

THE WALLACE FAMILY  
AND  
THE WALLACE STORE OF EAST EARL

By Hon. A. G. Seyfert

Midway between Blue Ball and East Earl station, on the Lancaster and Downingtown branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, on what was formerly known as the Downingtown pike, now one of the State's best highways, is the old Wallace store property. I say old, for the store was opened in 1761, or, 163 years ago, and had been in the Wallace family since it was founded by Robert Wallace up to 1908 when it was abandoned as a store. The store building and farm around it are still in the possession of the sixth generation of the original Wallace clan. Misses Mary C. and Margaret K. Wallace, daughters of the late John Smith Wallace and Margaret Weidler Kinzer Wallace are the present owners of the property and live in the house, part of which was the original building in which the store was started in 1761. This old home-stead is one of the most handsome land-marks in the eastern end of the county. Built of lime-stone with walls of unusual thickness, the present owners have modernized it with all conveniences necessary for a country residence of elegance and comfort.

On this property six generations of the name have lived and five generations were born on it's soil and four generations in the house new occupied by the present owners. Store-keeping was the occupation of those who remained under the roof of the ancestral home. Records of the store dating to 1761 are in the possession of the Misses Wallace, from which I will quote later on.

The original part of the building was the centre part of the present building with a shed roof attached to the west end in which was the store of Robert Wallace. When his family increased, more room was needed. This part was raised two and one-half stories and a shed roof was attached to the east end of the house. When this became too small for the increased size of the family, this end was raised two and one-half stories.

Robert Wallace came to America from Ireland, though he was by birth a Scotchman, in 1731. He was born in Scotland 1721. Died December 17, 1793. He married Martha Davies daughter of John and Elizabeth Anderson Davies on August 3, 1768. They had eight children; John, Josiah, Isaac, Elizabeth, William, Davies, James and Thomas who were twins. This accounts for enlarging the house.

Robert Wallace handed the store to his son John. John to his son Davies. Davies had four sons: Henderson Agnew, John Smith, William James, Edward Davies and one daughter Mary Ann Wallace Falls. At different times these sons were partners. In 1857 John, William and Edward built the brick store building which afterward was the property of John S. Wallace. This store property was in the Wallace name from 1861 to 1908 when it was closed out and sold.

Davies Wallace son of John Wallace was born February 24, 1798. Married Miss Mary Ann Henderson on September 11, 1823. She was born February 14, 1805, a daughter of Rev. Ebenezer and Agness Noble Henderson. Rev. Ebenezer Henderson born September 22, 1774 and died September 17, 1804. He was licensed to preach August 3, 1799 and ordained June 24, 1801. Rev. Ebenezer Henderson died of bilious fever on a missionary journey to the Carolinas. He traveled on horse back from Western Pennsylvania to Philadelphia and to the south on his missionary tours. His young wife carried her little son on horse back from Christiana to Western Pennsylvania. At

the time of his death he had a call to the Central Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. He left one son, James Noble Henderson and a posthumous daughter, Mary Ann, afterward wife of Davies Wallace and a young widow 24 years of age. Agnes Noble Henderson who afterward married Dr. Robert Agnew, who's only child by her second marriage was the late Dr. D. Hayes Agnew of Philadelphia, Pa. the noted surgeon who operated on President Garfield.

