



# The Quaker Hill Quill



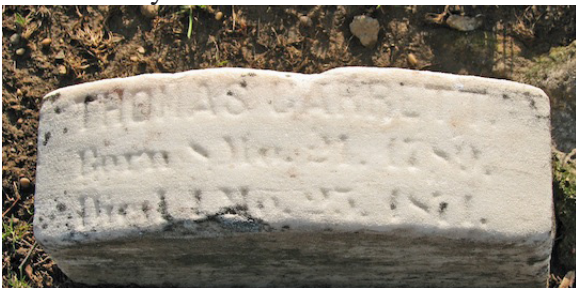
Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation  
521 N. West Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Vol. V, Number 2, May, 2016  
302-655-2500  
[www.quakerhillhistoric.org](http://www.quakerhillhistoric.org)

## ***To Learn about Harriett Tubman and Thomas Garrett, Lansdowne Friends Students Visit Quaker Hill by Ashley Cloud***

Quaker Hill echoed with the excited chatter of twenty 3rd and 4th graders from Lansdowne Friends School in Upper Darby, PA as they disembarked from their bus on the corner of 4th and West early on Friday morning April 1st. This precocious bunch joined us as part of the Underground Railroad field trip conceived by their teacher Alison Levie, to give her students a visceral experience as they traced Harriet Tubman's story to her birthplace in Bucktown, Maryland. Given the school's Quaker roots and its location near Thomas Garrett's birthplace, a visit to Quaker Hill was a natural starting point on their educational journey.

The children had wonderful, inquisitive energy as we began our presentation at the corner of 5th and West at the site of the first residence in Quaker Hill built by Thomas West in 1738. The idea of history being a scavenger hunt for clues had them scouring the building and pointing out the carvings and dates they saw. We expanded our search to the Meeting House cemetery, where they were tasked with discovering Thomas Garrett's gravestone (*see below*). Much energetic running and exclamations as they found dates and names that resonated with them finally led us to finding Garrett's resting place where they promptly snapped pictures with their smartphones--a true intersection of history and modern times.



After they had sufficiently stretched their legs, we entered the Meeting House itself to discuss its significance and role in Thomas Garrett's life as the site of his marriage to Rachel Mendenhall and the effect of

the Hicksite schism over the Quaker community taking a proactive role in abolitionism. While the children and their chaperones enjoyed snacks and water, we explored the relationship between Thomas Garrett and Harriet Tubman in the context of the times and their remarkable accomplishments in the face of personal peril.



The attentive students had excellent remarks and questions. They especially enjoyed learning of Harriet's eight journeys into Wilmington and the nerve-racking account of her two brothers, other fugitives, and Harriet (*above*) hiding in a wagon full of hay as bricklayers (and UGRR operatives) distracted bounty hunters, safely crossing the Market Street Bridge on the way to Garrett's home at 227 Shipley Road.

We look forward to hosting more Lansdowne students and their families--and those of other schools--as we uphold our mission to educate visitors on the rich history of the Quaker Hill Historic District.

### **Also in this issue:**

- "Thomas Garrett Letters to the Blue Hen's Chicken," edited by Dr. Peter Dalleo
- "To Preach Deliverance to the Captive': John Hunn and the UGRR in Southern Delaware," by Justin Wilson
- "Oliver Evans: Delaware's First Industrial Genius," by Terence Maguire
- "The View from the Hill," by Ashley Cloud

## Letters by Thomas Garrett to the *Blue Hen's Chicken*--edited by Dr. Peter Dalleo

*For a number of years Dr. Peter Dalleo pored over the Historical Society of Delaware's collection of a 19<sup>th</sup> C. Delaware newspaper called the **Blue Hen's Chicken**. It began publication in 1845 under the leadership of the British-born Francis Vincent, along with printer William T. Jeandell, who soon sold his share of the paper to Vincent. The paper ran until 1854, and then passed through a number of publishers and names.*

*The **Blue Hen's Chicken** quickly became quite successful, with a circulation of 3000, a figure that Vincent boasted was the largest in the state. Part of its appeal was that it concentrated on local news, not merely reprinting national news stories. According to Dr. Dalleo, Vincent sometimes focused on downstate stories but mostly covered the Wilmington scene.*

*The **BHC** became known for its advocacy of comparatively liberal causes such as universal education and proportional representation for the state legislature. It also had unusual emphasis on and sympathy with the state's African American population, generally neglected by other Delaware newspapers—unless there was something negative to report. The **BHC** advocated the abolition of slavery and spoke out against the many Delaware laws that discriminated against blacks.*

*Dr. Dalleo discovered a number of letters to the newspaper by Thomas Garrett, the eminent stationmaster of the Underground Railroad and champion of rights for African-Americans. That Garrett wrote so often (and so boldly) was unusual for agents of the Underground Railroad, who tended to do their good and selfless deeds with minimal publicity; however, though he was nonviolent, Garrett was not a shy man.*

