

Cartouche on Perspective map of Philadelphia, 1702.

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SOME EARLY BRICKMAKERS OF PHILADELPHIA.

BY HARROLD E. GILLINGHAM.

The art of brickmaking was not unknown to the first settlers on the shores of the Delaware, as they came from countries where bricks had been in use for hundreds of years. The Babylonians made bricks 6000 years ago and the knowledge of the process soon traveled westward throughout Europe. William Penn wrote in 1685 that the colonists were "French, Dutch, German, Swedes, Danes, Finns, Scotch, Irish and English," to all of whom bricks were well known. Hence when the first settlers arrived in Pennsylvania it was natural that they should have chosen bricks as the most suitable material for the building of their permanent homes, when they found clay in abundance.

There were about 1000 persons in Pennsylvania when William Penn arrived in 1682, and in *A Further Account of the Province of Pennsylvania*, 1685, he tells us the town had "advanced to Three hundred and fifty feven houfes," also that "Divers Brickerys going on, many cellars already Ston'd or Brick'd and fome Brick Houfes going up." He further says there were 7200 inhabitants in Philadelphia in 1685.

In 1690 John Goodson wrote to his friends, John & S. Dew, that "They Build all with Stone and Brick

## 2     *Some Early Brickmakers of Philadelphia.*

now, except the very meanest Sort of People, which Build framed Houses with Timber.”\* The “meanest Sort” described the worldly possessions, not the characters of the persons referred to. In the same letter, Goodson says “We have now . . . Four Brick-makers, with Brick-kills.” And that was in 1690!! It is stated in the *American Weekly Mercury* of February 13, 1722, that “4 Brick Tenements on Front Street, . . . with two tenements on Second Street” were advertised for Sheriff’s sale, indicating that before many years after the settlement, houses of brick were generally built in the city; even tenements or the more humble homes.

One has nothing but tradition to rely on when told that bricks were brought by the Swedes or English settlers, with which to build their houses, and possibly the crudity of the oldest bricks is due more to the hasty manner in which they were made than to the style of foreign bricks which they are said to resemble. The oldest bricks of this section are not dissimilar to the English bricks of the same period. That the houses erected here between 1680 and 1725 were constructed of these so-called imported bricks, is undoubtedly not substantiated by evidence. This statement may shatter some traditions regarding old buildings in this country, but the facts speak for themselves. It is known that bricks and tiles were made in Virginia as early as 1612, and in New England by 1647, so why should the Pennsylvania settlers have gone to the expense of importing bricks from England, Holland or Sweden, when they so soon discovered an abundant supply of good clay close at hand. Then too, most of the earlier vessels arriving here were well laden with the personal effects and food for the passengers they carried, leaving little space for extra cargo. If bricks were carried as ballast, that ballast was quite as neces-

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\* Note. Penna. Magazine, Vol. IV, p. 195.

sary on the return voyage as on the westward course, for there was little exporting of merchandise from the Delaware river ports during the first few years of the settlement of the country.

If all of the old buildings built before 1710 had been constructed of imported bricks, it would have kept a large fleet of vessels, small as they were at the time, constantly busy carrying cargoes of bricks only; and how would the colonists with their personal effects, and all of that antique "furniture that came over in the *Welcome* with William Penn" have reached these shores? There were not many vessels engaged in the trans-Atlantic trade, nor were they large. In addition, think of the inconvenience and cost of the inland transportation of the bricks needed to build the most modest dwelling of the period, when there were no roads to speak of. Think of hauling bricks at least 25 miles from the Delaware river to build the Keith mansion at Horsham, or the School at West-Town, in Chester County. And over roads, the condition of which the reader of today can scarcely conceive.

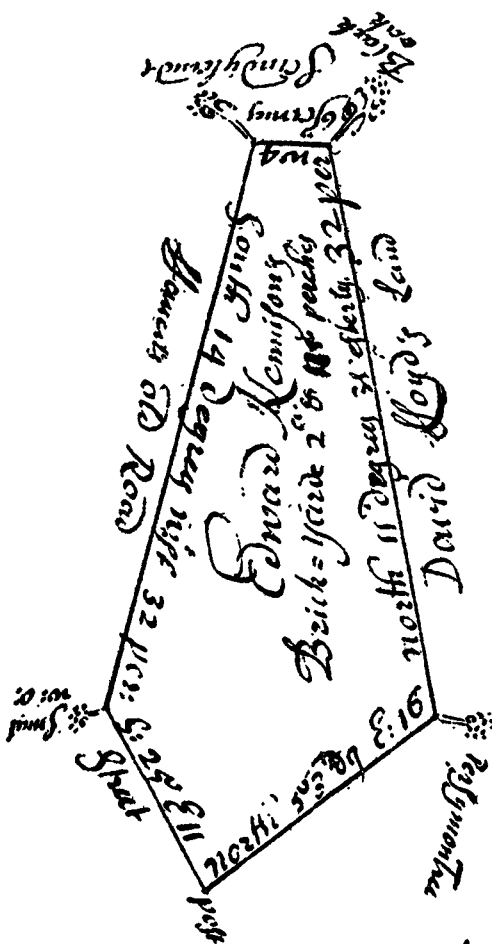
As brickmaking had been carried on in the other English colonies at least fifty years before the arrival of Penn, and as the making thereof is not a complicated process, it is quite proper to assume that our first citizens soon set about producing these useful articles for the building of their permanent buildings. Penn wrote in 1683, "I have a canoe of one tree y<sup>t</sup> fetches four tunns of bricks." If bricks had not been made here in 1683, Penn would not have needed that canoe, nor would he have used the expression. The "four tunns" of bricks were evidently brought down the Delaware river from some nearby Pennsylvania brickyards, or from Burlington, N. J., which was settled some years before Philadelphia.

