

CHESTER TIMES – August 3, 1912

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS OF THE WEEK – Few New Operations Reported – Work on Others Progressing – In City and County

The realty market and building activity has been dull during the past week as far as transfers and new operations are concerned. There has been several transfers recorded throughout the county, however. The numerous building operations throughout the city and county are progressing nicely and many buildings are going up here and there in practically every borough and township.

Practically all of the Chester contractors, William J. Wiser, George D. Hewes, William L. Devinney, Samuel A. Hewes, Samuel Lax, Edward Helms, William Whittaker, Amos P. Sheaff, H. Louis Morris, William J. Hewes, Nolan Brothers, Oliver Brothers, William Provost, Jr., William Ward, Samuel R. Bell, Francis J. Moore, M. J. Dwyer, Edward Dickerson, etc., are busy at this time.

The contractors out through the county as well as those from outside of the county, who have work to Delaware County, are all busy at this time. From time to time, complaints are heard from various parts of the city and county met a shortage of laborers, both skilled and unskilled.

Among the county places that are scenes of building activity at this time are included: Darby, Media, Clifton Heights, Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Lester, Glenolden, Leiperville, Eddystone, Upland, Marcus Hook, Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Yeadon, Swarthmore, Radnor, Ridley Park, etc.

IN THE CITY – Contractor William J. Hewes of 1102 Highland Avenue has staked Highland Avenue, north of West Eleventh Street. These buildings will each have seven rooms and a bath, will be two stories in height and have front porches.

Mr. J. Dwyer of 1802 West Third Street, a builder, is progressing nicely with the pair of two story brick houses that he is building on West Second Street, west of Reaney Street. They are ready for the painters and paperhangers. The houses are six room ones and each has a bath and porch.

Samuel A. Hewes of Nineteenth and Hyatt Streets, a contractor, who is building ten two-story, modern, brick dwellings on West Fourth Street, west of Ward Street, has the cellars excavated for them and is starting on the foundations.

Former Councilman William L. Devinney of 2519 West Third Street, who has started two of a block of eight houses that he will erect on West Fourth Street, west of Palmer Street, has the foundations laid for two of them. The others will follow as soon as this pair is underway. They are to be two stories each.

The frame building that Wesley S. McDowell, lumber and coal merchant of 1915 West Second Street, is building at the rear of his office, has attained its height and has been roofed. Part of the structure is to be open front. It is 60 by 20 feet. The building will be used as a store house for mill work.

Francis J. Moore, a builder of Marcus Hook, has the painters and paperhangers working on the pair of two story brick houses that he has built on the north side of West Fourth Street, west of Palmer Street. They will be ready for occupancy next week.

The lower floor of the store on the Northeast corner of Third and Wilson Streets, formerly occupied by Thomas F. Creegan, as a grocery, has been renovated and rebuilt for the Acme Tea Company. The work is completed and the store ready for occupancy.

Work is progressing on Thurlow Hall, 2605-10 West Third Street. A small brick addition is being built to the rear of the building. The interior and the front is being remodeled and rebuilt.

Edward Dickerson is making rapid progress in the improvements under way at the John J. Buckley Company's pork packing plant on West Second Street. Mr. Dickerson, who has the contract for all the cement work, is constructing the cold storage plant which will give a capacity for an additional one hundred beeves.

The completion of the abattoir being constructed on East Second Street, near Welsh by Sam Lax for J. Jacobson, a butcher of Second and Parker Streets, will add another industry to the Third ward. The old St. Paul's M.E. church at that address, is being remodeled for this purpose. The refrigerating plant will have a capacity for fifty beeves. Work was started on the transformation of the edifice into an abattoir several days ago.

During the past week Sweeney and Clyde, the real estate agents of Market Square, disposed of the following properties: No. 1711 Walnut Street to William J. Dougherty, Jr.; No. 1712 Walnut Street to Mrs. Margaret Bail; No. 411 East Seventeenth Street to James Hinson. They also sold the houses at Nos. 210, 212, and 214 East Twenty-First Street to Chester parties.

During the past week some extensive improvements have been made to the front of Dr. F.L. Hamilton's residence, 320 East Broad Street. The porch has been repaired in a substantial manner and is now being repainted.

The bricklayers are busy on the erection of the garage for Jerome B. Hines at Eighth and Concord Avenue and the improvement will be completed in a short time. Edward Helms is the contractor and the building will be a substantial one.

The three new stores on Wesley Gray on the North side of Third Street, below Penn, are practically completed and one of them is already occupied, while the others soon will be. They are attractive-looking stores and form a business-like front to what was formerly private residences with front porches. The residence part remains, but the porches have been removed and new fronts placed in all the buildings by Contractor William J. Wiser.

A former newspaper man of this city, who is to be married early in the Fall, has rented one of the new houses built by General William G. Price, Jr., in the neighborhood of Tenth and Kerlin Streets. He is now preparing to furnish and equip it for the realities of domestic life and the wedding bells will soon ring.

Contractor and Builder George D. Hewes of Highland Avenue has commenced two more new houses on Pusey Street, below Third, similar in construction to the four already completed. The foundations have been built and the bricklayers are busy on the walls.

George Weigand's two new houses on West Third Street near Ulrich, have been provided with concrete walks and pavement and look the better for it. Drop rail fences have also been added and the improvement is one that is much noticed by passerby. These cozy homes are nearly ready for occupancy. William J. Wiser is the contractor.

The improvement of T. Brooks McBride at Third and Lloyd Streets, is now making some headway. The blasting of rock has been overcome and the stonemasons and bricklayers are busy on the foundations and superstructure for the store and dwelling. The stable in the rear is already under roof. Contractor Amos Sheaff has had his own troubles in getting the rock out, but he now can see his way clear on that score and will have an abundance of rock to spare after the improvement is completed.

