Historical Commission
November 10, 2016
Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Steve Conrad, Timothy Esposito, Karen Uhlrich, Jack Washington, Sr., Mary Washington, Tom Wieckowski and guest Joe Mazza. (See attached attendance list).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Mr. Washington, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

In recognition of Veterans Day, Mr. Washington, Sr. asked the Commission to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and take a moment of silence for our veterans.

Mr. Washington, Sr. introduced Dr. Joe Mazza, a new Township resident who moved into a Shoemaker property.

2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Conrad made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved, to accept the minutes of October 13, 2016.

3. ***Review of Financial Report*** – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports showing income and expenses for both the Historical Commission and the Wall House for the month of October (see attached).

Action: Mr. Conrad made a motion to accept the financial report for the month of October as stated, seconded by Dr. Wieckowski, and unanimously approved.

4. ***Committee Reports***

A. Education Committee –Mr. Washington, Sr. said Mrs. Cohen would like to know if the Commission is interested in holding the May 2017 Preservation Month Program in St. Paul's Church. Dr. Wieckowski suggested using the meeting room in the church for the Commission meeting before the program and holding the program in the Church sanctuary afterwards. There should be plenty of parking to accommodate the program. It was a consensus of the Commission to hold the May 2017 Preservation Month program at St. Paul's Church.

B. Preservation Committee Report – No Report.

C. Museum Committee – Mr. Washington, Sr. thanked Dr. Wieckowski for doing the labels for the trolley car bell exhibit. He asked the Commission to focus on the holiday decorating at the Wall House this month.

D. Special Events – Dr. Wieckowski and Mr. Esposito discussed the merit of moving forward with the showing of the silent movie. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked if the movie could be shown in the spring. Dr. Wieckowski suggested between February and May in 2017.

Dr. Wieckowski suggested adding a (Route B) along with the previous spring tour (Route A) that was done the past two years. It would extend the tour by adding new things to see. He said perhaps the tour could start with a lecture at St. Paul's Church, then a tour

relating to the Underground Railroad in Cheltenham. The Commission will discuss this more in January.

Mr. Washington, Sr. said help will be needed during the Holiday Tour on December 11 at the Wall House. Mr. Conrad will see if he is able to cover the tour.

5. ***Chairman's Report***

A. The Commission received the check for reimbursement from the Jenkinstown Lyceum for the lecture series.

B. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he received a solicitation from the American Alliance of Museums. He said this magazine is more focused on art museums, not historical museums like the Wall House Museum. He said the cost is $150 and he does not feel there will be a benefit to the Commission to purchase the magazine.

> ***Action:*** Mr. Conrad made a motion not to accept the solicitation from the American Alliance of Museums, seconded by Ms. Bartlett and unanimously approved.

C. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he received a *Preserving PA* Newsletter which highlights Beth Sholom Synagogue. The article mentions how the synagogue has done some update work needed, such has handicap accessibility that was done without affecting the concepts done by the architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The article also discusses how the Brandywine Battlefield has created a task force and how it is working to preserve the battlefield.

D. Mr. Hinson offered Township support for sending out thank you letters to the Friends of Wall House for their contributions. Mr. Hinson suggested that a form letter, signed by Mr. Washington, Sr. thanking donors can then be sent out by the Parks and Recreation Department.

E. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he is working to set up a meeting with Dr. Holt and the Dean from Penn State Abington regarding a joint spring program. The theme Dr. Holt is considering for the next program is "Women of the Wall House." He said students could do a re-enactment along with an exhibit. Dr. Mazza offered to help by sharing the information with his Dean at the University of Pennsylvania to see if his students could provide support. Mr. Washington, Sr. will provide Dr. Mazza with a copy of the program proposal completed by Dr. Holt last year to see how he might help.

F. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he was contacted by a former student of Melrose Academy who is interested in undertaking an oral history project about Melrose Academy. Mr. Washington, Sr. suggested she develop an article for the next Newsletter based on the oral history she gathers regarding the Melrose Academy. Dr. Wieckowski will follow up with her.

G. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked if members of the Commission would help buy new electric candles for the Wall House windows to replace all old candles that do not work.

H. Mr. Washington, Sr. said all the shutters were removed from the Wall House so they can be sanded, primed and painted before the Holiday Open House.

