church, was built in 1861 at the corner of York and Ashbourne Roads. Presbyterian services were first held at Shoemakertown but in 1878, Richard Dobbins offered a building in the town of Ashbourne to be used for a Sunday School and services. The present Ashbourne Presbyterian Church was built in 1884 and later added to.

Education was not neglected. The Public School system was very well developed for such a rural community. All the school directors were prominent citizens, among whom was Benjamin Rowland Myers, president of the school board for many years. Before school buildings were erected classes were held in what were once private homes. One of these, and probably the first of these, is still standing on Mill Road below Church Road. The Shoemaker School was the first public school building in Shoemaker-town and was located across from the present Shoemaker school. Later the Ashbourne School on Union Avenue was built and used for higher education. The High School Building, built in 1906 is now the Elkins Park Junior High School, and the present High School building was completed in 1926.

This Historical Commemoration is being held to honor the early pioneers who established this community, and their successors who have developed it to its present high standards.

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# AS TOLD BY WILLIAM J. BOWSER, SR. TO BETTY HAUG

In 1869 when I first came to LaMott, which is located at the South-western part of Cheltenham Township, it was a little community, known as Camptown, more recently known as LaMott. Upon my arrival in LaMott from on Eastern Shore Maryland where I served as a slave there were only four colored families in LaMott, namely, William Butcher, William Watson, George Henry and William Bowser.

During the Civil War troops of the 160th Pennsylvania Infantry were quartered on that site bounded by Cheltenham Avenue to Willow Avenue between what is now known as Sycamore and Penrose Avenues and because of the soldiers camp being located here, the town which grew around it was known as Camptown. In the midst of this plot stood a massive tree which marked the headquarters of General Wagner the Commander of this troop. At the end of the Civil War when the camp dismantled, the lumber from the barracks was diverted to the construction of houses, for the residents of the town, some of which are still standing on what is now known as Keenan Street, a few of them are still in the original state, the remainder having been remodeled along a modern trend.

Lucretia Mott, whose home occupied the site where the entrance to Latham Park now stands, was a Quaker lady of strong abolitionist tendencies, who during the war accomplished a great deal associated with the "Underground Railroad". Due to her sympathies for the unfortunate colored race, the number of colored families in the vicinity increased. Lucretia Mott was born in 1793 and after many years of anti-slavery activities, departed this life in 1880.

The first street in LaMott to be developed was Willow Avenue, which was adjacent to the Davies residence. Mr. Davies, Lucretia Mott's father, was a pioneer in aiding the colored residents to secure homes of their own. Mr. Davies donated the ground for both the school and the church. The school was conveyed in 1877 and the church in 1888. The church which was a frame structure was torn down and in 1911 a brick and stone structure was erected, under the pastorate of the late Reverend H. D. Brown.

The philanthropic activities of the late George Widener, whose demise was caused by the ill fated sinking of the Titanic, donated a sizeable sum, which proved to be of immense assistance as it was given to the people at the time of the rebuilding of the church.

In the old days, the nearest stores in which to purchase supplies and

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foods were either in the town of Ogontz or Branchtown.

The greenhouses which Mr. Campbell now occupies was formerly a brick yard owned by Mr. William Watson, one of the first settlers of LaMott, from which many of the bricks in the houses today were derived.

While in the several decades past the population of LaMott has increased, the same deep seated religious atmosphere prevails which has been reflected in the lives of the present generation.

While, as in preceding years, LaMott has a mixed population, at no time has local strife developed and both white and colored dwell harmoniously.

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# WYNCOTE

(Chelten Hills)

#### By RALPH MORGAN and HORACE M. LIPPINCOTT

The Wall House at Ogontz was among the earliest buildings in Cheltenham Township, being started in the summer of 1682. Certainly it is the oldest building now standing in Cheltenham Township and for many years that part of Cheltenham Township to the northwest of the Wall house, nicluding what is now Chelten Hills and Wyncote was farm land.

