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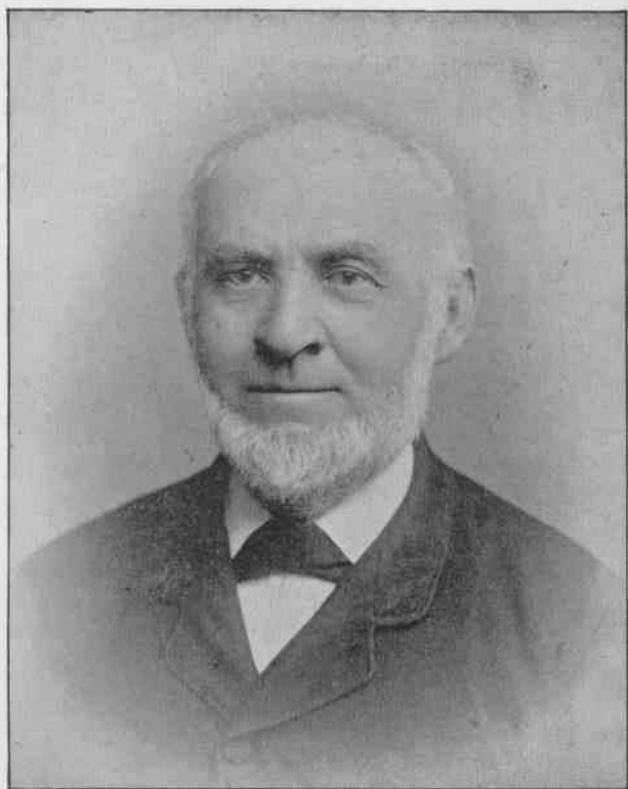
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DANIEL K. CASSEL.

We Dedicate this Work :

FIRST, TO THE MEMORY OF OUR ANCESTORS,
WHO BEQUEATHED TO US THE GLORIOUS PRIVILEGE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, AND SET
US EXAMPLES OF BLAMELESS, EXEMPLARY LIVES.

SECOND, TO OUR PARENTS,
WHO TAUGHT US TO PRIZE THIS INHERITANCE AS A PRICELESS
BOON, DIRECT FROM THE HAND OF GOD.

THIRD, TO OUR CHILDREN,
WHOM WE ADJURE TO CHERISH THEIR INESTIMABLE PRIVILEGES, AND KEEP
UNSULLIED THE FAMILY NAME, UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD.

FOURTH, TO OUR POSTERITY.
MAY THEY EMULATE THE WORTHY EXAMPLE OF THE "GOOD AND TRUE" WHO HAVE
PRECEDED THEM, AND "HONOR GOD AND OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS."

A
GENEA-BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF THE
RITTENHOUSE FAMILY

AND
ALL ITS BRANCHES IN AMERICA,

WITH SKETCHES OF THEIR DESCENDANTS,

FROM THE EARLIEST AVAILABLE RECORDS TO THE PRESENT TIME, INCLUDING
THE BIRTH OF WILHELM IN 1644.

With Portraits and other Illustrations.

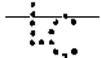
BY ✓

DANIEL K. CASSEL,

OF GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ALVAH RITTENHOUSE, M. D.

VOLUME I.



PUBLISHED BY
THE RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

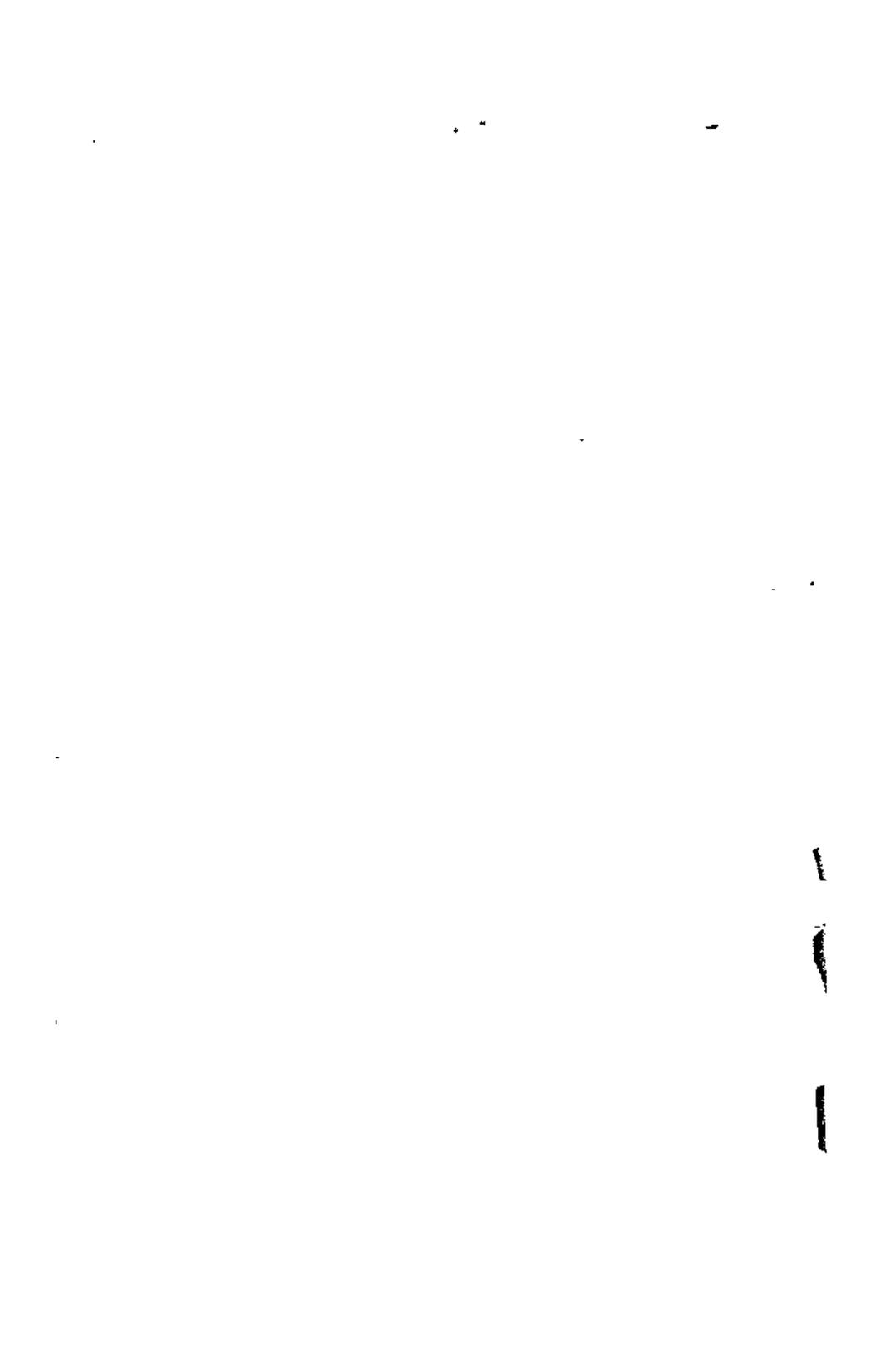
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INTRODUCTION.

BY ONE NOT A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

A desire to preserve a family history, even though the known ancestry be recent, is among the most praiseworthy sentiments that man can have. An honest pride in the knowledge that an ancestor has made his name respected and honored among men may almost be termed a virtue, since it is calculated to act as an incentive to the living descendants at least to do nothing which will cast a smirch upon the name to which lustre has been given.

Among the families in this country that may preserve and exhibit its history with satisfaction and pride is the one whose records are given in the following chapters. Descended from the Rittershausens of Westphalia, one member of which received a patent of nobility in the sixteenth century for valor in war—a patent which was renewed to another member before the century closed—they have, under the Anglicized name of Rittenhouse in this country, furnished some men for other Americans to respect and honor. William and Nicholas Rittenhouse, who established the first paper-mill in this country, enrolled their names with credit on the early pages of American history; while the name of David Rittenhouse, after the lapse of more than a century and a half, is yet a household one as among the greatest astronomers and philosophers that ever lived, and a statesman and patriot of the first order.

The gathering together of the records of a particular branch of a family is esteemed, and is, a task of magnitude; but when all the branches for two centuries, male and female,

are to be embraced, the labor, except to the most dauntless becomes appalling. Often one or more branches have failed either to keep written records of births, marriages, and deaths, or through carelessness or accident have lost them. To recover these lost or broken threads forms the most difficult task of the family historian. Long, painful, and frequently disheartening searches among old and often nearly forgotten graveyards, weary investigations into the histories of other families supposed to be connected, patient reading of musty public documents, and long journeys from one part of the country to another, are but a tithe of the labor required. With the difficulties which invariably and continuously present themselves during the work, it is almost impossible to finally exhibit a perfect record. Some gaps must exist, broken threads which no human hand, however patient, can probably ever unite. No apology, therefore, should be deemed necessary, or expected, from the compiler of a family history.

In seeking the genealogy of the Rittenhouses, he to whom the task was entrusted was confronted with all the difficulties common to those who have performed similar work for other families. A prolific race, the Rittenhouses had scattered all over the United States and Canada. There is scarcely a Commonwealth between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans but contains many representatives of the family. Some, when the investigation was begun, had become lost to their kindred, and to find these and to unravel other tangled threads, Mr. Daniel K. Cassel himself traveled more than three thousand miles. Fortunately, in his labor of love he had many enthusiastic and intelligent assistants, otherwise his work would not yet have been completed to the point which warranted publication. The result has been a work which, it is hoped, will have a wider interest than family histories ordinarily possess, since, besides William, Nicholas, and David Rittenhouse, many other names are familiar as having been honorably identified in the army,

the law, and the ministry. Moreover, the manner in which the lives of the earlier Rittenhouses were interwoven with the struggling colonists before and during the War of Independence made necessary the welcome publication of many of the scenes and incidents of those times.

Ordinarily in publishing the genealogy of a family either a complex or extremely prosaic method is adopted, but in preparing the history of the Rittenhouse family Mr. Cassel has made a radical departure from most plans, and adopted a modified form of one which, through its simplicity, even the uninitiated in genealogical reading can readily comprehend.

WILLIAM E. MEEHAN.

Germantown, Philadelphia, Nov. 1, 1893.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

The necessity of this work is obvious to all good citizens of Pennsylvania and the United States in general, as it contains a vast amount of lost history that otherwise cannot be found in this country.

It is especially interesting to the descendants of the family and citizens of the United States, as it gives a great many historical facts concerning the founding of the State of Pennsylvania, as well as noted citizens and productions of industry of its first settlers. It is intended to be of use to all historical societies and the public in general as a handbook for reference.

The committee appointed by the order of the Board of Directors consisted of Col. Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, of Baltimore; William W. Umstead, of Rittenhousetown, near Germantown; Dr. Alvah Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, and Daniel K. Cassel, of Germantown, Phila.

This committee, through their own efforts, was instrumental in bringing the work to press by advancing the means necessary to that end.

It is printed on good paper, good, readable type, highly illustrated, and well bound. The first volume comprises three generations antecedent and four generations subsequent, beginning with Wilhelm or William. Other volumes will follow this, giving later generations. It can be had by addressing the Secretary,

B. FRANK RITTENHOUSE,

2031 Marshall Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Or Committee:— DR. ALVAH RITTENHOUSE,

2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia.

COL. NICHOLAS M. RITTENHOUSE,

Foot of Cross Street, Baltimore, Md.

WILLIAM W. UMSTEAD,

Rittenhousetown, near Germantown, Phila.

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Miss Hannah Rittenhouse,	"
Miss Margaret Roberts,	"
Hiram Rittenhouse,	New Jersey.
Aaron Rittenhouse, D. D.,	Philadelphia.
E. Frank Carson, Esq.,	"
Charles A. Rittenhouse,	"
Fannie Kiple Rittenhouse, 89 years of age, .	New Jersey.
Peter B. Rittenhouse,	" "
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C. E. Rittenhouse,	St. Paul, Minn.
Joshua Williams,	Minneapolis, Minn.
Garret E. Brownback,	Linfield, Pa.
Jacob Shimer, M. D.,	Philadelphia.
Mrs. Anita Newcomb McGee,	Washington, D. C.
Wm. B. Rittenhouse,	Ontario, Canada.
James B. Rittenhouse,	Toronto, Canada.
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Mrs. Elias Smith,	" "
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L. Lawshe & Sons,	Trenton, N. J.
Samuel C. Rittenhouse,	Easton, Md.
David W. Batchelder,	Turners, Green Co., Mo.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The following brief list will show the names of authors and works that treat wholly or in part of the Rittenhouse family, showing the fountains from which a great portion of our information flows. It will be given in order, bringing their works down to the present time, viz. :—

- "Eminent Men of Montgomery County, Pa.," by Mose Auge.
"Memoirs of the life of David Rittenhouse," by William Barton. ✓
"History of the Mennonites," by Daniel K. Cassel.
"History of the Fretz Family," by A. J. Fretz, of New Jersey, 1890.
Church Records of the Mennonites at Germantown.
Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia.
Historical Society of Hunterdon County, New Jersey.
"Ancient Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill," by S. F. Hotchkins.
"Biographical History of Lancaster County, Pa.," by Alexander Harris.
"Keyser Family," by Charles S. Keyser.
Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society.
Columbian Magazine.
The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography.
Pennsylvania Gazette.
Pennsylvania Archives.
Colonial Records.
"American Biography," Vol. VII, by Jared Sparks.
From public records in the offices of Philadelphia, Norristown, West Chester, and Doylestown.
"Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of First Settlers of Pennsylvania," by Professor I. D. Rupp.
University of Pennsylvania, Custodian of the Second Orrery made by David Rittenhouse.
Correspondence of Wilhelm Christopher Ludwig Rittershausen, of The Hague, Holland, in the 79th year of his age.
"Biographical Dictionary," by Stephen Jones, London, 1799.



ALVAH RITTENHOUSE, M. D.

INTRODUCTION.

In the course of human events, when people advance in life, and begin to decline in strength and ability, and are nearing the days when they should retire from the labors of the world, the greater becomes the impulse to reflect upon their past life and history, and upon their ancestry, history, and tradition, also their descendants' future welfare, etc. Self-interest gradually declines with age into concern for the welfare of their descendants. It is with these feelings that the writer has been impelled to this undertaking.

And it is the right and duty of all persons to know and keep a record of the good deeds and work of their ancestors, to better encourage the moral and intellectual standing of their posterity. The history of the Rittenhouse family, both ancient and modern, has been neglected. It seemed urgent and important that it should be done now, or else it would be forever lost. The history heretofore, both in this country and previous, has been kept by family traditions. We have now taken great pains and spent much time and trouble to search and examine family Bibles, church, legal, and other public records, etc.

It required much time, labor, and expense to establish truth and facts, as much as possible in our history. Moreover, we have been living witnesses to part of that which will follow in the volumes to be published hereafter, etc.

We have commenced as far back as the knighting of Mathias—A. D. 1591—in Austria. He probably was born about 1540. According to history, the family migrated from Egypt, to Greece, to Rome, to France or Switzerland, to

Germany, to Holland (where the last of the name in Europe died August 11, 1893, at La Hague), to America, 1688, where the descendants, whose number has increased to some 12,000 or more, spread over this continent and Canada. We present a history of our ancestry, of whom we are justly proud for their superior intelligence, royal blood, and noble heralding.

In 1869, being one hundred years after the observation of the transit of Venus (1769) by David Rittenhouse, the writer procured a copy of the "Memoirs of David Rittenhouse," the astronomer, by Wm. Barton, Esq., when he determined the history of the family should be continued. He accordingly set to work, and, for twenty-one years, has gathered genea-biographical history.

In the year A. D. 1889 the city of Philadelphia desired to take a tract of land of the Rittenhouse property along the Wissahickon for a part of the public park, covering a lot known as the original "twenty acres," upon which the birth-place of David Rittenhouse, the American astronomer, is still standing, it also being the same lot on which the first paper mill in America was built.

The imminent danger of the destruction of this birth-place evoked a determination to secure means for its future preservation, and for the continuance of the genea-biographical history of the past, present, and future; and for developing talent, genius, and scientific knowledge for future generations. In consequence whereof the following public notice and invitation for holding a family reunion was inserted in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* of April 3, 1890:—

TO THE RITTENHOUSES:—

On April 8th, next, will occur the 158th anniversary of the birth of David Rittenhouse, the illustrious American astronomer, who was born at the Wissahickon, near Germantown, April 8, 1732. The undersigned hereby extend a cordial invitation to all descendants of David Rittenhouse and all branches of the Rittenhouse family to meet in a reunion to be



MAPLE SPRING HOTEL, WISSAHICKON, ROXBOROUGH, PA.

held at the "Maple Spring Hotel," Wissahickon, near Germantown, on April 8th next, at 2 o'clock P. M.

Signed,

DAVID M. RITTENHOUSE,
 BENJ. F. RITTENHOUSE,
 A. RITTENHOUSE, M. D.,
 HENRY RITTENHOUSE, M. D.

In answer to the above call about seventy responded at the time and place aforesaid.

The meeting was called together by Dr. Alvah Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, who acted as temporary chairman, with Benjamin Franklin Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, as secretary. After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Rittenhouse explained the object and purposes for which they had come together, and said:—

We are here as relatives, friends, and members of the Rittenhouse family. There always has been in the human heart a desire to keep up family traditions, and to understand the family tree and genealogical history.

Here in these memoirs of David Rittenhouse, by William Barton, page 81, it is shown that the greatest scientists took an interest in tracing their family history. Both Sir Isaac Newton and Benjamin Franklin made an effort to find their ancestors, and so it is with us to-day; with the same feelings we have met to count back our ancestry, which will extend back for seven (7) generations in America. We have already a small genealogical tree, commencing with Wilhelm Rittenhouse, for four generations. And now is the time to look up its members and to get a complete family history to the present day, that our descendants may continue it. We desire, also, to celebrate to-day the 158th birthday of David Rittenhouse, who was born on the 8th of April, 1732; and also the 200th anniversary of the building of the first paper mill in America, on a branch of the Wissahickon, near Germantown, Pa., in the year A. D. 1690, by Wilhelm Rittenhouse. We further desire to form and establish a

"RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION," for the purpose of keeping up the history of the family and to celebrate anniversaries by reunions and banquets, etc., and that by so doing we may complete our genealogical tree. We desire to keep in memory the noble deeds and traits of our ancestors. We have an ancestry as good as any, if not better than most, of the families in America. DAVID RITTENHOUSE distinguished himself in *astronomy*, *mathematics*, and, I might say, *mechanics*, above any man ever produced by this country. I believe in the hereditary descent of talents, as well as physical characteristics; I also believe that by this association the genius and talents of our ancestors can be made to shine again. We may not see it in our generation, but it will appear in coming generations. We wish to establish a library where family and public records can be kept, also a museum where we can gather together family and other relics of public interest. We also wish, with the assistance of the American Philosophical Society, to memorialize the Legislature of Pennsylvania for an appropriation in aid of erecting a monument to the memory of David Rittenhouse.

We should also like to preserve the birthplace of David Rittenhouse.

PROCEEDINGS OF 1890.

At the conclusion of the address Dr. Alvah Rittenhouse announced that an election of officers for permanent organization would be proceeded with to govern the "Rittenhouse Memorial Association." Col. Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, of Baltimore, then nominated Dr. Alvah Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, for President, who was unanimously elected, and then expressed his sense of honor done him in a few brief words of thanks. The following officers were then elected: Vice-president, Col. Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, of Baltimore, Md.; Secretary, Benjamin Franklin Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia; Treasurer, Charles A. Rittenhouse, Jr., of Norristown, Pa.; Trustees, William H. Rittenhouse, of Phila-

THE FIRST OFFICERS OF R. M. A., APRIL 8, 1890.



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- President :* No. 1. Alvah Rittenhouse, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.
Vice-President : " 2. Col. Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, Baltimore, Md.
Secretary : " 3. Benjamin Franklin Rittenhouse, Philadelphia, Pa.
Treasurer : " 4. Chas. A. Rittenhouse, Jr., Norristown, Pa.
Trustees : " 5. Henry Rittenhouse, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.
" 6. John S. Neisser, Philadelphia, Pa.
" 7. Wm. H. Rittenhouse, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE FIRST BOARD OF MANAGERS R. M. A.
APRIL 8, 1890.



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- No. 1. Elroy Frank Carson, Esq., Phila., Pa.
 " 2. Benjamin Franklin Rittenhouse, Phila., Pa.
 " 3. Henry Rittenhouse, m. d., Phila., Pa.
 " 4. Rev. C. A. Rittenhouse, Sr., Norristown, Pa.
 " 5. Benj. F. Rittenhouse, Norristown, Pa.
 " 6. George B. Miller, m. d., Phila., Pa.
 " 7. Jacob S. Rittenhouse, m. d., Reading, Pa.
 " 8. Abram Hunsicker, Collegedale, Pa.
 " 9. Daniel K. Cassel, Phila., Pa.
 " 10. Millard D. Evans, Pottstown, Pa.
 " 11. John S. Neisser, Phila., Pa.
 " 12. Aaron Rittenhouse, d. d., Phila., Pa.

delphia; John S. Neisser, of Philadelphia; Dr. Henry Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia. The following Board of Managers was then elected: E. Frank Carson, of Philadelphia; Benjamin F. Rittenhouse, of Norristown; Rev. C. A. Rittenhouse, Sr., of Norristown, Pa.; Major B. F. Rittenhouse, Treasurer of the Soldiers' Home at Washington, D. C.; Dr. George B. Miller, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. Jacob Rittenhouse, of Reading, Pa.; Abraham Hunsicker, of Collegeville, Pa.; Daniel K. Cassel, of Philadelphia; Millard D. Evans, of Pottstown, Pa.; George Rittenhouse, of Norristown, Pa.; John S. Neisser, of Philadelphia, Pa.; and Henry Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, Pa.

After the election of officers, the following resolutions were adopted:—

I. That the name of the organization shall be "The Rittenhouse Memorial Association."

II. To form and continue a Genealogical Tree of the Rittenhouse blood kindred.

III. To establish a library and museum of family and historical relics of public interest.

IV. To commemorate our distinguished ancestors by reunions, anniversaries, celebrations, and erecting monuments to their memory.

V. To cultivate, teach, develop, and bring forth in coming generations, genius, talent, and general scientific knowledge, etc.

VI. To preserve the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, etc.

VII. To memorialize the Legislature of Pennsylvania to erect a monument to the memory of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer.

After the above resolutions were unanimously adopted, the President appointed the following committees:—

DANIEL K. CASSEL, of Philadelphia, Pa.,

Committee on Genealogy.

E. FRANK CARSON, of Philadelphia, Pa.,

Committee on Museum.

E. FRANK CARSON, of Philadelphia, Pa.,

Committee on Monument.

PETER B. RITTENHOUSE, of Philadelphia, Pa.,

Committee on Finance.

E. FRANK CARSON, of Philadelphia, Pa.,

BENJAMIN F. RITTENHOUSE, of Norristown, Pa.,

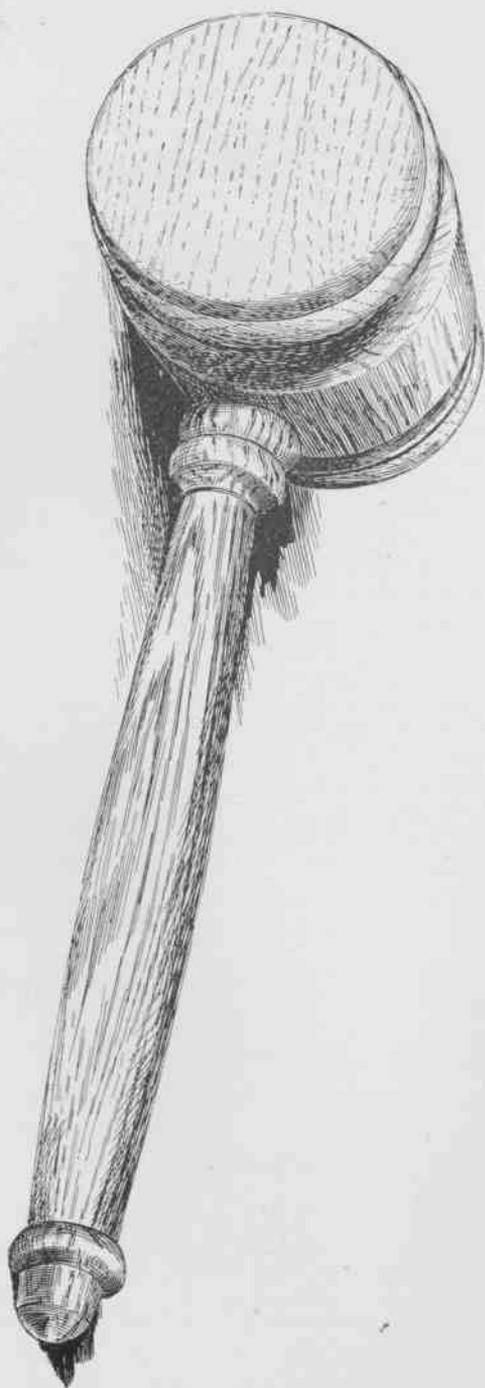
Legal Advisers.

Several enthusiastic addresses were listened to, when, on motion, the meeting resolved that the family "coat-of-arms" should constitute a part of the Association badge, and that an injunction of restraint, to be filed in the Court of Common Pleas, forbidding all persons defacing or destroying the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, the American astronomer, presented by the President, should be placed in the legal advisers' possession for proceeding, after which the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the President.



Log Cabin on the Wissahickon, during the Campaign of Wm. H. Harrison, 1840.

On the 30th day of July, 1890, the Association called together a large number of the Rittenhouse kindred and friends to hold their first annual picnic, at the old Log Cabin ground along the Wissahickon. They enjoyed the band of music and refreshments, had a general conference, enjoyed themselves much in interchanging views and tracing their history and becoming better acquainted. Both old and young spent a good day's recreation, and went home well pleased, rejoicing in the work and objects of the Association, etc.



THE GAVEL.

PROCEEDINGS OF 1891.

The second annual reunion of the Rittenhouse family, under the auspices of the "Rittenhouse Memorial Association," was held on April 8, 1891, at the "Harrison Building," Eighth and Spring Garden Streets, Philadelphia. They opened their morning session at 10 A. M., with the following programme :—

1. Prayer.
2. Opening address.
3. Reading the minutes of the last reunion.
4. Reports of the officers, which closed the old year, and morning business.

Then took a recess till one o'clock P. M., when by the call of the President they came to order again for business, which proceeded as follows :—

1. Installation of officers.
2. Addresses by the different officers.
3. Announcement of committees.
4. Addresses by invited friends and visitors.

 PROCEEDINGS OF THE MORNING'S SESSION.

The opening address of welcome was delivered by the President, Dr. Alvah Rittenhouse, who presented the gavel that called the meeting to order, and said : "This gavel was made by John De Barth, of Nicetown. The pall was procured from the lumber of the old paper mill along the Paper Mill Run, and the handle was taken from the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, the great American astronomer;" that it is not very valuable at present, but would be in 100 years hence, and that the older the relic would become the more valuable it would be.

Therefore it was very important for the members of the family to collect all old relics and preserve them in the museum of the Association, either as a donation or loan, for the benefit of their descendants and the public in general. He further stated that the Association had been at work

very diligently on the genealogy and history of their ancestry, and had procured a great deal of very interesting matter and accumulated the names of near four thousand members of the family. He insisted that all present should further the objects of the Association; that they should open a library as soon as possible, and as soon as the history of the first four generations was completed they should publish it, and then they could follow by publishing the fifth and sixth generations later on, giving names, dates of birth, occupations, deaths, and biographical history, with the good accomplished by their genius and talents, etc.

After which the minutes of the last reunion were read by the Secretary and adopted, followed by the reports of the officers, which were listened to with great interest. The President then declared the old year closed, with a few remarks, and announced a recess until one o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At one o'clock p. m., at the sound of the gavel, the meeting came to order, when the President announced they would proceed to install the officers-elect for the following year. The President then appointed Daniel K. Cassel, of Philadelphia, to the honorable office of Royal High Grand Master of Ceremonies to perform the installation. The Secretary then called the roll as follows:—

- ALVAH RITTENHOUSE, M. D., of Philadelphia,
President.
- NICHOLAS M. RITTENHOUSE, of Baltimore,
Vice-President.
- B. FRANK RITTENHOUSE, of Philadelphia,
Secretary.
- CHARLES A. RITTENHOUSE, of Norristown, Pa.,
Treasurer.
- WM. H. RITTENHOUSE, of Philadelphia,
WM. W. UMSTEAD, of Philadelphia,
REV. AARON RITTENHOUSE, of Philadelphia,
Trustees.

As their names were called they advanced and took their respective places in a semicircle around the altar, when the "Grand Master" proceeded with the following obligation:—

GENTLEMEN:—You have been elected by the "*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*" to your respective offices, to serve the ensuing year or until your successors may be elected, etc. Now, with your left hand raised toward heaven, and your right hand upon your heart, do you promise and declare, in the presence of these witnesses, that you will support, defend, and protect the declaration of principles, charter, constitution, and by-laws of the "*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*," to the best of your abilities, during the term of your office and until your successors are duly elected? So you promise, so may it be.

After the obligation the Grand Master delivered to the Marshal the official badges of the officers, who fastened them on the left lapel of the coat. Those of the President and Vice-President were royal purple silk rosette badges, date of association: vignette, an "*eagle*," "*clasped hands*," and "*coat-of-arms*," which is to signify as follows:—

The Royal Purple, the Hon. Majesty of Emperor Ferdinand III, of Austria.

The Silk, the fine quality of the American industry.

The Rosette, the flower of the human family and the golden rod of the American soil.

The Eagle, the supreme, high protection of the American continents and the R. M. A.

The Clasped Hands, brotherhood, friendship, fraternity, peace, honesty, and liberty.

The Coat-of-Arms, the royal high honor and coat-of-arms that Ferdinand III, Emperor of Austria, conferred upon Matthias, his cousin, in the year 1591, when he made him a knight, or marshal of his castle, or house, and later, after the death of Matthias, the insignia or coat-of-arms became the property of Georgius Rittershausen, or Rittershusius, son of Conradi and nephew of Matthias,

for whom it was improved, and conferred upon him and his descendants, both male and female, forever, in the year 1652-62.

To the Secretary, a white silk rosette badge; vignette, clover-leaf water mark and coat-of-arms. The color, white, signifies the paper used by him. The clover leaf, the fac-simile of the original water mark of the first paper made in America by the Rittenhouses.

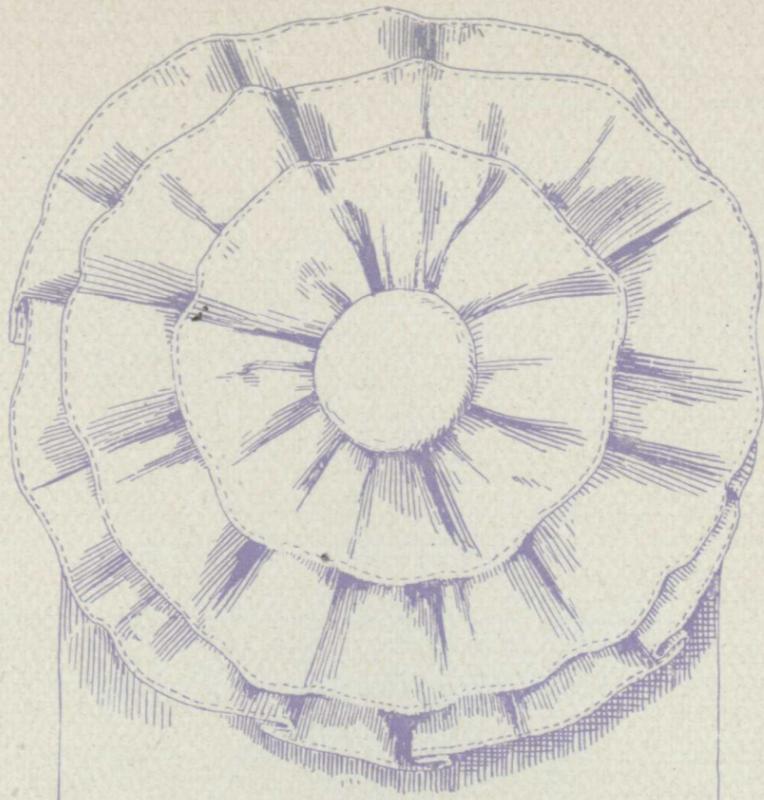
The Treasurer, a gold color, silk rosette badge; vignette, a government treasury \$1.00 note, coat-of-arms, etc. The color signifies gold for currency, the \$1.00 note signifies that the Association endorses treasury notes equal to one hundred cents, a legal tender, and on a parity with gold.

To the Trustees, a green silk rosette badge; vignette, paper mill and coat-of-arms. The green color signifies the ground of the original twenty acres as property of the Association held by the Trustees, and the family green spruce tree. The mill represents the original paper mill in America built by William and Claus Rittenhouse.

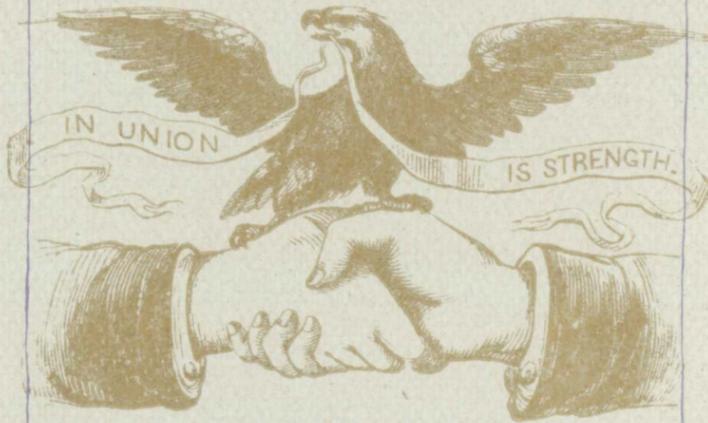
The Board of Managers, or Directors, was presented a blue silk rosette badge; vignette, the American flag and coat-of-arms. The blue represents the American soil as the birth-place of the R. M. A. The flag, that the Association endorses the U. S. flag and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by their directors.

The Honorary Members are presented with a plain white silk rosette badge. The vignette is a cut of the crown of Ferdinand III, Emperor of Austria, and coat-of-arms represents the royal high honor that he conferred upon Georgius Rittershausen and his descendants, both male and female, forever.

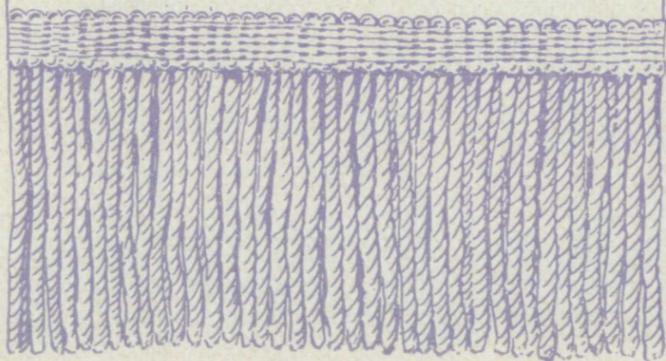
The family kindred badge, for picnics, balls, excursions, and other family gatherings, is a plain white silk, with a green spruce tree vignette, 1644, Wilhelm's birth, the beginning of our genealogical tree in America. "*Spruce, 1690,*" signifies the ever-green spruce tree, from which the survey

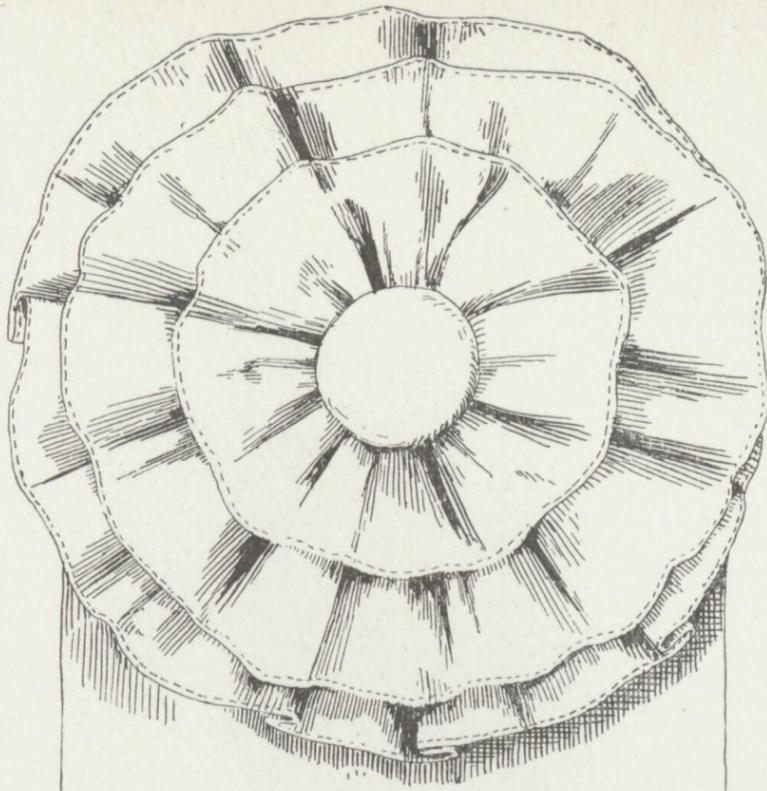


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ORGANIZED APRIL, 8, 1890.

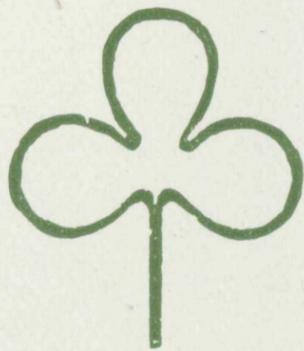


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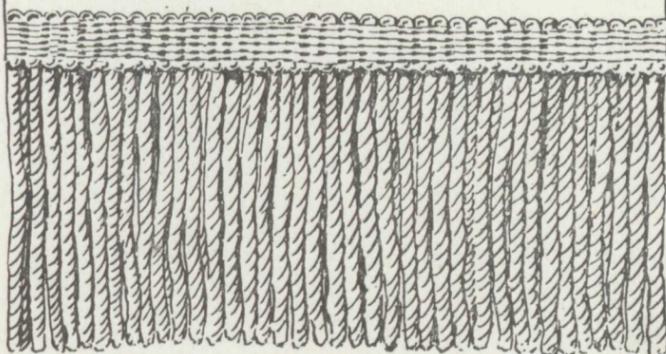


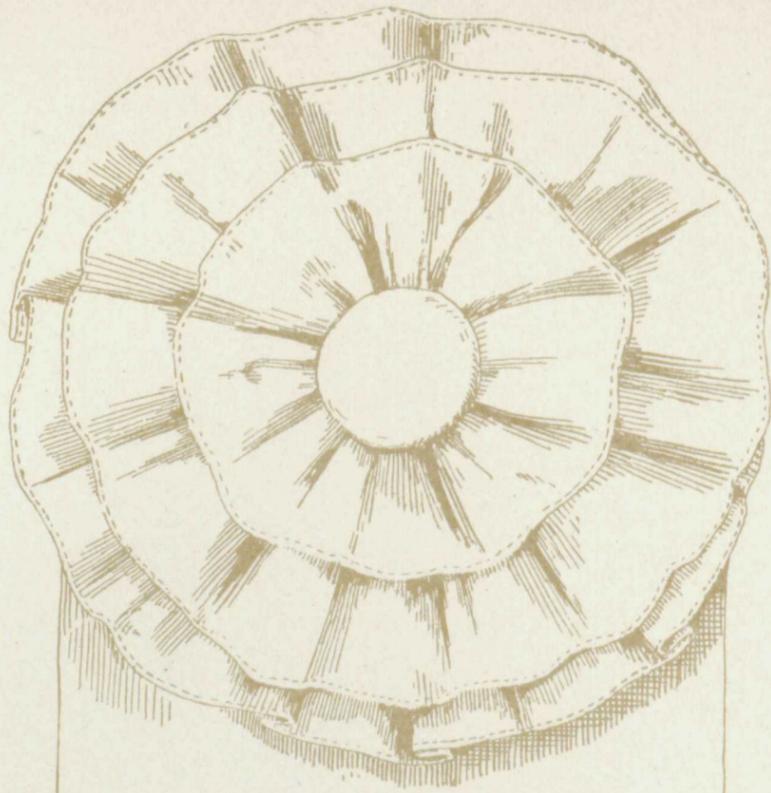


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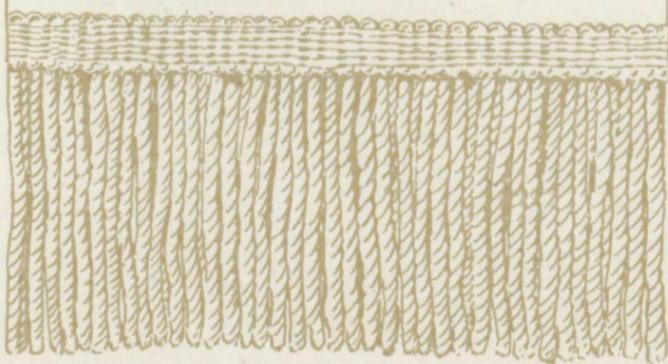


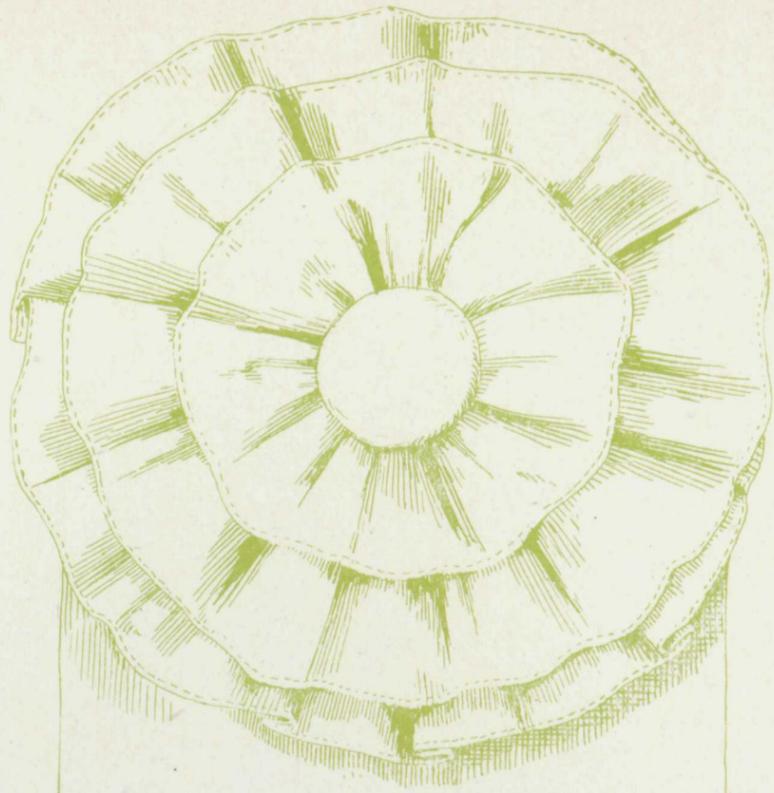


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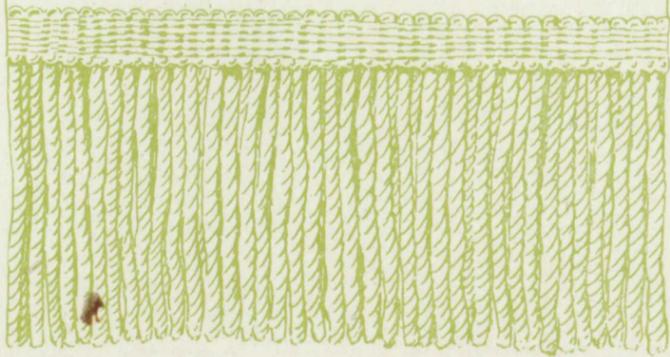


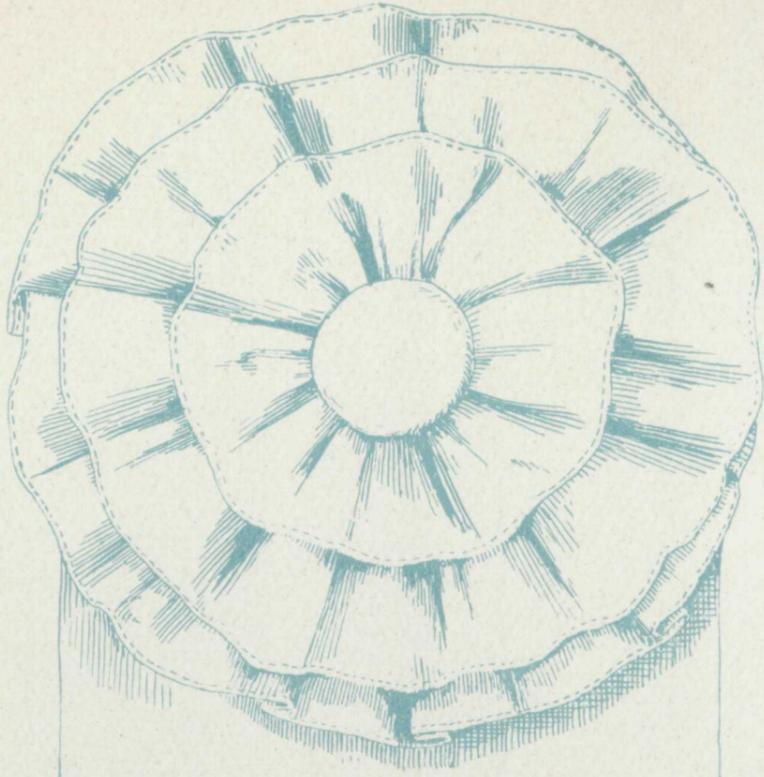
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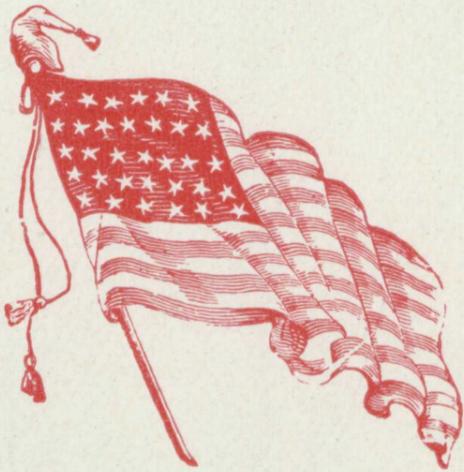
1591.

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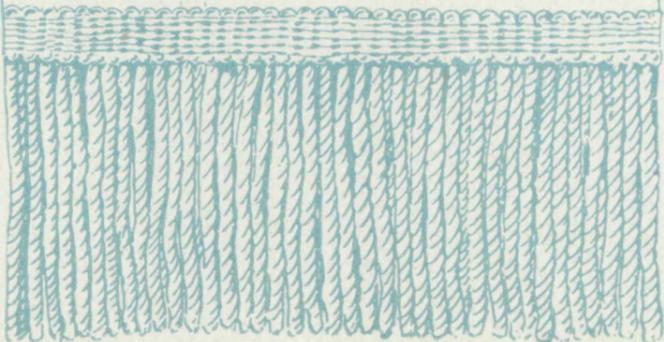


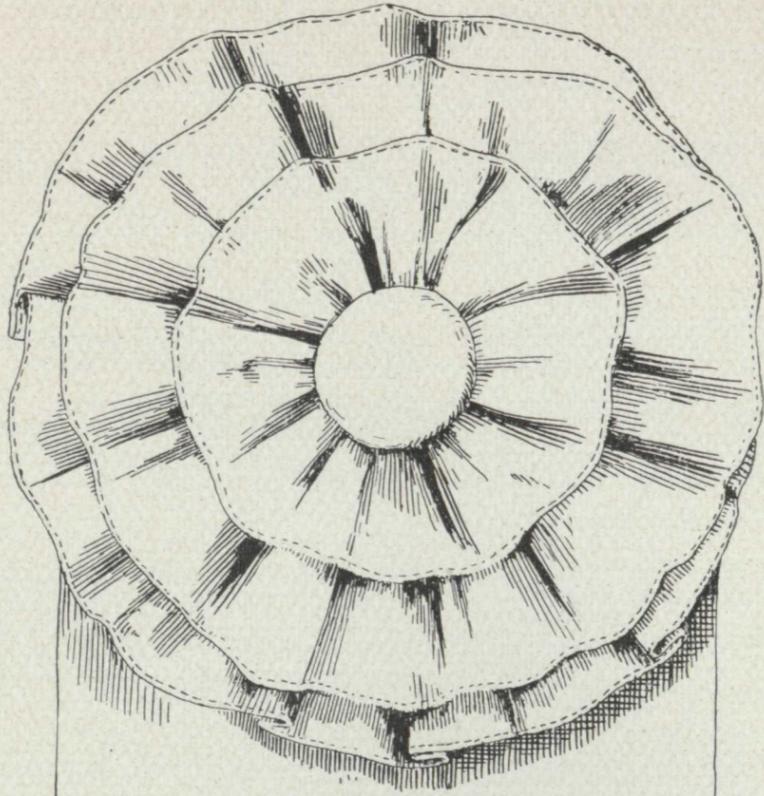
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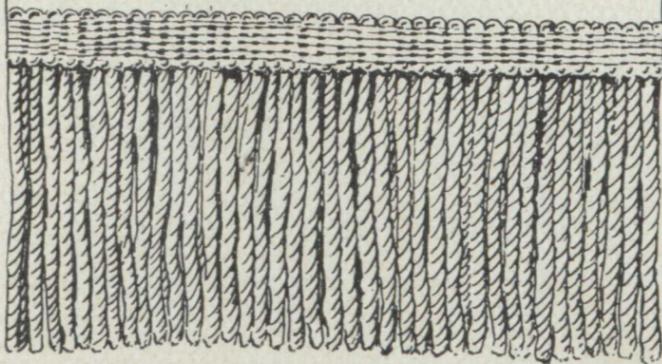




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of the original twenty acres began upon which the paper mill was built, and also the birthplace of David.

After the installation ceremonies were completed the gavel was presented to the President, who gave an address of thanks and encouragement for the progress the Association had made, and hoped all the kindred would aid in the future, after which very interesting addresses were made by Colonel Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, of Baltimore, Vice-President, and Aaron Rittenhouse, D. D., and others. The meeting then adjourned with a general conference for the remainder of the afternoon.

PEDIGREE AND ORIGIN OF NAME, "RITTENHOUSE."

The writer thought he would insert a short pedigree of the origin of the family as best could be ascertained from historical records and communications from Holland, etc. No doubt it will be interesting to many of the family to know that it emanated from a line of hereditary kings and members of the royal family, etc.

It will be sufficient to commence with—

GEN IN	EUROPE NO.	FAM. NO.	
1	1	1	<i>Maximilian</i> , born A. D. 1425, Emperor of the Netherlands A. D. 1477, of Germany and Austria, 1463; m. Mary, the daughter of Charles, the Bold, who died A. D. 1519.
2	2	1	<i>Philip</i> , son of Maximilian, b. 1450; was crowned Emperor of Austria A. D. 1493; m. Isabella, daughter of Emperor Ferdinand, of Spain, and thereby acquired a right to the crown of Spain, A. D. 1506.
3	3	1	<i>Charles V</i> , son of Philip, b. February 24, A. D. 1500. His early teacher was Adrian VI,

of Utrecht, until 1517. He fell heir to the crown, at his father's death, A. D. 1506, of Austria and Spain, 1517, but lived in the Netherlands. In 1530 he granted the "Anabaptists" the freedom to worship according to their conscience, under the "*Smalkald* League" of Saxony and Hesse. He married Isabella. She died A. D. 1539, when he fell heir to four royal lines, and was the greatest monarch of the 16th century. He had a son, Philip, whom he crowned in 1554. He gave up his crown in 1558, and died September 21, 1558.

GEN. IN		FAM.	
EUROPE. NO.			
3	4	2	<i>Henry Nicholas</i> , son of Philip, b. 1505; was crowned 1524, and surnamed Ferdinand. He succeeded his brother, Charles V. He married Anna, a sister of the King of Hungary. He died 1564.
4	5	1	<i>Balthaser</i> , son of Henry Nicholas Ferdinand, b. about 1525; was made Emperor of Austria, Hungary, and Bohemia; crowned in 1572, and surnamed Maximilian II; d. A. D. 1576.
4	6	2	<i>Ferdinand I</i> , son of Henry Nicholas, was Emperor of Tyrol and Lower Austria.
4	7	3	<i>Charles</i> , son of Henry Nicholas. He was master of Styria. He had a son, Ferdinand II, and his son was Ferdinand III.
		1	<i>Rudolph</i> , son of Balthaser, Sir Maximilian II, b. ———; was crowned, 1572, king of

Hungary, Bohemia, and Rome. In 1608 and 1611 he was forced to cede to his brother, Mathias, Bohemia and Hungary. Died 1612.

THE FIRST RITTENHOUSE.

GEN. IN
EUROPE. NO. FAM.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | <p><i>Mathias</i>, son of Balthaser, Sir Maximilian II. In 1591 he was knighted with a coat-of-arms to the House of Knights ("<i>Housius Riders</i>," Mounted Horsemen) by his second cousin, Emperor Ferdinand III, of Austria, and in 1612 succeeded his brother, Rudolph, and was crowned King of Hungary and Bohemia, 1619. He died without issue. He requested Ferdinand III to succeed him.</p> |
| i | | 3 | <p><i>Conradi</i>, son of Balthaser, Sir Maximilian II, b. September 25, A. D. 1560; professor of law and history in the University at Altorf, Westphalia, Holland.</p> |
| | | 3 | <p><i>Charles</i>, son of Henry Nicholas, Master of Styria, had a son, Ferdinand II, who was made Archduke of the Duchy, and crowned Emperor of Austria, 1576, on the death of his grandfather, Balthaser. Ferdinand II was a first cousin of Rudolph and Mathias. Ferdinand III, son of Ferdinand II, knighted Mathias, 1591, and was crowned by his father, 1618. He made the peace which concluded the Thirty Years' War October 24, 1648, at Westphalia. He afterward, about the year 1652-62, improved the coat-of-arms of Ma-</p> |

thias, and conferred it upon Georgius, son of Conradi, son of Balthaser, and his descendants, both male and female. Georgius then became Sir Rittershausen.

GEN. IN EUROPE. NO.		FAM.	
2		1	<i>Nicholas</i> , son of Conradi, b. 1592.
2	2	2	<i>Georgius</i> , Sir Rittershausen, son of Conradi, b. 1595; professor of law and genea-biographical history, 1624-25, at the University at Altorf, Westphalia, Holland. Mathias was his uncle, and Ferdinand III was his second cousin. He died 1661.
2		3	<i>Ludwig</i> , son of Conradi, died young, without issue.
3	3	1	<i>Adam Frederick</i> , son of Georgius Rittershausen, died young.
3	4	2	<i>George Rittenhausen</i> , son of Georgius, b. 1620; d. —; m. Maria Hagerhoff. He is supposed to be the first Protestant of the family, who left the Catholic faith, and desired to worship according to his conscience. This would seem to be the origin of the Mennonite faith in the family.
4	5	1	<i>Wilhelm</i> , son of George Rittenhausen, b. 1644; came to America 1688, with his two sons, Gerhard and Nicholas, and his daughter, Elizabeth.
4	6	2	<i>Henry Nicholas</i> , son of George Rittenhausen, lived in Holland; m. a, De Ruyter; she had a coat-of-arms cap-a-pie.

GEN. IN		
EUROPE NO.		FAM.
4	7	3 Name unknown; daughter of George Ritten- hausen; lived in Holland.
5	8	1 <i>Adrian</i> , son of Henry Nicholas, b. 1693; lived in Amsterdam, Holland, and was interviewed by Barton, 1778. He was supposed to be the last of the name in Europe.

We have now established the fact that "Matthias" was the first Rittenhouse. The Biblical definition of "Mathias" is "*the gift of the Lord*;" and of "Nicholas," "*the victory of the people*." No doubt they were both surnames at some previous time, as they frequently originate from their Latin base, viz.: Teutonic, "Housius, rider"—knight mounted on horseback; German, "Hausen-Ritter" (Knecht); Anglo-Saxon, "Rittershausen;" English, "Rittenhouse."

It originated as a surname as the House of Knights, House of Lords, or Commons, House of Representatives, etc. The word knight is believed to have originated about A. D. 370, an association amongst the Teutons who were mounted horsemen. The kings frequently had two classes of guards or marshals to guard their castles, patrolmen or footmen (indoors); and mounted horsemen or knights (outdoors). Mathias may, then, be counted the first Rittenhouse, and his nephew, Georgius, the second; and his son, George, the third generation; and his son, Wilhelm, the fourth. Later generations will be given hereafter in the body of the work.

**CHARTER, GRANTED SEPTEMBER 29, 1891, OF THE
RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
No. 2, FOR THE COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE UNDERSIGNED, all of whom are citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having associated themselves together for the purpose of organizing and establishing "The Rittenhouse Memorial Association," and being desirous of becoming incorporated agreeable to the provisions of the Act of Assembly entitled: "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April twenty-ninth, Anno Domini, 1874, and the Supplements thereto, Do hereby Certify:—

- I. The name of the proposed corporation is: **THE RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.**
- II. The corporation is formed for the purpose of forming and continuing a Genealogical Tree of the Rittenhouse blood kindred; to establish a Library and Museum of family and historical relics of public interest; to cultivate, teach, develop, and bring forth in coming generations, genius, talent, and general scientific knowledge; to preserve the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, and also the old chapel, situated on same grounds on Wissahickon Creek, and allow the same to be used by the Association as a place of meeting and a Library and Museum, and for the erection of a Monument and Statue in memory of the Hon. David Rittenhouse.
- III. This Association shall transact the business in the County of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania.
- IV. The said corporation is to exist perpetually.
- V. To have power to institute, maintain, and defend judicial proceedings; to enter into any obligation necessary to transact its ordinary business.
- VI. To make and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure.
- VII. To hold, purchase, and transfer such real and personal property as the purposes of the said corporation require, not exceeding the amount limited by this charter, or by the laws of the Commonwealth.
- VIII. To make by-laws not inconsistent with the laws of the Commonwealth for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs; to appoint and remove such subordinate officers and agents as the business of the corporation requires, and to allow them a suitable compensation.
- IX. The names and residences of the subscribers are as follows: Alvah Rittenhouse, M. D., 2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia; Nicholas

Charter Members, Rittenhouse Memorial Ass'n.

September 29, 1891.



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- No. 1. Alvah Rittenhouse, M. D.
 " 2. Thomas L. Rittenhouse, M. D.
 " 3. Aaron Rittenhouse, D. D.
 " 4. Elroy Frank Carson, Esq.

- No. 5. Coat-of-Arms.
 " 6. Daniel K. Cassel (Historian).
 " 7. Wm. W. Umstead.
 " 8. Col. Nicholas M. Rittenhouse.

No. 9. George B. Miller, M. D.

M. Rittenhouse, Baltimore, Md. ; Aaron Rittenhouse, D. D., 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia ; Daniel K. Cassel, 4333 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia ; George B. Miller, M. D., 2053 North Seventh Street, Philadelphia ; Wm. W. Umsted, Rittenhousetown, Penna. ; E. Frank Carson, 2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia ; Thomas L. Rittenhouse, M. D., 2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia.

- X. The said corporation is to be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of eight members, and the names and residences of those chosen as such for the first year are : Alvah Rittenhouse, M. D., 2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia ; E. Frank Carson, 2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia ; Thomas L. Rittenhouse, M. D., 2001 Marshall Street, Philadelphia ; Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, Baltimore, Md. ; Aaron Rittenhouse, D. D., 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia ; Daniel K. Cassel, 4333 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia ; George B. Miller, M. D., 2053 North Seventh Street, Philadelphia ; Wm. W. Umsted, Rittenhousetown, Penna.

Witness our hands and seals this 3d day of September, 1891,

ALVAH RITTENHOUSE, [SEAL].
 THOMAS L. RITTENHOUSE, [SEAL].
 A. RITTENHOUSE, [SEAL].
 E. FRANK CARSON, [SEAL].
 NICHOLAS M. RITTENHOUSE, [SEAL].
 DANIEL K. CASSEL, [SEAL].
 GEORGE B. MILLER, [SEAL].
 WM. W. UMSTED, [SEAL].

State of Pennsylvania, County of Philadelphia, ss. :

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for Philadelphia County aforesaid, personally appeared Alvah Rittenhouse, E. Frank Carson, and Thomas L. Rittenhouse, three of the subscribers to the above and foregoing charter or certificate of incorporation, and in due form of law severally acknowledged the same to be their act and deed.

Witness my hand and official seal this 3d day of September, 1891.

W. G. MESSEMER, [SEAL],
Notary Public.

Recorded in the Office for Recording Deeds, etc., in and for the city and county of Philadelphia, in Charter Book, No. 17, page 377.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 29th day of September, A. D. 1891.

THOMAS CHEW, [SEAL],
Recorder of Deeds.

DECREE.

And now to wit, this twenty-ninth day of September, A. D. 1891, the above charter or certificate of incorporation, accompanied by proof of publication of an intention to apply for articles of incorporation having been presented to the Judges of this court, and having perused and examined said instrument and found the same to be in proper form, and within the purposes named in the first class of corporations, specified in section two of the act of Assembly of April 29, 1874, and the same appearing to be lawful and not injurious to the community, the said court, on motion of E. Frank Carson, Esq., solicitor for said corporation, do order and decree, that the said charter be approved, and that upon the recording of said decree the subscribers and their associates shall be a corporation for the purposes, and upon the terms, and under the name therein stated.

SAML. W. PENNYPACKER, [SEAL],
Judge C. P. No. 2.

RITTENHOUSE FAMILY REUNION.

The Third (3d) Annual Reunion of the "*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*," and the members of the family and friends, was held on Friday, April 8, 1892, in the old Mennonite Church, Main above Herman Street, Germantown. The exercises commenced about thrée o'clock. The event was also marked by the fact that the day was the 160th birthday celebration of David Rittenhouse, the famous astronomer, and the occasion was an exceedingly interesting one. There were quite a number of the descendants of the Rittenhouse family present.

The exercises were commenced with the singing of a hymn, which was followed by a prayer by the Bishop of the Mennonite Church at Deep Run, Bucks County, Pa., the Rev. Allan M. Fretz:—

Almighty God, our heavenly Father! Thou who reignest and rulest on high, and directest the affairs of man, and guidest thy people to the glorification of thy Holy means, we come before thee this afternoon, in this sacred place, the place to us all most dear as an ancient landmark of worship, where thy people have in past generations gathered to worship thee,

and are still doing so, a place where thy servants have for two hundred years preached the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. We come with thankful hearts and cheerful spirits. We thank thee, O Lord! for the privilege of thus meeting together this afternoon with friends from near and from far to commemorate the lives of our worthy ancestors. When the cruel hand of persecution pressed them sore in their native land beyond the waves, they, for liberty and thy gospel's sake, left their all and found a refuge in this land of liberty; we thank thee, our Father, that thou with thy strong arm and thy rich blessings didst guide and accompany them across the mighty waters, that thou didst bless them as pioneers in this place, that thou didst bless them in their work here, and didst greatly increase their numbers that their descendants are now scattered throughout the whole country and are greatly blest. We thank thee for the religion they brought to these shores, and the gospel which they preached and practised. We thank thee for the achievements of their descendants in the arts and sciences. Yea, we thank thee for *all* the blessings we as their descendants are reaping to-day.

Dear Lord! thou knowest the object of our meeting here this afternoon. Oh! bless us as we thus meet together in reunion before thee, and with us bless all the friends that meet with us. Let this gathering redound to thy honor and glory of thy great name, and be a blessing to all of us here. Grant that it may be alike a gathering of pleasure and benefit; that while we enjoy thus meeting together we may be drawn into a closer fellowship and love, and that we may especially be drawn nearer unto thee. Bless, O Lord! those who are to address this gathering here. While we are reminded of the worthy deeds of our ancestors, may we be urged to feel our duties and responsibilities and inspired to a more faithful discharge of the same. Do thou bless thy word as it is preached from time to time in this sacred place. Bless us in all our relations in life and make us truly humble before thee, forgive us all our sins and shortcomings, and grant, O Lord! that when this life of toil, intermixed with pain and pleasure, hope and fear, adversity and prosperity, is over, we may all have a happy reunion where there will be no sorrow, nor sighing, no parting, no dying, but peace, joy, and pleasure for evermore, at thy right. We ask these blessings in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

President Alvah Rittenhouse, M. D., then presented to Mr. Rittenhouse Fraley, of Germantown, a white badge, indicating the oldest member present.

Dr. Rittenhouse then made an address, in which he said: "This is the 160th birthday of David Rittenhouse. He was a mathematician, astronomer, mechanic, and a peacemaker

of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by whom a great deal is due to his memory—not only by the Commonwealth, but by the nation as well. He was a great grandson of Wilhelm, who was the first in this country of the name of Rittenhouse, or Rittenhausen, and all the descendants are entirely by or of him. He (Wilhelm) was a man of unusual capacity and exhibited much enthusiasm in establishing a freedom of thought. When Wilhelm landed here, from some accounts we have of him, he seemed to be moved by high motives to travel around, and finally he settled at Germantown, and his industry caused him to search about for a location for the business of his own choice and impulses. He selected the first real estate for business on a branch of the Wissahickon, Paper Mill Run, which was and is known in history as 'the original 20 acres.' He proved his industry by building up a paper mill, which was the first paper mill in this country. Since then it is almost impossible to say how many establishments have been created. There are over 12,000 descendants of Wilhelm Rittenhausen. He stood in a building on the spot on which this house is built to preach the gospel to his relatives and associates. The tract of land on which the mill stood was leased in 1690, on the 29th of September. After a few years a more effectual deed was secured. In '1705-6 Nicholas, his son, became partial owner with him. They built a house on the property. In 1707 it was the dwelling of Mathias, son of Nicholas, and it was while there David, a son of Mathias, was born. Not much improvement was made on the place until the year 1869, when a chapel was built. It would seem that this spot of ground had been watched over and taken care of by some power that had preserved it for such purposes until within the last couple of years. In 1869, one hundred years after David made the observation of the transit of 'Venus,' the writer became possessor of the history of David Rittenhouse, and decided that a continued history of the family or descendants ought to be prepared and kept.

