

Please Save this for Neff

barn. He had purchased it in 1870. but in 1876 Mr. Ambler built a large house next to it, to which he moved. Mr. Beecher Anderson then resided there and it became known as the Anderson House.

On January 22, 1960, I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Walter L. Tyson of Furlong, Pennsylvania, who is a distinguished gentleman of eighty-six years. This trip was made possible by his niece, Mrs. Albert Streep of Roslyn. It was indeed a great pleasure to meet this fine Quaker gentleman. His daughter, Mrs. Aker, was very gracious and entertained us at a delightful lunch. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Tyson for one of the most interesting interviews I have ever had.

The house known as the Tyson Home in the early days is now occupied and has been for many years by a member of our club, Mrs. Craig Shields who is now Mrs. Nicholas Park. We remember this lovely spacious home, now called Highland House, as the scene of many delightful garden and card parties with "Kitty" as our gracious hostess.

Built in 1807 at what is now Highland and Keith Roads, the house retains its original charm as nothing has been added or taken away from its structure. The natural beauty of the lovely grounds surrounding the house has been preserved, but the huge farm is no longer in existence. Incidentally, a large barn once occupied the present site of the lovely home of the Herbert Grahams, and orchards and woods continued up the hill. The section was known as Highland Farms.

Mr. Walter Tyson was born in this home in 1873. He was the great-grandson of Joshua Tyson, an early landowner, who was one of the families given land by William Penn (my source of information mentions four names of Tyson and the number of acres given in the History of Abington Township). It comprised about one thousand acres. The Tyson ancestors came to this country in 1683 from Holland and Crefeld, Germany. Mr. Tyson showed me the original deed for part of the land, dated 1714. It read "Richard Kenderdine to Thomas Kenderdine—200 acres for 200 pounds;" there was also another deed dated 1769. These deeds are beautifully written and carefully preserved.

A letter dated 1800 was one which Mr. Tyson's great-grandfather received when he was in the United States Capitol in Lancaster. How many realize that the capital of the United States was located in both Philadelphia and Lancaster before it was moved to Washington? A client asked Mr. Tyson to do what he could in regard to a patent on some article. The first Tyson to immigrate was an overseer for a number of years to the Abington Friends Meeting and is buried in the Friends Cemetery, as were six generations interred there or at other Friends Cemeteries. This Mr. Walter Tyson is the seventh generation.

A document was shown to me, also in very good condition and completely legible. This document, subscribed to by a large number of Citizens

of Abington, of which Joshua Tyson was Chairman, was for the purpose of giving money or work in the fortification protection of the "City of Philadelphia." It was not dated, but was at the time the British troops were about to attack the city in the War of 1812, or the Second War with England. The list of names on this document are those who gave cash or work.

I also saw a "Public Sale" sign that was used to advertise their sale of household goods, barn, and all machinery they had used for their farm. The old plate used as a "Fire Mark" was found when the building was torn down. This sale sign was printed very much as they are today, except that it included ox yokes, surreys, wagons, a "Winnowing Mill" and a "Flax Brake." A winnowing mill is designed to blow the chaff away.

In those days, there were many ponds in Abington, for instance on the various farms. These were also used for swimming and ice skating. Edge Hill Road was the watershed and a creek coursed down through



One of the most outstanding Colonial homes in Abington Village, located at Keith Road and Highland Avenue. Highland House, formerly the Tyson House, was built in 1807. (Mr. Walter L. Tyson was born in this house in 1807.) Courtesy of J. Craig Shields, Jr.

built pre-Revolution



A 9th generation Tyson

has money to be toward preservation of house

lives in

Foulkways - Quaker retirement