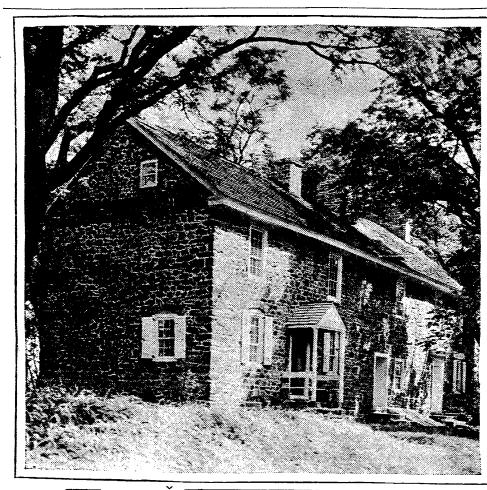
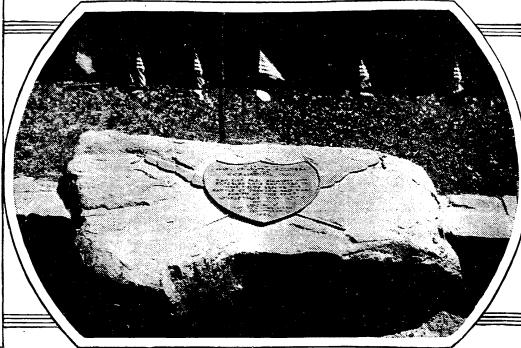
## PRICE-EIGHT CENTS

# PREPARE CROSSING FOR WASHINGTON FETE



Memorial Bridge May Link Parks in Time for Bicentennial Celebration of General's Birth; Pennsylvania Is Restoring Historic Shrines





Bu Elma Lauson Johnston

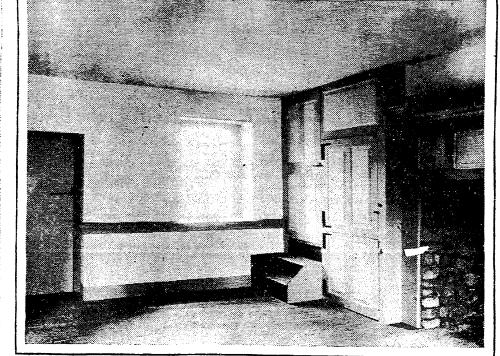
In 1932 the bicentennial anniversar of the birth of George Washington will be celebrated throughout the United States. The Federal Government is planning an elaborate official observance, and many States and cities are arranging celebrations of their own Places that were closely connected with Washington-scenes of his boyhood and young manhood, places where he made history with his little Colonial Army during the War of Independence and Mount Vernon, where he spent his last years, will all be centers of important

Trenton, where the two famous battles were fought that turned the Tide of the Revolution, will doubtless have some part in the bicentennial program. But the main ceremonies in this vicinity, it now seems probable, will be held at Washington Crossing, where on that bitterly cold Christmas night of clad soldiers crossed the ice-jammed river in the face of a biting sleet and

For a number of years, the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania have been gradually converting this historic spot into a memorial park, which shall fittingly commemorate such an epoch making event. Within the past few weeks, Congressman Eaton, of New Jersey and Congressman Watson, of ther one of the important projects in the creation of the great park—the stored. construction of a memorial bridge across the river connecting the two
States. Congressman Eaton has introduced in Congress a bill for the bridge, Crossing Commission has undertaken which, it is proposed, shall be completed in time for the bicentennial. Thompson House. This is an old man-**\$1.500.000.** 

Erection of the bridge will be a fit-ting climax to the work of the States built before 1700 by one of the early and will link up the two developments Pidcocks, the first of whom had a into one perfect park. For although the trading station at this spot long years States are working in perfect harmony, before the Revolution. The two ends and both are looking forward to the were built in 1757 and in 1765. At the day when a handsome bridge will connect them, the plans for the parks on house was occupied by James Thompeach side of the river are quite dif-son, who married the widow of one of ferent. On the New Jersey side land the later Pidcocks. Thompson, who is has been bought for about a quarter frequently referred to in the old docuof a mile along the river's edge. This extends back from the river a mile or operated a grist and a saw mill on the operated a grist and a saw mill on the same from more, to a little beyond the Bear creek which today takes its name from Tavern, which is said to have stood the trader, Pidcock, During the Winter that memorable night as it stands toof 1776 Thompson also ground grain where the army divided to approach Trenton by separate routes.

the old McKonkey Ferry House, It the Battle of Trenton, quotes letters of soldiers and officers showing that while the army was being brought over the river, some of those who came first INTERIOR RECONSTRUCTED found shelter in the tiny building. Towith interesting household and tavern



Pennsylvania, have attempted to furof these houses have been bought by

typical of Bucks

On this land near the river stands with the Fellisystems woodwork has been painted.

