Germantown
Gardens and Gardeners
Ex Libris

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
N. Dubois Miller
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Reprinted by the courtesy
of the Site and Relic Society
To
the memory of
N. DUBOIS MILLER
Vice President of the Germantown Horticultural Society
Flower Lover, Garden Planter
Not Stone nor Brass
nor emulative arch,
these perish,—
the good for which he wrought
Forever Lives,—
his monument.
# Germantown Gardens and Gardeners

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INTRODUCTION.

A GARDEN is an open place reserved for plants, and a gardener is a person who helps a plant to grow. Upon this broad interpretation we "set out."

Before venturing to cross an unsurveyed country, it will be well for a traveller to fix the view points, for otherwise he may wander far astray. We, in essaying a rapid journey through trackless fields, may not linger, but must onward press, keeping in sight the land-mark upon the objective hill. For direction and distinctness we have divided our subject into three parts; the Formative period extending from 1683 to 1740,—during which German Towne was founded, when it became a village with its houses and business confined to a Pike, its interests being largely agricultural;—the period of development, extending from 1740 to 1854,—during which the village expanded to the measure of a town, wherein farms gave way to "estates," when pretentious gardens were prepared, and professional gardeners appeared;—and the modern period, extending from the year 1854 to the year 1911,—during which marked changes were made, elaborate gardens flourished, and wherein Germantown became an integral part of the great city of Philadelphia.

Geologically the Americas are known to be the most ancient of land formations, and some of the oldest of rock exposures stand upon the banks of Wissahickon Creek, within Germantown's boundaries. It is doubtless from these facts that a good Friend of Germantown came to believe the "Ark" of Noah rested not upon a foreign "mount," but instead, upon the elevation of "Ringing Rocks" in Montgomery County, about forty miles westward of the favored territory it is our privilege to consider. Whether the author of the "Mosaic Creation of the Earth" was, or was not, correct in his conclusions, or whether the world behind the "Deluge" possessed other and greater blessings than we, need not at this time detain, for it is known our "local habitation" had its beginnings in a missionary journey, made under the "spirit's guidance," by the founder of Pennsylvania.
In the year 1677, William Penn, after a sojourn in Holland, proceeded to Germany, where he stopped at several villages along the River Rhine, August 23d, reaching Kreigsheim, where he met many who after became members of the "German Company," and a few who became settlers in his new commonwealth beyond the seas.

Before arriving at the land-mark in view,—Germantown through the "Germanopolis" of Pastoriuss—it may be well to define it, for oft-repeated references mark its life as far exceeding the arbitrary lines which would confine it to a given area. To be exact is difficult, if not impossible, and the cause is apparent, for from the coming of the immigrant until our own times, Germantown has preserved its integrity, and the country surrounding, looking to it as its village seat, resorted to it for many needs. It thus became the market, post-office, meeting place; its stores, schools, and churches long accommodated outlying neighboring districts, parts of Penn, Roxborough, White Marsh, and Bristol Townships became intimately connected with it,—so that in writing, or in criticizing, these intimate relations should always be kept in mind. To illustrate, "Stenton," "Fisher's Mills," "Wakefield," "Belfield," "Rittenhouse Paper Mill," and other sites and names equally as well known, were never in Germantown, although it is rare to find them referred to in any other way. The early importance of Germantown should also be remembered. We know much about other colonial settlements, but our own, because always with us, we are apt to slight.

"Why is it that the worth of Germantown as a new settlement is not more generally recognized?" If John Fiske in "The Quaker and Dutch Colonies in America" found three pages sufficient for its presentation, was it because he had a greater breadth, and that we lose ourselves in localisms? Or is it, that from the historic current, he caught the vital spark while we stand helpless in its after-glow? Previous to the year 1648, between Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, upon the site of the old city of Philadelphia, there was not
one plantation or house. July 28th, 1683, William Penn was able to write:

"I have laid out the province in counties; six are begun to be settled—lying on the great river and planted about six miles back. Our town plot has a navigable river on each side, about 80 houses are built, and 300 farms are settled contiguous to it."

As late as the year 1796, and for a long time after, Broad Street, Philadelphia, extended only from present South Street, to present Vine Street, while below and above these undeveloped thoroughfares, were districts of farms unbroken save by fences, unimportant lanes, and a few cross roads. At this time northward from the Penn City, extended four important arteries. Leading to Frankford and to points beyond, was Frankford or New York Road. West of this, Germantown Road and Old York Road for a distance ran together, parting at "Rising Sun Village," the northern branch being the main avenue from Philadelphia to New York State, the other or western branch, passing to and through Germantown, and continuing onward to the mountains of the Upper Schuylkill.

Following Schuylkill River was Ridge Road, this uniting with Germantown or Reading Pike at Barren Hill, and at Perkiomen Creek. The historic names of these pikes, and the interesting roads connecting with them we dare not enlarge upon, for the purpose is only to bound the outlying districts which concern our territory, to show that German Towne which in 1683 stretched itself along the pike from present Fisher's Lane, to present Washington Lane, 6 miles north of Philadelphia, was as distinct from it, as Jenkintown, Ambler, Conshohocken, and other nearby present day towns, are now distinct from us. It was the German-Town, the seat of justice, the gathering place for a people distributed over a country extending from Fair-Hill to Barren Hill, and from Tacony Creek to Schuylkill River,—a unique settlement, a superior deserving people, worthy the fullest appreciation, and it is to be forever regretted that a change
was necessary, that when it came, it came so hardly, for when in the year 1786, it was planned to supplant the use of the German language, the Lutheran Church, representing the habit of mind of the people, introduced the following to its liturgy:—"And since it has pleased Thee chiefly by means of the Germans to transform this State into a blooming garden, and the desert into a pleasant pasturage, help us not to deny our nation, but to endeavor that our growth may be so educated, that German Schools and Churches may not only be sustained, but may attain a still more flourishing condition,"—and so the language against desire passed, for a babel of tongues, and a division of material interests, are against the spiritual current of history.

E. C. J.
Germantown Gardens and Gardeners

FORMATIVE PERIOD
1683—1740

In the year 1681, Captain William Markham wrote of Philadelphia’s vicinity,—“It is a very fine country if it were not so overgrown with weeds.” In this year, north of the “town” and covering the level grounds near “Three Mile Run,” stood a great forest, while the hills northward and westward were sparsely wooded, showing many open stretches, wherein were numerous sparkling springs. Germantown did not exist, and so far as known, the only visitors to the heights were Indians, who by long usage had beaten a trail through “Laurel-bushes” in their passage from Shackamaxon to Wissahickon, to Schuylkill River, and to other more distant camps beyond. By this Indian trail came Francis Daniel Pastorius, who “laid out,” and who founded the town, whose development, floriculturally we are about to consider.

Francis Daniel Pastorius was born at Sommerhausen, Franconia, September 26, 1651. He was a lawyer, a teacher, one of the most learned men who came to the Province, and he came as agent for “the German Company,” after known as the “Frankfort Company,” to distinguish it from the “Crefelt Company,”—whose lands adjoined. Pastorius set sail from Deal, England, June 10, 1683, in company with seven servants and landed at Philadelphia, August 20, 1683. The next day he called upon William Penn, and although warmly received, had difficulty in securing desirable tracts, for the “German Company” had been promised lands upon a navigable stream, and all grounds upon Delaware River
had been alloted. Schuylkill River was obstructed by "Falls," and upon a tract near Roxborough looked upon with favor, the proprietor had planned to establish a manor for his own use. It is evident that during the month after his arrival, Pastorius must have been a busy man. William Penn was unable to furnish land as he had promised, and he was unwilling to make a grant in one tract. He also required conditions which, though not at first meeting the favor of Pastorius, were after admitted by him to be wise and beneficent. Differences at length were satisfactorily adjusted, and March 7, 1684, Pastorius wrote his parents from Philadelphia,—"After I had laid out German Town, on the 24th of October, and when returning the day following, the 25th, with seven others to this place, we saw on the way, clinging to a tree, a wild grape vine upon which hung about 400 bunches of grapes. To get the grapes, we cut down the tree and the eight of us ate as many as satisfied us, after which, each of us brought a hat-full home with us."

The possibilities of grape culture early received the attention of William Penn and his colonists, and Pastorius records that "William Penn has planted a vine-yard with French grapevines, whose growth is pleasing to observe." From Germany, Pastorius also brought a "number of grape cuttings which were lost, except two that luckily escaped," and upon settling upon his tract in German Town, he planted a vineyard wherein he experimented, endeavoring to improve the quality of the product. In 1684, he wrote home that "they send us over a quantity of grape cuttings, and all sorts of field and garden seeds." After this, Gabriel Thomas, an observing visitor, wrote,—"Several sorts of wild fruits, as excellent grapes, red, black, white, mascadel, and fox, which upon frequent experience, have produced choice wine, being daily cultivated by skilful vinerons, they will in a short space of time, have very good liquor of their own, and some to supply their neighbors, to their great advantage, as their wines are more pure and so much more wholesome."

Contrary to a prevalent belief, but few of the first
settlers of Germantown were agriculturists. The founder records they were mostly "linen weavers unaccustomed to husbandry," and later we know they were mostly "tradespeople." From Philadelphia, Pastorius wrote, "two hours from here lies our Germantown where already forty-two persons live in twelve families" who "are not too well skilled in the culture of the ground. The road to the said Germantown they have already bravely beaten into a path by frequent travel to and fro, and I can say no more now about this town, than that it lies upon fertile black soil, and the half of it is girt around with charming springs, forming a natural rampart."

Although not agriculturists, the original settlers loved flowers, and one who now visits out of way places in Montgomery, Bucks, and Berks Counties, may see behind the windows of ordinary houses, plants in bloom, which a professional grower with all his skill and appliances, cannot excel, and which may well serve to remind us of the garden and house plants, grown by the first settlers, as the testimony of early observers leads us to believe. Watson, the annalist, wrote of the early olden times, that "the small flower bed stood solitary and alone in most family gardens, and sunflowers, and gay and rank hollihocks, and other annual productions were the chief article for a greater display. Morning glories and the gourd vine were the annual dependence for cases of required shade. None scarcely thought of a grape vine for such a purposes. For the way of gardens, almost everybody was utilitarian."

The settlement at once began to enlarge and to it came in the year 1694, John Kelpius with a company of followers. These came to remain, so for the present, we shall pass them to present the notes of a few who were but temporary sojourners. Early in the year 1698, Gabriel Thomas further wrote, "in this province are four great market places, viz.: Chester, the German Town, New Castle and Lewis-Town." It is now evident that the yeomen who had been lacking, had come, and were opening up the country. Their plant-
ings were all sorts of grain, such as "wheat, rye, peas, oats, barley, buckwheat, rice, Indian corn, Indian peas, and beans, with great quantities of hemp, and flax; as also several sorts of edible roots, as turnips, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, etc., all which are produced yearly in greater quantities than in England, those roots being much larger and altogether as sweet, if not more delicious; cucumbers, cashaws, artichokes, with many others; most sorts of saladings, besides what grows naturally wild in the country and that in great plenty also, as mustard, rice, sage, mint, tansy, wormwood, pennyroyal, and purslane, and most of the herbs and roots found in the gardens in England. There are several husbandmen, who sow yearly between seventy and eighty acres of wheat each, besides barley, oats, rye, peas, beans, and other grain. The common planting fruit trees are apples, which from a kernal, (without inoculating) will shoot up to be a large tree, and produce very delicious, large and pleasant fruit, of which much excellent cider is made, in taste resembling that in England made from pippins, and pear mains, sold commonly for between 10 and 15 shillings per barrel. Pears, peaches, etc., of which they distil a liquor much like the taste of rum or brandy, which they yearly make in great quantities. There are quinces, cherries, gooseberries, currants, squashes, pumpkins, water-melons, mush-melons, and other fruits in great numbers, which seldom fail of yielding great plenty. There are also many curious and excellent physical wild herbs, roots and drugs of great virtue, and very sanative, such as the sassafras, and sarsaparilla, so much used in diet drinks, which makes the Indians by the right application of them, as able doctors and surgeons as any in Europe. There grows also in great plenty, the Black Snake Root (famed for its sometimes preserving, but often curing the plague, being infused only in wine, brandy or rum), rattle-snake root, poke root, called in England jallo p, and several other beneficial herbs, plants, and roots, which physicians have approved of, far exceeding in nature and virtue, those of other countries."
The "corn harvest," Thomas informs us, "is ended before the middle of July, and most years they have commonly between twenty and thirty bushels of wheat, for every one they sow. Their ground is harrowed with wooden tyned harrows, twice over in a place is sufficient, twice mending of their plow-irons in a year's time will serve. Their horses commonly go without being shod. Two men may clear between twenty and thirty acres of land in one year, fit for the plough, in which oxen are chiefly used, though horses are not wanting, and all of them good and well shaped. A cart or a wain may go through the middle of the woods, between the trees without getting any damage, and of such land in a convenient place, the purchase will cost between ten and fifteen pounds for a hundred acres."

So the account proceeds, and if exaggerated, it gives us an insight into the daily doings of the settlers, which we could ill afford to lose. Although not so stated, the common method of clearing the wooded land was by "girdling" or "belting." This consisted in chopping entirely around the tree trunk to a depth beneath the alburnum, a groove three or four inches wide, and the dead tree resulting, in from 8 to 10 years usually fell, when the wood and roots were removed, with a minimum amount of expense and labor.

The next observer to record, was Daniel Falckner, who in "Curieuse Nachricht from Pennsylvania" published first in 1702, and as translated by Dr. Julius F. Sachse, states: "The country produces all kinds of cereals similar to what different kinds, and similar beans, and peas. Possibly rice may also be cultivated. Peas, kitchen vegetables, pumpkins, melons, roots, hemp, flax, hops, and all sorts of garden produce flourish, and recompense such as cultivate them richly for their labor. Domesticated fruit matures quickly, so that the husbandman can enjoy the fruit therefrom within seven years. Peaches and cherries are plentiful here and increase spontaneously like weeds. Of fruit trees we have we have here, (Europe), together with Indian corn of
the chestnut, and three or four varieties of nut-bearing trees. Of cedar trees there are three varieties; there are also oak, ash, sassafras, poplar, medlar, beech and the like.”

In 1702, the same writer also states: “The city of Philadelphia has about 1300 or 1400 houses, of which number about one half are regular built of lime and stone, and German Town about with 50 houses.” We also are informed by the German Town court records, that March 9, 1702, Justus Falckner, and Francis Daniel Pastorius, were appointed to confer with Edward Farmar, of White Marsh, concerning the cost of a road to Philadelphia, thereby showing an urgent necessity.

In London, 1708, John Oldmixon in “History of the British Empire in America,” under heading of “Pennsylvania,” wrote: “The trees of most note are the black walnut, cedar, cypress, chestnut, poplar, gum-wood, hickory, sassafras, ash, beech and oak of several sorts, as red, white and black, Spanish, chestnut and swamp,—the most desirable of all. There are some excellent shrubs as shumack, snake-root, sarsaparilla, calamus, arramitica, jallop, and spine cranberries. The fruits that grow naturally in the woods, are the white and black mulberry, chestnuts, walnuts, plums, strawberries, hurtleberries, and grapes of several kinds. The great red grape called the fox grape is commended by William Penn, and he thinks it will make excellent wine, if not too sweet, yet little inferior to Frontinac; it tastes like that grape, but differs in color. There’s a white kind of muscadel, and a little black grape, like the cluster grape in England. Peaches are prodigiously plentiful in this province, and as good as any in England except the Newington peach. The artificial product of the country is wheat, barley, corn, rye, peas, beans, squashes, pumpkins, melons, muskmelons, apples, pears, plums, cabbages, colworts, potatoes, radishes, as big as parsnips, onions, cucumbers, as also turnips, currants, Indian corn, hemp, flax, and tobacco, of which more hereafter. As to the fertility of the soil, this instance of it is sufficient to prove it. One Mr. Edward Jones, whose planta-
tion was in the Schoolkil in the infancy of the colony, had with ordinary cultivation, from one grain of English barley, 70 stalks and ears of that corn. 'Tis known from one bushel sown here to reap 40, often 50, and sometimes 60. Three pecks of wheat covers an acre. The woods are adorned with flowers, excellent, both for colours, greatness, figure and variety. German Town is a corporation of high and low Dutch. There are about 200 houses in it. Peach trees are planted all along before the doors, which in the time of bloom, make a beautiful road for a mile together. The town is very pleasant and airy, being wonderfully cleared from trees."

These observations were confirmed by other writers, and will prove sufficient to show the interest and vocations of the early settlers. Beyond doubt, the virgin soil was prolific, for Pastorius recorded: "When I dined with William Penn on the 25th of August, after the meal was finished, a single root stalk of barley was brought in, which had grown here in a garden, and had on it 50 green stalks. However all single seeds do not yield in such proportions."

As previously noted, there came to German Town in the year 1694, John Kelpius, with a company of followers, who for a time dwelt in the village, but being Pietists or Mystics, and believing the "still small voice" within, spoke more frequently, more directly, more purely, without the assistance of an intermediary, sought the seclusion of the woods for liberty, meditations, and prayer. This company, disciples of Philip Jacob Spener, with Daniel Geissler, Christian Warmer, and Dr. Christopher Witt of German-Town, located, and dwelt in lower Wissahickon woods near Schuylkill River, upon grounds to the west of what is now known as "Hermits' Glen," and there planted a garden which was conducted as an experimental garden for the study of plants, thereby becoming so far as known, the first Botanical Garden in America. Kelpius's garden is supposed to be the one referred to in George Webb's "Bachelor Hall," published in 1729, wherein it is stated that:—
"In our vast woods, what ever simples grow,  
Whose virtues none but the Indians know  
Within the confines of this garden brought,  
To rise with added lustre shall be taught,  
Then culled with judgment, each shall yield its juice  
Saliferous balsam to the sick man's use."

Upon coming to German-Town, Pastorius located upon lot Number 16, the site of his house now being covered by the imposing building of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. South of Pastorius, upon Lot No. 15, was his former servant, Isaac Dilbeck, a man for whom it may be judged the Founder had the highest regard. He appears to have been a man constitutionally weak, for while crossing the ocean, Pastorius wrote: "Isaac Dilbeck, who according to external appearances seemed the strongest, remained sick the longest." Also upon the same authority March 7, 1684, we learn that while others were "in a healthy condition" with good appetites, "Isaac Dilbeck for the past eight days was somewhat indisposed, also Jacob Schumacher, who on the first of October, cut his foot with an axe, and could not work for a week." We learn further these men had common faults, for this same Jacob Schumacher had John Silans before the court, and compelled him to promise to finish his barn "within 4 weeks next coming."

Upon lot No. 14 south adjoining, lived Cornelius Bom, who within a year after the settlement wrote: "I have here a shop of many kinds of goods and edibles. Sometimes I ride out with merchandise, and sometimes bring back mostly from the Indians, and deal with them in many ways. I have no rent, or tax, or excise to pay. I have a cow which gives plenty of milk, a horse to ride around. My pigs increase rapidly, so that in the summer I had 17, where at first I had only 2. I have many chickens and geese, and a garden, and shall next year have an orchard, if I remain well, so that my wife and I are in good spirits."

Upon lot No. 17 immediately north of that occupied by Pastorius, Jan Doeden built a house, and planted an orchard, which extended across the stream now coursing under present
Baynton Street, and north of Doeden, upon lot No. 18, dwelt Christian Warmer.