*Some of the letters Dr. Dalleo discovered will be published in the **Quaker Hill Quill** over the course of three issues, each concentrating on a particular incident or theme of injustice toward African Americans in Delaware and nearby Maryland. The first concerns the unfair treatment and unjust imprisonment of an African American crew of a small shipping vessel. The details are a bit complicated, but the incident clearly illustrates how ready the white*

*world was to find fault with and further impoverish, if not enslave, free black men of that time.*

### *Letter # 1 BHC, March 9, 1849*

*Messrs. Editor.* —As I promised to give you a statement of all the facts connected with the crew of the boat *Experiment*, as soon as I could. ... The boat was owned by our townsman Thomas Walters; a colored man named Jesse Mode, is captain, who has for some time found his own crew to man the boat, and divided the freights with Walters... [In November] 1848, John L. Passmore made an agreement with Captain Mode, to proceed to Swan Creek Harford County Maryland, to take in a load of logs. Passmore promising to be there on arrival of the vessel, and to see to loading the timber. Passmore was not there, and after waiting for a day or two, they loaded the timber, and would have left—but owing to a small balance remaining unpaid by Passmore, on the timber, they were not permitted to leave; the captain then went to the residence of Passmore, in [Kingsessing], near Philadelphia, and informed him how he was situated. Passmore gave the captain some money, and promised to meet him at the vessel the next day; the captain returned to the vessel—winter set in, and the vessel became sea bound; the men remained at the vessel to attend to her; at the expiration of five or six weeks, the captain and three men, Levi Loveland, Richard Morris, and Samuel Broome, were arrested by a constable by the name of Willey, and taken before a magistrate named Kent Mitchell, when the constable arrested Captain Mode, he took all his money away, amounting to ten dollars; when taken before the squire, he ordered the constable to return six dollars of the money, which was done, and the captain was permitted to return home; the three colored men above named, were fined twenty dollars each, which, being unable to pay, they were taken to Bell Air [sic] jail; the captain being an old and inform man is supposed to be the reason for releasing him and returning part of the money; the men were in jail two weeks, when a few benevolent individuals advanced the money, which was placed in the hands of A.D. Keen, who had acted in the manner of an agent for Thomas Walters,

and they were by him redeemed. Had it not been for the humanity of those who raised and forwarded the money to A.D. Keen, they would no doubt have been sold to the dealers in the bones and sinews of their fellow-men, and most likely had been slaves for life.

I will now give you a bill as furnished by Keen himself, for the fine, jail fees, lawyer's fees, etc.

Jail fees,	\$26.14
Fines, \$20 each	\$60.00
Counsel fees	\$15.00
Expenses home by A.D. Keen	\$3.00
Paid to the men, additional by	
I.S. Flint, to enable them to return	
Home in the cars	<u>\$2.50</u>
	\$116.64

I think that no reasonable man could think otherwise, than that the fine in the case was cruel and unjust in the extreme—the vessel being frozen in the ice could not get away; she leaked badly and required constant care, yet, under such circumstances, it seems men could be found, who for a paltry sum raised by a fine, would so divest themselves of humanity, as to do an act that would disgrace a savage. But while our Legislators, in the Slave States, are slave-holders, and so unjust as to make one law for the *White Man* and another for the *Colored man*, we need not be surprised that men are found so void of principles, that for the paltry sum of \$10 each (one half the fine), they would consign an honest freeman, much better than themselves, to perpetual slavery.

The boat *Experiment* has been seized by the authorities of Maryland, and will be sold, on account of her being manned entirely by colored men. The laws of Maryland, requiring every vessel entering the State of Maryland, to have at least one white man on board, over eighteen years of age. How long will such laws be tolerated by a professedly free people?

Yours,  
THOMAS GARRETT

*Letter # 2 BHC, March 30, 1849*

*Respected friends:*--Jeandell and Vincent, a few weeks since I had published in your paper a statement made after a careful examination of the facts connected with the seizure of the schooner *Experiment*, and

imprisonment of the crew, which was called into question by John L. Passmore, and a certificate published by A.D. Keen, by which he (Keen) exonerated Passmore from blame, and endeavored to throw blame on the colored men, for not leaving the state before the vessel was frozen up. I was furnished before the publication with a letter from A.D. Keen, to Thomas Walters, in which he stated that he would look to him, for Walters, for the balance then due him for Passmore—over thirty dollars. The captain, Jesse Mode finding there was a disposition manifested by Keen, to throw all the censure on him and the crew, for the delay, has placed in my hands with a request that I would have it published, a statement made by two respectable white men, whom Walters sent to bring home the vessel, after three three colored men were put in jail. By publishing their statement, made under oath, think the public must be satisfied that Keen himself detained the vessel, and for the reasons set forth in the certificate.

Yours respectfully,

Thomas M. Garrett

NEW CASTLE COUNTY (S.S.) State of Del.

