EAST VINCENT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

BY FREDERICK SHEEDER, MDCCXLVI.

(Concluded from page 212.)

The following taken out of the Archive of the hill church Stiled the german Reformed church in Vincent. The old log church was built and consecrated May 27th 1758, under the then official Rev. John Philip Leydich and vestry Sebastian Wagner Sin. Simon Shunk John Shoenholz Thomas Schneider and Lorentz Hippel. The archive has the record of the babtised from 1758 till 1833, were babtised 725, and from 1799 till 1831 confirmed 290; in 1784 the Rev. Frederick Daelliker became the official in this church; Frederick Harman came to be the official in 1799 until 1821; John C. guldin till the year 1840, Rev. Honger and he deceased and the present one the Rev. John Hooken and Rev. Hoffman alternately; John C. guldin caused this congregation to Split; And each has there official and vestry. In 1812 the Congregation nominated the following members as managers to build a new church (I gave a discription of allrady) John Labach, Caspar Snider, Henry Hippel, Conrad gerhard, Conrad Sherer, John Hoffman, John yeager Jacob Wagner and George Hippel; this commitee nominated the following out of their number as builders John Labach, Caspar Snider & Henry Hippel, they proseeted and erected this present Structur (The road formerly pased in front of this church on the East Side, now it passes to the left along the Ridge), and at the laying of the Corner Stone there been coins & all that is usually disposeted at Such ocations depoested and within three years was a burglary and Sacrilege committed a corner of the corner Stone that had the pit wherein was all composed, cut out and robbed, the perpetrators run at liberty to this time. The Stones that this edifice are composed of red yellow and white free
Stones, I copied out of Said archive the names of 63 of the first deceased members of this congregation as follows: John Shoeholz, Michal Derry, Simon Schunk, Sebastian Wagner, Thomas Schneider, John Schneider, Peter Steger, Jacob Collman, John Hippel, Sebastian Wagner, Jacob Helvig, Michal Sifert, Lorence Kyle, John Labach, Simon Schunk, George Yeager, Paul Benner, Adam Gondel, John Imhoff, Jacob Miller, John Hoffman, Philip Stine, George Harts, John Kline, Christian Stahl, Jacob Conrad, Henry Carl, John Keeley, Henry Brenholz, Valentino Schmit, Jacob Guender, George Christman, Casper Burbauer, Nicholas Grund, John March, Antony Acker, Henry Bluit, Frederick Barnholz, Leonard Dombil, John Heck, John Kline, Philip Steffan, Conrad Shurer, John Shenfelter, Wm. Shott, Philip Wiant, John Gross, Jacob Hellwing, Jacob Stickel, Wm. Claus, Wm. Thomas, John Martz, Jacob Ellis, Peter Defrein, Frederick Henken, Jacob Hell, Jacob Houenstine, John Geitting, Philip Sellers, James Marry, Henry Schmid, Christian Ehmig, Jacob Nailer, Philip Seeler, John Brahma, Sebastian Maurer, John Deck, John John; here I shall close as relating churches as one archive is mislaid or lost and the two remaining is the most part neglected of entry; now I proceed to give a description of the monument at the foot of the hill of this last mentioned Church. The monument is a plain Pyramid about eight feet high inclosed by a strong wall adjoining on the Ridge road, on the left hand passing up the ground in walled is 65 feet by 23 feet bearing the following inscription on the South Side:

Virtue, Liberty and Independence.

on the East—

Within these walls surrounding, they;
Can yet be thou to claim a tear,
O Smite thy gentle breast and say;
The friends of freedom Slumber here,
We here their humble graves adorn;
We too may fall and ask a tear;
Tis not the beauty of the morn
That proves the Evening Shall be clear,
on the West—

Their names though lost in earth below,
And hence are not recorded here,
Are known where lasting pleasures flow,
Beyond the reach of death and fear,
Their feet have trod misfortunes Sands,
Their lives by hardships worn down,
They' er gone we trust to better lands,
To brighter Sunshine of their own.