6. ***Staff Report*** – No Report.

7. ***Old Business*** – Mr. Washington, Sr. discussed the solicitation from Penn's Woods Puppets. He said he spoke with Mr. Hinson who suggested using the side yard area outside of Curtis Hall for the program. Mr. Washington, Sr. suggested this program be a spring event held in the evening or on a weekend. Mr. Esposito asked how much would be charged for admission. Mr. Washington, Sr. said the charge is usually about $7.50 for adults and $5 for children. Mr. Hinson said there could be a discount created for cars (families) attending the puppet show.

8. ***New Business*** – None.

9. ***Moment in History*** – Mrs. Washington provided a report (see attached).

10. ***Announcements*** – Mr. Washington, Sr. congratulated Ms. Urlich on her marriage and guest, Dr. Mazza, on the birth of his twins.

Mr. Conrad recommended that everyone see the movie called "Denial," which will be showing for approximately one more week at the Highway Theater.

Mr. Washington, Sr. said there will be a program at Graeme Park called "A Continental Christmas," which will feature a reenactment of the story of the more than 2,000 men under Generals Armstrong, Potter and Lacey that were encamped there between December 1777-January 1778 during the Revolutionary War on November 12 & 26, 2016 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mr. Washington, Sr. asked that everyone take and distribute cards promoting the Holiday Open House Tours at the Wall House.

11. ***Good and Welfare*** – Dr. Wieckowski thanked Mr. McCann for his help sending out a link regarding the Abolition Project in Plymouth Meeting. The information given pointed out the connection between Robert Corson and Morris Longstreth Hallowell during the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. Dr. Wieckowski shared an eight-page paper where he provided research on the subject (see attached).

Mr. Washington, Sr. said Mrs. Cohen is at home recovering from an injury. She is doing much better and sends a thank you to the Commission for the get well card (s) she received. It was greatly appreciated.

12. ***Adjournment*** – There being no further business, Mr. Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager
Submitted by: Linda J. Vann

2016

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (92-419)
INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

ACCT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	CUMULATIVE TOTALS
	BUDGET BALANCE - $4,000.00													4,000.00
ADD: RECEIPTS	BEGINNING BALANCE	1,291.48												1,291.48
92419R1107000	REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTED													0.00
92419R1200000	LOCAL AID													0.00
92419R1203000	STATE GRANT													0.00
92419R1208999	TRANSFERS													0.00
92419R1209000	FEDERAL/COUNTY GRANT													0.00
92419R1302000	SPECIAL EVENTS				350.00	430.00					500.00			1,280.00
92419R1304000	SALE OF BOOKS		12.00	3.00	3.00		6.00	3.00	9.00					36.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:		1,291.48	12.00	3.00	353.00	430.00	6.00	3.00	9.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	2,607.48
LESS: EXPENSES														
9241992-30000	OFFICE SUPPLIES													0.00
9241992-30999	SPECIAL EVENTS													0.00
9241992-32000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE													0.00
9241992-34001	TELEPHONE - (ADMIN & FAX)	89.75	89.25		189.95	94.97	94.97	94.92	94.94	95.21	94.89			938.85
9241992-38000	POSTAGE													0.00
9241992-40001	CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTED													0.00
9241992-41000	REPAIRS CONTRACTED													0.00
9241992-46000	OPERATING EXPENSES					28.07	93.19							121.26
9241992-72000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES						245.00							245.00
9241992-74000	CONTRACTED SERVICES													0.00
9241992-74100	WALL PAPER													0.00
9241992-92000	ASSOCIATION DUES				50.00									50.00
9241992-94000	ADVERTISING & PRINTING													0.00
9241992-96000	MISCELLANEOUS	40.00	150.00		300.00									490.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:		129.75	239.25	0.00	539.95	123.04	433.16	94.92	94.94	95.21	94.89	0.00	0.00	1,845.11
TOTAL AT MONTH END:														762.37
TriCentennial Fund Balance:		3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40	3,111.40			