Personally appeared before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace, and for said county, William W. Wilson and Charles Eastburn, whom make solemn oath, and says that they were at Hall's X Road, Hartford County [sic], State of Maryland, about the first of February, and at the time the colored men belonging to the schooner *Experiment* was confined to jail, in said county of Hartford, and were at the house of said A. D. Keen, requested them to state to Mr. Thomas Walters, owner of the schooner *Experiment*, that the cause of the vessel's detention was the fault of John L. Passmore, as he was indebted to him for the sum of thirty-five dollars, at the same time, and that he would not let the vessel go until the money was paid, and likewise that Thomas Walton [sic] ought to make the said Passmore accountable for the damages.

W.W. Wilson

Charles Passmore

Sworn and subscribed before me, March 22, 1849

FREDERICK LEONARD



# Oliver Evans: Delaware's First Industrial Genius

by Terence Maguire

In the late 18<sup>th</sup>–early 19<sup>th</sup> C., over a dozen grain mills on the Brandywine, all located around the Market Street Bridge, were a remarkably successful example of American enterprise. Led by a cluster of Quaker families—Canbys, Tatnalls, Shipleys, Pooles, Prices, and Leas—this industry was both highly innovative and prosperous. Grain from Chester and Lancaster Counties was carried down by wagon developed for that purpose, called the Conestoga wagon, named for a river in Lancaster. Grain also arrived from downstate farms by small ships coming up the Delaware River and into the Christina River and then the Brandywine.

For at least a generation, these mills were the foremost producers of flour on the Eastern seaboard of the United States, shipping their product not only to many American ports, but also to Europe, South America, and even the Far East. In fact, it was the example of their prosperity that led the du Ponts to the Brandywine area in the early 19<sup>th</sup> C, hoping to utilize that small but perfect river for milling.

As much as anyone in the region, a young Quaker named Oliver Evans (*see below*) was responsible for the resounding success of the mills.



Briefly put, he invented machines and developed a system that automated the milling process by making

every step in the process continuous, all of them deriving basic power from the waterwheel. He ranks among America's foremost inventors and engineers, a true genius.

Evans was born on a farm in nearby Newport, one of eleven children. This mechanical dreamer was apparently often at odds with his family and peers early in life. An unimaginative father mistook young Oliver's mental projects for saving labor as laziness. Evans apprenticed with a wheelwright but had many jobs in his early years. All the while he was becoming increasingly detached from the simple, practical world and immersed in mechanical theory. He first put these ideas into use when he and his brothers opened a mill on the Red Clay Creek in 1783.

Gradually over the next decade, Evans invented or adapted a number of mechanical devices to improve efficiency. More important than any one device, though, was his concept of *continuous process*--a perfectly standard approach in any industry today but one without precedent in Evans's time. Hagley historian Eugene Ferguson sums up his contribution:

*Evans's new automatic system of milling made no changes in the way grain was cleaned, ground, cooled, bolted--that is, sifted through bolting cloth--and packed. The changes came in the way the grain was moved from one machine to the next within the mill (Oliver Evans: Inventive Genius of the American Industrial Revolution. Hagley Museum, 1980, p. 13).*

Modified inventions such as "bucket elevators" to raise grain from one level to another and "horizontal screw conveyers" (a variation on an invention by the ancient Greek Archimedes to raise water) connected the various steps in the process. One distinctly original invention was the "hopper boy," which spread out the warm, moist ground meal, both drying it and forcing it into the "bolting cloth," to sift finer meal from coarser meal. Evans developed these steps over many years, linking all of them to the same source of power--the flowing river.

## *Increasing Output, Yield, and Profits*

Any mill owner that adopted Evans's methods and machinery was going to save money by reducing labor costs. According to one story, Evans was

outside working his farm when he saw some visiting Brandywine millers approach his model Red Clay Creek mill. He stayed where he was and let them observe the mill functioning --without a single worker inside. When the careful Quakers did gradually adopt his system, they increased their output considerably while paying fewer workers; in modern terms, they "downsized" --a process of increasing efficiency with less employment. "Perhaps the first technological unemployment in the country was at Brandywine Village," wrote J. Edgar Rhoads in an unpublished paper. Rhoads also quoted historian V.S. Clark's claim that "six men could handle 100,000 bushels of wheat annually" (pp. 17-18).

Evans's system even increased the yield per bushel of the best and most expensive flour--so-called "superfine." While fewer workers were found inside, many more found work outside the mill: coopers making barrels, shipwrights expanding the merchant fleet of little cargo ships, crews to man these ships. Production soared, as did profits, while Brandywine superfine flour found an increasing market all over the Atlantic and beyond.

### *Frustrations of Genius*

Why should all this success have made Oliver Evans unhappy? First, he hoped not only to see his inventions used *but also* to derive much profit and praise for his great contributions. He saw the first goal achieved only gradually; it was many years before new mill constructions utilized his ideas and older mills were refitted to make use of them. The first, in fact, were not the Brandywine Village Quakers but the Ellicotts of Baltimore, another Quaker milling family.

