

THE BUCKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAPERS READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY
AND OTHER HISTORICAL PAPERS



FACKENTHAL PUBLICATION FUND
(Established in 1909)

VOLUME VII

1937

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ALLENTOWN, PA.

The Schools of Neshaminy*

By REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Warminster Meeting, July 27, 1886)

WHEN the early settlers of Pennsylvania came across the Atlantic to make for themselves new homes in the wilderness, they were not in pursuit of material wealth alone. They sought also the advantages which civil and religious liberty, education and enlightened society bring in their train. To these they had been accustomed in a measure in the old world, and while they were cutting down the primeval forests, erecting dwellings and bringing the soil into subjection they thought of the wants of the higher nature of man. It was once remarked by Dr. Horace Bushnell, a very acute and original thinker, that the tendency of emigration is to barbarism, and no doubt those who leave the institutions of civilization, and go far away from the haunts of men, are liable, in enforced attention to physical necessities, to lose sight of the cultivation of the mind and refinement of the manners. The pioneers in the establishment of this colony endeavored to avoid this evil; to preserve freedom and intelligence, which had gradually been acquired in the struggles of ages, and to enlarge and confirm the inheritance they had received from their ancestors.

The owners of the land in the neighborhood of Neshaminy, when it was first bought of the original proprietor, William Penn, were English people, as appears from the patents given by him; the names of the grantees and of the places, from which they came, being of that nationality, but many of them did not reside here. In a few years Scotch-Irish immigrants purchased of them smaller tracts and took up their abode along these hills and valleys. They had been in the habit of attending school in their younger days, were sensible of the value of education, and desired to have their children enjoy privileges similar to those which had been accorded to them. They planted a church here and a school house by its side. The meeting house first stood in the present graveyard and was probably erected in 1727. A stone, on which that date is carved with the initials, W. M. and

* A deferred paper, not printed in any prior volume of "A Collection of Papers Read before The Bucks County Historical Society."

W. G., was in the wall of the building, which remained standing until 1792, though long unused for religious services, when it was taken down by direction of the trustees, and the material used in the construction of the graveyard wall that ran west from the school house. This stone was placed in that wall and held its position until 1851, when a new wall was built along the Bristol road and the block was fixed in it near the front gate, where it now is.

GRAVEYARD SCHOOL

The first school house, known to have been in this vicinity after "Log College," was of logs, in what is now the graveyard, a short distance back of the chapel. At what time it was erected we have no means of knowing. But it was an antique structure when it was removed about 1825, and had probably borne the winter storms of more than half a century. It was set up to last, as buildings were in former days. Having become somewhat dilapidated, (perhaps I might better say dilogadated), the people in this section thought it desirable to have it replaced with a better edifice, and one night a jackscrew was applied to one of the logs and the work of demolition was begun. But it was found more difficult to tear it down than had been expected. It would not go to pieces without a large amount of hard work. It had been a useful though humble temple of knowledge. In it many excellent preceptors had taught the rising generation, and some, whose peculiar modes of giving instruction have been superseded by those of a more enlightened character.

One of them was James Gray, more familiarly called "Jimmy Gray," who held the rod of dominion there about a hundred years ago. He was of Scotch descent, and very eccentric. A large, noble hickory tree stands by the side of the Hartsville and Centreville turnpike, near the gate of Esquire Johnson Beans, in Warminster. Gray lived, in his early days, not far off, and he told Hugh Long, formerly of Hartsville, that as he was driving his mother's cows to pasture one morning he cut off the top of the sapling for a switch, which gave it the fork that appears a few feet above the ground. When he became a young man, he was employed to guide the youthful mind in its search for knowledge, and for his own recreation in his arduous labors he was in the habit of getting the boys to play practical jokes on one another.

For example, he would send a boy out to lie concealed in the bushes near a spring, and would send two others for water, and inform them of the one hiding, and tell them to throw a bucketful on him.

Another teacher was William Long, commonly denominated "Little Billy." William Carr, who formerly owned the farm now in possession of George Jamison, of Warwick, and who was a long period in the public offices at the court house in Doylestown, said that he went to school to him. He was wont to have the scholars commit their spelling lessons and read in concert aloud, he himself calling at the top of his voice, and accompanying it by striking on his desk with a huge hickory stick, which he always carried as a wand of office. He would cry out, "Be busy! Be busy!" and Mr. Carr said the youngsters found amusement in shouting as loud as possible, to see who could make the most noise, but without reference to the words of the lessons.

