

## Frankford Chronicles

## The First Fourth of July

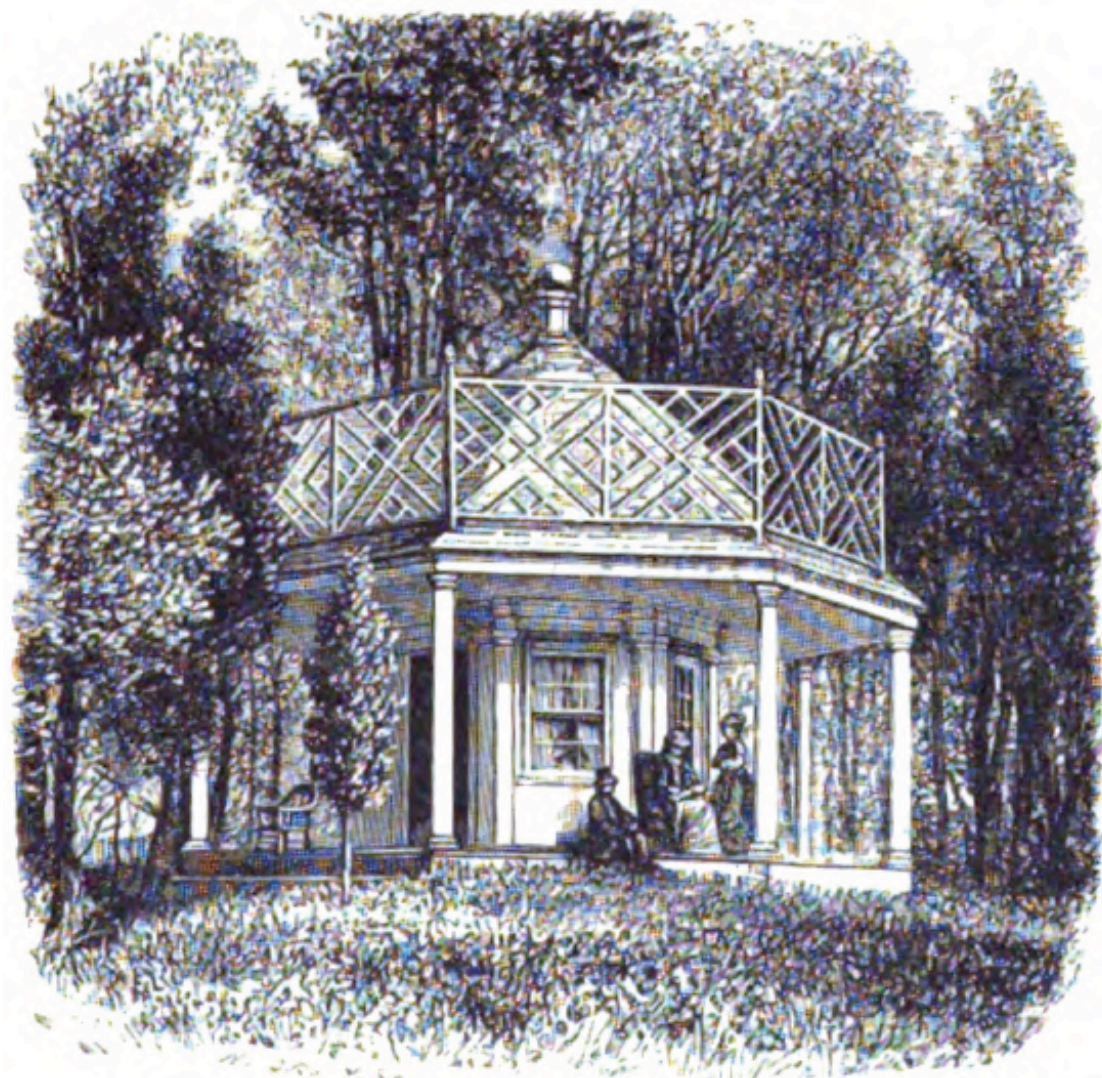
Numerous reports of Thomas Jefferson having been in Frankford just after having signed the Declaration of Independence, have been and continue to be published, but have never prompted any research whatsoever - until now.

The first such report<sup>1</sup> of Thomas Jefferson celebrating a private reading of the Declaration of Independence in Frankford (which was to have occurred in 1776 during it's composition), surfaced in 1872 as a Frankford Church publication, consisting of just this one sentence:

Below Church Street were the old residences of Ruan and the present Womrath property, where even now stands the summer-house in which, tradition says, the signers of the Declaration of Independence spent the afternoon of the day on which they put their hands to that momentous document.

In 1876, the Centennial Celebration brought a second account including a photograph<sup>2</sup>, while expanding the story by the addition of information:

The First Celebration of Independence  
[This Higginson depiction was substituted for Newell photograph]



GARDEN-HOUSE, OWNED BY DR. ENOCH EDWARDS, WHERE JEFFERSON AND OTHERS CELEBRATED THE PASSAGE OF THE DECLARATION.

On the 8th of July, 1776, according to legend, Thomas Jefferson, with some members of Congress went to the residence of Dr. Enoch Edwards, which was near the village of Frankford, in the County of Philadelphia. In a summer house belonging to the mansion, and about 600 feet distant from the latter, these parties celebrated in a social manner the great event. Such is the legend handed down from owner to owner of the premises, and maintained by aging inhabitants of the neighborhood. Dr. Edwards was, before the Revolution, a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly from Philadelphia County, and is said to have been a brother of Jonathan Edwards, the younger, eminent among American theological writers. Jefferson was a frequent visitor in Dr. Edwards' family and is said to have been a relative - probably through the family of his mother, who was one of the Virginia Randolphs, which was a large family of extensive connections. The old summer-house is still standing, and the mansion to which it belongs, an old fashioned one, is peculiar from the facet that the basement and first story are of stone, while the second story is of wood. The place was formerly called Violet Hill, but is now known as Elm Hill, and the mansion house, according to

the present number, is situate at No. 4216 Frankford Avenue.

The above account, to some degree has become the standard for a long list of accounts that soon followed. [Full list see End Notes] All accounts, but one, excluded the fact that this property belonged to Henry and Elizabeth Drinker in 1776 when Jefferson was to have made this visit.

