The History of Concord

By HARVEY J. MORGAN

In 1763 a tract of land known as "Partnership" was purchased by Abram Mitchell, hatter of Philadelphia, and Walter and Samuel Franklin, merchants of New York.

This tract contained about 290 acres, which includes what is now known as Concord. This land was taken over by the above named gentlemen and a furnace was erected thereon, which was known as "Pine Grove Furnace."

Bog iron was produced here and shipped to England and Scotland. This industry was vigorously conducted here until the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.

When the British Fleet blockaded the Chesapeake Bay, this industry ceased and about all the men employed at the Furnace joined the American Army, entering the Regiment of Lieutenant Colonel Vaughan.

Two of the iron ingots made in Concord at that time are still in Concord, one on the Ellegood property, and the other in the street in front of where Russell Joseph now lives.

In 1793 all of the iron works, buildings, furnaces, etc, were sold to Seth Griffith, who was colonel of the Delaware militia, and William Elgate Hitch; and later, in 1796, the town of CONCORD was laid out by Seth Griffith and Thomas Laws and contained 159 lots (60 feet by 198 feet).

The road over the mill dam was known as Washington Street. This street ran east and west. The first cross street was called Main Street, running north and south. The other streets that ran parallel with Main Street were Second and Third Streets. The first street next to Washington running along Main Street was named Green. A large mansion occupied the corner at Green and Main Streets which was built by General Jesse Green, born in 1766, who was a prominent citizen of the community during the early

part of the 19th century and a lineal descendant of George Calvert, the first Lord Baron of Baltimore.

General Green was Adjutant General of the State Militia for a number of years and a member of the General Assembly for thirty-one years, being at one time the speaker. He was in business in Concord from 1809 until 1834 when he died and was buried there. General Green became very wealthy. He was succeeded by his son, George, who was also a prominent business man of Concord for many years. He afterward moved to Baltimore and lived to a great age.

The first store was opened in Concord about the year 1800 by Seth Griffith and John Bell, on the corner of Main and Washington Streets. In 1831, a store was kept by Alfred Cottingham, on Washington and Main Streets. This store was burned in 1844. On the south side of Main Street Louis Spicer had a store. Jesse Green had a store here from 1810 to 1834. John Houston also had a store in 1810. In addition he built vessels at Concord and had them lightered down to Outten's Landing, afterwards known as "Cherry Tree Landing" which is the head of the Nanticoke River, about two miles below the village. Mr. Houston also conducted a tannery here. James Outten and others also built vessels at "Cherry Tree Landing."

The Concord M. E. Church was formed in 1804. On August 24th of that year, Robert Boyce conveyed to John Jefferson, Elijah Morgan, A. Phillips, Adam Short, Covington Messick, John Lord and John Culbry, three-eights of an acre of ground for that purpose. The church was built in 1804 and afterwards rebuilt in 1841 and again in 1870. In 1870, the Rev. J. B. Mann was pastor and the church was dedicated October 8th, 1870. The Reverend J. B. Merritt and Reverends Todd and

Syphard assisted in the dedication.

The distillery being suspended in 1820, one-half interest in this property was owned by Alfred White and Edward Daugherty before 1816. The property was bought by Robert Boyce and Michael Stuart in 1832 and then passed to Joseph Chipman. In 1840 the property was sold to George W. Green. Mr. Green sold it to George H. Vincent about 1864, and in 1872 it was purchased by Isaac and James Cannon who for many years conducted an extensive stove factory, saw mill, grist Mill, etc.

Concord was the birthplace of Judge John W. Houston, who was a prominent justice of the State of Delaware for many years. He was born in the Dr. Ellegood residence as was his brother, Dr. David Houston.

Concord at one time contained several prominent physicians—among them may be mentioned Dr. Thomas Adams, Dr. Weightman Jones, Dr. James Fisher, Dr. R. G. Ellegood, who was State Auditor and member of the State Legislature and Dr. David D. Palmer.

The first school house was built in Concord in 1804. Up to a few years ago the original building remained. It has, in most recent years, been rebuilt. The original building was in district No. 58.

The post office in Concord was discontinued a number of years ago. Among those who have been postmasters in the past are George Grimes, Joseph Neal, Isaac Adams, George W. Collins, Isaac P. Jefferson, John Smith, Jacob Morgan, James H. Radcliffe, James B. Butler and George M. Outten.

Prominent business men of Concord for many years, from 1830 to 1901 may be mentioned: Hiram and William Jones, who for several years were merchants and shippers and who also built vessels; George W. Green, James W. Morgan and Thomas

P. Rodney; and later on James W. Vincent and Merrill W. Tilghman. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Rodney between them both had stores continuously from 1848 until 1902. Mr. Green was a buyer of grain for many years as were Mr. Rodney and Mr. Morgan, who also bought lumber, wood, railroad ties, etc. During the early part of the 19th century, before the railroad came through the shipping was done by vessels and steamers and Concord being the nearest to tidewater caused many farmers for miles around to come to the village with their products, and trade at the mills and stores. Thousands of bushels of corn and wheat, thousands of cords of wood, thousands of feet of lumber were bought and shipped from the village.

The decline of the importance of Concord as a business place became gradual after the opening up of the railroads.

Up to about 1870 this was not noticed; but the opening up of the great West with their railroads and the building of our own Delaware roads as far as Laurel, gradually drew the trade away from Concord. The low price of grain making it unprofitable to ship, the farmers devoted their attention to the growing of small fruits and vegetables. The markets were at the railroad stations and the farmers had to haul their products there. This together with the filling up of the creek, and taking away the post office, caused Concord to decline as a business and shipping point, but not as a place of interest or deep affection.

The mill pond at Concord which is said to have the most powerful natural water power in Sussex County, is one of the most attractive features of the village. The natural scenery is very beautiful and the pond offers much pleasure to those who care to fish or boat.

DEDICATED TO THE

MEMORY OF

LUTA M. OUTTEN

(Maiden Name)

First Marriage

MRS. CHARLES F. BOEHMLER

Second Marriage

MRS. JOHN BAUGHMAN

A GOOD MOTHER

AND

STEPMOTHER

The Sussex Countian, Georgetown, Del.