Gideon Prior occupied the chair of instruction in this rude building, probably when he first came to Neshaminy from New England, between 1785 and 1790. He had been invited by his brother, who resided in South Carolina, to come there, and set out from his Eastern home with that intention, but having reached this neighborhood he tarried to preside awhile in the hall of science, married, and ever after remained here. When a boy, in the American Revolution, he desired to do something for his country, and went from Connecticut into Rhode Island, where our French allies under Count Rochambeau were. As he was only sixteen years old, he was unable to perform regular military duty, and became a driver of wagons; marched with the army to the banks of the Hudson River, and subsequently to Yorktown, Va., where he was during the siege of that stronghold. He carried ammunition across the fields, when the bullets and cannon balls were whistling in the air above him, but escaped unhurt. He remembered to the close of his life the scene in which the British soldiers surrendered, and petulantly threw down their arms, with a crash, that resounded far around. As operations on land then, for the most part, terminated, he made his way to the North and took a place on board a privateer that cruised on the Atlantic Ocean, but was captured by a British frigate and carried prisoner into New York, which was still in the hands of our enemies. Here he was confined on board a prison ship in the harbor for a time

and suffered great privations. The mother country then claimed the right to impress into her naval service any of her subjects, wherever they could be found. Americans were yet, in her view, her subjects, and Gideon was required to leave the prison-ship, and go as a sailor on a man-of-war, in which he was borne out to sea. After experiencing various adventures and hardships he was abandoned on one of the West India Islands, friendless and without means, but found a way to get back to the United States. In a year or two he entered Dartmouth College, N. H., where he remained about four years, and acquired a good knowledge of the Latin language as well as other branches of a classical education, when he bent his steps southward and found a resting place at Neshaminy. He was a superior teacher, and his sons, Asahel and Azariah, were prepared for Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa., principally by him as their tutor. He understood vocal music also, and frequently had a singing school under his charge, and it is quite likely that the young men and maidens under his lead have often made "the welkin ring" in the old log school house with the strains of "Old Hundred" and "Dundee."

Other teachers in that building were John Emory and Alfred H. Carpenter. The latter is described as being "as jolly a boy as any one, out of school, but very strict in school." He would get a long hickory rod, and stand in a ring of as many boys as could get around him, and any boy might, if he dared venture, "cut and thrust." But while the boys got many smart blows, Carpenter was too quick for them to hit him. He entertained the little fellows amazingly by "yarns," comic songs, etc.

Among the later "masters" in the log building were Doctor Bryan, of Doylestown; Mr. McKean, of Easton, president of a bank, who married a sister of James Porter, governor of the Territory of Michigan, and Azariah Prior, who became an Episcopal clergyman, and resided many years in Pottsville. The last was John McNair, who subsequently established a seminary near Abington, and represented Montgomery County in Congress.

The stone school house in the graveyard was built in 1825, by subscription of the people of the neighborhood. Samuel Long, son of Hugh Long, first taught in it, occupying the place until he went to college at Canonsburg in the spring of 1827. He was an admirable teacher; not satisfied with going through the routine of each day, he desired to have his pupils *understand* the branches of

study they were pursuing. He took pains to encourage them, to explain difficult points, and to make the way clear for the exertion of their own faculties. An elderly man once told me, that when a boy, he himself was one of his scholars, and that he gained more light on arithmetic the first day than he had in several months of previous schooling. Another teacher in the stone building was William Wright, a very peculiar man, but a capital driller in the elements of a common English education. Rev. Mahlon Long, when quite a young man, swayed the rod there from April, 1832, to January 1, 1834. I heard him say once, that before he took charge there, the parents were in the habit of paying three cents for each day's attendance of each child, and that when application was made to him to assume the position, he insisted, as one of the terms of acceptance, upon being paid by the quarter, and not by the day, as more creditable to him and presenting greater incentives to regularity and punctuality on the part of the scholars. Like Cincinnatus, he was taken literally from the plow, for he was in the field when one of the managers of the school came to him to request his services.

Samuel Hart also gave instruction in the stone school house, father of the late George Hart, Esq., and Josiah Hart, of Doylestown. He was an accurate and skillful surveyor, a remarkably neat penman, and for a time Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County.