2016

WALL HOUSE (92-417)
INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	CUMULATIVE TOTALS
	BUDGET BALANCE - $16,145.00													**16,145.00**
ADD: RECEIPTS	**BEGINNING BALANCE**	**150.00**												**150.00**
92417R1200000	LOCAL AID													0.00
92417R1203000	STATE GRANT													0.00
92417R1205000	HIS COMM MUSEUM TOUR													0.00
92417R1205001	GIFT SHOP		40.00						15.00	14.50				69.50
92417R1208999	TRANSFERS					782.87		102.12						884.99
92417R1209000	FEDERAL/COUNTY GRANT													0.00
92417R1301000	ANNUAL FUND DRIVE													0.00
92417R1302000	SPECIAL EVENTS													0.00
92417R1305000	DONATIONS				25.00				60.00		1,150.00			1,235.00
92417R1305001	FRIENDS OF	70.00	20.00		365.00	(240.00)	20.00				150.00			385.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:		**220.00**	**60.00**	**0.00**	**390.00**	**542.87**	**20.00**	**102.12**	**75.00**	**14.50**	**1,300.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,724.49**
LESS: EXPENSES														
9241792-30999	SPECIAL EVENTS													0.00
9241792-32000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE													0.00
9241792-32300	ACQUISITIONS			74.24										74.24
9241792-38000	POSTAGE													0.00
9241792-41000	REPAIRS CONTRACTED													0.00
9241792-72000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	480.00												480.00
9241792-73999	POLICE SERVICES													0.00
9241792-74000	CONTRACTED SERVICES	200.25	180.00		518.38		(117.88)							780.75
9241792-74407	MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS													0.00
9241792-92000	ASSOCIATION DUES													0.00
9241792-94000	ADVERTISING & PRINTING													0.00
9241792-96000	MISCELLANEOUS													0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:		**680.25**	**180.00**	**74.24**	**518.38**	**0.00**	**(117.88)**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1,334.99**
TOTAL AT MONTH END:														**1,389.50**

Holiday Happenings

by Old York Road Garden Club

Historic Richard Wall House

Sundays, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2016 (1-4 pm)

One Wall Park Drive
Elkins Park, PA 19027

York Road (Rt.611) & Church Road
OldYorkRoadGC@gmail.com
OldYorkRoadGardenClub.com

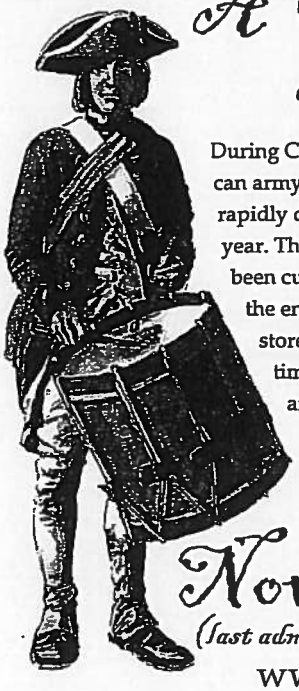
Moment In History 10 November 2016

Public Spirit Saturday Nov 25, 1911
Property at Ogontz Sold in Five
Parcels - Mansion, Mill and Quarry
Bought by Sister of Late Owner - Building
Ground Along York Road Knocked off at
$2225 per Acre - Orphans Court Must
Confirm Sale

Times Chronicle Saturday Nov 9, 1912
Ogontz and Elkins Park
John A. Stahr Elected President
John A Stahr was elected president
of the Cheltenham Board of Commissioners
at the monthy meeting on Tuesday
evening.

Times Chronicle Saturday Nov 23, 1918
Cheltenham Will Welcome Boys
Homes
"Home-Coming Club" Organized
To Prepare Celebration
Boys Will Receive Glorious Welcome
When They Come Back - Parades,
Noise and a Big Feed Awaits Them

A Continental Christmas at Graeme Park



During Christmas week, 1777, Graeme Park was invaded by part of the American army. More than 2,000 men were encamped at Graeme Park, with numbers rapidly diminishing as enlistments ran out and the men went home in the new year. The damage done to the property was extensive. Valuable timber had been cut down to build log huts; the officers set up in Elizabeth's parlor and the enlisted men took over the grounds, destroying gardens, eating the stored foodstuffs and taking the livestock. It must have been a terrifying time for her, and she was left with little food and no livestock when the army left.

Living history program focusing on this time in Graeme Park's history. Activities for kids, raffles, Christmas ornaments and food for sale.

