

### Introduction

The Tryens family lived in New London, Pennsylvania in a white house on State Road between Miss Emma Maxwell's funeral home and Warren and Edna Roney's farm. Right across the street from Bill and Ellen Mackey's house. Jeff and Alan started school at the "Old School" (formerly New London Academy) up the road. Grandmom and Grandpop Hill lived in a trailer in the back yard. We all faithfully attended the New London Methodist Church and all the related groups and functions.

Our house had a pond in the back which we ice skated on, and a field and a barn which Grandpop used for his horses. Harry always had a garden in the summer which produced legendary vegetables. Inside there was a basement which contained the furnace, shelves of home canned goods, Dad's tools and workbench, and the fusebox. The room next to the kitchen with the well under it became Dad's Office when he started his own business. The attic contained treasures like swords and old photos in a wooden trunk, old books and magazines, and an antique clock that gonged.

We went on trips to Washington D.C., Florida, Mystic Seaport, and Cooperstown. Our regular vacation spot was Hacks Point, Maryland.

Harry and Marie instilled in their children the values of honesty, charity, compassion, and love of baseball. Mom used to drill her Cub Scout pack in fielding and hitting a lot more than knot tying and basketry.

I have enjoyed writing this history of our family. I hope the rest of you enjoy it.

### Cover Story

My favorite story from our family history is about August Truyens, the original immigrant to the U.S.A. I'm sure it has been properly embellished over the years.

August was born in Antwerp, Belgium, the son of Henry and Mary Hance Truyens. As a young man, he served as a cabin boy on a Danish merchant ship. One of August's duties was to care for the captain's beloved cat. When the cat became sick and then suddenly disappeared, the captain suspected that August might be responsible. August, being a resourceful fellow, decided to leave the cabin boy profession in a hurry. He jumped ship in Marcus Hook, Pa. and settled in the area. Somewhere along the way his last name was shortened to Tryens.

## Harry Augustus Tryens

Harry was born on April 12, 1918 in Media, Pa. He graduated from Media High School in 1937. He worked at a gas station, a steel plant and as a merchant marine before he joined the Army. He had also met his future wife Marie at a fair at his church. He gave her an engagement ring at Christmas before he left to go overseas. He eventually was stationed in the Phillipines as an airplane mechanic. When Marie was also assigned to duty in the Phillipines, they were reunited. They decided to get married there after the war was over. Since Marie was an officer (Lieutenant) and Harry was a Sergeant, they had to get special authorization to wed. On October 8, 1945, they were married.

Harry attended Spring Garden Institute after the war where he learned drafting. He has worked in drafting since then. His specialty is preparing fabrication drawings for structural steel. The excellent quality of his work has allowed him to run a successful business for more than 20 years.

Harry and Marie moved to New London, Pa. in 1952 to an old farm house. They lived there until 1987 when they moved to a new house in New London.

Harry has always been community minded and has served on church committees, local boards and other activities. The most impressive service has been approximately 30 years with the New London area Cub Scouts. Marie was also a leader. Jeff, Alan, and Bill were official members and Judy was certainly an honorary member.

## Marie Hill Tryens

Marie was born in Newcastle on Tyne, England on October 17, 1921. She and her mother Edith immigrated to the United States when Marie was about 1 year old. Her father, Jim had come over earlier. They moved around southeastern Pennsylvania while he worked as a tenant farmer. Marie graduated from Oxford High School in 1939. She lived with and worked for a veterinarian and his wife in Lima, Pa. while taking an additional Chemistry course at Media High School. It was during that time that she and Harry met. She enrolled in nursing school at Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia. After graduating, she joined the Army, was commissioned as a Lieutenant, and was stationed in the Phillipines where she and Harry were married.

After the war, they lived in Upland, Pa. Marie worked as a private duty nurse while Harry went to school. They bought their first house, a rundown rowhouse in Upland for \$8000. They fixed it up, then sold it and moved to a house Harry's parents owned in Mt. Hope, Pa. Several years later, they moved to New London.

After all of her children were in school, Marie became the "Community Nurse". This was a visiting nurse position which entailed giving care to elderly, disabled, and impoverished people in the area. I will never forget going out with her before Christmas giving out baskets with food and toys for really needy people.

Marie completed a degree in education from West Chester University. She worked as the nurse at Avon Grove Middle School and subsequently Avon Grove High School. There is a whole generation of young adults in the area who consider "Mrs. Tryens" as a really terrific person.

### Jeffrey Leigh Tryens

Jeff was born on October 23, 1946 while Harry and Marie were living in their first house in Upland. He graduated from Avon Grove High School in 1964 and Drexel Institute of Technology in 1969. He was a standout player on both school's soccer teams. He has two advanced degrees. He received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from M.I.T. in 1971 and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School at Harvard in 1995.

Jeff was formerly the Deputy Director at the Center for Policy Alternatives in Washington, D.C. He has been quoted on the front page of U.S.A. Today and has appeared on a CNN news story.

### Alan James Tryens

Alan was born on January 17, 1950 during the time the Tryens' were at their second house in Upland. He graduated from Avon Grove High School in 1968 and attended Lincoln University. He married Peggy Viars in 1978 and adopted her daughter Wendi. They had a son Joshua in 1980. Alan and Peggy were divorced in 1985.

Alan lives in Downingtown, Pa. with Wendi and Josh. He is presently attending Brandywine School of Nursing. He is notorious for winning radio trivia contests. His biggest win was a trip to Ireland to attend a U2 concert. He took Marie as his guest so that she could visit her father's homeland. (No, Marie did not go to the concert!)

### William David Tryens

The Tryens' were living in Mt. Hope when Bill was born on September 1, 1951. He graduated from Avon Grove High School in 1969 and from the University of New Mexico in 1974. He is a registered Professional Engineer and works for a consulting firm. He previously worked for almost 8 years as the Staff Electrical Engineer for the University of New Mexico.

On October 20, 1979, Bill married Christine Szabo. They live in Albuquerque, N.M. with their son Daniel.

### Judith Ann Tryens

Judy was born on February 8, 1954 while the family lived in New London. She graduated from Avon Grove High School in 1972, the University of Delaware in 1978, and received a Masters Degree in Urban Affairs and Policy Analysis from the University of Southern Illinois at Edwardsville in 1984. Judy has lived in Africa three different times. She served in the Peace Corps in the Gambia from 1980 to 1982. She later had two different positions in Bissau, the capital of Guinea-Bissau. She met her husband Jota and had their first daughter Tisha during the first tour and flew back to the U.S. to have Savannah at the end of her last stay. The four of them currently live in Silver Spring, Md.

Christine Lydia Szabo Tryens

Chris was born on December 7, 1950 in Wilmington De. She graduated from Ursuline Academy, Brandywine Junior College, and Wilmington College. She worked as a teacher for mentally retarded adults and for adults with cerebral palsy. She met Bill in 1976 and they were married in 1979.

Joao Jose DaSilva Fernandes

Jota was born in Luwanda, Angola on December 19, 1956. He earned engineering degrees in Cuba and Angola. He was working in Guinea-Bissau for the United Nations when he met Judy. They were married in 1989. He is currently a Computer Engineer in Virginia.

Wendi Danielle Tryens

Wendi was born on September 17, 1970 in Pulaski, Va. Her parents were Peggy Viars Wilson and Gordon Wilson. After Alan married Peggy he adopted Wendi. She lives with Alan in Downingtown where she graduated from Downingtown High School. She is now a senior at the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science and works full time.

Joshua Alan Tryens

Josh was born on February 16, 1980 while Alan, Peggy and Wendi were living in Downingtown. He recently moved back to Downingtown with Alan and Wendi and attends Downingtown High School.