Miss Caroline Downer, afterwards Mrs. Caroline Whiting, had the children under her eye for a number of years, immediately preceding the adoption of the general State system of education, and even for a time after that period she taught the smaller children, for whom the friends supposed a private school best adapted.

HART'S SCHOOL HOUSE

Previous to 1756, a small school house had stood in Warminster, near the road leading from Johnsville to Newtown, on the property of Daniel Longstreth, in which James Sterling was then teaching. But in that year the people removed that structure, as inadequate and inconvenient, and erected on the same lot a stone building, 18 feet by 36, with a partition running across it dividing it into two rooms, in which it was intended that Latin, Greek and mathematics should be studied, as well as common English

branches. The names of the subscribers to the expense fund that have come down to us, are Joseph Hart, John Dungan, Derrick Kroeson, James Stirling, William Ramsey and James Spencer. In paying subscriptions labor was accepted at the rate of two shillings and sixpence for a good "hand on his own diet," or 33 cents, and for a cart with five horses, 10 shillings, or \$1.33. In 1757 Daniel Longstreth and Grace, his wife, deeded the lot of ground, on which the school house stood, to William Folwell, John Dungan, Anthony Scout and John Vanartsdale, as trustees, and they made a certified declaration of their trust to Joseph Hart, Daniel Longstreth, Giles Craven and Derrick Kroeson, who represented the people of the neighborhood. In 1765 Thomas Handcock was employed to teach for a year with a salary of fifty-five pounds, or \$146.66. Other teachers were Hezekiah Burham, Lemen Banes, Hon. John McNair and Colonel David Marple.

In 1831 the edifice just referred to had been occupied as a fountain of knowledge 75 years, and had become unfit for use. It was accordingly taken down and a new one erected, in size 20 feet by 25, at an expense of \$320.28. It may be interesting to some to hear the names of those who subscribed towards it. They are as follows:

Griffith Miles	Isaac Hobensack	Charles Prior
Robert Ramsey	Lemen Banes	John Sutch
William Spencer	William Vansant	Isaac Craven
Lot Bennett	Joshua Walton	John Rapp
John Hart	Samuel Scott	Samuel Krusen
William Craven	Joseph Carrell	Joseph Longstreth
John Craven	John Bothwell	Joseph K. Campbell
Joseph Warner	Stephen Beans	Harman Yerkes
John Davis	David Marple	John Yerkes
John Hart, of Coxville	John Bready	Archibald McLean
Daniel Longstreth	Thomas Spencer	Jesse Edwards
William M. White	Garrett Krusen	William Biddle
Thomas Warner, Jr.	Robert Jamison	James M. Delany
James Evans	Thomas Craven	Adam McIlhany
Thomas Hart	Elijah W. Beans	Benjamin J. Slack
Lewis F. Hart	Daniel Dungan	Lewis Biddle
David Krusen	Jesse Carrell	James Travis
John Spencer	William Fetter	John Hunter
William Williamson	John Magoffin	E. H. Yerkes

The first teacher employed in the new school house was Elijah

W. Beans. Others who succeeded him were William Maddoc, Isaac W. Spencer, Tyson Lukens, Gilbert Blaker, John A. Thornton, M. D., Miss Ann Eliza Hart, Miss S. Fell, of Buckingham, and Miss Elizabeth Croasdale. The building was abandoned in 1800, when the school house on the Street road, below Johnsville, was built. Besides being used for the education of children, Hart's school house served other valuable purposes. The Warminster Debating Society, a regularly organized literary association, held its sessions many years within its walls, in which political and moral questions were discussed with great interest by prominent men, as General John Davis, Colonel David Marple, Rev. T. B. Montanye, and others.

Rev. Robert B. Belville held in it a large Bible class, composed of adults and children. Among those who habitually attended were Colonel William M. White and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jamison, William Blair and wife, Hugh Mearns, a graduate of Princeton College; Griffith Miles, the Ramseys, Breadys, Harts, and many others. Public worship was often observed in it, conducted by Rev. Messrs. Belville, John Magoffin, James P. Wilson, Henry R. Wilson, Sr., Joseph H. Mathias, of Hilltown, and J. B. Bowen, of Southampton. The youth of the neighborhood were also taught vocal music, singing schools being frequently held there in the long evenings of the winter.