Church Road was laid out in 1732, being the route of the minister imported from England by the congregations of St. Thomas', Whitemarsh, and Trinity Church, Oxford, neither Church of itself being able to support a minister alone, but by combining were able about 1730 to support a minister between them and the good man rode in fair weather and foul from St. Thomas' to Oxford and thus made "Church Road." In 1732 the Council was petitioned to lay out a road, York Road having been laid our some twenty years previous.

In Colonial days there were not many houses although the Mather property at what is now Washington Lane and Church Road was built in the middle of the eighteenth century. Dating from the late 18th century and early 19th century was the Heacock's farm at what is now Glenside Avenue and Heacock Road in Wyncote. The old farm house still stands and is occupied by the Heacock family who became florists and greenhouses still adjoin the Heacock mansion. Miss Annie Heacock conducted a famous school in the old farm house from about the time of the Civil War until the anyly 1900's. Many local families sent their children to this school and a number of pupils came from out of town and boarded with the Heacocks.

Another famous farm in the Wyncote area was the Kent farm, the house later being the Beechwood Inn famous as a suburban inn for some forty years and is now the Jenkintown site of Beaver College. The Kent meadows extended over the site of Jenkintown Station and the present Wyncote Park.

Still another old farm house of the Township still standing was the present residence of Isaac Mather at Washington Lane and Township Line. Washington Lane, formerly known as Abington Road, was laid out about this time, being the means of travel of the Friends from Abington Meeting to Germantown Meeting.

During the Civil War an encampment extending from Washington Lane and Church Road to Cheltenham Avenue, under the command of General J. Louis Wagner, was used for the drilling of colored troops and as such caused the settlement of LaMott, named for Lucretia Mott, famous Quaker

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preacher, and one of the organizers of the underground railroad through which slaves escaped from the South to Canada. Lucretia Mott lived on York Road just above Cheltenham Avenue and her house was torn down only a few years ago. The village of LaMott took its name from Lucretia Mott but was first named Camptown being the result of camps for colored soldiers.

Lucretia Mott's son-in-law, Edwin M. Davis, might be termed, after Wm. Penn, as the first modern realtor to operate in this section. It was Edwin M. Davis who induced many famous Philadelphia families to locate summer homes and all-year around residences in Cheltenham Township. Immediately following the Civil War it was he who induced Jay Cooke to locate at Ashbourne Road and Washington Lane, John Wanamaker along York Road, several families of Lippincotts, including Horace Lippincott, the wholesale grocer, Abraham Barker, the banker, the Sturgis's and many others. The Barker family owned vast tracts of land in what is now Wyncote and it was Abraham Barker who became the next realtor in subdividing farm lands into home sites.

The coming of the North Pennsylvania Railroad through Cheltenham Township in 1855 was likewise another impetus to the development of the Township and certain villages—Ashbourne, the greater development of Ogontz, Chelten Hills and what is now the section around Jenkintown Station. In the early days of the railroad the present Jenkintown Station was called Abington and settlements began springing up almost from the beginning of the railroad. Ogontz, of course had its beginning almost from the inception of the Wall house. In the very early days a mill was erected adjacent to the Wall house by George Shoemaker who married the granddaughter of Richard Wall and so the settlement of Ogontz dates way back into Colonial times, but it was the coming of the North Pennsylvania Railroad that really caused the development of Chelten Hills and then Wyncote.

As stated, Abraham Barker, in subdividing his property in the late 1870's caused the settlement of Wyncote and it was he who named the village "Wyncote" despite great protests from the residents of Chelten Hills which centered more about the crossing of Washington Lane and the railroad which had been the main settlement.

In the late 1880's Wyncote came into being as a real village with the advent of such families as Henry K. Walt and then the Jenkintown Station. In the early 90's James J. Sill, Alison Cochrane, Cortland Cramp, Joseph Reed and others built substantial properties in Wyncote.

All Hallows Episcopal Church was founded about this time, first as a chapel, and Calvary Presbyterian Church followed shortly thereafter.