## ALONG ITS ORIGINAL LINES

One of the best bits of restoration

built of the native stone. It was erected in three sections. The first part,

empty and when the Pennsylvania

## vicinity. They had battered the walls floors of wide pine boards have been were safely locked against unwelcome effairs in which the housewife of gen- tion, part of an old fort. As it is im- one for all the Continental soldiers own request, and there have been were safely locked against unwelcome effairs in which the housewife of gen- tion, part of an old fort. As it is im- one for all the Continental soldiers own request, and there have been to restore the and officers and Cantain Moore is one regions. and floors, knocked out window frames kept. The plaster that had been put intruders. Across the lower part of it erations ago baked her bread, ples and practical to attempt to restore the and officers and Captain Moore is one residents of the county who declars and in one instance even stolen a

fashioned garden, a gift to the State tion, and its heavy timbers have re- circumstances in the old days. from the Daughters of the Revolution sisted both vandals and decay, so that The room that one enters from the hinges were stolen, it has been neces—As one approaches the Thompson to future generations an excellent idea fever and died Christmas Day while ghost shricking and groaning on the

Of recent years the house has been has been put in condition and the kitchen, and shurly tucked away there from William Penn's manor house be- horse-oxen drinking trough, hollowed ton, a relative of the Commander-in- After rich hauls, he parted from his

state. Vandals had stolen some of the uone, because the interior of the build—

at this point, and was the New Jersey

at this point, and was the New Jersey

There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old parts. There is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there is an eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless stood the eld worden door in this a shed which doubtless st at this point, and was the New Jersey and of the service. General William S. vicinity. They had battered the walls Last Pall the Park Commission began rooms have been painted in the two sockets. The door swings back and an old windlass and bucket. Nearby the COVERED SPAN OVER CREEK While the army was encamped in the clous. There seems to be no record of

the turkers, ducks and other goodies low Morristille

The old Thompson House, used as headquarters for officers of the Continental Army during the Revolution and just before the crossing of the

Delaware, is pictured in the upper left. This house has just been restored by the Pennsylvania Washington Crossing Park Commission. In the upper center is shown the boulder and shield put up by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in memory of the soldiers who died in Bucks County. Christmas Day, 1776. The memorial tower being built on top of Bouman's Hill is shown in the upper right. In this will be a perpetual light to commemorate the signal fires that once burned on the top of the hill. A view of one of the rooms in the Thompson House is shown in the center left, while at the center right is a picture of the well house that covers the old-fashioned pump. Below is a view of the plot where soldiers and Captain James Moore, of the Continental Army, lie buried. It is a short distance from the Thompson House, along the river.

Because so many of the original also.

once belonged to William McKonkey state. Vandals had stolen some of the done, because the interior of the build-There is an old wooden door in this a shed which doubtless stood there in old barns. The Commissioners have James Moore, of the New York Artil- gold and treasure in the hill that now over the fine raftered ceilings has been is a wide wooden bar that fits snugly cakes. Not far away the Commission ruined barns, the Commission has de- of those who paid the supreme price they know where he lies. removed. and the heavy beams, as into iron pockets. In the upper half has found an old well, which was prob-cided instead to take them down, leav- A member of a wealthy and prominent. If there was ever any treasure in the good as when they were put in the is a curious wooden sliding hinge, a ably used to supply the house with ing only the enfilled of the fort. house, lend a picturesque touch. The small bar of wood with a peg handle water. This the Commission intends to walls and woodwork of some of the that slips in and out of wooden restore as it was formerly, setting up COMMISSION WILL RETAIN furniture of the Colonial period. In the restoration of the old house. Its dull shades of green that seems to be no record or rear of the house is a charming old thick walls were in quite good conditional graden by affit to the State tion. The Thompson house and the old Bucks County hills, and plans were any one finding treasure there, and that make antique collectors envious that make antique collectors envious houses, which have been renovated mills across the road are to be made being made for the march to Trenton, none has seen, although many used to