Daniel Paul Tryens

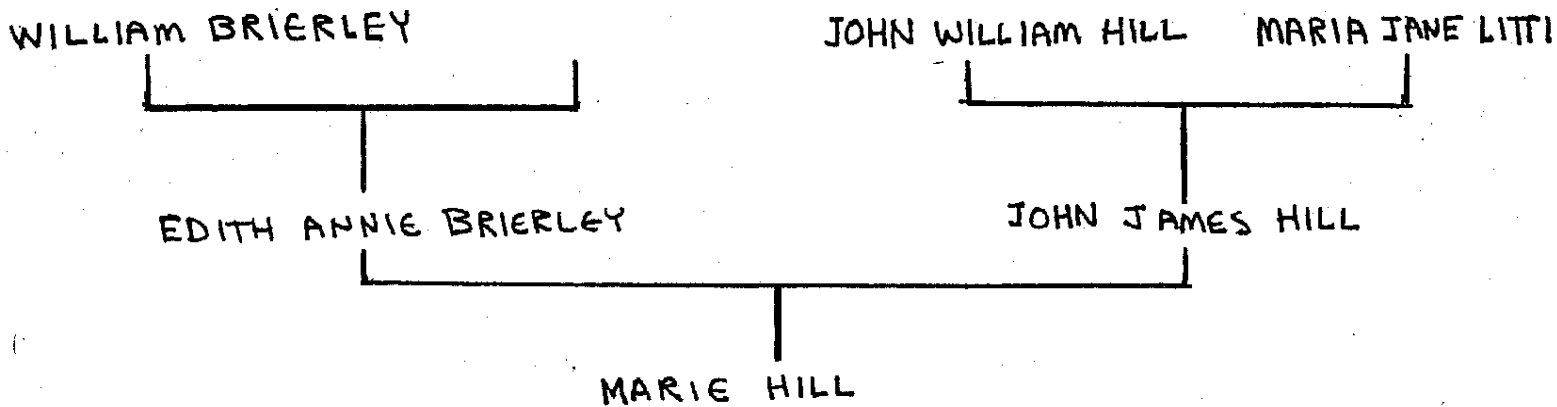
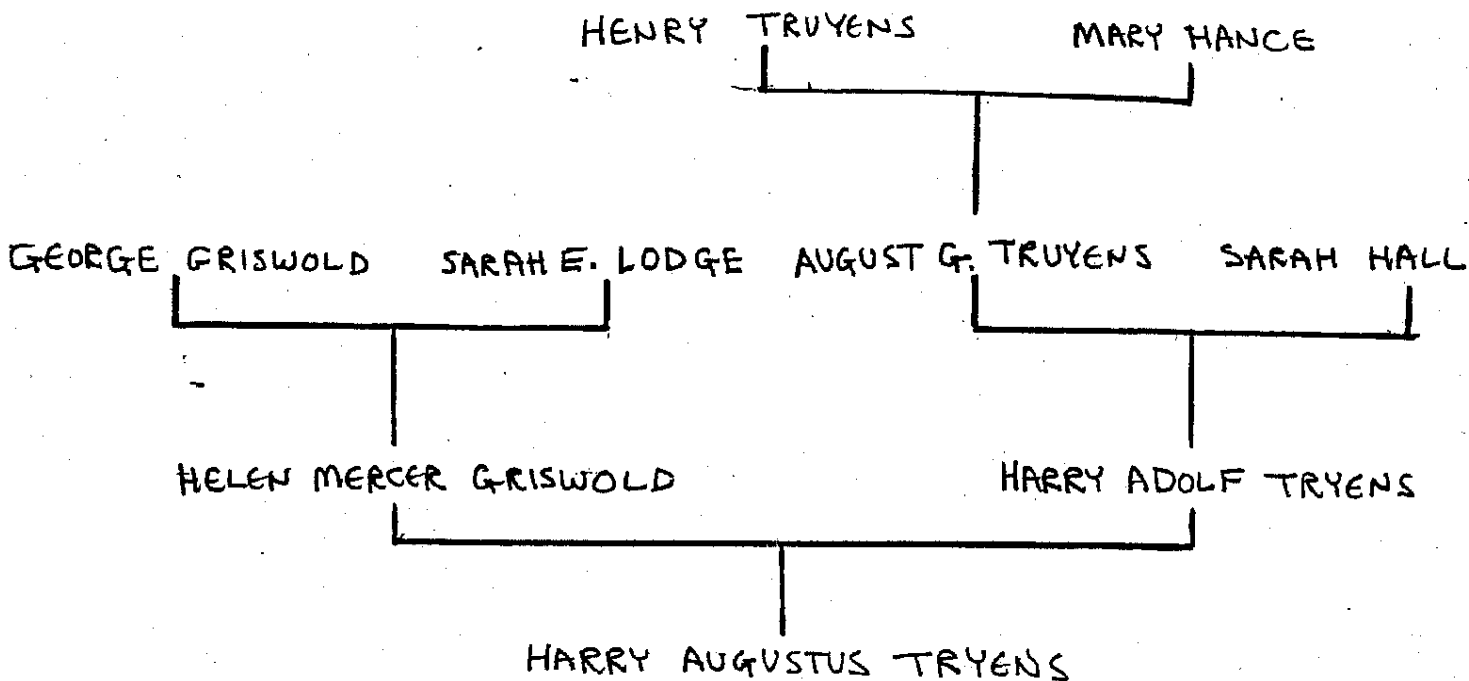
Daniel was born on June 9, 1981 in Manistee, Michigan to Michael Middleton and Terry Mudar Middleton. His sister, Michelle, is four years older. He was adopted by Bill and Chris Tryens on December 20, 1993. He is attending Highland High School in Albuquerque.

Valvitcha Marie Tryens-Fernandez

Tisha was born in Dakar, Senegal on February 21, 1989. She has just started the first grade.

Savannah Lena Flora Tryens

Savannah was born on November 6, 1994 at the Christiana (Del.) Hospital. Judy, Jota and Tisha were staying with Harry and Marie after returning from Africa.



## Tryens - Hall

August Tryens settled in Mt. Hope, Pa. Sarah Hall was born in Mt. Hope at Hall Corner. The Hall family had been in the area since 1682 when Thomas Hall came from England. Sarah and August were farmers and had 4 children, Marion, Alice, Samuel and Harry.

Harry married Helen Griswold and they had 3 children Sarah (Aunt Sally), Elizabeth (Aunt Bet) and Harry Jr.. Harry Sr. worked as a bank teller and cashier. He was born April 8, 1887.

## Griswold - Lodge

Helen Mercer Griswold was born in Middletown Township, Delaware County, Pa. on October 26, 1889. Her father George died when Helen was young. Her mother Sarah Lodge Griswold raised Helen and her brother Harold. She worked as a nurse. When Helen graduated from Chester High School, she was the only girl in her class. She had a store in Media where she sold sewing materials and trim for a few years. She lived many years while we were growing up on Aunt Sally and Uncle Charles' farm in Lewisville, Pa.

## Brierley

The Brierley family had a tradition at sea. William Brierley was the Captain of a merchant ship. His father was a sailor and his mother was from India. William married twice. He and his first wife had two daughters, Ethel and Edith. He re-married after his first wife died and had two more children, Fredrick and Eva. Fredrick was also a ships Captain and died when his ship was sunk during World War II.

Edith Annie Brierley was born on September 11, 1893 in South Shields, England. She and her husband Albert Edward Wallace had a daughter, Bessie, who died when she was about 3 years old. Albert Wallace was killed in action during World War I. Albert's brother was married to Jenny Hill, whose younger brother Jim became Edith's second husband on May 22, 1920.