It was not long after this that Dr. John B. Deaver and Dr. Harry Deaver settled in Wyncote and the community was a flourishing one fifty years

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ago due to the influx of these and other well established families.

Dr. Wharton Sinkler made a summer home in Wyncote about this time as did the Brock family, cousins of the Sinklers. Cyrus H. K. Curtis bought the Abraham Barker property in the middle 90's when Mr. Curtis was feeling the first flush of success from his publishing venture of the Ladies' Home Journal. Upon the acquisition of the Saturday Evening Post he attracted George Horace Lorimer, brilliant editor of this then new type of magazine, later to be followed by P. S. Collins, also of Curtis fame, and John Gribbel, who was making a fortune selling gas meters at this time and was one of the backers of Mr. Curtis in his publishing ventures. Spencer K. Mulford came to Wyncote in the middle 90's with his leather fortune and soon the village of Wyncote was surrounded by large and beautiful estates.

The coming of W. W. Harrison at Church Road and Easton Road with his famous castle that now houses a part of Beaver Coliege was an advent of fifty or more years ago but in the development of his property, Mr. Harrison all but wiped out the ancient village of Harmer Hill which was established at Church and Waverly Roads and of which but few traces remain.

When the Reading Railroad leased the North Pennsylvania Railroad and put through the Philadelphia and Bound Brook Railroad which gave the Reading access to New York, Jenkintown Station became an important junction point. This was in the late 1870's and had much to do with making Wyncote an important village due to the increased number of trains that passed through Jenkintown Station.

In the time of the Centennial in 1876, Wyncote achieved importance due to the influx of important visitors from all over the world entertained by Abraham Barker, who was a banker. His brother, Wharton Barker lived across Church Road from the Abraham Barker mansion and the late John Gribbel told the writer of these lines same years ago that the first telephone line ever to be erected in the United States was built between the Abraham Barker's house and Wharton Barker's house, approximately one quarter of a mile distance. When the young inventor, Alexander Graham Bell was endeavoring to seek backing for his telephone device from Philadelphia bankers, Mr. Abraham Barker invited a number of the notables in the financial world of Philadelphia to observe the demonstration and conversations were held between the two houses, much to the edification of the assembled "bigwigs" who were much impressed with the invention but in sitting around a table later to determine whether they would back it with cash, they decided that while it might be an interesting scientific phenomenon, it was of "no practical or commercial value", so Mr. Bell took his invention to Boston where men of greater vision backed it. The writer has tried to verify this story with the Bell Telephone Company but they apparently have no records of it. However, Mr. John Gribbel told the writer that he had this story direct from Abraham Barker.

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Wharton Barker was a candidate for the Presidency of the United States in the election of 1892 on the Populist ticket and although badly defeated, was, I believe, the only Presidential candidate from Cheltenham Township.

In the Revolutionary War, Church Road and Washington Lane played an important part. General Smallwood and General Foreman marched over Church Road to partake in the Battle of Germantown and the British marched over Church Road in their attempt to surprise Washington at Whitemarsh after the Battle of Germantown and following the Battle of Whitemarsh, retreated over the same route.

There were doubtless many other movements of troops over this old road through the environments of Wyncote, particularly General Lacy of the American Cavalry Patrol—whose function it was to cut off supplies going into Philadelphia—who must have galloped the lengths of Church Road and Washington Lane many times. Of course General Washington on his way to the Battle of Brandywine, moved down the York Road from his encampment at Little Neshaminy in Bucks County.