In Robert Turner's letter, published in 1685, in *A Further Account of Pennsylvania*, he says: "Brick

building is said to be as cheap (as wood); bricks are exceeding good, and better than when I built; More Workers fallen in, and bricks cheaper, they were before, 16s. English per 1000, and now many brave brick houses are going up with good cellars." Think how those *brave brick houses* looked to the early settlers, some of whom had lived in caves by the river bank or in hastily constructed frame huts. Turner said eleven brick houses had been built when he wrote that letter in 1685. Pastorius mentions brick-kilns and tile ovens as one of the industries of the settlement in "ye German Town," and in Jonathan Dickinson's Logan Papers (1719) one reads, "A considerable quantity of the best bricks on the continent are made near the city." Again in 1696, Gabriel Thomas wrote: "Brick-makers have twenty shillings per thousand for their bricks at the kiln." If bricks were being brought over from Europe—as tradition so often states—why would these several writers have said so much about the brick making in the colony of Pennsylvania?

If one consults the *Taylor Papers for Delaware County*, in the manuscript collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, they will see on page 1275, a plan of Edward Kennison's Brick-yard at Chester, which contained  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres, dated 1704; showing that it was not only in Philadelphia that brick-making was carried on. Bucks and Montgomery Counties also had their earlier brick yards, where bricks and red clay tiles for hearths were produced.

It might be of interest to mention some of the earliest known brick buildings erected in Philadelphia and thereabouts, which were undoubtedly built of local made bricks. Robert Turner's two story house at the S. W. corner of Front and Mulberry (Arch) Street, started before 1684 and said to have been the first in the city; The Quaker Meeting House started in 1684. This was probably at the corner of 2nd and Market



This is a Draught of Edward Hemmingson's Brick-yard Situate in Town of Chester (that he Purchased of Farmer Sandylands) Containing two Acres and an half and ~~33~~ 34 Acres

Survey'd 28 of 12 1704

Streets, for in the minutes of the Friends Meeting of 1st. of 4th. mo. 1685 one reads, "There shall be built with all expedition a Meeting House in the Centre of Brick, to be 50 foot long and 36 foot wide." The words "in the Centre" have led some to think this meant Centre Square, or the centre of the City as laid out. But the oft quoted Robert Turner, in his letter to Penn, dated 6th. mo. 3rd. 1685, describing the changes in the city, says "A large Meeting House, 50 foot long and 38 foot broad, also going up, on the front of the River."

"Daniel Pegg's house above the creek" was finished in 1685. Gabriel Thomas thus speaks of the Old Town Hall at Second and Market Streets, started in 1698 and completed in 1707,—"*Here is lately built a Noble Town-House or Guild-Hall, also a Handfome Market-Houfe.*" Remember Thomas was writing in 1698, and in describing the river front and creeks he says—"Frankford-River, near which Arthur Cook hath a moft Stately Brick-Houfe;" still further on he says "Before Robert Turner's Great and Famous houfe, where are built Ships of Confiderable Burthen." Thus reminding us the early settlers soon began to build their own vessels, and be independent of the mother country. The "Slate roof house" was built by James Porteus for Samuel Carpenter in 1700; Gloria Dei, Old Swedes Church, was commenced May 23, 1698 and ready for services by July 1700, though the tower was built later. Charles Read's house at the S. W. Cor. of Front and Market Streets was finished in 1702. After Read's death Israel Pemberton bought it and resided there until 1745, when it later became the Old London Coffee House. Thomas Masters is said to have built the first *three story* brick house. This was on the S. E. Corner of Front and Market Streets, was three stories on Front Street and four stories high on King (now Water) Street, and

completed in 1704. The Friends' Meeting House at Fair Hill was erected in 1707; Trinity Church, Oxford, in 1709. Rev. Benjamin Dorr tells us in his *Historical Account of Christ Church*, 1841, that the first Christ church building was erected in 1695 and that "It was of brick, with galleries, and large enough to accomodate more than 500 persons"—"This first building was not as large or as fine as the Old Swedes Church, built in 1700." Further on he tells us that in 1711 Christ Church was altered and enlarged, that 37,000 bricks were used in the addition. The alteration has sometimes been called the second church building. The Friends' Almshouse on Walnut Street was built in 1713; Governor Keith's mansion, later called "Graeme Park," near Horsham, Pennsylvania, was erected in 1722. A red clay tile from the fire-place hearth of this historic house is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches square by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, of a good rich red colour.

Logan's mansion *Stenton*, was erected in 1728, and the State House on Chestnut street near Fifth, was commenced in 1732, though not completed until 1752.

Inasmuch as the making of bricks and tiles was not an unusual occupation, one finds little recorded to determine who were the *first* Philadelphians engaged in that enterprise. It has been the endeavor in this article to give such records as are obtainable, of our earlier citizen brick-makers; and while the search has been pleasant, one must be lenient, and remember that the information has been gleaned from many scattered sources. If any makers have been omitted, it is because of the inability to find them in the various records thus far searched.