"After two hundred years the city wanted to use the property for a park. When this was made known to the kindred of the family or the descendants of Wilhelm Rittenhouse they objected most strenuously, and by some of the descendants it was considered advisable to organize a reunion to take action against such measures, as would alienate from the family so sacred a spot as the original twenty acres, and in 1890, on the 8th of April, the reunion was held. The enthusiasm shown at that reunion was evidence of a determination to secure the preservation of the twenty acres, of the chapel, and the old mill, and especially the birth-place. The organization as formed was determined to save it as a relic, considering it invaluable, and a most enthusiastic feeling was manifested by the family. It was considered advisable to erect a monument on the site of the old mill, and it was also considered a good thing that the organization was established when it was. The Association, known as the '*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*,' of Pennsylvania, cannot afford to lose such a spot, and it is a worthy object for the Commonwealth to take up, as well as the '*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*' to preserve."

Dr. Rittenhouse further spoke on pushing children under twelve years of age in their studies in the different schools of the present age in comparison with those of earlier years, and of the great tax or strain on their nerves and the results accruing therefrom, and also of the adaptability of each one for certain businesses or studies if their talents were in accord with them. That they desired to purchase and establish a memorial hall to further said purposes. The Board of Directors would kindly ask all kindred, and other interested persons, to send them their names and post office address, with a short history of any of the Rittenhouse kindred. Subscriptions of yearly contributions would be thankfully received to the following funds: For a library, museum, memorial hall, monuments, etc. Also donations

of books, papers, charts, relics, and objects of interest; photographs, cabinet size, for a picture gallery.

Hymn No. 199, "Shall we Meet Beyond the River?" was then sung, after which Hon. Horatio Gates Jones made a few remarks. He said, among other things: "I have known of the Rittenhouse family since I was a lad. I have studied the birth of David Rittenhouse since 1857. It has been my privilege to be a neighbor to Nicholas Rittenhouse, Jr., since 1857, and the more I know of the family the more deeply am I impressed. I was surprised on picking up a book published in 1802, one day in turning over its leaves to find several pages of wood paper. I understand that it is said there was no paper made other than out of rags in the early days, and there now is considerable surprise manifested by some people on learning that paper can be made of wood, and it is mentioned as a wonderful discovery. I have only to say that the book I have at home has several pages made of wood. I understand that a monument is to be placed in the Mennonite Church-yard here in memory of Bishop Rittenhouse, and I suggest that one also be erected to David Rittenhouse in Rittenhouse Square."

Mr. Daniel K. Cassel was the next speaker. He said:—

**REPORT OF D. K. CASSEL, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
ON GENEALOGICAL TREE, APRIL 8, 1892.**

"The feelings we have experienced in contemplation of these family gatherings, and the pleasure and happiness derived in meeting our kindred and friends in its realization, far surpasses all our anticipations. That within a short period of time from our knowledge of each other's existence we should assemble face to face, the various branches of our family tree, gathered from all parts of our great country, seems almost too wonderful to be an accomplished reality. For a moment to call to mind the simple means by which it has become not only possible, but a reality, may not be unprofitable. We now can but be filled with wonder and astonishment that

the matter of our acquaintance has been so entirely neglected. For this, however, we have all been equally at fault. Not only we who are living, but those, too, who have preceded us, whose forms and faces it has never been our privilege to behold.

"To those who have no experience in such an undertaking it may still be interesting to know something of the manner and method of procedure. Three years ago all the knowledge I had of the matter was that our ancestor was Wilhelm Rittenhouse, and, of course, I know but little of the family but what I learned from my mother. I gathered some information from the records of the Mennonite Church, where Wilhelm Rittenhouse was the first bishop, and many of his descendants were members, as many are yet. This, of course, led to nothing worth mentioning, as we none of us knew how we were related. On April 8, 1890, at the first family reunion, I was appointed chairman of Committee on Genealogical Tree. I at once commenced writing letters of inquiry, and have now written hundreds of letters to all parts of the United States and Canadas, and have examined many records.

"I am still pursuing the matter, and now have more than six thousand names of our kindred, all belonging to the descendants of Willem Rittenhouse, from 1688 to the present, adding new names for a second volume."

After singing "America" and "Old Hundred," Colonel Nicholas Rittenhouse, Jr., of Baltimore, made a few remarks. He said he had come over one hundred miles to attend the meeting and was glad to be present. He spoke of some of the connections of his family with the Rittenhouses, and the bravery of the latter, and read an order from prominent generals in the Revolutionary War, besides other valuable bits of manuscript of earlier date.

Bishop Allen M. Fretz was the next speaker. He stated that he was the representative of the Rittenhouses of Canada, and resided in Bucks County, and gave a description of his lineage, which was done briefly.

In conclusion, the President called on Dr. M. M. Walker to speak, but as the Doctor had arrived only a few moments before the request, he replied that he was unacquainted with the remarks on the subjects spoken of by those who made the addresses, but that he had known the Rittenhouses for some years and had married a lady who was a descendant of the family.

The people present then engaged in general handshaking and greeting. Many of them seemed to be affected and deeply moved by thoughts of the occasion's import, and thus the Third Reunion of the Association ended.

FOURTH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE R. M. A., April 8, 1893.

The Fourth Annual Reunion of the "Rittenhouse Memorial Association," and family kindred, and the 161st Birthday Anniversary of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, was celebrated on Saturday, 2 p. m., April 8, 1893, at Oak View Park, Norristown, Pa. Honorable mention is made of Joseph B. Rittenhouse, Chairman of the Committee on Reunion, and Charles A. and Henry Rittenhouse, proprietors of the park, all of Norristown, for their valuable service rendered on the occasion. At the appointed hour the President, Alvah Rittenhouse, M. D., called the meeting to order, and appointed Miss Bessie Rittenhouse Secretary pro tem. Brother Nicholas Rittenhouse, of Baltimore, opened the services with an affecting prayer in behalf of the Association, family, kindred, and friends. The President then addressed the meeting with a greeting of welcome, and said that the Association had made wonderful progress for the short period of three years, that they had gathered a great deal of valuable historic information that would, if delayed, have been lost, and that they were pressing forward as fast as they could with the limited means at hand; that they

next desired to obtain a hall for their library, museum, and meeting place, where donations or loans of books and relics would be received and deposited for perusal and exhibition for the family and public, and that at some future time, perhaps not in this generation, the library would grow with sufficient bequests and funds to establish a "*Rittenhouse University*" of general scientific knowledge, which should be built on some suitable high ground. A rotunda about two hundred feet in diameter, one hundred feet in the centre for an auditorium, while the outside circle of fifty feet with a circumference of six hundred feet, should be divided into sections of twenty feet or more for the libraries, school rooms, and studios of various sciences. The basement for heating, lighting, banquets, etc. The second floor for "*sections*," some thirty or forty studios. The dome, one hundred feet or more, for a telescopic observatory. The walls to be built of stone. The roof of glass, for top light. The framework of iron. No gaudy or unnecessary expressions or expense should be encouraged. It should be dedicated to Professors Conradii, his son, Gorgius Rittershausius, David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, the "*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*," the family kindred, the American people, and the "*Scientific World*."

The institution to be based on three great principles:—First, the junior, or common school education; second, the postal, or home education; third, the advanced education, according to natural talents and genius.

The first is necessary to all humanity, no matter what country, station, or pursuit, or time in life, and with encouragement is obtainable by any person of common sense, a part of which should be the mother's first lessons.

The second, or home studies, should be encouraged by the institution through the postal telegraph and telephone mediums. Nearly all the great men of learning and genius obtained their prominence by home study, where quietness in "*their secret closet*," and deep thought prevailed; their mental

talents developed ; unlike the present school room, where many are together, and foul air and confusion prevail.

The third, the great object, should be to select, study, and teach advanced education in accordance with natural traits, talents, and genius, so as to make it productive and useful ; not strain the young mind, waste its vitality and valuable time over foreign or classical education that it has no desire or talent for, and, generally, very little use for in after years. The practice of pushing young pupils beyond their age with too much study and subjects that they have no talent for is very deleterious to good health and strong mentality. It has caused many a death and insanity in after years. To teach advanced education without talent is waste of time and labor. The quickest knowledge is obtained by visible, didactic object lessons, and the greatest knowledge by continued solitary thought in the studio. Every student should accept everybody and everything in nature as his teacher, and every teacher should always be a student. In consideration, then, of the present scholastic condition, it would seem that there is an opening for an institute of this kind. It is the aim and desire of the "*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*" to aid in bringing about the nucleus of such an institution. It is hoped that all sympathizing persons will assist in the work, etc.

Addresses then followed by Col. Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, Daniel K. Cassel, John C. Borsch, Esq., and others. After the meeting adjourned, a very pleasing and interesting conference was held amongst the family members, in which they gave great encouragement for the future, etc.

In conclusion, I would say to the reader, that I have given a sketch of the history and origin of the name Rittenhouse, of the origin, rise, and progress of the "*Rittenhouse Memorial Association*," its principles, objects, future projects, and intentions of developing an institution wherein all manner of useful knowledge and natural talents can be encouraged and developed at home or abroad. Further information and

genea-biographical history will be given in the body of the work.—Fraternally, the devoted friend of humanity,

ALVAH RITTENHOUSE, M. D.,

President of the Rittenhouse Memorial Association; Ex-Prof. of Theory and Practice, Pathological Anatomy, and Medical Jurisprudence of the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania.

PREPARED FOR THIS WORK BY THE AUTHOR.

The Rittenhouse family by R. M. A.,*

The cynic who takes up this book may exclaim,
In a roar or a whisper or whining falsetto,
" 'Twas a novel, a poem, or perchance a libretto !"

Perchance it is history on a new plan,
Going back to first principles, namely, the Family !
Whew ! the history of each since the nation began !
Oh ! the beads on my brow ! they trickle so clammyly.

And yet, after all, it can't be denied,
As the family fares, so fares the nation.
'Twas because we can point to our families with pride,
Our Republic is based upon so firm a foundation.

Genealogies generally *are* very dry ;
'Tis a family failing—one's own folks excepted ;
But near the Wissahickon that can't be the cry ;
There the cup and the lip cannot be intercepted.

The cynic grows kind as he dwells on the theme—
What soul can be small in full sight of these waters ?
Here we are the Rittenhouse family—or is it a dream ?
Here's a health to old Wilhelm's sons and daughters !

Old Rittinghausen, lo ! that grand given name
Fresh glory takes on in this happy conjunction :
Here the sage and the hero are one and the same ;
Such a man we can praise without any compunction.

* Rittenhouse Memorial Association.

He lived in the century that tried men's souls,
 The first record of him reveals him a freeman ;
 Not free with the freedom our banner unrolls,
 But born of a race predetermined to be men.

Being a wise man, of course, he was wed ;
 And being a ——, of course, she was willing.
 There's nought said against her—could better be said ?
 That she made a good wife you can bet your last shilling.

If he called her his rosebud, or sometimes a thorn,
 No confession he made, but departed without it.
 Two sons and a daughter to her were born.
 Simple record ! Sweet home's sweet aroma about it.

Happy grandpa ! we note thy grandsons as soldiers ;
 Such soldiers, indeed ! who both fostered our freedom
 And a burden of ten children did shoulder (Benjamin) ;
 But having big farm found it easy to feed them.

How their number increases as we glance o'er the page !
 And how much "'tween the lines," to their credit and glory !
 Lo ! William's sons lived and died near the sage ;
 Mother's boys, tho', wed ; and that tells the whole story.

The girl, of course, went to Germantown to live
 With her husband, by name a Papen, by nature a Pa.
 There's no record the old man was asked to forgive,
 Or shouted "Come back" while the waters were snarling.

"Went East," and "no further record," we read
 In seventeen thirty of young William (Jersey branch).
 A Rittenhouse, you observe, is bound to succeed,
 To branch out further and go up higher.

"Born and died," and "no further record"—what joys
 And what sorrows hid here, for aye unrecorded.
 Here they are, name by name, side by side, girls and boys ;
 Hence the names grow dear and the search well rewarded.

In the spaces between the birth, date, and death,
 While fancy is painting their fireside before us,
 "Life's but a breath," the record says ;
 And a feeling of sadness steals solemnly o'er us.

But their works do follow them ; “ they lived not in vain ; ”
In the workshop, or field, or the learned professions,
Perchance they are not millionaires in the main ;
But they’ve got true grit, the best of professions.

They rushed to the front and they came to the fore
In “ the nation’s upbuilding,” the nation’s upholding.
They strove to establish, they sought to restore
The glory and strength that our flag is unfolding.

A freeman full statured, a flower full fair,
Independent, and proud, but given to kindness ;
As I know them their neighbors come in for a share—
They love justice when smitten with charity’s blindness.

A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY
OF THE
RITTENHOUSE FAMILY,

INCLUDING THOSE IN EUROPE, BEGINNING ABOUT ANNO DOMINI
1500; THEIR CORRESPONDENCE, AS TO OBTAINING THE
COAT OF ARMS; PRECEDED BY A SKETCH OF
THE PAPER INDUSTRY.

PAPER.

“The origin of Paper and its early history as a writing material are involved in much obscurity. The art of making it from fibrous matter, and, among other substances, from the wool of the cotton plant reduced to a pulp, appears to have been practised by the Chinese at a very distant period. Different writers have traced it back to the Second century B. C. But however remote its age may have been in eastern Asia, cotton paper first became available for the rest of the world at the beginning of the Eighth century, when the Arabs captured Samarkand (704 A. D.) and there learned its use. The manufacture was taken up by them in that city, and rapidly spread through all parts of their empire. From the large quantities which were produced at Damascus, it obtained one of the titles, *Charta Damascena*, by which it was known in the Middle Ages. The extent to which it was adopted for literary purposes is proved by the comparatively large number of early Arabic MSS. on paper which have come down to us dating from the Ninth century.

“A few of the earliest dated examples may be instanced. ‘The Gharibu ’l-Hadith,’ a treatise on the rare and curious

words in the sayings of Mohammed and his companions, written in the year 866, is probably one of the oldest paper MSS. in existence. It is preserved in the University Library of Leyden."—"*Encyclopædia Britannica*," *Ninth Edition*, Vol. XVIII, page 221.

"At the beginning of the Fourteenth century a German discovered how to make paper out of linen rags. Books had hitherto been written with the hand, and this made them very costly; they were written on parchment, or waxed tablets, or on papyrus, an Egyptian plant, a kind of reed, from which the ancients made a material for writing. If you hold paper sheets to the light you will see that there are peculiar marks on them called water-marks; these were originally the badges of the makers. The very earliest of these marks is a circle with a cross in it, and was adopted by the first inventors in 1301. Many of the water-marks are the badges of noble families, whose tenants made the paper. Thus the letters P. and Y., sometimes separate and sometimes conjoined, are the initials of Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, and his wife, Isabella of Portugal. Other symbols are the fleur-de-lys, the unicorn, and the anchor.

"Foolscap paper is so called because paper of that size was originally marked with a Joker's cap and bells, and *post* paper takes its name from a bugle which was in use as a water-mark on paper of this size by the manufacturers from 1370. It sometimes appears on a shield, and in the seventeenth century was surmounted by a ducal coronet, in which form it is still used on ordinary writing paper. The first paper factories in Germany were between Cologne and Mainz, about the year 1320. In Nuremberg a factory worked by water-power was established in 1390, which was quite a novelty.

"Printing was discovered by John Gutenberg in 1436. Previous to this time wood-cut pictures and even written sentences, had been printed, but no one had thought of

making movable letters. At first the paper was pressed down on the engraved block, and printed on one side. The outlines only of figures were printed, and then they were painted in by hand. At last John Gensfleisch, of Sulzloch, known as Gutenberg, which was the maiden name of his mother, saw how much better it would be to have movable types. As he was a poor man he went to a rich goldsmith, John Faust of Mainz, and to Peter Schöffer, a professional copyist of Gernsheim, to get help. Schöffer drew and wrote beautifully, and it was intended that he design the letters, and Faust find the money for casting them. They also invented printer's ink, and in 1457 issued the first printed book, the Latin Psalter, and five years later the first printed Bible.

"Faust behaved very badly to the inventor; as soon as he had the secret, and saw that the experiments were likely to be successful, he asked Gutenberg to pay him back the money he had advanced him, and when he was unable to do this brought an action against him, and seized his printing press and blocks. Poor Gutenberg was forced to leave Mainz, and then Faust and Schöffer finished printing the Bible without him. The rapidity with which copies were turned out of the press, the exact resemblance one bore to another, created astonishment and suspicion, so that it was reported that Faust was in league with the Devil, who helped him to multiply copies of the Bible.

"Thus came about the story of John Faust, who sold himself to the Devil for wealth, a story which was afterward used by the greatest of German poets as the foundation of the greatest of German poems."—From "*The Story of Germany*," by Sabine-Baring-Gould, M. A., Chap. xxx, pages 179, etc.

PAPER MILLS IN AMERICA.

Much has been said and written, and many conflicting statements given to the public, in regard to the first paper mill and paper making in America, in consequence of which the writer was induced to give the matter the most scrutinizing attention. He therefore made the most careful research, and collected from the oldest original records and the localities where the first mills were built, and from statements of the oldest inhabitants in the neighborhood and oldest members of the family, and all knowledge they have from their fathers and grandfathers. The first record we have is of a tract of land which was leased and held by Samuel Carpenter, and owned by William Harwood; it was a custom at that time and is yet in Western States, to lease property for a number of years, with the privilege to buy it within a certain number of years, by paying a said or fixed rental. So it appears that Carpenter had a tract from Harwood, but had not yet title, but in the meantime tried to arrange to dispose of part of it, and made an agreement with William Rittenhouse for twenty acres of it, on September 29, 1690, provided he would buy it; because we find the following recital, viz., "that the grant of the said twenty acres (so called) was made by virtue and in consequence of an agreement made between the said Samuel Carpenter and William Rittenhouse and others, in the year A. D. 1690, for the term of nine hundred and ninety (990) years from thence then next ensuing."

A Deed by William Harwood to Samuel Carpenter in fee for 100 acres of land in Roxborough township, county of Philadelphia, province of Pennsylvania, in 1693, 4th month, and acknowledged December 6, 1693.

On February 9, 1705-6. A Deed from Samuel Carpenter to William Rittenhouse for 20 acres of land, part of the above 100 acres, for and during the term of nine hundred and seventy-five (975) years (fifteen years had already

expired from the date of the lease), from the twenty-ninth day of September, 1705-6, under the yearly rent of five shillings Sterling money of England, payable during said term on the twenty-ninth of September yearly, to said Samuel Carpenter. Said Deed reads as follows:—

THIS INDENTURE made the Ninth day of the twelfth month called February, in the fourth year of the reign of Queen Anne over England &c. Anno Domini 1705-6. Between Samuel Carpenter of Philadelphia merchant of the one part, And William Rittenhouse of Germantown in the County of Philadelphia, Yeoman, of the other part. WHEREAS, In the year of Our Lord One thousand Six hundred and ninety, It was Agreed Between the said Samuel Carpenter, of the one part And Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tress, and the said William Rittenhouse in the behalf of themselves and others that undertook to build a Paper Mill upon the Land hereafter mentioned of the other part, That, the said Samuel Carpenter Should Demise unto the said Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tress, William Rittenhouse and the rest of the company, or persons concerned as aforesaid, All that Tract of Land whereon the said Paper Mill was to be Erected, Containing Twenty acres, To hold to them their Executors, and Assigns for the Term of Nine hundred and ninety years, Paying unto the said Samuel Carpenter his heirs or Assigns the rent of five Shillings Sterling on the Twenty-ninth day of September yearly during the said term; AND, WHEREAS the said Papermill was afterwards built but no Lease actually Signed or Executed, According to the said agreement; AND, WHEREAS, Francis Rawle Administrator of the Estate of the said Robert Turner, as also the said William Bradford, Thomas Tress, and the rest of the persons concerned in the said Papermill, Assigned all their right and Interest therein, To the said William Rittenhouse;

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH That the said Samuel Carpenter, As well for the Consideration of the Rent &c. Covenants, hereinafter mentioned, &c. reserved as also for divers other Good causes and Considerations him moving, Hath Demised Granted Sett and to Farmletten, And by these presents doth Demise Grant Sett and to Farm lett unto the said William Rittenhouse, All that Paper Mill Scituate in the said County of Philadelphia And all that Tract of Land whereon the same stands, &c.

To have and to hold the said papermill, Twenty acres of Land and premises hereby demised with their appurtenances Unto the said William Rittenhouse his Executors Administrators and Assigns from the Twenty Ninth day of September last past Unto the full end and Term of Nine hundred and Seventy five Years thence next ensueing, and fully to be Complete and ended, without impeachment of waste, Yeilding and Paying therefore

yearly during the said term unto the said Samuel Carpenter, his heirs and Assigns the rent or Sum of five Schillings, Sterling money of England on the Nine and Twentieth day of September yearly during the said term of nine hundred and Seventy five years. The first payment thereof to be made on the Twenty ninth day of September next, ensueing the date hereof.

We further find Deed from William Rittenhouse to his son Nicholas, by the name of Claus Rittenhouse, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for three full equal and undivided one-fourth parts of the said 20 acres, for the term of 974 years thence next ensuing under its importation of said yearly rent of five schillings sterling. Dated February 12, 1705-6.

The said above named William Rittenhouse died intestate, and the remaining undivided one-fourth part of land in the said 20 acres descended to and became vested in his son and heir-at-law, the said Nicholas (Claus) Rittenhouse.

Next we find the Will of—"The said Claus, or Nicholas Rittenhouse being thus seized, inter alia, of the whole of the said 20 acres made and published his last Will and Testament in writing, bearing date the 24th day of May, A. D. 1734, wherein and whereby he did devise and bequeath unto his eldest son William, by the name of Rittenhouse, the said 20 acres of land, on which said paper mill was located." While William owned the mill, Matthias carried on paper manufacturing until about the year 1730, when he moved to Norriton and followed farming, and after the death of William his son Jacob Rittenhouse became the owner of the paper mill. He died in 1811, leaving no issue. After his death, Markle, also a paper maker, came in possession of said mill and carried on the manufacture of paper. He was also connected with the Rittenhouses by marriage.

We find in *Pennsylvania Magazine*, Vol. iv, page 2, the following:—

"William Rittenhouse, in 1690, built on a branch of the Wissahickon creek, the first paper mill in the Colonies."

Pennsylvania Magazine, Vol. iv, page 27 :—

“ Another arrival of importance was that of William Rittinghuysen, a Mennonite minister who, with his two sons Gerhard and Klaas and a daughter, who later married Heivert Papen, came from Broich (in Rhineland to Arnheim in Holland). His forefathers had long carried on the business of manufacturing paper at Arnheim, and in 1690 he built the first paper mill in America, on a branch of the Wissahickon creek. There he made the paper used by William Bradford, the earliest printer in the Middle Colonies.”

Pennsylvania Magazine, Vol. x, page 18 :—

“ Enough that I remind you that William Bradford, ‘ The Caxton of our Middle States,’ was born in Leistershire, England, May 20, 1663; that he emigrated to this country in 1685, bringing a warm and quaint letter of testimony to the Society of Friends from George Fox; that he was the intimate friend of William Penn; that in December 1685 he printed the first book issued in the Middle Colonies, a circumstance to which I shall presently refer; that in 1690 he, in conjunction with the Rittenhouses, built, near our own beautiful Wissahickon, the first paper mill erected in America—this venerable structure being the theme of a valuable and most interesting monograph of our accomplished Vice-President, the Honorable Horatio Gates Jones; that he was the first man to maintain, as he bravely and acutely did in 1692, the freedom of the press against arbitrary power.”

Pennsylvania Magazine, Vol. x, page 79 :—

“ William Bradford followed his trade in Philadelphia until 1693, when, upon invitation of Governor Fletcher, he carried his press to New York. Before going there, however, he, with William Rittenhouse and others, built near the Schuylkill the first paper mill in America.”

Horatio Gates Jones mentions a MS. lease dated this 24th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1697, signed by

William Bradford, who is described as having one-fourth part of y^e s^d paper mill at Germantown. He rented his share to the Rittenhouses for ten years upon the following terms: "That they the S^d Wm. and Claus Rittenhouse shall pay and deliver to S^d William Bradford, his Executors or Assigns or their order in Philadelphia y^e full quantity of Seven Ream of Printing paper, Two ream of Good writing paper, and Two Ream of Blue paper, yearly, and every Year during Y^e S^d Term of Ten Years."

A BOND FROM CLAUS RITTENHOUSE.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, Class Writtinghouse, of Philadelphia in the Province of Pa paper-maker, am holden & firmly bound unto Robert Turner of Philadelphia in the Province aforesaid, Merchant, in the Sum of Sixteen pounds, thirteen shillings & four pence, Current Money of Pennsylvania to be paid to the s^d Robert Turner his heirs Administrators or Assigns to the which payment well & truly to be made, I bind myself my heirs Executors and Assigns, firmly by these presents. Sealed with my seal dated this twenty second day of the Seventh month called Septom, Anno Domi, 1697.

The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bound Class Writtinghouse, his heirs Executors or Administrators any of them do & shall well & truly pay or cause to be paid unto the above named Robert Turner his heirs Executors administrators or assigns the full and Just Sum of Eight pounds, Six Shillings and Eight pence in good Merchantable paper three fourth whereof to be white writing paper, and one fourth brown, at or before the twenty fifth day of the first month called March which will be in the year of Our Lord One thousand & Seven hundred, without fraud or further delay, that then this obligation to be void & of no effect or else the Same to remain, Stand and be in full force and virtue.

CLAUS RITTINGHUISJE.

Signed sealed & delivered in the presence of

RALPH WARD,
WILHELM RITTINGHOUSSEN,
SARAH JENNETT.

To what extent old Willem Rittenhouse was engaged in the paper-making business we have no positive record.

That the paper mill was built soon after 1690 may be concluded from a description of Pennsylvania, in verse, by Richard Frame, in 1692, where he says, "A paper-mill near Germantown doth stand:" and six years later Gabriel Thomas says: "All sorts of very good paper are made in the German town."

That Willem Rittenhouse was a paper maker is evident from a certificate of citizenship, in which he signed his name "Wilhelm Rüddinghüysen Van Mülheim, Papermaker," on June 23, 1678, when yet living in Holland, at Amsterdam. We also find that later one Adrian Rittinghuysen (so he himself wrote his name), residing in Amsterdam, says that his father, Nicholas, was a paper manufacturer, as others of the family had been, and that his father's brother, William, went with his family to North America, where he some time afterwards, as he had understood, established the paper mills near Germantown. William Rittenhouse held the title in his name in 1705, and the same year made title to his son Nicholas or Claus, for three-fourths of the property and reserved one-fourth for himself. William Barton says: "A paper in the handwriting of the celebrated William Penn, and subscribed with his name, certifying that 'William Rittinghausen and Claus (Nicholas) his son,' then part owners of the paper mill near Germantown had recently sustained a very great loss by a violent and sudden flood which carried away the said mill," which must have been between 1699 and 1701, during Penn's second visit to America.

Penn further recommends to such persons as should be disposed to lend aid, to give the sufferers "relief and encouragement in their needfull and commendable employment," as they were "desirous to set up the paper mill again;" consequently the paper mill was rebuilt and paper making carried on as before by the Rittenhouses.

That Willem Rittenhouse was a paper maker is not doubted, and it is taken for granted that he was already engaged in the manufacture of paper near Arnheim, Holland,

prior to his moving to Amsterdam. His brother Nicholas was also a paper maker. "Said Adrian" and William, in his obligation of citizenship signed his name thus: 'Willem Rüddinghüysen Van Mülheim, papermaker.' In the deed from Samuel Carpenter to William Rittenhouse he is called a yeoman. He is also acknowledged as a paper maker in the following extracts from the 'Encyclopædia Britannica.'"

"In October, 1685, the first printing press established in the Middle Colonies was set up here by William Bradford; the earliest specimen of his work which has survived to our day is his *Kalendarium Pennsylvaniense* or *America's Messenger*, being an Almanak for the year of Grace 1686. The printing press was followed in 1690 by a paper mill erected by William Rittenhouse, a Mennonite preacher, on the Wissahickon creek (or on Paper Mill Run near the Wissahickon), a locality which has ever since remained a favorite for the manufacture of paper."—" *Ency. Brit.*," Vol. xviii, page 754.

"At the adoption of the Constitution the people of the United States manufactured sufficient paper for home consumption. In 1789 Mr. Clymer stated in Congress that there were fifty-three paper mills within range of the Philadelphia market, and that the annual product of the Pennsylvania mills was 70,000 reams. To such an enormous extent has the paper industry developed itself in the United States since the establishment of the first paper mill by William Rittenhouse, near Germantown, in 1690, that the present consumption of paper in the United States is larger *per capita*, than elsewhere. Much paper is consumed and sold in the form of paper bags, made complete from paper in the roll by patented automatic machinery, of which the production reached in 1880 the annual value of over \$4,000,000."—" *Ency. Brit.*," Vol. xviii, page 880.

We also find receipts showing that Claus or Nicholas Rittenhouse was sole manager of the business and owner of the property under said respective dates, viz:—

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 9, 1705.

Then received of Claus Rittinghouse 30 Reams of large Printing Paper for the use of William Bradford. Received by me.

NICHOLAS PEARSE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1706.

Received of Clause Rittenhouse 18 Reams of brown paper, and 3 Reams of Blue paper, and 34 lbs. of Pasteboard.

I say received upon account of William Bradford.

THOMAS CRESSEN.

Received the 21st day of March 1708-9, the sum of Six Shillings of Clauss Rittenhanssen in full of all accounts and demands from y^e beginning of the world to y^e day of and y^e date hereof.

Witness my hand y^e day above.

Attest :

WILL BRADFORD.

TOBEY LESH.

ROXBOROUGH, November 11, 1706.

Received of Nicholas Rittenhous the sum of Eight Shillings and four pence for his Tax for the support of Government was Rated at 40 pounds att 2½ d per Pound, by the order of

JOHN HINNDY, ESQ., Collector.

per MRS. JOHN JOY, SR.

Receipt found among old papers :—

ROXBOROW, November 11th, 1706.

Received of Nicholas Rittenhous the sum of Eight Shillings and four pence for his Tax for the support of Government, was Rated at 40 pounds att 2½ d per Pound by the order of

JOHN HINNDY, ESQ., Collector.

per MRS. JOHN JOY, SR.

Of Willem Rittenhouse it is also said that his relatives continued to pursue this business at Arnheim after his departure for America. The enterprise, however, marks a

union of capital, intelligence, and effort, at that time rare in the Colonies.

It is a remarkable fact, which we must not pass over, that the introduction of the manufacture of paper into America by the Rittenhouses occurred about the same time it was established in Great Britain. That the manufacture of paper carried on by the Rittenhouses, has been carried on by their descendants down to the present time, will be seen by the following: William Nixon, who with George F. Feinour founded the paper manufacturing establishment of Feinour & Nixon, was a descendant of the original Rittenhouses. Nicholas Rittenhouse (fourth generation) had a son named Martin, whose daughter Susanna, married Daniel Adams Nixon, a paper maker, who was the father of William and Martin Nixon, and W. H. Nixon was a son of William Nixon.

The firm of Martin & W. H. Nixon was established in 1879, and incorporated in 1888. Previous to that, however, the little business started by the worthy Mennonite Bishop Wilhelm Rittenhouse had grown to such proportions that a new and larger site was necessary. A tract of land was taken between the canal and the Schuylkill river, at Manayunk, in the Twenty-first Ward, and the first building was erected which now forms the great Flat Rock Works, covering an area of nearly three acres, and comprising fifteen distinct buildings, with improved machinery and appliances. The little business established by the Rittenhouses in 1690, has thus blossomed forth into a great and important industry, and it has for two centuries been conducted and developed by the old Bishop's family and his descendants. In 1866 the growth of the business again necessitated a search for more room, and the Vine Street Mill was established at Vine street wharf on the Schuylkill river. This factory is devoted exclusively to the manufacture of Manilla paper for making bags, and the machinery has the power of producing five tons of manilla paper per day. There is also a bag

factory on the premises which gives employment to a large number of women and girls.

Thus, from the modest little mill of two centuries ago, which could only be worked when the water allowed the wheel to move, and which merely occupied the spare time of Bishop Rittenhouse, has sprung a large and important industry, which gives food and clothing to many hundreds of working men and women, and has accumulated a snug fortune for the hard-working and deserving proprietors, and which can be pointed to with pride as one of those institutions which were the inception and foundation of Philadelphia as a great commercial centre, and which have done so much to make the Quaker city the first in the Union, for its antiquity and its industrial institutions. All honor is due to the energy and push exhibited by the Nixon family, which have proved so worthy descendants of the fine old persevering Dutch stock of Bishop Rittenhouse, whose name will be revered so long as Philadelphia is a city and a power in the country.

It has been claimed by some writers, and even so stated, that the German Bible printed by Christopher Saur in 1743 was printed on Rittenhouse paper, which I, for reasons, doubted. Therefore I wrote to Abram H. Cassel, the Antiquary at Harleysville, a near descendant of Saur, for information on that subject, and received the following, verbatim:—

HARLEYSVILLE, PA., July 1, 1892.

DEAR FRIEND:—I have nothing definite about the matter of your inquiry, but I do not believe that it was printed on Rittenhouse paper, for I have a copy of his first Bible, and the water-mark on the paper does not correspond with the Rittenhouse paper.

I also have the Prospectus for printing the Bible, which he issued in 1739, in which he apologizes for the seemingly high price (14 shillings) asked for the Bible by saying that the paper alone costs about 7 shillings and 6 pence for a copy, and further on in the same prospectus he says that printing paper costs here in this land at least four times as much as it does in Germany, from which it appears that if he used imported paper it was

rather from Germany than from England ; but it is generally thought, and family tradition confirms it, that he made his own paper, as he also made his own type, and printers' ink.

It is positively certain that he had at least one extensive paper mill near the Falls of Schuylkill, not far from what is now Manayunk, for I also have his Last Will and Testament in which, among many other bequests he very particularly assigns his paper mill and all its appurtenances to his son Daniel, and we further know that he carried on an extensive paper-making business there, employed a number of hands, etc. ; but at what precise date he commenced the making of paper I am not prepared to tell, and my sight is too weak to look up the matter. I would recommend you to Horatio Gates Jones, 133 South Fifth street, Philadelphia ; he has written an article many years ago on the Rittenhouse Paper Mill, etc. He no doubt knows more about it than I do, as he was raised and lives in the vicinity ; he may have access to old records which I have not.

Yours in haste,

ABRAM H. CASSEL.

(Taken from an Address delivered before the New York Historical Society,
May 20, 1863.)

PROPOSALS FOR THE PRINTING OF A LARGE BIBLE BY WILLIAM BRADFORD.

(*Extracts, Commencing with Remarks on Nathan Kite.*)

“The name of this modest individual is Nathan Kite, a member of that same ancient, but now fast waning Society of Friends ; long a respected bookseller of Philadelphia, to-day in creditable retirement from business ; and who keeps ever fresh for its duties a life of unostentatious devotion to the best offices of man,—the comfort of the sick, the relief of the poor, encouragement and assistance to those who have lost their peace, their innocence, and their earthly hopes—by the enjoyment of occasional pursuits into the field—remunerative only to devotion such as his—of the early literature of Friends. I hope I may be pardoned for an expression of respect to worth so modest, so genuine as Mr. Kite's.

“Bradford, as you are most of you aware, was a vestryman of Trinity Church, and it must be an interesting fact to the

reverend dignitaries and various officers of that corporation who gratify us by their presence and assembled dignity this evening—as indeed it must be an interesting fact also to the whole religious body of which that church is so worthy and so admired an exponent,—that in the first proposals ever made in America to print the Holy Bible it was offered to accompany it with the Book of Common Prayer. From the very origin of either, therefore, in America, they went hand in hand, while with a toleration which gives a higher grace to Bradford's efforts, it was free to all of the other faiths to have the WORD OF GOD alone. The proposals are to print the Holy Bible; but those, it is said, 'who are minded to have the Common Prayer shall have the whole bound up for 22 shillings;' 20 shillings being the price of the Bible without the Common Prayer.*

"The character of Bradford was marked by those adventurous dispositions which have distinguished English colonists, whether on the Eastern or the Western continent.

"At a very early date after his first arrival in America—as early as 1690, he established as joint proprietor with some Hollanders named Rittenhouse, near Philadelphia, on a branch of the beautiful and romantic stream called the Wis-sahickon, the first paper mill ever established in America. From this mill came excellent paper, as I can testify, to write or print on. What I read you is written upon it. I hold you up a sheet of it (exhibiting the MS. of the address). The paper maker's work has lasted much longer, I fear—one hundred and seventy years—than the address that is written on it ever will! The water-mark, as I suppose, is a violet, indicative of the spontaneity, perhaps, with which that pretty

* The proposition of Bradford, as given in his printed proposals, to put the Apocrypha in his Bible and accompany the whole with the Book of Common Prayer, indicates, I think, relations with Virginia, the Carolinas, etc. In some of the Southern colonies the Church of England was the established religion. In 1688 it had no existence at all in the North, so far as I know.

little flower grows on the banks of the Wissahickon. An acute and very learned acquaintance of mine, Mr. Horatio Gates Jones, who is seated near me on the platform, gives it, indeed, as his opinion that this trefoil flower is not a violet, as I affirm it before you to be, but the common three-leaved clover. We have debated this question ardently and long. The matter is important. I see no way to decide the solemn point but to let Mr. Jones give his clover to the men, allowing me to offer my violets, as I humbly do, to you, Ladies. Underneath the flower—be it violet, as I most powerfully and potently believe—or clover leaf—as my friend too honestly would set down—you observe the word 'Pen silvania,' a land where, notwithstanding our contentions, all made to put be-



PEN SILVANIA.

fore you the truth, my opponent and I contrive to live in harmony, and where both trefoil clover and violets grow in rich and exquisite perfection.

“Of such importance was this paper mill deemed to the interests of the country around it, that having been washed away by a flood in 1700, Mr. Penn, who was on his last visit to Pennsylvania, addressed a letter to the inhabitants urging them to use efforts to have it reconstructed. This department of industry engaged much of Bradford’s time and efforts alike in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. How far in the present paper mill he was in advance of the country, generally, may be inferred from this fact,

that the first paper mill in New England—a region which was half a century before Pennsylvania an English settlement—that to-wit, at Milton, Massachusetts—was not erected till A. D. 1730,* about forty years after the one in Pennsylvania.

“It is not surprising that Bradford himself and his enterprise and accomplishments should have attracted notice from the early travellers and historiographers of our province.

“In ‘The Flourishing State of Pennsylvania,’ written, I suppose, about A. D. 1693–4, by John Holme, we have the subject of our address and his manufacture thus referred to :

‘Here dwelt a Printer, and I find
That he can both print books and bind,
He wants not paper, Ink nor skill ;
He’s part owner of a paper mill ;
The paper mill is here, hard by,
And makes good paper frequently.’

“Bradford, as Mr. Jones has shown us, was not exclusive owner of the mill. He was, however, so much the striking personage among the partners, and so much the active and efficient manager before the public that his name apparently quite overtopped all others.”

In footnote on page 58, it states, “About the Bible, that it had been spoken of up and down concerning his going to England to live,” and that it *had been* his intention so to have done. But perceiving that friends and people generally were concerned thereat had caused him “to decline his said intentions at present.”

So the above mentioned Bible was not printed at that time by Bradford.

* “Munsell Chronolog. of Paper and Papermaking,” page 24.

SEARCHES FOR THE RITTENHOUSE ARMS.

General Register über alle VI Theile Des Wappenbuches.

Braunschweigische Radenhausen 1. 182.	_____	Beadsts Rattenberger.
Bürgerlick Reichenhaller 5, 368.	_____	Rothenburische Reichshoffer, 5,247,335.
Strasburgerisch Reigshoffer 5, 233.	_____	Schweizerische Rengungshausen, 5,187
Sisilsische Rhatzarnhausen, 1, 102.	_____	Elsesische Rittenhoffen, 2,134.

Hesische

Rodenhausen.	1.	138.
Rolshausen.	1.	140.
Rueckershansen.	1.	143.

Franckische

Rotenhausen.	1.	108.
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Register über die Vier Supplemente Nürnberg.

Radenhauser.	4.	21.
Rathsamhausen.	1.	9.
Rodenhausen.	4.	22.

Fünftes Supplement. Bremen, I. Vendische.

Reimarshusen	18.
Rockhausen	23.
Reindt-auf-Hausen	26.

Neuntes Supplement

Rademacher and Radehausen.	24.
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[Johan Siebmachers Allgemeines Grosses und Vollständiges Wap-
penbuch Nürnberg. 1777]. Nothing.

[De Doortlightige Weereld by S. de Vries. Amsterdam 1700.
3 vols] nothing. Only kings' pieces, etc.

Neütes Allgemeines Deutsches Adels Lexicon von Prof. Dr.
Ernst Heinrich Kneschke. Leipsig 1859. 9 vols.
[Volume 6, 1867].

References are given under each family. Page 318.

Radenhausen; Altes Rheinländisches Adelsgeschlecht, welches
auch nach Braunschweig in Hessen kam. Dasselbe gehört schon
1309 zum Fuldaischen Leinhofa. Page 533 Rodenhausen.
Altes Oberhessisches Adelsgeschlecht, etc., not the above family.
Radenhausen, page 563 Rolshausen. Freiherren. Nassau.

Armorial General D'Hozier on Registre de la Noblesse de France
Premiere Partee.

Nothing.

Thus far nothing was learned about the coat of arms, but
the following will give a satisfactory statement of all we were
able to obtain:—

ORIGIN OF THE COATS OF ARMS.

The origin of the order of Knighthood and the coat of
arms.

"In 936 A. D., Henry the young Duke of Saxony in-
stituted the order of Knighthood, and they were called
Knights—that is servants of the crown—and organized
them into a body of mounted cavalry, and imposed on them
certain conditions, which made the rank of a knight one of

honor. At the end of the fifteenth century the Emperors began issuing patents to their favorites, conferring on them the title and prerogatives of Princes. The Grant of Arms in Germany was and is precisely like the Grant of Arms made in England. In Germany a man cannot use a coat of arms or the title of Esquire unless he has an hereditary or acquired right to both."—From "*Germany Present and Past*," by Sabine-Baring-Gould, M. A.

A LIST OF FOREIGN LETTERS RECEIVED CONCERNING THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILY SEALS, INSIGNIA, COAT OF ARMS, ETC.

Regarding the Coat of Arms of the Rittenhouse family, or their seals, insignia, or patents of marks of nobility, a careful investigation of the different Heraldrys at Washington has been made, and a number of letters written. Then a card was prepared and printed, and a large number sent to parties in Europe, especially Holland, Germany and Switzerland, requesting them to send copies or the original of photographs, seals, insignia, or coat of arms and other matter they may find. Consequently, in due course of time, considerable information was received. So that it seemed our labors were not in vain, but were crowned with success.

FROM MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA, Sept. 7, 1892.

DANIEL K. CASSEL, ESQ.

Dear Sir.—At last I have received information of the Rittenhouse coat of arms in Europe. I have secured letters of David Rittenhouse and a good portrait of him. Now you told me that in Switzerland or in Holland some of the family had written books on law. Please give me dates and names as near as you can, especially the various ways of spelling the name Rittenhouse. I am going to have them books and anything else that is of interest to the Rittenhouse family. Yours truly,

GEO. WM. BAILEY.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 15, 1892.

G. W. BAILEY,

Dear Sir.—Yours of Sept. 7, 1892 to hand: thanks. I hereby give you the different modes of spelling the name as I found them, viz: Rittenhouse, Rittershous, Rittershuis, Rittinghausen, Rittershausen, Rittershuysen, Ruddinghuysen, etc. Write to Brunswick, Prussia; Berlin, Germany; La Hague and Amsterdam, Holland, etc., and take upon yourself all foreign correspondence on this subject, and I correspond with you, and report to me the result.

Yours truly,

DANIEL K. CASSEL.

The following card was then prepared, printed and mailed to the different Colleges of Heraldry, and to the booksellers and book dealers and other institutions throughout Germany, Switzerland and Holland.

WANTED.—A COPY OF COAT OF ARMS OF THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILY. The name is spelled in different ways according to the language or dialect used in the country where they lived; *i. e.*, Rittenhouse, Rittershous, Rittershuis, Rittinghausen, Rittershausen, Rittershuysen, Rüddinghüyen, (then followed a description of the seal from Barton's Memoirs) also as represented in Dubuisson's French Collection of Arms. A seal bearing this coat of arms belonged to Mr. Adrian Rittinghuysen, who in 1778 lived in Egelantier Gracht, Amsterdam. An illuminated copy preferred. Must be authentic. Address TANK KEE, Marshalltown, Iowa, U. S. A.

A Letter from Berlin, Prussia.

BERLIN, W. POTSDAMER STR. 41 A. PT.

Sir.—I only have an old portrait (engraving of about 1610) of Conradi Rittershusius, Philolog. Professor in Altdorf, who lived from 1560 to 1613. The portrait is engraved by Ph. Kilian, 4 pc. Price 3 M. K.

There exists certainly also books in which the arms of that family is represented. Would you buy such books? Yours faithfully,

MAX HARWITZ.

*Buchhandlung u. Antiquariat.**Telephon, Amt. VIII, 1433. August 24, 1892.*

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 27, 1892.

Sir.—I am looking for the copy of the coat of arms of the Rittenhouse family you require. In the meantime I make you an offer of the following books:

First.—Rittershusius C. Commentar in IV. libr. Institutionum Argent, 1649, parcht. fl. 2, 50, (edited by Georgius Nicolaus and Ludovicus Conradi, filii Icti: Altorfi. in Acaden 1618).

Second.—Rittershusius, Salviani Masfil Opera ad Ludov XIII. et Philip II, 1611. 2 tom. I vol. fl. 3, 25. I hope soon to be able to give you further information about the arms. Yours faithfully,

CHWANBAUQUENHUYSEN.

The following is received in the French language and was copied from a very old document yet in possession of the Rittenhouse family in La Hague, Holland, and refers to a work written by Conradi Rittenhausen, of which the title is as follows: "CONRADI RITTERSHUSII, Jurisconsulti Sacrarum Octo libro Octo," and was edited by his son Nicolaus, Professor at Altorf, where his father had the Professorship before him.

Conradi Rittershausen was the father of George R. and Nicolaus R. above named.

The following poem refers to the above work, which I give below, translated from the French:—

All of your other writings of incomparable wit;
Endowed and enriched with amiable doctrine,
Prove assuredly without the aid of a portrait,
That within you dwelleth a soul most divine.

As for me I will show to this barbaric age,
Which cherishes rough soldiery and wickedness,
A spectacle most grand, a miracle most rare,
The exercise of a great scholarship.

Show me from memory, ye maidens, his equals;
Your records are full but lack this one;
Ye haughty metals, bronze, marble and ivory,
You also can hardly show them to me.

GEORGE DE MONTBELIARD.

(Leiden Library.)

LA HAGUE, Oct. 21, 1892.

Sir.—Since I perceive that you are in search of the derivation of the name Rittershausen—you will oblige me much by mentioning the object of your research and of the trouble you are giving yourself for that end. For my part I am quite willing to give you all the assistance possible in discovering the family of the Rittershuysen, whose name I bear and of whom I am a descendant. Believe me, etc., your affectionate,

J. RITTERSHAUSEN.

Translated from the French.

(The first part is a copy from a letter from one of the writer's friends.)

LA HAGUE, February 11, 1893.

Dear Sir.—I am greatly indebted to you for the offer of the medal (very fine) and tender you herewith my best thanks for it; recommending myself for anything you may be able to communicate to me regarding the family.

I would like to ask you where Mr. David Rittershausen comes from?

I must also observe that the name is not *Rittenhuis* but *Rittershausen*, in Latin *Rittershusius*. Mr. George R. has examined the coats of arms of the extant nobility at *Barmen* in Westphalia, from where the whole family Rittershausen originates and of which I am a descendant almost eighty years of age (one year lacking).

I shall shortly have the pleasure of sending you information which will be to the highest degree useful and welcome in your researches.

Hoping to receive more of your interesting letters, I have the honor and the pleasure to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. C. L. RITTERSHAUS,
RITTERSHUSIUS,
RITTENHAUS.
RITTERSHAUSEN.

OHEDE NEAR ELBERFELD, Sept. 1, 1806.

GERHD. C. RITTERSHAUSEN, ESQ. :—

My Dear Cousin.—After a short absence from home, I found at my return your honored letter and the genealogy of our ancestors. Both gave me great pleasure, and I thank you most kindly for the communication.

I have taken much information and tried to find data of our origin. However, I could not get any other but those you had the kindness to

send me and those I possess, which I have the honor to forward you for copying, with one David Rittershausen, who is a native of Ehrenberg.

I found also a copy, of a patent of nobility, which he got from the Court of Schwelm. Perhaps here were more old documents to be gathered if those gentlemen could only be induced to search the old papers.

At all events I am very glad that you destined your children for a scientific career, in order to raise our ancestors in this way to their former greatness.

I am sure you have excellent schools in your country. I have a son of thirteen years, whom I should like to send abroad to your country for a year, before his going to France.

I should feel much obliged by you taking the trouble to give me description of such an institution; how much is the contribution for teaching and boarding.

I should be satisfied to know this, even if it were only after six weeks, as I am to go one of these days to Brabant and France. I should like very much to have also the address of your sons at Amsterdam. Kindly remembering myself and my family to you, I am, with kind regards, my dear cousin, your affectionate cousin,

(Signed) JONATHAN RITTERSHAUSEN.

Translated copy from the French.

LA HAGUE, Feby. 9, '93.

Dear Sir.—Your honored letter of the 16th of January duly reached me. It is impossible for me to procure immediately what will be worthy of your interest to contribute to the aim proposed; however, as I am in possession of several documents, which I got after many researches, much correspondence, and great expense, I shall be happy to send you the photos, portraits, coats of arms, etc., of the kindred and ancestors of the family Rittershausen (Ritterhusius), not doubting but that they will be interesting.

As to David Rittershausen, who seems to have had his origin or to have been born at Ehrenberg, the translated copy of the enclosed letter will give you perhaps some information, and the enclosed translated letter, written by a cousin to my grandfather, Gerhard Caspar Ottman Rittershausen, son to Peter Christoph Rittershausen, and great grandfather to my father, Heinrich Wilhelm Christian Rittershausen, of Ham, Bremen, Elberfeld, will enable you to find out and judge of the genealogy. I shall be happy to furnish you afterwards with more information, and I am, with kind regards, dear sir, yours truly,

W. C. RITTERSHAUSEN.

The receipt of the medal will be most agreeable to me.

THE SAME.

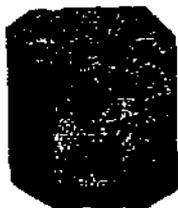
The following are copies of all the seals ever used by the Rittenhouse family in Europe. All the explanations are translated from the French.

MATTHIAS R.



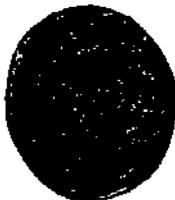
Made war against the Turks in 1591.

GEORGE R.



Coat of Arms renewed and improved by Ferdinand III, Emperor of Austria.

GEORGE R.



Old coat of arms of George R., formerly belonged to Matthias R., renewed by Ferdinand III, Emperor, 1662.

HEINRICH

WILHELM

CHRISTIAN R.

WESTPHALIA

FANTASY OF



1800.

Father.



Wilhelm Christian Ludwig Rittershausen, born in Amsterdam, 1814, son of Heinrich Wilhelm Christian Rittershausen, grandson of Gerhard Casper Ottman Rittershausen, great grandson of Peter Christoph Rittershausen in Westphalia.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, June 28, 1890.

DANIEL K. CASSEL, ESQ., PHILADELPHIA :—

Sir.—In answer to your letter and inquiry of the 16th inst., I have to inform you that I cannot find or furnish you the date (day and month) when in 1644, Willem Ruddinghuysen was born.

An officer named, W. Bunk, Esq., is in charge of the Records of the city, and he alone can serve you in the premises, and will do so, no doubt, if you request it and make provision for the payment of his fees for the service. His full address is :—

“W. BUNK, ESQ., Hoofdcommies van den Burgerlyken stand, *Amsterdam.*”

You can write to him in English or German. To find out whether there exists in Holland any portrait of Willem Ruddinghuysen it may be best to advertise in one or more of the principal newspapers.

Very Respectfully yours,

D. ECKSTEIN, U. S. Consul.

P. S.—The charge for searching the Records in this case will not exceed the amount of from 50 cts. to one (1) dollar, providing the search has not to be extended beyond the year mentioned (1644).

[No. 1070].

AMSTERDAM, September 30, 1890.

Dear Sir.—I regret that I am not able to comply with your request of the 2d inst.

What I have found out is that the name was not *Willem Ruddinghuysen*, but *Rittinghuysen* : that this person was not born at or near the city of Arnhem but in the Palatinate (Germany), and that probably he died in the year 1707, at the age of 64 years.

Information which I tried to gain concerning the date of his birth, his picture, coat of arms, and family relations has, I am sorry to say, not led to any result whatever. Respectfully yours,

(Signed).

W. BUNK. [Civil State Seal, Amsterdam.]

MR. DANIEL K. CASSEL,
Philadelphia, America.

Translation.

THE HAGUE, March 25, 1893.

Dear Sir.—I was happy to learn from your last honored lines that the photos I had the pleasure of sending you were welcome to you. As I feel more convinced of the earnest with which you pursue your researches,



IOAN. SEBASTIAN.
RITTERSHAUSEN,
Canonicus regular.
Log. et Metaphys. Profess. Elector public.
ord. in Academ. Bavar.

The above Portrait of Ioan Sebastian Rittershausen was sent to us by our Correspondent from "The Hague," but no Biography, so we are not able to connect him with any family.

it will be agreeable to me to contribute as much as I can to reach both the aim in which you take so much personal interest and the good result of the researches themselves. As a proof of this wish I have forwarded to you this week a work edited by Conrad Rittershausen.

Heinrich Rittershausen, a native of Minden, was the father of Balthaser Rittershausen.

Balthaser was the father of Conrad Rittershausen, which name was then written Rittershusius.

Conrad Rittershausen was the father of George and Nicolaus Rittershausen.

George had one son, named Adam Friederich, but the latter died single when still young.

* Nicolaus will be, as I suppose, the person of whom you speak; I think his son fought against the Turks and was Nobilitated.

Afterwards, in 1662, the Emperor Ferdinand III, confirmed the nobilitation to George Rittershausen and all his male and female descendants; the arms were then ameliorated and improved.

I thank you very much for your explanation of the arms and the Chinese name.

I likewise hit upon a portrait of Johan Sebastian Rittershausen without knowing who is the bearer of this name.

Kindly remaining myself for your further information, I am, Dear Sir,
Yours truly.

M. L. RITTERSHAUSEN.

The original insignia or patent of the coat of arms has, as far as known, been granted to Matthias, who fought against the Turks in 1591.

Said coat of arms afterwards came in possession of Georgius Rittershausen, son of Conradi. It appears that George must have been related to Matthias, because Matthias's coat of arms became the property of George, presumably a brother to Conradi, the father of George. We also find that the coat of arms were granted to George and to his descend-

* Matthias fought against the Turks in 1591 and was nobilitated.¹² It is believed he was a brother to Conradi, and uncle to George, and his coat of arms came in possession of George in later years and was renewed by Ferdinand the III, Emperor of Austria, in 1662, and was granted to George and his descendants, both male and female.

ants, both male and female, by Ferdinand III, Emperor of Austria, in 1662. See the preceding foreign correspondence.

It is stated that the honor was conferred upon George in 1662; it is also stated that he died in 1661; if so, it is probable that the honor had been conferred upon him after his decease, formally, and upon his descendants both male and female. Somewhat altered and improved as the reader will see in the second or latter illustration, which is now generally acknowledged and recognized in the old country, and its patent is recorded in Barmen, a city in Westphalia.

A BRIEF HISTORY, AS FAR AS COULD BE ASCERTAINED, OF THE RITTERSHAUSENS IN EUROPE.

GEN.

1 1 1 HEINRICH RITTERSHAUSEN, born about 1500 or about 400 years ago, was the earliest member of the family in Europe about whom I was able to obtain information. They did then, and do still write their name Rittershausen, or in Latin Rittershusius. Heinrich was a native of Minden in the Province of Westphalia on the Weser, lying northeast of Westphalia. He had a son named Balthaser.

2 2 1 *Balthaser Rittershausen* was born about 1530. He was the father of Conradi, says Wilhelm C. L. Rittershausen of the Hague. I have no further information of him; he had a son Conradi and probably a son Matthias. Above information is from W. C. L. Rittershausen of the Hague, Holland.



By Ph. Killian.

CONRADI RITTERSHUSIUS.

Born in Brunswick, Germany, September 25, 1560. Died 1613.

ORN.

3 3 1 *Conradi Rittershausen*, the son of Balthaser Rittershausen, was born in Brunswick, Germany, September 25, 1560. He was educated at Helmstadt and afterwards became Professor of Law at Altorf, where there existed at that time an old castle, and a deaf and dumb institute (Protestant), a teachers' seminary, and a university, which was founded in the year 1623 and closed in the year 1809. It was ceded to Nurnberg in 1503, and in 1809 to Bayern. (See Brockhaus' Conversations Lexicon). (It is not the Altorf mentioned by Barton in note 4, page 82 in his *Memoirs on David Rittenhouse*, which he locates in Switzerland). He continued to reside in Altorf till his death in 1613, though he had the most liberal invitations from German and Dutch universities. He edited Appions *Cynegeticon* and some other works. He was Philologist, Professor in Altorf; his portrait was engraved by Ph. Kilian. He wrote another work entitled "*Rittershusius C. Commentar*" in IV libr., *Institutionum Agent*, 1649; parcht. flo. 2.50, edited by his three sons, Georgius, Nicolaus, and Ludovicus *Conradi filii*, *Acti Altorfi in Academ*, 1618; and another entitled "*Rittershusius Salviani Masfil, Opera ad. Ludov. XIII, et. Philip II, 1611*," 1 volume flo. 3.25. His children were Nicolaus, George, and Ludovicus (or Ludwig), as stated in his book. *Ritterhusius C. Commentar*, in IV libr., a copy of which is in possession of the author of this work.

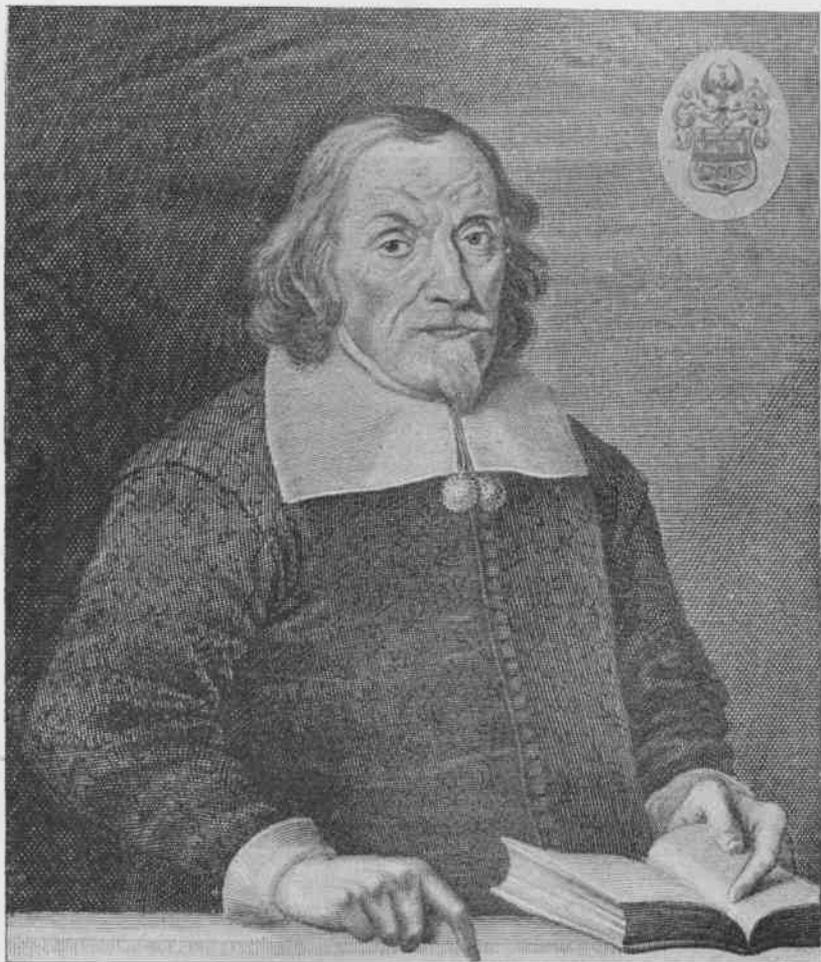
CHILDREN OF NO. 3.

CONRADI³, of BALTHASER², of HEINRICH¹

GEN.

4 4 1 *Nicolaus Rittershausen*, son of Conradi, was born in the year 1592, and was Professor of Law at Altorf after the death of his father, Conradi. He published *Genealogia, Imperatorum Regum Ducum Comitum, etc.*, 7 volumes, folio. He died in 1670.—“*Biographical Dictionary*,” by L. L. Blake, D. D.

4 5 2 *George Rittershusius*, son of Conradi, was born 1595, in Weisdorf, Altorf. He distinguished himself in the republic of letters. He wrote the life of his father. He examined the coats of arms of the extant nobility of the family at Barmen in Westphalia, from where the whole family (*Rittershausen*) originates, “says W. C. L. *Rittershausen* of the Hague.” His portrait was obtained from Berlin, Prussia. He died in 1661. He was the first advocate of the Republic of Nuremberg from 1624 to 1625, and afterwards intimate Counsellor of the Marquis of Brandenburg. He was nobilitated, and came in possession of the coat of arms, formerly belonging to *Matthias Rittershausen*, who fought against the Turks in 1591. Said coat of arms was renewed and improved by Ferdinand III, Emperor of Austria, and granted to George and his descendants, both male and female, in the year 1662. This *George Rittershausen* had a son, *Adam Frederick Rittershausen*, who died young, “says W. C. L. *Rittershausen* of the Hague;” and a son, *George*, “says *Geo. W. Bailey*, of Marshalltown, Iowa,” who is said to have married *Maria Hagerhoffs*, and had the following children: *William*,



NICOLAUS RITTERSHUSIUS CUNRADI FILIUS.

ICTUS in Universitate Patriâ per annos XXXVI Prof. Publ.
Facultatis suæ Senior, Reipublicæ Norimbergensis Con-
siliarius; Historicus et Genealogicus celeberrimus.

Natus Altdorffi XVII. Febr. A.C. CIO IOXCVII.

Denatus ibid. XXIV August. A.C. CIO IOCLXX.

Philipp Kilian sculp.



GEORGIUS, Conradi Fil. RITTERSHVSIUS.
à Buchta et Weisdorf Altdorficus.
Ille, primum Republicae Noribergensis Advocatus ab A. 1624.
ad A. 1625. et ab hinc Sereniss. Marchionis Brandenburgicae Consiliarius
Intimus et Auditorum Praepositus. Den. A. 1661.
Natus A. 1595.

GEORGE, SON OF CONRADUS RITTENHOUSE.

Born at Weisdorf, Altdorf.

First Advocate of the Republic of Nuremberg, from 1624 to 1625, and afterwards intimate Counsellor of De Marquis of Brandenburg.

Born 1595, died 1661.

Heinrich Nicholas, and a sister, residing in the principality of Broich, at Mülheim on the River Ruhr.

GEN.

4 6 3 *Ludovicus Rittershausen.* No further account.

CHILDREN OF NO. 5.

GEORGE RITTERSHAUS⁴, of CONRADI³, of BALTHASER², of HEINRICH¹.

5 7 1 *Adam Frederick Rittershausen.* Died young.

5 8 2 *George Rittershausen*, born about 1620? Married Maria Hagersboffs in the principality of Broich at Mülheim on the Ruhr; their children said to have been William, Heinrich Nicholas, and a sister.

CHILDREN OF NO. 8.

GEORGE RITTERSHAUSEN⁶, of GEORGE⁴, of CONRADI³, of BALTHASER², of HEINRICH¹.

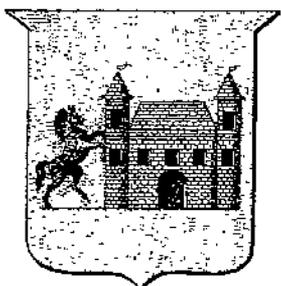
6 9 1 *William Rittenhouse*, born 1644. Came to America and settled at Germantown, Pa., in 1688, and built the first paper mill in America. His children were Nicholas, Gerhard, and Elizabeth. (See article of William Rittenhouse, of generation one, in America.)

6 10 2 A sister; name not known. *See 102*

GEN.

6 11 3 *Heinrich Nicholas Rittershausen*, of Broich, who was married to a De Ruyter; and had a son, Adrian, who was visited by William Barton in 1778, at Amsterdam.

Adrian was then 85 years old; although plain in his dress, and manners, and in the general appearance of his household, this person seemed to be pleased in showing the writer a family seal, on which was engraved a coat of arms. The armorial device represented a castellated house, or chateau; on the left side of which was a horse



THE SEAL OF ADRIAN.



ARMORIAL BEARING OF THE SPANISH FAMILY.

standing on his hind feet, and rearing up, with his fore feet resting against the wall of the house; and this house very much resembled the chateau in the armorial bearing of the Spanish family, "*De Fuentes Senores del Castillo*," as represented in Dubuisson's "*French Collection of Arms*." Mr. Rittinghuysen did not omit to mention that his mother was a *De Ruyter*, and that her arms were a mounted chevalier armed *Cap-à-piè*.

153. "*De Fuentes, signeur del Castillo: d'or au château alefé de gueules, accompagné de trois étoiles mal ordonnés, une en chef, and deux en pointe; le tout surmonté, d'un lion de fable, armé and lampaffé de gueules.*"—*Dubuisson's French Collection of Arms*.

Translation :

153. "Of the Founts (anglin) De Fuentes, lord of Castille,—of gold with (or on) the castle, adorned with gules, accompanied with (or by) three stars ill arranged; one in chief and two in point; the whole surmounted with a fabulous lion (or lion of fable) armed with gules."

2394, D.—*Loganian*.

Philadelphia, May 10, 1890.

The above facts are taken from Mr. Barton's "Memoirs of David Rittenhouse," pages 80–81, where he says: "These facts, relative to the origin of the American Rittenhouses, did not appear to the writer to be unworthy of notice. They are correctly stated, being taken from a memorandum made by him, immediately after his interview with Adrian Rittinghuysen.

