

Delaware Council of Friends  
c/o Wilmington Friends Meeting  
4th and West Streets  
Wilmington, DE 19801

*Gen Ref #*

# *Quaker Meetings in Delaware*

*Quakers believe that out of silence  
comes a healing, creative power. . .  
and that we should walk cheerfully  
over the world, answering that of  
God in every one.*

# Meetings in Delaware



**Alapocas** — Originally started as a "worship group" in 1957, Alapocas became an official Monthly Meeting of Concord Quarter in 1974. The meeting is housed in a newly renovated Meeting Room in the East Wing of Wilmington Friends School. Many nearby Meetings contributed funds and helped furnish the room. One of the most interesting aspects of this meeting is their requirement that members evaluate their interest in membership every few years. Visitors are welcome.

Meeting Time: 9:15 a.m.  
First-Day School: 10:15 a.m.

Directions: 101 School Road, Alapocas, Wilmington, Delaware. From Route 202, turn right onto Augustine Cut-Off, take second right to first intersection.



**Camden** — This red brick Meetinghouse was built in 1805, and today is the site of weekly Meetings for Worship and First Day School. Listed on the Register of Historic Places, the Meetinghouse still has the original desk and plank bottom chairs in their school room. During Dover Days (1st Saturday in May), the Meetinghouse is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. On Sundays, visitors are welcome, and child care is provided.

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.

Directions: Route 13 South, 2.1 miles south of Dover, take right at the Camden intersection. Located at 122 E. Camden/Wyoming Avenue on the left.



**Hockessin** — Hockessin was first organized in the home of William and Catherine Cox in 1730. The present Meetinghouse was built in 1738, and an addition was built in 1745. The meeting's long-standing interest in education is evidenced by the establishment of the area's first school in 1740. Since 1962, Hockessin has sponsored the Hockessin Friends Pre-School in its Meetinghouse. Visitors are always welcome, and child care is provided.

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.  
First-Day School: 10 a.m.

Directions: From Route 41 in Hockessin, go one-half mile east on Hockessin-Yorklyn Road to Old Wilmington Road. Turn left. Meeting is at next intersection (Meetinghouse and Old Wilmington Roads).

**Newark** — One of the most recent meetings in Delaware, Newark Meeting is located in the United Campus Ministry Building on Orchard Road. It has been a member of Western Quarter since 1965. In addition to regular Meetings for Worship, this meeting sponsors a University of Delaware student's group which meets in members' homes. Visitors are welcome.

Meeting Time: 10 a.m.

Directions: From I-95, exit North on South College Avenue in Newark. Proceed north approximately 3½ miles to Amstel Avenue on left. Take first right to Orchard Street to first building on left (20 Orchard Avenue).

**Rehoboth** — Our southern neighbors are a worship group, and meet in each others' homes. The group welcomes all visitors, particularly during the summer months. For more information call 945-2152, or the Delaware Council of Friends (652-4491).



**Appoquinimink** — Built in 1785 by David Wilson, this Meetinghouse is said to be the smallest brick house of worship in the United States and is reputed to have been a station for the Underground Railway during the Civil War. Restored under the care of Wilmington Meeting in the 1930's and '40's the Meetinghouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Meeting for Worship is held on the first Sunday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

Meeting Time: 11 a.m. First Sunday of each month.

Directions: Route 13 South to Odessa, one block west of traffic light on left.



**Centre** — Originally established in 1795, Centre Meeting has undergone many periods of activity and dormancy. Revived in the mid 1950's by John Hollingsworth, the Meeting is now open each Sunday. The original character of the meeting has been preserved while an addition with a modern kitchen and restrooms has provided more comfort. The annual Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship is a favorite activity of the Meeting and the surrounding community. Visitors are welcome.

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.

Directions: Near Centreville, one mile east of of Route 52, on Centre Meeting Road at the intersection of Adams Dam Road.



**Millcreek** — Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this Meetinghouse was built in 1841. Weekly Meetings for Worship were held here until 1915, and later reinstated in 1954. Millcreek is a member of Western Quarter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Visitors are welcome.

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.

Directions: One mile north of Corner Ketch, Del., on Doe-Run Road.



**Wilmington** — Wilmington Meeting is now in its "new" Meetinghouse, built in 1816. In the 1700's Wilmington Meeting and its members played a crucial part in the beginnings of the city. Today, the Meeting continues to take an active part in the city community. Wilmington Friends School was housed here until 1937 when it moved to Alapocas. The largest Meeting in Delaware, Wilmington has over 400 members. Visitors are welcome, and child care is provided.

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.  
First-Day School: 10:15 a.m.

Directions: I-95 South to 4th Street exit, left on 4th toward downtown, past six intersections to the top of "Quaker Hill," at 4th and West Streets.

---

## *Friends Believe . . .*

We believe God is present in every person and peace is preferable to war. We gather in silent worship to wait upon the Spirit of God. Sometimes It moves us to speak, sometimes It moves us in other ways.

We have no formal creed, no ritual, dogma or liturgy. We gather in silence, seeking God's guidance. Quakers work for peace, as they always have, because they believe it is the only way to live. Many people have been drawn to the Society of Friends because of its dual commitment to spiritual awareness and social activism.

If you, too, believe there is that of God in every person. . . If you sense that the world needs a better way to work out answers to its problems. . . If you find the need for a faith in this turbulent world which will enable you to live better in it. . .

Perhaps the approach of Friends could be helpful and meaningful to you. Please accept this invitation to join us for worship any Sunday.

---

## *For More Information . . .*

If you would like more information on Quakerism, please call the Delaware Council of Friends at 652-4491.

For more information about a specific Meeting, call the Meeting contact number or the Delaware Council of Friends. Someone will be glad to help you.

### **Contact Numbers:**

Alapocas	478-6796
Appoquinimink	378-2963
Camden	284-4745
Centre	994-8224
Hockessin	239-2223 or 655-1170
Millcreek	274-8856
Newark	834-9237
Rehoboth	945-2152
Wilmington	652-4491

Lucretia Mott, who in 1848 co-authored a women's declaration of independence; but before her, and since, are many other Quaker women who have assumed roles as pioneering citizens.

Along with their care for good government, education, and relief of human suffering, modern Friends affirm racial equality and the rights of minorities. Closely connected to all these goals is their vision of the world as a peaceable kingdom in which all persons respond to "that of God" within themselves and within their neighbors. Friends believe that war is wrong and so they have refused to fight; but their peace testimony is a positive one that seeks to replace hate with love, to remove the causes of violence, and to minister to both sides of a conflict. Since 1917 the American Friends Service Committee, with its national headquarters in Philadelphia, has been engaged in this work of healing and reconstruction.

Today, three centuries after William Penn, the Religious Society of Friends is a quietly effective part of the Philadelphia scene. Quaker meetinghouses, with their simple, distinctive architecture, as well as Quaker schools and other institutions are found throughout the city and its suburbs. At 15th and Cherry Streets a statue of Mary Dyer, Quaker martyr for religious liberty, marks the entrance to the administrative offices of the Friends Center. At 4th and Arch Streets, one block from Independence Hall, the historic Arch Street Meetinghouse serves as an active conference center. Most modern Friends are

Mary Dyer statue at Friends Center.



known for their lives of simplicity and integrity, for a kindly reaching out to others, for constructive participation in local and world affairs. Some Friends are on the cutting edge of society, carrying their religious convictions into causes that work for radical social change. The actions of both groups spring from the same spiritual grounding.

**T**he Religious Society of Friends has no creed. The experience of Friends has convinced them that through the Inward Light in the heart of every human being God will speak and be known. No one is left without a divine "seed"; everyone is open to God's love and guidance.



A Friends meeting for worship may take place anywhere, on the basis of silent, expectant waiting for direct communion with God. There is no prescribed ritual or order of service; no one is in charge yet everyone is an important part of the common search. As worshippers listen for the still, small voice they are drawn together into increased awareness of a surrounding Presence. From time to time messages or prayers may be expressed by persons who feel moved to share their feelings and insights. No two meetings for worship are ever exactly alike; each one is a unique experience of faith.

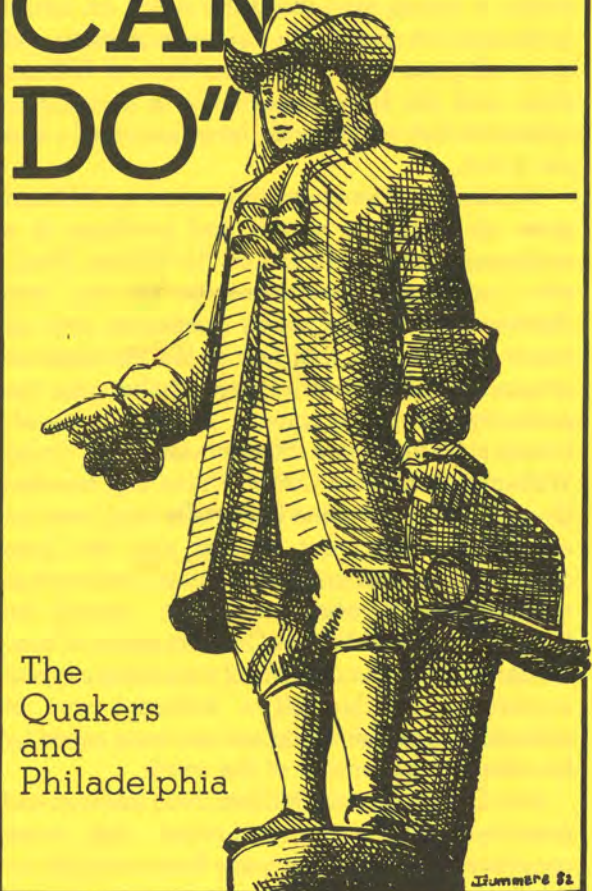
The door of a Friends meetinghouse is always open to spiritual seekers. You are welcome to enter for worship and fellowship.

**For more information about Friends:  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends  
1515 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

Cover quote from William Penn's *Some Fruits of Solitude*.  
Text by Emily Conlon.

267

**"LET US  
THEN TRY  
WHAT  
LOVE  
CAN  
DO"**



**P**hiladelphia and Quakers and William Penn are inseparable.

The founder of Pennsylvania and its capital city stands on his lookout atop City Hall watching over a "Holy Experiment" that he fashioned out of the ideals of his faith—the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Originating in the political and religious unrest of seventeenth-century England, Friends were described as "quaking before God" and so received the nickname that still identifies them today. Along with their famous leader they were indeed the founding fathers—and mothers—of this city and state, bringing with them on their perilous journey a weighty cargo of spiritual gifts.

Artists have tended to portray William Penn as stout and stodgy and middle-aged, ignoring the fact that he was an imaginative child, a rebellious youth, a young-man-about-the-court, an astute politician, but above all a statesman of vision and deep religious conviction. The story of William Penn and his Holy Experiment is a romantic adventure that could hardly have happened—and yet it did.

William Penn was born in London in 1644 and grew up amid the wealth and privilege of a nobleman's family. His father, Sir William Penn, who had high expectations for his son, was distressed to see the young gentleman give up honor and fame to join one of the troublesome groups of dissenters who were challenging the authority of the state church. The son, however, looked at his life from a different viewpoint. Young William had attended Oxford University, traveled through Europe, studied law briefly, and tried out a military career; but he had also had long conversations with spiritual mentors, and even as a child he had recognized within himself the Inward Light of which the Quakers spoke to him. He dared to risk the dangers of nonconformity and envisioned for himself a different sort of adventure, one that would not require a sword by his side—an adventure of the spirit.

As a Quaker convert William Penn traveled and preached and wrote pamphlets that were considered heretical; inevitably these struggles for

religious liberty led him to Newgate Prison and the infamous Tower of London—not once but a number of times. Still his courtly connections, notably his friendship with the monarch Charles II and his brother James, the Duke of York, saved him from the worst of the persecutions. While Quakers by the thousands were suffering in English jails, William Penn continued to nurture the dream that had taken hold in his mind, the dream of a Quaker colony in the New World where men and women might live peaceably in a climate of religious and civil liberty.

Little groups of Quakers had come to the American colonies as early as 1656, but it was not until part of New Jersey was bought by Quakers that they began to come in sizeable numbers; and it was the young Quaker William Penn who helped to write the "Concessions and Agreements" by which West New Jersey was to be governed.

So the dream was beginning to take shape, and after another decade of persecution in England it came true. In payment of a debt owed to the late Admiral Penn (was it also to get rid of the troublemaking Quakers?) Charles II signed over to William Penn perhaps the most glorious gift ever granted to one person: the forests, mountains, rivers, and fertile land of the vast area that the king named Penn's Woods.



Unlike most of the Europeans who explored and divided up the new continent, William Penn recognized the claims of the original inhabitants of his province, the American Indians. "I desire to enjoy it with your consent," he wrote to them, "that we may always live together as neighbors and friends." And so they did. In Pennsylvania the settlers and the Indians lived in friendship while

all around them there were wars and massacres. Friends dealt justly with the Indians, going among them without weapons and treating them with respect. "Force may subdue, but love gains," was the way William Penn expressed it.

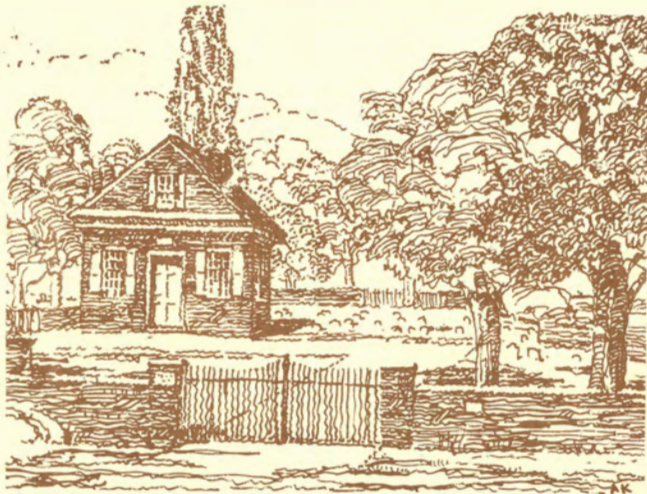
**I**t was a daring experiment, this colony dedicated to religious liberty, to equality, to peace. William Penn the lawmaker drew up a Frame of Government that later influenced other state constitutions and the Constitution of the United States. William Penn the city planner mapped out a "greene countrie towne" where life would be wholesome and pleasant for all. William Penn the social reformer worked for good education for everyone, for humane treatment of prisoners and the mentally disturbed. William Penn the peacemaker looked beyond his relations with the Indians and conceived a plan for a league of nations that was centuries ahead of its time. "Peace is maintained by justice," he believed.

Contrary to popular belief, it was during this time of peace—and not during a later time of war—that the Liberty Bell had its origin. In 1751, fifty years after William Penn gave to Pennsylvania its amended constitution, the Charter of Privileges, the colonial legislature ordered the Liberty Bell to be cast; and the liberty that its inscription proclaims "throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof" is the liberty of conscience to which William Penn devoted his life.

**T**he gifts that William Penn and the Quakers brought to Pennsylvania have been woven into the fabric of state and national life. Concern for the Indians has continued, with Friends trying to persuade the government to rely on friendship and justice instead of force and repression. In 1688 Friends in Germantown published the first protest against slavery, an evil that occupied the attention of the Society of Friends for the next two centuries. Quaker women, accorded rights of participation and leadership in their own religious community, fought valiantly for the rights of other women. Philadelphians honor the lifelong efforts of

# A STORY OF THE ODESSA QUAKERS

*A pamphlet assembled and  
prepared by  
John S. Walker of  
Wilmington, Delaware*



*The Susan Alston Stickney Memorial Gateway  
with the Odessa Friends Meeting House and Grounds.*

*Odessa, Delaware*

*1967*

**M**emories being short and Quaker journals not so long as formerly, perhaps this pamphlet will help convey to posterity several good things which have happened in recent years at the Odessa Friends Meeting.

In June, 1967, work was completed on enclosure of the final portion of the Meeting House grounds with an attractive brick wall and a wrought iron memorial gate designed by Albert Kruse, architect and member of Wilmington Monthly Meeting. These additions represent the generous gift of Park W. Stickney of Evanston, Illinois, in loving memory of his wife, Susan Alston Bowes Stickney, who died in 1965 and is buried in the Meeting House cemetery.

Mrs. Stickney was born at the home of her grandparents in Odessa and visited there frequently as a young girl. She was raised in Philadelphia where her parents lived.

Mrs. Stickney's mother, Susan Corbit Alston Bowes, died in 1937 and is likewise buried at the Quaker Meeting burial grounds in Odessa. In her memory, Mrs. Stickney presented the brick wall that for a number of years has graced the front section of the grounds bordering on the state highway. It was Mrs. Elizabeth S. Shallcross, mother of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Roberts, who worked with Mrs. Stickney on this project.



*The John Alston homestead, near Odessa, Delaware*



*A section of the Odessa Friends Burial Grounds*

The Quaker Meeting House at Odessa has had a long history which is typical of the history of similar Quaker Meeting Houses in the area of northern Delaware. It has had its ups and downs for more than a century and a half, and it still retains its charm and plain Quaker use as a place for worship.

Mrs. Stickney was the daughter of Susan Corbit Alston Bowes (1859-1937) who had married Dr. T.J.M. Bowes, and who was descended from Lydia Cowgill (1823-1899) who married John Alston (1791-1871). Lydia Cowgill Alston was descended from Mary Ann Corbit (1785-1828) who married John Cowgill (1773-1849). Mary Ann Corbit Cowgill was a descendant of Daniel Corbit, an early settler of this area.

It is said that the John Alston home "Oakdale" in St. Georges Hundred, where Mrs. Stickney visited her grandmother as a young girl, is that now occupied by the Russell Cleaver family. It is situated on the Odessa-Middletown Road and appears much the same as it did when Mrs. Stickney visited there as a child.

A number of years ago, members of the Corbit family set aside a piece of ground adjacent to and east of the Friends Meeting House grounds and designated it as the Corbit Family Burial Grounds. This property has been used as such for many



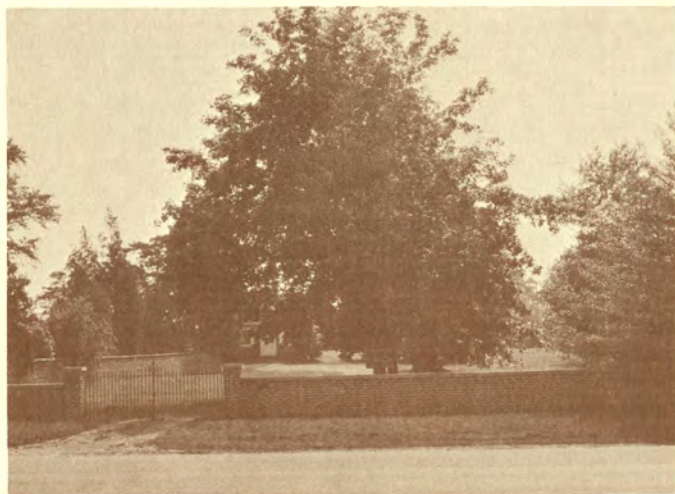
years. The grounds are partially enclosed by a wall and fence and remain beautifully landscaped.

On March 19, 1923, Mary Corbit Warner died and by her Will she requested that she be buried in the "Friends Burial Grounds in Odessa." Presumably she meant the Corbit Family Burial Grounds, adjacent to the Odessa Friends Meeting House. Also, Mary Corbit Warner by her Will bequeathed a sum in trust which she designated was to be used for care of the family burial grounds.

Subsequently, these funds, with the appropriate approval of the Delaware Court, were turned over to a Delaware Corporation organized in 1950 and known as the "Corbit Graveyard Association."

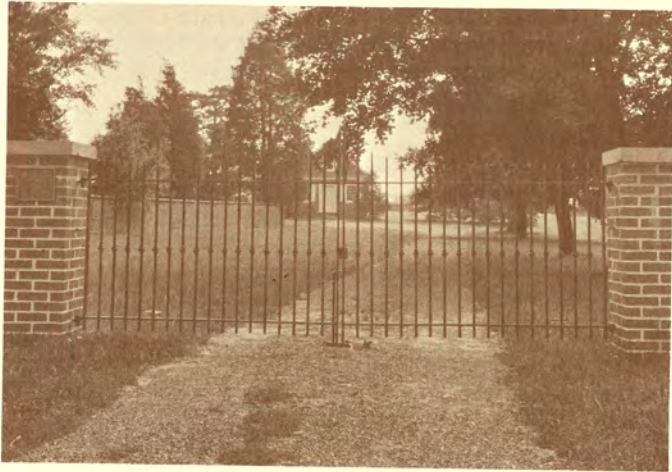
This was an organization composed solely of living direct descendants of William Corbit, most of whom wanted to some day be buried at the Corbit Family Burial Grounds. The original directors of this corporation were the following: Mary Curtis Crowe, Louise Lea Nowland, Ann Corbit Reese, Anna Gibson Corbit (wife of John Cowgill Corbit, a direct descendant of William Corbit) and Dorothy Curtis Purinton.

These same persons, members of the Corbit Graveyard Association, having personally made substantial additions to



*Odessa Friends Meeting House Grounds*

the Mary Corbit Warner funds for the purpose of assuring perpetual care and maintenance of the grounds, decided to convey legal title to the grounds to Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends, Inc., and to transfer to the Wilmington Meeting all of the accumulated trust funds, with the understanding that the income from these funds would be used solely for the preservation of the grounds and the Meeting House in perpetuity. This seems assured by the new arrangement finalized on May 14, 1964.