November 26 | 12 - 4

(last admittance to house 3 pm)

www.graemepark.org | 215-343-0965

TO: **Historical Commission Members**
FROM: **Tom Wieckowski**
DATE: **November 10, 2016**
SUBJ: **Historical Note – Morris Longstreth Hallowell**

A Biographical Brief for Morris Longstreth Hallowell

"Being an Abolitionist was not an armchair occupation."

Morris L. Hallowell was an influential figure in the pre-Civil War history of Philadelphia and was prominent in the founding of Camp William Penn in Chelten Hills. He resided in Chelten Hills for a short period before the war.

Morris was the son of Charles Tyson and Ann Longstreth Hallowell, long-established Quaker members of the Abington community. He was born on August 14, 1809 in Jenkintown, on the upper floor of the general store that stood on the northwest corner of West Avenue and Old York Road, opposite the Cottman hotel. Charles had opened the store after being appointed postmaster of the village. The business failed in 1812, purportedly due to the fact that Charles refused to sell whiskey in his store because of his moral scruples. The family then moved to the city.

He went to Chester County for his education at Friends' School of Westtown. His father died when he was 19 years old, leaving him the sole support of his mother a sister and several brothers. Taking over his father's silk importing business, he engaged in several partnerships between 1828 and 1860, branching into the cotton trade, and his business grew to be one of the most influential and successful of its kind by the time the Civil War broke out.

On January 5, 1831, Morris married Hannah S. Penrose at the Friends' Meeting House in Philadelphia. It is interesting to note that the brides' mother's maiden name was "Norwood." Morris and Hannah had eight children: Annie (1832), William (1833), Edward (1836), Richard (1837), Norwood (1839), Amelia (1842), and Susan (1846). Their last child, Morris, was born in January of 1847 but died one month later, as was all too common in those days. Morris' business success is evident in the listing in the 1860 census of six servants in their household. All were Irish immigrants.

Morris Longstreth Hallowell

Morris was instrumental in the founding of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1846. Purportedly, the influential businessmen who supported a private

WHOLESALE STOCK AT RETAIL.

M. L. HALLOWELL & CO.,
No. 333 MARKET STREET,
AND
No. 27 NORTH FOURTH STREET,
HAVE CONCLUDED TO OFFER
AT RETAIL
THEIR STOCK OF

FALL AND WINTER DRESS GOODS,

CONSISTING OF

BLACK DRESS SILKS
IN GREAT VARIETY,
SILK VELVETS,
BOMBAZINES,
TAMISE ALPACAS, &c.
PLAIN AND PRINTED MERINOS,
MOUSSELINES,
POPLINS,
VELOURS, &c.
REPS,
WOOLEN PLAIDS,
PRINTED FLANNELS, &c.
ALSO,
THEIR IMMENSE STOCK OF

SHAWLS,
OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS.

CLOAKS, MANTLES, &C.
EMBROIDERIES, AND L. C. HDKFS.

Advertisement. Philadelphia Inquirer, October 19, 1861

Pennsylvania company met in the parlor of Hallowell's home in Philadelphia at 1417 Filbert Street. The proposed railroad was a creature of state and local politics as the local contingent fought in the legislature to block the B&O railroad from obtaining a charter to cut through central Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh. Hallowell finally was appointed to the newly created board of directors of the railroad in 1848.

Morris Hallowell also served as a director of the Bank of North American and was an "incorporator" of the revolutionary Female Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1850. He was an early member of the Union League in Philadelphia.

Though a lifelong abolitionist himself, Hallowell was challenged by the activities of a junior partner, Edward M. Davis, who joined the firm in 1848. Davis was Lucretia Mott's son-in-law, and an ardent abolitionist, who made his anti-slavery positions well known in his business dealings. Since much of the business of the firm of Hallowell and Company involved the cotton business through the South, clients below the Mason-Dixon line started to question their business dealings with the Hallowell Company, and in some cases, took violent action against representatives of the firm. A junior member, T. Russell Dawson, was mobbed in 1855 in Norfolk and threatened with hanging. A similar event was perpetrated against Col. Thomas W. Sweney of the firm in Atlanta.