 ALTORF.

Bezirkamt Nürnberg, Bayrische Nebenbezirk Mittenfranken, Amtsgericht, Rentamt; Altes Schloss. Taubstummen-Anstalt, Protestant-Schullehrer Seminar in den Gebäuden der 1623 gegründeten und 1809 aufgehobenen Universität, an der etc. Wallenstein studierte Burggrafen Albrecht von Nürnberg in 1360, it was ceded to Reichsstadt Nürnberg in 1503, mit dieser in 1809 an Bayern, nahe Düsseldorf in der Rheinprovinz.—*Brockhaus, Conv. Lex.*

 BROICH.

Ehemals Herrschaft im Kreise Mülheim, darin die Landgemeinde Broich an der Eisenbahnlinie Kettwig-Mülheim; Auf Schloss Broich weilte die wiederholt jugendliche Prinzessin Luise von Mecklenburg, nachmalige Königin von Preussen.—*Brockhaus, Conv. Lex.*

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR.

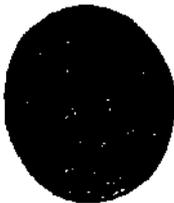
The chief town of a circle in the district of Düsseldorf, Prussia, is situated on the Ruhr, an affluent of the Rhine, about seven miles from Essen, and at the intersection of several railways. Like most of the towns in this district, Mülheim finds its chief industry in iron-working, and contains numerous blast furnaces, rolling mills, foundries, and engine works; it also carries on manufactories of leather, cotton, calico, tobacco, paper, and other miscellaneous goods.

About 6,000,000 tons of the Ruhr coal are annually forwarded by river and rail from Mülheim, which also carries on a considerable trade in timber and colonial produce; in the immediate neighborhood are important sandstone quarries, a large zinc foundry, glassworks, and a carpet manufactory. Mülheim, which possesses a church of the 12th century, was formerly included in the duchy of Berg, and became a town in 1508. In 1880 it contained 22,146 inhabitants, about two-thirds of whom were Protestants.—*Ency. Brit.*

SEALS USED BY THE FAMILIES.

1. Gerhard Casper Ottman Rittershausen, the grandfather of Wilhelm Christian Ludwig Rittershausen, of the Hague, 1893. Born at Amsterdam, August 7, 1814; his wife, Marie Louise Hessel, born at Amsterdam, 1814.

Their Seals:—



HUSBAND'S SEAL.



WIFE'S SEAL.

2. Heinrich Wilhelm Christian Rittershausen and M. L. Sandoz, father and mother of Wilhelm Christian Ludwig Rittershausen. Born in Amsterdam, in 1814; moved to Hague.

Their Seals :—



HUSBAND'S SEAL.

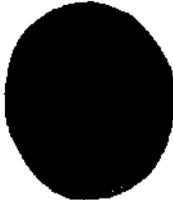


WIFE'S SEAL.

3. Fantaisie by W. C. L. Rittershausen, of George Rittershausen, n——. Same Legend as 6.



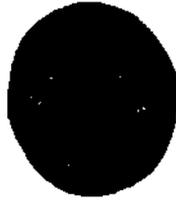
4. H. W. C. Rittershausen, father of W. C. L. Rittershausen, at the Hague, 1893. Same as 1 in 2.



5. George Rittershausen, son of Conradi Rittershausen and brother of Nicolaus, 1662.



6. *Fantasia* by W. C. L. Rittershausen, at the Hague: "Though high, humble in everything."



A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF G. W. BAILEY.

Geo. Wm. Bailey was born in Philadelphia, Pa., March 29, 1854. His mother was Ann Scheetz, a daughter of George Scheetz, and——Rittenhouse. She was born Oct. 13, 1813 and was left an orphan, and was cared for and raised by Hannah Jackson, who was, as is said, her aunt. She first married a man named Heartt, who was killed on a railroad. She married a second time, J. C. Bailey, who lived in West Chester, Pa.

The grandmother of Geo. W. Bailey, our subject, is a Rittenhouse, presumably of the line of Garrett, which would make him a descendant of the Rittenhouse family.

Mr. Bailey was in his early days obliged to be among strangers. When yet young he went to China and entered the imperial service of the Chinese government; he became known in China by the name of "Tank Kee." He commenced his career as a lecturer in the fall of 1876, and has been continually on the lecture platform since. He is gifted by nature with a wonderful memory, being a reader on all subjects, and especially a student on China. As a lecturer on China he is known throughout the world, and is a member of all the important Oriental societies in this country, as well as in Asia and Europe. His life in China fits him



GEORGE W. BAILLY.
(*Tank Kee.*)

for the place he occupies. He travelled over a great portion of Europe, and is extensively acquainted there.

To him belongs the honor of procuring the coat of arms of the family, and some old portraits and seals, and much of the historical matter and records of the Rittenhouse family in Europe, for which he spent much time and money.

Perhaps the best evidence of his popularity is the fact that those who have engaged him and listened to his full course of lectures desire to have him again.

I have also before me a number of recommendations from ministers of a number of churches throughout the West, where he has been engaged.

May 31, 1893.



THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILY AT THE HAGUE.



WILHELM CHRISTIAN LUDWIG RITTERHAUSEN, of the Hague, born at Amsterdam, August 7, 1814; died August 11, 1893.



His Wife,
MARIA LOUISE HESSEL,
born at Amsterdam, 1814.



A. D. RITTERSHAUSEN.



W. L. RITTERSHAUSEN.



ED. H. RITTERSHAUSEN.

BEGINNING
OF THE
GENEA-BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF THE
RITTENHOUSE FAMILY
IN
AMERICA

BEGINNING WITH WILLEM, WILHELM, WILLIAM.

PREFACE.

The object of the following genealogy is to preserve the more remote history of the pioneer ancestors of the Rittenhouse family, and to place upon record the names and biographies of their descendants, from father to son, down to the present time, for coming generations. For many years the author of this work felt a desire to know more about his ancestry, and the particulars connected with his progenitors and their descendants, than the meager legends and traditions related to him by individual members of his own family. Consequently, during the last few years, after being appointed chairman of the Genealogical Committee of the Rittenhouse Memorial Association, all facts and data were collected that were accessible. It was the original intention to prepare a genealogical record of the family, but feeling a deep interest in the work, and a like interest being awakened among individual members of the different branches, it was decided to add historical matter, in order to make it a general family history, by collecting and introducing all facts that could be so arranged without making the work too expensive and voluminous. The actual labor, however, of compiling this history was not begun until about A. D., 1890. The task, an arduous one, was undertaken none too soon.

It should have been begun years ago, while there were yet living those of the third and fourth generations, who could have given more satisfactory information of the early ancestors, that would be of great interest and value to the work, but which with their demise is forever lost. Already the ancestral thread was lost to many who were unable to trace

their lineage farther than to the grandfathers, or were totally unaware of the fact that they were in any way connected with the Rittenhouse family.

Had the author been aware of the gigantic proportions the work would assume in tracing the branches and whereabouts of many of the descendants, and of collecting the necessary information, it is more than probable the task would never have been undertaken. It is to be regretted that the records are not more complete in many of the branches, owing to a lack of interest in the matter. Some, for reasons best known to themselves, failed to respond to inquiries for information concerning their respective families, thereby causing defects.

The work has been prepared at a greater sacrifice of time than was anticipated. Had all promptly responded to communications the task would have been far easier. The author is far from being satisfied with the result of his labor. He is aware that imperfections exist, but pleads in extenuation of the fact that the difficulties were insurmountable.

The author acknowledges himself indebted to many friends for kind favors received during the compilation of this work, and while we express our sincere gratitude to all who in any way aided us, we acknowledge our indebtedness, especially to those who have very materially aided us. They are as follows: Dr. Alvah Rittenhouse, Rev. Aron Rittenhouse, Henry N. Rittenhouse, Dr. George B. Miller, B. F. Rittenhouse, Esq., Miss Anna Margaret Rittenhouse, Hannah Rittenhouse, Rev. A. J. Fretz, Colonel Nicholas M. Rittenhouse, Dr. Jacob Rittenhouse, and many others, from Canada, Chicago, Baltimore, and Washington, and a number of others to whom we feel ourselves indebted; also the Brewsters, the Bartons, the Zantzingers, the Abbotts, etc.; also Samuel Rittenhouse, of Lewistown, Mifflin Co., Pa.; more especially to Mrs. Alexina Virginia, widow of the late George Washington Harrison, U. S. N., of Washington, D. C., for valuable information and a copy of the portrait of her grandmother, Hetty Barton, daughter of Esther Rittenhouse Barton, and to

J. A. Bailey of Marshalltown, Iowa, for his energetic searches and for obtaining valuable relics belonging to the Rittenhouse family; also Prof. A. Van Helden, of Philadelphia, Professor of Languages and Notary Public, for valuable assistance rendered; also George B. Kolb, of Wilkesbarre, and Mrs. Richard Williams, of Hazleton; Mrs. Elias Smith, of Rock Glen; and Mrs. Morris Rittenhouse, of Berwick; also Peter Rittenhouse, of Shickshinny, and Wm. H. Richardson, of Norristown, amateur photographer.

In order that these facts might not be wholly lost, the "RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION" has collected from many sources all information obtainable regarding this worthy ancestor of our family—one of the earliest settlers of Germantown, an humble paper maker from the City of Amsterdam, in Holland, who settled in the untrodden wilds of America, and pursuing the even tenor of a modest and uneventful life "buildd better than he knew."

The "ASSOCIATION" in presenting this "HISTORY OF THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILY" to the numerous descendants of our old ancestor, WILLEM RITTENHOUSE, has endeavored to merit the approval of all by presenting a work that will be found interesting to all branches of the Rittenhouse family.

It will be found to contain more information in regard to their persecution in Europe, their emigration to America, their prosperity in America, than any other publication heretofore placed in the hands of the reader. Among the contents will be found a short biographical history of the more prominent members of the family.

A work of this kind necessarily involves a great amount of expense and labor, and the Association has spared neither, but has made every effort to make it as interesting and as perfect as could possibly be done at so late a date.

DANIEL K. CASSEL, *Compiler,*
Chairman of Genealogical Committee.

GERMANTOWN, June 30th, 1893,
in the city of Philadelphia.



EXPLANATIONS FOR THIS VOLUME.

1. The arrangement of this work is selected from the best arranged family records found in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, among about 600 copies, and is approved by many Historians.
2. The volume commences with introductions, proceedings of the meetings held, and the formation of the Rittenhouse Memorial Association, and other preliminary matters.
3. The Genealogy commences with Willem, Wilhelm, or William, as generation 1.
4. His children Klaus or Nicholas, Garret or Gerhard, and Elizabeth are generation 2.
5. And the children of the latter are generation 3, etc.
6. The reader will find three columns of figures in front of each family name ; the first designates the generation, the second, is a continuous number running through the whole work, designating each name by its particular number, for reference.
7. The third or last column gives the number of children in each family.
8. The name of the head of each family is in capital letters and followed by the whole line of descent.
9. The names of the children are given in italics.
10. The small figures found over particular names denote the generation.

ABBREVIATIONS USED.

- b. Born.
- m. Married.
- d. Died or dead.
- occ. Occupation.
- prof. Profession or Professor.
- capt. Captain.
- col. Colonel.
- res. Residence, resides or resided.
- issue. Children born, who will be found in their proper places in the next generation.
- ? Probable or doubtful.
- Jan. January.
- Feb. February.
- Mar. March.
- Apr. April.
- Aug. August.
- Sept. September.
- Oct. October.
- Nov. November.
- Dec. December.

PART II.

HISTORY OF THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILY IN AMERICA.

Willem, Wilhelm, or William Rüdtinghuysen, Rittinghuysen, Rittershausen, Rittershusius, Rittershaus or Rittenhouse, as it is written in America, was born in the year 1644, near Mülheim, in the principality of Broich, between the River Rhine and Westphalia, where his mother, his brother, and his sister still lived in the year 1678, when William resided in Amsterdam, Holland, and was about to become a citizen of that city, as the following document will show, which is a copy from the original which was brought over from Holland by William, and is still preserved, and was last in possession of Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., of Roxborough, Philadelphia, and reads as follows:—

“Heinrich Nicholas Rittinghausen, at the chancellery of the court of Falkenstein, in this place of Broich, respectfully declared that his Brother Wilhelm Rittinghausen, now residing in Amsterdam, does fervently demand and petition for the evidence of his age; that is to say, in what year he was born—to make use of the same in the proper place; and as there is no good reason to refuse said request, it is hereby certified that the said Wilhelm Rittinghausen’s Mother, Maria Hagerhoffs, who is still living in the principality of Broich, as also his sister and Brother unanimously declared and confirmed that the said Wilhelm Rittinghausen was born in the year one thousand Six hundred and forty-four, in consequence of which this certificate is hereby given.

Signed, Broich, the 23d June, 1678.

J. RODT.

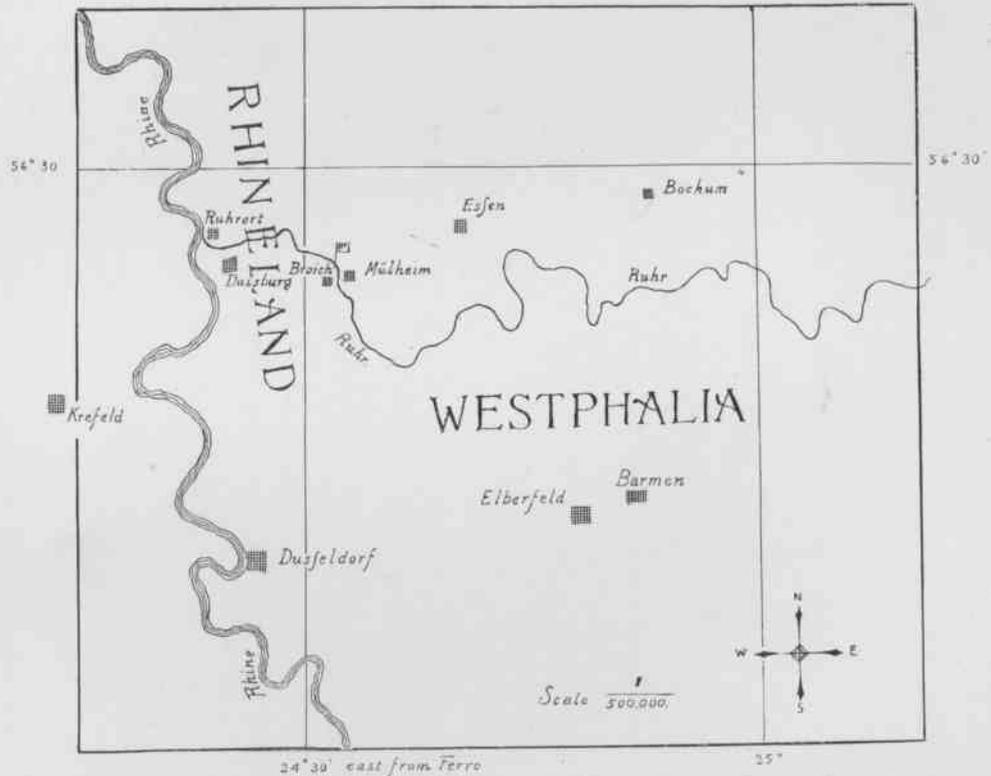
From the chancellery of Court of Falkenstein in the said place.”

William Rittenhouse, born 1644, near Mülheim, in the principality of Broich, on the River Ruhr, between the River Rhine and Westphalia, in what is now Rheinland. He was a son of George Rittenhausen and Maria Hagerhoffs Rittenhouse, whose father was also George Rittenhausen, and was born in 1595, and was a son of Conradi, born Sept. 25, 1560, at Brunswick; his father was Balthaser Rittenhausen, and his grandfather was Heinrich Rittenhausen, of Minden, Westphalia, born about 1500.

BROICH.

The principality of Broich was at that time a tract of country lying between Westphalia and the River Rhine, in what is now Rheinland, and belongs, or is under the jurisdiction of the German Empire, the residence of the Count (Graf), of Falkenstein, and Broich is only one German mile from Duisburg, on the western bank of the River Ruhr. On the opposite side of the river and connected by a bridge is located Mülheim—see Penn's Travels in Germany in 1677, which was one year prior to the issuing of the Rittenhouse certificate. That country was subject to many changes during the heavy wars; so we must take it as it was then, and not what it is now.

William Rittenhouse's mother, whose maiden name was Maria Hagerhoffs, and his brother Heinrich Nicholas Rittenhouse, and a sister, were residing in the principality of Broich, where the certificate of the year of his birth was issued and certified to by his mother and brother, thereby establishing the fact that William was born there. Broich was a principality in Rheinland, between the River Rhine and Westphalia, and Falkenstein was its chief town, situated on the western bank of the River Ruhr, and opposite the river is Mülheim. The two towns are connected by a bridge. (See Penn's Travels in Europe in 1677.) The certificate of citizenship to William, dated Amsterdam, June 23, 1678, also



MAP OF WESTPHALIA, WHERE THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILIES ORIGINALLY CAME FROM.

bears his signature, "William Rüddinghuysen, van Mülheim, papermaker." W. C. L. Rittershausen writes from the Hague, February 11, 1893, thus: "I must also observe that the name is not *Rittenhuis*, but *Rittershausen*, in Latin, *Rittershusius*. Mr. George Rittershausen has examined the coats of arms of the extant nobility at Barmen, in Westphalia, from where the whole family of Rittershausen originates, and of which I am a descendant, almost eighty years of age (one year lacking)."

WESTPHALIA.

"Westphalia, "German, Westfalen," is bounded on the north by the Province of Hanover; on the east by the Province of Hanover, the principality of Lippe-Detmold and Schaumburg-Lippe, the Duchy of Brunswick, the Province of Hesse, and the principality of Waldeck; on the southwest by Rhenish Prussia, German Rheinland; on the northwest by Holland.

"Its greatest length from north to south is 110 miles, its greatest breadth is 124 miles, and its total area is 7800 square miles as it now is. But in our case we must consider Westphalia as it was about 1678. Since that time it has gone through many changes. After the battle of Leipsic, in 1813, the kingdom of Westphalia was abolished, and things reverted to their previous order until the congress of Vienna rearranged the map of Europe, when Westphalia, as we now understand the term, was assigned to Prussia." —*Encyclopædia Britannica*.

The following is a fac-simile copy taken from the original, printed on parchment, giving his obligation as citizenship, and certificate.

Translated into English it reads as follows :

OATH OF CITIZENSHIP.

You do swear that you will be a good and true citizen of this city, and be subject to the Burgomasters and rulers, and take part in watches, ice openings, and other protections and burdens of this city; and that you will apprise them of any threatening danger of which you may be informed; and that you will, by advice and act, further its welfare to the utmost of your power; and that you will perform and omit all that a good citizen should perform and omit.

So truly may God Almighty help us.

Willem Rüdginghüysen, van Mülheim, papermaker, took the above mentioned oath and paid the citizen fee to the Gentlemen of the Treasury.

Done in Amsterdam the 23d day of June, 1678.

J. GEELRINCK.

WILLEM, WILHELM, OR WILLIAM RITTENHOUSE,
HIS DESCENDANTS AND THEIR BRANCHES.

In the year 1688, Wilhelm Rittinghausen came to Germantown with his two sons Nicholas and Gerhard (or as abbreviated Claus and Garret), and a daughter Elizabeth, who afterwards married Heivert (Howard) Papen. His forefathers had long carried on the business of manufacturing paper at Arnheim, and in 1690 he entered into an agreement with Samuel Carpenter for 20 acres of land in Roxborough Township, County of Philadelphia, for the purpose of erecting a paper mill thereon. The paper mill was built at once on a branch of the Wissahickon Creek, and was the first paper mill in America. There was made the paper used by William Bradford, the earliest printer in the Middle Colonies.



SPRUCE TREE, 1690.

The following is a copy of the first Title : *

THIS INDENTURE made the Ninth day of the twelfth month called February, in the fourth year of the reign of Queen Ann over England, etc., Anno Domini 1705-6 Between Samuel Carpenter of Philadelphia merchant of the one part. And William Rittenhouse of German Town in the County of Philadelphia Yeoman, of the other part Whereas, In the year of our Lord One thousand Six hundred and ninety. It was Agreed Between the said Samuel Carpenter of the one part, And Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tress, and the Said William Rittenhouse in the behalf of themselves and others that Undertook to build a Papermill upon the Land hereafter mentioned of the other part. That the Said Samuel Carpenter Should Demise Unto the Said Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tress, William Rittenhouse and the rest of the Company, or persons concerned as aforesaid. All that Tract of Land whereon the Said Papermill was to be erected. Containing Twenty acres. To hold to them their Executors and Assigns for the Term of Nine hundred and ninety Years. Paying unto the Said Samuel Carpenter his heirs or Assigns the rent of Five Shillings Sterling on the Twenty-ninth day of September

* The above Title is a correct copy from the old or original Deed, now in the possession of the heirs of Peter Rittenhouse, at Rittenhousetown, near Germantown, where it can be seen.

The Deed has never been recorded, and for many years was considered a lost document.



RITTENHOUSE PAPER MILL, ON PAPER-MILL RUN, NEAR WISSAHICKON.
Taken down by the Park Commission, in 1891.

yearly during the sd. Term And Whereas the Said Papermill was afterwards built, but no Lease actually Signed or Executed. According to the Said Agreement And, Whereas, Francis Rawle, Administrator of the Estate of the said Robert Turner as also the said William Bradford, Thomas Tresse and the rest of the persons concerned in the said Papermill, Assigned all their right and Interest therein To the said William Rittenhouse.

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That the said Samuel Carpenter, As well for the Consideration of the Rent, &c, Covenants, hereinafter mentioned &c., reserved As also for divers other good causes and considerations him moving Hath Demised Granted Sett and to Farm letten And by these presents doth Demise Grant Sett and to Farm lett unto the said William Rittenhouse All that Papermill Situate in the said County of Philadelphia, And all that Tract of Land whereon the Same Stands, Beginning at a Spruce tree near Wissahickon Creek then North East one hundred and Ten perches by Thomas Jaque's Land to a Corner post Then North West, by German Towu Land Thirty-five perches to a Corner post. Then South West by Thomas Master's Land Ninety-four perches to a post by the said Wissahickon Creek. Then down the Several Courses of the Same Creek to the place of beginning : Layd out for Twenty Acres. Being part of One hundred acres Sold and Conveyed by William Harwood to the said Samuel Carpenter and his Heirs and Assigns, for ever by a Deed of Feoffment duly executed under the Hand and Seal of the Said William Harwood, dated the Seventh day of the fourth month 1693. Acknowledged in Court at Philadelphia the Sixth day of December 1693.

Together with all the Millponds, Milldams, Banks, Streams, Creeks, Rivolets, Woods, Meadows, Rights, Priviledges, Comodities, Advantages and Appurtenances to the hereby demised premises belonging, or in anywise appertaining. To have and to hold, the Said Papermill, Twenty acres of Land, and premises hereby demised with their appurtenances Unto the Said William Rittenhouse his Executors, Administrators and Assigns from the Twenty-ninth day of September last past Unto the full End and Term of Nine hundred and Seventy-five years thence next ensuing and fully to be Complete and Ended, without impeachment of Waste, Yeilding and Paying therefore yearly during the Said Term unto the Said Samuel Carpenter his Heirs and Assigns the Rent or Sum of five Schillings Sterling money of England on the Nine and twentieth day of September yearly during the Said Term of Nine hundred and Seventy-five Years. The first payment thereof to be made on the Twenty-ninth day of September, next Ensueing the date hereof Provided allways And upon Condition Nevertheless That If it shall happen the Said yearly rent of five Shillings, hereby reserved or any part thereof to be behind or unpaid in part or in all at any of the Said days whereon the same ought to be paid as aforesaid, That then, and from thenceforth, from time to time, when, and so often as the

same shall be so behind and unpaid, It shall and may be lawful to and for the said Samuel Carpenter his Heirs and Assigns Into and upon all and Singular, the said Mill, Twenty Acres of Land and all other the said demised premises and every or any part thereof with their appurtenances, To Enter and Distrain, And the Distress and Distresses then and there found and Taken to Take, Lead, drive, or Carry Away, Impound, detain, and keep untill the said yearly rent all Arrearages thereof (If any) shall be fully satisfied and paid. But, In case No such distress can be found In or upon the said demised premises, Then and from thenceforth it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Samuel Carpenter, his Heirs and Assigns, into the said Mill, Twenty Acres of Land, and all other the said demised premises and every part thereof, with their appurtenances wholly to Reenter and the Same to have again Retain, Reposses and Enjoy as in his or their former Estate and the said William Rittenhouse, his Executors, Administrators and Assigns thereout and from thence Utterly to Expell Amove and Put out Anything herein Contained to the Contrary notwithstanding. And the Said William Rittenhouse, Doth for himself his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns Covenant promise and Grant to and with the Said Samuel Carpenter his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns by these presents That he, the Said William Rittenhouse his Executors Administrators or Assigns shall and will Well and Truly pay, or cause to be paid unto the Said Samuel Carpenter, his Heirs and Assigns, the said yearly Rent of five Shillings as the Same is herein before reserved According to the Tenor and true meaning of these presents, And also shall and will Pay and Discharge all such Taxes and Impositions as Shall be layd upon the said Demised premises And the said Samuel Carpenter for himself his Heirs Executors and Administrators Doth hereby Covenant Promise and Grant to and with the Said William Rittenhouse his Executors Administrators and Assigns, That he the said, William Rittenhouse his Executors Administrators and Assigns (Paying the yearly rent hereby reserved) shall or lawfully may peaceably and quietly have hold and Enjoy all the said premises hereby demised and every part thereof for and during the Said Term of Nine hundred and Seventy five years, hereby demised without the Lett or Interruption of him the said Samuel Carpenter his Heirs or Assigns or any other person, or persons, Claiming by or under him, them, or any of them.

In Witness whereof the said parties to these presents have interchangeably set their hands and seals hereunto Dated the day and year first above written.

SAML. CARPENTER. [SEAL]

Sealed & Delivered after the words (without Impachment of waste) were Interlined between the Nineteenth and Twentieth lines in the presence of

EDWARD EVANS,
RICHD HEATH.

BRIEF OF TITLES.

Of the above-mentioned tract, or the tract on which the Paper Mill was built, as appears on the records, a message and two adjoining tracts of land in Roxborough Township, Philadelphia, belonging to Jonathan Rittenhouse, late.

William Harwood to Samuel Carpenter in fee for 100 acres of land situate in Roxborough Township, County of Philadelphia, Province of Pennsylvania, 6th December, 1693.

Samuel Carpenter to William Rittenhouse for 20 acres of land, part of the above 100 acres, for and during the term of Nine Hundred and Seventy-five years (975 years), from the 29th day of September, 1705, under the yearly rent of five shillings, sterling money of England, payable during said term on 29th of September, yearly, to said Samuel Carpenter.

NOTE.—It is also recited as follows—viz., that the grant of the said 20 acres (so called) was made by virtue and in consequence of an agreement made between the said Samuel Carpenter and William Rittenhouse and others, in the year A. D. 1690, for the term of Nine Hundred and Ninety (990) years from thence then next ensuing.

Having examined the Brief of Title prepared by Daniel K. Cassel, for the Tract of Land in Roxborough Township, county of Philadelphia, late of the Estate of William Rittenhouse (more recently of Jonathan Rittenhouse), I find the recital of Deed from William Harwood to Samuel Carpenter for 100 acres, dated 1693, 4th mo, acknowledged Dec. 6, 1693, as well as the Deed from Samuel Carpenter to William Rittenhouse for 20 acres of land (part of the said 100 acres), dated 1705-6, 12 mo. Feb. 9, to be correct as stated, and agreeing with the original notes made by me, and as taken from the records.

Germantown, August 19th, 1893.

ROBERT THOMAS,
Conveyancer.

DEED.

William Rittenhouse to his son, Nicholas, by the name of Claus Rittenhouse, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for three full, equal, and undivided one-fourth part of the said 20 acrés, for the term of 974 years from thence next ensuing, under its proportion of said yearly rent of five shillings sterling.

The said above-named William Rittenhouse died intestate, and the remaining undivided one-fourth part of land in the said 20 acres descended to and became vested in his son and heir at law, the said Nicholas (Claus) Rittinghausen.

WILL OF NICHOLAS (OR CLAUS) RITTENHOUSE.

(See page 71).

The said Nicholas (or Claus) Rittenhouse, being thus seized (inter alia) of the whole of the said 20 acres, made and published his last Will and Testament in writing, bearing date the 24th day of May, A. D. 1734, wherein and whereby he did devise and bequeath unto his eldest son, William, by the name of Rittenhouse, the said 20 acres of land (inter alia).

It appears from a letter in the Mennonite Archives at Amsterdam that Willem Rittenhouse endeavored to have the Confession of Faith of the Mennonites translated into English and printed by Bradford. Said Confession of Faith was printed in English in Amsterdam in 1712; and a reprint by Andrew Bradford in 1727, with an appendix, is the first book printed in Pennsylvania for the Germans, a copy of which is yet in the Rittenhouse family in Germantown and held in high esteem.

The erection of the paper mill is likely to keep his memory green for many generations to come, and its value was fully appreciated by his contemporaries. In a "Description of Pennsylvania," in verse, by Richard Frame, in 1692, we are told, "A paper mill near Germantown does stand;" and says the quaint Gabriel Thomas, six years later, "all sorts of very good paper are made in the German town."

It is a fact worthy of notice, that the establishment of paper mills in Pennsylvania by the Rittenhouses was nearly coeval with the general introduction of the manufacture of white paper in the mother country. This appears from the following circumstance: There is now before the writer of these memoirs (William Barton) a paper in the handwriting of the celebrated William Penn, and subscribed with his name, certifying that "William Rittinghausen and Claus" (Nicholas) "his son," then "part owners of the paper mill near Germantown," had recently sustained a very great loss by a violent and sudden flood, which carried away the said mill, with a considerable quantity of paper, materials, and tools, with other things therein, whereby they were reduced to great distress; and, therefore, recommending to such persons as should be disposed to lend them aid to give the sufferers "relief and encouragement in their needful and commendable employment," as they were "desirous to set up the paper mill again." This certificate is without date; but Mr. Penn was twice in Pennsylvania. He first arrived in the year 1682, and returned to England in 1684; his second arrival was in 1699, and he finally left the province in 1701. So it appears that it must have been during the latter period of his residence in his proprietary dominion that the Germantown paper mills were destroyed, presumably in the year 1700.

William Rittenhousen (so Mr. Penn writes the name) here mentioned is supposed to be the same named in the text, and to have been the great-grandfather of our astronomer. In Mr. Penn's certificate he is called an old man, and is stated to have been "decrepid."

Mr. Benjamin Rittenhouse, a younger brother of David, speaking of his paternal ancestors, in a letter addressed to the writer of these memoirs (William Barton) says: "The family originally settled in the State of New York, while a Dutch colony, and were, undoubtedly, the first paper-makers in America." This fact was also communicated to the

writer by Dr. Franklin some years before communicated by the undersigned, says William Barton.

Before closing let me add that there is an interesting history connected with the *water mark* of this mill. My researches led me to believe that the first mark used was the word "*Company*." The next was the letters "W. R." (the



WATER MARK (CLOVER LEAF).

initials of the founder) on one-half of the sheet of paper, and on the other half the *Clover Leaf* in a shield surmounted by a kind of crown, while beneath was the word "*Pensilvania*." The clover grass, or *Klee-Blatt*, used by the Rittenhouses as part of the device was, according to Pastorius, the common town mark or seal of Germantown, near which the mill was located. On some of the paper I have seen is simply the clover leaf. The next mark used was "K. R.," the initials of Klaus Rittenhouse, and this mark can be seen in Andrew Bradford's *Weekly Mercury*. The only other Rittenhouse mark that I have seen is that of the letters "J. R.," which stood for the initials of Jacob Rittenhouse, a great grandson of the founder.

HON. HORATIO GATES JONES.

When the original settlers of Germantown cast lots in the cave of Francis Daniel Pastorius, in Philadelphia, for the town lots which were numbered, Willem Rittinghousen drew lot No. 19, on the east side of Germantown Avenue, on which is now the Mennonite Meeting-house and graveyard, in Germantown, where he was chosen their first minister. But he was not yet ordained as Bishop, and as



GERRIT ROOZE.

*Geen' vijftig dagen houd een' roos haar' friezen stand:
Maar ROOZE, een' Roozelaar, gaagend door Gods hand,
Keen' vijftig jaaren lang een' teelt van roozen geeven,
Die vielen strekten tot een' levensrak ten leeren.*

Ad. Spaancker.

the congregation at Germantown had no Bishop, and, according to the discipline of the Church, no one to ordain him, consequently a letter was sent from Germantown to the congregation at Altona, Hamburg, for advice, requesting one of the Bishops to come over to install a Bishop at Germantown. The Bishops and ministers of the Altona congregation took the matter under earnest consideration, and as no one seemed willing at that time to undertake so tedious and dangerous a voyage across the sea to install a Bishop at Germantown, they wrote a letter to the Germantown congregation authorizing one of the brethren to perform that duty. This letter was signed by four ministers of the Hamburg, Altona congregation, viz.: Bishop Gerritt Roosen, at the age of ninety years; Pieter van Helle, Jacob van Kampen, and Jean de Lanoi. In consequence of the above instructions, Willem Rittenhouse was installed as Bishop of the first Mennonite church in America, at Germantown, about 1701. Willem Rittenhouse, as stated above, was the first preacher in the Germantown Mennonite congregation, afterwards elected and ordained as Bishop, the first in America in said Church.

In 1694 Willem Rittenhouse took upon himself the duty as a committee, with Jan Doeden, to raise money and to have a little house built on a lot which was set apart for an old blind man and his wife, who came to Germantown in a miserable condition after many years wandering on these wild shores, who was at one time the leader of a community of Mennonites who had settled at Hoornkill, in Delaware, and were driven away and robbed by a band of armed soldiers under the command of Captain Robert Carr. His name was Cornelis Plockhoy.

Willem Rittenhouse emigrated to Germantown in 1688. He had two sons, Klaus (or Nicholas) and Garrett (or Gerhard), and a daughter, Elizabeth. He died in 1708, aged 64 years, and his bones lie away in the Mennonite Churchyard at Germantown, Pa., above Herman Street.

It is to be regretted that his resting place is not marked with a tablet or stone to show its exact location.

There is, however, a movement on foot to have money collected and a stone or small monument erected to his memory.

The old American stock of the Rittenhouses were Mennoites (and Willem was their first Bishop in America), and persons of very considerable note in that religious society. Menno Simons, the great Reformer, was born at a village called Witmarsum, in the Batavian province of Friesland, in 1492, and died in 1559. He is represented to have been "a man of probity, of a meek and tractable spirit, gentle in his manners, pliable and obsequious in his commerce with persons of all ranks and characters, and extremely zealous in promoting practical religion and virtue, which he recommended by his example as well as by his precepts." He was, moreover, a man of genius and eloquence, and possessed a considerable share of learning. The fundamental principles of the followers of Menno Simons are in some respects similar to those of the people called Quakers. They use, likewise, great plainness in their apparel, and adhere to some of the practices of the primitive Christian Church. John Dickinson, Esq., as early as 1764, in an address declared himself as follows: The merits of the Founder of Pennsylvania, as they were declared at various times, in the proceedings of the legislative body of the colony, and in some other public documents, are thus summed up by the speaker.

The Charter of Privileges granted and solemnly confirmed to the freemen of Pennsylvania and territories belonging to the province, by the proprietary, on the 28th of October, 1701, was, after being approved and agreed to by the legislative body of the province, accepted by them the same day in lieu of the Frame of Government originally stipulated between Mr. Penn and the planters in the year 1683, which was the year when the first thirteen families of Mennoites

came from Crefeld and settled themselves in Pennsylvania, north of Philadelphia, and called the settlement Germantown. The first article of this charter provided for a full enjoyment of the liberty of conscience by all persons who should acknowledge "One Almighty God, the Creator, Upholder, and Ruler of the World." It is also declared to be capable of holding any office or place under the government all persons professing faith in "Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World," and who should, when required, attest their allegiance, etc.

As stated above, the first settlers of Germantown were thirteen families, mostly Mennonites, and by trade linen weavers. They came in the year 1683; five years later, 1688, Willem Rittenhouse came and settled at Germantown.

S. W. Pennypacker (Judge) says: "There was a rustic murmur in the little burgh (Germantown) that year, which time has shown to have been the echo of the great wave that rolls around the world. The event probably at that time produced no commotion and attracted little attention. It may well be that the consciousness of having won immortality never dawned upon any of the participants, and yet a mighty nation will ever recognize it in time to come as one of the brightest pages in the early history of Pennsylvania. On the 18th of April, 1688, Gerhard Hendricks, Dirk Op den Graeff, Francis Daniel Pastorius, and Abraham Op den Graeff (all Mennonites except Pastorius) sent to the Friends' Meeting the first public protest ever made on this continent against the holding of slaves. A little rill there started which further on became an immense torrent, and whenever thereafter men trace analytically the causes which led to Shiloh, Gettysburg, and Appomattox they will begin with the tender consciences of linen weavers and husbandmen of Germantown. For a copy of the protest see the following:—

THIS IS TO Y^e MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT RICHARD WORRELL'S.

These are the reasons why we are against the traffick of men-body, as followeth. Is there any that would be done or handled at this manner? viz., to be sold or made a slave for all the time of his life? How fearful and faint-hearted are many on sea, when they see a strange vessel,—being afraid it should be a Turk, and they should be taken, and sold for slaves into Turkey. Now what is this better done, as Turks doe? Yea, rather is it worse for them, which say they are Christians; for we hear that y^e most part of such negers are brought hither against their will and consent, and that many of them are stolen. Now, tho' they are black, we can not conceive there is more liberty to have them slaves, as it is to have other white ones. There is a saying, that we should doe to all men like as we will be done ourselves; making no difference of what generation, desoent or colour they are. And those who steal or robb men, and those who buy or purchase them, are they not all alike? Here is liberty of conscience, w^{ch} is right and reasonable; here ought to be likewise liberty of y^e body, except of evil-doers, w^{ch} is an other case. But to bring men hither, or to rob and sell them against their will, we stand against. In Europe there are many oppressed for conscience sake; and here there are those oppressed w^h are of a black colour. And we who know that men must not comitt adultery,—some do committ adultery, in others, separating wives from their husbands and giving them to others; and some sell the children of these poor creatures to other men. Ah! doe consider well this thing, you who do it, if you would be done at this manner? and if it is done according to Christianity? You surpass Holland and Germany in this thing. This makes an ill report in all those countries of Europe, where they hear off, that y^e Quakers doe here handel men as they handel there y^e cattle. And for that reason some have no mind or inclination to come hither. And who shall maintain this your cause, or pleid for it? Truly we can not do so, except you shall inform us better hereof, viz., that Christians have liberty to practise these things. Pray, what thing in the world can be done worse towards us, than if men should rob or steal us away, and sell us for slaves to strange countries; separating husbands from their wives and children. Being now this is not done in the manner we would be done at therefore we contradict and are against this traffic of men-body. And we who profess that it is not lawful to steal, must, likewise, avoid to purchase such things as are stolen, but rather help to stop this robbing and stealing if possible. And such men ought to be delivered out of y^e hands of y^e robbers, and set free as well as in Europe. Then is Pennsylvania to have a good report, instead it hath now a bad one for this sake in other countries. Especially whereas y^e Europeans are desirous to know in what manner y^e Quakers doe rule in their province;—

and most of them doe look upon us with an envious eye. But if this is done well, what shall we say is done evil?

If once these slaves (w^{ch} they say are so wicked and stubborn men) should joint themselves,—fight for their freedom,—and handel their masters and mastrisses as they did handel them before; will these masters and mastrisses take the sword at hand and warr against these poor slaves, licke, we are able to believe, some will not refuse to doe; or have these negers not as much right to fight for their freedom, as you have to keep them slaves?

Now consider well this thing, if it is good or bad? And in case you find it to be good to handel these blacks at that manner, we desire and require you hereby lovingly, that you may inform us herein, which at this time never was done, viz., that Christians have such a liberty to do so. To the end we shall be satisfied in this point, and satisfie likewise our good friends and acquaintances in our natif country, to whose it is a terror, or fairfull thing, that men should be handled so in Pennsylvania.

This is from our meeting at Germantown, held 7^o 18 of the 2 month, 1688, to be delivered to the Monthly Meeting at Richard Worrel's.

Garret henderichs
derick up de graeff
Francis daniell Pastorius
Abraham up Den graef.

At our Monthly Meeting at Dublin, 7^o 30—2 mo., 1688, we having inspected 7^o matter, above mentioned, and considered of it, we find it so weighty that we think it not expedient for us to meddle with it here, but do rather commit it to 7^o consideration of 7^o Quarterly Meeting; 7^o tenor of it being nearly related to 7^o Truth.

On behalf of 7^o Monthly Meeting,
Signed, P. JO. HART.

This, above mentioned, was read in our Quarterly Meeting at Philadelphia, the 4 of 7^o 4th mo. '88, and was from thence recommended to the Yearly Meeting, and the above said Derick, and the other two mentioned therein, to present the same to 7^o above said meeting, it being a thing of too great a weight for this meeting to determine.

Signed by order of 7^o meeting,
ANTHONY MORRIS.

YEARLY MEETING MINUTE ON THE ABOVE PROTEST.

At a Yearly Meeting held at Burlington the 5th day of the 7th month, 1688.

A Paper being here presented by some German Friends Concerning the Lawfulness and Unlawfulness of Buying and keeping Negroes, It was adjudged not to be so proper for this Meeting to give a Positive Judgment in the Case, It having so General a Relation to many other Parts, and therefore at present they forbear It.

The Mennonites have the honor of being the original settlers in Germantown. That claim unquestionably belongs to them, for they are given that distinction in every history that details the events pertaining to the early settlement of Germantown. They believe in the doctrine of faith, that it is wrong to take up the sword against man. Such a belief was first expressed by the Mennonites, and the Quakers followed in their wake, through their leader, George Fox, in 1647, at the age of 22 years. Certain it is that the Mennonites were the first to champion the cause, which had its origin in their conscience, and it was solely through their efforts and some German Baptists (Dunkards) that the Legislature of Pennsylvania intervened and enacted that they and the Quakers should be exempt from military service (see Constitution of Pennsylvania, Article I, Declaration of Rights, Section 3). The passage of such a law was the cause which inspired the Mennonites to forward to the Legislature at Philadelphia the short and sincere Declaration, therein setting forth their principles, also as a mark of respect.

The thirteen families,—humble as they may have been individually, and unimportant as may have been the personal events of their lives, holding, as they did, opinions which were banned in Europe, and which only the fulness of time could justify, standing, as they did, on what was then the outer picket line of civilization,—best represented the meaning of the colonization of Pennsylvania and the principles which lie at the foundation of her institutions. Better

far than the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth, better even than the Quakers who established a City of Brotherly Love; they stood for that spirit of universal toleration, which found no abiding place save in America. Their feet were planted directly upon the path which leads from the darkness of the middle ages down to the light of the Nineteenth century—from the oppressions of the past to the freedom of the present.

Bullinger, the great reviler of the Anabaptists (Mennonites), in detailing in 1560 their many heresies, as he describes them, says *they* taught that "the Government shall and may not assume control of questions of religion or faith." No such attack upon the established order of things had ever been made before, and the potentates were wild in their wrath.

But two centuries after Bullinger wrote there was put into the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in almost identical language: "No human authority can in any case whatever control or interfere with the rights of conscience." The fruitage is here, but the planting and watering were along the Rhine. And to-day the Mennonites and their descendants are to be found from the Delaware River to the Columbia.

Among these were our ancestors, William Rittenhouse and his family, and to-day many among them are advocating and are still preaching the same doctrine, and advocate the same principles.

MENNONITES.

Willem Rittenhouse, the first Mennonite minister known in America, came to Germantown in 1688. The name Mennonite came from Menno Simons, a native of Witmarsum, a small town about half way between Bolsward and Harlingen, and the year of his birth 1492. He was reared a Catholic. We find in his writings that he was appointed chaplain in Pingium, a small town which he called his

father's town, where he was stationed as a priest and preached for two years without ever having read the Scripture, or touched it, for fear he might be led into error. In the third year (1527) he concluded to read the Scripture, and soon found that he was in error. See "History of the Mennonites," pages 10 and 11, by D. K. Cassel. Menno Simons renounced the Catholic Church or faith, January 12, 1536, and lived retired until 1537.

While Menno was yet in the Catholic Church he tried to use his influence over the Münsterites to renounce their warlike attitude and become peaceable Christians. He even wrote a book against the warlike Münsterites.

In 1537 the old Evangelical Baptists (Täufer) by their enemies, the Catholics, were called "Anabaptis," or "Wiedertauffer," whose Church or denomination existed long before, and had numerous congregations established under different names, as were given them by their enemies according to the names of their leaders or the name of their location. They themselves styled their Church the "Evangelical Christians." These were the people who called upon Menno Simons to preach for them in 1537. So the reader will see that Menno did not establish a new Church, but connected himself with the old Evangelical Church, and brought about a great revival in said Church. With these people it was that our venerable ancestor, Willem Rüdtinghuysen, or Rittenhouse, connected himself and became their first minister in America, and in 1701 was ordained their first Bishop in America, or more properly called Elder. He died in 1708. He was succeeded in the ministry by his son "Klaus," or Nicholas, who served the church until his death in 1734. For further information as regards Mennonites, see "History of the Mennonites," by D. K. Cassel.

A SHORT AND SINCERE DECLARATION.

To our Honorable Assembly, and all others in high or low station of Administration, and to all Friends and Inhabitants of this Country, to whose sight this may come, be they ENGLISH or GERMAN.

In the first Place we acknowledge us indebted to the most high GOD, who created Heaven and Earth—the only good Being—to thank him for all his great goodness and manifold Mercies and Love through our Saviour JESUS CHRIST, who is come to save the Souls of Men, having all Power in Heaven and on Earth.

Further, we find ourselves indebted to be thankful to our late worthy Assembly, for their giving so good an Advice in these troublesome Times to all Ranks of People in *Pennsylvania*, particularly in allowing those, who, by the Doctrine of our Saviour JESUS CHRIST, are persuaded in their Conscience to love their Enemies, and not to resist Evil; to enjoy the Liberty of their Conscience, for which, as also for all the Good Things we enjoyed under their Care, we heartily thank that worthy Body of Assembly, and all high and low in Office, who have advised to such a peaceful Measure, hoping and confiding that they, and all others entrusted with Power in this hitherto blessed Province, may be moved by the same Spirit of Grace, which animated the first Founder of this Province, our late worthy Proprietor, *William Penn*, to grant Liberty of Conscience to all its inhabitants, that they may in the great and memorable Day of Judgment be put on the right Hand of the Just Judge, who Judges without Respect of Person, and hear of him these blessed words: *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you, &c. What ye have done unto one of the least of these, my Brethren, ye have done unto me*, among which number (*i. e.*, *the least of Christ's Brethren*) we, by His grace, hope to be ranked; and every Lenity and Favour shown to such tender conscienced, although weak Followers of this our blessed Saviour, will not be forgotten by him in that Great Day.

The advice to those who do not find Freedom of Conscience to take up Arms, that they ought to be helpful to those who are in Need and distressed Circumstances, we receive with Cheerfulness towards all Men of what Station they may be—it being our Principle to feed the Hungry and give the Thirsty Drink;—we have dedicated ourselves to Serve all Men in every Thing that can be helpful to the Preservation of Men's lives, but we find no Freedom in giving, or doing, or assisting in any Thing by which Men's lives are destroyed or hurt. We beg the Patience of all those who believe we err in this Point.

We are always ready, according to CHRIST's Command to *Peter*, to pay the Tribute, that we may offend no Man, and so we are willing to pay

TAXES, and to render unto *Cæsar* those Things that are *Cæsar's* and to God those Things that are *God's*, although we think ourselves very weak to give God his due Honor, He being a Spirit and Life, and we only Dust and Ashes.

We are also willing to be subject to the higher Powers, and to give in the manner *Paul* directs us:—*for he beareth the sword not in vain, for he is the Minister of God, a Revenger to execute Wrath upon him that doeth Evil.*

This Testimony we lay down before our worthy Assembly, and all other Persons in Government, letting them know that we are thankfull as above-mentioned, and that we are not at Liberty in Conscience to take up Arms to conquer our Enemies, but rather to pray to GOD, who has Power in Heaven and on Earth, for US and THEM.

We also crave the Patience of all the Inhabitants of this country,—what they think to see clearer in the Doctrine of the blessed JESUS CHRIST, we will leave to them and GOD,—finding ourselves very poor; for faith is to proceed out of the Word of GOD, which is Life and Spirit, and a Power of GOD, and our Conscience is to be instructed by the same, therefore we beg for Patience.

Our small Gift, which we have given, we gave to those who have Power over us, that we may not offend them, as CHRIST taught us by the Tribute Penny.

We heartily pray that God would govern all Hearts of our Rulers, be they high or low, to meditate those Good Things which will pertain to OUR and THEIR Happiness.

The above Declaration, signed by a number of Elders and Teachers of the Society of Mennonists, and some of the German Baptists, presented to the Honorable House of Assembly on the 7th day of November, 1775, was most graciously received.

The Rittenhouse family has been distinguished for its honesty and uprightness, for its temperate, industrious, and prudent habits; but few have led intemperate or dishonest lives; the men have exhibited a soundness of judgment, and have been some of the best farmers to be found in the country, both in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, while the women have been intelligent and excellent housekeepers. The Rittenhouses have always entertained a love for mathematics, and many of them have excelled in this science.

David Rittenhouse, the celebrated astronomer, became passionately fond of this study. David rose from a young plowboy to be one of the most prominent and brightest philosophers and astronomers. Willem Rittenhouse, the first in America, with his son Klaus, was instrumental in establishing the first paper mill in America. He was also the first minister in the Mennonite Church in America, also their Bishop. After his death he was succeeded in the ministry by his son Klaus, or Nicholas. Also Benjamin, the brother of David, was a well-educated man. He was a clockmaker and astronomical instrument maker. He was also Associate Judge for the county of Montgomery. Martin Rittenhouse, the son of Nicholas the Second, at Roxborough, had one of the finest libraries in the country at that time. He was born in 1747. Even at the present time many of the family occupy prominent positions.

The history of Willem Rittenhouse has been extended over a considerable space of time, and all facts obtainable have been collected, relating to a period of nearly two hundred years. In closing let me say, that we are living in a wonderful time, and none can conjecture what will be the condition of this city of Philadelphia when two more centuries will have been completed. If we are faithful and true to the principles which sustained our ancestors, we need have no fear.

“ Who'll press for gold the crowded streets

Two hundred years to come ?

Who'll tread this aisle with pious feet

Two hundred years to come ?

Pale, trembling age and fiery youth,

And childhood with its brow of truth,

The rich and poor, on land, on sea,

Where will the countless millions be

Two hundred years to come ?

We all within our graves shall sleep

Two hundred years to come ;

No living soul for us will weep

Two hundred years to come.

But others then our lands will till,
 And others then these seats will fill,
 And others here will preach and pray,
 But the same Gospel as to-day,
 Two hundred years to come,

SECOND GENERATION.

CHILDREN OF NUMBER 1.

OF WILLEM RITTENHOUSE.¹

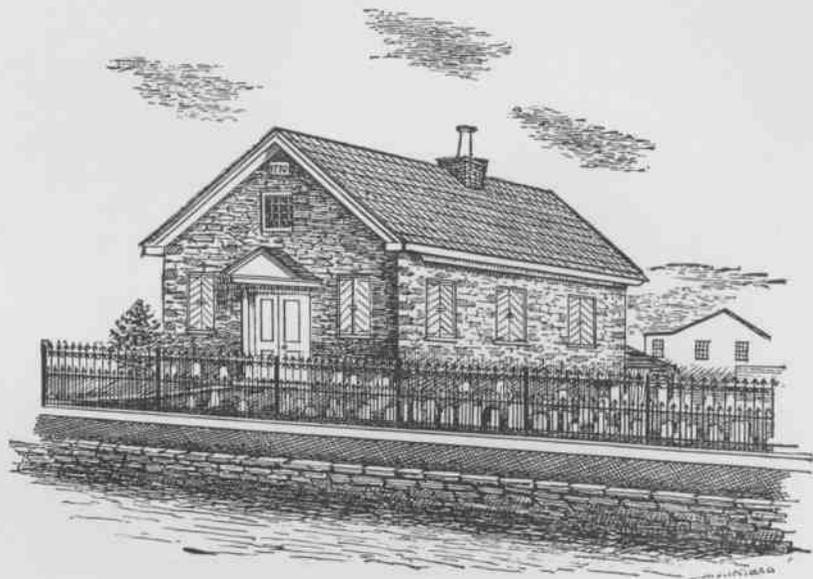
GEN.

2 2 1 *Nicholas Rittenhouse* was born June 15, 1666; married Wilhelmina Dewees, a sister of William Dewees. It is presumed that he was married in New York before he came to Germantown. He succeeded his father,

Willem, in the business of paper making, and was the sole owner of the mill after his father. He was the grandfather of our philosopher, David. He was also a member of the Mennonite Church at Germantown, and after the death of his father, Willem, he was elected a minister in his father's place in said church, ordained presumably by Jacob Godshall, who came over in 1702, in which capacity he served faithfully till his death in 1734. In 1727 he signed the proceedings of the first Mennonite Conference in America.

An old historian has the following :—

“The Rittenhouses settled on the eastern bank of the Wissahickon, adjoining the southwest side of Germantown, where they erected on a small stream which empties into the Wissahickon, about a mile above the Schuylkill, the first paper mill in British America. The name of the chief proprietor of this mill was Wilhelm Rittenhouse, then spelled Rüttinghüysen or Rittinghausen. He had two sons, Claus (or more properly, according to the German, Klaus), or Nicholas, who succeeded him at this paper mill, and Garret, or Gerhard, who lived in Germantown on Cresheim Creek,



MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE, GERMANTOWN, PA.

and there had a grist or flour mill. The Rittenhouses from that day to the present have continuously occupied mill seats on the Wissahickon Creek. The American astronomer, David Rittenhouse, LL. D., was born in Roxborough, near the site of the first paper mill.*

Nicholas Rittenhouse, a descendant of the above-named Nicholas, was chosen, in connection with Abraham Rittenhouse, Jacob Knor, and Jacob Keyser, Sr., Managers or Building Committee to superintend the building of the Mennonite Meeting-house at Germantown in 1770. Nicholas Rittenhausen the first was one of the sixteen ministers who convened and held the first Mennonite Conference in America and subscribed to its proceedings in 1727.

Nicholas Rittenhouse was the grandfather of our Philosopher, David Rittenhouse. He died in 1734, leaving three sons, William, Henry, and Matthias, and four daughters, Psyche, Mary, Catharine, and Susanna.

The following is a copy of the Will of Klaus Rittenhouse:—

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. I Claus Rittinghausen of Roxborough Township in the County of Philadelphia in the Province of Pensilvania, papermaker being sick & weak in body, but of a sound & disposing mind & memory, thanks be given unto God, therefore Considering the uncertainty of this Transitory life & the certainty of Death Do make & ordain this my last will & Testament in manner & form following. That is to say : First of all I recommend my Soul into the hands of God my merciful Creator & Saviour, and my body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried at the direction of my Executors hereafter named,—whom I also desire to pay & satisfy all my just Debts which I owe to any manner of persons, as also funeral expenses & Legacies herein mentioned within a convenient time after my Decease. And for the settling of my worldly & Temporal Estate wherewith it hath pleased the Lord to Bless mine endeavours I Devise and Dispose of the Same as followeth, Imprimis, I give and Bequeath all & singular my movable Goods & Chattels to my loving wife Willimijn during her Natural life & what remains thereof after her decease to be equally divided amongst all my children. Item. I give, Devise & Bequeath to my Eldest son William Rittinghausen All & Singu-

* For a sketch of this paper mill, see the *Historical Magazine*, vol. I, pp. 123-4.

lar that piece or parcel of Land Situate in the Said Roxborough Township and Joining North Easterly to German Town line containing Twenty Acres of Land (which I purchased of Samuel Carpenter) Together with the papermill, Buildings & Appurtenances, thereunto belonging, and also that piece or parcel of Land Situate in the Sd. Roxborough Township Joining North Easterly to the said Germantown line & North Westerly to Jacob Rinkers land & containing Fifty Acres of Land which I purchased of Matthew Holtgate, Together with the Improvements & appurtenances thereunto belonging. To Hold the said Two pieces or parcels of Land & premises to him the said William Rittinghausen his heirs & Assigns for Ever. He the said my son William Rittinghausen paying to my said wife Willemijn the Sum of Eighty pounds Lawfull money of Pensilvania in Eight years time after my Decease, viz.—Ten pounds part thereof yearly with Interest thereof, till the whole is paid, and to let my said wife have a room at her choice in one of the Houses on the said Twenty Acres of Land during her life time. Item. I give and Bequeath to my Daughter Seikie one Shilling money afd, She having received her portion in my lifetime. Item I give & Bequeath to my Daughter Catherine one Shilling money afd, She having received her portion in my life time. Item I give & Bequeath to my Daughter Mary one Shilling money afd, she having Received her portion in my life time Item, I Give & Bequeath to my Son Henry one Shilling money afd, he having received his portion in my lifetime, Item I give & Bequeath to my son Matthias one shilling, money afd he having received his portion in my lifetime. Item. I give and Bequeath to my Daughter Susanna one Shilling money Afd she having received her portion in my lifetime, and my will is. That if my said wife do not make use of all the said Eighty pounds to be paid to her by my Said son William in her lifetime, Then after her Decease, the Remainder to be Equally divided Amongst my said children Share & Share alike And I do hereby constitute & appoint my Said loving wife Willemijn and my Brother Gerard Rittinghausen to be my Executors of this my last will & Testament Lastly I do hereby Utterly disallow Revoke and Annul all & other former wills Legacies & Executors by me in anywise before this time made Bequeathed & ordained. Ratifying, Confirming this & no other to be my last will & Testament.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the twenty fourth day of May In the year of Our Lord, one thousand Seven hundred & Thirty four.

CLAUS RITTINGHAUSEN. [SEAL.]

Signed, Sealed, published and delivered by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us

Witnesses:—

JACOB RINKER,
 GEORGE HAAS,
 WILLIAM DEWEES,
 HENRY PASTORIUS.

PHILADELPHIA, June 4th, 1734.

Then personally appeared Jacob Rinker, George Haas, and Henry Pastorius, three of the Witnesses to the foregoing Will and on their Solemn affirmation according to law, Did Declare they Saw & heard Claus Rittinghausen the Testator above named, Sign, Seal, publish & Declare the same will to be his last Will & Testament, & that at the doing thereof he was of Sound mind memory & understanding to the best of their knowledge.

Coram LETEVANSKLOGEN.

Be it Remembered that on the 4th of June 1734, the last Will and Testament of Claus Rittinghausen Deceased was proved in due form of Law and probate, & Letters Testamentary were granted to Willemijn Rittenhausen & Gerrard Rittenhausen Executors therein named having first Affirmed well and truly to Administer the Deced'ts Estate & bring an Inventory thereof into the Reg.'er Gen.'ls Office at Philadelphia at or before the fourth day of July next and also to Render an account when thereunto Lawfully Required. Given under the Seal of the said Office

pr LETEVANSKLOGEN.

The foregoing Will of Claus Rittinghausen is recorded in Book E, page 280, in 1734, in the Register of Will's Office in Philadelphia.

The following is a correct copy of the Will of Wilhelmina Rittenhouse, widow of Klaus, or Nicholas, Rittenhouse, son of Willem, copied from the original Will, which is written in the Dutch or Holland language, and followed by the English translation. The original Will is written on Rittenhouse paper with the Rittenhouse water-mark, the clover leaf, or "Klee-Blatt," and is in the possession of the author of this work:—

1737 den 6 Meert

Een na Ryght Waer meede Van moeder haer order dewyle dat sy als tegenswoordyg sychtelyck is na den lychame En haer Zyele benelende in de hant Van den Almagtygen Schepper in Jeesu Amen

Eerstelyck dat peggy Ruttynhuysen geeue ick myn Spynnewyel ten tweeden dat ick Marya Ruttynhuysen geeue de Speygel en dat ick Susanna geeue het Vyer iser en Margryta en Anna geeue Elck een Stoel

En Susanna gorgas geeue een thee podten bortslyen

En Marya gorgas geeue een Snycker podten een iser pannejen

En Willemyna Ruttynhuysen geeue het haniser en gallen kan

En Marya Engel geeue een Schorttel doek en 2 neusdoeken

En Schyttjen gorgaacs geeue het onder Veeren bedt en een pullewee En
 een koper ketel waer op sy ses schulde betaect
 En Marya Jansen het oner bedt met het onertrecsel
 En Gerteruydt Engel geeue het grotte en het kleyne kussens
 En Susanna Heylyg geeue het grotte en het kleyne kussens
 En Henderyck Ruttynhuysen geeue een Wollen deeken
 En Matys Ruttynhuysen geeue een kas sack
 Dyt alsoo den selnen dyto Als booven onderteykent in de teegenwoor-
 dygheyt van ons

Wyllem ^{Syen} W Ruttynhuysen
 meerck

Wyllemina ^{haer} + Ruttynhuysen
 meercks

^{Huer}
 Seyten + gorgaacs
 meerck

Jan gor gaes

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY D. K. CASSEL, 1737, March 6.

A record concerning the disposition of Mother's order as she is at present sickly in body and her Soul Commanding in the hands of the Almighty Creator in Jesus Amen.

Firstly :—I give to Peggy Rütthynhüysen my Spinning wheel.

Secondly :—I give to Marya Rütthynhüysen the lookingglass and to Susanna I give the Fire Irons, and to Margryta and Anna I give each a chair.

And to Susanna Gorgas I give a Tea pot and china.

And Marya Gorgas I give a Sugar bowl and Small Iron Pann.

And Willemyna Rütthynhüysen I give the Pot hook and Gallon can.

And Marya Engel I give an apron and two handkerchiefs.

And to Seyntia Gorgas I give the under feather bed and a pillow and a brass kettle for which she pays six florins.

And Marya Jansen the upper bed with the cover.

And to Gertrude Engel I give the large and small cushions.

And to Susanna Hellig I give the large and small cushions.

And Henderych Rütthynhüysen I give the woolen blanket.

And Mattys Rütthynhüysen I give a cloak.

That all these on the above date was undersigned in the presence of us.

WILLEM^{her}MYNA + RÜTTYNHÜYSEN
 mark

WILLEM W. RÜTTYNHÜYSEN

^{her}
 SEYTEN + GORGAS
 mark

JAN GORGAS

GEN.

2 3 2 *Garret Rittenhouse*,² son of *Willem*,¹ was born 1674, died 1742-3. He married, it appears, *Miss Revacomb*. He resided in Germantown, and owned a farm and grist mill, as his will will show. He had two sons, the eldest *William* and the youngest *Peter*. *William Barton* speaks of the *Rittenhouses* having at an early date settled themselves in that part of the Colony afterward called *East Jersey*. Some of the name reside in the State of *New Jersey* at this day. On another occasion he says *Garret* left children, some of whose descendants are resident in *Pennsylvania* and others in *New Jersey*. He owned a farm and other tracts of land, also a grist mill, on *Cresheim Creek* in the upper part of *Germantown*, as the following document will show :—

WILL OF GERARD RITTENHAUSEN.

Recorded No. 10, Book G, page 33. A.D., 1742.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. I Gerard Rittenhausen of Creesham in Germantown in the county of Philadelphia and Province of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, being now Aged and also under some indispositions of body, but through the Great Mercy of God, of Sound and well disposing mind and memory, thanks be given to God, therefore Considering the uncertainty of this Transitory Life and Certainty of Death, Do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form, following, that is to say First of all I recommend my Soul into the hand of God that gave it and my Body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter named, whom I also desired to pay and Satisfy all my just Debts as also funeral Expenses, and Legacies herein mentioned within a Convenient Time after my Decease. And for the settling of my Worldly and Temporal Estate, wherewith it hath pleased the Lord to Bless mine Endeavors. I desire and Dispose of the same as followeth Imprimis.—I give, devise and bequeath unto my Eldest Son *William Rittinghausen* all that my land situate in the said *Creesham* which lies on the North East side of the Highway leading from *Germantown* to North *Wales*, to hold to him, his Heirs and Assigns for ever. Item. I give and bequeath and devise to my youngest son *Peter Rittinghausen* and *Ann* his wife All that my Plantation whereon I now dwell, Situate in the said

Creesham and Lying between the Lands of Matthias Walsara and John Hammer, and is in length from the Highway that leads from Germantown to North Wales, till to the line of Roxborow Township, To hold the said Plantation with the Buildings and Appurtenances to them the said Peter Rittinghausen and Ann his wife during their or either of their Natural Lives they the said Peter and Ann to make no waste of or in the same. And my will is that after the decease of the said Peter and Ann his wife, The said Plantation and Appurtenances thereof shall be for, and descent to my grand children, Sons and Daughters of Peter Rittinghausen, viz.—Mary, Barbara, Susanna, Margaret, Gared and Jacob, to be equally divided, to hold to them my Said Grand children, and to their respective and Several Heirs, and Assigns for ever, the said Peter Rittinghausen paying therefor to his brother William the sum of fifty Pounds, in manner following, Twelve Pounds ten Shillings Yearly for four years, After my decease, Pennsylvania currency, Item, I give and bequeath to my Youngest son Peter Rittinghausen and Anna his wife all that my Grist mill and the Land thereto appertaining with their Appurtenances, to hold to them, or either of them during their Natural Lives. They, the said Peter and Ann to make no waste of, or in the same. And my Will is that after the decease of Peter & Ann his wife the said Mill and Land thereunto Appertaining with their Appurtenances shall be for and descent to my Grand children, the Sons & Daughters of Peter Rittinghausen, viz.—Mary, Barbara, Susanna, Margaret, Gared and Jacob, to be equally divided between them. To hold to them my Said Grand children, and to their several respective heirs and Assigns for ever. Item.—I give and bequeath all & Singular my personal Estate Goods and chattles to my said two sons William and Peter to be equally divided amongst them, and I do hereby constitute & appoint my Trusty Kinsmen Charles Revacomb and Justice Revacomb to be my Executors of this my last will and Testament. Lastly.—I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all other former Wills, Legacies and Executors by me in any ways, before this time made bequeathed and ordained Ratifying & confirming this & no other to be my last Will & Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Seventh day of February Anno Domini, One thousand Seven hundred & forty two—three.