We have brought these characters into the fore front to present the life of the agricultural settlement, for they represent its progressive element, and the grounds upon which they lived and laboured, must always be interesting to lovers of Germantown. Cornelius Bom occupied the lot upon which now stands the house of Major Edgar H. Butler. The "Morris-Littell House" is upon Isaac Dilbeck's tract. Jan Doeden's lot extended from the Pastorius tract, to present "Elbow Lane," and from this lane to Walnut Lane, was the original lot of Christian Warmer. In 1696, Isaac Dilbeck, "Yeoman," sold to Daniel Geissler, and settled near "Blue-Bell" in White Marsh Township, where he became a pillar of Pastor John Philip Boehm's church. Upon Dilbeck's removal, Daniel Geissler and Dr. Christopher Witt, both being "single" men, and having a good measure of human sympathy in their compositions, settled together in Isaac Dilbeck's house. Here then was an interesting group living and working together as neighbors and plant growers, Pastorius acting as justice, as teacher, cultivating his garden, and raising grapes; Jan Doeden farming, and growing pears and apples; Daniel Geissler, farmer and grower of garden truck; Christopher Witt serving as village doctor, and growing plants for his pleasure, edification, and for practical uses. In 1709, Daniel Geissler sold to Christian Warmer, retaining certain rights, and continuing to reside on the place. Upon Geissler's retirement, Christopher Witt came to live with Christian Warmer No. 2, who upon the removal of Jan Doeden, occupied the property, Doeden having sold to Christian Warmer, Sr., in 1711, and Christian Warmer's daughter with her husband, settled in the house previously occupied by Geissler and Witt. I have been particularly minute, because of the associations and their local value. The Garden planted by Dr. Witt, was, so far as known, the second garden in America for the study of plants. We have no record when this garden was first planted, but of it
Francis Daniel Pastorius wrote: “Anno 1711, Christopher Witt removed his flower beds close to my fence,” and in 1716, he dedicated a poem to “Christopher Witt's Fig Tree.” Pastorius described his own as “a pretty little garden producing chiefly cordial, stomatic, and culinary herbs,” and of it he again wrote: “what wonder you then, that F. D. P. likewise here many hours spends, and having no money, on usury lends, to's garden, and orchard, and vineyard, such times wherein he helps nature and nature his rhymes, because they produced him both victuals and drink, both medicine and nose-gays, and both paper and ink.”

After settling in the house of Christopher Warmer, No. 2, Christopher Witt planted his second garden immediately north of the Pastorius garden, here as previously, Witt and Pastorius exchanging notes by tossing them over the division fence. It was this second garden of Dr. Witt, conducted by him when “well strickon in years,” which John Bartram in 1743 visited, and unfavorably criticised.

In Germantown, during its formative period, as we have seen, homes were “few and far between,” and all known gardens were given to the growing of kitchen and medicinal plants. But as the settlement progressed, roof-covered cellars gave way to houses of logs, so these in turn gave way to others of wood and stone. From 1683 to 1707 were erected the stone houses of Thones Kunder, Jacob Telner, Isaac Dilbeck, Francis Daniel Pastorius, Jan Doeden, Jacob Schumacker, and other like, but doubtless the most pretentious house of the early settlement, was that of Hans Milan, built in 1690, and later incorporated in “Wyck.”

“Fair-Hill,” east of the German tract, but frequently referred to in connection with it, was built in 1716. Following this from the year 1727 to 1738, appeared the forerunners of the representative type,—“Stenton,” “Billmeyer” or “Widow Deshler” and “Dirck Keyser Houses,” and these with their grounds, mark the highest garden development of the first period. They also set the pace for the expansive period to follow.
Pastorius Houses
From a certain view-point, "Fair Hill" is apart from our subject, but from another one, it has much to do with it, for without question, it was the model upon which the Germantown early gardens of the better class were after patterned, and from it, at a later period was issued the celebrated "Farmer Letters" of John Dickinson. Only a short time before his death, Pastorius referred to Fair Hill Garden as "the one keeping the finest I hitherto have seen in the whole country, fitted with abundance of rarities, physical, and metaphysical."

Of it, Deborah Logan later wrote, "Fair Hill, built and occupied by Isaac Norris, was considered the most beautiful country seat in Pennsylvania. The courts and gardens were in the taste of those times with gravel walks and parterres. Many lofty trees were preserved around the house, which added greatly to its beauty and at the time of my remembrance the out-buildings were covered with festoons of ivy, and scarlet bignonia."

Contemporaneous with the gardens of Dr. Witt was the garden of ‘Stenton,” planted by James Logan in 1720. We have no definite knowledge whether it was small or great. We do know, its products were most valuable, for in it, and about it, Logan acquired sufficient knowledge to interest and instruct his friends at home and abroad. From it in 1735, James Logan communicated to Peter Collinson an account of his experiments in maize, which was printed in the “Philadelphia transactions” for the year. These experiments were undertaken to investigate the sexual theory of plants, which had first been advanced by Dr. Nehemiah Grew. An order of plants by Robert Brown named Loganiaceae, which includes the beautiful yellow flowering jasmine of the Southern United States, preserves the name of James Logan to naturalists, until botanical records shall be no more. The garden of Stenton so far as preserved, was of the box-bordered type, was known for its fine trees, and especially for an avenue of hemlock trees planted in 1739, which extended from the mansion to the cemetery near.
Of the two remaining gardens of the better class of the formative period, the “Widow Deshler Garden,” and the Dirck Keyser Garden, both were of the ordinary type of the period which succeeded, that is, they preserved box-bordered walks, which ran between beds devoted to “kitchen” and “flowering plants.” The flower garden being inferior to the kitchen garden, for Germantown had not sufficiently advanced to possess “mansions” or to support “estates,” for as yet, it was necessary for beauty and utility to combine, to enable the progressive lover of the beautiful, while improving his property, and increasing his pleasures, to keep honest with himself and his neighbors, so to be able to stand before the world and posterity in the dignity of his worth.

PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT
1740—1854

The year 1740 marks about the beginnings of important movements in the progress of Germantown. As yet the tortuous pike continued a “dirt-road,”—in “soft” weather, impassable, at all times trying to those who were compelled to use it, though a few desirable cross roads, “laid out” to mills and to other resorts, gave partial relief. The village continued to straggle along for a mile or more, composed in the main of low substantial stone houses which had succeeded the log dwellings of the first settlers, but “mansions” to adorn the landscapes were yet to come. Indeed, in the year given, there stood on the pike and near it, in Germantown, only the pretentious buildings previously named, with the addition of a few taverns and churches.

But a young, industrious growing country made trade active, and the resultant required outlets of larger convenience. Trade and industry brought “means,” means helped culture, and these with natural advantages of location, gave opportunities which those equipped were prompt to accept, so that within a span of 63 years, or from 1740 to 1803, every large house upon “Main Street” from Negley’s Hill to Mount Airy, all with worthy gardens,—and such public
buildings as Concord School, and Union School, or Germantown Academy, appeared to enlarge and dignify the “town.”

Increasing importance offered greater attractions, and traveller students usually found their way to Germantown before leaving for home. After Pastorius, the village was for a long time silent, and it is mainly upon the records of observing visitors that we must depend for a fuller knowledge of the life of the inhabitants. The district continued rural, but as lots were sold, and as buildings were erected, “Main Street” came to present a more solid front, although for a long time open fields extended far to the rear. Joseph Murter told me that in the year 1820, and for several years after, the only houses in Germantown not upon Main Street, were a very few farm houses situated on the side lanes. Now, all visitors who came to Germantown were not favorably impressed, and to form an intelligent judgment, it becomes a duty to present the “other side” of the picture.

Silas Deane, of Connecticut, in 1775 wrote, “I cannot describe pompous villas, or elegant gardens, where there are none, unless I meant a romance, and as I mean only to divert you with honest chat, I describe the country as it is. Between this city and Germantown, there is not one elegant country seat, and the greatest improvements on nature, is that on their groves, owing by no means to luxury, but to penury and want.”

James Mease in 1811 described “Germantown as a summer retreat for a number of citizens, and excepting its airy and elevated situation, being on the first ridge after you leave Philadelphia, it has little to interest or detain strangers.”

Of it, Fanny Kemble as late as the year 1835 wrote: “The cross roads in every direction were a mere succession of long, dusty, sandy pit-falls or muddy quagmires, where on foot or on horse-back, rapid progress was equally impossible. The whole region from the very outskirts of the city to the beautiful crest of Chestnut Hill over-looking the
served as the capital of the nation, before the days of Fanny and with all its barrenness and dreariness, Germantown had wide expanse of smiling background, and purple distant horizon, was there with its mean-looking, scattered farm houses, and large ungainly barns, (whatever may have been its agricultural merits), uninteresting, and uninviting in all the human elements of the landscape, dreary in Summer, desolate in Winter, and absolutely void of the civilized cheerful charms which should have belonged to it.”

Fortunately we know the impressions recorded were neither complete nor entirely correct, for here there were fine houses and gardens before the visit of Deane. Upon Wingohocken, Cresheim, and Wissahickon creeks, important paper, oyle, grist, and fuller mills, were in successful operation long before “The Picture of Philadelphia” appeared, Kemble. In spite of the deficiencies of the Town, a line of stages passed through it, markets were held, tanneries flourished, and opposite “Indian Queen Lane,” the printing house of Christopher Saur had ably served the commonwealth,—for the products of this house were distributed throughout the entire German settlements of the valleys of Wissahickon, Stony, Skippack, Indian, Perkiomen, Swamp, Tulpehocken, Swatara, Cocalico and Conestoga creeks,—throughout the country from Lehigh River to Susquehanna River, from Snow Hill, Maryland, to the mountains of central New York, a positive, powerful, influence for the elevation of its patrons, and if we believe disinterested observers as believe we must, Germantown from the first was an important, busy, developing, intelligent community.

As indicative of its thought, in it November 17, 1741, upon the main road near present Manheim Street, was born Adam Kuhn, who in the year 1761 was sent to Sweden, where he was trained under the celebrated Linnaeus, who to his pupil dedicated the genus Kuhnia. Upon Kuhn’s return to America he practiced medicine, and in the Philadelphia College, became the first professor of botany in America.

Among important visitors to Germantown during the
Adam Kuhn, M.D.
middle period were Rev. Andrew Burnaby, Major Robert Rogers, Duke de la Rochefoucauld, and others, who recorded impressions which cover a period extending from 1760 to 1800, and after, there are valuable records of residents, and of late visitors, but these like those of Samuel Carpenter, Richard Frame, and Robert Turner of the first period, we shall pass, to present with sufficient detail the reports of a few whose contributions are of more value.

After William Penn, the most important visitor to early Germantown was Prof. Peter Kalm, of Aobo, Sweden, a naturalist, who with his servant, Lars Youngstroem, a skilled gardener, came to America to study its natural resources, and who is remembered in Kalmia Latifolia, the laurel common to our woods. In America, Peter Kalm spent three and a half years, much of this time being passed in eastern Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and at Raccoon, now Swedesboro, in western New Jersey, he leaving the country by the way of Canada, and on reaching Stockholm, published his "Travels in America" an interesting book, translated and reprinted in two volumes, which gives much valuable information. Peter Kalm made three visits to Germantown, spending each time from two to three days with his countryman and friend Peter Cook, who had a farm on west side of Main Street, immediately above Limekiln Road, now Mermaid Lane. On Saturday, September 21, Thursday, October 10, and Wednesday, November 13, 1748, Kalm came to collect information, and his accounts are so satisfactory, that we choose to let him appear in his own words.

Sept. 21, 1748;

"In the afternoon I rode with Mr. Peter Cook, who was a merchant, born at Karlscron in Sweden, to his country seat, about nine miles from the town, to the northwest. The country on both sides of the road was covered with a great forest. The trees were all with annual leaves, and I did not see a single fir or pine. Most of the trees were different sorts of oak. But we likewise saw chestnut trees, walnut trees,
locust trees, apple trees, hickory, blackberry bushes and the like. The ground ceased to be so even as it was before, and began to look more like the English ground, diversified with hills and valleys. We found neither mountains nor great stones, and the wood was so much thinned, and on the ground so uniformly even, that we could see a great way between the trees, under which we rode without any inconvenience for there were no bushes to stop us. In some places, where the soil was thrown up, we saw some little stones of that kind of which the houses here are so generally built. I intend to describe them in the sequel. As we went on in the woods, we continually saw at moderate distances, little fields, each of which was a farm. These farms were commonly very pretty and a walk of trees frequently led from them to the highroad. The houses were all built of brick, or of stone, which is here everywhere to be met with. Every countryman, even though he was the poorest peasant, had an orchard with apples, peaches, chestnuts, walnuts, cherries, quinces, and such fruits and sometimes we saw the vines climbing along them. The valleys were frequently provided with little brooks which contained a crystal stream. The corn on the sides of the road was almost all mown, and no other grain besides maize and buckwheat was standing. The former was to be met with near each farm in greater or lesser quantities. It grew very well and to a great length, the stalks being from six to ten foot high and covered with fine green leaves. Buckwheat likewise was not very uncommon, and on some places, the people were beginning to reap it. I intend in the sequel to be more particular about the qualities and use of these kinds of corn.

"After a ride of six English miles, we came to Germantown. This town has only one street, but is near two English miles long. It is for the greatest part inhabited by Germans, who from time to come from their country to North America, and settled here, because they enjoy such privileges, as they are not possessed of anywhere else. Most
of the inhabitants are tradesmen, and make almost everything in such quantity and perfection that in a short time this province will want very little from its mother country. Most of the houses were built of the stone which is mixed with glimmer, and found everywhere towards Philadelphia, but is more scarce further on. Several houses, however, were made of brick. They were commonly two stories high and sometimes higher. The roofs consisted of shingles of the white cedar wood. Their shape resembled that of the roofs in Sweden, but the angles they formed at the top were either obtuse, right-angled or acute according as the slopes were steep or easy. They sometimes formed either the half of an octagon or the half of a dodecagon. Many of the roofs were made in such a manner that they could be walked upon, having a balustrade round them. Many of the upper stories had balconies before them, from whence the people had a prospect into the street. The windows, even those in the third story, had shutters. Each home had a fine garden. The town had three churches, one for the Lutherans, another for the Reformed Protestants, and the third for the Quakers. The inhabitants were so numerous that the street was always full. The Baptists have likewise a meeting house.

"Sept. 22nd. After I had been at church, I employed the remainder of the day in conversing with the most considerable people in town, who lived here for a long while, and I enquired into the curiosities hereabouts. Mr. Cook had a fine spring near his country seat. It came from a sandy hill and afforded water enough constantly to fill a little house. Just above this spring, Mr. Cook had erected a building from those above mentioned glittering stones, into which were put many jugs, and other earthen vessels full of milk, for it kept very well in cold water during the great heat with which the summer is attended here. I afterwards met with many houses which were situated like this on springs and therefore were destined to keep the meat and milk fresh. Almost all the enclosures around the corn-fields and meadows hereabouts were made of planks fastened in a horizontal direction.
"I only perceived a hedge of privet in one single place. The enclosures were not made like ours, for the people here take posts from four to six feet in height, and make two or three holes into them, so that there was a distance of two feet and above between them. Such a post does the same service as two and sometimes three posts are scarce sufficient. The posts were fastened in the ground, at two or three fathoms distance from each other, and the holes in them kept up the planks, which were nine inches and sometimes a foot broad, and lay above each other, from one post to the next. Such an enclosure therefore looked, at a distance, like the hurdles in which we enclose the sheep at night in Sweden. They were really no closer than hurdles, being only destined to keep out the greater animals, such as cows and horses. The hogs are kept near the farm houses, everywhere about Philadelphia, and therefore this enclosure does not need to be made closer on their account. Chestnut trees were commonly made use of for this purpose, because this wood keeps longest against putrefaction, and an enclosure made of it can stand for thirty years together. But where no chestnut wood was to be got, the white and likewise the black oaks were taken for that purpose. Of all kinds of wood, that of the red cedar holds out the longest. The greatest quantity of it is bought up here, for near Philadelphia it is not plentiful enough, to be made use of for enclosures, however, there are many enclosures near the town made of this wood. The best wood for fuel in everybody's opinion is the hickory, or a species of walnut, but it heats well, but is not good for enclosures, since it cannot well withstand putrefaction when it is in the open air. The white and black oaks are next in goodness for fuel.

"The woods with which Philadelphia is surrounded would lead one to conclude that fuel must be cheap there. But it is far from being so, because the great and high forest near the towns is the property of some people of quality and fortune, who do not regard the money which they could make of them. They do not sell so much as they require for
their own use, and much less would they sell it to others. But they leave the trees for times to come, expecting that wood will become much more scarce. However, they sell it to joiners, coach-makers, and other artists, who pay exorbitantly for it. For a quantity of hickory of eight foot in length and four in depth, and the pieces being likewise four foot long, they paid at present eighteen shillings of Pennsylvania currency. But the same quantity of oak only came to twelve shillings.

The people who came at present to sell wood in the market were peasants, who lived at a great distance from the town. Everybody complained that fuel in the space of a few years was risen in price to many times as much again as it had been, and to account for this, the following reasons were given:

"The town is increased to such a degree as to be four or six times bigger and more populous than what some old people have known it to be, when they were young. Many brick kilns have been made hereabouts which require a great quantity of wood. The country is likewise more cultivated than it used to be, and consequently great woods have been cut down for that purpose, and the farms built in those places likewise consume a quantity of wood. Lastly they melt iron out of the ore in several places about the town, and this work always goes on without interruption. For these reasons, it is concluded in future times Philadelphia will be obliged to pay a great price for wood.

"The wine of blackberries, which has a very fine taste, is made in the following manner: The juice of the blackberries is pressed out and put in a vessel, with half a gallon of this juice, an equal quantity of water is well mixed. Three pounds of brown sugar are added to this mixture, which must then stand for a while, and after that it is fit to use. Cherry wine is made in the same manner, but care must be taken that when the juice is pressed out, the stones be not crushed, for they give the wine a bad taste. They make brandy from peaches here, after the following method. The fruit is cut asunder and the stones are taken out. The pieces
of fruit are then put into a vessel, where they are left for three weeks or a month, till they are quite putrid. They are then put into the distilling vessel, and the brandy is made and afterwards distilled over again. This brandy is not good for people who have a more refined taste, but it is only for the common kind of people, such as workmen and the like. Apples yield a brandy, when prepared in the same manner, as the peaches. But for this purpose those apples are chiefly taken which fall from the trees before they are ripe. The American Nightshade, or Phytolacca Decandra, grows abundantly near the farms, on the high road, in hedges and bushes, and in several places in the fields. Whenever I came to any of these places, I was sure of finding this plant in great abundance. Most of them had red berries, which grew in bunches, and looked very tempting, though they were not at all fit for eating. Some of these plants were yet in flower. In some places, such as in hedges, and near the houses, they sometimes grow two fathoms high. But in the fields were always low, yet I could nowhere perceive that the cattle had eaten of it. A German of this place who was a confectioner, told me that the dyers gathered the roots of this plant and made a fine red dye of them.”

We cannot here, as we should like, give Prof. Kalm’s account in full, but before proceeding to other data of his bearing upon the subject, let us have a side light upon his humor, as indicated by a story related to him by Mr. Sleidorn, of Germantown. The Indians about these parts were respected for their honesty and peaceful habits, and some were celebrated for their keenness. For “sport,” this Mr. Sleidorn asked “a venerable old American savage” a question in the Bible, which he answered satisfactorily, and who “at the same time asked leave to propose a question in turn,” which Sleidorn granted. The old man then asked, “Who was the first Quaker”? Sleidorn answered it was uncertain, that some took one person for it, and some another; but the cunning old fellow told him, “You are mistaken, sir, Mordecai was the first Quaker, for he would not take off his hat to Haman.”
On October 10, 1748, Peter Kalm again accompanied Mr. Cook to his country seat, where he "had a paper mill, on a little brook, and all the coarser sorts of paper are manufactured in it. It is now annually rented for fifty pounds, Pennsylvania currency,"—so our chronicler records. We, however, must pass many of Kalm's Germantown notes of value, to include notes upon our subject, for Kalm's descriptions have been singularly overlooked, and I know no writer who shows the life of early Germantown so clearly as he.

"In the garden of Mr. Cook," Kalm records, "was a raddish which was in the loose soil grown so big as to be seven inches in diameter. Everybody that saw it, owned it was uncommon to see them of such a size." "The Polytrichum Commune," a species of moss, grew plentifully in wet and low meadows between the woods, and in several places quite covered them, as our mosses cover the meadows in Sweden. It was likewise plentiful on hills. Agriculture was in a very bad state hereabouts.

"When a person had bought a piece of land, which perhaps had never been ploughed since the creation, he cut down part of the wood, tore up the roots, ploughed the ground, sowed corn on it, and the first time got a plentiful crop. But the same land being tilled for several years successively, without being manured, it at last must, of course, lose its fertility. Its possessor, therefore, leaves it fallow, and proceeds to another part of his ground, which he treats in the same manner. Thus he goes on till he has changed a great part of his possessions into corn fields and by that means deprived the ground of its fertility. He then returns to the first field, which now is pretty well recovered; this he again tills as long as it will afford him a good crop, but when its fertility is exhausted, he leaves it fallow again, and proceeds to the rest as before." "Almost all the houses hereabouts were built either of stone or bricks, but those of stone were more numerous."