Hallowell felt compelled to state his position clearly and wrote a letter to all of his clients in the South dated August 22, 1856. The letter began:

> "We have been informed by a large number of our Southern customers that systematic and pertinacious efforts are constantly made to deprive us of a portion of our trade by appeals to the prejudices of our buyers on the score of unsound political sentiments of some of the members of our firm."

Hallowell continued with a direct defense that perhaps by other standards at another time would have seemed a reckless endangerment of his company:

> "We therefore feel it a duty we owe to ourselves and the commercial community in which we reside to declare publicly that

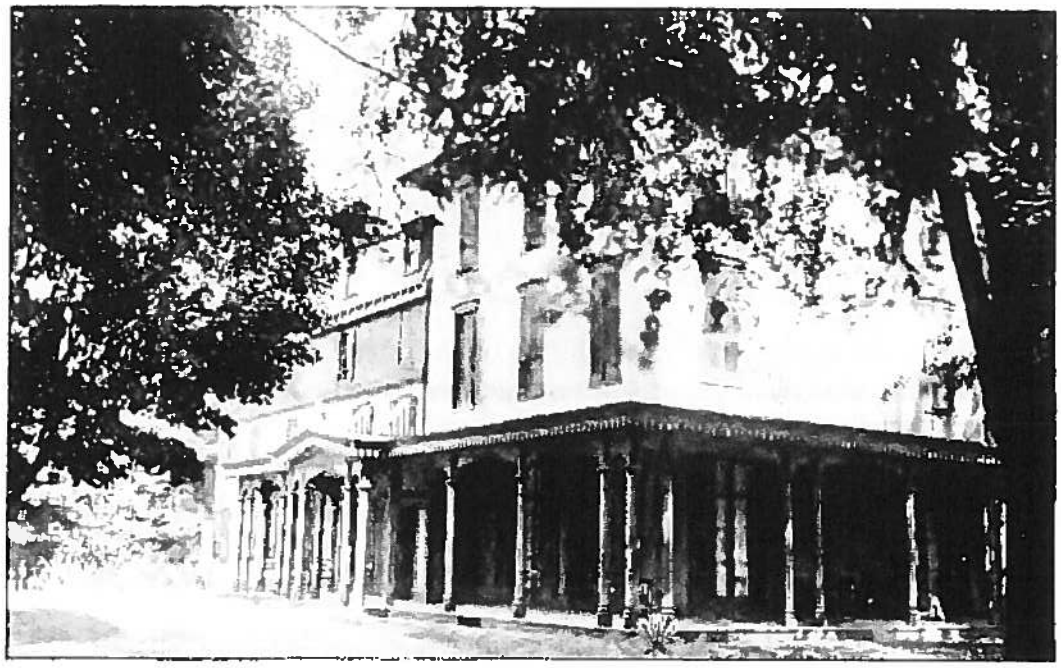
> we have no apologies to make for our opinions and that we will continue, as ever, to hold and express just such sentiments as our consciences and convictions dictate without reference to the supposed views of customers and in especial contempt of that class of dealers in our city who 'sell their principles with their goods.'"

An unknown group of Southern antagonists took out an advertisement, perhaps arranged by the newspaper, in the New York Times, dated February 22, 1860:

> "PHILADELPHIA MERCHANTS
> Below we publish a list of the wholesale merchants doing business in Philadelphia, who are enemies to the institutions of the South."

The article went on to call for a boycott of these "abolition houses" of Philadelphia and at the very head of the list was "Morris L. Hallowell & Co."

In 1854, Davis, engaging in various real estate enterprises, capitalized on the construction of the new North Pennsylvania Railroad that left Philadelphia through the northwest countryside to Gwynedd. He formed the Chelten Hills Land Association and bought up several of the old Quaker farms in Cheltenham Township, accumulating several hundred acres. He named the development "Chelten Hills" and subdivided the land into three to twenty acres country estates for the wealthy



Norwood—The Residence of Morris L. Hallowell

Norwood from "Records of the Branch of the Hallowell Family"

industrialists of the city. One of the first purchasers was Morris Hallowell who obtained a 4.3 acre plot at the southwest corner of Washington Lane and the newly minted Chelten Avenue (today's Ashbourne Road). Hallowell proceeded to construct a substantial country estate on the property that he named *Norwood*. Hallowell was one of the silent partners of the Land Association.