In this connection the writer wishes to express appreciation to Mr. Albert Cook Myers of Philadelphia, for his assistance in allowing his manuscript notes to be examined and copied; also to Miss M. E. Wood,

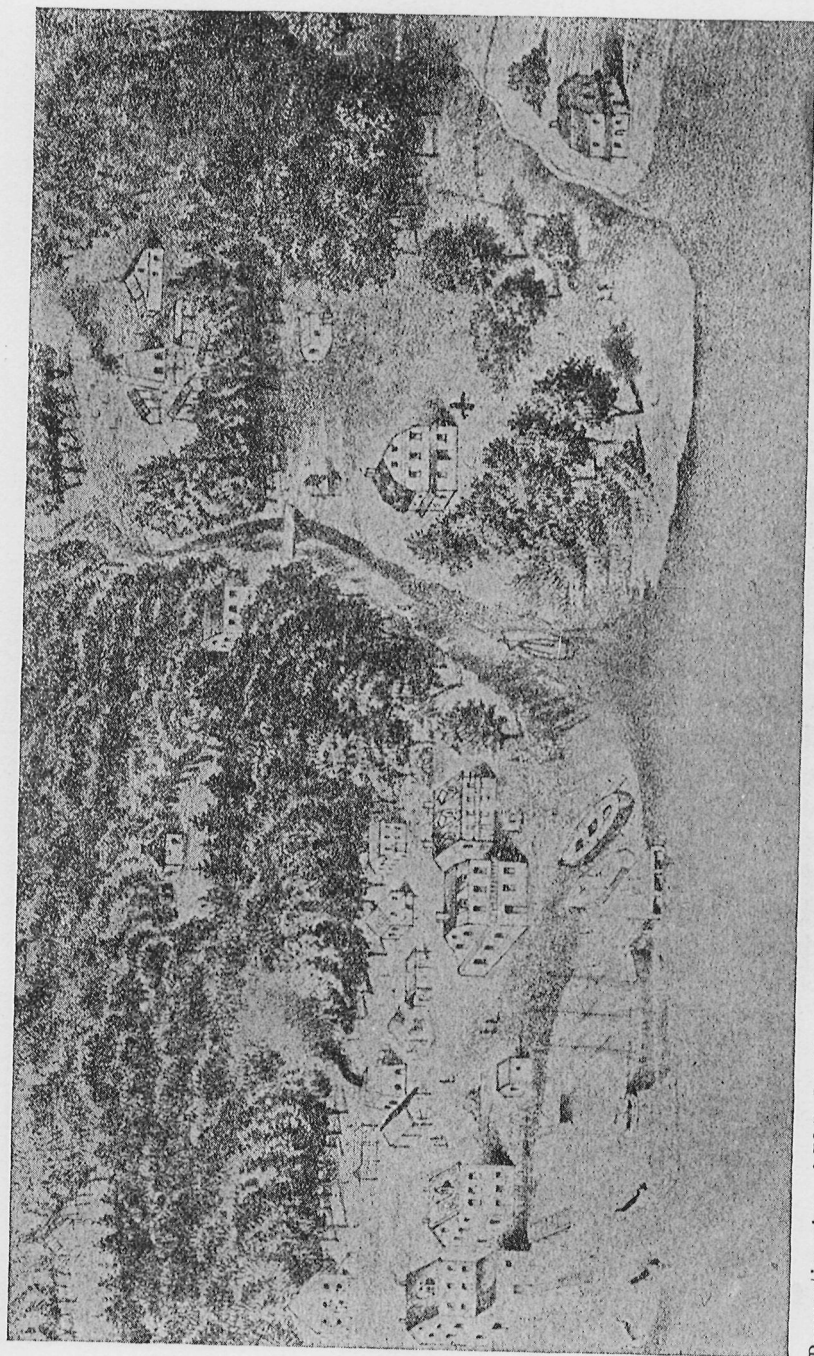
for valuable information gathered from her genealogical files.

Five years before William Penn received his grant for Pennsylvania, Sir Edmund Andros (1637-1714), then Colonial Governor under the Duke of York, for New York and the Jerseys, granted a patent on 25th. of March 1676 to Jurian Hartsvelder (*Hartsfelder or Hartsfielder*) for 350 acres of land on the west side of the Delaware River, between Coo-ah-que-nunque creek and the Cohocksink creek, extending westward to the headwaters of the Coo-ah-que-nunque. This included practically most of the territory later known as the Northern Liberties. Three years later Hartsfielder and his wife Margaret transferred 250 acres of this land to Hannah Salter, a widow of "Taokony" (Tacony), who on the 23rd. of 4th. mo. 1681 transferred the same 250 acres to DANIEL PEGG. By a Patent from the Property Commissioners, a resurvey of Pegg's land thus acquired, showed it to be 450 acres. Part of this he sold in 1690 to Thomas Smith (q.v.) his brother-in-law and partner in the brick-making business.

The Coo-ah-que-nunque (or Cohoquinoque, and later Pegg's Run) creek had its origin beyond 11th. and Callowhill Streets, entering the Delaware river about at Willow Street. Pool's Bridge crossed it at Front Street near Callowhill Street.