on the North—

Sacred To The Memory of

Twenty two Revolutionary Soldiers, who in the fall of 1777, when the American Army had encamped at the Valley Forge, were lodged in the german Reformed church (in Sight) then occupied as a hospital; who there, distant from their homes, uncomfor ted by friends & kind relations, deceased in the Spring of 1778, of a fever then prevailing in the camp; entered in this ground and where they Slumbered in their peacefull but neglected tombs (except that Mr. Henry Hippel, Sen. preserved the ground), until the union Battalion of Voluntiers of Chester County aided by the generous and patriotic people of this Vicinity, resolved to have them enclosed and a monument placed over them; The foundation of which accordingly was laid on the 19th of November 1831 upon which occasion regular Military ceremonies were observed & a funeral oration delivered, to perpetuate the profound regard due the individuals who paid the forfeit of their precious lives for our Sacred rights, and for privileges which they were never permitted to enjoy, and to continue to generations unborn, the memory of the precious price of the Liberty & Independence of our happy Union; They have raised this Monument on the 25th of October 1833: and which they also dedicate to the memory of a number of Revolutionary Soldiers who the Same time and the Same manner, deceased in the Lutheran Church (then used as a hospital) and are buried near it and in other places of this Vicinity.

Now I shall prosseed to make Some remarks of which i never Seen any mention of on record which is concerning g. Washington and John Ralston Esqr. deceased, of the later the writer was for 25 years an near neighbor of intimate entercourse he a many times related to me when the conversation on the revolutionary was the Subject, that when g. Washington was about leaving the Springs he made inquiries of how and who he could git with Sufficient trust
to guide him to Reading; Captain John Ralston was recommended to him to be Such a one, he the general wrote a few lines, Sent one of his officers to induce Captain John Ralston to appear before him. The captain was for making Some excuses, but the request was so pressing that he must go with the bearer, and as often Judge Ralston related this transactions to and every time he Spoke of it, he Said that . . . . . . . his good conscience cheered him as he had done no rong to his country and had acted the part of a good patriot, and with this animation got to his usual viviety, and when arrived at the generals quarters, he was introdused to g. Washington by saying here is Captain John Ralston. The general at this time was Sitting at the Table writting but immediately got on his feet and walking back and forwards in his room, making inquiries how far he lived from the Springs and how far his father lived from there, and how they all where and where he had been born, and the Captain had answered all these questions, the next was are you acquainted with all the roads in these parts (when the general put This last question he Made a halt before the Captain were he had been requested to take a seat and Staring the Captain in the face. Then the Captain use to Say that then his heart beat faster than at any time before looking at this monstrous big man). The Captain replied yea, then he was asked if he know Such and Such a road that the general made mention, the Captain said no, he knew of none by that name, Like lighning he clapt his hand in his pocket drew out a book with the maps in (in all this time the Captain knew nothing of the generals design here, whenever the Captain related this circumstance he made the Same motion as the general did when he clapt his hand to his pocket) and looking for the road that he entented to know of the Captain and then Said The Ridge road leading by Brumbacks Church, the Captain ansured yes he was well acquainted with; Than said the general by laying his hand on the Captains Shoulder you must be my Pilot to Reading, and not till then the
Captains heart ceased beating and the general ordered him to be rady at Such an hour to morrow and appear at his room. The Captain done as ordered and the line of march was commenced from the Springs to Kimberton, now, then down Bransons Road to where now the general Pike is where this and the Schulkill road forks to git accross french creek bridge, as there was of no stone bridge known of, far and near at them times, Then up the Ridge road, the road then as i observed above what in front of the Church on the hill and the church full of sick and from here up the road the tents been Struck for the first knights quarter, the general enquartered at the head in the house Standing yit and occupied by the family of the late widdow Francis, which quarters the Captain had gon ahead and prepaired quarters for the general to lodge, this now was the first knights loging, next day the line of march was comenced up the Ridge road to where the ridge and Branson meets, the place now John Youngs and the old part of youngs hous then was a new house, and herein was the generals Second knights loging. This house when erected Conrad Bull done the mason work at it; next day the Captain was discharged and whent home. I do not remember any of all the circumstances that Judge Ralston use to relate to me and they been maney as those i have made mention of and in all conversations that took place of this perticular part he all ways related more cheerfully as any other; When the Captain received his commission he was quit a young man and from then till the day he died, this neighborhood will not Soon be blessed with Such a useful man as he was during his life; was never without commission. He received his commission as Justice of the peace from governor Miffling and not known anything about it till it was brought to his house; every man could depent on his word and he more then once tould me that never but one Suit out of his docket had been taken to Court, that he had given his judgement on but one and that the Court gave the same, he John Ralston received his Cummission of associate Judge of gov-