*The Susan Alston Stickney Memorial Gateway  
at Odessa Friends Meeting House*

It is recorded that a number of Friends lived and worshiped in the vicinity of St. Georges Hundred and Cantwell's Bridge (now Odessa) from about the year 1703. The records show that this Meeting was variously known as George's Creek Meeting (1703), Duck Creek Meeting, and finally Appoquinimink Meeting. The first name of the village was Appoquinimin, which was given to it by the Indians who had a village there. The Dutch who settled there in about 1640 adopted that name and the English continued the use of the name after they seized it. A toll bridge was built over the creek in 1731 by Richard Cantwell, and the name of the village was changed to Cantwell's Bridge in 1750.

In 1765, William Corbit purchased a large tract of land and the village received its first significant and major impetus for industry and progress. In 1855, the name was changed to Odessa,

presumably after the large Russian grain port on the Black Sea, now that this Delaware town had become a grain port.

In 1800, the land for a Meeting House was given by David Wilson, who had previously erected a Meeting House on these same grounds in 1785. This was the site of what is now the Odessa Friends Meeting House, which stands in Odessa on the state road leading from Odessa to Middletown.

This grant was by a deed dated September 2, 1800, to John Heron, Joab Alston, Pennel Corbit and Thomas Starr "in trust for the Society of Friends (or the people called Quakers)" . . . "The said lot whereon stands a Brick Meeting House". . . "Containing one hundred and forty-three perches of land." This deed was recorded December 30, 1801.

In 1827, there was a division among Friends, and the members of the Odessa Meeting aligned themselves with the Hicksite branch (being the followers of Elias Hicks, a so-called liberal in the Friends Society). Quaker history indicates that rural Quakers generally aligned with the Hicksite group and the urban Quakers remained apart as the Orthodox Friends. It is said that the division caused great displeasure and the Meeting interest slackened after that cleavage. Finally the Meeting activity in Odessa was discontinued in the late part of the nineteenth century. It is reported that John Alston (1791-1871) and his family were the last attenders during that period. On many occasions, John Alston was the sole attender. Reports of the status of the Meeting during the later part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth indicate that the Meeting House and grounds had been all but abandoned, the grounds grown up and the House dilapidated.

Through the inspired management of James A. Finley and with the financial support of Mrs. Ann Rosetta Evans and H. Rodney Sharp, the Meeting House and grounds were rescued from their sad state in 1938. The grounds were cleaned up and the Meeting House was repaired and preserved and again used occasionally for Quaker Meetings by a group of interested Friends then living in the area.

At the insistence of Margaret M. Crook, this group re-organized in 1946. Elizabeth S. and Harry B. Roberts, helped by Harry Hoch, Esquire, Middletown attorney, found the original deed to the Meeting House grounds as recorded in the County records, after an extended search. It was thought that the land, having been so long abandoned, had escheated to the State of Delaware; therefore, members of the Friends community consisting of Percival R. Roberts, Elizabeth S. Shall-

cross, Frances Finley, Elizabeth S. Roberts, Harry B. Roberts, Jr., James S. Roberts, Leonard W. Finley, John Cowgill Alston, Patricia F. Spindler, Margaret M. Crook, George R. Rhoads, Ruth P. Rhoads, Meta Shallcross, James T. Shallcross, Mary Roberts, Charles Roberts and Percival R. Roberts, Jr., incorporated and appealed to the State of Delaware for a Deed returning to the Meeting any rights which the State might have acquired. In this legal procedure they were guided by Thomas Cooch, Esquire, a member of Wilmington Meeting and, at that time, a Wilmington attorney.

This new group became affiliated with the Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends as Appoquinimink Preparative Meeting and the Wilmington Meeting has assumed the legal title for the property and the responsibility for it.

There is a deed signed by Harris B. McDowell, Jr., Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, dated January 18, 1951, to Society of Friends (or People called Quakers) of Appoquinimink, a religious corporation of the State of Delaware, quit-



*Odessa Friends Meeting House, erected 1785*

claiming to the said corporation the grounds consisting of approximately 0.88 acres.

As for the small Meeting House structure which still stands, viewed from within the white walls, the plain unpainted wood-work, the modest supply of short Quaker Meeting benches, some as the Facing Benches, give the Meeting House a Quaker quaintness which is quite unique. An interesting feature is the narrow open stairway leading to the attic, which legend says was a station for the underground railway in pre-Civil War days.



*Interior View of Meeting House at Odessa*

The small burial grounds, to the south and west of the Meeting House, indicate numerous graves and the family names of many local Quakers appear on the simple gravestones, including those of the Alstons and the Bowes.

With the present excellent stand of old trees and plantings which are now cared for regularly, the grounds of the Meeting House and the adjacent Corbit Graveyard are indeed charming to view. Their continued maintenance is assured through the generosity of the members of the Corbit family.

THE FRIENDS IN ODESSA

In 1703, the Friends of Georges Creek applied to Kennet Monthly Meeting for the establishment of a meeting in their midst. At first they met in homes, then in the Hickory Grove Meeting House.

At early as 1762 efforts were made to move the Meeting to a more convenient locality. This group was joined to the Monthly Meeting of Duck Creek. In 1780 by consent of the Quarterly Meeting, it was moved to Appoquinimink, now Odessa.

"On September 2, 1800, David Wilson (By his Indenture recorded December 30, 1802 in the Recorder's Office of New Castle County in Deed Record X, Volume 2, page 31), granted and conveyed unto John Hiron, Joan Alston, Pennel Corbitt and Thomas Starr and to their heirs and assigns, or the survivor of them, and the heir and assigns or such survivor, forever, in trust, for the Society of Friends, or the people called Quakers of Appoquinimink, meeting for the special and only purpose of a religious meeting, for said people, or such other purpose, as the Monthly Meeting of said people, of which Appoquinimink shall be a branch."

In 1828, when the division in the Quakers group took place, Appoquinimink Meeting fell into the hands of the Hicksites.

In 1830, Duck Creek Monthly Meeting and Mother Kiln joined and became known as Camden Monthly Meeting. Thus Appoquinimink was joined to Camden Monthly Meeting.

In 1879, the Meeting was closed as there were only two members attending, Mr. John Alston and his son, Cowgill.

In 1939, the Meeting was reopened for worship. In the meantime, the property had escheated to the State. In order to regain the property, fifteen interested Friends had to sign a petition to the State. In 1948, Wilmington Monthly Meeting took title to the property and Appoquinimink Meeting became a preparative Meeting under Wilmington.

The first school in Appoquinimink was established by the Friends. A frame building was erected on the proposed site for the Meeting House. This school house was later moved away and used for the rectory of the colored church.

A legend has been handed down that the Meeting House served as an underground station for slaves during the Civil War. They were said to have been concealed in the loft.

The small square, brick building with pitched roof, pent eaves, and white shutters, on which the boards run diagonally, is supposed to be the smallest house of worship in the United States.



## History of Odessa Town Council

In 1817 there were around thirty residences on the south side of Main Street. All the land extending northward from Main Street was owned by a Scotchman named Osborn. When he died, he left no will and the land returned to the state. Under an act passed Feb. 2, 1821, John Merritt, Outten Davis, Jacob Vandergriff, John Reynolds and John Clark were appointed commissioners to lay out the land into lots, with streets and lanes. Thus the first Town Council was born.

In 1855, the name of the village was changed to Odessa, after a large shipping port on the Black Sea in Russia. In 1873 Odessa was incorporated as a town, endowed with corporate privileges. With the exception of the first year, the town commissioners were elected for two year terms.

No. 5 - St. Paul's United Methodist Church (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

### No.6-The Old Academy - 1843 (10:00am to 4:00pm)

This is the third school house built on this site. The first building was a frame structure which burned in 1843. A more permanent brick structure, built the same year, continued to function as the area school through the nineteenth century. In 1886, the school had 118 students and two teachers. It was endowed with the Corbit Library in mid-century - the oldest free public library in New Castle County, which was open three hours a week. H. Rodney Sharp purchased The Old Academy, restored it, and in 1947 gave it to the people of Odessa as a Community Center. It currently houses the offices of the Mayor & Council of Odessa and Delaware Wild Lands, Inc., who have jointly performed the very pleasing restoration of building and grounds. The town offices are open during the day's tour.

### No. 7- The Cottage (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The east side of this five bay, center chimney frame house was built in the *log and frame* manner which was used until the late 1700's. All four *Dining Room* and upper chamber walls are constructed of squared cedar logs. One exterior wall still remains covered with tongue-and-groove siding. A section of this wall is exposed in the *Keeping Room*. The exposed *log and frame* reveal the unmistakable marks of a roof running perpendicular to the house. It is thought that this may have been the roof to the original kitchen. The west side of the house appears to have either been brought to the site from another location and added to the original structure, or added to the original structure at the same time that the exterior was renovated, *circa* 1840. The exterior was done in the *Rural Gothic Cottage* style espoused by A. J. Downing. Features of this 1840 exterior renovation include the third floor *Gothic* window, the porch, the German siding, and the intricate verge board. The interior of the house contains much of the original woodwork, including the *Dining Room* mantel, floors, doors, glass and hardware and the original fireplaces.

The furnishings consist of many 18th and 19th century antiques as well as reproductions. Of particular note: in the *Parlor* - the 18th century walnut low-boy and the Philadelphia pie-crust tilt-top table with its fine bird-cage construction; in the *Vestibule* - the 18th century *Sheraton* table; and in the *Keeping Room* - an unusual 19th century Chester County double dry sink and a small chest. Throughout the house, nearly all of the art work, which includes oils, watercolors, lithographs and prints is of regional interest or painted by regional artists.

The Cottage is the current residence of William Allen and Margaret Chandler Derrickson Allen.

Correction: House # 7, "The Cottage" will be open from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

# Request For Safe Conduct Pass

To: The Committee of Correspondence  
Town of Odessa  
Mrs. G. W. Miller, Jr.  
High Street  
Odessa, Delaware 19730

Sirs:

Please be advised that the undersigned is in sympathy with those who aspire for the continued Independence and Liberty of these United States and is desirous of attending the showing of the films depicting the glorious ride of Caesar Rodney and partaking of the collation with fellow patriots.

The undersigned therefore respectfully requests \_\_\_\_\_ Safe Conduct Pass(es) to the showing

at 7:30 P.M.

at 8:30 P.M.

I enclose my cheque, directing my bankers to pay Mrs. G. W. Miller, Jr. of the Committee of Correspondence the sum of Four Dollars per pass in lawful currency of the United States (\$ \_\_\_\_\_).

Your Obedient Servant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Please Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

P.S.--Please enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope for your Safe Conduct Passes, 342




# Confidential Notice to All Delaware Patriots

The Committee of Correspondence, of the Town of Odessa begs to inform all Delaware Gentlemen and their Ladies that there will be the First Showing of the filme "Thunder & Rain" depicting the historic ride of Caesar Rodney to cast the deciding Delaware vote for the Independence of these United States of America at Old St. Paul's Church, Odessa, on Thursday, the twentieth day of November, 1975, at 7:30 P.M. and 8:30 P.M. Those requesting a Safe Conduct Pass admitting them to the proceedings are requested to respond promptly and privately by the attached response form.

A light collation will be served at the Corbit-Sharp House. Caesar Rodney and others in the filme will be present if their publique duties do not preclude their attendance.

Those attending are advised to bring a lantern to supplement the torch lights and are also advised to bring a mug or a tankard to drink a health to these United States and to the confusion of their enemies.

A contribution of four dollars in current moneys of these United States is requested (Note: no British shillings or Spanish doubloons will be accepted). Those gentlemen attired in the Uniform of the Forces serving in the Continental Army under His Excellency, General George Washington, and ladies appropriately attired will have the fee remitted at the door in bearer notes payable by the Committee of Correspondence, of the Town of Odessa, on July 4, 2076.



The Committee of Correspondence  
Town of Odessa, Delaware

First Showing 7:30 P.M.  
Second Showing 8:30 P.M.

Confidential and Secret  
General Orders And Schedule of Movements  
For The Evening of Thursday, November 20, 1975  
In and About The Town of Odessa

- 7:00 P.M. Military Music suitable to the occasion at the Odessa Community Center
- 7:15 P.M. Old St. Paul's Church open to those having a Safe Conduct Pass for the 7:30 Showing
- 7:30 P.M. First Showing of Thunder and Rain at Old St. Paul's Church
- 7:45 P.M. Service of Collation at the Old Hotel including toasts to the well being of these United States, etc. (continuous until closing. *PP*)

Presentation of Caesar Rodney and other dignitaries appearing in "Thunder and Rain" as well as stills of said film at the David Wilson Mansion (continuous)

Tours by Candlelight of the Corbit-Sharp House (continuous)

The Madrigal Singers will perform at intervals at the Corbit-Sharp House

- 8:00 P.M. Military Music at the Odessa Community Center
- 8:20 P.M. First Grand March from Old St. Paul's Church behind the band to the Corbit-Sharp and Wilson Mansions
- 8:30 P.M. Second Showing of Thunder and Rain at Old St. Paul's Church for those having a Safe Conduct Pass for 8:30 Showing
- 9:20 P.M. Second Grand March from Old St. Paul's Church to the Corbit-Sharp and Wilson Mansions
- 10:00 P.M. Secure the Town - Post Sentries for the Night Lights Out - Sound Taps

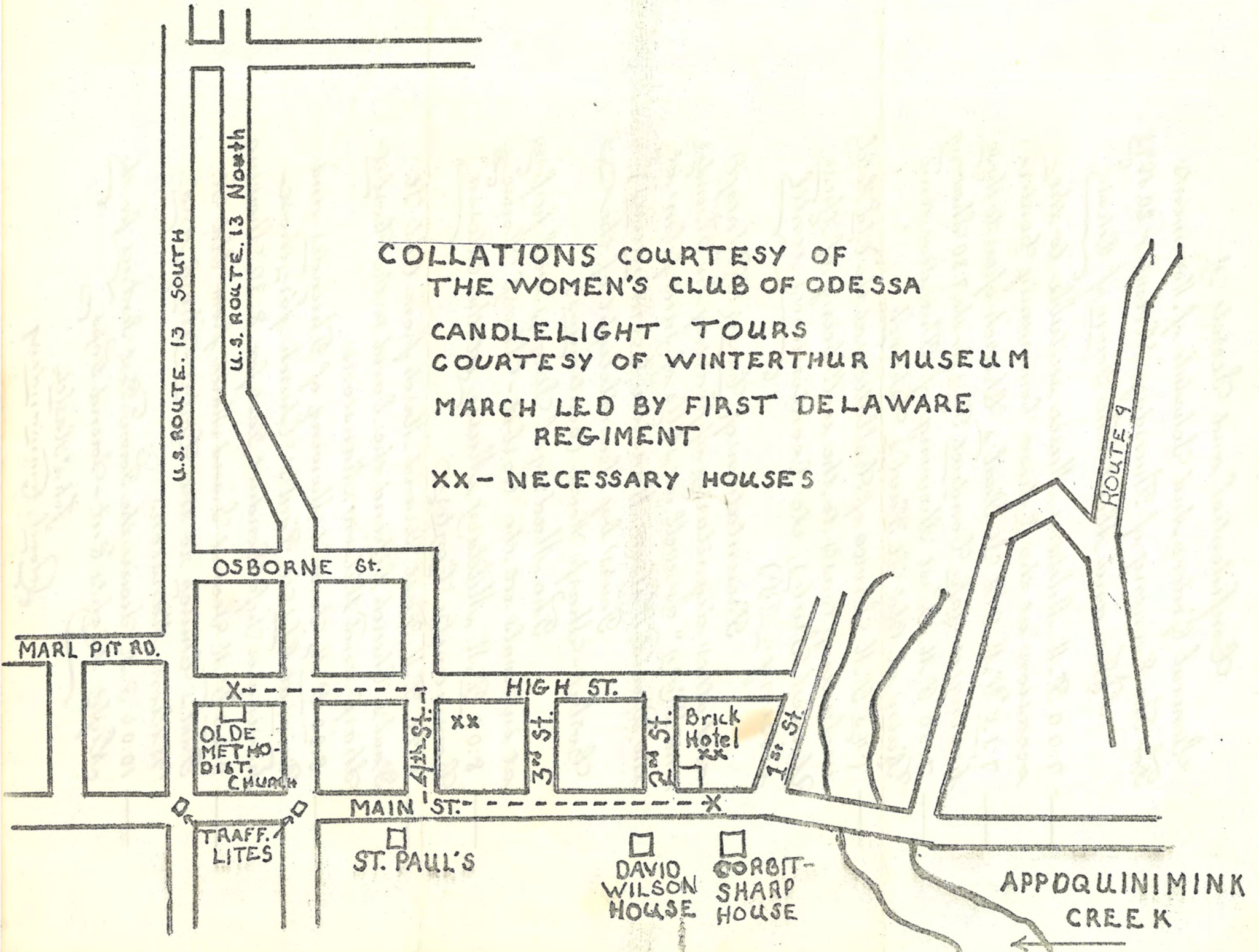
John Haslet  
Colonel, Commanding

COLLATIONS COURTESY OF  
THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA

CANDLELIGHT TOURS  
COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM

MARCH LED BY FIRST DELAWARE  
REGIMENT

XX - NECESSARY HOUSES



# CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA, DELAWARE SUNDAY DEC. 7, 1975

CONTRIBUTION  
\$4.00

TOUR HOURS  
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

STUDENTS  
\$2.00

TICKETS FOR SALE IN THE ODESSA FIRE HALL

A TOUR OF PRIVATE HOMES AND MUSEUMS, DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON, SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA

YOU ARE INVITED TO START YOUR DAY AT SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, FOR SPECIAL 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

BUS SERVICE PROVIDED FROM PARKING AREA (ON SOUTHBOUND RT. 13, NORTH OF ODESSA) TO AND THROUGH THE TOUR AREA.

## THE CHRISTMAS SHOP

CRAFTS AND GIFTS, FRESH CUT GREENS

LOCATED IN THE ODESSA FIRE HALL

SHOP HOURS 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

LUNCHEON AND SNACKS BY THE LADIES  
AUXILIARY, ODESSA FIRE COMPANY

TICKET INFORMATION: MRS. E. C. FORD, ODESSA, DEL. 19730

TOUR INFORMATION: MRS. HORACE L. HOTCHKISS, BOX 175,  
ODESSA, DEL. 19730



Historic Houses of Odessa are located just off Route 13, East on Main Street, 23 miles south of Wilmington and 26 miles north of Dover, Delaware.

#### **Hours and Tour Dates**

Buildings and Giftshop open March through December  
Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Mondays, Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving,  
December 24 and 25, January, February

#### **Admission**

Adults: \$3 for each property, \$5 for two, \$6 for all three  
Senior citizens, students 12 and over, groups of 25  
persons or more: \$2.25 for each property, \$4 for two,  
\$5 for all three

Children under 12, Wintertthur Guild members: free

#### **Information**

Site Administrator, Historic Houses of Odessa, Main  
Street, Odessa, DE 19730 (302) 378-2681

Historic Houses of Odessa, Delaware, is administered by  
Wintertthur Museum and Gardens

**DELAWARE**  
SMALL WONDER

Prices subject to change  
Copyright 10/86

## HISTORIC HOUSES OF

# *Odessa*

*More than a century ago, villages such as Odessa, Delaware, were a vital part of American commercial life. In the 18th century, Odessa, then known as Cantwell's Bridge, was an active grain-shipping port. Today, you can stroll down its quiet, tree-lined streets. Admire fine examples of 18th and 19th-century architecture. Tour the historic Corbit-Sharp House, its handsome neighbor, the Wilson-Warner House, and the Brick Hotel Gallery.*



Brick Hotel Gallery



Corbit-Sharp House

- **Corbit-Sharp House**

*In 1774, Odessa's leading citizen, tanner William Corbit, completed his fine country house in the Georgian style. His descendants maintained it for 150 years until a new owner, H. Rodney Sharp, restored and donated it to Winterthur Museum and Gardens. Today, the house contains many Corbit family furnishings and reflects life from 1774 to 1818, the year of William Corbit's death.*



Wilson-Warner House

- **Wilson-Warner House**

*Merchant David Wilson built his fine brick home in 1769, alongside his new store on Odessa's main thoroughfare. Its L-shaped architectural plan is typical of Delaware. Given to Winterthur Museum and Gardens by David Wilson Mansion, Inc., today it is furnished to portray life in the early 19th century.*

- **Brick Hotel Gallery**

*Newspaper advertisements of 1822 described William Polk's "new brick house" which served as a hotel and tavern for nearly a century before becoming a residence. Today within the restored 19th-century exterior is modern gallery space for permanent and changing exhibitions.*

## THE MANNEY COLLECTION OF

# *Belter Furniture*

*The largest private collection of furniture made by John Henry Belter and on extended loan from the Richard and Gloria Manney Foundation will open to the public in the Brick Hotel Gallery in late April 1987. The display of nearly 70 pieces attributed to Belter illustrates the best American furniture craftsmanship in the mid-19th century.*

*The New York manufacturer was a leader in the furniture industry. His work consisted primarily of technologically innovative parlor and bedroom furniture and is distinguished from that of his contemporaries by its accomplished carvings of fruits and flowers, often in rosewood.*



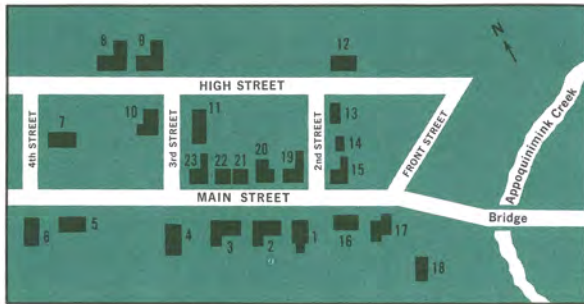
Rosewood chair attributed to Belter

## The John Janvier Stable

The stable built in 1791 by John Janvier, Sr., a cabinetmaker who worked at Head of Elk (now Elkton, Maryland) and Odessa, stands behind the Brick Hotel across the street from the Corbit-Sharp House and the Wilson-Warner House. Of unusual architectural interest because of its wood-and-brick construction, the building formerly was on the grounds of St. Paul's Methodist Church parsonage on Main Street, once Janvier's home, and was given by the Church to The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum. The stable was moved to its present site in 1969.