STREET ROAD SCHOOL

Another school house, in which children were taught many years during the first half of this century, stood by the side of the Street road, in Warminster township, on ground which is now included in the farm of Joseph Barnsley, Esq. In it a number of excellent teachers trained the youthful mind, among others Gideon Prior, William Wright, John Griffith, Abel Beans, Elijah Beans, Benjamin Shoemaker, David Moody, John Craven, John Ramsey, Neil McCue, Wetherill and Robert Winder. In 1850, soon after the enactment of the present public school law, the old building, which had been long unused except for Sunday School, was taken down, and another erected a few rods off on the corner of the Norristown road, which is now occupied by one of the township schools.

Isaac Beans, now living in Hartsville at the age of 81 years,

tells the following circumstance about his attendance at the old Street road school. He says: "I went to Gideon Prior, when he was master there, and was sometimes pretty mischievous. I would get out of my seat to where I ought not to be, and Mr. Prior would come along and take me by the hair and lead me back. Mother was cutting my hair one day and I said to her, 'Cut it as short as you can, so Mr. Prior can't get hold of it.' So she cut it very short, and not long after Mr. Prior tried to get his hand fast on it, and not succeeding he gave me a smart cuff about the ears; and I did not make much by the operation."

MR. BELVILLE'S SCHOOL

In the fall of 1818, or the spring of 1819, Rev. Robert B. Belville, then pastor of Neshaminy Church, established a boarding school for boys on his own property, which some of the lads of the neighborhood were also permitted to attend. It originated in the following manner: Mr. Belville had been at much expense in buying a farm and building a house and barn upon it. His salary was only six hundred dollars a year; he was in debt and his increasing family needed a larger income. He had the offer of a call to the pastorate of the Market Square Presbyterian Church, in Harrisburg, and was in doubt whether he ought not to accept it. In consultation with his session upon the subject they advised him to remain with them and teach school. He concluded to accede to their wishes. Loller Academy, at Hatboro, was then destitute of a principal, and when it was known that he desired a situation of the kind he was appointed. He issued circulars, rented his farm and was about to move to Hatboro, when the trustees of Loller Academy passed a resolution prohibiting religious instruction in the school. Mr. Belville went to see Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., senior, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, to confer with him on the matter, and the result was that he decided to decline the position at Hatboro and teach at his own residence. He bought back the lease of his farm, put up a school house, and in six weeks from the time he had the interview with Doctor Wilson, he returned to announce to him that he was ready to open a classical and select school at Hartsville. The doctor handed him the names of eleven pupils,

who were waiting to accompany him to the new institution, and who were to pay \$200 per annum, at that day an unusually large price. He continued to superintend the seminary thus inaugurated until 1828, a period of nine years, when having accumulated sufficient to supplement the income derived from the church, he terminated his labors in this department of effort. During all this time all the pupils he could accommodate came to put themselves under his care and the institution was prosperous and successful. He was assisted by his brother John, who married Miss Elizabeth Long, of Warrington, and was afterwards settled as a Presbyterian minister in Ohio, and died a few years ago in Dayton, in that State; also by Robert Dunlap, subsequently pastor of Presbyterian churches in Danville and Pittsburgh, Pa.; and by James P. Wilson, Jr., now pastor of the South Park Presbyterian Church in Newark, N. J. The latter taught the Greek alphabet to Jacob Belville, D. D., now of Pottsville, on his sixth birthday.

Most of Rev. Robert Belville's pupils were from Philadelphia, the sons of men of business, who devoted themselves to the occupations of their parents. Among them some may be particularly mentioned: Three sons of Dr. J. P. Wilson, Sr.; Matthew, who became a merchant; Samuel, a doctor; and James P., Jr., who became an eminent clergyman, and is still living, having been minister in Newark thirty-three years; Dr. James Booth, who was somewhat distinguished as an analytical chemist; William B. Hart, son of Thomas Hart, a graduate of Princeton College and a man of high standing in Philadelphia; John Duncan, James Postlethwaite and Lemuel Gustine were promising young men, of Natchez, Mississippi, but died in early manhood; Francis Markoe became a leading merchant in New York city; several sons of James Fassett, of Philadelphia; Conrad Boyer and Dyer Gardiner, of New York. There were likewise as pupils: Duvals, Waynes, Birds, a McKean, a Keith and a Buoy. Mr. Belville prepared boys for college or for business, giving instruction in the classical languages and in the higher branches of mathematics. He was a firm disciplinarian and had faith in the truth of Solomon's maxim, "He that spareth the rod, spoileth the child." He punished his son, Jacob, one time rather severely, who, in telling about it soon after to other boys, said: "Father played the fiddle and I danced the tune." He sought to imbue the minds of his pupils with correct moral and religious principles as well as intellectual

culture, and his school was influential in promoting superior education beyond the immediate locality in which he resided.