Pause a moment to note that Elizabeth Sandwith "was married to Henry Drinker, January 13, 1761 by Friends' ceremony."<sup>3</sup>

"In the summer, before July first, the family nearly always left town. They had country places first in Frankford, then toward Germantown, often stayed with Henry S. Drinker a short distance up the Delaware."<sup>4</sup>

In the beginning of this inquiry, this editor did not believe that any previous accounts provided any accuracy nor did they produce any July 4th fireworks. At the time of this writing, July 01, 2010, to my knowledge, no author has thus-far provided any research or evidence that would prove this First Celebration of Fourth of July. Thus far, there has been no production of original source documents, citations, tax records, deeds, or entries from within any contemporary journals to support their respective accounts. Thomas Jefferson's own notes have not placed him (or any other Congressional Delegate) in Frankford at this summer-house on Bristol Pike in July of 1776. Thus-far, because of the following facts, all accounts of this "story" as they were presented, have been flawed and erroneous:

The Summer-House was built upon one of several tracts of land purchased by Henry Drinker, beginning in May & June of 1759; the 10th February 1761; the 2nd of April 1762; the 23rd of January 1769; while occasionally selling off certain parcels, until 1792, when Henry Drinker finally sold the Frankford property to Enoch Edwards.<sup>5</sup> This alone should be enough proof that this story is false. In her diary, Elizabeth Drinker has several hundred entries on Frankford but not one of Thomas Jefferson. Why would this great event of 1776 not appear in any of Elizabeth Drinker's writings? Read on. In her diary this is just a small bit of what Elizabeth Drinker does say about the summer house:

Henry Drinker call'd tells me he's going this Afrernoon to his Place, beyond Frankford to have it survay'd.<sup>6</sup> ... took up our Aboard during the warm weather, at our place near Frankford, from 22d. to 28th. kept no account. saw but little Company- . . . and it did suit HD, to be constantly here also, I think I could be be very happy in the Country.<sup>7</sup> HD. went to Frankford - Bought the front lot from Henry Paul - the Horse fell down with him coming home. . . .<sup>8</sup>

It is also highly unlikely that the account of the First Fourth of July in Frankford was passed along with the sale of the property by Enoch Edwards, as Dr. Edwards never sold the property. A Philadelphia newspaper account of the death of Dr. Enoch Edwards claims he died at the Frankford property on 25 June, 1802, after a lingering illness (he was 51 years old). His career is highlighted, but there is no mention the Fourth of July event, or a Summer house.<sup>9</sup>

Dr. Enoch Edwards' property was not advertised for sale until several years after his death and it did not sell quickly, as these advertisements went on for several months. There was no mention of Thomas Jefferson or the Declaration of Independence being associated with the property; something that perhaps might promote a quicker sale. Finally in 1805 the summer-house was mentioned as part of Enoch Edwards' estate & former residence. It should also be noted that the advertisement did mention "*there is a beautiful view of the city of Philadelphia,*" and the foundation was "*double walled and impenetrable to rats.*" <sup>10</sup>

There is somewhat of a biographical sketch of Dr. Enoch Edwards in the form of a query written by a Charles Henry Hart, who also authored *The Gordon Family: Painted by Henry Benbridge.*<sup>11</sup> The query is a bit erroneous in it's presentation but it does provide a foundation on researching Dr. Enoch Edwards.<sup>12</sup> Mr. Hart's query mentioned many letters between Dr. Edwards and Thomas Jefferson in the Library of Congress, but none of those letters illuminate the First Fourth of July in Frankford. The letters do provide information on Dr. Edwards travels between Frankford & Europe, which help with a time line of when Dr. Edwards was in America, or in Europe. [The correspondence of Dr. Edwards in Library of Congress is so voluminous, it will be linked near the end of the End-Notes].

Only one account was recorded placing Thomas Jefferson in Frankford

with Enoch Edwards at the Summer-house, and it's located among some private letters written by one Frances Saltar,<sup>13</sup> the niece of Dr. Enoch Edwards.

This author wrote in her memoirs that there was a small conversation between Thomas Jefferson & Dr. Edwards held at the Summer-house and it explains the association of the house with Declaration of Independence.<sup>14</sup>

According my calculations this could have only occurred in the very late part of the 1790's or in the early 1800's.<sup>15</sup>

In giving account of her contemporaries, it would appear that Fanny Saltar was quite a name dropper. Almost all the names & places mentioned in her letters conform to the same cast of characters and events within Elizabeth Drinker's Diary. There is no difficulty in verifying the facts in Fanny Saltar's account as they are in tune with Elizabeth Drinker's Diary. Saltar's letters supplement many of Elizabeth Drinker's entries.<sup>16</sup>

Fanny Saltar's writings also give a personalized pre-Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary War account on the evolution of Negro slavery and indentured servitude in the Philadelphia area. Elizabeth Drinker's writings nearly pass over and dismiss her Quaker husband and his business associates trafficking in negroes as well as employing slave labor.<sup>17, 18, 19, 20, 21,</sup>

22, 23, 24

Excerpts from Fanny Saltar's writings:

My dear Maria.

You express yourself pleased with my reminiscences of dear "old Molly" and her anecdotes of by gone days, and you wish me to send you more of them. . . .

The great journey of our great domestic's life was her ride to Magnolia (7 1/2 measured miles from Market and Front streets). . . .

At the time of my grandfather's removal into the country, the family was very large and there were a goodly number of domestics in the kitchen. Hired English and bought Africans, many of whom were dead and gone before my time, but of Daddy Caesar, I have a vivid recollection. He was a prince in his native country and as a mark of that distinction his forehead and cheeks were deeply slashed with lines. He was low of stature, bandy-legged, his skin very black, his wool tightly knotted, his nose flat, lips thick, mouth wide, but his teeth wide and even.

In his dialect there was as much African as English, and when a child I liked to hear his talk as he sat in the old fashioned chimney corner; and no Italian music is now so sweet to my ears as were then his African songs.

Whether his manners were princely or not I cannot determine, as he was the only member of royalty I have ever seen, but this I do know—that there was a gentleness, a tenderness, and I think I may say, a delicacy in his manner that made me greatly prefer him to Daddy Jack, Samuel, Manuel or any of the colored population of the kitchen.

Yet Mammy Katy, a little hump-backed mulato Cook was also a great favorite. I loved to sit in her lap as she ate her breakfast and get a sip of her strong coffee from her blue dragon cup and saucer.

I liked the smoke too of her old pipe, until one evening, as I sat on her knee, she dropped asleep and her short pipe with its fiery contents fell into my bosom; from that time I have never liked tobacco in any form.

But this accident did not cool my love for Mammy Katy, for when I was being weaned, nothing could console me the first night of mother's absence, until Molly carried me into her chamber, where the kind little woman and her son changed my cries of distress into merry laughter by exerting their skill in alternately blowing out a lighted candle and "blowing it in" again, and to crown all, Manny put a lighted candle into his mouth, the light shining curiously through his black cheeks.

By the time Molly became free, her father was dead, and she heir of a Walnut street house and whatever property he had to leave, she being his only child. She felt no inclination, however, to leave her old friends and continued in their service, a highly valued domestic.

Our Aunt Edwards says she remembered the day it [a bible] was brought to Magnolia by a little boy who was afterwards our good Dr. James, his father living at that time at Chalkly Hall<sup>25</sup> . . .

My dear Maria:

The dark clouds of the Revolution at last passed away and the sweet sunshine of peace gladdened the heart of man and added a new charm to the face of nature. Sometimes, with the dearest companions of my heart, E. Lardner and her brothers, I sought the green meadow to gather strawberries, magnolias, sweetwilliams and numberless other wild flowers which grew in great profusion round the old gum-tree, which supplied us with the mistletoe bough for our Christmas sports. Once brother George and myself prevailed on her to walk to Frankford to make a visit to our Aunt Edwards, who was the youngest daughter of my grandparents and had continued to reside at Magnolia until she married Dr. Enoch Edwards, who at that time lived on his paternal farm in Byberry.