"Germantown, which is about two English miles long, had no other houses, and the country thereabouts were all
built of stone. But there are several varieties of that stone, which is commonly made use of in buildings. Sometimes it consisted of a black or grey glimmer, running in undulated veins, the spaces between their bendings being filled up with grey, loose, small grained limestone, which was easily friable. Some transparent particles of quartz were scattered in the mass, of which the glimmer made the greatest part. It was very easy to be cut, and with proper tools could readily be shaped into any form. Sometimes, however, the pieces consisted of a black, small grained glimmer, a white small grained sandstone, and some particles of quartz, and the several constituent parts were well mixed together."

Here follows a description of the method of building the houses, which when erected, "the inside of the wall is made smooth, covered with mortar and white-washed. It has not been observed that this kind of stone attracts the moisture in a rainy or wet season."

November 13, 1748, Peter Kalm spent two days in Germantown and records principally the smaller animals which frequented its streams and woods. He also wrote, "The leaves were at present fallen from all the trees; both from oaks, and from all those which have deciduous leaves, and they covered the ground in the woods six inches deep. The great quantity of leaves which drop annually would necessarily seem to encrease the upper black mould greatly. However, it is not above three or four inches thick in the woods, and under it lays a brick colored clay, mixed with a sand of the same colour. It is remarkable, that a soil which in all probability has not been stirred, should be covered with so little black mould; but I shall speak of this in the sequel." We shall now part from Kalm and his lifelike account to which for complete details, those interested are referred to Volume 1, of his important book.

Contemporaneous with Peter Kalm, and one of the most observing visitors to Germantown was Gottlieb Mittelberger, who in 1754 wrote, "The people live well, especially on all sorts of grain, which thrives very well, because the soil is
wild and fat. They grow chiefly rye, wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, corn, flax, hemp, fruit, cabbage and turnips. They also have good cattle, fast horses, and many bees.”

“Hogs and poultry, especially turkeys, are raised by almost everybody. In this country, the chickens are not put in houses by night, nor are they looked after; but they sit summer and winter upon the trees near the houses; every evening many a tree is so full of chickens that the boughs bend beneath them. The poultry is in no danger from beasts of prey, because every plantation owner has a big dog, if not more, at large around the house.”

“Peach and cherry trees many a farmer plants in whole avenues from one plantation to the other, and they yield an abundant crop. One sort of peaches are inside and outside red as large as a lemon, but round and smooth, and they are ripe about St. Bartholomew’s Day” (August twenty-fourth). “Again there are some waxen yellow, red streaked, and green as grass.

“There is also a sort called clingstones; they are sweet when they are ripe; they are often preserved before they are quite ripe, like cucumbers. Pears there are but few, and damsons none, because they will not thrive, and are often spoiled by the mildew.” “In Pennsylvania, as throughout North America, from Acadia to Mexico, plenty of wild black and white vines may be seen, which grow in the forests around the oak trees and along the hedges. Many a vine is at the bottom as thick as a tree, and it often is so full of grapes that the boughs of the trees bend beneath them.

“In the blossom time the grapes have a very strong odor, and in October they are ripe. They make some wine of them, but it costs much sugar. Large quantities of grapes are taken to the markets of Philadelphia. Such grapes would be much better if the vines were cut as in Europe, but as the people live too far apart, and as the wild animals and birds would do much injury to the vines, there will be no vine growing for a long time to come.”

Mittelberger of course wrote in a general way of the country lying between Germantown and Trappe, and while
his conclusions do not always satisfy, his observations fairly acquaint us with the methods of the tillers of the soil. He further continues:

"Sassafras trees, which are not to be found in Europe, are plentiful here; the best heart-tea can be made of its blossoms; the wood and the roots are especially good for medicines. There are trees that are as thick as a man around the loins. The leaves look and smell like laurel leaves; the blossoms are gold-colored, just like the primrose, but much finer. For my home journey, I collected and took with us a package of sassafras flowers or blossoms, which were my best medicine on my voyage. There are many sugar trees (maple) here which are as thick and high as an oak-tree; in spring, when they are in full sap, the sugar-water may be tapped from them." "The sugar trees usually stand in forests near the brooks, and they grow wild. The beautiful tulip trees grow frequently here. In the month of May, when they are in blossoms, they are full of tulips; these look yellow and tabied red, and are as natural as those that grow out of the ground (from bulbs.) The trees are as thick and high as the tallest cherry-trees. I saw another species of tulip trees with their blossoms which are planted in the gardens, but are not larger than dwarf apple or pear trees; they do not bloom until August, and are white and tabied red. Of the first-named larger species of tulip-trees no blossoms are seen until they are twenty years old and over. Many other kinds and species of trees, flowers and herbs, and also grain are found in America. The daisy, for instance, which is so frequent, and therefore so little esteemed with us, is as rare in Pennsylvania as the rarest and most beautiful flowers in Europe can be, and it is planted in the gardens as a rare flower. Quite as rare there, is the juniper-shrub, which is esteemed much higher than the Rosemary with us, and the juniper-berries are sold for a higher price than peppercorns. The juniper-shrubs are also cultivated in gardens. Quite as rare are all other European flowers and herbs, and so, what is not highly esteemed in Germany is rare and dear in
America; and vice-versa, what is not highly esteemed here is precious in Germany." "All through Pennsylvania not a single meadow-saffron is seen in the gardens and meadows in autumn. The wood in the above-named new country grows fast and is much taller, but less durable than with us. It is quite surprising how dense the forests are, and what beautiful, smooth, thick and tall trees they contain. There are many kinds of trees, mostly oaks, but they are not so fruitful as those in Germany. Often there are also beech-trees but not many. Birch-trees are rarely found, but I saw some that were very tall and as thick as a thick oak tree. I have already spoken of the Poplars; they have soft wood which looks snow-white inside; there are many of them. Walnut trees are exceedingly plentiful; this beautiful coffee-brown and hard-wood is precious and useful, because all sorts of fine and elegant household furniture are made of it. When cut, a great deal of it is shipped to Holland, England, Ireland, and other countries where it brings a high price. These walnut-trees bear every year nuts which are as large as a medium-sized apple, from which much oil is made. They have bark and leaves like our large nut trees. Our large German walnut-trees are little cultivated as yet. There are but few hazel-nut shrubs in the forests, but of chestnut-trees there is a multitude; no less so of hecker (hickory) nuts which are larger than hazel-nuts, but are held in little esteem. Indian or wild cherry trees are not seen very frequently; I myself broke such Indian cherries from the trees and ate them, but they are not as good as European cherries. In the Pennsylvania forests one finds no thorn or sloe hedges, no downy gooseberries and the like. The greatest ornament of the forests are the beautiful and excellent cedar-trees; they grow mostly on the high mountains.

"The wood has a very strong odor, is as light as foam, and especially precious for organ pipes, for the pipes made of said cedar-wood have a much finer and purer tone than those of tin, of which I have seen sufficient proofs. All homes in Philadelphia are roofed with shingles of cedar-
wood. When a heavy rain pours down upon it, this wood sounds like a roof of copper or brass.” So Mittelberger moves on in his entertaining narrative, every page being crowded with valuable information. He homeward sailed in the year 1754, and after a stormy ocean voyage, and by way of the River Thames, reached London, England, October tenth, so grateful that he wrote, “We all thanked God from the bottom of our hearts; I kissed the ground with joy, and took to heart the 107th Psalm.”

In “History of New Sweden,” Israel Acrelius, an observer who returned to his native land in the year 1756, records: “Germantown, 6 miles north of Philadelphia, is 3 miles long. It has one principal street, which is a public wagon road, and 305 houses. Its inhabitants are generally German merchants.”

Of the country about Philadelphia Acrelius wrote: “Yet most of the farms are already cleared. Some miles up in the country but few places are to be seen where the stumps do not still stand thick upon the ground. Not one half of the forests are cleared off as they ought to be. The clearing is not made by the destructive burning of the trees, whereby the fertile soil is converted into ashes and carried away by the winds. Some sticks or stumps may be thus burned so as to put them almost entirely out of the way. As labor is very high, so sometimes only the bushes and undergrowths are removed; but the large trees are still left standing, but around these a score is cut, and they then dry up within the first year, and thus some fall down; so one may see fields filled with dry trees, and a heavy crop of grain growing under them.”

Progress, if it sometimes appeared slow, was steady, and we find that upon the “Great-Road,” and opposite to what is now Armat Street, was started by Christian Lehman, one of the earliest nurseries in the colonies—and without question the first in Germantown for the commercial growing of plants.

The necessity for this was apparent, for Judge William Allen, who lived at his country place named “Mount Airy,”
and situated upon the pike opposite Livezey's Lane, now Allen's Lane, November 26, 1753, wrote D. Barclay & Son, his London agents, for "one parcel of best early readings, 20 oz. of early Battersea Cabbage, one oz. of the Russia, and one ounce of every sort of cabbage that is esteemed to be very good, and one oz. of each of the Savoy kind." Also "2 ounces of colly-flower" for, as he continued, "I live in the country in the summer season, and a good part of my amusement is a kitchen garden. Pray be so kind as to send me the seeds."

December 4, 1762, Judge Allen shipped to William Hopkins of St. Paul's Church Yard, London, a box containing "104 sorts of the seeds of forest trees, and shrubs, etc., of this country for my Lord Gage,"—thus showing his knowledge, his interest, and a pressing local need.

As indicated by Townsend Ward, the following appeared in the Pennsylvania Chronicle of April 12, 1768: "To be sold, a choice parcel of well grown English walnut-trees, as well as pear, and apricot, and a curious variety of the best and largest sorts from England of grafted plum-trees fit for transplanting this spring, or next fall, as well as a great variety of beautiful double hyacinths roots, and tulip roots, next Summer Season, and most other things in the flower or fruit tree nursery way, by Christian Lehman." "N. B. He likewise (on request if bespoken in time) maketh up parcels of curious plants, shrubs, and seeds of the growth of this climate, in such manner as best secures them, according to what country or climate they are designated to be transplanted." As may be readily imagined, the Revolutionary War put a stop to all improvements, and destitution over-ran the land. At this time a most interesting account is that of John David Schoepf, who refers to Germantown as being "between 2 and 3 miles long. All the houses stand off more or less from each other and each one has around, or near it, grounds, gardens, and thrifty out-buildings. Most of the houses are well and substantially built of stone, and some indeed are really beautiful. One of the finest is the house at
the northern end of the place in which Col. Musgrave in the action of 1776-77, with a company of British Light Infantry, defended himself so bravely against a large body of the American Army.” Schoepf also refers to the fact, that “in the direction of Germantown there are still many sad traces of the war in burned and ruined houses.” This was in the year 1784, and we further learn from the work of Schoepf, that Germantown was again upon the upward move,—for “there are many well-to-do people among the inhabitants; and much property and many houses here are owned by Philadelphians, who make use of this place as a Summer retreat,—and in general, on account of its nearness, frequent excursions are made hither. On Sundays, the whole road is covered with the wagons and carriages of the pleasure-loving Philadelphians.”

This also coincides with the description of the Rev. John C. Ogden, who 15 years later stated, “The houses in Germantown are very universally shaded with weeping-willows, the Lombardy poplar, and other ornamental trees. The gardens are under excellent cultivation, with valuable fields to their rear.”

For a period, let us now pass from Germantown proper, to its immediate vicinity. Along, or near Old York Road, are a few noted places, which may not be wholly ignored, because they have always been associated with Germantown. These are “Solitude,” “Champlость,” “Fairfield,” “Butler-Place” and “Bonneval Cottage.”

“Solitude” is situated east of Old York Road and Fisher’s Lane. Once it was interesting both historically, and floriculturally. Now improvements have left little more than memories, so that its glories, like those of “Fair-Hill” and “Stenton” are largely of the past. The same may also be said of “Champlость,” situated upon Fisher’s Lane, east of Old York Road. The latter was one of the oldest, and one of the finest estates in Pennsylvania. It was brought to its perfection by the Fox family, and was celebrated for its grounds, its gardens, and for its magnificent trees,—now the
city has settled upon it. Shortly after leaving Germantown, Elizabeth Drinker and family, as a Summer residence, occupied “Clearfield” up Old York Road east of “Stenton.” In the year 1794 she wrote, “Since we have been at ‘Clearfield’ I have lost one of my amusements, as I cannot hear how the time passes. When at home in ye city, the hour is often repeated in my ears by the two town clocks, our own clock, and the watchman’s. The chief noises that occur here are the market-waggons, the barking of dogs, and the crowing of cocks.”- April 10, 1796, Elizabeth Drinker again wrote: “Our yard and garden look most beautiful. The trees in full bloom, the red and white blossoms intermixed with green leaves, which are just putting out. Flowers of several sorts bloom in our little garden.” The floral wealth of “Clearfield” continues, and its present owner is Mrs. Philip C. Garrett.

Chronologically should now be presented the gardens and nursery of Bernard McMahon, but these we shall temporarily pass to complete the short excursion upon York Road. Quoting from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Report of 1830: “‘Butler Place’ is a beautiful place 6 miles from town, on the Old York Road. On viewing this estate, our attention was immediately drawn to the handsome hedges of Hornbeam, and Prunus Canadensis. We were delighted with the latter, never having seen it before; its fine green foliage contrasts very sweetly with the delicate appearance of the tender shoots. These hedges are trimmed periodically and kept in excellent order. The refreshing shade of the numerous walks, all swept as clean as a parlour floor, add to the charms of this place. Many of these walks are tastefully ornamented with orange, lemon, shaddock, neriums and other exotics; among which we observed a myrtle 10 years old, raised from seed. It has large ovate foliage, similar to the Eugenia uniflora. This myrtle is highly ornamental, and richly deserving of cultivation. Here is likewise a lemon of the Saint Helena variety, raised from seed. The fruit grows large, of a high colour, and much warted. The
greenhouse is 45 feet long, the framing ample for early vegetables and flowers.

"Nothing in these grounds pleased us more than the perfect order of the kitchen garden. It contains about two acres, and is indeed a picture of culinary horticulture. There are 4 walks in the length and 9 in the breadth; all interesting at right angles, and making 24 divisions, besides borders; and these divisions are cropt with vegetables in the finest order; each division having its own crop (not intermixed as we see in most gardens) which is through every stage attended with the utmost regularity. The walks gravelled and edges with box-wood neatly clipped; and all exhibiting a lovely specimen of art. A half acre of other ground is devoted to flowers and decorative shrubs. On the whole we can safely assert that there is not a finer kept or better regulated kitchen garden on this continent. Indeed it will bear comparison with European gardens of the highest cultivation, according to its size; and what is exceedingly gratifying, is, that the gardener is a native American, and has superintended the place 14 years, which shows at once capacity and constancy. We are glad to see those born among us, begin to relish the minute and orderly labor of the garden and pleasure grounds. Here-to-fore the plough with them has been preferred to the spade, and emigrants alone have adopted amongst us the slow and patient toil of Horticulture."

This was written while the place was occupied by Dr. James Mease, who had been Secretary of the important "Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture," and is so pleasing that we shall not quote from Fanny Kemble's "Records of Later-Life" wherein 5 years later, Butler Place is very differently described. The gardener here to Pierce Butler was James Leddy.

"Bonneval Cottage," the last place we may now stop at upon Old York Road, was built in the year 1745, and a few years later was occupied by Dr. George De Benneville, who having once served as Pharmacist to Christopher Sauer, after located at Oley, Pennsylvania, from which place in
the year 1755 he returned to practice medicine in German-
town and vicinity. Dr. De Benneville was a remarkable
character, was greatly respected, and long faithfully served
the community. He loved trees and flowers, and a large
buttonwood tree yet standing near the house was planted by
him in the year 1768. His garden, in part surviving, was of
the prevailing type, box-bordered. With continued pros-
perity came a demand for something better, so larger houses
were built, grounds were graded, and gardens were improv-
ed. Also with a demand for experts to plan gardens, came
a demand for nurseries to supply stock to plant them, for
without sources of supply, and a variety for selections, "old
world" effects would have been impossible. Therefore in
thinking of, or in comparing the gardens of this period with
those of an earlier one, it should be remembered that as late
as the year 1800 there were no nurseries of first importance
in all America. Collectors of seeds and growers of small
fruits and fruit-trees, there were, though these were few in
number, and their growings were almost solely to meet
practical demands. At this time rare and ornamental
shrubs and trees were imported, were costly, and by reason
of slow sailing vessels, importations were not always received
in good condition. Near Philadelphia, 'tis true, were early the
nurseries of John Bartram, and Humphrey Marshall, but
their growings, though worthy, cannot be classed with the
productions of a later period.

The most important nursery affecting Germantown of
the middle period, was that established in the year 1809 by
Bernard McMahon upon a lane, which found an outlet upon
Germantown Road, 2 miles south of Stenton, the exact and
complete site of this nursery becoming "Oakdale Park,"
which is now Fotterall Park, Philadelphia. Here McMahon
had a notable collection of plants, one of its features being
30 varieties of native oak trees, among which a specimen of
willow-oak was the most conspicuous. Bernard McMahon
was a man of education, and at one time of means, but by
reason of political activity, his estates were confiscated by
the British Government, when he came to America, where his floricultural knowledge, acquired at home as a hobby, in his new home served him well in business. His house and garden became a resort for the local naturalists of his period, and from his house, departed, and to it returned, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the first to cross the American continent. The genus Mahonia was dedicated to him, and his "The American Gardener's Calendar," which appeared in eleven editions, was the first adequate American book upon gardening.

Planted in the year 1822, about one mile above McMahon's, and upon Germantown Road at the village of "Rising Sun," was the noted nursery and flower garden of Daniel Maupay. It covered seven acres which were given to the growing of roses, annual, herbaceous, decorative garden, lawn, and hot-house plants. It also contained a miniature flower garden of sufficient merit to attract and receive the attention and commendation of Robert Buist. Samuel Maupay succeeded to the business created by his father, and his successor in the year 1859, removed the nurseries to Wise's Mill Lane, near Wissahickon Creek, and occupied the Gorgas Mansion upon Allen's Lane, west of Township Line Road,—at which place he also grew "stock."

"Fern-Hill," the first of Germantown's finest and most conspicuous estates, stands upon an elevation facing the southwestern boundary of the township. As reported by a committee of the Horticultural Society of Pennsylvania in 1830; it "commands a delightful prospect, which extends beyond the city, embracing of course, in this fine view, the whole of Philadelphia and its suburbs, the whole of their 30,000 dwelling houses, all fresh and in excellent repair, and inhabited by 170,000 people. The country, in other directions wears a smiling prospect, corresponding in beauty with that of the city. The garden, green-house and collection of plants rank in the first class. The proprietor is distinguished for his generous encouragement of horticulture, importing at great cost, rare plants, the best kind of fruits and culinary
vegetables. Among his rare plants may be seen laurus, oleas, neriums of several varieties from China; Jasminums, Hallerias, Punicas,—among which is the pleno-alba; some fine camellias,—mostly imported from Canton. The glass consists of a green-house 90 feet long, two pits 60 feet, besides framing for early cauliflowers, etc. This place excels the neighborhood in the production of the blooming Ranunculus. They appear to agree with an elevated situation in this climate. The root is subject to injury from a small white worm.

"The tea rose flourishes in a superior manner here. Cultivated in frames, it grows as large as any other rose bush in the garden. We saw some covered with flowers, the odoriferous perfume of which is very delightful. Mr. Clapier possesses, perhaps, the greatest variety of pear trees of any private gentleman hereabouts (except Mr. Girard), many of which he has imported from France. It is almost useless to say that the garden and grounds are in complete order, and stocked with every kind of vegetable and shrub. Everyone who knows the proprietor and reputation of the place will take that for granted. Tropical fruits and flowering trees surround the mansion and display the richness and variety of flora to the best advantage."

This is a description of "Fern Hill" as conducted under the direction of Martin Baumann, and at it, the standard of excellence first established, has always been maintained. The estate originally extended from Pulaski Avenue, or "Plank Road," to Wissahickon Avenue, or Lamb Tavern Road, and from Abbotsford Avenue, to Nicetown Lane, or Ford Road. Its owner was Louis Clapier, who was born in France in the year 1765, came to America in the year 1796, and died in the year 1838.

Townsend Ward records that besides "a fondness for raising fat cattle, he had an equal passion for fruits and flowers, and no visitor left him without a basket of flowers, or of grapes, should they be in season." At Fern Hill, Louis
Clapier was succeeded by Henry Pratt McKean, whose descendants yet hold it.