Several notable figures visited Norwood during Hallowell's ownership there. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, an avid abolitionist, took his seat in 1851 as a Free Soil Democrat. In 1856, during the "Bleeding Kansas" crisis, he virulently denounced the recent Kansas-Nebraska act and attacked its authors, accusing them of "compelling a virgin territory to the hateful embrace of slavery." In even more colorful language, he accused Senator Stephen Douglas of choosing as his mistress "the harlot, slavery." Two days after the speech on May 22, 1856, Representative Preston Brooks took offense to the insult of his cousin and attacked Sumner on the floor of the Senate with his cane, administering a severe beating. Suffering from obvious head trauma, Sumner experienced dizziness, severe headaches, blurred vision, and escaped the furor in Washington to recuperate for several months at a friend's house, *Norwood*, in the Chelten Hills.

In April of 1859, Virginia slave owners exercising the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Act apprehended a resident of Harrisburg by the name of Daniel Webster whom they claimed was their escaped slave, Daniel Dangerfield. Webster was turned over to U.S. Marshals who took him to Philadelphia for a hearing, fearing violence in Harrisburg similar to that which occurred in nearby Christiana seven years earlier in a similar incident. Webster appeared before Fugitive Slave Commissioner J. Cooke Longstreth on Monday April 4, 1859, at the courthouse at Fifth and Chestnut Streets. (Longstreth and Hallowell, being from colonial families, were distantly related dating back to the eighteenth century.)

The Abolitionist elite of Philadelphia attended the trial including Lucretia Mott, Mary Grew, William Still, Robert Purvis, Charlotte Forten, Abraham Barker, and others. Webster was defended by J. Miller McKim, another dedicated abolitionist who later figured in the founding of the Union League and Camp William Penn. Testimony and arguments continued through Tuesday, claiming mistaken identity. Final arguments began Tuesday evening and continued through the night with a full courthouse in attendance. Finally at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, Longstreth read his decision dictating that Webster was not Dangerfield due to a case of mistaken identity and discharged the prisoner.

Webster was quickly spirited off by Ned Hallowell and Edward Davis, Jr. to *Norwood*, where he recovered for several days while the excitement in the city settled down. Finally he was sent to Canada by the Underground Railroad to insure his safety.

As the war broke out in April of 1861, the Southern clients of Hallowell and Company abandoned their debts to the firm and sympathetic northerners responded to the New York Times black list by boycotting the firm. The firm

Edward Needles Hallowell

struggled through the war but declared its dissolution on January 10, 1865 and was liquidated. Morris' son noted that "the work of a lifetime was swept away, as it were, in a night."

Morris' sons inherited their father's activism against slavery. Edward ("Ned") was a stock broker when the War broke out, and was a member of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. He succeeded Robert Gould Shaw as the commander of the famed Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers of the motion picture "Glory" fame. He died of injuries sustained during the war on July 26, 1871. Norwood served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts and was one of the first to enter Fort Wagner after its evacuation. William served as a private with the Pennsylvania Militia, commissioned Lieutenant and adjutant of the Fifty-Fifth Massachusetts. All three were injured during the War.

A Gallant Philadelphian.

It may be interesting to your readers to learn that Captain NORWOOD P. HALLOWELL, who was sick at Poolesville, is improving. Captain HALLOWELL left College before graduating, and joined the Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment as a private (consulting his father afterwards). He was promoted and served as Lieutenant at Ball's Bluff with bravery and coolness. Governor ANDREW learning the facts, sent him a Captain's commission in the same Regiment, which he modestly declined, but the Governor sent word back that he did not allow dictation from subordinates, and that he must take the post.

Article: Philadelphia Inquirer, January 14, 1862

After the War, Hallowell began a firm of wool merchants in New York with his son, Norwood. Returning to Philadelphia in 1870, he established the banking house of Hallowell and Company and was elected a member of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. Morris died on June 16, 1880, at his country home in Media, Pennsylvania. He is buried at Laurel Hill.