My aunt soon became a most efficient wife. She rose with the lark and "looked well after the ways of her household." The dairy and her homespun were each perfect of their kind. Those substantial buff and white striped curtains which you may remember to have seen hanging in the parlor at Magnolia Cottage, were made under her inspection and given to my mother, after my uncle sold his farm, and the windows of their new abode were hung with crimson damask.

It is years since they were manufactured; they have been much used but they still look glossy and bright. You must not judge of what were my aunt's occupations by what you see now at Tacony. ...

My Aunt Edwards, the longest known and best beloved of all my aunts, is the only one that I have never had a likeness of. After my uncle's return, he purchased a place in Frankford of Mr. Drinker. The house was pleasantly situated at some distance from the street, but the beauty of the place consisted in the lovely view presented from the summer-house, of the pastures, streams, bridges, mills, the village, numberless roads winding through tall trees, luxuriant shade, and rising above all other objects, was seen Christ Church steeple, five miles distant.<sup>26</sup>

One day when Mr. Jefferson was on a visit to my uncle, they walked up to this summer-house. He looked round and said: "This is the spot on which the signers of the Declaration of Independence dined the day they signed the Declaration."

Whatever my uncle possessed had an air of elegant neatness. His walks, grass, trees, shrubbery, were all in perfect order, as was his person; whether in his morning gown and slippers, lolling in his library or in his dress coat ascending his carriage; and all around him was elegantly neat. One of his favorite sayings was, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." He was fond of children<sup>27</sup> and I dearly loved him.

The need of iron to cast cannon, ammunition & plate for the Revolutionary War is reason enough not to abandon this investigation. The Fanny Saltar account further peaked my interest not only because the Saltar family was in the iron & foundry business with the Henry Drinker & Abel

James at the Atsion Forge in New Jersey, but it has also opened the door for additional investigations into racial slavery and the slave labor that fueled the American Revolution War profiteers.

This investigation will continue until it is discovered why Congress would even be in Frankford on the same day as the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps the answer could be a simple one. Perhaps it was Thomas Jefferson who was reminiscing about a good dinner and a cold beer<sup>28,29,30</sup> on a hot day in July 1776, while telling Dr. Edwards:

"This is the spot on which the signers of the Declaration of Independence dined the day they signed the Declaration."

#### End Notes

1. Murphy, Thomas. 1872. *One hundred years of the Presbyterian Church of Frankford*. Philadelphia [Pa.]: Published by the church. pg.68

2. Newell, R. & son. 1876. *Old landmarks & relics of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: Newell, Sixth Series (located in HSP).

Newell Photograph did not appear in this account, but can be viewed here: "House and ground where the 1st "4th of July" was celebrated." Enoch Edwards, Womrath property; 4216 Frankford Ave.", ca 1870, P.9062.53b (Brenner) 7½ × 9½ in. Notes: Reduced image in HSP: Bd 862 N447, 6th Series with printed label  
<http://www.brynmawr.edu/iconog/nwl/p906253b.jpg>

3. Drinker, Elizabeth Sandwith, and Henry D. Biddle. 1889. *Extracts from the journal of Elizabeth Drinker, from 1759 to 1807, A.D.* Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., page 4.

4. Drinker, Cecil Kent, and Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker. 1937. *Not so long ago; a chronicle of medicine and doctors in colonial Philadelphia*. New York: Oxford university press, p.20.

5. Philadelphia Deed Book D-48 pages 414-419, 3rd November, 1792 Henry

Drinker to Enoch Edwards. [Editors notes: This was part of the 95 acres William Tidmarsh sold to Henry Paul in 1732, ... Isaac Worrell to Henry Drinker 2nd April 1762, ... Abraham Leech 22 July 1765 to Henry Paul, ... Henry Paul to Henry Drinker 23 January 1769, ... 30th May 1786 - Henry Drinker sells one acre and 15 perches to Alexander Martin, ...(six parcels)... 3rd November, 1792 Henry Drinker to Enoch Edwards]

6. Drinker, Elizabeth Sandwith, and Elaine Forman Crane. 1991. *The diary of Elizabeth Drinker*, Volume I. Boston: Northeastern University Press, entry for 27 December 1760, p. 85.

7. *ibid*, Crane, 1991, entry for "1762 7 mo. July 22" p. 91.

8. *ibid*, Crane, 1991 entry for Janry. 24 1769, p.147

9. Article Type: Death Notices

Paper: Philadelphia Repository, published as Philadelphia Repository, and Weekly Register; Date: 05-01-1802; Volume: II; Issue: 25; Page: 199;

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

10. Headline: [No Headline]; Article Type: Advertisements

Paper: United States' Gazette, published as The United States Gazette.;

Date: 09-10-1805; Volume: XXIX; Issue: 4071; Page: [1]; Location:

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania ---

11. Frederick Fairchild Sherman. 1917. *Art in America*, Vol.6, p. 191

Also see: 1779 Henry Benbridge (1743-1812). The Enoch Edwards Family.

Philadelphia Museum of Art.

<http://www.philamuseum.org/collections/permanent/50794.html?mulR=20081>

1763-65 Henry Benbridge (1743-1812). Gordon Family  
(Including his stepfather & mother Mary Clark  
Benbridge Gordon) Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts.  
(no link)

Also View at 18<sup>th</sup> Century Women in American History:

<http://b-womeninamericanhistory18.blogspot.com/2009/05/18th-century-american-families.html>

12. By the Society, Vol XXXVI, 1912 *Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography*, Philadelphia Pa.. p 126-127

13. Stillwell, John E. 1882. *First Families of Old Monmouth: Salter family*. New York: s.n. p.53 (GoogleBooks)

Frances Saltar (My correspondent in 1879)

Frances Saltar, daughter of John and Elizabeth, was born about 1790 and died unmarried Sept. 20, 1880, at Pemberton, N. J. It was through the courtesy of this most estimable lady that I obtained much of the information embodied in this manuscript.

Joseph Saltar, son of Richard and Hannah, was another prominent member of the family. About 1770 he founded the celebrated Atsion iron furnace. Was Lieut. Colonel of the 2d Regiment, Monmouth militia, which he resigned October 25, 1775. He was a member of the New Jersey Provincial Congress June and August, 1775.

14. By the Society, Vol. XL, 1916 *Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography*, Philadelphia Pa., p. 187-199, FANNY SALTAR'S REMINISCENCES OF COLONIAL DAYS IN PHILADELPHIA. (GoogleBooks)

15. Keith, Charles Penrose, 1854-1939. 1882. *The provincial councillors of Pennsylvania, who held office between 1733-1776, and those earlier councillors who were some time chief magistrates of the province, and their descendants.* p.25, p. 316-319  
(Internet Achieves: <http://www.archive.org/details/provincialcounci00keit>)

Page 25: Kearney Wharton, November 11, 1795 married Maria, dau. of John Saltar by his w. Elizabeth Gordon.