ernor McKean for Chester County and knew nothing of till brought to his house and held and acted on both till to his death. He held and Served offices in the militia. In fact he was the gardian of this parts of the Country fare and near; Suits depending at court for years and at last devited to the dissatisfaction of the parties he afterwards could and did Settle between the parties to their Satisfaction; i could name a number of them but will name but one that every one in this neighborhood must have a recolection of—Is the one took place here at birdge run between Michal Kolb and Nicholas ground, about the water right, which Suit was for a considerable time at Court, and when at last disited it was not to the Satisfaction of the parties and both agreed to leave it to the Judge, And the met the house of one of the parties and he Settled it to their Satisfaction and one that was thronged in the cost at court oftentimes tould me in his lifetime That if he had taken the advise of the Judge had given him, the Suit would never been taken to court and that the Judge had given him such advise that if he had been his chield could not to done more as he did to him but he could not see into it That he would had then Saved all the Trouble and costs; he was in general a peace maker, social and familiar to all. At one time i been at court when Judge Ross was on the bench, a trial of kit-naping came on, one Jesse Kirck, I think or believe, was the prosciuter and him listoning whit his hands lapt, with his eyes Shut, and holding his head in a possision as if he was looking to the Sealing, hearing the witnissis given the attornies pleadings and the Judges charge to the Jury. I did not think before the Judge gave his charge that one person could think that he was guilty of the charge, but the Judge in his charge to the Jury expresed him to the Jury as a guilty man, how the prosecutor must to then rejosed within himself as soon the charge was given the Jury when upstairs and court adjurned for dinner the President lodged in a prived house the associated at Jeffries next door to the court house as soon as Ross had his dinner he came to his
associates and as soon he had entered their room Judge Ralston got up from his Seat and Said to him, mine got Judge, how could you give such a charge to the Jury, and the answer was I must confess i was rong, The Jury been not long detained got their dinner and as Soon court was called handet in their vertic not guilty to the astonishment of all that heard the Judges charge. I could relate of many quire transactions having taken place in mine time but dont suit at this time. John Ralston, Judge, died at the advanced age of 80 years. In relation of wild animals there are to this time along french creek are partrages, owls, land and water Tortoise, Pheasants, Rabbits, ground hogs and Foxes, muskrat, mink and weasel. The Soil in west Vincent gravely with some Clay in flat places and some places Sandy and the most part hard iron Stones with here and thier Some free stones, Timber, blackoack whiteoack Chestnut and Chestnut oack or rockoack walnut and Poplar Some beach and birdch but hickory is in abundance, The Soil in East Vincent of three difrent discription and quit difrent from that of west along french creek its Sandy entermixt with Some Slate and some iron Stones and near along the Ridge road white and red freestones and the soil Sand entermixtet with sand and soap Slate and between the Ridge Road and the River Schulkill the Soil cheafly Sand the stones alltogether sand stone of difrent hue and colour, Timber whiteoack black oack and hickory with here and their a chesnut tree, The Soil of my first knollage from the year 1793 and 1794 prodused but poor crops of any kind of grain and at that time but 2 farms that could and did produse good crops of wheat and farming then in bad condition the most of the farms then harvastid from one, two, three and four acres of wheat, some indifrent crop of corn and oats the chiefly raised Rye Buckwheat done better then as now, The cause of this was They Settlers not being the owners of the Soil now knowing at what time the real owners would take possession of and drive them off They generally neclected even to haul that little manure that they
made, on their ground when they had cleared a field they worked that down so that it bore nothing of any kind of grain or grass but Carlic and thorns or briers; but as they became the owners of the Soil from time to time and obtained means to lime and plaster to bring the worn out Soil too, it produses abundently and rewards the husbandman for his Toil if prices of produse are reasonable, but take this Town-