Evans had the satisfaction in 1790 of demonstrating a working model of his complete system on Market Street of Wilmington before a crowd of amazed onlookers, including a Brandywine miller who is reported to have denied the evidence of his own senses-- "It will not do! It cannot do! It is impossible that it do!" --even as he saw that the model was *doing* perfectly. Eventually miller Thomas Lea and others endorsed the system, and Joseph Tatnall allowed his approval to be published in Evans's first book, *The Young Mill-wrights and Miller's Guide*, 1795.

Evans died in 1819. He had lived an enormously productive but not very happy life. The Reverend George Latimer of Newport, DE, wrote a biographical pamphlet on Evans. In it he compared

## Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation

### Honorary Board

Edward Asner	Lloyd S. Casson, M. Div.
Nathan Hill	Carter L. Hudgins, Ph.D.
Thomas F. Schutte, Ph.D.	Louis Stokes, J.D. M.C.

### Advisory Board

Barbara Benson, Ph.D.  
 Daniel Bockover  
 Paula Chadis, M.A.  
 James McC. Geddes, Ph.D.  
 Carol Hoffercker, Ph.D.  
 Sonia Marin, M.A.  
 Barry Scholl  
 Robert Seeley  
 Mary Starkweather-White, MSCC  
 Francis X. Tannian, Ph.D.  
 Earl M. White, M.A., M.S.W.

### Directors

**President:** Bayard Marin, J.D., Ph.D.

**Executive Director:** Ashley B. Cloud

**Secretary:** Christen Martinelli

**Treasurer:** Barbara Yeatman

### Board Members

Honorable James M. Baker	Joseph T. Chickadel
Medard Gabel	Eldon du Pont Homsey
John Kurth	Eunice LaFate
Cassandra Marshall	William McCool
Dr. Donald Morton	Julia Oestreich, Ph.D.
Priscilla Rakestraw	Justin Wilson

Norma Zumsteg

*Quaker Hill Quill* published quarterly @2016  
 Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation  
 521 N. West Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801

**Editor:** Terence Maguire

Evans to Robert Fulton, the American inventor and developer of the ship steam engine:

*As they opened their secret thoughts to the public, and gave their plans to the world, each received as his reward, the ridicule of the community. And after struggling against opposition, and at times, even beggary, they departed this life, leaving a name, and not much more, to their bereaved children (Latimer, p. 3).*

### *Decline of the Brandywine Flour Mills*

If Evans was frustrated by the Brandywine milling community, he might, had he lived, have taken grudging satisfaction in the events of the second and