GERARD RITTINGHAUSEN. [SEAL.]

Signed, Sealed, delivered & declared by the Testator as his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, Christopher Bastian, William Reise, John Hammer, Jr.

Philadelphia, February 19th, 1742, There personally appeared Christopher Bastian and William Reise, two of the witnesses to the Will annexed, and upon their Solemn Affirmation did declare they Saw & heard Gerard Rittenhausen, the Testator therein named, Sign, Seal, Publish and

declare the Same Will to be his Last Will and Testament, and that at the doing thereof he was of Sound mind, memory and understanding, of the best of their knowledge. Cram. PET. EVANS, *Regr. Gen'l.*

Be it Remembered the 19th February 1742 the last Will and Testament of Gerard Rittinghausen deceased was proven in the form of Law, and Probate & Letters Testamentary were Granted to Charles Revacomb, and Justice Revacomb, Executors therein named having first Solemnly Affirmed well and Truly to Administer the said decedent Estate, and bring in an Inventory thereof into the Register General's Office at Philadelphia on or before the 19th day of March next and also render a true and Just Account when thereunto lawfully required.

Given under the Seal of the Said Office.

PET. EVANS, *Regr. Gen'l.*

ACCOUNT of Administration concerning the Estate of Gerhard Rüttenhausen, dec'd.

The nett proceeds from a public vendue of			
	L.	Sh.	D.
Sundry Amts. to,	18	4	1
Rent of the Mill received,	2	14	4
In Cash,	1	0	0
	21	18	5
<i>Deducted for</i>			
The Coffin and Sundry funeral expenses,	3	6	6
Writing Will and Inventory & appraising,	0	7	6
to Cryer & expenses at the vendue,	0	17	4
2 Evidences for to go to Town,	0	8	0
Expenses for 4 persons,	0	3	0
Peter Evans,	1	1	0
	6	3	4
<i>Debts paid</i>			
To Dirk Keyser,	0	18	10
" Daniel Pastorius,	0	5	0
" Henry Frederick,	0	1	0
" Wigham Müller,	0	2	0
" Jacob Caladae,	0	6	0
" Christopher Bastrain,	0	4	4
" Reinhart Vought,	0	4	3
" Bernhart Rosen,	0	6	0
	8	0	9
Money received and paid,	2	10	0
	10	10	9
Remains per Balance,	11	7	8

Phila., March, 1743-4.

JUSTICE RUBECOMB,
CHARLES RUBECOMB,
Executors.

A INVENTORY.

Of all and Singular the goods and chattels and Credits of Garred Rittinghausen of Cresham in German Township in the county of Philadelphia and Province of Pennsylvania deceased appraised by John Hammer Jr and William Rittinghausen the 25th of February 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Imprimis.

	L.	Sh.	D.
his purse and apparrell,	4	0	0
1 Bed & Bedding & 2 Bedsteads,	1	0	0
1 Chest,	0	7	0
5 Dutch Sickels, 1 Cuttingknife,	0	3	0
1 hand saw, 1 Adze, 4 Augurs, 1 Maul & wedge, 1 ploughshear, and Turningknife,	0	8	0
1 Hammer & Anvil, a dungfork, & dunghook, a Weed- ing hoe, a pair of Iron Hobbles, 2 old Sickles,	0	4	0
2 Leather Collars, & 2 pair of Hames. 3 Iron traces, 2 backbands, 1 Gridiron, 1 pan,	0	8	0
1 pair Iron Traces, 1 Grubbinghoe, 1 fauling ax, 1 Iron shovel, 2 pair of Shears,	0	7	0
7 yds Tow linen,	0	7	0
2 old Hogsheads, and 2 barrels,	0	5	0
1 pair pincers, 3 Iron Hoops,	0	1	0
2 bags,	0	2	0
2 Old Saddles, 1 Bridle,	0	8	0
1 Scythe, 2 old Cradies, 3 Earthern Jugs,	0	1	6
Seventeen Small Dutch Books,	0	3	0
1 Arm chair, 1 other chair,	0	3	0
2 Iron Potts, & 1 pot Trammel,	0	6	0
1 Cubboard & Doughtrough,	0	10	0
Traces & Swingletree,	0	10	0
2 Mares, 1 Cow,	7	0	0
4 Sheep,	0	15	0
Wheat & rice in the Barn Buckwheat in the house,	1	5	0
1 Cutting Box, 2 Riddles, 1 cuttingknife	0	2	0
3 Swarms of Bees,	0	10	0
to debts due on the Estate,	2	14	4
	22	2	4

JOHN HAMMER,
WILLIAM RITTINGHAUSEN,
Appraisers.

The above are correct copies from the original Inventories as I found them; they may be of interest.—AUTHOR.

GEN.

2 4 3 *Elizabeth Rittenhouse*², daughter of Willem, came to America with her father, Willem, and settled with her father's family at Germantown in 1688. She married Heivert (Howard) Papen about 1690, who came to America in 1685 at the age of about 30 years, and settled at Germantown. He died in 1708 and Elizabeth died between 1720-28. They had five children, all daughters.

The old stone house which stood at the corner of Germantown Avenue and Johnson Street was built by Heivert (Howard) Papen in 1698, and was torn down in 1885. Papen was a farmer and a Mennonite.

DEED OF HEIVERT PAPEN'S PLANTATION.

WHEREAS, Thomas Van Wylick and Thore le Brun, both of the Frankford Company by the 3rd Article of Indenture made with Heivert Papen, the 23rd of the first month of March 1685. Ordered amongst other things that there should be assigned hereunto the said Heivert Papen, 50 Acres of Land to work thereupon one day in every week, during the four years of his Service, And after they are faithfully finished, to pay for the Same the usual rent of this country. But in the aforesaid Indenture the sum of the yearly rent not being estimately expressed, and the word usual (being) ambiguous and of a divers Construction, the above-named Thomas Van Wylick, in a particular letter, under his own hand, dated the 1st of the 2nd Month April 1688, did refer this difference to impartial arbitrators, in pursuance whereof afterwards and 1689 the 3rd of the 6th Month August Francis Daniel Pastorius, the Attorney of the said Frankford Company in their name, and Heivert Papen in his own behalf have put and committed this questionable point to Hindry Masoy, Thon Hart, William Huossen, Hindry Bartlett, and Richard Helliard, five unsuspected men, laying the above said Indenture before them and binding both parties in the penalty of ten pounds to Stand unto their determination, which said five arbitrators, by their accord in writing judged that Heivert Papen shall pay yearly for the said 50 acres to the Frankford Company, or order the sum of two Shillings and one penny, lawful money, of Old England, or this country's money equivalent.

Know therefore all men, by these presents that I, Francis Daniel Pastorius, the attorney of the Said Frankford Company, out of the quantity

of land, which the Said Company bought of Wm. Penn, Proprietor and Governor of this Province Pennsylvania and took possession of a part, therefore do hereby assign and deliver here in Germantown 50 acres according to the dimension appointed by the Statute made in the 33rd year of King Edward the First, viz.—20½ Acres broad as all other lots, 14 perches and 4 foot, bounding at the Southeast to Cross Street and at the Northwest to Jacob Isaacs, and further 29½ Acres broad 1 perch and 6 foot, bounding at the South East to Jacob Telner and at the North West to the Said Jacob Isaacs, in the tract of Side land, where in for all other lots of the quarter, the remainder of their respective portions is laid out with all the right, title and interest, which the Said Frankford Company has thereupon unto the aforesaid Heivert Papen, so that his heirs Assigns and property may and quietly hold forever the said 50 acres, without any hindrance or disturbance of the Said Company their heirs or Assigns, as also that the said Heivert Papen, his heirs and all to whom from him the said 50 acres may come and derive, shall be obliged to pay unto the Said Frankford Company the heirs and Assigns, as an everlasting rent for the Same yearly, no more but two Shillings and one penny old English or this Country's money equivalent on the 1st day of the 6th month commonly called August, and that the first time Anno, 1690.

Whereunto the said Heivert Papen by these presents doth bind himself and his posterity, in confirmation and true performance of all the aforementioned agreements Francis Daniel Pastorius, Attorney of the Frankford Company in the name of them and their heirs and Heivert Papen in the behalf of himself and his heirs have set to this paper their hands and seals, in Germantown, ut infra.

Seald and delivered in the presence of us,

JACOB ISAACS,
JACOB SCHUMACHER,
JOHN LUYCKEN.

FRANCIS DANIEL PASTORIUS,
ABRAHAM OP DEN GRAEF,
HEIVERT PAPEN.

Gepasseert in Court of Record den 12. November, 1690, Gethan bey Arnold Kassel, Record.

ABRAHAM OP DEN GRAEF, *Burgess.*

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME.

Claus Jansen of Cresfield in the Germantown Township and County of Philadelphia, husbandman sendeth greetings.

WHEREAS the said Claus Jansen, by virtue of a Deed of Sale made and executed by Lenart Arrets bearing date the 4th day of October 1690, I acknowledge in Open Court of Records, held at Germantown the 16th day of February 1707-8 became lawfully seized in sixty-four acres of land

situate in Crefeld aforesaid betwixt the lands of Heivert Papen and Paul Koster, to have and to hold the said sixty-four acres with all the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Claus Jansen, his heirs, and assigns for ever And Whereas he, the said Claus Jansen became further lawfully seized in Fifty acres of land, likewise Situate in Crefeld aforesaid betwixt the lands of the said Claus Jansen and Richard Adams, by Virtue of a Deed of Sale made and executed by Paul Kastner dated the 6th day of October 1690, and acknowledged in open court of Record held at Germantown, the 16th day of February 1702-3, to hold the said fifty acres and appurtenances unto the said Claus Jansen his heirs and assigns forever.

Now know ye that the said Claus Jansen for and in consideration of Sixty-Seven Pounds current money of Pennsylvania, to him in hand, paid by Heivert Papen of the Township and County aforesaid husbandman ; the receipts whereof he the said Claus Jansen doth hereby acknowledge and thereof acquit exonerate and forever discharge the said Heivert Papen, his heirs executors administrators and assigns by these presents has given, granted, aliened, bargained, sold, enfeofed and by these presents clearly and absolutely confirmed to the said Heivert Papen, both tracts of land aforementioned, containing in all one hundred and fourteen acres of land, Situate, lying, and being as aforesaid, with all improvements and appurtenances in anywise thereunto belonging together with all the estate, right, Title, Interest, use, possession, property, Claim and demand, whatsoever of him, the said Claus Jansen, of, in and to the above bargained premises and also all deeds evidences and writings concerning the same, To have and to hold the said one hundred and fourteen acres of land with all and singular the improvements, appurtenances, profits and privileges thereof to him, the said Heivert Papen, his heirs and assigns, and to the only proper use and behoof of him, the said Heivert Papen, his heirs and assigns forever at and under the respective yearly rent of one English Silver Shilling or value thereof in coin current for one thousand acres of land proportionably to be paid for the above Sixty-four Acres to the chief Lord of the soil from the day of these presents and of two pieces of eight or twelve Shillings current Silver money of this Province, henceforth to become due and payable every year on the 1st day of March to the Frankford Company, their heirs and assigns for ever, for the above-mentioned fifty acres of land, and the said Claus Jansen doth covenant and promise for him, his heirs and assigns, that they, the said One hundred and fourteen acres of land and premises to him, the said Heivert Papen, his heirs and assigns, against him the said Claus Jansen and his heirs, and also against all others lawfully claiming or to claim by, from or under him, them or any of them, or by his, their, or any of their heirs. Their means privity consent, or procurement, Shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents, and that the said Claus Jansen has not done,

acted, nor Suffered any Act, matter or thing whatsoever whereby the above granted premises, or any part thereof can or may be by any manner of ways, lawfully impeached, charged or incumbered, And the said Claus Jansen doth hereby make and constitute Francis Daniel Pastorius his attorney to deliver these presents to the said Heivert Papen in Open Court according to Law.

In Witness whereof he hath hereunto set his hand and Seal the 9th day of the 1st month called March in the year of the Reiga of our Sovereign Lady Queen Anne over England, &c., A. D. 1702-3.

KLAUS JANSEN. [SEAL.]

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of Francis Daniel Pastorius.

This is
ANTHONY + GERKES,
the Mark.

JOHN SMITH, □ = □

Acknowledged in Open Court of Record held in Germantown the 8th day of the 6th Month August 1704 certified by me

FRANCIS DANIEL PASTORIUS, der. Cas. Germ. [SEAL.]

Recorded December 19th 1767.

When the Charter of Germantown was granted, May 31, 1691, Heivert Papen was chosen a member of the Committee, or Town Council.

In 1701 Heivert Papen declined to be Burgess of Germantown through conscientious scruples. He was a member of the Mennonite Church.

Heivert Papen owned town lots on the west side of Germantown Avenue in 1689; he also owned lots in 1714. It is said that he came from Mühlheim in the Palatinate in 1685.

He built for himself a dwelling house at the northwest corner of Main and Johnson (Jansen) Streets, Germantown, in 1698; a picture of it was drawn and engraved for the *Sunday Dispatch* expressly to illustrate Westcott's "History of Philadelphia," Vol. I, page 111. This History is in the old Philadelphia Library, and cannot be taken out, but permission was granted to have it copied. He was naturalized in the year 1691, under Thomas Lloyd, Deputy Governor, with

64 others. He was also one of the signers in the application for a charter to have Germantown organized into a borough, which charter was granted May 31, 1691, when Francis Daniel Pastorius was chosen Bailiff, or Burgess, and Heivert Papen as one of the Committeemen (Council), with power to hold court, to impose fines, and make ordinances.

The corporation was maintained until January 11, 1707, but always with considerable difficulty in getting offices filled. Says Löher: "They would do nothing but work and pray, and their mild consciences made them opposed to the swearing of oaths, and would not suffer them to use harsh weapons against trespassers, and Heivert Papen, in 1701, declined to be Burgess through conscientious scruples."

We also find in regard to the native place of our ancestor, Heivert Papen: By referring to a good map of the German Empire you will find a railroad running parallel with the river Ems, whose mouth is at the extreme southeastern coast of the North Sea, where it forms a bay. The first, or northernmost, station or town is Emden, the next is Leer, and the next is Papenburg! I found this in the Cyclopaedia of Universal History, Vol. 3, pages 1246-1247, by Ridpath.

The distance from Worms to the place from which the Rüttinghuysens came is about 150 miles, and from the latter place to Papenburg about 120 miles in a straight line.

Prof Seidensticker says that Heivert Papen was Recorder in Germantown in 1695. And as Heivert Papen married Elizabeth Rittenhouse soon after her arrival with her father, Willem, he no doubt became completely absorbed in the Mennonite Church, and his record was lost to posterity with that of all the other Mennonites. The records of the Mennonite Church at Germantown were loaned to a man for taking historical sketches and he moved away, forgetting to return them; in that manner they lost their records for the period of from 1708 to 1770.

One reason why the Mennonites and Quakers enjoyed such amicable relations was no doubt owing to the fact that

Wm. Penn's mother was a Dutch Mennonite* previous to her marriage; she was from Rotterdam.

Samuel W. Pennypacker says, "Another arrival of importance was that of William Rüttinghuysen (Rittenhouse), a Mennonite minister, who, with his two sons, Gerhard, Klaus (Nicholas), and a daughter, Elizabeth, who later married Heivert (Howard) Papen, came from Broich, in Holland."

The Mennonites were the most important among the German pioneers in North America, and among these Willem (William) Rüttinghuysen took a front rank. The name Rittenhouse became one of the best known in the country on account of his having established the first paper mill, and on account of David Rittenhouse the great astronomer, and as the Shimer family is as much a descendant of Elizabeth Rüttinghuysen (or her daughter Margaret) as of Jacob Shimer, it is proper to show as much interest in the latter as we do in the former.

WILL OF HEIVERT PAPEN.

Being weak in Body but through the Grace of God of a good understanding, and considering the uncertainties of our lives, I have thought it necessary to make known how I would have what Estate I leave behind disposed of and therefore make this my last Will and Testament.

Firstly, I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Elizabeth Papen the whole and full possession of all my Estate both movable and unmovable during the time of her life, if she does not Marry again.

2ndly If my wife, after my decease, Should change her State by *Marriage* I give unto her One-third part of all my movable Estate, and the other two-thirds with all my unmovable Estate to be divided amongst my children as I shall hereafter order, viz. —

* This is a statement of Dr. Shimer, whose ancestor, Jacob Scheimer, was married to a daughter of Heivert Papen. I cannot vouch for it, but it is quite probable, because it is a well-known fact that the wife of Penn was a Dutch lady from Rotterdam, and the Mennonites were numerous there at that time.—AUTHOR.

First, give unto my eldest daughter Styntia Papen Twenty five pounds, Current lawful Money of this Province over and above her equal share with her Sisters, and the remainder to be equally divided between my five daughters, Styntia, Mary, *Gaertrude*, Margaret, and Elizabeth Papen after my youngest Daughter Elizabeth shall become of age, according to Law.

3rdly If my dear wife Should not change her state by marriage but keep the full possession of all I have above given her, then After her decease, all to be divided amongst my five daughters as is above written.

4thly I choose my loving friend Claus Ruttinghuysen, Abraham Tennis and William Streeper, to be my Executors and to see this my last Will and Testament duly executed and performed. In confirmation of the *within* written, my last Will and Testament I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 30th day of January A. D. 1707-8.

HEIVERT PAPEN. [SEAL.]

Signed, Sealed, and delivered in the presence of (After the words Marriage, *Gaertruyd*, and *Within* were interlined).

DANIEL GEISLERING,
JOHANNES KOSTERS.
RICHARD VANDERWARF.

PHILADELPHIA 19th February 1707-8.

Then personally appeared Daniel Geislering, Johannes Kosters, and Richard Vanderwarf, the Witnesses, to the within and above written Will, and on their Solemn affirmation, according to Law, did declare that they Saw the above named Heivert Papen, Sign, Seal, publish and declare the within and above Writing to be his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of Sound mind, memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge.

Coram.

PETER EVANS,
Dept. Register.

Be it Remembered that the 19th February 1707-8, the last Will and Testament of Heivert Papen deceased (Quietus exit 20 October 1720) in due form of Law and probate, and Letters of Administration were granted to Claus Ruttinghuysen, Abraham Tennis, and William Streepers Executors within named, being first attested well and to bring an Inventory of decedent's estate into the Register's Office of Phila. on or before the 19th day of March next and also to render a just and true account thereof when required.

Given under the Seal of
the Said Office

PETER EVANS, *Deputy Register.*

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of Heivert Papen deceased.
The 31st day of the 12th month January 1707-8.

	L.	Sh.	D.
In Cash,	4	4	6
A Penal Bond for 50 acres of Land in Germantown,	60	0	0
his wearing clothes worth,	0	18	0
two Featherbeds,	5	10	0
two Blankets,	1	0	0
Pewter or Tin ware,	1	10	0
Four kettles,	3	0	0
Two Small kettles and Iron pots,	1	8	0
a Morter and pestle,	0	12	0
a pot hanger bussif and Box Iron,	1	1	0
two ploughs with plough Irons,	4	0	0
a Harrow and old Iron tools.	2	0	0
half a hide of white Leather,	0	5	0
a Grind Stone and Iron thereunto belonging,	0	12	0
two Sieves one hame & Saddle,	1	2	0
a Collar, Tub, and Barrel,	0	8	0
one hatchet,	0	4	0
thirty bushels of wheat,	7	10	0
twenty bushels of rye,	4	0	0
twenty bushels of oats,	2	0	0
In horses and horned Cattle,	27	0	0
a Sow and pigs,	2	10	0
three Sheep,	2	15	0
one fat hog,	1	0	0
In Books,	4	0	0
a Straw box to cut straw in,	1	4	0
in flax and Small things,	3	4	0
	142	17	6

THOMAS RUTTERS,
JOHANNES KOSTERS.

Certificate on file in Register's Office, Philadelphia:—

These are to certifie all persons whom it may concern that we the here-
under written heirs of Heivert Papen have made up the accounts with
Claus Rüttinghuysen and Abraham Tunes the Executors of our father's
last will & Testament this Seventeenth day of March One thousand Seven
hundred and Nineteen & Twenty. They having Dispersed by their accounts,
one hundred ninety nine pounds nineteen Schillings and four pence to the
bringing of us up & repairing of houses & fences, as also paid unto us in

Bonds and Bills the sum of One hundred and four pounds and fifteen Schillings. The receipts whereof we do hereby acknowledge and own ourselves satisfied therewith. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands the day and year above written.

his
GERHARD + BROWNBACH
mark

JAN JANSEN
her

GERTRUDE + PAPEN
mark

her
MARGARET + PAPEN
mark

Witness present :—

JAN GORGAS
SAM PASTORIUS.

DEED.

JACOB SHERMER, *et al. et al.*
To JOHN ASHMEAD, F. 6, 398.

THIS INDENTURE made the fifth day of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Eight Between Jacob Shimer of Bebbers Township in the County of Philadelphia, Yeoman, and Margaret his wife and Gerhard Brownbach (Brumbach) of Vincent Township in the county of Chester, Yeoman, and Mary his wife, and Christian or Styntia Papen of the Same Township, Spinster, they, the said Margaret, Mary, and Christian, being the children of Heivert Papen, late of Germantown in the Said County, Yeoman, of the one part and John Ashmead, of Germantown Blacksmith, of the other part.

Whereas the Said Heivert Papen by force and Virtue of Some good Conveyance, or assurance in Law duly had and executed, came in his life time lawfully Seized in his Demesne as of Fee, of and in a certain Plantation, or Tract of Land, Situate in the Township of Germantown, Aforesaid Beginning at a Corner Black Oak Sapling by Wm. Streapers land, thence extending by the same Southwest One hundred and One perches and a half, to another corner Black Oak Sapling ; thence North-west by Richard Brimley's land, two hundred and forty three perches to a corner post ; thence North-east by William Dewees' land, One hundred one perches and a half to another corner post ; thence South-east partly by Hans. Shuly's and partly by John Lane's land, two hundred and forty three perches to ye place of the Beginning by Computation One hundred and fifty four acres, together with the appurtenances.

And he, the said Heivert Papen, being so thereof seized, did make his last will and Testament in writing, bearing date the 30th day of January Anno Domini One thousand seven hundred and Eight and thereby devised the said described tract of land unto his wife Elizabeth during her widowhood, and the remainder over to be divided Amongst his five daughters, Styntie, Mary, Gertrude, Margaret and Elizabeth in Fee, and died, so Seized thereof, and the said Elizabeth, the mother, is since deceased, and the said Elizabeth the daughter is also departed, this life, and the said Gertrude etc. Katharine is intermarried with Benjamin Howell.

Now this Indenture witnesseth that the said Jacob Scheimer and Margaret his wife, Gerhard Brownbach (Brumbach) and Mary his wife, and Christiana Papen, for and in consideration of the Sum of fifty Six pounds lawful money of Pounsylvania to them well and truly paid by the said John Ashmead the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge, have granted bargained Sold enfeofed and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain, sell, enfeof and confirm unto the said John Ashmead and to his heirs and Assigns, a certain piece or tract of Land, part of the first described tract Beginning at a Black Oak Sapling, thence by Richard Brimley's land North-west, One hundred ninety four and a half perches to a Corner-post thence North-east by other of the great tract afore-said (101½) one hundred one and a half perches to Hans Shelley's line; thence by the lands of the said Shelley and lane respectively South-east, one hundred Ninety four perches and a half to the place of beginning containing 123 acres.

And all and every the part and parts, purpart and purparts, whatsoever of them and each of them the said Jacob Scheimer and Margaret his wife Gerhard Brownbach and Mary his wife, and Christiana Papen of, in and to the said first described whole tract.

Together also with all and Singular the buildings, improvements and appurtenances, whatsoever unto the said 123 acres of land parts and purparts hereby granted and belonging or in anywise appertaining.

And the reversions and remainders, rents, issues and profits of the hereby Granted premiums.

To have and to hold the said last described piece or parcel of land and all and Singular other the parts and purparts hereditaments and premises hereby Granted or mentioned to be Granted with the appurtenances unto the said John Ashmead his heirs and Assigns, to the only use and behoof of him the said John Ashmead his heirs and Assigns forever under the proportionable part of all.

Part of all and Singular the quitrents and reservations accruing for the hereby Granted premises to the Chief Lord of Lords of the Fee thereof.

In Witness whereof the said parties to these presents have interchange-

ably set their hand and seal hereunto, dated the day and year first above written.

JACOB SCHEIMER, [SEAL.]
 MARGARET SHIMER, [SEAL.]
 GERHARD BROWNBACH, [SEAL.]
 MARY BROWNBACH, [SEAL.]
 CHRISTIANA PAPEN, [SEAL.]

Rec'd the day &c

We say received of us, &c (Signatures)

Witness present at signing :

DEBRICK JANSEN,
 JNO. JOHNSON.

Memorandum. The first day of October A. D. 1728 Before me Dirk Jansen one of the Justices of the Peace for the City and County of Philadelphia came the within named Jacob Scheimer &c and brought this (writing) Indenture which they respectively acknowledge to be their Deed and desired that the same may be recorded as their Deed according to an Act of Assembly of this Province in that behalf made and the said Margaret and Mary being of full age, and secretly and apart examined and the contents to them distinctly read they willingly consented.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year above mentioned.

DIRK JANSEN. [SEAL.]

Recorded ye 29th day of March A. D. 1734 In Book F., No. 6, page 398.

OLD RECEIPTS.

Ich unterschriebener bekenne empfangen zü haben von heivert Papen die summe von fünfzig Pd alt-English als Per Erbschaft von dem Jahr 94, und 95 vor die 50 acker die er von der Frankfurth companie aüf Ewige Erbgüft in Germantown besitzt

Germantown den 8^{ten} 2^{ten} Monats 1695.

FRANTZ DANTEL PASTORIUS.

Empfangen von heivert Papen 25 P^d alt-English als den bezahlt vor die 50 acker die er in Germantown, von die Frankfurth compagne hat vor das Jahr 1693 auf den 1^{sten} August.

FRANZ DANTEL PASTORIUS.

CHILDREN OF NO. 2.

NICHOLAS (OR CLAUS) RITTENHOUSE², SON OF
WILLEM¹.GEN.
3

5

1

William Rittenhouse, son of Claus, or Nicholas, Rittenhouse, was born in 1691, in Roxborough Township, County of Philadelphia.

His father, Nicholas, made the following provision in his Will: "I give, Devise &

Bequeath to my Eldest son William Rittinghausen all & singular that piece or parcel of Land situate in the said Roxborough Township and joining North-Easterly to German Town line, containing Twenty Acres of Land (which I purchased of Samuel Carpenter) Together with the papermill, Buildings, & Appurtenances thereunto belonging, and also that piece or parcel of Land situate in the said Roxborough Township, containing fifty acres of Land." By the above is plainly shown that William Rittenhouse was the owner of the paper mill after the death of his father, Nicholas, or Claus, Rittenhouse. On August 4, 1741, William Rittenhouse bought 90 acres of land of John Bishop Vickers, also situate in Roxborough Township, County of Philadelphia, which is acknowledged and recorded at Philadelphia in Book H., Vol. 17, page 405.

He died intestate, leaving ten surviving children, viz.: Nicholas, William, Jacob, Abraham, Isaac, John, Mary, Susanna, Margaret, Barbara, to whom the said real estate did descend. He died at the paper mills, near Germantown.

3

6

2

Henry Rittenhouse, son of Claus, or Nicholas, was born April 1, 1700, in Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County, and married Susanna Wool, August 27, 1720. She was born 1698, and died 1776. He moved to the Township of Worcester, now Montgomery County,





MATHATCHON MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE, MONTGOMERY CO., PA.

Pennsylvania, in about 1727. On October 6, 1739, he granted to Peter Keyser et al., trustees, "two lots of Ground in Worcester Township Phila., now Montgomery County Pa. for the Mennonite Society, for a place of worship and burying ground, to bury their dead, and also for a School-house to teach the children, of the said Mennonites, and others (without exception) living in the neighborhood at a convenient and reasonable distance from the same; an English school to be first taught in the said house for Six Month, and then a Dutch (German) school for two years; Then an English School for two years, and so on in rotation for ever, unless the trustees shall judge it for the good of the neighborhood to order otherwise in future time." A deed of confirmation, after the erection of "the meetinghouse" to the said Peter Keyser and George Baker, son of a former trustee, et al. April 8, 1771, recites that as "three of the former trustees were not of the Mennonite persuasion, yet it is nevertheless agreed that their posterity may, from time to time, bring any godly Protestant minister into the meetinghouse to preach at burials or other times, so as not to interfere with the meeting days of the Mennonites." Recorded in Deed Book I, Vol. 13, page 119, at Philadelphia. He was a Mennonite and a member of the above-named congregation.

WILL OF HENRY RITTENHOUSE.

In the name of God Amen. I Henry Rittenhouse of the Township of Worcester in the County of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, am weak in Body but of Sound mind understanding and memory thanks be to God, do this thirteenth day of October in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following.

First. I recommend my Soul in the hands of my Creator and my Body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my hereunto named Executors, and as for my worldly goods and effects wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I give and dispose of the same in manner following. First, I Will that all my just debts and funeral charges

be duly Satisfied and paid out of my whole estate by my hereunto named Executors. Item, it is my will and do give to my beloved Wife Susanna all and Singular the Goods and effects which she brought to me at the time I married her, and I likewise give to her the yearly interest of One hundred and twenty pounds at five per cent. per hundred pounds which being Six pounds per annum the said Interest to begin Immediately at the time of my decease, and to be paid yearly to her during the time she remains my widow, but no longer, the first payment thereof to begin within one year after my decease. Item, I also give unto her of my house hold goods such things as she chooseth and thinks necessary for her housekeeping all which aforesaid I give unto my said wife Susanna in full of her Share and Dower of my whole estate. Item, I give and devise to my Daughter Wilhelmina now wife of Dielman Kolb, my Bedstead and Beddings thereunto belonging with Single Mountings and Curtains, that is to say under and upper feather bed with two Sheets and pillows as usual. Item it is my will and further order that all the remaining part of my personal Estate shall be equally divided amongst my herenamed four children, named Wilhelmina aforesaid my sons Nicholas, Henry, and William, to each of them a like share, they may either sell my goods at Public Sale or divide it amongst them as they like best, the one hundred and twenty pounds above said are excepted hereby for the use above said, and afterwards if my said wife should marry again, or die without getting married then I give the said One hundred and twenty pounds to all my five children, Wilhelmina, Nicholas, Henry, William and Matthias to each of them a like Share and as for my Said Son Matthias who already hath had his share in and with the Plantation I sold him, I give him yet my biggest Copper Still with what belongs thereunto yet, and the little Still, I gat, shall go Amongst the division of my aforesaid four children and lastly I constitute and appoint my Said Son Nicholas and my son in law Dielman Kolb, to be my whole and Solè Exccutor of this my last Will and Testament Revoking and disannulling hereby all former wills and bequests by me heretofore made, Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I the said Henry Rittenhouse have hereunto set my own hand and Seal the day and year above said.

HENRY RITTENHOUSE. [SEAL.]

Signed Sealed published and declared by the said Henry Rittenhouse as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers,

MELCHIOR WAGENER,
WILLIAM ZIMMERMAN.

Phila Nov 5, 1776, personally appeared Melchior Wagener and William Zimmerman the Witnesses to the foregoing will and on their Solemn Confirmation according to law did declare that they saw and heard Henry Rit-

tenhouse the testator therein named, Sign, Seal, publish and declare the same, will for and as his last Will and Testament and that at the execution thereof he was of Sound disposing mind, memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge and belief

Coram BENJAMIN CHEW, *Reg Genl.*

Be it remembered that on the 5th day of November 1776 the last Will and Testament of Henry Rittenhouse deceased, in due form of law was proven and probate and letters Testamentary were granted to Nicholas one of the Executors in the said will named he having first been solemnly affirmed well and truly to Administer the said deceased estate, and bring an Inventory thereof into the Register Generals office at Philadelphia on or before the 5th day of December next and render a true and Just Amount of the said Administration on or before the 5th day of November 1777.

BENJAMIN CHEW, *Register General.*

We find the above will recorded in Book Q, No. 349, page 235, at Philadelphia.

GEN.

3 7 4 *Matthias Rittenhouse*, born 1702. Married Elizabeth Williams, daughter of Evan and Dorothy Williams, of Wales, in 1727. He was the father of David Rittenhouse, the great American astronomer. He was born at the paper mills belonging to his family near Germantown. Having abandoned the occupation of paper-making, when about twenty-nine years of age, and two years after his father's death, he then commenced the business of a farmer on a piece of land he had purchased in the township of Norriton, about twenty miles from the city of Philadelphia, about the year 1734. Matthias Rittenhouse had four sons and six daughters, four of whom died in their minority. The three eldest of the children were born at the place of their father's nativity, the others at Norriton. Of the former number was David. He was born on the 8th day of April, 1732. In later years Matthias left his farm in Norriton and moved to Worcester Township in (now) Montgomery county, Pa. We find his will recorded in

Book Q, No. 349, page 235, at Philadelphia. It was probated in 1779.

William Barton says of Matthias Rittenhouse, the father of David, the following: "Mr. Rittenhouse's father was a very respectable man; he possessed a good understanding, united to a most benevolent heart and great simplicity of manners. The writer long knew him; and, from his early acquaintance with the character, the appearance, and the habits of this worthy sire of an illustrious son, he had long supposed him to have been inclined to the religious principles of the Society called Friends, although he had been bred a Baptist (as the Mennonites were then sometimes called, and sometimes Anabaptists). But a circumstance which shall be noticed hereafter will evince the liberality of this good man's opinions in the all-important concern of religion. Yet, with truly estimable qualities, both of the head and heart, old Mr. Rittenhouse did not, probably, duly appreciate the early specimens of that talent which appeared so conspicuous in his son David. Hence he was for some time opposed to the young man's earnest desire to renounce agricultural employments for the purpose of devoting himself altogether to philosophical pursuits, in connection with some such mechanical profession as might best comport with useful objects of natural philosophy, and be most likely, at the same time, to afford him the means of a comfortable subsistence. At length, however, the father yielded his own inclinations in order to gratify what was manifestly the irresistible impulse of his son's genius. He supplied him with money to purchase, in Philadelphia, such tools as were more immediately necessary for commencing the clock-making business, which the son then adopted as his profession."

Will of Matthias Rittenhouse:—

Be it remembered that I Matthias Rittenhouse of the Township of Worcester in the county of Philadelphia and province of Pennsylvania Yeoman being through divine Favor, in my usual health and of sound

disposing mind and memory, Calling to mind the mortality of my Body and that it is appointed for all men once to die, do think fit this thirteenth day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy, to make and ordain this my last will and Testament which I do in the following Manner and form, Imprimis, 1st It is my will and I do ordain that all my Just debts and funeral Expenses shall be duly paid and discharged out of my Estate by my Executrix and Executor, hereinafter named. 2ndly I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth my best Bed with all its Furniture, our Case of Drawers, and I do order that all the Rest and Residue of my movables such as household goods Implements of Husbandry and Livestock shall be sold and the Monies arising by such Sale (a Sufficiency to discharge my just debts and funeral charges being first deducted), I do order to be paid out on Interest, which said interest I do give to my said wife during her Natural life to be to her own proper use and disposal. 3dly whereas I have already given to my son David Rittenhouse as much as my circumstances would admit without wronging my other children I therefore give and bequeath to my said son David the sum of twenty Shillings lawful money of Pennsylvania and no more. 4thly, I give and devise to my son Benjamin Rittenhouse all my lands and Tenements together with all and Singular the Buildings Improvements Hereditaments and Apps. to the only use behoof of him my said son Benjamin his heirs and Assigns, for ever. Ordering and directing my said son Benjamin to pay thereout to my beloved wife Elizabeth, the Sum of five pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania yearly, and every year during the term of her Natural life, and to my daughter Eleanor Evans, the sum of ten pounds of like money, and to my daughter Mary Morgau, the sum of twenty pounds of like money at the expiration of one year next after my decease, except my said wife Shall Survive me, and in that case at the expiration of one year after her decease. And also the sum of thirty Shillings of like money to my daughter Margaret Morgan, yearly and every year for and during the term of Seven years from my decease, or the decease of my said wife, or the longest liver of us. And to defray half the Expenses of a convenient Lodging Room, for my said wife with a Sufficiency of firewood, cut and delivered at her door during her Natural life. 5thly, I give and bequeath to my said wife the sum of five pounds of like money yearly and every year, during her Natural life and also as much more as will defray one-half the Expenses of finding a Convenient lodging room for her with a Sufficiency of firewood cut and delivered at her door during her Natural life to be paid to her by my son David Rittenhouse. 6thly, I give and bequeath to my daughter Esther Barton the sum of twenty pounds lawful Money of Pennsylvania to be paid to her by my son David at the expiration of one year next after my decease, except my said wife shall survive me and in that case at the expiration of one year next after

her decease. 7thly, I give and bequeath to my daughter Eleanor Evans the sum of ten pounds of like money to be paid to her by my Son David at the expiration of one year next after my decease except my said wife Survive me, and in that case at the expiration of one year after her decease. 8thly, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret Morgan the sum of thirty Shillings yearly and every year for and during the term of seven years next after my decease except my said wife shall survive me and in that case during the term of seven years from her decease to be paid to her by my son David. All which said several sums of money hereby directed to be paid by my son David, he, my said son David hath covenanted to pay as by a certain Instrument of writing under his hand and Seal may fully appear. 9thly And if it shall happen that my said wife through sickness or great bodily weakness or otherwise shall have occasion for any part of the money (hereby directed to be placed out on interest) for her support, I do order so much thereof to be applied to that use as shall be necessary and if at my said wife's decease any of the said principal money shall remain unexpended, it is my will that the same be equally divided amongst all my daughters that shall be then living. 10thly And lastly I do hereby nominate Constitute appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth and my son David Executrix and Executor of this my last will and Testament. And I do hereby utterly disallow revoke disannull all and every other former wills, Testament Legacies and Executors by me in any wise before this time named willed or bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other, to be my last will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year first above written.

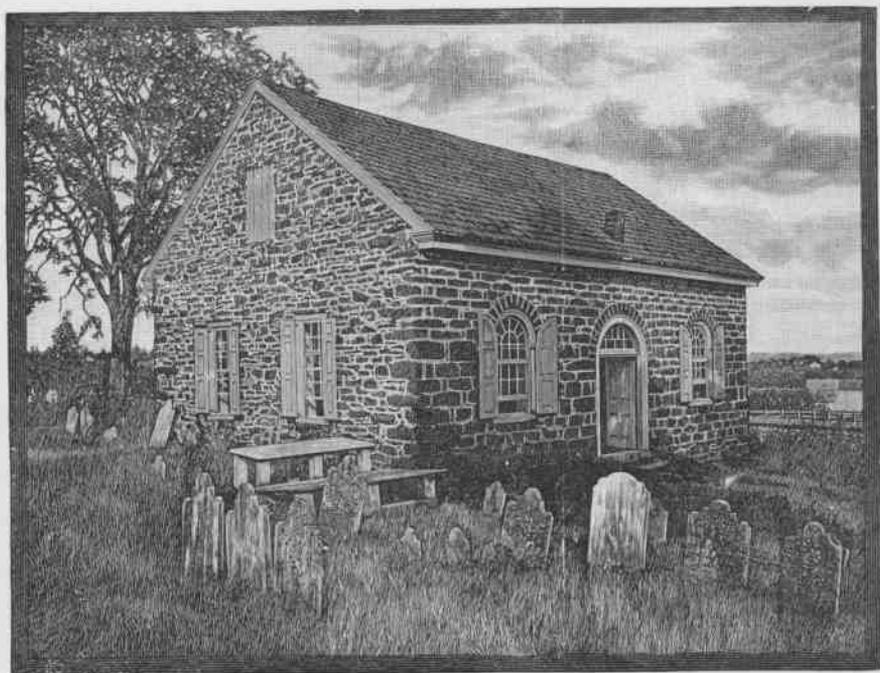
MATTHIAS RITTENHOUSE [ss]

Signed Sealed published pronounced and declared by the said Matthias Rittenhouse for and as his last will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers

ISRAEL JACOB,
ARNOLD ZIMMERMAN,
EPHRAIM ARMSTRONG.

Philadelphia, Nov. 27, 1779, Personally appeared Arnold Zimmerman and Ephraim Armstrong two of the witnesses to the foregoing will, and the said Arnold Zimmerman on his Solemn Affirmation according to Law, and the said Ephraim Armstrong on Oath did declare that they saw and heard Matthias Rittenhouse the Testator therein named, sign, seal, publish and declare the same for and as his last will and Testament, and that the doing thereof he was of Sound disposing Mind Memory and Understanding to the best of their Knowledge and belief.

Coram, SAMUEL MORRIS, *Register.*



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AT NORRITON.

Memo., that on the 27th of Nov. 1779, the last Will and Testament of Matthis Rittenhouse deceased was proved in due form of Law and probate and Letters Testamentary thereof Granted to David Rittenhouse Executor therein named He having first been duly affirmed according to Law well and Truly to Administer the said decedent's Estate, and bring an Inventory thereof into the Register's Office at Philadelphia on or before the 27th of December next ensuing and to render a true and Just account of the said Adms. on or before the 27th of November 1780.

Given under the seal of the Registri's office at Philadelphia.

P. SAMUEL MORRIS, *Regist.*

THE NORRITON CHURCH.

The old Presbyterian Church and Deed. Matthias Rittenhausen and Elizabeth, his Wife, the Parents of the Renowned Astronomer, David Rittenhouse, Convey the Property in March, 1737.

BY DR. COLLINS.

(*National Defender.*)

Located on the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike, near the twenty-mile stone, and about five miles north of Norristown, is to be found the plain stone building long known as the Norriton Presbyterian Church. The ancient graveyard attached occupies about one-fourth of an acre of ground, the stones giving evidence that the place was used for worship as early as 1700, if not prior to that date.

Many of the older tombstones, as Dr. Collins certifies from memory (having seen them in 1835-40), are now not to be found. But the reliable, though traditional, items of history which he obtained after diligent search during the years named fully warrant the statements here made.

As a result of investigations made by Rev. Dr. Collins, he is persuaded that the old Norriton Church is the mother of all Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania. The facts and circumstances comprise the substance of three historical discourses, delivered by him in the Centennial Church, 1876, which will be given to the Presbyterian Historical Society and probably issued in print.

During the Revolution this old church was used by the soldiers for quarters, and later, in 1777, as a hospital. It is known that General Washington, when tarrying at the Inn located on the Skippack Road, in October, 1778, visited the church.

In consequence of the damages that the church suffered during the war, the Assembly passed an Act in 1785, on the 17th of September, allowing a lottery to raise money to pay for the repairs to the church.

The old church property adjoined, and was once part of the Matthias Rittenhouse farm. He purchased the place in 1734,* and evidently found the place of worship already located there, and conveyed the property three years later, although himself a worthy member of the Mennonite denomination. David Rittenhouse was at that time but two years old, having been born in 1732, in Germantown. In 1764 Matthias conveyed to his son David this same farm.

Rev. Dr. Collins remembers seeing the foundation walls, and what was left of the Astronomical Observatory, built by David Rittenhouse, located near the old dwelling on the farm in question. Here, as is well known, Benjamin Franklin was frequently a visitor and distinguished guest.

The oldest histories of Pennsylvania extant, as well as "Watson's Annals," briefly refer to this ancient church and cemetery.

The following is an extract from the deed. It is dated March, 1737, and recited that this property is a part of 7,482 acres of land, coming from William Penn, Proprietor and Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania; made to John Penn, Jr., which the latter sold to Isaac Norris and William Trent. Subsequently Isaac Norris became the owner and conveyed about 100 acres to Matthias Rittenhouse in 1734.

The contract is made between Matthias Rittenhausen and Elizabeth his wife, of the township of Norrington, county of

*Date of Deed 1731-2.

Philadelphia, and "ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid; conveying 72 poles of land" (giving boundaries) "for a meeting-house and graveyard, for ye use of ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid," adding:—

"Now this indenture witnesseth by ye said Matthias Rittenhausen and Elizabeth his wife, for and in consideration of one silver half crown current money of England to them in hand paid, by ye said Presbyterian Profession, that they do hereby convey and confirm, etc., etc."

Rev. Dr. Thomas Murphy, in his excellent work called "The Presbytery of the Log College," published by the Presbyterian Board about three years ago, says:—

"It is certain that in Norriton we have the very first trace of a Presbyterian enterprise within our bounds. A trustworthy tradition affirms that a plot of ground was purchased for a graveyard, forerunner of a church, in the year 1678, no less than twenty-seven years before the founding of the Presbytery. It also appears that a Welshman, named David Evans, was preaching in that region before 1705.

"It comes to light with certainty that in 1714 there was stated preaching in this church by the Rev. Malachi Jones, who at that time became the pastor of Abington. He must, therefore, while pastor of the latter church, have also supplied that of Norriton.

"The church of Providence (or Lower Providence, as it was then named) was founded sixteen years afterward, in 1730; and the strange plan was adopted of holding services in Norriton during the winter season, and in Providence during the summer."

Unfortunately, the written records of the old Norriton church have been long lost; but Dr. Collins, accepting the above statement, regards it as conclusive evidence that the Norriton church had been maintained as a place of worship, for at least thirty or forty years, before the founding of the Providence church.



The first building was doubtless of logs, and established by Hollanders or Reformed Dutch; still, they were essentially Presbyterian.

Among the distinguished men who preached at Norriton were Rev. Paulus Van Fleck, Rev. Malachi Jones, Rev. David Evans, Rev. Wm. Tennent, Sr., Rev. John Rowland, Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, and Rev. George Whitefield.—*Weekly News, January 4, 1893.*

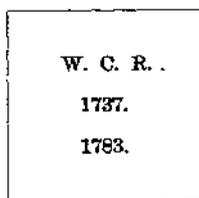
GEN.

- 3 8 4 *Psyche Rittenhouse* intermarried with John Gorgas, from whom are descended the Gorgases of Cresham and Cocolico. Their children were John, Benjamin, Susanna, Jacob, Joseph, and Mary. John Gorgas was a Mennonite minister at Germantown, and is buried there. He also attended the first Mennonite Conference in America in 1727, and subscribed to its proceedings.
- 3 9 5 *Mary Rittenhouse* intermarried with John Johnson, the father of Casper, John, Nicholas, William, and Benjamin Johnson, some of whom are now (or were lately) in the neighborhood of Germantown.
- 3 10 6 *Catharine Rittenhouse* intermarried with Jacob Engel, brother to Paul Engel, of Germantown.
- 3 11 7 *Susanna Rittenhouse*, b. 1698, d. Dec. 13, 1769, intermarried with Henry Heilig, of Goshoppen. He died May 14, 1775, and is buried at Worcester Mennonite Church.

CHILDREN OF NUMBER 3.

GARRET RITTENHOUSE² OF WILLEM.¹

3 12 1 *William Rittenhouse* the oldest son of Gerret was born at Creesham in Germantown, county of Philadelphia, Pa., in the year 1695. Was married and had five children, viz., Garret, Abraham, Jacob, William, and Henry. It appears his wife died in about 1728. His father, Garret, says in his will, dated February 7, 1742. "I give and bequeath unto my eldest son William Rittinghausen all that my land situate in the said Creesham which lies on the North East side of the Highway leading from Germantown to North Wales, to hold to him, his Heirs and Assigns for ever. Further he states that Peter Rittinghausen shall pay to his brother William the sum of fifty pounds, in parts of twelve pounds, ten shillings yearly for four years, after his (Garret's) decease. It further appears that he went to New Jersey in about 1730, and married Catharine Howell, and bought about 1000 acres of land in 1734, and built a house at the hill above Prallsville, New Jersey. The property is now owned by Daniel L. Hoppock (Rosemont P. O., N. J.). The tablet on the house is



14 × 14 in.

signifying William and Catharine Rittenhouse, built in 1737, and rebuilt 1783, by Joseph Rittenhouse of the fifth generation, who was a son of Isaac,⁴ fourth generation, who was a son of William B. Rittenhouse,³ third generation and son of

Garret,² who was a son of William¹ the first. Joseph and his grandfather, William, are both buried at Prallsville, on Morice Wolverson's farm, an old family graveyard. William died in the year 1767 and had the following children in New Jersey by second marriage,—Isaac, Lott, Peter, William, Moses, Hannah, and Sarah.—*Hunterdon County Historical Society.*

But it appears there was a genealogical account of the family in the possession of William Barton, in which it was stated that Garret and Nicholas arrived at New York, from Holland, so late as the year 1690. It likewise states that Nicholas there married Wilhelmina Dewees, a sister of William Dewees, who came thither about the same time, from whence they removed soon afterward into Pennsylvania. Further he says Garret left children, some of whose descendants are resident in Pennsylvania and others in New Jersey, which without a doubt must have been William, the oldest son of Garret, and his descendants.—*Memoirs of David Rittenhouse.*

FURTHER ACCOUNTS OF WILLIAM RITTENHOUSE.

A Genealogical and Historical Account of the Rittenhouse Family.

Among the earliest settlers of Hunterdon county, New Jersey, we may place William Rittenhouse, who it is presumed came from Pennsylvania about the year 1730, and was a son of Garret Rittenhouse, as Barton says in his memoirs of David Rittenhouse, speaking of Garret Rittenhouse, that "Some of his family resided in Pennsylvania, and some in New Jersey." And it is a well-known fact that Garret had only two children; the eldest was William, the younger was Peter. The record of the family of Peter we have in Pennsylvania. The elder, William, does not appear on any records in Pennsylvania since his father's will (as far as known), so it is presumable that this is the William

Rittenhouse who settled in Hunterdon county about the year 1730.

Old deeds in possession of J. W. Lequear, of New Jersey, say that Anthony Elton, of Burlington county, by his will, dated November 11, 1702, bequeathed to his son, Revel Elton, 800 acres of land lying east of Rosemont. On February 27, 1718, he sold this to Ralph Buck, of the county of Burlington, Millwright. Also that William Biles, of Bucks county, Pa., March 30, 1709, sold 200 acres to Edward Kemp, of Bucks county, and on September 22, 1710, he sold this to Ralph Buck, who by his deed, bearing date November 18 and 19, 1734, sold this 800 acres and the 200 acres to William Rittinghuysen. The purchasers of these lands had privileges somewhat similar to soldiers' claims; they had the privilege of locating and taking up that number of acres anywhere in the western division of the Province of New Jersey, where purchased of the Indians, but not before lawfully surveyed. This 1000 acres was therefore surveyed and taken up east of Rosemont. By old writings we find that William Rittinghuysen was in this neighborhood several years previous to this, and from him sprang all the families of Rittenhouse, as the name is now known in Hunterdon county. Three years after the purchase of this land tract, William Rittenhouse, the first in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, built a stone dwelling house on the farm which is now owned by James Deens, southeast of Rosemont. This was one of the first stone dwellings erected in this part of the country; it was torn down a few years ago by Mr. Deens. In the gable end of this house was a tablet or stone with the initials W. C. R., 1737, cut in it; to preserve this stone Mr. Deens had it placed in a conspicuous position, or place, in the bridge wall of his new barn. Said tract of land was bounded partly by what was called the great road on one side, and on the other side by the King's Highway, leading from Stockton north through Baptistown. In 1745 Derick Hoagland, who owned where William Harper now lives,

and William Rittenhouse made an exchange of land in order to make a straight line between them as it is at present, up to the elbow in the road. In the year 1742 William Rittenhouse sold 500 acres of this tract to Richard Green, of Morris county. This deed, signed by William Rittinghuyzen, is in the possession of J. W. Lequear, a prominent surveyor and conveyancer in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, and a descendant of the Rittenhouses in that State, the deed bearing the autograph of the first of the name settling in Hunterdon county, New Jersey. His wife is said to have been Catharine Howell. He was born about 1696, died about 1767, and is buried at Prallsville on Morice Wolverson's farm, an old family graveyard, and his wife is also buried there.—*Manuscript in the Hunterdon County Historical Society in New Jersey, by J. W. Lequear, Surveyor and Conveyancer, and connected with the Rittenhouse family.*

GEN.

3 13 2 *Peter Rittenhouse* was born 1696 and died 1748. Married Ann ———. He was the son of Garret Rittenhouse, who stated in his will the following: "I give and bequeath and devise to my youngest son Peter Rittinghausen and Ann his wife, All that my Plantation whereon I now dwell, Situate in the said Creesham and Lying between the Lands of Matthias Walsam and John Hammer, and is in length from the highway that leads from Germantown to North Wales till to the line of Roxborough Township, &c., also, I give and bequeath to my youngest Son Peter Rittinghausen and Ann his wife all that my grist mill and the land thereto." He died in 1748, and had the following named children: Mary, Barbara, Susanna, Garret, Margaret, Jacob. He lived on Germantown Road, west side, near Mt. Airy, a miller by trade. After the death of Peter and his wife Ann, all his property and the mill shall descend to his children, according to the provisions of the will of his father, Garret.

CHILDREN OF No. 4.

ELIZABETH RITTENHOUSE² (PAPEN) OF WILLEM.¹

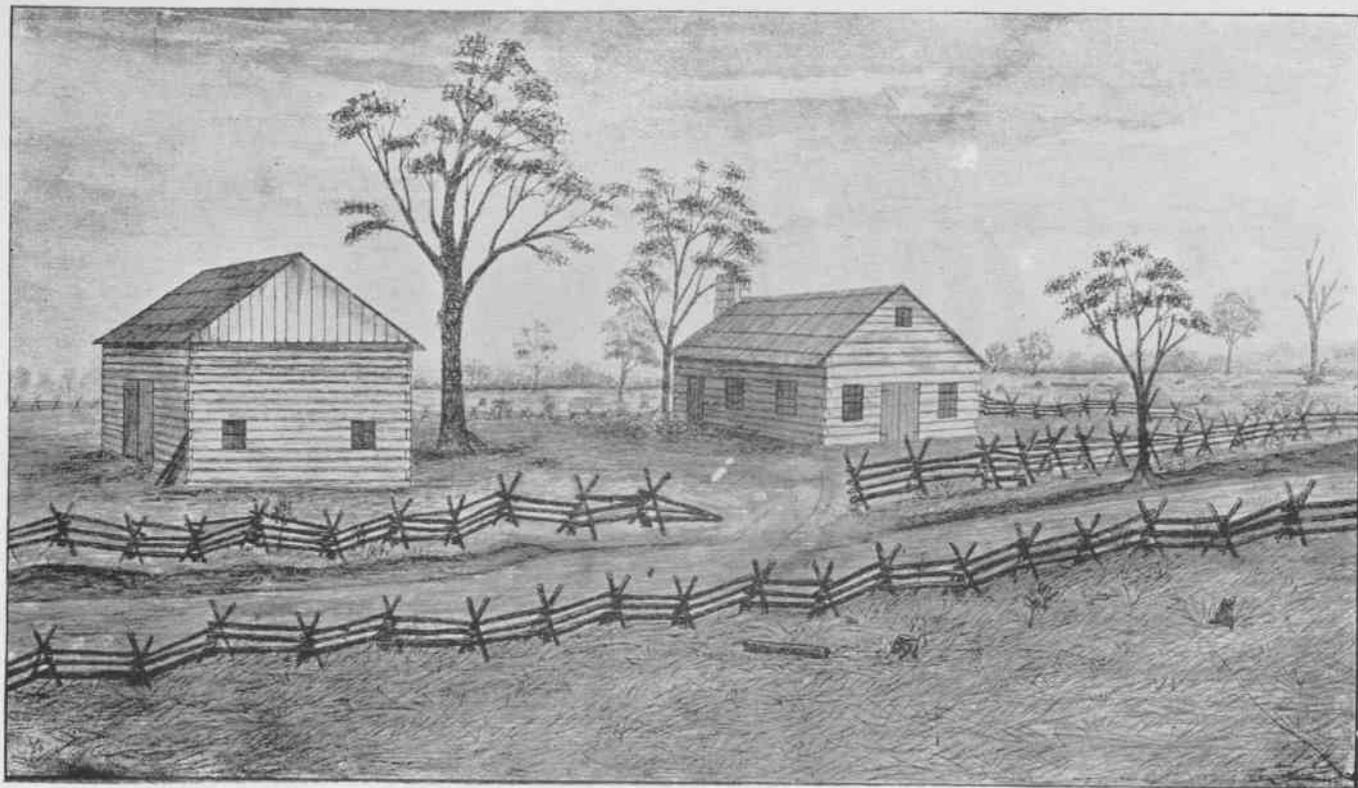
GEN.

3 14 1 *Styntie Papen*, born about 1693; died about 1728. Unmarried. Her father willed to her twenty-five pounds over and above her equal share with her sisters. Samuel Pastorius was appointed guardian for Christiana Papen to see that she is properly provided for her wants, and Garret Brownback, Jacob Shimer, Jan Jansen, and Catharine Papen are mentioned in the agreement as trustees for her share, out of which they were to provide for her under a penalty of one hundred and sixty (£160) pounds, money of America, dated November 25, 1720.

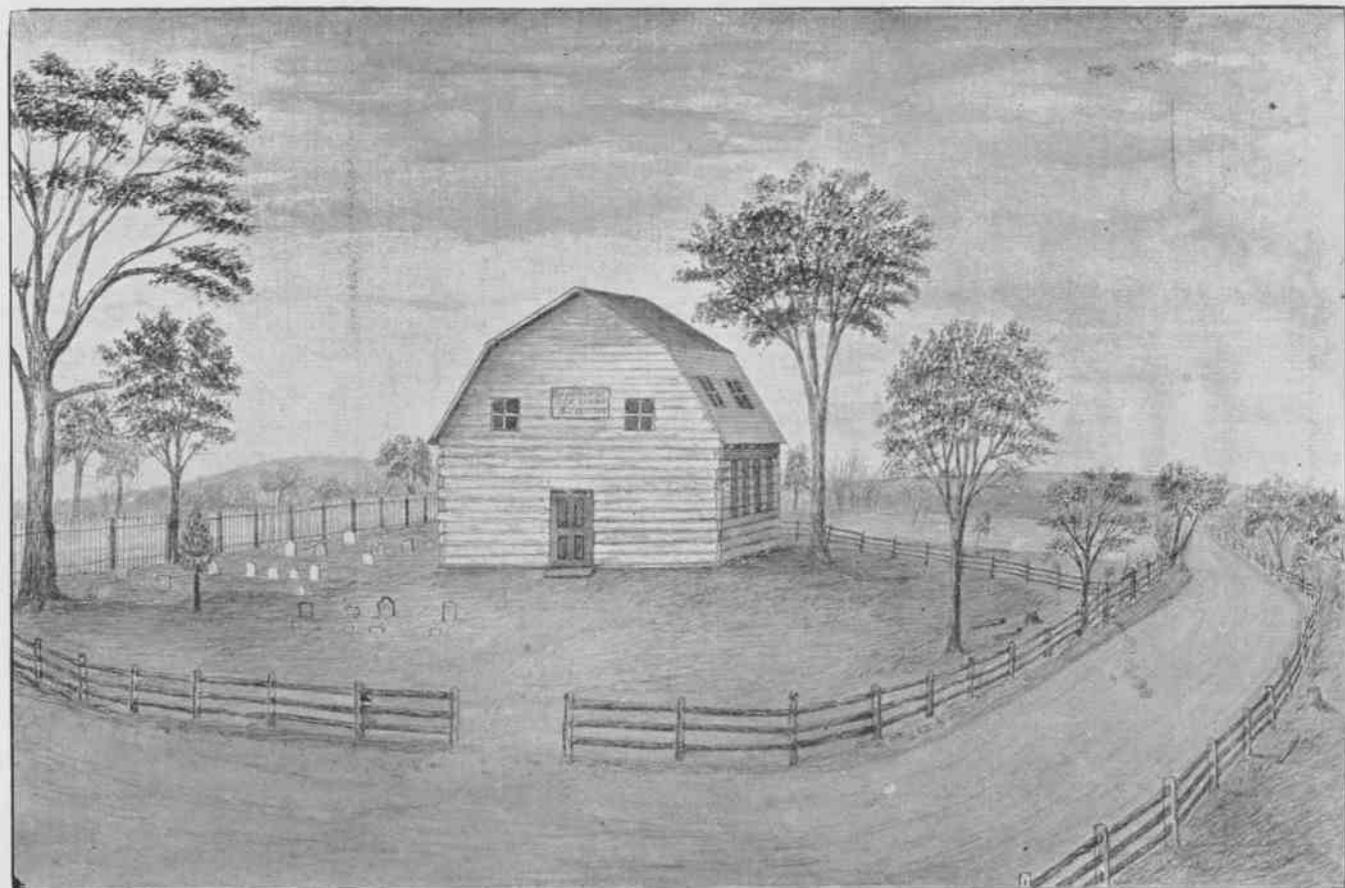
3 15 2 *Mary Papen*, born about 1695, died———; married Gerhard (Brumbach) Brownback, presumably about 1716 or 1718. Official documents will show that he lived yet in Philadelphia county, Province of Pennsylvania, in the year 1721. In deed poll of Gerhard Brownback to Leonard Streper he is mentioned as of the county of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, husbandman, and Mary his wife, which is signed and sealed 28th day of ye 12th month in ye 7th year of the Reign of George King over Great Britain Anno Domini 1721-2. Records will also show that Gerhard Brownback's name appears among the first settlers of Vincent township, Chester county, Pa., in the year 1724, and was taxed 2 shillings and 4 pence.

A history of Vincent township, written in 1848, and deposited in the Pennsylvania Historical Society in manuscript, mentions Gerhard Brownback and says: "He came from Germany and settled at Germantown (at that time many Germans came from the Palatinate and settled at Germantown) when there was but one house where Ger-

mantown now stands (the first houses in Germantown were built in 1683, consequently Garret Brownback must have arrived in 1683), and tarried there awhile and married Mary Papen, a granddaughter of Willem Rittenhouse; later he moved to Vincent township, Chester county, Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of Brownback's Church, where he took up 600 acres of land by release. He afterward acquired more land by purchase and otherwise till he possessed about 1000 acres of land in Vincent and Coventry townships, Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he then erected buildings. The first house was built of logs, split with the whip-saw. In later years Edward Brownback tore it down and erected a large stone house in its place, and afterward occupied it. Garret Brownback then divided his land, and to the left of Ridge Road, in 1741, he set apart a portion of land for the German Reformed Church, where Brownback's Church now stands. He was the great grandfather of Edward Brownback, Jr., and was one of the first settlers in this vicinity. Garret Brownback obtained a license and kept a tavern. License was granted him in 1736. He sets out in his petition that he is frequently oppressed with travelers whom he is obliged to entertain; that he is living in the township of Vincent on the great road which leads from Philadelphia to the Ironworks, and from thence to Conestogo, and there being no public house within 20 miles below or 30 miles above the said petitioner's house, and he living over four miles from the Ironworks. This was the first public house kept in these parts. Captain Joseph Richardson, the great outlaw and companion of the Doans, once went to Brownback's tavern, in Chester county, and, laying a loaded pistol within reach, ate a meal, while the cowed bystanders looked on without daring to interfere. There was then an Indian village about fifty or sixty perches from where the road now crosses (where a meeting house now stands) of about three hundred souls, and Garret Brownback, through his kind treatment, got them pretty well under his command; they helped him



ORIGINAL RESIDENCE OF GERHARD BRUMBACH, VINCENT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER CO., PA.



REFORMED CHURCH, KNOWN AS "BROWNBACK'S CHURCH," IN VINCENT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER CO., PA. BUILT OF LOGS, 1742.

to work, and he gave them provision in return. He used to sit down with them and smoke a pipe of tobacco, and wrestled with them ; this pleased them very much, and they then sang war songs for him. They were very fond of potatoes, turnips, and especially milk.

At that time he had to go to the Valley Forge, a distance of ten miles, to get his plough irons sharpened ; he carried one on each side of his horse. He willed the thousand acres wholly to his sons and sons-in-law. As they came to manhood he placed them on certain tracts, and for his older son he erected the tavern on the Ridge Road and put him there. His name was Benjamin, and this house was located on Pottsgrove Road. His thousand-acre tract is now divided into a number of farms and building lots, from five acres up to thirty and more acres apiece, and buildings thereon. The church lot and graveyard and the meeting house lot is all part of the original tract. The main part of the tract is now owned by grand and great grandchildren ; part of said tract is in East Vincent and part in Coventry townships.

Gerhard Brownback was a Calvinist (German Reformed) and is buried at said church, but there are no gravestones to tell when he was born nor when he died. His will is dated August 4, 1757, and proven September 23, 1757.

Garret Brownback also built a saw mill in Vincent township, which was the first saw mill in that vicinity.

He also possessed one-half interest in a grist mill in Vincent township, Chester county, which he willed to his wife, Mary Brownbaugh.

According to the records before us Garrett Brownbaugh died a very old man, presumably upward in the ninetieth.

In the church records of Brownback's Church is recorded the following :—

Frederick Miller was the third preacher in the old Log church 18th day of Feb. 1753.

Garrett Brumbach brought his children to be Baptized.

His wife's name Mary Papen.

1	his son	Benjamin	22 y.
2		Henry	20
		Mary	24
		Catharine	18.

The six hundred acres of land taken up by Gerard Brownback (Brumbach) was part of the ten thousand acres of land which William Penn, Esq., the first Proprietary of Pennsylvania, by his Deed of Poeffment dated the 20th April, 1686, grant and convey to Major Robert Thompson, who by his will, dated the 14th of April, 1691, inter alia, did devise the said land to Joseph Thompson, son of his son Joseph, for life, etc. Through different generations of the Thompson family, then, on the 4th of July, 1774, Robert Thompson executed separate powers of attorney to Thomas Willing and Joseph Reed, Esq., for the said lands, and the said Robert Thompson, by his attorney, Joseph Reed, on the first and second of August, 1774, executed lease and release to John Morris, to the use of Robert Thompson in fee, and a recovery was accordingly suffered in the County Court of Chester, in the term of February, 1775, and Robert Thompson, by lease dated June 29, 1775, and recorded in the county of Chester, in Book X, Vol. xxii, page 170, etc., the 5th of August, 1783, and release dated the 30th of June, 1775, etc., recorded in the same office in Book X, Vol. xxii, page 172, etc., on the 7th of August, 1783, conveyed to Joseph Reed, Esq., Robert Morris, Esq., and Thomas Willing in fee. Joseph Reed, by indenture dated the 10th of December, 1783, and recorded in the office aforesaid, in Book X, Vol. xxii, page 339, etc., the 12th of January, 1784, conveyed this third part of the said ten thousand acres of land to Robert Morris and Thomas Willing in fee, and a patent dated the 28th of June, 1787, under the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and enrolled in the Rolls Office for the said Commonwealth in Patent Book No. 11, page 25, the 27th of July, 1787, was granted to the said Thomas

Willing and Robert Morris for the said ten thousand acres, and also for ninety-eight acres and a half. Then the said Robert Morris and Mary, his wife, by indenture dated the first day of December, 1789, and recorded in the office first above mentioned in Book II, E, Vol. xxix, page 220, the 27th of February, 1790, convey their half of the said ten thousand and ninety-eight acres and a half to the said Thomas Willing in fee, and the said Thomas Willing and his heirs, all and singular the premises hereby granted unto Henry Brownback, his heirs and assigns. The tract was two hundred and forty-two acres, being No. 21 in a draft of the northwest moiety of Vincent, made by Thomas Lightfoot, in 1790-1, for £411 15 shillings. Sealed and delivered February 3, 1795. See full deed of Thomas Willing to Henry Brownback. [See Index.]

