

The Complete Story of
Wilmington, Delaware
1609-1937

3 CENTURIES UNDER 4 FLAGS



LANDING PLACE OF THE SWEDES

[From Etching by Robert Shaw]

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Tercentenary Publication by ANNA T. LINCOLN

THE TUTTLE PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., RUTLAND, VERMONT

Now, for the first time in three centuries, the City of Wilmington has in print a complete, authentic and interesting history of its founding and growth under the flags of four nations: Sweden, Holland, England & the United States

Wilmington: 3 Centuries under 4 Flags

By ANNA T. LINCOLN: CURATOR, HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

400 Pages — Profuse in Illustration

IN 1928, when the Wilmington Public Schools attempted to put on a pageant showing something of the historical and industrial growth of the city, the appalling scarcity and inaccessibility of authentic historical material was glaringly evident. This situation was recognized as early as 1900 when the late Chief Justice of Delaware, Charles B. Lore, suggested that a new and complete history of the city be written. Research was started at that time, now nearly forty years ago. The work was, however, necessarily held in abeyance during the World War, and was resumed in earnest by Miss Lincoln in 1928. She set out to discover, collate, study and understand all of that great body of historical documents and data relating to the city.

It was Miss Lincoln's purpose to avoid assembling a dry and cold collection of dates and facts. She wanted to weave the authentic material into a lively and colorful pattern so that boys and girls as well as adults might read what a noble and interesting heritage



was theirs. This laudable purpose, so difficult to accomplish, Miss Lincoln has carried out with honours. Here for the first time in a book is the moving narrative of the history of what is now Wilmington, from 1609 to the present day. It is ready at a fortunate time for in 1938 Wilmington will celebrate its Tercentenary of the landing of the Swedes in 1638. Extraordinarily well written in an easy-to-read style, and superbly illustrated, it is a book which few cities get and of which any city may well be proud.

The long story of the founding of the city and its growth also constitutes a remarkable record. Incorporated in 1832, Wilmington as a city is not so old but its founding goes way back into the earliest days. Miss Lincoln has written several most interesting chapters about customs and habits of the first inhabitants, the strange Lenni-Lenape Indians about whom less is known than any other Indian Tribe in North America.

The curious fact about Wilmington is that

for 300 years it has flourished under the flags of four nations: Sweden, Holland, England and the United States. Early sporadic settlements and excursions were made by both the Dutch and the English but it was not until 1638 that the Swedes, under the former deposed Dutch governor of New Netherland, Peter Minuit, sent an expedition to Delaware for the purposes of trade in furs and tobacco with the Indians. This group built Fort Christina. From 1638 to 1655 the Swedes sent twelve expeditions to settle what is now Wilmington and Miss Lincoln has well covered in several fine chapters the story of this segment of Wilmington's varied history; the habits and customs of the Swedes; their trials and tribulations and a good deal about their background in Europe.

The next flag to fly over this city was that of the Dutch who, after having settled New Netherland, took possession of Delaware in

1655 and changed the manners and customs of the people. Their supervision was short-lived, however, for the Duke of York, coveting for his brother, the King, the rich trade of the Dutch, sailed in and took from Peter Stuyvesant what is now New York City. Then sending south his lieutenant, Sir Robert Carre, he took possession of the Delaware Colony. The rule of the English was hard and arbitrary and it was under it that the first rebellion against royal tyranny on American soil took place in the so-called Jacobsen plot.

The Dutch recaptured the territory on the Delaware River in 1673, but by the Treaty of Westminster, the English got it back in 1674 and so it remained until the first convention of the state of Delaware, holden on August 27, 1776, declared it to be free from the English rule, elected a president of the state, one John McKinly, and set up a constitution. Delaware was the first state in the

[CONTINUED OVERLEAF]

A few advance opinions of this book by five eminent men who read the manuscript



(HON.) JOHN G. TOWNSEND, JR.
U. S. Senator from Delaware

I am impressed by the clear and interesting picture of the early settlements in Delaware and the founding and growth of the city of Wilmington given by Miss Anna T. Lincoln in her book "THREE CENTURIES UNDER FOUR FLAGS." Seldom has research material of historical value been so simply and so entertainingly presented.

CHRISTOPHER L. WARD, LITT. D.
Cor. Sec. of Historical Society of Delaware

Local history at its best has an interest for people who live in the place where its scenes are laid, such as general histories rarely excite. There is a sort of family-circle intimacy about such a book that appeals to the human heart. I know of no one better qualified than Miss Anna T. Lincoln to write that kind of a thing about Wilmington. Besides her own memories, she has a thorough acquaintance with the collections of the Historical Society of Delaware, of which she is the Curator. I foresee that her book will worthily take its place beside that earlier classic, Miss Betsy Montgomery's "Reminiscences of Wilmington."

(HON.) RICHARD S. RODNEY
Associate Justice of Supreme Court of Delaware

I have read with great interest and much profit your excellent book called "Three Centuries under Four Flags." I think that you have produced a splendid work by collecting in one place so many scattered items of historical value.

LEON DEVALINGER, JR.
Assistant Archivist, Dover, Delaware

I was especially impressed with the accuracy of your work and with the wealth of hitherto unpublished data you have collected and made available. It is to be sincerely hoped that your history will soon be published as I feel that it is greatly needed and it will be a definite contribution to the history of this State.

WALTER W. BACON
Mayor of Wilmington

More than seventy-five years ago Elizabeth Montgomery wrote her "Reminiscences of Wilmington." We are very glad to learn that Miss Anna T. Lincoln has completed her story of Wilmington from Indian days to 1935. Miss Lincoln has spent her life in Wilmington and is considered an authority on its history. We welcome the book and feel sure its readers will learn a great deal concerning the First City of the First State.

United States to ratify the Federal Constitution which it did on December 7, 1787. Thus under the fourth flag, the stars and stripes, Wilmington settled down to an orderly and steady industrial and commercial progress.

One can not begin to suggest the wealth of rich material Miss Lincoln has incorporated into this book. Her understanding and clear delineation of the many little-known phases in history, such as the long dispute between William Penn and the Calverts over the boundaries (a dispute not settled until 1749), result in this book being required reading for all those who would know the true background of the founding and early growth of the city. The economic, social and moral influence of the different peoples who settled in Wil-



TICKET OFFICE OF FIRST RAILROAD IN DELAWARE
THE NEW CASTLE AND FRENCHTOWN
Photograph by G. Stayton Jones



GEORGE WASHINGTON
SILHOUETTE BY S. FOLWELL—Drawn from Life
Property of the Historical Society of Delaware

mington is also covered with great clarity and understanding. Not the least interesting are the chapters on the Influence of the Church, the Arts and Crafts, the Rise of Industry, Education and Public Schools, Roads, Bridges and Railways, The Revolution, The Civil War, and the Inns and Visitors.

The book is profusely illustrated by many old prints and pictures not before available. There is a good index. The book, a large one, has over 400 pages, is bound in stout cloth, gold stamped, printed on rag paper and sells for \$3.00.

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