West of "Fern Hill" and directly opposite it is "Devonshire Place" once the country residence of George Blight. The view from this place was but little inferior to that of its neighbor, and the productions of its stables and gardens were widely and favorably known. In 1830, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society reported its "Kitchen garden in good order and contains \( \frac{1}{2} \) acres. In it is a fine bed of Crambe Maritima, or Sea-Kail. We observed a large plant of Cycas Revoluta, or Sago Palm, that had been kept in the cellar in winter, and looked as healthy as if it had been sheltered in a green house, being free from the scaly insect that so often preys upon it. A noble old chestnut stands on the avenue, that measures 24 feet in circumference."

Dr. Samuel Betton of "White Cottage," situated upon Bockius Lane or Manheim Street, as early as 1830, had a collection of plants of sufficient merit to receive the commendation of Robert Buist, the well-known plant grower of "Pratt's Garden" at Lemon Hill. Upon a visit in the year given, he wrote: "We observed a plant of Nandina domestica in full flower—it is the largest we have seen. Here is likewise a plant of andropogon schaenanthus, which the doctor says makes a very delicious tea; an uncommonly large plant of Laegerstraemia Indica, that stands the open air; some very fine China Orange Indica trees, and several other valuable plants. The greenhouse is 40 ft.; a pit 36 ft.; besides framing. The kitchen garden contains one acre, which is judiciously cropt, and well stocked with fruit trees, among the latter is a very rich cream colored plum, streaked on the part exposed to the sun and transparent; it is said to be a seedling, and of a rich flavor. A pear orchard of considerable extent is just beginning to bear, and contains 150 varieties. It bids fair to rival some of the old orchards."

Another great garden was that established by George W. Carpenter, at "Phil-Ellena" in the year 1838. The
garden was situated upon Germantown Avenue, its northern boundary being Trullinger, now Carpenter Lane. Its improvements covered an area of 350 acres, and for many years it proved one of the principal attractions to strangers visiting Philadelphia. Joseph Paul told me the improvements were made from plans purchased by Mr. Carpenter, who directed the work and attended to every detail himself. Its gardener so far as known, was William Sinton, who was succeeded in the year 1848 by Thomas Riley. Previous to the city’s consolidation, this was the largest, richest, and most beautiful garden in or anywhere near Philadelphia, and through the beneficence of its owner, it was regularly open to all who respected its rules.

After Christian Lehman’s, the first regular nursery established in Germantown was that of Martin Baumann, a native of Alsace, draughted for the French Army, wherein, under Napoleon, his five brothers were killed, and being urged by his father so to do, he deserted and came to America, where he secured a position as gardener to Stephen Girard. Martin Baumann was a graduate of the school of gardening of Wurttemberg, and if not the first, was one of the first professional landscape gardeners to come to America. Martin Baumann left the employ of Stephen Girard to plan and plant the gardens of “Fern Hill” for Louis Clapier, whose service he after entered, and wherein he continued until he decided to start in business. He lived in the gardener’s house at “Fern Hill,” in it all his children were born, and his eldest son was named in honor of his employer—“Louis Clapier.” Martin Baumann was known as a skillful garden designer and plant grower, and in the year 1837, he opened his nursery upon the south side of Manheim Street, his grounds extending to the line of present Seymour Street, between the lines of Tacoma Street and Pulaski Avenue. To fix the exact site these present day names are given, for Manheim Street was Bockius Lane, and Pulaski Avenue was Baumann, or Plum Lane. Sixty years ago this was a rural district, and as late as 1885, I myself many times wandered
over "Green's Meadow" and the unbroken expanse of open fields, which extended from "White Cottage," to "Loudoun," in search of wild flowers. It may also be worth remembering that from Manheim Street south, Plum Lane had a notable row of Buttonwood trees, extended along its western line, which were destroyed when the lane was widened. A few years ago while placing a new water-main, the stumps of this line of trees were uncovered upon the present center line of Pulaski Avenue. With old residents this section of Germantown is yet known as "the Nursery," thus serving as a memorial to its planter, for within the boundaries given, Martin Baumann served the community, lived out his life, he dying in the year 1865, and his remains were placed in Trinity Lutheran Church Yard, at corner of Main Street and Queen Lane. Baumann's nursery grounds are almost entirely built over, and the frame house in which he long lived, last numbered 220 Manheim Street, was removed in the summer of 1909. Baumann distributed both garden and hot-house plants, and his growings were regulated to satisfy local needs or demands.

With this superficial presentation, we shall pass to what we have been pleased to name the modern period, under which we hope to name several gardens begun in the middle period, but which reached a more perfect development after the "new order" had started on its way, for it is obvious that within reasonable limits it is impossible to completely present the development of the better class of home gardens, and indeed those gardens which survived will better serve as an introduction to the concluding period, for in it they reached a higher, if not their highest development. As noted by John Fanning Watson, the credit for the improvements in gardens was largely due to the efforts of nurserymen like McMahon, and Maupay, who made their gardens objects of attraction, furnishing thereby worthy patterns for others to follow.

Early in the development period, as well as in the first period, all gardens were of the prevailing regulation type,—that is, if there was more than a kitchen or herb garden, the
additional was composed largely of perennial plants in beds, enclosed in borders of box, with walks of gravel or "tan" extending between. So with varying degrees of extent and value were the gardens of Loudoun, Toland, Lorraine, Mechlin, Henry, Shippen, Harlan, Conyngham, Handsberry, Baynton, Wister, Deshler-Morris, Vernon, Engle, Morris-Little, Wyck, Johnson, Pomona, Upsala, Allen, and Schaeffer on Main Street,—and other gardens like those of Wakefield, Belfield, Hacker, Spencer, Roberts, Awbury, Gardette, Roset, Rosengarten, Chancellor, Toworth, Wistar, Thomas, Spring-Bank, and others upon the side lanes. These are illustrative only, for there were many worthy gardens not here named. The growth of the village, and the improvements in houses and gardens were indeed wonderful. Fanny Kemble, who early in her American life painted a picture of dreariness, had reason to change, and her after description of the same territory may well serve as a conclusion to the presentation of the development period. In "Records of Later Life" she wrote: "One who now sees the pretty populous villadom which has grown up in every direction round the home of my early married years, the neat cottages and cheerful country houses, the trim lawns and bright flower gardens, the whole well laid out, tastefully cultivated, and carefully tended suburban district with its attractive dwellings, could hardly conceive the sort of abomination of desolation which its aspect formerly presented to eyes accustomed to the finish and perfection of rural English landscapes" "and it will be difficult for those who do not remember 'the' old York Road, as it was called, and the country between that and Germantown—to imagine the change which nearly fifty years have produced in the whole region."

MODERN PERIOD
1854—1911

The year 1854 marks the consolidation of suburban districts with Philadelphia city. This epoch event did not at once prove an advantage to Germantown, though it prepared
the way to important changes. At that time "Germantown and Chestnut Hill Railroad" entered the town on east-side, and it, with the lines of stage coaches passing through the village, were the public conveniences for traffic with the outer world.

In July, 1859, by way of Main Street, came "the Germantown Railway Co." and by trot, trot, with "slow degrees," and 40 minute intervals, its cars passed up and down the "Turnpike," paying little attention to time or tide, as no one was in a hurry, and rains, with the overflow of streams, were permitted to idle off at their own convenience.

In November of the same year, "The North Philadelphia Railway" came by way of Columbia Avenue, Broad Street, Pulaski Avenue, Manheim Street, Wayne Street, and east upon Chelten Avenue, where its depot stood adjoining the "Chronicle Building,—now "Vernon Hall," but this enterprise was not successful and after years of service and ill support, its "dummy engines" and cars were withdrawn. The truth was, the times "were not ripe" and would not be forced. Except politically, there was practically no change in the order of things until after the "period of reconstruction" which followed the "Civil War." But wisely or unwisely, or whether or not it was desired, a change which could be "felt" came, and this change dates from the grading of Main Street in the year 1877. The dirt road which had been "piked" in the year 1801, no doubt was a one time improvement, but neglected and out of repair, it was continued a source of annoyance to its users, and a hindrance to the progress of the town.

During "Centennial Year," however, everyone locally wakened, and the great exhibition created by John Welsh of "Spring Bank," if it did no more, stirred Philadelphia, and Germantown like "a strong man rising from sleep" roused itself, a host of workmen with picks and shovels, with battering rams and strength, invaded its territory, graded and paved with Belgian blocks its well-known highway, elevated some of its houses, leaving others depressed, raised such a
clatter and bang, that the echoes continued until the horse-cars were drove out, and trolleys came rolling in, giving the contented, happy, dear old easy-going town, such a shaking that it has not had a chance to doze since. Alert in spite of its inclinations, the town's enlargement continued, new streets were opened, old streets were changed and rebuilt, a new railroad entered to open up "West-side," two trolley lines in addition to that of Main Street came unbidden, "land associations," in parts took possession, and for better or for worse, we are what we are this day, possessing as yet the most beautiful town I know, but apprehensive, fearing the encroachments of a pressing, unsympathetic, unrelenting future.

But the greatest and most important of local improvements was not the change in character of Main Street,—it was the development of "West-side," of "Pelham," of "Sedgwick," and the like, but supremely that of Fairmount Park, the Wissahickon section of which extends through Germantown's western territory, and which cleared and renaturated, has influenced the whole city of Philadelphia.

To follow the changes, to show some of the causes for gardening results, is now our province, but let the reader be generous, for the work is large, and must necessarily be superficial.

After the death of Bernard McMahon in 1816, the nursery was conducted by his widow,—and before leaving "Rising Sun," the last foreman with Samuel Maupay was Frederick Knapp, who came to Philadelphia from Germany. Associated with Knapp while at Maupay's was Joseph Campbell, who after opened a floral establishment upon Germantown Road in the near neighborhood. Ernest Amos Dresser conducted a number of "hot-houses" upon a lane near "Plank Road," at a spot which is now Fifteenth and Venango Streets, and when Knapp left Maupay's, he leased this place from Dresser,—Dresser retiring to follow the "produce business."

For several years "Amos" was a well-known character of Lower Germantown, one whose originality and sociability
always reminded me of Christopher Ludwig, as the descriptions of contemporaries convey that worthy character to me. Amos was loud and genial, everywhere he was made welcome, and was beloved by all who knew him. Knapp was not successful, and temporarily accepted a position with Louis C. Baumann, and Dressler after, resumed his business of florist at the old stand. Knapp did not stay long with Baumann, for an opening came, and he leased the Webb greenhouses, located at Mermaid Station, Chestnut Hill, where he continued until his death. This same place for a time was conducted by Andrew Brunt, but for many years it has been owned by Frederick Knapp’s son, Charles.

For almost 50 years, the nurseries of McMahon, Maupay, and Baumann, continued to supply the plantings for the gardens of Germantown,—or until the appearance of Meehan and Saunders, to whom we shall refer later. Martin Baumann had two sons, Louis Clapier, and George A., both born at “Fern Hill,” and each left the Manheim Street homestead to become flower growers. Louis, the elder son, after a short engagement with Andrew Dryburgh in Philadelphia, became a general florist upon Queen Lane, near Wayne Street, and after established the well-known greenhouses at northeast corner of Wayne and Manheim Streets, where he did a “wholesale and retail” florist’s business from 1860 until his death in 1891. For many years, and indeed until his death, Louis Clapier Baumann had the largest and most important flower growing establishment in Germantown, and his output of cut flowers and roses was enormous. It was he who introduced the use of smilax in “cut-flower work,” and no one in all Philadelphia was able to equal him in the making of bouquets. His foreman for many years was Isaac Warr, a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars, and here also the writer as apprentice and journeyman served from the year 1875 until the year 1885,—during this period becoming acquainted with the present generation of local gardeners and florists, and such widely known plant growers of the last gen-
eration as Robert J. Halliday, of Baltimore, and Peter Henderson, of New York.

Many now well-known florists were once in L. C. Baumann's employ, and a few of his employees who after became conspicuous in other lines, were Hon. William E. Meehan, writer; Alexander Harrison, and Birge Harrison, artists and writers; William G. Shields, register of wills of Philadelphia; John J. Harrison, State Senator of Pennsylvania; Judge William G. Holt, of Kansas City, Kans., and Charles E. Meehan, Superintendent of the "Philadelphia Flower Market."

George A. Baumann first located as a florist upon Main Street, opposite Manheim Street, and after upon the northeast corner of Main Street and Chelten Avenue, where the post office now is, from which place he removed to the west side of Wayne Street, between Handsberry and Manheim Streets, where he conducted a nursery. He after became a farmer and a general truck grower at Center Square, Montgomery County, Pa., and finally settled upon Fairthorne Avenue in Roxborough, where he died in the year 1895, the business there founded by him being conducted by his son, Walter G. Baumann.

Returning now to Fern Hill, it, after the death of Louis Clapier, was purchased by Henry Pratt McKean, who removed the original house, and erected the present mansion, he, however, continuing the Clapier Barn unchanged. The garden work begun by Louis Clapier, was maintained and extended by Mr. McKean, and to this day, "Fern Hill" is the most beautiful estate in, or near Germantown.

In its care, Martin Baumann was succeeded by Alexander Burnet, Alexander Newitt, John Noonan, and by John F. Sibson, a graduate of Meehan's nurseries, who is its present efficient incumbent. Separated from Fern Hill by "Lamb Tavern" or Township Road is Tucker's Place, and possessing a view almost equal to that of its neighbor. Those unacquainted with the district, who now view the settlement
at the foot of "McKean's Hill," will hardly be able to picture the beauty which once dwelt there.

On west side of the pike extending from the railroad to the foot of the hill, rested "Old Oaks Cemetery," whose prominent monument to Peter Lyle, showed clearly to the pike. Near the bottom of the hill stood the white washed toll house, with its swinging gate, both presided over by the genial "Al" Kooker. To the east, was a stretch of green field, and beyond were the beautiful grounds, and modest cozy home of the Germantown Cricket Club. To the north with magnificent trees standing before them appeared the mansions of Charles J. Ingersoll, and Henry Pratt McKean. West of the pike, with its well-known front facing the south, stood the red-stone mansion of John Tucker, and beyond it appeared the stately residence of George Blight, while farther beyond, though out of sight, were the fine estates of James A. Wright and Dr. James Gardette. Here is a rich field which we may only harrow over, but just to indicate it may be of interest. John Tucker was President of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, and the gardener who made the plans and prepared the notable gardens,—once here,—was William Thompson, of Lee Park, Sussex, England, at which place he had been gardener to Sir George Staughton. Thompson was engaged in England by Andrew J. Downing, but upon reaching America he learned his employer had lost his life a few weeks before. Thompson thereupon proceeded to Baltimore where he planned and planted the gardens of Mark Hopkin. This work completed he came to Philadelphia, and became foreman for Peter McKenzie, a celebrated grower of camellias, who had his last place of business at northwest corner of Broad Street and Columbia Avenue. From McKenzie's, he came to John Tucker, for whom he designed and had planted an old-fashioned "English Garden," and also served as superintendent for his estate.

Under Thompson at Tucker's was William Grassie, who had charge of the grapevines, and William Cochrane, who served as general gardener. Both Grassie and Cochrane were
Englishmen. Grassie upon coming to America first served as gardener to W. W. Keen, of West Philadelphia, later to Miss Fox at "Champlost" upon Fisher's Lane. He left this place to come to Tucker's, and after, became a professional plant grower and distributor at the southeast corner of Greene and Johnson Streets, where he continued in active service, until increasing land values forced him to retreat, and at a great age, he a few years ago was living at Palmyra, N. J.

William Cochrane upon leaving Tucker's, had charge of Frederick Brown's gardens upon "Green Bank," Burlington, N. J., from whence he proceeded "south," he during the war having had charge of a plantation at Natchez, Miss. After a sojourn in Kentucky and Ohio, Cochrane proceeded to England, where he engaged in gardening for eighteen months, but having acquired the "American habit," he was not content and returned to Germantown, where he, for George C. Lambdin, at 211 Price Street, became a grower of select roses and other flowers, which that celebrated artist placed upon canvas. Upon the retirement of Mr. Lambdin, William Cochrane built green-houses upon Musgrave Street, above Sharpnack Street, where he became a general "cut-flower" grower. His place is now built over, and he at now past 80 years of age, amid his flowers and his books, is enjoying a well-earned rest.

"Devonshire" or George Blight's place, adjoining Tucker's was widely known because of the activities of its owner. The place was settled in 1816, by George Blight, Sr., but the existing mansion was built in 1842, by George Blight, Jr., the gardener long here was Robert Henry, who, as well as his employer, was active in attendance upon horticultural and agricultural exhibitions. As previously noted, "Devonshire Place" was celebrated for its kitchen garden, for its choice varieties of trees, and for its herds of "short horn," "Jersey," and "Holstein" cattle, its proprietor devoting his life to the cause of agriculture, its promotion in all its branches, the raising of fine cattle, and the production of large
crops. At this place in the year 1847, the “Farmers’ Club” was founded.

George Blight was active in the “Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture,” he serving as chairman of its committee of arrangements, at its annual exhibition, held at Rising Sun Village, October 16th and 17th, 1850. At this exhibition, Mr. Blight was given premiums for working oxen, also for superior other animals, his specialty being “blooded” cattle.

Shortly after Martin Baumann became successfully established in Germantown, there was an exodus of educated gardeners to America. Several of these were gifted men, and they came for several reasons. William Saunders had been educated for the Presbyterian ministry, but finding it not to his liking, he abandoned it for gardening. Thomas Meehan was a Chartist, therefore a marked man, and finding it impossible to hold a position in England, he decided to emigrate to Pennsylvania. Robert Robinson Scott had been a strenuous advocate of the “Young Ireland Party,” both in England and in Ireland, and was forced to “go somewhere else.” William Bright tiring of the British Army, sought freedom from its restrictions in the “new country.” These came to Philadelphia to better their conditions, and at different times, each temporarily entered the employ of Robert Buist. All were active, progressive men whom the fates decreed to place in Germantown to occupy important places in the advancement of its floriculture.

William Saunders, the eldest of the quartette named, was born in St. Andrews, Scotland, December 7, 1822, and died at Washington, D. C., December 12, 1900, at which place he long occupied the position of Chief of the Experimental Gardens of the United States Department of Agriculture, and where also he served with William R. Smith and John Saul as the Parking Commission, whose work made the streets of Washington the pride of every American visitor. William Saunders was an expert draughtsman, a skilled landscape engineer, and after holding important positions in
England, came in the year 1848 to Philadelphia, where he for a time stopped at Rosedale Nurseries upon Darby Road. Being acquainted with Thomas Meehan, they formed a partnership, and started a nursery under the business name of Meehan & Saunders, which was located on east side of Main Street, near Carpenter’s Lane, Germantown,—Meehan Street of today occupying part of their grounds. After conducting their business at this place until it was no longer advantageous, Thomas Meehan bought ground and removed to Chew Street, while William Saunders located on Johnson Street, at southeast corner of Greene Street, a place which may be remembered by the present generation, as being occupied by William Grassie. Here Saunders conducted a general florist and nursery business, wrote for the better class horticulture magazines, such as Downing’s “Horticulturist” and “The Gardener’s Monthly,”—and followed landscaping. Among the noteworthy works designed and executed by William Saunders were Hunting Park, Philadelphia; Clifton Park, Baltimore, and the National Cemetery Grounds at Gettysburg, Pa. He was also founder of an important order known as “The Patrons of Husbandry.” With the exception of “Awbury,” there is in Germantown no work of William Saunders remaining. He was the designer and planter of “Pomona Grove” as we remember it. This work was done for Isaac F. Baker, who in ownership was succeeded by Robert C. Cornelius, Thomas W. Evans, and Amos R. Little. In its day, “Pomona Grove” was an important estate, and extended from Main Street, to Morton Street, north of Washington Lane. A famous English yew tree which occupied a prominent place near the mansion is credited to William Saunders, and it is to be ever regretted that a monument so worthy was destroyed to make way for an “improvement” of ordinary brick and mortar.