ship, thier remain but few farms that contain the Same number of acres as they did 45 years ago and are now often prodused on 50 acres more as then on 200 acres and live better in the bargin. There are more or quiet triple the builtings as then and nearly all of Stone, at that time it was a rarety if a cow or Steer was fatened on a farm but now a common usage for house use and market—flax in that time was abundently grown but at this time but little of it, the Soil is not addabted for Some cause or other unknown. There are five permenant bridges accross french all built in my time the lower one rebuilt 10 or 12 years Since if i can make time before i sent you this i Shall git the date of the first erection of Providing there is a date Stone in the wall, this country general Speeking resembles more as a gardon as it did 52 years ago. Joseph Painter publisher of the Register & Examiner has gathered materials to Publish a history of Chester County by Subscription but not published on account of patronage if you apply to him its likely he may transmit the Same to you, The Moravians had the first Mis-
ionaries Sent among the indians of whom i read book 1792 while i lived at Lebanon of whom you can derive all informa-
tion concerning the indians in more detail as of any else, of that place i could Say a great deel, Some one from that place will give you Satisfactory detail of that place; and likewise i could or Should mention Something of your City in the year 1794-5 and i lived thier I been present at the fire of when the New Church in fourth between Race and Arch Streets burnt down and at the funeral procession of Mr. Brown and family been Burried 5 corps in four Cof-
fings, i think it was on Newyears day; their house burned
down and all perished but their coach driver. Mr. Brown I think was the Publisher of the first daily paper in the City, and happened to be on business in Philadelphia in the year 1799 when John Frees & were to be hung, was at the prison among the grout till the hour for his being brought out and his pardon arrived I been at the lanch of the first fricat built at the Navy yard i think She was Named Philadelphia i remember that there was no brickhouse from Seventh Street to Schulkill, but the farry house that Henry Knerr occupied then a Son of old Henry Knerr of this Township at his lifetime and from a little pice up from fourth Street in Arch to Schulkill but ginders mead house as called then I been often about Morries buliting and happened to come past the time they been tearing it down and asked one of the hands at work Why they were tearing that buliting down he replied Saying This was a house to make the rich poor and the poor rich, I often seen general Washington and Lady in there 2 horse coach Sunday Riding to church out fourth and down Arch Street till to the church; and i seen Frees brough in 4th Street to the workhouse as called then by the light house and seen them work into it, I cannot forbear Somthing respecting Lebanon I came to live with Peter Miller then the Second house from the large corner Brick Tavern Lineweaver then F. Stoever this Peter Miller was quarter master in the Revolution and John Philip grenewald Cornet of the Rigiment that went from that quarter to what was termed flying Camp to Newyork at the time they got their orders to march They Nominated him P. M. to that office as none of their Number had corage to accept of it but him i must make but few words of i night write Several Sheets of what he use to relate of that campain, he P. Miller then took John gloninger with him as his Secritary who when afterwards Dauphing was cut off of Lancaster &. became one of the associates and acted as Such till of late years Said P. Miller was a distiller and he took 4 hogsheads of wisky of his own along for his men and Sometime after the laid about Newyork Provision got
scarce and the general Quartermaster esued orders to the regimental quartermasters to make return of all the provision in Camp at his office all orders obayed when Miller was admited into office and hanted his return in and notice taken of but was none to Spare but wiskey he Miller was ordered to deliver a certain quanity to others that had none, he refused obedience the g. Q. had his Sword hanging within his reach before him at the wall and as Soon he had the disobedient answer the crabbed g. Q. a Stout man took hold of his Sword and Miller laid hold of his to draw as Soon the g. would draw and by this time tould the g. that the wiskey was his property and that he had brought it for his own men and not for any other use and then parted as friends. I must mention here at this time Peter Miller had but little to concern him had given up keping a public house which buisness he followed from Soon after he returned from Camp his distillery was still in opperation uintill his decease So as he had not much to look after he Spent his most time in my room conversing with me and this his history of the revolution he so often came over. One more of what he use to relate to me and this that i am going to relate took place in the year 1795 or 96 It was the time that wheat the first time failed and got to three dollars a bushel and at that time the been diging in that neighborhood at the union Cannal and the head men the company got to come from england and who visited at Lebanon then and as the diging was in operation he got brick kilns erected and got brick burned to erect brick arches over the same wherever the cannal crossed a road he Peter Miller and grenewald use to persuade him to desist of doing so that this was too expensive as there where Stones plenty duck out of the cannal to do built bridges with but for the present he Should put plank bridges accross the cannal till it would prove to answer, he the Engineer gave them to answer that the germans knoweth nothing about Such things, but he Soon run the Company Short of money and the works abandoned with the brick arches over, This failure of wheat
East Vincent Township.