In his letter to William Penn of the 6th. mo. 3rd., 1685, Robert Turner says, "Thomas Smith and Daniel Pege are Partners, and fet to making Bricks this Year, and they are very good." He also mentions the two brick-makers having a double brick house and cellars, which would seem to indicate they were the *first* brick-makers of the city.

That Daniel Pegg was in Philadelphia before Penn's arrival is unquestioned, but where he came from or who his parents were, is not told. He was one of the Representatives of Free-men in the Assembly 10th. of 3rd. mo. 1692, also his son Daniel Jr. for the years



Perspective view of Philadelphia in 1702. From map in collection of Historical Society. Daniel Pegg's house marked X; his brick-kiln is shown in upper right, with smoke curling from top. Another brick-kiln, possibly Randall Spakeman's, is shown at the left. The stream in centre is the Cohoquinoque Creek, or Pegg's Run.

1720 and 1730. On the Tax list for 1693 Daniel Sr. is mentioned as being assessed £1-0-10 for 250 acres in the Northern Liberties. He married, at her father's house on the Neshaminy, Martha Allen, daughter of Samuel and Mary Allen of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He died and was buried in the Philadelphia Meeting grounds 12th. mo. 23rd. 1702/3 but mentioned no brick-kilns in his will. Probably with 200 acres of land, farming was his chief occupation. He was followed by his son Daniel Pegg Jr. At the Ridgway Library, in Jonathan Dickinson's Ms. letter book, 1715-1721, is a letter to Isaac Gale, dated June 18th., 1715 wherein he says, "Dan. Pegg his father left him a pretty Seat, Joyning to ye town, a Good Brick house and Orchard, and nigh 200 acres of land in wch is a ps of Meadow containing about Six acres now worth fivety pounds all wch is said to be Mortgaged."

Note how Dickinson describes it as "*a pretty Seat*" with a "*Good Brick house and Orchard*," and visualize the scene. "*Pegg's house by the Creek*," "*the big Brick House*" and how peacefully pastoral must this estate of "*nigh 200 acres*" have appeared in 1715, compared to the sights one now sees in that section of the city of to-day, between Vine and Green streets, from Fifth street to the river. Yet in 1709 William Penn proposed to rent Pegg's house for his residence in the nearby quiet country.

*To be SOLD, or Lett for Seven Years.*  
**T**HE Great Hōuse that Daniel Pegg  
 now lives in, with Garden and good Orchard, and  
 about Twenty-five Acres of Upland and Meadow adjoining  
 to Philadelphia. Enquire of Daniel Pegg, at the said Houie  
 and know further.

From *Penna. Gazette*, March 18, 1731, p. 4.

Little is known of Daniel Pegg Jr.; probably he farmed his *nigh 200 acres*, and was moderately suc-



cessful, carrying on the brick-making business as a side issue. In the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is to be found a bill dated 1724, for 7500 bricks supplied for the Friends' Meeting House, showing he was carrying on the business at that time.

Under date of October 13, 1714 (Note, Deed Book, I No. 2 p. 234) he deeded to his sister Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Coats, 6 acres of land, being part of their father's estate, described as "Messuage and tenement and piece of ground, bounded by a Small Creek running by Spring Garden, on the North side of Delaware River, above Nathaniel Pool's house." In his will, proved February 6, 1732 (Note, Book E p. 235, No. 317) he describes himself as *Daniel Pegg, Yeoman, of the Northern Liberties*, and mentions no sons, but two nephews, Daniel and John Coats, children of Thomas Coats (also a brick-maker), who are given portions of land in the Northern Liberties. To his wife, Sarah, he gives his northernmost messuage and ground bounded by the road to Burlington (Front street), the road to New York (old Fourth Street), and the land of William Coats, who was also a brick-maker. His "small pasture fenced and lying near the brick-kilns" is to be sold to pay his debts. This is the only reference to his brick making plant, and with the sale of this portion of his property, the name of Pegg is lost in the annals of the early brick-makers. Perhaps his relatives, the Coats family, many of whom were brick-makers, out-distanced him in the competition of the times, and like the Smith family, the brick-making business was allowed to lapse for other callings.

In the record of the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting for the 9th. day of the 11th. mo. 1682 is noted "Thomas Smith of Philadelphia, Husbandman, and Priscilla Allen, declared their intentions of marriage at a meeting of Friends at Shackamaxson." This was no doubt

at the house of Thomas Fairman, where many of the meetings were held in that district. Priscilla Allen was a sister of Martha Allen who married Daniel Pegg in 1686, who was a partner with THOMAS SMITH in the brick-making business in the Northern Liberties in 1685, and who had bought part of Pegg's land in 1690.