About the time that Meehan & Saunders became established upon Main Street, William Bright came to Germantown as gardener to Joseph S. Lovering, near “Rising Sun,” whose gardens he planned and planted. He left this place to
engage in general landscaping, and started "Logan Nursery" upon York Road. William Bright was born at Finden, near Ely, England, and "served his time" at gardening with the Duke of Norfolk, at Arundel Castle. In America he was a man "who kept much to himself," and of whose history little is known. Even with his associates he was never intimate, and his closest friends knew little more of him than the general public. I often saw him, and knew him as others knew him, but with few exceptions he was known to all as "Bill" Bright. He was a tall, well-formed man of dignified appearance, with an address which did not seem to fit his surroundings. His presence, charm of manner, rich musical voice, beauty of expression, rare conversational powers, heightened by his remarkable, fine eyes, made him most companionable, and his company a rare treat. It is known that he had been a member of the "Oxford Blues,"—a company of horse,—a fine rider, and in Germantown drove the fastest horse upon "Plank Road;" that he belonged to a family of means, and twice a year received remittances from an estate "at home." Beyond this but little more of him personally was known. In the year 1888, overcome by exposure, he fell upon a door-step near the University of Pennsylvania, West Philadelphia, and was carried unconscious into the Philadelphia Hospital where he died. William Bright purchased a part of "Stenton" and as indicated, started a nursery "about three-quarters of a mile from Fisher's Lane station, on the Germantown Railroad, and about the same distance above "Rising Sun Village" on east side of York Road, upon "Burnt Creek,"—the site now being occupied by the Hugh Graham Company. At this place Bright grew flowers, did landscaping, attended exhibitions, improved grapes, he becoming a recognized authority upon "Grape Culture," and writing an important book known as "Bright, on the Grape," which appeared in 1860 and passed through two editions. William Bright wrote as well as he spoke, and was a frequent contributor to horticultural papers. His writings possessed a literary flavor not usual with subjects of a practical nature.
Bright's art was that of the "old school," especially in landscaping,—where his outlines were harshly geometrical and all his plantings prim and symmetrical. The best specimen of his work existing is that of "Wakefield" upon Fisher's Lane, but the type best illustrating his style, is that shown in the work he did for his friend Thomas Drake, at northeast corner of Morton Street and Washington Lane, where the Christmas tree, park like stiffness of the school, is faithfully presented.

The third of the quartette named was Robert Robinson Scott, gardener, writer, teacher, linguist, orator, and one of the most brilliant of the trained plant growers who came to America. He was born at Belfast, Ireland, in the year 1827, was a graduate of the Botanic Gardens of Glasneven, near Dublin, and also of Kew Gardens, London, where he was a fellow student with Thomas Meehan. He was connected with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Belfast, and was agricultural instructor at the agricultural school and model farm at Glasneven, Dublin. He was a public-spirited, aggressive man, and on account of his activity in the "Smith-O'Brien Rebellion," he found it necessary to emigrate, coming in the year 1848 to Philadelphia, where he took a position with Robert Buist. Scott after occupied the position of gardener to several important estates and had charge of the grounds of Girard College, Philadelphia. Upon coming to Germantown, Scott at first became gardener to Samuel Emlen, whose garden was upon Coulter Street, and after located at No. 33 West School House Lane, where he did a general gardening business, acted as agent for technical books and wrote for horticultural papers and magazines. He died at Harrisburg, Pa., June 24, 1877. His son, James Grimshaw Scott, following in his father's footsteps, continues active among us, and is the popular and efficient chairman of the awarding committee of our local Horticultural Society. Robert Robinson Scott possessed unusual literary and other artistic ability, and but a few years after reaching Philadelphia, he there founded, and in May, 1852, issued the first number of "The
Philadelphia Florist,” an illustrated monthly magazine,—the first of its kind in America, and equal in merit to similar publications abroad. This magazine was in advance of its time, and after a struggle for three years, it was discontinued on account of lack of sufficient financial support, although its superior worth as a horticultural magazine was generally recognized. Thomas Meehan said of it that had it been possible to continue it, there would have been “no room” in the United States for another magazine of like character.

In the year 1852 Scott also conducted a series of “conversations upon Botany and Horticulture” for young gardeners and others. These lectures were given at the Hall of the Chinese Museum, near Ninth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. Scott was a constant contributor to “Moore’s Rural New Yorker,” “Emery’s Journal” and “Prairie Farmer,” “The Horticulturalist” and “Germantown Telegraph.” He also prepared the “Year Book of the Farm and Garden for 1860,” published by A. M. Spangler.

Scott had a well-stored, trained mind, and his writings are presented in a pleasing and readable style. He wrote much, and he was an intimate of the best horticultural writers of his time. Robert Robinson Scott’s name will always live in botanical literature from his connection with a rare fern, known as “Scott’s Spleenwort,” a plant he discovered on “Robert’s Run,” near Schuylkill River, at a spot near the present Pencoyd Iron Works. Scott with several companions had long explored the surrounding country for rare plants without success, but this plant “came to him” and gave his name a place in every botanical text book of importance. This rare plant is technically known as asplenium Ebenoides,—that is, like Ebony spleenwort,—for immediately upon its discovery, its dual character suggested that it might be a hybrid. The plant is a constant topic of discussion, a subject for experiment, but whatever the outcome, Scott’s name is secure.

The remaining member of the group we have in outline attempted to introduce, the best known, and the ablest, was
Thomas Meehan, gardener, nurseryman, professor of botany, traveller, writer, editor, scientist, and public benefactor. Indeed, so active was he, so varied his gifts, so great his services, that I hardly know how to present him, as nothing short of a book is sufficient to place him, as he deserves to be placed. Upon several occasions attempts were made to start a movement to place a memorial to him in "Vernon Park, but as yet nothing in the shape of a permanent memorial has resulted. We now refer to it to keep the matter alive, for Germantown owes it to him, and one day I doubt not it will be given. Thomas Meehan was born in London, England, March 21, 1826. At the age of 19 he entered Kew Gardens, London, where he spent two years. Shortly after leaving Kew, he decided to emigrate, and reached America, March 22, 1848, where he stopped one year as foreman with Robert Buist.

Upon leaving Rosedale Nurseries, he entered the employ of Andrew Eastwick, who lived in, and owned the celebrated "Bartram Garden." After being three years at this place, Thomas Meehan became gardener to Caleb Cope, and while in his employ succeeded in flowering Victoria Regia, his blooms being the first produced in the United States. Having decided to start in business, he in the year 1854 established in Germantown, and in Ambler, nurseries having for their specialty the growing of native shrubs and trees. The business in Germantown was conducted upon Main Street opposite "Carpenters," and in association with William Saunders. This business increased to such an extent, that the Hong and Hortter farms on Chew Street were purchased, and the nursery there removed. To these farms other acres were added, and a branch for the growing of "stock" for wholesale orders was established at Dreshertown, Pa. The nursery soon became one of the largest, and it enjoys the distinction of being the best-known nursery in America,—its produce being shipped to every part of the world. The development of business however, was but a small part, and the least important part of the work of
Thomas Meehan. From his youth he had been a contributor to scientific publications. Up until his death his pen never appeared to have been idle, and his output was enormous. In America he was a contributor to the Horticulturist, Germantown Telegraph, the proceedings of the "Academy of Natural Sciences," and other similar publications. For many years he was horticultural editor of the Philadelphia Press. For over thirty years he was scientific editor of the New York Independent. In 1859 with David Rodney King, he founded the "Gardeners' Monthly," a periodical for all interested in floriculture, and the best of its kind in America. Throughout its life of thirty-one years, he continued its editor, and its publication was reluctantly abandoned upon the death of its business manager, Charles H. Marot in the year 1890. Thomas Meehan wrote "The American Handbook of Ornamental Trees," "Wayside Flowers," and "The Flowers and Ferns of the United States,"—a great work in four volumes.

In the year 1891, he founded and published "Meehan's Monthly," and to this he gave his best attention until his last illness. Thomas Meehan was a corresponding member of many learned societies, and was vice-president of the Academy of the Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, for more than 20 years. Upon the death of Joseph Leidy he was tendered the presidency of this great institution, but this on account of deafness, he did not feel free to accept. He traveled throughout Western America and Canada, and upon returning from his last long trip, published "Notes on Alaska." But his best works are yet to be presented. Technique at its best is but artificial,—flowers though beautiful are silent, and the greatest thing in the active universe we see is man, and to Thomas Meehan the good in, and the usefulness of man, most appealed. It was this love of man which made him the force he was, and charged him with a magnetism which charmed and won his most humble associate. I know not one, great or small, associated with him, who did not love him. He loved children, and the best
years of his life were given to the improvement of the Public School System of Pennsylvania. It was he who introduced "Nature Study" and "Kindergartens" to our Public Schools, and the care and elevation of negro children received his best attention. In recognition of this a Germantown school is named in his honor. He was the organizer and constant champion of the small parks movement, and by his direct efforts secured "Bartram," Vernon," and other small parks to the city. He was the founder of "The Commercial Museum."

While doing these great works, he was "State Botanist" of Pennsylvania, teacher of the "Ladies' Botany Class," a local institution which met at his home once a week, and lecturer to the Germantown Horticultural Society. He projected new streets and named them, introduced brick for the paving of streets, and took under his personal oversight every public school in Germantown. In all his multifarious works he was above suspicion, and he lived and died an "honest man."

In works he was "most abundant," and but a few hours before he died, he dictated an ordinance for a public school he thought necessary. May Germantown long revere him, and may his "good works" be held in remembrance until appreciation be no more. Connected with "Meehan's Nurseries" is a gifted group of plant specialists and writers. Among those composing it who should be named are Edward J. Canning, Ernest Hemming, Edwin Matthews, S. Newman Baxter, Warren J. Chandler, Thomas B. Meehan, J. Franklin Meehan, Robert J. Cridland, Edward Meehan, superintendent of the nurseries; Joseph Meehan, an authority upon shrubs and trees, and S. Mendelson Meehan, associated with his father in the publication of "Meehan's Monthly," founder and editor of "Floral Life," founder and publisher of "Meehan's Garden Bulletin," also founder of "The Meehan Horticultural Society," a private institution conducted for the benefit of the employees of Meehan's Nurseries.
While Thomas Meehan and David Rodney King were engaged in developing “The Gardeners Monthly,” Charles H. Miller, the well known landscape gardener came to America. Charles H. Miller was born at Winchester, England, in the year 1829. After receiving a thorough engineering training, and passing through “Kew Gardens,” he embarked to America in the year 1858, and located in South Carolina. On leaving that state he came to Pennsylvania, where he had charge of several fine estates, his first position in Germantown being with D. Rodney King, whose house and garden were on the east side of Adams Street, now McCallum Street, north of Washington Lane, a place after owned and occupied by George Nugent.

In the year 1863, Mr. Miller settled upon Main Street near Gowen Avenue, Mount Airy, where he became engaged in general landscaping. In the year 1875 he was made chief of the Bureau of Horticulture for the centennial exhibition, and from the date of the exhibition until the present time, his “Sunken Gardens” in season, yet continue one of Fairmount Park attractions. In the year 1876 Mr. Miller formed a partnership with Charles P. Hayes who was already established, the firm becoming known as Miller & Hayes, or the “Mount Airy Nurseries.” About the year 1880, Mr. Hayes decided to retire, and David G. Yates, who had been chief of the Bureau of Admissions of the Centennial Exhibition, bought his interest when the firm’s name became Miller & Yates. In the year 1887, Mr. Miller planned to give his entire time to landscaping and retired commercially, when the ownership passed to David G. Yates & Co. Upon the death of the senior member, Thaddeus N. Yates & Co. followed.

At the close of the Centennial Exhibition, Charles H. Miller, as chief gardener, was placed in charge of the floral decoration of Fairmount Park, his office being in Horticultural Hall, and here under him served John Finney, and George Ballantine, both well known local florists, and John Welsh Young, the popular rose-grower of “Spring Bank,”
Charles H. Miller
who is nationally well known as "Phil" by his contributions to the "Florists' Review." Mr. Miller continued in charge of the work at Horticultural Hall until his death November 2, 1902. The youngest, largest and most favorably situated of our nurseries is "Andorra," founded by Samuel F. Houston, but now owned and conducted by William Warner Harper, whose efficient foreman is J. Howes Humphreys. Andorra Nurseries are situated upon Wissahickon Creek, partly in Philadelphia and partly in Montgomery Counties, and may be justly classed as one of the most notable and beautiful in America.

As already noted the first importer and distributor of seeds and plants in Germantown, was Christian Lehman. In the same district the first to regularly engage in the growing of miscellaneous plants for sale was Martin Baumann. Between the times of Lehman and Baumann, the country lived through two wars,—progress for a time was stayed, and large places were obliged to rely upon their own resources, or upon the nurseries to the south. As we have seen at that time and for long after, there were no "landscape engineers," and gardening as a caretaking occupation was carried on by men of ability, such as William Berry, of Lehman Street, who had been gardener at "Fairfield;" James Daniels, of Main Street; John Hart, of West Schoolhouse Lane; J. Keenan, of Main Street; George Higgins, of West Washington Lane; William Kent, and James Gleason, of Mount Airy, for as yet professionals were few,—Peter McKenzie, with others as previously mentioned, being all to the near east and south, while Frederick Allgair, and David Ferguson, took care of the lower west, the upper west and north being without professional flower growers.

After Martin Baumann, Henry C. Woltemate, an educated German who came to this country and first established a nursery at Tacony, in 1848 came to and located upon Main Street near Indian Queen Lane, where after, his widow, Esther Woltemate, continued the business. She was succeeded by her sons, Albert and William, and the plant is
now conducted by the Albert Woltemate Estate. The Civil War temporarily hindered garden improvements, but notwithstanding many discouragements, J. H. Campbell appeared upon Germantown Road at Nicetown, William H. Wagner, John G. and Christian Eisele at Upper Tioga, Donald McQueen, who had been gardener to Joshua Longstreet, upon "Lamb Tavern Road," and Daniel Curtain, once gardener to Benjamin Leedom, upon Nicetown Lane, east of Reading Railroad. Philip Schaffer also built upon Thorp's Lane, near "Harper's Hollow," where he was succeeded by Edwin Lonsdale, once a grower in California, also an assistant at Meehan's nurseries, who held this place for several years, when he sold to William P. Kulp, and re-located at "Spring Village," associating with him John Burton, of Chew and Upper Church Streets, the firm being known as Lonsdale & Burton, and its place becoming a center of a flower producing district, which includes Thomas Butler, Myers & Santman, Gilbert Woltemate, and others. Robert J. Siddall built upon Fisher's Lane near Stenton Avenue, while James Barrows did the same upon Wakefield Street near Wister Street, where his sons now occupy his place, and John Stephenson built upon York Road.

Thomas Weiss succeeded to a stand conducted by Mrs. Roberts upon Manheim Street, near Pulaski Avenue, where also Eugene Weiss had a greenhouse, nearby being the greenhouses of George A. Laughlin, while upon Seymour Street to the rear of the "plants" described, were the greenhouses of Harry Weiss. Patrick McDowell built upon Queen Street opposite Knox Street. Thomas Hendricks who had been gardener to John J. Smith at "Ivy Lodge," built upon Wayne Avenue opposite Handsberry Street; William Berger, who had been gardener to Caspar Heft and A. Blane, built upon Queen Lane near Wayne Street, and is now upon Main Street nearly opposite to Armat Street. William J. Young, who made a specialty of producing winter fruits, such as cucumbers, tomatoes and the like, had his greenhouses at School House Lane and Pulaski Avenue, where his
son now is. Myles Y. Warren, who was gardener to Moses Brown, built at the northwest corner of Rittenhouse Street and Wissahickon Avenue. John Kinnier, one of the most active men in the formation of the Germantown Horticultural Society, built upon Haines Street at the corner of Engle Street. Henry Haines upon Haines Street near Chew Street, where he was succeeded by John Henry, and Robert Gilmore.

William Grassie followed Saunders at the southeast corner of Greene and Johnson Streets, and David Cliffe, who came from Danville, Pa., to serve as foreman to Miller & Hayes, upon his retirement, built upon Johnson Street near Main Street, which place was after conducted by his son Walter, after by David Cliffe's widow, the same now being owned by Emil H. Geschick. Upon Main Street, above Mount Pleasant Avenue built Samuel E. Graver, where he yet continues. Upon East Mount Airy Avenue in 1882, Joseph E. Smith built, and also George S. Woodruff, the latter being succeeded by Henry C. Woltemate, the second. Upon Main Street near Mount Airy Avenue, Lewis Bilger built, and here associated with him was his son Oscar. Their successors were the "Mount Airy Floral Exchange," and Max H. Rothe, the present incumbent. John Savage located upon Cresheim Road near Mount Pleasant Avenue; Archibald Lawson, who had been gardener to Henry Howard Houston, of "Druim Moir," built upon Willow Grove Avenue, where the business is now conducted by his widow, Mary A. Lawson, and Louis Motsch, built upon Main Street near Willow Grove Avenue,—a place which has disappeared. Representatives of a class semi-professional, who traded, loaned, or sold the surplus of their growings, thereby benefitting their employers and proving a great convenience to the professionals, were Alexander Newitt, John Noonan, William J. Beatty, William Berger, P. McCormick, Alexander Lawson, and William Cochrane. There were also planning gardeners, those capable of "laying out work," such as Charles Speaker, Christian Shortwell, Cornelius Shine, and Anthony Virtue. Also competent jobbing garden-
ers many, such as Michael McGlinn, Joseph Martin, John Thompson, Samuel Brown, William McGregor, Patrick Gallagher, Bernard Connelly, Charles Malarky, Richard McGrath, Michael Geary, John Gorman, all of whom, and numerous others like, who did a general trimming, cutting and planting business. It was from these fields by "layering," by "cuttings," or by seed plantings, that we have the trade as it is in Germantown this day, and that Germantown itself is as beautiful as it is.

From the times of Pastorius, Logan, and Kuhn, until the present, Germantown has never been without botanists,—while the best American plant-students, such as Bartram, Muhlenberg, Nuttall, Rafinesque, Barton, Darlington, and Gray have visited it. As we cannot present all, let us name as representatives of a worthy group: Charles J. Wister, William Wynne Wister, Dr. D. H. Briggs, Edward D. Cope, Henry Carvill Lewis, William Kite, Dr. George Rex, and Miss Mary Cope of the past; and of the present; Miss Susan Kite, Roberts Le Boutillier, Edward Neville, Samuel S. Van Pelt, Herman T. Wolf, Rev. Francis Heyl, Prof. Witmer Stone, George Redles, Prof. Stewardson Brown, Dr. Spencer Trotter, Dr. I. Pearson Willits, Prof. George Kaiser, Dr. Herman Burgin, Dr. J. E. Burnett Buckenham, Robert F. Welsh, Mrs. William Redwood Wright, Richard H. Day, Clayton S. Wertsner, James Arnold, Morris E. Leeds, Miss Anna A. Gorgas, Frank Miles Day, Dr. William J. Campbell, Joseph Meehan, and Dr. James Darrach,—the nestor of Germantown Botanists, who, in 1853, presented a list of "Plants appearing in flower in the neighborhood of Philadelphia from February to November."

Looking from the present backward, we miss several important actors. From the busy field a few have retired to the "shades," others loiter in the "cool of the day," happily not a few continue to lead in paths which "guide into the way of peace,"—for gardening is open, gentle, ennobling, one of the most delightful of occupations, because it is nearest to nature. The "greenhouses" of McKenzie, McMahon,
Edwin Lonsdale
Maupay, Dressler, Knapp, McQueen, Curtain, Siddell, Baumann, Laughlin, Weiss, Hendricks, McDowell, Warren, Kinnier, Grassie, Cochrane, Joyce, Burton, Motsch, and other well known resorts for Germantown flower lovers, have disappeared completely. Upon Old York Road the Hugh Graham Company occupies the place of William Bright. Charles H. Campbell occupies his father's place upon Germantown Road. Eugene and Harry Weiss at Hatboro now grow for the wholesale markets. John Holt who served with Mrs.—Louis Clapier Baumann, is now an active florist at North Wales, Pa. John Savage, long active near and in Germantown, is now a cut-flower grower at Gwynedd, Pa., and Thomas Foulds' son is at North Wales. Some of those named grow exclusively for the wholesale markets, and the wholesale cut-flower business was first established in Philadelphia by William E. Meehan, a graduate of his father's nurseries, and of the cut-flower establishment of Louis C. Baumann. He after became a writer, editor, arctic explorer, first president of the City History Society of Philadelphia, and Fish Commissioner of Pennsylvania. The first to cultivate a taste for, and who made collections to supply the demand for hardy ferns and other evergreens in "made-up work," was Matthias M. Bell, who was also an employee of Louis C. Baumann.