took place in this time that, That gentleman had so plenty of the Company's money And it was a usual custom for the heads of the Town to meet on Saturdays, convers about matters and at a large and respectable meeting of Citizens and from they Surrounding neighborhood and the complaint of every one was that they were Suffering on account of bread the farmers raised not much Rye only for horse feed and the distilleries and not accustomed to eat Rye bread but had to do So that time, but reader you may guise or conject what bread it was They millers not know how to make rye flower and the woman not know how to bake rye bread, This gentlemen in their lamentation burst out Saying, I dont care a damm whether wheat grows or not I have to buy my bread.

I have on page 7 made mention to give a detailed account of, and on account of that promise I Shall have to Say Something I had intendent to give a circumstantial detail of our coming to america but the time and circumstance dose hardly allow me to do so, as i had to devote more time as i expected in respect of gathering information. At the first time i whent through the Township to gather information I took it on foot, A many one promised me to put in writing and Send it to me But was generally neglected and when came to record that what i had gathered I was obliged to be out on horseback for two weeks before i could git all the Satisfaction i desired which caused much trouble and delay and every time i whent out took a Sheet of paper to record on which was the cause that i did not git everything in rotation as had intendent at first and often had to interline by looking over that what i had wrote and have hardly time to look over the intire, i have write; to see if entirely correct, however i will Say Something on the head of the Subject and of my own knowlage Sense i came to this country. It must be familar to every intelligent reader to know that in Europe, those that learn a trade by the laws and rules of that country compelled to travel wander three years after their apprenticeship, And when a boy i intened to learn a
trade, and when about Seven years of age the Soldiers came back that where Send to america by The King of france to assist the revolutionists in american to obtain their independence and when they came home from america their acquaintences and relations surrounding them to hear the news that they had to relate concerning of all they had Seen, heard and known of america, I as a boy listeneed verry attendively and then formed a resolution That if ever i Should git to live to learn a trade, that then i would travel to the United States of america (here i must notice how it came that germans where Sent here by the french king), By the National Constitution of urope where all the monarchs of urope at the time it was fraimed affixed their names to; it then became the duty of the King of france, to keep 12 german Regiments in quarters and pays in france and to perform the Same duties as the french Soldiers did each regiment consisted of 3000 men and by the name of the country or government they been chieldren from and when the King had consented to Send for that purpose there where Seven men drawn out of each rigement in france to complead the number he had promised, here reader please to recolect these twelve rigements where all children of that princes dominion whatever name it bore and this that i am speaking of was the rigement of Saarbrook as the french term it, is but the german term is [torn], and his title the house or family of Saarbrook; Saarbrook is likewise the name of the capital the princes residence (but now at this time no more, it belongs to the King of prussia) the prince of each dominion is allways their general commanter if the rigement is intire called to action and this rigement allways had their head quarters at Saarlauis 18 mile down the river from Saarbrook (Saar the name of the river and brook signifie the bridge accross the river from St. John to Saarbrook, St. John was surrounted with a wall and drain fortification) about ten mile down the River from Saarlauis is the City Trier which was foundet two years before Rohm and the oldest town in urope, and when these men where to be Shipped one of them disserted and came
East Vincent Township.

