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1736: Dr. James Edwards, whose father bought the farm with the quaint and ancient brick house upon it in 1839; Mr. J. Frank Beatty, a descendant of the Beatty's who made the first axes used in America (except the tomahawks of the Indians), in their factory on Crum Creek. Family history and data could also be obtained from the descendants of such old residents as the Mortons, Thomsons, Taskers, Newtons, etc., all scattered from here now, but who might join us in our annual meetings and tell us of facts, traditions, and anecdotes, as they were handed down by relatives privileged to live with and enjoy the confidence of those whom we wish to honor. The recollections of Mr. Bethel M. Custer, an old resident of Ridley, and W. Henry Sutton Esq., who spent his youth here, and now has a summer home in Folsom, would be helpful. It is to be hoped that those in Morton, Rutledge, Swarthmore, Springfield and Ridley who enjoy looking over the past will unite in forming such a society which in honoring the past will benefit the future.

LAVINIA T. DAVISON (JR.)  
Morton, Pa., Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1901

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE VICINITY OF  
MORTON AND RUTLEDGE, DELAWARE COUNTY

By Frederick B. Calvert

Original Copy in Ridley Township Library  
Included in Mrs. Wieble's Notes on Township History

Being an account of the Indians and Swedes in Ridley – First purchasers under Penn in Ridley and Springfield – noted Colonial land owners – Historic connections – old residents, houses and roads, the Thomson Family – parts of Swarthmore and Ridley Park – the Morton Family with Pennsylvania's part in the Declaration of Independence, and the connection of that family with this neighborhood – concluding with a glance at recent owners and residents.

It will doubtless be generally surprising to learn that this section of the country has been connected with prominent historical personages and events from the earliest Colonial period; and although particular interest may be found by those familiar with the locality, it is believed others as well may find some curious, entertaining or instructive reading in this sketch.

A GLANCE AT THE PRIMITIVE SETTLERS – The earliest inhabitants of this part of the State of whom there is definite information were the Delaware

Indians, who themselves Lenni Lenape, or “the original people,” meaning an unmixed race, in effect, the sons of Adam, others being the sons of the curse, as of Ham, or of the outcast, Ishmael. They and the Iroquois, according to their traditions, lived originally West of the Mississippi, but, attracted by the glowing tales of the wonders and plenty of the East, moved here, driving out the former inhabitants. The Delawares, however, seem not to have been as ferocious creatures as the records of other colonies and even of the Western Pennsylvania too frequently show their aborigines and our history happily does not teem with tales of horror and bloodshed. It seems the Delawares were a conquered race, and held in subjection by some of the famous Five Nations, by whom they were taunted and spoken of contemptuously as a “tribe of women,” a term equivalent in their esteem to pusillanimity, and they were forbidden to wage war or sell their lands. Perhaps intercourse with the strange white people, for the most part peaceable and kindly disposed, still more lessened the Indians’ natural hostility, and made easy the negotiations which eventually resulted in buying out all their rights and claims. To be sure the red men were perfectly willing to sell their lands as many times as purchasers offered, but then considering that they were unacquainted with our notions of property, and indeed, were hardly accustomed to the idea of owning the soil, this is not surprising. The Indians called the Quakers, “Quekels,” and the English, by inability of pronouncing, “Yengees,” suggested to be the origin of our “Yankees.”

The Indians moved westward as the colonies steadily encroached on their hunting grounds, and it is difficult to determine when the last disappeared. A family of them who lived in Aston frequently sojourned at a wigwam near Lownes’ Run, North of the Gibbons’ farm in Springfield, as late as 1770; one of this family died in 1780, and an old woman, possibly the last native Indian, well known in the country, died about 1810. No doubt this entire section was populated by these early residents, and it is quite likely the hunters roamed the very spots where now the suburban settlements lie. There were well-defined trails across the country, similar to that which the Conestoga Road or Old Lancaster Road followed. There have been found stone arrow heads, within the last dozen years, near the woods West of Folsom, and other relics were probably often turned up within recent times.

A large part of the country was formerly wooded, although the woods in the time of the Indians wore a very different appearance from what they did later, owing to the Indian custom of firing them once or twice a year, so that the forests were but thinly set. Within probably the last half century the section through which Morton Avenue runs, between the Presbyterian Church, in Rutledge, and Swarthmore Avenue was being cleared. Some old woods are to be found in nearby spots, as is attested by stumps showing a growth of one hundred

and two hundred years. In the early days of the settlement, livestock was allowed to range the woods, and became so numerous that marks and brands and records of them were required. The process of agriculture was extremely rude and imperfect; no regular rotation of crops was observed and a field was frequently appropriated to one kind of produce for several years.

The earliest European settlements in Pennsylvania were upon the Delaware, in the vicinity of what is now Chester, which up to the time of Penn's arrival was known as Upland, a name Penn changed when he first saw the settlement, with no other reason than the suggestion of a friend who came from the English Chester. The Swedes were the most numerous settlers, although the Dutch and English both laid claim to the country from discovery and exploration, and their arrival preceded Penn's by two score years or so. Washington Irving has left a most amusing account of the struggles between the Swedes and the Dutch in "Knickerbocker's History of New York," culminating in the capture of Fort Christina by the Van Dams, the Van der Voorts, the Ten Breeches, the Tough Breecheses, and the rest of the formidable force from New Amsterdam under Peter Stuyvesant. The Swedes' lands extended inland from the Delaware for a distance, roughly speaking, to about where the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad lies, their North line being nearly parallel with that road from Folsom Eastwardly, but crossing between that station and Ridley and diverging, toward the North, from there Westwardly. This old "Swedes" line can today be traced on the ground between Morton Avenue and the curve in the railroad near the ice factory West of Folsom, a fence, some bushes and two old stones indicating a distinct line. Particular mention of these stones and also of some Swedish titles, will be made later.

**PENN'S GRANT – THE FIRST PURCHASER AND SETTLER IN THIS VICINITY, JOHN SIMCOCK** - William Penn's title to Pennsylvania was founded upon a grant from King Charles the Second, dated the Fourth of March, 1681, in satisfaction of a debt due William's father, Admiral Penn; but the rather vague ideas of the geography which existed in England, and the general descriptions employed gave rise to several conflicting claims of ownership for a long time afterwards, notably the dispute between Penn and the Proprietor of the neighboring colony of Maryland, Lord Baltimore, and the famous Connecticut titles, which were often the basis of litigation even as late as 1834. Penn recognized, however, the titles of the Swedes, notwithstanding the fact that his patent covered the whole territory, and when he sold in Ridley, the "Swedes" line formed the Southerly line of his grants. He had no sooner obtained his patent than he granted to friends in England large tracts in the new colony, to be located in accordance with the "concessions," a scheme already drawn up, which it is not necessary to notice in this sketch further than to observe it provided for disposing of lands, on "quit-

rents,” reserving a rent, sometimes a product, sometimes a shilling per hundred acres, and to “renters.”

It is from two of these grants that nearly all the titles to lands lying in the Northerly portion of Ridley and the Southerly part of Springfield Townships, that is, the vicinity of the Media railroad from Secane to Swarthmore, are derived. From the fact that the purchaser in Ridley was not only a personal friend of Penn, but was one of the earliest actual English settlers in Ridley, and a notable figure in colonial affairs, particular interest attaches to his acquisition. This personage was John Simcock, of whom it is said that no early settler in Pennsylvania possessed the confidence of the Proprietor to a great extent.

Simcock was born about 1630, and was a resident of Ridley, in Cheshire, England. That he came to this country at an early period in our history is shown by the fact that the first Grand Jury in Pennsylvania of which record exists, one summoned to attend Upland Court September 12, 1682, and presided over by Governor Markham, included John Simcock. (This old court record is at West Chester.) He was a Friend, and in England was a severe sufferer on account of his devotion to the principles of the sect, in fact was for a time imprisoned. He must have welcomed the opportunity to emigrate and settle where freedom from such oppression was to be found. He took a prominent part in the doings of the Friends here, being a preacher in the Society, and a frequent traveler to other parts in the interest of his doctrines, visiting at times Maryland, Virginia and even New England. His name appears in a deed as one of the trustees for a meeting house lot in Chester, 1688. At a meeting held at Chester seventh month (September) 1682, it was agreed that “the Eastern meeting at Ridley should meet at John Simcock’s the Fifth day of the week until otherwise ordered,” and meetings were according held at his house.

Simcock did not, however, confine his energies and talents to religious work. Able and energetic men in those days, when settlers were still comparatively few, were seldom lacking in public spirit and frequently passed many years in the public service. Simcock was one of the Free Society of Traders, consisting of the large original proprietors of property in the province. He was a member of various local committees and was a member from Chester County (which formerly included the present Delaware County) at the first Assembly, which met at Chester, fourth day, tenth month, 1682, and was also a member in 1693, while in 1696 he was Speaker. He was elected one of the three Chester County members of Penn’s council from 1683 to 1690, and in 1699, and was a regular attendant at the meetings, which were held mostly in Philadelphia. He attained another high distinction in 1682-3, in the Presidency of the Court for Upland County, embracing then all the settled parts of Delaware County. As a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas he sat at a Court of Equity at Chester in

1686, under the style of Commissioner. He was one of the agents to negotiate the purchase from the Indians which resulted in a deed dated October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1685, extinguishing the last Indian titles to Delaware County. Penn was scrupulous in buying up the Indians' claims. Two chiefs with whom he negotiated a treaty were Secane and Icquoquehan, who relinquished their rights to lands covering this part of the country for a lot of mere trinkets and gimcracks. A subsequent deal for the rest of the county, made with the Indians, included as purchase money "jise harps," a fact that causes a patriotic local historian to contend there was a discrimination against our Morton Indians, because Penn "had no right to deprive our forefathers and foremothers of the pathetic spectacle of a noble brave attempting to execute a ragtime tune on a B-flat jew's-harp, while his long suffering squaw haggled green firewood with a dull tomahawk." Says the same authority, "Mr. Secane achieved notoriety by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's bestowing his name on a sister station; the other sachamacher escaped immortality because his cognomen was too utterly unpronounceable."

Further evidence of Penn's confidence in Simcock appears in the commission vesting the executive powers of the provincial government, in 1687, in five Commissioners of State, any three of whom could act as deputy or lieutenant governor, Simcock being one of the first thus to act. It appears that in 1688 several of the Justices, among whom was Simcock, continued to act after the expiration of their commissions, which brought upon them a reprimand by Governor Blackwell; but the trouble was cured by re-appointment next year. The Judges in those days were careful to see that the proper respect due such officials was preserved. Hearing, in 1692, of a man who had called the Justices rogues, the Court ordered him (John Maddock) to be brought before them, when he declared that John Simcock and another Justice were "two of the greatest rogues that ever came to Pennsylvania," for which contemptuous assertion he was properly fined.

Simcock was appointed one of the Commissioners to settle the difficulty with Lord Baltimore over the disputed Maryland boundary, though unfortunately the trouble was greater than their endeavors could remove, and the question was the subject of litigation between the heirs of Penn and Baltimore, in the English Courts, for eighty years – long after the original parties were dead, terminating only in 1774, after the death of Frederick Calvert, Seventh Baron of Baltimore.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF RIDLEY AND SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIPS – ORIGIN OF AMOSLAND** - Ridley was probably named by Simcock after his old home. It was recognized as a separate township about 1687. The division of the province into counties was not actually effected at the time of Penn's settlement. The line between Chester and Philadelphia Counties was established a part of Chester County until the establishment of Delaware as a separate County by the Act of Assembly of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1789.

The present limits of Ridley and Springfield Townships do not entirely coincide with their original lines; the Southeastern portion of the latter formerly lay in Ridley. The north line of Ridley, then as now, ran from Crum Creek Eastwardly, parallel with Yale Avenue or Christian Street, crossing Morton Avenue near Stone Creek, or beside the present location of Dr. Morton's drug store, to what is now Kedron Avenue; but from there, instead of continuing with but a slight bend to near Secane, as it does now, the boundary ran North along the line of Woodland Avenue (continued straight from its first bend North of the Railroad) nearly to the Baltimore Pike and thence Eastwardly, crossing the pike near the blacksmith shop at Thomson's Bridge, and Southeastwardly re-crossing the pike West of West Avenue. Some 400 acres more formerly lay in Ridley by this arrangement. The establishment of the present line occurred only in 1838. The Western limit of the Township was then, as now, Crum Creek, or Crump Kill, for a distance, and nearer the Delaware, Ridley Creek, although a part of Nether Providence formerly lay in Ridley; while the Eastern boundary was Muccanipates Creek and a line passing East of where Secane now lies. Tinicum or Tennakonk, did not always exist as a separate township, being for a while included in Ridley.