One of the outgrowths of Mr. Belville's seminary was that of Samuel Long, who opened a private school in a building erected in 1830 by his father, Hugh Long, on his property in Hartsville. He occupied it from the autumn of that year to the spring of 1833, when he removed to the dwelling on Kerr's hill, a mile north of Hartsville, which is now owned by Isaac Weaver. A school room was built on a beautiful site near the mansion, and the institution, patronized by both boarding and day scholars, prospered for about two years and a half. His success was so encouraging that he was making preparations to enlarge his house. With this in view he went into the woods with some men about two miles from home to get ready the necessary timber, when a heavy limb of a tree fell suddenly and fractured his skull, rendering him unconscious and causing his death in a few hours. The loss experienced by the community and by the friends of education in the unexpected decease of this excellent man was greatly felt. It occurred on Saturday, December 5, 1835, and Neshaminy Church, with which he was connected as a member, was filled with a mourning congregation on the next day when Rev. R. B. Belville, the pastor, took occasion appropriately to address them in reference to the sad event.

Shortly after this, or about this time, Mr. Belville, desiring to secure the proper education of his younger children, employed Miss Frost, a young lady from New England, and others to teach a select school on his own premises, at which a few attended from the neighborhood besides his own family. This arrangement continued only two or three years.

In the autumn of 1831 Rev. James P. Wilson, Jr., opened a classical boarding school on the property owned by his father, in Warminster, now in possession of R. Thompson Engart. It was intended for pupils from a distance, in which they might be prepared more particularly for college, and during fifteen years was favored with a high degree of prosperity. Among the tutors who assisted Mr. Wilson were Rev. Mahlon Long, Rev. Horatio Howell, a chaplain in the Union army during the late war, who was killed at Gettysburg by some Confederate soldiers as he was standing on the steps of a church in which he had just been taking care of the sick and wounded of both sides. Another preceptor

was William Sturgeon, a nephew of William Carr, of Doylestown. Among Mr. Wilson's pupils were Rev. John W. Mears, D. D., late professor in Hamilton College; Rev. Dr. Burt, of Cincinnati, and many who became lawyers and physicians.

DARRAH'S SCHOOL

About 1835 Mr. Robert Darrah was impressed with the importance of providing for the instruction of his children, growing up around him, better facilities than the neighborhood afforded. After some consultation with Mr. Joseph Hart and Rev. R. B. Belville, he proposed to be at the expense of erecting, on his property, a school building, furnishing it and supplying it with necessary fuel, if the other two gentlemen would bear their proportionate cost of tuition. The children of no other families than these three were to be admitted without their consent, and the number of pupils limited to twelve. The price of tuition was to be \$5.00 per quarter, and a salary of \$240.00 per year was guaranteed to the teacher, who was to find a home gratuitously at their houses in rotation. This plan was carried into successful operation for a time only. Mr. Belville soon withdrew his cooperation, and after a few years no stipulated compensation was assured to the teachers. They were allowed to develop the income on their own responsibility, though no rent was ever charged by Mr. Darrah for the use of the building, which was at length enlarged one-third above its original dimensions. The school was first designed for small children, but as time went on it lost this characteristic and became an institution of much higher grade. In it Latin, Greek, French, algebra, geometry, mensuration and surveying, history, chemistry and natural philosophy, even such branches as were pursued in the third year of a college course, were successfully taught, and students could be prepared to enter college in advance of the Freshman class. Several of the instructors were graduates of Yale and Princeton. The names of them all were as follows: Miss Howe, of Philadelphia; Miss Margaret Bliss, of Springfield, Mass., from 1836 to 1838; Miss Doane; Miss Lucy Griswold, of Connecticut; Henry A. Boardman, three months in 1840; James A. Darrah, of Hartsville, from September, 1840, to 1842; Mahlon Long, from September, 1842, to 1843; William C. Sturgeon from 1843 to 1845; Charles S. Stone, of Maine,