We also find that a warrant was granted to Garret Brownback for 350 acres, dated June 23, 1736, and entered in the Office of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg.

And the six hundred acres above mentioned he received from a 10,000-acre tract which was granted to Major Thompson, which is also recorded there in Thompson's name. See deed of Thomas Willing to Henry Brownback. [See Index.]

NOTE.—The 600 acres first mentioned and the 350 acres afterward granted will make 950 acres; with the percentage of six per cent. added, which was customary at that time, would make him 1007 acres.

After the foregoing had been written the following was received from the descendants of the Brownback family:—

“Garret Brownback came from Germany in the year 1683 to America. He settled at the place now known as German-town when there was but one house there. He came over on the sailing vessel “Concord,” which reached this port October 6, 1683. He tarried there awhile, and married Mary Papen, the daughter of Heivert (Howard) Papen. Then he settled up his father-in-law's estate (who died in

1707). Then moved his family to Vincent township in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1720. He settled on the Old Lancaster Road, where he took up 1000 acres of land, part in Vincent, part in East Coventry (600 acres were bought and 350 acres granted, making 950 acres; with 6 per cent. added making 1007 acres as above explained), and built the first house in Vincent township. It was built of logs, split with a whip saw; he also kept the first hotel in Chester county in that place. He gave the ground and built the first German Reformed church in the county in 1741. He brought the first preacher from Germany; his name was Peter Minicus. There was an Indian village back of his place which contained 300 men, women, and children. He had them pretty well under his control. They helped him to work and he gave them provisions in return. He sat down with them and smoked a pipe of tobacco with them and wrestled with them; this pleased them very much; then they would sing and dance war dances. They were very fond of potatoes, turnips, and especially milk. At that time he had to go to Valley Forge, a distance of ten miles, to get his plough irons sharpened. He gave the 1000 acres to his sons as they became of age. For his oldest son he built a hotel on the Ridge Road, which is still standing at this present time. He took out the first license in Chester county in 1736, the only public house twenty miles below and thirty miles above. (There was no tavern in that distance.) (The same year John Chadd was licensed at Chadd's Ford.)

“Gerhard Brownback had two sons and five daughters, Benjamin, Henry, Mary, Magdaline, and Catherine, and Mrs. Richard Custard, Mrs. Paul Benner.

Mary Magdaline was married to Frederick Bingaman, Richard Custard to Elizabeth Brownback, Paul Benner to Anna Mary Brownback. Catharine was married to Jacob Munshauer, Benjamin married Mary Paul, and Henry married Magdaline Paul.

“Gerhard Brownback, born in 1662; married about 1716 or 1718; died 1757, aged 95 years. Buried at Brownback’s Church. His grave is marked with a sandstone tablet containing no dates.

P. W. BROWNBACK.

DEED POLL OF GERARD BROWNBACK TO
LEONARD STREPER.

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME Gerard Brownback of the county of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania, Husbandman, and Mary his wife, Jacob Sheimer of Philadelphia county and Province likewise, Husbandman and Margaret his wife, John Jansen of the said county and Province, Yeoman, and Elizabeth his wife, Styntia Papen and Catharine Papen of the said county and Province, Spinster heirs of Heivert Papen deceased send Greetings. Whereas William Penn of late Proprietary and Governor of the said Province of Pennsylvania by patent under his Great Seal bearing date the third day of the second Month one thousand six hundred and eighty nine did Grant and confirm unto Dirk Sipman one of the first purchasers of Crefelt in Germany 588 acres of land in German Township in the aforesaid county. To hold to him; the said Dirk Sipman his heirs and assigns for ever as by the same patent, Recorded in the Rolls Office at Philadelphia in Patent Book A page 245-6, may appear. And whereas Herman Up den Graef of Germantown in the aforesaid county Yeoman then lawful attorney of the said Dirk Sipman by a Deed of enfeoffment, bearing date the 3rd day of October one thousand six hundred and Ninety eight for the yearly rent of three Rix dollars, or pieces of 8, therein reserved to the said Dirk Sipman his heirs, and assigns for ever did Grant and convey unto William Hendricks of the said county Weaver seventy five acres of the land, part of the said 588 acres of land to hold to him The said William Hendricks his heirs and assigns for ever as by the same Deed, Recorded in ye Terier* of Germantown page 369 may appear. And Whereas ye said William Hendricks by an Indenture of Sale dated ye Ninth day of June 1701 for the consideration therein mentioned did Grant and convey unto the said Heivert Papen Ye aforesaid Seventy five acres of land To hold to him the said Heivert Papen his heirs and assigns for ever as by the Indenture acknowledged in Open Court of record held at Germantown the fifteenth

*The Terier is the Book of records of the Court of Germantown, when it was a separate Borough, which Book of Records is yet in existence and is known by the name of Terier.

day of September one thousand seven hundred and two doth appear. And whereas the said Heivert Papen in his last Will and Testament made the thirtieth day of January one thousand seven hundred and Seven and Eight (1707-8) did Give and bequeath all his Estate unto his aforesaid five daughters, Styntie, Mary, Catharine, Margaret, and Elizabeth, as by the recited Testament, more fully doth appear.

Now, know ye, that they the said Gerard Brownback and Mary his wife, Jacob Sheimer and Margaret his wife John Jansen and Elizabeth his wife, Styntie Papen, and Catharine Papen for and in consideration Sum of Seventeen Pounds lawful silver money of America to them in hand paid by Leonard Streper of Germantownship aforesaid Yeoman, the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge and thereof and of every part thereof do fully acquit and discharge the said Leonard Streper his heirs Executors Administrators and assigns for ever by these presents have granted bargained, sold, aliened, enfoeffed and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain sell alien enfoeff and confirm unto the said Leonard Streper his heirs and Assigns a certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in Ye said Germantownship. Beginning at a stake standing by the line of Edward Farmers land thence South East one hundred and seventy seven perches to a black Oak, Thence South West by a line of marked trees two perches to a stone, set for a corner, thence North West by a line of marked trees one hundred and Seventy Seven perches to a white Walnut tree Standing by ye said Edward Farmers land thence North East by the said land thirtytwo perches to the place of Beginning, containig twenty five acres of land part of the Aforesaid Seventy five acres of land together with all and Singular the woods, underwoods, Meadows, Marshes, Swamps, Cripples, waters, watercourses, fishings, fowlings, hawkings, huntings, Rights, Liberties, Privileges, Improvements, hereditaments and appurtenances, whatsoever to the said twentyfive acres of land hereby Granted, belonging, or in anywise appertaining and the reversion, and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof and all the estate, right, Title, Interest property claim and demand whatsoever which they Ye said Gerard Brownback and Mary his wife, Jacob Sheimer and Margaret his wife, John Jansen and Elizabeth his wife, Styntie Papen, and Catharine Papen or either of them now hath or hereafter might or should have of in and to Ye said twenty five acres of land and premises or any part thereof and true copies of all Deeds Evidences and writings whatsoever concerning the same to be taken at Ye costs and charges of Ye said Leonard Streper his heirs or assigns to have and to hold the said twenty five acres of land and Premises hereby Granted or intended to be Granted with the appurtenances unto the said Leonard Streper his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behoof of him Ye said Leonard Streper his heirs and assigns for ever under the yearly rent of one Rix dollar, or piece of

Eight, from henceforth to become due and payable to Ye said Dirk Sipman, his heirs and assigns And they Ye said Gerard Brownback and Mary his wife, Jacob Sheimer and Margaret his wife, John Jansen and Elizabeth his wife Styntie Papen, and Catharine Papen, and their heirs the said twenty five acres of land hereby Granted unto Ye said Leonard Streper his heirs and assigns against them Ye said Gerard Brownback and Mary his wife, Jacob Sheimer and Margaret his wife, John Jansen and Elizabeth his wife, Styntie Papen and Catharine Papen and their heirs and against all and every other person and persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim Ye same by from or under them or any of them shall and will warrant and for ever defend by these presents and they Ye said Gerard Brownback and Mary his wife Jacob Sheimer and Margaret his wife John Jansen and Elizabeth his wife, Styntie Papen and Catharine Papen, for themselves their heirs Executors and Administrators do covenant promise and Grant to and with Ye said Leonard Streper his heirs and Assigns by these presents, In manner following, that is to say that the said twenty five acres of land and premises hereby Granted with the appurtenances now are and at all times hereafter for ever shall be and continue unto the said Leonard Streper his heirs and assigns free and clearly acquitted Exonerated and discharged of and from all former and other Gits, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Mortgages, Joyntures, Dowers, Wills, Entails, Judgments, Executions, Extents, Annuities, arrearages of quitrents Titles, Troubles, and Incumbrances, whatsoever.

In witness whereof the parties first above named have hereunto set their hands and seals dated 28th of Ye 12th Month in Ye 7th year of the Reign of George King over Great Britain &c Anoge Domini one thousand Seven hundred and twenty one and two (1721-2)

{	JAN JANSEN	[SEAL]
	Her	
{	ELIZABETH + JANSEN	[SEAL]
	Mark	
-	STYNTIE + PAPEN	[SEAL]
	Her Mark	
-	CATHARINE + PAPEN	[SEAL]
	Her Mark	
{	GERARD + BROWNBACK	[SEAL]
	His Mark	
{	MARY + BROWNBACK	[SEAL]
	Her Mark	
{	JACOB SHEIMER,	[SEAL]
	Her	
{	MARGARET + SHEIMER	[SEAL]
	Mark	

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us

JOHN ROELOOS
SAMUEL PASTORIUS

The fourth day of November 1767 before me

William Dewees, Esq.

one of the Justices &c came Catherine Howell (late Catharine Papen) and acknowledged the above written Deed Poll to be her act and Deed and desired the Same May be recorded as her act and Deed.

Witness my hand and Seal

WILLIAM DEWEES. [SEAL]

To all Persons whom these may concern Matthias van Bebber of Cecil county in the Province of Maryland Merchant and Hermina his wife send Greetings. Whereas Dirk Sipman was lawfully Seized in fee of and in five hundred and Eighty Eight acres of by force and virtue of some Good conveyance or appurtenances in the law, and being so Seized thereof he conveyed Seventy five acres of the said land unto William Hendricks in fee reserving to himself out of the Same the yearly rent of three Rix dollars or pieces of Eight for ever and the said William Hendricks Granted the said Seventy five acres unto Heivert Papen in fee and whereas the Said Heivert Papen having willed all his lands unto the five daughters they afterwards By virtue of the within written Deed Conveyance, Granted Seventy-five acres of the said land unto Leonard Streper in fee all which recitalls in the within Indenture more fully appears and above named Matthias van Bebber by virtue of a Deed (a blank in said original) being become legal Purchaser and Possessor of the above mentioned yearly rent of three Rix dollars. Now Know ye that the said Matthias van Bebber and Hermina his wife for and in Consideration of the Sum of Six pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to them in hand paid by Ann Streper the widow of the said Leonard Streper, who dying left all his lands to her during her life have remised, released, and for ever quit claimed and by these presents do absolutely and clearly remise, release and for ever quit claim unto the Said Ann Streper and to her heirs and assigns all and Singular, the whole Right, Title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever as they the Said Matthias van Bebber and Hermina his wife had, have or ought to have, of on, or to, the above Specified yearly rent, or of any part or parcel thereof by any means whatsoever so that neither they nor any other person or persons for them or in their names right or Stead of any of them shall or will by any means hereafter have claim challenge or demand any estate right or interest unto the said yearly rents, the proportionable part of the yearly quit rents accruing to the chief Lord of the fee thereof only except, or any part thereof they and every of them shall be utterly excluded and debarred by these presents and the said Matthias van Bebber and Hermina his wife and their Heirs, the said yearly rent and every part thereof unto the Said Ann Streper her heirs and assigns to her and their own proper use and uses in manner aforesaid against their heirs and assigns they and every of them shall warrant and for ever defend by virtue of these presents.

In Witness whereof the said parties to these presents have interchangeably Set their hands and Seals hereunto dated the fourteenth day of the month called June Anno Domini one thousand Seven hundred and thirty Seven (1737)

MATTHIAS VAN BEBBER
HERMINA VAN BEBBER

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us

JOHN CONRADS
ALEX SEATON

MEMORANDUM.—The fourteenth day of ye June Ao. Do. one thousand Seven hundred and Thirty Seven before me Dirk Johnson one of the Justices of the peace for the county of Philadelphia came the above named Matthias van Bebber and Hermana his wife in their own Persons and Brought this above writing or conveyance which they acknowledged to be their act and Deed desiring the Same may be recorded as their Deed according to law. As Witness my hand and Seal the day and year above said.

DIRK JOHNSON [SEAL]

To all people to whom these presents may come. Know ye that we Benjamin Howell of Chestnut Hill in German Township Yeoman, and Catharine his wife for and in consideration of the sum of three Pounds lawful money to us or the one of us truly paid by Dennis Streper of the same place Yeoman. The Receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge and therefrom, and thereof do acquit and for ever discharge the said Dennis Streper his heirs and assigns by these presents have Remised, Released, and for ever quit claimed and by these presents do Remise, Release, and for us and our heirs Respectively, Remise, Release, unto Dennis Streper all our Rights, Title, Estate and every other claim or other Demand of, in or to, the within Granted land and premises with the Hereditaments, with the appurtenances unto Dennis Streper his heirs and assigns for ever.

Witness our hands and seals the fourth of January one thousand seven hundred and Sixty two (1762)

BENJAMIN HOWELL [SEAL]

^{Her}
CATHARINE + HOWELL [SEAL]
_{Mark}

Witness at Signing :—

NATHAN SHEPPARD
JOHN HOWELL

The fourth day of November One thousand seven hundred and Sixty Seven (1767) before me

WILLIAM DEWEES ESQ

One of the Justices &c. came the above named Benjamin Howell and Catharine his wife and acknowledged the above written Deed Poll to be

their act and deed and desired the same may be recorded as such, the said Catharine thereunto voluntarily consenting, She being of full age, secretly and apart examined and the contents of the said deed Poll being first made known unto her.

Witness my hand and seal

WILLIAM DEWEES [SEAL]

Recorded December 16, 1767, In Book I No 4, page 18
at Philadelphia.

WILL OF GARRET BROWNBACK.

In the Name of God Amen Ye fourth day of August, Anno Dom. One thousand Seven hundred and fifty Seven, I Garret Brownbaugh of Vincent in the county of Chester, Yeoman, being Sick and weak in Body but of perfect sound mind and memory, thanks be to God, do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following viz.—First, I bequeath my Soul to almighty God and my Body to be buried in a decent manner, at the discretion of my Executors, and as touching Ye disposition of my Real and Personal Estate I dispose of the Same as followeth.

First, I will that all my Just Debts that I owe shall be truly paid.

Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Brownbaugh all my Right being one half of the Grist mill in Vincent for her use during her widowhood I also give unto her the little home the other side of the Road to live in during her widowhood and one good cow to give her milk and Ye said Cow, my son Benjamin is to keep as he keeps his own During her widowhood, likewise my wife is to have Ye Servant Girl Hannah Miller for her use till she comes of age, and my son Benjamin must put the said house in Good Repair with a Stove in it, and my son Benjamin must give his mother Sixty Weight of Pork annually during her widowhood, also It's my will that my wife shall have her Bed and Bedding and two Iron Potts about 14 sh Price, the other Pott about 8 sh Price and one Big Pewter Dish, and one little Pewter Do and Six Pewter plates and her Chest.

Item.—I bequeath to my son Henry all that tract of land now laid out, Joining to Henry Ackers land containing two hundred acres to him and his heirs and assigns for Ever, my said son Henry his heirs and assigns Paying the owners of the said two hundred acres. It being his full Dividend for his portion together with what he has already received.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my Son-in-law Richard Custer and to his heirs and Assigns for Ever, one hundred and thirty acres of land, as It's now laid out, joining to my son Henry's land, he my said son in law Richard Custer Paying ye owners of Said land for the Same It being his full Dividend for his portion.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my son in law Frederick Binghaman all my Rights of the Sawmill in Vincent aforesaid to be his full Dividend and Portion, besides Ye Sum of Twelve pounds which he owes me I forgive him also.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my son in law, Paul Benner one Shilling Sterling for his full portion and Dividend.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my daughter Catharine one Good Feather Bed and furniture and also one Chaff Bed and bedding and three pounds worth of Pewter one chest of drawers, or five Pounds in lieu thereof also the Young Mare that goes in her name and three Cows and six Sheep and also that my son Benjamin shall give her a good Spinning wheel and ye sum of Thirty Pounds in manner following that is to say he shall pay unto her Ye Sum of ten Pounds in one Year after my decease and Ye sum of ten Pounds annually till the said Sum of thirty pounds be paid which shall be her full portion and Dividend, It's my will that my son Benjamin shall supply his mother in firewood to be left at her door or convenient to the said littlehouse.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Brownbaugh all the remainder and residue of the Plantation, whereon I now live with all the improvements thereon to him and his heirs and assigns forever he paying Ye owners of said land, and also I give and bequeath unto him all debts due unto me or that shall become due and also all the residue of my personal Estate of what kind soever now belonging to me or the said premises or after my wife's decease her Dower must descend to my son Benjamin and his heirs also its my will that as I paid for about Seven hundred Rails making on my Son Henry's land that my Son Benjamin shall have said rails with liberty to haul said rails away at his leisure without let or hindrance and I do also nominate, Constitute and appoint my son Benjamin and my beloved wife Mary Brownbaugh my true and faithful Executors of this my last will and Testament, and do utterly revoke and disannul and make void all former wills and bequests by me heretofore made and do declare this my last will and Testament.

GARRET B. BROWNBAUGH [SEAL]

Signed, Sealed, Published, pronounced and declared by the Said Garret Brownbaugh as his last will and Testament in the presence of us.

JOHANNES STUANNER

ANTHONY ACE

ROGE NORTH

FREDERICK SMITH

Philadelphia 23rd Sept. 1757. Then personally appeared Johannes Stuaner and Roger North two of the witnesses to the foregoing will on Oath did declare they saw and heard Garret Brownbaugh the Testator there-

in named Sign Seal publish and declare the same will for and as his last will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of sound mind, memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge.

Coram WM. PLUMSTEAD, *Reg. Gen.*

To
Mr William Plumstead, Esq
and Register General

For the Probate of Wills and Granting letters of administrations &c.
Send Greeting

These are to certify that I Mary Brownbaugh, widow and relict of Garret Brownbaugh, late of Vincent in the county of Chester, Yeoman, Deceased, do by Virtue of these presents, being aged and not fitt for Ye trouble of this world, Utterly Renounce the Exceutrix of my deceased Husbands last will and Testament and do Invest my Son Benjamin Brownbaugh to Ye full power of the whole Executorship as I am content with Ye said Will.

Given from under my hand and seal Ye Twenty fifth day of September Ao. Do. One thousand Seven hundred and fifty seven.

her
MARY + BROWNBAUGH [SEAL]
mark

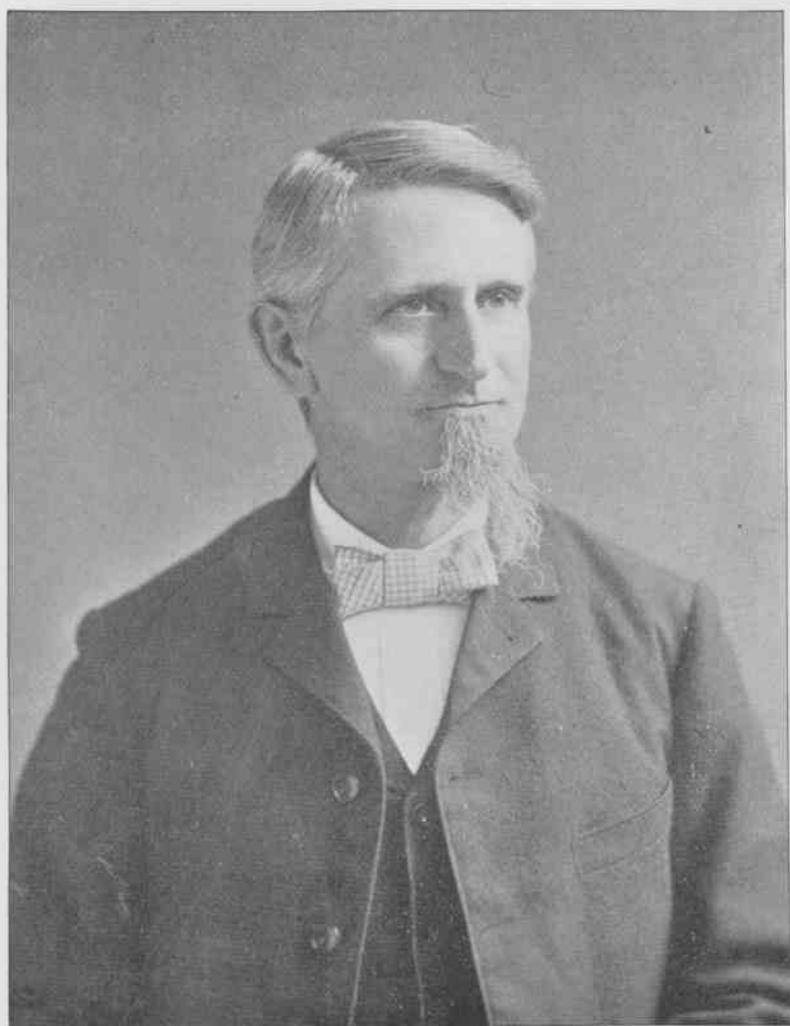
Scaled and delivered
in the presence of

PHILIP THOMAS,
MICHAEL PAUL,
ROGR NORTH.

AN INVENTORY,

Or bill of appraisement taken and made Ye Twenty-first day of September Anno Domini One thousand seven hundred and fifty seven of the Personal Estate of Garrett Brownbaugh, late of Vincent, in the County of Chester, Yeoman, Deceased, per us the subscribers according to the best of our knowledge viz.—Imprimis,

	L.	s.	d.
To wearing apparel,	10	0	0
a Riding horse Saddle and Bridle,	10	0	0
four horse kind,	26	0	0
13 head of horned Cattle,	40	0	0
11 Swine,	06	0	0
10 Sheep,	02	10	0
Wagon and Gears,	12	0	0
Ploughs Harrows and cart,	02	0	0
Pewter,	04	0	0



GARRET BROWNBACK.

	L.	s.	d.
Brass,	01	0	0
Dressing ware,	0	6	0
3 Tables,	1	10	0
Sundry Chears (chairs),	1	4	0
Iron pots and pans,	2	10	0
Wooden ware and Stilliard,	1	0	0
Spinning Wheel,	0	15	0
Iron ware and sider mill,	1	10	0
Sundry beds and bedding,	15	0	0
a windmill,	2	0	0
5 Stacks of Corn (presumably Rye),	50	0	0
a cutting box,	0	15	0
Sundry Implements of husbandry,	0	15	0
Sundry Stacks of hay,	10	0	0
Sundry Notes,	13	14	8
Book debts to profit and loss,	20	0	0
600 Acres of land taken up by warrant,	150	0	0
the Improvement on said 600 acres,	300	0	0
a Grist Mill and land belonging,	100	0	0
lumber Goods,	3	0	0
	Total	787	9 8
Errors excepted.			

Annexed is a portrait of Garret E. Brownback, a direct descendant from Garret Brownback, or, as originally written, *Gerhart Brumbach*. He was born December 27, 1846, and reared on the original tract of land bought by his ancestor, Gerhart Brumbach, in Vincent township, Chester county, Pa., about 1721, in the seventh year of the reign of George, King over Great Britain. Garret E. Brownback married Miss Emma Evans, and has in part a lineal record of their family from his ancestor Gerhart Brumbach, and his wife Mary, *nee* Papen, daughter of Elizabeth Rittenhouse Papen. He also has been one of the instrumental agents in getting up this part of the record. Mr. Brownback was brought up as a farmer. He now resides at Linfield, Montgomery Co., Pa., and is the proprietor of several creameries and is

the maker of the famous Golden Butter, which is sold in the 18th Street and Ridge Ave. Market, Philadelphia. He is still a member of the Reformed Church, and worships at the old Brownback Church in Chester Co., Pa., of which his ancestor, Gerhart Brumbach, was one of the founders and gave the land for the burying ground and the church. And as there is no portrait of their venerable ancestor in existence, we represent him by that of one of his descendants bearing the same name.

AUTHOR.

GEN.

3 16 3 *Gertrude Papen* born about 1697; married Benjamin Howell, of Germantown, July 19, 1721. According to the contents of his will they had no children, as he says in his will, recorded in Book Q, page 43, Philadelphia.

I give unto my well beloved wife Catharine (Gertrude) my cow, with all the corn in the ground, or otherwise, that I may die possessed of, Also all my household Goods and Cash found in my house after my Funeral Expenses is paid out of the Same. I do also hereby order my Executors hereinafter to put and place out at Interest on Good Security three hundred pounds, and the Interest money thence arising, I do order my said Executors to pay yearly and every year unto my said wife during her Natural life, and also Six pounds which is to be paid by George Klinge unto my said wife annually agreeable to a lease subsisting between the said Klinge and myself. Moreover I give unto my said wife during the time She Shall remain my widow the lot of land containing four acres which I leased of Samuel Ashmead on ground rent, and whereon I now dwell with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging. But in case my said wife should marry again or at the death, I give and devise the said Four acres of land with all the Buildings and Improvements thereunto belonging unto Jonathan Howell, son of my cousin John Howell his heirs and assigns for ever.

Item.—I give unto my cousin Daniel Howell all the money which he may owe me at my death.

Item.—I give unto my old Servant William Brown, what money he may owe me at my death.

Item.—I give unto Daniel and Jonathan Howell, Sons of the aforesaid

John Howell Twenty Pounds each and to his two daughters Hannah and Sarah five Pounds each.

Item.—I give unto my neighbor Barbara Edwards five Pounds.

Item.—I give unto my Cousin Susanna Quick my big Bible.

Item.—I give and devise unto George Klinge, provided he Should outlive me, my Plantation containing about fifty four acres whereon he now dwells to him his heirs and assigns for ever he paying for the same unto my cousin Isaac Rittenhouse the Sum of One hundred Pounds but in case the said George Klinge Should die before me, then I give the said plantation with all the Buildings and improvements thereunto belonging unto my cousin John Howell his heirs and assigns for ever.

Item.—I give unto the said Isaac Rittenhouse what money he may owe me at my death.

Item.—I give and devise unto my said cousin John Howell all my lot of Seven Acres of land which I leased of Samuel Ashmead on Ground rent situate on the South side of the Manatawny Road and joining to his other land to him his heirs and assigns forever. I also give all the rent and residue of my Estate whatsoever and wheresoever to be found not herein particularly before given away unto my said cousin John Howell.

JOHN HOWELL, *Executor.*

Dated July 18, 1774.

xxx.

3 17 4 *Margaret Rittenhouse Popen*, born about 1699 (?) in Germantown; married Jacob Shimer (Scheimer) in 1728. He was born 1679, and died September 17, 1757. He was born in Germany and emigrated to America at an early date. After his marriage he resided in Bebbers township, now Skippack, Montgomery county, Pa. Was naturalized in 1730. His first wife died rather young. They had six children, Abraham, Anthony, Elizabeth, Mary, Catharine, and Sarah. He married again a second time to Elizabeth ———, and had seven children by her. Probably about the time his first wife died he moved to Northampton county, Pa., in the township of Lower Saucon, on a farm which he bought of James Egleston, in what was then known as the forks of the Delaware, where he died in the year 1757, at the age of 78 years. His will is dated September 20, 1757, and reads as follows:—

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. I Jacob Shimer of Lower Saucon Township in the county of Northampton and Province of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, being Sick in body, but of Sound mind and memory Do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner following

First, I give my Soul to my dear Redeemer, and my Body to be buried. And as to my worldly Estate and Goods, I dispose of after my debts and funeral charges are paid, in manner following.—

I give, bequeath and dispose to my dear wife Elizabeth, one Feather Bed, and its furniture and fifty Pounds, to be paid to her out of my Estate and Plantation on which I now live, and besides during her remaining my widow, a Room in my dwelling house, the third part of the incomes or Profits of my Plantation aforesaid and the keeping of a Ridinghorse or mare thereon. But if She marrieth again then her use of Room and Plantation Shall cease. And for the enabling the Discharge of this my will and Legacies, I give and bequeath unto my Sons Jacob and Conrad, Subject to the payments, Conditions and Restrictions herein mentioned, At my Decease, The house, Plantation, grain, horses, cows, Sheep, hogs, together with Implements of Husbandry and Chattels unto me Appertaining whereon I now live, and Land adjoining the Same likewise all my Rights, Title, Interest and Claim to a certain tract of land, Situate in the forks of Delaware in the county of Northampton aforesaid, Purchased by me of James Egleston, as by Instrument of writing more fully appears, and that the said Estate and lands shall be Equally divided between my two sons, Jacob and Conrad, and (under the within mentioned conditions Payments and Restrictions) Possessed and enjoyed by them, their Heirs, and Assigns.

Next, I give and Bequeath to my eldest son Abraham, all my moiety Right and Title to a Saw mill and Plantation Situate by the River Delaware on Bushkill creek, about three miles above John Kool's, Provided he gives my executors a full Discharge for or against all Debts due, or accruing on the Same as also of all claim Right or Title to any other part of my Estate, and in case of his refusal or noncompliance to the same, Then I give him in lieu and instead of the said mill one Shilling Sterling value, and no more of my whole Estate, and to my Son Anthony I give one Shilling like value and a discharge of a debt of ten Pounds lately lent him, and no more of my whole Estate.

Item.—I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Vickerson the Sum of ten Pounds Pennsylvania Currency, also, I give to my Daughter Mary Shoemaker, the Sum of ten Pounds like Currency, also I give and bequeath to my Daughter Catharine Young, the like Sum of ten Pounds and I give to my Daughter Sarah, the Sum of ten Pounds. The which Sums or Legacies shall be paid by my Executors unto my above named daughters, their Heirs, or Assigns, at the Expiration of Nine years after my Decease. And it is my

will and appointment that my Son, Samuel shall soon after my Decease be apprenticed, and by my trustees bound to a tradesman for that purpose till of age, and then I give him, to be paid out of my Plantation and Estate (hereby willed to my Sons, Jacob and Conrad,) the Sum of Eighty Seven Pounds Lawful money of Pennsylvania. And I do also appoint and empower my two Trustees herein named to do the Same by my Son Edward, till of age, and then I give him also the sum of Eighty-Seven Pounds, to be paid by my sons, Jacob and Conrad out of the Said Plantation ; and I do also hereby appoint the same to be done by my Son Peter until he comes to the age of twenty-one years, and then I give and bequeath to him the Sum of Eighty Seven Pounds like Currency, and next I give to my Sons Isaac and John each the sum of Eighty Seven Pounds like currency as aforesaid, to be paid unto them by my Sons Jacob and Conrad when they arrive at the age of twenty-one years ; and if there shall appear to be overplus or surplus Estate belong to me and not hereby Bequeathed, I give Bequeath and dispose of all such to my Eldest Son Jacob, and in case any of these Seven children by my present wife Should die during their minority, Then his or their parts shall be Equally divided between my Surviving children by my present wife and not otherwise, and I do nominate and appoint my son in law Michael Shoemaker, and my beloved friend Anthony Lerch, to be Trustees of this my will, and to have Power of Binding to Trades my Sons, Samuel, Edward and Peter. But my Dear wife to be Sole Gardean and have power to Bind to trades my Sons Isaac and John, and I do also hereby nominate and ordain and appoint my Dear Wife my Son Jacob and my Son Conrad, to be Executrix and Executors of this my last will and Testament and I do hereby Revoke all former wills by me made and pronounce, Publish, and declare this to be my last will, and In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal to certify and confirm the Same this twentieth day of September in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and fifty seven, and thirtieth year of his Majesties Reign.

Sealed, Signed, Published and delivered In the Presence of us who at his request Set our hands as Witnesses to the Same

ANTON LERCH JR
JOHN JONES JR

JACOB SCHEIMER [SEAL]

TO WILLIAM PLUMSTEAD, ESQ.

Sir. We are to inform you that we whose names are hereunto Signed, are the Executrixs and Executors named in the last will and testament of Jacob Shimer of Lower Saucon in the county of Northampton deceased.

The which Will, we do deliver into the hands of Jacob Shimer Jr (who

is the other of the Executors named in the Sd. Will) In order to get it confirmed according to law.

As Witness our hands this fourth day of Oct. 1757

Her
ELIZABETH + SHIMER
Mark
CONRAD SHIMER

Oct 5, 1757.

Jacob Shimer one of the Executors
now qualified, the others, &c.

PHILADELPHIA Oct. 5, 1757

Then personally appeared Anthony Lerch and John Jones, the witnesses to the foregoing Will and on Oath did declare they saw and heard Jacob Shimer the testator therein named, Sign, Seal, Publish and declare the Same will for and as his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of Sound mind memory and understanding to the best of their Knowledge

WILLIAM PLUMSTEAD.

The above will is recorded Book 10, page 9, Philadelphia.

The following documents are in the possession of Col. Nicholas Rittenhouse at Baltimore, from which I copied: A Bond from Jacob Shimer, of Skippack, in the county of Philadelphia, to Claus Rittinghausen, paper maker, of same county, executor of the last will and testament of Hei-vert Papen, for the sum of £10, current silver money of America, dated September 1, 1724.

A bond dated March 5, 1710 to 1711, by Claus Reestenhous papermaker, for £6.

A bond of Claus Rittinghuis, 1722.

A release of Christiana Papen, Spinster, against the executors of Claus Rittenhouse, August 17, 1734.

Release of Garret Brownback, Jacob Shimer, Jan Jansen, Catharine Papen, and Claus Rittenhouse, dated November 26, 1720.

Oct. y^e 21st 1757.

A JUST AND TRUE ACCOUNT

Of the appraisement of the Estate of Jacob Sheimer deceased, appraised by Rudolph Overlay and Michael Lutts

	£	s	d
for horse gears and one old Saddle,	2	0	0
2 chests, and 2 old Barrels,	0	14	0
5 Augurs, 3 chissels, and Steel for a cutting box,	0	12	0
Iron things,	0	12	0
Pewter,	1	5	0
a pair of Stilliards,	0	8	0
a dresser and earthen ware, trenches, 1 tankard,	1	13	0
a Dough trough and big Spinning Wheel,	0	10	0
a clothe press,	1	0	0
an Iron Stove,	4	0	0
a table and 4 chairs,	0	16	0
two Books,	0	11	0
a pair of Wool Cards,	0	4	0
a Hat,	1	0	0
a Suit of Cloath, and Great Coat,	3	0	0
two bed Sheets,	0	14	0
two beds and beddings,	2	10	0
Eight Baggs,	0	10	0
an Iron plate,	0	4	0
a Tub and 2 pails,	0	4	0
two axes,	0	1	6
a Grind Stone,	0	3	0
3 old hoes and 1 old spade,	0	4	0
2 ploughs and what belongs to them,	2	0	0
an iron barr and harrow teeth,	0	10	0
4 Empty casks, 15 barrels, and 3 hogsheads,	2	5	0
a wagon,	9	0	0
a plautation wagon,	2	0	0
a Mare and Colt,	7	0	0
a Working horse,	9	0	0
an old horse,	1	0	0
a Stone horse,	11	0	0
10 Sheep,	2	10	0
6 shoats and 7 small pigs,	2	0	0
4 Milk cows,	10	0	0
7 barren cattle,	8	0	0
9 Barrels of cider,	2	5	0
50 Bushels of wheat,	6	10	0

	£	s	d
corn sowed in the ground,	11	0	0
a wind Mill and cutting box,	2	15	0
a piece of wood land,	41	0	0
the Dwelling house and Plantation,	253	0	0
	405	10	6

[FROM DR. JACOB SHIMER.]

JACOB SCHEIMER.

The name of the subject of this sketch first appears in a Low Dutch manuscript memorandum, found among the Rittenhouse papers, dated 1722, in Germantown, Pa. Next we find a notice that he was a subscriber to Ax's Burying Ground (Lutheran), in Germantown, in 1724.

According to the Pennsylvania Archives, he was naturalized in 1730, and paid quit to the English Government on 100 acres, prior to 1734, Skippack, Pa. This tract of land was situate in the township of Germantown, in the county of Philadelphia, and was conveyed to John Ashmead, blacksmith, of Philadelphia, on the 5th day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight.

The deed was recorded ye 29th day of March, A. D. 1734, in Deed Book, F, No. 6, page 398, in the Recorder's office, Philadelphia, Pa.

As no record of immigrants was kept until the year 1727, the date of his arrival in this country is not known, nor the name of the place from whence he came; but as his autograph signature appears in German in his will, and as nearly all the early German settlers of Germantown came from the Rhine Province, the latter was most likely his native place.

He was married first to Margaret, the fourth daughter of Heivert Papan and Elizabeth Rittenhouse, the only daughter of Willem Rüttinghuysen. The date of their marriage is not known. He was an adherent of the Ausburg Confession of Faith, as his subsequent religious history shows. Rev. Dr. Mann, of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, in a

historical discourse says; "Two hundred years ago the first German emigrants came to our beautiful Pennsylvania. They were few in number . . . they came as Christians . . . and, being unprovided with churches, they united with the Quakers and Mennonites and worshiped with them." But all historians agree that the Mennonites kept no Church Books from 1710 to 1770, or they were lost. Prior to 1735-40 no Lutheran denomination had been organized, except the Zion Lutheran Church of Philadelphia, and the record of that church does not contain the names of Jacob Scheimer and Margaret Papen in its Marriage List. But other documents prove that they were married between the years 1720 and 1722. One of these is a certificate on file in the Register of Wills' office, and reads as follows:—

THESE ARE TO CERTIFY all persons whom it may concern, that we, the hereunder written heirs of Heivert Papen, have made up the accounts with Claus Rüttinghuysen and Abraham Tunis, the Executors of our father's last will and testament, this seventeenth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and nineteen and twenty. They having dispersed, by their accounts, one hundred and ninety-nine pounds, nineteen shillings and four pence to the bringing of us up, and repairing of houses, as also paid unto us in Bonds and Bills, the sum of one hundred and four pounds and fifteen shillings. The receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, and own ourselves satisfied therewith.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands the day and year above written.

His
GERHARD X BROWNBACK.
Mark.
JAN JANSEN.
Her
GERTRUDE X PAPEN.
Mark.
Her
MARGARET X PAPEN.
Mark.

Brownback and Jansen signed the above as representatives of their wives, but Gertrude and Margaret Papen, being unmarried, appear in their own names.

The Low Dutch memorandum already referred to mentions the names of Brownback, Jansen, and Scheimer as

representatives of the three married daughters of Heivert Papen, and the names of Catharine and Christiana, the two single daughters, which, in connection with the above mentioned certificate, is presumptive evidence that they were married between the years 1720 and 1722.

Margaret died between the years 1729 and 1732, but the exact date cannot be determined, as no record could be found; neither is the place of her interment known.

They had six children: 1, Abraham; 2, Anthony; 3, Elizabeth, married Vikeson; 4, Mary, married Shoemaker; 5, Catharine, married Young; 6, Sarah.

Jacob Scheimer married again, and his wife's Christian name, Elizabeth, only is known. The eldest child, Jacob, was born June 4, 1734. They had seven sons: 1, Jacob; 2, Conrad; 3, Samuel, 4, Edward; 5, Peter; 6, Isaac; 7, John. Jacob, Edward, and Isaac only left issue.

In the year 1736 Jacob Scheimer moved from Skippack to a plantation situated on the northern slope of the South Mountain, bordering on the south bank of the Lehigh River, below Bethlehem, Pa., where he died September 17, 1757, aged 78 years.

He was twenty years the senior of his first wife, and about the same of his second wife, and was seventy years old when his youngest child, John, was born.

GEN.

3 18 5 *Elizabeth Papen*, born about 1700; married Jan Jansen December 29, 1719, in the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. See "Colonial Records Early Marriages," page 37. She died prior to 1728, as records will show. I have not been able to obtain any further knowledge about this family.



JACOB RITTENHOUSE.

Born about 1725 (?), died 1811. Paper Manufacturer; has been a member of the Minute Men of 1776.

CHILDREN OF NO. 5.

WILLIAM RITTENHOUSE³, OF NICHOLAS,² OF
WILLEM¹.

GEN.
4 19 1 *Nicholas Rittenhouse*, born 1719; died 1787;
married Catharine Nyse October 18, 1741;
had two sons, Martin and William. Residence,
Roxborough, Philadelphia.

4 20 2 *William Rittenhouse*, born _____ married
_____. He had two children,
William and Barbara. Residence, Rox-
borough, Philadelphia.

4 21 3 *Jacob Rittenhouse*, born _____ ;
died 1811 without issue. He was the great
grandson of Willem Rittenhouse, the
founder of the paper-mill near German-
town, who was succeeded by his son Klaus
(Nicholas), who left it to his son William. When he died
his son Jacob became the owner, and carried on the business
until 1811, when he died, and a family by the name of
Markle, also paper-makers, occupied the mill. One of this
family, Jacob Markle, married Catharine, the widow of
Isaac Rittenhouse, of Roxborough, Philadelphia. Her
maiden name was Schwartz.

Jacob Rittenhouse was a member of the Mennonite Church
at Germantown.

4 22 4 *Abraham Rittenhouse*, born 1723; died in
1815. His wife was Ann _____. He
had a grist and merchant mill above
Paper-mill Run, on the Wissahickon, near
the Red Bridge, about a half mile below
where the paper mill stood. He was a member of the Men-
nonite Church at Germantown and was chosen one of the

Building Committee to superintend the building of the Mennonite Meeting-house at Germantown in 1770; he also willed fifty dollars to said Society.

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF ABRAHAM RITTENHOUSE.

Item.

I give and bequeath to the use of the Mennonite Meeting-house in Germantown the Sum of Fifty dollars to be paid into the hands of the Elders or Deacons thereof in One year after my decease to them or their Successors for the use aforesaid.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my housekeeper Susan Fason, in consideration of her Faithfulness a Bed, Bedstead and Bedding heretofore in her use and the Sum of fifty dollars.

I give devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my Estate not herein before willed and bequeathed that is to say all that the Messuage wherein I now dwell with the Grist and Merchant Mill on the waters of the Wissahickon Creek, and all the Plantation tracts, Lot, pieces and parcels, of land unto me belonging Situate Roxborough Township aforesaid, with every of the buildings water rights and Appurtenances unto the Same belonging together with all my personal estate of every description not herein before willed and bequeathed unto my three Sons namely Enoch Rittenhouse, Samuel Rittenhouse, and Jacob Rittenhouse.

Will probated 1815.

COPIED FROM A PRINTED NOTICE.

Philadelphia

1788.

The inhabitants of Roxborow Township are hereby notified to meet at the house of Nathan Levering the 12 day of January between the hours of 2 and 5 in the afternoon to elect two freeholders to assist in assessing the Said Township for furnishing the quota of this State towards paying the interest of the debts of the United States and for funding and paying the interest of the public debts of this State for the year 1788.

ABRAHAM RITTENHOUSE, Assessor.

GEN.

- 4 23 5 *Isaac Rittenhouse*, born 1725 (?); died 1796 (?); married Catharine Schwartz. Lived in Roxborough township, Philadelphia county, Pa. He and his wife connected themselves with the Mennonite Church at Germantown in 1771. He had three children, Peter, Sarah, and Isaac. *1757*
- 4 24 6 *John Rittenhouse*, born 1742; died 1796; married Margaret Conrad September 7, 1767. She was a daughter of Cornelius and Margaret (Kolb) Conrad. In later years it appears they resided in Bucks county, Pa., in the vicinity of Line Lexington. Margaret, the wife of John Rittenhouse, was born March 7, 1749, and died April 10, 1812. Her mother, Margaret (Kolb) Conrad died May 9, 1809, aged 85 years, 7 months, 5 days. She was the daughter of Isaac Kolb, of North Wales, Montgomery county, Pa. They had nine children—Michael, Jacob, Daniel, Margaret, Ann, John, Cornelius, Susanna, and Henry. They were Mennonites at Germantown.
- 4 25 7 *Mary Rittenhouse*, married, first, William Heisler, and had eight children—viz., John, Abraham, Mary, Susan, Ann, Eliza, George.
- After the death of her first husband she was married again, to John Cook. Had no issue by last marriage.
- 4 26 8 *Susan Rittenhouse*, married Jacob Bright February 1, 1751 (formerly Brecht). Their children were Michael and Mary. I find the name of Jacob Bright recorded in the Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 8, Early Marriages, as Jacob Brecht.

GEN.

- 4 27 9 *Margaret Rittenhouse*, married Peter Smith and had three children, resided at Germantown.
- 4 28 10 *Barbara Rittenhouse*, born about 1730. Her first marriage was with Balzer Trout on March 31, 1755, in Zion Church, Philadelphia, who died young and left one daughter, Susanna Trout, who died unmarried. She was again married to Isaac Kolb, of Skippack, Montgomery county, Pa., and had four children—viz., John, William, Jacob, and Nicholas. They resided in the vicinity of Pittville, east of Germantown, where a number of their descendants yet live. They connected themselves with the Mennonite Church at Germantown in 1771.

CHILDREN OF NUMBER 6.

HENRY RITTENHOUSE,³ OF NICHOLAS,² OF WILLEM.¹

- 4 29 1 *Wilhelmina Rittenhouse* born August 5, 1721, died May 5, 1791, aged 69 years, 9 months; m. Dillman Kolb, son of Martin Kolb, a minister in the Mennonite Church at Skippack, Montgomery county, Pa., who came to America from the Palatinate in 1707 and settled at Germantown, and in 1709 moved to Skippack, Montgomery county, Pa., where Dillman was born March 2, 1719, and died October 19, 1799, aged 80 years, 5 months, 6 days. They are buried at the old Skippack Mennonite meeting-house, where they were members. Occupation, farmer.

Dillman Kolb, and Isaac Kolb, mentioned above, who married Barbara Rittenhouse, were brothers, and their wives were cousins. Dillman Kolb had the following named children—Esther, Magdalena, Henry, Daniel, Martin, Isaac, Matthias, and Wilhelmina.

GEN.

- 4 30 2 *William Rittenhouse*, born 1723. He was married and had, as far as known, six children — viz, Joseph, Zachariah, Wilhelmina, William, Susan, Katie. Many of his descendants live in the western part of the State, a number of them in Mifflin county, Penna., in the vicinity of Lewistown, Pa.
- 4 31 3 *Nicholas Rittenhouse*, born 1725; died March 23, 1777; married Ann ———, died March 26, 1777, aged 52 years. Had the following children, Susanna, Edward, Isaac, Mary, Nicholas, Richard, Samuel, Henry. We find his will recorded in Book R, No. 15, page 15, at Philadelphia, and proven 1777. He is buried at Worcester Mennonite Meeting-house, Montgomery county, Pa., where he held membership. He was a farmer.
- 4 32 4 *Henry Rittenhouse*, born July 14, 1730; died —1794, married Sophia Earnhard; she was born July 14, 1730; died December 17, 1800. Their children were Christopher, William, Wilhelmina, David, Joseph, Henry. They are buried at the Worcester Mennonite Meeting-house, Montgomery county, Pa. He was a farmer.
- 4 33 5 *Matthias Rittenhouse*, born ^{Feb. 32} 1702, on July 14, and died June 3, 1793; married Catharine ———, who died August 10, 1793, in Worcester, Montgomery county, Pa. Buried at the Mathatchon Mennonite Meeting-house. There are Matthias, Joseph, Sarah, Catharine, Molly, Nancy, Minnie, Magdalena. Farmer. Mennonites.

CHILDREN OF NO. 7.

MATTHIAS RITTENHOUSE,³ OF NICHOLAS,² OF
WILLIAM¹.

GEN.
4 34 1 *Margaret Rittenhouse*, born about 1728; married Edward Morgan; had, as far as known, one son, named Morgan Morgan.

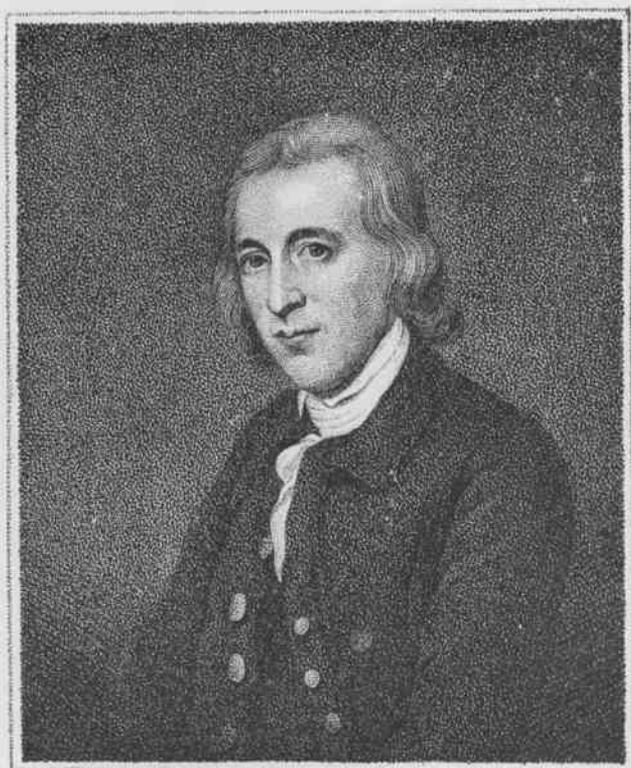
4 35 2 *Andrew Rittenhouse*, died in infancy.

4 36 3 *Jonathan Rittenhouse*, died young.

4 37 4 *David Rittenhouse*, born April 8, 1732, in Roxborough township, Philadelphia county, Pa. The house in which he was born was built in 1707, as appears from the date-stone, or tablet, in the gable-end, and is still standing and occupied by a family (1893). He was the oldest son of the family who survived the age of infancy and grew to manhood. He was the son of Matthias Rittenhouse of the third generation, who was born 1703, and in 1727 married Elizabeth Williams, the daughter of a native of Wales, named Evan Williams. David was married on February 20, 1766, to Eleanor Coulston. She died December, 1770, and in December, 1772, he married Hannah Jacobs, his second wife. He died June 26, 1796, aged 64 years, 2 months, and 18 days.

He was the celebrated American astronomer, born in Roxborough, near Germantown. At the age of two years, his father removed with his family to a farm in Norriton, now Montgomery county, and David resided there until 1770, when he moved to Philadelphia, on Arch and Seventh Streets.

His first marriage was with Eleanor Coulston, daughter of Bernard Coulston, a reputable farmer in the neighborhood, and a member of the religious Society called Quakers.

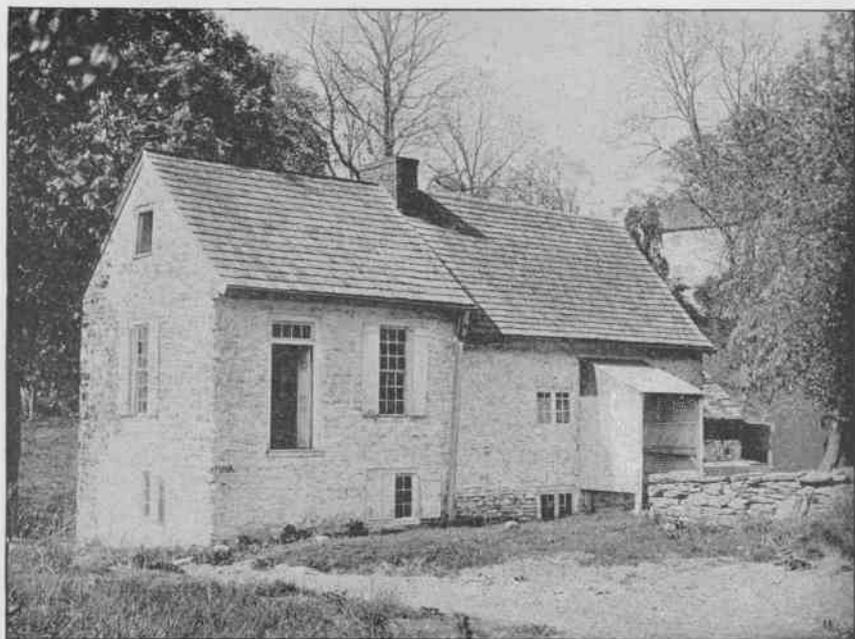


C. G. Smith del. 1773

H. S. Aron sculp.

David Rittenhouse

Ann. Etat. 40



THE HOUSE IN WHICH DAVID RITTENHOUSE THE ASTRONOMER WAS
BORN, ON APRIL 8, 1732.

Mr. David Rittenhouse was not himself a member of any particular church or denomination, but the marriage was solemnized at Norriton by the Rev. Thomas Barton, who went thither for the purpose at his brother-in-law's request (David Rittenhouse).

The second wife of David Rittenhouse was sister of John and Israel Jacobs, who were well-informed country gentlemen; the former was Speaker of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and the latter a member of Congress after the Revolution.

By this second marriage there was but one child, a daughter, who died in her infancy. Mrs. Rittenhouse survived her husband little more than three years. She died October, 1799.

A monument of granite, about twelve feet high, was erected to the memory of David Rittenhouse in the year of 1884, in the Court-house yard at Norristown, Montgomery county, Pa.

In 1751 Rev. Thomas Barton, of Lancaster county, Pa., an alumnus of Trinity College, Dublin, who afterward married the sister of David Rittenhouse and became a Professor in the University of Pennsylvania, supplied him with books and taught him Latin and Greek.

The children of David Rittenhouse were two daughters, Elizabeth and Esther, both by the first marriage.

There was one daughter by the second marriage, but she died quite young.

PATERNAL ANCESTORS OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

The paternal ancestors of our "Philosopher," David Rittenhouse, were early and long seated at Arnheim, a fortified city on the Rhine and capital of the district of Velewe or Veluwe, sometimes called the Velau, in the Batavian province of Guelderland, where it is said they manufactured paper during the course of some generations.

William Barton, son of Rev. Thomas Barton, the brother-in-law of David Rittenhouse, says: "Having been in Holland in the summer of 1778, I adverted, while in Amsterdam, to the circumstance of the Rittenhouses of Pennsylvania having come into America from some part of the United Provinces; and his curiosity being excited by his consanguineous connection with that family, he endeavored to obtain some information concerning them. The following was the result of his inquiries:" He found a Mr. *Adrian Rittinghuysen* (so he himself wrote his name) residing in that city. This venerable man, who was then (1778) eighty-five years of age, appeared to be at least independent in his condition, and had probably retired from business, the part of the city in which he resided (the Egelantier's Gracht, or Canal) not exhibiting the appearance of a street of trade. The information derived from this respectable old man was, that his forefathers had long been established at Arnheim; that his father, Nicholas, was a paper manufacturer in that city, as others of the family had been, and that his father's brother, William, went with his family to North America, where he some time afterward, as he had understood, established the paper mills at Germantown. He further stated that he had only one child, a daughter, who was married and resided at The Hague, and that he was himself, as he believed, the last of his family name remaining in the United Provinces.

In the "Biographical Dictionary" by S. L. Blake, D. D., we find the following: Conradus Rittershusius, a learned civilian, born at Brunswick September 25, 1560. He studied at Helmstadt and afterward became professor of law at Altorf, where he continued to reside till his death in 1613, though he had the most liberal invitations from German and Dutch universities. He edited "Oppious Cynegeticon" and some other works.

His son George wrote the life of his father. And his son Nicholas was afterward professor of law at Altorf, and

published "Genealogiæ Imperatorum, Regum, Ducum, Comitum," etc., 7 volumes, folio. He died 1670.

As far as known, the first of the Rittenhouses who migrated to America was named William, generally called Willem, or Wilhelm; it appears by examining records that he moved from Broich to Arnheim, thence to Amsterdam, Holland, where he yet lived in 1678, and became a citizen of Amsterdam; and at that time his brother, Heinrich Nicholas, his mother, and sister were living in Broich, near Falkenstein, in Rheinland. In what year he left Amsterdam is not exactly known, but according to records he settled in Germantown in 1688. There has been a genealogical record of the family in the possession of Rev. Thomas Barton, which stated that Garret (or Gerard) and Nicholas Rittenhouse arrived at New York from Holland so late as the year 1690. (It appears, according to other records, to have been a few years earlier.) It likewise states that Nicholas there married Wilhelmina Dewees, a sister of William Dewees, who came thither about the same time, and that, soon afterward, they all moved to the neighborhood of Germantown in Pennsylvania, where Willem Rittenhouse was instrumental in having established the first paper mill ever erected in America. Garret and Nicholas were sons of Willem. They also had a sister named Elizabeth, who married Heivert Papen.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMER.

Nicholas Rittenhouse, the grandfather of our philosopher, died 1734, leaving three sons, William, Henry, and Matthias. The latter was the father of David Rittenhouse, the philosopher.

The old stock of Rittenhouses in America were Mennonites, or followers of Menno Simons. The leader of that Church at that time was one of the first reformers; he was

born 1492, died 1559. His native home was Witmarsum, in the Bavarian province of Friesland.

The fundamental principles of the followers of Menno are, in some respects, similar to those of the people called Quakers; they use, likewise, great plainness of dress, and adhere to some of the practices of the primitive Christian Church. But this peaceable sect baptize adults, and do not swear an oath. They call themselves "defenseless Christians," being strictly opposed to all warfare, and during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries they suffered terribly at the stake and by other methods of persecution.

It was of Dirk Willems, a Mennonite, burned in 1569 for having been rebaptized and holding meetings in his house, that Motley tells a pathetic story, copied from Van Braght. To escape threatened capture he fled across a lake covered with thin ice. One of his pursuers, more eager than wise, followed, and, breaking through, was unable to extricate himself. Willems, seeing the danger of his adversary, returned and assisted him to the shore, when the base wretch, with unequalled ingratitude, arrested his rescuer and hurried him away to prison. There were very nearly as many martyrs among the Mennonites in the city of Antwerp alone as there were Protestants burned to death in England during the whole reign of Bloody Mary, thus showing the principles and sufferings of the defenseless people at that time, among whom were our ancestors, the Rittenhouses.

Willem Rittinghuysen, the first Mennonite preacher in Pennsylvania, and ordained the first Mennonite bishop in America in 1701, came with his family and others of the same persuasion to Germantown in 1688, and on a branch of the Wissahickon Creek, in Roxborough township, built in 1690 the earliest paper mill in America. It is with reference to this mill that Gabriel Thomas, a quaint old chronicler of the seventeenth century, says: "All sorts of very good paper are made in the German Town," and it supplied the paper used by William Bradford, the first

printer in Pennsylvania, as well as the first in New York. Here, on the 8th of April, 1732, David Rittenhouse, a great-grandson of the emigrant, was born.

His mother, Elizabeth Williams, was the daughter of Evan Williams, a native of Wales, and probably one of the Quaker converts who came from that country and settled a number of townships in Pennsylvania.

When he was two years old his father, Matthias, removed with his family to a farm in Norriton, now Montgomery county, and naturally enough he determined that David, the oldest son, should follow the same pursuit. As soon, therefore, as he was strong enough to be of assistance, he was put to the ordinary farm work, and he plowed and harrowed, sowed and reaped, like all the boys by whom he was surrounded. His tastes, however, ran in another direction, and one of those occurrences which are sometimes called accidents gave him an opportunity to gratify them. An uncle, who was a carpenter, died, leaving a chest of tools, and among them a few books, containing the elements of arithmetic and geometry and some mathematical calculations. These things, valueless to every one else, became a treasure to David, then about twelve years old, and they seem to have determined the bent of his life. The handles of his plow, and even the fences around the fields, he covered with mathematical calculations. At the age of eight he made a complete water-mill in miniature. At seventeen he made a wooden clock, and afterward one in metal. Having thus tested his ability in an art in which he had never received any instruction, he secured from his somewhat reluctant father money enough to buy in Philadelphia the necessary tools, and after building a shop by the roadside, set up in business as a clock and mathematical instrument maker.

His days were given to labor at his chosen trade and his nights to study. By too close application he injured his health, contracting an affection of the lungs, attended with great pain, that clung to him all of his life and seriously

interfered with his writing, but he solved the most abstruse mathematical and astronomical problems, discovering for himself the method of fluxions. For a long time he believed himself its originator, being unaware of the controversy between Newton and Leibnitz for that great honor. "What a mind was here!" said Dr. Benjamin Rush later, in a burst of enthusiastic admiration. "Without literary friends or society, and with but two or three books, he became, before he had reached his four-and-twentieth year, the rival of two of the greatest mathematicians of Europe."

He mastered the "Principia" of Newton in an English translation, and became so engrossed in the study of optics that he wrote of himself in 1756, during the French and Indian War, that should the enemy invade his neighborhood he would probably be slain making a telescope, as was Archimedes while tracing geometrical figures on the sand. In 1751 the Rev. Thomas Barton, of Lancaster county, an alumnus of Trinity College, Dublin, who afterward married the sister of Rittenhouse and became a professor in the University of Pennsylvania, went to Norriton to teach school, and, making the acquaintance of the young philosopher and clock maker, they became warm friends. Barton supplied him with books from which he obtained a knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, and two years later brought to him from Europe a number of scientific works. Though his clocks had become celebrated for their accuracy, and he had obtained a local reputation for astronomical information, it seems to have been through Barton that the attention of men of learning was first drawn to him. Among these were Dr. William Smith, provost of the University, John Lukens, Surveyor-General (another Pennsylvania Dutchman, whose direct paternal ancestor, Jan Lucken, settled in Germantown in 1683), and Richard Peters, Provincial Secretary. Through the last named he was called upon in 1763 to perform his first public service, and one of very serious importance. It was provided in an agreement between the Penns and Lord



FAIR VIEW, MONTGOMERY CO., PA.
THE HOUSE IN WHICH DAVID RITTENHOUSE MADE HIS FIRST OBSERVA-
TIONS AND HIS FIRST WOODEN CLOCK.

Baltimore, settling the disputed boundary of their respective provinces, that a circle should be drawn with a radius of twelve miles around the town of Newcastle. With instruments of his own manufacture Rittenhouse laid out this circle topographically, and alone he made a number of tedious and intricate calculations in such a satisfactory manner that he was tendered extra compensation. The astronomers, Mason and Dixon, furnished with the best instruments for the purpose that could be made in England, accepted Rittenhouse's circle without change when, in 1768, they completed their famous line, which for so many years, divided the Free from the Slave States. The point where the forty-first degree of latitude, the northern limit of New Jersey, reaches the Hudson was fixed by Rittenhouse, at the request of a commission appointed by New York and New Jersey, in 1769, and in this peaceful way, by an appeal to the telescope rather than ordnance, were settled between adjacent independent States questions which, in other lands, have frequently led to sanguinary wars.

In 1767 the University of Pennsylvania conferred on him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, because, as was said by the Provost, of his improvement by the felicity of natural genius in mechanics, mathematics, and astronomy.

"He had an observatory* on the eminence above Providence Presbyterian Church, a locality which afforded a sweep of the heavens east and west of near fifty miles, and north and south half the distance. Here he and Franklin, who was a frequent visitor, studied astronomy, electricity, and kindred subjects. So industrious was he, that with the aid of three or four books, before his twenty-fifth year, he was able to read the Principia of Newton in Latin, and it is asserted that he discovered the method of fluxions, usually attributed to Newton or Leibnitz.—*Buck's History of Montgomery County.*

* Not a special building, but in all probability he used an upper room in the same house where he made his first clock.

"In 1764 his father moved to another farm, giving the homestead to David, who, on the 20th of February, 1766, married Eleanor Coulston, daughter of Bernard Coulston, a farmer of the neighborhood, of which name there are many respectable families still residing in Montgomery county.

"Very early in his career his attention was drawn to the variations in the oscillations of the pendulum, caused by the expansion and contraction of the material of which it is made, and appreciating the importance of an accurate chronometer, he devised a novel and satisfactory plan of compensation by attaching to the pendulum a bent tube of glass, partially filled with alcohol and mercury. In 1767 he wrote a paper for the *Pennsylvania Gazette* upon the famous problem of Archimedes, and made some experiments upon the compressibility of water, reaching the conclusion, notwithstanding the tests of the Florentine Academy, that it was compressible. The same year he made a thermometer based upon the principle of the expansion and contraction of metals. An index moved upon a flat surface over a semicircle, which was graduated according to the Fahrenheit degrees of heat. During the present century Breguet has obtained much reputation by inventing anew this forgotten instrument.

"A greater mechanical design was, however, now in contemplation than any he had before undertaken. He conceived the idea of endeavoring to represent by machinery the planetary system. Similar attempts had previously been made, but all had represented the planetary movements by circles, being mere approximations, and none were able to indicate the astronomical phenomena at any particular time. The production of Rowley, a defective machine, giving the movement of only two heavenly bodies, was bought by George I for a thousand guineas. Rittenhouse determined to construct an instrument not simply to gratify the curious, but which would be of practical value to the student and professor of astronomy. After three years of faithful labor, in the course of which, refusing to be guided

by the astronomical tables already prepared, he made for himself the calculations of all the movements required in this delicate and elaborate piece of mechanism, he completed in 1770 his celebrated orrery. Around a brass sun revolved ivory or brass planets in elliptical orbits properly inclined toward each other, and with velocities varying as they approached their aphelia or perihelia. Jupiter and his satellites, Saturn with his rings, the Moon and her phases, and the exact time, quantity, and duration of her eclipses; the eclipses of the Sun and their appearances at any particular place on the earth, were all accurately displayed in miniature. The relative situations of the members of the Solar System at any period of time for five thousand years backward or forward could be shown in a moment. It is not difficult to appreciate the enthusiasm with which this proof of a rare genius was received more than a century ago, but it is entertaining to witness the expression of it.

