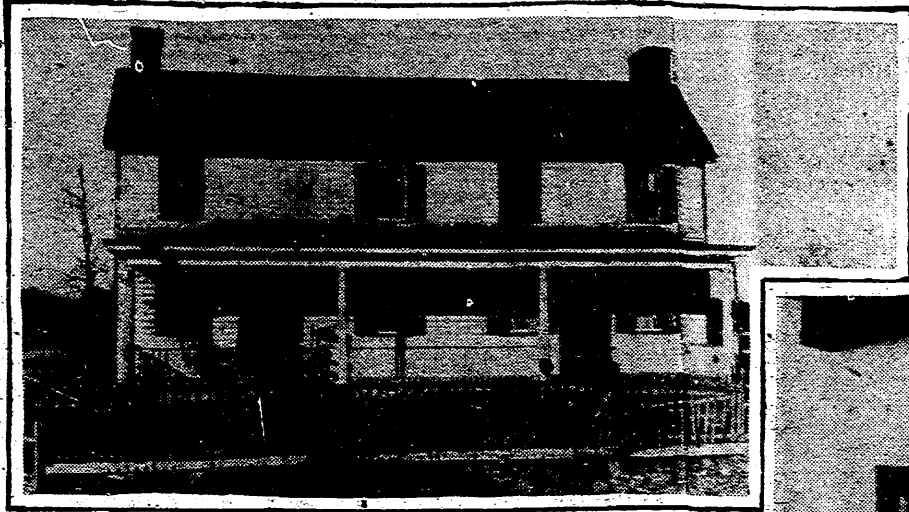


FERRY HOUSE CENTER OF N. J. MEMORIAL

200 Acres Running From Delaware To Bear Tavern Will Be Developed Into Forest With Sheep Pasturing On Cleared Spots; Drives Planned



Bear Tavern on Pennington-Washington Crossing Road

Nearly two hundred acres of gently rolling country, from which one looks across the Delaware River to the blue Pennsylvania hills, will be New Jersey's park to commemorate Washington's brilliant conquest of the icy river that memorable Christmas night of 1776.

Nothing will be done to disturb the simple woodland beauty of the spot, and there will be developed on the banks of the Delaware a State park that will rival in charm that vaster memorial park on the Schuylkill banks at Valley Forge.

There is no mansion which once served Washington as a headquarters in New Jersey's park; but there is a ferryman's little home, which that night offered what hospitality it could to the suffering but determined remnant of an army.

"I am writing in the ferry house. The troops are all over, and the boats have gone back for the artillery. We are three hours behind the set time. Glover's men have had a hard time to force the boats through the floating ice with the snow drifting in their faces. I never have seen Washington so determined as he is now. He stands on the bank of the river, wrapped in his cloak, superintending the landing of his troops. He is calm and collected, but very determined. The storm is changing to sleet, and cuts like a knife. The last cannon is being landed, and we are ready to mount our horses."

McKONKEY HOUSE IS OPEN TO PUBLIC FOR FIRST TIME

The McKonkey house has been opened to the public for the first time this year. The house itself

has been repainted and put in condition by the New Jersey Department of Conservation and Development, which is laying out the memorial park, while a charming old-fashioned garden, which remains one of the exquisite boxwood gardens of Mount Vernon has been made at the direction of the National Society, Daughters of the Revolution.