Rev. Ebenezer Henderson was the son of Mathew Henderson who was born in Scotland in the year 1735. His children suppose his birthplace was Glasgow and that his classical education was obtained at Edinburg. He studied theology under Dr. Alexander Moncrieff, was licensed to preach at 21 and ordained two years later. He was the first permanent missionary sent by the Associate Church of Pennsylvania. After a pastorate of twenty years at Oxford, Pa. he accepted a call to Chartiers and Buffalo, Washington County in 1782, where he spent the remainder of his life. He had much to do with the incipient measures which finally resulted in the establishing of Jefferson College. His life was one of much labor and hardships and as he abounded in labor so earnestly, blessings attended his ministry. His voice was remarkable for distinctness and power. His manner for addressing the people was plain and familiar. His reproofs especially in the pulpit were sometimes exceedingly pointed but not ill tempered. It has been related that on one occasion when a young lady had made her appearance in church in a new calico dress, which was in those days regarded the height of female extravagance, and, when she had frequently risen from her seat and gone to different parts of the assembly, Mr. Henderson, having noticed her motions and observed her rising from her seat the fourth time, said to her very calmly: "That is the fourth time, my lass, that you have left your seat. You can sit down now, we have all seen your brand new gown." The young lady, of course, did not wait for a second invitation to do as she was directed. In appearance Mr. Henderson was of a very swathy complexion. He had very keen dark eyes, was of a large size, of an erect and majestic figure and possessor un-common muscular power. An anecdote has been related of him which illustrates his physical powers and also treatment of which even ministers of the gospel were exposed in those early times. On one occasion when traveling over the mountains to meet with his brethren in Presbytery, he happened to lodge at a tavern where two men took the liberty of treating him with great rudeness. This he endured for sometime with much patience. His patience, however, was mistaken for timidity and only encouraged their impertinence till at last nothing would do, he must fight. This of course, he was disposed to decline, but whether he would or not they were determined upon an assault. Finding that he could not otherwise evade rough usage, he arose and deliberately stripped off his black coat, laid it aside saying "Lie there, Rev. Mr. Henderson." "Now Mathew, defend yourself." So saying, he seized one of the ruffians, dashed him out through an open window and was preparing to send the other the same road to keep him company. But, this one, seeing the kind of a man they had to deal with, was in no hurry to put himself in the way of such usage.

The circumstances of his death as related by his daughter who was with him at the time, are as follows:—

On the evening of October 1st, he had expressed to his children a wish that they would fell a bee tree which had been discovered on his farm, and preparations were made to proceed to do it early in the morning. He told his daughter, Elizabeth, then a child ten years of age, of their purpose and told her that if she could get up in the morning without awakening her younger sister she might go with him. The next morning he went quietly to her bed and touched her gently to awake her without disturbing her sister. She was soon up and dressed for the expedition, hurrying into her father's room, supposing him to be ready. She found him on his knees engaged in

secret prayer, and immediately withdrew. Soon after this she observed him going to the spring with a basin and towel to wash himself, as was his custom in the morning. Sometime after he had returned she again ventured into his room, and again found him engaged in prayer. Soon afterwards he came out, and taking her by the hand, led her to the place where his sons Ebenezer and Robert had been for some time engaged in felling the tree. The tree stood upon a bank, and it was supposed would fall down the side of it. Mr. Henderson and his daughter approached toward it on higher ground, where it was thought there was no danger. Here they stood for a little time, at some distance from the tree, awaiting it's fall. It proved to be decayed in the centre and fell much sooner than had been expected, and also in an opposite direction from what had been calculated. Mr. Henderson, notwithstanding repeated cautions given him, would always, when a tree began to fall, run from it in a direction opposite to that in which he supposed it to be falling. On this occasion as usual, he ran, but in the same direction with the falling tree. His daughter followed his example, but varied somewhat in her course, and escaped injury. Her father had run to such a distance that it was only the branches which struck him, and his body was but little mutilated. Only a slight flesh wound was discovered on his head; yet he died instantly.

Mr. Henderson was among the first buried in the grave yard of Char-tiers over whose remains a stone was erected. The following is a copy of the inscription on it:—

"In memory of the Rev. Matthew Henderson, who departed this life October 2, 1795, aged 60 years and in the 37th year of his ministry."

John Wallace son of Robert and Martha Davies Wallace was born June 23, 1769. Married Mrs. Lydia Smith, daughter of Squire William Smith and Diana Edward Smith. They were married April 6, 1797 by Rev. Mr. Heith an Episcopal clergyman of Churchtown, Pa. Mr. Wallace died December 9, 1854. Lydia Smith Wallace, his wife, was born November 5, 1775 and died September 12, 1843. They had nine children, by his first wife. His second wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Matthew Smith widow of his brother-in-law Edward Smith of New Holland.

The children of John and Lydia Smith Wallace were: Davies, born in 1798 who died in 1866. He married Mary Ann Henderson and resided on the old Wallace home-stead and kept the store up to 1861 when they moved to Philadelphia where he held a position in the Naval office of the government. The second child was Harriet, born April 19, 1800. She never married and died September 8, 1878. Her father left her the farm now owned by Henry Decker. This tract of land included all the area on which the village of East Earl is now located. Harriet Wallace willed at her death, part of this tract to George A. Wallace who founded the good sized village that has been built around the railroad station and post-office by that name. Much of this property is still in the Wallace name for the principal business of the locality is the coal, lumber and feed establishment of Alan B. Wallace, of this city.