As was the custom in earlier days, the local cabinetmaker, who produced coffins, was also the town undertaker. John Janvier, Jr., served in this capacity, and it is known that the stable once housed a two-wheel horse-drawn hearse.

The Brick Hotel, as yet not fully restored, was built in 1822, and was given to the Winterthur Museum in 1966 by H. Rodney Sharp.



### HISTORIC HOUSES IN ODESSA, DELAWARE

1. Corbit-Sharp House, 1772-1774; administered by the Winterthur Museum
2. Wilson-Warner House, 1769; administered by the Winterthur Museum
3. John Corbit House, remodeled second half of nineteenth century; rear portion eighteenth century.
4. Maily House, front modern, rear portion ca. 1770
5. Judge Lore House, ca. 1830; log side wing, ca. 1740
6. John Janvier House, 1775
7. Community Center, originally Odessa Public School, 1844; reconstructed, 1893
8. Cyrus Polk House, ca. 1852
9. William T. Polk House, 1846
10. Tatman House, 1845
11. Enos House, 1845
12. The Corbit Library and J. C. Calloway Memorial, 1968
13. Collins-Johnson House, ca. 1700; moved from shore of Delaware Bay near Taylor's Bridge, 1962
14. John Janvier Stable, 1791; administered by the Winterthur Museum
15. Brick Hotel, 1822
16. Pump House, ca. 1772; once a store
17. Clapboard house of log construction, ca. 1740; once a store
18. January House, ca. 1780
19. Bank of Delaware; originally New Castle County National Bank of Odessa, 1853
20. Crouch House, 1854
21. Davis Store, ca. 1824; remodeled ca. 1870
22. Residence attached to store, ca. 1830
23. Van Dyke House, 1840



OPEN: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays, 2-5 p.m.; except New Year's Day, February 22, May 30, July 4, Thanksgiving, December 24, and Christmas. (Closed Mondays)

ADMISSION: Single admission to either the Corbit-Sharp House or the Wilson-Warner House, adults \$1.25, children under 16, 50 cents. Combined admission to both houses, adults \$2.00, children under 16, 75 cents.

Special arrangements for school and college tours, and for groups of 25 or more adults may be made by writing to the Curator, The Corbit-Sharp House, Odessa, Delaware 19730.

Telephone: 302 378-2681

## Historic ODESSA Delaware on the APPOQUINIMINK CREEK



### The Corbit-Sharp House The Wilson-Warner House The John Janvier Stable

Three buildings administered by  
The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum

## Historic Odessa

Odessa, on the banks of the meandering Appoquinimink Creek, is a quiet Delaware town which today retains much of its nineteenth-century atmosphere. Along its wide tree-bordered Main Street are houses of architectural distinction built by men whose enterprise helped to make their community the economic center of a busy agricultural area. Here are also the homes of the craftsmen and other workers whose industry was important to the town's prosperity.

Known originally as Appoquinimink, the town was renamed Cantwell's Bridge in 1731 in honor of Richard Cantwell, who that year was given authority by the General Court to build a toll bridge over the Creek. Farmers from the countryside nearby brought their produce to the granaries and docks of Cantwell's Bridge to be shipped by shallow down the Appoquinimink to the Delaware River, and from there to coastal and foreign ports. By 1825 there were six large granaries along the Creek, which shipped thousands of bushels of grain annually. By the middle of the nineteenth century the town had become an important grain-shipping port and in 1855, aspiring to the fame of the Russian seaport which exported Ukrainian wheat all over the world, changed its name to Odessa.

When the railroad came to the Delmarva Peninsula, a route through Middletown, four miles west of Odessa, was chosen, and farmers started sending their products to market in this new way. At the same time the Middle West was emerging as the country's major grain-producing area. With less business for the shallops on the Appoquinimink and the granaries on the Creek's banks, Odessa began to decline as a commercial center.

Today Odessa is a community of well-restored and carefully tended eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses, with neat lawns and gardens. Many of these were preserved by the late H. Rodney Sharp, of Wilmington, and are now privately occupied, but their handsome exteriors may be enjoyed on a walk through the town. (See map.) The two eighteenth-century houses open to the public are the Corbit-Sharp House and the Wilson-Warner House.



### The Corbit-Sharp House

The house which William Corbit (1745-1818) built between 1772 and 1774 is distinguished for its architecture and handsomely appointed interiors. This family home, which changed in appearance over the years, was owned by Corbit's descendants until 1938 when H. Rodney Sharp acquired it, restored it carefully, and furnished it with antiques of quality and style. In 1958 Mr. Sharp endowed the house and presented it to The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum to be open to the public.

The Corbit-Sharp House stands near the banks of the Appoquinimink Creek and above the site of the tannery William Corbit operated. On this slight rise, at the age of twenty-seven, he started to build a home which resembled in many ways the elegant pre-Revolutionary houses of the Philadelphia area.

William Corbit was a practical man and kept meticulous records of "Expenses in Building my House . . ." These records were invaluable in the restoration of the building; and the inventory listing Corbit's possessions at the time of his death in 1818 served as a guide to its furnishings. Important pieces by local craftsmen now in the House are a chest of drawers made by John Janvier, Jr., whose house still stands in Odessa, and two tall clocks by Duncan Beard, eighteenth-century clockmaker and silversmith.

Today a spacious lawn in front of the Corbit-Sharp House sweeps down past the former tannery site to the marshes that border the Creek. Next to the house is an herb garden laid out in formal geometric patterns and heart shapes, edged with small evergreens. Two great sycamore trees, planted two hundred years ago, rise above the flowering shrubs and other plantings on the lawn.



### The Wilson-Warner House

The Wilson-Warner House (formerly the David Wilson Mansion) is of the same architectural quality and is as graciously furnished as is the Corbit-Sharp House next to which it stands. The main section was built in 1769 as an addition to an earlier house probably built around 1740. Occupied by Wilson's descendants until 1830, when it was sold out of the family, the house was acquired in 1901 by his great-granddaughter Mrs. Mary Corbit Warner. At her death in 1923 the property was willed to heirs, who, at Mrs. Warner's direction, administered the house as a museum until giving it to The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in 1969.

David Wilson (1743-1820) was a prosperous merchant whose store was just east of his home and next to that of William Corbit, brother of Wilson's second wife, Mary Corbit. The store no longer stands, but archaeological excavations have revealed its site.

The interior of the Wilson-Warner House contains fine paneling, and the rooms are furnished with antiques, some family pieces of the Wilsons and Corbits, but mostly eighteenth-century furniture bequeathed by Dr. and Mrs. J. Newbury Reynolds, of Princeton, New Jersey. Included is a labeled desk by William Savery, of Philadelphia, as well as pieces by skilled Delaware Valley craftsmen.

Attached to the exterior of the kitchen fireplace is a smokehouse, which provided an enclosed area where the smoke from the cooking fireplace could be used to preserve meats hung from the rafters.

Delaware's first public library, the Corbit Library, was located in the Wilson-Warner House until 1968 when its holdings were transferred to the J. C. Calloway Memorial which opened that year.



HISTORY  
*of*  
ODESSA  
DELAWARE



# HISTORY *of* ODESSA

*Address of*  
CHIEF JUSTICE LORE  
at the  
Methodist Episcopal Church

*November 18, 1901*

## HISTORY OF ODESSA



AT St. Paul's M. E. Church, Odessa, yesterday, services incident to the re-opening of the church were concluded with all day services. In the evening the principal speaker was Chief Justice Charles B. Lore of this city, who spoke on the history of Odessa and the history of the church. The building was crowded and a large number of the old friends of the Chief Justice lingered after the service in order to express their pleasure at seeing him in his old home again. In his address the Chief Justice said:

"On this, the historical night of your services, we naturally drift into reminiscences.

"First as to our town; once the nameless hamlet, then Cantwell's Bridge and now Odessa.

"Alexander De Hirjossa, (Vice-Director of New Amstel—now New Castle—under the Dutch from 1659 to 1663), after he retired from the office, obtained possession of a large tract of land at Appoquinimink, which embraces Odessa. He was settled on his plantation but a few months when the British conquered the Dutch and took possession. His lands were confiscated and granted to Edmund Cantwell about 1676. Captain Edmund Cantwell was the first sheriff of New Castle county under the govern-

ment of William Penn. He was also high sheriff under Sir Edmund Andross in 1676. He died in 1698 and his estate passed to his son Richard. In 1731 the General Court of the province granted permission to Richard Cantwell to erect a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink at the place where the present bridge now stands. The place then took the name of Cantwell's Bridge and was well known as a stopping place for persons travelling from the Delaware to the Chesapeake.

"In 1765 William Corbit bought land near the creek and opened a tan-yard at the old tan-yard site. The house now occupied by Daniel W. Corbit was erected by William Corbit in 1733. This house was built by the English firm Robert May & Co.

"In 1817 when Charles Tatman (whom many of you knew) came to this town, there were about thirty residences, all of which were situate on the south or west side of Main street. Dr. William Smith, a Scotch physician, owned all the land on the north or east side of Main street. He left the place making no disposition of his property, which thereupon escheated the estate. By an act of the Legislature, passed February 2, 1821, John Merritt, Outten David, Jacob Vandegrift, John Reynolds and John Clark were appointed commissioners to lay out the land into lots with streets and lanes. Jonas C. Fairlamb was the surveyor. John Lowber, the public escheater, sold the lots at public sale.

"Scharff in his history of Delaware, from which I quote quite largely, says: 'In 1825 Cantwell's Bridge

was a place of considerable importance.' (In this presence I dare not say otherwise now). Charles Tatman and Manlove Hayes were merchants at that time. The hotel was conducted by Fred. Mansfield, David Wilson and William Polk were dealing largely in grain. At this time Cantwell's Bridge was the principal grain market for the surrounding country. Grain was conveyed here for shipment, from all points within a radius of twelve or fifteen miles. Six large graneries, holding about 30,000 bushels, standing on the bank of the Appoquinimink, were often completely filled; which delayed the purchase of grain until some of it was shipped to Philadelphia. From 1820 to 1840 there were shipped from this town 400,000 bushels of grain annually.

"John Janvier (the grandfather of our present deputy clerk of the peace, George Janvier) was the undertaker at this time and owned a two-wheeled hearse, which was used when anyone of wealth or high social standing was buried. On other occasions an ordinary wagon was used. The coffin was placed on the axle and held in position by wooden screws. This was in use until 1840. John Aspril (the father of our friend Leonard V. Aspril) was the blacksmith and wheelwright of the town, and the tanning was managed by Daniel Corbit, who was the father of your townsmen, John C. Corbit and Daniel W. Corbit.

"As early as 1830 agricultural fairs were held at Cantwell's Bridge and were largely attended by people from Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

“During the busy season, six sloops made weekly trips to Philadelphia, and three coasting schooners went to Boston and the East, besides a large number of transient vessels.

“In 1855, by vote of the people in town meeting, the name of the town was changed from Cantwell’s Bridge to Odessa. It was named after Odessa in Russia, a large grain port on the Black sea. The Delaware railroad soon diverted the grain trade, and Odessa by the irony of fate ceased to be much of a grain mart. I was an active participant in that town meeting, and opposed most vehemently any change of name; but urging if change should be made the name should be Kirkwood, after the gallant Delaware captain of revolutionary fame, who after the close of the revolutionary war established himself in mercantile business in this town in a house standing to the east of the old tavern just on the brow of the hill. In 1785 he removed to St. Georges. He was killed November 4, 1791, at the St. Clair massacre in Ohio, in this his thirty-third and last battle. Lieutenant Michael McDonough, a native of this hundred, was also killed in the same battle.

“To me the name of Cantwell’s Bridge was dear. Her homes, her people, even her cats and dogs were all mingled with the association of my childhood and my heart then rebelled against the Russian name, Odessa. But ambition prevailed, our grain merchants fondly dreamed we were to rival our great namesake on the Black sea, and become a great grain mart. I knew every crook and crevice, street and alley of Cantwell’s

Bridge. I have always felt a great pride in her good name and prosperity.

“Here in the old stone house, just opposite the warerooms of L. V. Aspril & Sons, was born Commodore Thomas Brown of the United States Navy. He entered the navy as a midshipman; was at the seize of Tripoli and was there wounded. He commanded the Governor Tompkins and afterwards the Oneda under Commodore Chauncy on Lake Ontario during the war of 1812-14, and was afterward in command of the United States fleet in the Mediterranean. He wore his uniform for the last time as a pall-bearer at the funeral of Commodore McDonough in 1825. Commodore McDonough and he were both natives of this hundred and were born within two miles of each other.

“To me it has ever been a matter of regret that the name Kirkwood was not adopted in honor of our distinguished townsman, who was one of the bravest and most esteemed of Delaware’s revolutionary soldiers. With the Delaware veterans he was in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, the disastrous field of Camden under General Gates, also at Gilford Court House, at Waxhaw and at Ninety-six. The historian says of him that he was ‘wherever dangers thicken or bravery invincible was demanded.’

“The people of Odessa have ever been noted for their intelligence and morality. The Quakers erected their meeting house here in 1783, Old Drawyer

Presbyterian Church, with her long line of gifted preachers, was a potential factor in enlightening and refining the people of the entire section.

“Methodist services were first held in the town in 1831. There were then but two Methodists living in the town, Wessell Aldrich and his sister, Mrs. Rebecca Pogue, and they were both members of Union Church on Smyrna circuit.

“In 1830, at a meeting held at Fieldsborough, among the converts were Benjamin Fields, Nelson Naudain, Elias Naudain, Thomas Scott (brother of Bishop Levi Scott) and James V. Moore. By their efforts Methodist churches were established in Cantwell’s Bridge in 1831; first in the school house for two years, then in a little stone church built on the site of the present church, which was torn down when the present structure was built in 1852, and dedicated on October 23 of that year.

“The membership, growth and influence of this church is to-night the special province of my friend Aspril, who is the living exposition of Odessa Methodism, and I will not trespass on his preserve.

“There is one name, however, closely identified with Methodism in this place that abides with me and claims our special attention. That name is Levi Scott.

“He was born in a one-story house built of poplar logs, situate on the banks of the Appoquinimink, a short distance below Cantwell’s Bridge, October 11, 1802. His father, the Rev. Thomas Scott, was of



Scotch-Irish stock and his mother of English blood. Her father was John March, who owned a beautiful farm near Centreville, Md. The bishop had one brother of the whole blood, Thomas Scott. Their father was a farmer of limited means and a zealous and efficient local preacher. In 1802 he was received on trial in the Philadelphia Annual Conference, and on the eleventh day of June of the same year, died at the home of James Bateman in Centreville, Md., of bilious fever, whilst out on circuit work. This left their mother to battle alone in life with three small children and the farm heavily cumbered with debt. She was a woman of great strength of character. After much doubt and misgiving she concluded to remain on the farm and so managed that the farm was soon cleared of debt.

“Levi was full of life. Ardent, gifted and somewhat intractable he needed the guiding hand of just such a mother. It is said just before the father died he took Levi, then a babe, in his arms, and said to his wife: ‘My dear, I will exchange with you; you may have Thomas and this shall be my boy.’

“He then most solemnly and impressively dedicated him to God, and invoked his richest blessings upon him. The prattling infant could know nothing of the significance of this dedication, but the boy nevertheless became one of the most efficient workers for good. The mother took the children to church regularly on Sunday, and saw to their moral training. The bishop in a short memoir says of his mother: ‘Every night before we retired to rest and on Sabbath

morning and night, a hymn or part of a hymn was sung, my mother leading it, after which she prayed. There was another getting ready for bed, and that was saying our Lord's prayer. She took us regularly to meeting at the old Union Meeting House on Sabbath morning, and required us to read portions of the Bible to her in the afternoon and evening. How familiar the sound of her voice on Sabbath morning: "Come boys, put the horse to the carriage and let's go to meeting."

"Levi worked diligently on the farm until he was seventeen, going to the district school in the winter. There was a good shad fishery on the creek, 300 yards back of the house. Levi helped draw the net and was a fisherman like those of the disciples of Christ at Galilee. At seventeen he went to Georgetown, D. C., to learn the trade of carpenter with a relative, W. Fuest. But under the advice of a physician gave it up and came home in the fall of the same year. He then went with John Janvier of Cantwell's Bridge to learn cabinet making, and remained with him until 1824, when he and his half brother, John Lattomus, set up wheelwrighting at Fieldsborough. The next year he gave up the business to his brother and became tutor for the children of A. S. Naudain and other select families in the neighborhood, where he remained until the following year, when he became an itinerant preacher. His first appointment was Talbot Circuit, Md. And then in order, Dover Circuit, Del.; St. Georges Charge, Philadelphia; West Chester and Marshallton, Smyrna Circuit; then Kent

Circuit, Md. In 1834 he was appointed presiding elder of the Delaware District, and was reappointed in 1835. In 1836 he was sent to Franklin Street Newark, N. J., then to Ebenezer Church, Philadelphia. In 1836 he was elected a delegate to the General Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1839 he was appointed to St. Paul's, Philadelphia, in 1840, at the earnest request of Dr. Derbin, then president of Dickinson College, he took charge of the grammar school of the college and remained there four years. The same year he was a delegate to the General Conference, which met at Baltimore. He returned to the pastorate in 1843, and was stationed at Union Church, Philadelphia. While here he was elected to the memorable General Conference of 1844, at which the slavery question split the church into two great bodies—the M. E. Church and the M. E. Church South. He was presiding elder of the South Philadelphia District from 1845 to 1849. In 1846 Delaware College conferred upon him the degree of D. D. He was a delegate to the General Conference in 1848, which met in Baltimore, where he was elected assistant book agent to George Lane of the great Methodist book concern in New York. The imprint of Lane & Scott is found upon all the Methodist publications of that day. In 1852 at the General Conference held in Boston he was elected bishop, the highest office in the church, and when he died, July 13, 1882, at his home (Itinerants Lodge) in the eightieth year of his age, he was our honored senior bishop.

"I have thus outlined a life of almost unexampled activity and usefulness, running through eighty years from the unlettered country school boy, who says of himself that at the age of 20 years he did not know the meaning of the words 'English grammar,' up to the honored senior bishop of our church.

"For fifty-seven years he was in the ministry in the work of saving human souls. Four times presiding elder, four times delegate to the General Conference, four years principal of Dickinson College Grammar School, four years assistant book agent, and thirty years as bishop, fill up the measure of an extraordinary life. In every one of these offices he met the full measure of usefulness and expectation.

"It will be interesting as well as profitable to consider some of the traits that enabled this Appoquinimink plow boy to become the head and front of this great religious denomination.

"Bishop Scott was converted October 16, 1822, at a Methodist meeting held at the house of a respected colored man named Carter at Fieldsborough. The bishop writes of his conversion as follows: 'I can never forget that night. I was just five days past 20 years of age. All nature seemed to sympathize in the wondrous joy.' As a boy he was full of spirit and ambitious, a little wild at times, and gave his mother much concern. Genial, masterful, impulsive and an admirable performer upon the violin, he soon became the center of the social circle. No social gathering or jollification in the neighborhood was

complete without Levi Scott. He loved his violin and clung to it until his conversion. He then, in deference to public sentiment, exchanged it for a German flute. There was a winsome gentleness, a considerate deference for others in his manner that early made him a favorite. Boys instinctively render homage to a pure disinterested nature. They love a manly boy and hate a mean one. His constitution was delicate, and several times during his long life ran down and compelled him to take spells of rest from his intense labor.

“One masterful trait of his character was conscientious thoroughness. His work was always well done, whatever it might be. He slighted nothing. Again, he was thoroughly sincere and disliked sham. The key of his success unquestionably was incessant work.

“While learning cabinet-making with John Janvier, he would keep his book open before him and read every leisure moment. At Dickinson College while teaching others he spent all his leisure time in higher studies and in broad mental culture. In the book rooms it was his judgment that determined what was fit for publication. As presiding elder and bishop his judgment of men was clear and generally correct. He was particularly noted for broad grasp of constitutional and fundamental questions in church polity. His sermons were most effective. He was a man of faith and prayer, with a gentle melodious voice, solemn and dignified manner, he presented his subjects with great power. The Rev. John S. Inskip,

who was converted under his preaching, says of him: 'We, however, knew and appreciated him most as a preacher. He was the most incisive preacher we ever heard. Such preaching is seldom heard in these days. We knew, admired and loved him in all the responsible positions he occupied in the church, but it was as a preacher and pastor we knew and appreciated him most.'