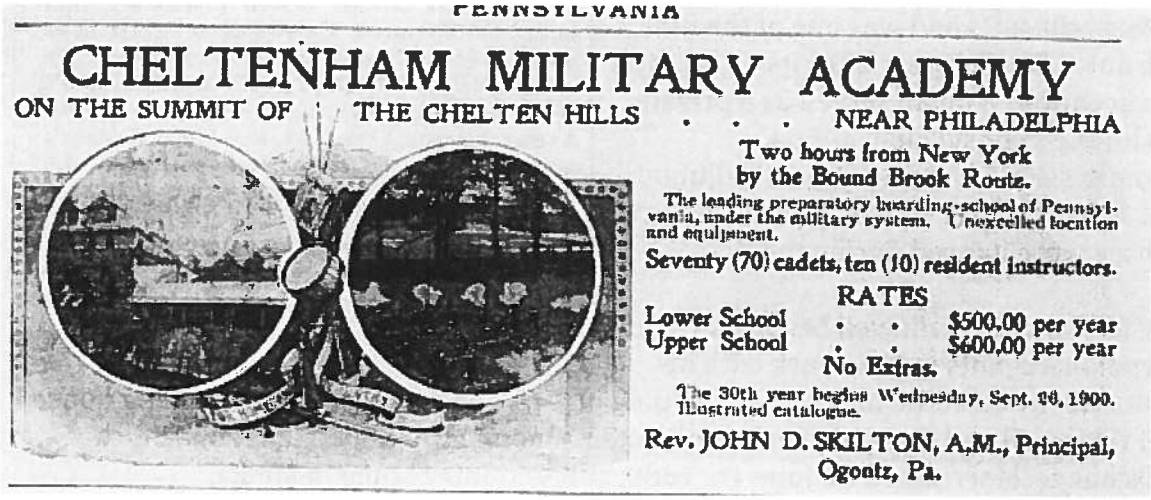
His obituary in *The Philadelphia Ledger* stated in part:

> "Mr. Hallowell's brave answer [to Southern criticism] stands as a shining page in the bright record of his life as the perpetual rebuke of that pitiful concession to the South that preceded Philadelphia's grand uprising in 1861. The home of Morris L. Hallowell was the haven or rest and refreshment for wounded soldiers, and his personal influence so earnest in action, so kindly in method, so unwavering in his faith to the cause and its

success, so untiring in self-sacrifice, was a moral force in this community as great as any."

Norwood passed to the ownership of Mrs. John Butler in 1859. Gabriella Butler was the widow of plantation owner John D. Butler of Georgia, the brother of Pierce Butler, husband of celebrity actress Fanny Kemble. Mrs. Butler was the employer of field-hand and gardener, William Fox, who died after being brought by wagon back to her home on August 9, 1863. Fox, with his brother-in-law and some of their children, was returning from a late night swim at a pond along Rock Lane, just below Norwood. In an unfortunate incident, Fox stopped to question a black soldier on guard duty along the southern boundary of Camp William Penn. Questioning turned to harassment and Private Charles Ridley, in the Army for only five days, fatally shot Fox after he perceived a threat.

In 1871, financier and Chelten Hills resident Jay Cooke assisted Rev. Samuel Clements in founding the Cheltenham Academy in an old house in Shoemakertown. Gabriella Butler died in 1872 and in that year the *Norwood* estate was purchased for the school. Dormitories and a gymnasium were added to the estate as well as a playing field that doubled as drilling grounds for the cadet/students. As a nationally known military school, Cheltenham Military Academy attracted wealthy families.