from 1845 to 1846; Douglas K. Turner, of Hartford, Connecticut, from September, 1846, to April, 1848; Joseph D. Nichols, of Springfield, N. H., from September, 1848, to April, 1849; Miss Emily Darrah, from April, 1849, to July, 1854. The first twelve scholars that attended at the beginning of the school were Anna Bellville, Elizabeth Bellville, Robert C. Bellville, Frances C. Hart, Byron Hart, Eliza M. Hart, Rachel H. Darrah, Eliza M. Darrah, Mary Ann Darrah, Emily Darrah, Hannah Hamer and Martha Carr. Besides these there were about one hundred and twenty other pupils, who attended for longer or shorter periods. Some subsequently entered the learned professions; several filled important civil offices, and almost all occupied places of usefulness and respectability in society. Four died in defense of their country in the late war with the Confederate States; Major Irwin Moody, who was killed in Mississippi; Sergeant Harman Y. Beans and Colonel Samuel Croasdale, in Virginia, and Dr. Byron Hart, a surgeon in the army, who contracted disease in South Carolina, in consequence of which he was compelled to come North, but died the same day he arrived in New York. The seminary on Mr. Darrah's property enjoyed a successful career until about 1855, when it was given up, the public school system having greatly improved, and other institutions of a high rank having been founded in the immediate vicinity.

BEANS' SCHOOL

A log dwelling had long stood on the farm of Mr. John C. Beans, in Warminster, near the York road, which was used for a time, about the year 1835, for school purposes, but was taken down by him and replaced with a new school house. This was occupied by different teachers for a number of years; among them were Miss Anna Craven, now Mrs. Mearns; Elizabeth McNair, sister of Hon. John McNair; George Hart, A. B., a graduate of Yale College; Charles Meredith; Miss Sarah Yerkes, now Mrs. Rev. A. J. Hay; Joseph D. Nichols, A. B., a graduate of Dartmouth College, N. H. Mr. Beans was warmly interested in the education of the young, and established the seminary near his own residence, that his large family might enjoy the advantages of a careful early training. One of his sons was sent to Mrs. Mearns so young that she used to keep him quiet sometimes on her

knee by putting a large silver watch she carried into his mouth for him to grind his incipient teeth on. He grew up in favor of a sound metallic currency and was able to calculate United States money well.

JAMISON'S SCHOOL

In 1835 the Misses Phebe and Maria Jamison, daughters of William Jamison, established a school on their father's property, in Warwick, which was successfully carried on for thirteen years, being closed in 1848, and in 1866 their sister, Miss Emma Jamison, opened a girls' seminary in Hartsville, which continued under her careful and efficient supervision sixteen years, until 1882, when her health required rest.

In the autumn of 1846, Miss Elizabeth Croasdale, daughter of William Croasdale, of Hartsville, opened a school for small children in a building adjoining her father's residence, which she continued to superintend two or three years, when she engaged in teaching in public schools in various townships, especially in Warminster. She possessed remarkable talent in penmanship and drawing, and in the course of time became a pupil in the School of Design for Women, in Philadelphia, then assistant teacher, then principal of that very useful and important institution, which position she held at the time of her death a few months ago. Her services there were highly appreciated by the friends and patrons of art, and the loss occasioned by her decease was deeply felt. She was a sister of Colonel Samuel Croasdale, who fell in the battle of Antietam.

A school house was built on the property of William C. Jamison, in Warwick, at the almshouse road, by himself and Major George Jamison, in 1844, in which the following teachers gave instruction in succeeding years, viz.: James E. Darrah, of Trenton; Charles Ramsey; Joseph Flack, Jr.; Samuel Wilson, seedsmen, of Mechanicsville, Bucks County; and during one winter Joseph Flack, Sr., and George Jamison taught alternately every other week, an arrangement not adapted to operate harmoniously for any length of time. Soon after the inauguration of the present system of public instruction this school house was used by the township for a considerable period and the directors a few years since erected a new building on the same lot, now occupied by the Warwick Center public school.