By Thomas Smith's will, proved 2nd. mo. 20. 1692 (Note, Book A, page 191, No. 75) he bequeaths his land "at the north end of Philadelphia," but says nothing of the brick kilns. His partner, Daniel Pegg was one of the appraisers for the estate, which totalled £ 330-12-3; rather a comfortable fortune in 1690. In the Historical Society's collections is an original copy of this inventory, the first item of which is "167 acres of Land with improvements £ 200." There were four horses, a mare and colt; eight cows and a calf; in addition to numerous farming utensils and crops. The only mention of the brick business is an item reading "*Bricks in the Kill & wheelbarrows and Spades* £ 4, 4s.6d." Not a very valuable asset, when one remembers Turner wrote in 1685 that bricks sold for 16s. per 1000. Probably the demand was such in the rapidly growing city that Smith sold them as fast as he could make them. His only son, Thomas Jr. died before reaching his majority and the Smith family name no longer appears in the brick business. Mary Smith, one of his daughters, married William Coats, a brickmaker, on 9th. mo 13, 1706 at the Philadelphia Meeting, and her sister Ann Smith, married William Rakestraw Jr., also a brick-maker in Philadelphia; thus were the several families closely allied in that industry.\*

Another seventeenth century brick-maker comes to the attention of the reader under date of the 23rd. of 6 mo. (August) 1690, when Penn's Commissioners granted unto JOSEPH BROWN, brick-maker, 22 acres

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\* Note. See Mortgage recorded in Deed Book, F. 10 p. 202.

## 14 *Some Early Brickmakers of Philadelphia.*

of land adjacent to that of William Rawle and Samuel Carpenter for "fifte one years from the first day of the third mo. (May) 1684, at twenty two shillings lawful money of England" per acre. In the same minutes, describing the land of Thomas Ducket, on the *River Schoolkill*, reference is made to "Joseph Brown's Lotts adjoining," thus we are able to locate the property as being in the western section of the city.

In the minutes of the meeting of "ye 20 of 10ber 1690" one reads "Liberty was given to Jos. Brown to cut 100 cords of wood for the burning of bricks, but no white oaks." Note the care exercised to preserve the Proprietor's white oaks. Such exceptions are frequent in the records of those early days. Further reference to Brown has not been found, and if he occupied the land for "fifte one years" history fails to reveal the fact.

On the 16th. of the 11th. mo. 1687/8 RANDALL SPAKEMAN\* was granted "10 acres in the pro. Land at the N. End of the Town of Philadelphia, not discommoding the proprietors Seating, either on Delaware or Schuylkill side, to hold it for 3 Years certain, afterward but yearly, to make brick on, and to pay 5000 bricks p. Annum, and to cut down no Timber Trees." On the 14th. of 12th. mo. 1690/1 he appealed to the Commissioners to grant him "Liberty to Cut wood on the proprietor's Land for the next Summer's work for burning of bricks." Owing to the great rent he paid, of 5000 bricks per annum, the request was granted for one year.

On 9th. mo. 28th. 1691 Spakeman was granted a lot on Sassafras (Race) street near 7th. on which he probably built himself a brick house, as the records say he married in 1701, the widow of Daniel Smith of Chester County. After this all trace of him is lost as a brickmaker in Philadelphia.

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\* Also known as Spackman.

On page 5 of the large volume of Norris Mss. papers in the Historical Society, is an Indenture of Randall Spackman to John Williamson, dated the 23rd. of 6th. mo. (August) 1706, wherein Spackman described himself as "Tobacconist," which would indicate a change of business. One of the witnesses to this document is Joshua Tittery, an early potter and glass-maker.

WILLIAM RAKESTRAW seems to have been more than a brick-maker, as the minutes of the Commissioners for the 8th. of 1st. mo. 1689/90 say he was granted 100 feet of Bank lot, and "Liberty to make Ropes on the Proprietary's Land during the Proprietary's pleasure." For this of course he paid rent, and it is to be hoped the "Proprietary's Pleasure" continued some years and that he was successful. On 3rd. mo. 3rd. 1690 he was granted a square "between the eight Street from Skoolkill (15th. st) and broad Street and between Sassafras and Vine Street upon the Usual terms, viz, tenn shillings p'r Square." On the 14th. of 12th. mo. 1690/1 he was granted an additional half square, bounded on the north by Mulberry (Arch) street, eastward with Broad street, southward with the back lots and westward with the eighth street from the Schuylkill, or 15th. street. This was the second time before 1700 that land was granted west of Broad Street for brick-yard purposes. In the Friends' records is noted that Joseph Rakestraw, son of William and Grace, died 8 mo. 1, 1700, having been shot by a negro. In his will proved February 2, 1718/9 (Book D. p. 113) he calls himself *Malster*, and makes no reference to either the rope or brick business.

On the 10th. of 10th. mo. 1712 the Commissioners granted unto WILLIAM RAKESTRAW JR. "a Small piece of Ground at the North End of the Town about Eight or Nine streets back from Delaware for Erecting a Brick kill and Digging of Clay." In the Penn Mss. Journal (Vol. 11 —.98, in the Historical Society col-

lection) under date of 7 mo. 14 1720, is recorded "William Rakestraw Jr. Dr. to Acct of Brickyard £ 30. for six yrs. Rent for the Brickyard Leased to him at the North end of the City of Philada. ended the first day of ye last March, £ 30."

Whether he continued in the business alone is not known; he having married into the Smith family (q.v.), for his will, proved October 5, 1736 (Book F p. 13 No. 10) makes no mention thereof, though he bequeaths one of his houses on the bank of the Delaware in the Northern Liberties to his son William. Other real estate in the same locality is mentioned but no brick kilns.

