

NOTE ON THE TREATY TREE AND THE FAIRMAN MANSION.

Verily there is truth in the everyday saying that if you want to buy or sell anything or know something about something else, publish it in the papers. The underlying idea is that nobody knows everything and very many people know something, and that when a public inquiry goes out through the press somebody is pretty sure to turn up somewhere with the desired information. Such has been the case in the matter I am about to call up now.

Most of those here to-night were present also on the evening of December 7th, when Mrs. Landis read her paper on "Penn's Treaty Tree and the Fairman Mansion." The subject seemed fairly covered, and certainly was so far as the then accessible authorities went. But the wide-awake historians are abroad in this year of grace 1907, and the result has been that several have made additional contributions to our stock of knowledge concerning both the Treaty Tree, the Fairman Mansion and our old friend Thomas Fairman himself. The information so kindly volunteered is both valuable and interesting and is here reproduced in order that as much as is accurately known about the Tree, the Mansion and its owner shall be permanently placed on record.

Communication from Rev. Mr. Hayden.

The first information to reach the secretary is contained in the following communication from the Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, of Wilkes-Barre, author, historian, genealogist

and corresponding secretary of the Wyoming Historical and Genealogical Society, and one of the best authorities on these several subjects in the State. His communication reads as follows:

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 18, 1907.

To the Secretary, Lancaster County Historical Society:

Dear Sir: I have read with great interest Mrs. Landis' paper on "Penn's Treaty Tree and the Fairman Mansion." I beg the privilege of adding to it and of making a correction.

Watson's Annals I, 134, gives a history of the Mansion, but no record of its owners after 1711. When it passed from the family possession I know not, but it was owned in 1765 by Joseph Lynn, who sold it then to Thomas Hopkins, who occupied it about 25 years, not 50, as Mrs. Landis says, for Sheriff Ast sold it from Hopkins in 1790 to Joseph Ball, the eminent merchant of Philadelphia, who sold it the same year, 1790, to Matthew Van Dusen, the shipbuilder, for £385. Van Dusen occupied the house from 1800 to 1825, when he sold it to Manuel Eyre, the shipbuilder. Thomas Hopkins may have occupied it 35 years, but not 50, and I am sure only 25. When Van Dusen bought it there was a mortgage of \$2,666 on it. I personally traced this in Philadelphia deeds.

In Martin's History of Chester, Pa., Miss Ziers says, p. 53, "The ground on which the Treaty Tree of Penn stood belonged to Mr. Matthew Van Dusen, March 1, 1810, at the time the tree was blown down. My uncle, Mr. Franklin Eyre, owned the property immediately adjoining, and to him Mr. Van Dusen made the proposition that if he would have the entire tree sawed into planks he might have half the wood. This Mr. Eyre gladly acceded to and afterwards he received permission to

possess himself of the root. This root is in the Museum of the Young Men's Moravian Missionary Society at South Bethlehem, Pa."

Interesting Statements.

Now, Mr. Secretary, it may interest your Society to know that the Penn Treaty Tree really still lives in its grandchild, and great-grandchild. When it was blown down in 1810 Matthew Van Dusen took from the immense root a piece, which he planted and successfully grew. Later his son-in-law, Captain Paul Ambrose Oliver, U. S. N., who, in 1819, married his daughter, Mary, planted a scion from this child at Fort Hamilton, New York, where he lived. That scion flourished there until it was 2 feet in diameter. Within the past fifteen years General Paul Ambrose Oliver, U. S. Vol., the son of Capt. P. A. Oliver, removed that tree at great expense, transporting it by rail, and planted it on his estate at Oliver's Mills, Luzerne county, Pa., immediately in front of his beautiful Chapel—the Log Chapel—where I have officiated for over twenty-seven years. There you can see what is the largest part of the Penn Treaty tree, in full leaf during every summer! Another scion, cut from this grandchild, is growing in the ground of the Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, on Lombard street, I think (See my Oliver & Gallaudet Genealogy, 1885, p. 15).

This General Paul A. Oliver served in the United States Army as Captain and Brigadier General, 1861-1865, and on the staff of General Butterfield and General Grant. I served as private in the Confederate States Army, 1861-1865. General Oliver was appointed by General Grant to receive the paroles of the Army of Northern Virginia, with General Shields, at Appo-

mattox, April 9, 1865. General Shields was appointed to deliver his copy of the paroles to Secretary Stanton, in Washington, and General Oliver was appointed to deliver his copy to General Robert E. Lee, in Richmond, Va., which he did. In 1879, the Confederate soldier, a clergyman in the Protestant Episcopal Church, who writes this, was placed in charge of the Log Chapel, erected, owned and maintained by General Oliver, and thus for twenty-seven years the Federal Officer and the Confederate private have lived and worked together in perfect peace and harmony, part of the time in the shadow of the Treaty Tree under which Penn made peace with the Indians.

Yours truly,

HORACE EDWIN HAYDEN.

Information from Miss Wright.

The second communication came from Miss Eleanor E. Wright, the energetic and accomplished Secretary of the Frankford Historical Society, of Philadelphia, a comparatively new organization, but which is sure to be heard from later on. Her communication is in part as follows:

Philadelphia, January 25, 1907.

Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer, Lancaster, Pa.

Your last pamphlet containing the paper on Thomas Fairman I think we will read some time before our society. Thomas Fairman moved from Schachomaxin to Tackany. Tackany was Frankford. He gave the ground and built the first Quaker meeting-house in Frankford, in 1692.

Yours very sincerely,

ELEANOR E. WRIGHT.

Not only are the foregoing communications valuable in themselves, as has already been observed, but they reveal the gratifying fact that our work attracts the attention of historians, who also deem it worthy of special notice when the occasion offers.

Other Author(s): Hayden, Horace Edwin, 1837-1917.
Wright, Eleanor E.

Title: Note on the treaty tree and the Fairman Mansion / by the
Secretary.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Penn, William, 1644-1718.
Fairman Mansion (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1907

Description: [64]-67 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 11,
no. 2

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.11

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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