## Hill - Little

John James Hill was born on November 20, 1893 in Ireland. His parents were John William Hill, an Englishman, and Maria (pronounced Mariah) Jane Little who I believe was from Ireland. Their first child, Jenny, was born in the U.S. while Maria was visiting.

Jim Hill spent time in Ireland with his grandparents and in England when he was growing up. He fought in France in World War I. After the war he met and married Jenny's widowed sister in law, Edith. They immigrated to the U.S. with their daughter, Marie. They had 2 more daughters Jenny (Aunt Jenny) and Lydia (Aunt Libby). Jim worked as a mill worker in England, as a farmer, and again as a mill worker in the U.S. He also raised dogs and horses.

HISTORY OF

MOUNT HOPE CHURCH

and

ASTON TOWNSHIP

Delaware County, Pennsylvania

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Compiled by

SAMUEL H. TRYENS

April 1964

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In this Article it is my purpose to review some of the history of Mount Hope Church and Aston Township, as recorded from various writers and to add to this some information garnered from my own research.

Having lived in the shadow of Mount Hope Church for over seventy-eight years, and having a Mother who lived to be eighty-five years old, whose parents and grandparents lived in the house now occupied by Merrill Fisher and family, - dating back to pre-Revolutionary times, and whose ancestors, while they did not settle in Aston, settled on the edge of Aston, - on Ivy Mills Road, dating back to almost William Penn's time, - (there was one owner between Penn and the Halls, who settled there about 1685), - and having access to three of the best Histories of Delaware County and the Dutton Family Book, (the Dutton's being among the early settlers of this immediate vicinity), I thought I might be able to tell you some of the things I can remember, some of the things my Mother and Grandmother told me, and some of the things I have read.

Chester Creek is the dividing line between Aston and Middletown. The first name given to Chester Creek was "Mecopanack"<sup>AMK</sup>. This was the name given by the Indians. Next it was called "Upland Kill". Creeks were called "Kills" in the early days; - after that - "Upland Creek", and afterward - "Chester Creek". Some of the early settlers' land bordered on Chester Creek.

One of the earliest settlers being a William Woodmansey, who took up one hundred acres, and his land bordered on Chester Creek at Bridgewater and extended from Upland to what is now known as Dutton Mill Road. Woodmansey bought this land from William Penn before coming to this Country. He came on the ship "Kent" in 1677.

An Edward Carter settled in Chichester in 1682, but removed to a tract of land in Aston and previous to 1686 was appointed Constable .

Previous to 1687, what is now called "Aston" was called "Northley", and in that year, it was Carter who had it changed to Aston, for he came from Aston



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in the Parish of Bampton, Oxfordshire, England. At that time this was an English possession under the reign of King Charles, the Second.

A Joseph Richards, (although he never lived in the township), had 300 acres surveyed to him in the southern part of the township which included the site of Village Green. -- (Ashmead's History, Page 290).

In 1681, Thomas Rowland bought from William Penn 1,000 acres. This tract of land bordered on Chester Creek from a short distance above Knowlton up toward Rockdale and reached across the township.

Above the Thomas Rowland tract, a John Neal in 1682 had surveyed to him 250 acres, which included the present site of Rockdale, following the West Branch of Chester Creek, along the latter to Llewellyn, (now Aston Mills), making Thomas Rowland and John Neal owners of all the land bordering on the creek from below Mount Alverno to Aston Mills.

The following year, 1682, Thomas Rowland, who bought the 1,000 acres from Penn, had a surveyor by the name of Charles Ashcom, lay out 500 acres of his 1,000 acres, which he sold to John Dutton. This property takes in ~~the~~ the Convent, Mount Hope Church and the surrounding area, across the township as far as Peter's Mill. This John Dutton, his wife, Mary, - Thomas Rowland and Edward Carter and William Penn, came over on the ship "Welcome".

There were one hundred on board, but on the voyage an epidemic of Smallpox broke out and thirty of them died and were buried at sea. The voyage took fifty-eight days.

The date of John Dutton's death is unknown, but in 1694, John Neal married the widow. I have always been proud to own the Dutton deed to this 500 acres of land, but the old English script is extremely hard to read, but with some help from others, we have it pretty well deciphered.

History tells us the original house built by the Duttons was built of logs in the meadow near the creek, but in times of high water, the water came in the house

and he was forced to build another house on higher ground over a small rivulet.<sup>3.</sup> One of the houses built by the Dutton's is the large stone house on the hill that can be seen after passing the Swimming Pool. This is not the original house. It is now owned by the Sisters of Staint Francis.. Another house built by the Dutton's is the one directly across from the old American Legion. This was built in 1749 by Richard Dutton, a Grandson of the original settler. A stone in the west gable end bears the initials R. D. & M. D., 1749.

At the times of the early settlers there were no Churches, people being too busy building homes for shelter. The first House of Worship, of which I have record, was built by the Society of Friends, or Quakers. The Quakers did not call their Houses of Worship "Churches", but were always spoken of as "Meeting Houses". They never said: "We went to Church". It was always spoken of as "going to Meeting".

Among the very early ones was the one built at Chichester. This one was built of logs in 1688 and was destroyed by fire December 4, 1768. In 1769 it was replaced by the stone building that is still standing. This is a very historic building and the inside doors have bullet holes in them made by the British soldiers. After the battle of Brandywine, which occurred September 11, 1777, some of the wounded American soldiers were brought here from Chadds' Ford. Some of the British soldiers, who were encamped at Mount Hope and Village Green, went to get these wounded soldiers as prisoners or possibly to dispose of them. Fortunately, the neighbors heard of this and had them removed before the arrival of the British soldiers. Whether from pure devilment or because they had been outsmarted, they shot holes through the doors. The ones who died are buried under a mound of earth where the bodies of some Indians are buried. This is in the adjoining cemetery. Here lie the bodies of the early settlers from that area. All of the grave stones are small, the Quakers never believed in show and everything had to be very plain, just marked by the names and date of birth and death. Some are marked with plain field stones without

any inscription. In passing through, you will see some of the graves are not laid at the same angles as others and you may wonder at this; - the belief being among some that the bodies should lie east and west facing the rising sun. In front of the building is a stone pedestal with steps at one end, and you may wonder what it was used for. Many of the women rode to Meeting on horse-back and they used it so they could easily mount their horses. My Grandmother told me she used to ride to Meeting on horse-back from Hall's Corner, (Now Fisher's Corner) to Chichester Meeting. She and her husband, Samuel R. Hall, (my Grandfather) are buried in the adjoining cemetery. A visit to this place is worthwhile.

Returning to Aston, we will travel up the road from Marcus Hock to Village Green. This road was laid out as a highway by the Grand Jury on the first week of October 1688. On the same day, the road from Village Green to Edgemont was laid out by the Grand Jury. -- (Ashmead's History).

Having no Churches, the religious services were held at private homes and the first Ministers were known as "Circuit Riders", each one had several stops, and often long distances apart. They traveled mostly on horse-back as they rode through forests and forded streams. All denominations had their Circuit Riders. The Circuit Rider who visited the Mount Hope Methodist area was a Francis Asbury, and made reference on different occasions to stopping at Aaron Mattson's. He lived in a house in Aston, which at one time was occupied by James Scheivert and family. Mattson was a paper manufacturer and had a mill at West Branch, which he built between 1790 and 1795, and was operated by a water wheel. This mill was washed away by a freshet August 5, 1843, but at that time it was owned by John P. Crozer.

For anyone who wishes to see where Mount Hope actually started, - go past the Convent and take the first road to the left. After going along that road for a short distance, instead of taking the road to the right, keep straight ahead,

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and the first house on the right was Aaron Mattson's home. Mattson was a devout Christian and was interested in building a Church in this area, and it was through his generosity that he and his wife, Mary, gave the ground on which Mount Hope Church stands, and in the year 1807 the Church was built and a small cemetery adjoining.