Muccanipates Creek just mentioned, is the stream near Glenolden, and its name is probably subject to more diversity of spelling than any other name in this region. An early reference gives its Indian name, "Morkornepate, but anything resembling the sound seems to have sufficed, and why not? This creek formed the Eastern limit of a tract of land extending about a mile North of Darby Creek Westward early to Stone Creek (the stream flowing past Rutledge) which seems to have known as "Amer's, Ammans, or Amos Land," – a name retained today in the designation of some roads leading to that portion of the township. The origin of the name is said to lie in the circumstance that in early times a celebrated nurse resided there, amma being Swedish for nurse. Formerly almost any road which led toward that section seems to have been susceptible of the name Amos Land Road, Swarthmore Avenue, which commences in Baltimore Turnpike, North of Swarthmore, and the road crossing Franklin Avenue by the Episcopal Church near Morton, being instances of those sometimes so mentioned. There was, however, originally, one Amos Land Road (laid out in 1687). Amos Land embraced the present location of Prospect Park, Moore, Norwood, Collingdale and the country adjacent to the South of those parts.

**SIMCOCK'S LANDS – MORTON AVENUE – A REVOLUTIONARY MILL – MILMONT** - Having thus sketched the life of the original settler of Northern Ridley and given some idea of the geography of the township, it is time to note some details of Simcock's purchase. By lease and release dated 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 1681, Penn granted to John Simcock for £100, "five thousand acres in the Province of Pennsylvania, to be allotted and set out in such places or parts as

by certain concessions dated 11<sup>th</sup> July last past were agreed.” Under this the surveyor laid out, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1682, some 2,200 acres in the Northerly part of Ridley Township, adjoining Springfield. The width of this tract, in the locality where Rutledge is, was about a mile and a tenth, while the length of it from Crum Creek Eastwardly to the line of Upper Darby, and was, say three and an eighth miles. The “Sweeds” line and Amos Land formed the South boundary of this tract. Simcock is said to have conveyed to his son, Jacob, in 1695, a half of this tract. Simcock is said to have conveyed to his son, Jacob, in 1695, a half of this tract, “where Jacob’s house stands on the Northeasterly side of Stone Creek, containing 1,100 acres,” excepting 100 acres sold to John Hallowell; and by his will in 1702 he left to Jacob the other half.

John Simcock died seventh day, first month, 1703, at the age of 73 years. His family seem to have lived here, and included a son, John, Jr., at one time deputy recorder of Chester County, but who later fell into intemperate habits and did not prosper. Jacob, the son who succeeded to the lands, came to this country with his father and settled on the property, as the quotation above shows. In 1685 he married Alice, daughter of George Maris, of Springfield, a name of long standing there today. Their marriage license was issued in 1684 by the Register General. Jacob, like his father, was a Friend, travelled as a minister and held public trusts, having been Deputy Register General under James Claypole in 1686. Probably he resided in Philadelphia for a short time. He died about 1716, his wife surviving him about ten years. Their children were John, Jacob, Benjamin, Hannah and Mary; this John was probably the Sheriff of Chester County in 1708. The original John Simcock had also daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth, was married by Friends’ ceremony in 1692 to Ralph Fishbourn, a resident of Talbot County, Maryland, and subsequently a public official in Ridley, being at one time Justice, he died in 1708, his wife in 1709. Another daughter, Hannah, married John Kinsman in 1684. They settled in Chichester that year. He too was a Friend; he died in 1701.

Jacob Simcock disposed of his lands to various parties and to follow these divisions will disclose some interesting bits of local history.

In 1707-8 Jacob conveyed to his son, John, 520 acres lying on Crum Creek and adjoining the “Sweeds.” The Eastern portion of this, 336 acres, was bought by John Waln in 1717 for £1,000, and after a number of changes, in 1787, Peter Hill bought most of the land; this lay on both sides of Morton Avenue, known later as the road leading directly to the Post Road (Chester Turnpike) nearly to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Morton Avenue was sometimes called Hill’s Road, and was laid out in its present location from Morton to Ridley Park in 1804, although in 1787 there was laid out a road about coinciding with Morton Avenue as today existing, from

Providence Road, North to Morton, to Rutledge, from which point the old location was considerably further to the East, almost a quarter of a mile in some places. This part was vacated in 1807. It is of interest to note that one of the viewers in 1787 was Philip Sheaff, a farmer, a part of whose estate, lying in Radnor and Haverford Townships, is now "Wootton," the country seat of George W. Childs Drexel, formerly of the late George W. Childs, while another part belongs to John R. Valentine.

The present Morton Avenue is called Swarthmore Avenue through Ridley Park, and when it was laid out met the Chester Turnpike beside a small private burial ground belonging to Jacob Painter, which was in existence for many years afterward (on the Northwest corner). Such graveyards were not uncommon in the country; a good illustration is to be seen to day on the road from Swarthmore to Leiperville half a mile south of the "Grange," where in a wall enclosed corner by the roadside lies interred Jacob Worrall, an old resident who died in 1825 at the age of ninety years. The road of 1787 crossed the present location of Morton Avenue at the Leiperville Road and ended in the Chester Turnpike just West of Little Crum Creek, about where Crum Lynne Station on the P. W. & B. R. R. is today.

Peter Hill, even before his purchase, operated the grist mill on the Leiperville Road, West of Morton Avenue, along which the trolley from Folsom to Chester runs. In 1774 it was Isaac Davis' mill, and Hill became the proprietor shortly afterwards. In 1777, when the scene of action between American Army and General Howe's forces was in this vicinity, considerable flour was taken by the American troops from Hill's Mill, and teams to draw the barrels were impressed too. Many years later the United States Government made compensation for this by a grant of five thousand acres of land in Virginia. This historic mill was burned later, probably by the British forager. It is certain that in 1795 Peter owned only a sawmill and this was disused about 1808 and fell into ruins. The grist mill was rebuilt, and in 1826 became a cotton factory. Henry Burt was the miller for several years after 1842, after which time it passed into the hands of many owners, and was again destroyed by fire not many years ago.

Peter lived in the stone house on the upper side of the road, nearly opposite the mill, just East of where the Rutledge-Morton Artillery Battalion encamped the summer of 1901. He was interested in local affairs, being a school trustee and instrumental in having some roads opened, in particular Morton Avenue. His children made division of his estate in 1814, by which Peter, Junior, acquired the site of the Harper quarries near Ridley, and the old grist mill. He afterwards failed, and some of his land was sold to his brother, John F. Hill. The latter acquired in the partition 94 acres on the East side of Morton Avenue, and sold the farm to John Harper in 1837, 124 acres, extending as far South as the old "Sweeds" line and



including the Gogel and Johnson farms of today. Harper died in 1855, aged 81, and he and his wife, Hannah, who died in 1869, aged 79, are buried in the graveyard beside Lownes' Free Church on the Baltimore Turnpike, North of Morton. After his death a portion of his estate was bought in 1856 by Gottlieb F. Gogel, whose wife was one of Harper's daughters, and who died at the age of 81 years in 1890. Another part became the property of Jesse W. Johnson in 1863.

William Hook took 104 acres across the road from John's share, with the old Noble farmhouse on it, where he already resided; this property, after continuing in William's ownership until 1839, belonged to Joseph Powell, of Springfield and his children, until 1847, in which year William and Jesse W. Noble purchased the farm, and took up their residence there. The former still lives there, at an advanced age, although his brother Jesse, and his brother's sons, George and William Noble, have both died.

George W., another son of Peter Hill,, took 95 acres of the estate West of the long millrace leading around the slope of the hill from the dam still existing of the Noble farm, and also a half acre known as the "spring lot" on Morton Avenue, where today a small springhouse can be seen, just south of the Chester branch of the Swarthmore trolley line. On his share stood the old homestead, George sold his "spring lot" in 1833 to his brother John F. Hill; and his farm in 1837 to Christopher Noble. The latter sold it to Robert Fleming, and from him it passed to Noble's daughter's family, the Moorheads, who have owned the house since 1841, although a part of the land is now "Milmont." The graves of both Noble and Fleming and their wives are in the graveyard on the road past Fairview to Leiperville, beside the stone church, opposite the brick schoolhouse South of the "Grange." The gravestones show that Noble died April 27, 1846, aged 66; his wife, Rachel, March 9, 1853, aged 53; Robert Fleming, February 1, 1852m aged 74, his wife, Jane, September 1, 1851, aged 84 years. Christopher Noble lived in the house nearly opposite the gate to the "Grange," on the road to Fairview and Leiperville. He was the father of William and Jesse Noble mentioned above.

**SITE OF FOLSOM – A REVOLUTIONARY LAND SPECULATOR-**The Eastern line of the hill lands – it was also the property line as far back as 1707, was the Western line of 350 acres which Jacob Simcock sold to Joseph Harvey in 1708. This covered, roughly, Folsom. The line between the Hill and Harvey tracts is today, for almost its entire length, still a property division line after the lapse of 193 years. It is marked by a post and rail fence in rather dilapidated condition, along the West edge of the Folsom woods all the way to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, where its terminus can be found by the curious by mounting the bank on the South side of the railroad bed and observing a brown stone protruding some two feet above the ground, marking the common corner of the lands just mentioned, and also showing the location of the old "Sweeds line." This point is

some 200 yards west of the brick ice factory toward Ridley from Folsom. The stone itself is perhaps a hundred years old. The old fence is about  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a mile long in a straight line. There is a slight break in it where it crosses a cart road which runs beside the railroad from Ridley to Folsom.

As early as 1695 and 1716 respectively Stone and Little Crum Creeks were known by those names; a reference in 1675 mentions Stony Creek. Both rise in Springfield near the Baltimore Turnpike, though not near each other, and Little Crum flows back of E. T. Cresson's place through the Noble meadows into Ridley Park or Crum Lynne Lake and empties into Crum Creek below the Chester Turnpike, and its innumerable windings, especially in the Noble meadows, afford a good illustration of how channels change in the course of time. Stone Creek, crossing Yale Avenue near the Railroad West of Morton, and Morton Avenue beside Rutledge Institute, skirts the East edge of Ridley Park and empties into Darby Creek.

Joseph Harvey lived on his purchase for many years. His name is found as a viewer of a road in Springfield in 1726, and as a member of the Assembly uninterruptedly from 1734 to 1745. He left his property to his daughter, Alice, wife of John Lewis. His estate is mentioned later as including "one messuage, one water corn grist mill, one saw mill, one shelling mill, one barn, two stables, two orchard's, two gardens, 120 acres of arable land, 270 acres of woodland and 30 acres of meadow." These buildings, or most of them, stood near the present Kedron and Swarthmore Avenues, between Morton and Folsom, where several old stone structures are still to be found, next to a delightful old orchard. The woodland covered Folsom. As early as 1773 mention is found of a dam in Stone Creek built in order "to convey the water down the ditch for carrying the water either to the shelling mill or mault house or for watering the meadow to the Southward of the mault house." This dam was near the East end of Linden Avenue in Rutledge, about where the road of the Swarthmore electric railway was filled in. The shelling mill and malt house were those above mentioned.

It may be noted here that in 1722 a list of the assessed value of land in Ridley includes Joseph Harvey, £59, and John Waln, £33. The tax assessed on the whole township was £158 shillings sixpence.

Part of the Harvey estate, lying North of where Folsom schoolhouse stands, belonged to his descendants until 1797, nearly ninety years in the family, while in 1799 John Gardiner bought the farmhouse and 120 acres for \$4,000. Another part, some 270 acres, covering the greater part of Folsom, in 1791 belonged to a Swiss named James Philip De La Cour, who came from the Canton of Berne and settled in Ridley. Two years later, it became the property of the notorious real estate investor, John Nicholson. So prominent a person was he just after the Revolution that a sketch of him may well be given here.

John Nicholson was appointed to fill the office of Controller General of Pennsylvania, created by an Act of 1782, and he served until 1794. Between those dates it is said over \$27,000,000 of public money, consisting largely of paper, passed through his hands. Probably between 1792 and 1794 he became associated with Robert Morris, the Financier of the Revolution, in land speculation, which they carried to an enormous extent. Nicholson invested heavily in vacant lands of the commonwealth, and so inordinate was his desire for the acquisition of real estate that he doubtless applied public money to its gratification, and his titles covered some 3,700,000 acres of land, located all through the State. In 1806 his brother Samuel reported he had title to one-seventh of the surface of the State! Morris, who was also a heavy investor on his own account, (having owned at one time nearly the whole of New York State West of Seneca Lake) formed numerous schemes with Nicholson to buy lands in various States; but their hopes were far in advance of the progress of the times, for the lands were mostly uncleared, unimproved and incapable of netting any return for years to come. Finally, after a course of enormous operations, the crash came, though not unexpected. The credit of the spectators was much weakened when in 1796, they consummated a million and a half dollars purchase by giving drafts, one-half by Morris on Nicholson, accepted by the latter, and one-half by Nicholson on Morris, accepted by him, at one, two, three and four years. No accurate record of the notes issued by these men was kept, and their value soon was nothing. The writer has at hand two promissory notes of Nicholson for \$6000 each, dated August 1, 1795, to Morris' order, at three years, and endorsed by the latter. Nicholson's unpaid debts are said to have amounted to \$12,000,000. The commonwealth sued Nicholson and recovered judgments at different times for some \$64,000. Many of his lands were purchased from the State and its liens were the source of frequent litigation; in fact in 1859 one of the Supreme Court Judges said that nothing in the history of the Commonwealth had given rise to so much legislation and litigation as there Nicholson liens and titles. A separate Court, known as "Nicholson's Court," was necessary to adjust the troubles, as late as 1840. Both Nicholson and Morris were imprisoned for debt, and the former ended his earthly career in prison in 1800.

Nicholson's land in Ridley of which mention has been made, was said by the Sheriff in 1797. In 1804 Samuel Ashton bought the largest part of this land, including most of the Folsom woods, and he owned it until his death in 1837, and his children a dozen years longer; while in 1858, some 174 acres of it passed into the hands of Thomas T. Tasker, Sr., the Philadelphia iron merchant, from J. Howard Lewis, the well-known veteran huntsman. Captain John Gardiner died in 1820; he was a Philadelphian and his family continued in ownership of his land until 1859-0, when Tasker bought the larger part. So it appears all the land in this vicinity remained in a few families for long periods of years.

Years ago the roads which intersected these lands were variously designated. One called in 1768 a road from Amosland to Springfield, and as late as 1801 “leading from Elisha Jones’ mill to a free landing,” was the present Swarthmore Avenue, excepting as far as it was altered from near the Folsom schoolhouse, when Folsom was laid out to Kedron Avenue. Elisha Jones’ mill it seems was in Springfield, and abandoned before or about 1780. Its location has not been ascertained, it is said. The free landing was on Darby Creek, where the bridge on the Lazaretto Road spans the Creek. Later this place was known as Morris’ Ferry from a family living near and maintaining a ferry; and not until 1847 was the bridge erected. The road to this point was laid out in 1687 being “The Original Amosland Road. Swarthmore Avenue was known at various times as the Hook or Hawk Road, Lazaretto Road, and the road from Providence to Morris’ Ferry, and still later, Media to the same ferry, Providence having been the name of Media prior to the removal of the county seat there from Chester in 1850. Another road, crossing Franklin Avenue by the Episcopal Church, was Amosland (1810 and today), a road to Tinicum (1829), and Springfield Road.

**SOUTHERN PART OF RUTLEDGE WORALL FARMS –**  
**SWARTHMORE ADDITIONS – FRENCH OWNERS** - Now to go back to Jacob Simcock’s time, in 1712 he transferred to his son, Jacob, Jr., 424 acres adjoining the Hill and Harvey lands on their North and extending West to Crum Creek. The Easterly line crossed Norton Avenue about in a line with the front of the house on the South side of the present Sylvan Avenue in Rutledge, (opposite the Presbyterian Church), and extended about as far as Melrose Terrace or “Dingley Dell.” The larger part of this tract continued in the Simcock family until 1748, when Samuel Simcock family until 1748, when Samuel Evans bought it from the estate of Joseph Simcock, who was a son of Jacob Jr. Even at this time there was a house here, probably the Eastern half of the double stone house near Park Avenue, South of Swarthmore, for many years after the period now mentioned known as the Worrall Homestead (and indeed enlarged by the Worralls in 1830) and now occupied by William Garrett. Evans owned until 1772, probably residing there; while a score of years later is found the purchase of the farm – nearly 350 acres – by two foreigners, Jean Marie Cattier Beauford and Joseph Cattier Raguenne, the former of whom died not long after. At this time it seems one Benjamin Pyle occupied the place. In 1801 another Frenchman of distinguishingly long name, bought the farm, paying \$4,777.75 for it. This was Louis Joseph Saint Agatha Dugard Courville, Junior, a native of the island of St. Lucie in the West Indies. He did not live here, though, and six months later he sold the Eastern 189 acres, with no buildings for \$2,800, which was less than \$15 an acre, to another foreigner Fabriel Francois Cherpy. Courville signed his name simply, “Dugard Courville.” The Westerly line of this tract is still traceable where a line of trees strikes the

West side of Morton Avenue at a sharp angle near the first bend South of Swarthmore Avenue, half mile from Rutledge towards Ridley Park. At this same point, it may be noted, the property fences bounding the Noble farm still coincide with the original lines of 1712. A walnut tree which stands near the road side is almost an original corner. Cherpy soon sold his purchase for \$3,000, a slight increase in value. This land covers the four corners of Morton and Swarthmore Avenues, including Rutledge, South of Sylvan Avenue, and extending Westward say half way to Yale Avenue, and Southward along Morton Avenue to the bend near the walnut tree just mentioned. The purchaser of this land was John Crosby, June, 1803 whom the reader should keep in mind, as reference will later be made to him.

The Frenchman Courville died between 1801 and 1816, in St. Lucie, still owning 162 acres of his original purchase. This farm was, about 1811, occupied by a Francis Patterson; and in 1816 was rented by Isaac Worrall, who bought the place in 1827 for \$6,750. This farm included the house. Worrall was already in possession before 1816; the lease called for \$200 rent a year, and gave him the privilege of cutting timber with which to build a frame barn he agreed to erect within two years, and also for use as posts, rails and firewood, but no more. The Western half of the stone house now standing on this land bears the inscription, meaning Abraham and Isaac Worrall, the former being Isaac's stepson.

**THE OLD WORRALL HOUSE (FROM A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH -** Isaac died in 1834, and gave the use of the house and half his farm to his wife, Ann, for life and divided his property between his stepson Abraham and the latter's son Isaac D. Worrall. Ann survived for twenty years. Isaac D.'s share included the house; he sold his farm in 1889, when it became the property of the Swarthmore Construction Company. Abraham's half of his stepfather's farm not having any house, he built the stone mansion now the residence of A. C. Lewis, about, say 1837, and continued in ownership until he died in 1882, when the estate became the Swarthmore Improvement Company's tract, No. 3; so that the Worrall family had nearly seventy years' connection with this section.

**NORTHERN RUTLEDGE – PART OF MORTON – A TROUBLESOME ROAD -** The land along Morton Avenue from Sylvan Avenue in Rutledge, to Kedron Avenue, Morton, 100 acres including of 95 acres. Swarthmore was known as Faraday Park estate, was a part of the John Simcock tract, and was acquired by Charles Whitacre in 1687. He lived on this land, his house being East of Morton Avenue, near the site of Wilson B. Young's store in Rutledge, and was interested in local affairs. The house was afterwards John Richmond's, and still later John Davis was the owner, although it is not certain that he lived here. Davis' executors, in 1753, sold to John Thomson, of whom further notice will be taken.

That part of Morton lying East of Woodland and Kedron Avenues was also a part of the John Simcock grant and subsequently his son Jacob's, who sold in 1722; and from 1723 to 1735 was the farm of Philip Yarnall (250 acres). Philip's son, Job, divided it by will five years later among his son James and his daughters Sarah and Susanna, giving James the use, during the life of the widow of the East end of his house near the "Great Road" (meaning the Providence Road, North of Morton), the house being the quaint brick, ivy-covered house standing today close by the East side of Morton Avenue, near the bend North of the railroad, and now occupied by Dr. James Edwards, and known as the Garrett Edwards house.

This land extended Southward along both side of Amosland Road, covering the site of the Baptist and Episcopal Churches, Robert Paterson's the burnt Irwin house and the Kedron public school. In 1733 there was much trouble and disturbance among the residents over the closing of a road from Springfield to Amosland, by the Yarnall's, who seem to have been much disliked, as is shown by the following petition, presented to the Court. (There was a road laid out in 1687, and another in 1726 nearby, through Yarnall's farm).

"Whereas there was laid out, near the first settling of these parts, a road to the navigable water at Amosland for the more easy exporting of our commodities but for some after most of our vendible being disposed of at Marcham Mills, gave the improvers and owners of land the opportunity (through the easiness and supinity of the inhabitants). To stop and turn the sd road to the great damage of us the petitioners. Now we pray that you would be pleased to order the supervisor of Springfield to open the sd road where it is stopped and whereas Philip Yarnall and Job his son of Ridley, along a long and tedious contention, continues to hang gates to impede the said road, insulting travelers with Scurrilous language to the disquietude of us in our ancient right and sometime past diged a sawpit in or near the said road whereby the said road became dangerous. Therefore we pray that the sd gates may be removed and the sd sawpit filled up or what you may in wisdom see most meet and convenient."

The Yarnall's asserted the saw pit was there before the road was laid out; as for the scurrilous and insulting language, they never used it; and as to the closed part of the road, said, "I met Joseph Harvey one day who asked me why I didn't open the road, for his wife sometimes carried a young child before her and gates were troublesome and I was glad to hear him say so and got hands and opened the road." The Court ordered the road opened as far as it was already laid out and appointed viewers to look into the rest. Yarnall was allowed to keep gates in good order until further notice.

The Northernmost hundred acres of the Yarnall lands, with the Edward's house, became the property of Thomas West in 1766, and of his son, Thomas in 1792. In 1810 West's administrators sold to Curtis Lownes 45 acres covering both

sides of the railroad between Woodland Avenue and the Amosland Road, and along the North side of Morton Avenue, for \$59 an acre, and in 1812, to George Bolton Lownes, the house and remaining 55 acres.

Curtis and George Bolton Lownes, who were both sons of George Lownes, also acquired, in 1788, a house and ten acres, now the site of Mrs. L. T. Davison's residence, at the corner of Morton Avenue and Providence Road, indeed, the old dwelling may possibly be included in the present building. Curtis bought his brother's share in 1791. From 1765 to 1788 this belonged to Benjamin Thomas, and around 1752 seems to have been the residence of Mordecai Thomson. An incident may be noted here in reference to Curtis Lownes, which at the present day would be amusing to a lawyer although at that time (1821) not without some effect. A son-in-law, figuring out that Curtis was getting old, and anticipating his death, and that if he died without a will a part of his property would descend to his daughter, or if he left a will he would probably give her most of his estate, sold to his brother-in-law, John Lownes, all the interest he might have when his father-in-law died! Curtis Lownes died in 1821; he did leave a will, in which the daughter was given but a share with other children in the remainder of his estate after disposing of other portions. He gave his farm of 70 acres to his son, John Lownes, who lived here and died in 1828, leaving a widow and three children.

George B. Lownes died in 1834, and gave the old house and land to a young relative George B., 3<sup>rd</sup>, son of John Lownes of the Western country. In 1839, Garrett Edwards purchased the same property, extending south to about Franklin Avenue, and covering East Morton. Edwards died about 1870, and his children nearly fifteen years later divided the estate with Garrett E. Smedley, Esq., the value of the property having multiplied six fold in forty-five years. Dr. James Edwards acquired the old house.

East of Woodland Avenue, West of Amosland Road, from about Franklin Avenue Northward, and along the upper side of Morton Avenue to Providence Road, covering the built-up part of Morton, the estate of John Lownes (son of Curtis, lately mentioned) sold, in 1843, the house (site of Mrs. L. T. Davison's) and 60 acres to Wm. C. Longstreth for \$112 an acre. The latter resided here and probably built the barn (now Mrs. Davison's) a year later. Fifteen years later, James Buchanan Lane and G. Taylor Lane of Lancaster, bought the property. The former's sister, Harriet Lane, "presided at the White House at Washington while her uncle, James Buchanan, was President of the United States. In this interval, the price of the land had more than doubled. In 1865 Mrs. John T. School, Catharine s., became the owner of the property, and the School family about that year made their residence in the old house by Providence Road for a short time. A few years later they altered the spring house into the dwelling now standing at Morton and Pennington Avenues; built the mansion afterwards the residence of the late Edward

Crueger; divided the land into lots, which they sold, and so instituted the town of Morton. In 1866 the Schools sold to the late Joseph Davison the property now the residence of this family, to which he removed in May of that year. Mr. School died in 1881.

One hundred years ago the farm of 105 acres, North of Morton, now including Richard Young's, was the residence of Captain William Brown, from whom, in 1807, George Bolton Lownes bought it for \$8500. Soon after the latter's death in 1834, Isaac Newton (of whom mention will later be made,) bought by Richard Young ten years later, and in which his family resided from April, 1866, for many years. The rest of the latter's farm, crossing Providence Road, he purchased soon after; it belonged to Henry Lawrence, then to Adam Steel, between the time of Newton's and Young's purchases.

Another part of the Yarnall and West farms, lying South of Franklin Avenue, and East of Kedron Avenue, was sold by the Sheriff in 1788, to John Thomson, who has already been mentioned as purchaser of half of Rutledge and the Faraday Park estate in 1753. His son sold the property, 90 acres, to George Warner in 1797, the latter continuing in ownership till he died fifty years later. Rachel Warner, the wife of George, is the oldest person buried in the graveyard by Lownes' Church on Baltimore Turnpike; she died May 10, 1851, aged "about ninety-two years;" the gravestone is readily found. A part of Warner's estate passed into the hands of Benjamin Caldwell in February, 1845, who lived until August, 1891, when he died at the venerable age of eighty-eight years. Another part belonged to Captain James P. W. Neill of the United States Army, who sold in 1870 to Dr. Francis Condie. After the latter's death in 1875, the property became the residence of Robert Patterson.

East of all these lands was the Shipley farm, now the Newlin estate, where lived some 175 years ago, one Elizabeth Shipley, said to have been a noted ministering Friend, "lively and edifying in her ministry," and in prayer, "awful and mighty." The woods through which the railroad and Franklin Avenue run between Secane and Morton are on this land.

**FIRST SETTLERS IN SPRINGFIELD – HISTORICAL PERSONAGES SUCCEEDING** – Here it is necessary to leave the Simcock lands, which were wholly in Ridley Township, and speak of the adjoining Springfield lands, in order to trace the immediate vicinity of Morton and Rutledge, and later to introduce a sketch of the family of peculiar local interest, the Mortons.

The earliest purchasers in Springfield were two brothers-in-law, Henry Maddock and James Kennerly, both of Holme, in the County Palatine of Chester, England. Their purchase was 1,500 acres, of which 800 supposedly, but 1100 in reality, were laid out adjoining Ridley Township, and so covered the section from Woodland Avenue, Morton, westward to Crum Creek, and from the Ridley line,



between Yale and Morton Avenues, Northward to the Baltimore Turnpike. Both came to this country, Kennerly taking up his residence here and dying a few years afterward; Maddock returned to England. The former, like his neighbor, John Simcock of Ridley, took a part in public affairs, though not to the same extent. In 1684 he was one of the collectors for "Ridley and in the Woods" to raise funds for the erection of a courthouse, a subject of discussion and action for years. As a recent historian has remarked, a sorry time he must have had if the few inhabitants exhibited the present tendency to take to the woods upon the approach of the tax collector.

The succeeding owner of these lands was Henry Maddock's oldest son, Mordecai, from whom, in 1733, John Maddock acquired a house and 300 acres West of Swarthmore avenue, covering the site of Swarthmore College. The same year "Mordecay" conveyed to his son, Henry, 200 acres South of John's land, and extending westward to "Great Crumb Crook," this part covering Swarthmore South of the railroad. East of these tracts, Mordecai had sold 521 acres in 1702-3, to Isaac Norris, the first of the well-known family of that name in Philadelphia, and owner of the extensive Fair Hill estate in that city, comprising several hundred acres. Norris died thirty years later; his son, Isaac, acquired some of his lands in Springfield, and 70 acres of this passed through the hands of John Crosby, a large landowner to James Crozer in 1747, and after he died, in 1798 to David Caldwell (who died in 1814). This was on the West side of Lownes' Church Road where now stand the residences of William H. Lownes and David Caldwell. Another part of Crosby's land, 120 acres, was bought by Willian Caldwell in 1747-9 for £333.

The first Isaac Norris came to Philadelphia a respectable merchant from Jamaica, and was a Friend. He was a member of Council and of the Assembly, and had the distinction of being one of the eight owners of four-wheeled carriages in the province! When the bell for the State House was imported from England in 1752, an accident in the trial-ringing necessitated its recasting, which was done under the direction of the second Isaac Norris, and to him it seems we are indebted for the prophetic inscription on the bell. This Norris was Speaker of Assembly many years; he declined re-election in 1759, after twenty-four years' service, having succeeded his father in 1735.

On the South side of the Baltimore Turnpike and West side of Lownes' Church Road, John Ogden owned nearly 200 acres, which, after his death in 1825, passed to his son, James, and part of this continues in the Ogden family to day. The modern stone residences of John McConaghy and Thomas Marshall are on the site of the Ogden farm; while the old house, bearing date of 1798, is the summer residence of Joseph H. Chubb. Another son of John Ogden, John, Jr. died in 1877, aged 90 years.

William Caldwell resided on his purchase and died before his estate was sold by the Sheriff ten years later. Nathaniel Pennock being the purchaser for £270. This land extended from Stone Creek, where the livery stables at Morton are, westward to Swarthmore Avenue, crossing Yale Avenue and including the Morton brickyard and Ogden's lumber yard. Pennock bought also at Sheriff's sale in 1768 for £571 another part of the Maddock title, a house and 147 acres West of Swarthmore Avenue, on both sides of Yale Avenue to the Chester Road, in Swarthmore, the property of Job Dicks, whose father, Peter Dicks, bought from Henry Maddock thirty years earlier. The road leading to Fairview and Leiperville from Swarthmore was known as Job Dicks' Road as late as 1811. Job owned a saw mill around 1766, but its location has not been ascertained. Perhaps it was near the present Strathaven Inn, as Dicks' dam was there. Peter Dicks was a member of Assembly from 1751 to 1756 and 1759; and so was Nathaniel Pennock from 1749 to 1756, 1760 to 1762, and 1764 to 1768. When the latter died, he left his property to his four sons, one of whom, William Pennock, became the owner of all the estate here, in 1786; and in the course of twenty-eight years sold it all.

**THE HORNE SCHOOL HOUSE – LANDS ALONG YALE AVENUE – LOG CABINS** – One of William Pennock's early grants was a lot on the South side of Swarthmore Avenue East of Yale Avenue where stands the house formerly occupied by Ringgold, given in the fall of 1792 for a school known years afterward as the Horne School. Two of the trustees were Peter Hill, the miller on the Leiperville Road, and John Crozer, whose father, James Crozer, owned on the Lownes' Church Road, North of Morton, both of whom have been before mentioned. This Horne schoolhouse was used until the Oakdale School, on Baltimore Turnpike, North of Swarthmore, was built in 1837.

John Ogden, Jr., attended this school, probably as early as 1795, being a pupil when General Washington died, and in 1808 or 1809, was himself a teacher in it. Well-known public men who attended were John P. Crozer, at the age of six years (1799), and General Robert Patterson (under Ogden). Teaching in those days was not remunerative; the story is the same here as in other rural parts. Learning was paid for at the rate of about 3 ½ cents a day, with a small charge for fuel; but, says a recent historian, "the master applied the birch free," and applied it daily, or the day was not well spent. The schoolmaster about 1800 was Nathan Donne, who owned a log house and thirty acres between the present Yale Avenue and the Morton brick yard next to Mrs. Eliza Donne's property at the corner of Swarthmore Avenue until 1802, the year he was succeeded in the school. In the winter evenings of 1855-6 one Appothught singing in the schoolhouse. The teachers were frequently changed in the country schools and while the names of several are at hand they are of little interest. The Horne school building was torn down about 1876.

A log house and 27 acres William Pennock sold in 1795, to Susannah Thomas, this land being at the Northeasterly corner of Yale and Swarthmore Avenues. A part of this property is to day in the possession of Susannah Thomas's descendants, J. Paschal Thomas, her grandson, having acquired the present homestead in 1842 and lived in the quaint old white plastered house close to Swarthmore Avenue, West of Morton Avenue, many years until his death in 1890, in his eighty-fifth year. The log house stood for a long while back of the Fimple house near Yale Avenue. Rudolph Fimple bought the larger part of Susannah Thomas' lands and also the property mentioned as having been schoolmaster Donne's, and he lived on the former part until his death in 1858, his son, Michael, residing there until a few years ago.

Another log house, standing today, with a frame addition, at the sharp bend in Yale Avenue, West of the Morton livery stables and ice house. William Pennock sold to John Cummings in 1790, it being afterward the home of William Grant, as will be mentioned. This is a type of the houses which were numerous in those times and in which large families were brought up.

All these lands along Yale Avenue or Christian Street were subject to a lane or free passage" a perch wide (16 ½ feet) extending from Cummings' or Grant's cabin Westward, as early as 1790, to allow an outlet to Swarthmore Avenue – the Lownes' Church Road and Christian Street not then being opened. Yale Avenue coincides with the old lane. It was not declared a public road until 1869 although opened before then.

The Pennock lands, 174 acres, lying West of Swarthmore Avenue, along both side of Yale Avenue, as far West as Chester Road, with a brick house in 1814 were bought by a Rumford Dawes, and in 1816 by Thomas Horne, who took up his residence there and became identified with local interests, being a large land owner in Ridley Park as well to which reference will later be made. After his death, his estate was divided in 1857 and part became the Swarthmore Improvement Company's lands. The old homestead stood near the South side of Swarthmore Avenue, West of Yale Avenue, and was burned down nearly a score of years ago.

**THE THOMSON FAMILY – A LARGE LAND OWNER** – A strip of land nearly a mile long, about 850 feet wide, lying in Springfield on the West side of Kedron and Woodland Avenues from a line nearly at right angles to Stone Creek where it crosses Morton Avenue, Northward beyond the Baltimore Turnpike, and Westward to Lownes' Church Road, and covering the site of the Faraday Park House, Morton Avenue between Rutledge and the railroad, Morton Station and the grove opposite, was another part of the Isaac Norris tract. It was purchased in 1741 by Joshua Thomson since which time, with but a short interruption, it has belonged to his descendants. Joshua sold or gave most of his lands – other parts lying East of Woodland Avenue, North of Morton to the Baltimore Turnpike,

including Richard Young's old residence, to his family; and by 1792 John Thomson had acquired all these hands, besides the territory on both sides of Morton Avenue, from where the railroad crosses as far South as the line of Sylvan Avenue, in Rutledge, the Faraday Park estate; the Irwin grounds; and across Amosland Avenue in the vicinity of Franklin Avenue, the latter part having been already mentioned as George Warner's at a later date.

John Thomson was consequently at this time the owner of nearly 500 acres covering most of the Rutledge and Morton except the present built up part north of the railroad, the largest landowner in the vicinity. He was appointed by the Court a viewer upon several roads opened in the neighboring country, and was generally interested in local affairs.

THE THOMSON FAMILY, CONTINUED – LOWNES' CHURCH – A WELL-KNOWN FARMER – John Thomson's family included seven children. One daughter was Mrs. Margaret Burd. The writer has at hand a letter written by her father-in-law, John Burd, dated Burd's Grove, Dec. 21, 1789, addressed to her in Springfield, in which he mentioned "all our family has been ill with that disorder called the Fluenza;" while some of her children, residents of Philadelphia, were known to the writer's family, who possess profile portraits of them at youthful ages. The other daughters of John Thomson were Esther and Mary, both of whom remained unmarried, and probably resided here until their death. Esther's house was on Morton Avenue near Stone Creek. Of the four sons, the only one of interest to this sketch was John Thomson, Jr. He was a surveyor and an engineer of considerable repute; in 1787 he located the road, now practically Morton Avenue, and about 1806, laid out and constructed the railroad for Thomas Leiper, from his quarries on Crum Creek, at Avondale, Southward, this being the first railroad built in the United States. He achieved wide distinction in 1795, by building at Presque Isle (now Erie) a small vessel, the "While Fish," in which he made a voyage through the inland lakes and rivers and sometimes overland to New York and Philadelphia, being the first to make such a trip, by which he demonstrated the value of an inland watercourse (now supplied by the Erie Canal). The boat was afterwards exhibited in Independence Square, Philadelphia, and occasioned general notice of the enterprise.

The elder Thomson died in 1792, leaving most of his property to his wife, Ann, and their children. The latter divided the lands in 1800, by which Esther and Mary acquired the part South of the present railroad to the line of Sylvan Avenue in Rutledge, 150 acres and John, Junior, took 240 acres North of Christian Street and North of Morton, crossing the Baltimore Turnpike opposite Woodland Avenue.

Mary Thomson died in 1817 and her sister, Esther in 1818. The latter in 1802 had bought from John Cummings the log cabin (of which a picture has

already been shown,) at the turn in Christian Street, near the Morton livery stables. Three years after Esther's death her brother John, bought her estate, including this log house, and the same year he sold the cabin and 5 ½ acres for \$550 to William Grant. When the latter died in 1839, he left his property to his wife, Susan, and she in turn left the house and such of the land as she had not sold, to her daughter Phebe Ann, in 1868. the property originally extended across the private lane leading to Swarthmore Avenue, and beyond the railroad, and when Christian Street was declared a public road, supplanting the old lane and cutting the Grant land in two, it is related Phebe fought most bitterly, stationing herself on her fence until it was cut down under her.

John Thomson sold the rest of his sister Esther's estate also in 1821. His own farm buildings are on the Baltimore Turnpike, West of Woodland Avenue, at the junction of Thomson Avenue, and are now occupied by the Rogers family. He built the stone bridge on the turnpike where the free fountain is located, just East of Woodland Avenue in 1811, for the turnpike company, of which he was an organizer. The bridge was re-built in 1863, and bears stone tablets with inscriptions of each date. It is known today as Thomson's Bridge. Before the turnpike was laid out, the Providence Road, leading from Middletown through Providence, Media and Springfield to Darby, sometimes called the "Great Road," was the thoroughfare to the West. The turnpike was constructed by the Philadelphia, Brandywine and New London Turnpike Company. Woodland Avenue was not made a public road until 1872, although a private road had been there for years.

Captain William Brown bought his farm, North of Morton, now including Richard Young's farm, from the junior John Thomson in 1800. About 145 acres of Thomson's other lands, from Christian Street Northward to the Baltimore Turnpike along Woodland Avenue, was sold by the sheriff in 1828 to George Bolton Lownes.

This personage who has already been mentioned as owning the old Garrett Edwards house, was a member of one of the oldest families in this vicinity, the first of the name here having been Jane Lownes and her three sons, who emigrated shortly after Penn's arrival, the husband and father die on the voyage. They located in Springfield North of Morton and first lived in a cave, afterwards building a log house, about 1685, the fact being commemorated by a stone with an inscription, erected years after, in a field belonging to descendants.

Lownes rented the Thomson farm to a well-known farmer, Isaac Newton, to whom he gave it by will on his death. Out of it, in 1832 Lownes had set apart an acre for a meeting house, now known as Lownes' Free and the Blue Church, standing on the North side of Baltimore Turnpike opposite the Church Road to Morton. This church was donated for the free use of preachers of the gospel, with

the proviso only that they believe in the divinity of Christ and the doctrine of the Atonement. The edifice is severely plain within, but enhanced by a weeping willow in front and a neighboring grove, presents externally a quaint and pleasing appearance. To the right of the entrance door lies buried under an old-style slab supported by marble sides, the venerable founder, George Bolton Lownes, who died on the anniversary of Washington's birthday, 1834, in his seventy-second year. To the left is the tomb of his cousin, Edward Lownes, who died in September, 1834.

Isaac Newton, was one of the first Trustees of Lownes' Church. Newton was an enterprising and energetic farmer who was very successful in a business in Philadelphia well recalled by many persons today, a restaurant and confectionery parlor on the North side of Chestnut Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets, directly opposite Independence Hall. Newton's administrative ability rendered his establishment highly popular and he frequently catered to the best people of the city. His chief distinction, however, arose from his appointment by Abraham Lincoln, who was a personal friend, upon his election to the Presidency, to the head of the government's division of agriculture. Although somewhat handicapped by the deficiency of his early education, Newton was later appointed Commissioner of Agriculture, being the first incumbent of that office his talents enabled him to fill acceptably until his death. He may therefore be regarded as the first head of the Agricultural Department, although that was not made a Cabinet position until 1889. Newton was a Friend, and is recalled as a portly, round-faced benevolent looking gentleman, "country-like" in appearance and well advanced in years. He left four children.

PENNSDALE – ALONG MORTON AVENUE – Isaac Newton sold his farm in 1859 to John Edgar Thomson, a son of the junior John Thomson whose property it had formerly been. J. Edgar was born here, February 10, 1808, and like his father took up surveying and civil engineering. The father died in 1842. Edgar acquired considerable repute while connected with the Georgia Railroad, and in 1847 was engaged as Chief Engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad, from which post he advanced until he was President of the company. This farm was his summer residence, and was called Pennsdale. He died May 27, 1874. On the death of his widow, who is still living in Philadelphia, his estate is to be applied to a home for female orphans of railroad employees killed in service.

The grove opposite Morton station and the beautifully rolling ground extending northward along Woodland Avenue still belong to the estate. From the top of the hill between Woodland Avenue and the Church Road is obtained a pleasing view which well rewards the ascent.

The railroad station, now Morton, originally stood where C. K. Dolbey's store is located, and was for years known as Newton's.

Esther Thomson's estate was in 1821 acquired by John S. Morton, the first of the family of that name who became connected with this vicinity and a descendant of a distinguished son of Pennsylvania. Before taking up the story of this family, however, it is necessary to make a digression to show the other land he acquired about the same time.

It will be recalled that the land at the corners of Morton and Swarthmore Avenues has been traced to John Crosby, in 1803, as part of the Frenchmen's lands, L. J. St. A. Dugard Courville, Jr., and Gabriel Francois Cherpy. John Crosby was a Justice of the Peace, and later Judge of the Common Pleas, widely respected, and a man of considerable wealth. His daughter Susan married John S. Morton; to her he left when he died in 1822, 100 acres of this land, being all except the Southeast corner, which covers the residence of Dr. W. H. Neal, the Calvert tract and property and West Folsom, and this latter part, 80 acres, Crosby gave to Eleanor Hill, for life, she being the daughter-in-law of the Peter Hill who has been mentioned as owner of the mill on the Leiperville Road, during the Revolution. John F. Hill, (Peter's son,) in 1837 bought this land from William Martin and his sister Ann, including the house for many years at a later date occupied by the late E. A. Thomas. The house was then a small cabin of but two rooms, with a huge fireplace, and a half-way right through, so that fire logs were pulled by a horse in one door and the horse taken out through another. John Hill owned the land to the South too, 200 acres in all, for a short time, and in 1840 gave the house and 80 acres to William Thompson, a stone mason in his quarries near Ridley, in payment of a debt for wages. It is related that Hill was bitten in his youth by a mad dog, and in the full of the moon was subject to violent outbursts of passion which were attributable to no other cause! Thompson cleared the land and built the barn nearby, in 1842, using timber cut on the land and hard wood pins for nails. He lived here until his death, in 1870, after which his children made partition, and the part South of Swarthmore avenue later passed into the hands of Graham Calvert.

The land given by John Crosby to his daughter, Mrs. Susan Morton, became added to her husband's farm, so that John S. Morton owned, sixty years ago, the site of the Faraday Park estate, all Rutledge, and the West side of Morton Avenue from Morton Southward half a mile beyond Swarthmore Avenue, adjoining the Fimple, Horne and Worrall farms, a road front of over a mile and an area of 250 acres.

**240 YEARS OF THE MORTON FAMILY** – John S. Morton was thus the first of the family in the vicinity of Morton, although, as will be shown, his ancestors were already residents and land owners in Ridley 150 years before.

To give a clearer idea of the first settling of this family in Pennsylvania, it is necessary to take a brief notice of the earliest history of the colony, to which allusion was made in the first part of this sketch. The first settlers on the Delaware

were the Dutch, who arrived about 1623 and founded their claims upon the voyage of the veteran navigator, Henry Hudson. The latter, although an Englishman, was employed by the Dutch, and in the course of his explorations entered Delaware Bay in 1609. Here, however, he continually ran aground on the shoals, now well-known and charged, and after a stay of only six hours, spent in hard work and much swearing, in which time he hardly reached the river itself, he abandoned the attempt and departed. The Dutch were overcome in 1638, by the Swedes, who had no title but conquest and occupancy and continued in possession of the river banks until 1655, when the Dutch regained supremacy. They retained it until 1664, when the English, under the duke of York (afterwards King James II), captured New Netherland (New York), and the territory of the Delaware fell with it.

During this time the scattered settlers had pushed further Northward from the lower Delaware, past Upland (Chester) and Tinicum to the vicinity of the Schuylkill's mouth. As far as the rights of discovery were concerned, the English had the best title of the several nations, under the Cabots, explorations in 1498, but the grant which the Duke of York obtained from his brother, Charles II, to confirm his conquest, can hardly be constructed as including the West shore of the Delaware. However, this is rather a late day to raise the question, and many titles are founded on this grant. The Swedes were never again masters of the country, and the Dutch for only a few months in 1673, although both of course continued to live here. The Duke of York retained the ownership until Penn's grant. The Dutch settlers were mostly traders, and found furs and pelts in plenty, which they obtained by hunting or trading with the Indians. The Swedes were more pastorally inclined; they were real settlers and farmers, cultivated the soil, planted orchards, drained the marshes, imported stock from Sweden, which they carefully tended and nourished, and lived generally a happy and contented life. Game abounded; the meadows were rich with wild fowl, which often covered the shores like a huge white sheet, and on the approach of the human being took to the wing in clouds, as if the wind had raised the sheet. On the higher land, along the edge of which (near Ridley Park,) the Chester Turnpike now extends, were the woods, originally covering a rich pasture grass, upon which the cattle fed, for the underbrush sprang up only with the second growth of trees. It has been noted that the Dutch and Swedes did not make much inroad upon the forests, while the English everywhere in the colonies cut their way through, always pushing onwards, a good characteristic of the several nations.

What a pleasing prospect there must have been from these uplands, 200 years ago, down across the extensive meadows to Darby Creek, beyond that, over Tinicum to the Delaware, and in the furthest distance, the blue hills of New Jersey! It does not require a strong imagination to picture to the mind's eye such a view if



one but stands on the Chester Turnpike near Ridley Park and effaces the marks of modern times from the delightful vista towards the Delaware.

(The writer desires to withdraw the incident mentioned in the issue of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, relating to contesting the opening of Christian Street by Phebe Ann Grant, as he learns it was untrue. It was stated in good faith, upon authority considered reliable, but, unfortunately, not susceptible of revision, owing to death, and doubtless a mistake in identity is responsible. He regrets the error personally, and on account of the accuracy of this sketch, and trusts the reader has not formed an impression unwarranted and not intended).

Here it was that the Morton family, which was Swedish, first became settlers in this country. As early as 1655 Morton Mortonson resided on his plantation here, and the list of taxable in 1677 at Calcon Hook included Mort, Mortonson, Senior and Mort, Mortonson, Junior, the latter presumably the former's son; while a list of the Swedish residents on the Delaware in 1693 shows the same names, with families of three and ten persons respectively. At a Court held at Upland in 1676-7, the suit of Morten Mortense, Jr., against Moens Staeket was tried, Morten declaring his wife was chased with an axe, and himself threatened with a gun, by the defendant, who was condemned to a fine of 50 gilders and to be bound to good behavior. At the same time an action of slander was preferred by the plaintiff's father, and Moens was condemned to declare in Court, "He knew nothing but all honesty in the case."

Perhaps the earliest settler had no title to his land but occupancy, for the first acquisition by the family seems to have been under the Duke of York's government and their later possession were derived from the same source and from the Dutch government, of which notice was lately made.

It is interesting to note here that the Thomson family, of Springfield, who were lately mentioned, are related to the Mortons, for Thomas Thomson, brother of J. Edgar Thomson's grandfather, John Thomson, Sr., and owner in 1752 of the land covering both sides of the railroad at Morton station, married Margaret, a granddaughter of Margaret Morton, who died in 1755, a relative of Morton Mortonson.

By a patent dated May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1672, Francis Lovelace, Governor for the Duke of York, granted to Jan Cornelius, Mattys Mattysen and Martin Martinsen, or Morton Mortonson, 200 acres, "with the meadow thereunto belonging." This lay on Darby and Muccinipates creeks, extending westward to about 900 feet beyond Kedron Avenue and Lazaretto Road, in Prospect Park, while the Northerly line was near the present B. & O. Railroad and formed part of that ancient "Swedes' line," already mentioned as the Southern line of the Simcock lands. So indefinite was the description, however, that when a survey was made in 1675, the area was found to be 728 acres! This tract was "Amosland," but is not further relevant to this sketch

beyond remarking that some of it belonged to a branch of the Morton family for years afterward.

Adjoining "Amosland" on the West, and from Folsom Southward to Darby Creek, Henrick Jansen and Bertol Eskolls or Eskellson (sometimes Bartle Escheilson) acquired from Governor Lovelace, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1671, some 154 acres, which on being surveyed in October, 1675, turned out over twice that size. This divided equally. Eskellson lived in Upland as early as 1644. Both these two dying left sons who inherited their respective shares, a fact which occasions remarking one of the Swedish customs. Family names, as such, were not then established among the Swedes, and a man's son took his father's first name, added the termination sen or son, and so acquired a surname. Thus Bartol Eskellson was the son of Eskell Larsson, and when Bartol died his son, who inherited his estate, was named John Bartolson, since altered and continued as Bartleson; and Henrick Janson's son was Jan or John, Hendrickson, now known as Henderson. John Bartleson sold his lands in 1704-5 to Andrew and John Morton, sons of Morton Mortonson, and George Van Culin, in consideration of his natural affection for his kinsman and their "maintaining me with sufficient meat, drink, clothing and other necessities, with the payment of £3. They made partition among themselves, while Hendrickson's share continued in his family many years.

West of these lands, and extending from the B. & O. Railroad Southward to Darby Creek, covering the heart of Ridley Park, Henrick Thadens, or Torton, acquired probably under the Dutch government, 280 acres, on which he resided, and which he had surveyed Sept 2, 1675. Later it turned out there were over 350 acres. Henrick by his will in 1703 left his property to his son Andrew Torton, who died in April, 1749, giving his grandson, Daniel Torton, his land "on the other side of Stone Creek, where John Torton now dwells," On this stood a house near the Chester Turnpike, East of Swarthmore Avenue. Daniel's father, Hans, was given the rest of Andrew's estate. Hans died in 1751, and gave Daniel his property. Daniel died about ten years later and his estate descended to his sisters, Ann Torton and Mary, the wife of Daniel Morton, the latter couple owning the old house until their death, when it was sold, in 1822, after the land had been in the Torton family nearly 150 years. The house will be referred to again.

From Andrew Torton, in 1718-29, John Morton bought 35 acres adjoining the part he had already acquired from John Bartle, son, and with this has been completed the mention of all his lands pertinent to this article. In 1722 Morton appears in the list of taxable, his land being assessed at £18.

This John Morton, it is believed, was a son of Morton Mortonson, Jr., who died in 1718, and seems about the first who contracted the name to Morton. He married Mary Archer, daughter of John and Gertrude Archer of Ridley, but did not live to see the distinction to which his family attained, dying in February, 1724-5,

probably in the prime of life. He gave his wife the use of his 135 acres, “with all the marsh,” during her widowhood, unless they had a child who reached his majority during Mary’s widowhood. There was such a child, *the* John Morton, who was born after his father’s death, and became the most prominent member of the family, being the historical personage who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

CAREER OF JOHN MORTON, SIGNER – The birthplace and residence until 1764, of this John Morton, is thought to have been at Morris’s ferry, Darby Creek, the one-story stone and log house dated 1698 in which it is thought he lived, still standing in a fair state of preservation, on the Westerly side of Lazaretto Road, near the boat houses.

About 1760, Morton acquired from the heirs of John Hendrickson (the son of Henrick Jansen, just mentioned) the lands on the north side of Chester Township, adjoining his father’s estate on the East, and these together became his farm. Here he built a stone house of two stories and an attic, placing a circular tablet in the Southern gable, with the inscription: “J. A. M., 1764,” the initials of himself and wife, who was Ann Justis. The house stood near the present P. W. & B. Railroad, East of Ridley Park station and West of Stone Creek, and until its destruction, was in plain view from the train. It was reached from the Chester Turnpike by a lane nearly three-eighths of a mile long, still traceable beside the modern brick residence of the Burk family.

The widow of John Morton, the elder, married John Sketchley, this being the origin of the combination of the names which has been carried down to the present day. Sketchley, who was an Englishman, emigrated in 1718, settled in Ridley in 1724, and became identified with local interests, being one of the organizers of the Darby Library in 1743. He, too, was a land owner, having bought 20 acres on the West side of Kedron Avenue just across the B. & O. Railroad from the Swarthmore Electric Railway’s powerhouse, and also a small part of the Torton farm. He died in 1753 and left his property to his wife. She survived until 1778.

John Sketchley zealously educated his stepson, John Morton, the youth studying surveying and afterward taking up law. From this he easily drifted into politics and public affairs generally. From 1756 to 1767 and from 1769 to 1775 he was elected continuously to the Assembly, while in the interval he served as the Sheriff of the county and in this capacity, it may be remarked, sold Job Dicks’ lands along Yale Avenue in Swarthmore, in 1768, to Nathaniel Pennock, as has been mentioned. Besides being a Justice of the Peace, 1761-2, he was later, (1775), Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, often styled “Supream” in old deeds. The salary with this position was not highly remunerative, £100, but no smaller comparatively, perhaps, than the compensation allowed to American judges today.

His education and office combined to qualify him for the duties of a conveyancer, and the writer has seen several deeds for lands in Morton and Prospect Park, which he wrote, as well as other papers evidently his handiwork. He was active, too, in those matters which contribute to the welfare and progress of rural communities, and showed generally the character of a public spirited citizen. In 1772 he was one of the commissioners to let the contract for building a stone arched bridge over Little Crum Creek on the road between Darby and Chester; the amount of the contract was £210. Anthony Wayne, the “Mad Anthony” of the Revolution was another commissioner.

**240 YEARS OF THE MORTONS – CAREER AND FAMILY OF THE JOHN MORTON, SIGNER** – In 1774, Morton was a deputy to the General Congress of the Colonies; and when the Continental Congress, in 1776, took up the question of throwing off the English yoke, and declaring independence he found himself facing a most serious proposition. It must be borne in mind that such a step was not contemplated when hostilities broke out between the colonies and the mother country; it was the development of circumstances, and even then found many opponents. The voting on the question was by colonies, each having one vote, and that being the sense of the majority of its delegates. When the first resolution toward declaring independence was introduced, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1776, by Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, some of the earliest opponents were men whose names are illustrious in history, among them John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, the author of the patriotic, “Pennsylvania Farmer’s Letters.” The opposition was based on legal grounds, and considered the practical question of the colonial military forces’ ability. But the feeling increased for severing the ties with England; some delegates were instructed to vote for the step; but still it was desirable to have a unanimous vote. Discussion and re-Argument took place, and when the substance of the Declaration was before the Congress the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the tension in the convention was increasing to a high degree. Pennsylvania, with a few others, still held back, but by the time the Congress met the next day, a majority was obtained, in the voluntary Absence of two of the seven delegates. According to some accounts, John Morton cast the deciding vote of the delegation; but whether that be true or not, he certainly was one of the three voting in favor of independence.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> the resolution was passed, and the American colonies declared themselves free from England’s sovereignty, a step which would have been ruinous to all concerned had the Revolution not succeeded, for of course it would have been high treason. Said John Hancock on signing the Declaration, “There must be no pulling different ways; we must all hang together.” To which Benjamin Franklin replied, “We must indeed all hang together or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.” The second of July, as, indeed, was predicted by John Adams, should be celebrated instead of the Fourth; on the latter day the

formal Declaration was considered, but the resolution of the Second declared independence. The proceedings did not, at the time, excite the public interest which the veneration of today leads us to infer, for the important question in people's minds was, "Can we hope to contend with England?"

John Morton was severely criticized for his part in these proceedings, even losing some of his friends; but he always maintained the correctness of his stand. The convention to form a State constitution, which met shortly after the Declaration was signed, elected him a delegate to Congress. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the realization of his convictions, for in April, 1777, he died, after a life of activity and marked service to his State. He remains lie in the graveyard or St. Paul's Church in Chester, a shaft over his resting place bearing his prophetic words that his stand for liberty would be regarded by future generations as his greatest service to his country. Morton was one of the only two signers of the Declaration of whom it is said no portraits exist, although it seems there was one painted of him. A suitable memorial will doubtless someday be erected to his memory, although it may be questioned whether a monument, in marble ever so enduring, can perpetuate a venerated name better than the love and respect of fellow people.

The "signer," as Morton is most conveniently called, was a man of some wealth. Besides his own residence with its 120 acres, now in Ridley Park, already mentioned, he owned two other houses and 100 acres of farm land adjacent on the East, now in Prospect Park, 15 acres of woodland, and some meadow land, while his personal property was valued at about £2,000. He gave his wife the use of part of this estate, and gave her also "my riding chair," and "my two Negroes, George and Dinah," and to some of his children he gave his lands, and three "negro" boys, Joe, Tome and Jeffery.

Not long after the signer's death, some of his personal effects were removed for safety to the fort at Billingsport, on the Jersey side of the Delaware; but unfortunately the British, who were then occupying Philadelphia, captured the fort, October 2, 1777, under Lord Cornwallis' command, and although they withdrew most of their forces on the 4<sup>th</sup>, probably on hearing of Washington's attack at Germantown, which took place that day, yet what they did not carry away as booty was lost when the soldiers burned the remaining buildings on their abandonment, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The State Assembly in 1782 directed the commissioners in every county invaded by the British, to obtain from the assessors, accounts and estimates of damage done by the enemy since April 18, 1775. The returns for Delaware County aggregated £17,825. It is almost incredible that the soldiers should have taken or destroyed so much property of absolutely no value to them, papers, accounts, etc., such as these reports show. The following discloses the loss sustained by John Morton's estate:

1 broadcloth coat	£10	14s	cd
1 padusway jacket	5	0	0
1 black broad cloth coat and jacket	15	8	6
1 suit brown do with silver buttons	37	5	2
1 jack coat and breeches, knit pattern	6	17	6

with many other articles of clothing (male and female) and house furniture. The whole amounting to £365, 11s., od. Certified by Ann Morton, Execx, "Taken soon after the capture."

The signer's children were Sketchley, Aaron, John, Lydia, Ann and Elizabeth Morton, Mary Justis and Sarah Currie. His mother, Mary Sketchley, died shortly after, leaving her land, which adjoined her son's, to his sons, Aaron and John. The latter died in his minority not many years after the signer.

The homestead, which the signer gave to Aaron, was occupied by him and his sister, Elizabeth, for some years, the latter dying there before 1810. Aaron was a Justice of the Peace in 1799, and was somewhat active in public life, but evidently became embarrassed for in 1810, the Sheriff sold his property to John Morton Justis, a son of the signer's daughter, Mary. Justis next year sold to his sister Rebecca. She married Peter Hill (junior), a son of Peter Hill, the "Revolutionary miller," near Milmont before mentioned, and the couple resided in the signer's house until Rebecca died there prior to 1829, leaving a child who died shortly after. Hill failed in business, and the property was in 1832 bought by Thomas Horne, another person already noticed, who lived on Swarthmore Avenue West of Christian Street or Yale Avenue, near the Horne Schoolhouse. Horne's son, Charles, acquired the old house after his father's death, in 1853, residing there and owning until 1870, when the organizers of the Ridley Park Association purchased the property. The house was burned down during Horne's residence, rebuilt, and torn down perhaps a decade ago.

The signer's son Sketchley was a surveyor and to him his father gave his surveying instruments and the Eastern part of his lands. He was one of the Committee chosen at Chester in December 1764, "to carry into execution the association of the late Continental Congress, of which Anthony Wayne and Joseph Gibbons, Jr., were also members, and was a delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1776, and a member of Assembly in 1779. He served as a Major in the Revolutionary War, but found time to attend to local affairs, being the surveyor who laid out some of the roads in the vicinity. In 1785 he sold a brick house and 83 acres now embracing Prospect Park, and two years later the Sheriff sold his house and 72 acres, North of Prospect Park, opposite Folsom station, part now the residence of the late W. G. Trainor's family.

Major Sketchley Morton's financial embarrassment was due to endorsing for his friends. He died about 1795, leaving a widow, Rebecca, who re-married, and,

five children, two of them being, Aaron T. and John S. Morton. Aaron, in 1822, bought the Torton homestead on the Chester Turnpike, East of Swarthmore Avenue, where he took his own life, June, 1840, leaving eight children, all now deceased. The property afterwards belonged to Edward Burk and his own life, June, 1840, leaving eight children, all now deceased. The property afterwards belonged to Edward Burk and his son, Joseph E. and was the subject of litigation twenty-five years ago owing to Mrs. Burk's refusal to part with her interest. The house was popularly called haunted, owing to Aaron Morton's suicide, and the fear of the ghost was a strong deterrent to children passing it in the dark. The house, altered and remodeled, is still the residence of one of the Burk family.

Such is the history of this distinguished family to the time its first scion became connected with the country now Morton and Rutledge, John S. Morton, in 1821, he being the son of Major Sketchley Morton and a grandson of the Signer. He was born Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1780.

John S. Morton seems to have adopted the middle letter of his name (S. standing for Sketchley) to avoid confusion with another John Morton living in the vicinity, to whom he was not related. The latter, it is said, was for some reason called "Whetstone John Morton." He was probably a son of Daniel and Mary (Torton), lately mentioned in connection with the Torton house in which Aaron Morton committed suicide.

John S. Morton removed his family and residence about the time of his purchase, from the vicinity of Ridley Park to those lands he bought near Morton. His property on the Chester Turnpike, between Prospect Park and Ridley Park, had been a part of the Signer's lands. The Signer's son Aaron had sold it in 1791 to John Taylor, after whose death one of his daughters, Mrs. Rebecca Miller (widow of Major Sketchley Morton) became owner, and she in 1819 gave it by will to her son, John S. Morton. This place he sold in 1841 to the late Edward Burk, and the latter's family resided there until their present modern brick residence was built. The old house, which has been unoccupied for years, probably dates back to the Signer's time, and has, in one of the ground floor rooms, a curious arrangement suggesting a deep, arched fireplace, which is said to have been the location of a cave where General Washington's horse was once hidden, although the writer does not know where the General himself was stored.

John S. Morton's residence in Morton was on the west side of Morton Avenue, opposite the present Faraday Park Hotel and on the site of the house formerly the residence of the late Rev. J. L. Heysinger. Across the road from the house was the spring house; the ground there may still be found soft and wet. His farm and lands lay on both sides of Morton Avenue, from Christian Street Southward to Swarthmore Avenue and continued on the West side of Morton Avenue half a mile further. Toward Christian Street, along Stone Creek, was a

fine grove, containing many beech trees some still standing. Morton's appearance is recalled as a ruddy-faced old gentleman, tallish, or spare form, clothed in black, with stock and high hat, traversing his domains with cane in hand. He died in the house mentioned, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1857, having survived his wife eight months. Of his eight children, only one, a daughter, is now living. His house was afterwards occupied by James Hammond and his wife Nancy, and there in February, 1859, a Sunday school was organized which grew into the Kedron Methodist Church. The house was burned down about 1866 or 1868.

Sketchley Morton, the oldest son of John S., was the most active member of his family. He was born Oct. 12, 1810, so was a mere boy when his parents moved to this locality. He lived with them until manhood, when he took up farming on the part of his father's land lying along Morton Avenue South of Stone Creek. On March 5<sup>t</sup>, 1834, he was married to Elizabeth Annesley Newlin, the ceremony being performed by the Mayor of Philadelphia, John Swift. The couple then took up their residence in the house on the West side of Morton Avenue opposite Linden Avenue, Rutledge, now the residence of C. W. Kennedy. The main portion of this dwelling was built that same year, 1834, but the Western end is doubtless of much earlier construction. The date of 1834 was formerly discernible, when one knew where to look for it, in a quaint semi-circular window in the end of the house toward Morton Avenue, and was, happily, plainly re-marked during a recent renovation, instead of covered with plaster or paint, as is unfortunately often done.

Sketchley's barn stood where Wilson B. Young's store now stands, at Morton and Linden Avenues, and his spring house was on the site of the latter's stable. On the same side of Morton Avenue was a row of four houses occupied by Sketchley's employees, while across the road, on the same side as his own house were three more, two of them near Stone Creek and the third by the gate at the entrance to his house. Then just where Rutledge Institute now stands, Sketchley had a saw mill, so that he lived in the center of a small community and settlement. His orchard, which is still to be seen, had a horsepower cider press, which is said to have been not a thing of beauty, but nevertheless, to the small boy, a "joy forever" or at least in cider time. The farm buildings and all but two or three of the tenement houses were demolished and the rest removed bodily, about the summer of 1878.

In 1851 Sketchley bought from his father the farm and house (Kennedy's which he had been occupying. This farm of 77 acres covered both sides of Morton Avenue from Stone Creek Southward to the line of Sylvan Avenue, Rutledge, In 1860 he bought from his father 48 acres from the line of Sylvan Avenue, Southward to Swarthmore Avenue, thus including all Rutledge and half way across to Christian Street. In 1857 he bought from the old Gardiner estate 23 acres the westernmost part of Folsom thicke, opposite the Folsom School. Later, (1867) he



acquired from Rudolph Fimple's estate, the site of the Morton brickyard, which he established; and from Mrs. School, the land on both sides of the railroad east of Morton Avenue crossing in 1866. On this last, at that time, he built for himself a new residence, since known as the Silver Lake property, the residence of the late Dr. Kingston Goddard.

Sketchley Morton's other local enterprises included a coal and lumber yard, the first postmastership of a post office, which was established through his influence; forty years' school directorship; the presidency of the Springfield Building Association; and the erection of several dwelling houses, so that the town which he often expressed a wish to see, began to materialize. The name of the railroad station was changed to Morton in his honor by the company. The present station was built in 1880.

From 1846 to '48, Sketchley Morton served as a member of the Legislature. He was pledged to advocate the passage of a law fairly submitting to the people the question of removal of the county seat from Chester, where it then was. This was a matter frequently agitated from 1820 until the removal to Media, in 1850, and originated in the proposal of the people of Radnor to join Montgomery County on account of their proximity to Norristown, and the fact that taxes were lower in that county. The vote which determined removal resulted in Ridley Township, 19 for, 152 against; in Springfield 114 for, 10 against.

After serving a term as Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Sketchley Morton was styled Judge Morton, and is so spoken of today. He was well known both in and outside of Delaware County, being President of the Farmers' Market Company, of Philadelphia, from its incorporation to his death. He died, after a second stroke of paralysis, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1878, in the brick house on Amosland Avenue, opposite the Baptist Church near the railroad, then the residence of his niece, Miss Susan C. Pearce. His wife had died six years previously. His old residence on Morton Avenue afterwards passed through the hands of James V. Ramsden and was occupied by members of the Ramsden family.

Judge Morton's seven children who survived him were born in his old house, (the Kennedy residence), and the two younger sons went out from there, in 1861, as Lieutenants in the Union army. One of them, Sketchley, Jr., died of yellow fever in 1862. The other, Annesley N., served through the war and died in 1880. Judge Morton's other two sons, John Sketchley (once well known in Philadelphia), and Benjamin N., are still living and the old name of Sketchley Morton is extant today in the persons of a grandson and an infant great grandson of Judge Morton.

Judge Morton in 1874 had sold to the late William Cowan two acres on the West side of Morton Avenue. South of the Presbyterian Church in Rutledge, on

which stood Cowan's house until its destruction by fire a few years ago. The site has since been rebuilt upon. In 1876 Judge Morton had sold to Conrad K. Dolbey the store at Morton Avenue and the railroad, and he had also sold a number of other small properties in Morton. With these exceptions, his lands were later sold by the Sheriff in 1878, and the same year passed into the hands of Paul M. Elsasser, a Philadelphia attorney. In 1885, 91 acres of Judge Morton's farm were bought by the Rutledge Mutual Land Improvement Association, who thereupon started the settlement now Rutledge. The rest of the farm, including the saw mill, the site of Rutledge Institute, Elsasser sold to Annesley N. Morton, Judge Morton's youngest son. The Institute lot was acquired by the Rutledge Association in 1886. Annesley N. Morton died August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1886, and his son, John I. Morton, still owns some of his grandfather's land, and is the last of the family owning property in this vicinity.

A portion of the estate of John S. Morton (father of Judge Sketchley Morton), after his death in 1857, passed through the hands of James H. Ogden, and later became the Swarthmore Improvement Company's Tract No. 3, on Morton and Swarthmore Avenues. Another part, being John S. Morton's own farm of seventy-four acres and his residence, his executors, sold to Thomas T. Tasker, Senior in 1858 for \$13,091. Tasker owned the 300 acres now Folsom, for nearly thirty years, selling in 1886. He was born in England in 1799, emigrating in 1819, and later acquiring an interest in the iron firm of Morris & Tasker of Philadelphia. He promoted the Methodist Church and presented the land on which the present edifice was erected in 12860. To assist in raising funds for this building, religious woods meetings were held in John S. Morton's beech grove, near Stone Creek, which Tasker in a religiously sentimental mood had re-christened Brook Kedron. The preacher's stand faced the setting sun, and stood about where Bridge Street now cuts through. Experienced auditors selected a shady tree for backing while listening to their favorite preacher, but according to a recent writer, the average sinner had a hard time of it ant night from the double attacks of mosquitoes and a torturing conscience.

In 1859 Tasker sold the land on the East side of Morton Avenue from Stone Creek, Northward to the junction of Morton and Kedron Avenues, to his son, Joseph R. Tasker, who in the early days of the Civil War, built on this property his mansion now the Faraday Park Hotel and in 1881, sold the property to the late John H. Irwin.. Thomas T. Tasker, Sr., died January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892, and was consequently 93 years old.

Irwin in 1871-2 purchased other land, on Amosland Road and Franklin Avenue, where he built his residence (which was burned down a few years ago), a laboratory, shop, electrical plant and gas works, naming his estate Faraday Park, in honor of the distinguished scientist, Michael Faraday. Irwin was

the most public-spirited and generous citizen Morton ever had. He was born in Trenton, N. J., in 1839, and grew to manhood in Springfield, Illinois. He was a man of great ability, both as a scientist and a citizen, and was the inventor and improver of several devices which afforded him a large income, notably the tubular lantern, from which he derived \$30,000 a year, and a feature of the telephone transmitter which gave him \$10,000 a year from the Bell Company. His public donations near Morton were numerous financial aid and ground for the Episcopal Church on Franklin Avenue, assistance to the Morton School, street lighting, opening Kedron and Franklin Avenues, backing the local newspaper and organizing the Faraday Heat, Power & Light Company being among his enterprises; while he had in view the establishment of a manufactory for electrical apparatus in Morton. It is greatly regretted that such a useful career was terminated by his sudden death, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1890.

It is not within the province of this sketch to note the many changes of ownership or enumerate the various enterprises which mark the development of town from country. Nor is it necessary to dilate upon the gradual but steady disappearance of that sturdy type of resident whose home was the fields, no longer the scene of his labor, but the site of spreading settlements and of modern summer residences. The farmer becomes surrounded, shut in, and then squeezed out, by the ever-encroaching modern improvements. NO longer is the bond of friendly relationship with his neighbors for miles around sealed by common interest, by inter-marriage and association, for his neighbors are strangers to him and his life. The farmer disappears; his customs become tradition; his marks are effaced and his very name is forgotten. And then, perhaps, some soul, interested in those things that used to be, endeavors to pierce the haze and shadow of the Past and show it to the Present and the Future.

(The End)

NOTE: The following corrections and omissions in these articles are to be noted: Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1901, Capt. John Gardiner's family continued in ownership of his land (Folsom) until 1858-9, not 1859-0. Elisha Jones' mill may have been not in Springfield, but in Ridley, formerly John Lewis'; the latter had in 1759, a saw mill about on the site of the electric power house in Folsom today, and a grist mill near the present forks of Kedron and Swarthmore Avenues. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, the Francis Patterson who was in possession of Courville's farm in 1811 (afterwards Worrall's) was the father of General Robert Patterson. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, about Elizabeth Patterson. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> about Elizabeth Shipley, for "awful and mighty" read "awful and weighty" Maddock and Kennerly's purchase in Springfield was in reality 1160, not 1100 acres. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1902 the Burd children, referred to as Mrs. Margaret's, may have been her father-in-law's. Leiper's railroad, laid out by John Thomson, was constructed about Oct. 1809, not 1806, and was the first railroad,

laid out by John Thomson, was constructed about Oct. 1809, not 1806, and was the first railroad in Pennsylvania, but the second in the United States. For the name of John Thomson's boat, "While Fish," read "White Fish," the boat remained in Independence Square until it rotted away. The date 1839 given as the year of William Grant's death is the date of his will, he died about 1855. Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, the Torton house was sold in 1823, not 1822. The North side of Chester Township as the location of the Signer John Morton's farm, read Chester Turnpike. The Signer's mother, Mary Sketchley, survived until 1777 or 1778. Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, John Morton, son of the signer, stated to have died in his minority, was a surgeon in the Continental Army and died in 1780 on a British prison ship, after experiencing tortures of starvation inflicted in those iniquitous craft. John Morton Justis sold the Signer's farm in 1810, not "the next year." Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, Aaron Morton bought the Torton homestead in 1823, not 1822.

The writer is indebted to the courtesy of H. G. Ashmead, Esq., the well-known Historian of Delaware County, for the picture of John Morton's house reproduced in the article of Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>; and will be pleased to furnish the authorities for any statements made in the course of the Sketch.

The well-written historical sketch by Frederick B. Calvert, the publication of which was begun in our issue of November 7<sup>th</sup>, is commanding wide spread interest. It will be continued for about two months and will prove to be a valuable addition to the historical literature of this part of Delaware County.

OLD RECOLLECTIONS – EDITOR CHRONICLE – The interesting historical sketch by Frederick B. Calvert, of a part of old Ridley Township, published in your last issue, has been very pleasing to me. Indeed I think it is a fitting time to have our thoughts carried back 50 or 100 years. While very great strides have been made in education, science and art, should we not inquire whether morality, a sense of justice and fair dealing between man and man has kept pace with other good things, while the minds of the people have been occupied in gaining great possessions of land and gold, and in boasting of our greatness in the eyes of the world! It seems a pity that we should lose the honest respect that every man and woman had for the rights of their neighbors in doing to others as they would have them do to them.

Can there be a stronger fact that it was only by the honest, united and God fearing efforts of our forefathers that we were given the good government we are now blessed with. We should instill into the minds of our children that it is not only their privilege but their duty to emulate the noble examples of their ancestors and compare their conduct with the actions of the scheming politicians of today, the ultimate outcome of which may spring disaster to our government and our

people to misery and want. Let us hope our young people may be led to see the danger before it is too late.

BETHEL M. CUSTER

Llanwellyn, Pa., Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1901

Local HISTORICAL SOCIETY – MR. EDITOR; The meritorious and exhaustive “Historical Sketch” continued weekly in the issue of the MORTON CHRONICLE, by Mr. Frederic Bruce Calvert, whom we are proud to claim as a neighbor during the summer season, cannot fail to interest every reader of your paper and be of special interest to those who have always enjoyed the study of history and delved somewhat into genealogical research. Certainly the present residents of this section of Delaware County can feel a just local pride in its past history, and esteem it a privilege to hear and study about those early settlers who made the past of so much interest today.

As the oldest generations of our country are becoming yearly fewer, the number who take interest in bygone days seem to increase, and those who passed from the view, shape themselves before our eyes and assume new interest as pictures of the life and influence of those early days are brought before us.

For years the writer has had a desire that a historical society might be organized here, in order that an accurate history could be preserved of this locality, and interesting spots suitably marked, also Indian relics gathered, pictures procured of old landmarks, old houses, of prominent old residents and brought together as a collection. The drawback to the organization of such a society has always been that there seemed to be no one in the neighborhood capable and willing to devote the time to the office of Historian an office which would mean labor and time spent among musty court records and Penna. archives – but now that Mr. Calvert has quietly surprised us, and so very magnanimously laid before us thorough your paper such a splendid record from the time of the Lenni Lenape Indians down to present date, we would be lacking appreciation if we did not next summer (D.V.) when Mr. Calvert returns to the neighborhood, organize such a society. There are many descendants of old settlers still among us, whose information would be valuable, notably Mr. George B. Lownes, whose ancestress, Jane Lownes, came over with her children and settled here before 1683; Mr. Richard T. Ogden whose ancestors were prominent and owned large lauded interests two centuries ago; the Misses Newlin, of “Shipley Farm,” whose ancestress the noted ministering Friend, Elizabeth Shipley, lived and performed works of mercy here prior to 1736; Dr. James Edwards, whose father bought the farm with the quaint and ancient brick house upon it in 1839; Mr. J. Frank Beatty, a descendant of the Beatty’s who made the first axes used in America (except the tomahawks of the Indians), in their factory on Crum Creek. Family history and data could also be obtained from the descendants of such old residents as the Mortons, Thomsons, Taskers, Newtons,

etc., all scattered from here now, but who might join us in our annual meetings and tell us of facts, traditions, and anecdotes, as they were handed down by relatives privileged to live with and enjoy the confidence of those whom we wish to honor. The recollections of Mr. Bethel M. Custer, an old resident of Ridley, and W. Henry Sutton, Esq., who spent his youth here, and now has a summer home in Folsom, would be helpful. It is to be hoped that those in Morton, Rutledge, Swarthmore, Springfield and Ridley who enjoy looking over the past will unite in forming such a society which in honoring the past will benefit the future – LAVINIA T. DAVISON, JR., Morton, Pa., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1901

MERTZ – On February 16, 1901, ANNA. M., widow of the late John L. Mertz, in her 75<sup>th</sup> year. The relatives and friends of the family, also the Ladies' Aid Society of the Evangelical Reformed St. Markus church, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services, this Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, at her late residence, No. 488 West York Street. Interment private.

MORTON SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT – The following poem, written by Wilson B. Y. Redheffer, was recited by Minerva L. Jones, at the exercises in Kedron Church, on Thursday evening. We also publish the address of the President of the graduating class, Randall B. Worrell. In later numbers of the CHRONICLE we will publish "The Class History," "Class Prophecy," and the Valedictory address by Elsie Catherine Munch.

#### CLASS POEM

We read of the modern people.  
Of their wonderful, far famed schools,  
Of Morton so wise and noble  
With its many troublesome rules,  
But we had not had a commencement  
For four long years or more,  
Till this became so tedious  
The graduates began to deplore.  
Of talking and planning commencements  
With no result we could see,  
With a fatal inertia among us,  
We all were as tired as could be.  
When out there sprang from somewhere,  
A person with strenuous bent,  
Circulated a letter, and the result,  
Now we have our commencement.  
To many it is unknown who

This famous person is,  
But to our certain knowledge  
The "Class History" is his.  
Far famed throughout his school life  
As "Howitzer" and "Legs,"  
As an artist he shall drink the cup  
Of success to its very dregs.  
We've chosen symbolic colors.  
The glorious black and blue,  
Reminders of the football season,  
And of bruises none too few.  
The black reminds us of "Shorty's" frown  
The blue of "Arthur's glare,"  
Which flashed from his indignant eye  
When "Sam" clutched him by the hair.  
For sneezing in school good Clarence  
Had a habit hard to break,  
While sweet little James Hollis had  
A propensity for cake;  
For dozing, napping, slumbering  
One Randall did quite excel,  
And Bessie Woods received more notes  
Than would fill the schoolhouse bell.  
Our Valedictorian, Elsie Munch,  
Came always in "Moist" weather,  
And the two Mary's were often seen  
Laughing and giggling together.  
We know that Lilly and Ada,  
Bess, Tilly, Edith and Ray,  
Each had their faults very glaring,  
What they were we shall not say.  
For the time is pressing onward,  
And the poem now must close,  
Like the school life which has ended  
At Morton for all of those  
Who are sitting on the platform  
With lofty ideals in view,  
And with many bright conceptions  
Of what in the future they'll do.

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** – Success is attained only by constant application to the task at hand. Nature never intended that it should be otherwise. The Creator Himself was millions of years in changing the hot luminous matter, from which the world is supposed to have been formed, into the planets of today. History has left no examples of great accomplishments wrought in short time. Each achievement required years of preparation and toil.

The thirteen colonies could not have tired out Great Britain had it not been for that “Yankee grit” which had become a prominent characteristic of the American people and which has so forcibly instilled patriotism into the numerous American republics. Cuba could never fight Spain at odds one to five if she did not realize that liberty is to be purchased only by patient struggles.

So it is in the literary world, all literary men have won fame by untiring efforts, and many of them have raised themselves from the most unfavorable circumstances. Milton was forty years in preparing “Paradise Lost”; Bryant re-wrote his “Thanatopsis” a hundred times; Homer was blind, yet his “Iliad and Odyssey” have been the marvel of the ages; Demosthenes, the greatest of Grecian orators, in order to overcome stammering, is said to have practiced elocution with pebbles in his mouth.

There was a time while our country was being developed when success could be attained comparatively easy, but in this age of competition each individual must patiently strive to better his or her condition. Success is worth contending for. Although it may seem distant, yet the sunlight derived from patient endeavor will shine on you and brighten your efforts. A good education is one of the essential qualifications of a useful life. We trust that we, as a class, have been laying well this cornerstone here in Morton Grammar School. We have encountered many obstacles, but have also learned how rough places can be made smooth. We have been made to realize that patience is the prelude to success.

In conclusion allow me in behalf of the classes of '98, '99, '00, '01 to extend you a most cordial and hearty welcome, as you have assembled to celebrate with us the commencement of Morton Grammar School. Furthermore, we, as a class, wish to thank our instructors for their efforts in our behalf and the honorable Board of Education for their success in advancing education, the citizens of Morton for their interest and liberality by means of which this school has reached the high standing it possesses. Again I extend you a heart welcome. **RANDALL B. WORRELL**

Joseph P. Worrell, son of the late Philip and Sarah Worrell, died at the home of the latter near Central Schoolhouse, on Friday morning last, aged 47 years, after a month's illness. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Oliver C. Horsman and were held at his late residence on Monday afternoon, interment being made at Lownes' Free Church. The burial ceremony of the Patriotic Order Sons of



America, of whose local camp Mr. Worrell was a charter member was rendered at the grave. A large concourse of relatives and friends testified to the esteem in which deceased was held. A widow and five children survive him.

The Commencement exercises of the classes of '98, '99, '00 and '01 of Morton Grammar School, in Kedron M. E. Church, on Thursday evening last, was an exceptionally interesting occasion and all who were privileged to be present were overjoyed. The presence of Admiral Schley, who won the greatest victory in naval warfare in the history of the world, and whom we all love for his distinguished services to the country and to the fact that he was willing to share the great honor with the men behind the guns, was in itself enough to make the commencement the most memorable event in the history of the town. At his request his coming was kept a secret, and when the hero of Santiago ascended the platform with his loyal friend, Col. A. K. McClure, the ablest editor and one of the finest orators in the State of Pennsylvania, he received an ovation that will never be forgotten, every man, woman and child cheering wildly or waving handkerchiefs in supreme delight. In a brief address to the audience and the graduating classes he said: "I would rather have the love of my people than the friendship of all the princes, potentates and officials of the world." Beautiful bouquets of American Beauty roses were bestowed upon him and he and Col. McClure shook hands with all present at the close of the exercises. The program of the evening was full of good things. The excellent singing by the talented Kennedy family and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Witham; the eloquent and patriotic prayer of Dr. Rittenhouse; the salutatory by the President of the graduating classes, Randall Worrell; the address of Mr. Edwards, of the School Board; the class poem, written by Wilson B. Redheffer and recited by Minerva L. Jones; the recitation by Edith DuBois Ogden; the class history by Wilson B. Redheffer; the class prophecy by George Schroder; the presentation of unique gifts to the graduates by Mary E. Eachus; the wise counsel embodied in the address of Prof. W. H. Swank, who presented the graduates and diplomas; the eloquent address of Col. A. K. McClure and the valedictory address of Elsie Catherine Munch, were of a character to command the highest appreciation and excite a local pride in our public schools, which rank among the best in the county. Let us hope that the good work so auspiciously begun by the eighteen graduates of the above classes, under the able direction of Wilson B. Y. Redheffer, who was the inspiration and moving spirit of the whole affair, may be continued from year to year, so that the people may be brought into closer relationship, with the public school work and more fully realize the great good that is being accomplished in the public schools of Morton.

The Grocers' Association met last evening, but nothing of importance was transacted.

An ice cream and cake sale will be held next Saturday evening on the lawn of Kedron M. E. Church.

HARRY N. BENKERT has been appointed assistant instructor in engineering at Swarthmore College.

The Philadelphia and Suburban Express Company, a branch of which runs to Morton, expects to open an office in Media.

NEXT SATURDAY the Morton ball team will meet on the home grounds the Avaland nine of Chester. Game called at 3:45.

JOSEPH P. BOON, dealer in Crane's ice Cream, cakes, candies, and cigars, Morton and Pennington Avenues, Morton, Pa.

REV. JOHN WATSON of Media will preach in Lownes' Free Church on Sunday next. Sunday school at 2:30. Preaching at 3 P.M. All Welcome

A MEETING of Morton School Board will be held next Monday evening, for the election of a teacher and such other business as may be brought before it.

MISS JESSIE A. BURK, formerly of Morton, who has been teaching near Seattle, Washington, has accepted a more advanced position, with increased salary.

WILSON B. Y. REDHEFFER drew an excellent pencil portrait of Admiral Schley while the latter was a guest at the Redheffer domicile on Thursday evening last.

EDITOR SMITH, of this paper, accompanied by his brother, Charles A., of Swarthmore, is enjoying an outing with the State Editorial Association, at Cambridge Springs, Penna.

FOLLOWING the commencement exercises in the Kedron M. E. Church, on Thursday evening, Admiral Schley, Col. A. K. McClure, and the graduates, were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Redheffer on Woodland Avenue.