“A most beautiful machine. * * * It exhibits almost every motion in the astronomical world,’ wrote John Adams, who was always a little cautious about praising the work of other people. Samuel Miller, D. D., in his ‘Retrospect,’ said: ‘But among all the contrivances which have been executed by modern talents, the machine invented by our illustrious countryman, Dr. David Rittenhouse, and modestly called by him an orrery, after the production of Graham, is by far the most curious and valuable, whether we consider its beautiful and ingenious structure, or the extent and accuracy with which it displays the celestial phenomena.’

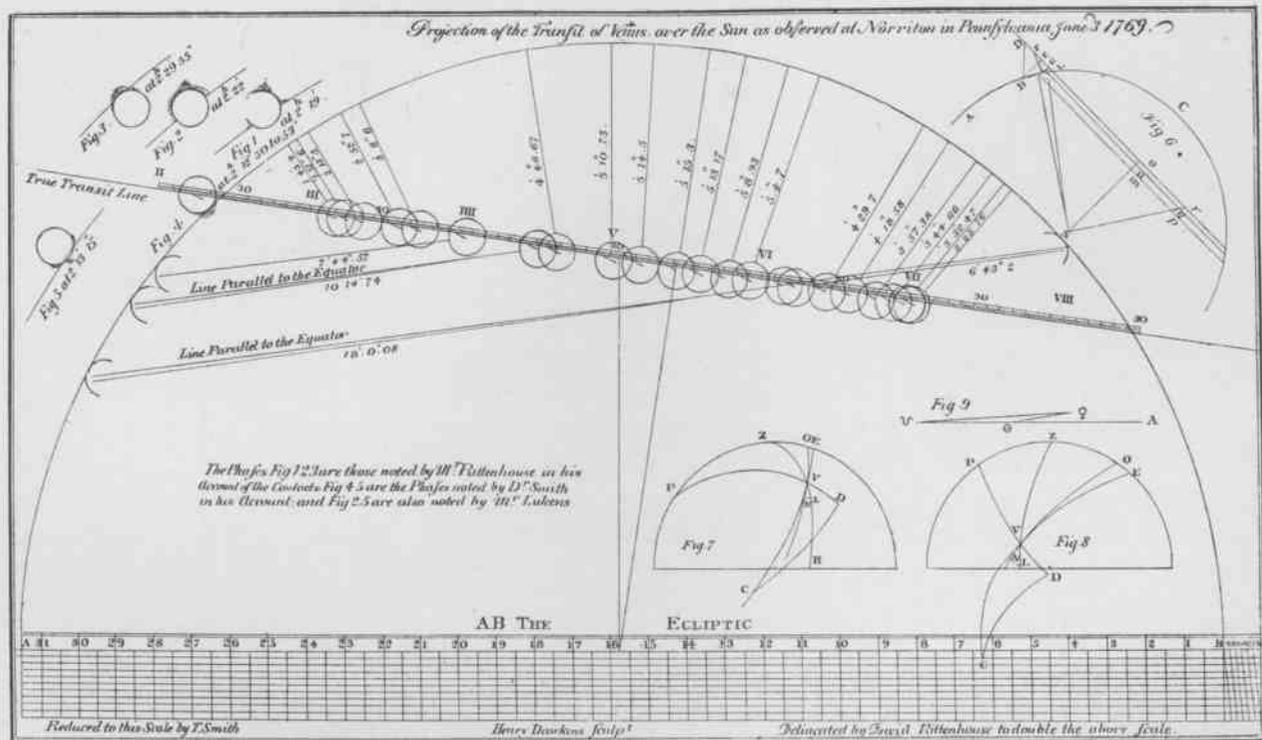
“‘There is not the like in Europe,’ said Dr. Gordon, the English historian; and Dr. Morse, the geographer, added, anticipating what has actually occurred: ‘Every combination of machinery may be expected from a country a native son of which, reaching this inestimable object in its highest point, has epitomized the motions of the spheres that roll throughout the universe.’

“His friend, Thomas Jefferson, wrote: ‘A machine far surpassing in ingenuity of contrivance, accuracy, and utility anything of the kind ever before constructed. * * * * He has not, indeed, made a world, but he has by imitation approached nearer its Maker than any man who has lived from the creation to this day.’

“Barlow, the author of that ponderous poem, the ‘Columbiad,’ put in rhyme:—

‘See the sage Rittenhouse, with ardent eye,
Lift the long tube and pierce the starry sky;
He marks what laws the eccentric wanderers bind,
Copies creation in his forming mind,
And bids beneath his hand in semblance rise
With mimic orbs the labors of the skies.’

“Two universities vied with each other for its possession, and after Dr. Witherspoon, of Princeton College, had secured it for £300, Dr. Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, wrote, with a slight touch of spleen: ‘This Province is willing to honor him as her own, and believe me, many of his friends regretted that he should think so little of his noble invention as to consent to let it go to a *village*.’ Smith was mollified, however, by an engagement immediately undertaken to construct a duplicate, and he delivered a series of lectures on the subject to raise the money required. Wondering crowds went to see it, and after the Legislature of Pennsylvania had viewed it in a body, they passed a resolution giving Rittenhouse £300 as a testimony of their high sense of his mathematical genius and mechanical abilities, and entered into an agreement with him to have a still larger one made, for which they were to pay £400. It even found its way into the field of diplomacy, for when Silas Dean was in France endeavoring to arrange a treaty of alliance between that country and our own against Great Britain, he suggested to the secret committee of Congress that the orrery be presented to Marie Antoinette as a



TRANSIT OF VENUS IN 1769. OBSERVED BY DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

douceur. It was somewhat injured by the British troops while in Princeton during the war.

"The year 1769 is memorable in the annals of astronomy. During that year occurred the transit of Venus—a phenomenon which offers the best means for calculating the distances between the heavenly bodies. It had up to that time never been satisfactorily observed. No man then living could ever have the opportunity again, because it would not recur for one hundred and five years.

"Astronomers all over the world were alive to its importance. Arrangements were made for taking such observations as were possible in the capitals of Europe, and the Governments of England and France sent expeditions for the purpose to Otaheite, Hudson's Bay, and California. As early as June 21 in the preceding year Rittenhouse read before the American Philosophical Society a series of calculations showing the time and duration of the coming transit. The Legislature of Pennsylvania gave £200 sterling toward the expense of buying a telescope and micrometer and the other outlays, and on the 7th of January, 1769, the Society appointed three committees to make observations in three different localities. One of these committees, consisting of Rittenhouse, Dr. William Smith, John Lukens, and John Sellers, was to repair to the home of Rittenhouse at Norriton, and to him were intrusted all of the preliminary arrangements. In November he began the erection of an observatory, which was completed in April. He continued for months a series of observations to determine the exact latitude and longitude of the place and to test the accuracy of his time-pieces. Thomas Penn sent from Europe a reflector, used by Smith; a set of glasses intended for Harvard University, but which came too late to be forwarded. Rittenhouse fitted up a refractor for Lukens, and his own telescope he retained. Several other necessary instruments, too, including a device for keeping time, he made with his own hands, and, like all of his construction,

they were admitted to have been better than could have been obtained abroad. According to Smith, the committee trusted in this respect entirely to the extensive knowledge of Rittenhouse, and when he and the others arrived, two days before the transit, they had nothing to do but adjust the telescopes to their vision. A rainy day, even a passing cloud, would have made all the labor vain, but, fortunately it happened to be perfectly clear. The previous anxiety, the sense of responsibility at the critical moment, the delight consequent upon the great success, constituted a sequence of



OBSERVATORY AT NORRITON, BUILT IN 1769.

emotions too exciting for the physically delicate Rittenhouse, and when the contact had ended he swooned away. The observations, according to the testimony of Maskelyne, the royal astronomer of England, were excellent and complete. Rittenhouse at once made calculations to determine the parallax of the sun and gave them to Dr. Smith, who added his own and prepared a report to the Society, which was printed in its proceedings; and so it happened that the first approximately accurate results in the measurement of the spheres were given to the world not by the schooled and

salaries of astronomers who watched from the magnificent royal observatories of Europe, but by unpaid amateurs and devotees to science in the youthful province of Pennsylvania. Said a learned English author: 'There is not another society in the world that can boast of a member such as Mr. Rittenhouse, theorist enough to encounter the problem of determining from a few observations the orbit of a comet, and also mechanic enough to make with his own hands an equal altitude instrument, a transit telescope, and a time-piece.'

"In the year 1769 there was also a transit of Mercury, a phenomenon by no means so rare or of such moment as that of Venus, but still of importance. Observations of it were made by Rittenhouse, Smith, Lukens, and Owen Biddle, and were published by the American Philosophical Society. The following year he calculated the elements of the motion and the orbit of a comet then visible, showing himself, by comparison with European investigators engaged in the same task, capable of performing the most difficult of computations in physical astronomy, and adding to his already extended reputation. In fact, these achievements had given him so wide a fame that his powers could no longer remain pent up in Norriton, and with the prospect of many advantages, both in the way of his handiwork and of his science, he removed to Philadelphia, the American center of learning and intelligence. He still gained his livelihood by mechanical labor, and it is curious to find him, as late as 1775, assuming charge, at a small salary, of the State House clock. About this time the almanacs of the day began to announce to their readers that, 'As to the calculations, I need only inform the public they are performed by that ingenious master of mathematics, David Rittenhouse, A. M., of this city, etc.' And, 'Our kind customers are requested to observe that the ingenious David Rittenhouse, A. M., of this city, has favored us with the astronomical calculations of our almanac for this year; therefore they may be most firmly relied

on.' Soon after his removal his wife died, and in December, 1772, he married Hannah Jacobs, a member of a distinguished and influential family in Chester and Philadelphia counties. In 1771 he made some experiments on the electrical properties of the gymnotus; in 1772, after constructing the necessary instruments, he and Samuel Rhoads, for the Assembly of Pennsylvania, surveyed and ascertained the levels of the lands lying between the Susquehanna and the Delaware, with a view to the connection of those two rivers by a canal. In 1773 he was appointed president of a commission to make the river Schuylkill navigable, a duty which they performed by constructing rough dams, and which was continued for a number of years; and in 1774 he and Samuel Holland, commissioners from their respective provinces, fixed the northeastern extremity of the boundary between New York and Pennsylvania.

"In 1770 he prepared for the publication of the American Philosophical Society, a paper giving a method of ascertaining the true time of the sun's passing the meridian, that attracted the attention of Von Zach, the Saxon astronomer. He was chosen one of the Secretaries of that Society in 1771, and on the 24th of February, 1775, he read before it an oration upon the subject of Astronomy. This oration is the most elaborate of his literary productions. The language is simple, the style strong and clear, and it displays much research and special knowledge. In it he traces the history of astronomical discoveries and progress down to the time at which he wrote, but the most interesting portion of the address, as a test of his own acumen, is that in which he endeavors to forecast the future, and to point out the most promising paths for further investigation. The possibility of the existence of the planets that were then unknown seems to have occurred to him, for he says, 'The telescope had discovered all the globes whereof it is composed, at least as far as we yet know.' He believed in the existence of beings differing from man more or less in their natures on the other

planets. The spots on the sun he conjectured to be solid and permanent cavities, darkened by matter that occasionally collected in them. But it was among the fixed stars that with correct inference he expected the greatest discoveries to be made; and the Milky Way, whose mysteries the telescopes of his day were not powerful enough to unravel, whetted his fancy and aroused his eloquence. The Milky Way, composed of millions of small stars, seemed to him to be a vein of closer textures running through material creation, which he supposed to be confined between parallel planes of immeasurable extent. The discoveries of Herschel and others subsequently verified many of his hypotheses. 'We shall find sufficient reason to conclude,' he says, 'that the visible creation, consisting of revolving worlds and central suns, even including all those that are beyond the reach of human eye and telescope, is but an inconsiderable part of the whole. Many others and very various orders of things, unknown to and inconceivable by us, may and probably do exist in the unlimited regions of space, and all yonder stars, innumerable, with their dependencies, may perhaps compose but the leaf of a flower in the Creator's garden, or a single pillar in the immense building of the Divine Architect.' His sentiments on some other subjects were occasionally interwoven. Frederick the Great he called tyrant of the north and scourge of mankind. He commiserated with those who, because their bodies were disposed to absorb or reflect the rays of light in a way different from our own, were in America doomed to endless slavery. The rapid growth of the American colonies seemed to him to indicate an early fall. He dreaded the introduction of articles of luxury, and the growth of luxurious tastes, through a too easy intercourse with Europe. 'I am ready to wish—vain wish,' he added, 'that Nature would raise her everlasting bars between the New and the Old World, and make a voyage to Europe as impracticable as one to the moon.'

"In March of the same year the American Philosophical

Society presented for the consideration of the Assembly a plan for the prosecution of discoveries in astronomy, geography, and navigation, to which they said they were urged by some of the greatest men of Europe. It contemplated the erection of a public observatory, by subscription, upon a lot of ground to be granted by the proprietaries, who had expressed their concurrence. It should be furnished with the necessary instruments, which would be of but little expense, because the gentleman whom it was proposed should conduct the design was capable of constructing them all in the most masterly manner. He should receive an annual salary both in the capacity of public astronomer and as surveyor of roads and waters. Here the captains and mates of vessels, and young men desirous of obtaining practical knowledge, should be taught the use of instruments and receive other instruction, and the observations made should be published annually for the benefit of learned societies at home and abroad. 'We have a gentleman among us,' they went on to say, 'whose abilities, speculative as well as practical, would do honor to any country, and who is, nevertheless, indebted for bread to his daily toil, in an occupation the most unfriendly both to health and study.' To give him an occasion to use his genius for the advantage of his country would be an honor which crowned heads might glory in, but which Pennsylvania ought not to yield to the greatest prince or people on earth. Should the present opportunity be neglected, whole centuries might not afford another.

"The fact that such a design should be seriously proposed and favorably entertained at that early period shows a remarkable appreciation of the abilities of Rittenhouse and a regard for the interests of science which is certainly creditable to the Society, the Legislature, and to public taste. It was the habit of the day to compare Rittenhouse to Newton, and who can say that if this scheme could have been carried into execution, and he could have devoted the remainder of his days to quiet study and investigation in those pursuits,

in which, unquestionably, he was a master, the parallel would not have been justified? Fate, however, determined otherwise. It was not to be. America had other work to do, and her Science must bide its time, though it be for ages. The whirlwinds of war were about to be let loose over the land, and even then the drums were beating in the town of Boston. A month later occurred the battles of Concord and Lexington. The next we see of Rittenhouse he was busily engaged in military rather than astronomical problems, and henceforth his time, his energies, and his talents were in the main occupied with sublunary affairs. He had made many clocks; their leaden weights were now needed for bullets, and it was ordered by the Committee of Safety that he and Owen Biddle 'should prepare moulds for the casting of clock weights, and send them to some iron furnace, and order a sufficient number to be immediately made for the purpose of exchanging them with the inhabitants of this city for their leaden clock weights.' He understood the measurement of heights and the establishment of levels, and was therefore sent to survey the shores of the Delaware to ascertain what points it would be best to fortify in order to prevent a landing of the enemy. The Committee of Safety appointed him their engineer in October, 1775, and in this capacity he was called upon to arrange for casting cannon of iron and brass, to view a site for the erection of a Continental powder mill, to conduct experiments for rifling cannon and musket balls, to fix upon a method of fastening the chain for the protection of the river, to superintend the manufacture of saltpetre, and to locate a magazine for military stores on the Wissahickon. The Assembly appointed him one of the committee in April, 1776, and in August he was elected its vice-president. As presiding officer he issued in November two proclamations, printed in the form of handbills, one of which announced to the citizens that the enemy were advancing, and that only the most vigorous measures could prevent the city from falling into their hands. 'We

therefore entreat you by the most sacred of all bonds, the love of virtue, of liberty, and of your country, to forget every distinction, and unite as one man in this time of extreme danger. Let us defend ourselves like men determined to be free!' The other was addressed to colonels of battalions, and, informing them that General Howe with his army was already at Trenton, continued: 'This glorious opportunity of signalizing himself in defense of our country, and securing the rights of America forever, will be seized by every man who has a spark of patriotism in his bosom.' In March, 1776, he was elected a member of the Assembly from the city of Philadelphia, and later a member of the Convention which met July 15, 1776, and drafted the first Constitution for the State of Pennsylvania. No delegate to the Convention was intrusted with more important duties than he, and frequently he presided over its deliberations. He was one of the committee which drafted the frame of government, and subsequently, together with Benjamin Franklin and William Vanhorn, he revised its language. A committee of which he was a member prepared an address to the people setting forth the reasons for the different actions which had been taken. On the 8th of April, 1777, David Rittenhouse, Owen Biddle, Joseph Dean, Richard Bache, and John Shee were appointed a Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania; and in the fall of that year, after the British army had entered within its borders and secured possession of Philadelphia, he was one of the Council of Safety, to whom the most absolute powers were temporarily granted. In order to provide for the preservation of the Commonwealth they were authorized to imprison and punish, capitally or otherwise, all who should disobey their decrees, to regulate the prices of all commodities, and to seize private property without any subsequent liability to suit because of any of their proceedings. Surely no other twelve men were ever vested with greater powers over their fellow-beings than these.

“On the 14th of January, 1777, he was elected by the Assembly the first State Treasurer under the new Constitution, and he was unanimously re-elected to the same position in each of the succeeding twelve years, and until he finally refused longer to serve. In consequence of the fluctuating values of both the State and Continental currencies, and their almost constant depreciation, together with the unusual demands for funds and the difficulties in the way of their collection incident to a state of war, it was an office of great trial and responsibility, for which the small commissions afforded a very inadequate compensation. It occupied his time and annoyed him so much that he once wrote to his wife, while hundreds of miles away in the forest, surrounded by savages, that nothing so reconciled him to his present deprivations ‘as the aversion I have to the plagues of that same office.’ When the approach of the British army and the subsequent capture of Philadelphia, in the fall of 1777, made necessary a withdrawal of the Government departments, the Treasury was removed to the second story front room of the house of Mr. Henry, in Lancaster. The family of Rittenhouse were at Norriton, so near to the lines of the enemy that the presence there of a member of the Council of Safety and Treasurer would have been attended with great risk, and he was therefore compelled to endure an anxious separation from them until the following June. In addition to holding the office of Treasurer, he was Trustee of the Loan Office for ten years, from 1780 to 1790, at which latter date it was superseded. The Loan Office was established in 1723 for the purpose of providing a circulating medium of exchange, and was authorized to loan bills of credit, which were legal tenders, upon the security of mortgages upon real estate. The duties of this office required the exercise of the greatest prudence in the issue of the bills and the nicest care in the valuation of the mortgages, and it is a tribute to the practical judgment of Rittenhouse, who

was sole trustee, that its affairs were finally closed entirely without loss.

“The disputes between Pennsylvania and Virginia upon the question of boundaries became serious, and in 1779 George Bryan, John Ewing, and David Rittenhouse for the former State, and James Madison and Robert Andrews for the latter, were appointed commissioners to adjust them. They entered into an agreement to extend Mason and Dixon's line due west five degrees of longitude from the river Delaware, and from its western extremity to draw a meridian to the northern limit of Pennsylvania, for the southern and western boundaries of that State. This agreement was subsequently ratified, but uncertainty as to the exact location of the line led to numerous collisions between settlers claiming under grants from the two States, and even hostilities were threatened. At one time the authority of Congress was invoked in the interest of peace. It finally became necessary to run and mark the lines, and in 1784 Pennsylvania appointed as commissioners for that purpose John Ewing, David Rittenhouse, John Lukens, and Thomas Hutchins. They accepted the appointment in a letter in which they say: ‘An anxious desire to gratify the astronomical world in the performance of a problem which has never yet been attempted in any country, by a precision and accuracy that would do no dishonor to our characters, while it prevents the State of Pennsylvania from the chance of losing many hundred thousands of acres secured to it by our agreement at Baltimore, has induced us to suffer our names to be mentioned in the accomplishment of the work.’

“The commissioners on behalf of Virginia were James Madison, Robert Andrews, John Page, and Andrew Ellicott. In April Rittenhouse was busily engaged in constructing the necessary instruments, and in June he, with Lukens, Page, and Andrews, erected an observatory at Wilmington, Delaware, where they made a series of sixty observations of

the eclipses of the moons of Jupiter before their departure. Page and Lukens were unable to endure the fatigue and labor of a six months' journey through the wilderness, and returned home, but the others accomplished their task with entire accuracy and certainty, and having ascertained the lines and the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, marked them by stones and by killing trees. The following summer the western boundary of that State was fixed by Rittenhouse and Andrew Porter on behalf of Pennsylvania, and Joseph Neville and Andrew Ellicott on behalf of Virginia. For that portion of the line north of the Ohio River Ellicott also acted for Pennsylvania. It was the most important work of the kind in which Rittenhouse was ever engaged, and to the general confidence in his skill was largely due the settlement of this serious and alarming controversy. In 1786 he and Andrew Ellicott, on behalf of Pennsylvania, and James Clinton and Simeon Dewitt, on behalf of New York, were engaged in fixing the boundary between those two States. The New York representatives relied entirely upon the Pennsylvanians for a supply of instruments, and there was no sector suitable for the purpose, at least in that part of America. Rittenhouse, therefore, made one which was used in determining the line, and which, in the language of Ellicott, was most excellent. On the 2d of December, 1785, Congress appointed Rittenhouse, with John Ewing and Thomas Hutchins, a commission to run a line of jurisdiction between the States of New York and Massachusetts, which work was performed in 1787, and constituted, says Dr. Rush, his farewell peace-offering to the union and happiness of his country.

“After Congress had determined upon the establishment of a Mint, Rittenhouse was appointed its first Director, April 14, 1792, by President Washington. He was extremely reluctant to undertake the task, but his mechanical knowledge and ability seemed to make him especially fitted for the organization of an institution whose successful working depended upon the construction and proper use of delicate

machinery, and at the urgent solicitation of both Jefferson and Hamilton he consented. When it had been running for three years, however, finding that he could be relieved from what he felt to be a burden, and that the pressing necessity for his services no longer existed, he resigned.

“The absorption of so much of his time since the beginning of the Revolutionary War in the performance of public duties, important and honorable as were the offices he held, was not only a source of regret to himself, but seems to have been generally regarded in the light of a sacrifice. As early as 1778 Jefferson felt impelled to write to him: ‘I doubt not there are in your country many persons equal to the task of conducting government, but you should consider that the world has but one Rittenhouse, and never had one before. * * * Are those powers, then, which, being intended for the erudition of the world, are, like air and light, the world’s common property, to be taken from their proper pursuit to do the commonplace drudgery of governing a single State—a work which may be executed by men of ordinary stature, such as are always and everywhere to be found?’ The Royalist party were fully as reluctant to see him participating in political affairs, and their sense of the loss to science would seem to have been equally as keen. A Tory poet published in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, December 2, 1777, these lines:—

“TO DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

“Meddle not with State affairs,
Keep acquaintance with the Stars;
Science, David, is thy line;
Warp not Nature’s great design,
If thou to fame wouldst rise.

“Then follow learned Newton still;
Trust me, mischievous Machiavel
Thou’lt find a dreary coast,
Where, damped the philosophic fire,
Neglected genius will retire
And all thy fame be lost.

“ ‘ Politics will spoil the man
 Formed for a more exalted plan.
 Great Nature bids thee rise,
 To pour fair Science on our age,
 To shine amidst the historic page,
 And half unfold the skies.

“ ‘ But if thou crush this vast design,
 And in the politician’s line
 With wild ambition soar,
 Oblivion shall entomb thy name,
 And from the rolls of future fame
 Thou’lt fall to rise no more.’

“The Rev. Jonathan Odell, also a Loyalist, contributed to Rivington’s *Royal Gazette*, of New York, for September 8, 1779, a long poem on ‘The Word of Congress,’ which contains the following :—

“ ‘ There dwelt in Norriton’s sequestered bowers
 A mortal blessed with mathematic powers,—
 To whom was David Rittenhouse unknown?
 Fair Science saw and marked him for her own.
 His eye creation to its bounds would trace,
 His mind the regions of unbounded space.
 While thus he soared above the starry spheres,
 The word of Congress sounded in his ears ;
 He listened to the voice with strange delight,
 And swift descended from his dazzling height,
 Then, mixing eager with seditious tools,
 Vice-President-elect of rogues and fools,
 His hopes resigned of philosophic fame,
 A paltry statesman Rittenhouse became.’

“Though the public affairs with which he was associated would have been sufficient to have exhausted the energies of a man of even more than ordinary abilities, and must necessarily have engrossed much of his attention, it must not be supposed that he abandoned his astronomical and philosophical studies. At the suggestion of Colonel Timothy Matlack, the Assembly, in April, 1781, granted him £250 for an observatory, which he erected probably at that time in the yard attached to his residence, at the northwest corner of

Seventh and Arch streets in Philadelphia, and which Lalande says in his *Astronomie*, in 1792, was the only one in America. The publication of the American Philosophical Society contains between the years 1780 and 1796 no less than seventeen papers written by him upon optics, magnetism, electricity, meteors, logarithms, and other mathematics, the improvement of timekeepers, the expansion of wood by heat, astronomical observations upon comets, transits, and eclipses, and similar abstruse topics. Even during the trying period of 1776, 1777, and 1778, while these publications were suspended and the war was surging around his own home, he and Smith, Lukens, and Biddle found time to note some observations upon a transit of Mercury and two eclipses of the sun. Within a week after the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British, Rittenhouse was in the city, seated by his telescope, watching an eclipse. In 1776 he wrote a defense of the Newtonian System for the *Pennsylvania Magazine*, and in 1782 invented a wooden hygrometer. From 1779 to 1782 he was Professor of Astronomy in the University of Pennsylvania, and also a Trustee and Vice Provost of the same institution. In this connection an interesting incident is narrated in the 'Life and Times of Dr. William Smith.' The announcement of the death of Franklin was brought by a messenger to a party of gentlemen, consisting of Thomas McKean, Henry Hill, Thomas Willing, Rittenhouse, and Dr. Smith, who were dining with Governor Thomas Mifflin at the Falls of Schuylkill. A fierce thunderstorm happened to be raging at the same time. Impressed by the event and the circumstances under which they heard it, Smith wrote at the table this impromptu:—

“ Cease, cease, ye clouds, your elemental strife !
 Why rage ye thus, as if to threaten life ?
 Seek, seek no more to shake our souls with dread !
 What busy mortal told you Franklin's dead ?
 What though he yields at Jove's imperious nod,
 With Rittenhouse he left his magic rod ! ”

“ He succeeded Franklin as President of the American Philosophical Society upon the death of the latter in 1790. He was elected a fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston in 1782; the College of New Jersey gave him the honorary degrees of Master of Arts in 1772 and Doctor of Laws in 1789; the College of William and Mary, in Virginia, gave him the honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1784, designating him as *principem philosophorum*; but the highest distinction of this character he ever received, and the highest in the world then attainable by a man of science, was his election as a foreign member of the Royal Society of London in 1795.

“ One of the closing events in the life of Rittenhouse has frequently been the subject of adverse criticism. The French people were then in the throes of their Revolution. The assistance given by France at the critical period of our war for independence, and the fact that she was now apparently in a death struggle in an effort to secure her own liberties, appealed most forcibly to the sympathies of the American people.

“ Genet, a warm-blooded and, as it proved, a not very discreet young Frenchman, was sent as Minister from the Republic to this country. When the news came of his arrival at Philadelphia, where Congress was sitting, a meeting of citizens was called in Independence Square, and Rittenhouse was appointed chairman of a committee to draft resolutions. These resolutions, a little glowing in their tone, but carefully drawn, so as not to conflict with the American position of neutrality, declared the cause of France to be that of the human race, and expressed the strongest sympathy with her in her struggle for ‘freedom and equality,’ as well as attachment, fraternal feeling, and gratitude.

“ The few remaining years of his life were spent in comparative retirement, during which the physical difficulties he had been laboring under from youth gradually cumulated, and his power of resistance diminished. He died on the

26th of June, 1796, his last words being an expression of gratitude to a friend for some slight attention, and of confidence in the future—' You make the way to God easier.'

"There is a bust of him from life by Ceracchi, and a portrait by Peale. Dr. Benjamin Rush read a eulogy before the American Philosophical Society, in the presence of the President and Congress of the United States, the Legislature of Pennsylvania, foreign Ministers, Judges, and men of learning of the time. One of the city squares bears his name. His home on Arch Street was long known as 'Fort Rittenhouse,' because, pending a dispute as to jurisdiction between Pennsylvania and the United States in 1809, it was guarded for three weeks by State militia to prevent the service of a mandamus issued by the Federal courts.

"Though he had never received any regular training, his attainments were extensive. In addition to the classics, he mastered the French, German, and Dutch languages. From the German he translated the drama of 'Lucia Sampson,' published by Charles Cist, and the 'Idyls of Gesner,' and in the *Columbian Magazine* for February, 1787, is a copper-plate print of the Ohio Pyle Falls from one of his sketches. A man of culture said he was never in his presence without learning something. He elicited the admiration of all the great men of his day, unless it be John Adams, who could find no remarkable depth in his face, called him an anchorite, and sought perhaps to disparage his reputation by alluding sharply to Philadelphia as 'the heart, the censorium, the pineal gland of the United States.' In person he was tall and slender, and the expression of his countenance was soft and mild. He had such a nice sense of honor that he refused to invest in the loans of the State while he was Treasurer, and when compelled to pay certain extravagant bills for the Mint, had them charged against his own salary. His modesty, partly due, doubtless, to the repression and religious seclusion through which his forefathers had for centuries passed, and partly to certain apparently feminine

traits in his character, amounted to a diffidence which was his chief defect. His tender sympathies went out to all of his fellows, and were liberal enough to embrace the negro slaves and the Conestoga Indians, who had fallen a prey to the vengeful instincts of the border. His tastes were simple and plain, his wants few, and his greatest pleasures were found within the circle of his own home. No higher tribute was ever accorded to human rectitude than was offered to him by the author of the Declaration of American Independence: 'Nothing could give me more pleasure,' wrote that statesman in a private letter to his daughter Martha, 'than your being much with that worthy family, wherein you will see the best examples of rational life, and learn to imitate them.' Such was the career and such the character of David Rittenhouse. When, a few years ago, Pennsylvania was called upon to place in the Capitol at Washington the statues of her two worthiest sons, she ought to have taken her warrior, Wayne, and beside him set her philosopher, Rittenhouse, who in his ancestry best represents that quiet and peaceful religious thought which led to her settlement, and in himself the highest intellectual plane she has yet reached."—S. W. P.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

"There have been many men of this country whom the whole nation delighted to honor; who were not born in palaces, nor of royal blood, but came from obscure situations and the humble walks of life; who, through the providence of God and their own energetic efforts, have come forth from these obscure situations, where they have been almost unknown save to those of a small community, to fill places of trust and honor. They have exhibited traits of character that have made them a blessing to their friends and have shed an influence for good upon the neighborhood, and their

lives should be written that they may be as charts to guide the young men in steering their vessels in the voyage of life.

“David Rittenhouse was born in Roxborough, Pennsylvania, in 1732, and was the son of a farmer. In his youth, while engaged in plowing, he would have the fences and his plow covered with mathematical calculations wrought out while his team was resting. His father, discovering his mind was more taken up by mathematical and mechanical arts than with farm labor, apprenticed him to a clockmaker. Here he had an opportunity of studying the construction and principles of mathematical instruments. Then he became a noted land surveyor, and was called to run the southern line of Pennsylvania. Afterward a commission of expert surveyors was sent over from England to trace this line, but they found the line as marked by the humble surveyor so accurate that they could make no improvement on it. And I believe he was the discoverer of what is known as the Pennsylvania method of calculating the area of land, by latitudes and departures.

“He also turned his attention to the study of astronomy. His observations on the transit of Venus, in 1769, were far in advance of anything then known, and have never been excelled. A planetarium constructed by him, showing the movements of the stars and heavenly bodies, now at Princeton College, has been examined by scientific men with much interest. He may be considered one of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers this country has ever produced, when we consider the educational and other advantages he enjoyed. His name stands beside that of Franklin in the history of this country.”

“One of the former biographers of David Rittenhouse has endeavored to account for his abilities by supposing that he derived them by descent from the mother's side. In this he seems to have adopted the popular opinion which denies to persons of pure Dutch descent any claim to talents of the

higher order. This opinion is, however, no more than a prejudice, which any inquiry into the annals of our country might have dissipated. It may, indeed, be admitted that the settlers of the New Netherlands made a less careful and less extensive provision for the education of their children than was done by the descendants of the Pilgrims; and to this want of foresight we may fairly ascribe any difference in the intelligence of the several masses of people. But in comparing those classes whose wealth gave them the power of commanding the higher branches of education, Holland has no reason to blush for her descendants; and the number of intelligent and learned individuals of Dutch extraction is only small, because the population whence they are derived is less numerous than that with which it is thus invidiously compared. The United Netherlands were distinguished, at the time when the ancestors of Rittenhouse emigrated, for high attainments in science and the useful arts. The very business in which they had been engaged in the place of their nativity, and which they so speedily resumed in America, may almost serve as proof that they were devoid neither of education nor ability. Still, talent is hereditary in families; and it often happens that we are wholly at a loss to account, by any circumstance of parentage, for the peculiar genius of individuals. So far from there being a transmission of abilities by natural descent, nothing is rarer than to find successive generations of the same family equally distinguished; and, on the other hand, it often happens that a single individual may shed luster upon a name which may be almost disgraced by his nearest relations.

“The mother of David Rittenhouse is described as a woman of uncommonly vigorous and comprehensive mind, but as almost wholly deficient of education. If, therefore, we are to seek in his genealogy for the cause of his distinction, it is rather to be found in the fact of his deriving his descent from two races of distant origin. The effect of such

a mixture of races is well illustrated in the character of the people of Great Britain; and the same cause seems to be at work in producing that peculiar activity of mind which marks our own countrymen, into whose veins blood derived from almost every nation of any intellectual eminence in the Old World has been successively transfused. From such parents, and of such lineage, David Rittenhouse derived his birth, which took place at Germantown, Pennsylvania, on the 8th of April, 1732."—*Jared Sparks, American Biography, Vol. 7.*

It might also be of interest to the reader to be made acquainted with the will of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, therefore I will here present a copy of it, as taken from the records, which is found recorded in Book X, page 475, No. 66, at Philadelphia, in the year 1796, and reads as follows:—

BE IT REMEMBERED, that I, David Rittenhouse of the city of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Esq. being Sick and weak in Body but of Sound and perfect mind memory and understanding, do make and put in writing this my last will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to Say. First,—It is my Will that all my Just debts if I should owe any at my decease, and all my funeral expenses be fully paid and satisfied, Item, as touching and concerning all my worldly Estate I give and dispose of the same as follows. Viz. I give and devise unto my beloved wife Hannah Rittenhouse the free use, occupation, Rents, and Income of all that my Message or Tenement and dwelling Home and all that my lot and lots of Ground whereon the same Message is erected and therewith used and occupied, situate on the North side of Mulberry Street and west side of the 7th street from Delaware in the city of Philadelphia, aforesaid containing Sixty nine feet and an half in front on Mulberry Street and one hundred and twelve feet in length, on Seventh Street together with all the buildings improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to hold to her my said wife Hannah for and during all the term of her natural life, and no longer she paying the Taxes thereof and keeping the Buildings in repair. I also give and bequeath to my said beloved wife Hannah during her natural life the use dividends and profits of ten shares of the Capital Stock of the Bank of the United States. I also give and bequeath to my said wife Hannah to be at her disposal absolutely for ever five shares of the Capital Stock of the Bank of North America, and also

all my Household Goods and Kitchen furniture, and it is my Will and meaning that what I have as aforesaid given devised and bequeathed to my said wife Shall be deemed adjudged and taken to be in lieu and bar of her dower or thirds in all my Estate. I give and devise unto my Sister Eleanor Evans the free use Occupation rents and Income of all that my Messuage or Tenement Plantation and tract of land Situate in Norriton Township in the County of Montgomery where she now dwells with the appurtenances to hold to her my said Sister Eleanor Evans, for and during all the term of her natural life and no longer, She paying the Taxes and keeping the Buildings and premises in repair. But nevertheless my Executors and Survivors and Survivor of them shall have power from him to him to make leases of my said tract of land in Norriton aforesaid and to direct and control the Management thereof for the sole use benefit and advantage of my said Sister Eleanor, and so always that said Sister Eleanor shall be entitled to, and have and receive to her own proper use and behoof all the rents and profits thereof during her natural life as aforesaid, Item, whereas I some time past loaned, on interest to Isaac Snowden of the city of Philadelphia the Sum of five hundred pounds and took his Bond for the Same to and in the name of my daughter Elizabeth, which yet remains due and unpaid and which I did then and Still do intend and mean as a Gift to her my Said daughter Elizabeth in Order that she may have as much of my Estate as my daughter Esther to whom I have heretofore Given an equal value, now in pursuance of Such my intention and meaning, I give and bequeath the said recited Bond and the said principal sum of five hundred pounds with all the interest thereof that may be due thereon and unpaid at the time of my decease unto my said daughter Elizabeth Sergeant her Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever and all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate real, personal, &c. whatsoever and wheresoever and for what nature kind or quality soever, I give and devise and bequeath unto my said two daughters Elizabeth Sergeant and Esther Waters, and to their Several and respective heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever, to be equally divided between them part and Share alike as tenants in common and not as joint tenants and I nominate, constitute, and appoint my said beloved wife Hannah Rittenhouse and my said two daughters Elizabeth Sergeant and Esther Waters to be the Executrices of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former and other wills and Testaments heretofore by me made and declaring this only to be my last will and Testament.

In witness whereof I the said David Rittenhouse the testator have hereunto set my Hand and Seal at Philadelphia the 25th day of June in the year of our Lord, Seventeen hundred and ninety six, 1796.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE [SEAL]

Signed, Sealed, pronounced, published and declared, by the said David Rittenhouse the Testator as and for his last will and Testament in the presence of us.

BENJAMIN SMITH BARTON

P. THOMSON.

The Witnesses of the foregoing will to-wit.—Benjamin Smith Barton on Oath and Peter Thomson on his Solemn affirmation do declare and say that they saw and heard David Rittenhouse the testator duly Sign Seal publish and declare the same as and for his last will and Testament, and that at the doing thereof he was of sound mind memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge and belief Sworn and affirmed the 18th day of August 1796 before

J. WAMPOLE, *Dep. Reg.*

The foregoing Will being proved Probate thereof was Granted unto Hannah Rittenhouse, Elizabeth Sergeant, and Esther Waters Executrices, therein named they being first duly affirmed well and truly to perform the same, exhibit a true Inventory, and render a just and true account when thereunto lawfully required Given under the Seal of office the day and date aforesaid.

GEORGE CAMPBELL, *Regr.*

“It was not until the year 1786 that David Rittenhouse built the house at the northwest corner of Arch and Seventh Streets in Philadelphia, where he resided during the remainder of his life; but probably it was some few years earlier that he erected his Observatory, a small but pretty, convenient octagonal building of brick, in the garden adjacent to his dwelling house. This was the Observatory noticed by Mr. Lalande, when (in his ‘Astronomie,’ published in 1792) he made this remark, treating of the numerous Observatories in different parts of the world: ‘In America I know of no Observatory but that of Mr. Rittenhouse at Philadelphia.’”

“The Observatory at Norriton, mentioned in the text, was a temporary erection, and was disused on his removal to Philadelphia soon after. The one put up in the State House gardens in that city on the same occasion was, likewise, a temporary edifice constructed of wood.”—*William Barton.*

“David Rittenhouse was, in his stature, somewhat tall;

in his person, slender and straight; and although his constitution was delicate, his bodily frame did not appear to have been originally weak; his gait was somewhat quick, and his movements in general were lively, insomuch that it is probable he possessed a good deal of corporeal activity in early life.

"His face was of an oval form, his complexion fair, and his hair, which in his latter years became thinned and whitened, was brown. All his features were good: his forehead was high, capacious, and smooth; his eyes, which were of a grayish color, were alike expressive of animation, reflection, and good nature, and well placed under full, arched brows; his nose was large, handsome, and inclined to the aquiline; his mouth well-formed, though a little prominent, and corresponding with the general character of the face, and his chin broad and strong. In short, his whole countenance was indicative of intelligence, complacency, and goodness, and as thus described, he was generally considered a handsome man."—*Memoirs of D. R.*

INVENTORY

Of the goods and chattels of David Rittenhouse, Esq., deceased, taken this day and appraised by us.

	L.	s.	d.
Wearing apparel,	10	0	0
Front Parlor down Stairs,	37	10	0
Parlor down Stairs,	10	0	0
Do do do,	10	0	0
Kitchen Furniture,	15	0	0
Front Chamber,	75	0	0
Back Do,	12	10	0
Clothes Press,	4	10	0
Front Room third Story,	37	10	0
Plate,	40	0	0
Clock Engine,	22	10	0
Regulator,	15	0	0
Transit Instrument,	22	10	0
Small Sector,	15	0	0
Vise, Lathes & other tools,	30	0	0

	L.	s.	d.
Clock,	10	0	0
Scales, Weights & Microscopes,	15	0	0
Books,	50	0	0
One Bond and Warrant from Robert Smock to David Rittenhouse bearing date Feb. 9, 1792,	1500	0	0
One Bond from Thomas Ketland Jr bearing date March 6, 1794,	1000	0	0
One Bond from Joseph Watkins bearing date May 5, 1795,	500	0	0
One Do from Do bearing date August 6, 1795,	200	0	0
One Bond from Jacob Driesbach and Michael Reiver payable 27th May 1797,	100	0	0
One Do from Do payable 27th May 1798,	100	0	0
One Do from Do payable 27th May 1799,	31	0	0
Six per Cent Stock,	2625	0	0
Three per Cent Stock,	203	16	4
Ten Shares in Bank U. S.,	1500	0	0
Five Do in Bank N. A.,	750	0	0
One Share in Delaware & Schuylkill Canal,			
	Total £8941	16	4

September 15, 1796.

ANDREW ELLICOTT
DAVID EVANS

Affid the 16th day of Sept. 1796
Before I. WAMPOLE, Dep. Reg.

The following letter was found in possession of Mrs. Hubbell on Walnut Street, Philadelphia:—

PHILADELPHIA Aug 18th 1782

Sir I suppose you have not yet settled with Council concerning money advanced to recruiting Officers, several other County Treasurers in the same situation have transmitted to me their receipts, having explained the matter to the Comptroller General if you will send your Vouchers to me I will give you a receipt for the amount on account of the Second Class Tax, the sooner the better as I am now making up my accounts for the present year

Your most obedt, Humble Servt

DAVID RITTENHOUSE S. Treas

William Henry Esquire.

DEED.

MATTHIAS RITTENHOUSE TO DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

THIS INDENTURE made the twelfth day of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Between Matthias Rittenhouse of the Township of Worcester in the county of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania Yeoman and Elizabeth his wife of the one part And David Rittenhouse Son of the Said Matthias of the Township of Norriton in the said County Clock-maker of the other part Whereas the Honourable William Penn Esq. then Proprietor and Governor of the Said Province of Pennsylvania by a certain Grant or Patent under the Great Seal of the Said Province bearing date the Second Day of October Anno Dom. 1704, and under the Hands of his then Commissioners of property did give, grant, Release, and Confirm unto his Son William Penn Junior a certain Tract of Land Scituate on the River Schaylkil in the said County of Philadelphia Containing Seven thousand four hundred and Eighty Acres of Land. To Hold to him the said William Penn Junior his Heirs and assigns forever as by the said recited Patent Recorded in the Rolls Office at Philadelphia in Patent Book A: Vol: 2 page 703 and 704. Relation being thereunto had at large appears. And Whereas the said William Penn the son by his Deed Poll bearing Date the Seventh Day of October Anno Dom. 1704, for the Consideration therein mentioned did Grant Bargain and Sell unto William Trent and Isaac Norris their Heirs and assigns forever all that the Said Seven thousand four hundred and Eighty Acres of Land (more or less) as in and by the Said Deed Poll recorded in the Rolls office aforesaid in Book E, Vol. 7, page 29 &c, appears. And Whereas the said William Trent and Mary his wife by their Indenture of Release bearing date the Eighth Day of January Anno Dom. 1712 for the Consideration therein mentioned did Release and Confirm unto the Said Isaac Norris and to his heirs and Assigns forever all and Singular the part and parts, purpart and purparts of the said William Trent of and in the said Seven thousand four hundred and Eighty Acres of Land as by the said Indenture of Release Recorded in the Rolls Office aforesaid in Book F, Vol. 5, page 321, appears And Whereas the said Isaac Norris and Mary his wife by their Deed bearing date the Twenty-eighth Day of January in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and thirty one-two for the Consideration therein mentioned did Grant and Convey unto the above named Matthias Rittenhouse (by the name of Rittinghausen) a Certain Piece or parcel of Land Containing one hundred Acres Scituate in the Said Township of Norriton and part of the said Seven thousand four hundred and eighty Acres To hold to him the

said Matthias Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns forever as by the Said Indenture, relation being thereunto had doth at large appear

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the said Matthias Rittenhouse and Elizabeth his wife for and in Consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Pounds lawful Money of Pennsylvania to them in Hand paid by their Son, the said David Rittenhouse, the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge and thereof do acquit and forever discharge the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and Assigns by these presents And for divers other good Causes and Considerations them thereunto moving Have Granted, Bargained, Sold, Aliened, Enfeoffed, Released and Confirmed, and by these presents do Grant, Bargain, Sell Alien, Enfeoff, Release and Confirm unto the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and Assigns a Certain Piece or parcel of Land Scituate lying and being in the said Township of Norriton, and part of the aforesaid one hundred acres of land Beginning at a large Black Oak tree marked for a Corner. Thence, by Land of Doctor Robert Shannon North forty two degrees and an half East ninety seven Perches to a Stone. Thence by Land of Christian Recup and Abraham Lefever North fifty degrees West, one hundred and thirty four Perches to a Stone. Thence by other part of the said Matthias Rittenhouses Land South forty two degrees and an half West ninety five Perches to a Stone in a line of Ephraim Armstrongs Land and at the Manhatawney Road Thence, down the said Road South Sixty two degrees East ninety two perches to a Stone Thence by other part of the said Matthias Rittenhouses Land, South thirty two degrees West, Twenty Six Perches to a large Whiteoak in a line of the aforesaid Ephraim Armstrongs Land. Thence by the same South fifty degrees East thirty nine perches to the place of beginning. Containing Seventy two acres and one hundred and forty eight perches of Land. Together also with all and Singular the ways, Woods, Waters, Watercourses, Rights, Liberties, Priviledges, Hereditaments Improvements, and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the Perversions and Remainders, Rents, Issues and profits thereof and all the Estate, Right, Title Interest, use, possession, property Claim and demand Whatsoever, both in law and equity or otherwise howsoever of them the said Matthias Rittenhouse and Elizabeth his wife or either of them, of, in, or to, the said Seventy two acres and one hundred and forty eight Perches of Land or any part thereof To have and to Hold the Said Seventy two acres and one hundred and forty eight perches of Land, Hereditaments and Premises hereby Granted or mentioned or intended so to be with their appurtenances unto the said David Rittenhouse his Heirs and Assigns To the only proper use and behoof of him the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns forever Under the proportionable part of the Yearly Quitrent hereafter accruing for the

Same, to the Chief Lord or Lords of the Fee thereof And the Said Matthias Rittenhouse, for himself and his heirs the said Seventy two acres and one hundred and forty eight perches of Land Hereditaments and premises with the appurtenances unto the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns against him the said Matthias Rittenhouse and Elizabeth his wife and against his heirs and against all and every other person and persons, whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof by from or under him them or any or either of them shall and will Warrant and forever defend by these presents And the said Matthias Rittenhouse for himself his executors and administrators doth Covenant promise and Grant to and with the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and Assigns and to and with every of them by these presents in manner following (that is to say) that he the said Matthias Rittenhouse and Elizabeth his wife and his heirs and all and every other person and persons whomsoever having or lawfully Claiming any Estate, Right, Title, or Interest, of, in, or to, the hereby Granted Land and premises or any part or parcel thereof by from or under him them or any or either of them shall and will at any time or times hereafter upon the Reasonable request Cost and Charges in the law of the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns, make, do, Execute and Acknowledge or cause so to be all and every such further and other reasonable Act and Acts, Deed or Deeds, Device or Devices, in the law whatsoever for the further and better Assurance and Confirmation of the hereby granted Tract and parcel of Land with the appurtenances unto the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and Assigns as by him or them his or their Counsel learned in the law shall be reasonably Devised advised or required

In Witness whereof the said parties to these presents have Interchangeably set their Hands and Seals hercunto dated the Day and Year first above written

MATHIAS RITTENHOUSE	[SEAL]
ELIZABETH RITTENHOUSE	[SEAL]

Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of us.

ARNOLD ZIMMERMAN
EPHRAIM ARMSTRONG
ISRAEL JACOBS

DEED FROM JOHN BULL TO DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

THIS INDENTURE Made the Twenty Seventh day of May in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty Six, between John Bull of the county of Berkley in the State of Virginia Gentleman and Mary his wife, of the one part, and David Rittenhouse of the city of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, Esq. of the other part. Whereas John Morris of the District of Southwark in the county of Philadelphia, gentleman, by Indenture bearing date the twenty Seventh day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy five for the consideration therein mentioned did Grant, Bargain, sell, release, and confirm unto Christian Shafter of the said city, house Carpenter, his heirs and Assigns All that certain lot or piece of ground Situate in the said city of Philadelphia at the corner of Mulberry Street and the Seventh Street from Delaware containing in front on said Seventh Street One hundred and Twelve feet and on the Said Mulberry Street forty-nine feet and a half bounded Eastward by the Said Seventh Street, Northward by Ground then or late of Anthony James Morris, and Blathwaite Jones, and Mary his wife westward by Ground, then or late in the Tenure of the heirs of James Strait deceased and Southward by Mulberry Street aforesaid together with the appurtenances To hold to him the said Christian Shafter by the name of Christian Sheafter his heirs and assigns for ever, paying unto the said John Morris his heirs and assigns the yearly rent or Sum of twenty four pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania by four even quarterly payments in every year thereafter for ever, to wit, on the first days of March, June, September and December, In which said recited Indenture are contained Clauses of Entry and distress for non-payment of the said rent, and of reentry, for want of Sufficient distress with a covenant on the part of the said Christian Shafter his heirs and assigns well and Truly to pay the Same rent, as in and by the Said recited Indenture Recorded in the office for recording of Deeds for the city and county of Philadelphia in Book I, Vol. 17 Page 331, relation being thereunto had more fully and at large appears AND WHEREAS, the Said Christian Shafter and Dorothy his wife by Indenture of the Nineteenth day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Eight for the consideration therein mentioned did grant, bargain, Sell, release, and confirm unto the said John Bull his heirs and Assigns all that the aforesaid described lot or piece of Ground Situate, lying, being bounded, limited and distinguished as aforesaid and containing in front on the said Seventh Street One hundred and twelve feet and on the said Mulberry Street forty nine feet and an half together with the appurtenances to hold to him the said John Bull his heirs and assigns for ever under and subject to the payment of the yearly rent charge aforesaid as in

and by the said recited Indenture, relation being thereunto had more at large appears.

NOW THIS INDENTURE witnesseth that the said John Bull and Mary his wife, for and in consideration of the Sum of Seventy Pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania unto them well and truly paid by the said David Rittenhouse, at or before, the Sealing and delivery hereof the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge and thereof do acquit and for ever discharge the Said David Rittenhouse his heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns and every of them by these presents have Granted, Bargained, Sold, released and confirmed, and by these presents they the Said John Bull and Mary his wife do Grant, Bargain, Sell, release and confirm unto the Said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns

All that The aforesaid described lot or piece of Ground Situate lying, and being bounded, limited and distinguished as aforesaid and containing in Breadth on the said Mulberry street forty nine feet and an half, and in length or depth on the said Seventh street One hundred and twelve feet as aforesaid Together also with all and Singular the Buildings, Improvements, ways, Alleys, Passages, waters, water courses, Rights, Liberties, Privileges, Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the Reversions, Remainders, rents Issues and profits thereof and also all the Estate Rights, Title, Interest, Use, Possession, Property, Claim, and Demand, whatsoever of him the said John Bull and Mary his wife, in law Equity or otherwise, howsoever of in to and out of the hereby Granted premises and every part thereof. To have and to hold the aforesaid described lot or piece of Ground Hereditaments and premises hereby granted bargained and Sold or Mentioned or intended so to be with the appurtenances unto the Said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns to and for the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns for ever under and Subject to the payment of the aforesaid yearly rent, Charge, or Sum of Twenty four Pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania reserved in and by the said first recited Indenture and the arrearages thereof now due, and the Same rent shall hereafter grow due and payable unto the heirs or assigns of the Said John Morris deceased, and the Said John Bull for himself his heirs Executors and administrators doth covenant promise, Grant, and agree to and with the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns by these presents, that the Said John Bull and his heirs, the aforesaid described lot or piece of Ground Hereditaments and premises hereby Granted with the appurtenances unto the said David Rittenhouse his heirs and assigns against him the said John Bull and his heirs and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever lawfully claiming or to claim by from or under him, them, or any of them shall and will Subject to the yearly rent charge aforesaid warrant and forever defend by these presents.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have interchangeably Set their hands and seals hereunto dated the day and year first above written Sealed and delivered in the presence of us

THOMAS FORBEST
JOSEPH OGILLY

JOHN BULL [SEAL]
MARY BULL [SEAL]

Received the day of the date of the above written Indenture of the above named David Rittenhouse the sum of Seventy Pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania, it being the full consideration money above mentioned
Witness present at signing

JOSEPH OGILLY

JOHN BULL [SEAL]

The 19th day of September in the year of our Lord 1786 before me Plunket Fleeson, Esq, one of the justices of the court of common Pleas of and for the city and county of Philadelphia personally came and appeared the within named John Bull and Mary his wife and acknowledged the within written Indenture to be their act and Deed, and desired the same may be recorded as such according to law. The said Mary thereunto voluntarily consenting she being of full age separate and apart from her said husband by me examined and the contents thereof first made known unto her.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year above said

PLUNKET FLEESON [SEAL]

Recorded Nov. 6, 1786 in Book D. 17, page 207, Philadelphia.

FORT RITTENHOUSE.

AN INTERESTING LANDMARK.

The northwest corner of Seventh and Arch Streets is connected with the career of David Rittenhouse, one of the most eminent men of science born in Pennsylvania before the Revolution. It is also of interest as the seat of military operations in which the State of Pennsylvania stood in armed rebellion against the United States of America, events which resulted in the trial and conviction of a military officer of the Commonwealth for a high offense against the National Government.

RITTENHOUSE OBSERVATORY.

Up to 1786 the lot at the corner of Seventh Street was occupied by dwellings. Before that year David Rittenhouse, the celebrated astronomer, had purchased the lot and placed upon it a building for scientific purposes. David Rittenhouse had moved to the city from Norriton, then in Philadelphia county, in 1770. He resided for some years at the southeast corner of Seventh and Arch Streets, in diagonal direction from the lot of which we are speaking. Here he continued his business of manufacturing clocks and mathematical instruments with high reputation. During the same time, from 1777 to 1787, he was Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania. On the lot at the northwest corner of Arch Street he built an Astronomical Observatory, some years before dwelling houses were erected on the property. It was a small but pretty and convenient octagonal building of brick, and was placed toward the center or back part of the lot, and was afterward an ornament to the garden. In this building David Rittenhouse set up his telescope and other instruments for astronomical observations. Among them were several instruments made by himself, including an equal-altitude instrument, a transit telescope, and an excellent time-piece, with others necessary for use in such an establishment. It must be stated that although David Rittenhouse held various trusts, among which was State Treasurer (as already mentioned), Trustee of the State Loan Office, and Director of the United States Mint from 1792 to 1795, he never diminished his devotion to science. Astronomy was his delight. In daytime he gave to observations his spare time, and in the evening his telescope afforded him instruction and recreation when the sky was clear and the stars shone brightly.

RITTENHOUSE'S MANSION.

In 1787 the house at the northwest corner of Seventh and Arch Streets was finished and David Rittenhouse removed

there. The building was planned in the respectable style of architecture of the time. It was three stories high and built of red and black bricks placed alternately, and was probably one of the last buildings for which that variety was made that was erected in this city. The use of red and black bricks had gone out entirely by 1800. The door on Arch Street was ornamented with plain wood frontispiece and pediment. There were three windows in the upper stories in front, four in the main building on the side, to which was added an extension two and a half stories in height, which was joined by a kitchen of two stories. The wall ran along Seventh Street. As the Rittenhouse mansion was one of the last in which red and black bricks were used, it may be mentioned as probably one of the first dwelling houses of pretension in the city which was erected with plain, flat roof, discarding the conventional pitched roof, affording garret space, lighted with dormer windows, showing a gable on the side. This house at the corner and the one north of it were the only dwellings on the lot until years after the death of Mr. Rittenhouse, which occurred June 26, 1796. Here he resided with his second wife, Hannah, who was a daughter of ——— Jacobs, a distinguished and influential Quaker family, and a sister to John Jacobs and Israel Jacobs, who were well-informed country gentlemen—the former was Speaker of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania and the latter a member of Congress after the Revolution—and here was married Elizabeth Rittenhouse, his eldest daughter, in 1788, to Jonathan Dickinson Sargeant, the lawyer, who was a member of the Continental Congress in 1776 and 1777 and the first Attorney General of Pennsylvania, from 1777 to 1780. Esther Rittenhouse, the second daughter, was married in the same house to Dr. Nicholas Baker Waters in 1790, and became a widow in 1794. Mrs. Sargeant met with a similar misfortune in 1793, David Rittenhouse died June 26, 1796, his two widowed daughters then residing with him.

THE OBSERVATORY—A MAUSOLEUM.

The observatory, which had been the delight of the philosopher in his lifetime, was desired by him to be his mausoleum after his death. A plain slab of marble, inscribed only with his name, the time of decease, and age, was placed above it. The service took place in the garden at the observatory. The Rev. Ashbel Green, of the Second Presbyterian Church, made an address on the occasion. When first erected the situation of the observatory was not ineligible; the ground in the neighborhood of Arch and Seventh Streets was mostly vacant. The Rittenhouse lot was of generous width, and if the progress of improvement in the neighborhood could have been restrained the usefulness of the structure would not have been interfered with. But large buildings began to be erected on Arch Street, so that the observatory was hemmed in, and the unobstructed view of the heavens necessary for scientific observation was shut out. When the family sold the property the observatory was taken down, and, of necessity, the remains of Rittenhouse were removed. They were placed in the graveyard of the Third Presbyterian ("Old Pine Street") Church. From said graveyard the remains of David Rittenhouse were removed again, on January 18, 1878, and reinterred in lot, west part of 61 and east part of 62, Section P, in North Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, where we hope they may rest unmolested for ever.

TROUBLE COMES—THE CASE OF THE SLOOP "ACTIVE."

After the death of Mrs. Rittenhouse (October, 1799), Mrs. Elizabeth Sargeant continued to reside in the house at the corner of Seventh Street, while her sister, Mrs. Esther Waters, occupied the adjoining dwelling house on Seventh Street, on the north end of the lot. The properties were not separated otherwise, the garden space being open for the use of both families. Around this corner, in the year 1809, were posted State troops, who bivouacked in the streets and kept

off all intruders from the citadel of their defense, the Rittenhouse dwellings. The manner in which Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. Waters became involved in this warlike controversy was somewhat peculiar. The culmination was the result of a dispute which had arisen between the State of Pennsylvania and the Continental Congress, to which the Federal Government succeeded, and which was kept up during a period of thirty-one years. The controversy was over a claim for prize money. On the 1st of August, 1778, the British sloop "Active" sailed from Jamaica for New York. Among the crew were four American sailors, and they rose upon the captain, passengers, and rest of the crew, drove them below, and took possession of the vessel. This was near Cape Charles. The captors labored under the disability that whilst they had powder they had no shot. The officers below were supplied with powder and shot, and the captain threatened to blow up the deck to get repossession of the vessel. It was finally agreed that the sailors should take boats and row to land. Before the truce was consummated the armed brig "Convention," Captain Houston, sent out by the State of Pennsylvania, fell in with the "Active" and captured her, the "Gerard" privateer of Philadelphia also being near, and brought the "Active" into Philadelphia. The cargo consisted of rum and tobacco, and was valuable. Captain Houston filed a libel in Admiralty on behalf of himself, crew, and the State of Pennsylvania. The "Gerard" also made claim for a portion of the prize money.

BENEDICT ARNOLD'S SPECULATION.

Then came in another claim, Gideon Olmstead, one of the sailors who had revolted, on behalf of himself and the three seamen demanding the whole or a portion of the proceeds. It was afterward ascertained that Major-General Benedict Arnold, who was then in military command at Philadelphia, had purchased the rights of Olmstead and the other sailors "on speculation," and was actually the claimant. The Ad-

miralty Court awarded the prize money as follows, three-fourths to the "Convention" and "Gerard" and one-fourth to the seamen. If it had not been for Arnold there would have been no further trouble, but he was greedy; he wanted more than one-fourth of the proceeds. He was then in good repute as an American officer, and was not suspected of the rascality which was afterward discovered to have been perpetrated by him. He went to Congress to obtain the passage of a resolution by which that body undertook to revise the decision of Judge George Ross in the Admiralty of Pennsylvania, and ordered the latter to make a new decree and turn over all the prize money to Olmstead and his companions.

STATE RIGHTS VS. CONTINENTAL RIGHTS.

Then arose what was probably the first controversy in America about State rights. Pennsylvania denied the authority of Congress to interfere with the judgment of a State Court, and Judge Ross refused to make the order. The manner in which David Rittenhouse became involved in this controversy was by reason of being Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania. Under the decree of the Court, the three-fourths part of the money was paid, one portion to the owners of the "Gerard" and the other to the State of Pennsylvania as owners of the brig "Convention." The fourth, which was awarded to Olmstead and his companions, was paid into the State Treasury and received by Treasurer Rittenhouse. As he was personally liable for the money he retained it to save his bond, and the money was in his possession at the time of his death. The seamen, or persons representing them, had brought a suit against him which was decided against them. In 1803 the Legislature ordered Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. Waters, as executrices of their father, to pay the money which they held into the State Treasury, pledging them the faith of the Commonwealth to hold them harmless from all consequences. They

did so, and congratulated themselves that they had got rid of this troublesome business.

PROLONGED LITIGATION.

Olmstead and his companions, or whoever was interested in the claim, failed in the Supreme Court of the State, and then resorted to the United States District Court. They demanded that the whole fund, about \$15,000, should be paid to them by virtue of the order of Congress in 1778, and sought to exclude the claims of the "Convention" and the "Gerard," which really captured the "Active," altogether. There was some hesitation among the Federal authorities in proceeding. It was understood that the State of Pennsylvania stood behind all the defendants, and collision might be expected if the United States undertook to proceed against the State, which denied jurisdiction of Congress and the Federal Courts. The delay continued until 1809, when a writ was issued from the United States District Court at Philadelphia ordering the Marshal of the United States, John Smith, to arrest the persons of the executrixes of David Rittenhouse, and to imprison them until the amount claimed was paid.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIGHT APPEARS ON THE SCENE.

Upon this Governor Snyder, with the consent of the Legislature, ordered Brig. Gen. Michael Bright, of the city militia, to protect the daughters of Rittenhouse by an armed force against any attempt to violate the laws of the Commonwealth. The ladies lived in the two houses at the corner of Seventh Street and north of the corner. On the 23d of March, 1809, General Bright placed a guard of militia at the doors of each house.

On the next day Marshal Smith proceeded to execute his writ, and found State soldiers posted who, with their bayonets, resisted his entrance. Marshal Smith made a speech to the soldiers setting forth their duty to the Federal

Government, but without effect. Matters rested, the guard being kept up until April 10th. On the morning of that day the Marshal managed to evade the sentinels and get into Mrs. Sargeant's house at the corner. Before he saw her she was apprised of the danger, and, slipping through the garden, passed into the house of Mrs. Waters, where the ladies locked themselves in. The Marshal followed, but the guard was alarmed and drove away the Marshal with fixed bayonets. Upon this the Marshal issued a proclamation calling for a *posse comitatus* of 2000 men to assemble at the State House, April 18th. Upon this General Bright issued orders calling out two regiments of Pennsylvania militia to resist any attempt that might be made by the United States officers. Bloodshed seemed imminent. General Bright was determined; his men were armed and furnished with ammunition. The soldiers seemed to have no feeling, except in favor of the State. In the community there were various opinions—some of them bitter.

STRATEGY BETTER THAN FORCE.

The Marshal did not attempt to bring his *posse comitatus* against the troops. His course was to resort to strategy. His first failure in getting over the fence and into the garden did not discourage him. But as Arch Street and Seventh Street were filled with soldiers he wisely attempted to approach the citadel from a distant and undefended base of operations, so that the garrison might be taken by surprise. Commencing on Cherry Street, between Seventh and Eighth, he scaled a fence which gave admission to an enclosure, from which he made a charge upon another yard, and so on by degrees gained the garden of the Rittenhouse mansion, and, again entering the house of Mrs. Sargeant, encountering that lady, made her his prisoner. General Bright was doubtless acting under the advice of the Attorney General and the Governor. He did not bring in his soldiers to attempt a bloody rescue, the Marshal was

allowed to carry away his prisoner, and the more peaceful method of writ of habeas corpus was resorted to. It was brought up before Chief Justice Tilghman, of the Supreme Court, and he decided against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania upon what might be considered a technicality. He did not examine into the question whether the Continental Congress of 1778, before any Federal Union had been formed or Constitution adopted, had a right to overrule the judgment of a State Court acting under State laws; but he held that the Federal Courts had succeeded to the authority of the Admiralty Courts of the Revolution and that he had no power to set aside the decision of the United States Court upon the object of its present jurisdiction, although that decision might be manifestly wrong. Mrs. Sargeant was therefore remitted to the custody of Marshal Smith. She was released from the unpleasant predicament in a day or two. Governor Snyder had authority, under an Act of Assembly, to settle the case and pay back the money if he thought it necessary. The time had come, the judgment was satisfied, Mrs. Sargeant was released, and "Fort Rittenhouse," as her mansion was thereafter called, was placed upon a peace footing.

GENERAL BRIGHT COMMITTED AND PUNISHED.