Their bodies lie between the old and the new Churches and are marked by the original tombstones. The late Nelson D. Clayton was a descendant of Aaron Mattson, and his widow, (now deceased), Mrs. Harriet Clayton, wrote a very interesting article on many of the highlights of Mount Hope. She wrote that they were compiled from family diaries, Church records and the Pennsylvania Archives.

One of her fondest hopes was realized when, after recent building programs were completed, that in an open space between the buildings, unmolested, remained the tombstones of Aaron Mattson, his wife, Mary, and daughter, Isabella. Over the years the membership increased, and in 1838, an addition of twenty feet was added to the rear.

I can well remember what the old Church was like inside. There were benches on both sides, then an aisle on either side and long benches in the middle with a division in the center. On both sides about half way along were large pot-bellied coal burning stoves which seemed to heat very comfortably. In the front was the pulpit which was elevated about three feet above the main floor and had steps on both sides.

In the right corner were benches and that is where the small children had a class. This was called the "Infant Class", and I can well remember being in that class, - our teacher being Miss Ida West, a daughter of James West, who was the first full-time Sexton at Mount Hope. He and his family were the first occupants of the house where Joseph Shisler now lives. This house was built in 1884, on ground containing one acre, purchased from Isabella Mattson, daughter

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of Aaron Mattson, in 1854, at the price of \$100.00. Prior to that time, one of the men who lived in this community, - George McCracken, by name, - dug the graves and acted as Caretaker.

In May 1847, Reverend John Mills, who was the Minister in charge, died and was buried in a graveyard at Corner Ketch, (now Chelsea). This cemetery was in the rear of the little Church. This is now used as a dwelling.

In the year of 1860, a division took place on the question of building a new Church at Village Green, or repairing the old one. A minority withdrew and built a Church at Village Green, and later was used as a Grange Hall; and (at the present writing is used as an Apartment Building, located two buildings above the home of Mrs. Ethel O. Weir, on the north side of Pennell Road).

This didn't prove to be successful and was sold to the Crozer's of Upland.

The Crozer's were Baptists and started a Baptist Church. The first Minister who was stationed there that I can remember was Reverend Miller Jones, a man beloved by everyone. He and his family lived in the parsonage which is the home of James Rodgers, across the road from the old Village Green School.

In 1868, Mount Hope Cemetery was enlarged by the purchase of one acre of ground from Samuel R. Hall, (my Grandfather), for \$300.00. This was in the rear of the Church. Ashwood's History tells of buying six acres of ground in 1838. This was incorrect, for until 1868, they owned only three acres, at which time they purchased four acres and thirty-three perches from the heirs of Samuel R. Hall, my Mother being one of the heirs.

On this ground, the Parsonage was built in 1877, by Lewis D. Wood, a first Cousin of my Mother. Before the Parsonage was built, Mount Hope had a Parsonage at Marcus Hook. This was sold and the Minister lived in the frame house across from what is now the Municipal Building. The barn in which the Minister kept his horse and wagon was built the same year as the Parsonage, by Joshua Habbersett, an Uncle of the late Isaac Habbersett, - for \$325.00. I do not know

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whether this included the material or just for his services.

In 1882, a parcel of land was purchased from John B. Rhodes, containing twenty-six square perches and twelve one-hundredths. At the same time, Mount Hope sold to Rhodes a parcel of ground containing about the same amount of ground, this being done to straighten a line between the two properties.

In 1898, a contract was awarded to George Sheaff, who lived at Fifth and Madison Streets, Chester, for the building of a new Church, - his bid being \$6,679.00. While the new Church was being built, Services were held in a large tent on what is now the parking lot. A platform for the organ and the Minister was built and benches and chairs from the old Church were used for seats. The new Church was not completed before cold weather, but the Sunday School room was nearly finished and Services were held there. In April 1899, the Church was dedicated.

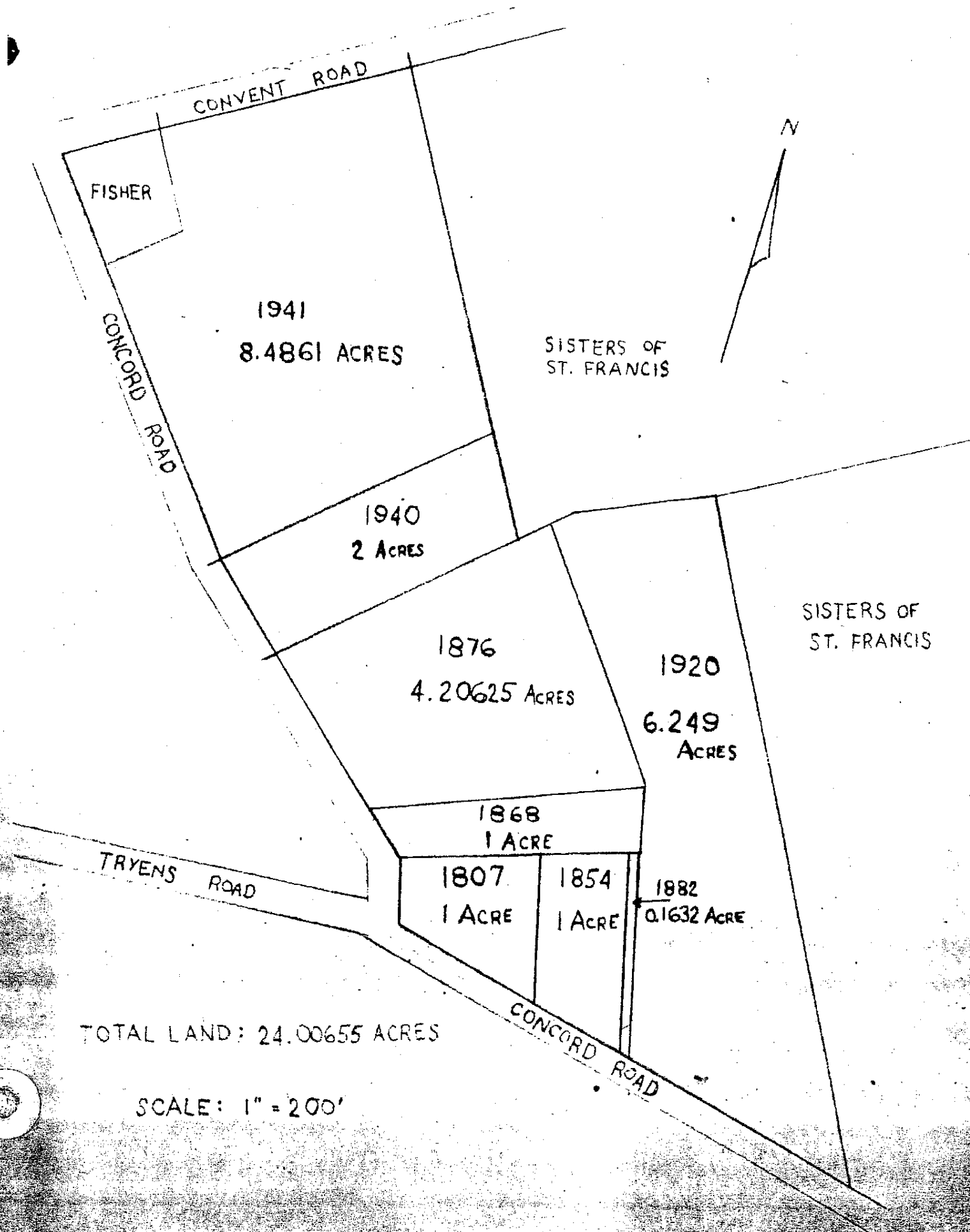
Until 1920, Mount Hope Cemetery contained less than eight acres. In that year my father went to see Mr. Forstburg, who owned all of the land from the entrance at Joseph Shisler's house, almost to the Red Hill Road, extending back to the Convent Road, then along the Convent Road, from the Convent to Fisher's Corner, and from Fisher's Corner to the Parsonage. My father asked him if he would sell some ground to the Trustees, as the ground they owned was being sold and they would soon need more. Mr. Forstburg told him he would see that they would get it as he always liked Mount Hope and wanted it to be his last resting place. Mr. Forstburg, his wife, and daughter lie in the beautiful sarcophagus which bears the name of "Forstburg", at the turn of the drive. -- This ground was purchased in 1920 and contained about six and one-quarter acres. From the same property, the Sisters of Saint Francis bought twenty acres and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ormsby purchased two acres, on which they built a house. This house was destroyed by fire and in the year 1940, Mrs. Mattie Ormsby, widow of Robert Ormsby, sold the two acres to the Trustees. This left over \_\_\_\_\_ acres of

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the original tract, and in 1941, a cousin of mine by the name of Lawrence Talley, who conducts quite a large real estate business in Wilmington, came to see me and told me that ground had been listed with him for sale and wanted to know if I knew of anyone who might be interested. I told him I thought I did and for him to go see Isaac Habbersett, President of the Board of Trustees, and tell him I said to buy it while they had the chance.

Mr. Habbersett called a special meeting of the Trustees and they purchased the ground containing approximately eight and one-half (8½) acres, making Mount Hope Cemetery containing approximately twenty-four (24) acres. --

# LANDS OF MT. HOPE METHODIST CHURCH



TOTAL LAND: 24.00655 ACRES

SCALE: 1" = 200'



MT. HOPE METHODIST CHURCH

CHRONOLOGY  
OF

REAL ESTATE

ACQUIRED	GRANTOR	COST	ACRES
6/3---1807	AARON MATTSON	.50¢ SPECIE	1
1807	CHURCH BUILT		
1838	CHURCH EXTENDED 20 FT.		
2/6 1854	ISABELLE MATTSON	\$100.00	1
4/13--1868	SAMUEL R. HALL	300.00	1
5/2---1876	HEIRS OF SAMUEL R. HALL	1051.6625	4.20625
1877	PARSONAGE BUILT		
12/27-1882	JOHN B. RHODES The Church sold Rhodes .098 Acres in exchange; to straighten lines. Bought it back by Deed 1/3 1941	50.00	.1632
1884	SEXTON'S HOUSE BUILT		
1899	NEW CHURCH BUILT (2ND.)		
4/21--1920	FORSTBURG	937.35	6.249
4/20--1940	M. M. ORMSEY	1700.00	2
1/3---1941	HENRY E. LACKEY	2970.14	8.4861
1952	HABBERSSETT HALL BUILT		
1960	NEW CHURCH BUILT (3RD.)		
			24.10455
			.098
			24.00655

Over the years I have had many disappointments and heartaches and I will not mention any of them, but I thought it might be well to inject some of the humorous incidents instead.

Before the days of the automobile, most country young men had their horse and buggy, or runabout, which they used to go see their lady friends.

Mount Hope had sheds in which the people who drove to Church put their horses and wagon.

A certain young man, who lived in Boothwyn, came to see a girl in this area, and they would come to Church in the evenings. While they were in Church, two young fellows took the hind wheels off and put them in front, and the front wheels in the rear. The hind wheels were higher than the front wheels. They came out of Church and rode around the country and the owner never noticed it until the following day. --

As the Darkey used to say -- "Ain't love grand?"

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Incident No. 2

The second incident is one about my Brother-in-Law, Rowland Stanert, whom a great many of you know. He used to have a horse and buggy and used it while he was courting my sister, Alice.

My sister played the organ and Rowland would drive up and put his team in the sheds, attend the Service, and afterwards the two spent their evenings together. One summer evening, Rowland hitched his horse to the runabout and tied his horse while he got ready to come to Church. The horse got loose and started up the road in a very leisurely way, crossed the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks, it being before the overpass was built, - up to Village Green, made the left hand turn and was as far as the Sexton's house, when Mr. Petiet, who was Sexton at that time, recognizing the team, (which he had seen many times before), -- saw the team without a driver, he turned the team around, got in and drove down the road hunting Rowland, who he found coming up the road, - hunting his horse!!

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Incident No. 3

Many years ago they didn't have concrete vaults like we have today, but used plain wooden burial boxes, very seldom painted or even varnished. The Undertaker would bring these boxes out two or three days in advance and put them in the sheds to keep them dry. The day of the funeral, they would carry them out and lower them before the funeral arrived.

In those days there were tramps who used to go from house to house asking for food and would sleep in people's barns. Often times they would sleep in Mount Hope sheds.

One night it got quite cool ~~and~~ and Mr. West, who was Sexton at that time, told me when he came out in the morning to go to work, just as he was passing one of these boxes, the lid raised up and a fellow stuck his head out, having slept in the box to keep warm!

Mr. West told me he surely was surprised when that happened.

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AUGUST G. TRYENS

1857 - 1933

At this time I thought it was only proper to tell you something about my Father, - August G. Tryens. He was born December 20, 1857, in Denmark, and at an early age, the family moved to Antwerp, Belgium. At the age of twelve, he left home on a German sailing ship. This was during the French and Prussian War, and to keep from being captured by the French Navy, they went up in the North Sea to a place called Fromso, Norway. This was the most northern town except one, - Hammerfest, - being farther north.

After Winter set in, their ship was frozen in the ice until the following Spring. This was during the time of darkness for many days, and he used to tell how the Captain awoke everyone to see the Midnight Sun.

In the Spring, after the ice melted and the war was over, they sailed for America. On the way across they encountered calm weather and were forced to wait for the wind to blow enough to fill the sails. They also encountered head winds and were forced to tack; - this, of course, meant much more mileage and they finally arrived in America after being out of sight of land for seventy-two days, -- with no possessions except a trunk with his clothing and a gold coin which his Mother had sewed in his clothes.

He came to Aston and worked for some of the farmers in this area, and finally went with a George McCracken, a butcher, and learned to be a meat cutter.

In 1878, he started in business for himself, which he conducted successfully for many years. Through thrift and hard work he built a house now standing on Tryens Road (where Mrs. Mary Harrington lives), raised four children, bought a farm containing sixty (60) acres and saved enough to be comfortably fixed. He was a member of Mount Hope Church and served as President of the Board of Trustees. He gave unstintingly of his time and talents, especially when the Church was being built.

August G. Tryens (continued)

He also served on the first Board of Commissioners of Aston Township, when Aston was changed from a Second Class Township to a First Class Township, - this being done when the population reached two thousand (2,000).

About 1924, he had a stroke, from which he never fully recovered, and I took over the business and conducted it until December 1952, when the business was discontinued, being just five months short of seventy-five (75) years serving the people of this vicinity with meat, many of the families which we served for three generations.

He died September 5, 1933.

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Aston TownshipR O A D S

On an early map on which the names of the first settlers appear only three Roads are shown. -- Old King's Road ran parallel to the Delaware River. -- (Ashmead's History - Page 435).

1 6 8 6

In 1686, a road was opened from Concord Township, starting at the Smith Bridge Road, about one-half way between Concord Road and Elam. Its direction was through Booth's Corner down to what is now known as Boothwyn, thence South through what is now known as Linwood, down to what is now the main street in Marcus Hook to the Delaware River.

1 6 8 7

In 1687, another road was laid out from Birmingham through Concord to Corner Ketch. From Corner Ketch, it passed through Twin Oaks and Feltonville, crossing what is now Ninth Street in Chester, down to what is now Kerlin Street to the river. The name of Corner Ketch was changed to Chelsea in 1856.

1 7 0 5

The road best known to Aston residents is the Concord Road and was extended from Chelsea to Chester in 1705. It began at Chelsea, down through what is now known as Tryan's Road, through Village Green to Cartertown, (now Feltonville), where it joined the road built the year before, into Chester.

1 7 2 6

We do not know when the road known as Red Hill Road was opened, but it is shown in a survey of lands of John Dutton in 1736.

1 7 7 2

The road from Log Town (Chester Heights) to Hall and Sharpless Mill, (located at Llewellyn, now known as Aston Mills), was opened in 1772. -- (Ashmead's History - Page 294). This is now called the Birney Highway.

Aston Township Roads  
(Continued)

1 8 0 5

The road from Mount Hope Church to Aston Mills, known as the Mill Road, was opened in 1805. This information is in an entry in the Road Docket at Media, filed in the Court House.

1 8 3 8

We have been unable to pin-point the exact date when what is known as the Convent Road, leaving the Concord Road, (near where the Chester Municipal Authority water tanks now stand)- down through Fisher's Corner, past the Convent to the Red Hill Road, was opened. In a deed of 1838, the road was not mentioned, yet the deed of the same property, when sold in 1842, read as follows:- "Across the road leading from Corner Ketch to the road leading from Village Green to Rockdale", -- the road is mentioned.

EARLY SCHOOLS OF ASTON

In the early days the schools were private, and unless parents could afford to pay to send their children to one of these, it is doubtful if they received any education.

Among the early private schools in Aston was what was known as the "Octagon School", - this being a two story school and was built on a plot of ground containing one acre at Village Green and was used as a private school; a James McMullen was the Schoolmaster.

In 1836, after the Public School law went into effect, and a Board of Directors was organized, the old school passed into the possession of the township and on September 30, 1836, a school was opened there. Nicholas P. Walter was employed as a teacher in the lower room, and Mrs. Moore was appointed teacher in the upper room, - their salary being \$25.00 a month. -- (Ashmead's History Page 298). This school stood about thirty or forty feet back of the school which now stands, the foundation walls were plainly visible when I went to school. The school that now stands was built in 1853.

On the Dutton tract, where the Convent now stands, - about 1845, Reverend Benjamin S. Hethrington, - an Episcopal Clergyman, established a Seminary for young men and ladies which soon gained popularity. The Principal was constantly enlarging until he finally became bankrupt. In removing an old house adjoining the Seminary buildings, a beam was found distinctly marked February 26, 1704. This house was built of hewed logs of yellow poplar and was built by Thomas Dutton and was part of the original tract of 500 acres.

On June 14, 1859, Benjamin S. Hethrington sold the estate to William Moroney and he conveyed it to the Philadelphia Theological Seminary of Saint Charles Borromeo, while the new Seminary was being built at Overbrook, the educational work of this institution of learning was conducted. When the new building was completed in the summer of 1871, the estate near Village Green, comprising twenty-eight and one-half acres was offered for sale.



(Early Schools of Aston-continued)

On September 7th. of that year the property was sold to the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia. For a time the old Seminary building was used, but it soon became too small and a new Convent was erected, the corner stone being laid May 29, 1873. --(Ashmead's History, Page 300).

About 1857, J. Harvey Barton established a Seminary at Village Green, on the Rockdale Road near the Baptist Church. It was an Institute in which both sexes were received and educated, and ranked high, - many of its pupils having risen to prominent positions, among them being John Drew, one of the greatest actors of all time, he being an uncle of John, Ebbel and Lionel Barrymore.

My Mother, Sarah H. Hall, and my Uncle, Samuel H. Hall, attended this school.

In 1866 it was discontinued as a school and is now an apartment.

Another early school in Aston was known as Martin's School, afterward known as Logtown School, and in 1880 the name was changed to Chester Heights.--(Ashmead History, Page 299).

Aston Mills School was built in 1870. My Mother taught at both schools, presumably from 1876 to 1881, and she told me she walked back and forth from Hall's Corner to Chester Heights night and morning. She never told me what salary she received, but I don't think it was very much.

Dorothy Stanert, my niece, has the paper for Mother's appointment, signed by C. C. V. Crawford, one of the Directors at that time. He was a physician and in after years escorted her four children into the world --(Samuel H. Tryens).

A school being required at Rockdale, the Board directed a suitable building should be obtained for that purpose, and Richard S. Smith, a Director, offered the rent of a house free, provided it was left in as good a condition as the Board found it. The offer was accepted and the dwelling standing back of what used to be the Mountain House was the first Public School at that point. --(Ashmead's History, Page 229). The house of Harry Tillman stands where this school stood. In 1853 the school at Rockdale was built. The building now standing is not the original school. The building now standing was sold to Saint Francis de Sales Church. In 1879 a brick school was built at Bridgewater.

KNOWLTON

I have been asked how Knowlton got its name. The site of Knowlton up to the year 1800 was a perfect wilderness. After crossing the creek, there was a mill race which crossed the road and near the headgates, which would be on the left side of the road, there was the mark of a grave, the occupant of which, tradition named "Moggey", and from that circumstance, the crossing of the creek was named "Moggey's Ford" -- (Smith's History, Page 399).

The word "Ford" was used at places along creeks where the streams had to be forded before bridges were built, - names like "Chadds' Ford", - "Presbyterian Ford" (now Mount Alverno).

My Mother told me she could remember driving through the creek before the bridge was built. On the left side after making the turn to the right were three stone houses and above them on the hill were more stone houses. Near the road you can see where the old well with a hand pump was located, -- the people in the houses all using the same well. On the other side of the road near the creek, close to where the nice home of Mr. Frank B. Cross now stands, was a Cotton Mill, and I can well remember the old three story stone building, and have climbed the stairway the employees used.

The machinery was driven by water power but not by water wheel, but a turbine was used. The machinery had been removed long before my time, but the old gears from the turbine were left behind and I can remember seeing them. *Samuel H. Travers*

This mill was operated by the Crozer's of Upland, and one of the Crozer's married an English woman by the name of Knowles. Mrs. Crozer always admired that part of the country and asked if they would name the place "Knowles".

They did not think Knowles would be an appropriate name, so they took the first five letters of her name and added "ton", -- Hence the name. (This information was given to me by the late William E. Griffith, Editor of the Rockdale Herald).

(Reprint from the Rockdale Herald of July 30, 1943)

19.

### FLOOD OF 1843

One hundred years ago on August 5, 1843, occurred the greatest freshet in all history around this section. The big flood caused thousands of dollars damage, swept away factories, houses and other buildings, caused the death of several persons, and completely changed the geography of the countryside.

On that summer day in 1843 the atmosphere was thick, sultry and hot. Had been for several days, and at about four o'clock in the afternoon heavy clouds were seen to gather. They got lower and heavier and then, all at once, there was a torrential cloudburst, and before the swollen waters receded, the creek had risen to 24 feet above its normal level.

Within an hour after the storm broke, buildings, animals and all kinds of driftwood and objects were seen floating madly down stream, pig pens with pigs in them were seen by some.

John P. Crozer was operating the West Branch Mill at that time, also the Yorkshire Mill. Workmen got busy moving yarn and cloth from the lower floors to the upper ones, but it availed nothing. The ranging torrent tore the mill building loose, and so strong was the current that even machinery was carried down stream.

At Parkmount, the east and the west branches of Chester Creek unite, and the current then became much stronger. John Garsed was running a machine shop along the creek back of where the Methodist Church stands in Rockdale, and the shop and its tools soon succumbed to the flood, Garsed fleeing just in time to escape drowning.

Farther down the stream, just a little north of where the railroad now is, John Rhodes, an Englishman, had a small farm, located right at the Glen Riddle bridge. When the storm came up, Mr. Rhodes was alarmed for fear that his cows might get caught in the high, swift current. Proceeding to the barn to look after them, the flood caught him, and he was carried down stream, and drowned. The Rhodes' house became a victim soon after, and Mr. Rhodes' two daughters,

Flood of 1843 (continued) (2)

Hannah and Jane, and a grand-daughter, Mary Ann Cullingworth, were swept away with the house and drowned.

On the Rhodes' premises were also four tenant houses, and these were also destroyed, and in one of these houses at the time was Mrs. Mary Jane McGuigan, wife of Thomas McGuigan. Mr. McGuigan was away from home at the time, but Mrs. McGuigan was in the house with a young baby, and both perished in the raging waters. A little girl from Manayunk, visiting the McGuigan's, met the same fate. The body of John Rhodes was found next morning along the creek at Mt. Alverno, and the other bodies were found near Baldwin's Run.

Across Pennell Road from the Rhodes' property, near the edge of the creek, was a three-story stone house, which is still standing. A number of refugees, fleeing for their lives when the water came up, took refuge in this old house, first assembling on the first floor, and finally going to the top floor when the water came in. There were ten people huddled in this house, and it looked as if the building would have to give away to the terrific torrent.

Their predicament could be plainly seen from atop the Yellow Row Hill, near Calvary Church, a high promontory which accorded a clear view of the disaster. A crowd of citizens assembled on this high hill to view the flood, and had seen the folks enter the stone house. Richard S. Smith, a leader among men, immediately organized a prayer meeting on the hill, and prayed earnestly for the safety of the inmates of the threatened house.

A very short time thereafter, when it looked as if the house could not endure the strong current, a large sycamore tree was uprooted by the torrent, which turned the current away from the building, and the building and those within it were saved by this apparent miracle.

The next morning, after the waters had receded, Rockdale was indeed nothing but a vast bed of dry rocks, particularly along the shores of the creek. It was

Flood of 1843 (Concluded) --(3)

difficult to locate the roads, and nobody seemed to know where the roads had been. All of the bridges had been swept away, so the town had to be laid out anew.

New roads were laid out, in different locations, the wrecked factories and houses were replaced, and those who lived around here at that time had to begin life all over again,

In Fernsgrove, now Glen Riddle, four stone houses near the edge of the creek were swept away, but the occupants all fled to safety and escaped a watery grave.

Mary Jackson, a 25 year old colored woman, was gathering driftwood in the meadow at Dutton's Mill when the torrent caught her, and she was immediately drowned.

John Rhodes, the flood victim, was the grandfather of John B. Rhodes, well known manufacturer and founder of Aston Mills. The bodies of the Rhodes flood victims were buried in Calvary cemetery, in Rockdale, where a grave stone in the center of the cemetery lists their names and tells what happened to them.

The land on which now stands the Beaumont gasoline service station is a part of the Rhodes farm.

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### KNOWLTON MILLS

On the Sixteenth of January, 1789, Nicholas Fairlamb, (who at that time owned the Cobourn, or Dutton Mills), conveyed to John Sharpless, the tract of land on which the Knowlton Mills are situated. No mention is made in this deed of a mill or mill seat. In 1800 "the site of Knowlton was a perfect wilderness".

On September 30, 1802, John Sharpless conveyed the same tract to Jonathan Tyson, with the right of a certain dam thereon. On November 15th. of the same year, Tyson purchased of Elizabeth Grissell (Griswold), fourteen acres in Aston Township, located on Chester Creek, opposite to the tract he had bought of Sharpless; the deed specifically mentions the dam rights, etc.

On May 25, 1807, Elijah Tyson, a son of Jonathan, bought of his father, two hundred and fifty acres of land in Middletown, embracing the mill site, dams, and water rights, and July 25th of the same year, the fourteen acres in Aston, with right to abut a dam against the shore of the creek. In this year 1807, for the first time, the name of Tyson appeared on the assessment-roll in connection with the mills, and at that time, Elijah Tyson was assessed on a saw mill. He continued to control the business until July 27, 1813, when he sold eight acres in Middletown, including the mill, mill-dam rights, etc., and fourteen and one-half acres in Aston Township, opposite, with water rights, to Judah Dobson, of Philadelphia, who changed the saw mill to a rolling mill. Little information has been gained concerning this mill, but tradition asserts it was a copper mill, and the road leading from the place to Village Green was known as Copper Mill Road.

The venerable Hon. Edward Darlington, of Media, now in his eighty-

Knowlton Mills (Continued)

ninth year, states the mill was known as Dobson's Copper Mill, and was used for rolling copper into sheets. The mill does not appear on the assessment rolls for 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, nor in that of 1821. On November 6, 1822, John Vaughan and John Hart, Assignees of Thomas and Judah Dobson, conveyed to Samuel Love, "all that rolling-mill and four tracts of land", one of which is described as in Middletown, on Chester Creek, containing eight acres, adjoining lands of Elijah Tyson, Abram Trimble, and others. Another tract was in Aston, and was partly covered by the mill pond, and was adjoining and below the land of Jesse Grissell (Griswold).

Samuel Love retained title to the estate until February 9, 1825, when he conveyed it to John D. Carter, who had been operating the Trimble Cotton Mill in Concord since 1813. In the deed to Carter, it is stated that the rolling mill had been changed into a cotton factory, and that the "cotton factory, mill, dams, ponds, races, etc., and four pieces of land" were the properties embraced in the conveyance. In the "Report of the Manufactories of Delaware County", made in 1826, the place is described as being above Dutton Mill, on Chester Creek, in Middletown Township, a cotton factory, forty by ninety, head and fall thirteen feet, owned and occupied by John D. Carter, has seven carding engines of twenty-eight and two of thirty-one engines, workers and strippers, two drawing frames of four double heads each, two double speeders of ten bobbins each, one stretcher of forty-two spindles, eight hundred and eight throstle spindles, six hundred and sixteen mule spindles; spins twelve hundred and seventy-eight pounds of cotton yarn per week, No. 20, with power to drive four thousand spindles, with all the necessary preparation. Employees about forty-six hands; tenements

Knowlton Mills (Continued)

for thirteen families". This property was owned by Carter until April, 1829, when it was sold to Edward Darlington and Thomas Clyde, and Carter removed to the South. The mills were rented by Darlington and Clyde to Kershaw, Dean and Hill, who operated them until they were sold, March 4, 1832, to Robert Beatty. and John O'Neill. At the time of the purchase, there was a cotton factory and tilt\* mill on the estate. Beatty and O'Neill began at this place the manufacture of edge tools, but O'Neill soon withdrew from the firm and rented from Beatty, who had bought the cotton mill at Knowlton. On January 7, 1834, the factory was, with contents, entirely consumed by fire.

On October 26, 1835, John P. Crozer bought the property, containing the four tracts of land conveyed in 1822 to Samuel Love, a tilt mill, saw mill, new building for factory, twenty-five by thirty-five feet, one brick and seven stone houses. After the sale, Mr. Beatty continued the business at the place for a year or two when Mr. Crozer erected a stone cotton mill, thirty-two by seventy-six feet, three stories in height. This mill building was washed away in 1843, and the next year a stone building thirty-three by eighty-five feet, three stories in height was erected.

In 1846, Phineas Lownes and Abraham Blakely commenced manufacturing at that place, and continued until 1853, when it was operated by Mr. Crozer until about 1869. At the latter date the mill was leased by John B. Rhodes, who now operates it, (Near the head gates of the mill there was formerly the marks of a grave, the occupant of which tradition named "Moggey", and from that circumstance, the crossing of the creek was named "Moggey's Ford".

\*--(Cloth covering for a wagon, or cart, or boat).



Knowlton Mills - (Concluded)

Ashmead History -- Pages 620-621.

This history was written by:

Henry Graham Ashmead in 1884.

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John P. Crozer was married on the 12th of March 1825 to Miss Sallie L. Knowles, the daughter of a neighbor. They had nine children -- Samuel A., Margaret, Elizabeth, J. Lewis, Sallie K., James, George K., Robert H., and Emma.

James died October 25, 1838; - Sallie - August 1852; Margaret - March 1870. His widow died August 3, 1882, aged 82 years.

Mr. Crozer died March 11, 1866.

Ashmead's History -- Page 432.

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### THE OLD SABLE NAIL WORKS

The story of the old Iron Works which, prior to 1785, was established on the opposite side of Chester Creek from the Nail Works, has been related in the history of Aston Township.

In 1809, Captain Henry Moore, who was then in charge of the forge and rolling mills on the other side of the creek, owned by his brother-in-law, Thomas Odiorne, erected on the island in the creek at Rockdale, a nail factory, and placed therein, nine nail machines. In 1810, one hundred tons of iron was manufactured into nails at this factory, which were sold on an average of ten cents per pound, the capacity being increased gradually until in 1826, one hundred and fifty tons of nails were manufactured, and in 1832, the annual production had reached four hundred tons.

In the latter year, Richard Smith, a wholesale hardware dealer in Philadelphia, was compelled to take the works to cover advances made to Captain Moore, and he leased the establishment to Howard and Massey for several years; they using the building for a machine shop. It later passed to Bernard McCready and was used as a Cotton Factory by James Roe, and still later to Robert Boyd, under his occupancy it was partly destroyed by fire.

The property was purchased by Alexander Balfour, who erected the present building and rented it to Joseph Richardson, Nicholas Walter, and H. P. Griffiths, who manufactured cotton and woollen goods for about two years. It later passed to Samuel Riddle, who operated it a few years and removed the machinery to his other mills.

### THE BOTTOMLEY WOOLEN MILL

On a little run, known in the early days as Clark's Run, later as Chrome Creek, a feeder of Chester Creek, which empties into the latter a short distance above Presbyterian Ford (now Mt. Alverno), about 1810, a small woolen factory, fifteen by thirty feet, was erected by James Grissell for James and John Bottomley. The latter were Englishmen and were accompanied to America by their Mother, a brother Samuel, and a sister, Elizabeth, who subsequently was married to \_\_\_\_\_ Groves. The males of the family worked in the factory, and John died at that place. Samuel, after the War of 1812, went to Baltimore where he died.

The Bottomley's continued the woolen mills until 1832, the land being owned by Jesse Grissell (Griswold), who had purchased it in 1806 of Morris Trueman, when James Milles and Robert Boyd rented the property, Miller made the edge tools; the latter turned axe handles, bobbins, and manufactured paper there in a small way. The mill was burned in 1848.

ASTON MILLS

Previous to the Revolutionary War, Robert Hall and Abraham Sharpless owned and operated a Grist Mill on the West Branch of Chester Creek. The traces of the old race which fed those works and the remains of the old dam can be seen to this day. The old race evidently was in use for a mill, probably about 1772, of which mention is made in the Road Docket of a road as being laid at that time from Log Town, (now Chester Heights), to Hall and Sharpless Mill, (this road is now called Birney Highway). Hall acquired title to the entire property, and on April 5, 1798, he sold thirty-four acres, on which was then erected a stone house, a Grist and Saw Mill, to Thomas Jones, and Hall became a storekeeper in Aston, while Jones operated the mill unsuccessfully, and on July 20, 1800, John Odenheimer, Sheriff of the County, conveyed twenty-eight and three-quarters (28 3/4) acres with the buildings, to John Rickards. The latter retained title to the estate two years, when on October 23, 1802, he sold the premises to James Tyson. The purchaser was thirty-three years of age, and continued to operate the mills, (having in connection with the Grist Mill, erected an Oil Mill) for more than half a century until his death, which occurred March 15, 1858, at the age of eight-six years. During the flood of 1843, much property was destroyed at these mills, - the race and dam almost obliterated.

On March 25, 1864, Elwood Tyson, Executor of his father's estate, sold the premises, excepting three-quarters of an acre, to John B. and Samuel Rhodes, who changed the old mill into a Cotton and Woolen Factory, and in 1868, a structure was erected one hundred and ten by fifty-seven feet, two stories in height.

(Aston Mills)

-2-

continued

In 1872, an addition of one hundred and thirty-five feet was made to the mill, the whole, including the building put up in 1868, being enlarged by the erection of a third story, and in 1879, another addition of one hundred and twelve feet and three stories was built, making the whole length of the main mill three hundred and fifty-five feet, in which were nearly four hundred looms.

The industry, as it developed, built up a village containing about one hundred tenement houses. For the convenience of the tenants, a store was established at Llewellyn, (now Aston Mills) in the summer of 1877, and in 1880 it was made a Postal Station, John B. Rhodes being appointed Postmaster.

In addition to these mills, they purchased mills at West Branch and leased a mill at Knowlton, which they operated in conjunction with the mills at Aston Mills.

John B. Rhodes, the senior member of the firm, was the Grandson of John Rhodes, who emigrated from Yorkshire, England, in 1827, and settled in Aston Township, where his death by drowning, together with two daughters, occurred during the great freshet in August 1843.

John B. Rhodes, the owner and operator of the mills, came from humble beginnings, - his education was gained at the sessions of a night school; the Public School System not yet being introduced in this part of the State. (The Public School Law went into effect in 1836). He was a Democrat and was a delegate to the Saint Louis Convention, which in 1876, nominated Tilden and Hendricks. He was educated in the tenets of the Protestant Episcopal Faith, but was

( Aston Mills )  
Concluded

-3-

a regular attendant of the Mount Hope Methodist Church.

All of the coal for the boilers and all of the cotton to be made into the manufactured articles had to be hauled from Parkmount, and all of the manufactured goods, -- doeskins, jeans, and dress goods -- had to be hauled to the Parkmount Freight Station by four or five large wagons, each pulled by two horses or mules, and it was a familiar sight meeting these teams as you came along the road. These horses and mules were kept in a large barn across from where William F. Slackway now lives, and was always spoken of as "The Mule Barn".

Mr. Rhodes' son, Alfred, and his family, lived in the house where Mr. Thomas Curry and his family lives, and another, R. Somers, lived in what is now the Apartment House across from Merrill Fisher's Garage.

Power was furnished by a Corliss Engine, built by Robert Wetherill Company of Chester, Pa. The office was the brick building next to Perry's Tavern. It is now used as a dwelling.

One of the things that disturbs me is to see the lack of interest taken in History.

To see the rich heritage left by the old settlers and how it is being abused. The wonderful historic buildings being sacrificed to make way for service stations, etc., and the giant trees which God has taken one hundred or one hundred fifty years to grow, cut down by a man with a power saw in fifteen minutes, makes me wonder if there will not be a day of reckoning.

In this article I have tried to give you some of the high points of Aston Township and Mount Hope, in particular.

This hardly scratches the surface for this area is rich in history.

I have spent much time and effort compiling this information and have tried to have it authentic.

If, through my efforts, I have created any interest in history, I will feel well repaid for my efforts.

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Samuel H. Fryers.