home he was loged in the general guard house and next morning reported to head quarters, he the prince orthered him to be brought before him, this man's name was Jacob i never heard him been called by any other name but had a nickname attached, before, that which was; wistling Jacob, because he was allways marry hopping and wistling wherever he whent and when brought before the prince he Said, Jacob i thought i had Send you to america to fight, yes, replied Jacob, But your most pleasing highness, what Shall i go their for, to kill people or they me, they have not laid anything in my way nor I in theirs If they will face man for man before me I will Settle all amicable with them, The prince Struck, by this answer of Jacob; left him at liberty, where otherwise 6 balls in his head would to been the consequence, I must observe here that france had the right by that constitution to make use of the entire of these 12 rigements in time of war. The Emperer of austria had only the right to draught a certain number when he was engaged in war providing france was not a party engaged, however it came to pase, that in the Spring of 1793 my father with his family and 7 families more left for america on account of the then french revolution, had they french armies in quarters for six monthes previous Father Henry Sheeder and Clemens Rentgen Steel factorers had received letters two years before that time and one Shortly before they left of the Misses Pott's and Hopert from Pottsgrove. They intented and promised them to erect a forge for them to make german Steel in this country, They would to never left urope, if it had not been for those flattering letters, Hilarious Baker then Major of the City a german and Brother-inlaw of Mr. Hopert use to write the letters for them, we arrived at Philadelphia in october of the first Sickness and the five families been put to boarding with another Brother in law of Mr. Hopert, I think his name was Yeates he had left the City and resited on his country Seat at the lower ferry, two weeks till wagons been Sent by the Misses Pottses & Hopert to bring them to Vincent Township, where they then been at erecting works first a Slitting mill which was
under roof when we arrived and as father had entented me to be his Jurneman to make steel had; learned the Tailor trade before leaving Europe, here we all worked helping to make the dam at erecting Stabling and forge to macke Steel but the Misses Pottses & Hopert had Just Such a millright as the union cannal Company had an Engineer, The came over from Pottstown almost every Saturday to See how we where coming on there been from 35 to 40 hands at work and from the time the foundation for the Steel works been Staked off and almost every time after the Pottses & Hopert came over to See how coming on Father and Rentgen Spoke to them and Cautioned them not to permit that millright to go on as he had becon for it would never do to make Steel in Such a thing as this Sumet to be one, none of our folks culd talk to the Pottses as the did not Speak german but, Mr. Hopert did, but not as fluent as the english and they then allways Spoke to Mr. Hopert and Mr. Hopert's answer allways was, To only be Satisfied that they had a wise and engenious millright and he would make all right; here are Mr. Hoperts words in german, Meister Schieder sein sie nur zugfrieden wier haben einen klügen und gescheiden man der wird alles güt machen.

yes, was the reply of father and Rentgen, He will emty your purs for you and then you will git to See, however father and Rentgen as in progress of the building the plainer the could See that there was no prospect for them to make a livelihood by their trade They more urchent they been pressing the cause to the before named gentlemen and allways been put off by the Same answer and at last been tould that they had Surity for the millright to do every thing to answer then they tould the gentlemen that the millright had never Seen a german Steel factory and that They could never expect of him erecting one When at last the millright pronounced it finished the Pottses & Hopert had notice to be present and See it go in opporation father objected of drawing gate They requested him to State his reason he was quick of telling them he first Stated to them that all Mashinery that was fixet to convey the wind to the furnace
East Vincent Township.