TENNENT SCHOOL

In 1850 Rev. Mahlon Long, who had been for several years principal of the academy for boys in Harrisburg, Pa., and Prof. Charles Long, who had been professor of the Latin and Greek languages in Delaware College, bought the property adjoining Neshaminy Church, which had belonged for a generation or two to the Wallace family, and erected thereon a large and commodious stone mansion, with a two-story school building adjoining, and established an institution for boarding and day scholars, which they denominated "Tennent School," in memory of Rev. William Tennent, Sr., founder of Log College. It was opened November 6, 1850, and was remarkably prosperous from the beginning. The reputation of the principals as able, accomplished and thorough instructors, brought more pupils than could be accommodated from Philadelphia, the interior of Pennsylvania, and other States. Strict discipline was maintained; the boys were obliged to study, and hence they made rapid progress in knowledge. Most of them studied the classical languages and higher mathematics, and a large number were fitted for admission to our best colleges. Prof. Charles Long died July 15, 1856, much regretted by a large circle of patrons and friends. The cause of liberal education sustained a severe loss in his untimely decease. From that date to June 29, 1870, Rev. Mr. Long conducted the academy himself, aided by different tutors at various times. The assistants were: Frederick U. Worley, Isaiah Bready, William Hutchinson, afterwards tutor in Yale College and a clergyman of high standing; Andrew H. Gamwell, Albert B. Shearer, now a member of the Philadelphia bar; William C. Macy, subsequently professor in Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.; Edward B. Glasgow, now a member of the bar in Massachusetts; Charles L. Crane, William P. Ames, William H. Thompson, and George W. Ely, now pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Pa.

Of the pupils, four became physicians, viz.: Samuel Ashurst, Robert B. Glasgow, William Ramsey and Francis S. Wilson. Twenty-five became lawyers, viz.: Hon. James B. Groom, who finished his academic studies at the "Tennent School," and who was in later years Governor and United States Senator from Maryland; Judge Henry P. Ross, Judge Harman Yerkes, Samuel and Robert Croasdale; Arthur Chapman and Henry C. Mercer,

son and grandson of Hon. Henry Chapman; Thomas Corwin Cheston, stepson of Judge Briggs, of Philadelphia; George Delp, George Morris Dorrance, George Earle, Benjamin Forster, Robert L. Muench and Henry Shellenberger, of Harrisburg; B. F. Gilkeson, Edward B. Glasgow; Albert C. Haseltine, now residing in Paris; John McDowell, Henry McIntire, Austin Harrington, Robert S. Martin, Robert Patterson, now of Pittsburgh; Winfield S. Purviance; George Ross and Albert B. Shearer. Nine became clergymen, viz.: Edward K. Donaldson, Joseph H. Dulles, Allen M. Dulles, George W. Ely, Samuel M. Freeland, William Hutchinson, Jacob B. Krewson, Nathaniel I. Rubincam, and Dr. John S. Stewart, of Towanda, Pa.

These pupils of "Tennent School" have all stood well in their several professions and reflected credit upon their alma mater, and some have attained unusual excellence. Besides them a large number have occupied useful and prominent positions in society and in various avocations. Among them the following may be specified: J. Lowrie Bell, general manager of the freight department of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad; Richard H. Morris, in connection with Morris Dorrence, extensively known in the business of locating lands, settling claims arising from accidents and adjusting titles; he was captain of a company of artillery in the late Civil War, and performed effective service; Joseph Warner Johnson, now one of the celebrated law-book firm of Philadelphia; Joseph C. Bright, president of a railroad running from Reading to Pottsville; Justice Cox, iron manufacturer; Rev. W. A. P. Martin, D. D., president of the Imperial College of Pekin, China, had two sons in Tennent School; he was a remarkable linguist and his sons inherited their father's ability; Col. Jonathan T. Rorer, of Hatboro, was an officer in the war against the Southern Confederacy on the staff of General Sheridan, and was with him in his famous expedition in the Shenandoah Valley, Va.; Henry M. McIntire was also in the war and died from a wound received in battle; he was very promising in talents and character; Caesar Rodney Fisher, of Philadelphia, a noble young man, during the rebellion was riding as an officer, when his head was shot off by a cannon ball; Robert Belville Ely, during the same struggle, was for a time in charge of a gun-boat in the lower Potomac, a very dangerous service, to which he was appointed by Admiral Dahlgren, then in command of the Navy