While history tells us that Daniel Pegg and Thomas Smith were the earliest local brick-makers, no sketch of this industry would be complete without mention of the Coats family. According to Daniel Pegg's will, William Coat's land laid north of the Pegg tract, on the Burlington road, now Front Street. Members of this clan were in the Northern Liberties by 1682 and were long identified with the district. They had their own family burying ground at 3rd. and Brown streets, and Coates street — now Fairmount avenue — was named for the family. The spelling of Coates Street was always wrong; the "e" being improperly used. This branch of the family always spelt their name *Coats* and do not appear to have been in any way related to the *Coates* family who came to Philadelphia about the same time and settled in the old city proper.

It is said that the first Coats lived in a cave when they first arrived, which was near Front and Green streets. No record has been found of the origin of this family of brick-makers, save in the will of Joan Clemson, widow of Janno Clemson, proved April 23, 1729 (Book E. p. 105), wherein she mentions her sons, William, Thomas, John and George Coats, but not her first husband.

in f. By the Commissioners of Property

At the Request of Thomas Coats Brickmaker that We would Grant him a certain parcel of Ground adjoining to the Old Brickyard late held by John Mifflin near the North Side of the City (Philadelphia) for his making and Burning of Bricks for which We agree to pay to the Proprietary or Trustees of the said Province five pounds Money of New York every Year during the space of ~~thirteen~~ years next ensuing after the date hereof and at the end of expiration of the said Term to yield up and Surrender the same with all the Clay or Brick earth well filled up and levelled These are to Authorize and Require Us to Survey & lay out or cause to be Surveyed and laid out unto the said Thomas Coats in the place aforesaid a certain parcel of Ground not exceeding three Acres To be by him held under a Grant of five pounds Money aforesaid which if the said Thomas duly fulfill & yearly pay during the said Term of years Then this Survey shall be Valid otherwise & it is to be Void as if it had never been made nor the same to be ever granted Given under our hand & Seal of the Province at Philadelphia the first day of April Anno d. 1719

Wm. Jacob Taylor Surveyor Gen.

Ruth Hall

JAMES LOGAN

James Logan

Warrant for Thomas Coats Brickyard. Old Records Office, Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg. D. 71-202.

## 18    *Some Early Brickmakers of Philadelphia.*

The Philadelphia Meeting records show that WILLIAM COATS married on 9th. mo. 13, 1706 Mary Smith, the daughter of Thomas Smith, also a brick-maker, and died in 1748. He left no will and Letters of Administration were granted June 11, 1748 to his son, William Jr., who died in April of the following year, when Letters were granted to the family friend, Thomas Say, a Sadler. The location of their brick yard has not been found, and it is presumed to have been on their farm, north of Daniel Pegg. A grandson of William, of the same name, carried on the business for some time after the death of William Coats Jr.

THOMAS COATS, brother of William Sr. was likewise a brickmaker. On the 1st. of 1st. mo. 1718/9 the Commissioners granted him 3 acres of land for a brick yard "adjoining on the Old Brick Yard late held by John Mifflin" for 14 years. This was part of the 5 acre square bounded by Ninth, Tenth, Sassafras and Vine Streets.

According to a plan of John Coat's brickyard in 1735, Thomas also had a yard north of Pegg's Run about at Seventh Street.

Thomas Coats married Elizabeth Pegg, daughter of Daniel, our first brickmaker. He died in 1744 leaving four sons, two of whom, Thomas Jr. and John followed in their father's business. Thomas Jr. became quite prosperous in his line, and when he died in 1758 he left a house on Sassafras street, one on Elfreth's Alley, and other pieces of land in the northern part of the city. Two minor sons survived him, but we have not followed the younger generation in their business career. His will provided that his two servants, Hull and Saul, should be freed six years after his death, if well behaved in the meantime.

JOHN COATS, brother of the before mentioned William and Thomas, was the third member of this family to follow the brickmaking business. In the minutes



of the Commissioners for the 27th. of the 11th. mo. 1719/20 is written "John Coats, Brickmaker, upon his earnest request and the Recommendation of several Bricklayers, has obtained a Grant of 3 acres of ground for a Brick Yard by the Roadside whice leads to Wissahickon and joyning J. Logan's Pasture, for 14 years from the 1st. day of the 1st. month, at the yearly rent of £ 6. and to level the Ground where he diggs his Clay every year, and surrend'r the whole so levelled and the killns."

On the 29th. of 10ber. 1735 this was increased to over seven acres and a survey thereof shows it to include land on both sides of the Wissahickon Road (now Ridge Avenue) above Vine Street, extending north to James Logan's pasture, on Pegg's Run.

John Coats owned property in the Northern Liberties, part of his family's original tract, North of Pegg's farm. He was one of the purchasers and trustees of the "New Building," afterwards the Old Academy, on Fourth Street below Arch Street.

Upon examination of the files in the Register of Wills office, one sees that RICHARD CANTRILL was appointed Administrator of the estate of Joseph Cantrill of "Darby-shire England," who "was casuallie drowned in the Skuill-kill," and their origin is established.

On July 6, 1692 the Commissioners granted Richard Cantrill a lot 30 feet front "in the third street near the burying place," which was probably for his residence, as it is noted that on the 10th. of 10th. month 1701 a Warrant was signed, granting him, for his brickmaking business, "3 acres of Land on the South-ernmost end of the city between 6th. or 7th., or 5th. or 6th. streets from Delaware, where the best clay is, for 21 years at 40s. per Annum, on condition that Richard Cantrill shall build a Brick House of a Story and a Half high, thirty foot long and eighteen foot wide."