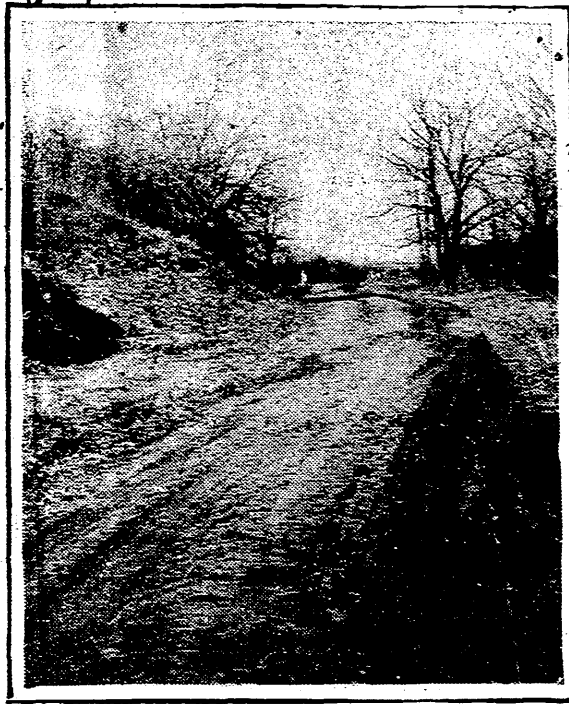
The entire house has been redecorated, although at present only two rooms are being opened to the public. Both of these are very interesting, one of them being what was apparently a kitchen-dining room. Here one finds an enormous fireplace, practically undisturbed since the days when Washington's officers found shelter in the tiny dwelling. The walls and ceiling have been done in a soft tone of tan, and the fireplace still remains as in olden days with its long chimneys or hold the kettles. Since only the most authentic pieces of old furniture will be placed in the house, and there has as yet been very little money to spend for such a purpose, the two public rooms of the McKonkey house are sparsely furnished. The kitchen has above the fireplace some wonderful old wainscoting, and the hinges of the doors would make a collector tingle with delight. All the lighting fixtures are the old tin wall sconces, in which in Colonial days home made candles were burned. The ceilings of both rooms are the original oak beams, which have been merely cleaned and not otherwise disturbed.

The second of the two rooms is finished in two tones of green, the colors which it is believed were originally on the walls. This too boasts some splendid wainscoting, and quaint Colonial doors and fixtures. Connecting the two rooms is a tiny passageway, with a winding staircase leading to the second floor. In the hallway hangs a carriage lamp of the Colonial period, such as the Colonists used on their carriages, and then took into the house and hung upon the walls for further illumination.

OLD-FASHIONED GARDEN CONTRIBUTED BY SOCIETY

Leading to the house from the gateway is a flagged path, and in the rear, on the westerly side of the house is the lovely garden that some of the patriotic women of the country are giving as their part in this State park.

About a year and a half ago, the



Road That Continentals Used Approaching Trenton

National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution, of which Mrs. Charles A. Latham, of Arlington, N. J., is the president, became much interested in New Jersey's memorial park. They wanted to have some part in developing it, and finally decided to turn over to the State Department of Conservation and Development the sum of \$5,000 to be used for an old-fashioned garden.

Already the women have had planted in the garden \$3,000 worth of boxwood, and this winter, the first for the rare shrub in its new location, particular pains are being taken to prevent it from freezing or

being killed by the icy blast from the river. Little wooden framework has been erected around the boxwood, and heavy burlap is being attached, which will break the severity of the cold and wind. The boxwood has been planted so that it makes four little squares connected by paths. In the very center of the garden will be laid a picturesque old mill stone, and on this will be put a sun dial.

In the little enclosed squares shrubs of several varieties have been planted, together with flowering fruit trees, such as the plum and quince. In the Spring the garden will be a mass of color, for thousands of bulbs are being planted this fall. Outside of the boxwood garden, near the picket fence is to be a lilac walk, and the bushes of this dainty fragrant old-fashioned shrub are being put in this fall. In another part of the garden will be an arched arbor, over which grape vines will be trailed.

The 180 acres which comprise the park have been acquired from time to time as funds have been appropriated by the Legislature, and the development of the very heart of the park around the McKonkey Ferry House has been held up by the inability of the State Department of Conservation and Development to acquire the most needed tracts of land. When the State park project at Washington's Crossing was first decided upon some dozen years ago, an appropriation of \$25,000 was made by the Legislature, which was used to buy about 100 acres including the Blackwell farm, on what is now the Washington Crossing road, leading to Pennington. The entire appropriation went for this purchase, and for years no more money was sanctioned by the Legislature to further develop what was already owned, or to allow the purchase of more land. As a result the State memorial park was practically held in abeyance for ten years or so, until in 1921 \$10,000 was voted by the Legislature. That money, it was specified should be spent for the purchase of the McKonkey house and not more than ten acres of additional land.