Lardner p 316 to 319

Lynford (or, as he sometimes wrote it, Lyn Ford) Lardner - named after a friend and near relative of the family. Rev. Thomas Lynford, He was Receiver-General and in 1746 was made Keeper of the Great Seal of the Province, holding both offices several years. He was a Director of The Library Company of Philadelphia from 1746 to 1748, and again in 1760. His country-seat was "Somerset," part of which is known as "Lardner's Point," on the Delaware near Tacony.

John Lardner - 319

John Lardner, b. Sep. 6, 1752, son of the Councillor, resided at "Somerset," having a city house on Walnut St. He belonged to the Fox Hunting Club, and in October, 1775, joined the First Troop, Phila. City Cavalry, in which organization he participated in the Revolutionary battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown, and was Cornet from 1779 to 1783 and from 1794 to 1796.

He was member of the Penna. Legislature in 1791. He became Captain of the Third Troop, Phila. Light Dragoons, in 1798. He d. Feb. 12, 1825, bu. Trinity Ch., Oxford.

He m. at Magnolia Grove by Bp. White Dec. 24, 1789 Margaret, dau. of John Saltar by his 1st w. Rachel Reese. She was b. May 8, 1767, d. May 23, 1834.

Issue: Lynford, (son of John Lardner) was born June, 1792. (He was the young playmate of Fanny Saltar, as mentioned in her letters.)

16. *ibid*, Crane, 1991, vil. I, p. 183 foot note:

The Atsion ironworks in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey - On March 16, 1773 James & Drinker purchased an interest in the forge from Charles Read. By April 02, 1773 they owned 50.1 % - the remaining interest of the forge belonged to

Lawrence Saltar, one of the original partners., p 202 July 15, 1776: HD. left home for Atsion, (no entries in the journal for July 3,4,5, of 1776)

17. Bezís-Selfa, John. 2004. *Forging America: ironworkers, adventurers, and the industrious revolution*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press., p. 182

In 1786, Philadelphia merchant Henry Drinker informed North Carolinian Richard Blackledge that, when he bought a share of New Jersey's Atsion Iron Works, he had resolved "to have nothing to do with Slaves" . . .

[I do not know if HD statement was true in 1786, but it was not true at the time when he first bought into Atsion, nor for quite some time after]:

18. *ibid*, Biddle. 1889, p.40 entry: 1775, March 8.,  
The new ship Chalkley arrived here with servants, in ballast.

[To fully appreciate the scope of negro/slave labor that fueled the early American Iron Business, I am providing many newspaper accounts]

19. The Pennsylvania Gazette, February 23, 1769  
To be SOLD, FIVE FORGE NEGROES , that have been Ten Years at the Business, and are Master Workmen; three of which are HAMMERMEN, and two FINERS. Enquire of ARCHIBALD McCALL, in Philadelphia, or JOHN FEGAN, at Glasgow Forge.  
N.B. The reason of their being sold is, that the Forge is not to be carried on longer than next Spring.

20. William Nelson , Abraham Van Doren Honeyman. 1903. *Extracts from American Newspapers, Relating to New Jersey. 1704-1775.*, p.287:

Also to be Sold, One Half of Atsion Forge or Bloomary of four fires and two hammers, very large and commodious, on a large stream of water, having all necessary buildings erected, the wood and ore handy, the portage of its produce to Philadelphia 17s. per ton, and to New York 15 s. The loads at all these works is one ton and a half, and machines on the plainest construction are erected for weighing them if suspected There are at the works several servants and negroes who understand different branches of the business, teams and carriages. One managers clerk, one carpenter, and one smith do the business of the furnace and Tanton forge with ease. The only reason for selling them is that it is necessary to have a person concerned in the works resident at Philadelphia, and a man of activity at the furnace. The present owner is very infirm, and not able to stirr much. The premises will bear examining. Any person or persons inclining to become purchasers of a part or the whole, are invited to view them and examine the calculations made for carrying them on, and to stay at the works a proper season to see the exactness of those calculations demonstrated. If the persons be strangers, introductory letters will be expected. by Charles Read.  
Pennsylvania Journal, No. 1453, Oct. 11, 1770.

21. The Pennsylvania Gazette, April 11, 1771  
To be SOLD, or HIRED, A STRONG NEGROE MAN, about 26 Years of Age, is a compleat Refiner of Iron, and is also a good Hammerman, having worked in a Forge for six Years past. For further Particulars, enquire of the PRINTERS. [perhaps the advertiser wished to remain anonymous for religious reasons].

## 22. The Pennsylvania Gazette, September 21, 1774

TO BE SOLD, BY CHARLES READ, At AETNA, West New Jersey, TWO FORGE NEGROES, One a good Finer, and the other a good Hammer man.

## 23. The Pennsylvania Gazette. April 10, 1776.

THIRTY SHILLINGS Reward.

RUN away from Atsion Furnace, in West New Jersey, on or about the 22d of March last, an indented Irish servant man, named John McGill, about 32 years of age, about 5 feet 10 inches high, red curled hair, sandy complexion, much pitted with the smallpox; had on, and took with him a woollen (brownish coloured) jacket and trowsers, 2 ozenbrigs shirts, an old felt hat, 1 pair thick milled stockings, new shoes, with square brass buckles, and 2 striped blankets. Whoever apprehends said servant, and secures him, so that his masters may have him again, shall have the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by LAWRENCE SALTAR, at said Furnace, or JAMES and DRINKER, in Philadelphia.

## 24. The Pennsylvania Gazette, September 25, 1776

TEN DOLLARS Reward. RUN away from the subscriber, living in Evesham, in the county Burlington, on Monday, the 9th of September inst. a Negroe man, named Moses, about 5 feet 4 inches high, a thick set fellow; had on when he went away, a short light coloured coat, with binding of the same colour, a pair of strong new shoes, with large plated buckles, homespun linen trowsers, a black stock with steel buckle. He also stole, and took with him, a blue great coat, with white metal buttons; the other part of his clothes not known. As he has been endeavoring to prevent upon the Negroes in this neighbourhood to go with him and join the ministerial army, it is hoped every lover of his country will endeavour to apprehend so daring a villain. Whoever will secure him in any goal in this State, shall be entitled to the above reward, with reasonable charges if brought home, paid by CHARLES READ.

25. *THE FRIEND, A Religious And Literary Journal*, Vol. XC, Cambridge, Mass., PHILADELPHIA, William H. PILE'S SONS, 1917, page 490 (GoogleBooks) Excerpts:

CHALKLEY HALL TO GIVE WAY TO FACTORY.

Within the next few months there will rise on the site of the famous old Chalkley Hall, on Wheatsheaf Lane, a modern factory building, thus wiping out one more of the historic homes of the northeast section.