New Jersey will of course preserve while much damage had been done to door in the center portion of the sary for the Commission to replace house from the road that leads through of what an early American farm home his comrades were leaving for their hill. all the historic landmarks on this side the house, its restoration was not so house is doubtless the most interest- them. Where this has been done, the the covered bridge and on to New was like in the era before the War of gallant exploit. of the river, but there are fewer of difficult as might have been expected, ing. That original building apparently substitute locks are from houses of the Hope, one may see a well house that Independence. The mills will be put Captain Moore and some of his may be myth, it is true that the hill them here than on the Pennsylvania judging from its appearance. The work had a few rooms, and this one prob- same period approximately as the harmonizes with the mansion. The back as nearly as possible as they were soldiers who also died then of exposure was actually used during the war for side. That is due to the fact that for of renovating it has been done so well ably served as kitchen, dining and liv- Thompson house. Those on one of the pump is a wooden one in use years when grain was ground there for the and suffering, are buried a short dissinguilling purposes. On the top of 17 days before the crossing, the Army that the mension retains all of its old ing room. Across nearly all one side is doors came from the Earclay house in ago, with an old fashioned solid iron Army. was encamped in the hills of Bucks time atmosphere. Its walls have been a great fireplace, deep enough to hold Morrisville, which Washington oc- handle. The house that shelters it has It would be inappropriate of course quiet spot along the bluff by the to be lighted as signals to the men County. The army lay in quarters up repaired, little porches of the type that many pots and kettles of food. The cupied that latch been recently built of the same native to furnish the Thompson house with river's edge. The Commission has for who were guarding the ferries along

into a Colonial Center, which will give Captain Moore was stricken with camp claim to have heard Dr. Bowman's

keeping with the character of the the river, which means that it will home. Accordingly the furnishings not be a straight road, but rather one will be household articles of that time that will follow the curves and bends that were owned and used by country of the stream and winds along through

marks and relics of long gone years giving glimpses of the Delaware. The preserved, will rejoice that the Com- present road will be retained as a park This is one of the very few that remain of a type that was once so com- ON TOP OF BOWMAN'S HILL

the Revolution, and during that fate- the river from that road. ful December of 1776 it played an im- As a background for the Colonial dom. Like most of the houses in that Thompson house and the old mill region, it was an officers' headquar- stands Bowman's Hill. This has figured ters, and it is said that Lord Sterl- in history and legend, for it used to ing, an officer in the Continental Army be said that pirates' gold was buried occupied it and that at one time there and even a pirate himself. The Washington wrote from there some of pirate was believed to be a Dr. Bowhis official letters dated "Camp Above" man, surgeon in an English fleet sens

house were Captain William Washing- ate and joined fortunes with Kidd. Chief, and Lieutenant James Monroe. comrades at the Capes of the Dela-

New York family, he had enlisted when hill, there is surely none there now. quite young, and was given the rank for practically every bit of it has been of Captain in the New York Artillery, dug over by the credulous and avari-

tance from the Thompson house in a Bowman's and Jericho Hills fires used and down the river and many of the originally covered two of the three meat was placed in the oven from an many a time to pass in and out of his stone as the house, and the floor is rare, exquisite early American furnioid houses for miles around were head- doorways have been erected, the roof opening in a small room adjoining the temporary headquarters. Another is made of the same material. It has a ture. This would be too great a tempta- mark these graves, and they have be-

taining the graves of the soldiers have been enclosed in a low stone coping, built as stone fences were built years ago. In the center of the front edge of the coping is a great boulder, bearing upon its face a bronze shield and flags. The boulder and shield have Pennsylvania. Upon the shield is the following inscription:

> In Memory Of Many Unknown Soldiers of the Continental Army Who died from sickness and Exposure while encamped in these fields before the Battle of Trenton and were buried at this spot Christmas Day, 1776

Eventually there will be a rather ormal approach to the graves. The Commission intends to plant a grove of trees, one from each of the thirteen original States, and in front of these to sink boulders from the battlefields or other historic spots of the original

In time a memorial boulevard will pass near the graves, for the Commission is planning now to build a 150 foot boulevard from the Crossing to the upper end of the park at the York tion to thieves, and it would be out of Road. This will follow the banks of woods and meadows. At intervals vis-Those who love to have old land- tas will be opened through the woods,

The new houlevard will follow to a It is very fitting that the Thompson great extent, the lines of an old thornouse should be carefully restored by oughfare that was there many years the Washington Crossing Park Com- ago, and on which the farms of the mission, for it was a landmark before region fronted. These extended back to

portant part in the struggle for free- Center to be created around the out to capture the notorious Captain Among the officers quartered in the Kidd. It was said that he turned pir-

Although the stories of pirate gold