

DOVER

(Ordered laid out in 1683)

DOVER GREEN, laid out by order of William Penn in 1717 at which time Dover contained about 300 souls. Here old markets and fairs were held; here the Declaration of Independence was read to the assembled towns-people, who burned King George in effigy. Here the first Delaware regiment was mustered in the Revolution.

STATE HOUSE. East side of The Green, oldest State House in the United States still in use. Built in 1722 for the Court House of Kent County. It also housed the Assemblies at Dover until 1775. It became the State House of Delaware in 1777 when Dover was made the capital and was remodelled 1788-91. In this building the Federal Constitution was ratified by the State of Delaware, December 7, 1787. Delaware was the first State to ratify.

COURT HOUSE. South side of the Green, on the site of the old Court House built in 1699. In 1722 converted into the famous Inn, the King George Tavern. On the outbreak of the Revolution this Inn changed its name to the George Tavern. Here, Thomas McKean's mounted messenger delivered to Caesar Rodney the letter recalling him so urgently to the Continental Congress and here, after an hours rest, he took horse and continued his memorable ride to Philadelphia in season to cast his vote for Independence. On the north side of the Green stood the French Battell Tavern, where the Capitol Hotel now stands. Here the Assembly held a banquet in honor of the birth of the Dauphin of France in 1782. On the north west side of the Green stood the Harris Tavern on site of the present Martin House. It was later called Steamboat Hotel.

Where the library wing of the State House now stands was the fine

old mansion built in 1730 and soon after, the home of Samuel Chew. Later Judge Jas. Sykes, a member of the first Congress, resided here. In 1824, John M. Clayton became the owner and resided here until 1842. The house had a famous garden, ruthlessly destroyed after it became the property of the State.

RIDGELY HOUSE. On the northeast side of the Green. The oldest house on the Green and the only one which has preserved its original form. Built in 1728 and since 1760, circa, residence of the Ridgely family. Dr. Charles Ridgely, member of the Colonial Assembly, and of the Convention which framed the Constitution lived here in Revolutionary days and was succeeded by U. S. Senator Henry M. Ridgely. Present occupant is Henry Ridgely, great-grandson of Charles. The office was occupied by the Ridgelys, except for a short period when John M. Clayton resided here, and for 40 years after the death of Henry M. Ridgely, occupied by Chief Justice Comegys.

Northwest Corner of the Green, near Harris Tavern, was the home of John Vining, called the Patrick Henry of Delaware, also of Mary Vining, the Revolutionary beauty. Adjoining the Vining home on the west was the residence of Chancellor William Killen.

West side of Green, north of Bank Lane, three-story brick mansion. First deed 1739. Between 1744-1813, owned successively by John Banning, Caesar Rodney, Dr. James Tilton and the Claytons. Present owner, Mrs. Beniah Watson.

South of Bank Lane, was the home of Richard Bassett, United States Senator, Governor of Delaware, etc. Remodeled for Farmers Bank in 1807, now an office building.

No. 36, The Green, was built in 1791-92 by John Fisher. In 1816 United States District Judge. In 1854 the house was partially reconstructed by Joseph P. Comegys. From 1837 until his death in 1893, the residence of Joseph P. Comegys, U. S. Senator and Chief Justice of Delaware. His daughter, Miss Harriett Comegys, who was Regent of the Mt. Vernon Society resided in this house until her death.

KING STREET, old King's Highway. "Woodburne". Fine old Hilliard House. Built 1790, circa. Reputation for hospitality, ghosts and beautifully carved wood work. Vide "Entailed Hat," G. A. Townsend.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. On Meeting House Square, 1714. Present Church erected in 1791. Interesting tombs in Church yard; Col. John Haslet, and other Revolutionary heroes, and John M. Clayton, Secretary of State of the United States.

CHRIST CHURCH-EPISCOPAL. First Church 1708. Present Church begun on Church Square 1734. Restorations made in 1913-16. Silver Chalice and Paten of 1766. Bible of 1767.

Old tombs in Church yard:

Capt. William Phillips, born 1690, died 1778.
Capt. Thomas Benson, born----, died 1749.
Nicholas Ridgely, born 1694, died 1755.
Thomas Parke, born 1721, died 1766.
Benjamin Vining, born----, died 1785.
Caesar Rodney, born 1728, died 1784.