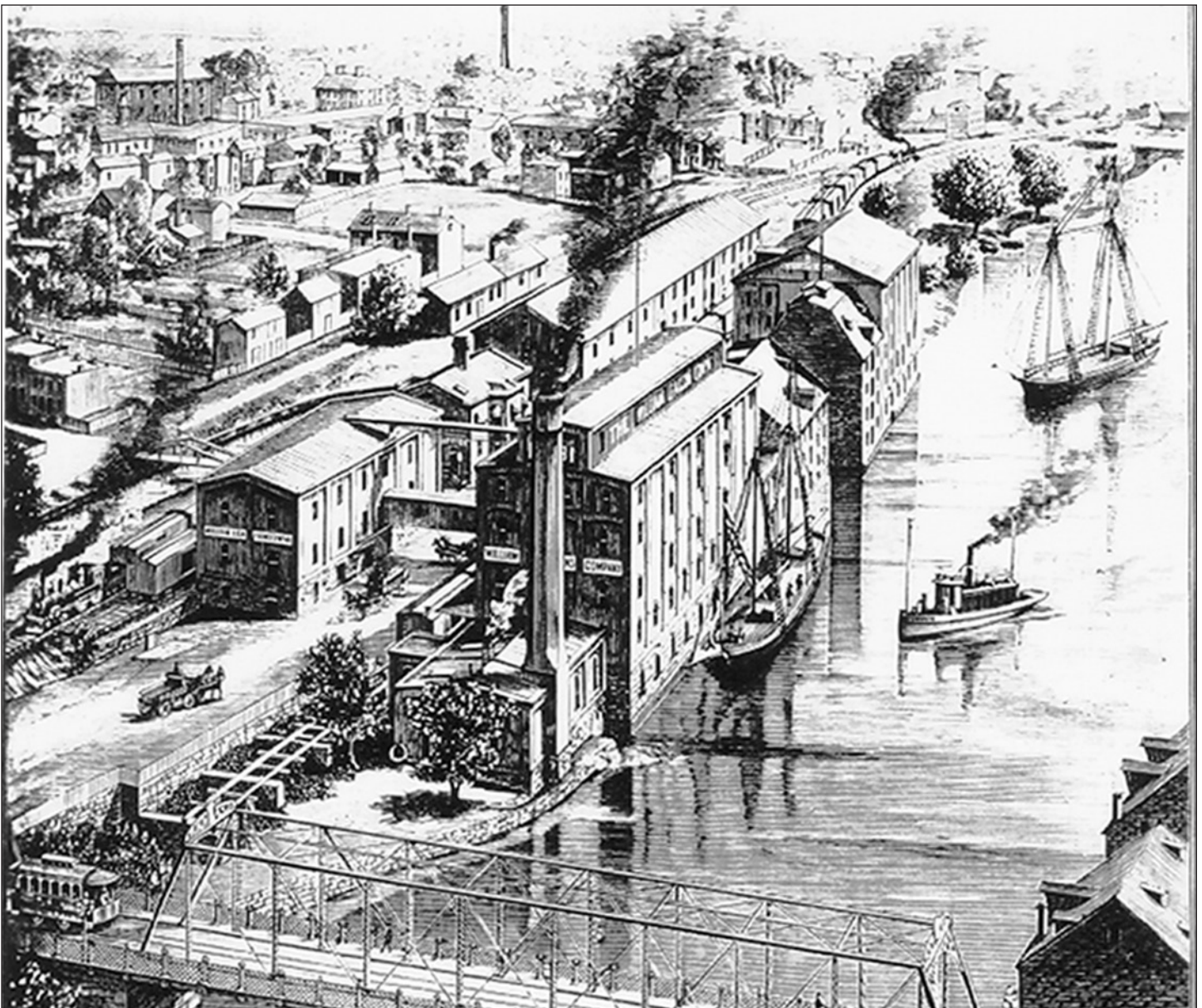


third decades of the 19th C. The pre-eminence of Brandywine flour was eroded by competition. The Ellicott mills in Baltimore and others in Philadelphia and New York City soon surpassed the output of the little Brandywine. One of the major causes was that the grain-growing center of the United States passed from southeastern Pennsylvania to Ohio and beyond. When the Erie Canal was completed in 1826, it connected the burgeoning West to New York City. Soon even canals were surpassed by railroads (which had been predicted in 1808 by the prophetic Evans, earning him yet more public scorn). Conestoga wagons were used eventually for their much more famous purpose: to ferry settlers from the East Coast and Europe across the American “seas of grass.”

The grain mills around Market Street did not suddenly disappear. The Tatnalls, Leas, and Prices

continued to produce quality flour far into the 19<sup>th</sup> C., slowed down by occasional floods of the Brandywine. The millers found themselves traveling to New York to buy wheat from the Midwest; but they carried on. It was not until the 1920’s that the last flour mill shut down as a mill. The city of Wilmington had purchased the water rights and used an old mill building on the south bank for a water pumping station. The buildings on the north bank are now condominiums, modern of aspect, but still erected of the Brandywine gabbro excavated to make the millraces. Only the condominium street name, “Superfine Lane,” reminds us of their original purpose.

*Below: A view of the Brandywine flour mills and Market Street Bridge, from **History of Delaware: 1609-1888**, Vol II. J. Thomas Scharf, L.J. Richards Co, 1888, p. 787.*



## ***'To Preach Deliverence to the Captive': John Hunn and the Underground Railroad in Southern Delaware***

***by Justin Wilson***

John Hunn (1818-1894), son of Ezekiel Hunn II and his second wife, Hannah Alston (1784-1818), became a famous abolitionist. He is the only documented family member to have participated in the Underground Railroad through Delaware.

Hunn became an orphan in 1822 at the death of his father. His mother had died shortly after giving birth to his younger sister Elizabeth in 1819. The estate provided sufficient income for his education, and his half-sister Patience, a Quaker minister, helped to raise John. He was educated in Westtown School, Pa., as were many in the Hunn family. Upon completion of school, he joined his older half-brother Ezekiel in apprenticeship in Philadelphia but was not happy as a merchant. He wrote to his cousin John Alston, whom he had never met, to accept him as an apprentice in farming on property he had inherited from his mother near Cantwell's Bridge, now called Odessa, in New Castle County. However, before leaving Philadelphia, John met and married Mary Ann Swallow, a non-Quaker, an action that caused John to be "read out" by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

### ***Life as a Farmer --and Agent of the UGRR***

John made a life for himself and family as a farmer and as a member of the Appoquinimink Friends Meeting, which had strong Quaker antislavery attitudes. Hunn and his cousin, John Alston, were active in helping fugitive slaves to freedom. Hunn's first participation with assisting freedom-seekers occurred on the morning of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1844. *"...I looked down the lane, and saw a covered wagon slowly approaching my house. The sun had just risen, and was shining brightly (after a stormy night) on the snow, which covered the ground six inches. ...I noticed several men walking beside the wagon....When they reached the yard fence, I met them, and a colored man handed me a letter addressed to Daniel Corbit, John Alston or John Hunn. The letter was from my cousin, Ezekiel Jenkins, of Camden, Delaware, and stated that the travelers were fugitive slaves, under the direction of Samuel D. Burris (who handed me the note). The party consisted of a man and his wife, with their six children, and four fine-looking colored men, without counting the pilot, S.D. Burris, who was a free man,*