The American Engineering Company has recently purchased 23 acres of land bounded by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Wheatsheaf Lane, Sepviva Street and Frankford Creek, and paid for the tract at the rate of \$3500 per acre. Plans will be made for the erection of several fine buildings.

The property was secured from the Wetherill family, in whose possession the land has been since 1817, when it was bought by John Wetherill. The mansion known as Chalkley Hall has been kept in excellent repair and for several years past has been loaned to the College Settlement as a summer home for the poor of this city.

The College Settlement has used Chalkley Hall since 1902, and has quartered there a household of from 20 to 30. Each week there were from 4 to 6 picnics held there with boating and swimming in the Delaware River. The original

building was torn down some time ago to make room for the Pennsylvania Railroad freight yards, leaving the larger mansion intact.

Thomas Chalkley, from whom the place derives its name, was a minister in the Society of Friends and came to this country from England as a young man, in 1697, and settled in this city in 1701 and moved to Frankford in 1724.

He related that his enemies stirred up some bad people against him and to add to his troubles he lost several vessels valued at one thousand pounds, and at the same time his new barn was burned. He died in 1741, while on a visit to the Island of Tortola. He was buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Tortola.

The Frankford Historical Society has a brick from his now crumbling tomb.

Thomas Chalkley bought the plantation in several tracts. It was then a tract of 340 acres and 80 perches, and extended along the road leading from Frankford Road to Point no Point (this is the present Wheatsheaf Lane), and along the Great Road leading from Philadelphia to Point no Point (the present Richmond Street), and extended to Frankford Creek. It also included a tract of two acres below or near the mansion house laid out for a landing.

The original building on the plantation was the old brick house near the Pennsylvania Railroad, which probably was there at the time of Chalkley's purchase in 1715, the deeds referring to a brick messuage. This building was very old forty years ago.

The western part of Chalkley Hall was the home of Thomas Chalkley, the hall itself was built by Chalkley's son-in-law, Abel James, who married Rebecca Chalkley, between 1741 and 1789.

The new building and the old were at first connected by an overhead passage, the space below at first being open; this was built up at a later date.

There has long been a story current in Frankford, believed by many, of an underground passage to Frankford Creek.

This is doubtless a myth. There are two brick arched passageways in the cellar, which were used as storage vaults for provisions. Similar stories of underground passages are told of Stenton and Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge.

The various owners of Chalkley Hall have been: Abel James and wife, 1741-1789; John Drinker, 1789; Frederick Pigon, 1789-1792; Lawrence John Ledger LeSenechal de Kercado, a refugee from San Domingo, 1792-1794; John Nicholson, 1794-1797; Joseph Potts and Joseph Kirkbride, 1797-1798; Samuel Allen, 1798-1814; Samuel York, 1814-1817. The property was bought by John Wetherill in 1817 and has been in the Wetherill family since then.--From The Philadelphia Record.

26. **Headline:** [No Headline]; **Article Type:** Advertisements  
**Paper:** Pennsylvania Chronicle, published as The Pennsylvania Chronicle, and Universal Advertiser; **Date:** From Monday, February 26, to Monday, March 5, 1770; **Volume:** IV; **Issue:** 6; **Page:** 23; **Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[Editor's Note - this is an advertisement for a property, stating that Christ Church Steeple may be viewed from within Frankford.]

27. APPEAL OF GRAHAM, 1 US 136 (1785) -- US Supreme Court ... Baron appellant.

Upon petition to the Orphan's Court by the children, for the appointment of guardians, Enoch Edwards, and another, were appointed.

[Dr. Edwards must have loved children, as he and his wife were childless until this case]:

The intestate had left seven children, all under the age of fourteen years ...  
SOURCE: <http://supreme.justia.com/us/1/136/>

28. The Pennsylvania Gazette, Date: May 18, 1774

To be LETT, and may be entered upon immediately, THAT well known Tavern, called THE OLD INN, in Frankford , now in Possession of the Widow McVEAGH . For Particulars, enquire of ISAIAH WORRALL, near the Premises.

[The Summer House was very close to McVeagh Tavern]

29. Barratt, Norris S., and Julius F. Sachse. 1908. Freemasonry in Pennsylvania 1727-1907 as shown by the records of Lodge N:r 2, F. and A. M. of Philadelphia from the year A. L. 5757, A. D. 1757 compiled from original sources., p. 270

February 9, 1774. Bro Jerviss proposed Mr. Benjamin McVeagh to become a member. [Benjamin McVeagh, the son of Rebecca Worrell McVeagh was likely a Free Mason]

30. By the Society, Vol. XLV, 1921 *Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography*, Philadelphia Pa., p 290

"Benjamin McVey [McVeagh or McVaugh], son of James McVaugh and Rebecca Worrell (married November 1, 1744), was born in 1748. He was married, in Christ Church, on December 24, 1772, to Pavnell Humphreyville. In May, 1777, he was Colonel of the Third County Battalion; on November 24, 1777, he was Colonel of the First Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia; in 1780, he commanded the Second Battalion; and, again in 1784-86, he was Colonel of the First County Battalion. He took the oath of allegiance to the State on April 6, 1779. In 1782, he was a candidate for the office of Sheriff of the County. He was the proprietor of a large three-storied stone tavern in Frankford, at the time of his death. He died there on Friday evening, September 8, 1786, in his 39th year, and was interred in the Friends' burying ground in Frankford.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH, NOTES & LINKS:

Directory or Survey of Ten Miles round the Centre Hydrant of the City of Philadelphia, John Hills - Author Feb 1st 1808



The Full Version of This Map Is Vital When Reading Elizabeth Drinker's Diary.

There were several issues and variation to this map which started about 1801. This one happens to be a topographical version.

On this particular view, it shows most of Frankford. In the far left corner is Chalkley Hall (once owned by Abel James)

Across from Chalkley hall is Port Royal (one Owned by Edward Stiles).

Upper Left Corner is the Duffield Grist Mill on the [little] Tacony Creek - This is the location of the famous "Lydia Darrah Mill."

Upper center to the right is the six-mile marker that is there on the corner of Frankford avenue at Comly Street (Wissinoming Park)

The 5 Mi. marker was located about present Foulkrod street near to where Paul Street Crosses Frankford Avenue and becomes Oxford Avenue.

The 4 mile-marker is not on this view of the map, but it is at "Point Road"

- Wheat-sheaf Lane and Frankford Road.

Saltar's Magnolia Hill and Lardner's Tacony is almost the Center in this view.

A Digital version of Plan of the city of Philadelphia and environs. Surveyed by John Hills in the summers of 1801, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. Philadelphia: John Hills: 1808.  
Found here: <http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/index2.cfm?w=HSF.D2D14>

Additional Related Information and the Philadelphia Deed Books -

Through an an agreement, I provided the Frankford Gazette additional images by way of many Philadelphia Deed Books which are relative in giving credibility to the Fanny Saltar and Elizabeth Drinker Accounts. Henry Drinker entered into a partnership with the Saltar Family in the Atsion Forge. Even though he was incarcerated during the Revolutionary War, his partners continued operations of the Iron Works of Atsion. Ironically, the Gordons and Saltars deeds prove connections to the Free Mason Lodge on Second street where Henry Drinker was first taken prisoner.