and if that even would answer none of the rest would answer however at last they prevailed on father to draw gate the millright had his horse rady and Saddld and off he whent like wind and i never heard of they ever got to See him again; father at last drew gate but in less than no time They gentlemen been convinced of their error They got it oalterd so as to make Some Tons of raw Steel i left and whent to Philadelphia to work at my trade and father and Rentgen left Some time after, If it was not for the posterity to know where, and that, german Steel had been manufactured in this country and in this Township I Should not to made any mention about it and was brought to perfaaction but not here on the Pottses works, The Pottses turned these works to make or forge iron and was carried on for Some fifteen years and Clement Rentgen purchased it but never whent in opporation and lays idle evesince, father was endused by Jacob Lesher deceased late of Pottstown to come to him he would erect Steel works for him the place where them works been erected was called, long Swamp Macuntia Township Berks County now Trezlers iron works father whent and the works been erected to all Satisfaction and father made Steel at that place for Som 6 or 9 monthes but the Stream too light near the head of the little lehigh and on that account could not be kept in opporation i think it was in the year 1795 or 6 that his Jurneman got Sick and he sent me a letter to come and take his place I accordingly did and in September father quit on account of the insuffi- ciency of the water. Lesher turned it into an Iron forge, to forge iron takes but about half the water as Steel this requires more wind and to quarter the first lump out of the furnace is about 4 times as large & heavier an iron lump, and carried under the hammer by a Crane or Swivel and the lump hammerd tough and cut into four equal pieces before it can be worked into bars, and when this process was in opporation the head of the water was gone, then Mr. Eckerd at the musilum above Reading turned his forge into a Steel forge and bought of Lesher the Tackling and father whent there and worked Some time and for Some cause i believe
it was the purse that failed to keep it in operation; in the meantime Clement Rentgen went to Cristopher Haus at French Creek Nantmeal Township and Knauer erected a tilt for him where he factured Shovels Spads and hoes and their he invented to make the round Bar iron obtained a patent and could not supply the demand for that article, he was not able to Supply with one tilt and in the year 1804 or there about purchased a Site of Samuel Hirsh where the royal Spring run enties into French Creek and erected a tilt and other Sufficient buildings to carry on two Tilts as Soon the house was finished him and family moved here and put Peter grund to the one he had moved from to carry on the buisness in Rentgen's name by paying him Thirty dollars for every ton he would or could make Rentgen had all the troble to see from where the Bar iron could be got to pay for and to Send an invoice with the Teams that hauled the iron and to git the mony for the same to pay to Peter grund for his work the rent to Knauer for which Rentgen was good for and Rentgen then had five dollars per ton for all that grund made for him. i have to remark here that when Rentgen had bought a place for himself he told Mr. Knauer that he should not be uneasey about loosing his rent that he would Still pay him his Rent if his tilt would lay idle or do buisness and told him that he was going to put P. grund there to carry the buisness on for him and under his direction Peter grund was an apprentice to Rentgen in germany and worked three years Juneman with him before coming here, Rentgen brought him along to be his Juneman here but as their buisness did not prosper Ground in the mean time had learned the blacksmith trade and followed it at this time when Rentgen put him to this tilt, Mr. Knauer Begrudged Rentgen the five dollars and persuaded grund to make the iron and take it to Philadelphia himself and Sel it and put thim five dollars in his own pocket ground took Knauers advise and done So then went to Phila. his tilt Stood idle and when come home had to go from forge to forge to See where to git bars and pay for and Sold his iron in Town for the Same that Rentgen had
paid him, Rentgen called on them to git them not to persist in their pursuit but of no avail Rentgen was compelled to have a notice Served on them by the united States Marshal and when he had executed the dutys of his office on grund and Knauer Knauer Said that he did regard that paper for not more as to . . . . . , Knauer had the trial putt off Several times and when at last comon got grund to be a witness and grund gave testemony that Rentgen had not been the inventor of making of the round iron for he had learned his trade with him in urope and rentgen lost the Suit and his patent was void by the laws of our country. Reader now recollect its a fact that Peter grund learned his trade with Rentgen in germany but that was refining Steel, from the first opporation its in a raw State for no perticular use as, to lay plough irons with, for in some places in a bar it will when cold brake like glass and at an other as tough as iron, And in the time rentgen worked at Knaurs he refined for the Pottses that raw Steel that father made at Vincent works; Peter grund came to Rentgen which is quit bright to my recolution and him nor Rentgen never heard or Seen of any round iron been made as that by a blacksmith, But i often had heard Rentgen relating that he had, had a brother many years in advance of him that had been the invender of drawing the wire and those factories in germany are called Draftzug which is wire drawer, after all this troble and waist time Rentgen Invented of the rol ing the round iron but never applid for a patent on account of Knaur expresed himself; however this rolling of the round iron flew like wind to england and the marked Soon over Stoked and Rentgens works are idle eversince Rentgen then invented the making of Cannon and erase Shot of as Smooth as ever a Small Shot was factored He sent two boxes to Washington for examination and inspection The war department approved of them, but he got no further incorage ment, and of this process the world is ignorant of excepting the two Surviving Sons Christian and Peter Rentgen, So these inventions all had their origin of this one man in the neighborhood of Vincent at French creek in Chester County
and the old Lady lives with her three children in Vincent and the owner of all the old gentleman's property and here the old gentleman deceased. A Mr. Voigt or Vocht; The head of the United States Mint at Phila. pronounced the Steel that was made here better as ever any had com from urope They then used none but german Steel for the die to coin. Mathew Davis his request continued and by the request made to him by Dr. Andrew Bush, By an Note hanted by him to me to State That in the year 1810 general William Brooke of Darby Delaware County had called at his house, David'es and desired him to take a walk with him the general, to Pidgon creek a Short distance from his house and when we came to where Custards mill now Stands he the general tould me that, That was the place where his grandfather had intented to Settle his family Then lived at Roxborrough Township Phila. County That then left home with a pair of horsies and a man to assist him falling timber to erect a Sawmill on this Spot, they becan cutting and as they where cutting at a tree The man quit cuting Mr. Brooke asked him why he quit cutting, he Said that he was afraid the tree would fall on him and kill him, he was tould that he could See how the tree would fall, he then cut a few Strokes and quit and expressing himself in the Same manner Mr. Brooke tould him then to go out of the way and he would fall the tree himself, he whent as he thought out of danger The tree fell and Sprung a Saplin which throwed a limb and killed him, So Mr. Brooke left the place and never returned again to Settle here but afterwards Settled in Limrick Township. I had Says Mr. Davis related this circumstance to Some of my neighbors and when D. Custard was diging out for his works, the bones of a person been found and some thought that they probable been the bones of that person, end of Mathew Davis Esqr. Here i now give the promised anecdote of page 17. The fall of when general Jackson the first time run for president, about two weeks before the Election I been at West Chester and wile there general Barnhard came thrice to me to con-verse with me and in the thirth conversation, he made men-
tion of how much he had assisted to improve West Chester and made mention of the number of houses and buildings he caused to be erected and made mention of the sum of his tax amounted to a year. And then said to me that he had understood that I was contributing a great deal to improve the country that I lived in. I answered him that I thought was doing my share and then asked me how much tax I was paying per year. I had not counted up, but was double that he had said that he pays. Then asked how many buildings I had erected. I answered that I would have to count first and counted twenty-two with roofs on besides others that had no roofs on them. The time I been with Jesse Brumback and when he hanted me the copy of his great grandfather's will, he the same time told me that he would let me have his father's journal that he had kept when out in the western expedition; I refused excepting of it by telling him that I always had considered that a disgrace to the State and the less observation would be made of the better, and likewise told him that whenever I had been in conversation when this subject came to be a topic that then I had always in the following manner expressed myself; That good democrats should never from that time out tasted a drop of whiskey; I been the first church man in these parts of the country that refused giving liquors to workmen as I could perceive no good derive from giving it and never made it a custom to use it in the field in haymaking and harvesting but the paid the hands 12½ cts. more wages to buy it themselves. But I never followed that custom when I quit I did quit. Then at times when I asked hands to help me harvesting some would ask me, do you give liquor? No was the answer. Then the reply was: Than I shant help you. And then reasoning with him on the subject that, that was leading the working folks to their destruction here and to come, and so got a maney a one confess and others could not, see or at least did pretend not to see and to them I said that if I could not get my hay and grain in without whiskey that then I would sooner see it rot on the field, and from time to time it was abandoned giving liquor in the fields and I believe
there are but two in these parts that give it to this day. I never begrudged a man taking a dram as is generally termed. But making beasts of themselves I could never approve of, and can Safely Say that i never brought one quart of any kind of Liquor to my house for my own use and allways cautioned those that made a general use of it, to desist of using it, when i first Settled here i may Safely say that one thirth of the inhabitants of this Township did not attend to any worship but baccus bacchanels, but must Say to the Credit of but few That a great change has taken place in my time respecting refinement and where we meet at numborous gatherings we observe but few blooding faces like wild bullocks as in former times, in those times people could hardly gather anywhere but some had to go home with brused and bloddy faces They did not considered a meeting honorable where was no fighing took place to have Something to talk about thereafter and even in harvastimes there was no funn to talk about if it came off without a fight, or from one two or three laying in the fance corner long before night and when came to Supper to take first a dram when even they had too much allrady and then again after Supper to take a Starting dram we read that after god had created all and cast over it all, he had formed he pronounced it all good and then gave direction how people to make use of all he had made and created and all to their benifit, but not to their destruction.

Now as to give an account of the number of Inhabitants &c., You can best be furnished with, by making application to the County Commissioners which would be more correct as i could be able to do; And if anything in this report is represented reprehensive, then draw a black line over the Same and if anything lacking as to intelligibly if you inform me of I will try to rectify the Same.

Respectfully yours &c.,

FREDERICK SHEEDER.

EAST VINCENT, at Sheeders industry, February 18the 1846.