The list appears endless and we might go on indefinitely, but limitations will not permit. However, a few who continue active until the present, not previously named, who should be named, are John Kulp, John Flinn, Frank Crinage, Robert E. Bogan, Henry C. Heilemann, John Peterson, Henry A. Miller, William E. Christman, Henry C. Marchant, E. J. F. Zeigler, R. Jamison & Sons, and William Wunder, who long alone upon Haines Street near Pittville, is now surrounded by eleven other professional flower-growing establishments, we dare not stop to name. This of course is but a bare survey of the most active of the gardeners, florists and nurserymen connected with the recent care of floricultural Germantown. There are also several private
gardeners who should receive special recognition, because of their worth, such as John Warr, gardener to Joseph M. Fox at "Wakefield;" Samuel Alexander, gardener to Benjamin H. Shoemaker; William S. Beasley, gardener to Thomas B. Homer, Robert Morrison, gardener to Benjamin Ketcham, and John McCleary, gardener to William Weightman and Mrs. F. C. Penfield, and many others like. Members of the same class who have passed on were George Fender, gardener to Charles H. Spencer; Henry Diehl, gardener to Edward T. Steel; Philip McCaffey, gardener to John S. Haines; John Noonan, gardener to R. S. Peabody; Joseph McGregor, gardener long in charge of the Zoological Gardens, Philadelphia, and many others. There are also many yet active but now engaged in other fields, among the number being Michael Sammon, Frank Smith, Alexander Young, John McNeill, Matthew Bracken, and William Wilkie, but these names will suffice.

Now leaving commercial floricultural fields, let us proceed to a hurried consideration of the products which art and nature, combined with intelligence, and honest labor, were enabled to produce. Upon Main Street or near it, from Negley's Hill to Chelten Avenue, are, or were several fine gardens. Among these should be named the gardens of Toland, Mechlin, Henry, Heft, and Conyngham, upon Main Street; the side lane gardens being those of T. Charlton Henry, upon Fisher's Lane; Hacker's, upon Wister Street; Rosengarten, Betton, Newhall, Justice, Erringer, and Price, gardens upon Manheim Street; G. Wilbur Russell's upon Seymour Street; "Carlton," upon Indian Queen Lane; "Ivy Lodge," upon Shoemaker Lane; William Chancellor, Jacob Fry, Dr. William J. Campbell, E. W. Clark, Justice C. Strawbridge, Jeremiah Brown, Moses Brown, George L. Harrison and William Weightman's gardens upon School House Lane, and William Schaeffer's upon Armat Street. These past and present gardens stand out conspicuously, but there are many other gardens such as those of Francis B. Reeves, Joseph S. Lovering, Edward T. Steel, Dr. Samuel
K. Ashton, and Samuel Welsh, which merit, and if space permitted, would receive our attention, but as they are much like the first named gardens, we shall pass them to briefly present the former. Some possessed the classic box, others were known for their beautiful trees or hedges, and that of G. Wilbur Russell, for whom Alexander Moore served as gardener, was noted for its exhibitions of massed blooms, and striking hedge of Rambler Roses.

The beauty of “Loudoun” was in its position, for its garden in 1880 was of the ordinary utility variety as I remember it. Here eighty years ago John Hart was gardener. Adjoining Loudoun was “Toland’s,” since 1886 the residence of Charles M. Ballantine, conspicuous in later years for its great bushes of box, its bordered walks, and for its grove of locust trees. Toland’s farm home yet stands with its gable to the street, and in it, seventy-five years ago lived Squire Allimand, one of the village dignitaries. Northward adjoining Toland’s, is Mechlin’s, now owned and occupied by Miss Jane Wagner, a flower lover, and a lineal descendant of General Peter Muhlenberg, he a friend to Christopher Saur, second, and at no time a stranger to Germantown. The beauty of the buttonwood trees once here, has departed, but Mechlin’s garden of box and small fruits yet in part continue. Eastward upon Fisher’s Lane is the garden of Edward H. Sanborn, wherein are magnificent trees, and beyond it is the rich garden continued from the plantings of T. Charlton Henry, by Lewis W. Wister, its present owner. This garden was brought to its perfection by Alexander W. Lawson, who served Mr. Henry many years, and who died March 11, 1892. Farther east upon Fisher’s Lane, are the gardens of “Wakefield,” and “Champ-lost,” earlier noted.

Passing now “Henry House” opposite Fisher’s Lane on Main Street, the birthplace of Mayor Alexander Henry, whose garden was always a mass of bloom from early spring to fall, and also the garden of William H. Stoever, once at the southeast corner of Main and Mehl Streets, whose chief
attractions were a profusion of fuschias and geraniums, which were trained upon trellises, and which extended from the garden beds to the second story windows of the house, we turn into Wister Street to view the wild flower garden of George Redles, the two “Hacker” gardens, both noted for their rare trees, and “Belfield,” to which reference has already been made. At 210 Wister Street also lived George Redles, Sr., and near in “Spring Alley” opposite Wister Street, lived Frederick Fleckenstein, his mutual friend—both plant students and collectors, and numbered among German-town’s best botanists. Not associated with these, but widely known and affectionately remembered by lovers of old books, was “Peter Peppercorn,” who passed his declining days and died in Germantown near the Wissahickon he so fondly loved. Emmanuel Price was a superior man,—a botanist, whose love for our native wild flowers surged into pleasing verse, such as:

“With its high, craggy banks crowned with chestnut and cedar,
Where the hemlock and tulip tree wave in the gale,
And its margins are clothed with oak, maple and willow,
The sweet Wissahickon, the gem of the vale.”

We retrace to Bockius Lane, now known as Manheim Street, and so named by Jacque Marie Roset, “in honor of a German town whose inhabitants he admired.” Roset was fond of flowers and had a fine garden in which dahlias predominated. Townsend Ward states that when Fanny Kemble passed Roset’s home upon her usual morning ride, the gallant old gentlemen always had a bouquet in waiting for her. Both Fanny Kemble and her daughter, Mrs. Owen J. Wister, were fond of saddle riding, and their usual route to Wissahickon,—a place they loved,—was by Duy’s Lane, Manheim Street, and Wissahickon Avenue. Once, while passing out Manheim Street, Fanny Kemble’s horse became frightened, when she was thrown, painfully hurt, and was taken to L. C. Baumann’s residence until she had sufficiently recovered to proceed. Roset died in the year 1844, and was buried in Trinity Lutheran grounds, where in after years, was laid his friend and neighbor Martin Baumann.
Frederick Fleckenstine
At northwest corner of Manheim Street and Green Lane,—so named because of its rows of trees,—but now Greene Street, was an impressive grove of trees covering the spacious grounds of Joseph G. Rosengarten, public-spirited citizen, writer, now President of the Free Library of Philadelphia, whose gardener for many years was Michael Shaughnessy. The grounds are now entirely built over, as are also those of "White Cottage," the estate of Dr. Samuel Betton, adjoining, after, of Dr. Thomas Forrest Betton, the last gardener at the place-being William Kulp. "White Cottage" was known for its superior vegetables, fruits and for its conspicuous, beautiful amelopsis covered trees. To this place, Samuel Constantine Rafinesque, one of the most eccentric, but also one of the ablest of writers upon America's Natural History, was a frequent visitor. Near, on Pulaski Avenue, were the superior gardens of Frederick Gutekunst, Samuel Holt, Captain Pinckney, Mrs. Henry W. McCall—now Stewart A. Jellett's—while upon West Clapier Street were the striking gardens of Mrs. Sykes, and Mrs. Elizabeth Baxter.

Farther "back the lane," as Western Manheim Street was usually referred to, were the beautiful grounds and gardens of Thomas A. Newhall, presided over by Alexander Caie. Alexander Caie was an able man, and in 1846, was gardener at "Camac Cottage," situated on Broad Street near where Monument Cemetery now is. Andrew J. Downing in 1848 wrote of it, "As a specimen of a cottage residence of the first class, exquisitely kept, there are few examples in America more perfect than Mrs. Camac's grounds, four or five miles from Philadelphia." From "Camac's Woods" Dr. Camac removed to lower Wissahickon, and the Roxborough Free Library is now upon his grounds.

At one time, Western Manheim Street was the garden spot of Germantown, and it almost seems useless to refer to its individual parts. Gardener to William W. Justice, was Maurice P. Carn, well known as a practical gardener and horticultural writer, and gardener to J. L. Erringer, was
Thomas Weiss, son of Florist Thomas Weiss, who once had greenhouses upon Manheim Street near Pulaski Avenue. In the vicinity were the beautiful grounds and gardens of James E. Caldwell, Mrs. Sharp, Thomas Jones, and also those of Judge F. Carroll Brewster, whose wife was sister of Dr. William P. C. Barton, the author of "Compendium Florae Philadelphicae," published in 1818,—the first Flora of Philadelphia and its surrounding territory.

Manheim Cricket Club now covers the grounds of "Caernarvon," once the home of Wister Price, and the one time delightful homestead is now the "Ladies' Club House." One who loves nature, and who knew the charms of this favored section, can hardly withstand a feeling of resentment, for while the "grassy grounde" is all around, there is much near that is offensively intrusive, and the quaint attractions of flowers, and book, and leisure hour have gone forever.

Here yet is the remains of a once notable tree, a Virgilia Lutea, a native American tree, but at this place first introduced to cultivation. The tree once had a diameter of four feet at six feet above the ground, and reached an elevation of 46 feet. Its best days are now past, and it stands "fast bound in misery and iron."

Upon Wissahickon Avenue, directly opposite Manheim Street, stands the residence of E. B. Gardette. We refer to it not on account of its gardens, and fine trees, but to state that in Philadelphia here was first shown the "love-apple," or tomato,—the plant originally being grown for decorative purposes, it being a member of the "Night Shade Family," and supposed to be deadly poisonous. At this same place it is also recorded, that melons or canteloupes were first in America grown, the seed being brought from Tripoli, by Commodore James Barron, who lived upon Main Street near Manheim Street.

Across the fields from Gardette's may be seen upon Indian Queen Lane the stately front of "Carlton." It is a beautiful mansion, surrounded by spacious, well kept grounds,
but now its interests are chiefly historic. The mansion was erected after the "Revolutionary War," and its most conspicuous owner since the days of Henry Hill, was Cornelius Smith.

Returning to Main Street, immediately above Manheim Street, appears the garden of Joseph Shippen, after of Caspar Heft. What it was originally we have no knowledge. Now it is an elaborate, artificial, and to me, not a pleasing garden, but at least two of its trees are worth remembering, one the Himalayan pine tree near the east front, the other the large buttonwood tree planted near the entrance gate by Andrew Garret, and this is mainly of interest, because Andrew Garret was after murdered. There is a mass of nonsense in print concerning this tree. It is not "the largest," nor the "finest buttonwood tree in Pennsylvania." It does not now, nor did it ever rank with the superb like specimen standing in Friends Burying Ground, upon Main Street, a plant which is curiously overlooked.

Germantown, it would appear, had a preference for the native Plane Tree, for it was generally planted, and it was rare to find a hotel or a public building without one or more specimens near. In the minutes of Germantown Bank is recorded—"on 22nd of February, 1861, the large Buttonwood tree in front of the Bank was ordered to be removed in consequence of its being deemed dangerous to travel, the road being much narrowed by the laying of railroad tracks. This tree"—quoting Charles J. Wister—"is about 100 years old, and is 80 feet high, and 9 feet in circumference."

At Heft's, William Berger, now commercially located upon Main Street, near Maplewood Avenue, was at one time gardener. The place is of interest historically, not because it belonged to the Shippen family, and after was the site of a famous Inn, but because it was said to have been the birthplace of Dr. Adam Kuhn, the botanist.

Nearly opposite to "Heft's," is what remains of the
garden of Philip R. Freas. Philip R. Freas, farmer, gardener, and founder of "The Germantown Telegraph" was born at Marble Hall, a few miles west of Germantown's Township Line, February 22, 1809. February 22, 1830, he came to Germantown, and upon March 17th, of the same year, issued the first number of the "Village Telegraph," a rural weekly.

This soon was changed in name to "The Germantown Telegraph," which, as an agricultural paper, gained a circulation throughout the entire United States. Philip R. Freas located his residence where indicated, and planted a garden which became noted for its vegetables and fruits, but locally it was better known because of a fine spring, the source of "Royal's Run," which the lot contained. Within the narrow confines of his estate, for 53 years the proprietor continued his active useful work until his retirement, August 1, 1883, and April 1, 1886, he passed to his rewards.

During his editorship of the "Telegraph," "Major" Freas was offered desirable and lucrative positions, but these without exception were declined. Perhaps the most important was that of "Commissioner of Agriculture" in 1870, tendered him by President Grant. Major Freas' method of work much resembled that of Dr. Samuel Johnson. His capacity was enormous, and he practically prepared "copy" for the entire paper, tumbling the manuscript from his workroom through a hole in the wall, into the compositors' room just in advance of the type-setters, but always keeping them busy. He was seldom away from his home or garden, and upon the streets, he in later years appeared only in fair weather to take an afternoon drive, his favorite route being Manheim Street, Greene Street, Wissahickon Avenue, and near-by streets in lower Germantown.

From "Heft's" to "Conyngham" House, there is an unbroken line of fine old gardens, but we shall pass them to stop at the latter, now known as the "Hacker House," owned by Mr. Edward I. H. and Miss Anna Howell, and occupied by Dr. John A. Murphy. Upon the front lawn here was a
fine specimen of the rare "creeping yew," and at the rear of the house was one of the first "wild flower" gardens in Germantown, it containing native plants from many sections of the United States. The garden also possessed many rare shrubs, a unique variety of weeping oak, and a noted grove of "over-cup" oak trees, which Prof. Thomas Meehan pronounced "the finest he had ever seen."

"Grumblethorpe" presents one of the oldest and one of our most attractive gardens, but we shall refer to it briefly, for a description of it has appeared in the publications of this Society, one more complete than it is possible to give at this time. The "Grumblethorpe" or Wister garden is located directly upon Main Street, opposite to Queen Lane. It is a herbaceous garden of the old fashioned type, having fine walks, box-bordered, covered at stations by trellises. Its beds for vegetables and flowers are systematically arranged, and in them perennial plants develop, and flower with the season's progress, so that from the flowering of the "Christmas Rose," until the flowering of the witch-hazel, the garden almost continuously is in bloom. In the garden are many fine trees, but the gem among many varieties is a "Sugar Pear" tree which has been bearing fruit continuously for nearly 160 years, a tree yet vigorous, and out-topping every pear tree I know. It may be worth recording, that this tree had been bearing fruit for several years before the better known "Lady Petre pear tree" of John Bartram's garden had been imported. The garden was constructed before the days of landscape engineers in America, and it is a worthy memorial to the skill and care of generations of the Wister family. The gardener in charge for many years was Patrick McGowan, who is now located at Friends' Home, Greene Street and Washington Lane.

Turning now into Shoemaker's Lane, a noteworthy garden was that of "Ivy Lodge," whose owner was John Jay Smith, and whose gardener was Thomas Hendricks. John Jay Smith was born at Green Hill, near Burlington, N. J., June 16, 1798. In the year 1849, he came to German-
town, where he built on Shoemaker's Lane, near Main Street, "Ivy Lodge," which he occupied in December, 1850, and where he continued to dwell and work until his death, September 23, 1881. The fine garden at "Ivy Lodge" was planted under his direction, and some of the trees there were placed by his own hands. Wrote Thomas Meehan in "The Gardeners' Monthly" for December, 1881,—"The grounds around Mr. Smith's beautiful residence in Germantown are a remarkable piece of successful landscape gardening. They are so arranged that one might wander about the place for an hour and still continue to find objects of interest, and scarcely realize the fact when ultimately informed that this charming spot with its beautiful lawn, belts of shrubbery, numerous rare trees and shrubs, fruit gardens, vegetable garden, greenhouse, stable, etc., are all on a small city lot of less than two acres. 'Ivy Lodge' is a singular triumph of garden art."

In connection with this garden an interesting fact is recited in "Recollections of John Jay Smith" edited by Elizabeth P. Smith. John Jay Smith while in England and visiting Granville John Penn, wrote, "one morning at my suggestion we (Mr. Penn and I), planted two cedars of Lebanon, which he procured for the purpose, and named them the Treaty Trees of Penn and Logan. He informed me at a later period that they are growing finely. This operation was repeated at my garden in Germantown, 1851, where the Penn Cedar still flourishes. (1872)"

For 21 years, John Jay Smith was librarian to the Loganian and Philadelphia Libraries. To the American public he introduced straw paper, after so generally used for newspaper work. In 1851, he was a commissioner to England to secure for removal to America, the great Crystal Palace Exhibition, for which in part he was successful. He was indeed a remarkable man who during a long life was busily engaged in beneficent works.

John Jay Smith's literary work was varied and abundant, but we may refer only to his "Guide to Laurel Hill
Cemetery,” published in 1844; “The North American Sylva,” by Michaux & Nuttall, edited and published in two volumes in 1852, and an edition of Bernard McMahon’s “American Gardening,” edited and published in 1854. He was also author of 12 important books, editor of over 30 other volumes, and a writer whose knowledge helped to make over 100 other books.

Downing’s Horticulturist, founded and conducted by A. J. Downing,—that popular and lamented genius who in 1852 lost his life in the burning on Hudson River of the steamer Henry Clay,—was upon sale, purchased by James Vick, who continued it with Patrick Barry as editor. In 1855, it was purchased by John Jay Smith, who published and edited it from July, 1855, until January, 1860, inclusive. During his editorship, Mr. Smith “delegated to others more familiar with every day gardening, to such men as William Saunders, R. Robinson Scott, the more practical details, he reserved for himself the task of throwing around horticulture those intellectual charms, which in all ages have commended it to the love of the good and great.” (Thos. Meehan Gardeners’ Monthly, page 378, December, 1881.)

After the sale of the “Horticulturist,” Mr. Smith continued his horticultural writings, and served as a contributor under the name of “Jacques” to the “Gardeners’ Monthly,” until his death. The work doubtless by which John Jay Smith will be longest remembered will be by the Laurel Hill Cemeteries of his creation. In the year 1835, following the lead of Dr. Jacob Bigelow, of Boston, he founded, designed and superintended the planting of North Laurel Hill Cemetery, a project which for a time was looked upon as sacrilegious, but which rapidly emerged from prejudice, and so quickly grew in public favor that “garden cemeteries” were established in many parts of North America. Central, South, and West Laurel Hill Cemeteries followed, and the rare shrubs and trees there to be found, were planted under the direction of Mr. Smith. In the year 1873, “Ivy Lodge” was the birth-place of “The Germantown Horticultural
Society," and John Jay Smith was its founder. Eastward adjoining Ivy Lodge was the fine estate of Mrs. Willing. The grounds were spacious and sheltered by numerous beautiful trees. Gardener here for many years was Richard Graham, and later Joseph Camp, who died in the year 1892. The grounds are now entirely built over. At the northeast corner of Baynton Street lived Thomas Mackeller, a nature lover and the possessor of a garden crowded with rare and beautiful trees. The garden has now fallen into disuse and much of its charm is gone. To me there are four distinctive types of "landscaping" in our Germantown gardens. Whenever in the garden at "Grumblethorpe" I think it the most beautiful garden of the perennial type in our midst. Whenever in the garden at "Wyck," I feel that there is our finest specimen of the "wild flower garden" type. Another type is that shown upon the grounds of Thomas Drake, East Washington Lane and Morton Streets, a stiff, geometrical, and to me a negative type, which I have always thought had better not been born. The last of the types in mind is the "classical," picturesque, dignified, impressive type, most beautifully exhibited upon the grounds of Elliston P. Morris, Main Street opposite Mill Street, where through the open gate, glimpses of this garden gem may be enjoyed. The original garden here was of the ordinary flower and vegetable type, and we need only refer to it. The present arrangement and effects were planned by Charles H. Miller in the year 1867. In arranging the new garden, the trees of the first garden were not disturbed, and several trees now somewhat the worse by reason of destructive storms, are supposed to have been part of the place when President Washington occupied it.

The garden is 100 feet wide and 435 feet long, and throughout it is most beautiful. Several of the trees were by Dr. John A. Warder, an eminent authority, pronounced unique, and in it impressive specimens of box are known to be over 100 years old.

In "Rare and Notable Plants of Germantown," the
trees of this garden are described, and for the annual pro-
vision for the garden, we shall quote Mr. Morris, its
respected owner: "In early June when the grass is springing
green and fresh, comes perhaps the most attractive time for
my lawn, when after the winter storms and snows, my 2500
or 3000 bulbous roots come into bloom in all their glory.
These are freshly imported every year, sending out my orders
in June or July, and receiving the bulbs in October. I prefer
planting them about 'Thanksgiving,' and only occasionally
have I been at fault, and sometimes have been obliged to
remove a couple of inches of frosted earth from the surface
of the beds, but I prefer to run that risk and keep the bulbs
out of the ground as long as possible, fearing their too early
start." At this place Lady Washington grew hyacinths in
globes of cut glass, which when she left Germantown, she
presented to Catherine Deshler, a daughter of the "Widow
Deshler," as recorded by Townsend Ward.