The following digital images were provided to <http://frankfordgazette.com/>  
The Frankford Gazette:

Henry Drinker To Dr. Enoch Edwards - November 3, 1792

Philadelphia Deed Book D-48 pages 414-419

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Ann Gordon to John Saltar - July 27, 1785

Ann Gordon to John Saltar - June 18, 1791

Deed Book IC -1 IMG\_3310.JPG

IC-1 Page 535 IMG\_3311.JPG

IC-1 Page 536 IMG\_3312.JPG

IC-1 Page 537 IMG\_3313.JPG

IC-1 Page 538 IMG\_3314.JPG

IC-1 Page 539 IMG\_3315.JPG

IC-1 Page 540 IMG\_3316.JPG

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Lawrence Saltar to Jno. Saltar - September 21, 1780

D-13 page 231 IMG\_3947.JPG

D-13 page 232 IMG\_3948.JPG

Deed Book D- 13 IMG\_3946.JPG

---

John Saltar to Lawrence Saltar - Sept. 22, 1780

Deed Book D-12 IMG\_2134.JPG

D-12 page 410 IMG\_2144.JPG

D-12 page 411 IMG\_2145.JPG

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Enoch Edward's Presidential Connections:

Papers in the Library of Congress:

The Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 1. General Correspondence. 1651-1827

1. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, October 11, 1801

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0900/0987.jpg>

2. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, September 17, 1801

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0800/0835.jpg>

3. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, August 31, 1801 (Frankford)

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0600/0669.jpg>

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0600/0670.jpg>

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0600/0671.jpg>

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0600/0672.jpg>

4. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, August 28, 1801

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0600/0614.jpg>

5. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, August 20, 1801 (Frankford)

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0500/0543.jpg>

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0500/0544.jpg>

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0500/0545.jpg>

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/024/0500/0546.jpg>

6. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, July 9, 1801
7. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, July 3, 1801
8. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, June 2, 1801
9. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, May 29, 1801
10. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, May 12, 1801
11. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, May 11, 1801
12. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, May 7, 1801
13. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, April 18, 1801
14. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, April 17, 1801
  
15. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, April 3, 1801 (Fr. Frankford)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/023/0500/0522.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/023/0500/0523.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/023/0500/0524.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/023/0500/0525.jpg>
  
16. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, March 30, 1801
  
17. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, December 27, 1796 (Fr. Phila.)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/020/1000/1059.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/020/1000/1060.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/020/1000/1061.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/020/1000/1062.jpg>
  
18. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, October 28, 1793 (Fr. Liverpool)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0700/0794.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0700/0795.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0700/0796.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0700/0797.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0700/0798.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0700/0799.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0800/0800.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0800/0801.jpg>
  
19. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, August 16, 1793 (From London)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0100/0182.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0100/0183.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0100/0184.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0100/0185.jpg>
  
20. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, August 3, 1793
21. Enoch Edwards to Thomas Jefferson, July 30, 1793  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0000/0018.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0000/0019.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0000/0020.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/019/0000/0021.jpg>
  
22. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, May 8, 1793, with Copy
23. Thomas Jefferson to Enoch Edwards, December 30, 1793

George Washington Papers collection from the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress:

- Enoch Edwards to George Washington, May 7, 1793
2. Enoch Edwards to George Washington, May 1, 1792
  3. Enoch Edwards to George Washington, December 7, 1777  
(Fr. Abington, Pa. warning Washington about British Troops)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw4/045/0100/0143.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw4/045/0100/0144.jpg>
  4. George Washington to Alexander Hamilton, May 7, 1793

Items containing the phrase Doctr. Edwards:

1. George Washington to Tobias Lear, December 14, 1796  
<http://memory.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw2/020/1020104.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw2/020/1030105.jpg>
2. George Washington to Robert Fulton, December 14, 1796
3. George Washington to Timothy Pickering, April 10, 1797
4. George Washington to John Sinclair, December 10, 1796

The James Madison Papers:

The Library of Congress is providing access to The James Madison Papers at the Library of Congress for noncommercial, educational, and research purposes. While the Library is not aware of any copyrights or other rights associated with this Collection, the written permission of any copyright owners and/or holders of other rights (such as publicity and/or privacy rights) is required for reproduction, distribution, or other use of any protected items beyond that allowed by fair use or other statutory exemptions. Responsibility for making an independent legal assessment of an item and securing any necessary permissions ultimately rests with the persons desiring to use the item.

Credit Line: Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Enoch Edwards to James Madison, January 19, 1797 (Fr. Frankford)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mjm/06/0300/0328d.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mjm/06/0300/0329.jpg>

Enoch Edwards to James Monroe, April 21, 1798. contained a copy of J. Monroe's Feb 12, 1798 letter to E. Edwards. (Fr. Frankford)

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mjm/06/0500/0506d.jpg>  
<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mjm/06/0500/0507.jpg>

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Iconoclastic Investigations.

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and/or who's collections I have employed - not just in this research paper,  
but all of my research:

WorldCat.org:

The World's Largest Library Catalog  
Database of information about the things libraries own  
that is constantly updated by information  
professionals. <http://www.worldcat.org/>

Internet Archive (a non-profit digital library)

<http://www.archive.org/>

Google Books ([negative bias on Google](#))\* <http://books.google.com/>

American Antiquarian Society (some free access)

An independent research library focusing on American history, literature, and culture through 1876.

<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/>

American Jewish Historical Society

<http://www.ajhs.org/reference/links.cfm>

Accessible Archives (not free)

Full text databases of primary source material of 18th and 19th century periodicals.

<http://www.accessible.com/accessible/>

Godfrey Memorial Library - A Library of Genealogy and History (not free access)

<http://www.godfrey.org/>

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

National Archives of the United States

<http://www.archives.gov/>

List of Pennsylvania Courthouses & Prothonotaries:

<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/wo/county.aspx>

The Legislative Reference Bureau - Pennsylvania General Assembly -  
PENNSYLVANIA SESSION LAWS:

<http://www.palrb.us/>

Pennsylvania State Archives

<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/>

Guide to African American Resources in the Pennsylvania State Archives

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/resources/18089/>

[guide\\_to\\_the\\_archives/681304](#)

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&mode=2&objID=1426>

State Library of Pennsylvania

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/bureau\\_of\\_state\\_library/8811](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/bureau_of_state_library/8811)

Jenkins Law Library - for over 200 years:

<http://www.jenkinslaw.org/>

Free Library of Philadelphia

<http://www.freelibrary.org/>

Philadelphia City Archives

<http://www.phila.gov/phils/carchive.htm>

Philadelphia Historical Commission

<http://www.phila.gov/historical/>

Philadelphia Orphans' Court Records

<http://www.phila.gov/phils/>

The American Philosophical Society

<http://www.amphilsoc.org/>

Library Company of Philadelphia

<http://www.librarycompany.org/>

The Athenæum of Philadelphia

<http://www.philaathenaeum.org/>

Historical Society of Frankford

<http://www.frankfordhistoricalsociety.org/>

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

<http://www.hsp.org/>

The David Library of the American Revolution  
<http://www.dlar.org/>

Bucks County Courthouse  
<http://www.buckscounty.org/courts/index.aspx>

Bryn Mawr College Library, Bryn Mawr PA.  
<http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/index.html>

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
<http://www.chestercohistorical.org/>

Haverford Township Historical Society - Nitre Hall  
[http://www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/nitre\\_hall.html](http://www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/nitre_hall.html)

Haverford College, Haverford, PA.  
<http://www.haverford.edu/>

Hagley Museum and Library  
<http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/library/>

The Hagley Digital Archives  
<http://digital.hagley.org/>

University of Pennsylvania Archives and Record Center  
<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/>

University of Pennsylvania Van Pelt Library  
<http://www.library.upenn.edu/vanpelt/>

The Historical Medical Library of College of Physicians  
<http://www.collphyphil.org/LIBRARY.ASP>

Bostonian Society  
<http://www.bostonhistory.org/>

Connecticut State Library

<http://www.cslib.org/>

University of Connecticut

The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut

<http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/>

The Massachusetts Historical Society

<http://www.masshist.org/>

Massachusetts Historical Society: Collections online

Official title: The Diaries of John Quincy Adams: A Digital Collection

<http://www.masshist.org/online/>

New Haven Museum & Historical Society

<http://www.newhavenmuseum.org/>

Princeton University Library Manuscript Division: Andre De Coppet  
Collection

<http://diglib.princeton.edu/ead/getEad?eadid=C0063&kw=>

The New York Public Library Archives and Rare Books Division

<http://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg/manuscripts-archives-and-rare-books-division>

Columbia County Historical Society, Kinderhook N.Y.

<http://www.cchsny.org/>

Delaware County Surrogate's Court (M-B)

3 Court Street, Delaware County Courthouse, Delhi, NY.

<http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/6jd/delaware/surrogate.shtml>

Duke University

Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke ...

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

University of Virginia Library Special Collections, Charlottesville,  
Virginia

<http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/small/>

Department of Special Collections in the UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library

<http://www2.library.ucla.edu/specialcollections/researchlibrary/>

Collections held outside the United States:

Library and Archives Canada Digital Collections:

<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/E/Alphabet.asp>

Black Loyalists of the American Revolution, who fought for the British in return for freedom:

<http://www.blackloyalist.com/canadiandigitalcollection/>

National Archives of the U.K.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Bahamas National Archives

<http://www.bahamasnationalarchives.bs/>

Harriet Irving Library, University of New Brunswick - mss collections

<http://www.lib.unb.ca/>

HARRIET IRVING LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK ... The Loyalist Collection

<http://www.lib.unb.ca/collections/loyalist/>

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Other Repositories for 18th Century Research:

#### E-Journals

Digital Librarian: presents The London Magazine

The London Magazine is a magazine on literature and the arts, published in the United Kingdom.

## Publication History

The London Magazine was originally founded in 1732 as the "London Magazine, or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer". It has been through several revivals and series, with the most recent "relaunch" in 2002, according to its current website.

Persistent Archives of Complete Issues

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=londonmag>

Internet Library of Early Journals - ILEJ:

is a joint project by the Universities of Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester and Oxford. It aims to digitize substantial runs of 18th and 19th century British journals, and make these images available on the Internet, together with their associated bibliographic data. The core collection for the project are runs of at least 20 consecutive years of three 18th-century journals: Gentleman's Magazine, The Annual Register, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society and three 19th-century journals: Notes and Queries, The Builder, Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine  
Format: Electronic

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/>

Access: Not Restricted

Digital Librarian: is maintained by Margaret Vail Anderson, a librarian in Cortland, New York

<http://www.digital-librarian.com/magazines.html>

WELCOME!

Early Modern Resources is a gateway for all those interested in finding electronic resources relating to the early modern period in history. I only list resources that are free to access. I do not include sites whose only discernible function appears to be to persuade you to spend money,  
<http://www.earlymodernweb.org.uk/emr/>

Eighteenth-Century E-Texts –

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/18th/a.html>

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/cgi-bin/18th.cgi?query=si>

Digital Librarian: a librarian's choice of the best of the Web:

<http://www.digital-librarian.com/literature.html>

British & UK History Digital Library

<http://www.academicinfo.net/histuklibrary.html>

British History Subject Guide

<http://www.mcgill.ca/hssl/collections/links/subject/brithist/>

Eighteenth-Century Reading Room

<http://18thcenturyreadingroom.wordpress.com/about/>

Help for researchers–

Links to Selected Digital Facsimile Sites

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/webres/rarefacsimile/index.html>

Attributions of Authorship in the Gentleman's Magazine

<http://etext.virginia.edu/bsuva/gm/>

Searching Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

<http://eebo.chadwyck.com/help/ecco.htm>

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The full list of all other accounts that were researched in the presentation of this article:

*Scribners monthly*. 1876. New York: Scribner & Co. July, Volume XII, No.3, pgs. 299, 300:

There is also a tradition that on the afternoon of that day, or possibly a day or two earlier, there was a joyful private celebration of the great event, by Jefferson and others, at the garden-house of a country-seat in Frankford (near Philadelphia), then occupied by Dr. Enoch Edwards, a leading patriot of that

time ...

HIGGINSON, Thomas Wentworth. 1885. *A larger history of the United States of America to the close of President Jackson's administration ... Illustrated*, etc. London: Sampson Low & Co. pgs. 280, 281:

It was not till the fifth of July that Congress sent out circulars announcing the Declaration; not till the sixth that it appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper; and not till the eighth that it was read by John Nixon in the yard of Independence Hall. ...

Hotchkin, S. F. 1893. *The Bristol Pike*. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs. pgs. 27, 28:

THE WOMRATH SUMMER HOUSE - The Philadelphia Ledger, in an article on this historic spot, at the lower end of Frankford, stated that Enoch Edwards occupied the Womrath mansion in the last century. The tradition is given here, and by Rev. Dr. Thomas Murphy in his History of the Presbyterian Church of Frankford (p. 68), that the signers of the Declaration of Independence were in the Summer House on the afternoon of the day of signing the document Lafayette is said to have been here when he visited New York. The Carpentier family lived here before the Womraths.