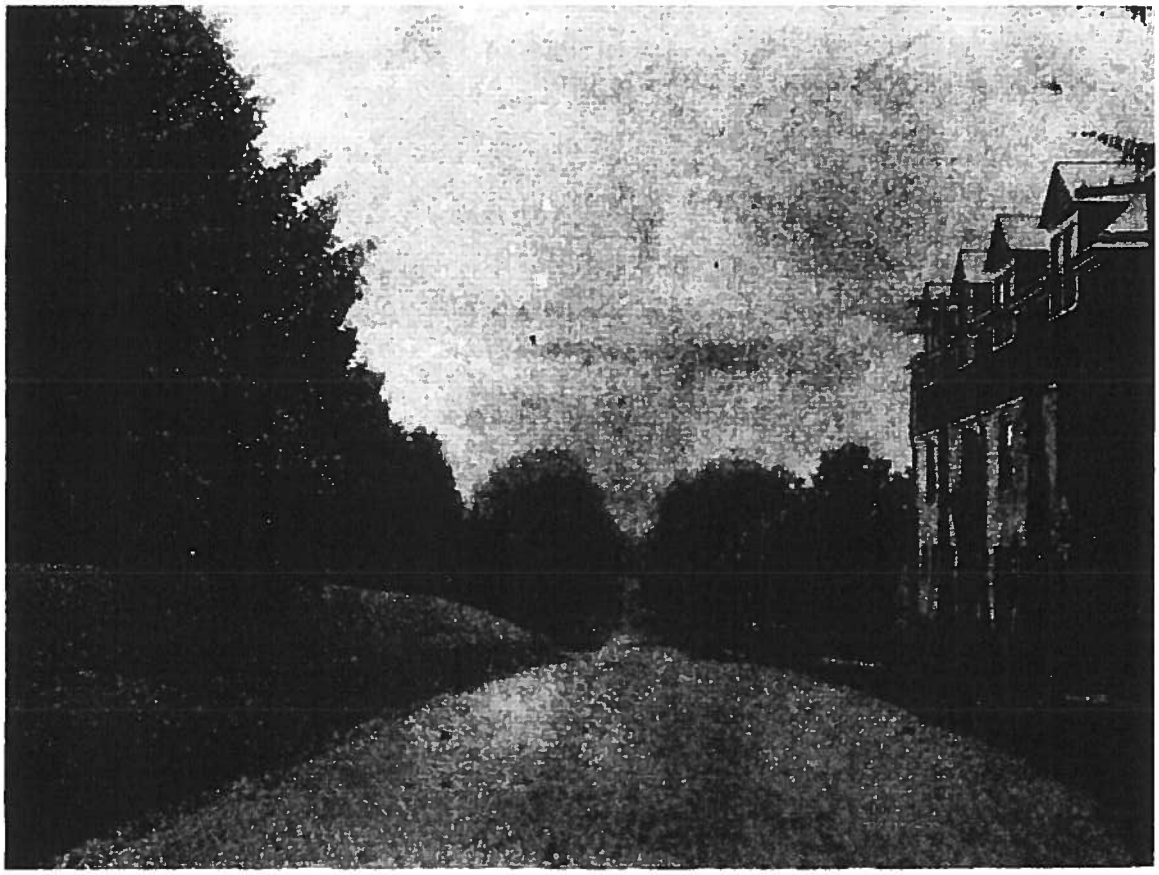


Advertisement for the Cheltenham Military Academy. Harpers Magazine, August 1900. Author's collection.

Among the notable students were Jesse R. Grant, son of President Ulysses S Grant, and Ezra Pound, the future traitor and controversial poet. Both had checkered educational histories and Jesse Grant was only in attendance from 1872 to 1874. This tenure was enough to gain him admission to Cornell in the fall of 1874. Pound entered in 1897.

The School floundered at the beginning of the World War and neighbor Peter A. B. Widener purchased the property to expand his Lynnewood Farm. He demolished the mansion but kept other buildings as service buildings for the farm. The property

was purchased by the Cheltenham School District in 1950 and the remainder of the buildings were demolished for the construction of the Lynnewood Elementary School which admitted their first classes in September 1951. Changing demographics dictated the closing of the school in 1977 and it became the School District Administration building, which still stands.



Approach to Cheltenham Academy, Cheltenham Avenue, Looking Eastward.

Rare view of Ashbourne Road to the east from Washington Lane, 1892. from "York Road: Old and New" by Samuel Hotchkin. This view, taken about fifty yards in from Washington Lane, shows the dormitory building of the Cheltenham Military Academy. The designation as "Cheltenham Avenue" in the caption is a common mistake in the literature leading to much confusion. The road was originally designated "Chelten Avenue" by Edward M.Davis when he developed Chelten Hills in 1854. It connected the short Graveyard Lane off Old York Road on the east with Washington Lane on the west and was renamed Ashbourne Road by the Township in the early part of the 20th century. The property on the left is *Caversham,* the estate of manufacturer George V. Cresson which was split off from the Jay Cooke *Ogontz* estate by the Ogontz School for Girls.

References and Resources

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MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Historical Commission Regular Meeting @ 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Carriage House

One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

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