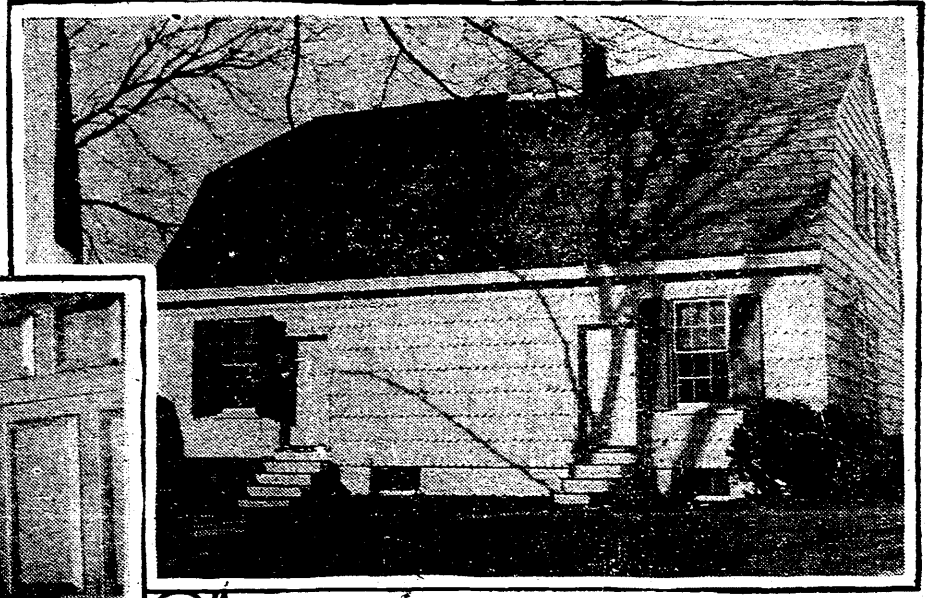
OWNERS HOLDING OUT FOR EXCESSIVE PRICES No appropriation followed in 1922, and it was not until 1923 that \$50,000 more was forthcoming. In 1924 \$30,000 was appropriated and this year \$75,000 was granted. With this

money, the State Board bought as much of the land especially needed, including the key piece at the water front where the army actually landed and that taking in the McKonkey house and territory immediately adjoining it. There still remain three pieces of property, between the McKonkey Ferry House and the Washington's Crossing road, which must be bought. Houses are on these three pieces, and the owners are asking prices which the State Board is loath to pay. It is likely therefore that the last land required will be obtained only through condemnation.

BISHOP OWNS 10 ACRES OF LAND WITHIN TRACT

When these last parcels are in the possession of the State, the New Jersey holdings for the park will extend from the Washington's Crossing road to Steel's Hollow, and from the river front nearly to Bear Tavern. In the tract there is only a small piece of ten acres which the State cannot hold. That was given to Bishop Thomas J. Walsh, of the Catholic Diocese of Trenton by Dr. I. P. Strittmater, of Philadelphia. Dr. Strittmater is a student of history and interested in preserving historic spots. Several years ago he acquired the Washington's Crossing land at a Master in Chancery sale, holding it with the idea that some time the State of New Jersey would decide to fittingly mark the spot where the crossing was made, which resulted in two of the most important battles in the Revolution, Trenton and Princeton.