General Bright did not escape so easily. He was arrested with some of his soldiers and tried in the United States Circuit Court, before Judges Washington and Peters, for resisting the laws of the United States. Their principal defense was that they were soldiers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and bound to obey the Governor's orders. Judge Washington charged against the validity of this defense. The jury was out three days and three nights. They brought in a special verdict, declaring that the defendants had acted under authority of the State of Pennsylvania. The Court pronounced them guilty. General Bright was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and a fine of

\$200, and his men to one month's imprisonment and a fine of \$50. President Madison pardoned them in the course of a few days, upon the ground that they had acted under a mistaken sense of duty. When they came out of prison they were received by the Mayor and Democratic citizens, and honored by a public dinner.

Governor Snyder sent a letter declaring his sense of the fidelity and patriotism of Bright and his companions. At the next session of the Legislature it was proposed to offer a pecuniary compensation to the General and his men, but the proposition was not carried out.

FROM M. AUGÉ'S "BIOGRAPHY OF GREAT MEN OF MONTGOMERY CO., PA."

"Modern Philosophy anon,
Will, at the rate she's rushing on,
Yoke lightning to her railroad car,
And, posting like a shooting star,
Swift as a solar radiation,
Ride the wide circuit of creation.*

"The name of David Rittenhouse is a household word in Pennsylvania—a synonym for mathematics, mechanics, and philosophy. No name in American annals furnishes a more exemplary instance of climbing the hill of science almost unaided, and by the mere force of native genius, industry, and perseverance; and there is no name in history that affords more encouragement to the young to pry into the arcana of nature in search of her yet unrevealed truths.

"David Rittenhouse was the son of Matthias Rittenhouse a grandson † of William, who emigrated to "ye Germantown" or vicinity soon after Penn founded Philadelphia. He was born on the 8th of April, 1732, almost contemporaneous

* The sentiment of this verse was prophetic, for it was written twenty years before the invention of the telegraph.

† Great-grandson.

with Washington. He was the oldest son, and as such put early to the plow, for help in those days was the great desideratum, as every useful thing had to be got from the earth by delving for it. But, like Burns, who about the same time was weaving poetic measures in the furrow, so Rittenhouse had his thoughts revolving with cogs, levers, and equations as he abstractedly strode over the fields. Although born on the Wissahickon, his father removed with him when a child to a farm a little northwest of Norristown, where he showed his mechanical bent so early as his eighth year in constructing a miniature water-power mill. His father had a brother Henry, located near him in Worcester township, from whom many of the present family now living in Montgomery county are descended.

“It seems nearly incredible, and yet is authoritatively stated, that he made a wooden clock, untaught, so early as his eighteenth year. It is also said that he made this clock in a house where in late years Matthias Harley kept store and had the post office, in what is now known as Fair View, about half a mile up the turnpike from his father’s place, right on the summit. Then he built a workshop at his father’s place and began the business of a clockmaker soon after.”

In the University of Pennsylvania is preserved the great orrery made by David Rittenhouse.

Walter H. Corson, of Plymouth, Montgomery county, has a surveyor’s level made by David Rittenhouse.

Augustus Egolf, of Norristown, Montgomery county, Pa., has a clock made by David Rittenhouse about the year 1765.

Samuel Horner, of Norristown, Montgomery county, Pa., has a surveyor’s compass made by David Rittenhouse, in complete working order, and in as good condition as when new.

In the United States Mint at Philadelphia is a scales in mahogany case made by David Rittenhouse when he was Director of the Mint, or previous to that time.

In the year 1756 he made an eight-day clock for his brother-in-law, Mr. Barton, over the dial-plate of which was engraved this mementory motto—*Tempus fugit*; and underneath this blunt but too often necessary precept—*Go about your business.*



RITTENHOUSE CLOCK.

David Rittenhouse's brother Benjamin, in a written communication made to the writer of these memoirs in the year 1796, observes that the Doctor "when in health was cheerful, and his passions, unless they were excited by the abuses and knavery of men, either in public or private life, were moderate; but when he conceived that the interest or liberties of his country were endangered he would, on these occasions, express himself with great warmth and asperity.

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY DAVID RITTENHOUSE, LL.D., FROM
1732 TO 1796.

"Calculation of the Transit of Venus over the Sun, in 1769," 14 pages. "Observations on the Comet of June and July, 1770," 5 pages. "An Easy Method of Deducing the Time of the Sun's Passing the Meridian," 4 pages. "Effects of Lightning," two articles, 8 pages. "Astronomical Observations," 5 pages. "On a Method of Finding a Sum of Several Powers," 2 pages. "Discovery and Account of a Comet," 1 page. "A Description of an Orrery Executed on a New Plan, 1771," 3 pages. "Oration on Astronomy," before the American Philosophical Society in 1775. "To Determine the True Place of a Planet in an Elliptical Orbit, 1799," 6 pages. "On the Improvement of Time Keepers," 3 pages. "On the Expansion of Wood by Heat," 3 pages. "A Method of Raising the Common Logarithm," 3 pages. The aforesaid communications were published in the first four quarto volumes of the "Transactions of the American Philosophical Society." He translated from the German the drama of "Lucia Simpson" and the "Idyls of Gesner."

A letter written by David Rittenhouse :—

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 18, 1782.

Sir.—I Suppose you have not yet Settled with Council the matter concerning money advanced to recruiting Officers. Several other County Treasurers in the Same Situation have transmitted to me their receipts, having explained the matter to the Comptroller General; if you will send your Vouchers to me I will give you a receipt for the Amount on account of the Second Class Tax; the Sooner the better, as I am now making up my accounts for the present year.

Your most Obed't Humble Servt.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *S. Treas.*

WILLIAM HENRY, ESQUIRE.

The activity and the very intelligent mind of Mrs. Rittenhouse both prompted and enabled her to relieve her husband from much of the perplexity which at that time attended

the duties of State Treasurer. Indeed, it was owing to the great attention of that excellent woman to some of the more important transactions of the office, and her capability to manage and superintend the current business of that department of the public affairs in the absence of her husband from home, or when incapacitated by bodily indisposition from personal attention, that the Government was enabled to avail itself, in several instances, of the talents and services of Mr. Rittenhouse in matters of high importance to the community which required the aid of his abilities. On such occasions he ever found Mrs. Rittenhouse a competent, as well as a most faithful assistant in the business of the Treasury.

David Rittenhouse departed this life without a struggle and in the calmest manner, ten minutes before two o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 26th day of June, 1796, in presence of his youngest daughter, Mrs. Waters, and William Barton. His excellent wife, who had ever been assiduous in her attendance on her husband, both in sickness and in health had retired from his chamber about two hours before, unable to support the awful scene of expiring genius and virtue.

IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY,

PHILADELPHIA, December 8, 1776.

Sir, THERE is certain intelligence of General Howe's Army being yesterday on its march from Brunswick to Princetown, which puts it beyond a doubt that he intends for this city.—This glorious opportunity of signalizing himself in defense of our Country, and Securing the Rights of America forever, will be seized by every man who has a Spark of Patriotic fire in his bosom. We entreat you to march the Militia under your command with all possible expedition to this city, and bring with you as many waggons as you can possibly procure, which you are hereby authorized to impress, if they cannot be had otherwise—Delay not a moment, it may be fatal and subject you and all you hold most dear to the ruffian hands of the enemy, whose cruelties are without distinction and unequalled.

By order of the Council,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice-President.*

TO THE COLONELS OR COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE RESPECTIVE
BATTALIONS OF THIS STATE.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Enemy are at Trenton, and all the City Militia are marched to meet them.—*From an old Manuscript.*

WARRANT CREATING THE BOARD OF WAR.

The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania :

To David Rittenhouse, Owen Biddle, William Moore, Joseph Dean, Samuel Morris, Senr., Samuel Cadwalader Morris, John Bayard, George Gray, and John Bull, Esquires, Send Greeting :

WHEREAS, The civil department of this commonwealth requires Great attention and will for some time fully employ this council to discharge the duties thereof. And it is also of Great Importance that a due attention be Still paid to the war which we are engaged in. And Confiding in your Abilities and Integrity, We do appoint you a Board of war for the Land Service of this State, hereby giving to you or any three of you full power and authority to do and perform all matters and things necessary in said Department, Subject nevertheless to the directions and examinations of this council from time to time as we may judge expedient, and Saving to ourselves always the power of appointing officers agreeable to the Frame of Government of this Commonwealth ; This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Supreme Executive Council.

Dated, Philadelphia this 13th day of March in the year of our Lord 1777.

Signed

THOMS. WHARTON, JR., *Prest.*

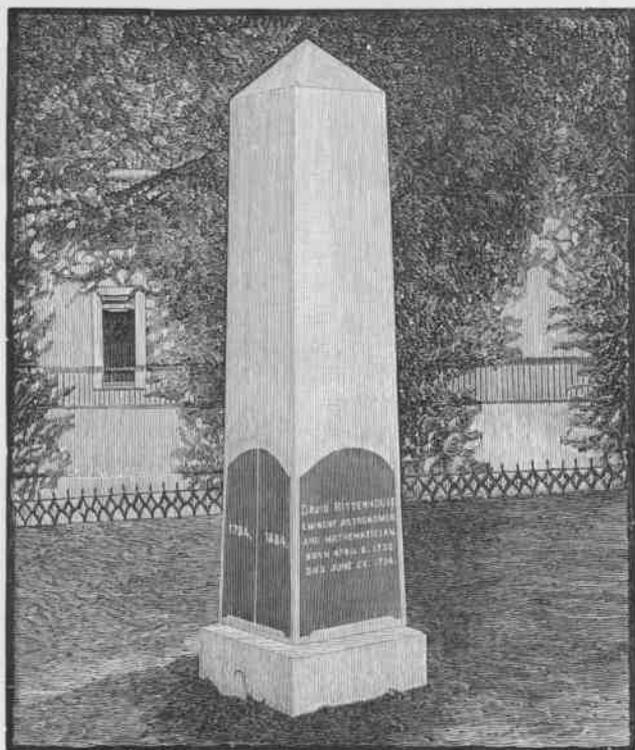
Attest :

TY. MATLACK, *Secry.*

A monument of granite about twelve feet high was erected to the memory of David Rittenhouse, a few years ago, in the Court House Yard at Norristown, Montgomery County, Pa. with the following inscriptions—:

(*First side.*)

1784.—1884.



MERIDIAN STONE, AT NORRISTOWN.

(Second side.)

Erected by the Montgomery County
Centennial Association.

(Third side.)

He calculated and observed the
transit of Venus at his home
in Norriton, 1769.

(Fourth side.)

David Rittenhouse, Eminent
Astronomer and Mathematician,
born April 8, 1732, died June 26, 1796.

LANCASTER, December 30th, 1812.

Dear Sir.—I felt no Small degree of pleasure and Satisfaction, on understanding that you are about publishing Memoirs of the life of Dr. Rittenhouse: knowing from your connexion, and intimacy with him for many years, you have it in your power to delineate, and transmit his true character and a knowledge of his rare virtues to posterity, with as much, if not more accuracy than any other person. As I also have had the pleasure and advantage of Dr. Rittenhouse's acquaintance and friendship, I request you to accept of the following short sketch of his character, as a Small testimony of my esteem for him when living, and of my veneration for his memory, now he is no more. I am, dear Sir, your Sincere friend

ANDREW ELLICOTT.

The following are in possession of Abram H. Cassel, the antiquary, at Harleysville:—

“Father Abraham's Almanack for the year 1777,” containing the Astronomical calculations made by David Rittenhouse, of which the publisher says: “Therefore they can be most firmly relied on;” also “The Rittenhouse Almanac for 1806,” by Baily.

“A New System of Modern Geography: or A Historical and Commercial Grammar. By William Guthrie and David Rittenhouse, The Montgomery County Philosopher and Astronomer,” two volumes, large quarto, 1794.

"A Contract for Sale of Land between Henry Frey and Gerhard Levering," dated April 30, 1700, with autographs of Johannes Kelpius and Claus Rittinghuis (Nicholas Rittenhouse) as witnesses.

Diss E ist Elizabeth Rütthinhausen, marck.

PORTRAITS OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

The portrait of David Rittenhouse presented in this volume is from a portrait painted by Mr. Charles W. Peale in the year 1772, when David was forty years of age. At that time he wore a wig, and was so represented in the picture; but afterwards when he resumed the wearing of his own hair, the portrait was altered accordingly by Mr. Peale. The picture also represents him with a ruffled shirt, but he was a plain man, and it is traditionally said by the older Rittenhouses that he never wore a ruffled shirt.

Mr. Charles W. Peale painted at the same time another portrait of him for himself, which is likewise altered from the original painting. It has a place in Mr. Peale's gallery of portraits. There is a third, by the same hand, in the possession of the American Philosophical Society.

Another good picture of David Rittenhouse was also then made by Mr. James Peale for the Rev. Mr. Barton. This (which represents him with a wig) was later in the possession of John Moore White, Esq., of New Jersey, who married Mr. Barton's youngest daughter. A pretty good portrait in a large size, done from Mr. Charles W. Peale's painting of David Rittenhouse, was executed by Mr. E. Savage in the winter of 1796, and since that time some small engravings have been made from different pictures of him, but these do not so well preserve the likeness.

There is also a portrait of Miss Hettie Barton, of Philadelphia, a great beauty and belle in her day. It was taken as a young and pretty girl in party dress, during the year 1763,

by Charles W. Peale, and is now in possession of her granddaughter, Mrs. Harrison, widow of the late George W. Harrison, of the United States Navy, at Washington, a descendant of Esther Rittenhouse, a sister of David and Benjamin.

AN ENGLISH OBITUARY NOTICE OF DR.
RITTENHOUSE.

Extracted from the *European Magazine*, for July, 1796.

In the sixty-fourth year of his age died David Rittenhouse, the American philosopher. His history is curious, from the admiration in which his character was held. Rittenhouse was a native of America, and in the early part of his life he mingled the pursuits of science with the active employments of a farmer and watchmaker. (He never professed the business of making watches. The first mechanical occupation he assumed was that of a clockmaker, an employment he pursued many years in the earlier part of his life.) In 1769, he was invited by the American Philosophical Society to join a number of gentlemen who were then occupied in making some astronomical observations, when he particularly distinguished himself by the accuracy of his calculations and the comprehension of his mind. He afterward constructed an observatory [Dr. Rittenhouse's observatory at Norriton—the place of his original residence and the seat of his farm-house—was erected *prior* to the celebrated "astronomical observations" made by him in the year 1769, which were those relating to the transit of Venus over the Sun's disk on the third of June in that year.—W. R.], which he superintended in person, and which was the source of many important discoveries, as well as greatly tending to the diffusion of knowledge in the western world. During the American War he was an active asserter of the cause of independence. Since the establishment of the peace he succes-

sively filled the offices of Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania and Director of the National Mint, in both of which capacities he was alike distinguished for strength of judgment and integrity of heart. He succeeded the illustrious Franklin in the office of President of the Philosophical Society, a situation which the bent of his mind and the course of his studies had rendered him eminently qualified to fill, and toward the close of his days he retired from public life to the enjoyment of domestic happiness, when he formed a circle of private friends, who will continue to admire his virtues as a man, while the world will applaud his talents as a philosopher.

CHARACTER OF DR. RITTENHOUSE.

(From Barton.)

Communicated to the author of the memoirs of his life, in a letter from Andrew Ellicott, Esq:—

WILLIAM BARTON, Esq:—

“I became acquainted with the late Dr. Rittenhouse in the sixteenth year of my age, being first introduced to him, after he removed to the city of Philadelphia, by the late Joseph Galloway, Esq., and my father, both of whom were sincerely attached to him, not only on account of his scientific talents and acquirements, but for his public and private virtues. From that period to the end of his life we enjoyed an uninterrupted friendship.

“In my scientific pursuits I was frequently aided by him, particularly in that part which relates to astronomy, with which he was better acquainted, both in theory and practice, than any other person in this country; and when he ceased to calculate the almanacs for the Middle States, at his request I continued them several years.

“In the years 1774 and 1785 Dr. Rittenhouse and myself were engaged in determining the boundaries between this

Commonwealth and the State of Virginia ; and in the year 1786 in determining the boundary between this Commonwealth and the State of New York. In those arduous employments I had many opportunities of witnessing his address in overcoming the numerous difficulties we necessarily had to encounter in the then wilderness in which our operations were performed.

“As a gentleman of general science, Dr. Rittenhouse would have held a respectable rank in any country, but as a mechanist and astronomer he has had but few equals. It has been frequently asked,—Why has he not left more evidence of his talents for the use of posterity? In answer to this question, it is to be observed that almost from his childhood he had a complaint in his breast, which increased so much with his age, that for the last fifteen years of his life,—and in which he had the most leisure for composition,—it was painful for him to support the position a person must occupy when writing. This circumstance I have frequently heard him lament in a feeling manner, as it prevented him from answering letters with promptitude and writing to his friends as often as he wished.

“Though Dr. Rittenhouse had not the advantage of a liberal education, he wrote not only correctly but with ease. He made himself master of the German language, to which he was partial, and of the French so far as to read the scientific works in that tongue with facility.

“As a husband and a father he might be taken as an example and a pattern in the most virtuous community that ever existed. He was a good citizen and warm and sincere in his friendships, and though reserved in large mixed companies, he was cheerful and communicative when in small circles of his friends. His mind appeared formed for contemplation, and therefore not calculated for the noisy and busy scenes of this world. From this placid turn of mind he had a singular antipathy to all mobs and riots, and I recollect to have heard him speak of the riots of the

Paxton boys (as they were called) with greater acrimony than on any other occasion,—more than twenty years after they happened. Being a philanthropist by nature, he wished the happiness and welfare of the whole human race, and viewed slavery in all its forms with feelings of horror. From this attachment to the happiness, the rights, and the liberty of his fellow creatures he was led to take an active and useful part in favor of our Revolution, which separated the colonies (now the United States) from the mother country.

“His contemplative mind naturally carried him to piety ; but his liberality was so great that he did not appear to give a very decided preference to any one of the sects into which Christianity is divided. He practised the morality of a sincere Christian, without troubling himself about the dogmas of the different Churches.

“His manners were plain and unassuming, though not without a sufficient share of dignity, and, from a consciousness of his own talents, he did not envy those of others.

“It has too frequently happened, for the honor of science and literature, that men of great and commanding talents have been obstinately dogmatic and impatient of contradiction ; of those blemishes Dr. Rittenhouse had not a shadow.

“To conclude : if Dr. Rittenhouse was not the greatest man of the age, his character has fewer blemishes in it ; and if his talents were not of that kind which are usually considered the most *brilliant*, they were—like those of WASHINGTON—of the most *solid* and *useful* order.”

A LETTER FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON

to the Writer of the Memoirs of David Rittenhouse, William Barton, on the subject of nobility :—

MOUNT VERNON, Sept. 7, 1788.

Sir.—At the same time I announce to you the receipt of your obliging letter of the 28th of last month, which covered an ingenious essay on Heraldry, I have to acknowledge my obligations for the sentiments your

partiality has been indulgent enough to form of me, and my thanks for the terms in which your urbanity has been pleased to express them.

Imperfectly acquainted with the subject, as I profess myself to be; and persuaded of your skill, as I am; it is far from my design to intimate an opinion, that Heraldry, Coat-Armour, &c. might not be rendered conducive to public and private uses, with us,—or, that they can have any tendency unfriendly to the purest spirit of Republicanism; on the contrary, a different conclusion is deducible from the practice of Congress and the States; all of which have established some kind of Armorial Devices, to authenticate their official instruments. But, sir, you must be sensible, that political sentiments are very various among the people in the several States; and that a formidable opposition to what appears to be the prevailing sense of the Union is but just declining into peaceable acquiescence. While, therefore, the minds of a certain portion of the community (possibly from turbulent or sinister views) are, or affect to be, haunted with the very spectre of innovation;—while they are indefatigably striving to make the credulity of the less-informed part of the citizens subservient to their schemes, in believing that the proposed General Government is pregnant with the seeds of Discrimination, Oligarchy and Despotism;—while they are clamorously endeavoring to propagate an idea, that those whom they wish, invidiously, to designate by the name of the “well born,” are meditating in the first instance to distinguish themselves from their compatriots, and to wrest the dearest privileges from the bulk of the people; and while the apprehensions of some, who have demonstrated themselves the sincere, but too jealous friends of Liberty, are feelingly alive to the effects of the actual Revolution and too much inclined to coincide with the prejudices above described, it might not perhaps be advisable to stir any question that would tend to reanimate the dying embers of faction, or blow the dormant spark of jealousy into an extinguishable flame. I need not say, that the deplorable consequences would be the same, allowing there should be no real foundation for jealousy (in the judgment of sober reason) as if there were demonstrable, even palpable, causes for it.

I make these observations with the greater freedom because I have once been a witness to what I conceived to have been a most unreasonable prejudice, against an innocent institution; I mean the Society of the Cincinnati. I was conscious that my own proceedings on that subject were immaculate, I was also convinced, that the members,—actuated by motives of sensibility, charity and patriotism,—were doing a laudable thing, in erecting that memorial of their common services, sufferings and friendships;—and I had not the most remote suspicion, that our conduct therein would have been unprofitable, or displeasing to our countrymen. Yet have we been virulently traduced, as to our designs; and I have not even escaped

being represented as shortsighted, in not foreseeing the consequences,—or wanting in patriotism, for not discouraging an establishment, calculated to create distinctions in society and subvert the principles of a republican government. Indeed, the *phantom* seems now to be pretty well laid; except on certain occasions,—when it is conjured up by designing men, to work their own purposes upon terrified imaginations:—You will recollect there have not been wanting, in the late political discussions, those who were hardy enough to assert that the proposed General Government was the wicked and traitorous fabrication of the Cincinnati!

At this moment of general agitation and earnest solicitude, I should not be surprised to hear a violent outcry raised, by those who are hostile to the New Constitution, that the proposition contained in your paper had verified their suspicions, and proved the design of establishing unjustifiable discriminations. Did I believe that to be the case, I should not hesitate to give it my hearty disapprobation. But I proceed on other grounds:—Although I make not the clamour of credulous, disappointed, or unreasonable men, the criterion of Truth; yet I think their clamour might have an ungracious influence at the present critical juncture; and, in my judgment, some respect should not only be paid to prevalent opinions,—but even some sacrifices might innocently be made to well meant prejudices, in a popular government. Nor could we hope the evil impression would be sufficiently removed, should your Account and Illustrations, be found adequate to produce conviction on candid and unprejudiced minds.

For myself, I can readily acquit you of having any design of facilitating the setting up of an "Order of Nobility:"—I do not doubt the rectitude of your intentions. But, under the existing circumstances, I would willingly decline the honor you have intended me, by your polite INSCRIPTION, if there should be any danger of giving serious pretext (however ill-founded in reality) for producing or confirming jealousy and dissension, in a single instance, when harmony and accommodation are most essentially requisite to our public prosperity,—perhaps to our national existence.

My remarks, you will please to observe, go only to the expediency, not to the merits of the proposition; what may be necessary and proper hereafter, I hold myself incompetent to decide, as I am but a private citizen. You may, however, rest satisfied, that your composition is calculated to give favorable impressions of the science, candor and ingenuity, with which you have handled the subject; and that, in all personal considerations, I remain with great esteem, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

GO. WASHINGTON.

WM. BARTON, ESQ.

During the occupancy of Philadelphia by the British forces under Sir William Howe, the commander-in-chief, from

the 26th of September, 1777, until the evacuation of that city on the 18th of June, in the following year, Mr. Rittenhouse resided at Lancaster, where he was busily employed in the duties of his office of Treasurer of the State.* Before his removal from Philadelphia, he had placed his family at or in the vicinity of his farm in Norriton, distant about twenty miles in a northwesterly direction from the capital, then conceiving that situation to be a place of safety from any hostile excursions, while he himself continued in the borough of Lancaster. He made his home at the house of the late William Henry, Esq, at that time Treasurer of the rich and populous county of the same name, a situation which was very commodious for the business of his office, from its connection with that of the County Treasurer, and one which was also rendered the more agreeable by reason of Mr. Henry being a person of very considerable mechanical ingenuity.

The separation of Mr. Rittenhouse from his wife and children—attended, too, as it was, by the most embarrassing circumstances, and great uncertainty with respect to the extent of its continuance—produced in such a disposition as his the most poignant feelings. His lot, it is true, was that of thousands of his fellow-citizens; nor were the opposite party exempt from similar evils, many of whom were obliged to abandon their homes, and, after making great sacrifices, to seek an asylum among strangers. These were a part of the miseries inseparable from a state of war, and some of them were of that nature which necessarily resulted from a war of so singular a character;—considerations, however, which could not afford much alleviation to the anxious feelings of our philosopher in his exile. Those sensations were in his

* His active mind derived much of its happiness from its continual employment. It appears that, while engaged in the duties of his office at Lancaster, in the latter part of the year 1777, he made the calculations for an Ephemeris, called "Father Abraham's Pocket-Almanack for the year MDCCLXXXVIII."

mind extremely acute, aggravated, as they were, by the almost hopeless condition of his native country at that time.

A letter which he wrote to his wife from Lancaster on the 26th of January, 1778, strongly bespeaks his inquietude and distress at that alarming period, and is, besides, so very expressive of his purity of heart and the delicacy of his conjugal and parental affections, that the following extracts from it will, it is presumed, be strikingly indicative of his principles and temper:—

“One of your last,” says Mr. Rittenhouse to his wife, “convinces me that the fears I expressed in a former letter are well founded; I mean, that you will write when writing is painful to you. Indeed, my dear H., I am not so unreasonable as to desire it. Your letters, my dearest H., give me mingled pleasure and pain. There is nothing in this world I value so much as your esteem and affection. Your very kind expressions of regard and concern for my health would, therefore, make me happy if it were not for our unfortunate situation. But we have long since talked of the necessity of reconciling ourselves to the prospect of a separation—perhaps for years. This, I fear, you have still made little progress in doing, if I may judge from your letters. Nevertheless, the dismal prospect still continues. I cannot, indeed, boast of much more resolution myself. If Providence has espoused the cause of our enemies—for wise reasons unknown to us—Heaven, nevertheless, is my witness with what integrity I have acted, and that the virtue and happiness of my fellow-creatures has always been my principal object. I am, therefore, not at all distressed on my own account, confident of being happy in whatever part of the world my lot may be thrown; but how to leave you exposed to the frowns of fortune; to leave you to the mercy of an unfeeling world, rendered more callous by general distress; to leave you thus, confiding only in the goodness of Providence, is what I have still to learn. May kind Heaven render it unnecessary.

“I shall, perhaps, before I seal this, appoint a time to meet

you. In my last, I partly promised to come and stay a fortnight with you ; but I do not now think it so safe, as I did then. In our present situation, I should not think it prudent to stay above one night with you, as parties of horse are employed to pick up particular persons. For this reason, I would rather meet you at one of your brothers', or at 'sister's' [this sister of Mrs. Rittenhouse was the widow of Colonel Caleb Parry, a gallant officer in the American service, who was killed at the battle of Long Island in July, 1776], but I apprehend the Schuylkill is, at present, difficult—if not dangerous—to cross on account of the ice.

“*Tuesday Morning.*—I am now nearly determined to appoint next Saturday week, in the evening, to meet you at brother John's (John Jacobs, Esq.—this gentleman was a brother of Mrs. Rittenhouse), and yet I fear it may expose one or both of us to a very uncomfortable ride. I will, however, be there, if the weather be tolerable and health permit ; but do not come, my dear H., if the weather should be bad ; because if I do not find you there, I shall proceed to brother Israel's (Israel Jacobs, Esq., another brother of Mrs. Rittenhouse), where I shall be glad to find you on Sunday, in order to accompany you home. If you can find any opportunity to write before then, I shall be glad to receive a line.”

A circumstance shall be noticed in this place, which, although trivial in itself, will serve to show the grateful sense entertained by our Philosopher of the merits of General Washington. It appears that just about the time when the provisional articles of peace concluded on between the United States and Great Britain were made known in America, Mr. Rittenhouse had forwarded to the General, at the headquarters of the army, a pair of spectacles and reading glasses as a small testimonial of his respect for the character and services of that great man. The terms of the letter that accompanied this little present are not known to the writer of these memoirs ; but of what complexion they

were may be inferred from the General's answer, which is in these words:—

NEWBURGH, 16th Feb., 1783.

Sir.—I have been honored with your letter of the 7th, and beg you to accept my sincere thanks, for the favor conferred on me, in the glasses—which are very fine; but more particularly, for the flattering expressions which accompanied the presents.

The spectacles suit my eyes extremely well—as I am persuaded the reading glasses also will, when I get more accustomed to the use of them. At present, I find some difficulty in coming at the proper focus; but when I do obtain it, they magnify perfectly, and shew those letters very distinctly, which at first appear like a mist blended together and confused. With great esteem and respect, I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, Esq.

The grinding and the polishing of the glasses were of Mr. Rittenhouse's own workmanship, and they were made for the purpose. This circumstance, added to the manner and occasion of their being presented, could not fail of rendering them highly acceptable to the General.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE ON SLAVERY.

Wm. Barton says: "No man ever held the slave trade, and the condition of the hapless people who are the subjects of that nefarious traffic, in greater abhorrence than the benevolent Rittenhouse. A passage in his oration fully evinces his sentiments on this subject. In addition to this highly respectable testimony against negro slavery, let it be remembered that one of the last acts of a public nature in which our Philosopher's predecessor (Dr. Franklin) was concerned, was to sanction with his name the Memorial presented to the Government of the United States on the subject of the slave trade, by 'The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and the Relief of Free Negroes, Unlawfully held in Bondage,' of which Society that distinguished man was the president."

At one time Mr. Barton gave some mathematical problems to David Rittenhouse for solution. These had been furnished by a schoolmaster in Mr. Barton's neighborhood, who, although reputed a pretty good mathematician, possessed but a small share of genius or invention, while he had a large portion of confidence in his own abilities. In noticing these problems, Mr. Rittenhouse could not refrain from showing some little irritation; he thought the communications too trifling, too destitute of originality, or too useless to merit his attention; and, accordingly, he thus expressed himself on the occasion, in a letter dated February 3, 1772:—

“I entreat you not to insist on my measuring heads with any pragmatistical schoolmaster, who is heartily welcome, for me, to divert himself with his x , y , z 's, at which he may be very expert, and yet be, as you say, both ignorant and conceited. His first question, however, may be answered by any young algebraist; the second and third are more difficult, and will admit of various answers. The fourth contains four observations picked out (and carelessly enough, several of the figures being wrong) of a set made on the comet of 1682, which I showed your son, William, in about half a dozen different books; you will find them in Dr. Halley's Astronomical Tables. Everything relating to this comet has long ago been settled by Dr. Halley; so that, to give a complete answer to the question, I need only transcribe from him; but you cannot conceive how much I despise this kind of juggle, where no use is proposed. If your schoolmaster will give me but three good observations (I do not want four) of the comet of 1769, I will accept them with thanks, and soon undertake the laborious task of determining its orbit, which we yet know nothing about.”

To this Mr. Barton replied, in a vein of good-humored pleasantry:—

“I imagine you have mistaken me with regard to the mathematical questions. They were not sent as trials of your abilities; but, for reasons with which W. B. is

acquainted, and which I have desired him to give you, in order to afford you a laugh, I shall never 'insist' on your 'measuring heads' with a 'schoolmaster' of any kind; because I know full well, already, that your head is longer than all the heads of the whole tribe. Had you known what diversion your solutions would have afforded me, you would have sent them.

Mr. William Kulp, of No. 2345 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, has a David Rittenhouse clock in his possession, in good running order; it belonged to his mother, now living with him and in her 94th year. Her father, William Diamond, owned the clock before her as long as she can remember; he resided in Limerick, Montgomery County, Pa. Mr. William Kulp is also a descendant of the Rittenhouse family, 7th generation.

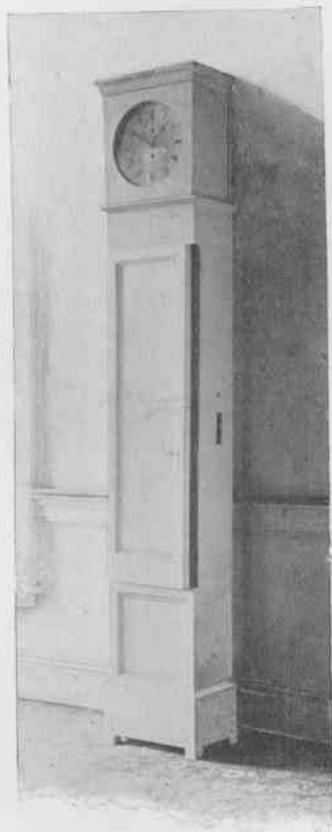
There is a clock in the room of the Philosophical Society at Fifth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, which was made by David Rittenhouse for the purpose of denoting the time during the observation of the transit of Venus in the year 1769, June 3.

The case is a plain one, painted white, without any ornamental work, no carving, or fancy work of any kind.

The clock has been photographed by Wm. H. Richardson, of Norristown, and a cut was made for this work.

Mr. Barton says: "In the Astronomical Clock made by Dr. Rittenhouse and now in the Hall of the Philosophical Society, I do not know," says Mr. Patterson, "that there is anything peculiar which requires mentioning except the pendulum, especially the apparatus for counteracting the effects of change of temperature.

"For this purpose there is fastened on the pendulum-rod (which is of iron or steel) a glass tube of about thirty-six inches long, bent in the middle into two parallel branches at the distance of about an inch from each other, the bend being placed downward, immediately above the bob of the



RITTENHOUSE CLOCK.

In the Room of the Philosophical Society, 5th and Chestnut Sts., Phila.

pendulum. The tube is open at one end and closed at the other; the arm, which is close at top, is filled within about two inches of the lower end or bend with alcohol, and the rest of the tube within about one-half of an inch of the upper extremity or open end with mercury; a few inches of the tube at this extremity being about twice the width of the rest of the tube.

“Now, when the heat of the air increases, it will expand the pendulum-rod, and would thus lower the center of oscillation and cause the clock to go slower; but this effect is completely counteracted by the expansion of the alcohol chiefly, and of the mercury in part, which equally raises the center of oscillation, and thus preserves an equable motion in all the variable temperatures of the atmosphere.”

Mr. William Barton also has the following on page 540:—

Some years after the decease of Dr. Rittenhouse it was judged expedient to transfer his perishable remains from their first place of sepulture to another; they were accordingly removed and interred in the cemetery adjoining the Presbyterian Church in Pine Street, Philadelphia, near the body of his son-in-law, Mr. Sergeant. The grave of the celebrated American astronomer is enclosed under a plain slab of marble, thus inscribed:—

IN MEMORY OF
DAVID RITTENHOUSE,
 BORN APRIL 8, 1732,
 DIED JUNE 26, 1796,
 AND
HANNAH RITTENHOUSE,
 HIS WIFE,
 WHO DIED OCTOBER 15,
 1799,
 AGED 64 YEARS.

But, although no costly tomb contains the ashes of this eminently distinguished man, although no sculptured cenotaph, in any part of his country, blazons his genius or records his fame; and notwithstanding the chisel of the sculptor has never been employed in obedience to the public voice to produce a permanent resemblance of his countenance and figure, yet a monument of more durable nature than any of these consecrates his virtues, his talents, and his usefulness. A grateful remembrance of his modest worth is enshrined in the hearts of the wise and the good of his own age and country, and the name of DAVID RITTENHOUSE will be everywhere perpetuated with veneration and renown among the sons of science and the benefactors of mankind.

FROM MEMOIRS OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

Letter from the Rev. Mr. Cathcart to the writer of these memoirs:—

YORK, 13, Nov. 1812.

Dear Sir:—The following is a statement of the conversation which took place between Drs. Sproat and Rittenhouse, mentioned by me to Bishop White.

At a time when Dr. Rittenhouse was confined by sickness to his room, or perhaps to his bed, he sent for the Rev. Dr. Sproat to visit him. The Doctor was somewhat surprised, on receiving the message; but as he had made it an uniform rule to visit all who sent for him, he expressed his surprise at being sent for; observing, that he could offer no comfort or consolation to any person, who was not a Believer in the Christian Religion. On hearing this declaration, Dr. Rittenhouse immediately asked, if Dr. Sproat considered him among the number of such? To which the Doctor answered, that the world had generally classed him with them. Dr. Rittenhouse on hearing this with great mildness and a smile on his countenance, replied, that the opinion of the world was sometimes wrong, and, as it respected himself, he could with truth declare, that ever since he had examined Christianity and thought upon the subject, he was a firm believer in it; and that he expected salvation *only* in the way and manner, as proposed in the Gospel.

The above is the substance of what Dr. Sproat mentioned to myself; and

I might add, that when the good old man told it, his eyes overflowed with tears of joy. It gives me pleasure to be able to furnish you with this satisfactory proof of Dr. Rittenhouse's faith ; and which I once introduced into a sermon preached in the city, as Justice due to the character of the deceased, and who had been triumphantly claimed by the Infidels. I am happy to find that you are engaged in the laudable business of writing the life of that worthy man.

Yours Respectfully.

ROBERT CATHCART.

WILLIAM BARTON, ESQUIRE.

THE WORKS AND DOINGS OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

If it be asked : "Where are the *Works* of Rittenhouse?" a ready and satisfactory answer to the question is at hand. Although he published no ponderous volumes, he has left behind him great and honorable memorials of his genius, his science, and his skill, such as will long remain as monuments of the extraordinary extent of his practical usefulness in his day and of his well-earned fame. "He has not, indeed, made a world," as Mr. Jefferson, in speaking of his Orrery, emphatically expresses himself, "but he has, by imitation, approached nearer its Maker than any man who has lived from the creation to this day." As long, too, as the geographical boundaries of Pennsylvania, connected in part with those of the neighboring States, shall continue to define the respective jurisdictions of their local sovereignties and rights, considered as members of a great confederated nation, so long will they serve to distinguish the name of Rittenhouse. Nay, some of the rivers and canals, even some principal roads, in the country of his nativity bear testimony to his talents, his public spirit, and his industry. His inventions and improvements in various specimens of mechanism, conceived and executed by himself, fully manifest that, "as an artist, he has exhibited as great a proof of mechanical genius as the world has ever produced." And, as a man of extensive and profound science, his various philosophical papers, but more especially those relating to his astronomical observations, justify Mr. Jefferson's remark,

that he was "second to no astronomer living," that he was, "ingenius the first, because self-taught."

Such, then, were the "Works" of this truly great man. And it appears that they were, in general, not only arduous in their execution and highly beneficial in their uses and effects, but that they were likewise the productions of a penetrating and active genius, great knowledge and skill, and the most indefatigable perseverance.

It will, perhaps, have occurred to the reader, that besides such of the works of Dr. Rittenhouse as are referred to in the text, in some of which the blended effects of genius, philosophical science, and mechanical skill were equally conspicuous, he put the Mint into operation. In the language of his worthy successor in the direction of that institution, "his lofty and correct mind, capable alike of ascending to the sublimest heights of science, and of condescending to regulate the minute movements of mechanical machinery, organized the Mint and created the workmen and the apparatus." His agency in directing the construction, and arranging the operative departments of this important establishment, though less indicative of extraordinary mechanical genius than many of his other works, was, nevertheless, an arduous undertaking; it was conducted, as Mr. De Saussure very justly observed, "amidst complicated difficulties, from which the most persevering minds might have shrunk without dishonor."

But though Dr. Rittenhouse published no great systematic literary work, he communicated to others by his conversation, and by such of his writings as have been given to the world, much valuable philosophical information. He instructed liberally such persons as were desirous of acquiring knowledge from a social intercourse with him. The elevated station his character maintained, both for wisdom and integrity, exhibited him to his cotemporaries as an example worthy of being imitated; and thus, in reality, his high reputation operated as a powerful incitement upon many of

his countrymen to pursue similar objects of science, inspiring them with a taste to cultivate the true philosophy.

The reputation of this distinguished man, as a mathematician and astronomer, was pre-eminently great in every civilized part of the Western World. Perhaps no man's philosophical talents were ever held in higher estimation, nor more deservedly so, by those qualified to form a proper judgment of them, wherever his name was known, not excepting those of Newton himself. His celebrity was far from being confined within the limits of his native country; his Orrery, with the proceedings and results of the observation of that phenomenon which so greatly interested the principal astronomers of both hemispheres, the transit of Venus in 1769, had rendered him justly celebrated in Europe, as well as America, as a philosopher of the highest grade at the age of thirty-seven years.

W. BARTON.

The following article, written by Professor Barton, may be of interest. Although the following particulars respecting Dr. Rittenhouse were not communicated by the writer, Professor Barton, until it was too late to give them a place in the body of the work, the author, nevertheless, is glad to have an opportunity of presenting to the public, even at the close of his book, the interesting circumstances this communication contains:—

As optics was one of his favorite studies, so he at one time contemplated a course of public, and I think popular, lectures on this beautiful and important branch of physics. On this subject he mentioned to me his intention in the winter of 1785, 1786. The enthusiasm, indeed, with which he developed his design, and, I may add, the warmth of zeal with which his manner at the time inspired me, I can never forget. And, indeed, I cannot but regret that our excellent friend never made his appearance in public as a lecturer. As such, he would, unquestionably, have greatly advanced

the love and the knowledge of natural philosophy in the United States. He may, perhaps, have wanted some of the qualifications of a popular teacher. He would not have aspired to finished eloquence of style; to the eloquence of gesture and of manner he was still more a stranger. But there is an eloquence of physiognomy which Mr. Rittenhouse most eminently possessed, the modesty and amenity of his manner would have effected much, whether his audience had been a class of philosophers or an assembly of ladies. Of his own discoveries and opinions and theories he would have always spoken with that sweet and modest reserve for which he was ever distinguished. He would have dwelt with the most generous and ample enthusiasm upon the great discoveries of Newton; and if at any time he could have forgotten that impartial conduct which it is the duty of the historian of a science to observe, it would have been when he might have had occasion to defend the theories of that great man against the objections of succeeding and minor philosophers.

In physics, Newton was his favorite author. Of him he ever spoke with a species of respect bordering upon veneration. He considered him as one of those few great leaders in science whose discoveries and services can never be forgotten; whose fame, instead of diminishing, is destined to be augmented with the progress of time. I had many opportunities of being witness to the exalted opinion which he entertained of the immortal British philosopher. He read Dr. Bancroft's objections to some parts of Sir Isaac's theory of colors with a firm conviction that the Newtonian principles were still unshaken; and I well remember that he once referred me to a paper which he had published in one of our magazines in answer to some objections which the late Dr. Witherspoon had urged against some of the theories of Newton.

It has been observed by a celebrated writer that mathematicians in general, read, but little of each other's works. This

remark, if I mistake not, is very strongly illustrated in Mr. Rittenhouse. However it may have been in his earlier age, I am confident that during the last thirteen years of his life, when my intercourse with him was great, and, indeed, but little interrupted—I am confident that at this matured and auspicious era of his life our friend was not a laborious student. He looked into many books, and he often passed quickly from one kind of reading to another,—from philosophy to poetry; from poetry, perhaps, to philosophy again. His reading may be said to have been desultory. I have little doubt that this rather irregular manner of reading was, in some measure, the result of his extreme delicacy of constitution, which rendered a more unvaried application to any one kind of reading irksome and oppressive. Often have I seen him lay down his book or pen to recline upon his sofa, the circumscribed flush upon his cheeks plainly indicating the physical state of his feelings. A short repose would enable him to return to his studies again.

Mr. Rittenhouse's application to books had, no doubt, been more regular and constant in the earlier part of his life,—before I knew him well, or before I had accustomed myself to watch the progress of his mind. He was, certainly, profoundly acquainted with the "Principia" and other writings of Newton, which he read partly in the original, and partly through the medium of translation. And although, within the period of my better acquaintance with him, his reading, I have said, was not intense, he suffered no important discovery in philosophy to escape his notice. Although his own library was small, he had ample opportunities, through the medium of the valuable library belonging to the Philosophical Society and other collections in Philadelphia, of observing the progress of his favorite studies in Europe. He took much interest in the discoveries of Mr. Herschel, whose papers he eagerly read as they arrived from Europe; and I well remember the time (in 1785) when he was engaged in reading Scheel's work on "Fire," which had recently appeared in an

English dress. He then assured me that some of this great Swedish philosopher's notions concerning the nature and the laws of heat had long before suggested themselves to his mind.

The chemical discoveries of Crawford and Priestly solicited some of Mr. Rittenhouse's attention about the year 1785-1786, and for some time after. The brilliant discoveries of Priestly, in particular, were not unknown to him. Upon the arrival of this illustrious philosopher in Philadelphia, in 1794, Mr. Rittenhouse stood foremost among the members of the Philosophical Society in publicly welcoming the exiled philosopher to the country which he had chosen as the asylum of his declining years, and in expressing his high sense of his estimable character and of the vast accessions which he had brought to science. I often met Dr. Priestly at the house of our friend. Their regard for each other was mutual. It is to be regretted that their immediate intercourse with each other could not be more frequent. Priestly had, unfortunately, chosen the wilderness, instead of the capital or its vicinity, as his place of residence; and Rittenhouse, alas! did not live two years after the arrival of Priestly in America.

On the death of Mr. Rittenhouse, Dr. Priestly wrote me a letter of condolence on the great loss which the public had sustained,—on the irreparable loss which I, in particular, had suffered. When the Doctor afterward returned from Northumberland to Philadelphia, he discovered much solicitude to know from me Mr. Rittenhouse's religious sentiments and the manner and circumstances of his death; and he evinced no small satisfaction in receiving from me that relation which I have already given you, of the last hours, and of the last words, of one of the best of men.

Mr. Rittenhouse had not studied natural history as a science; but to some of the branches of this science he had paid particular attention, and upon some of them he was capable of conversing with the ablest and the most experienced. In botany, he was not acquainted with the scientific or

classical names; but the habits, and in many instances the properties, of plants were known to him. I well recollect how great was his pleasure and satisfaction in contemplating the *Flora* of the rich hills of Wheeling and other branches of the Ohio when I accompanied him into those parts of our Union in the year 1785. In this wilderness, he first fostered my love and zeal for natural history. Upon his return from the woods, in the month of October, he brought with him as ornaments to his garden many of the tramontane plants of the State of Pennsylvania; and long before I knew that it grew wild in the vicinity of Philadelphia, upon the banks of his native Schuylkill, he had naturalized in his garden the beautiful *Silene Virginica*, which he designated with the name of "Wheeling Star."

It is a fact, that in the last months of his life he devoted a good deal of his time to an examination of the structure of the most important organs of plants. Acquainted with that doctrine which forms the basis of the sexual system, he was fond of examining plants during the period of their inflorescence, and I remember with what apparent pleasure he pointed out to me the tube in the styles of some of the plants which grew in his garden.

He had made many observations upon the buds of trees, some of which I think were new. I regret that the memorandums which he kept of these observations have not been found among his papers.

Not fifteen days before his death he had finished the perusal of a German translation of Rousseau's beautiful letters on botany, which I had put into his hands.

Mr. Rittenhouse, like Newton and many other men of great talents, employed much of his time in the perusal of works on the subject of natural and revealed religion. This was, I think, more especially the case in the latter part of his life. Among other books which I could mention, I well recollect that he read the "Thoughts" of the celebrated French philosopher, Pascal, and he acknowledged that he read

them with pleasure. But that pleasure, he observed to me, was diminished when he learned what was often the state of Pascal's mind—a state of melancholy and gloom, and sometimes even of mental derangement. At the time of his death the American philosopher was engaged in the perusal of "Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History;" and he had just before finished the perusal of the "Meditations" of the Emperor Marcus Antoninus, that excellent work replete with the sublimest morality and with much of a sublime religion.

About three weeks before his death I had put into his hands the first volume of Dr. Ferguson's "Elements of Moral and Political Science." I took the liberty of particularly directing his attention to the last chapter of the volume—the chapter on the future state. He read it with so much satisfaction, that he afterward sent it to his eldest daughter, with a request that she would peruse it.

The benevolent dispositions of our friend were well known to you. You have doubtless done justice to this portion of his character, yet permit me to mention a few detached facts which have come under my own immediate notice, and the relation of which may serve to augment even *your* respect and veneration for Mr. Rittenhouse.

The year 1793 is memorable in the history of Philadelphia. During the prevalence of the yellow fever in the summer of that year, Mr. Rittenhouse wrote to me a note requesting me to visit a number of poor people in his vicinity laboring under the malignant fever, and making it a condition of my attendance upon them that I should charge *him* for my service.

In the month of March, of the same year, I had a good deal of conversation with Mr. Rittenhouse on the subject of penal laws. He did not think that the late Judge Bradford, whose essay on this subject he greatly admired and recommended to my perusal, was too lenient in his views on this subject. He observed that although he had often served on juries, he thanked God that he never had in any case where

life and death were immediately involved; observing that his conscience would *ever* reproach him if he had, in any instance, given his verdict for death. "Of all murders," he added, "*legal* murders are the most horrid." He did not think that death ought to be the punishment for any crime.

The union of sensibility with benevolence is frequently observed. The sensibility of Rittenhouse was exquisitely nice; perhaps, I might say, it was somewhat morbid. In a conversation which I had with him on the subject of the analogies between animals and vegetables, when I had observed to him that the further we push our inquiries into this interesting subject, the more reason we have for supposing that those two series of living beings constitute, as many eminent naturalists have supposed, but one vast family, he said it appeared so to him, but he hoped it would never be discovered that vegetables are endowed with sensibility. "There is," he observed, "already too much of this in the world."

His religion was sublime and pure. It had no tincture of superstition or credulity. Accustomed from an early period of his life to contemplate the largest and the smallest objects of creation, and with respect to the former to view their arrangement and harmony in the construction of a system of immeasurable extent, in these objects and in these places he beheld one of the revelations of our Creator. He could not be insensible of the ills, infirmities, and miseries of human life, and even of the life of inferior animals. But still he discovered, as he often observed to me, the existence and even the dominion of much benevolence through the world. He was wont to consider our benevolent dispositions and our virtuous affections as among the strongest proofs of the existence of a Creator. These dispositions, these affections, and our intellectual powers are the genuine emanations of a God.

BENJAMIN SMYTH BARTON.

Philadelphia, December, 1813.

David Rittenhouse in his oration had the following:—

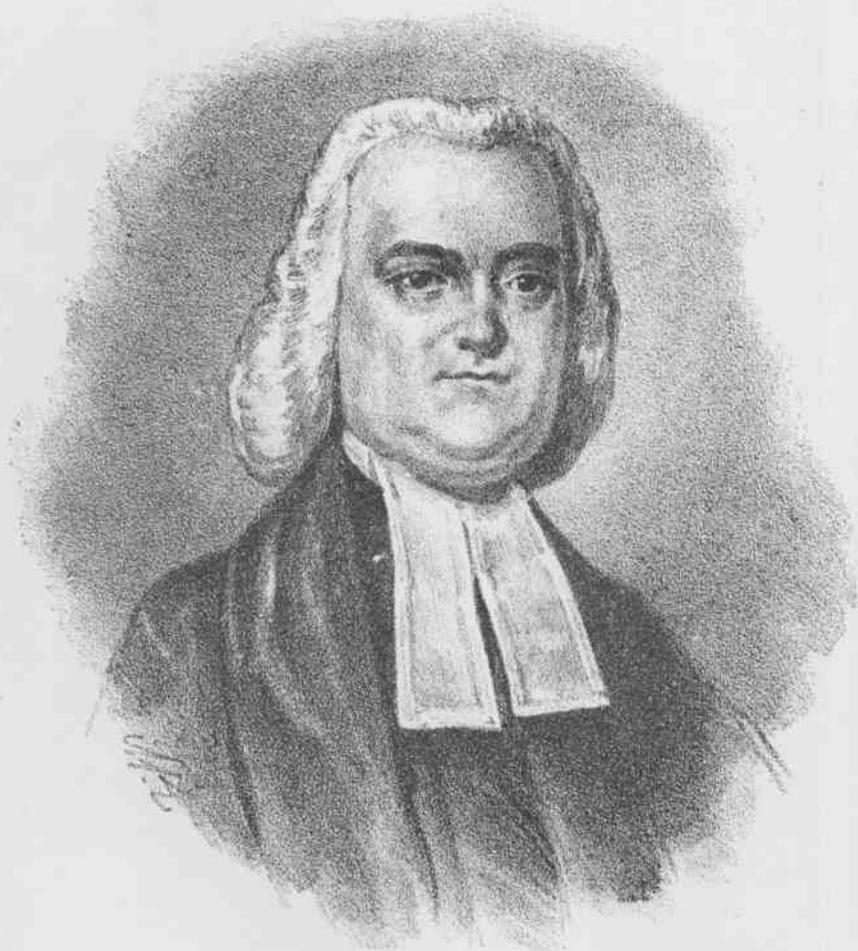
“Astronomy, like the Christian religion, if you will allow me the comparison,” said our philosopher, “has a much greater influence on our knowledge in general, and perhaps on our manners, too, than is commonly imagined. Though but few men are its particular votaries, yet the light it affords is universally diffused among us; and it is difficult for us to divest ourselves of its influence so far as to frame any competent idea of what would be our situation without it.”

In another part of his oration is this passage: “Our religion teaches us what philosophy could not have taught, and we ought to admire, with reverence, the great things it has pleased Divine Providence to perform, beyond the ordinary course of nature, for man, who is, undoubtedly, the most noble inhabitant of the globe.”

GEN.

4 38 5 *Annie Rittenhouse*, married George Shoemaker, a member of the Society of Friends. They had one child, Jacob Shoemaker, who went into the Army of the Revolution, and was killed in a battle in South Carolina in 1781, at the age of nineteen years. He was a young man of promising character, and had attained the rank of captain. *Annie Rittenhouse* was a woman of intrinsic worth. She died in the prime of her life, and it is believed she was the first of David Rittenhouse's affectionate little band of brothers and sisters who had attained to the age of maturity that he had then lost. Friend Daniel Stanton, an eminent public speaker in the Society of Friends, attended her in her last illness at her particular request. He also delivered an excellent exhortation at her grave.

4 39 6 *Eleanor Rittenhouse*, married Daniel Evans, of Philadelphia, a blacksmith by trade, son of Evan Evans, of Gwynedd, 4 mo. 14, 1763, at Plymouth meeting. Plymouth



REV THOMAS BARTON

Died 1780

Thos Barton

was a branch of Gwynedd. Matthias, David, and Benjamin Rittenhouse, among others, signed the marriage certificate. Children: David, Benjamin, and Joseph. —From the record of Gwynedd Monthly Meeting.

4 40 7 *Esther Rittenhouse*, born 1731; died June 18, 1774, aged 43 years; married Rev. Thomas Barton in 1753. He was a native of Ireland from an English family. He was born 1730, died May 25, 1780. He was the eldest son of his father, was instructed in the rudiments of a classical education, in the vicinity of his family residence, in the county of Monaghan, under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Folds, a respectable English clergyman, and at a suitable age was sent to the University of Dublin. Soon after his education was finished he emigrated to America and settled in Lancaster. He came to Norristown, Montgomery county, Pa., to teach school, and, making the acquaintance of the young philosopher and clockmaker, they became warm friends. Barton supplied Rittenhouse with books. Rev. Thomas Barton was a minister in the Protestant Episcopal Church, or High Church of England. He had eight children, viz.: William, Esther, Benjamin, Matthias, David, Thomas, Juliana, and Richard Peters. He died at New York May 25, 1780, aged only fifty years, and was interred in the chancel of St. George's Chapel, in that city. After his wife's death Rev. Thomas Barton married a widow, Mrs. Lee Normandie, whose maiden name was Baird; she was from New York city. Whilst he was still detained in New York, his wife was living in Burlington, N. J., with his children. He was taken very ill and his wife vainly endeavored to get a permit to enter the city to visit him; she having failed, a Miss Polly Thornbury, an humble friend of the family, went *on foot* from Burlington to New York,

got through the lines, went to the bedside of the Rev. Mr. Barton, nursed him, and closed his eyes in death. Miss Polly had long been a retainer of the Barton family, and when the first Mrs. Barton was dying she placed the children in her care, and begged her never to desert them. Polly was faithful to her charge, and when Juliana Barton married Mr. White, she went to live with them, nurtured their young daughter, and died at their house in Woodbury, New Jersey.

In reference to the above, the following is taken from vol. 12, p. 339, of the *Colonial Records* :—

“Petition of Paul Zantzinger and William Barton, praying leave for the Reverend Thomas Barton and wife to return from New York; or the Petitioners to go into that city and return was read; and on consideration rejected unanimously.”

The following account of the death of Esther Rittenhouse, wife of Rev. Thomas Barton, was taken from the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 1774 :—

“Early on Saturday morning, June 18, 1774, died at Lancaster, Pa., in the forty-third year of her age, Mrs. Esther Barton, wife of the Rev. Thomas Barton, of that place, and sister to Mr. David Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia. It is not easy to do justice to the character of this amiable and excellent woman without incurring the suspicion of flattery among those who did not know her. Blessed with a superior understanding, a sound judgment, and a peculiar sweetness of temper, she always knew what was propriety of good conduct on every occasion, and how to be agreeable in every company. But she considered it to be her highest honor, as it was her chief desire, to shine in her own family as a dutiful wife, a tender mother, setting an example of virtue and economy to her children, and preferring the calm walk of domestic happiness to all those fantastic and adventurous joys in the pursuit of which too many waste their precious time.

"She bore for many days the greatest bodily pain with exemplary patience and resignation, and, finding at last the time of her dissolution was at hand, she took leave of her family with a Christian fortitude, imploring the blessing of God upon them and a speedy release for herself, in the full hope that she was to exchange this transitory scene for a better inheritance.

"On Sunday evening her remains were interred in the chancel of St. James' Church, Lancaster, the pall having been supported by six magistrates to the grave. All denominations of people seemed to follow as mourners; at the head of these, as a true picture of distress and sorrow, were a bereaved husband and eight weeping children. A pathetic discourse, well suited to the occasion, was delivered by the Rev. Wm. Helmuth."

REV. THOMAS BARTON.

Letter to Thomas H. Montgomery, Esq., Philadelphia:—

NEW YORK, September 4, 1886.

Dear Mr. Montgomery.—St. George's Church was destroyed by fire in 1814; the walls only remained. If a monument or tablet was erected over Barton, it perished at that time. The inscription over the grave of his wife is in "Alden's Epitaphs."

I send herewith the obituary notice from *Rivington's Royal Gazette*.

Respectfully yours,

WM. KELLY.

NEW YORK, May 31st.

On Thursday, the 25th inst. (1780), departed this life, aged fifty years, the Rev. Thomas Barton, A. M., the Society's missionary for Lancaster, in the Province of Pennsylvania. This worthy clergyman was distinguished by a generous openness of temper and liberality of sentiment, which, joined to an exemplary conduct and indefatigable zeal in discharging the duties of his function, gained him the love

and esteem of his acquaintances, especially of his parishioners, who greatly respected him during his residence among them for twenty-one years. His unshaken loyalty and attachment to the Constitution drew upon him the resentment of the rebels and exposed him to many hardships. The violence of the times compelled him at last to leave his numerous family and take refuge in this city, where he bore a tedious and most painful sickness with fortitude and resignation. He died in firm expectation of that immortality and glory which are the exalted privileges of sincere Christians.

“On Friday last his remains were interred in the chancel of St. George’s Chapel.”—*The Royal Gazette, Wednesday, May 31, 1780, No. 383.*

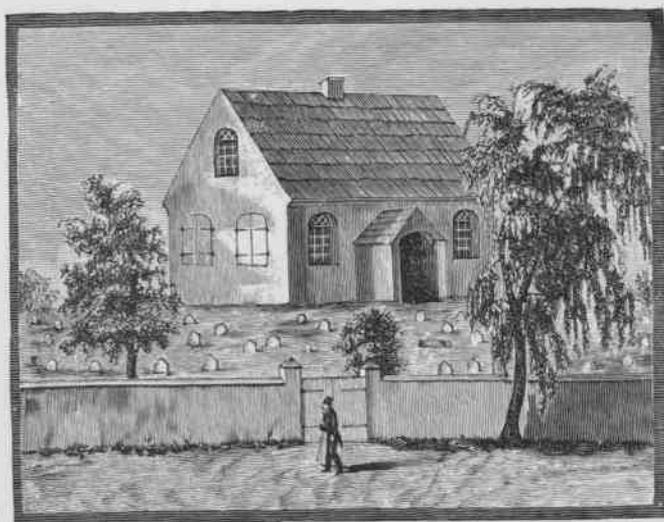
After St. George’s Church was destroyed by fire, the bones of the Rev. Thomas Barton were moved to the chancel of the new St. George’s Church, New York. G. M. A.

GEN.

4 41 8 *Benjamin Rittenhouse*, born—1740 in Norriton township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on the same place or farm that his father, Matthias, bought in 1731–2 (date of deed), and afterward moved thereon. There Benjamin was reared, educated, and spent his time in assisting his father in farming until he grew to maturity.

Benjamin relates that while David was thus employed at the plow from the age of 14 years, and for some time after, he (Benjamin), then a young boy, was frequently sent to call David to his meals, at which time he repeatedly observed that not only the fences at the head of many of the furrows, but even his plow and its handles, were covered over with chalked numerical figures.

Benjamin Rittenhouse also says, when speaking of David: “Astronomy appeared at a very early day to be his favorite



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT EVANSBURG,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.

study, but he also applied himself industriously to the study of optics, the mechanical powers, etc."

Benjamin Rittenhouse married Elizabeth Bull, daughter of General John Bull, on December 26, 1770. John Bull was a resident of Providence township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and in 1771 he owned the Norris plantation and mill, and resided there on the site of the present borough of Norristown (incorporated March 31, 1812. Population in 1810 was 1336). In November, 1776, he disposed of all his property in Norriton township, and not long after this date moved to Berkeley county, Virginia, where he erected a mill on the Opequan Creek, and as early as 1785 he removed to Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. His wife, Mary Bull, died February 23, 1811, aged 80 years.

The Northumberland *Argus* says: "She was buried in the Quaker graveyard, and General Bull, though much reduced by sickness and old age, previous to the grave being closed addressed the people as follows: 'The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. May we, who are so soon to follow, be as well prepared as she was.'"*

Elizabeth Bull Rittenhouse, wife of Benjamin, died later, and Benjamin subsequently married Frances Wade, daughter of Colonel Francis Wade, on January 22, 1793, in the St. James Episcopal Church at Evansburg, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. Colonel Wade resided at that time in Providence, Montgomery county, Pa. By both these marriages he had male issue. His children were David, John, Franklin, Mary, Emily, and William.

Matthias Rittenhouse, the father of Benjamin, held the highly respectable station of an intelligent, independent farmer, and it has also been seen that his paternal ancestors

*John Bull was appointed colonel May 2, 1777, and promoted adjutant general June 17, 1777; died at Northumberland, Pennsylvania, August 9, 1824, aged 94 years. See notice of him in Vol. 1, 2d Series, page 12, Penna. Archives.

for some generations in succession were proprietors of considerable manufactories of an article important in commerce and the arts, and eminently useful in literature and science, as well as in the common affairs of life.

Prior to 1764 Matthias Rittenhouse, the father of Benjamin, purchased another farm in the township of Worcester, Montgomery county, Pa., on which he had erected a good two-story stone dwelling house with suitable outhouses. There Matthias, his wife, and their son Benjamin and his family afterward lived, the house being so constructed as conveniently to accommodate two small families, which farm was left to Benjamin, the youngest son. According to records we find that Benjamin lived there until after 1800. Benjamin Rittenhouse sold his real estate in Worcester and Norriton townships as follows: One property to Michael Brode, April 3, 1797; one to John Funk, December 21, 1795; one to Esther Waters, March 31, 1800, and one to William Bean, July 20, 1799. All these titles give his residence as Worcester, Montgomery county, Pa. All are recorded at Norristown. Then I find one deed recorded at Norristown giving the date 1812, and Benjamin Rittenhouse, Philadelphia, signifying that he resided then in Philadelphia.

S. E. Rittenhouse writes from Washington: "Benjamin Rittenhouse was commissioned by Governor Mifflin, in 1791, one of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Montgomery county. He assisted his brother David, the philosopher, in his astronomical studies, and was almost as good an astronomer as he. He seems to have superintended most of the surveys in the neighborhood of Norristown. Rev. James Nourse, son of Mary Rittenhouse, in his journal says of his grandfather: "Benjamin Rittenhouse was wounded at the battle of Brandywine and taken prisoner. In November, 1824, I saw him in Philadelphia, where he resided, having returned thither after the capture of Washington, in 1814. He was with Colonel and Mrs. Michael Nourse at that time. He was then (1824) in his

eighty-fourth year, could walk six miles before breakfast, and enjoyed the use of his faculties to a remarkable degree."

On the 21st of February, 1797, the Legislature passed "an act for raising, by way of lottery, the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be applied to the erection of a stone arched bridge over the Perkioming Creek, in Montgomery county, on the road leading from Philadelphia to the borough of Reading."

The County Commissioners—Frederick Conrad, Moses Hobson, Samuel Maulsby, together with the Judges of the court, Messrs. — Lollar, Benjamin Rittenhouse, and ——— Markley—met at the public house of Elisha Evans. They there decided that the bridge should consist of eleven arches: three of fifty feet, two of forty-five feet, two of thirty-five feet, two of thirty feet, and two of twenty feet. This was afterward changed, and the bridge was built with but six arches. At the end of the year the county had expended the sum of \$34,683.12, and the bridge was only one-half completed. The bridge was finished, in 1799, in the style it now stands. It cost the county about sixty thousand dollars.

I also find in "Memoirs of David Rittenhouse," page 138: "Besides his (David's) astronomical pursuits, his early employment in ascertaining the limits and fixing the territorial boundaries of Pennsylvania and of some of the neighboring States obliged him to supply himself with chronometers of the greatest possible accuracy; and these were either made by his own hands, or under his immediate inspection by his brother, who, with the aid of his instruction, became an excellent mechanic. One of these fine instruments, bearing on its face the name of *Benjamin Rittenhouse* as the maker, and the date of the year 1786, is now in the possession of Mr. Norton Prior, of Philadelphia." So says William Barton, Philadelphia, 1813.

No. 1. IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9, 1776.

A letter was wrote and signed by the Chairman to Benjamin Rittenhouse of Nottingham, requesting his attendance at this Board, in order to confer with him respecting the mode and terms on which he would undertake to carry on a Manufactory of Gun Lock making in an extensive manner.