"He spent much time on his knees in private prayer. A minister stopping with him on one occasion, early in the morning, heard the voice of the bishop in the next room apparently in earnest conversation with some one; upon going to the bishop's room, he found him on his knees in prayer. The friend says it seemed as if God was in the room, and the bishop was holding a low voice conversation with him; that he was talking with a present Savior. From the noise some people make in prayer one would think God was afar off. The kneeling posture seemed to be a favorite one with him. Sometimes for recreation he would take a gunning trip. Frederick Corner of Accomac county, Virginia, whom the bishop was visiting on one occasion, says he and the bishop at times went gunning together. Once he was badly beaten by his preacher friend in shooting squirrels. He attributed the bishop's success to the fact that he always knelt before firing.

"The Rev. Andrew Manship in his book "Thirteen Years in the Itineracy," has this to say of Bishop Scott and this church:

“A modern M. E. church was consecrated on October of this year (1852) to the worship of Almighty God at Cantwell's Bridge, now Odessa, New Castle county, Delaware. Bishop Scott preached in the morning to a delighted audience. This is the native place of Bishop Scott and no minister could be more universally esteemed than he in that region of country. At night it was my privilege to preach in the new temple. I do not wish to speak to the disparagement of other churches in Delaware, but I am compelled to say, this in my opinion is unsurpassed for neatness, substantiability, suitability and beauty. One of the most interesting things about it is its freedom from debt. I well remember a fact with which I was that day made acquainted. The builder complained that he had lost money by the transaction. Be it spoken, however, to his credit, he did not slight the job and his work will praise him. The trustees and congregation were both generously disposed, and as there was a sufficiency of funds subscribed and given in the morning to cover the claim, at night there were a few hundred dollars subscribed as a donation to the builder. This looked to me highly honorable and Christian like, and the impression made upon me that day both in regard to the minister, the Rev. Joseph Aspril and his flock was that they delighted to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with their God. Bishop Scott was at that time on the eve of sailing for Africa. He nobly on that day made a subscription, saying: "If I live to return from Africa I will pay it," unexpectedly, however, to him, before we left that town, by the kindness of some of his

numerous friends, this matter was adjusted and duly paid.'

"Among the earliest labors of Bishop Scott after his election as bishop, was his official visit to Liberia. He sailed from Baltimore in the bark Shirley, Captain Chosen, November 29, 1852, and anchored in Monrovia Roadstead, January 6, 1853, after a voyage of thirty-seven days. His experience, labors and life while in Africa, are artlessly told by him in a diary kept by him at the time, which is well worth reading.

"In all fields, no bishop of the Church worked more faithfully or acceptably than he. He commanded the confidence and love of all. At his funeral Bishop Simpson characterized his life by saying: 'He had wide views and a loving heart; he was a wise, careful and judicious overseer of God's Church.'

"By hard study he overcame the lack of early education. He became a good Greek and Latin scholar and linguist, and was broadly educated by hard study and contact with men.

"His home for the last twenty years of his life was the old homestead on Appoquinimink creek, to which he had given the name of 'Itinerants' Lodge.' Here he spent the last days of his life in much affliction. In 1879 he lost his dearly beloved wife. In May, 1880 he was stricken with paralysis and his powers began to wane. He felt the end was nigh.

"He loved this home of his birth and childhood, the old log house in which he was born, was converted into a workhouse and granary, when the new dwelling



was built, and it is now in a state of perfect preservation. In 1880 Dr. E. H. Stokes of Ocean Grove, N. J., and Dr. Matlack visited the bishop. While there, they entered what had been in its day a first-class log-house, the logs, which were yellow poplar, instead of being rough-hewed, had been neatly sawed and some of them were fifteen inches through. I suppose, said the bishop, they are one hundred years old, and as he struck his cane against them, remarked, I think they are good for a hundred years to come. 'There,' said the bishop, as we stood in the front room, 'is the place where seventy-eight years and one month ago, I first saw the light; and there in the same spot several years ago, my mother died.'

"This house is now the property of his son-in-law, our friend, George L. Townsend. It should be religiously preserved as one of Delaware's historic buildings.

"The farm consisted of about 130 acres of excellent land. The bishop knew every rood of that land and every turn and shady nook in the creek. For him the old trees had records and legends.

"Boy and man, he belonged to the people of that community. For miles around his home, 'Itinerants' Lodge.' He walked among his neighbors with unaffected modesty; all loved him. In all his business relations he so conducted himself that after his death, the sentiment of the people was voiced by one of his humblest neighbors, who was not a member of the church, in these words: 'Bishop Scott was a square man.' Well would it be if professing

Christians lived so that it might be said of each when he died, 'He was a square man.'

"The bishop was a liberal contributor to this Church. In his last years until prevented by infirmity, he was quite regular in attendance upon its services. He occupied a chair placed for him within the chancel, and no one could have been a more attentive listener or a more devout worshipper. His prayer after sermon was often thrilling in its pathos and power, and the solemn and impressive benediction with which the venerable man dismissed the congregation, seemed sometimes to be descending from the skies. As he feebly tottered down the aisle there were numbers who tarried and clasped hands with him and received his affectionate greeting. He assisted in the administration of the Lord's Supper, until he dared no longer trust himself to bear the emblems to the communicants; but even after that time, on several occasions, he sat wearily and dismissed the tables, while the lingering people were bathed in tears. He has gone out of the community and away from the church, revered, beloved, lamented.

"Of the seven children born to him only two survive. The Rev. Alfred Scott of Wilmington, and Cornelia, the wife of George L. Townsend of Odessa. To them and to his gifted grandchildren, as well as to this community, he has left a priceless heritage, a spotless name and a life of singular purity and power.

"I regard Levi Scott as one of the greatest men this peninsula has produced, measuring him by all the rules of elemental manhood."

# FOLKLIFE NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE FOLKLIFE PROJECT

Vol. II, No. 4

WINTER 1985

## Christmas in Odessa

DEC 23 1985

by Bob Beck

Odessa has had a long, interesting history, going back to the Dutch and the Swedes in the 17th century; but few traces of these settlers remain.

History shows us that by the early 18th century there was a scattering of buildings along the south side of Main Street. Some of these buildings, such as the Starr-Lore house, the John Ennis house, and the old Moore house, are constructed partially with plank and logs.

The Appoquinimink Creek was navigable for about seven miles from the Delaware River, and steamboats ascended as far as Odessa. Formerly known as Cantwells Bridge, Odessa had become the shipping center for a large and productive farming country. By the 1770s, the building of the Wilson and Corbit houses indicated that the town had real commercial importance.

In 1882 the north side of Main Street, which had been open land, was laid out in lots; and the Brick Hotel was the first of many buildings to be constructed on that side of town. However, when the fertility of the soil on nearby farms became exhausted, it slowed down most of the commercial activity and building until about 1835, when commercial fertilizer and the planting of peach orchards began to revive the area.

This revival again brought about the building of many fine wooden houses in the late Federal style on Main and High Streets, which attested to the return of more prosperous times.

Building continued in the town until the "yellows," or blight, delivered a devastating blow to the peach orchards of the area. The peach industry never recovered, and by the early 1900s Odessa was no longer a port of much importance. Construction of new buildings not only ceased, but many of the fine buildings also were allowed to deteriorate to an almost unbelievable state over the years.

---

SUCH TOWNS AS NEW CASTLE AND ODESSA HAVE SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER SMALL TOWNS WITH EQUALLY INTERESTING HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS.

---

In 1938 Rodney Sharp restored the Corbit house and purchased and restored several old buildings around it. This move excited the imaginations of many of the Odessa folks, and restoration work started all over the village, continuing until its present state. A section of Odessa was placed on the National Register, and local authorities zoned the whole town Historic. It also has several buildings operated as museums by Winterthur Museum of Wilmington.

Twenty-one years ago the Women's Club of Odessa, along with other residents of the town, stood back and took a long look at this restored gem. With great pride they decided then to show their town to the whole world if they could. Thus, "Christmas in Odessa" was born.

It seems to me that such towns as New Castle and Odessa have set an example for many of our small towns and communities that have equally interesting historical

backgrounds. With great pride and effort, the townspeople have researched their histories and restored the towns as they once were. They did it not only to satisfy the generation that helped restore them, many of whom have passed on, but also to show and teach the early way of life to all future generations.

The Starr-Lore house is one of the many historic homes which were on the Christmas Tour this year. Located on Main Street, it is a three-story colonial clapboard that began in 1775 as a modest log cabin belonging to Jacob and Hannah Starr. Jacob was a Quaker shipmaster who hauled materials on his shallop from Philadelphia to Odessa for the construction of the Corbit house.

The original log house was two stories high, with a stone basement. The old basement kitchen of the original log cabin has been restored and was open to visitors on the tour.

Three working fireplaces, one on each level, are still in use. The original random width yellow pine board floors remain in excellent condition. This section of the house has nine-over-six-pane windows and a winding staircase from the cellar to the attic.

About 1800, the second and central portion of the house was added by the family of Thomas Starr, a relative of the original owner. The high ceiling of the downstairs addition is indicative of the Federal period, and the low ceiling of the second upstairs bedroom indicates its use as a children's bedroom. The family had four children.

Eldad Lore purchased the Starr house in the early 1830s. He added the center hall, main stairway, front Empire parlor with blue marble fireplace, large upstairs master bedroom with fireplace, and third floor rooms. By 1855 the house had passed into the hands of its most illustrious owner, Charles Lore, Eldad's son and eventual Chief Justice.

The three periods represented in the construction of the Starr-Lore house-- 2

Colonial, Federal, and Empire--have been adhered to in the furnishings by the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jamison and Mrs. Jamison's mother, Mrs. Irene Clapp.

Reprinted by permission of The Island Paper, a publication of Public Service Electric and Gas, Hancocks Bridge, NJ.

## Of Interest

¶ Gov. Castle has made four appointments to the Delaware Humanities Council. Reappointed for another term are Thomas L. Clark, attorney in the Legal Department of the DuPont Co.; Madeline A. Dunn, former supervisor of art in Sussex County public schools and member of the D.F.P. board; and Richmond D. Williams, director of the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library. John R. Kern, a new appointee, is director of the State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

¶ The Archive of Folk Culture of the Library of Congress's American Folklife

FOLKLIFE NEWS - A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE FOLKLIFE PROJECT is published four times a year.

Editor . . . . . Jean Gilmore  
President . . . . . Kim Burdick  
Vice-President . . . . Robert Bethke  
Treasurer . . . . . Kathy Smart  
Secretary . . . . . Jack Braunlein

Please note that some items included in the "Of Interest" section may not fall within the academic discipline of folklore. They are presented as a service to our readers.

We welcome feature articles about the folklife and traditional cultures of Delaware and notices of events of interest to our readers.

Please send submissions to  
FOLKLIFE NEWS Editor  
Delaware Folklife Project  
2 Crestwood Place  
Wilmington, DE 19809

Center has announced the availability of student internships of up to fifteen weeks for spring, summer, and fall terms. Graduate students pursuing degrees in folklore, library science, anthropology, ethnomusicology, American studies, museum studies, or related fields are eligible to apply to the program which offers diversified experience in processing and servicing a large collection of general and special materials--sound recordings, photographs, manuscripts--in the fields of folklife and ethnomusicology. Application deadlines are October 1, March 1, and June 1 for the following term. Address inquiries to: Folk Archive Intern Program, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540; 202-287-5510.

¶ The Brandywine Friends of Old Time Music will present the following concerts at Daugherty Hall on Main Street in Newark: Jan. 10 - Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers; Feb. 23 - The Roane Mountain Hilltoppers; and Early Mar. - Bill Grant and Delia Bell. The 5th Annual Grand Bluegrass and Traditional Country Music Festival will be held in mid-March at the Grand Opera House on Market Street in Wilmington. For further information write B.F.O.T.M., P. O. Box 3604, Greenville, DE 19807.

¶ Folk Survivors look forward to hosting concerts by Bill Staines, Anne Hills, and others in 1986. To be placed on the mailing list, write 2228 Grubb Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810 or call 302-475-2599.

¶ Folklore/Folklife, a booklet which provides an introduction to the field of folklore studies, is available for \$3.50 a copy from the American Folklore Society, 1703 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

¶ Scarecrow Press announces that a new anthropological and bibliographic guide to native populations of Maryland and Delaware will soon be available. In Pursuit of the Past by Frank W. Porter III covers Accokeek Creek, the site of the Piscataway Indian village of Moyaone; the modern-day Nanticoke Indian community in Oak Orchard, Delaware; and the Island Field Museum in

Delaware. To receive notification of release of the book, write Scarecrow Press, 52 Liberty Street, P. O. Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

¶ The American Culture Association will hold its National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, April 2 - 6, 1986. Papers will be presented on the topic of city culture. For information contact Amy Skillman, area chair, 21442 Encina Road, Topanga, CA 90290; 213-455-3042.

¶ National Public Radio is presenting a series of thirteen half-hour radio programs drawn from the holdings of the Archive of Folk Culture, entitled "Our Musical Heritage." Produced by Bob Carlin, a Philadelphia area musician, the series includes programs on the fiddle, the banjo, the harmonica, and other portable instruments, as well as programs devoted to songs of work, music from the old country, and dance bands. The program airs locally on WHYY-FM 91 at 3:30 p.m. Saturdays.

¶ Laying of the keel for a hand-hewn replica of the Kalmar Nyckel is scheduled to take place next spring at a boatyard on the Christina River in Wilmington. The 200-ton three-masted ship will be the centerpiece of the 350th anniversary of the settlement of the Delaware River area by the Swedes and Finns in 1688. The 97-foot warship Kalmar Nyckel brought 23 settlers who landed at The Rocks at what is now Wilmington. The colony they founded, the only one by Sweden in the New World, ultimately spread to New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



## A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Holiday Recollections of Lillian Camper

I was born October 16, 1899, to Mary L. and Samuel A. Short. At age six months I moved to a large farm two and a half miles from town [Harrington]. There were ten children. I was next to oldest, and you know what it was like going to bed! The living room! Clothes everywhere! We had a Maple Clermont woodstove, and it was warm down there. When we opened the hall door to go to bed it



didn't take long to jump into our featherbeds and blankets! We slept all night, sometimes three in a bed, and it was wonderful!

Mom and Pop always tried to give the kids a good Christmas. The kids didn't give the parents gifts except those that teachers got them to make. After the kids got grown, they would bring their families. Mom had a table that would seat twelve or fourteen, and it was nothing to have that table filled twice. Didn't mean a thing! The table was mostly a white linen cloth, and I don't think paper napkins had come around then. We used linen napkins. She had special dishes.

We always had turkeys, cranberries, you name it! Mince pies! A lot of relatives would come. Mom was a good cook and they all knew it. She raised the turkeys on the farm. The tree had those fancy balls that break so easy and sometimes we'd string up popcorn if we didn't have tinsel. We had wreaths--holly wreaths. We made 'em. They were on the door. First thing, you'd get a twig that would bend and lay the holly on the wreath and wrap wire around it. You'd keep the holly thick and put a red bow on it.

Excerpted from Womenfolk, compiled by Kim Burdick

### Membership

The Delaware Folklife Project is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to documenting, promoting, and presenting to the public the many facets of Delaware's traditional cultures. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, invitations to special events throughout the state and elsewhere, and a share in the excitement of discovering what's old and new in Delaware.

Send check or money order to  
MEMBERSHIP

Delaware Folklife Project  
2 Crestwood Place  
Wilmington, DE 19809

_____ \$ 6 Individual	_____ \$ 25 Friend
_____ \$10 Family	_____ \$ 50 Patron
_____ \$ 5 Senior or Student	_____ \$ 100 Benefactor
	_____ \$1000 Corporate

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# FOLKLIFE NEWS

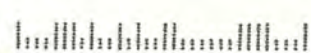
A PUBLICATION OF THE  
DELAWARE FOLKLIFE PROJECT

2 Crestwood Place  
Wilmington, DE 19809

RENEW \* \* \* RENEW \* \* \* RENEW \* \* \* RENEW

Check your mailing label for the expiration date of your Delaware Folklife Project membership. If it needs to be renewed, please don't hesitate. We want to be able to continue sending you our newsletter and announcements and keeping you informed about folklife in Delaware.

Expires: Fall '84  
Ms. Delma Batton  
45 S. State St.  
Dover, DE 19901



NOV 26 1968  
NOVEMBER 23, 1968

## DELAWARE HOUSE TOUR: "CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA"

FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA, DELAWARE, IS SPONSORING "CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA", A TOUR OF PRIVATE HOMES, HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS, AND OTHER BUILDINGS IN AND NEAR THIS SMALL COLONIAL TOWN.

THE DATE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1968, 12 NOON TO 5 P.M., AND TICKETS ARE \$2.50 PER ADULT, \$1.50 PER STUDENT. TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED THE DAY OF THE TOUR AT THE FIRE HOUSE OR THE "PUMP HOUSE" ON MAIN STREET, OR AT THE KAY-O GASOLINE STATION LOCATED IN THE MEDIAN OF ROUTE 13 JUST NORTH OF ODESSA. TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE FROM MRS. CHARLES JONES, 108 EAST REDDING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE, 19709, TELEPHONE 378-9087 (AREA CODE 302).

OPEN FOR THE TOUR AND DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

THE METHODIST PARSONAGE, ONCE THE HOME OF THE PROMINENT 18TH CENTURY DELAWARE CABINET MAKER, JOHN JANVIER. NOW HOME OF THE REV. AND MRS. WILLIAM ARCHER.

HOME OF MRS. J. C. CALLOWAY - THE BRICK PORTION OF THE HOUSE IS DATED NO LATER THAN 1720 OR 1730, AND IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE ORIGINAL MANSE OF OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH.

HOME OF MR. AND MRS. GANTT WILLIAM MILLER, JR. - A 19TH CENTURY HOUSE FILLED WITH CHINESE ANTIQUES AND CHINESE DECORATIONS.

"THE PUMP HOUSE" - THIS SMALL BRICK HOUSE WITH INTERESTING ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS WAS BUILT ABOUT 1772. THE WELL IN FRONT ONCE SUPPLIED WATER TO FAMILIES IN THIS AREA. HOME OF MRS. C. W. HAZEL.

HOME OF MR. AND MRS. JESSE LOVEN - A FRAME AND LOG HOUSE BUILT IN 1740.

HOME OF MR. AND MRS. WALTER L. TINDALL, JR. - A NEW HOUSE OVERLOOKING SHALLCROSS LAKE.

HOME OF MRS. H. B. ROBERTS AND MR. JAMES T. SHALLCROSS - ONCE OWNED AND LIVED IN BY CHIEF JUSTICE CHARLES B. LORE AND HIS FATHER ORIGINAL END OF THE HOUSE WAS BUILT OF LOGS ABOUT 1740. THE NEW END WAS BUILT BETWEEN 1820 AND 1830.

THE COLLINS-SHARP HOUSE - TWO EARLY 18TH CENTURY DELAWARE HOUSES JOINED TOGETHER ABOUT 1740. THE HOUSE AND 200 YEAR OLD BOXWOOD TREES WERE MOVED TO ODESSA IN 1962 BY MR. H. RODNEY SHARP OF WILMINGTON WHO RESTORED AND FURNISHED THE BUILDING WITH APPROPRIATE ANTIQUES.

(PAGE 2, PUBLICITY RELEASE, NOVEMBER 23, 1968, DELAWARE HOUSE TOUR:  
"CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA")

THE CORBIT-SHARP HOUSE, BUILT BY THE YOUNG QUAKER, WILLIAM CORBIT, IN 1772. CONTAINS AN OUTSTANDING COLLECTION OF 18TH CENTURY FURNITURE. COLONIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS BY THE MIDDLETOWN-ODESSA GARDEN CLUB WILL BE ON VIEW IN SEVERAL ROOMS.

THE DAVID WILSON MANSION (1747-1769) FEATURES FINE EARLY AMERICAN FURNITURE AND INTERESTING MEMENTOES OF OLD ODESSA FAMILIES.

THE CALLOWAY MEMORIAL - CORBIT LIBRARY - A COMPLETE SMALL LIBRARY, LESS THAN A YEAR OLD, IS A MEMORIAL TO J. C. CALLOWAY OF ODESSA, AND INCORPORATES THE EARLIER TOWN LIBRARY DONATED IN THE 19TH CENTURY BY A MEMBER OF THE CORBIT FAMILY. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED HERE.

THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP IN THE BRICK HOTEL ON MAIN STREET, OPEN FROM 12 NOON TO 6 P.M. INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ITEMS, MANY HAND-CRAFTED, WILL BE SOLD AT THE SHOP: CANDLES, MIRRORS, APPLE CONES AND OTHER REPRODUCTIONS OF EARLY AMERICAN PIECES; CERAMICS, TREE DECORATIONS, JEWELRY, KNITTED WEAR, GREENS, POTTED PLANTS, CANDIES, ETC.

LUNCHES, AT ADDITIONAL COST, WILL BE SERVED DURING THE HOURS OF THE TOUR AT THE FIRE HOUSE, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY TO THE ODESSA FIRE COMPANY.

PROCEEDS FROM THE "CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA" TOUR WILL BE USED FOR THE CLUB'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN NURSING AND TEACHING.