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# GLENSIDE

#### By WILLIAM McCANN

The part of Glenside in Cheltenham Township was begun as a railroad station of the old North Penna. Railroad in 1857, now a part of the Phila. and Reading system. The hamlet of Harmer Hill over at Limekiln Pike and Church Road was a goodly settlement many years before that time. While there are hardly as many houses now as there were in that section in 1857 owing to W. W. Harrison purchasing several of them and tearing them down, there was a general store on the triangle of what is now Easton Road and the Limekiln Pike and for many years it housed the post office known as the Waverly Heights P. O., that name being the name of the section of Glenside at Waverly Road and Limekiln Pike. There was also a saddler shop, a shoemaker shop, the Methodist Church built in 1852 and the public school alongside of it. These were on Church Road between 500 and 600 feet west of Limekiln Pike and the physician who brought the writer into the world in 1860 lived next door to the Church, so you can see that this was a nice little community of itself. Then the section on Waverly Road, west of Limekiln Pike, was taken up by a number of Hebrews who had made money during the Civil War and they built stately mansions for that period and had a nice little synagcque which I have been in since it was transformed into a private house. The old name of Harmer Hill came from the family of Harmers who had farms in that section. historical document in the Montgomery County Historical Society at Norristown which states Wm. Penn granted a thousand acres of ground to one of four brothers named Harmer. It reached across Cheltenham Township from about Jenkintown Station across Church Road toward Mt. Airy. One brother received a grant in New Jersey, one in Virginia and one in Ohio. I am sorry to lose the name of Harmer from the vicinity as the ones I knew were fine men. Henry had a carriage builder's shop in Flourtown; David was also a carriage builder in old Weldon, now part of Glenside in Abington Township, and John was the wheelwright at the same place. He was also the Treasurer of Abington Township for a term.

The old name of Glenside was Abington Station and it was not until a post office was wanted here that it was changed. This was April 1, 1885. The original name of the station was Tacony as it was near the Tacony Creek and while it is nearer Jenkintown Station, there was no Jenkintown Station at this time, 1857, and we have now in our possession a copy of

J. HEITZMAN

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a chart showing all the stations of the old road from Master Street station, Phila. to Gwynedd, at this time the terminus of the road, the data of which will be found in the Bulletin being published this October for the Ola York Road Historical Society, the same being furnished from the records of the North Penn given to it in a lecture by the Reading's secretary, Jay V. Bare.

The name Tacony did not last long for Mr. Comly who had the coal and lumber yard here at the time told me personally that one evening a lady got off the only evening train here thinking she was arriving at Tacony on the Delaware, so Mr. Comly got out his horse and buggy, drove her over there, then wrote the Company about the occurrence and they changed the name to Abington as the station was at the line of Abington Township. Mt. Carmely Avenue was known as the Township Line then.

Rice's Mill Road which is the lower end of Glenside was laid out in 1751 and it was over this road that lime was taken to Phila, to use in the building of the old State House.

My great uncle, George Blackard McCann, bought 6 acres of ground and a log house on it at the corner of it and Church Road in 1844 for \$400.00 and it is now part of the Grabell Estate. The Limekiln Pike is believed to have been laid out in 1711 and up on the gable end of the old Eagle Hotel, Edge Hill, is a stone with that date cut in it and there is some old houses there yet from Revolutionary times. Some that we knew in our youth have been torn down.

Edge Hill Village was so named in 1838. Previous to that it was known as Guineatown as a family of Guinea Negroes had settled there. One named Montier married the negro maid of General Murray who was of the American Army and owned some 600 acres adjoining the present Edge Hill Village.

General Murray, when he died, had left her 100 acres of it which took in part of Edge Hill in Cheltenham Township and some of it in Abington Township. For years there was great difficulty in getting proper title to any of this ground. In this town a log house was built in 1768 by one William Bradfield. A stone house was built right on the Pike opposite to where the Willow Grove Road opens on it by one Abner Bradfield, brother of William, for his granddaughter when she married a John Shaffer. This was known in my youth as the Isaac Shaffer home. Both of these places have been razed. One old farm house still standing is known as the Heist place. David Heist took possession of it in 1846 but it had been built some time before that. When I was a boy I went there to buy 2 cents worth of yeast for my mother. Mrs. Heist was the noted yeast maker of the community in those early days. We got our flour and corn meal from the old grist mill of Daniel Sill who operated it until the late eighties. It was founded by an Issac Knight about 1725, Farmers brought their wheat and