By the Commissioners of Property

Pursuant to an Agreement made between us on behalf of the Proprietors and Richard Cantrill Brickmaker These are to require that a survey or map to be survey & forthwith to the Proprietors three Acres of Land in the Southernmost square between the fifth and sixth streets or between the fifth & seventh streets of the City of Philadelphia from the River Delaware according as the help may for Brick is to be found to be told by the Proprietors under the Great and upon the Conditions in the Minutes of our Proceedings Vol. 1 p 14 at large expressed and make Return thereof into the Secretaries Office. Given under our hands & the seal of the Province at Philadelphia the 10 of 1750

To Edward Penington Surveyor Genl

Edward Shippen  
William Owen  
Thos. Story  
James Logan

He also agreed to fence the ground and so leave it; with an orchard of at least 80 good apple trees standing; level all clay pits, to be free from water. The house, orchard and fences to be left in good repair at the expiration of the lease. This is the first known instance that a brick building was required to be built, and it is interesting to note how the rented clay land was to be levelled, and even good apple trees planted thereon. Surely the Commissioners of Property were exercising great care for the beautification of city lots in those early days.

In the Mss. of the Land Office at Harrisburg appears under date of 6th. of 9th. mo 1685 that ROBERT SALT-FORD was granted 6 acres of land "Nigh the Town for Brick making; the place left to the Surveyor General." If that official plotted the land, any reference to the location has been hidden from the student. Six years later the minutes of the Commissioners show that on the 24th. 11th. mo. 1690/1 they "Granted Evan Oliver the Brick Shades at Salford's Brickkills, they being ready to Drop Down." Whether Oliver became a maker of bricks is not mentioned, but Robert Saltford is not again referred to in that occupation.

The only reference to ABRAHAM PRIDE is found in the Penna. Mss. Journal (p. 211) in the Historical Society collection, under date of 2nd. mo (April) 17th. 1710, the entry "To Acco. of Quitrent £14. Rec<sup>d</sup>. for Abraham Pride's Brick Kilns to 1700. £14." This must have been for several years rent to have amounted to fourteen pounds, and while paid to 1700, it proves that Abraham Pride must have been working in the seventeenth century.

One is led to believe he carried on some other business or shared his home with another, as in the *American Weekly Mercury* for March 21, 1722, appears the advertisement, "Run away the 10th. inst. from Daniel Martin, living at Abraham Pride's in this city, a Ser-

vant Man named John Lee.” No address was given, but “at Abraham Pride’s” was probably sufficient at that time.

From the Meeting record one learns that Abraham died 9 mo. 11 1722, and the chapter closes on another brickmaker.

There are several references to members of the CARTER family as brick-makers, but only one which gives an idea of location, and one must again consult that mine of information; William Penn’s Mss. Journal (p. 157), where appears this entry: “Sept. 23, 1709—John Carter of Philadelphia, Brickmaker, DR to account of Quit rents for his Brick kills at 50/ per Annum—County money for 11 years, Since B. Chambers sold them is £27. for which he gives Bond in the new Currency for £20-12-6.” If John Carter had not been able to pay his Quit-rent for almost eleven years, it is to be assumed his success as a brickmaker was not very great. In the minutes of the Property Commissioners, under date of December 31, 1712, is recorded: “John Carter, Brickmaker, being Possessed of those 5 Squares at the North End of the Town and about the 7th. and 8th. streets from Dela., which were formerly granted to B. Chambers for the term of 21 years at 50 shill’gs p. ann., which Term expires the next first month, John Mifflin requests a Grant of them, the said John Carter being at Present disabled to follow that Business. But the Said John having Still hopes of Contin’ng it (as he has informed Some of the Board), the matter is referred to further consideration, with a Promise notwithstanding to said Mifflin that in Case Carter has them not he Shall have the Preference of all others upon Such reasonable Terms as he may hereafter be agreed on.”

This might have been the 5 acres in the block bounded by 9th., 10th., Sassafras and Vine Streets,

part of which was rented to Thomas Coats and part to James Stoops. See also Mifflin.

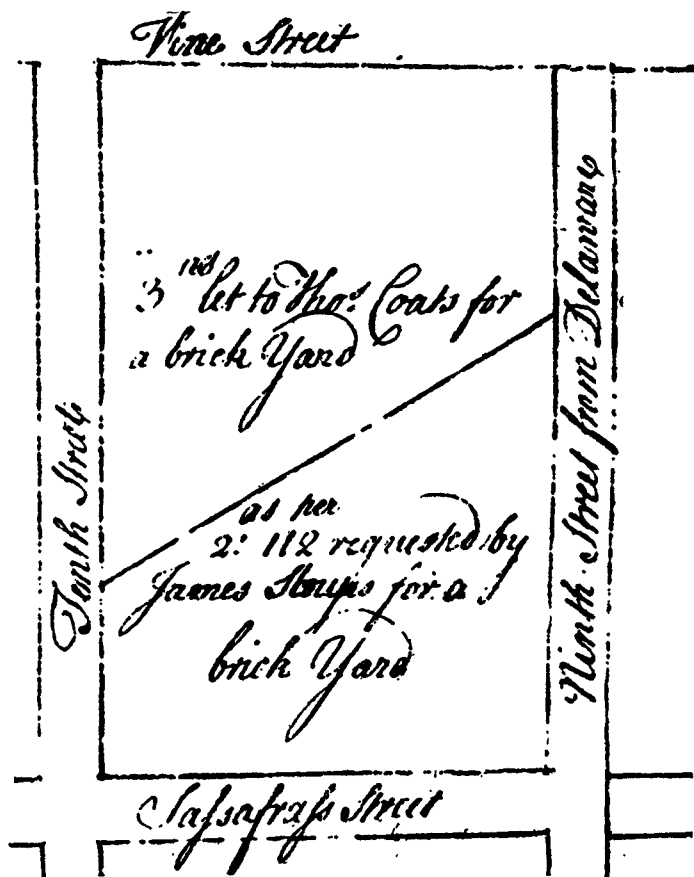
Whether John Carter's disability was physical or financial, is not mentioned, but his name does not appear again in the brickmaking line.