Yard at Washington. For bravery and efficiency Belville Ely was gradually promoted to a lieutenancy in the regular army and took part in the action in Mobile Bay, when Admiral Farragut lashed himself to the mast of his vessel and ran the gantlet of the torpedoes sunk in the channel. Charles F. Haseltine, an elder in the Second Presbyterian Church, of Philadelphia, is widely known as a collector of fine paintings; Rev. Dr. Boyd, of Winchester, Va., had two sons in the school, and a son of Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, minister to France under President Buchanan, was also here. Louis Bates, of Philadelphia, recently told me that while he was a pupil of Tennent School, in the year 1856, the boys had a debating club, and at one of their sessions this question was discussed: "Which is the greater evil, Intemperance or Slavery?" and that young Faulkner, who was a natural born orator, defended slavery with great vigor and earnestness, and laid down to his associates his views with remarkable eloquence. A son of General Wade, of Savannah, Georgia, was likewise here; these four young men from the South, just spoken of, were on the Confederate side in the civil convulsion. Rev. Mr. Long has remarked in regard to the institution, "Our aim was, from first to last, to have as few arbitrary laws as possible, but to strive to make each 'a law unto himself,' to train and develop the individual, allowing no imitators in anything, as being derogatory to man or boyhood alike. If a boy did some mischief, little notice was taken of it if it was done under strong impulse, but if repeated or imitated it was regarded as an offense; and so most of the mischief, malicious or otherwise, was cut up by the roots. We strove to find a boy's bent and follow it. Until a boy's mind was disciplined, we sought to follow such subjects as he most inclined to, and found that this training to an intense individuality was the surest way to start what was latent in him."

In 1870 the institution was closed, not for want of pupils, but for private reasons, and since that date no school has been held on the property.

ROSELAND SEMINARY

In 1851 Rev. Jacob Belville, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Hartsville, associated with himself Mrs. Harriet McElroy, of Lambertville, N. J., in the establishment of Roseland Female Seminary. At the close of the first year Mrs. McElroy

withdrew and Mr. Belville conducted the institution subsequently as the sole principal. He was assisted at various times by the following teachers: Miss Forman, Miss Strickland, Miss Sophia Chadwick, Miss Hapgood, Miss Hibbard, Miss Riley, Miss Emma Jamison, Miss Anna Belville, Miss Julia McCluskey, Miss Taylor, Miss Pollock, Miss Hinsdale, Miss Rebecca Mitchell, Miss Maria Belville, and Mr. Taylor, of Philadelphia, who gave lessons in vocal music. The seminary continued in successful operation about fourteen years until 1865, when Mr. Belville became pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Holmesburg, near Philadelphia. During this period the buildings, originally erected by Rev. James P. Wilson, Jr., were greatly enlarged and improved to accommodate an increasing number of pupils.

EMLIN INSTITUTION

There is an institution in Warminster which, though not founded by one of the citizens of this neighborhood, ought not to be overlooked. It is the "Emlin Institution for the Benefit of Children of African and Indian Descent."

Samuel Emlin, of Burlington, N. J., who died in 1837, left by will \$20,000 to establish a manual labor school, in which colored and Indian youth might be trained for usefulness and respectability. It was first located in Mercer County, Ohio, where a farm of 192 acres, with some buildings, was purchased in 1843 for \$1000. Improvements were made, but it was found to be too far from the homes of most of the directors, who resided near Philadelphia. Hence, after being there fourteen years, in 1857 it was decided to transfer the school to Pennsylvania. The real estate and personal property were sold for \$6000, and a farm of fifty-five acres bought in Solebury township, Bucks County, for \$5528.75. But the soil proved to be poor and it was determined, after about fifteen years, to remove the school to a more favorable location. The Solebury farm was disposed of for \$6300, and the present property in Warminster, containing ninety-five acres, was purchased in 1873 for \$10,000, the buildings being much better than at either of the former places, and they have since then been enlarged.

There is a fine, well-lighted school room in the second story, a separate dining room for the boys on the first floor, and a number

of sleeping rooms on the third floor. The whole property of the institution is now estimated at about \$36,000. There are usually from fifteen to twenty colored boys in the school, being instructed in ordinary English branches and taught to work on the farm. For several years past the superintendent has been Howard Meredith. Though most of the trustees belong to the denomination of Friends, yet the boys attend with the superintendent the Presbyterian Church and Sabbath School at Hartsville, Rev. G. H. Nimmo, pastor. The institution is doing a good work, and may well be commended to the favorable regard of all who are inspired by sentiments of true philanthropy.

As has been noticed by those who have heard the foregoing remarks, an unusually large number of schools and seminaries have been inaugurated and maintained in this vicinity. The people have always been favorable to education, and the institutions alluded to have produced a most salutary effect upon the community. They have given intelligence, culture and refinement to society, and been the means of preparing many for an honorable, useful and happy life.

"Honor and state from no condition rise;
Act well your part; there all the honor lies."