ODESSA IS LOCATED ON ROUTE 13, 24 MILES SOUTH OF WILMINGTON, AND 24 MILES NORTH OF DOVER.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF RUGS AND FLOORS, WOMEN ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR LOW HEELS.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA  
ODESSA, DELAWARE 19730

MRS. HORACE L. HOTCHKISS, JR.  
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN FOR  
"CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA"

PUBLICITY RELEASE

OCTOBER 31, 1968

"CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA" HOUSE TOUR WILL INCLUDE CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA, DELAWARE, IS ONCE AGAIN SPONSORING "CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA", A TOUR OF PRIVATE HOMES AND HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS IN AND AROUND THIS SMALL COLONIAL TOWN. THE DATE OF THE TOUR IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 12 NOON TO 5 P.M. AND TICKETS ARE \$2.50 PER ADULT AND \$1.50 PER STUDENT.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TOUR, THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP LOCATED IN THE BRICK HOTEL ON MAIN STREET. THE SHOP WILL BE OPEN FROM NOON TO 6:00 P.M.

A LARGE VARIETY OF INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ITEMS, MANY HAND-CRAFTED, WILL BE SOLD AT THE SHOP: JEWELRY, KNITTED WEAR, CERAMICS, TREE DECORATIONS, REPRODUCTIONS OF COLONIAL PIECES, GREENS, POTTED PLANTS, ETC.

THOSE INTERESTED IN HAVING THEIR CRAFTS FOR SALE IN THE SHOP MAY WRITE FOR INFORMATION TO THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA, c/o MRS. WILLIAM WOLLERTON, Box 134, R.D. 2, MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE 19709, OR TELEPHONE 378-2259 (AREA CODE 302).

THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ODESSA  
ODESSA, DELAWARE 19730

MRS. HORACE L. HOTCHKISS, JR.  
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN FOR  
"CHRISTMAS IN ODESSA"



CHRISTMAS  
IN  
ODESSA, DELAWARE  
SUN, DEC. 8, 1968  
12-5

A TOUR OF PRIVATE HOMES, PLUS  
THE COLLINS-SHARP HOUSE, DAVID WIL-  
SON MANSION, CORBIT-SHARP HOUSE,  
AND CALLOWAY MEMORIAL-CORBIT LIB-  
RARY, DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAY  
SEASON.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP  
IN

THE BRICK HOTEL  
HOURS 12-6

DONATION 2.50  
STUDENTS 1.50

LUNCHEON SERVED BY THE LADIES  
AUXILIARY, ODESSA FIRE COMPANY.

TOUR SPONSORED BY WOMENS CLUB  
OF ODESSA, DELAWARE.

LOW HEELS, PLEASE

# **ODESSA DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1952**

**Eleven A.M. to five P.M.**

**D.S.T.**

**\$1.50**

**This ticket will admit bearer  
to 14 Buildings as listed on map**

1

14

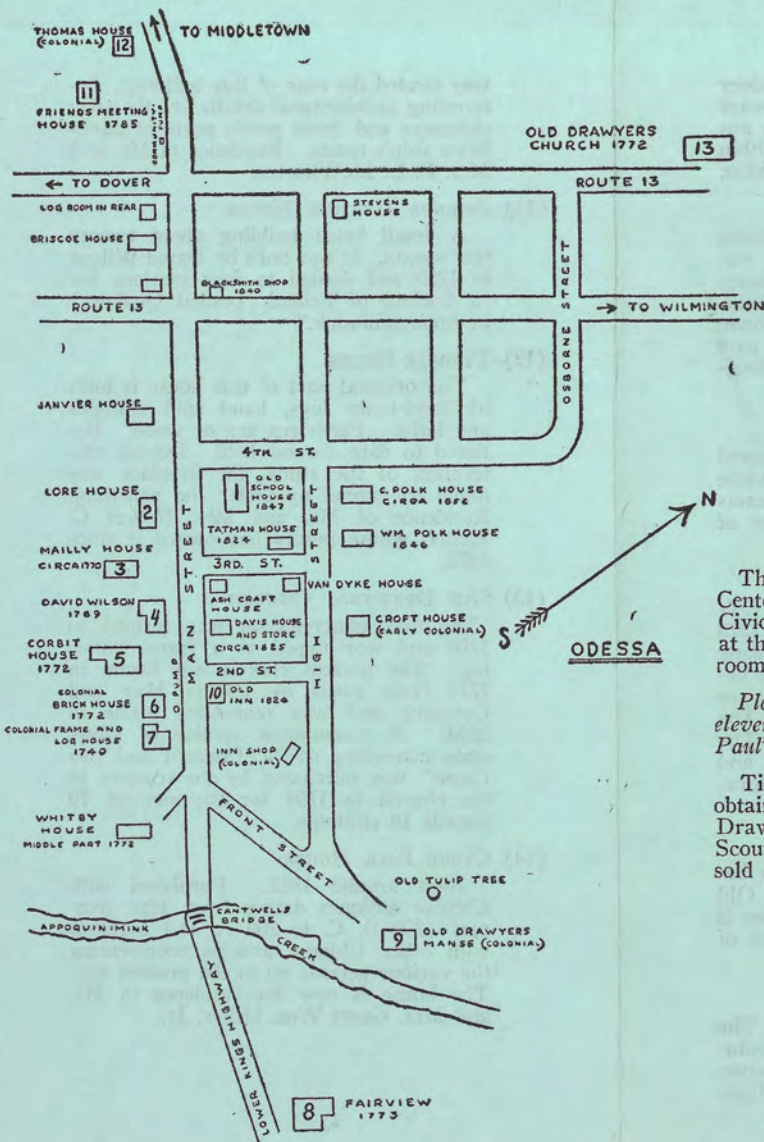
13

12

9

10

11



OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST  
(Not Open to the Public)

WHITBY HOUSE—Circa 1772—In process of restoration by Mr. H. Rodney Sharp.

DAVIS HOUSE AND STORE—Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison V. Davis. Circa 1825.

CROFT HOUSE—Very early Colonial, small frame.

THE MACDONOUGH HOUSE — 2 miles north of Odessa on Route 13. The birthplace of "The Hero of Lake Champlain." James MacDonough, grandfather of the Commodore, settled here in 1730, at a place then known as the "Trap." North of the house is a family graveyard within a brick wall.

The tour is sponsored by the Community Center Association. Proceeds will be used for Civic improvements. Free movies for children at the Community Center during the tour. Rest rooms at Community Center.

*Platters and sandwiches will be served, from eleven to seven by the W. S. C. S. of St. Paul's Methodist Church.*

Tickets for the tour, \$1.50. Tickets may be obtained at Fire House, Community Center, Old Drawers and the Information Booth. Boy Scouts will act as guides. No tickets will be sold after 4 P. M.

Picture Post Cards of Odessa  
Antiques and Gifts

ODESSA GIFT SHOP  
Ashcraft House

# ODESSA DAY

ODESSA, DELAWARE

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1952

Eleven A. M. to Five P. M.  
(D. S. T.)

SITUATED 22 miles south of Wilmington on Route 13, this charming Delaware village will again play host to visitors this year. As early as 1659 there was a small hamlet here, known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721 a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edward Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. In 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek, shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal points and abroad. Because of this in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port. Early Colonial quaintness and charm still abound. On May 10 fourteen fine examples of Colonial architecture will be open to the public. A brief description follows:

MAY 1 1952

(1) COMMUNITY HOUSE

This building was formerly the public school and housed the Corbit Library. The east wing was built in 1844 and the west wing in 1893.

(2) LORE HOUSE

Once owned and lived in by Chief Justice Charles B. Lore and his father. Original end of the house was built of logs about 1740. The brick-paved cellar has large fireplace, indicating its use as a kitchen. Winding stairway runs from cellar to third floor. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Shallcross, since 1926.

(3) MAILLY HOUSE

The exact date of this house is not known, the records having been burned in the fire in the Court House at New Castle. It is believed to be around 1770. The front was added thirteen years ago. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Mailly Davis.

(4) THE DAVID WILSON HOUSE

Georgian Colonial house built in 1769 from plans by Robert May & Company of London for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and a member of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library has also been located here since 1924. This was the first free library in the state and the only free library for 47 years.

(5) THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit from plans by Robert May & Company of London. William Corbit operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by the Corbit family until 1938

when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. The present owner has restored it and furnished it with antiques most of which were obtained within a radius of one hundred miles of Odessa.

(6) COLONIAL BRICK HOUSE

Built about 1772, this house has some interesting architectural details. It was purchased and restored by Mr. Sharp. The well in front of the house once supplied all families in that end of the town. In early days this was a store and part of the second floor a lodge room. Residence of Mrs. Lee Sparks.

(7) COLONIAL FRAME AND LOG HOUSE

Built about 1740 and recently restored by Mr. Sharp. The logs are of white oak. Woodwork, floors and beaded beams in kitchen are outstanding. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse A. Loven.

(8) FAIRVIEW

Another fine example of Georgian Colonial architecture. It was built in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company for Major James Moore who was an original member of and one time treasurer of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family lived here until 1928. The house is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly, who began restoration in 1947.

(9) EARLY BRICK HOUSE

The brick portion of this house is believed to be the original manse of Old Drawyers Church. The frame addition is in keeping with the period. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Calloway.

(10) THE OLD INN

The present inn was built in 1822. The front section was joined to a pre-revolutionary two-story, brick, salt box house. Early records show that King's High-

way circled the rear of this building. Interesting architectural details are the twin chimneys and front porch posts of hand-hewn ship's masts. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. McWhorter.

(11) FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

A small brick building about twenty feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "a Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

(12) THOMAS HOUSE

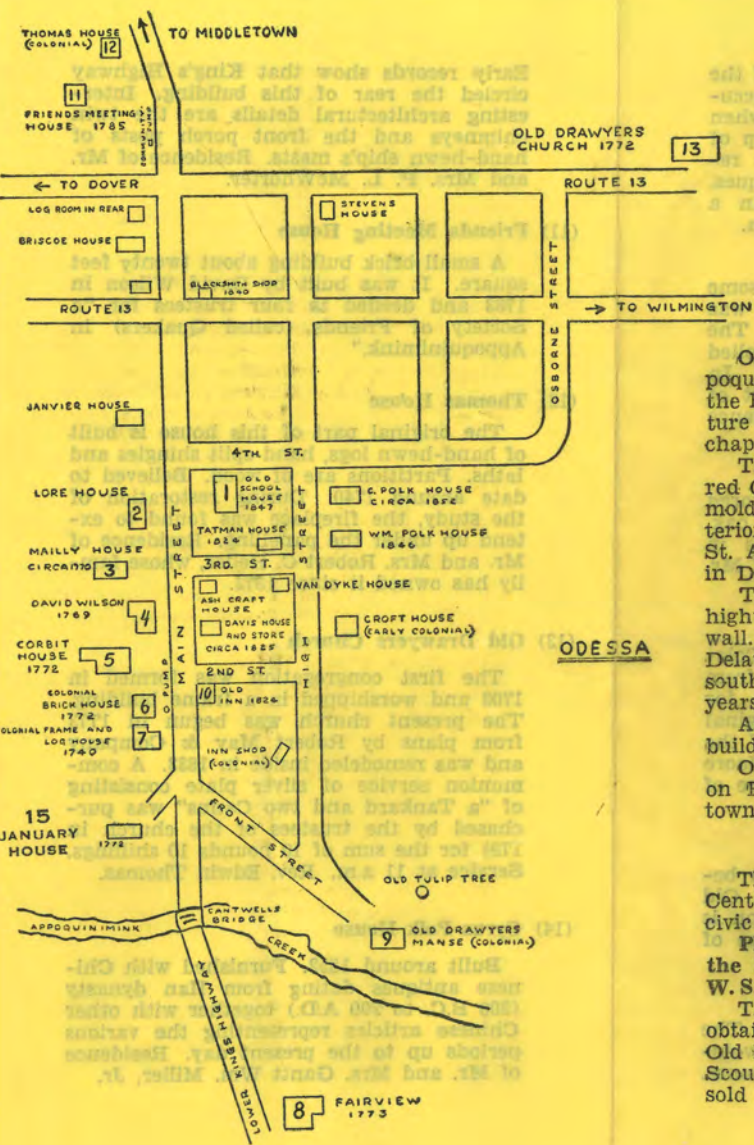
The original part of this house is built of hand-hewn logs, hand split shingles and laths. Partitions are of wood. Believed to date around 1740. During restoration of the study, the fireplace was found to extend up under the panelling. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Heller, whose family has owned it since 1872.

(13) OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH

The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped in a frame building. The present church was begun in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company and was remodeled inside in 1833. A communion service of silver plate consisting of "a Tankard and two Cans" was purchased by the trustees of the church in 1791 for the sum of 10 pounds 10 shillings.

(14) CYRUS POLK HOUSE

Built around 1852. Furnished with Chinese antiques dating from Han dynasty (200 B. C. to 200 A. D.) together with other Chinese articles representing the various periods up to the present day. The house is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gantt Wm. Miller, Jr.



### (15) January House

The restoration of this house has recently been completed by Mr. H. Rodney Sharp. It derives its name from the earliest known owners, Peter and Jannet January, who conveyed it to David Wilson May 29, 1773. It is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Burroughs.

### Old St. Anne's Church

Old Saint Anne's, "The Congregation of Appoquinimink," was founded by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The first structure on the present site (1705) was a log chapel.

The present Church dates from 1768. The red Colonial bricks and white trim, with unique molded plaster cornices, combined with the interior paneling, original pews and pulpit, make St. Anne's one of the finest colonial churches in Delaware.

The Churchyard was enclosed from the highway on two sides in 1913 by a paneled brick wall. Within it are buried many distinguished Delawareans. The giant white oak near the south entrance of the Church is at least 365 years old.

At the present time restoration of the Church building to its state prior to 1849 is being made.

Old St. Anne's is four miles from Odessa on Routes 4 to Middletown and 71 south of town.

The tour is sponsored by the Community Center Association. Proceeds will be used for civic improvements.

Platters and sandwiches will be served at the Firehouse, from 12 noon to seven by the W. S. C. S. of St. Paul's Methodist Church.

Tickets for the tour, \$2.00. Tickets may be obtained at Fire House, Community Center, Old Drawers and the Information Booth. Boy Scouts will act as guides. No tickets will be sold after 5 P.M.

# ODESSA DAY

ODESSA, DELAWARE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1953

12:30 P. M. to Six P. M.

SITUATED 22 miles south of Wilmington on Route 13, this charming Delaware village will again play host to visitors this year. As early as 1659 there was a small hamlet here, known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721 a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edmund Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. In 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek, shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal points and abroad. Because of this in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port. Early Colonial quaintness and charm still abound. On October 11 fifteen fine examples of Colonial architecture will be open to the public. A brief description follows:

(1) **Community House**

This building was formerly the public school and housed the Corbit Library. The east wing was built in 1844 and the west wing in 1893. Rest rooms, free baby sitting and movies for children here during tour hours.

(2) **Lore House**

Once owned and lived in by Chief Justice Charles B. Lore and his father. Original end of the house was built of logs about 1740. The brick-paved cellar has large fireplace, indicating its use as a kitchen. Winding stairway runs from cellar to third floor. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Shallcross, since 1926.

(3) **Maily House**

The exact date of this house is not known, the records having been burned in the fire in the Court House at New Castle. It is believed to be around 1770. The front was added fourteen years ago. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Maily Davis.

(4) **The David Wilson House**

Georgian Colonial house built in 1769 from plans by Robert May & Company of London for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and a member of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library has also been located here since 1924. This was the first free library in the state and the only free library for 47 years.

(5) **The William Corbit House**

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit from plans by Robert May & Company of London. William Corbit op-

erated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by the Corbit family until 1938 when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. The present owner has restored it and furnished it with antiques, most of which were obtained within a radius of one hundred miles of Odessa.

(6) **Colonial Brick House**

Built about 1772, this house has some interesting architectural details. It was purchased and restored by Mr. Sharp. The well in front of the house once supplied all families in that end of the town. In early days this was a store and part of the second floor a lodge room. Residence of Mrs. Lee Sparks.

(7) **Colonial Frame and Log House**

Built about 1740 and recently restored by Mr. Sharp. The logs are of white oak. Woodwork, floors and beaded beams in kitchen are outstanding. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse A. Loven.

(8) **Fairview**

Another fine example of Georgian Colonial architecture. It was built in 1773 from plans by Robert May & Company for Major James Moore, who was an original member of and one-time treasurer of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family lived here until 1928. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly.

(9) **Early Brick House**

The brick portion of this house is believed to be the original manse of Old Drawyers Church. The frame addition is in keeping with the period. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Calloway.

(10) **The Old Inn**

The present inn was built in 1822. The front section was joined to a pre-Revolutionary two-story, brick, salt box house.

Early records show that King's Highway circled the rear of this building. Interesting architectural details are the twin chimneys and the front porch posts of hand-hewn ship's masts. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. McWhorter.

(11) **Friends Meeting House**

A small brick building about twenty feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "a Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

(12) **Thomas House**

The original part of this house is built of hand-hewn logs, hand-split shingles and laths. Partitions are of wood. Believed to date around 1740. During restoration of the study, the fireplace was found to extend up under the panelling. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Heller, whose family has owned it since 1872.

(13) **Old Drawyers Church**

The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped in a frame building. The present church was begun in 1773 from plans by Robert May & Company and was remodeled inside in 1833. A communion service of silver plate consisting of "a Tankard and two Cans" was purchased by the trustees of the church in 1791 for the sum of 10 pounds 10 shillings. Service at 11 a.m. Rev. Edwin Thomas.

(14) **Cyrus Polk House**

Built around 1852. Furnished with Chinese antiques dating from Han dynasty (200 B.C. to 200 A.D.) together with other Chinese articles representing the various periods up to the present day. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gantt Wm. Miller, Jr.

## Other Places of Interest—Not Open to the Public

---

### THE OLD INN

Built in 1824 with twin chimneys and salt box kitchen. Front porch posts are ships' masts.

### LORE HOUSE

East end built of logs. Interesting lines of rear wall may be seen from south side.

### MAILLY HOUSE — circa 1770

Beautiful panelling—old wood house and cellar doors.

### OLD BRICK HOUSE

Near the big tulip tree and believed to be the original manse of Old Drawyers.

### WHITBY HOUSE

Middle part circa 1772.

### DAVIS HOUSE AND STORE — circa 1825.

### CROFT HOUSE

Very early Colonial, small frame.

★ All buildings are listed on a map which will be available free to the purchasers of tickets.

215  
MAY 23 1949

# First ODESSA DAY

---

## Sunday, May 22, 1949

*one to six p. m.*  
(D. S. T.)

---

SITUATED 22 miles south of Wilmington on Route 13, this charming Delaware village will play host to visitors this year for the first time. As early as 1659 there was a small hamlet here known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721 a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edmund Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. In 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek, shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal points and abroad. Because of this in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port. Early Colonial quaintness and charm still abound. On May 22 eight fine examples of Colonial architecture will be open to the public.

A brief description follows:

(1) COMMUNITY HOUSE

This building was formerly the public school and housed the Corbit Library. The east wing was built in 1844 and the west wing in 1893. Tickets for the tour may be obtained here.

(2) THE DAVID WILSON HOUSE

Georgian Colonial house built in 1769 from plans by Robert May & Company of London for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and a member of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library has also been located here since 1924. This was the first free library in the state and the only free library for 47 years.

(3) THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit from plans by Robert May & Company of London. William Corbit operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by the Corbit family until 1938 when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. The present owner has restored it and furnished it with antiques most of which were obtained within a radius of one hundred miles of Odessa.

(4) SMALL BRICK HOUSE

Built about 1772, this house has some interesting architectural details. It was purchased and restored by Mr. Sharp. The well in front of the house once supplied all families in that end of the town. In early days this was a store and part of the second floor a lodge room.

(5) SMALL FRAME AND LOG HOUSE

Built about 1740 and recently restored by Mr. Sharp. The logs are of white oak.

(6) FAIRVIEW

Another fine example of Georgian Colonial architecture. It was built in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company for Major James Moore who was an original member of and one time treasurer of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family lived here until 1928. The house is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly, who began restoration in 1947.

(7) FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

A small brick building about twenty feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "a Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

(8) OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH

The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped in a frame building. The present church was begun in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company and was remodeled inside in 1833. A communion service of silver plate consisting of "a Tankard and two Canns" was purchased by the trustees of the church in 1791 for the sum of 10 pounds 10 shillings.

Proceeds from the tour will be used to buy playground equipment for the Community House. Light refreshments may be obtained at the Community House. Tickets for the tour \$1.50, tax included.



in a frame building. The present church was begun in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company and was remodeled inside in 1833. A communion service of silver plate consisting of "a Tankard and two Canns" was purchased by the trustees of the church in 1791 for the sum of 10 pounds 10 shillings.

## Other Places of Interest - Not Open to the public

### WHITBY HOUSE

Residence of Mrs. Lee Sparks. Middle part circa 1772.

### DAVIS HOUSE AND STORE

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison V. Davis. Circa 1825.

### CROFT HOUSE

Very early Colonial, small frame.

### THE MacDONOUGH HOUSE

2 miles north of Odessa on Route 13. Now residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Carpenter. The birthplace of "The Hero of Lake Champlain." James MacDonough, grandfather of the Commodore, settled here in 1730, at a place then known as the "Trap." North of the house is a family graveyard within a brick wall.