Proceeding out historic School House Lane, we note
next to Germantown Academy, the "Dove" or "Herman"
house, long the residence of Mr. John Alburger. This once
possessed a beautiful garden and fruitful orchard, and it
yet presents a horse-chestnut tree of large proportions, said
to have been planted by President Washington, when he
occupied the place in 1785. Of as much interest and of
more value is the fact, that upon these grounds was raised
the "Chancellor Pear," having a fruit with white juicy
flesh, a desirable addition secured by Mr. William
Chancellor, when he occupied the place. In this house in
1864, also lived for a time Robert Robinson Scott, while
serving as gardener to Samuel Emlen, whose grounds and
gardens were upon Coulter Street, at the rear of Chancellor's
House.

Beyond Wayne Avenue was the garden of Jacob Fry,
which I remember as a veritable exhibition of bloom, for
from spring to fall it was always bright, "whate'er the
weather," but this is no more. West of William J. Young's
greenhouses, is the garden of Dr. William J. Campbell,
wherein, under the care of Miss Mary A. Campbell, an artist botanist, have been grown, and now appear, sturdy specimens of the rare Halesia, Stuarta, Cedar of Lebanon, Styrax, and the most notable of all shrubs,—the gordonia or "Franklin" tree.

Almost without exception the estates upon West School House Lane possess fine gardens. In 1908 Mr. Justice C. Strawbridge wrote me,—the grounds of "Torworth" had not been changed for 50 years, and that his deeds showed there had been no change in the size of the place "for at least 175 years," a fact he considered remarkable on account of its proximity to a large city. In all our territory I do not know a picture as restful as that of "Torworth," and an attempt to convey its beauty by description I fear would be futile. The grounds have long been celebrated for their beauty, and the credit is largely due to Archibald Henderson, who in 1846 was gardener to Wharton Chancellor, its flower-loving owner. The E. W. Clark, Ketterlinus, Warden, Mason, Wright, Lovering, Steel, Waln, Warner, George L. Harrison, Dr. Ashton, Samuel Welsh, John Wagner, C. C. Harrison, and William Weightman gardens, we may only have a look at as we pass, for almost every garden indicated is worthy of complete presentation. Two gardens, those of Jeremiah and Moses Brown, are exceptional, and must not be omitted. Each is distinct, and both in bewildering prodigality are stocked with the rarest of shrubs and trees. In 1816, this place belonged to the celebrated Dr. Caspar Wistar, for whom wisteria sinensis was named, and it was doubtless due to his knowledge, that many unusual plants there appear. Gardener here for many years was Myles Y. Warren, who lived at "Rittenhouse-Town," and who conducted a florists' establishment at the northwest corner of Rittenhouse Street, and Wissahickon Avenue, the site of whose place is now part of Fairmount Park.

One of the most interesting characters connected with the gardens of Germantown, and more particularly with grounds that are now included in "Vernon Park" was
Caspar Wistar, M. D.
Matthias Kin, locally known as the "wild-man," because apparently he had no abiding place, for as the winds, he came and departed as he "listed." Kin was a friend of plant lovers about Philadelphia, and as such, he disposed of his plant collections to sympathetic customers, among whom were Henry Kurtz, and John Melchior Meng, whose gardens adjoined. As indicated, Kin was a collector, and made frequent journeys into unexplored parts for seeds and rare plants. From every known scrap of information concerning him, he was a character unique. As described by a friend to Thomas Meehan, Kin "was a remarkable specimen of humanity, full 6 feet tall, broad shouldered, with enormous bones and little flesh, and as one said, a 'literal' picture of death." He dressed like the Indians among whom he lived. When he came to Philadelphia or Germantown, he stopped only long enough to send his plants and seeds to Europe, he collecting principally for German growers. Kin had a wide acquaintance, and it is strange that more is not known of him. I feel sure that by a study of the letters of contemporary botanists, one would be enabled to do as much for him as Dr. William Darlington did for Dr. William Baldwin. Letters from G. Henry E. Muhlenberg, pastor of Trinity Church, Lancaster, to Zacceus Collins, of Philadelphia, both well known botanists, show them as intimates of Kin. August 20, 1812, Henry Muhlenberg wrote, "It seems my good friend Mr. Kin is still alive and collecting plants. He sent me a small parcel quite lately with some plants dried, or rather mouldy." Again November 22, 1813, concerning a strange plant, he wrote, "I had the living root from Matthias Kin, but without a name." And again, June 20, 1814, "My friend Matthias Kin has gone lately through Lancaster to Tennessee, and promises to call on his return, and then to send what he may have to spare. He is a very industrious man with a good eye."

Also September 13, 1814, "Mr. Matthias Kin, one mile from the city where the Germantown Road joins, has sent me four living plants." "He is a man of great informa-
tion, has an excellent herbarium to which I have added the generic names." "When you have an hour of leisure or so by will you honor him by calling in." "He is an original and honest man, but suspicious with a stranger."

Kin was not seen in Germantown "after the year 1816," and he died in the year 1825. Quoting Prof. Thomas Meehan, "Melchior Meng had a fine garden, and shared with Kurtz his friendship for Kin and his seeds. The immense Linden tree that stood in front of his place was certainly planted by him, as probably were many other of the large trees which stood there. Meng's garden was much larger than Kurtz's, and while the latter paid the most attention to shrubs and plants, the former boasted of his very fine lot of trees which at that time was inferior to very few collections in the country. There is one thing about Meng's garden that is particularly gratifying. While Kurtz has almost entirely disappeared, and most of the specimens of rare trees and most other old "arborets" in the country are fast being lost, with no friendly hand to replace them with younger ones, or to add new ones, this property has fallen into hands which know how to care for them. That part of Meng's property lying north of his home, which was nearly the whole of it, was purchased by the late John Wister, who added to, and resided in the ample building, and who called the place "Vernon." This property is now in possession of the city of Philadelphia and is known as "Vernon Park." Thomas Meehan, the writer of the foregoing was the leader of the movement which secured this acquisition to the citizens of Germantown, and the suggestor of "Vernon" for a public park, it should be remembered was Horace Ferdinand McCann, the owner and editor of the Germantown Independent-Gazette.

The late Col. T. Ellwood Zell, a descendant of John Melchior Meng, thus wrote of a visit to "Vernon" in 1892, "The old house built and occupied by Mr. Melchior Meng or at least a part thereof, is still standing, soon to be removed, used by a Mr. Pollard, who keeps a tin store there. The old
spring house to which Grandmother Dorothy Odgen, nee Meng, so often attended, is still standing there in a very delightful condition. It was in this house Dorothy Ogden lived as a girl during the Battle of Germantown. The old dwelling is of stone laid flat, is about 60 feet back from Main Street, and is now in Vernon Park.” It is needless to add that with the exception of foundation walls, these landmarks have been removed, but one who walks about “Vernon Mansion,” has yet before him several of the most magnificent trees in Germantown.

The row of young buttonwood trees along the front was placed there by the “Germantown Horticultural Society,” a society which also in part placed the pin oak trees in Market Square. The large maple tree near the “Free Library Building” was planted in 1840 by James Gowen, and “Harry” Bruner, so Mr. Bruner told me. Throughout the park are holly, papaw, cypress, oak and many other interesting trees, but we shall note but two, the fine yew tree which stands to the west of “Vernon,” and Meng’s magnolia, which stands to the rear. It is of course to be understood that the latter name is “local,” for the tree is a native of the Southern United States, the seed being brought to Germantown by Kin, and planted by John Melchior Meng. Vernon’s magnolia is noted not because it is rare, but because it is the first specimen of its kind introduced to Germantown gardens.

Opposite Vernon Park, eastward, is “Old Price Street,” opened by Eli K. Price, an indefatigable worker, who will always be remembered in connection with the development of Fairmount Park.

Not long ago Price Street upon each side and throughout its length, was lined by beautiful, though not large gardens. Conspicuous among many were those of George Wharton Hamersley, publisher; W. Beaumont Whitney, merchant; James R. Lambdin, artist; Charles Wister, retired, and that of John Fanning Watson, Philadelphia’s annalist. At the house now numbered 122, lived Mr. Watson from the year 1846 until his death in 1860, and here flourished
under his care a scion from the "Treaty Tree" of Kensington, with several plants of ivy grown upon the William Penn estate in Ireland. A "Treaty Tree" from Godfrey farm on Mill Street, transplanted by Mr. Watson to front of his old home upon Main Street below Shoemaker's Lane, which there long flourished, has disappeared, and is now referred to only to show the pleasure of a mind which made a link to connect William Penn, and the inventor of the quadrant, with the writer of the "Declaration of Independence."

Proceeding northward upon Main Street, the next garden of prominence above Vernon, and much resembling it, was that of Samuel Harvey, Burgess of Germantown, whose place, named "Rose Cottage," is now covered by the Town Hall, and next above it was the old-fashioned box garden of Benjamin Engle, whose house was built in 1758, and wherein, John Melchior Meng died in the year 1812.

About central Germantown, were, or are, many superior gardens which may only be referred to: The garden of Mrs. J. R. Sprague upon Woodbine Avenue; of Dr. Herman Burgin, upon West Chelten Avenue; of Lambert Lare and James Armstrong, upon East Haines Street; of Dr. Naaman H. Keyser, upon High Street; of Dr. I. Pearson Willits, upon West Walnut Lane; of B. Frank Kirk, upon East Washington Lane; of Charles Stacy Pancoast, Esq., upon East Johnson Street; of Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols, upon Pelham Road; each being a gem of distinct and particular worth.

One of our quaintest gardens was that connected with the Morris-Littell house, situated at southeast corner of Main and High Streets. This many times has appeared in print, and has been referred to as the original Witt garden. The place has many interests, among them being its connection with the "Mystics of the Wissahickon," the discovery upon its grounds of the habits of the seventeen-year locusts by Miss Margaret H. Morris, and its occupancy by Miss Elizabeth Carrington Morris, a botanist, and the first woman elected to the Philadelphia Academy of the Natural Sciences. To this place came frequently Dr. William
Darlington, a celebrated Chester County botanist, and author of Florula Cestrica. "Awbury" extending from Haines Street to Washington Lane, east of Chew Street, is one of the largest, one of the finest and on account of its family life, the most interesting of many home estates. It is like a great park, abounding with walks, drives, rare shrubs, trees, and richly stored gardens. It is the home of the Cope, Haines, Emlen, and Lewis families, all related by birth or marriage, and of all the experiments in so-named community life, to me "Awbury" is the most practical and beautiful. "Awbury" has had many gardeners, among them Peter McGowan, but shortly before his death, the late Francis R. Cope wrote me: "Williams Saunders completed the laying out of our grounds at 'Awbury,' but much of the work had been done under the supervision of my brother, Thomas P. Cope, before Saunders came to Germantown."

It is an impossibility to properly present "Wyck" at this time. The place is so stocked with treasures, collective, scientific, and historic, so beautiful from whatever aspect viewed, that superficially I hesitate to present it at all, yet no one may refer to Germantown Gardens without including it, for it is the gem among many. I shall therefore try to give a glimpse of it, for the garden lies west of the house, and cannot be seen from the street, and as owing to its owner's precarious health, but few are admitted to it, its worth therefore is not widely known.

Upon March 3, 1908, Miss Haines wrote me: "I believe my old garden was laid out by my mother, Mrs. J. B. Haines, as I have a rough sketch with notes in her hand. I presume it was about 1821, or 22, as that was the time that my parents removed to ‘Wyck' permanently, having previously only resided here in the summer. I remember when the asparagus bed, surrounded by currant bushes, still occupied the plot by the street, where the hedge now it. At that time, the paths were covered with tan from Engle's old tannery."

The garden is formal in design, but so cleverly covered by shrubbery, trellises, and resting places, that one may
wander through its walks without making this discovery. The beds are box-bordered, and present a wealth of wild-flowers, hardy plants in variety, roses of “long-ago,” all flourishing happily together in great profusion. Miss Haines loved ferns, and along the path nearest the house, where they might be viewed from the windows, many of our most beautiful native ferns show a luxuriance of growth, not often seen in their native habitats. Here are also several rare trees, and the memory of some that were,—memorials of Thomas Nuttall, of George Washington, and of Lafayette, for Reuben Haines, the father of Jane R. Haines, was active in the Philadelphia Academy of the Natural Science, and “Wyck” was a resort for his many friends, it being as well known to Thomas Nuttall, to Thomas Say, and to John James Audubon, as it was to Maria R. Audubon, the friend and guest of its late owner. Miss Haines once told me the old part of the house, that is the west end of the house, was built by her ancestor, Hans Milan, in the year 1690. The entrance to the original house was from a road which ran from near present Price Street, to near present Johnson Street, following the east bank of what was “Honey-Run.” The original survey of Germantown does not show this road, and it obviously was a “turnout” to avoid a poor part of the “Great-Road,” for otherwise all between the points named, would have had to cross their neighbors’ property to reach it. “Wyck” Mansion is not only the most beautiful one in Germantown, but as well, I believe the oldest house in it, and I further believe it the oldest house now standing in Philadelphia county.

Many times I had the pleasure of being taken through parts of the house, and through the garden by Miss Haines, where every object of historic interest within the house she delighted to exhibit and enlarge upon, and every flower within her garden appeared like an old friend to greet. Her knowledge of plants and of plant names was wonderful, and the beauty of her home and its surroundings, though great,
were always surpassed by her charming personality, and by
the beauty of her character.

The first gardener to Reuben Haines was John Hart, who after was gardener at "Loudoun." He also became a "jobbing gardener," and in this capacity served Bronson Alcott at "Pine Cottage." For a long time he had charge of "Friends' Meeting" and grounds upon West School House Lane, and at this place, I first became acquainted with him. John Hart was an investor in real estate, became wealthy, and passed his last years at his home at northeast corner of Greene Street and School House Lane, where he found pleasure in the cultivation of his modest garden. He died April 15, 1885, aged 86 years. Passing many fine gardens upon West Walnut Lane, we stop at the Knorr House, once at northwest corner of Main Street and Walnut Lane, where lived Daniel B. Smith, a celebrated teacher, scientist, botanist, and President of Haverford College. I remember him as a very old man, and living at his son's home in "Cottage Row." His garden I never saw, but Miss Jane Haines told me it was a beautiful one, of the old fashioned type and gave him much pleasure. At northeast corner of Main Street and Walnut Lane stands the "Button Mansion," which is now owned and occupied by Dr. Richard W. Deaver. Here continues in a flourishing condition the finest hedge of hemlock in Germantown, planted by John Button in the year 1840. Immediately north, upon west side of Main Street, opposite Pastorius Street, was the attractive garden of Sheriff, Enoch Taylor. The mansion is now occupied by the Girls' High School and it is of interest because here lived Dr. John D. Godman, when he wrote the well known and widely read "Rambles of a Naturalist." Martin Nixon and Col. Galloway C. Morris, near neighbors upon East Tulpehocken Street, and Charles W. Chandler, at High and Morton Streets, had each superior gardens. With Mr. Chandler, throughout the Centennial Exhibition lived General T. Saigo, Japan's Commissioner, a flower lover,—but we may not stop to enlarge. The garden of
Mr. Chandler, Henry Neilson, gardener; as well as that of Mr. Nixon, Frank Smith, gardener; were noted for their vegetables and small fruits. The most noted exhibits in the garden of Col. Morris were a double flowering Japanese cherry, and a fine cedar of Lebanon. Keyser’s garden, east side of Main Street, at corner of Tulpehocken Street has long been widely known for its old fashioned plants of rarity and superior culture. Plants not procurable at a commercial establishment usually might be found here, and I doubt whether any florist is able to show better results, than those procured by Miss Amelia Wood, the skillful grower. The Keyser garden is situated in the midst of an area which was overrun by the “Morus Multicaulus” craze of 1840. At that time, nearly every one in Germantown, led by Philip Physick, who had a few acres, and a few spare dollars, planted mulberry trees for feeding silk worms, and it is a pity that so much energy and so much faith should have come to naught, for the enterprise in its incipiency was commendable, promoting home industry, and was truly patriotic. In my youth there were several fine gardens upon West Tulpehocken Street, among the most prominent being those of Thomas H. Shoemaker, Mrs. Lewis Taws, and Henry Howard Houston. At the northwest corner of Main Street and Washington Lane, is the Johnson Garden, and above it, adjoining is the Peter Keyser garden, but as Ellwood Johnson succeeded Peter Keyser, and as he and his sister, Elizabeth kept “open grounds,” both gardens may be presented as one. In the year 1908, Miss Anna W. Johnson wrote me she believed the old garden was planned and planted by her great-grandmother, Rachel Livezey, daughter of John Livezey of Wissahickon, and wife of John J. Johnson, for whom the well-known homestead was built at the time of their marriage in 1768, and it is known the garden was completely established before the leaving of the place by them in the year 1805.

The garden was of the familiar type of the period, having box-bordered walks, with planted bed revelling in a
wealth of hardy perennials, with many familiar shrubs such as calycanthus, "snow ball," Persian and common lilacs, and with large tracts of lily-of-the-valley. Some of the box-bushes and shrubs yet continue, but the "old garden" beds have been completely sodded over. Under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Johnson, its owner, the present garden was constructed and cared for by Patrick Murray, who served here as gardener for more than 30 years.

Ellwood Johnson's Garden yet contains "Lily-of-the-Valley," and "Marie Louise" roses, descendants of the stock of the original garden. It also contains many rare shrubs and trees, but these we may not stop to note. About a charming "springhouse" from which a copious stream discharges to "Honey Run" yet stand three magnificent specimens of swamp cypress, planted by Israel Haupt, for Peter Keyser.

"Pomona Grove," which possessed the next garden of importance as we proceed northward upon Main Street, has been presented so often that we shall only refer to it. In the publications of our Society, it has been most interestingly presented by Miss Mary W. Shoemaker. The garden was first developed under Col. Thomas Forrest; improved by James S. Duval, whose gardener in 1846 was John Parkins. It was entirely reconstructed under the expert direction of William Saunders by Isaac F. Baker, further improved by Robert C. Cornelius, whose gardener was John Meghran, and brought to its highest perfection by Amos R. Little, who became widely known as a Centennial Commissioner, who made a trip around the world, Mrs. Little preserving same in "The World as We Saw It." Within the garden was a spring at which several Virginia troopers were killed at the Battle of Germantown. The exact site of this spring is the cellar of house Number 162 East Duval Street. Here also was a remarkable yew tree already referred to, which had no equal in America. The area the garden occupied from Washington Lane to Duval Street, Main Street to Morton Street, is now almost entirely built over.
"Cliveden" as I first remember it appeared quite different from what it does now. Thirty-five years ago I imagine its grounds were much as they were at the close of the Revolutionary War, for the wall in front, with the lawns behind did not show their present finish, and the grades were altogether different. About the year 1874, Miller & Hayes were engaged to improve the place, and under the direction of Anthony Virtue, its "rough places were made smooth," shrubs and trees were planted, and in many respects its familiar picture was changed. "Cliveden," like nearly every old Germantown Home, had a hardy flower garden of the standard type, but it was better known by its spring, by its great trees, and by the "Ghost" which walked its walls at the "Curfew Hour." What was long known as "Chew's Woods," now in part "Cliveden Park," was, and is, a survivor of the primeval forest, its grounds not having been disturbed from the time the Creator made them, until our "Bureau of City Property," under the direction of the Site and Relic Society, prepared desirable walks, and cleared away its underbrush.

Several years ago in this wood near to Chew Street, stood a grove of "Jersey Pines,"—Pinus inops. This group of trees has disappeared, but two specimens rescued by George Paramore were planted near the farm house at "Awbury." The house is now occupied by John Paramore, and the trees may yet be seen in a flourishing condition. A Jersey pine near the Johnson Street entrance to Cliveden, doubtless was transplanted from the grove to its present position.

Mrs. Chew, February 27, 1904, wrote me, "I can only tell you of the plants of Cliveden that they were of the old-fashioned flowers of the time of 70, 80, and 100 years ago."