*from Kent County, Delaware. This was the...first time I had ever been called upon to assist fugitives from the hell of American slavery. The wanderers were gladly welcomed, and made as comfortable as possible until breakfast was ready for them.*



***John Hunn, abolitionist. [http://history.delaware.gov/freedom/people\\_hunn.shtml](http://history.delaware.gov/freedom/people_hunn.shtml)***

*"They were all very weary, as they had traveled from Camden (twenty-seven miles), through a snowstorm. .... In Camden they were sheltered in the houses of their colored friends. Although this was my first acquaintance with S.D. Burris, it was not my last, as he afterwards piloted them himself, or was instrumental in directing hundreds of fugitives to me for shelter."* (From William Still. *The Underground Railroad*. Porter & Coates: Philadelphia, Pa 1972. p. 175.)

John and his family relocated to the Camden area, living at a farm called Happy Valley, located on the road between Dover and Magnolia, near the site of Old Murder Kill Friends Meeting House. He was very active in the Camden Monthly Meeting, serving and working as a clerk from 1854-1856, but he maintained his ties to Appoquinimink. In 1852, he traveled to the territory of the Northwest Fork Monthly Meeting with his sister, Patience H. Jenkins. And as a result of her



early influences on John's life, he became a minister. There he preached about the evils of slavery and oppression. In an article, "Reminiscence," published in the *Friends Intelligencer* in 1898, one of the members of that Monthly Meeting recalled the visit, the appearance, and preaching of John Hunn:

"The two came together and visited our meetings in Caroline [County, Maryland], and though a mere boy, I well remember that he preached, and it then appeared to me that he was the most remarkable man I had ever seen or heard. He was handsome, tall and in person finely developed, -- 'a Nature's nobleman.' His hair was as black as a raven, his manner the most courteous and humble, and as gentle as a child. I still remember his text.... 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, and set at liberty them that are bruised....'" On November 28, 1854, the Southern Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders appointed John Hunn minister.

### *1848 Trial with Thomas Garrett*

In May of 1846, Thomas Garrett and John Hunn were put on trial for helping the Hawkins family out of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, on their way to freedom. The Hawkins family was captured by slave hunters while being cared for at the Underground Railroad station of John Hunn and was later taken to New Castle County jail. Sheriff Jacob Caulk informed the slave catchers that the letter of seizure they had obtained was not legal, and they had to acquire a new letter of seizure. Meanwhile Thomas Garrett learned of the family's plight and aided them to their journey to freedom. Later Thomas Garrett brought the fugitives before Judge Booth (Chief Justice of the state of Delaware) on a writ of habeas corpus. Judge Booth ordered a coach for the fugitives and sent them to Pennsylvania.

The owners of the Hawkins family brought the abolitionists up on charges, and they were eventually sent to trial under the fugitive Slave Act of 1793. There were six trials in all, and John Hunn was involved in two of them. The trials were held in the U.S. Circuit Court in Delaware, presided over by Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who would later deliver the majority opinion in the

Dred Scott case. They were both found guilty and were heavily fined. Due to a combination of business reverses and these fines, the two men lost nearly all of their possessions. Garrett was able to restore his finances, but John Hunn was not so lucky.

Both Garrett and Hunn gave their version of the events that led to the trial to the local newspaper, the *Blue Hen's Chicken*. Years after the trial the two men told their trial stories to different writers: Garrett to Harriet Beecher Stowe, which she published in her book, *The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*; and Hunn to William Still, which Still published in his book *The Underground Railroad*. John Hunn kept a journal of his activities with the Underground Railroad and corresponded with William Still. Hunn told Still that he had helped hundreds on their way North and to freedom. Hunn's obituary described the number of people assisted as just under 200. (from James A. McGowan. *Station Master on the Underground Railroad The Life and Letters of Thomas Garrett*, Rev.--Jefferson NC,: McFarland & Co., 2004.)

### *Remarriage and Later Life*

Hunn's wife Mary died on October 1, 1854 and was buried at Camden Meeting Cemetery. On November 13, 1855, John Hunn married his cousin by marriage, Anne E. Jenkins, at the home of his sister Patience. John Hunn continued his activities on the Underground Railroad after his return to the Camden area.

In 1863, during the Civil War, John Hunn traveled to the Sea Islands of South Carolina/Georgia border where the retreating white population abandoned approximately 10,000 slaves. The Sea Islands were isolated from the mainland and were once the source of the most valuable cotton produced in the South. On October 21, 1862 Charlotte Forten, a Philadelphia teacher and the daughter of a wealthy and prominent free African American family, and his own daughter Elizabeth, who was a teacher among the freed slaves, accompanied Hunn in his travels.

Life on St. Helena Island was an entrepreneurial stage for John Hunn. He initially ran a store for the Port Royal Relief Association and worked on setting up the Seaside plantation on St. Helena to produce crops. In the midst of the influx of unscrupulous "carpetbaggers" to the Sea Islands who were there to take advantage of the land give-away and the slave



## Upcoming Events:

• Kennett Underground Railroad Center is holding its second annual Symposium on current research. The topic will be “African-Americans Communities of Chester County and Neighboring Areas in the Era of Conflict and Resistance, 1800-1860 and Beyond.” It will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the Mary Dod Brown Chapel at Lincoln University, 1570 Baltimore Pike, Chester County, Pennsylvania 19352.