The third child of this union of John and Lydia Smith Wallace was William Smith Wallace who was born August 10, 1802. He studied medicine, graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia after which he located at his old home and practiced medicine for a number of years. Sometime after 1840 (I was not able to secure the exact date) Dr. Wallace left his East Earl home and went to Springfield, Illinois, where he married Miss Francis Todd a sister of Mrs. Ninian Edwards and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. The name of Dr. W. S. Wallace is frequently encountered in all the biographies of Lincoln. It was Dr. Wallace who was called to the Edwards mansion where Mary Todd had her home with her sister, Mrs. Edwards. At the time, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas were both suitors for the hand of Mary Todd. Miss Todd was so undecided as to

which one she should accept, and, became ill. Dr. Wallace at once diagnosed the trouble and frankly told her that she was in a state of mental indecision what to do in the matter and advised her to drop Douglas and accept Lincoln for Lincoln's habits were better than Douglas, and that he had a better prospect for a career than Douglas had. Miss Todd obeyed this medical injunction, became Mrs. Lincoln, and, obtained fame through the immortal Lincoln, as few other women in the world's history have.

Dr. Wallace was the family physician of the Lincolns while in Springfield and when the President and his family left for Washington, Dr. Wallace was one of the few who accompanied the party to the capitol. The President later on appointed him paymaster in the Army with the rank of Major, and, he was on duty to the end of the war. His nephew, Edward D. Wallace, of East Earl was on his staff with the rank of Captain.

Dr. and Mrs. Wallace had four children: two boys and two girls. One of the daughters, Mary Jacobs Wallace, married Col. Baker of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and died quite young.

Dr. Wallace died soon after the war. His widow lived to August 14, 1899, and died at Springfield, Illinois.

The fourth child, Mary Ann Wallace, married Cyrus Jacobs an attorney at law of Lancaster, May 1, 1828. They soon after moved to Burlington, Iowa, where Mr. Jacobs died in 1838. The widow, Mrs. Jacobs, married A. K. Fahnestock of Harrisburg. She died without leaving any children by either husband.

The fifth child was Robert Wallace who married Miss Martha McLenegan of Lancaster. In 1834 they moved to Green Village, Franklin County. Mrs. Wallace died when quite young and Mr. Wallace married Miss Jane Cresswell of Scotland, Franklin County. Robert Wallace was the father of ten children who are largely the ancestors of the many Wallace families in Franklin County.

The sixth son of the family was John Price Wallace, who in the spring of 1842 also moved to Franklin County.

The seventh, was George Wallace who married Miss Jane McNeil of Pequea. They resided at East Earl all their lives. Mr. Wallace died in 1891 and Mrs. Wallace in 1896. He was the father of the late George A. Wallace and the grandfather of Alan B. Wallace.

Edward was the eighth son. He became a physician, was a graduate of Princeton and of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Edward Wallace began to practice medicine at Goodville. From there he went to Reading, where he was one of the founders of the Reading Hospital. He married Miss Clara Haren of Connecticut. They had seven children. At the time of the Civil War he was for a time in the Navy. He died in 1872.

Lydia Martha Wallace was the ninth and last child of this remarkable family. She married Col. Nathaniel Kinzer of Blue Ball. In 1838 they followed the other Wallaces to Franklin County.

In the old graveyard around the Cedar Grove Church, which is part of the original Wallace tract of land, lie the remains of more Wallace families than any other. They who remained at or near the old Wallace homestead to the end of their lives are at rest in this Presbyterian God's acre. The tombstones contain the only history of many of them that can be found.