South State Street and Church Square owned by Mrs. A. H. Culbreth, built by Nicholas Loockerman, for his son Vincent, in 1746. Contains much fine paneling and wood carving. Opposite Loockerman house, small brick building, the residence in Revolutionary days, of King Dougall.

Christ Church Rectory, west side of State Street below Church Lane, now Water Street. Used as dwelling and shop shortly after Revolution. Old Academy, east side of State Street, overlooking fields. During Revolution, the home of John Banning, State Treasurer.

VICINITY OF DOVER.

Church Lane, or Water Street, ends at the gate of Eden Hill Farm, the home place of the Ridgely family. The residence in 1740 of Judge Nicholas Ridgely and Mary Vining, his wife. Birthplace of Dr. Charles Ridgely and the adopted home of Caesar Rodney, Mr. Ridgely's ward. Residence of Nicholas Ridgely, Chancellor of Delaware, until his death in 1830. Present owner, Henry Ridgely.

PLEASANTON ABBEY. North of Silver Lake, on Leipsic Road, first turn to right into Persimmon Tree Lane, a mile further, to rear entrance. Built by Henry Stevens, where he resided during Revolution. An ardent Tory. He concealed British soldiers in his house upon several occasions. Contains handsome paneling.

CHIPPING NORTON, the County seat of Charles Marim, is opposite Pleasanton Abbey.

Charles Marim, son of John, was a lawyer of unusual ability. From 1837 to 1841, he was Delaware's Secretary of State.

CHERBOURG. Three miles east of Dover on Little Creek Road. Deeded to John Marim in 1715. Inherited by his grandson, John Marim, a lieutenant in Col. Patterson's regiment of Dela. troops, Revolutionary War. Home of Cornelius P. Comegys, Lieutenant Colonel in the War of 1812, Governor of Delaware 1837 to 1841. Present owner Harry McDaniel.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE. One mile northwest of Chipping Norton. Brick, with paneled drawing room, pre-Revolutionary. For many years in the ^{feet and} Nicholson families. Present owner James H. Hughes.

Take road from Pleasanton Abbey east to Cowgill's Corner. Ancient brick school house in octagon shape. First road to right Quaker Lane to Friends Meeting House, built 1802. Follow Lane to Little Creek, pass farm house, property of Mifflin family for three generations and old Wilson family seat, with very fine cedar lane. Brick mansion. Quaint fishing village of Little Creek half a mile beyond.

MAPLE WOOD FARM. Close by Dover Water Works; Brick colonial house of quaint pattern, faced with wood. For many generations owned by Cowgill family. Present owner D. Mifflin Wilson.

Four miles beyond Water Works, lies a group of old farms with brick dwellings of colonial days, for more than a century the residence of members of the Society of Friends, notably the Cowgill family; known as CHERRY VALLEY, WILLING BROOK, and the PRICE FARM.

BAY ROAD. Leave Green North of State House; one mile east road turns south. Four miles beyond on right, Holcomb farm, now owned by Mr. Charles Postles of Dover. Old house, built in 1770-80. Elaborate paneling. One mile beyond on left, Wharton farm, once owned by Brinklee family, Colonial mansion.

Three miles further on right, old residence of Samuel Dickinson, main building 45 feet, and with two wings makes a front of about 80 feet. Originally called "Kingston-upon-Hull". Slave burying ground, where 400 are said to be interred. Land was part of Logan tract, containing

one thousand acres and nine or ten brick dwellings, most of which are of generous size and date back to early days. The most notable on the tract is Towne Point, on the St. Jones Creek, with view of Creek and Bay. Here the first Courts in Kent County were held. In 1688 W. Darrell, was in possession and kept a noted public house and a ferry. The house is approached through a mile long lane of maples.

BYEFIELD. Opposite entrance to the Dickinson farm, a road forks to Northeast; bear to left, one mile, to Caesar Rodney House, Byefield, a tract of nine hundred acres, taken up in 1680 and inherited by Caesar Rodney from his grandfather, William. This was the home to which he returned after making his famous ride. Long low building with dominating dormers.