The Frankford Herald (March 11, '93), contained a long description, here condensed, of this ancient hostelry, which has stood over a century and a half. The northern portion of the building is the ancient part. A garden once adorned the rear of the hotel, where flowers and shrubs and box, woodbine and sweet briar could be seen from cosy arbors. Before the Revolution relays of stage horses on the Philadelphia and New York stage line were kept here Young lads and lasses from Philadelphia used to enjoy the garden. The old road to the city ran by the Womrath place, and the brick house where Henry Drinker had his Summer home, afterward known as Weisman's Hotel. The property was a portion of 750 acres deeded by Penn to Henry Waddy, called Waddy's Grange. In 1694 Waddy's will gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Richard Cooney, of England. She gave power of attorney to John Goodson and Joseph Paul (who gave name to Paul's Lane, afterward Paul Street). Robert Adams (remembered in Adams Street), bought the place in 1698, and sold the same year to John Worrell, and he willed the Jolly Post section to his son Isaiah. Joseph Thornhill, John Papley and his wife Susan, and Dr. Enoch Edwards, George Webster, Jacob Coats and his wife Elizabeth, and Mrs. Joseph H. Comly were successive owners. It now belongs to her children, who are the great-grandchildren of the Revolutionary General, Isaiah Worrell.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (U.S.). 1904. *Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers journal*. Cleveland, Ohio: The Brotherhood. Vol. XXXVIII, July., No.7., p. 467-470:

'The First Celebration of the Fourth.'

The first celebration of Independence Day took place 127 years ago on the evening of July 8, 1776, when the American people went wild over the event which four days before had made them, no longer subjects of King George of England but, citizens of the United States of America.

The famous old Colonial mansion, Elm Hill, at No. 4215 Frankford avenue, on the outskirts of Philadelphia, Pa., is gone. The memories that have crowded the old walls for nearly a century and a half have been dispelled, and have gone to the

four winds of heaven, soon to be forgotten.

A few months ago the last stone fell from the structure, which was one of the finest bits of eighteenth century architecture in the city of Colonial mansions. Now a single noble elm, the last of the many beautiful trees that once surrounded the house and gave the place its name, remains to tell the tale of another old landmark gone down before the ruthless march of "progress."

Since the occasion which made the old house famous, the place gradually underwent one change after another. Within recent years the fine and extensive grounds have been encroached upon and curtailed by the modern builder; the splendid trees have been felled and the beautiful shrubbery destroyed.

The picturesque old summer house, around which the first celebration with fireworks of American independence was held, has disappeared, having been pulled down by vandals and relic hunters a few years ago, after it had, through neglect, become greatly dilapidated. Not even a pile of stones remains to mark its site, and it is very probable that an uninteresting row of modern brick houses will greet the curious visitor who comes to see the old Elm Hill mansion.

In the once beautiful garden surrounding the property, which during the Revolution was owned by Dr. Enoch Edwards, a noted Philadelphia patriot, the famous private celebration of the Declaration of Independence took place on the evening of July 8, 1776.

The location was admirable for the event, Frankford avenue being in that neighborhood during the early days a secluded country road, and the patriots felt justified in making all the noise they felt necessary to express their joy over the successful passage of the document, which was the first step towards making them a free and independent people.

At first thought it seems strange that this celebration of independence should have been held on the 8th instead of the 4th of July, but research reveals the reason.

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration was formally adopted, but Philadelphia remained as quiet and peaceful upon that date as upon one of its most uneventful days.

The fact of the adoption of the Declaration was ordered to be published on July 4, but it was not until the 6th of July that it was generally made known through the press.

There was a wild outburst of patriotic joy when the fact became known, and preparations were immediately made for a splendid celebration on the following Monday.

The welcome extended to the Declaration was enthusiastic in nearly every part of the country. In Philadelphia bonfires were lighted, speeches made, toasts drunk, and the Declaration read amid the cheers of the people, the beating of drums and the roar of the cannon.

In the State House yard a great concourse of people was gathered, and here the King's arms were taken down, placed on a pile of casks and burned, while the bells rang wild notes of freedom all over the city.

Not content with this official celebration in the morning and early afternoon of July 8, Thomas Jefferson, who was at that time enjoying the doubtful comfort of lodging in Philadelphia, eagerly accepted the extended hospitality of Dr. Edwards, who pressed him to spend the evening on Frankford avenue in company with some mutual friends.

By the Society, 1906. *Papers read before the Historical Society of Frankford*, Volume 1. Number 1., p. 15-16:

I remember the Brooks and Womrath places as among the handsomest in Frankford, the latter with it's famous summer house linked with the Declaration of Independence fame, a region now covered with brick dwellings.

Bucks County Historical Society. 1909, Vol. II. *A collection of papers read before the Bucks County Historical Society*. P. 105:

*The Bristol Pike.*, BY REV. S. F. HOTCHKIN, BUSTLETON, PA.  
(Menlo Park, Perkasie Meeting, July 18, 1893).

Near Frankford creek lies Chalkley Hall . . .

An old summer-house on the Wamrath place which Editor France [Fackenthal] is trying to preserve (in a new resting place) is said to have been the spot where the Declaration of Independence was planned, or at least where Jefferson and other Congressmen came on the afternoon of the day of signing the Declaration. There was once a hotel on the place.

Finkel, Kenneth, and Susan Oyama. 1988. *Philadelphia then and now: 60 sites photographed in the past and present*. New York: Published in cooperation with The Library Co. of Philadelphia by Dover Publications. pgs 110, 111:

Nineteenth-century patriotism spawned a myriad of myths. Their midwives were often neighborhood story tellers, history hobbyists and photographers. In anticipation of the Centennial Exhibition's souvenir-hungry visitors, photographer Robert Newell published views in series, each with a narrative caption. The premise was history; the reality was popular culture. Newell collected and served up ripened Philadelphia lore, with fact often interwoven with fiction.

Consider one such story. In the village of Frankford, five miles to the northeast of Philadelphia, lived physician Enoch Edwards. According to local legend (historians have not commented on the matter), Edwards and Thomas Jefferson were distantly related. After the Declaration of Independence had been written and signed, Jefferson ventured out from the city for a visit. On July 8, 1776, in this gazebo behind Edwards' mansion, Jefferson read the document for the first time in public. Then there was a picnic. "Ancient inhabitants of the neighborhood," recorded Newell, maintained that this was the first Independence Day celebration. The Edwards family passed the story along to the property's next owners, the Womraths. And as long as they maintained the elm covered hill with violets, patriotic sightseers were welcome. But...without the gazebo shrine on the hill, the Jefferson legend was soon forgotten.

[Editor's comments on Finkle's account]

Finkle stated "historians have not commented on the matter," when he should have stated something to the effect that qualified "genealogists

have yet to comment" on the "local legend" of Jefferson's family tree. Obviously, Mr. Kenneth Finkel did not consider himself as an historian, as after nearly 100 years of repeating this story, and in spite of there being many inquests into Jefferson's genealogy via Sally Hemmings, it does not appear that the Finkel account shed any new light on Jefferson's being in Frankford in 1776.

I consider my use and critique of the Finkle account to be protected under the "fair use doctrine." To use another's published work without their permission for criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research falls under protection of Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright law, pertaining to the "Fair Use Doctrine."

Finkle and The Library Co. of Philadelphia did not provide any historically relevant or accurate information in using the Newell account, but they did fulfill the tradition of repeating it.

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