✱

Proceeds from the tour will be used for recreational program of the Community Center Ass'n. Platters and sandwiches will be served at the Fire House from twelve to six. Tickets for the tour \$1.50, tax included. No tickets will be sold after 5 P. M.

☆ All buildings are listed on a map which will be available free to the purchasers of Tour tickets. Free movies for children, at the Community House, during the Tour.

# Odessa Day

ODESSA, DELAWARE

## Sunday, May 14th, 1950

noon to six p. m.

(D.S.T.)

SITUATED 22 miles south of Wilmington on Route 13, this charming Delaware village will again play host to visitors this year. As early as 1659 there was a small hamlet here, known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721 a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edmund Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. In 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek, shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal points and abroad. Because of this in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port. Early Colonial quaintness and charm still abound. On May 14 thirteen fine examples of Colonial architecture will be open to the public. A brief description follows:

### (1) COMMUNITY HOUSE

This building was formerly the public school and housed the Corbit Library. The east wing was built in 1844 and the west wing in 1893. Tickets for the tour may be obtained here.

### (2) LORE HOUSE

Once owned and lived in by Chief Justice Charles B. Lore and his father. Original end of the house was built of logs about 1740. The brick-paved cellar has large fireplace, indicating its use as a kitchen. Winding stairway runs from cellar

MAY 9 1950

to third floor. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Shallcross, since 1926.

(3) MAILLY HOUSE

The exact date of this house is not known, the records having been burned in the fire in the Court House at New Castle. It is believed to be around 1770. The front was added eleven years ago. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Maily Davis.

(4) THE DAVID WILSON HOUSE

Georgian Colonial house built in 1769 from plans by Robert May & Company of London for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and a member of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library has also been located here since 1924. This was the first free library in the state and the only free library for 47 years.

(5) THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit from plans by Robert May & Company of London. William Corbit operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by the Corbit family until 1938 when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. The present owner has restored it and furnished it with antiques most of which were obtained within a radius of one hundred miles of Odessa.

(6) COLONIAL BRICK HOUSE

Built about 1772, this house has some interesting architectural details. It was purchased and restored by Mr. Sharp. The well in front of the house once supplied all families in that end of the town. In early days this was a store and part of the second floor a lodge room. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Deibert.

(7) COLONIAL FRAME AND LOG HOUSE

Built about 1740 and recently restored by Mr. Sharp. The logs are of white oak. Woodwork, floors and beaded

beams in kitchen are outstanding. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse A. Loven.

(8) FAIRVIEW

Another fine example of Georgian Colonial architecture. It was built in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company for Major James Moore who was an original member of and one time treasurer of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family lived here until 1928. The house is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly, who began restoration in 1947.

(9) EARLY BRICK HOUSE

The brick portion of this house is believed to be the original manse of Old Drawyers Church. The frame addition is in keeping with the period. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Calloway.

(10) THE OLD INN

The present inn was built in 1822. The front section was joined to a pre-revolutionary two-story, brick, salt box house. Early records show that the King's Highway circled the rear of this building. Interesting architectural details are the twin chimneys and front porch posts of hand-hewn ship's masts. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. McWhorter.

(11) FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

A small brick building about twenty feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "a Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

(12) THOMAS HOUSE

The original part of this house is built of hand-hewn logs, hand split shingles and laths. Partitions are of wood. Believed to date around 1740. During restoration of the study, the fireplace was found to extend up under the panelling. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Heller, whose family have owned it since 1872.

(13) OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH

The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped

# ODESSA DAY

Sunday, October 11, 1959

VISIT the quaint old village of Odessa, Delaware, situated 22 miles south of Wilmington, on the Du Pont Parkway — (Route 13).

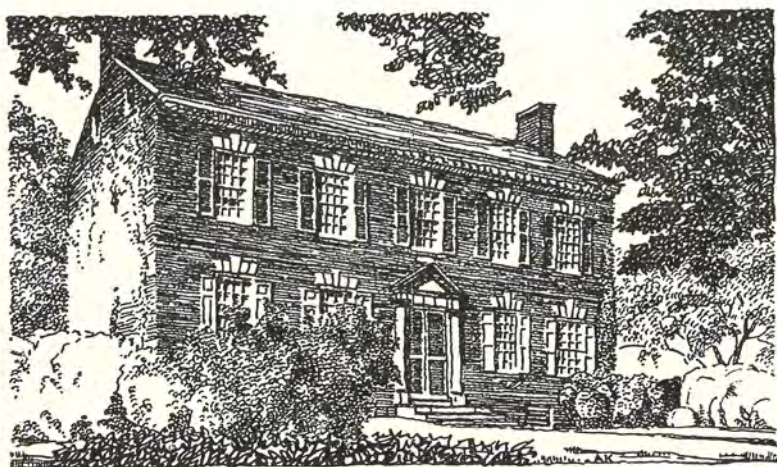
SEE historic homes and buildings, open from 12:30 to 5 P. M., E. D. T

SEE exhibits of Colonial furniture, silver, deeds, glass and china.

BEGIN the day with special services at 11:00 A. M. in Old Drawyer's Church (1773).

FREE baby sitting and movies for children.

Platters and sandwiches on sale  
from 12 to 6 P. M.



**THE DAVID WILSON MANSION**  
Odessa, Delaware

This Georgian Colonial house was built in 1769 for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and member of the Society of Friends, who with his family occupied it until his death in 1808. His wife was Mary Corbit, sister of William Corbit, whose house is next door. The Wilson Mansion was sold in 1810, and nearly a century later was bought by the original owners' great granddaughter, Mary Corbit Warner. It now contains a collection of Wilson and Corbit antiques and mementoes, plus rare Colonial furniture bequeathed by Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds of Princeton, N. J., who were interested in Odessa. The Corbit Library has been located here since 1924. Established in 1847 by Dr. James Corbit, successive generations of Corbits contributed to its endowment. It was the first free library in the State and the only one for 47 years.

The museum is open from April 1 to December 1, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 10 - 5. Admission 50 cents.

The Library is open all year; Tuesdays, 12:30 - 4:30, and 7 - 9. Saturdays, 9 - 12, 1:30 - 4:30.

### **ODESSA**

Odessa is situated 22 miles south of Wilmington on the DuPont Parkway, Route 13. As early as 1659, there was a hamlet here, known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721, a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edmund Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. By 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal points and abroad. Because of this, in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port.

### **OTHER BUILDINGS OF INTEREST**

#### **THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE**

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit, who operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by members of the Corbit family until 1938, when it was purchased by Mr. H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington, who restored it and furnished it with antiques, most of which were obtained within a hundred miles from Odessa. Now the property of the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum.

#### **THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

A small brick building about 20 feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783, and deeded to four trustees for "A Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

#### **OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH**

The first congregation was formed in 1708, and worshipped in a frame building. The present church, of Georgian Colonial design, was built in 1773 and the interior was completed in 1833. A Communion Service of silver plate, consisting of "A Tankard and two Canns" was purchased by the trustees of the Church in 1791 for the sum of ten pounds ten shillings. The building is now cared for by a corporation, Friends of Old Drawyers.



## ODESSA

Odessa is situated 22 miles south of Wilmington on Route 13. As early as 1659 there was a small hamlet here, known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721 a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edmund Cantwell to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. In 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to Coastal points and abroad. Because of this, in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port. Early colonial quaintness and charm still abound.

### THE DAVID WILSON HOUSE

This Georgian Colonial house was built in 1769 for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and a member of the Society of Friends, who with his family occupied it until his death in 1808. It was sold in 1810 and nearly a century later was returned to the family when Mrs. E. Tatnall Warner, a great granddaughter of the first owner, bought it in 1901 and put it in repair. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture bequeathed to it by Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds of Princeton, New Jersey, who were interested in the village of Odessa. The Corbit Library has also been located here since 1924. This was the first free library in the state and the only free library for 47 years.

### THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial Architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit who operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by members of the Corbit family until 1938 when it was purchased by Mr. H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington who has restored it and furnished it with antiques most of which were obtained within a radius of one hundred miles of Odessa.

### THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

A small brick building about 20 feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "A Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink".

### OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH

The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped in a frame building. The present Church was built in 1773 and remodeled inside in 1833. A Communion Service of silver plate consisting of "A Tankard and two Cans" was purchased by the trustees of the Church in 1791 for the sum of ten pounds ten shillings. The building is now cared for by a corporation, Friends of Old Drawyers.

### LORE HOUSE

Once owned and lived in by Chief Justice Lore and his father. No date is available as to when they acquired the place.

The original end of the house was built of logs about 1740. The cellar is paved with bricks and the large fireplace indicates its use as a kitchen. A Dutch door, part glass, leads out, with original posts and railings. The rear buildings, supposedly slave quarters, were burned in 1924.

A stairway winds from cellar to third floor. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Shallcross since 1926.

### OLD BRICK HOUSE

The brick portion of this house is believed to be the original Manse of Old Drawyers Church. The tulip tree is the largest in the state. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Calloway.

### (6) THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE

A beautiful example of Georgian colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit from plans by Robert May and Company of London. William Corbit operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by the Corbit family until 1938 when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. The present owner has restored it and furnished it with authentic antiques most of which were obtained within a radius of one hundred miles of Odessa.

## THOMAS HOUSE

The original part of this house is built of hand-hewn logs, hand split shingles and laths, and hand made nails. The enclosed stairway winds from the cellar to the attic. All locks, latches, and flooring are original. Majority of the antique furniture belonged to Elisha and Sophia Heller, who first took possession in 1872. Partitions between rooms are of wood.

Workmen found that the fireplace in the study extended above the paneling, making the house older than the paneling, probably about 1740. In this room there is a small cupboard over the doorway which was used to store kegs of gunpowder. The muzzle guns, loaded with a ramrod, were used during the Civil War period. Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Heller, who have started to restore it.

## FAIRVIEW

Another fine example of Georgian Colonial architecture. It was built in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company for Major James Moore who was an original member of and one time treasurer of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family lived here until 1928. ~~The house is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly, who began restoration in 1947.~~ *Formal gardens in rear.*

## OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH

The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped in a frame building. The present church was begun in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company and was remodeled inside in 1833. A communion service of silverplate consisting of "a Tankard and two Cans" was purchased by the trustees of the church in 1791 for the sum of 10 pounds, 10 shillings.

### THE DAVID WILSON HOUSE

Georgian Colonial house built in 1769 from plans by Robert May & Company of London for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and a member of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library has also been located here since 1924. This was the first free library in the state and the only free library for 47 years.

### MAILLY HOUSE

The exact date of this house is not known, the records having been burned in the fire in the Court House at New Castle. It is believed to be around 1770. The front was added ~~eleven~~ years ago. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Maily Davis.



## FRAME AND LOG HOUSE

Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Loven.

This home was built in 1740 of white oak logs, covered with horizontal boarding. It has been painted a dark brownish red which was probably the original color.

The woodwork and floors are the originals as are the beaded beams in the kitchen. All colors used when the house was restored are very old colors. The woodwork is painted but the walls are all white plaster.

Plans and details of the construction of this house can be found in "Pre-Revolutionary Architecture in Delaware" by Bennett.

This place was restored in 1942 as near as it could be to the original. Previous to this it had been used for a store.

Workmen found two outside walls between the living room and the dining room. The dining room seems to be even older than the other part. Small cupboards have been left in the dining room to show the logs.

The present two car garage was copied from an old ice house and built of old bricks and old materials.

All Hardware in the house is authentic and the same period as the house.

# Old Odessa to Recall Colonial Past With Open House Oct. 14



**COLONIAL DAYS**—The flavor of pre-Revolutionary days will be recaptured on Sunday, Oct. 14, in the annual Odessa Day. Pictured here is one of the 15 colonial homes which will be open for public display in Odessa. The home, called the January House, was built before 1769. Girls in colonial costumes once again will add to the annual community benefit day.

## 15 Homes Go on Display, Two for First Time In Annual Event; Service Set in Old Drawyers

A page from the colonial past will be opened Sunday, Oct. 14, when the quiet, small, tree-lined town of Odessa displays 15 of its finest colonial homes to the public.

The annual observance of Odessa Day will begin with special services at 11 a. m. in historic Old Drawyers Church. The homes will be displayed from 1 to 5 p. m.

It will be the first time the event has been held in the fall since 1953. Co-chairman this year will be Mrs. Jesse A. Loven and George F. Kelly. Proceeds from the day will go to the Odessa Community Association—a non-profit organization which makes community improvements.

At the last Odessa Day, funds collected were used to plant trees, provide swings for children, and construction of two tennis courts for town children.

As in the past, free movies for children and baby sitting will be provided in the Odessa Community Center.

Odessa, situated 22 miles south

of Wilmington on Route 13, dates back to 1659 when it was known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721 a toll bridge over the Appoquinimie Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edward Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge. It grew rapidly.

In 1825, six large graineries stood on the bank of the creek, shipping some 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal and foreign ports. Because of this trade, the town in 1855 was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port.

Today the village, numbering some 400 persons, still retains its placid air of the past. Approaching from either north or south on the DuPont Parkway, the village seems to pop up suddenly out of the surrounding fields.

Its quiet streets, landscaping, planting, and restoration of buildings have attracted visitors for many years.

Two of the 15 homes available for public inspection will be displayed for the first time. One of these is "Leftovers," a small home, owned by H. Rodney Sharp, which stands next to the old inn. The other is the William Polk House, built in 1846, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin S. Taylor.

Other homes and public buildings open to the public will be: **Old Drawyers Church.** The first congregation was formed in 1708 and worshipped in a frame building. The present church was begun in 1773 from plans by Robert May and Company and was remodelled inside in 1833.

**Lore House.** Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Shallcross, it once was lived in by Chief Justice Charles B. Lore and his father. The original end of the house was built of logs about 1740.

**Mailly House.** Because the records of the house were burned in a fire in the Court House at New Castle, the exact date of this home is not known. It is believed to have been built about 1770, and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Mailly Davis.

**The David Wilson House.** A Georgian colonial house built for David Wilson, a

of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library—first free library in the state—has been located there since 1924.

**The William Corbit House.** A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture, the home was built in 1722 for William Corbit by London architects. The Corbit family occupied the home until 1938 when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. Mr. Sharp has restored it and furnished it with antiques.

**The Pump House.** Built about 1722, this house was purchased and restored by Mr. Sharp. The well in front of the home once supported all families in that end of town. It now is the residence of Mrs. Lee Sparks.

**Colonial Frame and Log House.**

Recently restored by Mr. Sharp, it was built about 1740. The logs are of white oak, and the wood-work, floors, and beaded beams in the kitchen are noteworthy. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse A. Loven now live in the home.

**January House.** Named for its original owners, Peter and Janet January, it was restored by Mr. Sharp. It is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Burrough.

**Fairview.** Another fine example of Georgian colonial architecture, the house was built in 1773 for Maj. James Moore. The Moore family lived there until 1928. Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly now live there. Formal gardens may be seen in the rear.

**Early Brick House.** The brick portion of this house is believed to be the original manse of Old Drawyers Church. The frame addition is in keeping with its original period. It is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Calloway, and contains gardens.

**Friends Meeting House.** A small brick building about 20 feet square, it was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "a Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimie."

**Thomas House.** The original part of this house is built of hand-hewn logs, hand-split shingles, and laths. Partitions in the home are of wood. The building is believed to date from 1740. During restoration of the study, the fireplace was found to extend up under the panelling. It now is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Heller, whose family has owned it since 1872.

**Cyrus Polk House.** Built about 1852, the home is furnished with Chinese antiques dating from the Han Dynasty (200 B. C. to 200 A. D.) together with Chinese articles representing the various periods up to the present. Mr. and Mrs. Gantt Wm. Miller, Jr., now live in the house.

# 15 Homes Will Be Open To Public on Odessa Day

ODESSA, Sept. 18—(Special).—Fifteen Colonial homes here will be open to the public on Odessa Day, Oct. 14.

The annual observance will begin at 11 a. m. in Old Drawyers Church. Homes will be displayed from 1 to 5 p. m.

This will be the first time the event has been held in the fall since 1953. Co-chairmen will be Mrs. Jesse A. Loven and George F. Kelly. Proceeds will go to the Odessa Community Association—a non-profit organization which makes community improvements. Proceeds from the last Odessa Day were used to plant trees, provide swings for children and to construct two tennis courts for children.

Odessa Day will feature free movies for children and baby sitting provided by the Odessa Community Center.

The town, 22 miles south of Wilmington on Route 13, traces its origin to 1659 when it was known as Appoquinimink Landing.

Two homes will be displayed for the first time. One is "Left-overs" owned by H. Rodney Sharp, which stands next to the old inn. The other is the William Polk House, built in 1846, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin S. Taylor.

Other homes and public buildings open to the public will be:

Old Drawyers Church. The first congregation was formed in 1708. The present church was begun in 1773 and remodelled inside in 1833.

Lore House. Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Shallcross, it once was the home of Chief Justice Charles B. Lore and his father.

Maily House. The exact date of this home is not known. It is believed to have been built about 1770, and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Maily Davis.

The David Wilson House. A Georgian colonial house built in 1769 for David Wilson, a merchant and member of the Society of Friends. The house now contains the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and a collection of antique furniture from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds. The Corbit Library—first free library in the state—has been located there since 1924.

The William Corbit House,

the home was built in 1722 for William Corbit by London architects. The Corbit family occupied the home until 1938 when it was purchased by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington. Mr. Sharp has restored it and furnished it with antiques.

The Pump House. Built about 1722, this house was purchased and restored by Mr. Sharp. It now is the residence of Mrs. Lee Sparks.

Colonial Frame and Log House. Recently restored by Mr. Sharp, it was built about 1740. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse A. Loven now live in the home.

January House. Named for its original owners, Peter and Janet January, it was restored by Mr. Sharp. It is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Burroughs.

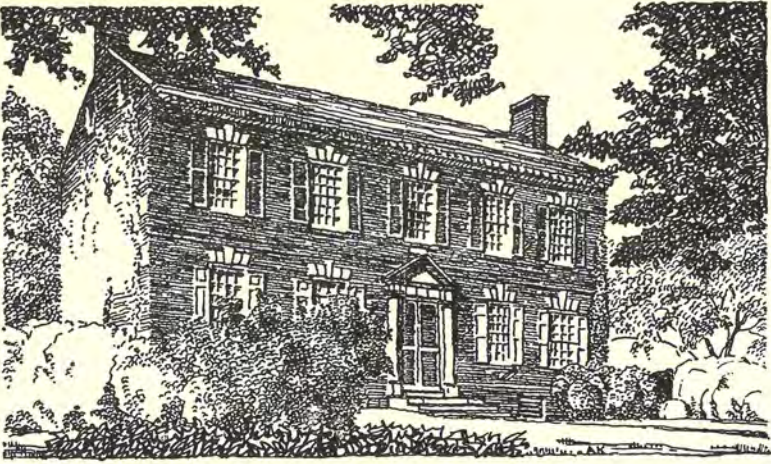
Fairview, the house was built in 1773 for Maj. James Moore. The Moore family lived there until 1928. Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly now live there.

Earl Brick House. The brick portion of this house is believed to be the original manse of Old Drawyers Church. It is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Calloway.

Friends Meeting House. It was built by David Wilson in 1783 and deeded to four trustees for "a Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

Thomas House. The building is believed to date from 1740. It now is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Heller, whose family has owned it since 1872.

Cyrus Polk House. Built about 1852, the home is furnished with Chinese antiques dating from the Han Dynasty (200 B. C. to 200 A. D.) together with Chinese articles representing various periods. Mr. and Mrs. Gantt William Miller, Jr., now live in the house.



**THE DAVID WILSON MANSION**  
Odessa, Delaware

This Georgian Colonial house was built in 1769 for David Wilson, a prosperous merchant and member of the Society of Friends, who with his family occupied it until his death in 1808. His wife was Mary Corbit, sister of William Corbit, whose house is next door. The Wilson Mansion was sold in 1810, and nearly a century later was bought by the original owners' great granddaughter, Mary Corbit Warner. It now contains a collection of Wilson and Corbit antiques and mementoes, plus rare Colonial furniture bequeathed by Dr. and Mrs. J. Newberry Reynolds of Princeton, N. J., who were interested in Odessa. The Corbit Library has been located here since 1924. Established in 1847 by Dr. James Corbit, successive generations of Corbits contributed to its endowment. It was the first free library in the State and the only one for 47 years.

The museum is open from April 1 to December 1, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 10 - 5. Admission 50 cents.

The Library is open all year; Tuesdays, 12:30 - 4:30, and 7 - 9. Saturdays, 9 - 12, 1:30 - 4:30.

## **ODESSA**

Odessa is situated 22 miles south of Wilmington on the DuPont Parkway, Route 13. As early as 1659, there was a hamlet here, known as Appoquinimie Landing. In 1721, a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek was built and operated by Richard Cantwell, son of Edmund Cantwell, to whom the land had been deeded after its confiscation by the English. The village then became known as Cantwell's Bridge and grew rapidly in importance. By 1825 six large granaries stood on the bank of the creek shipping 400,000 bushels of grain annually to coastal points and abroad. Because of this, in 1855 the town was renamed Odessa, after the great Russian grain port.

## **OTHER BUILDINGS OF INTEREST**

### **THE WILLIAM CORBIT HOUSE**

A beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture. Built in 1772 for William Corbit, who operated tanneries and was a member of the Society of Friends. The house was occupied by members of the Corbit family until 1938, when it was purchased by Mr. H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington, who restored it and furnished it with antiques, most of which were obtained within a hundred miles from Odessa. Now the property of the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum.

### **THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

A small brick building about 20 feet square. It was built by David Wilson in 1783, and deeded to four trustees for "A Society of Friends (called Quakers) in Appoquinimink."

### **OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH**

The first congregation was formed in 1708, and worshipped in a frame building. The present church, of Georgian Colonial design, was built in 1773 and the interior was completed in 1833. A Communion Service of silver plate, consisting of "A Tankard and two Canns" was purchased by the trustees of the Church in 1791 for the sum of ten pounds ten shillings. The building is now cared for by a corporation, Friends of Old Drawyers.

*file "Odessa"*



Appoquinimink Friend's Meeting House, dating back to 1783, to be part of Odessa tour for Duck Creek Historical Society on Sunday, October 6th.

*Shyrnz Times 10/3/63*

# Members of Historical Group To Tour Homes at Odessa

An unusual opportunity to visit the Appoquinimink Friend's Meeting House will be afforded those who plan to take the tour of two 18th Century buildings in Odessa on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. arranged by the Duck Creek Historical Society. The David Wilson Man-

sion will be included.

The Meeting House is being opened for this occasion by members of The Appoquinimink Friend's Meeting.

The Meeting House dates from 1783 and is said to be the smallest brick Quaker Meeting

House in the United States. Appoquinimink Meeting derived from an earlier Meeting at St. George's Creek; the latter organized before 1703.

St. George's Creek and Appoquinimink were Preparative Meetings and were a part of Duck Creek Monthly Meeting. At the consolidation of Duck Creek and Murderkill Monthly Meetings in 1830, St. George's Creek and Appoquinimink were brought under the jurisdiction of Camden Monthly Meeting.

The 1827 schism, or Separation, in the Society depleted the Appoquinimink membership. Finally no active members remained and the property fell into disrepair, only the old burying ground being used.

In 1938 Mrs. Roseanna Evans and H. Rodney Sharp made basic repairs to the building. Appoquinimink Meeting's reactivation occurred about fifteen years ago, when, at the investigation of several persons in the Odessa area, its property was recovered from the State of Delaware and it became subject to Wilmington Monthly Meeting.

The David Wilson Mansion, a handsome brick house on Main Street, Odessa was built in 1769. It will be open as part of the afternoon program.

Tea will be served to visitors at the Mansion by Mrs. Paul J. Nowland, president of the board of trustees, and Mrs. Charles Lee Reese, Jr.

## WELCOME TO ODESSA

THE TOWN WITH  
THREE NAMES IN THREE CENTURIES:

*APPOQUINIMIE*—The original Indian name

*CANTWELL'S BRIDGE* (1731) Named after the man who had the toll bridge going over the Appoquinimink Creek.

*ODESSA* (1855) Named for the prominent Russian wheat and produce shipping port, with the hope that Odessa Delaware would flourish as did its Russian namesake.

**H**istorically, Odessa was one of the important trading ports on the Delaware River until the 1890's when a viral disease, "the yellows," destroyed peach crops, diminishing exports. The railroad, having been placed three miles to the west in Middletown c.1855, also hastened the decline of the port.

The buildings in Odessa cover a period of over two hundred years with fine examples of Colonial, Federal and Victorian architecture and reflect different periods in history as well as vernacular adaptations of these architectural styles.

Some of our 18th and 19th century buildings have been exquisitely restored and are part of Winterthur Museum. These are open to the public on a regular basis throughout the year. They also serve as "living laboratories" for students of American Studies at the University of Delaware and other educational institutions.

Many of our other Colonial, Federal and Victorian homes have been carefully cared for and thoughtfully furnished by their private owners. Some of these are open to the public during "Christmas in Odessa," sponsored by the Women's Club of Odessa, held each year on the first ~~Saturday~~ in December.

Odessa is certainly not an "artist's colony," but the prominence of the Winterthur-Odessa Properties, together with the sense of history and pride of family which characterize this small town, has made many of its residents very conscious of Early American art, furniture and crafts. Family heirlooms in the form of furniture, dishes, tools, and other objects exist in almost every home.

The bounty of the water and marshes has been traditionally important. All three of the town's names were associated with water. Fish, crabs, ducks, geese and muskrats were, and still are, an important part of local life. Our ducks and geese have been a source of inspiration to generations of woodcarvers.

## BEYOND THE MAP

Odessa is basically a small town in a rural/agricultural setting. It is primarily residential, with a smattering of commercial and professional enterprises.

Looking down High Street to U.S. Route 13, north and south, are a number of architecturally interesting early 19th century houses.

One can find overhung eaves, turned posts, ornate verge boards, panelled front doors, ornate iron work and Old St. Paul's Church, which is in the process of restoration by the Women's Club of Odessa.

Looking west on Main Street, at the corner of U.S. 13, north bound (Main and Fifth Streets) is Aspril's old wheelwright shop (now Esquire Plumbing and also Delaware Wildlands).

On the south side of the same street are attractive clapboard and brick houses, built in the 19th century and well maintained.

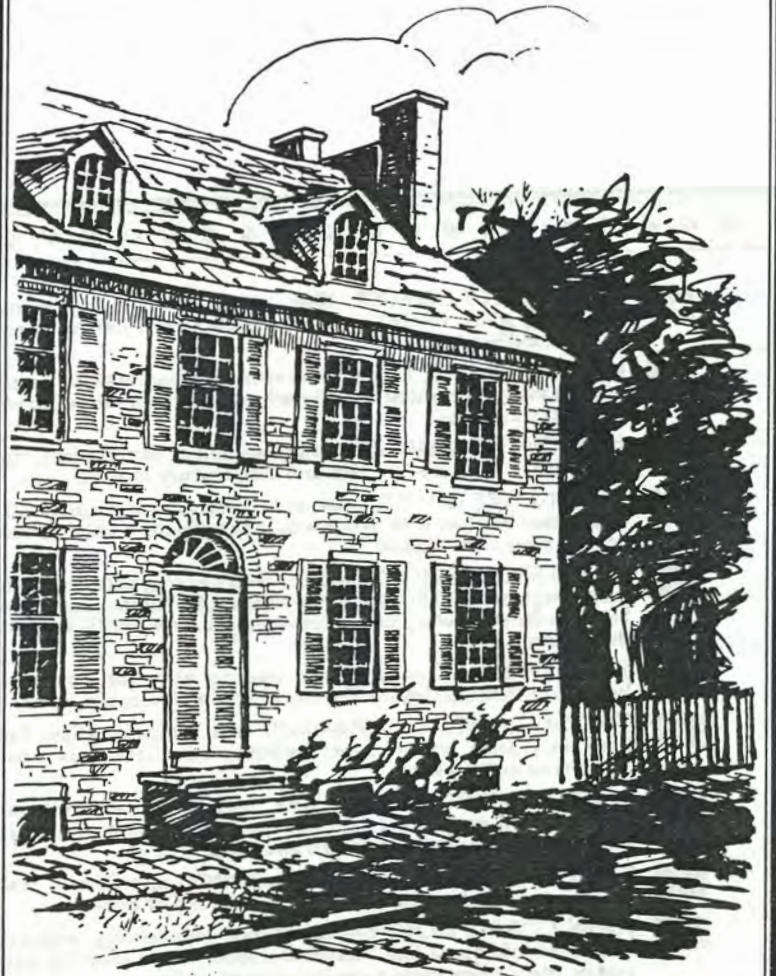
Further out Main Street to the west is the Friends Meeting House. Going in the easterly direction, cross the causeway. Here are more fine old houses, and scenic Route 9.



## STROLL THROUGH

# ODESSA

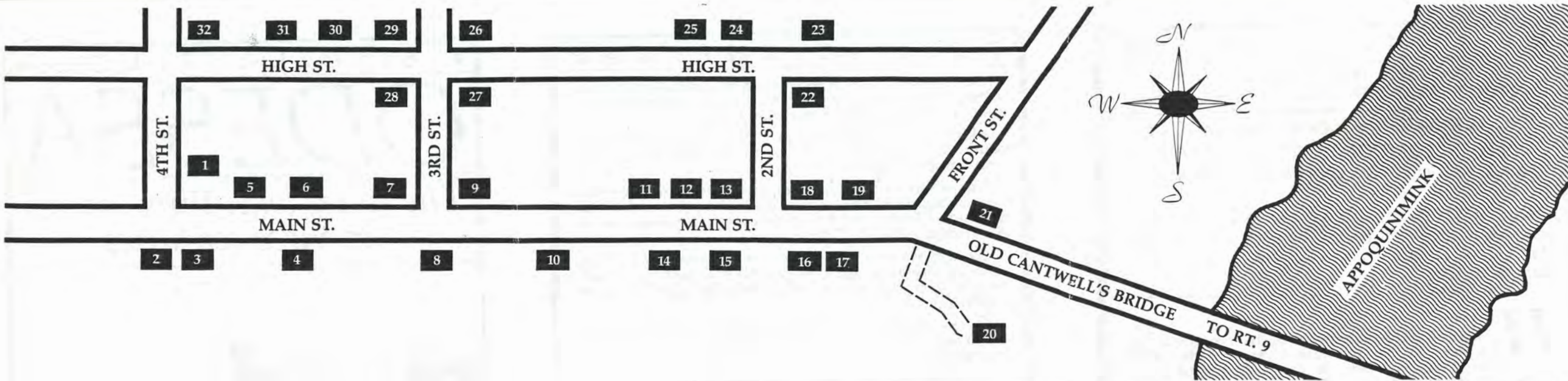
The town with three names  
in three centuries



PREPARED

BY

ODESSA ARTS COUNCIL • DELAWARE FIRST



## KEY TO HISTORICAL ODESSA

- 1 COMMUNITY CENTER, 1844—originally the public school, west wing added in 1893 to accommodate Corbit Library whose nearby building burned that year
- 2 JANVIER HOUSE, 1775—home of early cabinet making family; bricks have been painted and alterations made over the years; was Methodist parsonage
- 3 19TH CENTURY HOUSE—older section of partial plank construction; now covered by 19th and 20th century facades
- 4 STARR-LORE HOUSE—east end was original log cabin (1775); midsection built in 1790, large west wing added in 1825; housed general store from 1926-40
- 5 TRADESMAN'S HOUSE—built with nogging between studs; these rough pieces of brick and masonry used to fill the open spaces between the studs of a wooden frame building are not visible from the exterior
- 6 REDMEN'S HALL—built as a meeting place for a fraternal lodge; once housed Odessa fire truck; now a private residence
- 7 TATMAN OFFICE, c.1854—built as a business office; first bank in Odessa housed here; building once served as small family-run notions shop
- 8 MAILLY HOUSE—center section, facing east, is oldest part (c.1770); front was added in 1937; note small stable and coach house with its ornate verge board and cupola
- 9 215 MAIN STREET—VAN DYKE DWELLING 1840; former doctors' residence; once had drugstore attached to west end of house
- 10 JOHN CORBIT HOUSE—rear portion 18th century, enlarged c.1820; this old house had Victorian accoutrements added in later part of 19th century; note recently restored ice house
- 11 DAVIS STORE, c.1824—remodeled c.1870; built as a home and a store; used for business until grocery closed in 1961

- 12 CROUCH HOUSE, 1854—example of Italianate architecture
- 13 BANK OF DELAWARE, 1853—designed as a bank by Samuel Sloan, noted Philadelphia architect who also designed Old St. Paul's Church on High Street
- 14 WILSON-WARNER HOUSE\*—library once housed here—note 19th century muskrat skinning shack and also the beehive ovens in the rear
- 15 CORBIT-SHARP HOUSE\*, 1772—fine example of Georgian architecture; beautifully landscaped with sweeping lawns and formal gardens—see *Grandeur on the Appoquinimink* by John Sweeney
- 16 PUMP HOUSE, 1772—originally a part of a group of three row houses for local employees of the Corbit family-owned tannery situated below the Corbit House on the banks of the Appoquinimink River
- 17 FRAME AND LOG HOUSE, c.1740—this was once a store
- 18 BRICK HOTEL\*, 1822—originally a hotel, then a residence; now housing the *BELTER COLLECTION OF ROCOCO REVIVAL FURNITURE*
- 19 LEFT OVERS, c.1955—built by Mr. H. Rodney Sharp from materials left over after restoration of other properties in Odessa
- 20 JANUARY HOUSE, c.1780—at the end of a long driveway, this house can best be seen from bridge at east end of Main St. or from short distance out on causeway; house has spectacular view of the Appoquinimink and the surrounding marshes
- 21 HOUSE ON NORTHEAST CORNER OF FRONT STREET—built in the 19th century and said to have been the residence and workshop of a local bootmaker. Looking along Front St. toward High St., the large white Federal-period house is noteworthy  
Going back along Main Street to Second Street, turn right past the Brick Hotel. Note the John Janvier stable on right

\*part of Winterthur

- 22 COLLINS-SHARP HOUSE, c.1700—moved in 1962 from shore of Delaware River near Taylor's Bridge
- 23 CORBIT-CALLOWAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1968 (HIGH STREET AT THE END OF SECOND STREET)—fourth home for the oldest free, library in Delaware, established in 1847
- 24 HIGH STREET—contemporary house with fine view of marsh and meadow from rear
- 25 207 HIGH STREET—this Dutch style house built in the 1970's also has a fine view of marsh and meadow, as well as the owner's horticultural wonderland
- 26 211 HIGH STREET, c.1905—late Victorian house; note period trim on porch
- 27 ENOS HOUSE, c.1845—built in two sections; south end is older section
- 28 TATMAN HOUSE, 1845—late Federal house; note fine double-shuttered doors
- 29 301 HIGH STREET—William Polk House built in 1846; fine example of late Federal house—one of three adjacent houses built by the Polk family, leading wheat merchants of the period (Odessa was named for the Russian grain port)
- 30 303 HIGH STREET—another of the Polk houses, c.1850—after a design of Samuel Sloan, note widely projecting cornices—originally had an ornate "widow's walk"
- 31 305 HIGH STREET, c.1845—also a Polk house; technically a half-house with rounded dormers and full length windows
- 32 311 HIGH STREET—early 20th century house with portico entrance

## THE FRIENDS IN ODESSA

In 1703 the Friends of George's Creek applied to Kennet Monthly Meeting, for the establishment of a Meeting in their midst. At first they met in homes, then in the Hickory Grove Meeting House. As early as 1762 efforts were made to move the Meeting to a more convenient locality. This group was joined to the Monthly Meeting of Duck Creek. In 1780 by consent of the Quarterly Meeting it was moved to Appoquinimink, now Odessa.

(Quote) "On September 2, 1800, David Wilson (by his Indenture record December 30, 1801 in the Recorder's Office of New Castle County in Deed Record X, Vol. 2, page 31) granted and conveyed unto John Hiron, Joal Alston Pennel Corbit and Thomas Starr and to their heirs and assigns, or the survivor of them, and the heir and assigns of such survivor, forever, in trust, for the Society of Friends, or the people called Quakers of Appoquinimink, meeting for the special and only purpose of a religious meeting, for said people, or such other purpose, as the Monthly Meeting of said people, of which Appoquinimink shall be a branch."

In 1828 when the division in the Quaker group took place, Appoquinimink Meeting fell into the hands of the Hicksites.

In 1830 Duck Creek Monthly Meeting and Motherkilk joined and became known as Camden Monthly Meeting. Thus Appoquinimink was joined to Camden Monthly Meeting.

In 1879 the Meeting was closed as there were only two members attending, Mr. John Alston and his son Cowgill.

In 1939 the Meeting House was restored, thanks to the benevolence of Mr. Rodney Sharp and Mrs. Rosanna Evans.

In 1946 the Meeting was reopened for worship. In the meantime the property had escheated to the State. In order to regain the property, fifteen interested Friends had to sign a petition to the States. In 1948 Wilmington Monthly Meeting took title to the property and Appoquinimink Meeting became a preparative Meeting under Wilmington.

The first school in Appoquinimink was established by the Friends. A frame building was erected on the proposed site for the Meeting House. This school house was later moved away and used for the rectory of the colored church.

A legend has been handed down that the Meeting House served as an underground station for slaves during the Civil War. They were said to have been concealed in the loft.

The small, square brick building with pitched roof, pent eaves and white shutters, on which the boards run diagonally, is supposed to be the smallest house of worship in the United States.



houses of worship in the United States.  
... on which the people were ...  
... the ...

convened in the ...  
... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

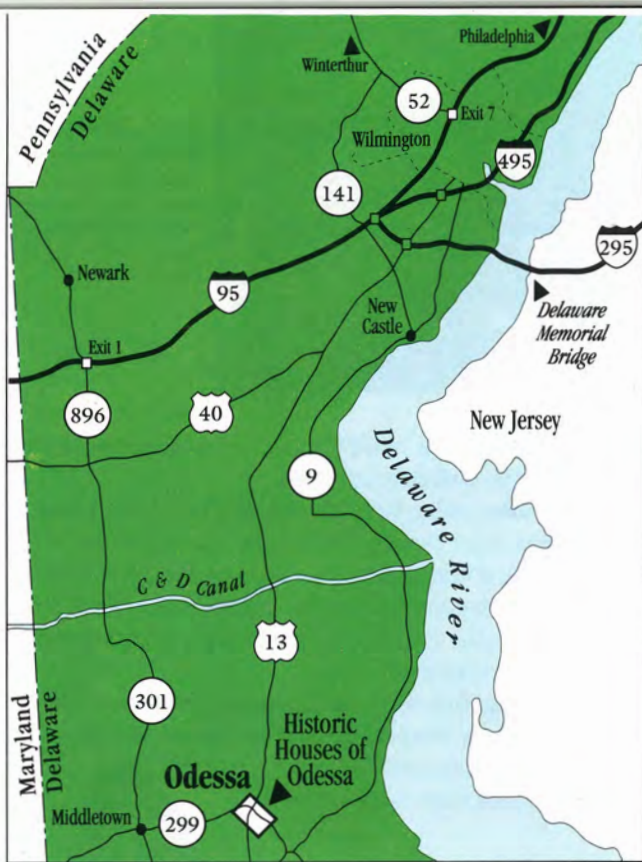
... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

Odesa Day  
Material  
THE FRIENDS IN ODESSA



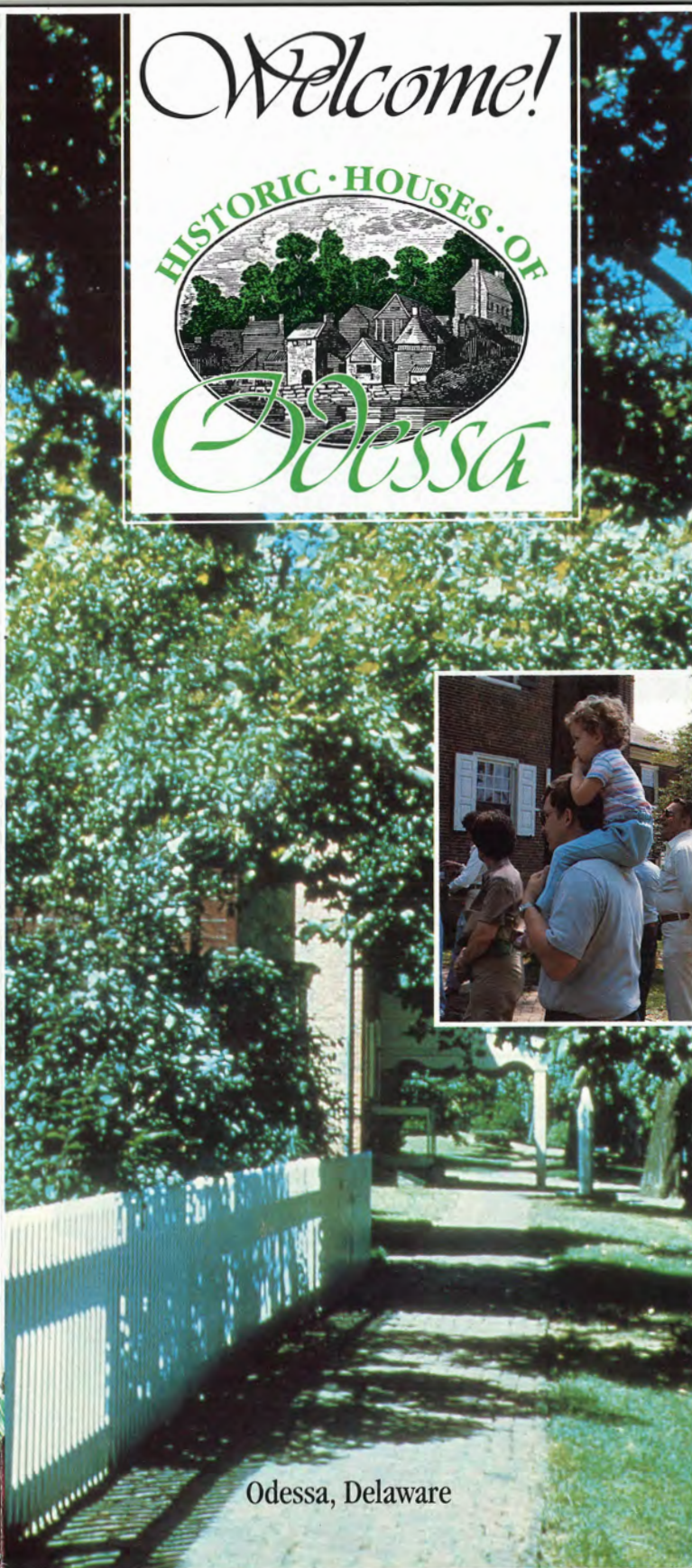
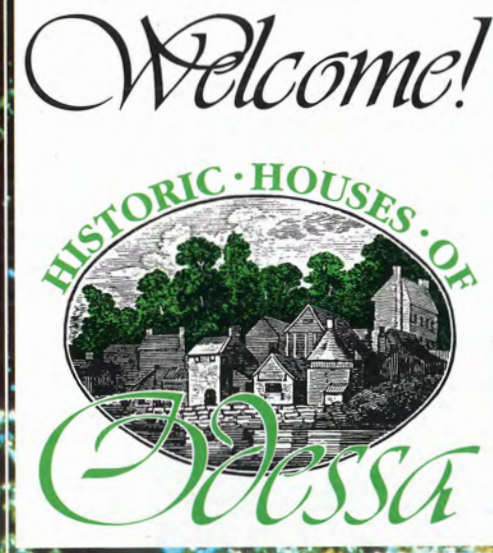
Historic Houses of Odessa is located 23 miles south of Wilmington, Delaware, just east of Route 13. Owned and operated by Winterthur.

**Hours:** Buildings and gift shop open March through December. Group and school tours year round by reservation. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and on Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Last combination tour is at 3:00 PM. *Yuletide in Odessa* premiere held the first weekend in December. Call for special times and prices. Closed Mondays, Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, December 24 and 25, January and February. Some buildings closed during the *Yuletide* premiere.

**Admission:** Prices subject to change without notice. Adults: \$3.00 for one property, \$5.00 for two, and \$6.00 for three. Seniors, students, and groups of 20 or more: \$2.25 per person for one property, \$4.00 for two, and \$5.00 for three. Children under 12 and Winterthur Guild members free.

**For information,** call 302-378-4069, FAX 302-378-4050, or TDD 302-378-4032. Boxed lunches and formal coffee and tea available for groups upon request. Call for special rates and information. Make checks payable and send to Historic Houses of Odessa, P.O. Box 507, Odessa, DE 19730.

*RIGHT: Hands-on activities and exhibits geared especially for children bring bygone days to life.*



Odessa, Delaware

The village of Odessa, Delaware, known in the 18th century as Cantwell's Bridge, played a vital role in American commercial life as a busy grain-shipping port. Today you can stroll down quiet, tree-lined streets and admire examples of 18th- and 19th-century architecture. Chief among these are the four Historic Houses of Odessa.



LEFT: In addition to walking tours, the Odessa Spring Festival offers old-fashioned, fringe-topped sloop rides, craft demonstrations, music, food and fun for the entire family.



COVER: Visitors young and old can step into the past, strolling along shady walks among the charming early-American homes built by the wealthy citizens of a once thriving Cantwell's Bridge.

LEFT: With a panoramic view of the Appoquinimink Creek, the nationally-known Corbit-Sharp House is the finest example of mid-Georgian architecture in Delaware.

William Corbit, who operated a tannery on the banks of the Appoquinimink Creek, was the town's leading citizen when he built his handsome Georgian house in 1774. The house remained in the Corbit family until 1938, when it was acquired by H. Rodney Sharp. He restored the house and donated it to Winterthur in 1958. Today the Corbit-Sharp House is furnished to reflect the lifestyle of this region in the late 18th century.

The Wilson-Warner House, built by prosperous merchant David Wilson in 1769, exemplifies Delaware-Georgian architecture. The house was presented to Winterthur in 1969 by the Trustees of



David Wilson Mansion, Inc. Its furnishings closely resemble those recorded on the 1829 family bankruptcy *List of Sales*.

In a modern setting, the Federal-style Brick Hotel Gallery houses *Nature Tamed: Belter Furniture, 1840-1860*. This is the country's largest collection of Victorian furniture made in the style of J. H. Belter and illustrates the best American furniture craftsmanship of the mid-19th century. The collection was donated to Winterthur in 1987 by the Richard and Gloria Manney Foundation.

The Collins-Sharp House, one of Delaware's oldest houses, dates to the early 18th century. This picturesque log and frame structure is the museum center for educational programming, including hands-on hearth cooking for children.

RIGHT: John Henry Belter's technologically innovative creations for the parlor and bedroom featured highly-skilled carvings of fruit and flowers, often in rosewood.

LEFT: Experience Yuletide in a candlelit atmosphere enhanced by quaint, hand-crafted decorations and other seasonal themes.

BELOW: This vintage drawing depicts the nearby property of the Janvier family whose cabinet-making skills are on display in both the Corbit-Sharp and Wilson-Warner houses. Mr. John Janvier's Appoquinimink (Delaware) August 16, 1798. From the Sewell C. Biggs Collection.



HISTORY OF ODESSA

Have each child write and illustrate the history of Odessa and put it in book form for children in other parts of the State.

The book cover can be made of stiff cardboard covered with paper. A decorative design may be worked out for the cover. The pages may be folded from heavy brown wrapping paper, but not cut on the edges. (This would make it possible to put the work up as a frieze, or use it for a movie, should one desire.)

Writing may be done right on brown paper.

Pictures should be made on manila paper and pasted in.

SUGGESTED PICTURES

1. King of England (1676) ----(Who was King?  
How did he dress?  
Or  
King giving grant of land  
Or  
Map of England
- \*2. Picture of toll bridge and people crossing it in 1731.  
(Find out whether any of the residents of Odessa have pictures of it, or can describe it. How did people dress in 1731? In what did they ride?)  
(How were they dressed?)
- \*3. People stopping at the Inn --(In what did they ride?
4. Men of Washington's Army trying to buy leather.
- \*5. Boats going to Philadelphia with grain.  
(How were they dressed?)
- \*6. People at the Fair in 1830 -- (What were they doing?
7. Outside of Corbit Library.
8. Indian shooting ducks (should be one of the first pictures).
9. Pictures showing what the people of Odessa do for a living today.

To vary the work, certain subjects suggested for pictures could be worked out as sand table projects. They could then be photographed and the photographs could be pasted in each book. Those checked (\*) are possibilities.

-----

Other Problems that Could Be Taken Up in Connection with this Study -

1. Weaving - Study of materials used in Colonial Times.  
Collecting of pictures showing these people at work  
(raising materials, preparing them, spinning, weaving, etc.)

Problem - a. The making of a large rug for the museum.  
b. The making of mats for chair seats.

2. Sewing Patch Work - Study of materials.  
" " dark and light.  
" " color.  
" " lovely old quilts.

Problem - The making of a small quilt (might be sent to children's hospital).  
Have children bring new pieces from home. Have each child plan simple design unit from squares and triangles. Unit should be from 9" to 12" square. Much of the design could be made by folding, or cutting the large square into smaller squares and triangles and then fitting them together. Have children fill in parts that are dark with dark crayon. (See special sheet on making of quilt.) Have class choose best design unit and use it for quilt.  
(If children in fourth grade find sewing too difficult or tedious, sixth grade girls might help.)

## HISTORY OF ODESSA

1. Beginning of town - Date.
2. How it got its name.
3. Reason and rapidity of Growth.
4. Shipping port - Advantages.
5. Resting place for travelers.
6. Tanyard - Use and location.
7. Revolutionary Times.
8. Transportation Facilities,
  - a. Boats,
  - b. Railroads,
  - c. Trolley,
  - d. Bus.
9. Fairs.
10. Churches.
11. School.
12. Library.
13. Population.
14. Appearance of Town.
15. Boulevard.
16. Appoquinimink Creek - Name and Importance.
17. Occupation of Community.

REFERENCES.

Conrad's History of Delaware, Vol. 2, Page 560

History of Old Drawyers Church.

A Guide to Some Historic Points in Delaware (1916)

Published by Colonial Dames.

Reminiscences of old residents.

## HISTORY OF ODESSA

\*\*\*\*\*

The King of England once owned the land around Odessa and in 1676 he gave it to Captain Edmund Cantwell. Captain Cantwell's son, Thomas Cantwell, built a toll bridge in 1731. People who crossed the bridge had to pay money. This money was used to repair the bridge.

The village was called Cantwell's Bridge. Boats used to come up to the bridge and load wheat. There were six big granaries and several wharves. Grain was brought from fifteen miles around.

In 1855 Cantwell's Bridge changed its name to ODESSA after a big seaport in Russia from which wheat was shipped. The people of Cantwell's Bridge hoped their town would become as important as Odessa over in Russia.

Cantwell's Bridge became a resting place for travelers so an inn was built there. Mr. William Corbit built a tanyard in 1765, where they made all kinds of leather.

During the Revolutionary War some soldiers from Washington's Army visited the tanyard to buy leather. Mr. William Corbit would not sell any, so they searched and found some in the cellar of the house where Mr. Daniel W. Corbit now lives. They took the leather and left some money as pay for it.

During the Revolutionary War Caesar Rodney and a Company of the Delaware Soldiers camped at Noxentown Mill pond a few miles from Odessa while waiting to join Washington's Army.



Six boats used to make weekly trips from Odessa to Philadelphia and three grain vessels made weekly trips to Boston, but when the railroad was built through Middletown, Odessa did not grow fast, and from that time Middletown grew much faster. The warehouses later were turned into canneries, packing houses for corn and tomatoes, a creamery, etc., In 1903 a trolley line was built between Odessa and Middletown but did not pay, so it was taken up in 1907. A bus line now runs through Odessa to Wilmington.

Large fairs were held at Cantwell's Bridge in olden times (1830) and people came from all parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware to attend them.

There were many "FRIENDS" in the neighborhood of Odessa. They built a little meeting house in 1735 which is still standing. It is said that the last member of the Friends' Church, a Mr. Allston, used to go to the little Church and sit alone with his dog.

There are two other Churches, a Methodist Church built in 1851 and a Presbyterian Church while just a mile from Odessa is beautiful old DRAWYERS, one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the country. This church was begun in 1773. The bricks used in it were made on the farm of Mr. Lee Pennington near Odessa. The members of old Drawyers had been holding meetings since 1682.

Our school contains three rooms and the public library. We have only about ninety pupils. The high school pupils go to Middletown. We have the oldest Free Library in the State. It is called the CORBIT LIBRARY. For sixty years it was the only free library the State had. We enjoy the books so much. Our school is built in a grove of trees on a hill and that makes fine coasting in winter. Our school was built in 1847.

The population of Odessa in 1920 was FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE including whites and negroes. There are some beautiful old Colonial Homes. Other houses must be very old we know because they have old fire places which are used for cooking and heating.

There is one long shady street called Main Street, and several shorter streets. Appoquinimink Creek lies at the foot of Main Street and a newer bridge stands in place of the old toll bridge. A new boulevard is being built through the town which is a part of the new State Highway.

When the boulevard was being built last fall they made a long concrete bridge over the marsh. A diver came here from Baltimore. He put on his diving suit and went down under the water to work. The children from our school went down to the creek with our teacher and spent a pleasant afternoon watching the diver go down and work. He showed us the different parts of his suit and told us about his work.

There is a little story which tells how the Appoquinimink was named. An Indian, one day came down the creek in his canoe; he saw a flock of wild ducks and shot into them. One of them was hurt and fell to the ground. The Indian said "APPOQUINIMINK" which in their language means "WOUNDED DUCK" and the creek came to be called by that name. The creek flows into the Delaware River.

There are no factories in Odessa, but most of the men fish and trap. They catch perch, catfish, carp, herring and other kinds of fish and send them to the city markets. They trap for muskrats on the river marsh and also the creek. They get good prices for the furs. Sometimes the trappers get foxes, minks, otters, skunks, raccoons, opossum and wild

ducks in their traps. The farmers raise grain, apples, peaches and berries.

We hope you have enjoyed our little history of Odessa as much as we have enjoyed working on it.

ODESSA SCHOOL. (cont)

The first school house in Odessa was built by the Friends or Quakers near the little Quaker Church. This frame building was used until 1817. Another frame school house was built about 1810 near the site of the present school house. James Lattomus, a half brother of Bishop Levi Scott is remembered as one of the teachers.

Several public school houses were built between that year and 1843 when the brick building was erected. A report of the school property in 1886 shows the following facts,

Value of property, Eighteen hundred dollars,  
Number of pupils registered, One hundred eighteen,  
Number of rooms, Two,  
Number of teachers, Two,  
Average attendance, Seventy,  
Length of school term, Ten and one-half months.

In 1856 the school was endowed with the Corbit Library.

John Janvier, the undertaker at this time owned a two-wheeled hearse, which was used whenever any one of wealth or high social standing was buried. On other occasions an ordinary wagon was used. The coffin was placed on the axle and held in position by wooden screws. This was used until 1840.

The Steamer "Clio" used to carry freight and passengers to Philadelphia.

The first Methodist Church services were held in the School house at Cantwell's Bridge (1831 - 1832). The congregation then purchased an old brick building near Fieldsboro, for One hundred Dollars. Notice was given for the people to meet to tear it down and clean the bricks. A crowd of people with many teams were on hand and the work was quickly done. The one story Church was whitewashed and contained planks for seats. Later the present Methodist Church was built.

The first Hotel was built near the creek, and was used until 1825. The present Odessa Inn was built in 1822, but during the time there have been several other inns or hotels.

HISTORY OF ODESSA

Have each child write and illustrate the history of Odessa and put it in book form for children in other parts of the State.

The book cover can be made of stiff cardboard covered with paper. A decorative design may be worked out for the cover. The pages may be folded from heavy brown wrapping paper, but not cut on the edges. (This would make it possible to put the work up as a frieze, or use it for a movie, should one desire.)

Writing may be done right on brown paper.

Pictures should be made on manila paper and pasted in.

SUGGESTED PICTURES

1. King of England (1676) ----- (Who was King?  
How did he dress?)  
Or  
King giving grant of land  
Or  
Map of England
- \*2. Picture of toll bridge and people crossing it in 1731.  
(Find out whether any of the residents of Odessa have pictures of it, or can describe it. How did people dress in 1731? In what did they ride?)  
(How were they dressed?)
- \*3. People stopping at the Inn -- (In what did they ride?)
4. Men of Washington's Army trying to buy leather.
- \*5. Boats going to Philadelphia with grain.  
(How were they dressed?)
- \*6. People at the Fair in 1830 -- (What were they doing?)
7. Outside of Corbit Library.
8. Indian shooting ducks (should be one of the first pictures).
9. Pictures showing what the people of Odessa do for a living today.

To vary the work, certain subjects suggested for pictures could be worked out as sand table projects. They could then be photographed and the photographs could be pasted in each book. Those checked (\*) are possibilities.

Other Problems that Could Be Taken Up in Connection with this Study-

1. Weaving - Study of materials used in Colonial Times.  
Collecting of pictures showing these people at work  
(raising materials, preparing them, spinning, weaving, etc.)

Problem - a. The making of a large rug for the museum.  
b. The making of mats for chair seats.

2. Sewing Patch Work - Study of materials.  
" " dark and light.  
" " color.  
" " lovely old quilts.

Problem - The making of a small quilt (might be sent to children's hospital).  
Have children bring new pieces from home. Have each child plan simple design unit from squares and triangles. Unit should be from 9" to 12" square. Much of the design could be made by folding, or cutting the large square into smaller squares and triangles and then fitting them together. Have children fill in parts that are dark with dark crayon. [See special sheet on making of quilt.] Have class choose best design unit and use it for quilt.

(If children in fourth grade find sewing too difficult or tedious, sixth grade girls might help.)

## HISTORY OF ODESSA

1. Beginning of town - Date.
2. How it got its name.
3. Reason and rapidity of Growth.
4. Shipping port - Advantages.
5. Resting place for travelers.
6. Tanyard - Use and location.
7. Revolutionary Times.
8. Transportation Facilities.
  - a. Boats,
  - b. Railroads,
  - c. Trolley,
  - d. Bus.
9. Fairs.
10. Churches.
11. School.
12. Library.
13. Population.
14. Appearance of Town.
15. Boulevard.
16. Appoquinimink Creek - Name and Importance.
17. Occupation of Community

REFERENCES.

Conrad's History of Delaware, Vol. 2, Page 560

History of Old Drawyers Church.

A Guide to Some Historic Points in Delaware (1916)  
Published by Colonial Dames

Reminiscences of old residents.



## HISTORY OF ODESSA

\*\*\*\*\*

The King of England once owned the land around Odessa and in 1676 he gave it to Captain Edmund Cantwell. Captain Cantwell's son, Thomas Cantwell, built a toll bridge in 1731. People who crossed the bridge had to pay money. This money was used to repair the bridge.

The village was called Cantwell's Bridge. Boats used to come up to the bridge and load wheat. There were six big granaries and several wharves. Grain was brought from fifteen miles around.

In 1855 Cantwell's Bridge changed its name to ODESSA after a big seaport in Russia from which wheat was shipped. The people of Cantwell's Bridge hoped their town would become as important as Odessa over in Russia.

Cantwell's Bridge became a resting place for travelers so an inn was built there. Mr. William Corbit built a tanyard in 1765, where they made all kinds of leather.

During the Revolutionary War some soldiers from Washington's Army visited the tanyard to buy leather. Mr. William Corbit would not sell any, so they searched and found some in the cellar of the house where Mr. Daniel W. Corbit now lives. They took the leather and left some money as pay for it.

During the Revolutionary War, Caesar Rodney and a Company of the Delaware Soldiers camped at Noxentown Mill pond a few miles from Odessa while waiting to join Washington's Army.

Six boats used to make weekly trips from Odessa to Philadelphia and three grain vessels made weekly trips to Boston, but when the railroad was built through Middletown, Odessa did not grow fast, and from that time Middletown grew much faster. The warehouses laste  
The warehouses later

were turned into canneries, packing houses for corn and tomatoes, a creamery, etc.. In 1903 a trolley line was built between Odessa and Middletown but did not pay, so it was taken up in 1907. A bus line now runs through Odessa to Wilmington.

Large fairs were held at Cantwell's Bridge in olden times (1830) and people came from all parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware to attend them.

There were many "FRIENDS" in the neighborhood of Odessa. They built a little meeting house in 1735 which is still standing. It is said that the last member of the Friends' Church, a Mr. Allston, used to go to the little Church and sit alone with his dog.

There are two other Churches, a Methodist Church built in 1851 and a Presbyterian Church while just a mile from Odessa is beautiful old DRAWYERS, one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the country. This church was begun in 1773. The bricks used in it were made on the farm of Mr. Lee Pennington near Odessa. The members of old Drawyers had been holding meetings since 1682.

Our school contains three rooms and the public library. We have only about ninety pupils. The high school pupils go to Middletown. We have the oldest Free Library in the State. It is called the CORBIT LIBRARY. For sixty years it was the only free library the State had. We enjoy the books so much. Our school is built in a grove of trees on a hill and that makes fine coasting in winter. Our school was built in 1847.

The population of Odessa in 1920 was FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE including whites and negroes. There are some beautiful old Colonial Homes. Other houses must be very old we know because they have old fire places which are used for cooking and heating.

There is one long shady street called Main Street, and several shorter streets. Appoquinimink Creek lies at the foot of Main Street and a newer bridge stands in place of the old toll bridge. A new boulevard is being built through the town which is a part of the new State Highway.

When the boulevard was being built last fall they made a long concrete bridge over the marsh. A diver came here from Baltimore. He put on his diving suit and went down under the water to work. The children from our school went down to the creek with our teacher and spent a pleasant afternoon watching the diver go down and work. He showed us the different parts of his suit and told us about his work.

There is a little story which tells how the Appoquinimink was named. An Indian, one day came down the creek in his canoe; he saw a flock of wild ducks and shot into them. One of them was hurt and fell to the ground. The Indian said "APPOQUINIMINK" which in their language means "WOUNDED DUCK" and the creek came to be called by that name. The creek flows into the Delaware River.

There are no factories in Odessa, but most of the men fish and trap. They catch perch, catfish, carp, herring and other kinds of fish and send them to the city markets. They trap for muskrats ~~xxx~~ on the river marsh and also the creek. They get good prices for the furs. Sometimes the trappers get foxes, minks, otters, skunks, raccoons, opossum and wild ducks in their traps. The farmers raise grain, apples, peaches and berries.

We hope you have enjoyed our little history of Odessa as much as we have enjoyed working on it.

DUNCAN BEARD - CLOCKMAKER.

One of the best and most famous American clockmakers of the olden times was Duncan Beard. He was a Scotchman who bought one acre of land two miles south of Cantwell's Bridge in 1767. Here he built a home and a stone shop and worked on his wonderful clocks which were so beautiful and kept perfect time. Even today there are a dozen of these clocks in use which bear on the face the name "Duncan Beard - Appoquinimink".

It is known that Duncan Beard was greatly interested in Old Drawyers Church. He was a member in 1773 when the first building which had been built in 1705 was torn down and the present building was erected. It is believed that he helped to plan the new building which has been admired for its stateliness and its beauty.

When the Revolutionary War began Duncan Beard offered to make gun-locks for the Government. He was given the contract to furnish them for the State of Delaware at the rate of twenty two shillings, six pence each (about \$5.34).

He was always faithful to Old Drawyers' Church. Some people believe he is buried in Old Drawyers Churchyard as he bequeathed a silver cup to the Church in his will to be used for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Other historians believe he is buried in a vault near Foxontown Mill.

From Henry C. Conrad's  
Life of Duncan Beard.