It is the intention of the State Department to develop a park which shall be a dignified memorial to Washington and his men, and which shall be a simple woodland type appropriate to the locality. It is felt that there would be no justification in establishing a city type of park with great lawns and garçons, but rather one which will harmonize with the surroundings. Now that practically all of the land needed is owned by the State, work of creating the park has begun. The State Department will first develop that portion on both sides of the concrete highway that runs parallel with the river. This begins at the water's edge, and is divided by the Titusville road, the railroad and canal. This section of the park,



McKonkey Ferry House That Sheltered Washington

OLD ROAD TO TAVERN AT SIDE OF McKONKEY HOUSE

Just alongside of the McKonkey house is a little roadway. This is the beginning of the old road to Bear Tavern, the one which Washington and the Continental soldiers traversed in snow and sleet that Christmas night. The road which now runs to Bear Tavern and on to Pennington was not in existence in those days. Although the actual crossing of the river began shortly after dusk, and it was expected by Washington that all would be on the Jersey shore by midnight, it was nearly 4 o'clock the next morning, before the 2,400 men were safely over the river and ready to march on to Trenton. Here in the vicinity of the ferryman's house they assembled, and turning, marched up over the hillside in the rear of the tiny house. For a considerable distance the old road is still to be traced, but after a time it becomes obliterated and the last half leading directly to the Tavern road is lost.

The State Department intends, if possible, to figure out just about where the road ran, and to establish a woodland trail from the ferry house the whole distance to the Tavern. This will not be an automobile road, because to so improve that section of the park as to make it possible for motor cars, to go over it, will entirely destroy its character. Since there will be other driveways, it is felt that it is entirely appropriate to allow this trail to remain a trail, one which pedestrians or horsemen may follow without interference from motorists.

BLACKWELL HOUSE LIKELY TO BE RETAINED BY STATE

The Blackwell house which now stands on the Washington's Crossing road is to be retained by the State, which is repairing and repainting it. It will undoubtedly be used for park

And They Said—



A Times-Advertiser reporter asked five persons if they thought that the decision rendered by a military court, finding Colonel William Mitchell guilty of charges of insubordination, was fair.

The Answers

George H. Zimmerman, representative of G. A. Farlow's Music Store—Yes, I believe that it was necessary to find him guilty in order to maintain discipline in the army. Had he been cleared or simply reprimanded, probably it would have been difficult to maintain order in the ranks.

W. L. Stewart, Mercersville—Had not Colonel Mitchell been severely punished, I believe insubordination and dissatisfaction would have caused a crisis in the aviation forces of the country.

William Webb, lineman for the Bell Telephone Company—The decision reached by the judges was not fair. Mitchell received his suspension because he was attempting to better things for the enlisted men, and not the officers.

Charles H. Young, insurance broker, Germantown, Philadelphia—I'll ask another question: what do you think of a system which permits an accused man to be tried by a jury composed of the men whom he is accusing?

Alfred Johnston, automobile salesman, Bordentown—Had Colonel Mitchell been tried in a civil court, he would undoubtedly have been judged not guilty. There was no real evidence against him.

guards and the superintendent, and it is quite likely that the Nelson house, standing at the railroad crossing will be put to similar use.

In keeping with the plan of the State Department of Conservation and Development to make the Washington's Crossing memorial park a dignified tribute to America's first commander-in-chief and gallant soldiers, it is not the intention of that Department to make the park a picnic ground. Dr. Henry B. Kummel, head of the Department, discussing the project recently said that there will of course be accommodations for persons visiting the park to eat lunches and to park their automobiles, but that there will be no bathing beaches nor large picnic grounds for organizations. The canal, railroad and a busy highway would make such a picnic grounds at the water end of the park a highly unsatisfactory arrangement anyway, he believes, and in this the State Board concurs. In that portion near the river there will be benches, and perhaps an outdoor fireplace, but a good bit of it will be attractively planted with trees and shrubs.

New Jersey's memorial park, together with that which Pennsylvania is developing on its side of the river, will make a harmonious whole, and will preserve in a charming and appropriate manner all of this Delaware Valley district which rivals Boston and its environs in historic interest. It is possible that some day the federal government will also recognize in fitting manner the event which made possible American independence. Much support has been given to the plan to build a memorial bridge at this point, which if ever brought to completion will link the two beautiful historic areas, and when the bridge is built, the federal government will presumably lend its aid, and the whole of the Delaware Valley with which Washington and the Continental army, was so intimately associated will then become a national park, which will attract Americans from all parts of the country.