In the possession of Margaret and Mary Wallace are, among many historical relics, six volumes of records or store books that date back to the time the store was opened. They are priceless in more than one way, for they give us what things cost in Colonial days and also who bought them. Many names recorded in these remarkable day books and ledgers are strange to the eastern end of the county of the present day. Some of the names of those who purchased goods at the store one hundred and fifty years ago can now only be found on tombstones in the different graveyards of the eastern end. They were Irish, Scotch, Welsh and a few German. The

present generation is largely made up of the Mennonite Faith. The original family names in these old and musty records are extinct. Some of them are: McKennan, McIlwain, Clawson, McDonald, Cadwalleder, McGohn, Pearsons, Camphove, Grosch, Northeimer, Gallaway, Wilmer, Shay, Owen, Bently, McClosky, McKee, Mull, Kierner, Brandt, Hires, Beaty, Carson, Mayberry, Caskey Bird, Norton, Greenewalt, Gilgore, Kitsmellem, Grimes, Ruxton, Vance, Page, Bobe.

The entry in the old store books often shows where the party that bought a bill of goods and had it charged, lived. By this note of location I infer that many of the persons under the names that are now no more in that locality, were the names of employees at Spring Grove, Pool and Windsor forges. The names of Weaver, Martin, Good, Stauffer (always spelled Stofer), Shirk, Smith, Evans, Ranck, Jacobs, Edwards, Russell, Rutt, Overly Sensenich and many others that are familiar house-hold names in the Earls and Caernarvon, are those who are now in possession of the farms and villages within a radius of many miles of the Wallace store. The books also indicate that most of the goods sold at that time by country stores was charged, there being very little money in circulation.

The colonial currency was pounds, shillings, and pence, and the cost of all goods charged is in that kind of money.

These ledgers and journals are yellow with age and fairly well preserved. The penmanship of the writers was good but the spelling a good deal of a phonetic style and to me borders on the humerous.

The younger generation may not know that all country stores at that period of our colonial epoch and later, sold rum. Whiskey and wine were two of the principal commodities kept in stock. It was the custom and sanctioned by law, without a taint of modern boot-legging. It was in the days when nearly all men drank. Liquor was cheap and by many who knew no better, held a necessity. They bought it at the country store by the gallon and quart. Lincoln, when a clerk in Berry's store at New Salem, sold it though there never has been a word said or printed in the monumental and inexhaustible Lincoln literature that he ever drank a drop. Douglas, in the great debate in 1858, stooped to personalities and accused Lincoln of selling rum. Lincoln frankly admitted it and added that Judge Douglas was his best customer.

These yellow aged records also indicate that nearly all bills charged were paid at some future date. Some gave notes to pay with interest. These notes were written in the book and signed and are part of the records with the bills. It may astonish you to learn that most of the goods sold, outside of rum, whiskey and wine, cost more money than the same article is sold for now.

I have copied from these records as many entries as space will permit and you can readily see by the price quoted for the article indicated, an area of high cost of living almost equal to the present.

The first entry in the oldest ledger was made January 1, 1761. As you will observe, by examining the first part of this volume, the mice have eaten the upper part of the first forty or fifty pages. Hence, I am unable to say whose account it was who was probably the first purchaser when the store was opened to the public on January 1, 1761. However, some of the items charged were, two half gallons of wine, cost, 1 S.

three half pints rum—2 S.

one quarter ginger—4 P.

Half a dozen pewter spoons—2 S.

One pound of sugar—7 P.

February 5, 1861 on page 37, the first one the mice left alone is the account of William Long:

To a great coat—2lbs. 3 S. 6 P.

To a "flex come" (flax comb)—1. S. 8 P.

To a quart of rum 1 S. 2 P.

To a "luken gless" (looking glass)—1 S.

July 30, 1761, Charles Vance is charged with:

One pair "Shueys" (shoes)—5 S.

To 2 Hats—7 S. 6 P.

To half a pint of wine mixt.—6 P.

10 pounds of nails—10½ P. per lb.

6 pounds of rice and 4 lbs. sugar—4 S. 2 P.

One half pint rum—6 P.

William Davies during January, February and March 1761 had charged to him:

a "blew" and white handkerchief  
(for his wife)—2 S. 6 P.

3 quarts of rum, by his wife,—3 S.

a gun hammer and three "comes"—4 S. 6 P.

a "payer" of "prudy stockens"—10 S.

a Quarter pound of "tee"—2 S.

2 lbs. sugar—2 S. 10 P.

a pint of rum—7 P.

a bed tick—1 lb. 2 S. 6 P.

2 "Ingrin" blankets—1 lb. 12 S. 6 P.

Sundries to his wife—11 S. 1 P.

John Dice, during 1762 got:

a quart & pint of rum—1 S.

1 lb. rice—3 P.

one quarter gun powder—10 P.

1 pair Germantown "stockens"—cost—10 S. 4 P.

1 pint of brandy—1 S.

1 qt. rum—11 P.

one half yard Broad cloth to mend pants—7 S. 3 P.

1 "Befir" (beaver) hat—1 lb. 15 S.

The balance of this account, 8 S. and 5 P., was not paid for until November 11 1767.

During 1763 David Evans was charged with:

2 qts. "Molasis" and 1 qt of rum—2 S. 6 P.

"Isibel" Rose the "Malatta" got for David Evans:

9 qts. rum and one and a quarter pounds of tobacco that cost—9 S. 5 P.

one lb. tobacco—10 P.

one "skeen" of silk—9 P.

In this account that ran from April to December there were nineteen charges of rum besides those I have quoted.

Prisila Philips on November 23, 1762 got:

a yard and a half of "Calogo" (calico)—9 P.

one yd. "Aprin" check and Irish sheeting—4 S.

Half a dozen tee spoons—1 S. 4 P.

one pound coffee and two pounds sugar—2 S. 8 P.

1 pound "Sope" (soap) and half a paper of pins—1 S. 9 P.

The same year John Kittera got rum seven times by the "Scoll mester" (school master).

During 1764, Conrad Bobe, among many other things including wine and rum, was charged with:

3 knives & 3 forks & pocket knife—3 S. 9 P.

one fine "rayser" (razor)—5 S.

2 pound "shugar" (sugar) by Peter—1 S. 4 P.

2 nut "migs" & pint of wine 1 S. 8 P.

On April 29, 1765, Michael Stinson, Carpenter;

To 2 "payers" (pair) fine silk "stockens"—15 S.

1 pr. cotton "stockens" one one silk handkerchief—15 S.

1 dz. "duble" screud gimlets—5 S.  
one Beaver hat—1 lb. 15 S.  
1 pair of garters—4 S. 6 P.  
one silk cravat—7 S. 6 P.

James Brown, also a carpenter, bought the same year:  
a fine Beaver hat that cost 2 lb. 10 S.  
1 pair shoe buckle 5 S. 3 P.  
3 yds. fine Broad cloth—1 lb. and 10 S. a yard  
a silk neck cloth—8 S. 6 P.

All the above was culled out of the first store book kept when the store was opened. Later on a day book or journal was used and all accounts transferred to a ledger. It may be of interest to learn a days' business of the store and I have selected March 4, 1797, the day John Adams was inaugurated as the second president.

Jacob Rutt:

2 lb. sugar—2 S. 8 P.  
1 lb. coffee—2 S. 6 P.  
3 lb. shingle nails—3 S. 6 P.

Rutt brought  $4\frac{3}{4}$  lb. butter to the store and got 4 S. 3 P. (22 cts a lb...)

Jacob Weydler:

To 1 blanket—15 S.

Enoch Rettew:

To 1 fine hat—1 lb. 10 S.

George Wilson:

To 2 yards ribbon—3 S.

Christian Snider:

Tobacco—7 P.

Michael Kennedy:

To sundries—14 S. 2 P.

2 lb. sugar and quarter green tea—5 S. 2 P.

William Evans:

To 2 lb. sugar—2 S. 4 P.

1 lb. coffee—2 S. 4 P.

$\frac{1}{4}$  lb. tea—1 S.

Peter Stofer & Wife:

To 2 yards muslin—4 S. 8 P.

Henry Stofer:

To 1 quart wine—1 S. 5 P.

1 quart whiskey—1 S. 8 P.

Susanna Mann:

To 1 muslin handkerchief—4 S. 8 P.

$1\frac{1}{4}$  yds. muslin—2 S. 11 P.

Henry Noggle:

To 4 lb. coffee—10 S.

6 lb. sugar—7 S.

2 pasteboards—4 P.

1 qt. molasses—1 S. 10 P.

1 pair shoes—12 S. 6 P.

1 pair suspenders—1 S.

This party was evidently slow pay for "Bill rendered" was twice written on the account.

Thomas Owings:

To 7 yds. of linen—1 lb. 5 S. 8 P.

Thread—6 P.

Cyrus Jacobs:

To files—16 S.

Jacob Davies:

2 lb. coffee—4 S. 8 P.

3 lb. sugar—3 S. 6 P.

Half yard muslin—4 S. 3 P.

Thread—2 P.

1 lb. tobacco—1 S. 6 P.

pipe—1 P.

Ludwich Hires:

To pair shoes—1 lb. 5 S.

4 lb. coffee—9 S. 4 P.

6 lb. sugar—18 S.

3 lb. butter—3 S.

Mathew McAnully:

To one half lb. tobacco—9 P.

Henry Stofer:

To bottle liniment—1 S. 4 P.

Gabriel Davis:

To one half lb. tobacco—9 P.

William Ramsy:

1 gallon whiskey

1 lb. coffee

“Molasses”

—13 S. 5 P.

George Albert:

1 bottle liniment—1 S. 4 P.

Robert McCurdy:

24¾ yds. home-made “linnen”—4 lb. 19 S.

3 lb. coffee—7 S. 6 P.

1 pair stockings—8 S. 6 P.

calico—10 P.

Twenty sales in one day that went in the book. How many cash ones, I cannot tell. No doubt, there were such as there are now, who have no credit and could only buy when they had money to pay cash.

I heard the late Edward D. Wallace, when I was a boy, relate how James Madison, better known as “Black Jim,” outwitted him. Madison lived in a hut on the edge of a stone quarry near Blue Ball, where, in after years, Henry Yundt, Esq., built his fine residence.

Black Jim was one of those who had no credit at the Wallace store and all he got had to be paid for cash. Jim was fond of liquor and always drunk if he could get a supply of rum. He had no money and knew he could not get the gin on trust, so he used his wits and won out. Jim wore a long tailed coat with pockets in the back. In these pockets he put two—one quart bottles exactly alike. The one he filled full of water, the other was empty. He presented the empty one at the store and asked for a quart of gin. Mr Wallace said he took it to the cellar and filled it from the gin barrel and handed it to Jim, who put it in his pocket remarking at the same time: “Mr. Wallace, you have to charge this, I’s got no money now.” Mr. Wallace told him that could not be done and he must return the bottle and he would empty the gin in the barrel where he got it. Jim finally handed the bottle to Mr. Wallace, who put the contents back in the barrel and gave the empty bottle to Madison, who left with one empty bottle and a quart of gin, what he was after, for he had given the quart of water to be exchanged for a quart of gin. Mr. Wallace enjoyed the way he was outwitted and remarked that he lost nothing, for the quart of water added to the quart of gin made one more quart of gin for sale.

The excessive cost of nearly all articles sold was due to several causes. One was transportation of goods from Philadelphia, while the farm products taken in exchange at the store for store goods, such as butter, eggs, pork and the like, had to be hauled to Philadelphia by wagon, a distance of sixty miles. Again, the unstable and inflated paper currency of the times caused

by the Indian and Revolutionary wars, made financial conditions almost as bad as they are in Germany now.

I regret that I could not find any record of what workmen got for a day's labor, or, what a farmer got for the products of the farm. His rye was usually converted into whiskey by the distilleries which were almost as numerous as the moonshine outfits of the present.

The stores bought the whiskey from the distiller and retailed it to their customers. I find that on the 24th of August, 1801, Jacob Ringwalt, a distiller, sold the Wallace store four barrels or one hundred and twenty-seven. This included the excise tax of the government at the time.

The retail price at that time was 2 S. 2 P. or 52 cents a quart, a profit gallons of whiskey for 26 lbs. 19 S. and 9 P.—(\$131.22) or \$1.03 a gallon. of one hundred per cent.

I must conclude this inadequate sketch of a family that has produced more prominent men in medicine, theology and business than any other name that came out of the Earls, Caernarvon or Brecknock.

The records and relics now in the possession of Miss Margaret K. Wallace and Miss Mary C. Wallace are of great value. From them I have obtained my data and information and want to acknowledge my gratitude to the two ladies for the privilege of having some of the records in my possession to secure what facts I have used in this paper.

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