"The flowers in the garden were old-fashioned monthly roses, phlox, sweet williams, orange, mignonette, heliotrope, lemon-verbena, jasmine, and fruit trees, apples, pears, cherries and apricot, also box."

We need not further enlarge for the place stands to
speak for itself. With "Cliveden," historic associations of course outtop every other interest, but every one viewing its dignity, its majestic trees, its beautiful grounds, must rejoice that it is in possession of a family able to maintain it in perfect order, with successors to preserve it, for it is Germantown's greatest private park.

Opposite "Cliveden" and of later origin is "Upsala," which possesses a garden of the old-fashioned type. The place is owned and occupied by Miss Sallie Wheeler Johnson, and not any who pass it can fail to be impressed by its stately dignity. In other contributions I have referred to its rare and noteworthy plants, so at this time it is a privilege to have the owner present the garden in her own charming way. Miss Johnson wrote me:

"Grandfather, John Johnson, Jr., planned the setting out of the trees and the semi-circle of white pine trees, bordering the road to the front of the house," and continuing, "I wish I could do justice to the Upsala plants, past and present, for they are among the most delightful recollections of my childhood. My uncle, Henry N. Johnson, was an enthusiastic horticulturist, and Dr. Johnson made quite a hobby of cultivating grapes in a grapery, and the old Concord, Isabella, and Catawba vines still decorate the sunny walks of the house, although the fruit is very imperfect, and attacked by sparrows and bees, that unless tied in paper bags, they never ripen. In a small greenhouse attached to the house we still have the old white camelia about 50 to 60 years old, which used to have about a hundred flowers at once. Some few years ago, it looked bad, and I had it cut down quite close to the tub. It put out, and it is now four feet high and blooming beautifully. Two of the perfect flowers are before me now. Since then I have tried to raise pink ones, but they grow very slowly and the flowers do not develop well. We have a few old white sweet jasmines. A laurestina tree in a tub which was covered with bloom in the winter was set outside in the summer, has died. When I saw them
in bloom in their native soil (I suppose) in Rome, I recalled the dear old plant. When greenhouses were scarce, it was a great treat to have a few plants blooming steadily all winter. We had a small Daphne, not equal to the large one Miss Ann Chew had in their hall by the front window, but I recall a fine wax-plant which bloomed around a window in a warm parlor, and mignonette in the room, and an old lemon-verbena that has lived for half a century.”

With its green-bordered, flower-laden arbored walks, about and near the mansion, unique shrubs and trees and wide and open grassy fields stretching far to the rear, Upsula, upon our busy Main Street, is a rural gem of never-failing beauty. The gardens of Michael Billmeyer, at Upsal Street, and of “Longfield,” owned by R. P. McCullough, and now covered by “Pelham Depot,” were box-bordered of the standard type. A garden celebrated for its production of dahlia, and for a variety of other excellent flowers, also for its beautiful borders of box, was that of William M. Bayard, a flower-loving enthusiast, to whom Peter McGowan for many years was gardener.

“Phil-Ellena” we have referred to. George W. Carpenter, its builder, was a chemist, who rapidly amassed a fortune and improved his property. Its last gardener was David Joyce, who after the surrender of “Phil-Ellena” to Pelham, “laid out” and had charge of Willow Grove Park, while his brother established himself commercially upon Washington Lane, east of Chew Street. David Joyce was an able gardener, as was also his brother William, who was gardener to Matthias W. Baldwin. Carpenter Mansion and its adornments lost their identity in the year 1893, and the spacious grounds once surrounding are now almost completely built upon. What remains of its once varied collections may now be seen at the Academy of the Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in Horticultural Hall, Fairmount Park, or may occasionally be stumbled upon in unexpected places elsewhere. Ellen Olney Kirk, a well-known home writer, in her popular
novels frequently has honored Germantown. She dedicated a book to "J. R. H.," and pleasantly described the gardens of "Wyck,"—and also the gardens and Clock-Tower of "Phil-Ellena."

Proceeding northward upon Wissahickon Avenue, from "Merrick's Place," are several fine gardens, which we may only refer to. These are the gardens of George C. Thomas, to whom Conrad Sible was gardener, whose garden, with its choice collections, have become a part of Fairmount Park,—the old-fashioned attractive garden of Samuel Welsh, Jr., cared for by John Sible, the rose and hardy perennial garden of N. DuBois Miller, Esq., nearby; "Spring Bank," the home of Hon. John Welsh, whose noble trees, "velvety" meadow slopes, and richly stored garden were cultivated by Harman Krugar, whose son, born upon the place, is now President of the Philadelphia Traction Company,—and after by Martin L. Constable, who now lives upon the Thomas estate, and has charge of the shrubbery upon "Lincoln Drive,"—the rose-growing plant of John Welsh Young, nearby, and the gardens of Mrs. James B. Young, Cornelius Weygandt, Dr. George Strawbridge, and Thomas P. C. Stokes, all grouped between Hortter and Frank Streets, and near—and last, but not least, the charming retreat near Carpenter Lane of William E. Chapman, Secretary of the Site and Relic Society, whose many virtues outshine the products of his grounds and endear him to everyone who has the privilege of his acquaintance. Passing now to the Kreigsheim District and Main Street of Germantown, we at once come upon the Joseph Gorgas homestead, at northeast corner of Main Street and Gorgas Lane. What its garden was originally I know not, but its surviving borders of box proclaim it to have been a garden of respectable worth.

The Gorgas family has been identified with this district from the date of its first settlement, and the grounds of the family mansions upon Wissahickon, and at Main Street, corner of Allen's Lane, yet possess plants to indicate their long-
time worth. A once popular peach, raised by Benjamin Guil-
liss, gardener to Jacob Snider, Jr., of Philadelphia, was
named in honor of the family, the “Gorgas Peach,” and Gor-
gas Park, also “Gorgas Home,” commemorate its work and
worth.

Among the exhibitors from Germantown taking pre-
miums at the farmers’ meeting of 1850, held at Rising Sun,
were Henry N. Johnson, James Gowen, of Mount Airy, for
a fine bull, John Williams for a bull working in harness;
Owen Sheridan, for fine wheat; James S. Huber, for sweet
potatoes, and Rev. John Rodney, for the best butter. Con-
temporaneous with the “Society for Promoting Agriculture,”
as here indicated, was the “Farmers’ Club,” of which Philip
R. Freas was an active member, and also the “Mount Airy
Agricultural Institute” upon Main Street, opposite the
Gorgas Homestead, of which John Wilkinson was principal,
an institution which occupied an important position in the
agricultural world, the property having been once the home
of Chief Justice Allen.

In the year 1850, the Germantown pupils attending this
school were Charles W. Krebs, Samuel Gorgas, Columbus
Thompson, Jacob David, John Livezey, Thomas Live-
zy, Joseph Livezey, William Pope and W. Scott
Wilkinson. Upon the decline of the school, the place
was bought by James Gowen, and gardener to him
was Peter Kieffer, an able German. With the ex-
ception of a few rare trees and shrubs, and a magnolia
of fantastic growth, the Gowen garden is a thing of the past.
Peter Kieffer prospered, and upon leaving Mr. Gowen he
started a nursery on the Gorgas tract upon Cresheim Road,
immediately south of Allen’s Lane. Peter Kieffer’s house is
yet standing upon Allen’s Lane, west of the Pennsylvania
Railroad, but his large stone barn was taken down in the year
1909. From this place Peter Kieffer removed to Shawmont
Avenue, Roxborough, near to the Wissahickon boundary,
where he established another nursery, and where in 1863 he
produced the celebrated "Kieffer Pear," a cross between the Bartlett, and Chinese sand pears. In company with Joseph Meehan, I made several visits to this place to inspect its stock of rare shrubs and trees, and when we called it was always the pleasure of Mr. Kieffer to show and ours to view, the "original Kieffer pear tree." Peter Kieffer was a rare character, a lovable old man, who November 7, 1890, in his eightieth year, passed to his rewards, and was laid to rest in St. John's Grounds at Manayunk, a place I never pass without stopping to think of him. George Kieffer continues the nursery.

If not remarkable, it is at least interesting that several common products had their origin, or their first use in Germantown, or in its nearby territory. The famous "Seckel Pear" was a "find" upon the "Holland tract" of land in lower Philadelphia. It was discovered by a local sportsman, familiarly known as "Dutch Jake," and was publicly made known first by Bishop William White. The ground upon which the pear tree stood after came into the possession of the Seckel family. Lawrence Seckel, who first introduced the pear commercially, is represented in the fifth generation by a resident of Germantown,—Miss Gertrude Seckel Jenkins.

The "Chancellor Pear" we have referred to, and the "Catherine Pear," a standard favorite, was by Dr. W. D. Brinkle, named for Catherine Gardette, a member of the well-known Germantown family. Eastward from Main Street, in Mount Airy, were numerous fine gardens, which may be represented by those of Justus H. Schwacke, and John Hartman—the latter being an able botanist.

Proceeding northward upon Main Street, we soon come to what was once William L. Schaffer's rural retreat, now covered by the buildings of "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," and here was raised the once popular "Paragon" chestnut. Mr. Schaffer was a public-spirited citizen, and he and his sister provided the means to build "Horticultural Hall" upon Broad Street, Philadelphia, a building
owned by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, a society always strongly supported by Germantown, whose secretary for many years was Apollo W. Harrison, of Queen Lane, near Greene Street, whose late Professor of Botany was Thomas Meehan, and whose present Professor of Botany is Stewardson Brown. From Mermaid Lane, east and west of Main Street, are garden territories which we may only stand before the gate and look in, but at this time may not enter. Indeed, the Chestnut Hill section of Germantown contains many of its choicest gardens. Among these is the "Grotto" garden of Caleb Cope, at southwest corner of Main Street and Rex avenue, and "open to the public." Other pleasing gardens are those of John Marsden of Mermaid Lane, of Charles W. Henry, and of Samuel F. Houston, upon Springfield Avenue, of Hon. Richard Vaux, and Miss Buckley, upon Norwood Avenue, and of Thomas C. Price and Ellen Olney Kirk, upon Graver's Lane; of Henry Spackman Pancoast, upon Spring Lane; of Alfred C. Harrison, upon Sunset Avenue, and "Sugar-Loaf," improved by Charles H. Miller for Newbold H. Trotter. These, and many others equal there are, which have been long established.

It was no part of our plan, nor at this time is it possible for us to consider our "new" gardens, many of which are of superior merit and beauty. I should like to present a chapter upon "wild-flower gardens," "Japanese gardens," and upon garden decorations, for among the latter the sun-dials of Germantown occupy a conspicuous and interesting place. Among many dials we may only refer to the historic ones of "Stenton" and of "Ivy Lodge," of "Spencer"—now decorating the garden of Charles F. Jenkins, and those of "Friends' Meeting," and of William J. Gruhler's grounds, and that forming the crown of Dr. George Woodward's beautiful "Grassie-Lane."

As illustrative of Germantown's "new" gardens we may only name the hardy flower garden of Harrison S.
Morris situated upon York Road, the rose garden of Harry C. Francis at "Upsal," the special gardens of Mrs. Howell upon Ardmore avenue, of Randall Morgan near Graver's Station, of Frederick W. Taylor at "Sheridan's Farm," and the wild flower garden of Frank Miles Day,—founder and editor of "Home and Garden," who owns and occupies the Gorgas mansion upon Allen's Lane, near Wissahickon Creek.

In our hurried journey, it was not possible to note all, nor to fully present any part of the important subject to which we have endeavored to direct attention. For its undeveloped progression we ask the readers' indulgence and hope he will remember that we have only attempted to "strike a path" to make it easier for others to follow.

For a more intimate knowledge of our gardens and garden plants those interested are referred to "The Gardeners' Monthly," "Meehan's Monthly," Jellett's "Flora of Germantown, Philadelphia," and to the works suggested by them.

Had it been possible we would have made several side excursions. No home account can be complete without a consideration of "Plaster of Paris" or Gypsum as a fertilizer, the use of which was advocated and demonstrated by James Logan, and which was introduced practically by Leonard Stoneburner. An account should also be presented of Junkin "Manual Labor Academy"—after "Alexander's Farm," once located at what is now southeast corner of Main Street and Walnut Lane, where a Model Farm was conducted and students trained in agricultural pursuits.

There should be a chapter upon Flower Painters and Floral Photographers, for in addition to those named, and among those who have done praiseworthy floral work are: George B. Wood, William H. Willcox, Herbert Welsh, Philip H. Moore, Charles R. Pancoast, Henry Troth, Mrs. Naaman H. Keyser, and Miss Clara Helen Baumann. Superior Botanists and Plant Delineators are Miss Martha M. Pancoast, and Mrs. Henry Spackman Pancoast.

We also should have chapters upon our Agricultural,
Horticultural, and Floricultural Writers,—leaders who influenced the floral thought of the past, and of such present writers as Elliston J. Perot, founder and editor of “The Amateur Naturalist;” Joseph Meehan, long time horticultural editor of “Germantown Independent;” Edwin Lonsdale, a founder of “The Florists’ Club,” also a founder, owner and contributor of “The Florists’ Exchange,” and founder and first president of the “American Carnation Society;” Ernest Hemming, editor of “The National Nurseryman;” Charles Francis Jenkins, President of the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, joint owner and manager of the “Farm Journal”—an agricultural paper having of its kind, the largest circulation in the world. Other important plant writers whose works should be presented are Edward Drinker Cope, whose contribution to the Evolution Theory are internationally known; Prof. Spencer Trotter, lecturer and writer upon nature subjects; Prof. Stewartson Brown, lecturer, author of “The Alpine Flora of the Canadian Rocky Mountains,” and joint author of “Handbook of the Flora of Philadelphia and Vicinity,” and Dr. Witmer Stone, lecturer, writer and author of “The Plants of Southern New Jersey”—an important work issued as a report by the state indicated.

Germantown’s contributions to floriculture should also be recorded, for it has given many new varieties of flowers and fruits,—the productions of Frank Smith, John Warr, Edwin Lonsdale and others being of meritorious note, while the Marvellous Mallows of Meehan’s Nurseries are a triumph of hybridation, and a wonder of the plant lovers’ world.

An adequate presentation, in addition to many Life Histories of Notable Plants, Plant Growers, and Plant Societies, would also have included chapters upon Rose Gardens, Dahlia Gardens, Chrysanthemum Gardens, Miniature Gardens, Italian Gardens, and of the latest gardens of which our most representative types are those of Dr. George Woodward and John T. Morris, both situated in the Chestnut Hill section of the German Township, to which we shall briefly refer.
"Kreigsheim," the beautiful estate of Dr. George Woodward is located upon the southern slope of Bechtel's Hill, overlooking Cresheim Valley, and through the liberality of its owner, the park and its gardens are open to the public. Here history and tradition with art and nature combine to make the place ideal, and one of our richest displays is its wall garden in early Spring.

"Compton," whose striking garden was started by John T. Morris with the assistance of Charles H. Miller, has been so extended and changed that its original lines have became negative in the enlargement. It is a Japanese Garden of the highest type and among local gardens it is first. For extent, variety, floral wealth, artistic decorations, no private garden in Philadelphia is its equal, and amid historic associations it is situated upon the southern edge of beautiful Whitemarsh Valley, bordering upon Wissahickon Creek. Frank Gould is gardener in charge.

Beyond "Compton," and a worthy finish to our floral territory, are Andorra Nurseries," composed of 1000 acres of hardy plants, which in immense number and variety give life to the landscape, clothe both banks of Wissahickon Creek, decorate the portals of Wissahickon Ravine, and top our northern-most boundary with dazzling displays of floral energy,—excepting only Fairmount Park,—they forming the most extensive, the most satisfying, the most stimulating of our gardens, for here under an unobstructed sky, innocent of "art," they stand in a region teeming with romance and history, with "Ridge" and Wissahickon and Whitemarsh Valleys contributing their marvellous treasures of expanse, of light, of life,—wonderfully unique, the most complete combination of nature's gifts I know, the whole a constant incomparable panorama of spiritual favors so inspiring, that "dull would he be" who before them does not feel the presence of the Infinite.

But few may know that the credit of procuring our greatest garden belongs to Germantown, and that Charles Shearer Keyser, lawyer, writer, public speaker, born at 6211
Main Street, was the founder, that John Jay Smith, the sage of "Ivy Lodge," was organizer, and that Alfred Cope, of "Clearfield," was the first contributor to the plan which secured forever to Philadelphia its greater Fairmount Park. There were others associated who deserve the fullest credit, notably James H. Castle, but the inspiration of the movement was the historian of "Independence Hall," who in June, 1856, issued a pamphlet upon the subject, who worked unceasingly for the project until its fulfillment was obtained, and who wrote two "Guides to Fairmount Park" without referring to his own connection with the great work. John Jay Smith, in his "Recollections," with sufficient detail described the progress of the movement, and therein states, "While I was editor of the Horticulturist in 1857, and when the general building of houses and manufactories on the banks of the Schuylkill alarmed thinking citizens for the purity of the drinking water, a sudden and deep-seated idea entered the brains of two youngish lawyers, James H. Castle and Charles S. Keyser, who occupied offices belonging to and beside the Philadelphia Library. They introduced another of our tenants, N. B. Browne, and passed together the autumn of 1859 in devising some method for procuring for the city the next country place, formerly of James C. Fisher, then owned by Ferdinand J. Dreer."

Meeting with repeated failures and becoming discouraged, Keyser and Castle came to "Ivy Lodge," where plans were discussed and an organization was effected, public meetings were after held, and the first contribution to the fund was $1000.00 by Alfred Cope, who subsequently increased it to $10,000.00, his brother Henry contributing a like amount. "From this entering wedge, much management of the public mind from every press that could be taught, by little and little and preserving talent, the work has prospered until today all the taxpayers are greatly alarmed over the extensive additions to our city debt." Fairmount Park is a reality, its benefits and blessings are no longer debatable, its
Charles S. Keyser
worth is recognized by all, but as yet in it there is no memo-
rial to its founders, and with this suggestion let me conclude.

There are many, very many, gardens distributed
throughout our territory worthy of "special mention," but
as stated, and oft repeated, our limitations will not permit.
We, however, trust that enough has been given to present
Germantown as a Garden Home, a place helpful to happi-
ness, a goodly place to dwell in, a place fitted to lift the
"downhearted," help view with reverence the divinity ex-
pressed in the Creator's manifold beauties, so that all may
thankfully appreciate their abounding blessings. I often
wonder how many who pass up and down our Main Street
realize what a wonderful street it is, that is—apart from its
historic associations? While the trees and gardens have
almost disappeared from the old streets of Philadelphia, our
own central avenue from "Turnpike Bridge" to "Mt. St. Jo-
seph's," is brightened by gardens of bloom, and throughout
its length it is almost uninterruptedly paralleled by stalwart
trees of refreshing vigor, a delight to look upon.

It was James Logan, statesman and botanist, who had
the first pretentious garden in Germantown, and it was he
who in illness wrote, "For it is my greatest happiness in this
condition, that with the advantages already mentioned, I am
naturally, as by long habit, disposed, for which I am truly
thankful, to account a solid, inward peace of mind and the
enjoyment of myself by reducing my own thoughts to bear
some proportion to the beautiful order conspicuous in all out-
ward objects of the natural creation, to be the only basis of
real felicity."

Whether or not we agree with the first "Justice" of
Pennsylvania is of little consequence. It is of more impor-
tance to remember that the first man known to history was
placed to happily dwell in a garden, that after an interminal
number of years, and nearly one hundred years before the
home gardens of which we write were planted, the relations
at the dawn established continued in perfect agreement, for
that keenest of observers, the Prince of Naturalists, in one of his most delightful essays declared the cultivation of a garden to be "the purest of human pleasures." This truly it was, and is, and to it may be added, it is one of the most potent factors in the uplifting of the race,—for a love of nature is an irresistible assertive force which made Falstaff in delirium to babble of green fields, and which prompted the more spiritual Keats with the sinking of his sun to exclaim—"I feel the flowers growing over me." So by nature we are "changed," to pass through nature purified.

In the pushing out of the old by the sometimes objectionable intrusions of the new, let us be thankful that an abundance of the products of the best "gone on before" survives, that the Germantown we live in, like the "Towne" of the Fathers, is yet an attraction to the stranger, the pride of its every citizen, "the earthly Paradise" towards which the thoughts of its children absent ever longingly reach, and to which when free they in person lovingly return, for in spite of every pressure, every alteration, every "improvement," it yet continues a happy, healthy, vigorous, "greene country towne," a "thing of beauty" constant, which promises to be "a joy forever."