When Washington and his men and officers marched over the Bear Tavern route to that hostelry, they divided it, it is now believed, Washington and General Greene's division going down the Pennington Road, and General Sullivan and the rest of the men taking what was known then as the River Road, to Birmingham, or Trenton Junction. For many years it was believed that the whole army went down the "River Road" to Birmingham, and then divided, Washington and General Greene's division then crossing to the Scotch Road, and approaching Trenton from the direction of Pennington.

Orders of Washington and the day by day diary of an officer in the Continental Army prove however that the army divided at Bear Tavern, only General Sullivan's division coming down by the River Road. This road is still in use, although it is almost unimproved, and full of deep ruts and in wet weather almost impassable with mud. The road winds through a beautiful country, with a hillside sloping up on one side, and a little stream trickling down the other. The road passes by a few old farm houses, some of them abandoned, others occupied by farmers, who still cultivate the fields as did the Tory farmers in Colonial times. It will be remembered that the soldiers were cautioned against making any noise, lest the Tories should be disturbed and give an alarm. Some day perhaps this road will be made a bit more passable so that it could be traversed with ease by automobiles, although one is loath to see it converted into a splendidly improved road which will then rapidly become a busy highway, spoiling the sylvan character of the locality.

25 YEARS AGO IN TRENTON

December 27.—A man who had been killed at the Union Street crossing of the Pennsylvania Railroad was identified as Michael Pavlioni, one of the best blacksmiths in the city, and employed at the Clark Fisher Anvil Works. He lived at 458 Lamberston Street and left a wife and four small children.

The firm of J. H. Darrah & Co., real estate dealers, was succeeded by Walter F. Smith, one of the firm, who bought out his partners.

December 28.—Arrangements were completed for the New Year shooters' parade. It was to be held in the morning because the costumes could be judged better in the day-time than at night. Numerous handsome prizes, contributed by local merchants were to be awarded. The judges selected were Hugh W. Kelly, Marvin A. Riley, Thomas F. Waidron and Charles Slee.

December 30.—A song service at the Y. M. C. A. was attended by 1,400 young men, which was the largest number that ever squeezed themselves into the auditorium. The big crowd was attracted by the announcement that Dr. Chapman was to be present and speak. The famous revivalist did speak and was heard with the profoundest interest. Another special feature of the service was singing by the Swedish Ladies Quartet.

December 29.—Mrs. Maria R. Buttolph, aged 84 years, widow of Dr. Horace Buttolph, for 29 years Superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, died at Short Hills, N. J. She had a wide circle of friends here and while living in Trenton was a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Her burial took place in Riverview cemetery beside the grave of her husband.

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December 31.—Announcement was made that the State Gazette had passed into the hands of Henry W. Comfort, of Bucks County, Pa. Charles H. Baker and Charles E. Case of this city. The new company, it was stated, intended to improve the plant in all departments and expected its business to grow with the growth of the city.

Taylor Opera House to usher in the new century. It was a magnificent demonstration, many prominent citizens appearing in the audience. Mayor Briggs presided and Bishop McPaul offered the opening prayer. Following music by the choir of the First Presbyterian church, the Mayor delivered an appropriate and eloquent address and then the Gaiety Quartet sang and former Judge William M. Lanning made an address. Every number of the program was highly interesting. In conclusion the vast audience sang "America" and was formally dismissed by the Rev. E. J. Knight.

Trenton Lodge No. 5, the oldest Masonic lodge in the State, held a session to watch the old year out. Address was delivered and "Trenton M. Traver gave a reading of the life of the lodge from John O. Raums "History of Trenton." Refreshments were served and the grand honors bestowed in honor of the new century.

January 2.—William H. Skirm, son of ex-Sheriff Harry Skirm, was dangerously ill of peritonitis, at his home, 24 Model Avenue. The patient had an interest in the Enterprise Printing Company.