E.H. Benjamin of 1211 West Third Street is improving his property at 2305 West Third Street by the erection of a new store front, one story high. There is a frame dwelling in the rear and the two will be connected by the building up of what was formerly used as a front yard. The work is being done under the supervision of Mr. Benjamin himself and when completed it is his intention to remove his hardware business there from the lower store. It will be similar in construction to the adjoining property.

IN THE COUNTY – Building activity is still blooming throughout the suburban district in Delaware County. While not many new operations have been reported during the past week, work is progressing nicely on the various operations under way. In practically every borough and township throughout the county the prosperity of the present building season has been felt. Approximately 500 new dwellings will be erected before the expiration of the Summer as a result of the season's activities.

The cottage that Thomas Ferguson, of Chester, is erecting at Brookhaven is nearing completion. The painters are now at work putting the finishing touches to the home. It will be ready for occupancy in about a week or ten days. The architecture of the building is Colonial and its interior roomy. Oliver Brothers of this city were the contractors.

H.H. Ward, a contracting roofer of Third and Bunting Streets has a number of men engaged in putting a roof on the Red Gables, the home of John Forestberg in Aston Township. The place has been greatly improved and beautified this season.

Work is progressing on the new million dollar plant of the General Chemical Company, just below Marcus Hook. A force of men numbering 200 are at work at the present time. Four of the fifteen corrugated iron and brick buildings of the manufactory are now under way. The barrel factory of the Sun Oil Company is also about complete. Preparations are being made for the commencement of the \$100,000 addition to the American Viscose Company.

Work has commenced on the new school building in East Lansdowne, the Board of Education at that place having awarded the contract for the structure to James F. Ingram of Lansdowne. The building is to be stone, two stories high, with shingle roof, electric lighting and steam heat.

Work is likewise progressing on the \$5,000 church of the Presbyterian congregation at that borough. George Natress and Son of Philadelphia are the contractors.

P.J. Hurley of Philadelphia has started the brick addition to the Lester Piano Works, Lester. It is to be brick, 26 by 28 feet, one story high with a slag roof.

Work has also been commenced on the new manufactory and power house of the United Roofing and Construction Company, which concern has decided to establish a plant in Marcus Hook. The main building will be 250 by 200 feet, two stories high.

The Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr is getting ready to erect an infirmary on its premises. The structure will be 90 by 86 feet, three stories high.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS – Norwood – Robert H. Mausley of Philadelphia to Howard S. Kneedler of Norwood, lot 100 by 125 feet, \$1000

Eddystone – The Philadelphia Trust, Safe Deposit, & etc. et al admis & c of Philadelphia, James H. Weir and wife of Eddystone, lot 60 by 142, 1-2 feet, \$390

Brookline – Midland Realty Co. of Pa. to Wilhelmina Cook of Wayne, lot 25 by 125 feet, \$390

Chester – William A. Henry of Chester to Mary R. Brown of same place, frame house and lot 40 by 130 feet on East side of Norris Street, \$1025

Swarthmore – Cornelius W. Van Artsdalen, master of Philadelphia to Bucher Ayres of Swarthmore, brick house and lot 890 by 252 feet, \$4000

Chester – Cambridge Trust Co. of Chester to James T. Merritt of Chester, lot 40 by 300 feet on Easterly side of Jeffrey Street, \$300

Chester – J. Irvin Taylor of Chester to Charles E. Pennington of same place, brick house and lot 19 by 100 feet on South side of Eighth Street, \$2800

Drexel Hill – Harry Watts of Philadelphia to Anna M. Asenbach of same place, house and lots nos. 661, 662, 663, subject to \$2,000 mortgage, Nom

Brookline – Midland Realty Company of Pa. to William J. Roberts of Lanerch, lot 50 by 106 feet, \$480

Chester – Robert H. Crozer of Upland to James F. Hinson of Chester, brick house and lot 20 by 102 feet on south side of Seventeenth Street, \$800

Chester – Anna M. Dutton of Chester to Elmer E. Smedley of same place, house and lot 20 by 96 feet on east side of Crosby Street, \$1400

Glenolden – Joseph H. Fairlamb and wife of Glenolden to Charles E. Hepford and wife of same place, lot 75 by 200 feet, \$1100

Radnor – Joseph H. Maguire of Radnor to Fannie H. Menagh of Radnor, house and lot 23 by 150 feet, \$3500

Joseph H. Maguire of Radnor to Katherine C. Lentz of Wayne, house and lot 24 by 180 feet, \$3500

Upper Chichester – Catherine Mullen of Chester to Thomas W. Ridington of same place, house and lot 200 by 720 feet, \$1550

Chester – Fire Association of Philadelphia to F. Otis Bryant of Chester, three houses and lot 52 by 132 feet on north side of Twenty-First Street, \$3200

Beechwood – John H. Storer of Waltham to Jacob B. Bennett et al of Philadelphia, lots no. 697-698, \$680

Chester – Carleton Y. James of Chester to Charles K. Deltz of Chester, brick house and lot 25 by 115 feet on southern side of Seventh Street, \$2650

Swarthmore – C.W. Van Artsdalen, master of Pa. to Frank H. Worrell of Swarthmore, stone and frame house and lot 120 by 180 feet, \$4000

Eddystone – Cambridge Trust Co., of Chester to John H. Phillips of Eddystone, lot 40 by 135 feet, \$1600

Darby Borough – Del Co. Trust Co. et of Pa. to Amos Prickman of Darby Borough, house, store and lot 67 by 200 feet, \$6500

Chester – Alexander McGrann, et al of Chester to Joseph Long of same place, brick house, stable and lot in Fifth ward of irregular shape, \$7500

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION