

RIDLEY ON THE DELAWARE
A Historical Account of One of The Earliest
Settled Parts of Pennsylvania
By Frederic B. Calvert

The eastern boundary of Ridley Township, which will be used as the starting place in these sketches, is Muccanipates Creek, a name long ago so corrupted from the Indian that the stream is remarkable chiefly for the diversity of ways its name is rendered. This creek is crossed by the Chester Turnpike a few rods west of the overhead bridge of the P. W. & B. Railroad between Glenolden and Norwood, and making thence a great horseshoe shaped sweep towards the east, empties into Darby Creek below a curiously rock-studded bluff. Darby Creek, since Tinicum was made a separate township, has been the southern boundary of Ridley above the Delaware. With the present Cobb's Creek it was formerly called Amosland, and the Mill creek, from the old Swede's mill, said to have been built on its banks in 1643, where Darby Road crosses Cobb's Creek. William Cobb bought an interest in the mill in 1701, and after a time the creek was given his name, as far as its mouth, below which Darby Creek acquired a separate character.

These two creeks, Amosland and Muccanipates, formed the eastern boundary of the old Ammasland, and from there westward along the Delaware River as far as Ridley Creek (Chester), and northward as far, roughly speaking, as the present B. & O. railroad, the country may be regarded as the oldest part of the township, forming the suburb, as it were, of the earliest settled part of Pennsylvania, further down the road.

Here the earliest civilized inhabitants located, and were already domiciled some one or two of years before William Penn arrived. They were mostly Swedes, but included some Dutch, and their number at the time of Penn's arrival has been estimated at 140 white persons. The Swedes and Dutch settlers based the ownership of their lands chiefly on occupancy, and the latter perhaps, on treaties with the Indians. Few had deeds of any sort, unfortunately for them, for the earliest English administration required the old settlers to obtain deeds from the Duke of York, Penn's predecessor in the ownership of the province, and in 1683 Penn himself, though friendly with Swedes and admitting their representatives to the Assembly and Council, issued letters to all the old inhabitants who had not received deeds, and at the same time directed Duke of York's deeds to be delivered. When this was done re-surveys were made available, large excesses in area were found, much were then resold to others. Naturally in a course provoked great dissatisfaction by the old settlers, who accused the trackers of coveting their river lands, and their ire was increased by the fact that their old papers were never returned, while they were often forced to pay heavy rents. In 09 their complaints

were referred to Penn, and by him to the Swedish government, which instructed the settlers to obey the local government. Such action was felt to be the result of slurs cast upon their reputation for peaceableness, and again, in 1722, they petitioned the Assembly for redressing the English to whom some have sold joining in the address. As a result the Swedes were cleared of any imputation of brewing disturbance, but, because Penn was then dead, the matter was declared closed, and the grievances were thus just “whitewashed.” While the account of these troubles is related by a Swedish historian, and hence partial, there is no doubt of the truth of the main facts, as the titles to some of the very land whose history is about to be narrated, in the vicinity of Ridley Park, attest.

The largest part of Ammasland was patented in 1672, by Francis Lovelace, governor for the Duke of York, to Jan Carnelius, Mattys Mattysen and Marten Martensen (Morton). Undoubtedly this was in consequence of the Duke’s orders above mentioned, for the parties named, or at least the first and last, had resided on the land for years before. Surveyed in 1675, there were 728 acres in the tract, which extended westward beyond the present Lazaretto Road about 900 feet.

In 1678, Jan Cornelissen of Amosland, presented a petition to the Upland Court, “complaining to ye Court that his son Erik is bereft of his natural Sences and is turned quytt madd, and y thee being a poore man is not able to maintain him,” whereupon a block house was ordered built for the lunatic’s detention. This is believed to be the first provision for the insane in the State, of which record exists.

Morton Morton bought most of Jan Carnelis’ interest in Amosland from Jan’s son, Andreaus Jansen (Johnson) in 1694. Morton was born in Sweden, and lived in Amosland as early as 1655. It is likely that Morton Mortonson, Jr., whose name appears contemporaneously in later records, was his son; he also was born in Sweden, and called himself “of Calcon Hook,” which lay east of Muccanipates Cree, and was added to Darby in 1686. Perhaps it was the junior Morton who testified in a suit for slander, in 1680, between Hans Jurian (Urian) and Moens Staekett, a troublesome character, always in litigation, that he had heard “ye defendant saye if Captn Hans Jurian ha nott stole ye Plank then Little Morten has stolen them & further say nott.” Little Morten may have been the witness’ eldest son, then five years old, or the designation may have referred to some other sprout of the prolific Morton family.

The location of old Amosland Road, laid out 12th month 9th, 1687, “that should serve for Marple, Newtown and Springfield and the inhabitants that way to the landing place at Amosland,” has been a source of dispute among historians. Martin thought it the present Lazaretto Road, on the ground that it lead “to the landing place by the maine creek’s side beyond Morton Mortonsen, his house,” which must have been Darby Creek, whereas the present Amosland Road crosses

Muccanipates Creek, not Darby, and that the house was the log house at Morris' ferry. But the present Amosland Road formerly did run to Darby Creek, instead of leading to Ridgway's mill; the Lazaretto Road was laid out (from Chester Turnpike to Darby Creek) in 1726, while the ferry house claims as the date of erection 1698. The Mill road was laid out in 1791.

It is thus quite certain that Morton Mortoson's house in 1687 was the quaint, glazed brick house standing today on Darby Creek at the mouth of the Muccanipates, back of Norwood. It had originally only two stories, and the lower building, adjoining the east end, has still clearly discernible two large letters, M M, formed by black bricks, above the shed attached. The date 1673 has been given for the erection, but the writer has not found the authority.

Morton Morton, Sr., probably outlived his wife, Helene. To his sons, Mathias and Andrew, Morton in 1703 gave all his property, including his plantation at Amosland Mathias, the elder son, married Anna, daughter of John Justis, and had seven children, Andrew, Morton, John, Peter, Mathias, Jr., Mary Stalcox and Christiana Peterson. Of these, Andrew and his son Jonas bought the others' interests, owning along the west side of the Lazaretto Road from Darby Creek across the present P. W. & B. railroad (Prospect Park) and, further eastward, a tract on Chester Turnpike, now in Norwood.

The Chester Turnpike is one of the oldest roads in the country. No record has been found of its first construction, but probably it was opened in pursuance of the general order issued in 1678 for every land owner to open a road within the space of two months, as far as his land reached, with bridges where needed. Chester was, in the earliest days of the colony, the center to which all roads led, so that it is not to be expected that a road to Philadelphia existed until after Penn's settlement. In 1668 an order was issued to Bartholomew Coppock, "Supervisor of the Highways for Croome Creek, to forthwith erect a bridge in the King's Road over said Croome Creek," and in 1699 the Court ordered "that two supervisors, to witt, Thomas Fox of Darby and Matthias Morton of Ridleye, to make good that new road from Walter Fawcett's fence to Darby, 60 foot wide." Perhaps this was not obeyed in the 1705-6 a petition was presented to the Provincial Council at Philadelphia, asking for an order to lay out the Queen's Road from Darby to Chester Creek, and a road was planned, but it seems not opened on the line surveyed. In 1747 it was shown that the actual road was nearly an eighth of a mile south of the laid out route, a fact of which the inhabitants took advantage by neglecting to keep it in repair. The Council ordered the road as opened on the ground to be surveyed and maintained, so that the citizens were again made responsible for its condition. The name King's or Queen's Road probably varied according to the reigning English sovereign. In later years the turnpike was called the Great Southern Post Road.

Andrew, the younger son of Morton Morton, Sr., died before December, 1730, and was survived by his wife, Margaret, who died about 1755, and three daughters, Letitia, wife of Hans Torton; E, wife of Adam Archer; Katherine, first wife of Charles Grantham; Rebecca, who married Andrew Boon, and Lydia Morton. A large part of the original Morton Morton's Amosland plantation then passed by 1711, into the hands of Morton Morton, son of Andrew, the third son of Morton Morton Jr., of Calcon Hook. This Morton Morton who was first cousin to John Morton, the Signer, doubtless occupied the old brick house, lately mentioned, standing today at the mouth of Muccanipates Creek.

Morton Morton tilled the soil, kept horses, cattle and sheep, the last were more commonly raised then than now – had three servants (perhaps apprentices) and in 1780 owned several Negro slaves - a man named Caesar, aged 28, a woman, Liz (her master called her Liss), aged 30; a boy, Ananias, 8 years, 7 months; Samuel, same age; and mulatto children, John and Jacob, both aged 6 years, 4 months; Sarah, 3 years, 3 months, and Peter, 1 year, 10 months, all slaves for life. By an act of Assembly in 1780 all slavery by birth was abolished, except in case of children registered slaves, such as Morton's were. There were 31 slaves for life and three for a term of years in Ridley in 1780.

Morton died in 1781 and gave his plantation to his daughter, Rebecca, and his granddaughters, Lydia and Elizabeth Boon. He freed his slaves Caesar and Liss and gave them a house to dwell in as long as they lived. Two of his slaves were valued at £40 and £25 and two others £15 each.

Elizabeth Boon married Thomas Hall and had five children, Lydia, Hannah, Elizabeth, William and Rebecca B., of whom only Rebecca lived to attain the age of 21 years. She married George Gesner, Lydia Boon married, first, Caleb Davis, and after his death, Thomas Steele, but had no children, and her niece, Rebecca B. Gesner, became the sole owner of the Morton farm of over 350 acres.

The Gesners lived in Kingsessing (Paschallville, West Philadelphia) but three of their four sons occupied the farm in Ridley, each with a separate house; and the mother, Rebecca, dying in 1869, gave each of the four a part of the property, with an interest to their sister, Rebecca H. Gesner. The old brick Morton house was on the share of J. Washington Gesner, who did not live in Ridley, and sold it in 1873, and the property now belongs to Bethel M. Custer.

George Gesner's farm lay on Darby Creek, the house in the meadow still standing, now the residence of Alfred Henderson, and reached by a long lane from Chester turnpike nearly opposite the White Horse Hotel.

William H. Gesner's place was on the south side of Chester Turnpike, east of Norwood schoolhouse. The house was built by his grandparents, Thomas and

Elizabeth Hall, who put a tablet in the wall inscribed thus:

H
T x E
1799

The cross followed the custom of denoting husband and wife. The building still stands, built of stone, is now dilapidated and faces an alley between houses so clustered that it is not readily observed. In 1872 this farm was bought by John Cochran of Chester, who bought also Thomas H. Gesner's farm adjoining and on them laid out the town of Norwood, so called, it is said, after a novel by Henry Ward Beecher, then lately published.

Thomas Gesner's house is the three-story whitewashed stone house, surrounded by maple trees, standing today beside the "Park," Winona Avenue, in the heart of Norwood. It was bought from Cochran by Neal Duffer, whose son, George W., now resides there.

The selling by the Gesner children thus terminated the ownership of lands which had been in the family over 200 years. Some of the family still live in West Philadelphia.

East of the Gesner lands was one of the Grantham farms, Katherine, the first wife of Charles Grantham, being a daughter of Andrew Morton. Charles, however, did not live here, but the farm was occupied by his son, George, who dying before his father, left sons Charles, George and John. The senior Charles remarried and died in 1768, and these grandsons, Charles and George, parted with the property in 1782 to Robert Colven. In 1833 Matthew Henderson bought it, with the intention, it is said, of building a tavern on the turnpike, but the temperance agitation proving too much for him, he built the house between Norwood and the old Ridgway or Inskeep mill, which after Matthew's death his son Robert owned, and which is now the residence of Reuben Bonsall.

The ruins of Ridgway's mill, on the Muccanipates Creek near Glenolden, are in Darby Township. It is said the mill was built in 1755. Part of the land belonging to it lay in Ridley within the Mortonson plantation.

West of the Gesner farms lay John Archer's plantation of 137 acres, extending from Darby Creek northward across Chester turnpike, along the east side of Lazaretto Road, nearly to the B. & O. railroad. Archer bought this in 1695 from Andreas Johnson, son of Jan Carnelis, lately mentioned as the father of the insane Erik, for whom a block house was built. The farm is said to have been the place where lived the Swedish nurse from whom Amosland was so called, "amma" being Swedish for nurse. Archer lived on the bank of Darby Creek, above (east) where the Lazaretto Road Bridge now spans the creek, and in 1733-4 said he was an aged man and had lived there 40 years and upward, it being a place conveniently situated for the importation and exportation of goods for the public's accommodation and for keeping boats and canoes for fishing, while he entertained

free such travelers and visitors as those advantages attracted. Probably he lived there until his death, about 1740, and his wife until she died, some eight years later. His wife was Gartrude, sister of Gabriel and Lasse Friend, children of Mils Larsson; and their children were Gunner, John, Jacob, Adam, Helene or Ellen Jones, Catherine Peterson, Elizabeth Simcock, and Mary, who married first John Morton and second John Sketchley, and was the mother of John Morton, the Signed of the Declaration of Independence.

John Archer's name sometimes occurs as Arion, Orion and Orchard. Jacob Archer, to whom passed the plantation above mentioned, died November 25, 1750, leaving sons William and Jacob, Jr., who died a minor, and a daughter, Margaret, who married Philip Ford, the Sheriff. William sold the farm between Chester Turnpike and Darby Creek, where the toll house on Lazaretto Road now stands, in 1782, after nearly ninety years' ownership by the Archer family. In 1833 it was bought by Thomas Ewing, who kept the Leiperville Tavern and lived here until about 1859, when he sold to the late Thomas T. Tasker, who called it Amosland Farm, and whose estate owned it until less than a year ago. Ewing moved to near Leiperville. The present farmhouse near the Chester Turnpike, reached by a lane beside McFarlin's store, opposite the White Horse Hotel, and is flanked by trees so as to be not readily observed. The land lies delightfully on Amosland run.

The part of Archer's plantation north of Chester Turnpike, along the east side of Lazaretto Road, now Lincoln Avenue, was bought in 1774 by Michael Trites of Darby, who died about 1806, leaving but one son, William. The latter in 1832 gave some ground for a Baptist Church, which has since developed into the present Prospect Hill Church on Lincoln Avenue. Darby Creek was first used for baptizing, but later a dam was maintained in the run, north of the turnpike, for the purpose. The graveyard originally used has been enlarged, and the old church edifice was a few years ago remodeled into the present modern stone structure. In 1840 the church was incorporated under the rather singular name of The First Particular Baptist Church of Ridley.

William Trites' name appears as a private in Captain William Morgan's company, the first of the first brigade, third division, Pennsylvania militia, in the War of 1812, encamped at Marcus Hook October 10, 1814. He died in 1844, leaving children Daniel, George G. Jacob, David T. and John H. Trites and Lydia Ann, who married Neal Duffee of Ridley. The site of Moore station was bought in 1844 by John D. Kille of Ridley, from the Trites family, and in 1866 by James L. Moore. These Trites lands had incident the privilege of "diging and hawling" 200 loads of mud yearly off Archer's plantation on Darby Cree, but probably not for the modern scientific mud baths. The name of Trites is still extant in the country, the family being scattered, and is preserved as the designation of a street in George W. Duffee's "East Woodlawn," near Holmes station.

At the northeast corner of Chester Turnpike and Lazaretto Road, opposite the toll house, on part of the Trites land, there stood, until a few years ago, the frame wheelwright shop and blacksmithy where seventy-five years ago John Culin attended the needs of the steeds and ministered to the ills of the vehicles of the traveling population. Joel Painter for a few years had the blacksmith shop, and Garrett Pyewell both shops until he died, about 1836. The plastered house which stands on Lincoln Avenue just south of the Baptist church belonged to the wheelwright shop property. George Lodge bought the whole in 1848, and lived there and maintained the shops until his death, March 27th, 1874, after which his son, James P., continued the business until recently. The site of the blacksmith shop is distinguished today only by the location of an iron pump, the sole relic of a bygone industry; the old fence has been removed and the lot plowed, within the last ten days or so.

East of the site of the shops, on the turnpike, stands the old White Horse hotel. John Archer, who, as already mentioned, owned the plantation on Darby Creek, in 1727 bought from Andrew Morton 100 acres on the turnpike, extending eastward to Amosland Road, now Norwood. On this and three acres adjoin part of John's plantation, his son Adam was established, and on February 24th, 1729, 30, Adam applied for a license, saying he lived on the King's Road about midway between Chester and Darby, and asking for leave to keep a public house there. In 1733 a remonstrance was filed to his application on the ground that he kept a public house at another place, and his application was refused. His other house was "on the Banks of a Large Navigable Creek Leading out of the River Delaware, Commonly called AmosLand" (Darby creek), his "Landing being close at his door." Ashmead, in his History, says, "Without doubt the location of this license was at the Darby Creek Ferry House of more recent years," but there may be more than a doubt upon the question, for it is probable that Adam's licensed house was on his father's plantation, east of the Lazaretto Road, where, as has been related, John Archer lived for half a century, entertaining free the traveling public, and where there was a landing. The Archers never owned the Ferry house.

Adam again applied in 1735, saying he "hath for several years past had license to sell Beer and Cider on the great road, called the halfway house in Ridley," and asking for leave to keep a public house. The answer was, "Allowed for Beer and Syder only."

When Adam's father, John died, about 1740, the licensed house and the 103 acres were given him. He seems to have had a full license until 1746, although in 1742 he had to fight for it, as Jonas Culin opposed it because Archer had been "entertaining ye Petitioner's Servant Man a Tippling and Spending Money," but the remonstrance was "disregarded for want of proof," as was Ann Torton's complaint against Archer "for getting John Torton to sign notes while drunk."

Adam Archer died soon after the date of his last license, leaving a family consisting of his widow, Elizabeth, who remarried; a son, Jacob; and daughters, Mary, wife of James Barton, a blacksmith of Chester Township, and Martha Archer, then a minor. In 1764 Jacob sold the tavern and farm, the license meantime having been granted to Isaac Gleave from 1746 to 1754, in the latter year to Edward Fitzrandolph, when it seems to have been known as the White Horse, and in 1764 to Jacob Fritz. Two years later John Bryan became the proprietor, succeeding to the ownership too. He seems to have been a blacksmith before then, and connected with the coroner's office in 1774. He died in 1778, leaving his wife, Barbara; son, William, and mother, Diana. The wife was granted the license until 1782, in which year John Quandrill was the host, succeeded in 1786 by Joseph Pearson, who continued, with a year or two's interruption, till his death in 1804. After that, Elizabeth and Charles Pearson were keepers, and in 1817 Jonathan Bard received license for the General Jackson Tavern, formerly the White Horse. Through the succeeding years various persons obtained licenses, George Jordan buying the tavern property in 1834 from John Steward, and keeping the hotel. He and his son, Andrew, were poisoned by a colored servant girl by putting arsenic in their food, but they escaped death. In 1850 Jonathan P. Newlin bought the property, obtaining the license from 1846 to 1869, since which time the old hotel has passed through vicissitudes of fortune.

The White Horse had a ghost in its early days. In the fall of 1755 Luke Nethermark was out visiting one stormy night, and undertook to ride home in the tempest. On Chester Turnpike, near the White Horse, a tree had fallen across the road, and his horse dashed into it with such force as to be killed, throwing Luke forward and breaking his neck. The unfortunate man's ghost was thereafter seen haunting the spot, so 'tis said. Luke's sister, Rebecca, is said to have been one of the last persons here above to speak the Swedish language.

In the early part of the Revolution the tavern was the scene of another affair, for a company of infantry of which Judge John Crosby was a lieutenant was mustered into service there, and a few minutes later Crosby's brother-in-law, Captain Culin, was shot dead by a private. During the war the tavern was naturally a resort of some activity, and in December 1777, its vicinity was the scene of several skirmishes. In March of the same year the turnpike was the route of Cornwallis' march was 3000 men, who plundered ruthlessly and doubtless sacked the tavern.

The Archer farm next to the White Horse was, in the early 1800's, the site of a projected settlement called Buenos Ayres, but it did not materialize. John Stewart in 1841 sold the farm to his brother, Isaac, who died December 4th, 1867, leaving a widow, Rebecca T., and children, William, John, Charles, Edmund, Mary Ann, Richard B., Isaac and Albert. James L. Moore bought the farm in 1863. The

house, which stands on the turnpike just east of the hotel, has been modernized by a brick structure in front.

East of Amosland Road, along Chester Turnpike, were other parts of the property which Morton Mortonson had given his elder son, Mathias, who dying before 1718, was succeeded by his son, Andrew. The site of Norwood station passed to Andrew's son, Morton, ancestor of the Gesners, from whom John Cochran bought in 1872, when he laid out Norwood.

Where Ridley and Darby Townships join, now the vicinity of Glenolden, Obadiah Bonsall lived, up to nearly 1725. He was born in England, a son of Richard and Mary Bonsall, who emigrated in 1683 and settled in Darby (now Upper Darby). Obadiah's plantation included 350 acres on both sides of Muccanipates Creek, north of Chester Turnpike. In 1725 Thomas Tatnall lived there and bought Bonsall's farm.

From Tatnall's purchase until recent years these lands were his descendants'. Tatnall was a prominent citizen, being a member of Assembly in 1738, 1740, '41 and '42, and possessing an extensive farm of 500 acres in Ridley and Darby. Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Tatnall and his wife, Anne, married John Knowles, and to them Tatnall's farm passed after his death in 1717. Knowles bought other land in the vicinity of Glenolden and Norwood and was the largest individual owner in that section. He lived in Ridley; it seems where now the residence of Louis Dalmas stands, north of Glenolden, the present house being entirely remodeled.

Knowles was active and energetic in local affairs, and not backward in furthering his own interests. Perhaps he was too diligent to his neighbors' taste. In 1759 he built a mill on Crum Creek, in Springfield, and petitioned the court for a road therefrom to enable him to reach his landing on Darby Creek. A number of citizens remonstrated that the township already had enough roads to support, and alleged that the real reason for Knowles' petition was that he had bought a place which had no road front, but, said they, "we are humbly of opinion that if the Public are to be obliged to maintain a Road to or from a Piece of ground any person shall be pleased to purchase, the Country will be Greatly Incommoded with Roads and the Public be put to a Prodigious Charge to support them." A road was laid out, however; it is now Swarthmore Avenue from the Baltimore Turnpike past Swarthmore, Rutledge and Folsom, and the Lazaretto Road or Lincoln Avenue from Folsom to Chester Turnpike at the toll gate.

Knowles died in the early years of the Revolution, 1777-8. Fearful for the safety of his children, he directed them "with Hannah Crozer to have the care of them. Together with Margaret Smith and Mary Smith and my Negro woman, Patheosa, and her child, Tabitha" might be removed to a plantation he had bought in Berks county, "there to dwell and Reside during the present Troubles and

fluctuating state of affairs in British America.” These children were three, James, John and Hannah, apparently all minors at the time. They were taken to Berks County and after the British Army evacuated Philadelphia, the goods sent up there were mostly brought back to the mansion house. Hannah married Joseph Shallcross of Darby.

Knowles' effects included a library of “109 Volumes of Books on Various Subjects and Some Pamphlets,” valued at £36 3s. 6d. His personal estate amounted to nearly £2200. The land was given to the three children. He owned five slaves, Scipio Pathena, Fanny, Tabitha and Jane, ranging from 41 years to four years of age. One of Knowles' executors was John Crozer, who was a carpenter, and who lived on the Knowles farm for a while, removing thence to Westdale Farm (now Swarthmore College), where his son, John P. Crozer, was born in 1793, in the Benjamin West house.

The three Knowles children divided their father's farms, James taking the mansion house and most of the Ridley land, on Chester Turnpike; John, the section through which now runs the Swarthmore electric railway on Parker Avenue; and Hannah Shallcross taking all her share in Darby.

James Knowles married Margaret, one of the ten children of George Gray, 2nd, of Gray's Ferry, on Schuylkill, and sister of Thomas Leiper's wife. Knowles died about 1830, his wife in 1854. Their children were James G., George G., William G., Martha G., Margaretta, married Christopher Graff, Eliza, married Thomas Bowman; and Sallie L., who married John P. Crozer. The Crozer's are said to be descended from Huguenot ancestors, reared in the Presbyterian faith. They emigrated from France to Scotland about 1700, thence to County Antrim, Ireland, and about 1723 James Crozer, grandfather of John P., came to America with his four brothers. He settled in Springfield, buying in 1747 the place now part of the Ogden farm and where David Caldwell lives, just north of the Media railroad, west of Morton. He died about 1798. His daughter Sarah married John Ogden; daughter Martha married Rumford Dewes, from whom Thomas Horne bought his property at Swarthmore and Yale Avenues, between Morton and Swarthmore. John Crozer, son of James, was, as lately mentioned, an executor of the John Knowles who died in the Revolution, and his eldest daughter Elizabeth Crozer, was born in the old Knowles house December 2nd, 1784. She married John Lewis, of the paper mills on Crum Creek, north of Baltimore Turnpike. He lived to be nearly 90, and his wife 87. Their children include J. Howard Lewis, the well-known fox hunter; J. William Lewis of Chester and Mrs. Sarah L. Fallon of Media, widow of Christopher Fallon, one of the most prominent lawyers of Philadelphia in his day. The grandparents of John Lewis were Amos Lewis and Hannah, sister of John Knowles of the Revolution. Hannah, according to family tradition, wet to

England in a spell of lunacy to see the king, whom she imagined her son, but she was found by friends, and sent home.

James G. Knowles lived in the family homestead, "Knowlesboro," near Glenolden, and died December 17th, 1876, giving his house to his daughter, Mary S., who married Louis Dalmas November 23rd, 1882, and died January 13th, 1884, leaving a daughter, Helen K. Dalmas. Mr. Dalmas still occupies the Knowles house. Mrs. Mary Dalmas had a sister, Eliza B., who married Henry Naglee Bruner.

George G. Knowles for many years lived in the frame house standing by the B. & O. railroad, between Llanwellyn and Holmes stations, and visible from the Swarthmore trolley car as it approaches Custer's barn on Parker Avenue, around a corner of which a detour is made. He afterwards lived in Glenolden, whose site he owned, and died April 28th, 1899 at the advanced age of 93. A son lives in Ridley Park.

William G. Knowles moved to Baltimore, where he died January 11th, 1890. A son, Gustaves, married his cousin, a daughter of John P. Crozer, and has a son, William Gray Knowles, a member of the Philadelphia bar.

John Knowles died in 1836. Two of his daughters, Martha C. and Ann, married their cousins, George G. and James G., above mentioned. A son, John C., owned from 1837 to 1863 the farm which Bethel M. Custer purchased the latter year, where he resided for many years. That house was destroyed by fire, but the ruins are still standing, across Parker Avenue diagonally from the barn around whose corner the Swarthmore trolley car turns. Mr. Custer came to Ridley in 1866, from West Philadelphia. He was the first tenant to rent the Roberts' Pencoyd farm, near the Schuylkill, in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, where the Pencoyd Iron Works are located. Both his father, John Custer, and grandfather, William, lived in Montgomery County. Mr. Custer is nearing his 75th birthday anniversary.

In 1846 Neal Duffee bought from William G. Knowles a farm of 78 acres, which is now Norwood north of Chester Turnpike, crossing the P. W. & B. railroad and including the settlements laid out by George W. and John H. Duffee. Neal's residence for many years was a log house of Revolutionary age standing until a few years ago not far across the railroad from Norwood station. In 1873 Neal bought from John Cochran the Thomas Gesner house by the "Park" in Norwood, to which he moved, and which is now the residence of George W. Duffee. Neal was a son of Alexander M. Duffee, who emigrated from Ireland. Neal died January 28th, 1888, leaving a widow, Lydia Ann (daughter of William Trites), and two sons, John H. and George W. both living in Norwood.

Where the Lazaretto Road crosses Darby Creek, Jonas Morton, great-grandson of Morton Mortonson, Sr., acquired a plantation in 1738 from his father,

Andrew. His name appears in the tax list of 1766 as Jones Morton, fisherman. Andrew was living near the creek in 1726; in all probability his house was the log house known as the old Ferry house, on Lazaretto Road, where probably Jonas made his home too, for his plantation there is mentioned in 1759. He may have established the ferry across Darby Creek, though no record of his doing so has been found. A William Smith was assessed for a ferry in 1767, which may have been at this spot. The ferry house claims 1698 as the date of erection.

Jonas Morton owned northward nearly to the site of the electric power house in Folsom. In 1779 he sold the old ferry house to his kinsman, Major Sketchley Morton, son of the Signer, John Morton. Their relationship was this: Jonas was the grandson of Mathias Morton, whose brother, Morton Morton, Jr., was great-grandfather of Major Sketchley! Jonas died about 1786.

The Major sold the property to John Hooff and Benjamin Ford in 1784, before which time a ferry had been established. Hooff was for many years the proprietor, obtaining a license in 1786 for his establishment. His name is found as a private in Captain William Morgan's company of militia in 1814, and he is recalled by hearsay by old residents of Ridley today. After his death the ferry house was bought in 1827 by Amos and George Morris, the latter buying Amos' interest.

The Morris family maintained the ferry many years. The ferry boat was guided across the creek by a rope stretched from bank to bank, the method of connection with it being somewhat suggestive of the trolley pole of today. The creek was bridged in 1847.

Philip Morris took possession of the old ferry house on his son George's land, though later he lived in Tinicum. George Morris died in October, 1843, leaving a widow, Abigail and five children, Philip, Jr.; Margaret, who married and outlived David Jordan of Ridley; Sara H, married Joseph Campbell; George, and Joseph II Morris. Philip, Jr. died before 1862, leaving children, George, Rosanna and Philip. Philip, Sr. (of Tinicum), died February 11th, 1862, leaving four children, Deborah, wife of David A. Middleton; Amos, Ann (who was mentally deranged), and Martha, widow of David Hansell, besides the children of his son, George, and those of his grandson, Philip. One other child, Susanna, had a daughter, Georgianna, who married John Schaffer. George Morris lives today in the frame house whose porch has fallen off, just above the ferry house.

Judge Sketchley Morton bought the Morris ferry property in 1853 and 1863, and maintained a lumber yard there, with his son, Benjamin N., who lived for a while in the square, cupola-topped house east of the Lazaretto Road near Darby Creek, before residing at Morton, in the house later known as the Faraday Park Hotel.

At the bend in the Lazaretto Road below the turnpike stands on the west side, the house where John Cullin probably lived a hundred years ago. After he died, in March 1814, his sons, Israel and John, both wheelwrights, successively owned the place. John's shop, as already mentioned, was at Chester Turnpike and Lazaretto Road. In 1830 Alexander M. Duffer bought the house and lived there for several years, dying in 1846. His children were, John, Neal, above mentioned; Eveline, Susanna, married John Burt; Harrah, married Daniel Springer, and Mary Slawter. In 1848 Dr. Jesse W. Griffiths purchased the property, living there for a number of years.

At the southwest corner of Chester Turnpike and Lazaretto Road was William Cowan's before the Revolution. He was a weaver, and died about 1792, after which his son, Ephraim, who was a grandson of Jonas Morton, owned the property. Jonas Cowan, Ephraim's brother, lived in one half of the double dwelling and had the right to stay "while he behaveth as becometh." Another brother, William, sold the place in 1794 to William Shoemaker, whose family owned for forty-six years, and for twenty-seven years more Patrick McClaskey, keeper of the White Horse tavern in 1835, owned the old Cowan property. Patrick died in 1869.

At the northwest corner of the Turnpike and Lazaretto Road was another old smith shop on part of Jonas Morton's land. Before the Revolution the place had been Michael Walker's and Joseph Taylor's, where the shop stood, and it later became Elisha Price's. Price was a resident of Chester and took a prominent part in affairs in the Revolution, being a member of the Provincial Conference which met at Philadelphia, June 18th, 1776, relative to calling a convention to adopt a form of State government, and on March 16th, 1790, he was appointed a justice of the peace and of the courts of Delaware County. After his death, a few years later, his daughter, Abigail, who married Aaron Musgrave, Jr., of Philadelphia, sold the smith shop property, which in 1805 became John L. Pearson's. Thomas E. Urian bought it in 1863.

Elisha Price bought also the stone house now surrounded by evergreens, on the west side of Lincoln Avenue (Lazaretto Road), north of Moore, which the sheriff sold in 1787 as the property of Major Sketchley Morton, son of the Signer. Lewis Morey owned it later, and John Erskine from 1815 to 1857, after which time it was Robert M. Hazlett's. The late William G. Tranor made it his residence after leaving the house which stands on the bank of Ridley Park Lake. In 1800 Morey sold a small lot on which was built a schoolhouse, south of the stone mansion house. William Henry Sutton the Philadelphia lawyer, taught school there when a youth. The building was torn down some years ago.

Next west of the original Morton Mortonson's Amosland tract lay one of the tracts of Hendrick Janson (Johnson) and Bartle Escheilson, two early Swedish

settlers who had obtained a patent from Governor Lovelace in 1671, but at Penn's request delivered it to his secretary and received a receipt therefor. Doubtless they never saw the patent again. This tract, by a survey made April 8th, 1714 (preserved at the Historical Society, Philadelphia) included 326 acres and extended from Darby Creek northward to the present line of the B. & O. railroad. Janson took the eastern part, Escheilson the western. Hendrick Janson died not long after the date of the patent, for on November 14, 1676, Jan Janson and Morton Mortensen were appointed overseers and guardians for his estate, his children being minors. This is said to be the earliest record of the appointment of a guardian. His son, John Hendrickson, succeeded to the ownership of his land, on which he lived when Penn arrived, and he died about 1721, giving his real estate to his three sons, Andrew, John and Israel, to be divided equally, "Andrew to have his part where I now dwell, together with the buildings and orchard, and in consideration thereof he shall assist his brother John to build a house and barn when he is so disposed to settle on his part, and that they both do assist their younger brother when he come of age and is disposed to settle his part, to build a house." The division was not made until 1750, by which time John, Jr., had died, probably in 1748; his widow, Catherine, married Andrew Culin; the children were Mathias Hendrickson, of the second battalion of the Royal American Regiment in 1760; Margaret, married Swan Culin, and Rebecca married Mathias Nitcillis; John, on August 28th, 1744, obtained a license "upon Darby Creek, where Great numbers of Travelers as well by land as by water, daily resort."

Andrew's share of the Hendrickson farm in 1750 was laid out south of the King's Road, "comprehending the buildings and orchard, where his late father dwelt." To John's heirs was allotted the part on the turnpike where Burk's houses stand and to Israel the part next east, on the hill just west of Lazaretto Road, where now, owing to the cutting of the grade in the turnpike, there is a high terrace.

Here Israel did build a house, it seems of brick; in 1740 he applied for a license for a public house, but it was refused. About 1767 Israel died, leaving a widow, Susanna, and children John, Rebecca, Israel and Rachel, married Jacob Lamplugh. Israel's house was the old "Plough" tavern, several persons obtaining a license through the succeeding years. John Morton, the Signer, bought all the Hendrickson property north of Chester Turnpike, and after his death Major Sketchley Morton, his son, sold the "Plough" to Joseph Pearson in 1785. Pearson died about 1803, and his son, John L., succeeded to the ownership. The latter was a prominent citizen, serving as a justice of the peace many years, and acting as lieutenant colonel, first company, 65th regiment, Pennsylvania militia, in the War of 1812. He lived in the house formerly the "Plough," and died about 1842, giving most of his property to William H. Price, whom he had educated from boyhood. The latter graduated from the military academy at West Point. He, too, resided, in

the old house, moving thence, after fifty years' occupation to the William Gesner house, Norwood, in 1874. The same year John Cochran bought the Pearson estate and laid out Prospect Park. The house which was the "Plough's" was modernized some years ago. John L. Price, of Moore, is the son of William H. Price.

Bartle Escheilson, or Bartol Eskellson who owned with Hendrick Janson, probably never lived on his Ridley land. He was the son of Eskell Larsson, and dwelt in Upland as early as 1644. His son, John Bartolson, lived in Ridley in 1693, but in Darby 1704-05, and a part of his land became the site of the Signer John Morton's house near Ridley Park.

The site of Ridley Park is part of Hendrick Thaden's, or Torton's plantation, on which he lived some years before Penn arrived. It extended from Darby Creek northward "into the woods," the upper line still being traceable on the B. & O. railroad, between Folsom and Ridley. Torton is thought to have been a Dutch Episcopalian and to have obtained his land under the Dutch control of the country, and he had it surveyed as early as 1675. In the fall of 1703 Hendrick departed this life. He had three sons, Hendrick, Andrew and Hance, of whom perhaps the last two were then minors; and he made a provision whereby some of his plantation might have been devoted to the use of "the poor amongst the Swedes and Dutch forever." For nearly 200 years from Hendrick's settlement part of his land continued in the ownership of his descendants.

Andrew Torton died in April, 1749, survived by his wife "Shuanah" (Susanna), son Hans and grandchildren, Daniel (son of Hans), Mary and Ann Torton, and perhaps John. Daniel died about 1766, childless. Marry married Daniel Morton, a "taylor," both dying before or about 1822, apparently childless. Hance or Hans Torton married Letitia, a daughter of Andrew Morton, youngest son of Morton Mortonson, "the first." Hans died in 1751, Letitia in 1772; she had five or six slaves, livestock and considerable land, being a widow of means. One of her daughters, Rebecca, married Lawrence Garrett (dying before 1790), and another, Margaret, married Thomas Smith, who died in April or May, 1786, and had sons William and Thomas. The latter married Ann, a daughter of Joseph Pearson, of the "Plough," and died in 1796, leaving a wife and four children, Margaret, the eldest, who married Dr. Job H. Terrill of Chester; Catherine E. (Kitty), Eliza Ann and Thomas Pearson Smith, the latter then a child. Dr. Job Terrill was a prominent physician in Chester over sixty years ago, and died January 20th, 1844, of a disease resulting from an injury to his thigh, sustained in being thrown violently against his carriage. His wife's death occurred within a short time of his own. Their children were Anna Louisa Terrill, who married William Eyre, Jr., of Chester, and had a son, Joshua P. Eyre, and Emeline Terrill, married John O. Deshong, whose children now live in 1843, leaving a widow, Mary C., and five children, Jon Engle, who moved to California; Susan, who married William H. Gesner; Elizabeth,

married Whitier Bonsall; Margaret married Samuel Gardiner of Delaware or Maryland, and Thomas Pearson Smith of Ridley.

All these people owned at times part of the Torton land, and most of them, except the Terrill branch, and perhaps the Garretts, lived in Ridley. In 1863 Thomas Pearson Smith sold to Michael buggy the placer which twelve years later Charles Leedom bought, and now occupies, on the south side of Chester turnpike, east of Ridley Park. The old house was burned down and Mr. Leedom built the present modern stone house now his residence.

Next west of Leedom's farm is David Henderson's house, and across Chester Turnpike, east of Stone Creek Bridge, the house which his brother Matthew owned after the death of their father, Matthew, who bought both farms from the Terrill estate in 1845, and died in 1856, leaving a widow, Sarah, and children, besides the two named, Robert, and Sarah, who married first, Owen Evans, and second, a Moore. Matthew Henderson, Jr., died July 23rd, 1896, leaving a widow, Annie H., and five children, Eva H., Bertha, Nettie M., married Minshall Riggins; Lillian M. married Walter S. Campbell, and Charles W. Henderson. The Henderson family are not of Swedish descent, as might be suggested from the old name of Hendrickson, but are of Scotch-Irish blood.

On the bank of Chester Turnpike, opposite the end of Swarthmore Avenue, Ridley Park, is the old twelfth mile stone of the Post Road. At the northwest corner of the roads there was for many years a private burying ground, surrounded by a high, thick-set thorn hedge, where several children of Jacob Painter were buried. Jacob did not use that place exclusively, however, for at the corner of the woods, back of Ridley Park, near the B. & O. railroad may be found today two stones marking the graves of two of Jacob's young children, Sarah Ann and Jacob, who died in 1802. Painter lived in the stone house on the north side of Chester Turnpike, west of Swarthmore Avenue, which he bought in 1796 and sold in 1824 to Edward Horne, who maintained a tavern there called the "Drove," the sign board representing some cattle being driven along the highway. The place was last licensed as a tavern in 1832. Ashmead, one place in his History, says it is believed that Joshua Thomson's licensed house in 1729 was the old "Drove," but his place was on Providence Road, north of Morton, then in Ridley, the correct location being given in another part of that History. Painter seems to have kept a tavern called "The Wheat Sheaf," from 1800 till he sold to Horne, but it is doubtful whether it was the same as the old "Salutation," mentioned by Ashmead. Joseph Ward bought the Painter place in 1846, his son Joseph living there; the Ridley Park Association purchased in in 1870. In 1882 Miss C. J. Taylor opened a private school there, an addition to the old end, still standing, being made for a school room.

Before Jacob Painter's time the property was part of Letitia Torton's estate lately mentioned, who died in 1772. Another old house on her property used to stand opposite the site of Ridley station, on the B. & O. railroad, it being William Horne's, then George Free's, until the Ridley Park Association bought it in 1870, and some years ago tore it down. The orchard on the property still exists, just northwest of the edge of Ridley Park.

Below the milestone mentioned on Chester Turnpike, Stone Creek flows into Darby Creek, and here James Maddock bought 60 acres of the Torton land in 1823, his son Israel living there later. Benjamin Moore, Jr., then of Darby, bought from Israel in 1865, and lived there many years. The farmhouse still stands, some distance south of the turnpike, towards the meadows; it faces south and is of stone, whitewashed.

Painter's and Moore's properties formed the westernmost part of the Hendrick Torton plantation. Next to the west, crossing Chester Turnpike and extending to the Delaware River at the mouth of Darby Creek was the other of the two tracts which Hendrick Janson and Bartle Escheilson owned and had patented in 1671, this one being "between two kills or creeks, one called Stone kill or creek, the other Croreeck kill or creek." This tract, however, was much infringed upon by Charles Ashcome, the troublesome deputy to Thomas Holme, Penn's surveyor general, for he had little or no regard for old titles, and laid out his tracts so freely that nearly the whole section from near Ridley Park to Crum Creek was included within conflicting surveys.

At the mouth of Darby Creek Bartle Escheilson's son, John Bartleson, sold a tract which around 1704 became George Van Culin's. This name passed through mutations such as Van Kolln, Van Kaelin, Van Colin, Van Culin, Q'in and finally Culin, by which style George called himself. He died in 1735 and left children George, Daniel and Jonas. George, Jr., lived south of Chester Turnpike, near Stone Creek and seems to have attended St. Paul's Church, in Chester, of which he (or his son) was a vestryman in 1700; he died in May, 1760. His children were George Swan, Samuel, Margaret, Abraham, William and Martha. George, 3rd died about 1763. Swan Cullin married Margaret, daughter of John and Catharine Hendrickson, and owned his father's house until 1783. Swan Culin married Margaret, daughter of John and Catharine Hendrickson, and owned his father's house until 1783, when the sheriff sold it with 110 acres to Caleb Davis.

Samuel Cullin owned across the turnpike by Little Crum Creek, where it seems his mother, Elizabeth, and his stepfather, Andrew Johnston, lived. Samuel died about 1782. His sister, Margaret married Abraham Dicks, sheriff of the county. Caleb Davis bought this place, too, on it being the house where in later years Charles Sleeper and James McCormick lived. It is likely that Davis built the latter house. It is quite probable that the dwelling which stood on Samuel Culin's

property in his time was the log cabin which John Hill Martin remembers stood near the bridge on Chester Turnpike, over Little Crum Creek, near the McCormick house, in 1834, and as late as about 1875, when it was torn down. Thomas McCullough lived there, and died October 16th, 1866, aged 94 years. he was over six feet tall and noted for his strength, which he retained until a few days before his death, when it is thought he hastened his end by his felling a large tree and cutting it up with his axe. He was in the employ of the Leiper family most of his life, and made a business of digging the ditches which are yet resorted to in order to drain the meadows along the Delaware.

Davis also bought nearly 200 acres adjoining, on the Delaware River, up the east side of Crum Creek to the mouth of Little Crum Creek (Crum Lynne), and up it to Chester Turnpike. Most of this was the share inherited by John Hendrickson, son of Hendrick Janson, "partner" of Bartle Escheilson, lately mentioned, of their tract "between Stonen kill and Croceeck kill." On this, just north of where the Chester branch of the Reading railway and the trolley from Essington to Chester Cross Crum Creek, near its mouth, below Ward's quarries, stands today an ancient story and a half, stone, gambrel-roofed house, which was undoubtedly the old Hendrickson dwelling. Some person has painted on one of the stones in the west end of the house the legend in crude letters, "Built 1620," but such a date is absurd, being three years before the first visit to the shores of the Delaware by Europeans which is known, eighteen years before the first Swedish settlement, and over fifty years – probably a hundred – before the earliest date at all likely for its erection. it is of undoubted antiquity, but Martin, writing over twenty-five years ago, says nothing of its date, though familiar with the house and referring to it as a good specimen of the more modern houses of the descendants of the Swedes which took the place of the log cabins. The authority for the date of the wall may be someone who knew that 1620 was a historic year (for Massachusetts) and zealously feeling that if the house was not that old, it should be, so marked it. There is an immense fireplace in the old dwelling, such as accommodated the old time swinging cranes, pothooks and hangers, and fire logs, but it is no longer open, for one night the present tenant of the west half experienced a fire which started from the log and burned part of the floor, consuming a new pair of shoes, after which the fireplace was boarded up.

In 1693 there were living two Johan Hendricksons, one with a family of six, the other of five. John Hendrickson, apparently the former, with his brothers, Peter and Gabriel, in 11726 bought the land on Crum Creek, where the old house stands, from the estate of John Hendrickson (son of Hendrick Jansen) who lived on Darby Creek, near Lazaretto Road, including the site of the old "Plough" tavern, as before related. To distinguish the latter's son from him of the same name who was brother to Peter and Gabriel, the one was called "of Darby Creek," and the other

“of Crum Creek,” without which designation their identity would not be almost hopelessly complicated.

At a court of Oyer and Terminer, May 21st, 1727, the clerk entered, “John Hendricks who was indicted for shooting by misfortune Albert Hendricks late of the city of Chester, Labourer, and found guilty by his own confession, whereby ye Goods and Chattles of the said John Hendricks become forfeited to our Sovereign Lord, ye King. Upon which he puts himself on the mercy of our sd Lord the King and produces in Court his pardon from ye Governour of this Province and prays ye same may be allowed and ye same is allowed per cur.” (as a matter of course.) Perhaps this was Crum Creek John Hendrickson.

The family which Crum Creek John had were, about 1698, his wife, Magdalene, their children, Ann Mary, five years old; Elizabeth, three years; two children not baptized, Andrew and Sarah, born August 6th, 1697; a hired girl, Brigitta (confirming the suspicion that the vexatious servant girl question is of long standing), and a boy, Michael, twelve years note, too., that Bridget’s age is not given. John died about 1750 but it seems of his children only a son Isaac survived him. Of his brothers, Gabriel died earlier, without children; Peter survived not later than March, 1763. Isaac owned the old house on Crum Creek until 1788. Martin says that in 1730 Richard Crosby lived there, but if he based his statement on Richard’s living on certain land mentioned as bought from John Cock, he is mistaken, that land lying on Chester Turnpike. Isaac Hendrickson was one of the persons appointed to drive off the cattle from the borders of the Delaware River on the approach of the British, in the Revolution. In 1780, he had eight slaves, Tone, Nance, Frank, Bett, boy Tone, Joe, Poll and Dine ranging from forty years of age down to ten months.

Colonel Caleb Davis, who owned all these Culin and Hendrickson lands, was of Springfield, the family farm being on Providence Road, opposite Mrs. L. T. Davison’s, north of Morton. Caleb was an active politician and filled various positions during the Revolution. On April 17th, 1776, he made application to the Committee of Safety for money to pay for firelocks made in Chester County for the use of the province. He received £1500 for that purpose, to the order of the commissioners and assessors of the county, and £100 for saltpeter, and two quarter casks of gunpowder were ordered to be delivered to him. In 1776 he was one of the county’s representatives in the provincial conference held at Philadelphia, June 18th, and next year was one of the persons designated to hire four horse wagons to remove public stores from Philadelphia to the west side of the Schuylkill. He was commissioned May 17th, 1777, colonel of the Third Battalion, Pennsylvania Militia, of which Sketchley Morton, son of the Signer, was major, and in 1780 he was colonel of the Sixth Battalion, Volunteer Militia Light Horse of which also Major Morton was a member. In 1777 he was prothonotary of the county, having

much difficulty in collecting the public records, which had been kept by the former officer, Henry Hale Graham, at his residence. On October 22nd, 1777, Dave qualified as a justice of the court of common pleas for Chester County. He was an attendant at St. Paul's Church in Chester, of which he was a vestryman.

In 1800 Davis donated a lot of ground on the north side of Chester Turnpike, near Little Crum Creek (Crum Lynne), to the east of it, for a school. This was supported by subscribers, under the supervision of a committee of trustees. In the summer and fall of that year the school building was built, and in October the trustees engaged Jacob Fenton, a graduate of Dartmouth, to "teach a regular day school, subject to the direction of the trustees, in the rudiments of the English language: Reading, writing, arithmetic, bookkeeping, geography and either or every branch of the mathematics, at the rate of two dollars a quarter for every scholar, subscribed for the term of three months, to commence the 20th day of 10th month, 1800. And the subscribers to said school agree to pay the said Fenton, or order, two dollars for every scholar subscribed, together with a reasonable charge for wood and ink." In those days ink came in paper packages. The preparation was put into a bottle, water added, the mixture shaken up, and after standing a while the fluid was ready for use. Fenton, however, became unsatisfactory and defiant, and the trustees resolved to eject him from possession of the school. The clerk entered on the minutes, "on the morning of the 23rd (January, 1801) the foregoing resolution of the trustees was carried into effect. During the succeeding years a number of school masters were employed with varying qualities of efficiency. The attendance was as high as 68, in 1805, and included the youth of the entire vicinity, names familiar in the section for half a century or more. The meetings of the subscribers became irregular after 1820, and after 1862 there are no entries in the minute book, the school not having been used as such, since about that year. The building is still standing, and is occupied as a dwelling.

There used to be an old tavern on Caleb Davis' land below Ridley Park, which is said to have been headquarters for the Swedes in its earliest days. Here they indulged in the jolly sport of kicking each other's shins, for cider, and he that cried, "Hold, enough!" was required to pay for all. One fellow managed always to be on the winning side until it was discovered he had adroitly put the table leg in his stocking and so defied the boots of his companions. From 1797 to 1799 Aaron Morton (son of the Signer) obtained the license for this tavern, being succeeded by Thomas West. Ashmead states that Jacob Painter succeeded West, but the latter's place was on Caleb Davis' property, while Painter owned next east.

Caleb Davis sold his farm to John Newbold in 1806, but the place was too much for him, and the sheriff sold the whole property, nearly 450 acres, in 1829, to Joseph Garrett, of Goshen Township, Chester County. The latter sold the eastern part to Thomas Horne of Springfield, whose daughter, Phebe H., and her husband,

Charles L. Sleeper, occupied the neat stone house on the north side of Chester Turnpike, below Ridley Park. James McCormick bought this property in 1845 and resided there. His grave may be seen today in the Baptist burying ground by the Prospect Hill Church near Moore. His daughter married Robert Henderson. The dwelling is now occupied in summer as a boarding house. The Sleepers afterward lived in the house now (enlarged) called the Grange, near Swarthmore. They were the parents of Mrs. E. A. Thomas, who now lives on the Calvert place, Morton Avenue, and of Mrs. Emma Wells of West Folsom.

Edward Horne, a brother of Thomas, in 1837 added part of the Garrett property south of Chester Turnpike, opposite Sleeper's to his other place, bought from Jacob Painter, but he died a few years later, and in 1867 the Garrett part was bought by Edmund Stewart, a son of Isaac Stewart, who once owned the White Horse Hotel. Mr. Stewart still resides on part of the property.

Most of the Newbold Garrett lands were bought up by William J., Samuel M. and John C. Leiper, between 1831 and 1843, but around 1858 the sheriff sold all their holdings.

Joseph Ward bought the property west of Stewart's, where the old John C. Leiper quarry and the ancient Hendrickson Crum Creek house are located. The Ward mansion faces Chester Turnpike a little below and across from Sleeper's. Joseph Ward died January 8th, 1879, and left a widow Elizabeth and two sons, Joseph H. and Abram, the former of whom took the quarries and old Hendrickson house. He died October 22, 1891. A son named Thomas Partridge, but known as "Birdie," survives. Joseph's brother, Abram, died July 29th, 1895, leaving his wife, Mary, and children, Harry B. and William T. Ward and Lizzie W. Measey. The quarries are still operated and yield several varieties of stone, one a light gray, hard to surpass anywhere for beautiful appearance.

Near where Little Crum Creek flows into Crum Creek, not far below Crum Lynne station, were some other quarries which John F. Hill bought in 1831. John Fairlamb Hill was the second son of Peter Hill, who in the Revolution had the mill on Leiperville Road near Morton Avenue, opposite Moorhead's present house, and not far from Ridley station, on the B. & O. railroad. John married in 1804, the widow of Dr. William Martin of Chester, Eleanor Crosby Martin, a daughter of Judge John Crosby; her sister, Susanna, married John S. Morton. Eleanor Hill died January 16th, 1837, in the same room in which she was born, Crosby Place, where the Hills were then living. John F. Hill was a very prominent man in the county at one time, conducting a large quarrying business on Crum, Ridley and Naaman's Creeks, and furnishing much of the stone used in the Delaware breakwater. The abutments of the old wire bridge across the Schuylkill River at Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, were built with stone from his quarries.

In 1842 Hill failed and his Little Crum Creek quarry place, which was called the Island Field, passed into the hands of William J. Leiper, only to be sold by the sheriff fifteen years later, when John O. Deshong of Chester, purchased it. The latter died May 28th, 1881, in his 74th year. His son, Clarence, of Chester, owns the Little Crum Creek property, which he has turned into a stock farm, with a large race track on it. The quarries are no longer worked, but, filled with water, present a pleasing appearance as lakes. When Hill lived on the property his residence was a house whose kitchen was an old log cabin, which still stands, a picturesque structure. The stone quarried on the place was a dark, close grained granite, said to have been the hardest in the county and capable of being broken only into irregular fragments.

The Gogel property, on Morton Avenue, below Rutledge, was the share which John F. Hill acquired of his father's estate, and where he lived several years. His step-grandson, John Hill Martin, remembers going, when a boy, with Hill to gun for flying squirrels and wild pigeons in a thicket, now the site of Rutledge. At the end of the lane on the Morton Avenue place stood a great pine tree, a perfect cone, with its lowest branches sweeping the ground. The large, whitewashed, stone spring house on this property, near which the trolley from Folsom to Chester now passes, was the dwelling of Mrs. Esther Ottey, dairywoman for Hill after her husband, Thomas' death. Both Thomas Ottey and John F. Hill were bitten by mad dogs in their youth and were subject to violent outbursts of passion during the full of the moon. Hill married a second time, and for a while lived in Virginia on a tract of 5000 acres given by the United States government as compensation for teams and flour taken in the Revolution from Peter Hill, John's father. John was very fond of fine horses and had several fast travelers, some of which he raced. One was stolen and Hill drove to Long Island to bring the horse back, bringing also the thief with him. Hill owned for a time the entire east side of Morton Avenue, from Rutledge to the present B. & O. railroad. He died in Chester, June 14, 1870, in his 90th year.

Between the Deshong and Ward properties on Crum Creek there is an inlet which for the greater part of the past century has been known as "the canal." It was used to bring boats to the landing places in order to load the stone quarried on the premises, and has long been in disuse, except at the mouth, where Ward's quarries still engage schooners in the transportation of stone; but near the head of the inlet are the slowly rotting remains of two old hulls, which mutely attest the past. So far have the banks encroached upon the course of the canal at a bend that one wonders how the old boats ever got in, for they could not now get out.

On Little Crum Creek, near where it empties into Crum Creek, below Chester Turnpike, a sawmill and water works were erected about the year 1797 by Colonel Caleb Davis and Isaac Culin, who owned on the other side of the creek.

When John F. Hill bought the place now Deshong's, the mill had long been disused and fallen into ruin, but he undertook to re-establish it, obtaining for the purpose the privilege of backing up the water by means of a dam nearly to the fall of the present Ridley Park or Crum Lynne Lake. But it has been so long since the industry existed that the recollection of it has almost died out, although traces of the old mill race can be found.

Isaac Culin, at the time of the Revolution, owned on both sides of Chester Turnpike west of Little Crum Creek, and where Leiperville is now. he was the son of Daniel Cullin, who died in the summer of 1777, directing his body to be buried beside his wife in "Wickeco Bettreing ground," Daniel being one of the sons of George Culin, who died in 1735, 6, lately mentioned. Probably this George was the son of John VanKulin who was settled before Penn's time. John had repeated difficulties with that troublesome surveyor, Charles Ashcome, for at a Council meeting at Philadelphia, September 21st, 1686, "The humble Lamentation of Jann Van Cullen was Read, setting forth ye abuses of Charles Ashcome. Order vt his Cattle be Returned, and that ye Differences between him and Charles Ashcome be Valued by 4 men, and if they Cannot agree yt it be left to be Desired by ye Govr."

Apparently the differences were not adjusted for again, 4th of 2nd month, 1687, "the petition of John Van Cullin was Read, Requesting Releef from yt oppression of Thomas Usher, Sheriff of Chester county, who by Vertue of an execution obtained by a Vexatious sute of Charles Ashcome, hath taken from his two milk Cows, wch was all he, his wife and seaven small children had to live upon, himself being sixty & six years of Age, and past his Labour to work for more. Orded that an Ordr be sent to ye Sheriff of Chester county to appear before ye Council ye next second day, to answer the Complaint of the Petitioner, and if any Distress or Execution hath been served on his goods or chattels, that they be no ways Disposed of until ye cemplaint be answered before this board, and if ye Cattle be taken away, that they be forthwith Restored, or Carefully looked to in ye meantime, and that he make return of a former Order he had from this board in the business between Charles Ashcome and Jno Van Culing."

On the 11th of 2nd month Thomas Usher made his appearance before the board according to summons, "to answer ye complaint of John Vanculling, and for answer subscribed ye Sumons with these words following, and Returned ye same so subscribed to ye Council, vizt: As to his Ordrmy Returne is, I doe abide by my Lawfull Serving ye Execution upon ye Milch Cattle of Jno Vanculin in ye Cas of Charles Ashcome." But it does not appear whether the humble petitioner obtained his redress or not. John Van Culin's name appears in the list of taxable in 1693.

The square, cupola-topped house on the north side of Chester Turnpike, just west of Crum Lynne station, is a part of Daniel Culin's land. Isaac Culin sold it in 1783, and from 1796 to 1808 William Paul owned it. Paul was one of the

subscribers establishing the school at Little Crum Creek, lately mentioned. He sold the Culin house to Captain Thomas Robinson of Chester. Robinson served in the navy and was at Tripoli with Decatur and Preble. Lieutenant Robinson commanded the bomb vessel, which had "all her shrouds shot away, and was so shattered in the hull, as to be kept above water with difficulty." He was also a volunteer in the War of 1812 and was on board the U. S. frigate President, and had the trumpet at the close of her action with the British frigate Emdymion, January 15th, 1815, when Decatur made a wreck of the Emdymion in endeavoring to run the British blockade off Long Island, but the president was surrounded by others of the British squadron and captured. The first, second and third lieutenants of the President were killed, and Robinson then performed the duties of their position. As this encounter took place after the treaty of Ghent, ending the war, though before the news of it had reached America, doubtless the period of captivity of the prisoner was short. Captain Robinson was Register of Wills for Delaware County in 1821.

In November of 1815 Captain Robinson sold the Culin house to James Maddock, of Ridley, and the Maddock's lived there many years. James' son, William W., bought the place in 1844. James died about 1848. His wife was Hannah, daughter of John L. and Rebecca Lownes of Springfield, Rebecca being the second daughter of John and Sarah (Lane) Crosby, and Sarah's mother was a Hannah Maddock, too. William Maddock left a son, Lownes Maddock, and two grandchildren, Willian and Florence Maddock.

On the south side of Chester Turnpike, near the present Leiperville schoolhouse and the church, stand the ruins of the "Plummer Meeting House." Frederick Plummer was the minister of a free church in Philadelphia, whose followers called themselves Free Christians and were known as Plummerites. He was an Englishman, quite popular, and traveled through the country inculcating his doctrines. The lot on which the church was built was given by Isaac Culin in 1818 and the chief mover in the enterprise was John S. Morton, father of Judge Sketchley Morton. With the passing of Plummer and the decease of the old members the church fell into disuse, and before many years elapse not even the ruins to the structure will commemorate the past.

Isaac Culin died in 1826, and the last of his property, 50 acres, between Chester Turnpike, Crum and Little Crum Creeks, was sold to Judge George G. Leiper, at sheriff's sale.

Across the turnpike from the Leiperville school was Jacob Stille's. At the corner of the road leading northward past Fairview stands a whitewashed stone house which Jacob bought in 1828 from John Lloyd of Chester. Next east Jacob bought in 1825. A few hundred feet above the turnpike, on the Fairview Road, where the road to Milmont and Swarthmore Avenue forks, stands an unpainted

frame house on the site of an old log cabin where used to live Joel Lane, the "village blacksmith," who died about 1851. The log house was torn down at least thirty years ago.

Jacob Stille's wife, Margaret, died November 1st, 1866, aged about 93 years. She lived with her son, Miles M. Stille, at Leiperville. Miles died February 19th, 1880. Olof Stille, one of the earliest European settlers in Ridley, as will later be related, is said to have been the ancestor of Jacob Stille.

John B. Holland, who died March 10th, 1886, lived on the north side of the turnpike between Maddock's and Stille's. One of his daughters, Phebe, married George W. Gesner of the family recently mentioned in connection with Norwood.

The Stille property was previously part of the McIlvain family's estates. This particular part Hugh McIlvain had bought in 1766 from Daniel Culin and in 1780 from Daniel's son, Isaac.

The McIlvain's are of Scotch descent. The ancestral castle and estate of the family in Scotland are known to have still belonged to them not many years ago. Some of the clan went to Ireland, and in 1740 James McIlvain emigrated from Country Antrim, Ireland, and settled in Ridley, on Crum Creek, at Chester Turnpike; a brother settled in Baltimore. James, it is thought, married Jane Heaney of Chester County, and their son, John, became the head of the family in Ridley. John owned over a hundred acres in the vicinity mentioned, and operated a grist mill on the creek prior to 1764, perhaps the one which James Bullen operated as early as 1716, below the turnpike and near a landing place; besides this McIlvain owned stone quarries, from some of which whetstones were made. After midnight of the day of the battle of Brandywine, General Washington stayed until morning at McIlvain's house, where Leiperville is now located. John McIlvain married first, Mary Roman and had a son, Isaac, and secondly Lydia Barnard, and he died about 1779; his other children were John, Jeremiah, James, Richard, Hugh, Mary, Judith Maris, Lydia Wetherill and Margaret Foulke.

John, junior, lived in the neat stone house on the south side of Chester Turnpike, Leiperville, east of Crum Creek, standing back and with the end toward the road; it bears a tablet clearly marked 1802. Later it was the residence of Thomas H. Maddock. John operated a grist mill on the creek below the turnpike, which seems to have been burnt in the early 1800's. John died in 1815, without children.

His brother, Jeremiah, lived close to the north side of the turnpike, just beside the railroad track crossing the road at Crum Creek; a brick house now adjoins it. Jeremiah established a tan yard and mill for grinding bark on his property where the turnpike crosses the creek, the race supplying both his mill and his brother, John's grist mill below. Later the race was utilized in Leiper's canal. Jeremiah was born in 1767 and died February 9th, 1827, having in a fit of

despondency thrown himself into the well at his house; his body was recovered by a son, but his ghost was said to haunt the spot and made the place source of fear for children. Jeremiah had married Elizabeth Spencer, who survived him fifteen years, and they had nine children, of whom Spencer McIlvain of Chester married Sarah L. Crosby, said to have been a very handsome woman; John S. and Jeremiah married Susan Morton and Ann Crosby Morton, sisters of Judge Sketchley Morton (Ann was the widow of Dr. Ellis C. Harlan); Lydia married Edward H. Bonsall, a well-known Philadelphia conveyancer, and Eliza married Jacob Hewes, who lived on the north side of Chester Turnpike, just west of Crum Creek.

John S. McIlvain lived in his father's house and he and his brother Jeremiah continued to operate the bark and saw mill and tannery. Judge George G. Leiper purchased his property, 1835, and enlarged the bark mill, which extended along the turnpike, leasing it to James Campbell. The saw mill was for a time employed in cutting ship timber for the government. Campbell's dry house was twice burned. He changed the structure to a cotton mill, but in 1833 removed the machinery, having established successful mills in Chester. Leiper built an axe factory below the saw mill, which William Beatty operated for some time. Campbell rented it and used it in connection with his cotton mill. Daniel Lees purchased the mill in 1869. It was burned in 1878, rebuilt 1880, again burned in 1881, and for the third time rebuilt.

Hugh and Richard, sons of John and Lydia Barnard McIlvain, were both born about the time of the outbreak of the Revolution, moved to Brockley (West Philadelphia) and were engaged in the lumber business, in which the McIlvains are skill prominent.

Their brother, James McIlvain, lived in the stone house on the rising ground north of Leiperville, west of the Fairview Hotel, on the north side of the B. & O. railroad, east of Crum Creek. He was well known throughout the country for his flock of merino sheep, of his own raising. James sold his place in 1828 to George G. Leiper, and after Leiper's failure in 1858, Thomas Ewing bought the property, having just sold his "Amosland farm" at Lazaretto Road and Chester Turnpike to Thomas T. Tasker. Ewing died a few years later and George McCall bought it. The stone wall of the old barn was utilized as a basis for the west end of the Fairview Hotel, built to accommodate visitors at the time of the Centennial Exposition, but the hostelry has waited ever since, for it has never been a success. Justice of the Peace Gray now resides in the old McIlvain house.

Isaac McIlvain, the son of John by his first marriage, married a Susan Crossley and had sons Thomas and John. This branch owned the Stille property on the turnpike at the Fairview Road, Leiperville, including the old store at the northwest corner, which later belonged to Eliza Wright.

Perhaps the very earliest European settler in Ridley was a Swede who was a very prominent person in his time – Olof Stille. His passport or certificate of character is dated December 22nd, 1634, but he did not emigrate, it seems, until 1641, coming from a place about thirty miles south of Stockholm, Sweden, and bringing his wife and two children, one aged seven years, the other a year and a half. He was a millwright by trade, and became one of the principal men of the colony here, being deputed by Governor Printz to carry the official protest to the Dutch governor, against the Dutch West India Company's encroachments upon the rights of the Swedish crown. After the Dutch acquired control of the country, in 1658, Stille was made one of the four commissioners to administer justice, thus becoming a judge of the first court on the Delaware of which history gives account. He was also engaged in various negotiations with the Indians, to whom he was well known, and by whom, on account of his swarthy complexion and dark beard, he was called Tecchoherassi or Tequirasi, "the man with the black beard."

Stille's place is designated on old maps, Stillen's Land, le pays de Stillen, and Techoherassi. It was situated on the east side of Ridley Creek where it empties into the Delaware River and includes the present site of Simpson's print works, Eddystone. Ridley Creek was then called Olle Stillen's kill (creek). Stille visited Maryland with an idea of settling there, but finding his friends not advantageously fixed in that section, abandoned the thought. It is believed he later moved to Moyamensing (Philadelphia) and that he left only a son. John, who was born in America in 1646 and died April 24th, 1722, being the ancestor of the well-known Stille family of the name in that city.

By 1671 the Stille plantation had passed into the hands of Lars Carels or Laurentius Carolus, the Swedish clergyman – as prominent a person as Olof Stille had been, though not in a similar direction. Carolus was for many years the only minister the Swedish clergyman – as prominent a person as Olof Stille had been, though not in a similar direction. Carolus was for many years the only minister the Swedes had. It is believed he settled in Upland, perhaps some thirty years before Penn's arrival. His career was not such as his calling would lead one to expect, indeed his life was scandalous; he was frequently involved in litigation and his great infirmity seems to have been an over fondness for intoxicating drinks. In 1661 his wife eloped and the dominie, tracing her baggage, broke open a door in a strange house and took some of his wife's clothes from a trunk, for which he was arrested, tried and fined. It appears that he had been divorced and had married himself to a girl of about seventeen years, a proceeding which also got him into trouble. Later he was involved for selling liquor to Indians, and also sued about a mare. Although it seems he had no regular charge as a clergyman, the Swedes were unable to dislodge him from his post. Perhaps he reformed his ways in his last years, for it is recorded that he "died in the Lard, in 1688."

The dominie's lands were afterward owned by the Friend family. Gabriel Friend's name appears as one of the persons appointing vestrymen of St. Paul's Church, Chester, in 1704, and as a contributor, probably for the cost of building the church; in 1711 he was a vestryman, as was Laurence Friend in 1715 and 1716. Gabriel was the contractor for the construction of bridges on the Queen's road over Crum and Ridley Creeks, and applied to the Court February 22nd, 1709, for payment of the balance due him thereon. Their sister, Gertrude, married John Archer, or Amosland, before mentioned, and probably John and Andrew Friend were their brothers. The Friends parted with the lands around 1725, and the site of Eddystone belonged to Jacob and Joseph Carter, then to Abraham Dicks, who probably lived there until his death in 1761; his children sold in 1784.

Henry Effinger, Jr., of Springfield, bought the place (Stille's land), extending from the Delaware to Chester Turnpike on Ridley Creek, and for nearly a hundred years the Effingers owned and lived there.

Henry Effinger, Junior, "now or late of the township of Springfield," was named in the list with a proclamation issued July 15th, 1778, by the Supreme Executive Council of the State, calling on a large number of persons, "who it is said have joined the Armies of the Enemy, to render themselves & abide their legal Trial for their Treasons, etc." Effinger, however, seems to have been discharged. Tradition says that an Effinger guided a company of British from a man-of-war in the Delaware, up Ridley Creek to the Crosby house where they surprised and captured Captain John Crosby (the Judge), who had returned there in secret. Crosby was transferred to a prison ship and later released on parole.

Henry Effinger took up his residence on this Ridley land and died in 1799. He gave his sons, Jacob and Henry, his property, dividing it by a line then doubtless clear enough, but now not quite so readily found, "to begin at Charles Grantham's line, and fro thence along the ditch bank between the field and woods to a set of Barrows, by an old Road, thence down the road a straight course through the woods to the corner of a post and rail fence standing on a ditch bank, thence down the said Fence nearly the same course to another fence dividing the new land from the Mudded field, thence down that fence to another post and Rail fence at the Lower side of the Mudded field, thence along that fence to a worm fence and from thence a straight course through the middle of the place (out of which I haled mud) to Ridley Creek." There were also four daughters, Agnes, Margaret, Sarah and Rebecca.

Jacob Effinger failed in 1831 and died not long, after, leaving three children, Malachi, Rachel Ann and Mary Ann. Henry died August 27th, 1867. Jacob Effinger is remembered as wearing leather breeches, which were formerly common. Henry was a peculiar man, quite parsimonious and so opposed to the public school law that he never paid his tax, and so forced the collector to levy on

his personal effects to collect it. The Effinger house formerly stood near the Delaware River. The family had a shad fishery there, which rented for \$800 a year. The house was subsequently used as a fish house and the family lived in the old yellow plastered house near the Eddystone church, where the Chester and Willington trolley car turns to cross the Ninth Street Bridge, Chester. William Simpson bought the Effinger estate in 1872.

On 200 acres lying on the west side of Crum Creek from the Delaware River northward across Chester Turnpike, lived Neals Matson, as early, it is thought, as twenty years before Penn's time. He obtained a patent for the land in 1670. This tract adjoined the minister, Lars Carolus' lands. Neal's wife, Margaret Matson, was tried before William Penn and council, at Philadelphia, in 1683-4 for witchcraft, a remarkable case in view of the fact that it is the only one on record in the colony, while the craze over witchcraft scarcely knew bounds for a time in the New England colonies. After several witnesses had testified, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty as she stands indicted, but guilty of the common fame of a witch," showing perhaps that at least there was a general idea of witchcraft existing.

The Matson land became Edward Pritchett's and Walter Fawcett's or Fawcett's Pritchett, a "glover," came from England prior to 1684, was a Friend, but took no great interest in the society's affairs, and was living in 1699. Fawcett settled here, on the west side of Crum Creek, with his wife, Grace, on his arrival as early as 1684. Fawcett was a Friend and a man of great industry and energy of character. He served a year in Assembly, and in 1698 paid a religious visit to England. His wife died in 1686 and he married Rebecca Fearne of Darby in 1694. On 5th mo 5th, 1686, a License was granted Walter Horcett, at the request of John Symcock, by the Provincial Council to keep an ordinary in ye county of Chester. In 1687 the monthly meetings of Chester were removed to Fawcett's house, in Ridley. Fawcett was one of the trustee's inn 1688 in the purchase of ground in Chester where later a meeting house was built. He engaged in open court, eighth month 4th, 1697, to make a good horse bridge over Ridley Creek, near his house at the King's Road, on condition all the inhabitants of the township pay one shilling per family, which the Court ordered the supervisors to collect. Fawcett died in 1704, leaving two sons and three daughters.

David Lloyd was another corner after Fawcett's time. Lloyd was Attorney General of the Province in 1686, later Speaker of Assembly, and from 1718 until his death in 1731, Chief Justice of the Supreme Provincial Court. He lived in Chester, having built the house known in recent years as Commodore Porter's house. Judgments of Lloyd's character have differed greatly; he was disputatious, often opposed to the Proprietary and it seems rather unscrupulous, whatever his

abilities. Lloyd sold the Matson property in 1724 to Peter Dicks; there was a house standing on it at that time, probably a log house long ago demolished.

Dicks bought also the land next west between the Delaware and Chester turnpike, which had been part of Stille's land and the Friend family's, now the Denis property at the last toll gate. This Peter Dicks was a son of Peter Dicks, who emigrated from England and settled in Birmingham Township about 1686, a member of the Society of Friends and apparently in rather easy circumstances, and who died in 1704, leaving seven children, of whom Peter, Jr., moved to Nether Providence in 1717. The latter owned a large quantity of land in that township, Springfield and Ridley; the stream which flows into Crum Creek at the Strathaven Bridge, near Swarthmore, is today called Dick's run, and the road which leads from Leiperville past Fairview toward Swarthmore was for many years called Dick's Road. Peter died about the last of August, 1760.

The Matson property which Peter Dicks owned along Crum creek belonged to the Trimble family, of Middletown, for many years. Abraham Trimble died July 21st, 1823; one of his sons, Abraham, Jr., died in 19840, and Lewis Price, brother-in-law of Abraham, took the place. A few years later the sheriff sold it to Abraham T. Patterson, presumably a grandson of Abraham T. Patterson, presumably a grandson of Abraham Trimble, Sr. Patterson was at that time a resident of Middletown, but removed to Ridley and filed in business in 1879, after which time the property was bought by Thomas Simpson. The old farm house stands on the top of the west bank of Crum Creek, between Chester Turnpike and the P. W. & B. railroad, and the orchard is beside the railroad, east of Eddystone station.

Lewis Trimble, another son of Abraham, Sr., lived on the old Friend place, next to Patterson's. He bought it in 1821 from Charles Grantham, whose family had owned for a long time.

Charles Grantham, sometimes given Grantum, was a justice of the peace in 1741, 1745, 1749 and 1752 to 1757. In 1741 he was a subscriber to the fund for purchasing a bell for St. Paul's Church, Chester, and next year he was a vestryman there. His first wife was Katharine, daughter of Andrew and Margaret Morton, whom he married January 1st, 1728, at Christ Church, Philadelphia, and after whose death he married Lydia. He bought the Dicks and Friend properties, now known as Denis', at the toll gate on Chester Turnpike nearest Chester in 1759, and resided there. He owned from 20 to 30 sheep, several head of cattle, kept servants, and owned at least two Negro slaves, Caesar and Billy. He died in 1768. Grantham's children by his first wife were George, Jacob, Charles and Margaret, who married Thomas Thomson of Springfield and by his later marriage, William Charles, Jr., died in his father's lifetime; probably he had married Magdalene, widow of Crum creek John Hendrickson. George Grantham lived on the Chester Turnpike at Muccanipates Creek, now Glenolden, and died before his father,

leaving sons Charles, George and John. William Grantham lived on his father's farm and owned the two slaves. He married Sarah, daughter of John Morton, the Signer, 1773, and died about 1774; his widow then married Dr. William Currie. George, Jr., a mariner, of Philadelphia, died about 1796, it seems unmarried. His brother, Charles, a minor in 1772, but in 1780 a member of the Sixth Battalion, Volunteer Militia Light Horse, under Colonel Caleb Darvis, married Betsy (Elizabeth), daughter of Jacob and Susannah Richards, of Chester, January 22nd, 1784, at Old Swedes' Church, Philadelphia, and this Charles was the one who sold the family place to Lewis Trimble. Charles' children were Isaac, George Richards, Charles E. and Susan Grantham; none of them ever married. Charles E. died 1815 aged 17 years and was buried in Chester; George R. was admitted to the Delaware county bar. Charles Grantham had been engaged in business in Philadelphia, and died there. He was one of the incorporators of St. Paul's Church, Chester, in 1818. The family got into pecuniary difficulties and removed to Doylestown, thence to Illinois, where the survivor, Isaac, died in 1858.

The old Grantham house is still standing. It is between the Delaware River and the Chester branch of the Reading railway, east of Simpson's works, Eddystone, facing the river, built of cut stone, but the front and ends are plastered. The house is a curiosity, because there is attached a building of which the first floor is a kitchen, but the second story a corn crib, the ventilation being afforded by the absence of alternate bricks, in regular design. The Granthams quarried a stone on their place, from which they manufactured scythe stones, extensively sold in Philadelphia and branded "Crum Creek Scythe Stones," a number of workmen being employed for the purpose. In the Delaware River opposite the farm the rocks called "Grant's rocks" (the name Grantham was commonly Grant) prevented obtaining as high a price for the shad fishery as the neighbors got, the rent being only three hundred dollars.

A newer house was built between the quarry and Chester Turnpike by the Granthams. Lewis Trimble tore it down and built another house near the turnpike, beside the present tollgate near Chesgter. The Bank of Delaware County bought the farm in 1847, a sheriff's sale, and sold it to Richard Risley Carlisle. The latter, some years ago, was a well-known circus acrobat as "Professor Risley." He was born in Tuckerton, New Jersey, and failing in business went upon the stage as an acrobat and gymnast, being a man of great physical strength and endurance and a fine athlete. He was also a musician of taste. He first appeared at Welsh's circus in 1838, and traveled all over the world, performing with distinction. His two sons when but boys of five and six years assisted him. He lived some time on the Grantham or Trimble place, and for a while was very successful, but in his later life seemed unfortunate, and he died in Philadelphia, May 25th, aged 60 years, according to the public journals, poor, deserted and deprived of reason.

In 1855 Risley's property was purchased by Narcisse Francois Honore Denis, a well-known chemist of Philadelphia, who improved the place generally. He died there September 5th, 1872, aged 73 years. The house is now closed, and its somber aspect, due to this fact and the shade of the large evergreen trees clustered about, is only accentuated by the statues placed in front within the yard.

The territory between Crum and Ridley Creeks, north of Chester Turnpike, was the home of one of the most prominent families of the section – the Crosby's, who owned and lived here for 175 years.

Tradition says that the Ridley family were descended from Sir John Crosby, alderman and sheriff of London, Member of Parliament, etc., knighted by Edward IV in 1471, being a staunch supporter and financial helper of the king. His residence in London, Crosby Place, he built in 1641, and it is several times referred to in Shakespeare's "Richard III," being then Gloucester's place. It escaped the great fire and the ancient parts of the edifice are known to have been still existing a few years ago.

The first Crosby who settled in Chester, now Delaware County, was Richard, who came from Cheshire in England, about 1682, settling in Middletown. His purchase of 1000 acres, made in England, entitled him to a city lot in Philadelphia, which was located on Race Street. He seems to have sold his Middletown property shortly afterwards, and moved to Chester, where in 1684 he was appointed a collector "to gather the assessments" made for erecting the courthouse and prison. About this time he purchased the property on Ridley Creek known long after as Crosby Mills, and he took up his residence in Ridley. He was not a Friend and not so much is known of him on that account. In 1686 the grand jury presented Richard Crosby "for keeping an unlawful fence to the great damage of John Marten, his swine," for which he was fined 30 shillings. And the same year he was indicted and tried for drunkenness and pugnacity in his cups; he submitted himself to the court and was fined five shillings and costs, and "soe to be acquitted." In 1684 he was awarded a judgment against George Andrews, of £18, half to be paid in ready money. "The other halfe in good and merchantable wheat or rye at the common market price of this river."

Richard and his wife had several children, one of whom married into the Fairlamb family of Chester. Richard Crosby died in 1718, his son, John, succeeding to the property. This John Crosby was commissioned a justice of the courts and of the peace for Chester County in 1726, '30, '37 and '38 and remained in office until his death. In 1723-4 he was a member of Provincial Assembly. He seems to have been a Friend, for John Crosby made an acknowledgment to Chester meeting, dated Ridley 9 mo. 1719, "Whereas I have unadvisedly broke the good order Established amongst friends in case of marriage, tending to the breach of

unity in the brotherhood and an Example of Looseness to young people, for which I am heartily sorry and desire the forgiveness of God and of my Brethren,” etc.

‘Squire Crosby was a half owner of a forge on Crum Creek, one of the earliest known iron works in Pennsylvania. The other owner was Peter Dicks, of Nether Providence, lately mentioned. Peter Kalm, the Swedish naturalist, who visited America in 1748, says, “About two English miles behind Chester I passed an iron forge, which was to the right hand of the roadside. It belonged to two brothers, I was told. The ore is not, however, dug here, but thirty or forty miles hence, where it is first melted in an oven, and then carried to this place. The bellows were made of leather, and both they and the hammers, and even the hearth, but small in proportion to ours. All the machines were worked by water.” Acrelius, the Swedish historian, wrote that the iron works at Crum Creek belong to Peter Dicks, has two stacks, is worked sluggishly and has ruined Crosby’s family,” – is being prior to 1756, but the ruining of the family is incorrect.

In 1742, a controversy was brought before Chester monthly meeting between Thomas Bell and John Crosby and Peter Dicks, because the latter two “having built a forge in Crum Crick, ye damm whereof overflows some part of ye said Dell’s land, the Damage of which they have not yet been capable to settle, neither by themselves nor by some assistance they have had, ye said Thomas Dell having insisted to have a certain sum of money yearly or to have the dam Pull’d. After sum debate on the affair and Proposals of appointing friends to Indeavor to Reconcile ye said Difference, ye said Thomas Dell being present, absolutely Reused to be determined by either friends of their own choice or such as the meeting should appoint, but Refused to Confer any Longer on the Occasion, and Departed the aid meeting, not only without Leave, but Contrary to the Request advised thereof.” Ou 1 mo.28,1743, “Thomas Dell hath Complained to this meeting that ye damn at ye gorge on Crum Creek yet overflows some part of his Land, and that they cannot agree to settle ye difference or damage between then, nor will the said Thomas Dell chose men to deside ye said difference; therefore this meeting appoints John Maris, William Pennell, Thomas Goodwin, Samuekl Lewis, John Bartram and Joshua Thompson, to meet some time at ye said dam, between and next meeting, to compute ye said Damage, and Indeavor to Reconcile ye said Difference.” But the committee did not succeed, for Dell persisted in being sole nudge; however, they thought Crosby and Dick could pay “£5 annum so long as the water Damnifies the said Dell’s land, to which John and Peter (being present) agree.” Dell appealed to the quarterly meeting, but probably he accepted the yearly payment.

The situation of the forge has not been correctly stated by historians. Dr. Smith says it “must have been on Crum Creek just there it is crossed by the Post Road,” to which Martin adds, “very probably near where Jacob Hewes’ house now

stands just west of the bridge over the creek, below Leiperville. On the right hand side of the road, just east of Mr. Hewes' house will be seen a large embankment with trees growing upon it. This, I imagine, was the breast of the dam which gave the water power necessary for the forge." Both these suppositions, however, are erroneous, for the forge was over a mile further up the creek, as will be shown.

Bullen's Lane or Road, which now leads from Chester Turnpike opposite the tollgate below Leiperville, northwest past George West's to Irving's Mills and Shoemakerville, was laid out in 1716. In 1741 a road was laid out from Bullen's Road, above West's, northward into Springfield, across Crosby's and Dell's lands, and crossing Crum Creek at the forge. It may have become disused, for in 1763 was laid out the present Lapidea Road, which leaving Bullen's Road near West's crosses Crum Creek at the old Leiper or Lapidea Mill, ending in the road from Leiperville and Fairview to Swarthmore, near the old Lukens house; at this time the Forge Road is mentioned, but "its width has not been ascertained." Now by a deed dated October 24th, 1747, Peter Dicks sold for £100 to Richard Crosby. "All that his half part of a certain Forge in Ridley which he holdeth in partnership with John Crosby situated on Crum Crick near the line of Thomas Dell, together with his right and title to all the houses, Out Houses, Buildings, Ditches, Banks, Dams, Pools of Weater, Hammers, Anvils, Broken and whole Bellows, Fire plates and all other Utensils to the same belonging. Together with a certain piece of land on the East side of Great Crum Creek adjoining the dam of said Forbe and being that whereon the Bank of said Dam standeth Joyning Allso to other land of said John Crosby." Richard Crosby covenanted to pay Thomas Dell the yearly rent "so long as the dam shall stand to damnifie Thomas Dell and to clear Peter Dicks from damage to John Worrall," whose land was on the east side of the creek.

The exact location of the forge is shown by these facts and the description of the piece of land conveyed, to have been about 600 feet north of the present Lapidea Road, and just above the old Leiper house. The dam was probably either continued or restored for the grist mill which Joseph Phipps had built when he had the Lapidea Road opened in 1763, and which preceded the present unoccupied mill erected in 1816 by Thomas Leiper. Then, too, it was used in connection with Leiper's canal, traces of both the latter and the dam being easily observed today. Thomas Dell's land which was "damnified" was on the west side of the creek, along the line of the present railroad track leading from the Avondale quarries to Leiperville; it is now in Nether Providence.

Squire John Crosby died in the fall of 1750. He gave his son, John, his residence, with its 200 acres on Ridley Creek, and his half interest in the forge, while several hundred acres on the east side of Crum Creek, including the sites of the Worrall farms of later years, he gave to his sons, John and Richard. Probably his wife, Susannah, had died earlier.

The old Crosby mansion is still standing, between Bullen's Road and Ridley Creek, about half a mile north of Chester Turnpike, and now directly beside the trolley road from Folsom to Chester, as it approaches the creek after passing George West's farm. The description which Martin gave of it over 25 years ago is quite accurate: "A large stone house, with three rooms on the first or ground floor, one a very large kitchen, with a large open fireplace; so large was it that on one side within the jamb of the fireplace there was a window, with a bench under it to sit on in cold weather; the large backlogs used in the fireplace were dragged into the kitchen by a horse, having a chain hitched around the log. One of these huge backlogs lasted a week even in winter. At a later date the kitchen was further heated by a large ten-plate iron stove, which stood in the middle of the room. In the other two rooms there were large open fireplaces with large andirons to support the burning wood, with brass-headed shovel and tongs. The fireplace was ornamented with a high wooden mantel piece, on which stood the large silver candlesticks used in those days. The entire mantel, which extended to the floor, was ornamented with panels of carved wood."

Now, however, the once stately dwelling is dilapidated and abandoned. The window frames are missing; doors and shutters lacking or in sore straits; floors rotted and sagging, plaster fallen, and the whole place at the mercy of the weather. The outside walls are plastered over.

John Crosby (2nd), the son of the Squire, was born June 4th, 1721, in the old mansion on Ridley Creek. He seems to have been a Friend, for at Chester monthly meeting, 7 mo. 29th, 1740, John Crosby, Jr., produced an acknowledgment for marriage by a priest, which was accepted. His wife was Eleanor (Graham?). His brother (?) Richard, "a young man under ye notice of this meeting," was disowned, 8 mo. 28th, 1751, for some loose behavior and keeping disorderly company. Richard died about 1770, leaving several children, but his descendants are said to be all dead.

John Crosby (2nd) was a member of the Provincial Assembly from 1768 to 1771, and coroner of the county in 1771 and 1772. His quarries on Ridley Creek, north of Chester Turnpike, seem to have been in use as early as 1766. He lived in the old Ridley Creek mansion lately described, and died September 9th, 1788; his widow, Eleanor, died 1793. The old house was devised to his "grandson John, son of my son, John."

John Crosby (3rd), son of John and Eleanor, and known as "Judge Crosby," was born in the old house on Ridley Creek, March 12th, 1747-8. In 1776 he entered the Revolutionary Army, as first lieutenant in an infantry company of the First Battalion, Pennsylvania Militia, and Captain Culin having been shot by a private a few minutes after mustering in the company, at the White Horse Hotel, Crosby took command. His company of 42 men, with others, was reported

quartered near Philadelphia, August 27th, 1776, the day of the battle of Long Island. His regiment, commanded by Colonel Jacob Morgan, Jr., was attached to the "Flying Cap" at Perth Amboy. Afterwards, while on a visit home, Crosby was taken prisoner by the British (under the guidance of a neighbor, Effinger, as lately mentioned) while washing himself at the pump near his house door, and he was confined for about six months in the prison ship "Falmouth," in New York harbor, during which time it is said his hair turned white. His wife visited him there, and obtained his release on parole not to serve again during the war or until exchanged. The Crosby's were said to be "like the oaks of the forest, tall and stately." The men of the family were about six feet in height, with blue eyes and light brown hair.

Captain Crosby was commissioned an Associate Judge of Delaware County in 1799, and continued in the office until his death. He owned a great deal of land in Ridley, including, besides the family estate, the vicinity of Morton and Swarthmore Avenues, Rutledge. He is said to have owned the last two Negro slaves held in Delaware County, "Old Aunt Rose," and her husband, Simpson," who lived in an old log cabin by Bullen's Lane, and died at extreme old age. In 1780 John Crosby, Jr., registered a Negro slave, "Fann," aged to years, a slave for life.

In 1775 Judge Crosby had presented to him by his father and mother the stone house on the high bank beside the north side of Chester Turnpike (later John C. Leiper's) just east of Ridley Creek, together with about 200 acres on both sides of the road, part of the old Swedish minister, Lawrence Carel's place. He seems to have resided here, "Crosby Place," and in 1819 the Judge gave this to his youngest son, Robert P. Crosby. Tradition says that in the Revolution the British fleet fired on all the houses along the Delaware River, and that one shot struck this house. The airline distance to the river is over a mile.

Judge Crosby was an active member of St. Paul's Church, Chester, being a warden or vestryman for many years. His first wife was Elizabeth Culin, whom he married September 13th, 1766, at Christ Church, Philadelphia, but she died soon after, and he married Ann Peirce of Delaware. Judge Crosby died about 1821, his wife 1825. They had nine or ten children of whom Susannah married John S. Morton, father of Judge Sketchley Morton; Eleanor married Dr. William Martin, and afterwards John F. Hill, lately mentioned; and John Crosby (4th) married Sarah, daughter of William and Hannah Maddock Lane of Springfield.

John (4th) was born in 1774 and died in 1804, being survived by his widow nearly 54 years. He owned the "original" old Crosby mansion on Ridley Creek, apparently living there, and it seems his son, John Crosby (5th), who adopted the middle name of Lane, to distinguish himself from a cousin, lived there too until in 1831 he built the very large, whitewashed stone house, now the residence of

George West, east of Bullen's Road. John L. Crosby was a stout, handsome, jovial man, full of humor. The house he built has seventeen rooms, yet he was a bachelor! He died August 10th, 1861, and two years later the last of the Crosby's Ridley lands had passed out of the hands of the family, after nearly 200 years' ownership. John L. Crosby's farm later passed through the ownership of Levi P. Rutter and Edward McGrath, and now, in the hands of hospitable George West, is the neatest and best kept in this section of the county. The land lies quite high, commanding a good prospect of the Delaware. It was the site of the 1902 encampment of the Morton-Rutledge Artillery Battalion.

Robert P. Crosby, youngest son of Judge John Crosby, who acquired the house on Chester Turnpike in 1819, furnished some of the stone for the Delaware Breakwater from his quarries on Ridley Creek, about 1830. The shallops in transporting the stone had to be propelled by long poles. The creek formerly made a bend, almost a loop, so that the distance was much increased. The curve was called the Bull-cod. One dark, stormy night a large force of quarrymen, with tools and plenty of whisky, went to work, and in the morning the creek had a new channel, shortening the water route a quarter of a mile, but leaving the McIlvain quarries, on the other side, some distance from the creek. The feat was thought a good joke, and the new channel attributed to the night's storm, but everybody suspected who did it.

Robert P. Crosby died in 1832. A son, Robert P. Crosby, Jr., was quite noted for his feats on strength, being powerfully built, although slight; but in throwing a heavy sledge hammer used in the quarries he broke a blood vessel, and brought on his end, 1846. He was in comfortable circumstances and did not follow any useful occupation. He is said to have had a fine baritone voice, worth a fortune to an opera singer.

George G. Leiper bought Robert P. Crosby's house in 1846, but failing in 1858, it was taken by the late John C. Leiper, who in turn failed in 1871. His family, however, continued to reside there.

John O Deshong purchased the quarries on Bullen's Road north of the turnpike, in 1863, from John L. Crosby's estate, and they were worked by his sons, Alfred and John Deshong for a few years after his death, but for nearly a score of years last past the quarries have not been used, although large deposits of stone are still there. The excavations are very deep; a thin ledge or wall separates the two quarries and gives a curious aspect to a picturesque scene.

The section between Crum Creek and the road from Leiperville past Fairview (Woodlyn) to Swarthmore, north of the B. & O. railroad, has been in the hands of the Worrall family for a century and a half. It is supposed this name was originally Warel, and that an ancestor of the family was Sir Hubert de Warel, who lost three sons at the Battle of Hastings in 1666. Peter and Joshua Worrall were

purchasers from Penn in England, the former emigrating in 1682 and settling in Marple Township.

Jonathan Worrall, of "Marpole," one of the sons of Peter, was, however, the first of the family to buy in Ridley. In 1752 he purchased from John (2nd) and Richard Crosby, son of John, a frame house and 146 acres on "Crumpt" Creek, extending up the creek to the Crosby and Dick's forge. He seems not to have lived here, and ten years later he divided the property between his sons, William and Jacob, the former taking the house and southern part of the land. In May of this year, 1762, the Fairview Road was laid out, being commonly called Dick's Road. There was subsequently discovered to be a shortage in the amount of land which the Crosby's had conveyed to Jonathan Worrall, so that Jacob and William obtained some 27 acres more in consequence; William's part of this lay on the east side of the Fairview Road, where now stands the mansard-roof stone house of the late William Worrall; it changed hands once between 1768 and 1871.

Both Jacob and William Worrall lived to extreme old age, the former 90 years and two months, the latter 96. Jacob's residence was on the west side of the Fairview Road, north of the Lapidea Road and not far below the Leiper Presbyterian Church and Ridley school. A small stream flows through a little valley in front of the house, and a giant oak tree spreading itself over the banks, was contemporaneous, no doubt, with Jacob's youth. Jacob married Elizabeth Maddock, and died in 1825, his remains being interred in a little wall enclosed private burial ground, observable today by the roadside north of the house. He left a son, Jesse Worrall, whose children, Elizabeth (married Joseph H. Johnson), Jacob (born 1806) and Tracy (married Joseph Story, but had no children to reach majority) owned the property. A daughter of Jacob Worrall, Rachel married Christopher Noble, father of William Noble, until lately residing on Morton Avenue, near Ridley.

William Worrall, the brother of Jacob, was born in Marple in 1730, yet outlived Jacob, dying 12 mo. 23rd, 1826, aged 96 years. His house is the fine old stone mansion on the west side of Fairview Road, just below Lapidan Road, and known as Lukens'. He built the mansard-roofed stone house across the road, further south, giving it to his grandson, Jonathan P. Worrall, who owned it until his death in 1871. Jonathan was a justice of the peace for many years between 1833 and 1863.

William Worrall had three children, Mary, born 1766, married Nathaniel Newlin; Ann, married Joseph Downing; and Nathaniel Worrall, born 1769. Nathaniel had children, Phebe, who married James W. Iredell of Horsham, Montgomery County; Edith, married Jacob Parry; and Elizabeth, who married her cousin, Jacob, son of Jesse Worrall above named. Jacob was a well-known resident here, and died July 16th, 1887, having survived his wife. His daughter,

Mary P. Lukens, wife of Joseph K. Lukens, became the owner of the old property. The Lukens children are Jacob W., Elizabeth W. and William. Mrs. Lukens had brothers, William Worrall and John B. Worrall, the latter having children, William and George.

After the death of Squire Jonathan P. Worrall, the mansard roofed house mentioned was the residence of William Worrall, who was a State Representative in 1873, and died in 1887. His son, Henry, became the owner of the Charles Sleeper or James McCormick house on Chester Turnpike, below Ridley Park, lately mentioned.

THE END – (The author will be indebted for the correction of any errors which may have been discovered, and for any information which may be added by the reader. Communications in care of the editor will be duly forwarded)>

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION