

# YOUR LAND AND MINE

BY  
EDMUND W. VIGUERS



# ***YOUR LAND AND MINE***

***BY***

***EDMUND W. VIGUERS, JR.***

To  
My friends and neighbors

To  
The people who live and will live within the  
boundaries of these several old farms

To  
Those who conduct their businesses  
or earn their daily bread thereon

To  
Those who instruct in secularism or righteousness

And to  
Our practicing physicians

But most of all  
to  
Our children who know the area best and call it home

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is impossible to name everyone who has contributed to the information herein contained. Many people have been helpful; most in a negative way. Among our elder citizens, it was rare to find one who knew anything of the information sought. Of those who helped positively were Mr. John Savage, who lent books and helped to verify certain portions. Mr. H. Gates Lloyd lent a book which was helpful. A long time friend, Arthur Brecht, contributed a couple of books which had belonged to his father, Samuel Kriebel Brecht, Ph.D., Historian and Genealogist. In these last was first found a positive clue to the Davis family mentioned in a "blind" deed of 1823. Miss M. Emma Willis\*, a school teacher of the author's, was the only person who knew anything about the Davises and was otherwise helpful. Mr. Edwin Kessler, an electrical engineer who has also formally studied civil engineering, helped with the line, degree and measurement problems involved in plotting the descriptions found in some of the old deeds. The most important aid came from Miss Helen Moore\* of Brookline who knows her way about the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, where she spent days ferreting out material. Mrs. T. Carroll Davis of Mount Airy, Widow of Dr. T. Carroll Davis, was very cooperative. She contributed a copy of Dr. Davis' booklet, *A Brief Genealogical History of the Davis Family and Allied Lines*, which is on file at the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the Chester County Historical Society. The staff at these places was helpful, as was Mrs. Mayer, librarian of the Friends Historical Society. Much is owed to a descendant of Lewis and Florence David, Mrs. Mary Patterson, Genealogist and leading figure at the restored Friends of the Caleb Pusey House. She patiently listened to problems and made suggestions.

Edmund W. Viguers

(Old) Haverford, Pa. 1968

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\* Died since the beginning of this work

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## INTRODUCTION

There are two principal reasons for writing this historical sketch. First, to record permanently under one cover the story of this small area as indicated on the diagrams herein contained, and to acquaint the people who presently own it or live on it with its history. The second reason grows out of the first: to help create more historical interest and to use this account as a means to facilitate learning of the effect and acceptance of local history. It would require the efforts of many people to research all of the old farms of our respective townships and yet, it seems that it should be done before more and more material is forever lost.

The question is, do enough of our people think that this is true?

Each farmstead has its own story, all more or less interesting. Would it not, for instance, interest you to know that your "spot in the sun" was once owned by a man who lost his wife because he loved his slaves? Some of the land adjacent to Farm Number 1 was owned by such a man. Indeed, the portion of Farm Number 3 which had been part of the Richland Tract was trod by the feet of slaves! The Richland tract was owned by the Willing family. It included part of present Llanerch and westward to about the line of the present N. Drexel Avenue. An account of the Richland tract may become available at some time in the future, since there is a family interested in it whose members have promised to undertake the research necessary to write its history. Would you not think it interesting to learn that your land was once owned by one of the greatest men that Delaware County ever produced? That many of us have shared and do share in the benefits of his greatest effort? This is true of one of our farms.

Ours is a rich heritage, the half of which is scarcely known. It is hoped that this booklet will inspire others to pursue the research of local history. With these thoughts in mind, I will attempt to put some "meat on the dry bones" of the history of our lands from before the days of the first settlements until the 1920's, the days of the real estate developers.

In the following account, accuracy is diligently sought after, but the whole truth has ever been but a will o' the wisp. The human factor varies, points of view differ. We sometimes come up with strange accounts. Stories that have been told do not match the original documents. In some instances, the lack of documentation causes periods of time to pass without leaving a story to tell.

An indispensable key to understanding the contents of this booklet is the plot plan of the several farms, numbered and generally indicating the area of each, found at the end of this introduction.

## AN HISTORICAL SKETCH: YOUR LAND AND MINE

Of your land and mine? Yes, the very ground on which our homes are built! A question that frequently arises among us is this: can the ownership of this, my lot, be traced back to the times of the first settlers? The answer is yes; though, in some instances, it is with great difficulty.

I have mentioned settlers. Settlers were people. A great and noble people! So, with the story of our land must go the story of our people. Generations have lived here. They earned their livings by lumbering, farming, and milling. Some were businessmen; a few were professionals.

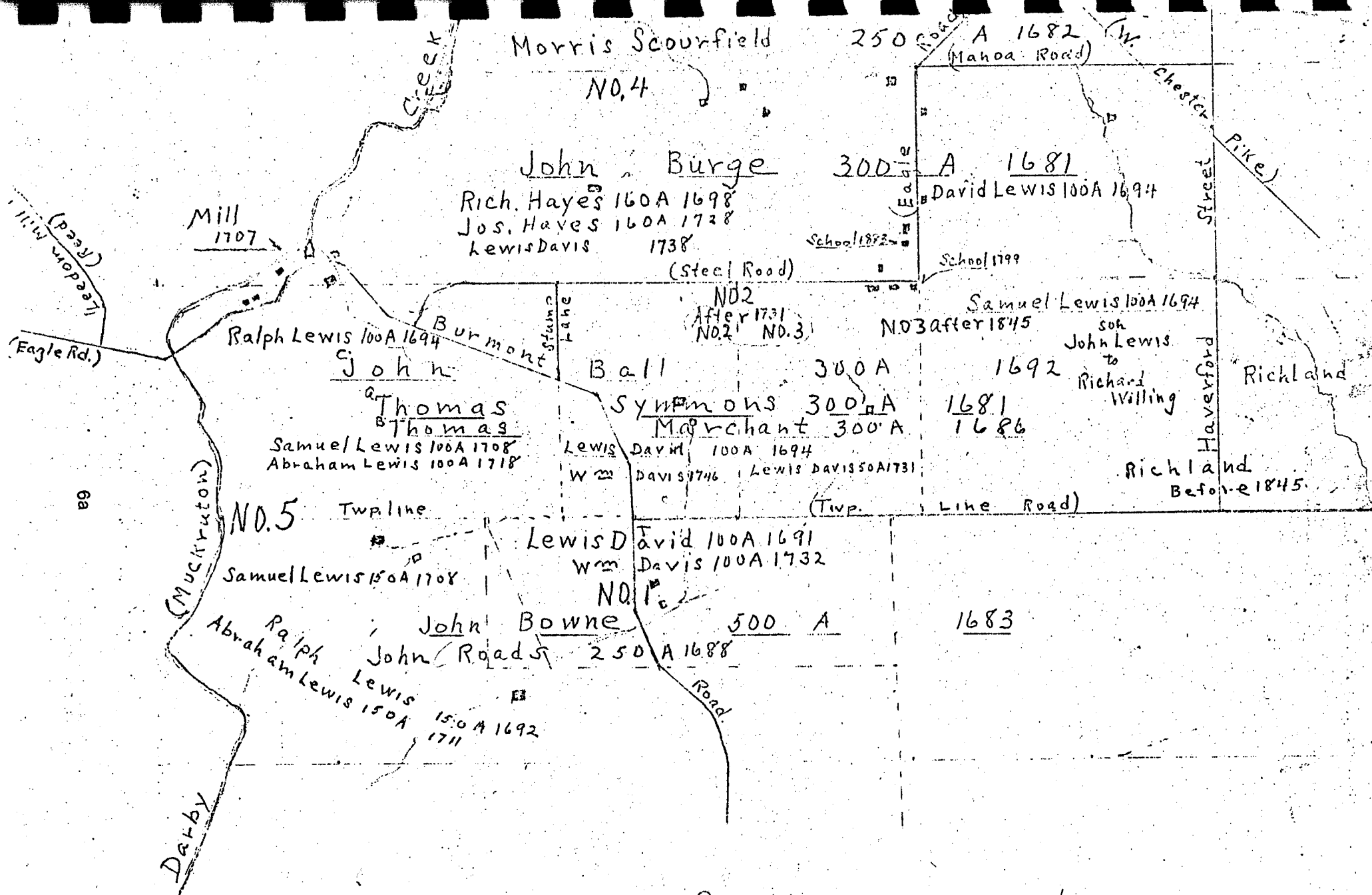
In the area of Pennsylvania under consideration, there were farms, mills, tanneries, a small quarry, and schools. More animals were slaughtered on the farms than were needed for home consumption. The farmstead was often the headquarters for the milk route. These farming operations will be discussed later.

Another thought that comes to mind is: why did these people not leave a record? But, in fact, they did. Although it is a somewhat obscure and spotty one. The record is in the form of wills, inventories, deeds, judgments and other court documents, maps, church records, and particularly records of the Friends Meetings, since most of the early settlers were Quakers. That was true in Haverford until about 1880.

In addition to these original documents, we are favored by the works of several great men of the last century who wrote or compiled fine histories of Chester and Delaware Counties, along with biographical notices. The first of these is George Smith, M.D., whom you can claim for our very own for reasons hereinafter noted. The second, H. Graham Ashmead, wrote a *History of Delaware County, Pa.* Ashmead was a prolific writer. To him goes much of the credit for preserving the biographical knowledge of a large cross section of the people of Delaware County as of 1904. The third, Gilbert Cope, of Chester County, helped perform a like service and was a highly skilled and diligent genealogist. The fourth, John W. Jordan, LL.D., supervised a work entitled, *A History of Delaware County and Its People*. These and many other works would this author recommend to anyone who cares to enlarge his knowledge of our heritage, and from these he has drawn heavily. However, in spite of these fine books and the valuable works they cite, there is much left to be desired when interest is concentrated on such a proportionately small area, i.e., the very land on which we live.

Now that this author has been mentioned, he takes this opportunity to shift into the first person. You now have the evidence. I am not a skilled writer, nor a genealogist, nor a qualified historian. I am simply a person who has lived here in your area since 1912, and I dearly love it. I have a good memory of things as they were when I first saw them. I also think that I have retained nearly all that older people ever told me in my early days. I freely roamed this area as a boy and helped with the plantings, harvests, and the chores on most of the farms under consideration.





Benj Hayes Smiths map  
With a few  
additional notations

## THE LARGER BACKGROUND

We begin in 1609. Henry Hudson, the English navigator, foiled by ice and heavy fog at Novaya Zemlya in his quest to find an easier route to India via a Northern passage, turned about, crossed the Atlantic and started to probe the coast of North America for a Northwest passage. He was in the employ of the Dutch East India Company out of Amsterdam.

Hudson began serious exploration just north of Jamestown, Virginia where he had knowledge that the English had a valid claim, through his friendship with John Smith. From the region of the Chesapeake Bay, he examined the coast northward, and on August 29, 1609, Hudson entered a "great bay." It is said to have been the same bay that Lord De La War had discovered one year earlier (this is both accepted and disputed); hence the name, Delaware Bay.

The fact that Henry Hudson entered the bay was the basis for the Dutch laying claim to it. Hudson then sailed further north along the coast and entered a river which later was named the Hudson River. Here, of course, we all know that the Dutch established a settlement on Manhattan Island. The Dutch called the Hudson River the North River, and our Delaware they called the South River.

By 1614, the Dutch called their claim in North America the "New Netherlands." At first they were simply successful Indian traders; but the purchase of Manhattan from the Indians was the turning point at which permanent settlement and colonization became their goal. This purchase is important to us because it demonstrated the prowess of Peter Minuit as an administrator and his ability to communicate and deal with the Indians.

Beginning in 1624, Director Peter Minuit, first in charge of the Manhattan settlement, was followed by Wouter Van Twiller, Peter Stuyvesant, and Keitch. The Dutch attempted settlement of the South River, using Manhattan as their headquarters. They built forts and brought in domestic animals and equipment, but no women. They started plantations, but were unsuccessful, mainly because of unfortunate misunderstandings with the Indians. Their experiences make very interesting reading. I refer you to the histories already mentioned. There are many good stories that are outside the scope and intent of this account. The undertakings and experiences of Captain Peterszen DeVries of this period are especially worth reading.

In 1632, Peter Minuit was recalled to Holland. He then signed up with the newly formed Swedish West India Company.

In 1638, Minuit, in command of two fine ships, visited Jamestown, and then went North and into our Delaware River, cast anchor at the west bank, called the place Christina, the name of the Sovereign Queen of Sweden, and built a fort.

These Swedes were probably a hardier lot than the Dutch; at any rate, they, with Peter Minuit's "know how," and with the women they had sent for, were able to establish a strong progressive settlement. They also claimed the territory for Sweden. Peter Minuit purchased from the Indians the entire western shore of the Delaware as far upstream as the site of the present Morrisville, Pennsylvania. In this way, the Swedes were entrenched, and thus three nations had reasonable claims to our land. The English claimed all the land between Jamestown and New England. The Dutch claimed our land by reason of discovery and purchase; the Swedes by reason of settlement and purchase. It seemed a situation ripe for war! In fact, there was some small scale fighting. Small groups of Dutch or Swedes would maul each other and sometimes destroy each other's property. Fortunately their superiors were conciliatory.

By the year 1640, the Swedes were so successful that the Dutch trade on the river had fallen off by 30,000 beaver pelts!

In 1643, the government of Sweden appointed John Bjornson Printz, governor of New Sweden. He had been a high ranking military man. Governor Printz built forts to control the river. Within Fort New Gothenburg on Tinicum Island, he built his own residence, Printz Hof, and the first log church ever built in what is now Pennsylvania.

Some of the results of the Swedes having settled here are some Lutheran Churches, now Episcopalian; some log cabins on the banks of the creeks- two of which remain in Upper Darby and are occupied. These were built about 1650. They are known as trappers cabins (there is also a theory that these were

built by English trappers from Jamestown,<sup>1</sup> but this I do not accept). There is little doubt in my mind but that the so-called Lawrence Cabin, formerly at West Chester Pike and Darby Creek which the Haverford Township Historical Society helped to save and to remove to the Cobbs Creek Valley, was also built by the Swedes. The Swedes built and operated the first mill in Pennsylvania. It was located at what is now Cobbs Creek and Woodland Avenue. To this list of Swedish architecture, we can also add the name of an outstanding person, John Morton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was a descendant of Morten Mortensen, a Swedish settler. We have many descendants of the Swedish settlers among us, bearing such names as Rambo, Keen, Hendrickson, etc. Swedes served in the council of Chester County (our county) after the arrival of William Penn.

While we cannot go into all the details of this early period, it is only right to note that the authority on the river has volleyed a bit. Our land has been under four flags!

By 1664 after the English Restoration, Charles Stuart II granted to the Duke of York, who upon Charles' death in 1688 became James II, all of this territory, namely New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. To secure his grant, the Duke sent four men of war which stood before Dutch Manhattan under Commander Nicolls and a Board of Commissioners which included Samuel Maverick and Sir George Cartwright. During negotiations the Dutch capitulated, but the agreement did not include setting aside their claims to the territory on the South River. Commander Nicolls dispatched Sir Robert Carr with a strong force to take the South River territory. The Dutch here in the Delaware area manned their fort. The British attacked, killed three, wounded ten, and overran the fort. For a time, Sir Robert Carr was in command on the river. For more than a decade the Dutch and the Swedes were governed by the "Dukes Laws." There were a number of Finns among the Swedes because Finland, at that time, was under Swedish rule.

In 1675, court was held at Upland (now Chester) which was the county seat of government for as much of what is now Pennsylvania as was settled. Records of that court are extant. Anyone wishing to do serious research of this period would have to go to, among other places, Albany, New York; because at one time the address for where we live would have been Optlandt, New Netherlands. At another time it would have been Upland County, New York.

It interests me to note that there were several English Quakers here at this time (before William Penn) among whom were Robert Wade, William Clayton, Henry Hastings and Henry Reynolds. These had come over from Fenwick's group in "The Jerseys" and purchased land from and settled among the Swedes. George Fox, the great Quaker preacher, made a missionary journey to this area and stayed in a Swedes' house overnight. There were about 500 people in Upland County by 1681.

In 1682, William Penn arrived at Upland. He immediately changed the name to Chester; and Upland County, New York became Chester County, Pennsylvania!<sup>2</sup> Then followed the settlement of "Your Land and Mine." It is now necessary to furnish more background because all of the settlers that we are going to follow and discuss were Welsh Quakers. They came upon the Pennsylvania scene only because of William Penn's agreement to establish a Welsh Tract!

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<sup>1</sup>Freas B. Snyder

<sup>2</sup>*Biographical and Portrait Encyclopedia of Chester County*, Samuel T. Wiley

## THE WELSH TRACT

Numerous Quakers in Wales had been for many years suffering cruel and barbarous persecutions, usually at the instigation of the National Church and under laws passed against heretics and conventicles. William Penn was well acquainted with this unjust and brutal treatment because he had partly sprung from Welsh stock, and had preached the Gospel among them. And so he invited them to migrate to his proposed land of freedom in America which the king had named Pennsylvania.

A group of the most intellectual and well-to-do Quakers met in council with Penn and with each other. Their conclusion was that since the Welsh were accustomed to living apart from and did not speak the language of the English, they could gain little or nothing by leaving all they had to face the task of starting anew in a wilderness overrun by savages, and at the same time place themselves under the rule of Englishmen. The only terms under which they could be induced to settle in Pennsylvania would be if three conditions were met. A specific area of land was to be allotted to them, insuring that their individual properties would be contiguous to each other, and not scattered among the English settlers. This land was to be of sufficient size to assure the possibility of expansion and development. And, finally, they would be given an area where they would be permitted to speak their own tongue and make their own governing regulations.

In addition, they wanted a barony, a county Palatine within the province. To all of this William Penn agreed, verbally. It seems that the only document ever drawn up that could support the fact of this agreement was Penn's order to his surveyor general (extant) to lay out a tract of 40,000 acres designated to them.

Among the early, 1681 subscribers to acreage in this tract were John ap John, the first Quaker preacher of record in Wales; John ap Thomas; Thomas Wynne, William Penn's physician; Edward Jones, chirurgeon; Hugh Roberts; John Bevan; John Peyer; William Jenkins, attorney; Thomas Symmons and Lewis David.

There were about fifty Welsh families that actually settled in the Welsh Tract. Of the above names, it is certain that the first two did not come to America, nor did Thomas Symmons. John ap John, preacher, sold his 2,500 acres in two parts to another. John ap Thomas, high constable, died with his heart set on going. His brave and noble widow, with his young family, embarked for Pennsylvania on the good ship, *Morning Star*, of Chester, Thomas Hayes, Master, in September 1683. Two daughters, Mary and Sidney, sickened and expired at sea. The voyage was of two months duration. Catherine, the widow, and the rest of her children settled in what is now Lower Merion, which was named after Merionethshire, Wales, on a wilderness tract of land on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, opposite Manayunk. Her sons took the name of Jones instead of Thomas, possibly after their kinsman benefactor, the aforementioned Dr. Edward Jones, but more likely after their father, since Jones is a form of John. Some of their descendants will be mentioned later.

To illustrate the difficulties that the Welsh would have had with the English language, consider the name (and its translation) which the family of John ap Thomas called their home in Merion. The name was "Geilli yr Cochiaid," meaning The Grove of Red Partridges. If the translation of three words seems perfectly obvious to you, try this sentence: "Gydag enw syn perthyn i blwyf yu ogystal ag i bentref, rhoddir cyfeiriad at y pentref"

The last mentioned in the list of purchasers is Lewis David. Of him I wish to make special and particular mention. His purchase was of 3,000 acres; almost 2,300 of which was in eleven separate tracts in Haverford. Our Haverford was named for Haverford-West, Wales.

A Haverford gentleman some years back wrote in a sketch of this type that "Lewis David was a speculator in real estate." I believe this to be a careless assumption. I will not say that his wealth was not increased somewhat as the result of his investment, but I am absolutely convinced that his motive was altruistic. It stands to reason that not everyone who wanted to buy a small plot of from 30 to 550 acres would have been in a position to contact Penn or his agents. Nor could Penn have been bothered in so short a time with so many small purchasers. For this reason and the content of the following insertions, I submit that Lewis David made this large purchase of 3,000 acres for the purpose of redistributing them among his relatives and less affluent friends and fellow sufferers.

# INSERT NO. 1

## A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Joseph Besse 1753, p.747

Anno 1661 "In Pembroke-shire on the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month called August Lewis David and Susan his wife, James Lewis (his son) and Alice Lewis (his daughter), Evan John and William Thomas all of Landewy, were committed to Prison till the next assizes where they were required to give Security that they would not go to any more Meetings, which refusing to do, they were recommitted.. Soon after, ten others were sent to the same Prison, viz, Thomas Simmons and Jane his wife with their three sons, Hugh, John and Evan; Ursilla Simmons, Laurence Edward, Henry Edward, David Edward and Margaret Edward. The usage they met with was cruel being imprisoned among Felons and Murderers, who took away their food, Pickt their Pockets and many ways abused them: The hardship they endured in winter for want of Fire, having no place to make any in was very pinching to several of them, who were both sickly and aged, and had their hands and feet much swelled, and their Bodies looking black; This they endured two winters, and after about eighteen months of Imprisonment were brought to Trial at the assizes, where the Evidence against them was found insufficient to convict them of being at the Meeting for which they were indicted; wherefore the Jury acquitted them and they were after discharged from their long unjust confinement" (The underlined became landowners in our area) Parentheses mine

# INSERT NO. 2

Anno 1677 "Lewis David, Henry Lewis, and John Burge had their goods distrained for refusing to pay toward the Charge of Arms and Ammunition for the County Militia"<sup>3</sup>

# INSERT NO. 3

Anno 1678 "In this and the next preceeding year several persons in Penbrokshire had taken from them for Tithes: Corn, Hay, Lambs, and other goods of the several Values Following, viz.

	£	S.	d.
<u>Lewis David</u> of Llandewy	16	4	6
Jane and <u>Thomas Simmons</u>	6	3	6
Lewis James of Langolman	4	12	6
William Thomas of Lawhodden	12	3	6
<u>Evan Protherah</u> of Narberth	1	9	0
Maurice Coale	9	0	10
John Harris of Haskett	7	1	0
<u>John Burge</u> of Haverford-West	0	5	0
Richard Evan of Llandisille	1	10	0
Hugh Simonds and <u>John Simonds</u>	7	15	6
<u>Henry Lewis</u> of Norberth	4	11	1
Evan Simonds of Herring Moat	0	14	8
Maurice Llywellin	2	18	10
<u>William Jenkins</u> of Tenby	0	14	0
<u>David Lawrence</u>	1	17	0
Lewis Harry of Robeston	2	10	0
James Thomas of Haverford-West	7	1	6
James Thomas of Llanlaydy	3	7	0
Edward and John Griffith	3	6	0
	93	5	5 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Ibid p. 757

<sup>4</sup>Ibid p. 757

## Note on Tithes

The tithe is a tenth, one-tenth of one's income or one-tenth of one's possession. In this situation, it was frequently one-tenth of one's investment, such as the amount of rent paid for farmland that was construed as a potential source of income. Believers through the ages have considered the tithe little enough to contribute to the Lord's work. Many a Quaker, many times over, has contributed in excess of the tithe to the preaching ministry and the well being of his fellow man. The problem here was the curse of a National Church. For the religious authorities to force the collection of the tithe by law was believed by the Quakers to be a legalistic practice that had been abrogated by the advent of the Savior. The Quaker position was simply that they, themselves were Quakers, i.e. they were not of the communion which levied the tithe; therefore they were not obligated to pay the tithe. Nor were they obligated to attend the National Worship service. When they were arrested on either charge, or both, and were taken before a magistrate, or tried in a court and fined, they refused to pay, since they considered the charges and the fine to be unjust.

The authorities, in order to collect such fines, invoked the Act of Distrainment under which they seized the offender's goods and put them up for sale. The seizures were so numerous and the quantities so great that the volume of the sales depressed the market. When goods didn't sell for an amount sufficient to cover the fine and costs, more goods were seized. Sometimes "a poor man's only bed clothing was taken!"<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, hundreds and hundreds of Friends spent months and even years in jail. Many were physically beaten and abused. Many died for the sake of the Gospel and free worship. High has been the cost our freedom of worship. It is a People who had endured and survived and even overcome thirty or more years of such treatment who came to settle Pennsylvania in the 1680's and 1690's.

William Penn directed his Surveyor, Thomas Holmes, to lay out lands of 40,000 acres contiguously. The lands were to be laid out north of the City line up the west side of the Schuylkill River with Darby Creek as the western boundary and so far north and northwestwardly as necessary to bound said acreage. The document supplying the directions is in the Surveyor General's Office, Harrisburg.<sup>6</sup>

The Welsh Tract included the Merions, Haverford, Radnor, Tredifryn, Willistown, Easttown, East Pikeland the Whitelands, and parts of other townships. Welsh people also settled the upper part of Newtown.

When the Welsh settled in Haverford, it was with greater hardship than that experienced by the English Quakers. They went directly into the wilderness, whereas the English came to an established civilization of a sort in the Chester area and enjoyed the benefits of early city life in and close to Philadelphia.

In 1682, only three settlements were in Haverford, viz. Lewis David's, Henry Lewis', and William Howell's. They had brought with them certificates of removal from the General Meeting at Redstone in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, dated 6 mo. 6<sup>th</sup> 1682. Their certificates were accepted by the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.<sup>7</sup> About seventeen settlements were established in Haverford during the next two years.

Some of the Welsh at first worshipped in Philadelphia, since they had entered through the city and some of them had acquaintances there. In fact some of them thought that they were under the jurisdiction of Philadelphia and paid taxes, recorded their deeds, and registered their wills there. In Haverford, they started regular Meetings in 1686 and held them in their homes until 1688, when they built their first Meeting House of logs on the site of the present Old Haverford Friends Meeting House on Eagle Road. The records indicate that the older part of the present stone structure was built in the year 1700, and the similar stone addition, in 1800, when the older building was remodeled.

The land on which the Haverford Friends Meeting House is built was first purchased by Lewis David. It was a part of his 3,000 acres in the Welsh Tract. He deeded it to William Howell. The meeting itself was started first in the home of John Bevan in 1686.

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<sup>5</sup>Besse. *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers*

<sup>6</sup>Smith's *History of Delaware County*

<sup>7</sup>Friends records

By 1690, there were eighty settlements in the Welsh Tract. Some of the Merion settlers were also paying taxes to the Philadelphia authorities. For most of the rest of the Tract, scarcely any taxes or quit rents had been paid, since all of the 40,000 acres were not entirely settled. Early settlement was one of William Penn's stipulations. The authorities at Chester made a regulation that required that taxes in arrears be paid, and that those who had settled would have to pay the arrears for the unsettled portions. The Welsh could see that the regulation would have to be complied with if they were to keep the tract for themselves. Yet they claimed that Chester had no jurisdiction over them. No English were to be permitted to buy or settle in the Tract; but Holmes, the English Surveyor General, liked the look of the land and laid out some acreage to himself. In addition, there were other problems created by the dishonest acts of a deputy surveyor. These events certainly did not conform to Penn's agreement that the Welsh should be a self-governing, separate people.

Holmes probably thought that he would be better off if Haverford and Radnor were put into Chester County, so he furnished the deputy governor, John Blackwell, with a map showing such a division. The political power squeeze was on, similar to some of our present day deals. Blackwell was new and not personally interested, except to quickly dispose of the matter. He would not permit Thomas Lloyd, who was sympathetic to the Welsh, to come into the council chamber for more than one hearing. Nor would he let John Eckley into the chamber; instead he tried to discredit Eckley's election. Eckley was reelected, but he still was not permitted to testify in behalf of the Welsh who had elected him to represent them. This same John Eckley is mentioned in the chapter on Farm No. 4. William Penn had returned to England, so he was not on hand to honor his agreement. The Welsh Tract was split in 1690-1691. The area which is now the Merions and Montgomery County went to Philadelphia where it remained until Montgomery County was formed in 1784. The rest of the Tract went to Chester County.

That William Penn was truly a great man cannot be disputed. He was much ahead of his time with his concept of the "Holy Experiment" and his Frame of Government. His accomplishments stand; but with all of this he was a man, subject to fault, failure, and trial, as we all are. Dr. Smith says with respect to Penn's changing the name of Upland to Chester, "Great men occasionally do little things." Of Penn's mistakes he said, "the remarkable thing is that there were not more." On the other hand, Browning says, with respect to Penn's involvement with the Welsh Tract, that he was simply "unfaithful to his commitments." He also calls Penn greedy, because when the first Welshmen living here where we live and as far away as the banks of the Schuylkill needed a mill to grind their grain, they found that they were restricted against the construction of such mills. They had to pack their grain by woodland trails all the way to Chester to Penn's miller, Caleb Pusey, and then pack the product back home! The most used of those woodland trails followed the lines of our Eagle and Steel Roads to Chester Road (Springfield Road) at Lamb Tavern.

### A Fanciful Picture

Just picture yourself living in your little clearing in the woods in one of the areas of Ardmore, Bala Cynwyd, Penn Coyd, Wynnewood or Narberth in the years 1684 to 1690. You have raised your first wheat, some rye, and a little corn. Non of which you can eat as is. It must be ground into meal. But there is no mill. With your combined resources, you and your neighbors are capable of building one. There is nearby water power; but you are not allowed to build a mill. The Proprietor says you can't. He has a mill. It must be paid for and must show a profit; that is one of the reasons you are here. The great distance you must travel to reach the Proprietor's mill is no excuse. Unless you have the time and are willing to pound all of your grain for household use in the Indian fashion, you must take it to the Proprietor's mill. You have a sack or two, you fill them with grain and throw them over the back of your horse; if you have no horse, your own back will have to do. You start out on the path and head for the main trail which is now Wynnewood Road, bound for Chester. "Chester?" "That was the town our ship passed as we came up the river the evening before we arrived at Philadelphia!" you say to yourself. After fifteen to twenty-five minutes of hard traveling through the forest, you realize that you are going down hill. You come to a lovely, strong flowing brook, Karakung (not yet Mill or Cobbs). There certainly should be a mill here. Someone else thought so too- probably William Howell, who soon after built the Haverford Mill at this location. You water your horse and proceed by the narrow trail up the hill—now this is about where John Bevan, Lewis David and fellow Welshmen propose to build their meeting house. It

is a pleasant, flat area; but all you can see are trees and more trees. You cross the trail to Darby. You go on through Haverford, over a long plateau region, and start slowly down grade again. The trail leads down into bottom land, along a larger creek that the Indians call Muckruton. You pass a couple of Indians who stand and stare at you until you are out of sight. Coming toward you from the opposite direction is a young man and his horse. Soon you recognize him as one of the Jones boys from Schuylkill. He has bags like yours, but somewhat smaller. His contain meal. You ask, "How far is it to the mill?" He tells you that you are not yet half way! "Is there danger of getting lost?" "Oh no, just follow the most used trail." You exchange pleasantries and he goes on his way. Here is another place where there could be a fine mill by this great stream. Richard Hayes thought so too and he later, in 1707, built the Haverford New Mill there. You reach the ford, cross over, and proceed up the hill. The trail makes three or four jogged turns following property lines, so you figure this is about the place where the English Friends, George Maris, Barth Coppock and Robert Taylor, plan to build their meeting house on the edge of Springfield.

You proceed over another high plateau area and into a clearing where a Springfield family has one of the few new larger farm clearings. Looking out over the tree tops to the eastward, you see the distant river! How beautiful, but so far! The place you are going to is near the same river; but on down the river, even more distance. One of the Lownes boys appears to ask where you are from, but you don't understand, he is speaking English. You cross the little run, climb another hill which is the steepest part of the trail yet encountered. You cross another used trail and proceed into a lower country. Another mile brings you to the largest stream yet. There is a tidy little stone farm house part way up the hill and evidence of other habitations. It just isn't right that there is no mill on "Croome Creek," as the sign on the bank reads. But there is none. On you go, it is getting very late. You figure when you make this trip again, you will leave home early in the morning. Soon you are crossing another ample creek, and the hills are not so steep. Two more miles and you spot the miller's house!

There are several people standing around just waiting and talking. One tells you that the mill is up the creek a piece. At the mill, other men are waiting. Your grain cannot be ground until morning; or you may exchange it for what looks to be a much smaller quantity of meal. It is too late to return home that night, so you decide to stay over and pay for the grinding of your own grain. You must pay to have your horse fed and stabled, and for your night's lodging. It is no wonder that Mrs. Pusey has to have so much food and drink on hand.

The next morning, physically refreshed, but weary of the injustice, you make the same trip in reverse, and thus you, in the place of one of our early Welsh settlers, have earned a couple of months supply for making your daily bread.

Another bit of injustice that William Penn and his family (The Proprietary Interests) practiced was requesting resurveys where overplus acreage appeared to exist. When the account of overplus was determined, the purchaser either had to pay for it at the improved land value or lose it. This worked great hardship on a people who had all of their resources invested in land and improvements. Our Davises were successful in concealing their overplus. This will be discussed in greater detail later. If it were established that their acreage was less than that purchased, the difference was made up with more remote land in deeper wilderness townships in the Goshen region, near West Chester. In order for these small quantities of land to yield a return, they either had to be sold or added to purchases of additional acreage.

### **Lewis David and Lewis David**

Now we have arrived at the basis of what has been a controversial subject concerning two of our most important men: the Lewis Davids. I have stated that a Lewis David, prosperous Welsh Quaker Sufferer, purchased, in 1681, 3,000 acres in the Welsh Tract for redistribution. Apparently this was speedily done; however, he evidently settled in the area which is now Penfield on a small portion of the 2,300 acres he had in Haverford. I shall call him the elder.

A Lewis David appears on the scene in 1690 taking Florence Jones, kinswoman of John Bevan, to be his bride in the first wedding ceremony recorded in the Haverford Meeting House; previous marriages having



been performed in private residences.<sup>8</sup> This Lewis David, I call the younger. The wedding document<sup>9</sup> clearly states that he and Florence were both of Haverford. A careful examination of the certificate reveals a Lewis David listed among the witnesses; so we have proof that there were two men of the same name at the same time, 1690, viz., the groom, Lewis Davis and a witness, Lewis David, the elder, earlier settler, friend of John Bevan, who was a relation to the bride.

Immediately after the wedding, Lewis and Florence as she signed (two small f's constituted a capital) settled on 100 acres of land which he purchased from John Roads in Darby now Upper Darby, on both sides of the present Burmont Road, against the township line.<sup>10</sup> This transaction was not recorded until March, 1692.<sup>11</sup> Most of the farm buildings were erected on the site of St. Dorothy's Church property.

It seems that these two Lewis Davids have constituted a problem of confusion in the minds and records of their own descendants! The genealogical writers never solved it to their own satisfaction. In one of the accounts of record, *Biographical Annals of Montgomery Co.*, by Eliwood Roberts (Mr. Roberts had only the material furnished by descendants) this Davis family is mentioned under the notice of M. Anna Moore. Lewis David, the 1690 bridegroom, and Florence Jones are her ancestors. The notice is in error as to the time of his arrival here and instead of the date of his death, the date given is 1708, which is the date of the death of Lewis David, the elder,<sup>12</sup> the witness. If 1708 was the date of the death of Lewis David, M. Anna Moore's ancestor, as Mr. Roberts indicates, he would have sired two children while in his grave,<sup>13</sup> since his last two were born well after that date. The notice states that M. Anna Moore's Davis ancestor had a son, James Lewis. James Lewis was the son of the elder Lewis David,<sup>14</sup> not the son of the 1690 bridegroom. James Lewis, son of Lewis David, was in jail in 1661.<sup>15</sup> Lewis David, M. Anna Moore's ancestor, died in 1742.<sup>16</sup>

In the Cope Collection, Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, there is a copy of a letter that our Dr. George Smith had written in 1869 to Reece Heacock (Farm Number 3), a descendant of Lewis David, the younger. In it Dr. Smith states that "he was at a loss to determine what was the relationship of these two Lewis Davids" and admits error and omissions with respect to them in the biographical notices in his *History of Delaware County*, 1862. The fact that these notes appear only as notes in the Gilbert Cope files and the fact that this particular David - Davis family does not appear in his biographical notices, gives evidence that he, Gilbert Cope, for good reason, had not yet completed a genealogy of the family. Thomas Allen Glenn, in his *Merion in the Welsh Tract*, promises to set forth the Lewis David - Davis family line just as he had done the Lloyds, the Bevans, the Joneses, Thomases, Humphreys, Elises, etc.; but he apologizes for not having done so.<sup>17</sup> Of course, had he done so, it would have been the family line of Lewis David, the elder. The point is that he recognized that the material at hand did not apply to the elder David's family, so he let it alone. It may seem a little late in 1968 to solve a problem which has troubled more highly skilled men; but after delving into the affairs of this Davis family relentlessly for several years, I find that the problem has dissolved and I will discuss it further.

T. Carroll Davis, M.D., a descendant of Lewis David and Florence Jones through their grandson, Isaac Davis, (to be mentioned later) wrote a *Brief Genealogical History of the Davis Family and Allied Lines* in 1934. I quote him: "We have found none of the forebears of our Lewis David and find that others have searched without success, hence we begin with his marriage, 1690." This statement leaves unanswered the question of how and why Lewis David, the younger, went straightway to the land formerly of Thomas and John Symmons in the southwest corner of Haverford in the Welsh Tract and northwestern Darby and purchased 100 acres of each? It should be remembered that these had been fellow prisoners with

<sup>8</sup>Dr. George Smith, Cope Col. Da. p. 75

<sup>9</sup>Friends Hist. Library, Swarthmore College

<sup>10</sup>Dr. George Smith, Cope Col. Da. p. 75

<sup>11</sup>*ibid.*, Records of the Court of Chester County

<sup>12</sup>Friends records of the Merion Meeting

<sup>13</sup>Friends Hist. Library, Swarthmore College

<sup>14</sup>Dr. T. Carroll Davis, *A Brief General History of Davis Family and Allied Lines*

<sup>15</sup>Jos. Besse. Insert No. 1, this document

<sup>16</sup>Delaware County Deed Book, H 4, p. 26

<sup>17</sup>Glenn, Thomas Allen. *Merion in the Welsh Tract; with Sketches of the Townships of Haverford and Merion*, p. 390

Lewis David, the elder, in 1661. It stands to reason that the heavily fined and imprisoned Lewis David of Llandewy, Pembrokeshire was the one able to purchase the 3,000 acres. He, the elder, was buried in the Merion Friends Burial Grounds, 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 2, 1707/8 (old style of dating).<sup>18</sup>

The will of a Hugh David of Haverford, signed 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 1709, one year after the death of Lewis David, the elder, is mentioned in Browning's *Welsh Settlements of Pennsylvania*. In his will, Hugh names his children: "David, Ruth, Mary, Johnathan, Caleb, and Samuel and overseers, (executors) father-in-law, Ralph Lewis; (Ralph also purchased a portion of the same land, the same year as Lewis David, the younger.); cousins, David Lewis and William Lewis and Lewis David". The last would therefore have to be Lewis David, the younger, the 1690 bridegroom. If this means what it says, our Lewis David, the younger, was a cousin to Hugh David,\* testator and cousin to the Lewises. In 1690, the Lewises were already established here, so this is how our Lewis David was led to this particular part of the Province. This also means that half of Lewis David's ancestry is the same as that of the Lewises; hence through this line he has descended with John Bevan (Evan) and the Prichards (Richards) from the Duke of Beaufort and from Edward III, king of England.

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<sup>18</sup>Browning, Charles H. *Welsh Settlements of Pennsylvania*. 1912 and Friends' Records

\* Dr. Smith calls him David Hugh; whichever, it does not change the logic or relationship

## FARM NUMBER 1

*See the streams of living waters  
Spinging from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters  
And all fear of want remove:  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace which like the Lord the giver  
Never fails from age to age.*

John Newton

Much general information pertaining to all of the farms will be contained in this chapter on Farm Number 1. In this whole account, there is an overlapping of content; the same families and sometimes the same persons were connected to more than one farm. So, if the reader is inclined to read only the account of the particular farm on which his house is located, it is recommended that he also read the account of Farm Number 1. Its owner, occupants supply the family basis of Farms numbered 1 through 4. This farm that I have designated Number 1 is in Upper Darby, formerly Darby. It, of course, is not in the Welsh Tract.

Lewis David and Florence Jones settled on land located on both sides of the present day Burmont Road, between the present Marvine Avenue and the township line, immediately after their marriage in Haverford Friends Meeting House in 1690.<sup>19</sup> The dwelling was on the slope just above Collen Brook which originates from two main springs on the 100 acres which Lewis Davis purchased in Haverford and flows under Burmont Road. The deed for the purchase was recorded in 1694. St. Dorothy's Convent now covers the exact site of their dwelling.

Though all of their children were born at this site, Lewis and Florence did not spend their entire lives there. For a short period before 1722., they lived on the northeast corner of the Haverford purchase,<sup>20</sup> our Farm Number 3; probably on or close to the Ebenezer M.E. Church parking lot. From there they returned to their first home. One of their sons, William, born in 1696, bought the Darby farm from them in 1732. That same year William built a lovely little stone house on the dwelling site of his parents. William's first child, Tacy, was born there. Again, Lewis and Florence removed after having built a dwelling on the Haverford property, our Farm Number 2, where they spent the rest of their years. Lewis David died in 1742. In 1732, William Davis was first taxed as a landowner in Darby, Chester County. His tax was 0.3.0 (3 shillings).

I visited the Davis house many times and recall having seen the date stone. It had three dates on it: 1702, 1762, and 1914, as the house had been rebuilt twice because of fire. The stone walls were original. Here generations of Davises were born and here many Davises died, for they were on the land a total of 182 years.

There is a monumental work, beautifully done, by Benjamin Hayes Smith, Civil Engineer and son of Dr. George Smith. It is an *Atlas of Delaware County*. It shows the various townships, indicating the names and boundaries of the first purchasers from William Penn and most of the subdivisions until about 1735. He also projects highways and railways on these maps, though they were not laid out until later dates. This Atlas indicates that John Bowne was the first owner of this land,<sup>21</sup> 1683, comprising 500 acres in Darby along the township line from Darby Creek northeastwardly. John Bowne was an absentee landlord. His house in Flushing is considered by Long Islanders to be an historic treasure. In fact, it is

<sup>19</sup>Dr. George Smith, Cope Col. Da. p.75 Pa. Gen. Soc. Philadelphia

<sup>20</sup>Genealogy of George and Mary Smith, p.10

<sup>21</sup>Confirmed, Chester County Deed Book S, Vol. 18, p.354

the museum of the Historical Society. John Bowne and John Blunston, one of the first settlers in Darby, were married to sisters.<sup>22</sup> Both sisters were their second wives; John Blunston was married to Sarah Bickerstaff, and John Bowne to Hannah Bickerstaff. Both Johns married a third time after the death of the sisters. Women were expendable in those times and the average life was short.

John Bowne sold 250 acres of this 500 acre strip to John Roads in 1688:<sup>23</sup> "John Roads acknowledges a Deed in open court by John Blunston, his attorney unto Lewis David (the younger) for 100 acres of land lying in the township of Darby, bearing date ye 15<sup>th</sup> of ye second month 1691/2."<sup>24</sup> So John Roads sold to Lewis David 100 acres of his 250 acres in 1690,<sup>25</sup> recorded on the above date.

Lewis David paid £11 for this land. Now as I look over it from my bedroom window in Haverford (where Lewis David died), I can see about \$3,000,000 worth of improvements!? (Personally I would prefer to look upon Lewis' woods). I would estimate that the £11 of his day would be worth a little less than \$500 today. Land was cheap then. It was a problem to know what to do with it.

A Provincial Tax was levied in 1693 of a penny per pound on estates; six shillings per free man. Lewis David paid 0.3.4 (3 shillings, 4 pence). In the year 1722, he was taxed as a Darby resident and for land in Haverford.<sup>26</sup> It was at this time that the Davids had returned from their sojourn in Haverford (on the Chester-Merion trail, our Steel Road). Lewis David must have been a stone mason or some other kind of builder. As evidence of this, he built three houses, three spring houses and probably three barns. He built on Farms Number 1 in 1690; Number 2 (later Number 3), c. 1710; and on Number 2, in 1732. It is unlikely that he could have paid for the labor required for all of this construction. Skilled labor was scarce in those days. Everyone worked to his fullest capacity.

For the year 1726, Lewis David and Andrew Boon were overseers of the poor. The tax rate was one penny per £ toward the necessary relief of the poor of Darby Township. This tax yielded the sum of £2.2.8.<sup>27</sup>

I have the names of all the David children born here; and, in some instances, the time of day when they were born. The first generation will nearly all be mentioned hereinafter.

Summary: Lewis David, born \_\_\_\_\_?, died 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 1742. Married March 20, 1690 Florence Jones, born \_\_\_\_\_?, died 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1749, kinswoman of John Bevan who came from Glamorganshire, Wales with John in 1682.<sup>28</sup>

#### Children:

1. John, b. 3<sup>rd</sup> mo. 8, 1692, m. married February 29, 1714 Rebecca Need, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Need, at Darby Meeting. (Son, Lewis, Farm Number 4)
2. Ann, b. 3<sup>rd</sup> mo. 31, 1694, m. 1<sup>st</sup> John Alloway; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reece Price 1737 at Darby Meeting.
3. William, b. 7<sup>th</sup> mo. 8, 1696, m. 1729 to Elizabeth Faucit at Haverford Meeting, d. October 22, 1767. (Farm Number 2)
4. Mary, b. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 12, 1698, m. William Eyre, son of Robert of Bethel.
5. Hannah, b. 12 mo. 10, 1701, m. 1724 Joseph Hayes, son of Richard Hayes at Haverford Meeting. (Farm Number 4)
6. Benjamin, b. 1704, m. 1729 Ann Bethel of Darby.
7. Lewis, b. 1707, m. 1743 Rebecca Yarnall of Ridley at Springfield Meeting, d. 1793. (Farm Number 3)
8. Sarah, b. 1709, m. 1741 Richard Hayes, son of Richard Hayes at Haverford Meeting.

I shall mention these children of Lewis and Florence David as they fit into the account of the land under consideration. John and his descendants lived on the site of present Clifton Heights for generations. A son of John and Rebecca, Lewis Davis, purchased our Farm Number 4, Bon Air Farms, from his Aunt

<sup>22</sup>Lloyd Family, H. W. Lloyd

<sup>23</sup>Deed, *ibid*.

<sup>24</sup>Records of the Court of Chester County, Pa. 1681-1697, p.256

<sup>25</sup>Chester County Deed Book A Vol. 1, Part 2, p.123

<sup>26</sup>Dr. Smith, *History of Delaware County*

<sup>27</sup>Proceedings of the Delaware County Historical Society, 1895-1901 Vol. 1, p.30

<sup>28</sup>*Welsh Founders of Pennsylvania*, p.184

Hannah and Joseph Hayes. William Davis, as we have said, was the successor at the first homestead by purchase in 1732, and later also to Farm Number 3 and Farm Number 2 in Haverford.

Lewis Davis, who in his early days had been known as Lewis David, Jr., and who was somewhat of a rebel to staid Quakerism, purchased in 1731 from his father, Lewis David, the easternmost portion of the Haverford farm called 50 acres.<sup>29</sup> Farm Number 3 was split off from Farm Number 2 as of that date. This fifty acres was later surveyed and found to be actually slightly more than sixty-two acres; and had been part of Farm Number 2 which had been called 100 acres. The remaining part of Farm Number 2, and still designated as Farm Number 2, was found to contain 66 acres and 11 perches. Lewis Davis and his brother, John, were weavers. Where or how they acquired this skill I have never learned. Lewis' story will be taken up again in the chapter on Farm Number 3.

It may be good at this point to render an explanation of the Welsh system of naming and to account for the seeming discrepancy in the names David - Davis which bothers some people, at least upon first notice. In Wales, Lewis David was Lewis ap David, i.e. Lewis the son of David. This was the rule; surnames were rarely used. When they were used, it was because of English influence or association. There were John ap John, John ap Thomas, John ap Evan (John Bevan), James ap Lewis (James Lewis in English, the son of Lewis David, the elder). At an English port or on board an English ship, or in Chester or Philadelphia, the English, according to their custom, wanted surnames as well as first names for their records. When Lewis ap David appeared before an English clerk, the Englishman simply ran the two names together; not caring that the second name was the given name of Lewis' father. Therefore, Lewis David is typical. In most instances after the Welsh Tract was dissolved, the children of the Davids who found themselves becoming Anglicized, didn't care for David as a surname. Those who changed it called themselves Davis or Davies. In some records of this period, all three names are used interchangeably, although the reference is to the same man. When William, b. 1696, married Elizabeth Faucit in 1729, he did so as William Davis.<sup>30</sup> The whole family, starting with his generation, used the form Davis and continued to do so thereafter.

It is very likely that it wasn't until the time of this William's adult life that the land was sufficiently cleared to refer to the several sections as farms. Some wood lots or wooded acreage were left during the clearing; one of which is on this farm. It is quite obvious even today. It contains magnificent specimens of old trees: principally white, black and red oaks, hickory, beech and poplar. Because it is possible that someday even these trees will be destroyed, I am here placing this wooded area on record. In addition, a few large trees had been left to stand along the roads and fence rows, with an occasional one in the open fields. Some of those fell victim to lightning and old age; most of the rest were victims of man, at times to road widening and grading of the fields preparatory to building. One of the exceptions is the huge, ancient oak on Belfield Avenue between numbers 1212 and 1216. Why it has lived is a mystery, as it has about three feet of fill earth over its root system and against its bark. This usually means sure death to a tree.

The wooded area is on the banks of Collen Brook, below Burmont Road and between Marvine and the 5000 block of Dermond Avenues; extending downstream almost as far as the old Collen Brook Farm house that was the home of both the Lewises and the Smiths. A wood lot was preserved on each of these farmsteads. To have saved these wood lots was an exercise of great wisdom. These lots through the years were cut judiciously, and thus they provided the farmers with fuel for fire to be used for cooking as well as heating from the hearth for two and a half centuries. From these woods came thousands of posts and thousands upon thousands of rails for fencing. The barbed wire fence, as much as it appears to have been used until now, is rather new. The first patent for it was issued in 1868, and it was not until 1878 that it was manufactured in any appreciable quantity. Barbed wire was not well accepted in this area until 1900; and even then the post and rail fence was preferred.

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<sup>29</sup>Delaware County Deed Book, R., p.344

<sup>30</sup>Dr. Smith, Cope Coll. Da. 75

## The Chestnut Tree

Here we should pause to pay tribute to the magnificent American chestnut of which we, of the present century, have suffered the loss. The chestnut tree was numerous and it grew to be a large tree. It bore a great abundance of delicious, nutritious nuts that were slightly smaller than our improve filbert. Though the chestnut could not be classed as a food staple, it was often a great aid to the food supply. It was a wildlife staple for partridge, wild turkey and deer, and it helped to feed the hogs that the first settlers turned loose to forage for themselves. The chestnut tree, cut into boards and planks, made beautiful cupboards, closets, and trim in the house; and the planks also made fine benches.

## The Worm Fence

Chestnut was the best kind of timber of all for fences. It splits easily and the lumber is long and straight. Chestnut posts have been known to serve for more than fifty years; rails for over seventy-five years. Recently, I have seen remnants of an old zig-zag or worm fence that was made of chestnut rails long before the advent of our century.

Helen Mitchell states in her *Genealogy of the William Evans Family*, 1945, p.9, that "the rails of these worm fences were cut twelve feet long; and that most of those in evidence in 1908 were cut before the Civil War." No such fences have been constructed since the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century except as a curiosity. So much for the durability of chestnut.

This type of fence construction was generally known as "seven up and a rider."<sup>31</sup> Seven up meant that the fence was seven rails high. The first or bottom rail was laid on the ground with two stones under it. The stones were placed about ten inches in from the ends of the rail. The base rail of the next panel was placed upon the first rail, in the manner of the corner joints of a log cabin, except that the rails were not notched and not placed at right angles, but angled enough to zig-zag in an overall line. The rails were so alternately placed until seven were so stacked. Two shorter rails were then placed in an X fashion over this jointure. The top rail, or rider, was then placed in the v or top part of the X frame, thus locking each panel or section of fencing together.

About 1865, wood became less plentiful than it formerly was. Even George Washington had written as early as 1795 in regard to the zig-zag fence: "I am not surprised that our mode of fencing should be disgusting to the European eye... no sort of fencing is more expensive or wasteful of timber." As a conservation measure, the post and three or four rail fence came into its own. A small log, about seven feet long and from seven to nine inches thick, was trimmed by an adz or ax to be used as a post. Slots were made in the following manner: a frame jig was set up in the woods or near the source of timber supply. The jig held the post firmly as it was bored by a 2¼" auger. The auger was mounted on and became part of the jig. Two holes on four inch centers were bored for each slot at the top and bottom of the slot, then a sharp ax was used to cut out the chunk between the holes. This made a neat, clean slot which held the ends of two rails, one into each side of the post. Crews of men went about the country as post makers and fence erectors. Some farmers, of course, made their own.

The wood lot provided saw timber for the construction and maintenance of the farm outbuildings, the barns, the cattle and tool sheds, corn cribs, chicken houses, hog pens, as well as material for building wagons. In addition to all of this, the well-managed wood lot yielded a cash crop in the form of saw logs to be sold to the local sawyer at about thirty year intervals.

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<sup>31</sup>John L. Leedom; Rural New Yorker

## Oxen

Oxen are seldom mentioned by local writers as having had any significant part in the settlement and development of our land. This is probably due to the fact that they were frequently listed as cattle in many of the old inventories. Oxen were used to help mold this land into shape, to drag logs, to tare out and pile stumps, and to move large rocks that would constitute obstructions to plowing and cultivating. Indeed, the very lot on which your house is built was plowed by oxen. Before the Civil War, there were rarely more than three or four horses on this farm; but always a yoke or two of oxen. The inventories of the estates of William Davis in 1822, and of his son, Joel Davis in 1858, included items used with oxen: yokes, ox chains, drags, etc. John L. Leedom told me that poorer farmers preferred oxen to horses because in the event of a long, hard winter when hay and feed ran out, they could eat an ox, but would not consider eating a horse. One man, William Ashford,<sup>32</sup> wrote, "I suppose I should be tired of them (oxen); but on the contrary I am tired of horses as I find that with my two oxen I can do more work than I could with four horses with half the expense. I have made a great mistake - I worked horses for 40 years and if I had used oxen in their place, they would have put 500 pounds in my pocket. My oxen go to the lime kiln once a week, 21 miles in the morning, return next day before noon; after resting two hours they go to work. Horses cannot do this...they can eat rougher (cheaper) food and make better and more manure." John Leedom, of Farm Number 4, uncle of John L. Leedom above, was probably one of the last in this general area to use oxen, circa 1890.

Large rocks were a problem along Collen Brook. They were gray, homogenous, spheroidally weathered granite. Some are still evident. Besides the use of oxen, another method of clearing these large stones from the fields was to dig a trench around them, large enough to hold two or three six or eight inch logs. Other logs and brush were piled over these large logs and boulders to the height of three or four feet and then set afire, in the manner of open field lime burning. When the fire had burned out, water was hauled from the spring, the ashes were cleared aside, and the cold water thrown on the hot boulders. The temperature variation caused by the heat and water cracked the boulders sufficiently so that they could be hauled away in pieces.<sup>33</sup>

The ox and horse stable that stood hard against Burmont Road, on the opposite side of the house and barn, but between the two, was built of these broken granite boulders, as was the retaining wall along the road on the house side. The stone stable was built without a window. There were two doors on the northwest end, one for man and one for beast, and a door to the loft where hay was stored. The widowless construction could be an indication that it was built at the time of the glass tax in 1798; although it could have been older.

## The Spring House

The spring house was the most estential part of the early farmstead. A farmstead was scarcely ever established that wasn't at the head or source of the run, which is the spring. In our day of reservoirs, pumping stations and modern plumbing, we are unaware of the significance and importance of the spring. We don't have a ready understanding of those descriptive, picturesque similes and metaphors of the Scripture: "the fountain of life," "a pure river of water of life," "out of him that believeth shall flow rivers of living water." Our Quaker ancestors understood these scriptural references and appreciated them. They sought a source of pure water. The flowing stream sustained life. Abraham and Isaac were diggers of wells in a strange land, because they, too, as our early settlers, meant to stay on it.

But to dig wells here immediately upon arrival was out of the question for several reasons. Late spring and summer was the safest time for ships to sail from England. Many a crossing was of two or three months duration. Many a voyage, with new world adventurers aboard, was made by way of Antiqua,

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<sup>32</sup>Mem. of the Philidelphia Society for Promotion of Agriculture, 1808

<sup>33</sup>John L. Leedom; Edmund Massey Crenshaw

Barbados or Jamaica, and it either battled heavy seas or waited them out. Thus, the arrivals were frequently in the fall or early winter. There was no time to dig and line a twenty-five foot well. Shelter had to be made immediately, and the land cleared and planted. The spring was expedient. Wells were dug later.

When the spring was located, it was dug and cleared. A small log or stone house was built over it. It supplied the necessary fresh, clear water and served as a refrigerator. As time went on, improvements were added. In the front end of the spring house, there was usually a fireplace with a built in caldron, complete with a chimney. Here, in the spring house, the milk was cooled, and the butter and cheese were made and stored. Here the hogs were butchered and suspended from a bough of the button-ball tree and dipped into a vat of scalding water to remove the hair. Here, too, the sausage and scrapple were usually made. Sometimes these processes took place in an outside kitchen of which a few farms boasted.

The family washing was done at the spring house. It was easier to carry the clothing than the water. Then, too, the water could be heated there at the spring. And so the spring house served as a combination spring, refrigerator, wash and butchering house.

Frequently, the spring house had a room, sometimes two or three rooms, above it. If this space was not used as a smoke house or for storage, it was the room of the hired hand or "Aunties' room." In some instances, a farm hand and his small family lived over the spring.

### The Milk Route

When I was a small child, c. 1910, my family lived in West Philadelphia. The local milk route was a flourishing business. My uncle, Crawford A. Gaul, delivered milk to our house from his milk house and residence which was located at 526 Eagle Road on the present Bon Air Farms, Farm Number 4.

In general, this private business was conducted as follows: Either the farmer-milkman produced the milk; or a member of his family was the milkman; or the milkman bought his milk from nearby farmers. This business was closely associated with the spring house, since the milk was held there in the cool refrigeration of the spring "dip hole" in forty or forty-four quart cans or "churns," as they were called. Six, eight, or even ten of these cans were loaded on to the milk wagon, a dearborn type wagon, at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning and hauled to the city. Prior to the metal cans, wooden churns were used in the same way. Glass bottles were first made and used commercially in New York state in the 1880's, and were not in general use in Pennsylvania until after 1912.

On his milk route, the milkman would pour from the large containers into his ten quart "serving bucket." He carried the serving bucket from his wagon to the houses of his customers. He also carried a one quart dipper with which he ladled a measured amount of milk into the customer's vessel, which was usually at the doorstep. Cream was delivered on order only, and in much the same way as milk, but using smaller containers. After the milkman had served his customers, he drove his horse and wagon back to the farm. Here again the spring house played an important part. The containers and dipper had to be washed. Remember the caldron? The left-over milk was made into butter or cheese. Milk surpluses were fed to calves, pigs or chickens.

To quote John L. Leedom, born in 1863 (Farm Number 2), my boyhood hero: "At ten o'clock each morning, starting at the first tollgate (above Sears Roebuck's exit drive) through the second tollgate near State Road, and halfway to the third at Llanerch, a distance of one and a half miles, the milk wagon horses' noses all but touched the wagon ahead as they returned from their routes." So numerous were milkmen from this area! Again, "Andy," (I loved to hear him call me Andy - although that is what he called all the boys), "Andy, that's how I made my money, on the milk route." What the earliest date was that the milk route flourished as a form of livelihood, I have been unable to learn; but such milk routes were already in existence by 1829.<sup>34</sup> State sanitation laws, pasteurization, sterilization, and so-called

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<sup>34</sup>Watson's Annuals, Vol.3, p.163



sanitation laws forced small individual milkmen out of business toward the end of the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

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Before we started talking about the woodlot, fence, chestnut, spring house, oxen and the milk route, we were at the time of William Davis, born here in 1696. He filed his "first intention to marry Elizabeth Fautit" with the Darby Friends Meeting, producing a certificate of cleanness from the Haverford Meeting. As a result they were "left at liberty to proceed." Haverford Friends reported the "marriage accomplished," December 14, 1729,<sup>35</sup> corrected dating (new style).

#### Dates

We no sooner return to the main subject when it seems necessary to insert an explanatory note on dates. The Friends would have written this last date: "10<sup>th</sup> mo. 3<sup>rd</sup>, anno 1729" or just "1729." They refused to use such pagan names as January, June, July, etc. except for the public record or in communication with non-Quakers. They would then write "the month commonly called January," etc. The reason for the 10<sup>th</sup> month (above) being December is that before the year 1752, under English rule, the 10<sup>th</sup> was decem, December; the 9<sup>th</sup> was novem; the 8<sup>th</sup> octo; the 7<sup>th</sup> septem. It was in that year that January first became the beginning of the legal, calendar year. As for determining the day of the month during the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, eleven days should be added to rectify a date from the old style. Therefore, the Friends' 10<sup>th</sup> mo. 3, 1729 anniversary date is December 14, our calendar.

English law before 1752 decreed March 25<sup>th</sup> to be the beginning of the legal year, although January 1<sup>st</sup> was popularly regarded as the first day even before that time. Therefore, the time between the two dates is often designated by a double marking as "Lewis Davis the elder died 12 mo., 27, 1707/8 or 1707-8," March 10, 1708 our calendar.

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Eight children were born to William and Elizabeth Fautit Davis between 1732 and 1747, viz:

1. Tacy, born 1732; died 1777, the same year that William's Tacy was born. (see Page 25)
2. Isaac, born 1735; married Rachel Lewis; lived during the Revolutionary War where I live, Farm Number 2.
3. Jesse, born 1736; married Martha Cadwallader, gave land for school, later Haverford Seminary No. 2, Farm Number 3.
4. Elizabeth, born 1737; died 1817; married Mordecai Moore, grandparents of M. Anna Moore.<sup>36</sup> (See Page 14)
5. William, born 1739; married Prudence Powell, Farms Number 1 and 2.
6. James, born 1741; married Deborah Hibbard.
7. Asa, born 1743; married Elizabeth Humphreys, Farm Number 3.
8. Hannah, born 1747; married Benjamin Powell.

William, the father, died in 1767. His will was recorded in Chester, now West Chester, since this was Chester County until 1789. He provided for his widow, Elizabeth in the following manner: "She to have the Parlor, the room above, use of the seller, kitchen, spring house and garden. Apples for her life to beak (bake?) and one barrel of Sider (Hard cider?) and two barrels of water cider (cider?) and keeping for one horse and two cows, winter and summer, and wood brought to her Door, cut to sute her chimney and Liberty to pass and repass without interruption. She to pay my daughter, Hannah, 10 pounds one year after my decease. I give and devise unto my son William, all my land and buildings in Darby (Farm Number 1) and one moiety of the land (in Haverford) bound by Abram Lewis' Line, and that was my brother Lewis' line and my cousen (sic) Lewis' Line and the Darby Line (Farm Number 2, W. to E., N. to S.) he to have his part Joyning that given to him, his heirs and assigns, he providing and allowing his

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<sup>35</sup> *Davis Family and Allied Lines*, T. C. Davis, M.D.

<sup>36</sup> Welsh Tract, this document

mother her Priviledges as aforesaid." The rest of Williams' will divides the balance of his land as noted in the chapter on Farm Number 3.

Now this William, born in 1739, son and heir of William, married Prudence Powell, daughter of David Powell in 1768. They lived in his father's old house, on the site of his grandparents' first structure. The following is an example of Friends' record keeping; it indicates how careful they were, also how careful they were not to put themselves out on a limb:

"To Friends of Haverford Monthly Meeting these Respected Friends

"Request having been made to this meeting on behalf of the bearer hereof, Prudence Davis, wife of William Davis; for a certificate in ourder to be recommended under your religious care:

"These may therefore acquaint you that she hath been a frequenter of our religious meetings; and conducted (for what appears) in good degree ourderly; Except in her outgoing in marriage and the cause thereof; for which her acknowledgement hath been accepted by this meeting: We therefore recommend her to your Christian Care: and conclude with Sincere Desires for her welfare. Everyway remaining your friends, brethren and sisters,

Signed in and on behalf of our Monthly Meeting of Chester. Held at Providence the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> mo. 1771 by

Joseph Talbot, Clk.

Jane Starr, Clk. this time."

Prudence Powell had attended Springfield Meeting which was under the jurisdiction of the Chester Meeting. From our present point of view, there was nothing wrong with her marriage. William Davis was a Friend. We can only presume that either they did not marry under the care of the meeting, or that they married without parental consent.

I wrote the above after searching the Haverford records, but was not satisfied as to the meaning of the phrase "outgoing in marriage and cause thereof." The Springfield Meeting records revealed that the dear lady was charged with "fornication with William Davis and afterwards being married to him by the assistance of a Priest." This situation was taken under consideration at the monthly meeting at Providence on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1769. Note that they were married in 1768 and Elizabeth, their first child, was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> mo. 1769. A committee was appointed on the meeting date to visit her to "endeavor to convince her of her misconduct" and to report. This matter hung fire for some time. Reports were made and new committees assigned on the following dates: 31<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> mo. 1769; 28<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 1769; 30<sup>th</sup> day of the 10 mo. 1769; 27<sup>th</sup> day of the 11 mo. 1769; 25<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> mo. 1769 (Christmas Day!); 29<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 1770; 26<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> mo. 1770. There was no report in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> months; on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1771, a paper of acknowledgment was read and returned. By this time Prudence Davis was about to have her second child, John. She was reinstated after these long months of harassment to the fellowship of the Springfield Meeting. She must have gladly transferred to the Haverford Meeting. Those who served on the above committees were John Sharpless, Nathan Yarnall, William Fell, James Bartram, and Thomas Swayne, along with women.

In the year 1779, Benjamin Brannan and William Davis had a license to distill whiskey.<sup>37</sup> This annoys me somewhat because the Revolutionary war was still being fought. I don't understand why there should have been enough surplus grain to make whiskey. However, the soldiers were paid in part by liquor. This may have been some of the grog allotted to them. Benjamin Brannan was a figure of note during the war. He was on the Committee for Defense. Among other things that he did was to visit Philadelphia for the purpose of learning to make saltpeter for gun powder. He then, with a committee, went out among our farmers teaching them to make saltpeter so that they might support the war effort in this

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\* Episcopalian minister

<sup>37</sup>See also Asmead, p.550

manner. In 1791, Benjamin was a Justice of the Peace, and later he became a Justice of the Orphans Court of Delaware County.

To our way of thinking, Friend William Davis needs a little defense. I can give him but little else, just as I find little justification for the non-smoking, tobacco-growing Amish. Some of our sober, proper Quakers looked on the distillation of spirituous liquors as a means of converting farm products into money. Money was as necessary then as it is today. This necessity was also the reason our British Quakers didn't finally free all of their slaves until this time<sup>38</sup>; but even so, this was ninety years before the rest of the country freed them. Our Quakers were among the first to agree that slavery was wrong and should be abolished. But the very first Quakers to reach this conclusion were the German Quaker immigrants in Germantown.

That this William Davis, partner of Benjamin Brannan, might have been another William Davis (there has always been more than one) is ruled out by the inventory of his estate:<sup>39</sup>

One line of items contains a lot of casks  
Another line contains a lot of cooper tools and hoops  
Another contains two tubs, three kegs, one cask  
Another contains a shaving horse (stave holder)  
Another contains a lot of casks  
Another contains a lot of casks  
Yet another contains a still, worm and tub.

The entire list contains about three times as many casks and kegs as could be used on the average farmstead; and all of these were in addition to crocks, jars, buckets and barrels for soap, meats, pickling and krout.

William Davis maintained a life-long interest in the Haverford Meeting where his grandparents had been married and buried. In 1785, he served on a committee to purchase two plots of land for the meeting which comprise the current burial grounds.<sup>40</sup> The oldest grave markers are dated that year. In 1805, William Davis was an honorary member of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture.

To William and Prudence (Powell) Davis were born ten children between 1769 and 1790. Elizabeth their first-born, is worthy of mention, because she said something very beautiful on the occasion of her marriage to Richard Kimber at Haverford Friends Meeting on October 23, 1804: "We took each other in marriage before a large assembly. Our Friends, Peter Andrew and John Parker, were open in the ministry, and a day of days it was to my soul. Oh may the God of all grace enable me to keep my covenant, which I in so solemn a manner made before Him is the breathing prayer of my heart."<sup>41</sup> The Davises were a fine people. I'll leave it to you to analyze the above quote. However, only so long as we rear daughters so deeply spiritual shall we continue to be a great people.

Elizabeth and Richard Kimber lived in Radnor, where he owned a farm. They had three daughters, Gulielma who died unmarried; Mary who married Josiah Wharton, and Elizabeth Davis Kimber, born in 1805 who married Robert Stackhouse in 1829.

The next child born to William and Prudence was John, born in 1770. He married Susan Jones and had children, but I know of no other way that he was associated with the land. In 1822, he lived in Philadelphia.

Susannah, born next in 1773, died unmarried in 1851. Dr. George Smith appraised her estate at \$3,455.<sup>42</sup> That was quite a sum for a spinster at that early date. Women did not go out to work for a salary in those days. She received about \$1,100 upon the death of her parents in 1822 and 1823. The inventory of her estate shows that many prominent people owed her money in the form of loans secured by their bond or real estate. They were: Abram Powell, Owen Rhodes, Hannah Ann Bacon, John

<sup>38</sup>John Woolman's Journal, Harvard Classics

<sup>39</sup>See also Ashmead, p.550

<sup>40</sup>Delaware County deed

<sup>41</sup>Kimber Genealogy; Pa. Gen. Soc.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid 3322 Media

Noblet, Davis Beaumont, Abner Davis, R. P. Green and Abel Green, Seth Pancoast and Phinehas Lownes. Abner and Joel Davis were the administrators, and George Smith and Joseph B. Leedom, the appraisers of her estate. Susannah seems to have been endowed with considerable business acumen.

Joel, born in 1775, was the fourth child. He became a millwright and farmer. He and his brother, Abner born in 1785, the eighth child, together purchased from the other eight children their interest in their father's property, Farm Number 1 and the remainder of Farm Number 2, sixty-six acres in Haverford, adjoining, in 1823. This joint ownership ended in 1840, when Joel and Abner divided the land townshipwise, Joel becoming sole proprietor of Farm Number 1. Joel became a rather affluent man. He bought a property in 1843 of sixteen acres with "messuage or tenement" at West Chester Pike near the present Steel Road, now Westbrook Park. Upon his death, he was also in possession of a house and ten acres in Haverford that he bought from his cousin once removed, Davis Heacock and his wife, Mary, who was the daughter of Patience Williamson, who was the daughter of Samuel Gracey. The property comprises the present 1000 block Bon Air Road, the old house, 551 S. Eagle Road, and the little Thompson Park.

Joel was the last of this great Davis family to live on the land as owner. His brother, William, was permitted by the terms of Joel's will to stay on for two years after Joel's decease. William died in 1872, age 85 years, the last to die of William and Prudence Davis' children. Joel's will starts like this, typical of that time and earlier: "I, Joel Davis, being far advanced in life and feeble of body; but favored with a sound mind and disposing memory (at this point most testators praise Almighty God for being so gracious) do make and publish my last will and testament..." Other old will introductions are phrased like this: "Because of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, for it is appointed unto man once to die, I therefore make this my last will and testament..." The following preamble is a beautiful form: "Be it remembered, I, John Davis of Chichester in the County of Delaware and State of Pennsylvania, being sick and weak of body but of a sound disposing mind and memory, Blessed be the Lord therefore for all other of his mercies and favours toward me. But being mindful of my mortality do think fit while strength is continued to make my Last Will and Testament in manner following" 1798.\*

Joel made provision for his sister, Mary, during her lifetime. Any residue of this fund was to be divided among his brother John's children and his sister Tacy Jones' children. He established a fund for the use of his niece, Gulielma Kimber, during her life. Others mentioned in his will are niece Mary Wharton, sister of Gulielma, and his brother, Abner. Abner's legacy included one to his beloved Haverford Meeting of which Joel was a trustee. "To brother Abner Davis \$1,500; after his decease \$1,000 whereof to be paid to Samuel Leedom and such other person as Haverford Preparative Meeting of Friends shall appoint in my place; in trust to be disposed of as said Meeting shall direct." The Meeting received this fund almost immediately, as Abner died the same year. Their wills are filed consecutively at Media.

The buildings and ten acre tract of land in Haverford (551 South Eagle Road and Park) were to be sold and the proceeds and other residue were to be divided in five equal parts: one part to brother Amos; one part to brother William; one part to brother Samuel's children; one part to brother John's children; one part to sister Tacy's children. Among Tacy's children were William Davis Jones and Isaac T. Jones. A large likeness of Isaac T. Jones hangs in the Darby Library. Joel Davis appointed William Davis Jones and Dr. George Smith as executors; they sold the ten acre property to Nathan Lukens who sold it in 1869 to Mordecai Thompson for \$2,900.<sup>43</sup>

The next child after Joel was Tacy, born in 1777, who married Paul Jones of Merion in 1798. They attended Meeting at Merion and are buried there. As Tacy Davis was a great-granddaughter of Florence (Jones) and Lewis David, Welsh immigrants, so was her husband, Paul Jones, the great-grandson of Ellen (Jones) and Robert Jones, Welsh immigrants. Robert Jones was a son of Catherine and John ap Thomas.<sup>44</sup> I am aware of a number of living descendants of Tacy and Paul. They are Mrs. Donald J. Hannan (A. Louise Jones Hannan of Drexel Hill), her children and grandchildren; and the Misses Ione and Mae Williamson of 705 North Eagle Road, Havertown; and issue of their brother, George C. Williamson, Jr. The Williamsons were reared on the little farm at Manoa and Eagle Roads, now the

\* It is probable though not certain that this John was a descendant of Lewis David

<sup>43</sup>Delaware County Deed book, V2, p. 162

<sup>44</sup>Welsh Tract, this document

Manoa School athletic field, which had been the property of their grandfather, James Williamson. Another known descendant is Miss Margaret Neil Yerkes of Swarthmore, retired Upper Darby school teacher. Miss Yerkes taught Mrs. Hannan's children, but she didn't know that they were her cousins.

After Tacy, Samuel was born in 1780. He married a girl whose surname was Chamberlain. They had children. Circa 1810 to 1820, there was a Squire Samuel Davis in Upper Darby. I doubt if they were the same, though a number of times I have noted that relatives of Samuel Davis had documents attested before Squire Samuel Davis. A Squire Samuel Davis also lived in Haverford. He had owned the farm (the house is still standing on East Mercer Avenue, Llanerch) which Morgan R. Davis (no relation) bought in 1867.<sup>45</sup> This was nine years after the death of Joel Davis, who left a legacy for his brother Samuel's children; therefore, I conclude that these two Samuels were not the same man.

The next child in order was Amos, born in 1783. He married Elizabeth Thomas. In 1822 he lived in Philadelphia. I know little else about him.

The next child born was Abner in 1785, who has been mentioned already. He is further noted in the chapter on Farm Number 2.

The next child was William, born in 1787, heretofore mentioned.

Finally, child number ten was Mary, born in 1790, for whom Joel and Abner made provision in their wills. Mary died unmarried.

"Round about, old Friends sleep,

Grave women, earnest men."

William and Prudence (Powell) Davis with six of their children, Amos, Mary, Joel, Susannah, William, Abner and Priscilla (Evans), Abner's wife, lie buried in the eleventh row inside the west gate of the Haverford Friends Burial Ground where their patriarch and progenitor, Lewis David, is buried (he on the land at the meeting house). Their grave markers are of marble and are badly eroded. In but a few more years, one will stand before this row of markers and, with all his powers of discernment, will not know what he sees. Nor will the burial records of the Meeting be helpful in providing identification, so far as I have been able to learn. However, there is one bright spot in this respect: all and only that which was obvious in our local cemeteries during the 1930's, the depression years, was recorded by the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), and is on file in the Baker documents, Delaware County Historical Society Library.

Items listed in the inventory of the estate of William Davis, though commonplace enough in 1822, would certainly excite the desires of our antique lovers today. There were pewter plates, queensware, dough troughs, iron pots, windsor chairs, tea tables, corner cupboards, old chests, spinning wheels, pot racks, chums, etc.<sup>46</sup> There was also a family Bible.\*

### **A Summary: Davises on Farm Number 1**

Lewis David lived here from 1690 until 1732, except for his sojourn in Haverford before 1722.

His son, William Davis, lived here from birth, in 1696, until death, in 1767; his son, William Davis, lived here from birth, in 1739, until his death, in 1822; his son, Joel Davis, lived here from birth, in 1775, until his death, in 1858; his brother, William Davis, lived on the farm until 1861; he died in 1872.

With the Davises gone from this, our Farm Number 1, after having possessed it for 171 years, it would seem that all the glory and interest are gone too. This is true in part, and would have been so had not the next owner lived on the land and personally seen to the husbandry. He was a personage himself and certainly of no lesser a family. After Joel Davis died, the farm was sold to Abraham Lewis Smith, B.S., University of Pennsylvania, 1850; Law, 1853; the first president of the Delaware County Historical

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<sup>45</sup>Gen. and Personal Mem. of Chester and Delaware Counties, p.183

<sup>46</sup>Letters of Adm. Recorder of Wills Office, Media

\* This item was not found

Society, son of Mary (Lewis) Smith and George Smith, M.D. A. Lewis Smith, lawyer, died in 1914 at his home in Media.

In the purchase of this farm, the Smith's committed a bit of legal legerdemain; a conflict of interest was apparent. If it had been known that Dr. Smith wanted the Joel Davis Farm, others would have wanted it more, enough to make Dr. Smith pay more. Also, it would not have looked good for Dr. Smith to have acquired the farm directly, since he was an executor of Joel Davis' estate. And so, A. Lewis Smith used old William Davis as a straw man to bid on the farm. Those interested in buying it would not have tried very hard to keep the farm from going to a brother of the deceased; it was William Davis' natal home. After A. Lewis Smith secured the land in his own name, he transferred it in two parts for amounts totaling the cost. Burmont Road was the dividing line between the two parts. The westernmost part, with the stable as the only building thereon, he sold to his mother, Mary Lewis Smith;<sup>47</sup> and the easternmost part, with the house, barn, and springhouse, he sold to his father, Dr. George Smith.<sup>48</sup> Thus the farm became part of the Mary Smith estate; when the doctor preceded his wife in death.

While the Smith family lived on the old Lewis farm adjacent "Collen Brook Farm" (Farm Number 5), they leased Farm Number 1 to tenant farmers.

The day of the tenant farmer was interesting, too, because theirs was a struggle for life and a measure of economic success. He had children to rear the best he knew how, subject to the work load; and work he did. In fact, all the members of his family worked. He had to net a sum equal to his rent each month, before he or any member of his family had anything for himself. Generally the amount of rent paid by tenant farmers in our area was from \$25 up to \$75 per month, depending upon the size and quality of the farm.

In the case of Farm Number 1, the Smiths were more than fair. I will skip for an instant to the last tenant farmer, Bernard J. Flynn, to illustrate this. He, with his family, took possession of the farm in 1904. The rent was \$325 per year. Mrs. Flynn left the farm in 1929, some time after her husband's death. In all of that time, the Smiths never raised the rent! Another illustration: A fire, in October 1914, destroyed the house, except for the stone walls. The Smiths had it sufficiently rebuilt to readmit the Flynns the day before Christmas of that same year.

William T. Harris was the first tenant farmer to whom the Smiths rented the farm after they had acquired it as described above from the estate of Joel Davis, in 1861. The first four years of Mr. Harris' tenure were the years of the Civil War. Certain articles and occupations were subject to tax under the excise laws of the United States (a war tax); returns were to be made by the assessors to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. In the month of May, 1863, William T. Harris paid tax on income valued at \$340.53 Class A at a rate of .03. The ad valorem duty was \$10.22, and \$1.00 was the tax in Class C on a one-horse carriage. Dr. Smith (it is not clear who this Smith is) died in 1882. The inventory of his estate shows \$434.82, including interest due and collectable from William T. Harris. William T. Harris had a son, Samuel L. Harris, who was a milkman. Samuel operated his milk business from the old spring house on this farm, and he succeeded his father as tenant farmer. He was not without his share of sorrow. In the Bethesda church burial yard, lot number 160, lies Lydia Ann, wife of Samuel L. Harris.<sup>49</sup> She died September 12, aged twenty-four years, six months. Her husband erected a stone appropriate to her memory. Samuel married a second time, to Lidie, the daughter of Albert Hansell, who had been married twice. Lidie and Mary Emma (who became the first wife of Herbert Gettz) were the children of Albert's first wife. By his second wife, Mary Riley, Albert had William Louis, born in 1882, Alfred, who died at age seven, and Ella. Samuel and Lidie (Hansell) Harris brought the above William, her half-brother, from her father's home in West Philadelphia to the farm to be reared. William attended Haverford School No. 2 on Eagle Road. He became a florist in West Philadelphia and retired to his daughter's farm in Church Hill, Maryland where he died in September 1964. Samuel L. Harris died at his home in Llanerch in 1914.

By the time that Mary (Lewis) Smith, widow of Dr. George Smith, died downstream at Collen Brook Farm at 1:00 A.M. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 1892, the Harrises had removed and Patrick Rheady was the tenant

<sup>47</sup>Delaware County Deed Book, 12 p.291

<sup>48</sup>Delaware County Deed Book, 12 p.55; H5 p.392

<sup>49</sup>Baker documents; Graveyard itself

farmer on Farm Number 1. My elderly friends, Harry T. Leedom, John Savage, and Albert Willis, knew Pat Rheady, but none of them knew how to spell his name (it is pronounced Raidy). The correct spelling comes from the accounting of Mrs. Smith's estate. Pat had a pretty daughter of whom it was reported he was protectively jealous. He lived here for a number of years. His successor as tenant farmer was Wilson Leach, another milkman, who was on the land but a few years prior to 1904, when the Flynns came.

Bernard J. Flynn was born in Roscommon, Ireland; his wife, Catherine Noonan, was born in County Meath, Ireland. Before renting this farm, they lived in Upper Darby on West Chester Pike, opposite the old brick Keystone School house. He was a teamster in the employ of the Garrett Paper Mill, known as Keystone Mill. At this time, they were the parents of a large family, viz: Robert, Earl, Martin, a foster son, John, Loretta, Mary, Katey and Margaret. One child, Elizabeth, was born here on the farm. She expired at age three years and four months.

The Flynns ran a large dairy through the years, hand milking about forty head. They raised most of their own replacement stock and most of the feed for their herd. Supplemental feed consisted of mostly wet brewery grains, which were hauled from Brewerytown in Philadelphia. The barn was located where St. Dorothy's school is. They raised corn for grain, grist, ensilage and stover, oats, wheat, rye and barley. The hay that they raised was timothy, clover and alfalfa. They manured and limed their field well and practiced crop rotation. Apart from using different machinery and contour plowing, their farming operation was nearly as advanced as today's.

The Flynns had one of the first tractors in the neighborhood. They purchased it immediately after World War I. With respect to modern farming practices, I think it well to mention an interesting fact here, since this chapter deals with the only farm covered in this sketch that is located completely in Upper Darby. Toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the fields of Delaware County were known as "the old worn-out lands".<sup>50</sup> This fact was partly responsible for the early movement of settlers to the far reaches of Chester County, and probably for the spirit of "Westward Ho."

William West, the elder brother of the great artist, Benjamin West, came to Upper Darby to farm, about 1770, though he was not a farmer. He recognized the problem of infertility and thought that he could do something about it. He introduced red clover, and used lime and compost, a system of top dressing, and crop rotation. Within a very few years, his land was restored and yielding enormous crops, so much so that he could sell to neighboring farmers who had scoffed at his pioneering methods. It is gratifying to know that all of this was first accomplished here in Upper Darby. In 1805, William West was elected an honorary member for the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture.<sup>51</sup> He died in 1808, at 84 years of age.

Robert Flynn operated a milk Route such as is herein described from this farm, using the old spring house just ninety feet off Burmont Road, on the dwelling (Convent) side of the run. He sold the business to a neighbor, on Farm Number 2 about 1911. After the business was sold, Mr. Flynn, the father, then sold his own milk to Fielding's Dairies, now 8501 Lansdowne Avenue, Upper Darby. St. Vincent's Home for Catholic Orphans (now Prendergast High School) was built in 1919.\* Barney Flynn supplied the Home with milk. About 1912, the Flynn family went into the pig business. It was a profitable endeavor for about twelve years. Garbage was collected daily in West Philadelphia in horse drawn wagons and shoveled into the pig pens. The refuse contributed tremendously to the fertility of the fields. The Flynns raised 200 to 300 pigs a year. Market hogs were sold to Philadelphia slaughterhouses.

On October 11, 1921, Bernard J. Flynn died, at age sixty-four. Mrs. Flynn continued to run the farm, with the help of her sons. She left the farm in 1929, removing to Eagle Road where she died. In 1966, three of her daughters were still living, and a grandson, Bernard Flynn, son of Robert, was carrying mail in Drexel Hill.

The Flynn home, the 1732 Davis house, on the site of the 1690 dwelling, was so attractive and conveniently located that I always had been amazed that antiquarians would have permitted it to sit there

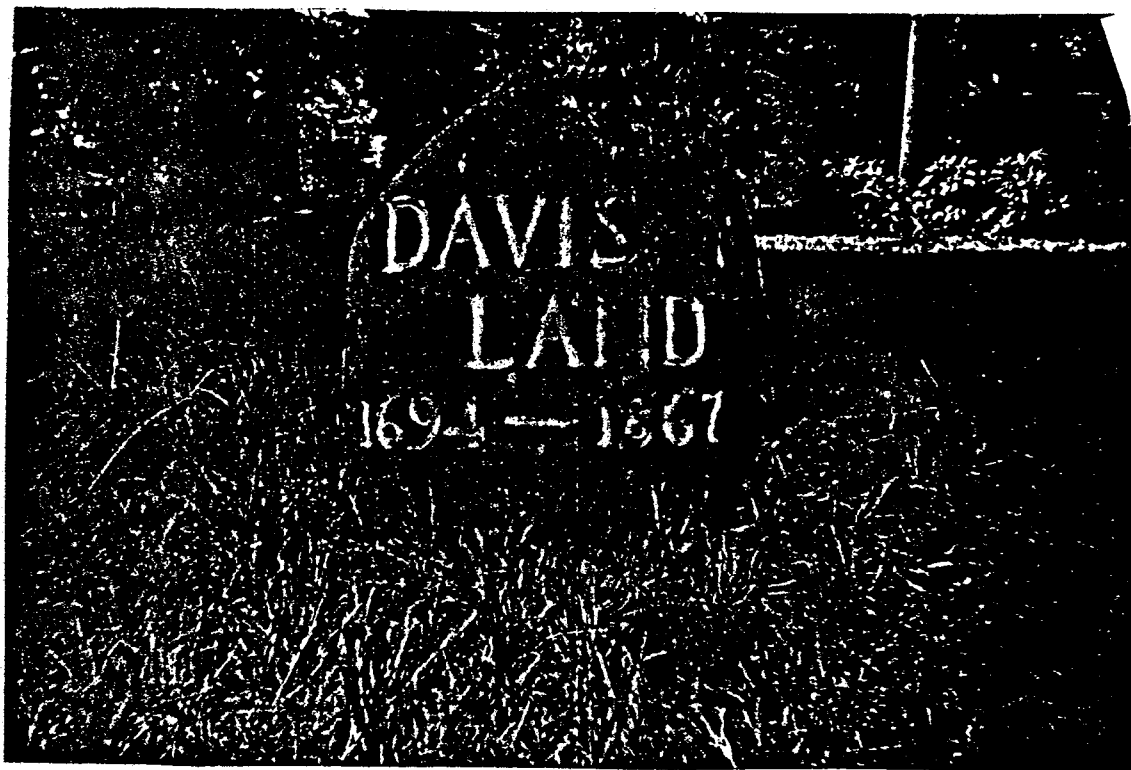
<sup>50</sup>See also *History of Delaware County*, Dr. Smith p.350

<sup>51</sup>Memoirs of the Society

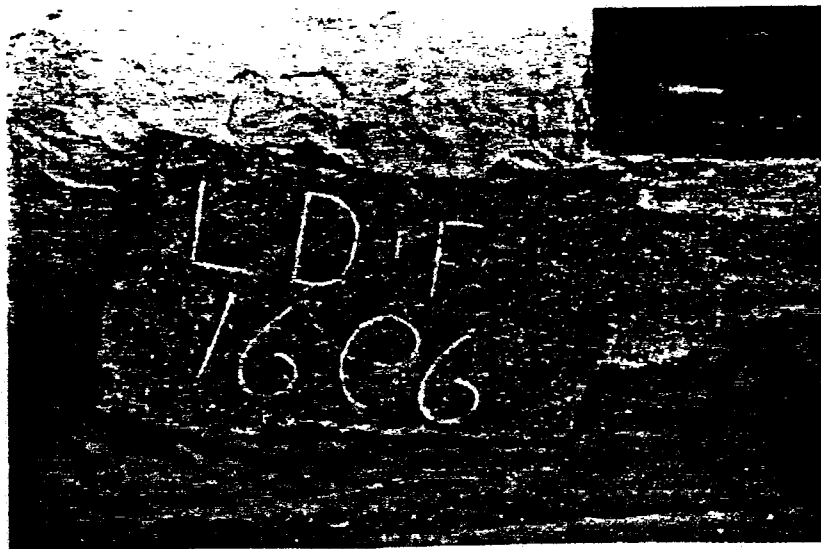
\* Dedicated May 1920

to deteriorate and to be vandalized periodically from 1929 until 1945. The Flynn women were under the impression that there was a stipulation in a Smith family will that the house could not be sold for ninety-nine years. I examined Dr. George Smith's will. There is nothing to that effect. The house was sold, which fact indicates that this idea was a rumor. Dr. Smith's widow died intestate. The land, as it subsequently was held by the Smiths, was held by a number of heirs. One of them, L. Cheyney, says, "a prospective buyer of the old house would have had to buy considerable acreage of high-priced land with it." This put it in the realm of real estate developers, so the old house is gone and now we have a convent in its place.





Photograph of stone marker Davis Land 1694-1867.



Photograph of stone marker 1696  
commemorating the marriage of Lewis David and Florence  
found burried at Farm # 2 by Edmund W. Viguers.

## FARM NUMBER 2

This Farm I call number 2 because it is the second purchase of Lewis David, the younger. It is in Haverford in the Welsh Tract, across the township line from Farm Number 1, in Darby (now Upper Darby). Lewis David was the first owner to improve, to use, and to build upon it. Farm Number 2 was first described as containing 100 acres, being the middle 100 of a 300 acre strip running from Darby Creek, formerly "Muckruton Creek," along the township line to Haverford Street. Haverford Street is a line that runs through the easternmost part of the land that comprises the Llanerch Country Club golf course as it is now constituted. This part of the line is presently marked by a line of wild cherry trees that runs from Steel Road more than halfway to Township Line Road. These trees grew up along the old fence row and former golf course boundary. The line of Haverford Street begins about seventy-five yards westward of the string of counter lights that the Pennsylvania State Highway Department has strung overhead across the highway, U.S. Route 1.\*

Between Steel Road and West Chester Pike, the easternmost boundary of the golf course is on the line of Haverford Street. The line of Haverford Street ran from the point described at the township line, through the township in a north westward direction, to the Radnor Line. It divided the old township into East and West Haverford. No road was ever put through here, though, no doubt, it was William Penn's intention that one should have been. He wanted the territory laid out on the square, but some of the earliest roads did not develop along the lines of his survey, because those lines ran counter to the natural access to a wilderness country.

Thomas Symmons (Simmons, Simonds), Welsh Quaker Sufferer,<sup>52</sup> was the first to purchase these 300 acres in 1681, as part of a 500 acre purchase from William Penn. In the Pembrokehire jail, in 1661, Thomas Symmons was one of the "sickly and aged" prisoners; yet he lived on for more than twenty years to become involved in our local history. According to the recital of a deed,<sup>53</sup> the farm passed from him to his son, John Symmons, who was also a prisoner in 1681; and then from John to his son Thomas Symmons. Other documents do not admit of the last Thomas Symmons. I prefer to give credence to the deed, but B. Hayes Smith, whom our local historical students like to accept as an infallible authority, indicates that John Symmons sold it to Thomas Marchant (Merchant) in 1686. Thomas Marchant sold it as part of a total of 300 acres to John Ball in 1693. John Ball divided the land into three 100 acre parts in 1694; each part supposedly comprising 100 acres. He sold the block against Darby Creek to Ralph Lewis (Farm Number 5); the middle part, aforementioned, to Lewis David; and the easternmost block, from the approximate location of our North Drexel Avenue to old "Haverford Street,"<sup>54</sup> to Samuel Lewis (Farm Number 3), son of Henry Lewis of Clifton Hall, (The Grange). One thing is absolutely certain—these three, Ralph Lewis, Lewis David and Samuel Lewis had become the owners of the respective three blocks of land by 1694. In spite of the deed that I found and have cited, the following court record supports B. Hayes Smith: "In open Court a deed Past from John Ball to Lewis David for a hundred acres of land lying in havorfoord the deed Beareing ye Date the Twelft Day of March 1694."<sup>55</sup>

In 1731, the middle portion, Farm Number 2, was split by the line on which Peach Lane was later laid out in 1921, running from the township line to Eagle Road, which is our present Steel Road. Lewis David sold to his son, Lewis Davis, the easternmost part of Farm Number 2, which I then designate as Farm Number 3. After this date of 1731, Farm Number 2 comprises the westernmost part of the old Farm Number 2 as it was constituted as of 1694.

The old deeds call for fifty acres for each part, more or less, since the whole was called 100 acres. Number 3 was later found actually to contain sixty-two plus acres, and Number 2, 66 plus acres. The Davises succeeded in concealing this over-plus acreage. They did this because of the injustices in the acts of William Penn and the proprietary government as earlier described. The Davises were able to perform this seemingly impossible feat by accurately measuring and reporting the distances in one direction along the early trails where people necessarily or occasionally traveled; viz, the township line

\* as they appeared 1960-1968

<sup>52</sup>Besse

<sup>53</sup>Delaware County Deed Book R p.334, 1742-1743

<sup>54</sup>Atlas of Delaware County, p.8

<sup>55</sup>Records of the Court of Chester County, Pennsylvania 1681-1697, p.342

and the more frequently used trail where our Steel Road is constructed. The latter was the trail from Merion to Chester, the county seat and the only place that early Quaker milling was permitted. When it came to measuring lines up over the hill, through the woods, between the other lines, the Davises recorded the distance as 100 perches. The distance is actually more than 125 perches.<sup>56</sup>

As mentioned in the chapter on Farm Number 1, Lewis David lived, with his family, for a short period before 1722, on the upper northeast corner of Farm Number 2, where he had built a house. At this writing, it is not certain what use he and his sons made of the rest of the land. It is probable that for a long time they were engaged in clearing most of the timber from it. At about the time of the sale of the farm to Lewis Davis in 1731, it is likely that Lewis Davis built a house here on our Farm Number 2. He sold Farm No. 1 to his son, William, in 1732. Haverford Friends records show that he died in Haverford in 1742. This was the only land that he had left in Haverford. It is certain that there were buildings here before 1746. In that year, Lewis' son, William born in 1696, bought from his brothers and sisters who were joint heirs: "All that piece or parcel of land of fifty acres of which the said Lewis David (the father) died seized of. Situate lying and being in Haverford and bounded as followeth; viz: Beginning at a post standing in the line of the other land of said William Davis (Farm Number 1 at Peach Lane) thence along the said line (township line) South, sixty-six degrees West, eighty perches to a stake set in the ground in Abraham Lewis' line (a corner in back of Dave Reese Olds) thence along the said Lewis line North twenty-four degrees, West one hundred perches (125 perches plus) to a small marked sapling. (This is our Stump Lane and Steel Road.) Thence North by the land of Joseph Hayes (Bon Air, Farm Number 4) sixty-six degrees East, eighty perches (along our Steel Road) to a corner post, thence South twenty-four degrees, West by the fifty acres (62 acres) of land given and granted by the said Lewis David the father unto his son Lewis (Peach Lane, the line behind the even numbered houses on North Belfield Avenue) and now belonging to the said William Davis one hundred perches (125 perches plus) to the place of beginning. Containing fifty acres of land be the same more or less. (66 acres and 11 perches) Together with the buildings, orchards, gardens, etc."<sup>57</sup> (The parentheses are mine). The roads were not yet officially put though as of 1746. This description was partly the record of an earlier survey. The sapling mentioned above grew into a tree; when it was cut down, it became a stump which was retained because it was a property line marker. Part of the line leading to it (North 24° W.) became Stump Lane, when the roads were cut through in 1755.

Concerning the above-mentioned buildings, it is doubtful that my home, 1240 Center Road, was one of these. Of course, I am writing of the older stone part of the house. The large nails used in its construction are the L-head type of the period of 1790-1830. The rafters are bored and pegged. Some partitions are of overlapping rough oak boards with the bark still on the edges. The first floor floorboards are tongue and grooved, random width, 5/4 oak. Some second story floor boards are of poplar as are those of the third floor. The remaining, original hardware is of the 1790-1826 type. However, the built-in brick oven in the northeast chimney certainly pre-dates the Franklin stove. The oven, fireplace and chimney have been judged by authorities<sup>58</sup> to have been built during the decade 1730-1740. Another such oven may be found in the old farmhouse on West Chester Pike, opposite Castle Rock, where the Revolutionary War highwayman, "Sandy Flash" was captured. The two ovens are so alike that it appears that the same man constructed them! The above-mentioned authorities also point out that the door and window trim in this oven room are definitely Colonial. Therefore, the inference may be taken that this is where Lewis David built and came to live in 1732, when he sold our Farm Number 1 to his son William.

Despite the above-mentioned facts, the house is not listed in the copies of the 1798 glass tax. I have no explanation for this that would not be a guess. Mr. Harry Leedom, the son of William Pyle Leedom, who was born in this house in 1881 says that there was once a much older house, or part of a stone house, on the oven end where the frame part of the present house is built; and that this older part was torn down in order to build the present frame part. Since construction of the frame portion of the house, c. 1890, the first floor has constituted the kitchen. Over the kitchen are two furnished, plastered rooms of the same style and construction as the kitchen. Harry Leedom is correct, for a loft over the kitchen is

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<sup>56</sup>Plan of Eagle Farms, Damon and Foster, 1921 (A lineal perch is a rod, 16½ ft.)

<sup>57</sup>Delaware County Deed Book H4, p.26

<sup>58</sup>Professor Carl Lindberg and Bart Anderson



Photograph of 1240 Center Road, Havertown.  
Note original section at left.

mentioned in the 1858 inventory of the estate of the last Davis to live here, Abner Davis. At this point, we will leave the house to develop the Davis story further. The buildings will be mentioned again.

With William Davis' purchase of 1746, he became the possessor of the entire holdings of his father, Lewis David: our Farm Number 1, which he bought from his father in 1732, Farm Number 2 which he bought in 1746, and Farm Number 3 (split from the old Number 2) which he bought from his brother, Lewis, in 1743. William did not live here on Farm Number 2, but on Number 1 where his children were born between the years 1732 and 1747. I have concluded that they were born there because William and his wife, Elizabeth, were established there in 1732. Tacy, their first child, was born there, and whenever his sons are first mentioned in documents, they are mentioned as not being of Haverford, but of Darby. For example, in the tax lists of Chester County two of his sons, Isaac born in 1735 and Jesse born in 1736, appear as "freemen" in 1758. In the Darby (upper) list, Isaac first appeared in 1756, at 21 years of age. That year Isaac's tax, as a freeman, was 10 pence.

William Davis died in 1767. The northernmost part of this farm, i.e., the upper half against our Steel Road, he willed and devised to his son, Isaac. The lower part against the township line he willed to his son, William. It is a well-established fact that this William also lived in Darby, though by this time it had become Upper Darby, where he reared a family of ten children on Farm Number 1. These children were born between the years 1769 to 1790. What was going on here at Farm Number 2 during this time? We have established by evidence from deeds that there were buildings here before 1746, and have stated our reasons for believing Isaac's grandfather built here in 1732. Since Isaac was a farmer as well as a miller and had inherited half the farm, it is not unreasonable to conclude that he lived here at my house. There is no record that he ever owned other land in Haverford except for one acre at the mill. He married Rachel Lewis,<sup>59</sup> the daughter of David Lewis,\* who lived in Radnor, in 1768. This was one year after Isaac's father's death. Ashmead says that Isaac was taxed as a miller in 1770, in Haverford; but he does not mention his earlier connections with milling. Isaac is listed in the 1764 tax records as a single man having a one-third interest in a grist mill, and owning one acre of land there, with a house on it. This mill was, no doubt, the Haverford New Mill (Richard Hayes' Mill, 1707),<sup>60</sup> since a cousin of Isaac's wife, John Lewis, had operated it for a time prior to 1764,<sup>61</sup> and shared an interest with Isaac. In 1775 and 1776, Isaac Davis was taxed as a farmer of 100 acres of land.<sup>62</sup> This 100 acres comprised the land in Haverford bequeathed to all four brothers, both Farm Numbers 2 and 3.

William Davis' division of his land in Haverford was not exactly practical. While three parts had buildings, Isaac's had none. He lived in the buildings on William's part. In addition, the portions, as divided to each, were too small to support families.

Until this period, wars had affected our local Quakers scarcely at all, but now they fell on hard times and experienced bitter problems. It was not a case of "Friends Though Divided." When taking sides caused divisions, those who declared themselves were no longer included in the community of Friends. In the chapter on Farm Number 3 there is the account of Isaac's uncle, Lewis, being disowned. His cousin, Colonel Caleb Davis, was disowned by the Springfield Meeting, and afterward became a war hero and an Episcopalian. Most Friends were strictly and honestly neutral. Others of them secretly favored one side or the other. Of those who took sides, the great majority fought for independence. Many of those who stood by their peaceful precepts were suspected of all sorts of treachery. All suffered tremendous losses at the hands of either of the plundering armies, or both. Scarcely a farmstead escaped their rapine. The raiding of farms in what is now Delaware County started immediately after the Battle of Brandywine and continued until after the British moved out of Philadelphia. One of these foraging parties was encamped on the site of Bond's Shopping Center, Lansdowne Ave. and State Road.<sup>63</sup> One old Friend is reported to have said that the Hessian great drum beat out the sound, "Plunder, Plunder, Plunder, Plunder." Foragers took or destroyed nearly everything, including items which were totally unrelated to the needs of an army.

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<sup>59</sup>Davis Family and Allied Lines

\*David Lewis was a grandson of William Lewis, brother of Ralph (Farm Number 5)

<sup>60</sup>See Farm Number 4

<sup>61</sup>Ashmead

<sup>62</sup>Chester County tax lists

The following is a copy of Isaac Davis' losses from this farm, taken from a sheet of paper about 14 x 15 inches which had been folded several times, written upon in Isaac's own hand and signed, "Isaac Davis" on the back blank side of a fold. It shows wear and marks which indicate that he carried it in his pocket.

"Taken from the Subscriber on the 12 Day of the 12 mo. (1777). By the people under the Command of General Cornwallis.

One hundred and Seventy Dousin of wheat in the sheaf and a Dousin of Rie and 3 do. of oats, worth 40 pounds.

	£	S	d
300 lbs. of Salt Beef, 3 gammons of Bacon worth	8	19	8
30 lbs. of Dried Beef	1	00	0
Two Dozen of tallows (?) (not clear)	1	02	0
60 lbs. of Cheese	1	10	0
40 Do. of Butter	4	00	0
4 Gallon of Honey	1	00	0
2 Hives of Bees	2	00	0
4 Milch Cows, worth	20	00	0
One Bull, worth	6	00	0
2 large oxen, worth	20	00	0
2 large hogs, worth	10	00	0
5 lesser do., worth	5	00	0
5 Sucklings Pigs, worth		15	0
2 horses, worth	20	00	0

The above was taken and all of the above and what follows was taken on the Day above written from Isaac Davis in Haverford, Chester County

.(the above list and note is on one side of a sheet)

(on the other side of the sheet, the following appears):

Household and Kitchen furniture taken at the same time as the foregoing by the people under General Cornwallis' Command.

	£	S	d
Cash	2	00	0
Wearing Apparel	43	09	6
Table linnen	3	00	0
hand towels	7	6	0
2 suits of Curtains and Counterpains	25	00	0
4 Bed ticks and one Bolster	4	01	0
5 Blankets worth	13	10	0
6 Coverlids worth	15	00	0
2 pair of cotton sheets	3	00	0
4 pair of flax Do.	05	00	0
4 pair of tow worth	03	04	0
5 pair of pillow cases worth	01	10	0
4 Wallits and 2 Bags	01	00	0
One set of chiney ware	00	16	0
3 chiney Bowls	00	9	0
Glasses worth	00	12	0
5 Silver tea Spoons worth	01	00	0
Glass Bottles worth	00	12	0
Pewter worth	03	12	0
Pots and Kettles worth	00	03	0

	£	S	d
Candles and tallow worth	00	06	0
One coffee pot worth	00	02	6
8 yds. of home made Cloth	03	04	0
4½ of Camblet worth	01	02	6
10 Do. of Linnen	01	10	0
10 dozen of yarn worth	01	00	0
5 Cedar pails worth	0	5	0
5 Earthen pots	0	5	0
10 Bushel of apples worth	1	0	0
4 Razers worth	0	5	0
1 hone worth	0	5	0
Books worth	0	15	0
2 pair of Stays worth	3	0	0
1 tennant saw worth	0	15	0
85 Bushels of Wheat at 7/16 per Bushel	32	17	6
2 Bushels of Rie at 6 pr. Bushel	00	12	0
2 do. of Oats at 3 pr. Bushel	00	6	0
	290	01	08

In 1862, Dr. Smith listed this total, £284 10 02. Farm Number 2 was one of the farms that both armies struck. Isaac Davis suffered smaller losses to the American army; to wit: "Taken from the said Isaac Davies by the Army under George Washington, commonly called the American Army:

	£	S	d
90 meals Victuals at 6d pr meal	2	5	0
18 Bushels of Oats at 2/6	2	5	0
9 Ditto Corn & one of Flaxseed		12	0
Hay worth		15	0
	5	17	0 <sup>64</sup>

Charles H. Browning, in his *Welsh Settlements of Pennsylvania*, summarizes these losses as follows: "Taken from Isaac Davis of Haverford by a Detachment of the British Army, commanded by the Earl of Cornwallis, the 12 mo. 12/1777, £284 10 2. From the same by the Army under George Washington, £6 17 6".

I have been urged to equate the above values with those of the present day. That is a difficult thing to do, because values vary so greatly. Some things that were plentiful and inexpensive then are in demand and costly today, and vice versa. I will try to strike a rough average by taking three commodities of which I know the on-the-farm value in 1967, accounting for some inflation:

<u>1777</u>	<u>1967</u>
1. 10 bu. apples equals £1	10 bu apples @ \$3.50 equals \$35.00
2. 2 large hogs equals £10	750 lb. live @ \$.25 equals \$187.50
3. 4 gal. honey equals £1	16 qts., 48 lbs. @ .20 equals \$9.60

In the case of apples, £1 equals \$35.00  
 In the case of hogs, £1 equals \$18.75  
 In the case of honey, £1 equals \$ 9.60  
£3 equals \$63.35

<sup>64</sup>Friends Hist. Library, Swarthmore College



The average value of the pound would be about \$21.11. Isaac's loss of £295 amounts to a loss of about \$6,227. My notes show that without any computation I had guessed a loss of \$5,500. Your guess would probably be as good as mine.

What a winter our people must have suffered in 1777-78, after having been so thoroughly deprived of the necessities of life!

Isaac Davis bought a farm in Radnor in 1785 from his wife's cousin, John Lewis, in Springfield. The cost was £937. It would seem that thrifty, hardworking Isaac by this time had recovered somewhat from the depredations of the Revolutionary Armies, but the poor fellow did not live long enough to fully recover. He died intestate in 1787, at age 52; and it appears that he owed money to almost everyone he knew. The following list of creditors is being included in this document, not with the intent of exposing the extensiveness of his indebtedness, but rather to set forth the names of his friends who lived in the area, in most cases in Haverford, at the time of his death.

Papers No. 55, Orphan's Court.

The petition of Rachel Davis to sell farm in Radnor in the interest of properly maintaining (minor) children, Lewis, Deborah, William and Jane...together with a list of the just debts of Isaac Davis, deceased, at the time of his death.

	£	S	d
Due to David Lewis (Rachel's father) on Mortgage	400	0	0
" " Davis Lewis on Bond	200	0	0
" " Isaac Davis on Bond (another Isaac, Radnor)	120	0	0
" " Eliz. Smith on Bond	55	0	0
" " Mary Hayes on Bond	37	0	0
" " Jesse Davis on Bond (brother Farm No. 3)	77	13	10
For interest on above sums amounting to	274	5	9
Due to Mordecai Lawrence (born in Weaver house)	1	17	6
" " George Hayworth (farm in our Manoa)	-	7	6
" " Michael Cline	1	7	6
" " David Evans	1	-	-
" " Elisha Worrall (miller, Haverford New Mill)	1	10	9
" " Jesse Brooks	1	12	4
" " Jesse Brooks	-	10	9
" " Isaac Richards	-	17	1½
" " Isaac Taylor	-	7	2
" " Humphrey Ellis	-	3	-
" " Bernard Collings	-	5	6
" " Evan Roberts	-	10	-
" " John Maris (Home House, Springfield)	12	-	-
" " Samuel Davis	12	-	-
" " Mary Hayes (widow of Benjamin Hayes)	12	-	-
" " Mary Hayes (greatgrandmother of Dr. Smith	4	-	-
" " Samuel Davis	2	-	-
" " Jacob Jones	16	-	-
	1,224	17	

The amount of the Inventory of the personal estate of Isaac Davis, deceased.....	148	13	4
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Difference between the amount of the inventory and the debts of the intestate.....	1,175	8	3
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The above list of outstanding debts was submitted as proof of the necessity of selling the farm. Rachel's spinster sisters, Mary and Hannah Lewis, bought the farm for £1,290, according to a deed recorded in

1796.<sup>65</sup> It is evident that some of the smaller debts listed above were incurred during Isaac's final illness and for his burial. Mordecai Lawrence made his coffin, and George Hayworth dug his grave. Both of these men were solid, land-owning citizens.

Let us position Isaac Davis who lived here at our 1240 Center Road, in the year of 1777, by generation. He was the grandson of Lewis David and Florence Jones, and he was the great-great-grandfather of Dr. T. Carroll Davis, otolaryngologist, who died in 1953, at the age of 71. Dr. Davis' widow, Mrs. Julia Adams Davis,<sup>66</sup> who lived in Mt. Airy, permitted me to copy the list of losses from the original document written in Isaac's own hand. She has grandchildren who are the children of William Clayton Davis, M.D. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and of Rev. Edward Bradford Davis, minister of the Presbyterian Church of Darby, Pennsylvania. These children are the ninth generation in line of descent from Lewis David, the younger, the 1690 settler.

In those far away days of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, deeds sometimes were not reported promptly (131 years late in one above instance);<sup>67</sup> and some deeds were not recorded at all. I can find no record in either Chester or Delaware County that shows how or when Isaac's inherited share of this farm got into the hands of his brother, William Davis. When this William died in 1822 on Farm Number 1, he was in possession of the Upper Darby Farm and the entire sixty-six acres of Farm Number 2. After the Revolutionary War, it no longer seemed necessary to conceal the overplus acreage, since the regulations of the Penn's no longer applied. However, there was another reason for concealing them. Taxes would have been higher on a 66 acre and a 62 acre farm, and so each of these farms continued to be designated as 50 acres.

Isaac went to Radnor and left his brother, William, with his young family to farm Farm Numbers 1 and 2. Here on Farm Number 2 there was a large, old, stone bank barn with frame additions. It was located on the exact sites of the present 1248 and 1246 Center Road; in fact, the foundation of the 1248 house is built of some of the stone from the barn. As one passes in front of these two houses on Center Road, he is passing through the old barnyard and over the dug well which supplied water to the watering trough at the barn. The well is under the middle of the road. The barn bridge or gangway which led by the large door to the barn floor was on the upper side of the barn, in back of the present day houses. The carriage shed is now the converted house at 1244 Center Road. At that location, there was also a tool shed and shelling house which is part of the present kitchen; a large corn crib also extended from thence onto the present 1246 property.

In front of these buildings, the lane, the only provision for ingress and egress, started toward the top of the hill on Burmont Road. The lane paralleled our Center Road and was about 150 feet above it. It seemed to my family, in this century, that the lane was located in the most senseless, practically useless, and economically ruinous place that could have been chosen. Our main interests were mostly in the Manoa and Llanerch areas. It seemed strange and difficult to start out south-westwardly over a bad road when we wanted to go in the opposite direction. But when the Davises put this lane in, the situation was quite different. The most frequented facility in the area was the Hayes Mill (later Leedom Mill) and the general merchandise store at the mill. Burmont Road had been improved as a heavy duty cart road long before the old Chester to Merion trail became a road,<sup>68</sup> having been laid out officially in 1715. And so its location, too, would have been a consideration in placing the lane. John L. Leedom told me that after the Civil War, during the 1870's, the stretch of road by the mill was one of the most flourishing and valuable areas in Haverford.

The springhouse was opposite the end of our present driveway at Center Road about eighteen feet below the curb level in depth. In 1950 when the Di Francesco quarry, located on the Freeborn, old George Maris' property, at Darby Creek and Eagle Road, was enlarged, the excess quarry stones were used to fill the site of the springhouse. I have seen many a hog killed at the springhouse during both the Leedom's and my father's tenure. First the hogs were stunned by a small caliber bullet or by a marble fired from a shot gun, the point of intended impact being above a line between the eyes. The hogs were

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<sup>65</sup>Delaware County Deed Book F, p.24

<sup>66</sup>Mass. Adams, Fam. Desc.

<sup>67</sup>William Davis Est. to William 1746 recorded 1877, Delaware County Deed Book F, p.24

<sup>68</sup>John L. Leedom

then "stuck" with a knife, i.e. jugular cut. They were then cleaned and "hog dressed" and left hanging from a bough of the ancient sycamore to cool until sundown. This process usually occurred on a clear cold morning late in November. Sometimes one or two smaller hogs were kept to fatten until New Year's Day.

The Davises reserved a wood lot on this farm of about two and a half acres along the township line, running from our Peach Lane to and including the Philadelphia Electric Company's transforming station. The stream from the spring passed through here to join with Collen Brook below. The wood lot contained some huge and ancient specimens. In 1914, a tremendous poplar fell during a storm. The Leedom brothers, later mentioned, thought it time to harvest the ten or twelve that were left. They yielded 125,000 board feet. In 1916, they sold an oak of which a ship beam was hewn (in the woods) measuring 30"x 30"x 80'!

William Davis, born in 1739, brother of Isaac, married Prudence Powell and sired ten children, among whom were Joel and Abner.\* Joel was a millwright as well as a farmer. After William died intestate in 1822 and Prudence died in 1823, their family petitioned the Orphans Court for settlement of the estate which included both farms, Numbers 1 and 2. They agreed that the real estate could not be divided ten ways without spoiling the whole. The Court ordered the Sheriff to obtain an appraisal, which he did in the amount of \$9,481.55 for 163 acres, 76 perches. Joel and Abner jointly bought out the interest of the other eight heirs.

The two brothers then continued farming the place, employing oxen as much as horses. They ran a small dairy herd and sold the bulk of their grains to the local mills. The joint ownership lasted until 1840. In that year, they divided their property townshipwise, making deeds to each other. Joel took the old homestead farm in Upper Darby, and Abner our Number 2 in Haverford. Abner married Priscilla Evans. They lived on here quietly for a time. They had no children of their own, but they reared a boy and a lovely girl. Her name was Eliza Anne Stackhouse Willis. She was the aunt of an early school teacher of mine, M. Emma Willis. The boy's name was Fred Davis.

In this farming community, it was generally accepted as fact that Fred Davis was the adopted son of Abner and Priscilla Davis, but this is not so. To quote an item in Abner's will of 1858, "to Fred Davis who lives with me and whom I intend to adopt, \$1,000." I am satisfied to believe that Fred Davis was his true name, that he had not been a nameless entity, but a family obligation, probably the child of one of Abner's brothers. Howbeit, he confided to his friends in later life that he had been found in a pig pen, and he never knew who his parents were! This information was supplied by Mrs. Emily Lobb (Johnson) Davis, widow of Harry Morgan Davis,<sup>69</sup> who, as a child, heard Fred Davis tell the above story to her mother, Mrs. Hannah (Dickinson) Johnson, the wife of W. Albert Johnson. Whatever Fred Davis' origin, he was a good and useful citizen. Throughout his adult life he was employed by J. E. Caldwell, jewelers. There he enjoyed a good rapport. I have found several people who lived in this area who remember that, when their parents went to Caldwells, they would request that Fred Davis serve them. Among those who remembered this were the above Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Marguerite (Leedom) Dill. Fred married Louise Harper of Germantown. They reared two daughters, Jane and Helen.<sup>70</sup>

I have observed that there were three Davis boys at this time who were somewhat unattached from or didn't belong to families: the above Fred; Dr. George Smith's ward, Samuel Davis;<sup>71</sup> and Adam Eckfeldt Davis,<sup>72</sup> a ward of Adam C. Eckfeldt. Of course, I have wondered if they were brothers, but I have found no evidence of this. Dr. Smith had Davis relatives who were unrelated to Abner Davis.

During Abner Davis' time, there was a small stone dwelling under the spread of huge popular trees on the site of 1379 Burmont Road. It housed his tenant or helping farmer, William Malin. Clarence

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\* See Farm Number 1

<sup>69</sup>Not the same family. See also General and Per. Mem. of Chester and Delaware Counties, Vol II, pp.193, 183

<sup>70</sup>M. E. Willis

<sup>71</sup>Civil War tax list

<sup>72</sup>Financial Statement filed in the Recorder of Deeds Office, Media

Thomson reports that his father, Mordecai, told him that a murder had been committed in this house. Joseph Leedom later had the house removed.<sup>73</sup>

Abner died in 1858. He left the income from the farm to his widow, Priscilla, during her lifetime; upon her death, the farm was to be sold and the proceeds disbursed among other heirs. Upon Abner's death, Priscilla sent out to their friends and relatives this notice:

"Thyself and family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of

ABNER DAVIS

from his late residence in Haverford on the fourth day morning the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. to meet at the house at 9 o'clock.

6<sup>th</sup> mo. 7<sup>th</sup> 1858"<sup>74</sup>

He was buried in Haverford Friends Burial Grounds. Priscilla went to Darby to live. I don't know where Fred went at this particular time.

In 1861, Priscilla rented the farm to a grandnephew of Abner's, William Davis Jones, born in 1839, who was the son of Joel Davis Jones of Merion. Joel Davis Jones was the son of Tacy (Davis) and Paul Jones.<sup>75</sup> William Davis Jones lived here at Farm Number 2 as a tenant farmer of Priscilla's for seven years. He ran a milk route from the springhouse. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Donald Hannan, mentioned as a Davis descendant in the chapter on Farm Number 1.

When William Davis Jones left Farm Number 2 in the spring of 1868, he rented the Abraham L. Pennock farm. The Pennock farm was situated on the east side of Eagle road, roughly between our Sunnyhill Lane and the railroad track; actually the railroad right of way was put through the farm in 1896. The old farm house in which he lived was back in the vicinity of our Rittenhouse Circle. The new part of Lawrence Road, Achillies Road, Harrington Road, Roosevelt Avenue and Virginia Avenue all ran through the farm. This was a Sellers farm. In the early part of this century, Thomas Hughes and family lived on the farm, but they lived in the newer house, "Liddon Hall," which was build in 1840 by Abraham Liddon Pennock close to Eagle Road between the present Virginia Avenue and Harrington Road. The farm was named "Liddenfield"; and Abraham L. Pennock inherited it from his grandparents, Abraham and Isabella Liddon. The reason I have reviewed these facts is that, during the Revolutionary War, Abraham Liddon was living in the old farmhouse where William Davis Jones lived, when the British raided him on the same day that they raided Isaac Davis who lived here on Farm Number 2.<sup>76</sup> A. L. Pennock was a miller on Pennypack Creek. He and James Sellers were Philadelphia business men and inventors. They invented riveted leather goods, buckets, bags, belts, hoses and a "hydraulion" (leather pump).

In 1880, William Davis Jones bought the Joseph Allen farm at Burmont and Marshall Roads (now Drexel Hill). Joseph Allen and his brother, Thomas, were manufacturers and repairers of iron products during the Civil War. Priscilla Davis never returned to Farm Number 2 to live. She died in Darby in 1867. The farm was sold at auction on December 19, 1867, under the terms of Abner's will, to Joseph Leedom who made the highest bid in the amount of \$13,246.78. I believe the \$246.78 represented charges for settlement, taxes, etc. Joseph Leedom took possession before April 1, 1868, when William Davis Jones' lease expired.

At this point, I'll make a comment on land values. I have many times heard it said, "if you only knew" or "if you and I had invested in this land years ago when it was cheap, what fortunes we would have today." May I ask, when was it ever cheap since the first sales of 1681-1690? Really poor men never bought much land around here. So far as I know, land was cheap only but twice. The first time was for a short period after the War of 1812. The second period of time took place after the span and scope of this historical sketch, during the depression years of 1933-1939. Land was cheap then after many unfortunates had lost property because they could not pay their taxes or mortgages. But who had money to buy it then? Atwater Kent is the only one that I know of who had money to buy land then, and such land investment did, in fact, greatly swell the value of his estate. \$9,000, the value of both of these

<sup>73</sup>Old map; Abner's will; Marion Moore Gaskill

<sup>74</sup>Chester County Historical Society

<sup>75</sup>Gen. and Per. Mem. of Chester Cos. Vol. II, p. 179

<sup>76</sup>Asterick, p. 553, *History of Delaware County*, Dr. Smith

farms in 1823, was a lot of money; so was \$13,000 for one distant country farm in 1867! The principal reason that the land in our area has always had solid value is that it was but a few hours away by horse from the lucrative markets of the city. In those days, before railroad refrigeration, a man could make a good living from the produce of 40 acres. Further, some did foresee the increasing value of the land. My father had a great vision of future values. That is why he was able to sell lots in 1922, 1923, and 1924, when the professional real estate agents couldn't, but he wasn't able to invest in much land. John L. Leedom and I, as a boy, were walking along Township Line Road (solid road bed 9 feet wide) from the woods one day in 1918, our shot guns over our arms, when he said, "Andy, some day this will be a great boulevard, clear through and beyond Media!" The road is now U.S. Route 1. John was only 55 at the time, but he was selling.

The new owner, who was born in 1827 and died in 1914, was a son of Joseph Bond Leedom, born 1796, and Mary Maris Worral. Joseph Bond Leedom was the son of John Leedom, who was born in Bucks County before the Revolutionary War. It was Joseph Bond Leedom who bought Farm Number 4 in 1852. Joseph Leedom had a brother, John, who succeeded Joseph Bond Leedom as the owner of Farm Number 4.<sup>77</sup>

Joseph Bond Leedom had operated the Haverford New Mill, the Hayes Mill, his wife having inherited it from her father, Elisha Worral, who owned a substantial interest therein. Elisha taught his sons, John, Maris and Joseph the milling business, and they ran the mill as partners. They were stockholders (part-owners) and sometimes officers of the West Chester Turnpike, which was a plank, toll road. They supplied the planks from their saw mill. Joseph alone succeeded the brothers' partnership as a grist miller. He lived in a little frame house at the foot of the Burmont Road hill, opposite the stone watering trough, lately the property of Robert Johnson, deceased. It was here that most of Joseph's children were born- Amanda, William P., Truman, John L. and Joseph B. Leedom- during the time that he was a miller. When Joseph purchased Farm No. 2, he quit the milling business. His sons were still boys. They, therefore, were reared in this house, 1240 Center Road. The boys were eager to have a go at farming. William P. Leedom, who was then aged 12, told me that he drove a team and followed the plow all day! It is doubtful that he did this every day, but probably on the "seventh day," because he did obtain a Normal School education and graduated from West Chester. When they were still boys, apple scab and scab threatened their orchard, which was on the slope to the northeast of the house. Their father sent to Boston for a barrel of whale oil with which to spray the trees. They were able to save the orchard.

When Joseph Leedom came here to Farm No. 2, he had a housefull. He not only had his wife, Emily (Pyle), and their five children; their sixth child, L. Walter, was born here in 1868 and their first, Amanda, died here in 1876. He also had his father-in-law, Johnathan Pyle, who was born in 1794 the son of Benjamin Pyle, and who died here in this house December 4, 1879. Johnathan was married to Naomi Parsons. With respect to the death of Amanda Leedom it should be noted that she was not only Emily's first child, but her only daughter, and she grieved deeply for her. Emily was remembered to have said of her daughter, "No one was ever more like an angel." It was also noted that though Emily's long lifetime on Amanda's natal day and on the anniversary of her death, Emily held brief, solemn and slightly tearful sessions of memorial to her.

Joseph and Emily Leedom were a rather small couple. He was somewhat smaller than I (5' 8") with hands half again as large and Emily's hands were nearly as big as his.\* This was the result of manual labor. How people worked just 100 years ago.

Joseph Leedom, in addition to being a miller and farmer, was an active public servant, holding township and county offices. He was county director of the poor for thirteen years, and a Haverford Township school director for many years. He served several years as secretary and treasurer of the West Chester Turnpike (toll road), and, of course, as the Davises, he faithfully served the Haverford Quaker Meeting where he and Emily and their sons and daughter and some of their grandchildren are buried.

William Pyle Leedom came of age and lived on here with his parents. In 1880, he married Louisiana Enocks and brought her here as a bride to live on the farm. My bedroom was theirs. Their first child was Harry T. aforementioned, born April 13, 1881 and the second, Elwood, who died in infancy. In addition to

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<sup>77</sup>Maris Fam. Book; Delaware Conty Deeds; Ashmead

\* Picture

being a farmer, William was a merchant in the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Farmer's Market. He went about the countryside, sometimes with "Lou" with him, buying up hogs and poultry, etc. which he butchered to sell on the "fourth and seventh days" in the market. Of course, he also sold the produce of this farm; viz.: eggs, butter, squabs, vegetables, fruit and nuts. He made scrapple and sausage in the little old building which now serves as part of our garage.

By the year 1898, "Will" Leedom had accumulated sufficient competence to build himself a new house on a lot in Grassland, now 50 West Eagle Road, Oakmont.\* Thereafter, he conducted a pork butchering business at that address.

John L. Leedom, born in 1863, lived here at home until the death of his brother, Walter, in 1910. He did not marry until 1912 and thereby hangs a tale. John was in love with his early school days companion, Lizzie Hart, who have lived in the old Davis house that was on the site opposite Ebenezer Church, Farm Number 3. She was the only and precious child of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hart. The word "precious" is used for more than one reason; the first is that they almost didn't have her at all. She was undersize as a newborn and her mother did not lactate. Cows milk did not agree with her. Her parents were fortunate in finding a good-hearted neighbor woman, Mrs. Charles Thompson, who provided the wherewithal, and Lizzie grew to be a buxom lass and curried favor in the eyes of her friend, John.

By 1890, it seemed high time that these two should have been married. John really thought so, but Lizzie's parents were aging and she felt sure that they needed her and that her first obligation was to them. She said that she would not marry as long as either of them had need of her! The Harts had moved to Springfield. Their house was that large, old, square-looking, stone house not far from the Saxer Avenue trolley station on Hart Lane, and that is why there is a "Hart" Lane. Now John felt that Lizzie should and would marry him anyway in spite of her resolve, so about 1900, he built her a fine, large stone house of a kind of granite. It was on land that he had bought from the estate of John Kirk on Lansdowne Avenue, next to Fieldings Dairies. The house was recently torn down, and the new Cartledge Monument shop is on the location. If you wish to see a house exactly like it, look at the former Kirk house, 83 South Eagle Road, the home of my friends, Arthur and Mary Brecht. Lizzie had nothing against the fine new house with the beautifully stained glass, leaded windows on the stairs, nor against John; but change her mind, she would not. All these years John had been commuting to and from Springfield two or three times a week to see Lizzie, on the back of a fine steed in fair weather, in a carriage in foul, and by sleigh through the snow. Things began to wear out. Lizzie assumed still another obligation, the care of an aged aunt.

Every day, in spite of this unhappy situation, John was attentive to his city milk route, which he operated from the springhouse on this our Farm Number 2; nor did he partake of fluids other than milk, on his way home as did many milkmen. Good old John, in summer, on "seventh day," hurried around the route, because he had a house to air and a lawn to mow, so that it would look and smell nice on "first day" if he were successful in getting Lizzie to visit it. And there was a further obstacle to overcome. A new bridge, without a cover, was being built, so John had to detour and use the upper bridge at Eagle Road. For twelve long years, John visited his stone house on Lansdowne Avenue alone five or six times a winter and fired up the heater to dry it a bit. For twelve long years, John aired the house and mowed the lawn and occasionally washed the windows in summer. The porch steps rotted away and had to be replaced. And through these additional years, John traveled to and from Springfield many, many times. The county commissioners concluded that the bridge that they had built over Darby Creek needed to be replaced with a larger one. John had to detour again.

About this time Lizzie's aunt and one of her parents died. She made a compromise and married John in 1912. They took her remaining parent to live with them on Lansdowne Avenue. Lizzie was in her late forties. Her child-bearing years were gone and John loved children. For many years the farmers laughed and called John "the man who wore out two bridges." It was doubtful that he knew "the great boulevard" would cross on a third bridge at this same site.

Brother, Joseph B. Leedom, did not maintain a close contact or interest in Farm Number 2. He was, in his younger manhood, a carpenter serving with Taylor Broomall, another Maris descendant and Civil War veteran who lived in the frame house that he had built at Manoa and Eagle Roads, later the Manoa

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\* Destroyed in 1967

Library. Joseph B. married Emma Tyson. While working as the superintendent for a construction company that was doing repairs to the Pennsylvania Hospital, at 8<sup>th</sup> and Spruce Streets, a scaffold broke and he fell thirty-five feet, incurring fractures of the jaw, teeth, both arms, wrist, left leg, and right ankle. After he recovered, he was appointed assistant postmaster at Media. Later he became prothonotary of Delaware County. This Joseph B. Leedom had a son, Joseph Leedom, who lives in Lansdowne, and he had a son, Joseph, who is a Naval veteran and a meteorologist. Joseph, the father of the meteorologist, married Elva Mary Ashbridge. Ancestors of Elva Ashbridge Leedom<sup>78</sup> owned Farms Number 1, 2, 3 and 4 many years before the Leedoms came into the area!

It fell to the lot of L. Walter Leedom to carry on the farming tradition here where he was born, and it was with general family agreement and expectation that he would continue to do so for many years. The family loved the old place and wished to see a Leedom retain it. John hoped to be settled on Lansdowne Avenue, and Will was in Oakmont; both were happy and eager to give Walter whatever help he needed with the farm as they were not too far away. Walter married Zaidee Thornbury of Marshallton, Chester County. She had been a public school teacher here in the township. They had three children, all born here: Emily Prudence, Mary T. and Dorothy Moore Leedom. L. Walter Leedom died suddenly on April 22, 1910.

This was a great shock and disappointment to the Leedom family. The father and mother, Joseph and Emily, had gone into retirement in Oakmont as they were, by then, aged. They decided to rent out the farmhouse itself and have Will and John farm the land. Will and John Leedom appraised Walter's estate; its total value was \$1,600. There were 42 items- farm animals and equipment- among which were three horses, \$150; 25 cows \$750; one horse power\*, \$5; one buggy, \$50; one Jagger wagon, \$15; chickens worth \$50.<sup>79</sup> There was the usual farm sale of Walter's property that Zaidee could receive the value of. Roy Blackburn, Justice of the Peace and father of Merrill, was a newcomer to the area at the time, and he bought most of the barred rock chickens.

The first family to rent the house was named Leonard. They didn't stay long. It was to be to one of those Leonards that Robert Flynn, of Farm No. 1, sold his milk route, but he wasn't able to make much of it and he lost it.

The house had been vacant for several months when my parents rented it from the Leedoms in November, 1913, for \$18 per month with certain, limited privileges. We had the garden, use of the chicken house, the springhouse for refrigeration, the old shack that had been Will's sausage and scrapple house, a stall for one horse and a shelter for one carriage or wagon in the barn. It was but a short time until the rent was raised to \$20.00.

Year after year, William and John Leedom drove their respective horses over here each work day. Upon arrival, they would unharness their horses and if heavy work were to be done, they would put them into work harness and use them as a team for plowing, harrowing, seeding cultivating, and mowing; or they hitched them to the large wagon. They raised hay and grains, potatoes, sweet corn and tomatoes. They harvested the orchard, stored apples for sale during winter, made cider and sold vinegar. They hired Robert Flynn to reap and bind the wheat and Frank Carpenter to thresh it.

The days of threshing wheat and bailing straw provided experiences to be remembered. Considerable labor was required and Frank brought along the worst kind of alcoholics to perform it; that is, if and when they were sober enough to come. Of course, we had never heard of the term "alcoholic" in those days. My mother was asked to provide the huge noonday dinners for this dirty, sweating, stinking and sometimes bloody crew, for they were not above fighting. I liked all of this; it was all new and exciting to a boy. I seemed to have had a facility for incurring the animosity of those that I wished to please and impress. I liked Frank Carpenter except when he taunted my friend, John L. Leedom, about wearing out the bridges. I could see that that touched a tender spot in John. I also liked Frank Keller who was sort of a partner of Carpenter's. He furnished the threshing power in the form of a big gasoline engine on wheels and two of the finest, big, bay horses in the neighborhood to pull it. They were hardworking men,

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<sup>78</sup>See Asbridge, Farm Number 4

\* one-horse (angled shoot) treadmill

<sup>79</sup>Papers of Adm. 7927, Media

and I judged them to be honest men. I carried their drinking water, watered their horses and helped wherever I could.

A big problem developed one day, during World War I, after the threshing outfit had left. Two government inspectors from the Agriculture Department arrived on the scene, and they didn't like what they found. They picked up an armful of threshed straw at random, counted out the "empty" heads, counted the grains found, averaged them against the number of grain sockets or connections to the stem and came up with an estimate that up to twenty-five percent of the grain was either still in the straw or lying in the chaff in the barnyard! "Well, where is this threshing rig?" "Can you take us to it?" they wanted to know. Says I, "Oh, yes, sure, sure, I can take you!" "Well, hop in," they offered. I got into their Model T Ford car. At this point, it occurred to me that maybe all of this was none of my business, so I told them how rough the roads were and that maybe they shouldn't drive back into such a far away place. (It really wasn't so far but that we could have walked the distance). But they would have none of that discouragement; they were used to rough roads.

When we arrived, the threshing machine was going full blast, accompanied by noise, dust, chaff and all. The inspectors observed the operation for about five minutes, and then ordered Frank Carpenter to shut down. At first, Frank didn't like the idea, but when he saw their credentials, he became very meek and complied. Now I could hear what they were saying, and the conversation went something like this: The inspector, as he looked into the mouth of the great machine, asked, "What are those shiny little things in there that look like rows of nails?" Frank explained, "They are the teeth." "How do they act?" the inspector wanted to know. "They are arranged on a frame. As the drive turns, the frame lifts and reaches forward and pulls the wheat straw in, and at the same time acts as hammers to knock the wheat out of the heads," Frank further explained. The inspector continued to press, "As hammers, eh? Do you have a new one?" Frank went to his tool box, and took out a new tooth. It was eight or ten times as heavy as those in the machine. It was about one-half inch thick and had a blunt hammerish-looking head; instead of a worn, thin point. The inspectors ordered him not to start the machine again until it was refurbished. One of them said that we could not win the war by raising wheat for bedding; nor could a farmer possibly make a profit on his wheat. The inspectors took me back home and said, "Thanks." But the Franks? Well, things were never quite the same. Appreciation of the fact that those fellows never would have caught up with them without my unwitting patriotism never quite escaped them.

The fact that John L. Leedom loved children proved to be one of the greatest blessings of my life and perhaps that of my whole family. His brother, William, would never have tolerated a raft of active, inquisitive and sometimes naughty children such as we were, without John's mitigating influence. There were four of us when we arrived at the farm, and four more were born here. The rent went up again and again. There was always some little thing that didn't set well with Will Leedom, but somehow the Leedom's survived and we thrived.

John L. Leedom would take us for rides in his carriage, wagon or sleigh. Sometimes it happened that he took me alone. He told me of the days when there were great schools of fish in Darby Creek, of catching them by dragging seines from banks above the dam, of hundred pound catches and how they stored them in ice houses. He told me of hawking expeditions, and how they approached hawks and shot them from horseback. He explained that fishing, fowling and hunting had been the right of kings, and that nobles and lesser citizenry participated in these activities only by privilege and special grant from the kings. He told me of gigging for eels by lantern light in the smaller streams and showed me where they had caught the most. John L. Leedom was my boyhood hero. He took me on my first hunting trip and my first big fishing trip. His widow, Lizzie (Hart) Leedom gave me his old English shotgun, which I treasure. I have but one regret in this regard, and that has to do with a very old parchment deed for this farm, which Mr. Leedom led me to believe that he would give to me as "the one whom I know to be the most interested in the farm." I never saw this deed, but he did show it once to my father. It is purported to have William Penn's seal on it, as well as that of the Crown. I have inquired and looked in various collections for it, but to no avail. It isn't that I would hope to acquire it, but I would like to know where it is and to have the privilege of examining it.

The two Leedom brothers were getting older. It became time to stop all of this hard work. Their father, Joseph, had died on September 12, 1914 at Oakmont in Haverford. In 1920, they decided to sell the farm. They had a public sale of their farm equipment and sold the farm for \$30,000 to Charles F.



Eggleston, Attorney, who divided it into 142 unimproved building lots, according to a plan of survey performed by Foster and Damon, dated 1921-1922, and sold off the lots.

The farm until sold was the estate of Joseph Leedom; therefore the proceeds of the sale were divided among all the heirs of Joseph including the children of L. Walter Leedom. It was at this time that my father was able to buy the house and the lots on which it was located. He was one of the sales agents. He also had to contract to do the basic grading for the roadways.

Mrs. Emily (Pyle) Leedom did not depart this life until February 1926, at the age of 100 years. She died at West Chester where she had lived since Joseph's death at the home of Emma, widow of her son, Joseph B. William and John went into semi-retirement at their respective homes where they died. They are buried in Haverford Friends burial grounds.

It is interesting to note that there have been but three families living here as owner-occupants on what remains of the farm at 1240 Center Road since William Penn sold it in 1681; viz., the Davises, the Leedom and the Viguerses.

It is probable that I shall live here the rest of my life. If I were so fortunate as to have the privilege of naming a son of my son, I should call him David Leedom Viguers, and then make every effort to provide an incentive for his living here throughout his lifetime.

Statement:

I, the undersigned, have read the above account of Farm Number 2, including the portions referring to the Leedom family. I approve and believe the information to be true and correct.

November 7, 1964

Harry T. Leedom

(Harry died November 19, 1968, in Bryn Mawr Hospital)

*Harry T. Leedom*

*Nov. 7, 1964*

### FARM NUMBER 3

*"The wind bloweth over it  
It is gone  
And the place thereof  
Shall know it no more."*

As with the flower of the field, so it is with every early work of man on this farm: the houses, the outside kitchen, the barns, the springhouses, the ice house and the school house are all gone. This farm was split off from Lewis David's Farm Number 2 in 1731, being the easternmost part of his "100 acre" purchase in Haverford recorded in 1694.<sup>80</sup> The split called for an area of 50 acres, but it was more accurately 62 acres.<sup>81</sup> The reason for and the manner in which the Davises concealed the "overplus" acreage is described in the chapter on Farm Number 2. Today this land is bounded by the line of Peach Lane as laid out in 1921, between Township Line Road and Steel Road, eastward to approximately the line of North Drexel Avenue; except in more recent years (c. 1845) when Adam Eckfeldt, coiner, established his Edgewood Farm, which included much of the present golf course, to the line of Haverford Street, the Richland boundary.

A small part of the golf course in that area has been extended both eastwardly and westwardly since it was first laid out in 1912-1913. Llanerch Country Club was chartered in 1919.

The chain of title started with Thomas Symmons of Puncherston, Pembrokeshire, Wales: from "William Penn of Warminghurst, Sussex in the Kingdom of Great Britain," 300 acres, 1681. It extended from Darby Creek to Haverford Street as described in the chapter on Farm Number 2. It passed through the same chain of title as Farm Number 2: 300 acres to John Ball, then "100 acres" to Lewis David, in 1694.<sup>82</sup> This "100 acres" was the middle portion of the 300 acre tract. The part against Darby Creek (part of Farm Number 5) was purchased in 1694 by Ralph Lewis, brother of William Lewis. And the easternmost 100 acres, from approximately North Drexel Avenue to Haverford Street, was purchased the same year by Samuel Lewis, a son of Henry Lewis of Clifton Hall (the Grange). This last purchase, along with his inheritance, enlarged Samuel's plantation to 350 acres or more. This accounts for the fact that there was never a set of farm buildings in the great stretch of land between the set under consideration at Steel and Eagle Roads eastward to the Richland group. The site of the present Richland Apartments, 334 Olympic Avenue, was the manor house of the Richland group.

Lewis David sold this easternmost part of his "100 A.," in Haverford, to his son, Lewis Davis, in 1731.<sup>83</sup> Buildings were already on the land at this time, for Lewis David and family had lived on the trail now called Steel Road (the road was not laid out until 1755) opposite Ebenezer Church for a short time prior to 1722.<sup>84</sup> And, of course, this Lewis Davis had lived here, too, as a boy. He also lived here prior to his selling it to his brother, William, for the consideration of 125 pounds "lawful money of Pennsylvania."<sup>85</sup>

Lewis Davis was a weaver and a farmer. His way of thinking made him a rebel to the Quaker mind. He has been described by an earlier writer, Dr. William Martin, who died in 1798, as "a hearty, hale man in the eighty-sixth year of his age, bred to the business of weaver, but since his apprenticeship has followed farming; has a great mechanical turn of mind, is captious, uneven in his temper, appears to be a stranger to those soft sensibilities of the human heart that increase our resemblance to the 'Divine Essence' whence we spring."<sup>86</sup>

Lewis Davis sold this land to his brother, William, in 1743. The transaction was witnessed by his brother-in-law, Joseph Hayes of Farm Number 4, and a neighbor, Abraham Musgrove. The deed was not

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<sup>80</sup> B. Hayes Smith's Atlas

<sup>81</sup> Delaware County Deed Book R, p.334

<sup>82</sup> B. Hayes Smith's Atlas

<sup>83</sup> Delaware County Deed Book R, p.334

<sup>84</sup> Gen. of Geo. and Mary Smith, p.10

<sup>85</sup> Delaware County Deed Book R, p.334

<sup>86</sup> Fred Calvert's unpublished book; Delaware County Historical Society Library

recorded until 1828! Lewis married Rebecca Yarnall of Ridley the same year, 1743, and went to Ridley to live. He later bought a farm in Springfield. This farm was on both sides of Powell Lane and in the area of our Leamy and Saxer Avenues.<sup>87</sup>

The statement is a recurring one that "Lewis Davis" was complained of in 1775 for joining a combination respecting civil government, and was disowned by Friends the same year." Several writers have made the above note, but apparently let the subject drop there. Now he is identified as to where he was born and reared, and who his mother and father were. You who now own part of Farm Number 3 own land that was once his.

Considering the combination of the date, "1775" and the words, "civil government," one would conclude that this combination had to do with taking sides politically in the impending war. Lewis Davis was a rebel and a patriot! A proposed provincial Convention assembled in Philadelphia on January 23, 1775 and met for six consecutive days. Among the ten delegates from Chester County were Lewis Davis, Joseph Musgrove, Persifer Frazer and Anthony Wayne. This convention was preceded by an Assembly on December 20, 1774, in the Chester County Court House, Chester, Pennsylvania of a larger number of our county's outstanding citizens, more than half of whom were from Quaker families and included the four men named above.

There is a letter written by Joseph Reed to George Washington at "Lewis Davis', 5 mi from Darby and near the Springfield Meetinghouse, November 18, 1777, ½ past 9 o'clock." Since the time that Reed had written to Washington in the afternoon, he had come into possession of new intelligence from Chester where the British were camped. Reed warned General Washington that 5,000 British troops had overtly boarded ship and crossed the river in order to attack Red Bank (Fort Mercer). They proposed to do this that very night. Reed, though doubtful that they could because of the late start that they had gotten, sent the message to Washington that same night from Lewis Davis' house where he was staying, so that Washington could be fully informed of the activity as soon as possible.<sup>88</sup> Reed was in the area for the principal purpose of preventing the British from getting food supplies from the neighboring farms. (He should have been there during the following month!)

Lewis Davis' house was the Blue Ball Tavern (a part of which is reported to have been built in 1701), 431 West Springfield Road, between Saxer Avenue and State Road. It is still standing. In 1743, John West, the father of the great artist, Benjamin West, was the keeper of this tavern.<sup>89</sup> Ashmead indicates that Mr. West probably had a tavern nearby in 1743. Between West and Davis, Mordecai Taylor, who was married to Esther Maris, born in 1703,<sup>90</sup> was the proprietor; it was to him that a license was issued in 1757. Mordecai Taylor's name is inscribed on a roof rafter in the house, probably placed there at the time that an addition was made to the house. This was the year that John West was licensed for a tavern in Newtown. Troops assembled here at Lewis Davis' house and went off to join up with Washington's army.

That Lewis Davis, son of Lewis David, was a true patriot is further attested to by an item in the inventory of his estate. He died in 1793. Among eighty-one lines of items listed of substantial value, this appears:

"A Considerable sum of the late Continental paper money— No Value."

His heart was in the cause of freedom, for there, also, was much of his treasure.

Lewis Davis had two sons, Caleb and George. Caleb, along with some other young men, was disowned by the Springfield Meeting<sup>91</sup> for taking up arms. He became a Colonel in the Revolutionary War and a popular hero.<sup>92</sup> He entered politics and held several offices. In Philadelphia, he was a member of the assembly, representing Chester County; and he held offices in Chester, and later in Delaware

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<sup>87</sup> Ibid

<sup>88</sup> Smith's *History of Delaware County*, pp.332,334 Forts Mifflin and Mercer; *Pennsylvania Magazine*, Vol. XIX, p.484

<sup>89</sup> Fred Calvert, real estate lawyer

<sup>90</sup> Maris Family, 1683-1885. See also local Springfield map by John Morton

<sup>91</sup> Friend's records, Hist. Library, Swathmore Library

<sup>92</sup> Futhey and Cope. *History of Chester County*

Counties.<sup>93</sup> He was a big land owner in Ridley. He owned the land on which the great Baldwin Locomotive Works was built.<sup>94</sup> He gave land for a subscription school in 1800.<sup>95</sup> The school stood, until recently, on the Chester Pike. The school plot was on Hendrickson's (a Swedish settler) land. Colonel Caleb married Lydia Boon in Ridley in 1785. She was a cousin to John Morton, a Declaration of Independence signer. Of their union there was no issue. Caleb died in Kingsessing in 1813, after having lived in several places, including West Chester and East Bradford.

His brother, George, remained the true Quaker. He made the Tory list of traitors, which, in any case, was one of the sad miscalculations of wartime, for he was simply a peaceful non-combatant. Sometime long after the war, in 1793, after his father, Lewis, had died, George had to petition the court at Chester twice for partition of the land. The first time he was judged unfit to inherit. The second time, in 1794, he was awarded his just share of his father's estate, including a farm in Springfield and Blue Ball Tavern.<sup>96</sup> If this account of the Blue Ball Tavern seems at odds with that of Ashmead, it is probably because he mentions the licensees who were not always owners. The Davises were owners. George Davis sold the property to Charles Sankey. George Davis' six children were all girls.

After this digression to Springfield, we shall now return to Lewis' brother, William, to whom he sold our Farm Number 3. But we will go over to Springfield many times again, because the people who lived on this farm had an affinity for Springfield; they seem to have been drawn thither.

In 1746 after his father died, William Davis bought the westernmost part of the "100 A" in Haverford (Farm Number 2) from the other heirs, viz., his brothers and their respective spouses.\* Since he had already bought, in 1732, the oldest Davis farm, Number 1, where he lived, this last purchase put him in possession of the total area of land that his father, Lewis David, had owned in both Darby and Haverford.<sup>97</sup> This area comprised our Farms Number 1, 3 and 2, in that chronological order. In 1729, William Davis married Elizabeth Faucit (Faucet, Faucett), who was born the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month 1704. She was the daughter of Walter and his second wife, Rebecca (Fearne), Faucit and the granddaughter of Elizabeth Fearne. After Walter died, Rebecca married John Wood.<sup>98</sup>

Among Elizabeth (Faucit) and William Davis' children were four sons, William, Issac, Jesse and Asa.<sup>99</sup> William, the father, died in 1767. His will, which is recorded in West Chester, devised to his son, William, Farm Number 1 in Upper Darby in return for taking care of his mother, Elizabeth, for the rest of her life. The two farms in Haverford were divided among all four sons. The upper or northernmost part, twenty-two acres of the 62 acres, our Farm Number 3, went to Jesse, who had been born "12 o'clock at night 3<sup>rd</sup> mo. 16, 1736" on Farm Number 1.<sup>100</sup>

We can very simply but roughly describe this 22 acre plot: All the land north of a line approximately on our Dill Road between the line of Peach Lane and North Drexel Avenue. Asa received the southernmost portion, forty acres, from the approximate line of Dill Road to Township Line Road and between the same. Asa probably built a log house on his portion, though no one living in 1964 remembers evidence of any such building. The deed dated 1783 (Asa to Jesse), in Book R. p.336 reads, "Together also with all and singular the buildings, improvements, etc." Whatever they were, they were probably in the area of the more modern barn and large springhouse that were located on and in the properties now known as 108, 106, and 104 North Drexel Avenue. For those who would say the above quoted description was "just a matter of form in case such existed," read the following: A house is again indicated on Asa's lower 40 acres in deed book T, p.163, in the recital for the regrouping of the two farm plots: "All Those Two Certain messuages or tenements and the two above described and mentioned tracts," dated 1834.

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<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Fred Calvert

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Fred Calvert; Records of the Court, Media

\* See Farm Number 1

<sup>97</sup> Delaware County Deed Book H4, p.26

<sup>98</sup> Cope Collection Pennsylvania Historical Society

<sup>99</sup> Dr. Smith in Cope Collection *ibid*; and Dr. T. Carroll Davis, Davis Family and Allied Lines

<sup>100</sup> Davis Family Bible, property of Mrs. T. Carrol Davis

Issac, by the same will, received the northernmost half of the sixty-six acre farm, later known as the Leedom farm (Eagle Farms, our Farm Number 2). William received the southernmost portion of this farm. These bequests were subject to reasonable sums to be paid by them to another brother, James, who was a cooper, and to their sisters.

In 1783, Jesse purchased the southern portion, 40 A, of Farm Number 3, from his brother Asa and wife, Elizabeth (Humphreys). Asa and Elizabeth Davis then removed to Sconnettown, East Bradford,<sup>101</sup> where they bought a farm from Benjamin Powell, Asa's brother-in-law. The deed for this sale was not recorded until 1791.<sup>102</sup> My research of this land is another interesting story which I will forgo telling. This Powell farm was on land that George Strode owned. The house, barn and a remnant of the farm recently has been called the "Grange Farm," and is now called "Royalwood" and is the property of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Champaine. In the first census ever taken nationally in 1790, Asa's household is listed as containing: "2 free white males" (Asa and an elder son), "1 boy" (a younger son), "3 free white females" (his wife, Elizabeth Humphreys and two daughters). The parentheses are mine. Asa Davis was a "house carpenter." Descendants of Asa appear in the Sharpless family genealogy in the person of William Davis, a carpenter and keeper of the Tanguay store and his children. The store was a general merchandise store located on Street Road at Middletown Road. Living descendants of Asa, whom I have located, descended through his son, William, who married Mary Hibberd on October 14, 1802, at the Birmingham Meeting.<sup>103</sup> They are Mrs. James C. (Shirley Swamback) Johnson, her mother, Mrs. Mary H. (Davis) Swamback, and Mrs. Johnson's three young sons, Mark, Brian, Keith, and infant daughter, Rachel, born in 1967, all of 849 Orchard Avenue, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Jesse Davis lived on his land, our Farm Number 3, for many years. His house was on the exact site of 245 Rodmor Road, but facing our Steel Road. The ancient pear tree in the back yard (opposite Ebenezer Church) was in his side yard; it looks very different today than when I first saw it fifty-five years ago. Jesse's barn was on the site of, or in the street in front of, 225 Clamor Road. The more recently built modern large barn, which stood over the site of 108 N. Drexel Avenue, was built during the time of the Eckfeldts.

Jesse was a cordwainer (shoemaker) and a tanner. He married Martha Cadwallader. They had but one child, Hannah, who married Johnathan Heacock. Johnathan and Hannah lived with Jesse Davis.<sup>104</sup> Jesse taught his son-in-law the tanning business.<sup>105</sup>

It is probable that a tanyard was located on this farm, since Jesse Davis, Johnathan, and Johnathan's son, Reece Heacock, were all tanners; they lived on and owned the farm, each in his time.

Johnathan and Hannah (Davis) Heacock had nine children.<sup>106</sup> They were:

Joseph	born 1784	died 1867
Martha	born 1786	died 1867
Jesse Davis	born 1788	
Reece	born 1791	died 1866
Anna	born 1794	died 1865
Mary	born 1797	
Davis	born 1799	married Mary Williamson, daughter of Patience Williamson
Johnathan	born 1802	died 1858
Eli	born 1805	died 1842

<sup>101</sup> Biog. Annals of Mont. Co. Ellwood Roberts, p.498

<sup>102</sup> Chester County Deed Book F2, p.125

<sup>103</sup> Concord Meeting Record Book A p.AA2 (or 442)

<sup>104</sup> Painter Bros. Gen., Tyler Arboretum Library

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Painter Bros. Gen., Tyler Arboretum Library

All of these children were born on the farm. Hannah (Davis) Heacock, the mother died September 21, 1844, at the age of 81 years.

Our people of his time conducted small schools or classes in various homes. Not many children could attend. Therefore, they were aware of their need for better education and were beginning to do something about it. Over in Coopertown in 1797, Alexander Symington, a Philadelphia merchant, gave (for five shillings, the legal token) a piece of ground to be used for school purposes. That same year Federal School, which is still standing, was built on the land. This Quaker Federal School became Haverford Seminary No. 1, after the public school system was instituted in 1836. A painted sign overhead on the front porch of the school, dated 1849, so designated it. Benjamin Hayes Smith, a teacher and father of Dr. George Smith, was a trustee on the school committee<sup>107</sup> that built the Federal School.

In 1799, Jesse Davis gave a piece of land, 3 x 4 perches (for five shillings), "for school use only" to a committee of trustees. Jesse's second cousin, Joseph Davis (Farm Number 4), and Abraham Lewis (Farm No. 5), the father-in-law of Dr. Smith served on this committee. "In the stone structure which was soon after erected upon this lot John Hayes and David Bond were early teachers."<sup>108</sup> That these men were definitely of this early period, rather than of a period more than forty-seven years later, is evident because John Hayes, a grandson of Benjamin Hayes, was instrumental in establishing a school in 1814 on the now Manoa Road in our Penfield area.<sup>109</sup> Our Quaker Jesse Davis school of 1799 became Haverford Seminary No. 2 in 1846, after our public school system started to function. In the deed, the school plot was described as being "on the road to Springfield" (now Steel Road) "in the line of George Willing," (now North Drexel Avenue). This is presently a corner of Ebenezer Church's parking lot.

It is interesting to note the different names that are used in various deeds to describe the trail which ultimately became part of the present Steel Road (running from Eagle Road to Burmont Road). In recent years, it was called Eagle Road all the way to Lamb Tavern. There it is still Eagle Road. One deed calls it the road to "the Mill" or "Mill Road"; another, "the road to Schuylkill," (at Lamb tavern it was also called "the Road to Schuylkill."<sup>110</sup>) Others called it "the Road from Chester to Merion"; a later one calls it "the road to West Chester Road."

The Jesse Davis school served the southern half of the township until 1883, when a new school that is still standing at 516 S. Eagle Road was built on our Farm Number 4. I am in possession of a textbook which was used in that 1799 school. In it is written the following: "Martha Heacock," "John Haycock," Eli Heacock, his book". These Heacock children certainly did not have "miles to walk to school." The school building, later Haverford Seminary No.2, was torn down in 1931, some time after the roof had been damaged by fire while the Camp Fire Girls were using it. Someone had to have one final fire and it burned down completely just before it was demolished. The 1846 date stone fortunately was preserved by the foresight of Mr Edward Cunningham of Bon Air. He was an officer of the Bon Air Fire Company and had the company build the stone into an inside wall of the Community Hall. In 1963, the stone was removed to the hall of the Manoa Public School on Manoa Road at the direction of the Manoa P.T.A.

Jesse Davis served actively on the Committees of the Haverford Friends Meeting. In his later years, 1801-1806, he took care of the meeting house.<sup>111</sup> He died in 1815, at 79 years of age, and is buried in the Meeting's burial grounds.<sup>112</sup> Jesse died intestate. The farm became the property of his only child, Hannah (Davis) Heacock. In 1834, Hannah, as the widow of Johnathan Heacock (age 71), sold the farm to her son, Reece Heacock, who had been farming the land while he operated his tanning business.<sup>113</sup>

Reece married Mary (Pennell) Lawrence, widow of Henry Lawrence. Mary had had three sons by Henry: William, Thomas D. and Mordecai Lawrence; but from her marriage to Reece Heacock, there was no issue. Mary was a sister of Edward W. Pennell, a Philadelphia planemaker, to whom Reece Heacock

<sup>107</sup> Delaware County Deed Book D, p.69

<sup>108</sup> Delaware County Deed Book E, p.656

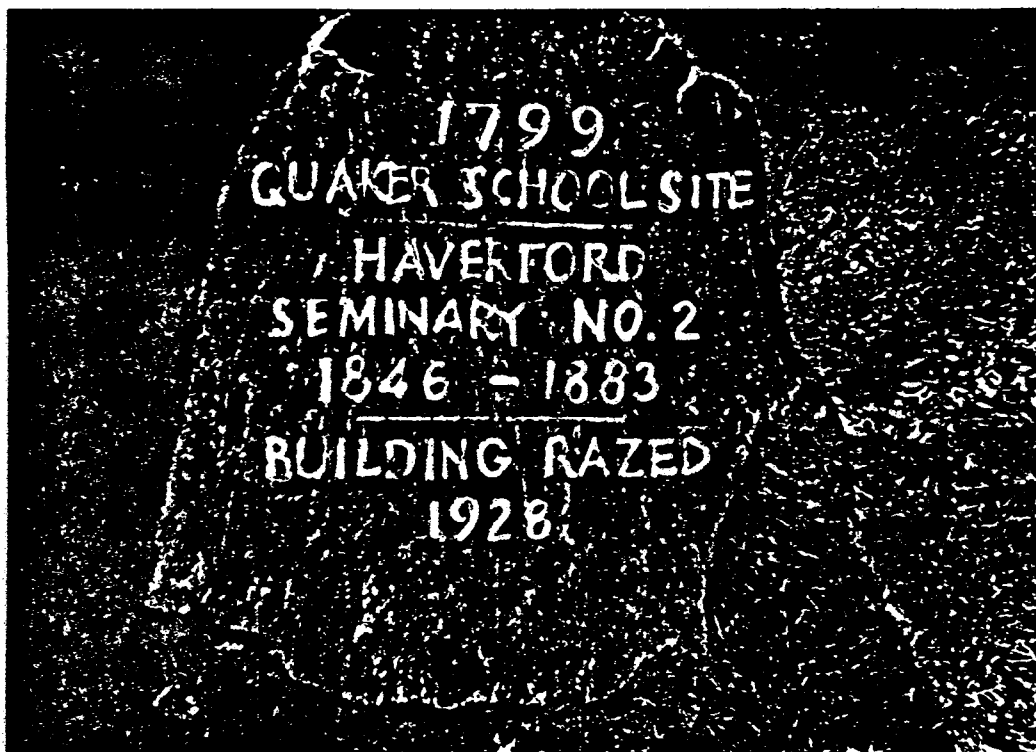
<sup>109</sup> Ashmead, p.572

<sup>110</sup> A deed for Lamb Tavern

<sup>111</sup> Friends Records, Hist. Library, Swarthmore College

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Delaware County Deed Book T, p.163



Photograph of stone marking 1799 school site.

Established 1843

WM. J. CARTLEDGE SONS, INC.

MONUMENTS

8501 North Lansdowne Avenue • Upper Darby, Pa. 19083

[Opposite Har Jehuda Cemetery]

MR. E. W. VIGUERS  
HAVERTOWN, PA.

AUG. 19, 1967

FOR SANDBLAST LETTERING OF BOULDER  
& DRILL (2)  $\frac{3}{4}$ " HOLES (EWE ET AL. END),

1799

SCHOOL SITE

1846 — 1883

HAVERFORD SEMINARY  
NO 2

RAZED 1928

ESTIMATE - \$ 55.00



William R. Cartledge



sold part of the farm, 40 acres in 1842 for \$5,000.<sup>114</sup> Reece Heacock's division of the land for this sale to his brother-in-law was a change from the way that his great grandfather, William Davis, had divided it by his will. Reece divided it by a line running from the road to Leedom's mill (Steel Road) to Township Line Road, selling Edward Pennell the westernmost forty acres next to Farm Number 2; whereas, William Davis' will divided it by a line running from the line of our Peach Lane to North Drexel Avenue.

Most of the people who operated this farm fared very well. An adequate set of buildings existed from early times. Flat to gently rolling farmland generally accounts for prosperity, and only a small portion of the farm could be classified as hilly. There was a fine wood lot along the township line from Peach Lane eastwardly to the stream, the eastern branch of Collen Brook. Oak and beech were the two principal varieties of trees in the wood lot, of which a number are still standing along with a few black walnuts, maples, hickories and chestnuts, until the last of these died of a blight in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There was an abundance of lovely spring flowers in the woods: spring beauty, anemone, hepatica, blood root, dogtooth violet, trillium, etc. Two fine deep, hand dug wells, with the large tree-type pumps and carved iron handles were up at the house. Today, the well locations are discernible occasionally because of the settling of fill material. The location of the ice house is also quite discernible; the sidewalk on Rodmor Avenue as of 1966 has sunken several inches below grade, into the old ice storage vault.

This ice house was an unusual one. It was about 12 feet deep, with an inside measurement of about 11 feet by 14 feet, and was built of stone. There was a complete room above the ground with a window at each end and plastered walls and ceiling. The door opened toward the house. The opening to the ice pit was at the back of the building, on the western side. Before the front door was a large 4' x 6' stone stoop. The roof was a low pitched gabled one made of shingles, with pent eaves all the way around. There is no doubt that someone had been quartered over this ice house. To the east of the main house, over one of the walls, was a frame outside kitchen that was somewhat larger than the ice house. This kitchen was located in back of the pear tree as it was faced from Steel Road.

It would seem that the main house, the site of 245 Rodmor Avenue, was an addition to a much smaller and older one, because in the back end of the smaller part, there was a fireplace with a large oven, which extended in depth out through the chimney wall in the beehive fashion, with a rather large foundation under the outside portion. The main house was also of stone, coated with a dark yellow mortar. The smaller part of the house, with the old style oven had been measured 18 feet by 15 feet by assessors for the window tax in 1798.<sup>115</sup> This part was called the kitchen. The main house then was measured at "20 by 16 feet - log, very old." The spring house was listed as "10 feet by 10 feet." It was located diagonally across the field, to the south near the old barn. The log house was torn down to build the large stone house, which adjoined the smaller one, the 1798 kitchen. Since these are the only buildings mentioned for this tax, it is evident that the old buildings, which continued to exist though the first third of the 20th century, were not so old as they appeared to be. Whatever the exact age of this main house, it was far too precious historically to have been wantonly destroyed for the purpose of replacing it with such an inferior structure as now occupies the site.

A tree which grew in the front-side yard, to the west of the main house, is worthy of at least this poor memorial. It was a huge, old pine. Conifers were rather scarce in this area for probably more than one hundred years, although an occasional farmstead had from one to three of them in its yard. This particular tall tree (the only evergreen on all of these farms, 1 to 5), growing on this high plateau, was a landmark. It could be seen and identified from great distances in many directions. It not only had an occasional "nest of robins in her hair," but one May I counted 32 blackbird or grackle nests. The sight of these birds swooping down from the lofty branches to feed upon grubs in the freshly plowed furrows while a farmer was still turning them, is just as fresh in my memory.

Across the lane northeastward between the main farmhouse and the old schoolhouse, on the present parking lot, stood another similarly constructed stone building coated with yellow mortar. It was a sort of double house. The other well was located behind it. This accounts for the spot in the parking lot which occasionally requires another coat of blacktop to keep it level with the rest of the surface.

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<sup>114</sup> Delaware County Deed Book V, p.521

<sup>115</sup> Copy on microfilm, Chester County Historical Society

The springs on this farm flowed copiously. In my youth (c1914, 1919), the daily flow of water under Township Line Road was about thirty times as great as it is today. This stream is the primary source of Collen Brook. The spring on Farm Number 2 is a secondary source. In recent years, milk routes were operated from the springhouse near the newer barn; and a butcher's trade was carried on from the old barn (the site of 225 Claymar Road) and from the older springhouse nearby.

Though I have described a fine operational family farm, it did not continue as such. The scene is now set for the Eckfeldts. Adam Eckfeldt's interest in local real estate was one of having a secure investment for earned money rather than one of earning a living from the land. Thus we come here to the era of the tenant farmer at an early date.

Here too in 1842, we enlarge our Farm Number 3 by about one hundred acres, extending it eastwardly over land previously described to the line of Haverford Street, of late, the Richland tract boundary. However, it does seem that this 100 acres under discussion was part of Richland Farm in 1831, when Adam Eckfeldt, coiner, bought Richland for \$26,100 from Thomas B. and Anna Prichett.<sup>116</sup> Richland provided Adam and his family a summer home intended to keep them away from the contagion of yellow fever, which periodically became a serious epidemic in Philadelphia. In fact a number of Adam's acquaintances and fellow workers died of yellow fever, and on three occasions, the operations of the U.S. Mint had been suspended because of yellow fever.

For the purpose of this sketch, at this point we will confine our interest to the land between our present North Drexel Avenue and the golf course, the property of the Llanerch Country Club. We have noted that the 1799 school plot was in the line of George Willing. We will go quickly beyond that and trace the ownership to Mr. Eckfeldt. The chain of title of this additional acreage as described in the opening paragraphs of this chapter: William Penn to Thomas Symmons, to Thomas Marchant, to John Ball, to Samuel Lewis, 1694, is taken from *Atlas of Delaware County* by B. Hayes Smith, C.E. However, there is a deed, S 85, belatedly recorded at Media, conveying this land from John and Thomas Symmons, heirs of Thomas Symmons, first mentioned, to Samuel Lewis above. John Lewis, his son and heir, sold it to the Willings. Rebecca Harrison Willing, daughter of George, sold it to Thomas B. Prichett above.

Adam Eckfeldt and his father were unusual and ingenious men. His father, John Jacob, and mother, Magdelina Snyder, married in 1764 in their native Bavaria and came to Philadelphia the following year. He was a blacksmith and machinist, and as such made bayonets for Washington's army, and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Adam, born June 15, 1769, learned his father's trade and became a master machinist.

Together father and son constructed machinery for press cutting nails out of flat metal; heretofore, nails had been hand wrought. Because of their success in stamping out the L head nails and an earlier experience of the father's making coinage dies for Robert Morris, they were hired first to forge dies for the United States Mint when it was built in 1792. Later they made other equipment for running the mint and furnished blacksmiths whenever needed. Late in 1795, Adam left the business of his father and took the full-time position of assistant coiner of the mint. It was a demanding position. In August, 1797, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, he made a huge screw press while the mint was closed during the yellow fever epidemic and his friends were dying of the fever. Adam served in the War of 1812. He and other mint employees were stationed at the Gray's Ferry Brest Works.

In 1814, the chief coiner, Henry Voigt, died and Adam was appointed chief coiner by President Madison. He served in that capacity until 1839. Meanwhile, Adam married Margaret Bauch. Among their children were two sons, Adam C. and Jacob Reese, born in 1803.

The following is extracted from "A Brief Sketch of Jacob R. Eckfeldt" by William E. DuBois, an official at the mint who was also married to Jacob's sister, Lusanna, and read before the American Philosophical Society on October 4, 1872:

"Jacob R. Eckfeldt, late Assayer of the Mint, son of Adam and Margaret, born March \_\_, 1803; died August 9, 1872. He had a studious mind, was fond of physical and mechanical science. Mainly educated at the Academy of Dr. Wylie and Mr. Engles. His first position was at Greiner's Cotton Mill, Trenton, N.J. Then was hired by Mr. Joseph Cloud, refiner at the mint. In 1832 John Richardson, the

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<sup>116</sup> Delaware County Deed Book S, p.165

Assayer, resigned recommending Jacob R. Eckfeldt to the office. He performed a masterful job in adjusting and modernizing the mint. It was a period of great problems:- large amounts of money and bouillon came from other countries which had different standards and some were prone to cheat a little. The population increase made tremendous demands for more currency. It was a period of transition and Mr. Eckfeldt was meticulously exact. The work load was tremendous."

For some years prior to 1842, Mr. Eckfeldt and his assistant prepared an original and comprehensive work on *The Coins of All Nations, on the Varieties of Gold and Silver Bullion, on Counterfeit Coins, and related subjects*. Published in 1842, it was long regarded as a standard authority. Supplements were issued in 1850 and 1852.

The success of gold mining in the South, and the great commerce of New Orleans called for three branch mints to be built in 1837. Mr. Eckfeldt trained three assayers for the branches. The same had to be done again at later dates for other mints and assay offices.

In December 1848, the first shipment of gold came in from California, and the next year the golden deluge poured in. Instead of making gold assays by the dozens, they were done by the hundreds following the arrival of each steamer. The work force was greatly increased. An assay office was opened in New York and a branch mint in San Francisco. Then came a change in the silver standard, causing a huge recoinage of the smaller silver pieces. When that task was about performed, the larger copper coins were called in and copper-nickel alloy was used in the smaller size coins. The standards for this process created other problems to be overcome. Thus, we can begin to see what a full and demanding life the Principal Assayer led.

His nervous system, not naturally one of repose, was a good deal impaired by the cares and labors imposed upon it. In 1853, he sought relief by traveling southward. This was beneficial, but from that time on, though he continued to be very active, his health deteriorated. He suffered a serious illness in 1870. On April 26, 1872, he was at the mint for the last time. Mr. DuBois goes on to say how he was loved, esteemed and honored, and to review his work more personally. While he was not inventive, he improved every piece of equipment he worked with. His skill and success as an Assayer and analyst rested on his ability to discover what was defective or erroneous and to apply the proper remedy. What puzzled others was, to him, a matter of quick insight. He introduced great accuracy and precision in the assays, and carried special investigation to a delicacy that was almost incredible.

He was a man of feeling, as well as principle, affectionate; as well as exact. He made new friends and cherished old ones. He was baptized and confirmed a Lutheran. He later joined the Presbyterian Church on Vine Street, near his father's house. He was soon elected an elder. He fulfilled the duties of his office well, and was appreciated for his sound judgment. He was active in the Sunday School, the American Bible Society, and other benevolent organizations. While his residence was in Haverford at Greenwood Farm, he was a member of the Marple Presbyterian Church.

As he lay suffering during his final illness, he expressed, during a more lucid moment, his unreserved confidence in his Lord and Savior.

Immediately after his decease, meetings were held at the Philadelphia and San Francisco mints, where addresses were made by Directors and former Directors and others who expressed their high regard and esteem, both official and personal, for Jacob R. Eckfeldt. Resolutions in the same tenor were adopted by officers and workmen.

"I have to express my unfeigned regret at this loss to science, and especially our branch of it. His name and works will live forever in the wide world: with sympathy to his relatives." This quote came unsolicited from a gentleman who served for 50 years in the Royal Mint, London, as Queen's Assayer.

Jacob Reese Eckfeldt married Emily Levering, daughter of Johnathan Levering, on October 19, 1835. They had five sons: Adam P., Frederick, Jacob Bausch, William B. and John Wiegand Eckfeldt.

The third son, Jacob B. Eckfeldt, was born on the day Abraham Lincoln was thirty-seven years old, February 12, 1846. On April 15, 1865, the day Lincoln was assassinated, Jacob went into the employ of the Philadelphia Mint, located then at Juniper and Chestnut Streets, where his father was the Chief Assayer. He was appointed assistant assayer immediately after his father's death in 1872; and, in 1881, President Arthur appointed him to the office of Chief Assayer. Jacob B. served in this office for forty-

eight years, until he retired in November, 1929. He resided at 6 Lindenwald Terrace, Ambler, where he died in September, 1938.

Thus for a period of 137 years there were four generations of Eckfeldts involved in the founding and operation of the Philadelphia Mint: John Jacob, blacksmith, armorer and soldier as contractor, and the last three, Adam, Jacob R. and Jacob B. as salaried officials. Records still at the mint show that a John Eckfeldt supplied the mint with tallow and candles for six years from 1819 to 1825, and that, for the year 1832, George Eckfeldt was paid a salary of \$474, as a millwright, the highest rate of pay below that of foreman.

Here I admit some departure from the story of the land, but not from its people. Before the account of the mint, we showed Adam Eckfeldt in possession of Richland in 1831. Jacob Reese Eckfeldt bought the remaining twenty-two acres along the westernmost side of our North Drexel Avenue, in 1842, from Reece Heacock.<sup>117</sup> Adam Eckfeldt, coiner, bought on November 8, 1845 these same twenty-two acres from his son,<sup>118</sup> as well as the westwardly forty acres from Edward W. and Hannah Pennel.<sup>119</sup> These two purchases, our sixty-two acre Farm Number 3 and the one hundred acre purchase of Thomas Prichett comprised his Edgewood Farm. Thus Adam Eckfeldt became a great land owner in Haverford. The Edgewood and Richland Farms contained all of the land along Township Line Road from the Lutheran Church at Peach Lane to Lansdowne Avenue (Darby Road), and in depth to approximately Steel Road. Jacob R. Eckfeldt bought the Greenwood Farm (from Lansdowne Avenue to Lewis Lane, our Earlington Road,) of Joseph Cloud, est. in 1845.<sup>120</sup> Joseph Cloud had been the refiner at the mint from January 2, 1797.

There has been considerable confusing nonsense written about these men, but I have found no bonafide evidence that Adam Eckfeldt, coiner, ever lived on any of these farms, except for short periods during several summers. His address was Juniper and Pine Streets. He died in 1852. His will indicates that he was quite wealthy and that he owned many properties in Philadelphia. One of the executors of Adam's estate was his son-in-law, John Weigand, a manufacturer of surgical instruments in Philadelphia. He, as executor, figured in the forced sale of the estate of Lewis Davis, Farm Number 4, to collect \$2,000 that Lewis had owed Adam when they died the same year, 1852.

Adam devised by will the Richland Farm to his son, Adam C. Eckfeldt. Adam C. took up residence there for a number of years, during which time he served for ten years as Justice of the Peace. He also supervised the farming of the land. The brothers, Adam C and Jacob R., though thoroughly German in background, were Presbyterians. Adam C. was an elder in the Marple Presbyterian Church, which was a good seven mile round trip for the brothers by horse and carriage over the West Chester plank toll road.

Adam C. was born in Philadelphia in 1812. He married Rebecca Sulgar, daughter of Jacob Sulgar, in 1839. They had a son, Elias B., who was killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam. Rebecca died in 1846. In 1851, Adam C. married Martha Campbell, the widow of Adam Carter. He removed from Haverford to Chester. By his second wife, he had a daughter, Sarah, who married Charles W. Perkins, M.D. Adam C. died in Chester in June, 1890, leaving a considerable estate.<sup>121</sup>

Jacob Reese Eckfeldt, assayer, inherited our Edgewood Farm, Farm Number 3, 162 acres, in 1852. But he did not take up residence there. He lived on the Greenwood Farm as stated above. Jacob R. made his will in 1852, the year his father died. His youngest son, John W., was but one year old at the time. He named his wife, Emily, and his brother, Adam C., as executors, should they survive him. They did, as Jacob R. died in 1872. Adam C. relinquished all interest and responsibility for the estate, since all of Jacob's five sons has obtained their majority by then. With their mother's agreement, one of the first things the five sons did toward the settlement of their father's estate was to conduct a public sale to dispose of the farm animals and equipment on the Greenwood Farm. One item listed fore sale was "14 tons of hay in the Edgewood barn, \$140" (now 108 N. Drexel Avenue). Through these years Edgewood, our Farm Number 3, was occupied by tenant farmers.

<sup>117</sup> Delaware County Deed Book V, p.522

<sup>118</sup> Delaware County Deed Book A2, p.234

<sup>119</sup> Delaware County Deed Book X, p.31

<sup>120</sup> Delaware County Deed Book X, p.33

<sup>121</sup> General and Per. Mems., Chester and Delaware Counties, Vol II, p.241

The earliest tenant farmer of whom I have found record was Samuel Hart. He lived on Farm Number 3 during the 1860's and 1870's for sure, and possibly earlier. Those were the years when John L. Leedom made his acquaintance with Lizzie Hart, Samuel's daughter (the story of their courtship is told in the chapter on Farm Number 2). Hugh Savage (later of a site which is now part of Westgate Hills), who rented and lived in a Leedom house (now located at 526 S. Eagle Road, and still standing), sub-rented stable facilities and the springhouse from Samuel Hart during the 1870's. From these buildings, Hugh ran a successful city milk route. Income derived mainly from the Edgewood Farm so improved Mr. Hart's financial status that he was able to buy the Saxer Avenue farm in Springfield. The old house of this farm still stands on Hart Lane.

Among the tenant farmers who succeeded Samuel Hart, there was one named Bridgeman and another named George Moore who was from Darby. George Moore had children named William, Charles, Daisy, Parker, Aubrey and John W. They removed to West Grove.

Then Carroll Lukens and his brother, Howard, rented the farm from the estate of Jacob R. Eckfeldt. Howard Lukens with his brothers, Walter, Lewis and Edward, and their father, Theodore, had been tenant farmers on the Greenwood Farm. In 1898, Carroll Lukens also bought a farm in Springfield. The old frame (Worall, Maris) house was at the zig in Eagle Road, this side of Lamb Tavern. The house was recently torn down by a developer, and Carroll's daughter, Grace Lukens, was repaid in part with a new house built in front of the site of the old one.

John Rutherford, a dairyman, was the next tenant farmer. He had two sons, George and William, and a daughter, Kate. They sold their milk to Hanlan Dairies in Oakmont. John Rutherford was so successful that he was able to buy, in 1910, the old Maris homestead farm (Home House) from Rev. Oliver Horsman, a Crozer Seminary professor. The Maris House was built in 1722 and is still standing on State Road in Springfield.

The Eckfeldt heirs sold Edgewood, in 1909, to D. Clinton Guthrie, M.D., of Philadelphia for \$71,145.<sup>122</sup> John Weigand Eckfeldt, born in Philadelphia, on January 29, 1851, the youngest son of Jacob R. was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1872. He spent many boyhood days on the Greenwood Farm where he became acquainted with the Cobbs Creek Valley and its people. Later, his professional contacts deepened his interest in the area until he was inspired to write in 1917, *Cobbs Creek in the Days of the Powder Mill*. In his youth, he was acquainted with Dr. George Smith, who was a great inspiration to him. Dr. Smith took young John along with him on botanical explorations. These explorations became an interest that Dr. Eckfeldt retained throughout his life. His widow still had in her possession, in 1967, a volume of specimens of Pennsylvania flora that the doctor had cataloged. In addition, he accompanied Dr. Smith on his limited professional rounds. That Dr. Eckfeldt was an excellent physician is attested to by some of his former patients, and by my friend, L. Stanley Dobson, a pharmacist who compounded many of the Doctor's prescriptions. Dr. Eckfeldt practiced in West Philadelphia and in Eastern Delaware County. He maintained an office at 6312 Vine Street, during his most active years. He married twice- the first time to Lillian \_\_\_\_\_, from whom he had a son, Harry Eckfeldt, who presently resides in Okmulgee, Oklahoma - the second time, in 1907, to Harriet M. Thomas, who is a descendant of a Welsh Baptist minister, William Thomas, who had migrated to Bucks County on February 14, 1712. This marriage was a happy one. Harriet frequently accompanied the Doctor in his carriage as he made his calls. She remembers driving with him to collect the rent for this farm from dairy farmer, John Rutherford, as recently as 1909. Dr. Eckfeldt was a handsome gentleman and always drove a fine horse; even members of the County Medical Society knew him as "the last of the horse and buggy doctors."

After 1926, he kept an office in his home at 502 Kathmere Road, Haverford Township, where he died on October 10, 1933. His widow, Harriet M., is still living in Oakmont, Haverford Township. It was she who furnished much of the Eckfeldt material for this sketch.

Some of our early Quaker settlers have been carelessly called speculators, and this by people who should have known better. We have now arrived in our consideration at an era of pure speculation, which rendered the land valueless from a practical viewpoint. We will see how these fellows tossed their hot potato from one to the other. Dr. Guthrie was in rather deep at the sum of \$71,145, which he paid for

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<sup>122</sup> Delaware County Deed Book E.14, p.284

the Edgewood Farm in 1909. He sold Edgewood to Harry C. Evans, Jr., a Philadelphia attorney, for \$71,000.<sup>123</sup> Mr. Evans sold it to William J. Kennedy, who probably was a "straw man," because it was deeded that same day, March 18, 1913, to Philip S. Steel and William C. Smith, subject to a \$54,000 mortgage plus interest. It is quite evident that more than one person thought that the farm was worth a lot of money, although the rental income from the several dwellings on the property and from the farm itself scarcely paid for more than the taxes. It certainly was not ripe for practical development. Philip Steel sold the easternmost part of the farm to Thomas M. Fitzgerald of Lansdowne, who incorporated that portion into the golf course.

Two of the dwellings on the farm were the double house which stood on the site of the Ebenezer Church parking lot proper. The old school house on the very corner was also used occasionally.

Circa 1906 to 1910, Robert Mulholland and family lived in the school. During this time, he operated his calf butchering business from the old barn and springhouse in the area of 225 Claymar Road, aforementioned. Robert, Jr., former Upper Darby Fire Marshall, James (deceased), who operated a moving business, and Elizabeth (Mulholland) Hartman, a Delaware County employee, are children of Robert Mulholland, the butcher.

Later, circa 1912 to 1920, an unusual character named Joseph Seal lived alone in the school house. He was a scion of an early Chester County Family. When he first appeared in this area, he was known as "Dirty Faced Joe," because he was employed at the coal elevator in Llanerch and he didn't think it necessary to remove the marks of his trade. Joe was stout, dirty, and unusually poorly dressed, but he was smart and able to do odd jobs in carpentry and gardening around the community. He also was given to chewing tobacco and telling tall stories. Every other sentence of his conversation was punctuated by a profane use of the name of God, which he pronounced "Gud." "By" he pronounced "be." In his repertoire of tall tales, he told the following: There once was a squirrel hunt in which the hunters "threw their game in piles and later drove out to the woods in wagons to haul them in!" When the great tidal wave flooded the lowlands down Darby Creek, "the muskrats were so numerous that he just jumped from tussock to tussock flailing his club. He killed 70,000 and received ten cents each for the pelts!" "A farmer took a load of produce to the city market, which he could not sell. He sold it for a drove of goats, which he loaded, brought home and released in his barn lot. Some hours later the goats were not to be found and there was no evidence as to how they may have escaped. As the farmer was contemplating this situation, he heard the bleat of a kid. The sound came from above. There were his goats resting on the barn roof! Mountain goats they were...."

One evening Joe was sitting on a bench telling his stories when he stopped, took out his carpenter's rule, spit the juice from his cud, opened the rule three sections, poked it down the back of his shirt collar, shrugged his shoulders and said "turned one over that time...!" About 1920, Joe moved from the school house to the room over the springhouse (in back of 104 N. Drexel Avenue). There, with about \$50 worth of lumber, he made suitable living quarters, saying that it was warmer and drier than in the school house. Once I saw him clean, with his whiskers trimmed and in a good suit of clothing that someone had given him. He appeared then to be a fine, elderly gentleman and would not have looked out of place on a judge's bench or in the United States Senate. He died in the late 1920's in Delaware County Hospital.

A series of families, two at a time, lived in the double house; and there was a succession of families who lived at the larger farm house by the pear tree, after the last farmer, Clement Sherrard, who has yet to be mentioned. The Charles and Ella March family lived in one side of the double house probably longer than any other tenant. Earle March, township secretary, spent his boyhood there. Through his mother, Earle is a descendant of John Sharpless, 1682. Among others who rented part of this house were the Lodge family, the Charles McCauleys; John McCauley, a teacher at Marple Newtown High School, who was born there; the Stauffers and the Keaseys. As for the farm house, there was yet another full-time farmer to live there after John Rutherford. He was Clement Sherrard, who rented the farm and ran a fair-sized dairy herd there for several years, from the spring of 1913 to the spring of 1917. He had previously rented the old Nathan Garrett farm, "Bloomfield," until it was sold to the Aronimink Country Club, which came from southwest Philadelphia, and is now the site of Drexel Brook. Mr. Sherrard, the farmer, was a widower. It was, therefore, a convenient arrangement that his son, Thomas Sherrard, with

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<sup>123</sup> Delaware County Deed Book 345, p.422

his family lived in the house (the site of 245 Rodmor) and kept a home for him. Mr. Sherrard had a public sale at the barn site (108 N. Drexel), in 1917, of horses, cattle and farm equipment. The whole family then removed to an old farm house, at 110 Bishop Hollow Road, Newtown Square, which is presently the home of the Carl Lindborgs. Henry Sherrard, grandson of Clement, was but a boy when they moved away. He attended Manoa School, is now a Colonel in the United States Army and lives near Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Among the people who rented the farm house, but did not farm, were John Dougherty, Charles Flinn, Wilmer Johnson, a bricklayer, an Edward March, an older brother of Earle.

There was yet another agricultural use that part of the farm served, in the early 1920's. The Stinger brothers, Edward, Bill and Jack, men past middle-age who were from South Philadelphia, rented part of the barn, the barn lot, and another field to the east of the barn. The gate to this field was near the upper oak on North Drexel Avenue, and from there, the field extended over the 100 blocks of Morgan and Lexington Avenues. In this field, they raised a variety of market produce. In the barn lot, they constructed a row of pig pens which extended from the back of the barn to across the present Rodmor Avenue. They collected garbage in the city early in the morning, and hauled it in a horse-drawn wagon to the farm to feed their pigs. In the afternoon, they used the horses to work the truck patch. They sold their produce in the Philadelphia markets.

The farm as a whole lay idle for many years after 1917 with the exception of various farmers occasionally renting a field for pasture or to plant corn.

The first modern houses to be built were the few older ones on North Drexel Avenue, followed by a few on North Morgan Avenue and on North Belfield Avenue, in the first block above Township Line Road. This is further than I have promised to bring you. What we have now is self-evident. The wind still blows over it. It is yours. What it will be depends upon how much you cherish it.

## FARM NUMBER 4

### **"Bon Air"**

(Bon Air is strictly a 20<sup>th</sup> century name)

The strip of land which became our Farm Number 4, of 160 acres, was a part of John Burge's purchase in 1681. The larger plantation called for 300 acres being part of his total, but not contiguous, purchase of 750 acres in the Welsh Tract. It is well to note that William Penn, as a rule, did not permit purchasers of large acreage to have their land in one solid block, but made every effort to divide or scatter it. He did this so that, should a large buyer be able to hold onto his land, he would not be so likely to attain great personal strength, economically or politically, in the baronial sense. It is also true that all of the acreage sold was sometimes not available in the area first supposed; therefore, in these instances, scattered holdings came about as a matter of course.

The three hundred acres were on both sides of our present Eagle Road between Manoa and Steel Roads. The property ran to the far easternmost boundary of the Llanerch Country Club, or the back boundary line ("Haverford Street") of the houses on the westernmost side of Country Club Lane, and was recorded in a 1694 deed. Bon Air Farm is, therefore, the western portion of the three hundred acres from Eagle Road to Darby Creek between the two projected lines of our Manoa Road (between Eagle Road and Bethesda Church) and our Steel Road (between Eagle Road and Stump Lane) projected through to Darby Creek.

This type of research into the history of local farms is frequently quite difficult and requires much time, travel and study, but in the instance of Bon Air Farm, the basis for 171 years of the following story comes virtually from two deeds!<sup>124</sup> Until now, John Burge has been just a name. However, you will find that name listed eighth in the list of Quaker suffers found in Insert No. 3 (The Welsh Tract) of this document. So we find that he was a Welsh Quaker from Pembrokeshire, an acquaintance of many of the other Welsh Friends and of William Penn. From a perusal of a deed for this land, we learn that John Burge was a man young enough to have had a wife, Sarah, who, in turn, was young enough to bear him two children, William and Mary Burge. John Burge died in the late 1680's in possession of considerable property which he willed to his widow, Sarah, who was still young enough to remarry one John Eckley and bear him a daughter, named Sarah Eckley. Around the life of this child, an historical novelist could construct a great story. The deed states that Sarah Burge married John Eachley. In these old writings we cannot be sticklers on spelling, but we have to be sure that we are discussing the same person. I submit to you, for the following reasons, that John Eachley and John Eckley were one and the same person; and that the deed, in this case, is at fault either because of miscopying or misspelling. This matter is important because John Eckley was an important man. He figured in the dissolution of the Welsh Tract, discussed in this document.

1. I have been unable to find any other record of John Eachley.
2. John Eckley was a widower from Wales. His second wife's name was Sarah. Their daughter's name was Sarah.<sup>125</sup> He died in 1690.
3. John Eachley, named in the deed, died about this time, as his widow, Sarah Eachley, in making her will on August 17, 1692, devised all of her estate (his former estate) to her three minor, above-named children. She died on August 24, 1692.
4. The deed states that John Eachley was "late of Philadelphia"
5. John Eckley, though he bought acreage where Rosemont is now located from Edward Prichard, was listed as a Philadelphia merchant. Among his friends were Thomas Lloyd and Samuel Carpenter.<sup>126</sup>

<sup>124</sup> Delaware County Deed Book H, p.68 and Delaware County Sheriff's Deed, Book B, p. 203

<sup>125</sup> Browning. *Welsh Settlements in Pennsylvania*. p.171

<sup>126</sup> Ibid., pp.356, 357



6. To administer her estate in the best interest of her children, the Sarah Eachley named in the deed appointed, by her will, Thomas Lloyd, Samuel Carpenter, and John Delaval, or any of these three as survivor. What foresight! Thomas Lloyd died in 1694, as did John Delaval.
7. In a sentence too long to quote here, toward the end of the deed, the scribe breaks down and writes "Sarah Eckley."

The deed states that John Burge was "late of Haverford-West in the Principality of Wales." Of his 750 acres in the Welsh Tract, three parcels were in Haverford. One plot recorded as 30 acres straddled the present Haverford Road about 300 yards south of our Wynnewood Road. Another plot was the central plantation on the west side of Haverford against Darby Creek, which was the sixth plantation south from Radnor, and the sixth north from Darby. These two acreages he sold to William Kelley in 1683. This left our Farm Number 4 and a piece to the east of our Eagle Road in Haverford. The deed might well have read, "John Burge of Haverford in the Welsh Tract Province of Pennsylvania," for there are reasons for believing that he and Sarah had lived here. The deed called for appurtenances. There were some very old stone buildings, back near the stream, beyond the present Steel Road athletic field. These stone buildings no doubt had been preceded by log houses, and their location was just off the early trail that ran from Chester to Merion. When we keep in mind that our Steel Road, where it passes this farm, is called "the road from Chester to Merion," and that, until about 1693, the Merionites had to take their grain to Chester for grinding, and that the seat of government to which they traveled to declare and record the frequent exchanges of land, probate their wills, etc. was located in Chester, we can understand that the Welsh people of Haverford and Merion remained quite close. Their meetings also closely bound them through a mutual and friendly interchange that has continued to this day.

Before they had attained their majority, the Burge children, William and Mary, were present at the weddings of neighboring young people. William Burge attended the wedding, at Haverford Friends Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month, 1692, of Reese Thomas and Martha Aurbey, both of Merion. Because of this marriage we have much written history and poetry.<sup>127</sup> Next we find Mary Burge attending the wedding of an immediate neighbor, John Maris to Susanna Lewis, on September 21, 1693. John lived on the plantation adjoining, diagonally, this original plot to the southwest in Springfield. Susanna was the granddaughter of Lewis David the elder, and the daughter of James Lewis.<sup>128</sup> Since her father, James Lewis, never came to the province,<sup>129</sup> and since she lived in Haverford,<sup>130</sup> it is assumed that Susanna came here with her aunt, Alice Lewis, who married Peregrine Musgrove and owned the second plantation above our Farm Number 4. Conrad Wilson, who is with the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, is a descendant of Susanna and John Maris. William and Mary Burge's attendance as children at these two weddings provides adequate evidence that the Burges lived here.

The three orphan heirs of Sarah (Bateman-Burge) Eckley, William and Mary Burge, and Sarah Eckley, were quite wealthy, since through their mother, they inherited the entire provincial worth of both John Burge and John Eckley. The latter had left considerable property in Wales also. Therefore, young Sarah became known as "the young Quaker Heiress."

Here is an excerpt from mother Sarah's will: "All Reall Estate boath in the Province and elsewhere to be divided equally among my three children, plus £200 at age 21 or at marriage for Sarah." "Elsewhere" referred to South Wales. The executors there were James Lewis, Peregrin Musgrove and Richard Stafford.

Here is a paragraph worth repeating in full, as it further develops the historical novel idea and it illustrates to some degree, the Friends' attitude toward or appraisal of other people as well. "Colonel Coxe, the grandfather of the late Tench Coxe, Esq. made an elopement in his youth with an heiress, Sarah Eckley, a Friend." What is singular in their case was that they were married in the woods, in Jersey by fire light, by the Chaplin of Lord Cornbury, the then Governor of New Jersey. The meeting of the Chaplin there seem to have been accidental. The circumstances of the marriage provided some scandal for the serious friends of her family. A 1707 letter of Margaret Preston, which I have seen,

<sup>127</sup> Lloyd Family Book, pp. 3-11

<sup>128</sup> A.R. Justice papers, Chester County Historical Society

<sup>129</sup> Dr. Smith's letter in Cope Col. Pennsylvania Gen. Soc. Philadelphia, Pa.

<sup>130</sup> Maris Family Book, 1683-1885; B. H. Smith's Atlas

describes her umbrage at the situation by saying, "The news of Sarah Eckley's marriage is both sorrowful and surprising, with one Colonel Coxe, a fine flaunting gentleman, said to be worth a great deal of money, a great inducement, it is said, on her side. His sister, Trent, was supposed to have promoted the match. Her other friends were ignorant of the match. It took place in the absence of her Uncle and Aunt Hill, between two or three in the morning, on the Jersey side, under a tree by firelight. They have since proselyted her and decked her in finery."<sup>131</sup>

The word "scandal" as used above scarcely conveys the whole Quaker attitude toward such a marriage. The Episcopalians, --i.e., the "Hot Church Party" of this period, had been praying and making overtures in London to the end that Lord Cornbury's rule be extended to this Province, which eventually William Penn called "treason."<sup>132</sup> The Friends feared that such an arrangement could put them back under the oppression of the National Church.

The marriage of Colonel Daniel Coxe and Sarah Eckley was recorded 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> month 1707. She could not have been more than eighteen years old at the time. Sarah was baptized into the Episcopal Church on March 10, 1708. Of course, she was disowned by the Friends. Of this woodsy, Jersey union four children were born, John, Daniel, Rebecca, and William.

Colonel Coxe's father, Dr. Daniel Coxe, was one of the proprietors of West Jersey. East Jersey was north of what is now the boundary line of Burlington County. West Jersey was all of the province south of that." Doctor Daniel Coxe of London, a principal land owner of West Jersey, organized a government by adopting the constitution of England in place of the earlier Quaker "Concessions and Agreements" which had been affected in part by William Penn." Headquarters were established near Town Bank in 1687. He constructed a residence known as Coxe Hall on Coxehall Creek.<sup>133</sup> Quarterly Court for cases not exceeding 20 pounds was decreed. The first court was held at Portsmouth (Cape May Towne or Town Bank), March 20, 1693, in Coxe Hall.<sup>134</sup> In 1688, Dr. Daniel Coxe established a pottery at Burlington, N.J. The West Jersey Society, an organization of forty-eight persons, bought holdings totaling more than 95,000 acres from Dr. Coxe on January 20, 1692. Much land remained in the possession of the Coxe family until recently. During the 1960's, a great search was made to locate descendants and heirs in the settlement of lands bought by New Jersey real estate developers in the Tukerton area.

Tench Coxe, the Colonel's grandson, was an early writer on political economy, a member of the last Continental Congress, a Tory, and a vestryman in Christ Church in 1778, 1785 and 1790. He died in 1824. Though a Tory, he nevertheless became the first Under-Secretary of the Treasury of the United States and the first Collector of Customs for the port of Philadelphia. An acquaintance, Travis Coxe, said of his ancestor, Tench, "He must have done an about face at the time of the Battle of Yorktown! He also accumulated the coal lands, totaling 350,000 acres, in which the present counties of Carbon, Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties are located.

Tench's son, Charles, was a member of the bar. He inherited large coal acreage in Pennsylvania; his mining interests kept him away from Philadelphia. Among the progeny of the above William Coxe (descendants of our Sarah Eckley) are cousins, Eckley B. Coxe, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Daniel M. Coxe of Philadelphia. Daniel recently left the coal acreage where he had been taking care of the Coxe family interest. I have had conversation with both of these gentlemen, in 1965. Eckley B. Coxe, grandfather of Eckley B. Coxe III, lived in the anthracite region and that is why there is an Eckley, Pennsylvania."\*\*\* Mrs. Eckley B. Coxe was known as the "Angel of the Anthracite Coal Miner." She helped at births and at times of death, and provided food and legal aid when needed.

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<sup>131</sup> Watson's Annals, 1843, Vol. I, p.50

<sup>132</sup> Ibid., p.380

\* The naming of East of West Jersey was a matter of approach. If one entered from the New York - Long Island area, it was the access to East Jersey. If from the Delaware Bay or River, he entered from the west into West Jersey. We now call West Jersey, South Jersey.

\*\* Byllings (Billings) vs. Fenwick

<sup>133</sup> Historical Cape May County

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

\*\*\* One of the towns chosen by Paramount Pictures for filming the Maguires

Samuel Carpenter,\* as surviving executor of Sarah (Burge) Eckley's estate, sold our Farm Number 4 to Richard Hayes, Jr. In open court at Chester, "David Lloyd, Attorney for Samuel Carpenter, acknowledged a Deed to Richard Hayes for one Hundred and Sixty acres of land lying by Darby Creek in Haverford township, the deed bearing the date 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month, Anno Domini 1698."<sup>135</sup> The more recent deed which I have been quoting cites not only this record of transfer, but also the older one of William Penn to John Burge, "24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> days of October 1681, recorded in the Rols at Philadelphia in book B." I shall leave it to one of you, brave and curious enough to look that one up. If and when you are told, "the early records were lost," don't believe it. Ask who was so careless of the court's records? Who was held responsible and penalized? Were those records also lost?

Richard Hayes with his father, Richard, Welshmen, had settled on Naylor's Run. Their original house (not now standing) was very close to the old house which Richard Jr. built that is still standing, with additions, and now know as 525 Manoa Road, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stafford.

It is evident that an early member of the Hayes family built a house during the Colonial period on the site of present 1633 Burmont Road, the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. B. Hayes Anderson (Joseph Hayes, cooper, son of Richard Jr., whose staves were sawed at the mill). Dr. Smith says, "Richard Hayes, Jr. continued to live in the same house with his father on the same premises where they settled at the time of their arrival 1687."<sup>136</sup> (Dr. Smith was born in the Manoa Road House in 1804). The colonial house was razed to build the present house with the mansard roof, 1633 Burmont Road. Richard had married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Lewis of Clifton Hall, the Grange, the year before he made the above purchase. His father died that same year, 1697. On the narrow strip of land between the trail (formerly our Eagle Road, now Burmont Road) and Darby Creek, Richard Hayes, with his brother-in-law, Samuel Lewis, and David Morris as financial partners, built the Haverford New Mill in 1707.<sup>137</sup> This mill was called the new mill because there had been an earlier mill (1695) on the same trail at Karakung Creek (Cobbs Creek) near our Eagle and Haverford Roads. Lewis David, the elder, sold on the 30th, 3rd month 1700 a lot and grist mill that he and Humphrey Ellis held in Haverford to William Howell.<sup>138</sup> This last was the Haverford Mill. Though the 1707 mill site was not on the land which later, in 1913, became Bon Air, it was on the original broad strip of land belonging to John Burge and Richard Hayes of which Bon Air is the greater part.

The Hayes mill, Haverford New Mill, and more recently known as the Leedom Mill, ground grist and made flour, and, at times, there was a saw mill adjacent to it that used the same water power. A deed follows which indicates that it was a bolting mill." Note, too, that it was "Two mills under one roof," This is the only document that I have ever read that apprises us of this fact. Current information indicates that the mill has been rebuilt since the original.

It is difficult to state correctly the sequence of owners of the mill, because it was a partnership from the beginning. Although some writers have compiled an imposing list of names, when deeds and wills are searched, it is discovered that a number of them owned but a third, a fourth or multiples of a sixth or twelfth parts' interest, without stating who owned the rest as of that particular date. Richard Hayes, by will, left his son, Joseph, a one-sixth interest in the mill, and his son, Benjamin Hayes, a "share" (one-sixth) "Subject to an equal enjoyment thereof by his wife Elizabeth during her life."<sup>139</sup>

John S. Schenck lists Isaac Davis as owner in 1770 and Elisha Worrall as owner in 1779.<sup>140</sup> The following interesting document indicates the following various part owners previous to 1779, and states that Elisha did not own a total interest: Abraham Lewis (son of Ralph Lewis) to Elisha Worrall: "Abraham Lewis and Anthony Lewis (sons) Executors of the Will of Abraham Lewis, the elder, of Upper Darby, on

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\* His 11th generation descendants, Carpenters, own a large farm where they live in a large southern style mansion near Salem, New Jersey.

<sup>135</sup> Chester County Court Records, January 20, 1697/8 to November 29, 1710, p.15

<sup>136</sup> Hist. Delaware County, p.467; also *Genealogy of George and Mary Smith*, p.9

<sup>137</sup> Hist. Delaware County, Dr. George Smith; B.H. Smith's Atlas

<sup>138</sup> Browning. *Welsh Settlements of Pennsylvania*, p.201; See also Asmead, p.569

\*\* Proof of flour mill

<sup>139</sup> *Genealogy of George Smith and Mary Smith*

<sup>140</sup> Ashmead, p.571

the one part and Elisha Worrall of Marple on the other part. Whereas Joseph Hayes (later mentioned) of Haverford and Hannah (Davis) his wife sold (L. & R.)<sup>\*</sup> 10th and 11th of May, 1743, conveyed to Abraham Lewis the elder one-fourth part (the whole into 4 equal parts divided) and in a certain water corn mill or grist mill (being two mills under one roof) situate and being in Haverford commonly known by the name of Haverford New Mills; by Estimate 2¼ acres. And whereas Morris Llewellyn of Merion in the County of Philadelphia and wife Catherine, and Henry Lewis of Haverford and Jane his wife by their indenture of L. & R. 17th and 18th days of May 1743 conveyed unto the said Abraham Lewis, the elder 1/6 part of the said Mills and Land Premises. And whereas Abraham Musgrove of Haverford, Weaver by his indenture of L. & R. dated 9th of January 1761 conveyed unto the said Abraham Lewis the elder and to John Lewis and Benjamin Hayes a certain piece of land in Haverford 1½ acres to Hold five-twelfths (5/12) parts. By Virtue of above recital indenture Abraham Lewis died so seized." "By will dated 17th 5th mo. 1768 instructed sons Abraham and Anthony, executors to sell all his interest in said Mill and the 2 pieces of land. Said Mill that was formerly and commonly known as Richard Hayes' mill standing by the side of Darby Creek, together with all his right share in the Mill Race, Water Dam, Banks, Stanks, Weights, Gears, Land, Building and Appurtenances, Sold to Elisha Worrall for £260, 5/12 parts.

"Together with like 5/12 shares the Houses, Out Houses, Mill dams, Mill ponds, Head Wares, Stanks, Boltings Mills, Bolting Cloths, Mill Scales, Mill Weights, All and singular Gears. Implements and Utensils in use and service of said Mill or deemed accepted as part and parcel or Member thereof; and ways, Woods, Waters, Water Courses, Rights, Liberties, Privileges, etc. and two described pieces of land (5/12) 9th day of June 1770."<sup>141</sup>

This summation of acquisition leaves out the fact of Isaac Davis' one-third interest in the mill in 1764. So the total picture is not exactly a clear one. I think the phrase "being two mills under one roof" and the adjacent saw mill on the same land allows for some duplicity of expression.

The milling business came into the Leedom family through Elisha Worrall whose only child, Mary Maris, married Joseph Bond Leedom in 1821.<sup>\*\*</sup> A number of men had had a turn at running the mill besides those already mentioned; some of them were: The sons of Joseph B. Leedom: John, Maris and Joseph, Maris Worrell, Thomas Steel, Mathew Stackhouse, Wes. Hatton, and Benjamin Hayes Anderson. The last named was a descendant of the first builder, Richard Hayes. I have shown the separation of the mill properties from Farm Number 4 proper and have thereby gotten chronologically ahead of the main story, but I will further describe and make comment on the mill.

The main building was of stone, rectangular in shape, measuring about 32 by 45 feet, and three stores high with a moderately steep shingle roof. The forty-five foot dimension fronted on the road. It was located about one hundred feet north northeastward of the front of the house known as 1744 Burmont Road, which was a miller's house. As late as 1914, much of the machinery was still in the mill building which remained standing, in fair condition, when I saw it. Part of the water wheel was still in position and the structure for the flume<sup>\*\*\*</sup> was discernible. The mill building, as it appeared in the 20th century, was built by Joseph Bond Leedom c.1830-1840.

The dam was further up the creek, nearly opposite the end of our Fairview Road. In the 1930's, the Township, with Work Progress Administration (WPA) funds, put a small, temporary dam at the site of the good old Hayes, Leedom dam which had endured for more than two hundred years and continued to impound much water well into the 20th century.

The mill race flowed from the Glendale Road end of the dam, paralleling the road, down through the wooded area, through the pasture field where the sewage disposal plant is now, and ran close to the back of the old frame house on the bend of the road, the corner of our Glendale and Burmont Roads, and from there about one hundred and thirty yards on to the mill. In this space, the later saw mills were constructed. The flow of water from such dams, powered most of the mills in this general area. It was in the last mentioned house the Joseph Leedom lived when he ran the mill prior to his purchase of the Abner Davis farm in 1867 (Farm Number 4). Most of Joseph and Emily Leedom's children were born in

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<sup>\*</sup> Lease and Release

<sup>141</sup> Chester County Deed Book, R-17-122

<sup>\*\*</sup> See Farm Number 2

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> a sluice for an overshot wheel

this little frame house,\* which was later the home of Robert Johnston, a bricklayer. One of their sons, Joseph B. Leedom, brother of William P. and John L., later lived in the Johnston house, after he married Emma Tyson in 1885. Their first child was born there.

Let us return to the builders of the mill. Richard Hayes, Jr. was an outstanding man. He was unusually well educated for his day, a faithful and active Friend, member of the Haverford Meeting, an enterprising business man, a Justice of the Courts of Chester County and a member for seven years of the Assembly that sat in Philadelphia. In Dr. Smith's *History of Delaware County*, facing page 467 is a facsimile of Richard's handwriting taken from a ledger which he kept at the mill. There is additional information about him, his business, and family to be found at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He shipped flour milled here, from the port of Philadelphia, to Jamaica where he traded it for rum. On return trips from the Philadelphia docks, his heavy sledges and carts brought supplies to be sold at the general merchandise store that he operated at the mill. All of this transport took place over our Burmont Road. While Richard Hayes was engaged in the above mentioned legislative, judicial, clerical and trade activities, he was not supplying the brawn required to run the mill. Instead his partner, David Morris and his brother, both of Marple, performed the greater part of the physical work.

Richard Hayes, Jr.'s sons, Joseph and Richard, married Hannah and Sarah, respectively, daughters of his neighbor, Lewis David, the younger. These girls were born on Farm Number 1. Richard Hayes, Jr. died in 1738. By will, he devised the Bon Air property unto his son, Joseph, who was a cooper.<sup>142</sup> Joseph built the colonial house which formerly stood on the site of 1633 Burmont Road. A door in the present house, which was built in 1876 and made of lumber sawed at the mill, is one that is from the old colonial house.

Ten years later in 1748, Joseph and Hannah (Davis) Hayes sold his interest in the mill to Abraham Lewis of Farm Number 5, and sold Farm Number 4 to Hannah's nephew, Lewis Davis of Darby (now Upper Darby), for £440 lawful money of the Province.

This Lewis Davis was born in 1716 and was the son of John and Rebecca Need Davis of Darby. The Needs lived on the site of the present Clifton Heights. He must not be confused with his uncle, Lewis Davis, who was born on Farm Number 1 in 1707, and who owned Farm Number 3, from 1731 to 1743. Other descendants of John and Rebecca Davis lived on in the area that is now Clifton Heights for many years, Samuel Davis being the last descendant to bear the Davis name.<sup>143</sup> Other names of descendants would have been Ogden, Home, Levis, etc. A farm of one hundred acres marked "Samuel Davis" still existed when Clifton Heights was incorporated in 1885.<sup>144</sup>

Lewis Davis was a tanner. On Farm Number 4, he established tanyards and built buildings pertaining to that business: a bark house and a currying house that were still standing in 1852 when Joseph Bond Leedom bought the farm.<sup>145</sup> Lewis married Rose Smith born March 28, 1722, the daughter of William, Jr. and Mary Smith, at the Haverford Meeting, 21st of the 11th month 1740. Rose bore him four children: Joseph, Benjamin, Mary and Ann. Rose died in, or soon after, 1748, the same year in which they left the Darby Meeting to attend the Springfield (Chester)\*\* Meeting.

In 1757, Lewis Davis received a certificate of clearness to the Darby Meeting to marry Mrs. Hannah (Sellers) Lloyd, age 40, the widow of Richard Lloyd.<sup>146</sup> One month later they married at the Darby Meeting.

Immediately after his second marriage, Lewis Davis teamed up with the two sons of his new wife, Isaac and Hugh Lloyd, one a miller and the other a mill wright, in the operation of the Darby Mills, which had been the business of their father, Richard Lloyd, he having been part owner of the mill.<sup>147</sup> However, we

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\* the house was razed in 1964

<sup>142</sup> Chester County Deed Book, p.122

<sup>143</sup> Dr. Smith's letter, Cope Coll, Da. p.75

<sup>144</sup> E. Barlow; Map of Delaware County

<sup>145</sup> Delaware County Deed Book B, p.203

\*\* The Springfield Meeting functioned under the care of the Chester Meeting

<sup>146</sup> Lloyd Farm Book, and Friends records

<sup>147</sup> Ibid; see also Ashmead, p.518

soon find Davis back on his Haverford farm operating his tanyard. For a number of years, he was taxed in Haverford as a tanner. He was an overseer in the Springfield Meeting (Chester Meeting) and was appointed many times to represent the Springfield Meeting at the joint meeting held at Providence.<sup>148</sup> According to a certificate of election, he was elected county commissioner in 1762. He qualified before John Morton and William Parker.<sup>149</sup> In 1786, Lewis Davis was taxed as the owner of a farm and tanyard, four horses, five cattle and a riding chair. The last was an indication of his declining years. For several years, he is listed in the tax rolls as "Lewis Davis, Esq."; this was in deference to his being a commissioner.

There were six separate living quarter units on Farm Number 4 in addition to the large house situated off the end of Stump Lane where Lewis Davis lived. These all seem to have been occupied in the 1790's, according to the number of people listed as living on Lewis Davis' land. He, no doubt, employed them all either at farming or in the tanyard. I can visualize some of them carrying him in his sedan chair. He died in 1804, at the age of 88 years. His widow, Hannah (Sellers Lloyd) Davis, died the 4th month, 12th 1810. She was a daughter of Sarah and Samuel Sellers. Mary Rhoads Haines, in her book, *The Haines Family of Springfield*, 1893, copies the following from her ancestor Joseph Rhoad's diary: "First day 29th (1st mo. 1804). I was at a meeting: there was a large gathering as it was the burial of our ancient Friend, Lewis Davis, who deceased in his eighty eighth year. Eli Yarnall, Randall and Joseph Mallin, Jr. and Rebecca Fairlamb were here (Chestnut Bank) from meeting."

Here is an abstract of Lewis Davis' will<sup>150</sup> dated the 9th month 23rd 1796 and probated February 28, 1804:

"To wife £100 and various household articles.

To son Benjamin £50 provided he comes here within 3 years.

To daughter, Mary Ashbridge £100 (she was married to Joshua Ashbridge, son of George Ashbridge.)

To daughter Ann Lewis (who married John, son of Amos Lewis) £6 per annum (interest on £100) during her life time; but if she should survive her husband the principal to be paid to her; otherwise to her children at age 21.

To son Joseph, my land in Haverford (Farm Number 4) he to pay legacies below:

To his mother in law (stepmother) £10 yearly.

To my daughter, Mary Ashbridge £50.

To my daughter, Ann Lewis £50.

To his brother, Benjamin £50 if he comes here in 3 years.

Any residue to my children Joseph, Mary and Ann. Son, Joseph to be executor.

Witnesses: Mardecai Lawrence

Thomas Phillips

Abraham Free

Proved by first and last by affirmation."

Further comments may be made concerning those mentioned in the above will, in addition to those in parentheses, which are mine. Benjamin (although I have not taken the time to track him down, there were at least three men of that name in the area at that time) appears to have been a problem to his father and to his father's second wife, probably from an early age. This is readily understood if one considers that his natural mother was but twenty-six years of age when she died and the new mother, a woman of forty years, was the mother of two grown sons. When Isaac Davis and Rachel Lewis of Farm Number 2 were married in 1768, at Haverford Meeting, it was no doubt one of the outstanding events of the year. Benjamin, in his early twenties, would likely have been a wedding guest. Of the fifty-six witnesses who signed the wedding certificate, at least twelve were definitely Davises, and Benjamin was

<sup>148</sup> Friend's records Swathmore College

<sup>149</sup> Cope Coll. Da p.76

<sup>150</sup> Delaware County Will Book A, p.431

not among them.<sup>151</sup> Whether or not he came to claim his legacy I don't know; however, we find retold here the ancient story of the Loving Father calling the wanderer home, "£100 provided he comes home."<sup>\*</sup>

Descendants of Mary Davis and Joshua Ashbridge are Mrs. Joseph (Elva Ashbridge) Leedom of 155 E. Stratford Ave., and her son, Joseph, and his children of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. So we see that their Davis ancestors owned Farms 1, 2, 3, and 4 more than one hundred and thirty years before the Leedoms came upon the scene!

It is evident that Lewis Davis did not have a high regard for John Lewis, Ann's husband. Ann was John's second wife; so maybe he was simply being careful of his own posterity.

Joseph Davis had been carrying on the tanning business during his father's old age; therefore, he was well able to pay the amounts mentioned in the will to the other heirs. He built the fine big barn three years later. The payments in the will totaled £210, allowing for the six years his father's widow, Hannah, lived and for Benjamin's return. It might be noted here that this account would have been among the last to have been settled in pounds, as the United States legally changed the currency to dollars in 1805; although, as early as August 8, 1786, Congress by resolution had established the decimal system and set the value of the dollar. But there was no Federal mint until 1792.<sup>152</sup>

Now in 1804, we have Joseph Davis, the tanner, about age 58-60, in possession of "Bon Air." It was during the overlapping lifetimes of the father, Lewis, and Joseph Davis that most of the old houses on the property were built; that is, those houses which remained into the 20th century. The mansion house was in the lane which started at our Steel Road about ninety-five yards northeastwardly of Stump Lane. It stood in back of the baseball diamond in the athletic field. This house is described in the Glass Tax record of 1798. The last owner, occupant was William Barre, a German immigrant, who bought it c.1915, in addition to land that included the site of the entire Steel Road Athletic Field, which had been the orchard on the farm for more than a century. The house was destroyed by fire, under suspicious circumstances, on March 31, 1939. There was a small old frame barn about one hundred feet due north of the house. The lane continued past the east end of the main house and the frame barn for about two hundred and fifty yards to the large, stone, main barn which is still standing. Joseph Davis built the barn as it appears today, in 1807, though the timber was destroyed by fire in 1843. An early Bon Air purchaser, Pompey Ansel, constructed a dwelling in 1915 in the northeast end of the large barn. An ice house and a dug well were in the backyard of the mansion house. Down the run, toward our Hillside Avenue, about one hundred yards from the house was a large springhouse of stone construction that had limited living quarters on the second floor. Beyond the springhouse about eighty yards, on a little knoll on the side of the larger slope, near and to the east of the present Hillside Avenue was another small stone house larger than the springhouse. The tanyard was in the valley, by the stream, near the site of the last mentioned house, and just off the end of the present Hillside Avenue.<sup>\*\*</sup> There, too, must have been the currying house and the bark house that were extant in 1852. Also, there was a little old house on our Steel Road on the site of the newer Ebenezer Methodist Church. A remnant of the foundation of that house remained in 1913. It was located near and to the west of the present maple tree. Mrs. Jesse M. Heacock (nee Campbell) of 4 E. Park Road, Llanerch lived in it when she was a child. Around the corner on Eagle Road, next to the church property, we have the 1883 (the time of the Leedoms) school house, Haverford School No. 2, the home of the Wesley Stewarz, which was built to replace Haverford Seminary No. 2 (Farm Number 3). Next to the 1883 school, stands another old house (526 Eagle Road) that was built in the eighteenth century by Lewis Davis.

Between Fairview Avenue and Grand Avenue, S.E. by S. of Bethesda Church stood, in 1913, the walls and chimney of an ancient house, which had been burned out. The Charles and Ella March family lived there at the time of the fire and then removed to our Farm Number 3. Edward Klesius bought the ruins c. 1915 and built living quarters in and around these ruins. The house is presently known as 620 Grand

<sup>151</sup> T. Carroll Davis; Friends Records, Hist. Library, Swathmore College

<sup>\*</sup> See Luke 15:10-32

<sup>152</sup> Stewart. Records of the U.S. Mint

<sup>\*\*</sup> From Bert Willis(Emma's brother) who remembered plowing the black earth



Avenue, the home of C. Kendal and Rose Patricia Smith. During the 1870's and 1880s, Haines Lawrence lived in this ancient house with his sister, Mrs. Charles Rife, and his sons, William, Harry, George, Elwood, and Robert. Haines was John Leedom's oxen goader. John was a son of Joseph Bond Leedom. He built in 1886 the house where the Alexanders lived. There was also another little old house on the slope of the same hill about one hundred yards S. by S.W. of the door of Bethesda Church. This house with one acre of land and right of way, Lewis Davis, the third tanner, sold in 1847 to John C. Nicholson for \$500.<sup>153</sup> Joseph Bond Leedom bought the same back, December 3, 1852 from Nicholson for \$700.<sup>154</sup> Haines Lawrence dug a well at this old house. He was one for leaving his tools where he worked. One night after he had dug to a considerable depth, he climbed out of the hole with the aid of a ladder. The next morning the well was nearly full of water and his tools were at the bottom. This well can still be located, because the fill material settles and leaves a depression in the surface. Taylor Broomall and his wife lived in this last mentioned house c.1885-1889, before he built his frame house, which is still standing at the northeast corner of Eagle and Manoa Roads. He paid rent to Edward Willis,\* who rented the entire farm at the time. This old house and the well site were on the property of the late Mrs. Mary W. Davis (no relation) at 65 Colonial Road. A stone springhouse served these last two mentioned old houses until wells were dug. The springhouse was located at the foot of the hill by the stream, about one hundred and sixty feet southeast of where the stream passes under Fairview Road.

As of 1786, Joseph Davis had a tanyard and a small farm of thirty-four acres of his own in Haverford. This tanyard was necessarily different from his father's, because his father and he were each taxed for a tanyard that year. Joseph had married Tacy Rhoads, daughter of James (a tanner) and Elizabeth Rhoads of Chestnut Bank, Marple, in 1777 at the Springfield Meeting. Joseph and Tacy owned and lived on a farm in Marple for several years. The Rhoads tannery was founded in 1702, or earlier,<sup>155</sup> on Whetstone Road near our Reed and Sproul Roads. J. E. Rhoads & Sons, Inc. Leather Goods, of Wilmington, Delaware is the oldest business in the United States and has been in the family since that date.

Joseph and Tacy Rhoads Davis had the following children whom he named in his will of 1828:

1. Elizabeth, who married John Horne.<sup>156</sup>
2. Lewis
3. Nathan, who married Beulah Hall<sup>157</sup> and died at a young age after siring three children: Hannah, Elizabeth and Joseph.
4. Hannah, who married Thomas Hunter of Marple.

The mother of these children died in 1804, at age 45 shortly after giving birth. Tacy Rhoads was born the 25th day of the third month 1759 in Marple, Chester County. She had a brother, Joseph, who kept a diary.<sup>158</sup> Note the following entries from it. "Third day, the 17th of the 1st month 1804.... We had word that sister Tacy Davis was very low (she had born a boy on the 14th) my dear wife and I went there almost immediately and found her extremely weak and somewhat flighty of mind and in great anguish. I believe her to be in a state wherein she hath no need of terror or fear of appearing before the just Judge; believing her sins are forgiven, from her having sought after the ways of justice and peace. A woman of meek and humble spirit, my prayer is that the Almighty may be with her in this trying period. When I went into her sight she seemed to know me and in distress said, 'What will become of us?'.... I answered that I saw nothing to hinder our happiness.... my desire is to stand ready by, having all my days work done in the day time." "Sixth day the 28th (1st mo. 1804): Soon after I returned on the Third day evening. Sister, Tacy departed this life about 6 in the evening. My dear wife returned in the forenoon, I

<sup>153</sup> Delaware County Deed Book Z, p.244

<sup>154</sup> Delaware County Deed Book A2, p.417

\* M. Emma Willis' father. She also lived on the farm in the old mansion house (the Barre house) ca. 1885-1895. She died in 1965

<sup>155</sup> See Ashmead, p.679, 1691

<sup>156</sup> See also the Quaker Ogdens, p.81 (104 John Horne)

<sup>157</sup> Maris Family Book, p.60

<sup>158</sup> Clovercroft Chronicles



was there in the afternoon." "Sixth day, 20th I was at the burial of my beloved sister, Tacy Davis. Eli Yarnall appeared in the ministry...."

Joseph Davis died in 1828. He willed the farm with the tanyards and building in Haverford (our Farm Number 4) to his son, Lewis; a farm in Easttown to Elizabeth Horne; a farm in Marple to Hannah Hunter and appointed by will, Lewis, guardian of Nathan's minor son, Joseph Davis. This last Joseph Davis married Harriet Vaughn.<sup>159</sup> They are buried in Haverford Meeting graveyard. Joseph and Harriet had a son, J. Lewis Davis. He owned acreage on the south side of College Avenue eastward from Coopertown Road. The above mentioned will of Joseph Davis was witnessed by Samuel Rhoads and his estate was appraised by John Rhoads.

The Lewis Davis mentioned above, who was the son of Joseph and who inherited Bon Air and the tanyard in 1828 was also a tanner and continued his ancestor's business on this farm. His was the third generation of tanners. Though I have searched diligently, I have found no record of Lewis Davis' life here in Haverford other than his early tanning operation and his selling several small plots of land. I do not know if he married or if he left any heirs; deeds that he executed did not indicate a wife. When he died intestate in 1852 he was indebted to the estate of Adam Eckfeldt to the extent of \$2,000.<sup>160</sup> Adam died the same year.

In 1909, came one Stanley (Miecznikowski) Schultz from Wilmington, Delaware with his wife, Frances (Pikulski) and children Michael, Helen and John as tenant farmers. Stanley was a member of a ranking land owning farm family in Poland. Frances was a peasant. Their proposed marriage has highly objectionable. He came to our county in 1898 to avoid conscription into the Russian Army and to be free to marry. By prearrangement Frances came here about the same time. They were married and Stanley went to work at a steel mill in Wilmington. The mill foreman thought that "Miecznikowski," Stanley's correct surname, was too long and difficult, so he named him Schultz. Frances found employment at the J. E. Rhoads Leather Goods Co. Michael was born in 1900, Helen in 1906 and John in 1908.

This 1909 venture was Stanley's first attempt at farming in America. He had saved a little money and, with a substantial legacy from his mother who died in Poland, he purchased cattle and equipment at one of the farm auction sales which were prevalent in the area at that period. His wife was a strong woman and of more help to him than any hired man would have been. They lived in the old mansion house where "our ancient Friend, Lewis Davis" lived and died. They milked fifteen head of cattle and Mike hauled the milk to Robert Flynn's springhouse on Farm Number 1 every evening after supper. Bob Flynn paid one-half cent per quart more than a neighboring milk man paid. Mr. Schultz paid rent for the farm at Samuel Moore's general merchandise store at West Chester Pike and Manoa Road since J. Leedom Moore had been appointed by John Leedom, est. administrator upon the death of his uncle, Elwood Leedom.

In 1912 when Mr. Moore informed Mr. Schultz that farming days were over on our Farm Number 4 since it was to be sold and subdivided, he also told him that Mrs. Fairlamb's farm was available. The Fairlamb Farm was located at West Chester Pike and Darby Creek, part of which is now the property of Haverford Township and part of the area comprising Westgate Hills. At his new farm, Mr. Schultz expanded his farming enterprise to forty milking cows and about 350 pigs, four teams of horses and three hired hands. He sold his milk from this farm to Hanlons Dairy in Oakmont and hauled garbage for the pigs from West Philadelphia. Nearly all of the farmers in this area sent a wagon two or three times a week to "Brewerytown" in Philadelphia for "wet grains," a residue of the manufacture of alcoholic beverages, and a good, cheap feed for cattle. When Prohibition loomed on the horizon, the farm economy was seriously effected. That was one of the considerations when Clement Sherrard, on Farm Number 3 stopped farming. Those who stayed in business, including Mr. Schultz, raised more clover and alfalfa and much more corn. This required more acreage. Mr. Schultz rented the Bergdoll flying field where the Manoa Shopping Center is now located. The Bergdoll boys had fled to avoid military conscription. Stanley

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<sup>159</sup> Elizabeth Williamsor, Ardmore, Pennsylvania; Maris Family Book, p.60

<sup>160</sup> Delaware County Deed Book B, p.203

Schultz' oldest son, Mike, was now old enough in 1916 to handle a team in the field. He plowed the great field for the last time and planted corn.

Mike took a fancy to boxing. Under the name of Tommy O'Toole, he established an impressive welter weight record. He adopted the name "O'Toole" because of the stigma attached to a German name during and immediately after World War I. "Mike Schultz" would have been clobbered before he could climb into the ring, even though his parents were Poles!

About 1919, Stanley Schultz stopped farming. He returned to Bon Air and bought the old barn which Joseph Davis had built in 1807 and in which Pompey Ansel had built a fine house in 1915. Thus Stanley and Frances Miecznikowski or Schultz lived and died in the building where they had performed much of their early labor, storing hay, feeding and milking their fifteen head of cattle! Mike lived, as of 1967, at 125 S. Eagle Road, the last living farmer of our Farm Number 4.

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