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Conklin, Charles D	207 Central Avenue, Cheltenham
Corson, Philip L	Plymouth Meeting
Daily, M. Lawrence	1228 Vine Street, Philadelphia
· ·	8331 High School Rd., Elkins Park
	Willow Grove Avenue, Laverock
Dixon, Mrs. Eleanor Widener	Spring Ave. & Serpentine Ln., Elkins Park
Doan, Ruth B	8340 High School Road, Elkins Park
Dugan, John L	. 8355 Cadwallader Avenue, Elkins Park
Ederer, Clarence L	11 Surrey Rd., Melrose Park
•	Bouvier & Cheltenham Ave., Phila.
	1829 Erlen Rd., La Mott
Feeney, Robert G	7850 Montgomery Avenue, Elkins Park
	7209 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park
	444 Valley Rd., Melrose Park
Foster, Major B	Rowland Avenue, Cheltenham
•	328 Harrison Avenue, Elkins Park
	6263 Oxford Avenue, Phila.
<del>-</del> '	Windsor Ave., Melrose Park
	Elkins Park
	Elkins Court, Elkins Park
	537 E. Church Rd., Elkins Park
	631 Chelten Hills Drive, Elkins Park
	7915 Montgomery Avenue, Elkins Park
Hana, David A	116 Windsor Avenue, Melrose Park
	P0

corn to be ground, often on the back of horses and taken away the same way. We still remember the old White Wagon that delivered the flour in the 60's, in fact it was Dan Rice's wagon that moved my parents from Mill Road to Mt. Carmel Ave. in the Spring of 1864. We still remember the two companies of soldiers from the Civil War that went from Hatboro and Doylestown, marched over the old plank Road (now the Easton Road) returning, what was left of them, to their home towns. So Glenside had patriotic demonstrations many years ago. Some six or seven thousand marched down Church Road from the camps in the vicinity of Fort Washington to Limekiln Pike to Washington Lane and to Germantown during the Revolutionary War.

The part of the present Glenside which takes in Lismore and Harrison Avenues was started to develop by M. L. Kohler over fifty years ago. The store properties on Easton Road being a later development. However, a Hotel, or rather a tavern, was built on it in the Grove, as it was then, at the corner of Mt. Carmel Ave. It was known as Liberty Grove and in summer time was used for picnics from Philadelphia. It had old fashioned high rope swings and a dance floor. The man who built and ran the place was a Captain of the Civil War named Robert Harper. There were several of the Harper family located at the corner of Church Road and Limekiln Pike for many years. Other old families were the Fishers, Tulls, Sines, Ferris's and the Bickleys.



# PATRONS AND PATRONESSES

Hagan, Mr. Peter P.	1103 Prospect Avenue, Oak Lane, Phila.
Hagerman, Mrs. Sallie	524 Spring Avenue, Elkins Park
Harrison, Charles E.	7703 Woodlawn Avenue, Elkins Park
Hartmann, John B.	Frankford Trust Co., Phila.
Haven, Margaret L	Elkins Park
Heimerdinger, Leo H.	Valley Rd., Melrose Park
Herkness, Wayne	824 Home Stead Rd., Jenkintown
Herzberg, Isabel M	
Hesselbacher, George E.	8200 Fairview Rd., Elkins Park
High, Samuel H	40 East Airy Street, Norristown
Hirsch, Louis A	520 Elkins Avenue, Elkins Park
Jasperson, Frederick	7800 Woodlawn Avenue, Melrose Park
Jones, Joseph L., 3rd	1523 North 26th Street, Phila.
Kahn, Charles	1009 Sharpless Rd., Melrose Park
Kaufmann, Mr. John J.	8210 High School Rd., Elkins Park
Kaufmann, Mrs. M. A.	7910 Whitewood Rd., Elkins Park
Kehr, Wesley Harris	8104 Brookside Rd., Elkins Park
Kelley, Mr. Richard C.	8212 Cedar Rd., Elkins Park
Klein, M. H.	8206 Marion Rd., Elkins Park
Kohn, Max	613 Elkins Avenue, Elkins Park
Krauss, George	8019 Hillcrest Avenue, Elkins Park
Krauss, Jacob L.	8110 Cadwallader Rd., Elkins Park
Lacey, Mr. James M.	Marlborough-Blenheim, Atlantic City, N. J.
Lacey, Mrs. James M.	Marlborough-Blenheim, Atlantic City, N. J.
Latham Park Improvement Ass'n	Latham Park, Pa.
Laubach, Mrs. Lillie C.	1010 Valley Rd., Oak Lane
Leopold, Chas. S.	
Lewis, Andrew L	Norristown, Pa.
Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Davis L	8309 York Road, Elkins Park
Linson, Edwin	108 Surrey Rd., Melrose Park
MacLean, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick	Elkins Court Apartments, Elkins Park
Marshall, John	Elkins Park
·	Glen Rd., Elkins Park
	1719 Chelsea Rd., Oak Lane
	7940 Montgomery Avenue, Elkins Park
	120 Meade Rd., Elkins Park
	High School & Sterling Rds., Elkins Park
	Wyncote, Pa.
	8224 Manor Rd., Elkins Park
Myers, Mrs. Edith H	
	508 Crest Ave., Melrose Park
Newburger, Frank L	Elkins Park

# PATRONS AND PATRONESSES

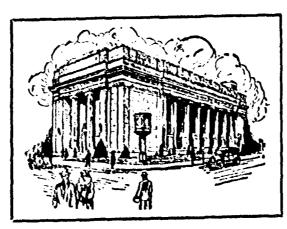
O'Hare, Mr. and Mrs. John J.	Asbury Ave., Oak Lane
Pieric George, Jr.	Spring Avenue, Elkins Park
Pike, Harold C.	8207 Marion Rd., Elkins Park
Pye, Mr. William M.	1113 Stratford Ave., Oak Lane, Phila.
Rabiger, Mr. Harry	535 Church Rd., Elkins Park
Reilly, Clarence F. B	1011 Stratford Avenue, Oak Lane, Phila.
Reiner, Edwin M	1202 Stratford Avenue, Elkins Fark
Renninger, Charles P	1311 Sansom St., Phila.
Rieff, J. E.	c/o Bell Telephone Co., Jenkintown
Rosenau, Mr. Fred J.	7900 Whitewood Rd., Elkins Park
Rosenbaum, Robert	8105 Brookside Rd., Elkins Park
Rosskam, Walter M.	
Rowland, Mr. Edwin S., Jr.	Rowland Avenue, Cheltenham
Rowland, Mr. Lynford, Jr.	Foulkrod & Northwood Sts., Phila.
	Rowland Avenue, Cheltenham
Schmidt, Charles E	
Schubert, Carl	7612 West Avenue, Elkins Park
Scullin, Simon, Patrick, Edward	Cambria & American Sts., Phila.
Sheffler, Mr. M.	
Shuster, George F	503 Shoemaker Rd., Elkins Park
Smith, Arthur	Lynnewood Farm, Elkins Park
Silmore, Mr. Irvin M.	512 Shoemaker Rd., Elkins Park
	407 Myrtle Avenue, Cheltenham
Strouse, Arthur A.	
	8134 Cedar Rd., Elkins Park
	525 Ryers Avenue, Cheltenham
	1101 Stratford Avenue, Elkins Park
	Cedar Rd., Elkins Park
	8211 Cedar Rd., Elkins Park
	106 Old Soldiers Rd., Cheltenham
	7211 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park
	409 Valley Rd., Melrose Park
A	7600 New Second St., Oak Lane
	501 Valley Rd., Oak Lane
	404 Waring Rd., Elkins Park
	529 Shoemaker Rd., Elking Park
	7930 Park Avenue, Elkins Park
	7205 Oak Avenue, Oak Lane
	Linwood Hall, Elkins Park
	681 Meetinghouse Rd., Elkins Park
Yeo, George	

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