In the decades before and after the Civil War, the southern portions of Chester County and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, were home to the significant number of African Americans, including both free and self-emancipated. Directly adjacent to the slave states of Delaware and Maryland, this region included the African American communities of Hinsonville (now Lincoln University), the Christiana area, Timbuckto, and others.

This symposium is an opportunity to bring together researchers and writers to discuss and share research findings, questions, puzzles, and methods and to build collaborations. There will be six presentations:

- Frances Delmar, Chief Interpreter of Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site: “The African American Experience at Hopewell.”
- Dr. Peter Dalleo, “African Delawarean Abolitionist: Kinship and Community Connections in 19th C Delaware, Canada West, and Liberia”
- Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch, “Colonization, Abolition, Civil Rights.”
- Michele Sullivan and Megan Delmar, “Black Abolitionists in early-mid 19th C. Chester County, PA.”
- Barbara A. Gannon, University of Central Florida: “Black and White Comradeship in the Grand Army of the Republic.”
- Milt Diggins: “Free Black Communities in Cecil County, Maryland”

Registration for the Symposium:

**Attendance at the symposium is free.** However, if you wish to purchase lunch, we ask that you contact us at the email address or the phone number below. The cost of the box lunch is \$10.00. Options are...

- Italian hoagie: ham, turkey, salami, provolone, L & T, pepper relish
- Vegetable wrap: garlic herbed wrap with fresh seasonal veggies and cheese
- Mediterranean chicken wrap with chicken strips, feta, lettuce, tomato, cucumber

**[kurcrr@gmail.com](mailto:kurcrr@gmail.com)**

**484-734-0079**

population, John Hunn stood out as apparently honest. He was known by various names on the Island: “Father Hunn,” “Friend Hunn” and “Brother Hunn.”

John Hunn and his wife returned to the Camden area by 1884 where he is noted again in the minutes of the Camden Monthly Meeting. They lived with their son John and his family in Wyoming until their deaths a few months apart in 1894.

In 1893 Hunn sent a letter to Wilbur Siebert, a professor at Ohio State University, who was researching the patriarchs who assisted in aiding African American slaves in the UGRR. He told Siebert that he was “Superintendent of the Underground Rail Road” from Wilmington down the Peninsula.

John Hunn died on July 6, 1894 at age 76.. His son, later a governor of Delaware, burned his records of the Underground Railroad in obedience to his father’s deathbed request.

## Other Upcoming Events:

- Wilmington - OperaDelaware -  
Inside Opera Live: “Falstaff”

**When:** Sat, May 21, 7:30 pm

**Where:** The Grand Opera House -  
818 N Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801

- Wilmington - OperaDelaware -  
Inside Opera Live: “Hamlet”

**When:** Sun, May 22, 2 pm

**Where:** The Grand Opera House  
818 N Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

- Wilmington -” The Glorious American Musical:  
A Mirror of Our Time” - Lenore Mussoff

**When:** Tue, May 24, 10:30am

**Where:** Presbyterian Church of the Covenant -  
503 Duncan Rd, Wilmington, DE 19809

## *A View from the Hill*--Ashley Cloud, Executive Director Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation

May 1, 2016

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Spring on the Hill! We have lots of news to share and people to welcome. I hope you enjoy a fresh academic contribution from new Board member Justin Wilson and feel as energized as I do by reading of our successes in education and outreach. The joint Underground Railroad program we sponsored with our friends at the Delaware Historical Society was a rousing success. We had over 80 participants which necessitated closing enrollment! It was gratifying to know that such a diverse cross-section of the surrounding community and beyond was hungry to learn more (or for the first time!) all about Wilmington and Quaker Hill's crucial role as the "Last Stop To Freedom" on the Underground Railroad. The children and adults in attendance were regaled with stories and thought-provoking activities designed to highlight the struggles of Freedom Seekers and how the relationship between UGRR leaders such as Harriet Tubman, Thomas Garrett and William Still was paramount to the success of their morally driven endeavors. Given the feedback we received, we will undoubtedly be partnering with the Historical Society again in the future to delve into history with enquiring minds.

Community efforts continue in full force. I have had the pleasure of meeting Sister Donna, the principal of St. Peter's School in the heart of Quaker Hill, to discuss how we can be a part of their curriculum and share the history of the neighborhood in which these students learn.

Expanding our education mission and outreach included meeting with Wilmington Friend's Lower School Head Annette Hearing to share the Foundation's mission and how we can potentially be included in their local history curriculum next school year. It is my hope that these efforts will lead to in-school presentations as well field trips for the students to experience the history of Quaker Hill firsthand. Such a firsthand experience was enjoyed by students from Lansdowne Friends School and described in detail as our headlining piece. Inspiring passion for the past and preservation for the future begins early! As we continue to strengthen relationships with other community organizations and leaders, you can read within the

*Quill* of how our efforts have been rewarded with the addition of several new members of our Board of Directors. Every opportunity is one to share Quaker Hill's story and to hopefully make future, bigger inroads in our restoration and preservation plans.

As we look to future events, please mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual Friends of the Arts Festival to be held on the grounds of St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday June 5th from 1pm-4pm. We hope to share a successful community celebration alongside the Meeting House and their Annual Berry Festival.

The Foundation is honored to be sponsored by a grant from PNC and to highlight the talents of such local artists as Eunice LaFate, Riva Brown, Wynn Breslin, Patsy Dawson and hopefully many more. Renowned folk artist Eunice LaFate is generously giving her time and talent to lead a hands-on art project for children AND is allowing us to auction off a limited edition print of her famous Tubman-Garrett inspired piece of which the original hangs in Governor Markell's office in Dover.

We look forward to having you join us to enjoy the beautiful and festive view from the Hill!



*Interior of Fourth and West Meeting House*

## Quaker Hill Welcomes Four New Board Members

The Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation is pleased to introduce new members of our Board of Directors:

**Bill McCool** is the Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. Bill has worked in the disability field for over 40 years. He began his career as a teacher for the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District, where he worked for eight years with adults with physical disabilities. Bill started with UCP in 1981 as a Respite Care worker. He became the agency's New Castle County Case Manager in 1983 and the UCP Executive Director in 1986. Highlights of Bill's career with UCP include developing and opening UCP's summer day camp facility, Camp Manito, in River Road Park; opening Pioneer House, the first assisted living home in Delaware for people with physical disabilities; and creating UCP of Delaware's housing program. This program has opened seven affordable and accessible locations including one in the heart of Quaker Hill: the Elwood Garrett House at 609 Washington Street. The experience Bill brings to the Board will be invaluable as we expand our efforts.

**Justin Wilson, M.A.**, is a graduate of Delaware State University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and followed that with his Master of Arts degree in Historical Preservation. Justin's academic expertise is focused on African American settlement patterns, with a concentration on the Underground Railroad. This led Justin to examining the Hunn family of Dover, Delaware, in greater detail. He is an active part of the effort to have an historical marker erected for them to acknowledge their significant role in the Underground Railroad in Delaware. Given Justin's academic background, his passion for historic preservation and the connection between his

studies of the Hunn family and our own Thomas Garrett in Quaker Hill, he is a natural and exciting fit for our Board.

**Julia Oestreich, Ph.D.**, is the Managing Editor of the University of Delaware Press, a nonprofit publisher of scholarly books in all fields of scholarship. Julia's academic background is rooted in history, and she brings her knowledge and passion for scholarship and preservation to Quaker Hill. Under her stewardship, the University Press has published books dedicated to history and cultural studies of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Towards that end, she is collaborating with our friends at the Dickinson Mansion to bring John Dickinson's writings to the public so we can rediscover his active role in the formation of our United States as a writer of the Articles of Confederation and Constitution Convention attendee and signer.

**Dr. Donald Morton** is the Executive Pastor of Tabernacle Full Gospel Baptist Church located within Quaker Hill at 501 N Washington Street. This historic edifice was originally built in 1866 as the site of Union Methodist Church. A graduate of Howard University, Dr. Morton is a pillar in the community and an activist for social justice and human rights. Previous or ongoing affiliations include Director of Religious Affairs for the Delaware chapter of the NAACP, Executive Director of the Complexities Coalition and various committees within local government. Dr. Morton brings a breadth of experience and dedication to building a stronger Quaker Hill community.

We are excited to welcome each new member to our Board and look forward to collaborating and achieving our education, restoration and preservation goals.

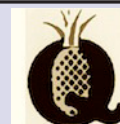


*Baseball season beginning again for the students of old Friends School, in 1927 in the courtyard --and graveyard!-- of Wilmington Monthly Meeting house, at the corner of West and Fifth Streets. Photo is from the Friends School archives.*





## Support Quaker Hill by Supporting QHHPF



**Become a member**—As a member of QHHPF, you will receive many benefits, including invitations to lectures, workshops, and social events; and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping QHHPF be strong voice for preservation as a means of enhancing the economic and cultural health of the city. For more information, go to [www.quakerhillhistoric.org](http://www.quakerhillhistoric.org) and click “become a member.”

**Make a donation**—send a check made out to QHHPF to  
Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation  
521 N. West Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Girls playing in the Meeting House yard across from Friends' School at  
Fourth and West, 1910.



Learn about Quaker Hill from  
*Images of America: Quaker Hill*

127 pages brimming with pictures and illustrations of the Quaker Hill area, (such as the one above) from its earliest days to the present. Assembled and written by QHHPF and published by Arcadia Publishing.

Available from Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation

521 N. West Street  
Wilmington, DE 198101