In the Friends Meeting record is noted that on 5th. mo. 9th. 1703 HENRY CARTER, Brickmaker, was married to Susanna Colley, daughter of John Colley of Philadelphia; and further on, under date of 3rd. mo. 21, 1709 that Henry Carter, Brickmaker was buried; hence his history in the business is short indeed.

In the same record appears "Thomas Carter, Brickmaker, buried 5th. mo. 3, 1709/10, and a diligent search has failed to divulge any information as to where Henry or Thomas Carter had their kilns.

JOHN MIFFLIN was born in 1661 in Wiltshire, England, a son of John Mifflin; coming to Pennsylvania among the earlier colonists, and according to the Meeting records, he married 12th. mo 6, 1683 Elizabeth Hardy, likewise of Wiltshire, who arrived here in 1682. That John Mifflin ever operated a brick-kiln, history fails to reveal, but there are several instances which prove his wise investment, either as owner or lessee, in brick-yard land. Recalling the Commissioners' action regarding John Carter's disability and their promise to John Mifflin; their minutes of the 21st. of 11th. mo 1712/13 show that "John Mifflin who had the Last Kilns in his possession under John Carter, desires to take ye Same on Rent, &c." Again in 1718/19, Thomas Coats was granted 3 acres for a brick yard "Adjoining on the Old Brick Yard formerly held by John Mifflin." Later we find that James Stoops had part of this same lot. From the old records in Harrisburg the location of this 5 acres was in the block bounded by Ninth, Tenth, Sassafras and Vine Streets, a neighborhood where several brickmakers had their kilns.

In Westcott's *Historic Mansions of Philadelphia* he states that BENJAMIN FAIRMAN and JAMES STOOPS supplied the bricks for the State House in 1732. Even though he calls them "Brickmakers," it is possible



Plan of James Stoops Brickyard. Old Records Office, Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg. D 84-92.

that Benjamin Fairman was merely the financial partner of James Stoops, who was a practical brick-maker with kilns of his own. Such arrangements have been known, even in our day, with contracts on

public buildings. Benjamin Fairman was a son of Thomas Fairman of Shackamaxon, a prominent citizen during the Penn Proprietorship, and in his will he describes himself as "Benjamin Fairman, Gent," making no reference to clay land or brickmaking.

Nothing is known of JAMES STOOPS, save that about 1720 he occupied half the lot bounded by Ninth, Tenth, Sassafras and Vine Streets, for his brick kiln and yard, and that he supplied bricks for the State House. These upon close examination appear to be about as well pressed and burnt, as any old bricks now in existence, and Stoops (or Stoups) must have been a careful manufacturer of these clay products. In 1750 he owned a lot on the west side of Third Street, where he probably dwelt. In his will, proved April 11, 1774, he mentions no family whatever, and besides a small legacy to his housekeeper, left all his money to Church charities and the Pennsylvania Hospital; thus closing the career of a maker of historic bricks.

There has been no attempt in this all-too-lengthy article to record all of the Philadelphia brick-makers of the 18th. century. The effort has been to give some information of the earliest who were engaged in that occupation, with the idea of convincing the readers that brickmaking was extensively carried on in William Penn's colonial possessions during the latter part of the 17th. century as well as in the following years; and showing that it was not necessary for the early settlers to import bricks from Europe when they could be so readily produced at home.

According to an old map, dated 1794, in the Historical Society's collection, there were fourteen brick kilns in the old city proper at that period. One is indicated as at the York Road (4th. Street) near Green Street, and one between Rouse's Lane and Irish Tract Lane, South of Cedar Street; otherwise at 15th. and South Streets. The block bounded by Broad, 15th.,

Walnut and Sansom Streets contained a brick yard and kiln; as did also Rittenhouse Square. Between 18th. and 19th. Streets, Walnut and Market Streets, there were two kilns when that map was drawn, and several between Race and Vine Streets, from Eighth to Twelfth Streets.

The underlying deposits of clay in Pennsylvania seemed to have been excellent for brick and tile making, and the early citizens of Philadelphia soon initiated the custom of building their homes of brick, which has long been continued in this, the city of brick dwelling houses.

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NOTE—In the list of passengers from Bristol, England, arriving the 11th of the 5th mo., 1686 on the Ship *Delaware*, one finds the name of *Richard Moore, Brickmaker*.