No. 2. COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, 1776.
TO BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE :—

Dear Sir :—The present exigency of our affairs are such that the Committee of Safety think it expedient to establish a Gun Lock Manufactory, with a view that a great number of hands may be immediately employed in that branch, altho' there may not be a sufficiency of expert workmen to be had at this juncture, nevertheless it is imagined that there are a considerable number of ingenious and handy black and white smiths, who may soon be instructed in its several parts.

From the general character which the Committee have had of you they are of opinion that you are a suitable person to superintend the execution of their design. They have therefore directed me to write to you to request your immediate attendance on their Board in this city in order to confer with you respecting the mode and terms on which you would undertake and carry it on. This they have been encouraged to do from an opinion of your zeal and firm attachment to measures which an obstinate and inflexible adherence of the British Ministry to a cruel and sanguinary system of conduct have made necessary.

I am with great regard and esteem,

Directed, BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE,
Norrington, 9th Feb., 1776.

No. 3. WORCESTER, Feb. 16, 1776.
BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE TO THE COMMITTEE :—

Gentlemen :—I have considered your proposals, and am of opinion that two hundred and fifty pounds per annum will not be more than adequate to my services in the undertaking, and as a disadvantage will arise in removing my family and changing my situation with regard to business and living, I shall farther expect to be paid the sum of £50 in case I am not continued in employ for the term of three years. If the above terms are agreeable I am disposed to engage, but request leave to consult my family, and in a few days I will return the Board definite answer. The whole is submitted to your consideration by, gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE.

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety.

No. 4. WORCESTER, Feb. 16, 1776.

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE TO THE COMMITTEE :—

Gentlemen :—I have consulted my family with regard to moving to the city, and they have consented thereto, in case you think proper to have the works carried on there. If you think it necessary that I should be present to chuse a suitable place for the Manufactory, a few lines sent to my Brother will be conveyed and the summons carefully attended to by, gentlemen,

Your very humble servant,

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE.

To the Committee of Safety.

—*Penna. Arch., 2d Series, Vol. 1, page 573.*

No. 5. IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, PHIL., Feb. 26, 1776.

RESOLVED, That Mr. Owen Biddle write to Mr. Benjamin Rittenhouse and desire that he will remove to this city as soon as possible, and that he send a man express with said letter, informing him the Board accept his proposal, and that they allow him £250 per annum for carrying on the Gunlock Manufactory on account of this Board.—*Penn. Arch., Vol. 10, page 481.*

No. 6. WORCESTER, Feb. 27, 1776.

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE TO THE COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir :—I am extremely sorry I could not possibly attend the Honorable Board immediately on my receiving yours of the 21st instant. The reasons of which were these : Under the former regulations for the Associations of Inhabitants through the Province, I had the honor to be chosen the Captain of a company in our town, in consequence of which it fell upon me when the new regulations came out to endeavor to get them signed, in the endeavoring of which I spent the chief part of last week. Yesterday I was obliged to meet the company to exercise them. This day I should have been in the city had not the weather and roads been so very bad. On the morrow, please God I've my health, I'll be there to attend the commands of the Board.

Sir, I remain with great esteem,

Your Obligated humble servant

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE.

To Mr. Owen Biddle, Member of the Honorable Committee of Safety.

—*Penn. Arch., Vol. 1, 2d Series, page 576.*

Petition of Benjamin Rittenhouse for an augmentation of his pay. From 20th November, 1776. Raised to £350 per year.—*Penn. Arch., Vol. 1, 2d series, page 647.*

No. 7.

PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 19, 1776.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY FOR THE STATE OF
PENNSYLVANIA :—

Gentlemen.:—The former Committee of Safety having thought fit to appoint me to superintend the Gun lock factory of this city : I agreed with them for the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds per annum, which I then thought adequate to the difficulty of the task, and in consequence, moved my Family to this city ; since which time, by the change in our public affairs, almost every necessary of life have arose to such an extravagant price that I find by experience the sum will be insufficient to support my family through the course of the year. I have therefore thought proper to appeal to your candiour whether you in your judgm't may think fit to augment the sum specified, as I have it not in my power like other tradesmen to raise the prices of my work. The above is submitted to the discretion of the Honorable board by their

Most Obedient Humble Servant,

BENJ. RITTENHOUSE.

Indorsed: "The petition of Benjamin Rittenhouse."

Benjamin Rittenhouse to Council 1779:—

THE HON. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL :—

Gentlemen.:—On my entering the Service of this State as Superintendent of the Gun Lock Factory I brought with me a number of Tools for that purpose of carrying it on to the amount of about £25, and which were Sold to the State for that sum who have had the use of them for these two years. As the factory is now broke up and your petitioner intends following his former Occupation he begs he may have the Tools at the price the public were charged with them. Your Granting the above request will much Oblige your petitioner.

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE.

—*Col. Rec., Vol. 7, page 112.*

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE APPOINTED AS ASSOCIATE JUDGE.

Benjamin Rittenhouse was commissioned by Governor Mifflin in the year 1791 to be one of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Mont-

gomery. His commission is recorded at Norristown, in Montgomery County, Pa., as follows, viz.:—

79

Commission: BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE, *Judge*.

{ STATE }
{ SEAL. } Pennsylvania, *ss.*

IN THE NAME and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the said Commonwealth.

Thomas Mifflin to Benjamin Rittenhouse of the county of Montgomery, Esq., sends greeting.

KNOW YOU, That reposing special trust and confidence in your integrity, judgment and abilities, I the said Thomas Mifflin have appointed, and by these presents I do appoint and commission you the said Benjamin Rittenhouse, to be one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the said county of Montgomery, hereby giving and granting unto you as Third Associate Judge, full right and title to have and execute all and singular the powers, jurisdictions, and authorities, and to receive and enjoy all and singular the lawful emoluments of a Judge of the said Court of Common Pleas, of a Judge of the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery, of a Judge of the Orphans' Court, of a Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, of a Judge of the Register's Court and of a Justice of the Peace, so far as relates to criminal matter in and for the county aforesaid, agreeably to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth to have and to hold this commission, and the office hereby granted unto you the said Benjamin Rittenhouse, so long as you shall behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this seventeenth day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and of the Commonwealth the sixteenth.

Issued by the Governor.

A. I. DAYLAS, *Secretary*.

Entered the 28th day of March, 1792.

No. 10.

The following commission was issued to Thomas Craig and Benjamin Rittenhouse as follows:—

{ STATE }
{ SEAL }

THOMAS CRAIG & BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE, ESQUIRES:—

IN THE NAME and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the said Commonwealth, to Thomas Craig and Benjamin Rittenhouse, of the county of Montgomery. Whereas, divers

commissions under the State seal, signed by the Governor and attested by the Secretary, have been issued, and may hereafter be issued, to persons within the county of Montgomery, authorizing the persons therein mentioned to do and perform the several acts and things to their respective offices belonging or appertaining according to the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth. These are therefore to authorize and empower you, or either of you, to administer to all and every person and persons named in the commission so as aforesaid, granted or to be granted, the oaths or affirmations required to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and to qualify them severally for their respective offices and the trust reposed in them, by virtue of such commissions, saving always the administration of such oaths and affirmations as the laws of this State have directed to be otherwise taken.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and of the Commonwealth the twentieth.

By the Governor.

A. I. DALLAS, *Secretary.*

Recorded, September 8th, 1795, at Norristown.

No. 11.

Another similar commission was granted to William R. Atlee and Benjamin Rittenhouse by the Governor, on March fifth, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine (1799), which is also recorded at Norristown.

No. 12.

On July 24, 1797, the County Commissioners—Frederick Conrad, Moses Hobson, Samuel Maulsby, together with the Judges of the Court, Messrs. ——— Lollar, Benjamin Rittenhouse, and ——— Markley—met at the public house of Elijah Evans, at Norristown. They there decided to build a bridge over the Perkiomen consisting of eleven arches: three of fifty feet, two of forty-five feet, two of thirty-five feet, two of thirty feet, and two of twenty feet. This was afterward changed, and the bridge was built with but six arches. The bridge is standing yet at Collegeville on the Philadelphia and Reading Turnpike.—*History of Montgomery County.*

Jacob Schutt, of Prospectville, possessed a clock made by

Benjamin Rittenhouse; date unknown. Bought soon after the Revolutionary War by his grandfather, Henry Wismer, who lived on the banks of the Schuylkill in Lower Providence.

Sarah S. Walker Abrams has a clock made by Benjamin Rittenhouse. It is a twenty-four hour clock, winds with chain, and shows the day of the month. It was purchased at a sale of personal property of Isaac Eastburn, a resident of Upper Merion, who died in 1861, at the age of 82 years. It belonged to his father, John Eastburn.

George M. Weber, of Worcester, Montgomery county, Pa., is the owner of a Rittenhouse surveyor's compass with the date 1789, still in complete working order, and used in practice; also the original wooden box of unique design and workmanship for holding the compass when not in use. Both were for a long time the property of Rev. George Wack, a prominent citizen of Montgomery county, Pa.

Mrs. Elizabeth Zimmerman, of Providence Square, has a clock made by Benjamin Rittenhouse for his own use. At his death it was purchased by Harman Custer, grandfather of the owner, who used it until his death, when Henry Custer became its owner. It was retained by him until his death, when his daughter and sole heir, the executor, inherited it. It has stood in its present place in Worcester about one mile from Providence Square since Harman Custer brought it there, and it has always been in good running order, and has kept time correctly. It has a brass face, and month and hour and minute and second hands. The month hand moves once a day. It has a revolving moon which moves once a day, completing its round with the moon in the heavens. On the left side of the face it has a slide, which when moved down prevents its striking without interfering with any of the running parts. In the center of the face are the words, "Benjamin Rittenhouse, Worcester, Fecit." It also bears the Latin phrase, "Nemo omnibus horis sepit tempus fugit." It has no date.

Benjamin Rittenhouse made a surveyor's chain to be used in surveying public lands, according to an act of Congress regulating weights and measures, as a standard chain. It was made of brass, and is kept in the Land Office at Washington, and is on exhibition at the World's Fair at Chicago, 1893.

Garret E. Brownback, of Linfield, Montgomery county, Pa., has a clock made by Benjamin Rittenhouse. It has the name "Benjamin Rittenhouse" across its face. It is in good running order, and can be turned either forward or backward without interfering with its movements. Mr. Brownback is of the Rittenhouse descent, and the proprietor of the famous Golden Butter, sold in the Eighteenth Street and Ridge Avenue Market, Philadelphia.

That Benjamin Rittenhouse was born in 1740 is not doubted, because Rev. James Nourse, his grandson, mentions in his journal that he visited his grandfather, Benjamin Rittenhouse, then residing in Philadelphia, in the year 1824, when Benjamin said that he was in his 84th year. According to this statement, we may fix the date of his birth as the year 1740.

His name again appears in the Philadelphia Directory in the years 1828, 1829, 1832, and 1833, as living on North Ninth street, above Vine. In 1834 no directory was published for Philadelphia. In the directory of 1835 his name does not appear, so it is supposed that he died between the years 1833 and 1835, which would fix his age at about 93 years. There are yet living several old persons of the Rittenhouse family, who say that they remember him well yet and had seen him, among them Leonard Van Fossen at Lansdale, Benjamin Rittenhouse at Norristown, and Benjamin Morgan at Willow Grove.

ADDENDA TO PRECEDING CHAPTER.

As the news of the death and burial of Benjamin Rittenhouse was obtained after the first volume was in type and printed, it must be inserted here as an extra page.

After much searching and inquiring the following was received:—

LOWER PROVIDENCE, MONTGOMERY CO., PA.,
November 20, 1893.

Benjamin Rittenhouse was buried in family vault, St. James Perkiomen Cemetery, September 2, 1825, aged 84 years.

Rev. A. J. BARROW,
Present Rector.

I have also from Poulson's *American Daily Advertiser* of Friday morning, September 2, 1825, the following:—

OBITUARY.

DIED.—On Wednesday evening, 31st ult., in the 84th year of his age, BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE, brother of the late David Rittenhouse, Esq.

His friends and those of the family are particularly invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, No. 24 North Ninth Street, this morning at nine o'clock.

According to the above, Benjamin Rittenhouse, brother of David, died August 31, 1825, at No. 24 North Ninth Street, above Vine Street, Philadelphia, and was buried September 2, 1825, in St. James Cemetery (Episcopal), at Evansburg, Lower Providence, Montgomery county, Pa., about two miles below Collegeville, Pa.

GEN.

- 4 42 9 *Mary Rittenhouse*, born April 8, 1749. Married Thomas Morgan as her first husband. After his death she lived in the house of her brother David until the time of her second marriage with David Cloyd, of Chester county, Pa., which took place in the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, on June 20, 1780. (See "Pennsylvania Archives," second series, vol. 9, p. 562, where the marriage is noted, only the date is placed ten days later than Mr. Cloyd's family Bible.) There was no issue by either marriage.
- 4 43 10 *Elizabeth Rittenhouse*. Died young. Was born April 8, 1749. The two latter were twins.

CHILDREN OF NO. 8.

PSYCHE RITTENHOUSE³ (GORGAS), of NICHOLAS,²
of WILLEM.¹

- 4 44 1 *John Gorgas*, born 1740, died October 30, 1823, aged eighty-three years; married Margaret Rubicam, born 1750, died September 24, 1789, aged thirty-nine years, nine months. Buried in the Mennonite graveyard at Germantown, where they were members. Residence, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. One child, Samuel.
- 4 45 2 *Benjamin Gorgas*, born February 19, 1747, died October 23, 1821; married Julianna Rubicam. She was born March 27, 1757, died January 9, 1833; married March 20, 1775. He built the house at German-town Avenue and Allen's Lane, in 1800, which is still standing (1892), and is yet occupied as a store by his de-

scendants. They were Mennonites. There was on his farm a family graveyard in which many of the Gorgases were buried; also many of the Rittenhouses. But every trace of it is gone and the gravestones taken away, so that nothing remains to designate the spot. Children: John, Benjamin, Susanna.

GEN.

4	46	3	<i>Susanna Gorgas.</i>
4	47	4	<i>Jacob Gorgas. married Christina Kahl</i>
4	48	5	<i>Joseph Gorgas. Married Sarah Keyser. No issue.</i>
4	49	6	<i>Mary Gorgas.</i>

CHILDREN OF NO. 9.

MARY RITTENHOUSE³ (JOHNSON), of NICHOLAS,²
of WILLEM.¹

4	50	1	<i>Casper Johnson.</i>
4	51	2	<i>John Johnson.</i>
4	52	3	<i>Nicholas Johnson.</i>
4	53	4	<i>William Johnson.</i>
4	54	5	<i>Benjamin Johnson.</i>

CHILDREN OF NO. 10.

CATHARINE RITTENHOUSE³ (ENGEL), of NICHOLAS,²
of WILLEM.¹

4	55	1	<i>Eliza Engel, born about 1732.</i>
4	56	2	<i>Sarah Engel.</i>
4	57	3	<i>William Engel.</i>
4	58	4	<i>Mary Engel. Married Arnold Zimmerman.</i>
4	59	5	<i>Susanna Engel.</i>

CHILDREN OF NO. 11.

SUSANNA RITTENHOUSE³ (HEILIG), of NICHOLAS,²
of WILLEM.¹

- gen,
4 60 1 *George Heilig*. Married ———. Children:
Adam, Leonard, John, Jacob, George,
Henry.
- 4 61 2 *Henry Heilig*. Married Hannah Saylor.
- 4 62 3 *Elizabeth Heilig*. Married Joseph Ritten-
house, son of Henry Rittenhouse and
Sophia Earnhard. Children: John, Ben-
jamin, Louisa, Elizabeth.
- 4 63 4 *Susanna Heilig*. Married ——— Kline.
-

CHILDREN OF NO. 12.

WILLIAM RITTENHOUSE,³ of GARRET,² of WILLEM.¹

- 4 64 1 *Garret Rittenhouse*, born 1721; married
———. Residence, Cresheim. Children:
Henry, Elizabeth, Garret, William, Abra-
ham, Sarah, Margaret.
- 4 65 2 *Abraham Rittenhouse*, born 1723, died 1815;
married ———. Residence Cresheim.
Children: Henry, Abraham, William,
Peter S., John, Elizabeth, Mary, Garret.
- 4 66 3 *Jacob Rittenhouse*, born 1725. (?)
- 4 67 4 *William Rittenhouse*, born 1729. (?)
- 4 68 5 *Henry R. Rittenhouse*, born 1732, (?); a
farmer at Mt. Airy on Germantown Ave-
nue, near the eight-mile stone; married
Margaret ———.

According to records before us, the above-named five children of William were born and resided in Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of Cresheim, or upper end of Germantown, Pa.

The following seven were born in New Jersey, after the emigration of William Rittenhouse from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, by a second marriage, presumably Catharine Howell.

According to manuscript in the Hunterdon county Historical Society they are as follows:—

GEN.

4 69 6 *Isaac Rittenhouse*, born about ———, married Susanna Baker. It is said that he built the older part of the tavern at Rosemont, and while engaged in putting up the rafters, the news came of Braddock's defeat, 138 years ago (1892), in 1754. Isaac passed through many scenes incident to the Revolution. When the Jerseys were overrun by the British and Tories he had a negro by the name of Cato, a faithful and wide-awake servant. At one time a band of Tories were seen approaching on a marauding expedition. Mrs. Rittenhouse gave a signal to Cato and her son Samuel, then a lad, while she engaged them in pleasant conversation, to go to the barn and turn out all the horses—some very good ones—and drive them up into the woods, so when the Tories sought their horses they could not be found. At another time the enemy came and commanded them to come and cart for the army. Samuel and Cato, watching an opportunity, sprang on the horses and dashed off, concealing themselves in the thick forests of Kingswood. Isaac was a farmer, residing in New Jersey, and had nine children, viz.: John B. (Boston John), William, Elijah, Samuel, Amy, Mary, Susan, Sallie, Elizabeth. They are buried a little northwest of the residence of Maurice Wolverton, near Prallsville, in an old graveyard of an

acre of ground. Here rest the remains of the older stock of the Rittenhouse family.

GKN.

4 70 7 *Peter Rittenhouse*, born 17³74; died 1804, aged 67 years, and is buried also near Prallsville, in the Wolverton graveyard, with the above inscriptions on the gravestones.

He married Sarah Hall and had three children, Nancy, Catharine, Sarah. His first wife, Sarah, died May 16, 1814, aged 76 years. He then married a sister to Sarah, named Hall, and by her had, as he mentions in his last will, Elisha, William, Elijah, Peter, Mary, Elizabeth.

In the year 1761 William deeded one hundred acres of land to his son Peter. Near this was a grist and saw mill in a wild, picturesque spot, where the creek came tumbling over large rocks, and surrounded by a dense forest of oak and hickory, now owned by Holcombe Gross. To this Peter soon afterward removed. My informant, J. W. Lequear, says: "I have no knowledge of the sons William and Elijah; they probably died young."

4 71 8 *Lott Rittenhouse*, son of William first of New Jersey, occupied the old homestead farm, south of Rosemont. I have not learned his wife's name. Their children were Joseph, John S., Jesse, Elisha, Sallie, Mary, and Nancy.

Lott, while living on the farm, had a tannery, where he tanned the hides of the animals slaughtered by his neighbors. At this time sturgeon were quite numerous in the Delaware, and during a big freshet a number of them came into the creek near Prallsville, and Lott and his sons succeeded in capturing a number of them, from which they made oil, which was found quite useful in finishing their leather. Although these people caught an abundance of

the finest shad from the Delaware, they never thought of using the sturgeon for food, but their family concluded to make a trial of it, and found, by proper modes of cooking, it was quite a savory dish, partaking of the nature of fish and beef. Some of Lott's descendants being stout, athletic men, but few were able to cope with them in an encounter with the fist, and their defeated and envious opponents adopted a derisive term to provoke their ire,—they would cry out "Sturgeon!" This was generally done in a crowd when they thought they could not be detected, but woe to the one who was detected! They would receive such a battering with the fists that they would not feel like crying "Sturgeon!" again soon. There was nothing disgraceful in the term, but, like the tune of the Battle of the Boyne to an Irish Catholic ear, it awakened at once a belligerent spirit.

It is said that Lott Rittenhouse was buried in the old Wolverton graveyard. Many of the graves are marked with common stones without any inscription.

GEN.

- 4 72 9 *Moses Rittenhouse*, son of William first in New Jersey; married Sarah Wood, daughter of Aaron Wood. They lived for many years on the farm since owned by Job Wolverton, about a mile south of Sergeant Miller. They had six children. Two of them, Elizabeth and Edmund, died in childhood. It was quite a common thing at that time for parents, when they lost a son or daughter in childhood, should they have others born to them, to give them the same name their deceased child bore, as we find Moses had another Elizabeth and another Edmund, and daughters Mary and Sarah.

GEN.

- 4 73 10 *William Rittenhouse*, the son of William first in New Jersey; married Rebecca Harnet. They settled on the farm now (1892) occupied by Samuel Worthington, near Locktown. Some years prior to the Revolution their sons were Benjamin, William, Garret, Abner, Isaac, and Daniel; their daughters, Rebecca, Catharine, Abigail, Anna, and Hannah. These are all the children I can name, although it is believed there were more. Of these sons, William, Garret, and Isaac, it is said, removed to the western part of Pennsylvania, in what was called the Redstone, or Fayette county.
- 4 74 11 *Hannah Rittenhouse*, daughter of William first in New Jersey, was born ———; died May 19, 1798; married A. H. Dalrymple. They had a—
- 5 (a) 1 daughter, Mary Dalrymple, who married Peter Hoppock. They resided in New Jersey.
- 4 75 12 *Sarah Rittenhouse*, daughter of William the first in New Jersey. She married Jeremiah King, and had—
- 5 (b) 1 one daughter, who became the wife of D. J. Pyatt. They resided in New Jersey.

CHILDREN OF NO. 18.

PETER RITTENHOUSE,³ of GARRET,² of WILLEM.¹

GEN.

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|
| 4 | 76 | 1 | <i>Mary Rittenhouse.</i> |
| 4 | 77 | 2 | <i>Barbara Rittenhouse.</i> |
| 4 | 78 | 3 | <i>Susanna Rittenhouse</i> , married Justus Rubicam, February 2, 1741. They owned and lived on a farm on Washington Lane, Germantown, which farm afterward, and probably still, belongs to the Unruh family. They left six daughters and one son—Nancy, Catharine, Margaret, Julia, Sarah, Susanna, and Justus. |

It is worthy of being added to this genealogy that the Rubicam family are commemorated in the name of an avenue in Germantown and a station on the Newtown Railroad.

The following copy of family genealogy may be interesting:—

Justice Rubicam and wife, *née* Susanna Rittenhouse, left six daughters and one son. Ann, or Nancy, married Christian Donat, an extensive lime-burner of White Marsh township, Montgomery county, Pa. Catharine married — Scheetz, of White Marsh. General Henry Scheetz and Ann Scheetz, wife of Jacob Rex, of Chestnut Hill, were their children. Margaret married John Gorgas, of Wissahickon. The late Samuel Gorgas, of Roxborough, was their son. Julia married Benjamin Gorgas, of Wissahickon. Their descendants are the Gorgases, of Mount Airy. The above Gorgases were brothers. Sarah married Nathan Levering, of Roxborough, and had two children, Deborah and Susan. The former married Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, D. D.; the latter married Dr. — Riter, of Roxborough. Susanna married Anthony Johnson, of Germantown. Their children were Agnes, married to Daniel Thomas, of Wissahickon; Klinken, married to Lydia Tybout, of Delaware; Justus, married to

Abby Willing Morris, of Philadelphia. Justice Rubicam, the son, married Elizabeth Dull, of Spring Mill. They had one child, Justus, and he had one child, Daniel Rubicam, now living.

GEN.

- 4 79 4 *Margaret Rittenhouse*, married Conrad Weightman, November 31 (?), 1744.
- 4 80 5 *Gerhart Rittenhouse*, born 1720 (?), died about 1780; married Mary Bartleson, born —, died 1797. Resided at Germantown, Philadelphia. Had the following named children: Barbara, Jacob, Michael, Garret, Martin, and Ann.
- 4 81 6 *Jacob Rittenhouse*, born about 1724 (?).

CHILDREN OF NO. 15.

MARY PAPEN³ (BRUMBACH or BROWNBACK), ELIZABETH RITTENHOUSE² (PAPEN), of WILLEM.

- 4 82 1 *Benjamin Brownback*, born about 1720, died 1786, aged about sixty-six years; married Mary Paul, daughter of John Paul. After her decease he was married a second time, to Rachel Parker, and had the following named children: Henry, John, Edward. He served in the Revolution, in the Federal army, as a lieutenant. His will reads as follows:—

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

WHEREAS, I, Benjamin Brumback, of Vincent township, County of Chester and State of Pennsylvania, being weak in Body, but of Sound and disposing mind and memory, do think proper to make this my last will and Testament, hereby revoking and making void all former will or wills by me heretofore made, and Ratifying and affirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament. Imprimis, I do hereby order that all my

just debts and funeral charges be first discharged by my executors whom I shall hereinafter appoint.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Rachel Brumback, one cow, where she shall have the choice among the whole stock; also a calf which she raised; also it is my will that she shall have the furniture which she had from her parents, consisting of Beds, Drawers, Pewter, &c.; and further it is my will that my executors shall find her after my decease a convenient Room in the house wherein I now live, and if it should happen that she was not willing to live there anymore then and in such case I do order that my executors shall find another convenient place for her to dwell, and also find her a ton and a half of good hay, and good pasture for a cow and calf yearly, and every year during her widowhood; and further it is my will that my three sons, John, Henry, and Edward Brownback, their heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall pay to my loving wife out of the estate and land which shall come to her share, four pounds each, or Twelve pounds the three, yearly, and every year, during her Natural Life, and which shall be considered as her full Dower and thirds out of my estate.

Item.—It is my will that all my estate and land lying in Vincent and Coventry, and the lots which lay in Pottstown, shall be equally Divided Among my three sons, share and share alike.

Item.—I do order that all the land shall be appraised and valued by John Ralston, Esq., my Brother Henry Brumback, and Henry Ackre, and after the valuation, Said land shall be Divided and laid out in three convenient places and to the best advantage, and after the Valuation and Division I do order that my son John shall have the first choice of the places so divided, my son Henry the next, and my son Edward the last; but if it should be that one of the places after the Division should be valued more than the other, then and in such case the one taking such a place of more value shall pay the overplus to the next taking a place of less value, and so on till each of my sons shall have equal shares.

Item.—I do order that my son John shall not be charged with anything he had of me before my decease; and

Lastly, I do Nominate, constitute, and appoint my sons, John Brumback, Henry Brumback, and Edward Brumback, to be my Executors to this my last will and Testament, to see that all things therein contained be duly performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of February, 1786.

his
BENJAMIN X BRUMBACK.
mark

Approved March 17, 1786. Recorded, Book H., Vol. 8, Chester county, Pa.

Benjamin Brumback owned a large farm and followed farming. He also kept tavern for a number of years in Vincent township, Chester county, Pa. He also served in the Revolutionary War, and is said to have advanced to the rank of a lieutenant. He died in 1786 at an advanced age, and is buried in the graveyard at Brownback Reformed Church, Chester county, Pa. His second wife outlived him many years. Her name before this marriage was Rachel Parker, and she lived in the vicinity of Spring City. One night she was brutally murdered, and said crime has to this day been a mystery. The murder happened on Saturday night, April 15, 1837. She was eighty-five years and two months of age at the time. After being killed, she was washed and put to bed as if asleep. There was no trace of blood, only a few drops on the window-sill. She had two children, who died young. Being asked one time whether she was not sorry for her children, she replied: "No; they would only have been drunkards like some of the rest."

Communicated after the above was written:—

Benjamin Brownback was a son of Gerhard Brownback. He was a first lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army on August 21, 1776. When he became of age his father built a hotel at the forks of the Ridge and Lancaster Road, which can be seen at this day. He kept the hotel for thirty years. He had three sons, Henry, John, Edward. His first wife was Mary Paul, the daughter of John Paul. His second wife was Rachel Parker, daughter of William Parker. She had two sons. Both died young. She was murdered in the year 1837 near Spring City. Benjamin Brownback, born about 1720, died 1786, aged 66 years. Rachel Parker, the second wife of Benjamin Brownback, was born 1752; died April 15, 1837, aged 85 years 2 months.

Rachel Parker, the second wife of Benjamin Brownback, had two sons; both died young. She was born at Parker's Ford. Her father's name was William Parker. She was

murdered in 1837, April 15th, near Spring City. The murderer was never found out.

P. W. BROWNBACK.

GEN.

4 83 2 *Henry Brownback*, born 1733; died July 30, 1804, aged 71 years 5 months 12 days; married Mary Magdalena Paul, who died 1776, aged 35 years 10 months, a daughter of John Paul. He was the second son of Garret Brownback, resided in Vincent township, Chester county, Pa., and had the following-named children, John, Peter, Benjamin, Hannah, Susan. According to records before us it appears that Henry Brownback was a member of the Reformed church called "Brownback Church," and was an elder of that congregation as late as December 13, 1799, as the following will show:—

DEED.

HENRY BROWNBACK, Jr., TO HENRY BROWNBACK, Sr., *et al.*

THIS INDENTURE made the 13th day of December, 1799, between Henry Brownback, Jr., of Vincent township, Chester county, Pa., Innkeeper, and Elizabeth, his wife, of the one part, and Henry Brownback, Vincent township, and John Ditlow, of Coventry township, Chester county, elders of the Presbyterian Society, of the other part. Whereas, Samuel Flowers, Esq., by virtue of divers descents, conveyances and assurances in the law duly had lawfully became vested in a certain tract of land in Coventry township, Chester county, Pa., and, WHEREAS, the said Samuel Flowers, Esq., by indenture under his hand and seal bearing date the 21st day of November, 1761, for the consideration therein mentioned, granted and confirmed unto Benjamin Brownback to hold to him the said Benjamin Brownback, his heirs and assigns forever, and whereas by the consent of John Brownback, Henry Brownback, and Edward Brownback, heirs to the estate of the said Benjamin Brownback, deceased, men were appointed to divide. This indenture witnesses that the said Henry Brownback, and Elizabeth, his wife, and in consideration of the love and

affection which they bear unto the Reformed Presbyterian Society, as also for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings, lawful money of Pennsylvania to them in hand well and truly paid, the tract containing one acre and twenty perches of land, unto the said Henry Brownback, Sr., and John Ditlow, elders of the Presbyterian Society and their successors to the only proper use and behoof of the said Society forever, and the said Henry Brownback, Jr., joining on the old road.

HENRY BROWNBACK, JR.

and is recorded in Deed Book V., 2, Vol. 44, page 21, Chester county, Pa.

Henry Brownback, Sr., died March 25, 1801. Letters of administration granted to Elizabeth (Brownback) Shaner and William Posey.

Inventory filed April 14, 1801. Book B., Vol. 2, page 464.

We also find recorded in Deed Book Y, Vol. 23, page 441, at West Chester, Chester county, Pa., the following

DEED.

NICHOLAS KEIZER TO HENRY BROWNBACK.

THIS INDENTURE made the third day of November, 1778, between Nicholas Keizer, of Coventry township, Chester county, Pa., yeoman, and Hannah, his wife, of the one part, and Henry Brownback, of Vincent township, Chester county, Pa., yeoman of the other part. There was granted unto one Anthony Tunes, by patent, bearing date the 14th day of June, 1736, in fee, 223 acres of land, situate in Coventry township, Chester county, Pa., with an allowance of six acres per hundred. Said patent is recorded at Philadelphia, in Patent Book A, Vol. 8, page 147, etc. In 1737 it was conveyed to Nicholas Keizer, a millwright, and later (1778) it was conveyed to Henry Brownback, through Isaac Dilbet, the only heir of Nicholas Keizer, for three hundred pounds, all of which we find recorded as stated above.

Communicated after the above was written:—

Henry Brownback, born 1733, died July 30, 1804, aged 71 years 5 months and 12 days; married Mary Magdalena Paul, who died 1776, aged 35 years 10 months; was born 1741. Henry Brownback was a son of Gerhard Brownback; occupation, farmer. His father gave him a farm when he became of age. His wife was the daughter of John Paul.

He had three sons and two daughters, John, Peter, Benjamin, Hannah, and Susanna. Hannah Brownback married Casper Snyder; Susanna Brownback married Henry Prizer; Benjamin Brownback married Lizzie Grubb; Peter Brownback married Susanna Defrain; John Brownback married Catharine Defrain.

P. W. BROWNBACK.

GEN.

- 4 84 3 *Catharine Brownback*, born —; died —, aged 87 years, 7 months, 13 days; married Jacob Munshower, born —; died —, aged 80 years. She was the youngest daughter of Garret Brownback; was married to Jacob Munshower, a large land owner and farmer; lived and owned where Spring City now stands. Had three sons and one daughter, all born in Chester county, Pa.; now all deceased but one, Jacob, who is yet living in Spring City, Chester county, Pa.
- 4 85 4 *Magdalene Brownback*, born —; died —; married Frederick Bingaman, who came from Germany and settled in Chester county, Pa., and married the daughter of Garret Brownback. He had three children, John, Frederick, and Garret.
- 4 86 5 *Elizabeth Brownback*, born —; married Richard Custer, a farmer in Chester county, Pa.

The following is found in the records of the German Reformed, or Brownback Church:—

Richard Custer, his wife and children, to be baptized in Brownback's, on September 14, 1746, by the Rev. Lennard Snell. Richard, 28 years; Elizabeth, 30 years; Anna Mary, 3 months; Susanna, 5 months; Richard.

The two first named were the parents, and the latter three the children.

Mr. Custer married his second wife. Her name was Betsy Batman; her maiden name was Betsy Shifty. She was married to Batman first.

GEN.

4 87 6 *Anna Mary Brownback*, born ———; married Paul Benner. Have not been able to obtain further information. It is supposed they moved west.

CHILDREN OF NO. 17.

MARGARET PAPEN³ (SHIMER), OF ELIZABETH RITTENHOUSE² (PAPEN), OF WILLEM¹.

4 88 1 *Abraham Shimer*, born 1729; married Lena Westbrook in 1749. She was born October 15, 1727. He lived on a plantation which he inherited from his father; there was also a saw mill on said plantation belonging to it. The plantation was situated near the Delaware River on Bushkill Creek, in Northampton County, Pa.

The following is from one of his descendants and is copied verbatim. The original is in possession of Dr. Shimer, of Philadelphia, and signed L. C. Rose.

PORT JERVIS, July 25, 1892.

ABRAHAM SCHEIMER.

Of Revolutionary times. My great grandfather* was an early settler in the Valley of the Minisink of historic name.

He was of German extraction, and belonged, no doubt, like the Huguenots and Waldenses, to those renowned families of Continental Europe who came to the New World in pur-

* Dr. Jacob Shimer, of Philadelphia, Pa.

suit of civil and religious liberty. He probably reached the Minisink by the "Old Mine Road," originally an "Indian trail," but constructed and used by a company of miners from Holland as early as 1650. Extending from Kingston on the Hudson to the Delaware Water Gap, it was one of the earliest roads of that extent on the continent. Count Zinzendorf and his daughter, Benigna Henrietta Justina von Zinzendorf, made a trip over the same road, probably about the same date, 1742, and Courad, another distinguished Moravian, in 1750. It was the avenue of communication between the Delaware and Hudson, and the rich Minisink flats offered, no doubt, an inviting prospect to the early explorer up the Delaware. The Surveyor-General of 1730 speaks of the valley as being already quite thickly settled, and of their admiration for a grove of apple trees far exceeding in size any near Philadelphia. This may have been no small inducement to settle, even then, to the young pioneer from *Shippack*. It became his permanent home in 1749, when he married Lena Westbrook, a daughter of Anthony Westbrook (from Westbrook) of a representative family in Minisink township and large landed proprietor. The following record of the marriage is found in the Machackemeck (Port Jervis) and Minisink Church records in the quaint manner of the time. It is in the original Dutch and in the handwriting of the Pastor, Rev. Johannes Casparus Fryenmoet.

Married—"1749, Abraham Chambers (Scheimer), young man born at Shippack, to Lena Westbrook, born at Westotack, and both dwelling at Menissink; married the 3d of March by me J. C. Freyenmoed." The same record contains baptism of their children as follows:—

Isaac, Dec. 10, 1749. Maria, Feb. 24, 1751, died young. Jacob, Feb. 23, 1752. Hester, Nov. 11, 1753, died young. Hester, Dec. 15, 1754. Marie, Nov. 26, 1756. Elizabeth, Jan. 28, 1759. Margaret, Dec. 21, 1760, died young.

The above list of names is according to the church records.

In 1750 he erected the flouring mill, which had also a

saw mill in connection, and which is located on Shimer's Brook, Millville, and about the same time their dwelling, which was the first two-story house built in the township. It was the scene of the Indian incursion in 1777, a fireside tale in my childhood. It is found in "Historical Collections of New Jersey" as verbally communicated to the compiler by Hon. Isaac Bonnell, a grandson.

The savages one morning crossed the Delaware in a canoe, while it was yet quite dark, and came to a house not more than eight rods from where the Captain lived, in which lived a family named Lobes. They tomahawked the three brothers and took the women prisoners, then crossed the creek, went to the house of the Captain before he was up and gave their savage yell. He sprang from his bed, armed his slaves, four or five in number, with axes and such other weapons as could be found, and ordered them to keep the Indians out of the house. He then seized his trusty rifle and went aloft, where he rolled a feather bed up before the window, covering all but one pane of glass, through which he shot and laid one of the red d—s out cold and stiff. The bullets from the guns of the savages passed through his whiskers, and he said, "That's d—d close shooting." The balls of the Indians made many marks in the ceiling and beams. The firing of the Captain's rifle alarmed the militia, which was quartered a mile or two above, and when they arrived the Indians had started to leave with their prisoners—a few women and one of the Captain's slaves. They were pursued so close that they fled, leaving their prisoners, but they still lay around in hiding, determined to kill the Captain if possible.

One morning, I have often heard my grandmother relate, he was pursued by two Indians, but the dog caught one of the Indians while he was climbing a fence. The Captain escaped, but the other Indian shot the dog. I do not think *that dog* has ever been recorded in history.

The bullet-holes are still seen in the house, and the pane

of glass remained in the window until the summer of 1842, when the house was repaired. It is still in possession of his descendants.

He was an expert rifleman and hunter, and was made captain of the Third Battalion, New Jersey Militia, Army of the Revolution.

In 1774 we find the purchase of four tracts of land lying at Mashepackunt, township of Montague.

COPY OF DEED.

Deed, dated January 10, 1774, between Samuel Brink, of Montague, and Abraham Shimer, of the same place, for £673, proclamation money. Those four tracts of land lying at Mashepackunt, township of Montague, county of Sussex and province of East New Jersey, which Samuel Brink had, by virtue of a right of 2,000 acres, returned mrts. Thomas Stephenson and Solomon Davis, and recorded at Burlington, 12th and 13th day of May, 1712. Deed written on parchment. Recorded in "Book B. of Deeds," Newton, fol. 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.

Of their children, Jacob, the only son, married Phebe Wallon, daughter of Joseph Wallon (spelled also Wallen), a prominent resident of the township. His death occurred prior to his father's. Of his sons, Abraham inherited the tastes of his grandfather, and removed farther up the Delaware into the wilds of Pennsylvania, and engaged in the lumber business. Jacob remained on the estate, and inherited the indomitable energy and perseverance of the early stock through a long life. He was an unusual example of rare forethought and untiring industry, and left large estates to his sons, who also retained the family names, Abram, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Of the daughters of Captain Abram Scheimer, Hester

married Captain Johannes I. Westbrook, a prominent member of the Westbrook family. Marie married Manuel Van Etten. Elizabeth married Captain James Bonnell, who achieved no little distinction in the Continental Army, and was distinguished for his discipline and skill. He kept in a field-book a complete record of all orders, the place of encampment, and the skirmishes and battles of the troops under his command, which historical relic is still in possession of the family. His son, Hon. Isaac Bonnell, was no less distinguished, being actively engaged in business and public affairs all his life, and still cultivated his farm, at the age of ninety-one (1881). He was elected to the General Assembly of New Jersey, 1844, and in 1853 was chosen State Senator. He cast his first Presidential vote in 1812 for James Madison.

Among other descendants was Hon. Jacob Hombee, son of Benjamin Hombee and Marie Scheimer, a granddaughter, and daughter of Jacob. He was long actively interested in the growth and development of the valley, State Representative for three years, founder of the Farmer's National Bank of Deckertown, and president for three years of the First National Bank of Port Jervis. He owned the mill property and "old homestead," and lived there until his death. They are now in possession of Jacob Hombee, Jr.

They still stand a monument to the energy, activity, and intrepidity of the early *pioneers*. The mill book still bears his name, and the waving grain, the lowing herds, and the blooming valley still annually perpetuates the memory of our forefathers.

The children of Jacob Scheimer by his first marriage to Margaret Papen were: 1, Abraham; 2, Anthony; 3, Elizabeth; 4, Mary; 5, Catharine; 6, Sarah. The above six are Rittenhouse descendants. By his second marriage: 1, Jacob; 2, Conrad; 3, Samuel; 4, Edward; 5, Peter; 6, Isaac; 7, John. The above list of names is according to the will.

GEN.

- 4 89 2 *Anthony Shimer*. He is mentioned in his father's will; further we have no information concerning him.

For all the following, see will of Jacob Shimer, under No. 17:—

- 4 90 3 *Elizabeth Shimer*. Married Mr. ——— Vickerson. They are mentioned in the will, but nothing further is known.
- 4 91 4 *Mary Shimer*. Married Michael Shoemaker. They are also mentioned in her father's will, but nothing further is known.
- 4 92 5 *Catharine Shimer*. Married Mr. ——— Young. No further information.
- 4 93 6 *Sarah Shimer*. Presumably never married.

APPENDIX.

After the David Rittenhouse article was in type the following was received:—

Augustus Egolf, of Norristown, Montgomery county, Pa., has presented to the Montgomery County Historical Society a valuable original document, of which the following is a copy:—

Received, Philadelphia, February 12, 1782, of John Nicholson, the sum of five hundred and ninety pounds, eleven shillings, and two pence, State money. Said to be a balance remaining in his hands of moneys received by him for paying part of the depreciation due to the Pennsylvania line, etc. Also the sum of twenty-two pounds, four shillings, and four pence like moneys, said to be the amount of profits arising from the exchange of State money.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Treasurer.*

The signer is the celebrated astronomer, who was the first State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, elected January, 1777, and re-elected every year for twelve years, until in 1789 he declined to serve any longer. AUTHOR.

Mr. George W. Childs, of the *Public Ledger*, of Philadelphia, has a clock made by David Rittenhouse, which he prizes highly.

David Rittenhouse also made a fine clock and presented it to his sister, Margaret, when she was married to Edward Morgan, of Whitepaine township, Montgomery county, Pa., as a wedding present. Said clock is still in possession of Benjamin Morgan, at Willow Grove, Montgomery county,

Pa., now over eighty years old and blind, and a descendant of Margaret Rittenhouse.

From the Brief of Titles of the Coulter estate in Germantown:—

In 1689.

DEED.—Francis Daniel Pastorius, attorney of the Frankfort Company, to Heifert Papen, for, inter alia, “20½ acres, broad as all other lots, 14 perches, and 4 foot.”

WILL OF PAPEN.—After a provision for his wife (which, as to real estate, was in no event to continue beyond her life), all his estate to his five daughters, Styntie (in subsequent deeds named Christian), Mary, Gertrude (in subsequent deeds named Catharine), Margaret, and Elizabeth, after Elizabeth, the youngest, should become of age, according to law, dated 11 mo. 30, 1707–8.

In the deed from Brown and wife to Williams it is recited that Mary Papen married Gerad Brownpatch (Brumback or Brownback), and that Elizabeth married John (Jan) Jansen.

DEED.—Brownpatch (Brownback) and wife, Jansen and wife, Christian, Catharine, and Margaret Papen, to Griffith Jones, in fee for, inter alia, the same 20½ acres, dated June 1, 1720.

In the deed from Brown and wife to Williams it is recited that, at the date of this deed, the said Catharine was a minor. She afterward married Benjamin Howell.

DEED.—Benjamin Howell and Catherine his wife, to the said Griffith Jones, in fee releasing and confirming the same, dated May 9, 1737.

Release, recited lease, Griffith Jones and wife to Thomas Brown, in fee for, inter alia, a tract of land in the inhabited part of Germantown.

Beginning at a stone, a corner of land intended to be granted to Conrad Gehr, by the side of the Main Street (here follow the distances). By Main Street 64 feet to beginning, containing 15 acres, 28 perches. The part next the Cross street, about 215 feet in breadth, being part of what Gerad Brownpatch (Brownback) and others, by indenture of June 1, 1720, and the residue being part of what Dennis Cunders, by indenture of 7th January, 1722-3, granted to Griffith Jones in fee.

Germantown was incorporated May 31, 1691, as a borough.



It is a well-known fact that the greater number of the first Crefelt emigrants were weavers. This industry increased, so that Frame describes Germantown as a place—

“Where lives High *German* people and Low Dutch,
Whose trade in weaving linen cloth is much ;
There grows the flax, as also you may know,
That from the same they do divide the tow.”

When, therefore, Pastorius was called upon to devise a town seal, he selected a clover on one of whose leaves was a vine, on another a stalk of flax, and on the third a weaver's

spool, with the motto, "Vinum, Linum et Textrinum." This seal happily suggests the relations of the town with the far past. The water mark in the Rittenhouse paper also represents this clover leaf, or Klee-Blatt.

THE RITTENHOUSE FAMILY.

Notes are the Author's.

I here give the sketch of Hon. Horatio Gates Jones, taken from the "History of Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill," by Rev. S. F. Hotchkins, M. A., in order to make a few additions and explanations.

Ex-Senator Jones writes thus:—

"I do not know when Rittenhouse Lane was first opened, but no doubt it was at an early day, for, with the exception of School Lane, it was the nearest route to Germantown Main Street. Among the earliest settlers of Germantown were the Mennonites, who came from Holland.¹ Their emigration has been portrayed in a very graphic style by Samuel W. Pennypacker, Esq., in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*, Vol. IV, pp. 1-58,² and also in the *Penn Monthly* for September, 1875.³ If these articles were read by the residents of Germantown, they would have occasion to feel proud of the early settlers. They are contained in the volume of Pennypacker's 'Historical Sketches.' Time and space forbid me from going into details about the family named Rittenhouse, which is already given in this work. In Holland they were called Rittinghuysen, Rittinghusius, or Ritterhausen,⁴ which signifies, so Barton says in his 'Memoirs of David

¹ From Crefelt on the Rhine.

² "The Settlement of Germantown," etc.

³ Abraham and Dirk Op den Graeff.

⁴ They were originally from Westphalia, as will be seen, page 23 in this work, and later some of them moved into Holland, and they write their name Rittershausen, in Latin Rittershusius, and their Coat-of-Arms is recorded in Barmen, Westphalia.

Rittenhouse,' *Knights' Houses*. For many years the old spelling was retained, as their autographs in my collection show, but, as with other names, so this name was changed and became thoroughly anglicized into Rittenhouse.

"It was in 1688 that Wilhelm (German), Willem (Dutch), William (English) Rittenhouse, with his wife¹ and two sons, Klaus (Nicholas) and Gerhard (Garret), and a daughter, Elizabeth, arrived in Germantown from New York. How long they had been in New York is unknown, but my own belief is that they came directly to Pennsylvania, and very probably were so induced by Francis Daniel Pastorius, who knew the importance of having a paper mill in this colony. William Rittenhouse was a native of the Principality of Broich, in Holland,² where his ancestors for many generations had been paper makers, and was born in 1644.³

"In Germantown proper there was not water enough for their purpose, but they soon found a small stream, now called Paper Mill Run, in Roxborough, and there in a meadow they located their mill.⁴ This run empties into the Wissahickon about a mile above its junction with the Schuylkill. The mill was built in 1690.⁵

¹ I do not know where Mr. Jones can find any authority for mentioning his wife; in all official documents, deeds, or other papers I could not find any mention of his wife.

² In Westphalia, near Mülheim, on the river Ruhr.

³ They in later years lived at Arnheim, in Holland, where, as Adrian said, his forefathers had long been established, and that his father, Nicholas, was a paper manufacturer in that city, as others of the family had been, and that his father's brother, William, who later had moved to Amsterdam, went with his family to North America, where he afterward established the paper mills near Germantown.

⁴ Presumably Willem and his oldest son, Nicholas, together.

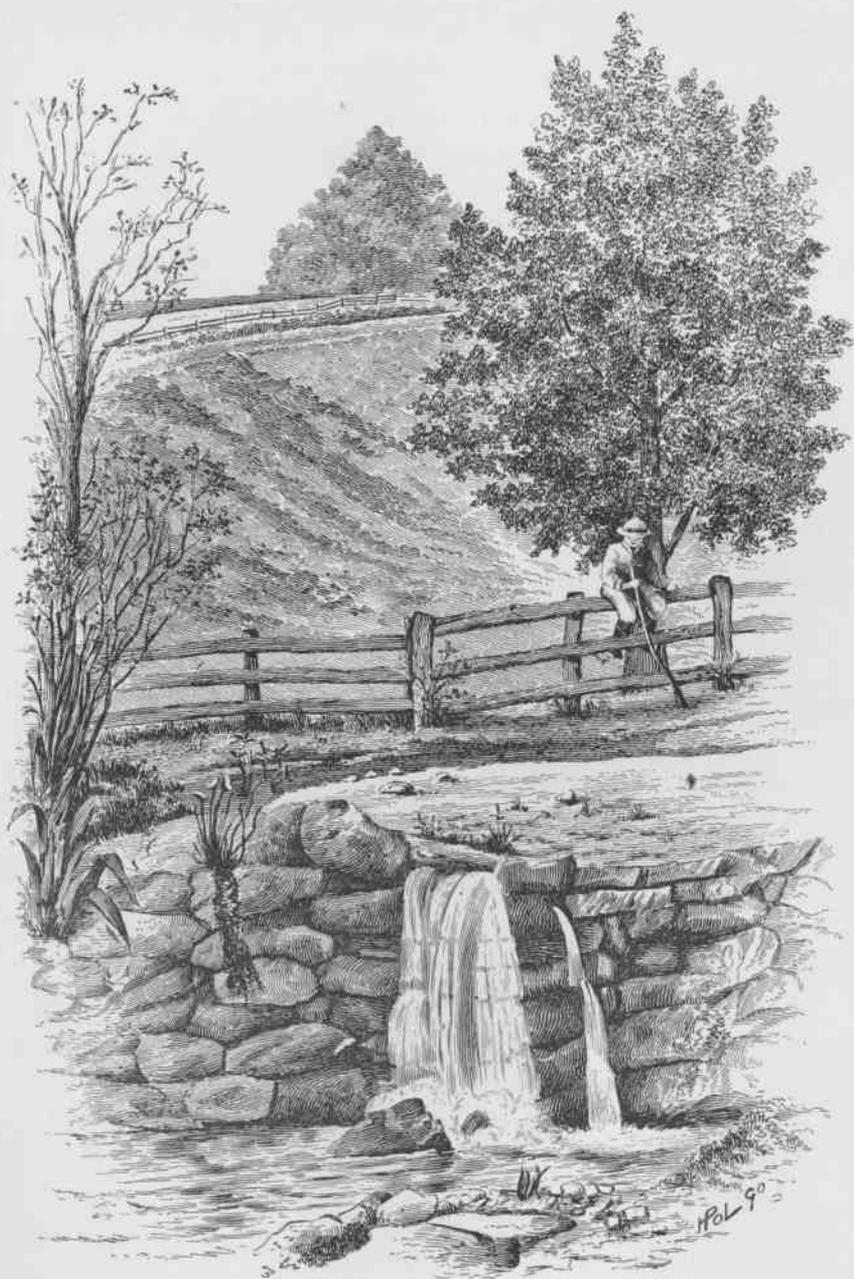
⁵ An agreement was made between Samuel Carpenter and William Rittenhouse and others in 1690, but no deed was made until February 9, 1705 (see pages 53, 54, 55), and three days afterward, being February 12, 1705, William made deed to his son Claus (or Nicholas) for three full, equal, and undivided one-fourth parts of the said twenty acres. In 1708 William Rittenhouse died intestate, and the remaining one-fourth part

"Mr. Thomas, in his 'History of Printing,' says that there was neither dam nor race for this mill (Vol. I, p. 20), but my neighbor, Mr. Nicholas Rittenhouse, a lineal descendant of the first papermaker, informs me that this must be an error. His father, also named Nicholas Rittenhouse, who died in 1857, at the age of eighty-three years, told him that there was a dam, and that it was located on the property now owned by Mr. H. H. Houston, in Germantown, adjoining the Township Line. From this dam there was a race, which crossed the Township Line and carried the water to the mill. Had there been neither dam nor race, the mill could not have been washed away by a freshet, as it was about ten years after its erection.

"The most active man next to the founder was his son, Nicholas (Claus), who appears to have been a very intelligent person, and who was a preacher among the Mennonites.¹ As all students of Pennsylvania are aware, Bradford moved to New York in 1693, but he still retained an interest in the paper mill, and no doubt got much of his paper from Rittenhouse. In 1697 he rented his share of the mill, the one-fourth, to the Rittenhouses. The original lease is in my collection, and it seems he was to receive as his rent seven reams of printing paper, two reams of good writing

became vested in his son and heir-at-law, the said Nicholas (or Claus) Rittenhouse. Claus Rittenhouse, as he signed his name, says in his will: "I give, Devise, and bequeath to my eldest son, William Rittenhausen, All and Singular that piece or parcel of land situate in the said Roxborough Township and joining North Easterly to German Town line, containing twenty acres of land (which I purchased of Samuel Carpenter) together with the Paper Mill." See will of Claus, p. 71. The deed says: "It was agreed between the said Samuel Carpenter, of the one part, and Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tresse, and said William Rittenhouse, in behalf of themselves and others who undertook to build a paper mill, Assigned all their right and interest therein to the said William Rittenhouse;" so the above will shows that from the above date the Rittenhouses were the sole owners of the paper mill.

¹ In the Germantown Mennonite congregation.



THE DAM OF THE RITTENHOUSE PAPER-MILL.

On Paper-mill Run, near Rittenhousetown, in Roxborough Township,
Philadelphia Co., Pa.

We are greatly indebted to the publishers of *Lockwood's Paper Trade Journal*,
New York, for the loan of this cut.

paper, and two reams of blue paper, yearly. Bradford was a long-headed man, for he also provided in the lease that for ten years he should have the refusal of all the printing paper they made at ten shillings per ream, and also five reams of writing paper at twenty shillings per ream, and thirty reams of brown paper at six shillings per ream.

The Rittenhouses continued to carry on the mill very actively until the year 1700 or 1701, when a freshet carried away the whole of their valuable property. But they were not disheartened, although their co-partners were; for I find that they bought from Robert Turner and Thomas Tresse their half of the mill about the date of the freshet, and they soon after bought Bradford's share and became the sole owners of the property.¹ When the mill was destroyed William Penn was here, and Mr. Barton says he had before him, when writing his Memoirs (see Memoirs, pp. 83-4), a paper, in Penn's handwriting, recommending that all persons should give the sufferers relief and encouragement.² In that paper William Rittenhouse is called an old man, and is said to have been 'decrepit,' but he was not at that time sixty years of age. Although Bradford still retained his interest in the mill, he did not contribute to its reconstruction, but in 1704 (1705, February 9) he was induced to sell out, and the Rittenhouses became the sole owners; and from that time until the present date the first paper mill in America—at least, what remains of it—has been in the Rit-

¹ This must be an error, because the deed from Carpenter to William Rittenhouse was made February 9, 1705, when they all assigned their rights to William Rittenhouse.

² Said handwriting was presumably written by Penn in England, because a reliable and prominent conveyancer saw the papers, and is in search of them now. He says that when the mill was washed away, Samuel Carpenter, agent for William Penn at that time, wrote a letter to England addressed to Penn, who wrote back to Samuel Carpenter a letter to the effect stated, and in said letter told Carpenter to give the Rittenhouses twenty-five pounds and charge to his (Penn's) accounts.

tenhouse family. The mill was rebuilt by the Rittenhouses and was carried on very successfully for many years by William and his son Claus, and then by Jacob Rittenhouse, and then by the Markles. At last it was changed into a cotton-factory.

"It was not, however, until February (then called Twelfth month) 9, 1705, that the Rittenhouses had any deed for the mill property. The land was owned by Samuel Carpenter, and on 'the ninth day of the Twelfth, called February, in the fourth year of the reign of Queen Anne,' in 1705, Carpenter leased the premises, containing about twenty acres, to William Rittenhouse for the term of 975 years from the 29th day of September, 1705, at a rent of five shillings sterling per annum. Such is a brief sketch of the first paper mill in America.

"As stated before, the Rittenhouses were members of the Mennonite Church, as were most of the Hollanders,¹ who settled in Germantown, where they organized a church as early as May 23, 1708, which still exists."²

In an article on "Mennonite Emigration to Pennsylvania," by Dr. J. G. De Hoop Schaeffer, of Amsterdam

¹ And many of the Palatines.

² The first meeting held in Germantown was held in the fall of 1683, by the Mennonites and Friends, in the house of Dennis Conrad,—Dennis or Tony Kunders, more properly Anthony Conrad. Said house is yet standing on Germantown Avenue opposite Manheim Street. It is said that Penn preached there, but we have no history to prove such; it is merely supposition. It is a well-known fact that Penn was in America, and frequently in Germantown at that time; therefore many historians state it as a fact. From that time the Mennonites held their meetings in private houses until 1688, when they entered the first public protest against slavery in America. In the same year William Rittenhouse arrived and settled in Germantown, and was elected their regular minister, and in 1701 was ordained Bishop. In 1708 they built their first meeting-house of logs; in the same year, 1708, Bishop Rittenhouse died, and two new ministers were chosen, namely, the Bishop's son, Claus (or Nicholas) Rittenhouse, and Dirk Keyser. The second and present house was built on the same lot, in 1770, of stone, and is still standing.

(translated by S. W. Pennypacker), and which appeared in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*, Vol. II, p. 117, and sketches, p. 177, etc., it is stated that the elder of their two preachers, Wilhelm Rittershausen, died in 1708, but Morgan Edwards, in his "History of Pennsylvania Baptists," Vol. I, page 97, only mentions Cleas Rittenhausen as one of their preachers. Dr. Schaeffer, no doubt, had good grounds for his statement that William Rittenhausen was a Mennonite preacher, and as Mr. Pennypacker (now Judge Pennypacker) follows Mr. Schaeffer, I have little doubt that William was also a preacher.¹ William Rittenhouse, the founder of the first paper mill, died in 1708, aged sixty-four years. His son, Claus (Nicholas), who was born June 15, 1666, married Wilhelmina Dewees, a sister of William Dewees, also a paper maker, and died in 1734. He had three sons and four daughters. He left the paper mill to his son William, and when he died his son, Jacob Rittenhouse, became the owner and carried on the business until 1811, when a family by the name of Markle, also paper makers, occupied the mill. The above-named William Rittenhouse had a son named Matthias, who was born in 1702. He lived at the homestead in Roxborough, and in 1727 married Elizabeth Williams, a daughter of Evan Williams, a native of Wales. They resided in a house still standing, just back of the Rittenhouse Baptist Chapel (lately taken down by the Park Commission). It was built in the year 1707, as appears from the date stone in the gable end. It was in this house that on the eighth of April, 1732, was born the celebrated American astronomer, David Rittenhouse. When David was a few years old his parents left the old homestead and went to Norriton township, Montgomery county, Pa. Of his wonderful career, see article "David Rittenhouse," in this work; also "Historical Sketches," by S. W. Pennypacker.

¹ In the Mennonite archives at Amsterdam is a list of the Mennonite ministers in America down to 1780.

VALEDICTION.

FRIENDS AND BROTHERS OF A COMMON ANCESTRY:—

Ere we lay aside this volume and consign it to some obscure corner of the library let us commune together.

We have read of him, our worthy ancestor, of his immediate descendants, of our fathers, of our contemporaries of ourselves. They and we are now the substance of written history. Our names will be, to some extent, preserved from oblivion; and whether we approve or otherwise, it matters not.

To make history is man's evident mission, and if we make good history we shall have no cause to wish it unknown. It should, therefore, be our aim to make clean history, not only on our own account, but on account of our posterity as well.

With what commendable pride may the honest, upright man look upon himself as the son of a noble sire, and how the paternal heart yearns toward a worthy son!

In view of this, it becomes our duty to endeavor to improve society by each one contributing his moiety to that end. Are we accepting the task? Are we, the parents of the present generation, shouldering this burden of responsibility, and teaching our offspring in their turn to bear it, too? Are we guarding our every word and deed, and inculcating on their minds just, moral, and religious principles!

I fear that many of us have not an adequate conception of the onerous responsibilities involving us, as sons of the past and sires of the future. Possibly in that greed for gain which at the present time influences all nations and

societies many moral duties sink into comparative insignificance and are neglected. Be that as it may, when the accounts of human life are rendered up, our offences will be found no less grave nor the judgment less severe. He who will for a moment seriously pause and ponder, cannot fail to see, and in all honesty should admit, that as many of the young of this generation are being reared, thousands—aye, hundreds of thousands of them are apt pupils of vice, and are day by day fitting themselves as apostles for the dissemination of immorality and crime.

Who is responsible? We, every one of us, in a greater or less degree; not alone as parents, but as elder brothers, as neighbors, or as strangers; consciously or unconsciously, we, and all with whom they come in contact, are daily and hourly teaching them by precept or example. Every untoward action of ours is seen and copied by some observing youth. Every unguarded expression is heard and repeated by some precocious juvenile. Is it any wonder, then, that morality does not keep pace with science?

We of the present day and generation are blessed with many conveniences that were not enjoyed by our fathers, and we should seek to transmit them to our posterity.

We are living in an age when the most valuable germs of ancient and modern wisdom, purified and concentrated, have advanced civilization far beyond even the elysian dreams of the "Eastern Magi."

Thus far in the history of the world the present is the *ne plus ultra* age of human enlightenment.

Search the archives of nations and find, if you can, a parallel to the progress of our own beloved America during the first century of its existence as a distinct power.

The haughty Nebuchadnezzar, when at the zenith of his grandeur, never dreamed that the "Great Babylon which I have built" could be surpassed; nor Solomon in all his glory, with wisdom and knowledge; nor yet all the great and wise men of antiquity, ever enjoyed or hoped to enjoy

such comforts, such luxuries, such privileges, and such immunities as we of to-day.

Think for a moment of our illimitable resources, of our nation's vessels dotting every sea, its commerce carried on in every port, its products distributed throughout every land; think of our vast continent traversed in all directions by iron bands of trade and travel, by innumerable threads of communication, by its hundred thousand highways and byways, and by its hundreds of rivers and lakes—natural channels of commerce; think of its vast agricultural and animal products, of its exhaustless mineral deposits, developed and undeveloped, and of the countless thousands of useful mechanical appliances which, by man's genius, reduces human labor to a minimum and annihilates time and distance; think of all this, and assert, if you can, that the responsibilities resting on this people are not weighty. Who does not believe that the responsibilities of a people increase with their enlightenment?

The source of all our prosperity and power is evident. The day-star of Universal Christian Liberty has risen above the horizon of human events, shedding his refulgent glow o'er the awakening world, and humanity is emerging from the Plutonian darkness of ignorance and intolerance into the broad light of Christian love and fellowship.

Shall we go on and on, increasing in knowledge, in wealth, in power, in grandeur? Not unless we continue in the way the Almighty has marked out for us. History furnishes many instances of ancient nations, who knew not the God of Revelation, fallen to the dust from whence they sprang, and of others who, having known Him, departed from the way, and likewise fell. Nineveh, Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Rome—all fell. From the very nature of affairs their doom was inevitable, and they could not escape it. Their fabric, erected like the house on shifting sands, fell, and the fall thereof was great. Even God's "chosen people" sank from their high estate, and calamities fell thick and heavy

upon them. God's ways are mysterious and past finding out, but His laws are plain and immutable. They must be obeyed, or certain destruction will follow.

No people can have true prosperity, true peace, or be truly happy without true religion. Not that religion of fanaticism and fear that invests God with terrible powers, one to be worshiped and propitiated to avoid the visitations of His annihilating wrath; not that form of religion that compels men to conform to the law and will of God through fear of eternal condemnation. No; but that form of religion that acknowledges God as the God of Love and Tenderness, who made the covenant with mankind whereby they may be redeemed through the mediation of His Divine Son.

A happy, peaceful, and prosperous people should be a vigilant people. Eternal vigilance is not alone the price of liberty, but of virtue and integrity as well. Man's arch-enemy is ever watchful, seeking whom he may destroy, and when our vigilance relaxes, in that moment we fall.

Let us each and all determine that, regardless of the course pursued by others, we, at least, will transmit to our children a name that carries with it no reproach; and if we would have them free from taints of vice, we must keep them from contaminating influences, from evil associates, from pernicious literature; withal, we must teach them self-reliance, and cultivate in them the will-power to stand alone and resist the inevitable temptations of life.

Let us give each and all of our children a sound, practical education. Among our two hundred thousand public schools, our three hundred and twenty colleges and universities, besides thousands of other educational institutes, every one may have it who will. In this country there can be no longer any plea for ignorance among our native born. This epoch is becoming more and more one of specialists in all branches of human industry. Human knowledge is becoming so extended, and the sciences and the arts are ramifying out in so many directions, that it is impossible for

any one individual to learn but a tithe of it all. Yet the fundamental principles of all knowledge are the same, and they should be acquired by every one. Society demands it, and science demands it; even now many desirable positions can be obtained only through competitive examinations for eligibility. In such cases what hope of success can an unqualified person have? Absolutely none.

This is pre-eminently an age of advancement, and our real duty is improvement in all that tends to elevate and benefit our race. If we, as a people, cultivate all arts and sciences, strive for supremacy in knowledge, practise the tenets of our fathers, preserve inviolate the institutions reared by them, grant justice and equal rights to all, heed the injunctions of Holy Writ, and follow righteousness, there is no limit to the height we, as a nation, may attain. But if we disregard these things and employ our faculties to propagate evil, calamities will overwhelm in the moment when we think not, and we, too, will sink, to rise no more. May the day soon dawn when the emblems of universal peace and universal liberty shall crown the summit of every hill, in every clime! when every knee shall bend and every head shall bow, acknowledging that God is God, and that He rules supreme in love and equity.

A. B. FRETZ.

CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY, *January 15, 1892.*

The above was written by a friend for a similar work, therefore it was considered proper to have it inserted in this volume, and the writer of it given due credit.

AUTHOR.

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