

Suburban Baltimore

Mount Washington's Early History And Development—A Center Of Culture And Good Works.

By EMILY EMEKSON LANTZ.
Look up and not down,
Look forward and not back,
Look out and not in
And Lend a Hand.

Mount Washington in her relation to the recently developed suburbs of Baltimore may be likened to the goddess Ceres. She has reached that graciously mature age when, like a woman, she can still be enchanting, but has ceased to count birthdays. Secure in her position as a suburb, whose real estate value is assured, whose social status is long established, whose homes are celebrated for a hospitality Grecian in elegance and refinement, she can smile encouragement upon the young suburbs—her daughters—growing to loveliness and maturity around her.

The annals of Washingtonville, now known as Mount Washington, located upon the Northern Central railway, go back to about the year 1810, when the Washington Cotton Manufacturing Company publicly announced that its works were in operation. Situated on the western branch of Jones' falls, it is said to have been the first cotton mill driven by waterpower in Maryland, and it started with 288 spindles, three operators and a dyer engaged from Europe. In the valley was the cotton mill, an industry continued successfully to this day, and upon an adjacent hill was the Bare Hill Copper Mine, work upon which has but recently been abandoned. The owner of the mine was a Mr. Watts, and his house, the first one to be built in Mount Washington, still stands, a half-ruined memorial of other days.

The earliest settlers about Mount Washington are said to have been English and the stone cotton mill to have been promoted by English capitalists, including gentlemen named Bright, Hook, Owings and others. A Scotchman, named Hamilton, owned property now possessed by Mr. James Hamilton, Jr.

Upon the date of March 24, 1854, George Gelbach, Jr., acquired the Mount Washington tract by deeds from Grafton L. Dulany and from Luke Tiernan and wife April 21 of the same year. With the aid of William Sides, surveyor, he laid out the village on the west side of what was then the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad, where funny little cars drawn by quaint engines fired with wood made three or four trips daily to Baltimore town. The farm purchased was known as "Edward's and Will's Valleys and Hills," bounded on the east by the railroad, on the west by the lower boundary of what is now Beauseant, Gen. Thomas Shyroek's estate, with Rogers avenue on the south, and extending over Western Run and Dixon's

vent of Mount St. Agnes and a secondary school, "The Mount Washington School for Boys," all under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. A small Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart nestles at the foot of the college terraces and is ministered to by Rev. Father Connelly. There is also a parochial school in the village.

To return to the early history of Mount Washington a map of 1854, showing the

Spring avenue was extended to Rogers avenue, providing two fine drives through Druid Hill Park. Charles Street avenue is now another beautiful outlet, as well as Park Heights avenue.

In 1867 the villagers organized a series of social neighborhood meetings and a small hall was erected, where young and old met together every Friday evening. The ladies came in the afternoon with their sewing and the men assembled for the late dinner, served in the hall, and discussed local improvements. After an early program of lectures by interesting speakers, music or something of a literary character the young folk were allowed to indulge in informal dancing. This was the beginning of the neighborhood improvement that makes Mount Washington the equal at the present time in all the essentials of beauty of land-

beginning, its loving inspiration to good deeds.

The Mount Washington Improvement Association continues to flourish under the management of the men of the village, who have also organized as the Mount Washington Club Company and own a good clubhouse, with facilities for all sorts of outdoor sports. There is a volunteer as well as a paid fire company, and also local police. There are several churches in addition to the Catholic one before mentioned. These are St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, Rev. Wilbur F. Watkins, Jr., rector; the Presbyterian, Rev. Byron Clark, pastor; the Methodist Episcopal, Rev. Joel Brown, pastor.

If would scarcely be just to Dr. William J. Todd, the physician and friend of the entire community of Mount Washington, not



BEAUSEANT

Home of Gen. Thomas J. Shyroek, South avenue.

property owners of Mount Washington, includes the names of Dr. E. Heiner, George Gelbach, Dulany, Creary, Captain Hazeline, Capt. J. W. Reed, George U. Porter, J. J. Meyer, G. S. Griffith, A. D. Clemens, William P. Spencer, William Frazier, S. A. Brett, Ely Hayward, L. C. Ballard, James C. Adams, Lockwood, Thomas Dixon, C. O. O'Donnell, James B. Burkhead, Samuel Townsend and Peter G. Sauerwein. What

scape, healthfulness and the luxuries of modern improvement, of more recently planned suburbs. The men read of and talked of good paths and roads, pure water, good lighting, good drainage and cheap and rapid transit to the city until they obtained them all, and the ladies, not being excluded from these councils of the wise, became equally interested in the increased beauty of their home surroundings and the higher culture of themselves and their children. Through this association the first gasoline lights in the county were installed at Mount Washington and the first electric lights also. In 1875 a public school was opened, which has continued to increase in the number of pupils until additional facilities of building and playgrounds are needed.

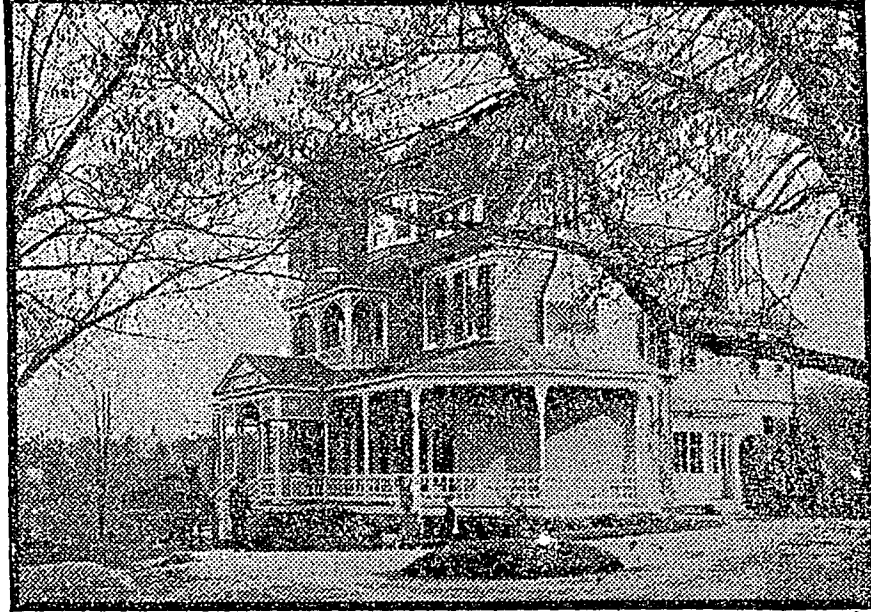
From a suburb with four passenger trains on weekdays, none at night, nor upon Sundays, Mount Washington's railroad facilities have increased to a daily schedule of 26 trains each way and a single fare via the electric road to Baltimore. The population has increased about 1,500. Pure water is supplied by the Mount Washington Water Works Company, and the residents boast of their curbed crushed-stone paths and the smooth solidity of their roads.

The Casino, a beautiful clubhouse, was built by the gentlemen of Mount Washington and turned over by them to the Lend-a-Hand Club of Mount Washington, which includes the most representative women of the village and many Baltimore women as well.

The development of Mount Washington was a triumph of engineering and architectural skill over the mountainous conditions of nature. The residences are built like Swiss chalets upon terrace after terrace sloping down from hills that rise higher than the top of the Washington Monument in Baltimore. Every variety of forest tree found in Maryland adds a glory to these hills, and in rich abundance is found several kinds of oak, the birch, walnut, locust, poplar, beech and cedar trees. The white dogwood tree is also found there, and in May the purple Judas blossoms cast delicate shadows upon myriads of violets and other dainty wild flowers.

Intellectually, Mount Washington is a phenomenal triumph over environment, so long cut off from easy access to a metropolis. Instead of becoming narrow and village-like Mount Washington became inspiring to herself and to her neighbors, and Baltimore women turn to that community set upon a hill that lighted the first torch of a woman's club in Maryland and spread the first blossoms to gladden the eyes of the sick in the wonderful and beautiful work now known as the Maryland Fruit and Flower Mission. The fresh-air work for children has found not only earnest help, but a quiet little camp among Mount Washington people, and village children rich and poor gather with the ladies of

to mention a few of the eminent physicians who have ministered to the people of the district with the unselfish devotion of the old Scotch physician in Ian MacLaren's beautiful and touching story, "A Doctor of the Old School." Dr. Todd in recent papers read before the medical fraternity has gathered with infinite care and trouble the records of these courageous men whose field of ministry extended some times from



THE KNOLL

Residence of Mr. Henry C. Chipman, Dixon Park.

Hill, Mount St. Agnes and the Monkur property and up to the copper mines on the north.

North and South avenues were laid out with lots 100 feet front. North avenue was designed as the principal thoroughfare, being 50 feet wide, and South avenue, of less importance, was but 30 feet wide. In the progress of development South avenue by reason of its easier grade became the most important. The property north of Western run was laid out in lots of from 4 to 10 acres and left for later development, which was accomplished about 20 years ago. A magnificent tract of land owned by the Kelso estate and improved by a mansion built by an Englishman named Brian was preserved intact and became the property of Mr. Peter G. Sauerwein, father of Mrs. George Whitelock and Mrs. Charles W. Lord.

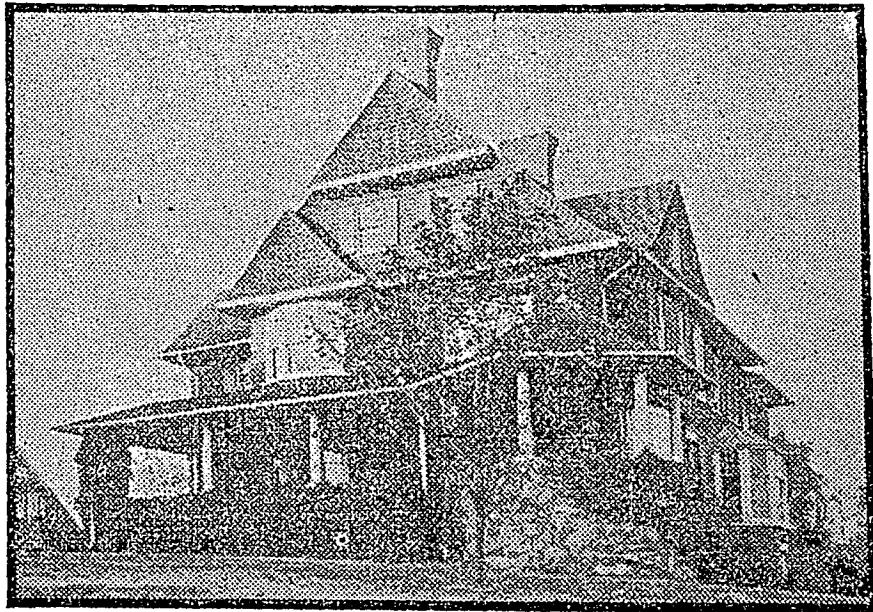
Associated with Mr. Gelbach in the settlement of Mount Washington was Rev. Dr. Elias Heiner, pastor of the Reformed Church on Second street, Baltimore, which was then located where the bed of Holiday street is

as marked on the plat as the Mansion is now the home of Mrs. William Whitelock. An English school—"The Rugby School"—for boys and youths was conducted by a Dr. Edwin Arnold, but the Civil War was the cause of it also closing its doors.

Concerning the fate of a girls' school conducted by Miss Van Patton history is silent.

Up to about 1850 only some eight or ten houses had been erected in the little community west of Washingtonville that Pastor Heiner called Mount Washington, and then a Quaker element was gradually introduced with the residence of Mr. William Whitelock, Mr. Samuel Townsend, Mr. Benjamin S. Woolston; the bachelor, John Dixon, and his brother, Thomas Dixon, and others.

The modern improvement of Mount Washington began after 1865, when Mr. John T. Graham, now of the Burnt District Commission, with Messrs. John and Thomas Dixon, began a later development of the village. Mr. Dixon was a very successful architect and he developed Dixon Park, on



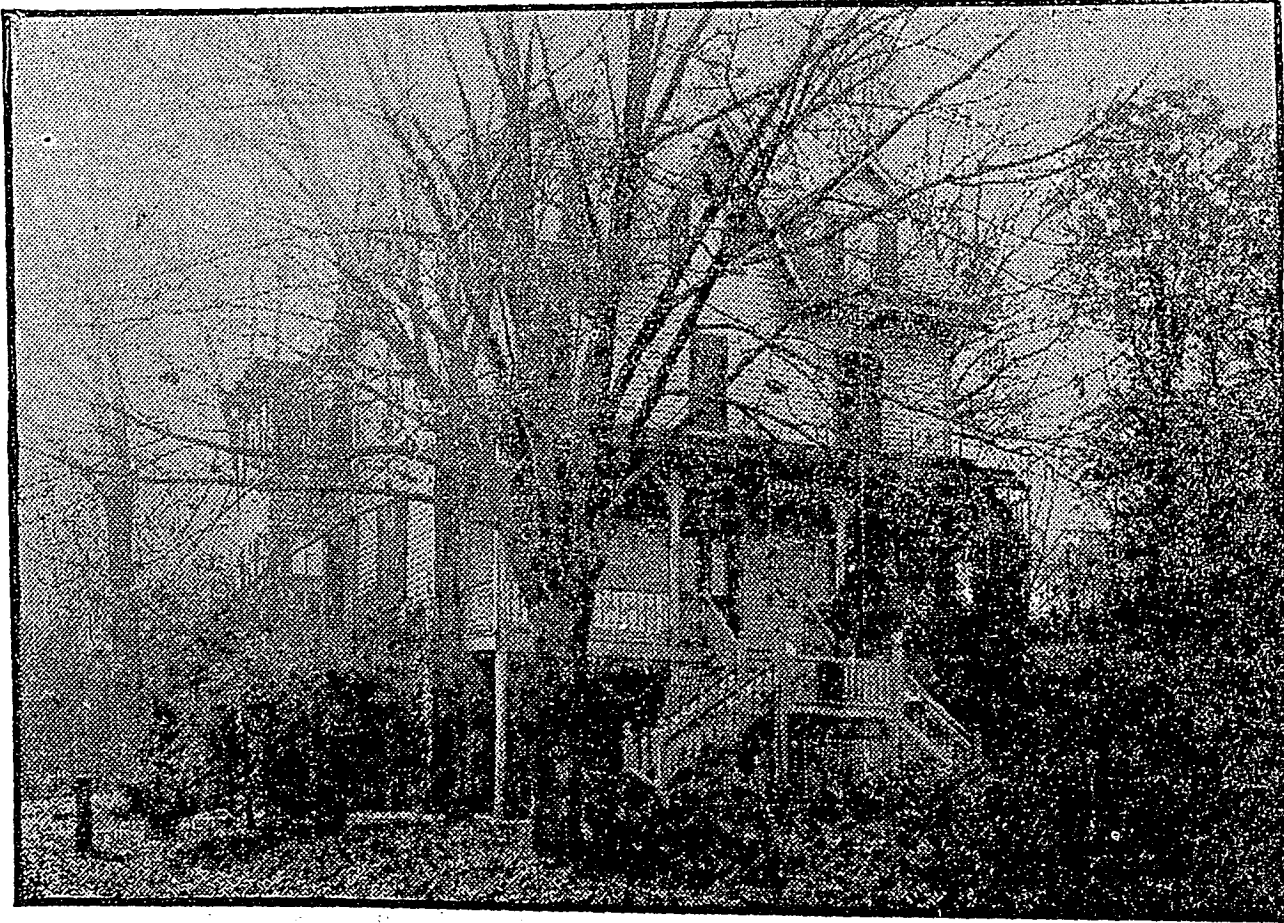
THE TER-ACES

Residence of Mr. Omer F. Hershey.

Long Green and Dulaney's Valley to Pimlico. Those were days when physicians rode on horseback from early morning until well into the night, carried saddlebags and wore green balze leggings to protect their limbs from rain and mud. When streams were flooded they forded them, and the record tells of those whose lives were the penalty paid for such exposure. Among these physicians were Drs. Septimus Dorsey, A. V. Cherbonnier, Benjamin W. Woods, Cralster, Vincon B. Heaton, J. H. Donahue, Henderson, Horatio Gats Jameson, Henry M. Ewing, Thomas Buchanan Steele, Christopher Todd and others as far back as Dr. Soultzac, a Huguenot, who in 1810 settled with others of his faith near the intersection of Green Spring avenue and the Pimlico road.

The light of these inspiring lives of men and women has had a lasting effect on the social atmosphere of Mount Washington. The warm neighborhood affection kindled long since in the hearts of these home-loving people has descended like a benediction to the second and third generation, and Mount Washington today is not a community, but a family.

Among present residents of Mount Washington are Messrs. John M. Carter, George A. Boyden, R. Ross Holloway, Charles Harvey, E. J. Penniman, Henry C. Kirk, Jr., Edward L. Gernand, John W. Mealey, A. J. Bauernschmidt, Thomas C. Bloom, William H. Conkling, John A. Lawrence, H. F. Baker, Albert T. Clabaugh, George Patterson, William D. Gill, Thomas H. Roberts, John T. Ensor, Sr., John T. Ensor, Jr., Harry J. Skinner, Harrison J. Barrett, C. Benson Dushare, G. W. Lehmann, F. J. Merceret, Charles Stebbins, Geo. A. Peirce, Dr. Edward H. Richardson, William A. Rlordan, S. J. Roche, Howard P. Sadtler, W. Henry Smith, David T. Carter, H. C. Constable, A. L. Cummings, Isaac H. Dixon, John Durham, Samuel L. Ensor, W. B. Faringer, H. F. Baker, E. F. Baldwin, Dr. Charles H. Beetem, Thomas T. Boswell, Dr. J. S. Bowen, George W. Cameron, Charles E. Grimes, A. S. Hedden, A. B. Hoen, F. J. La Motte, S. M. Lucas, William T. Matthews, I. S. Owings, E. A. Griffith, Mrs. William Whitelock, Mrs. Edward A. Robinson and Mrs. William Thelin.



THE PERCH

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Graham. The latter for 34 years president of Lend-a-Hand Club.

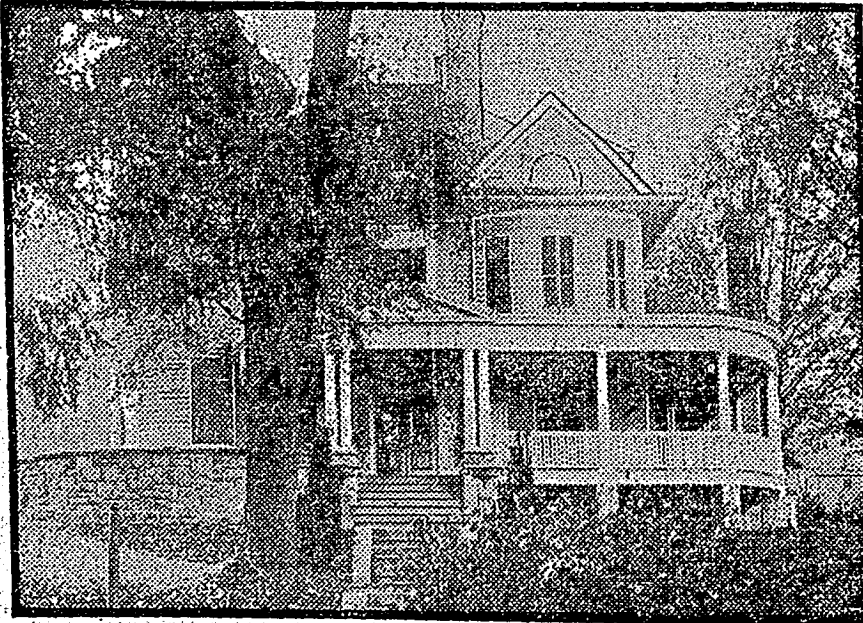
now laid. It was designed to make the new settlement a center for families of that denomination and among inducements promised to those of the Reformed Church who considered locating there was that a college for the higher education of women under the auspices of the Reformed Church should be built there. Rev. Dr. George Lewis Staley built what is now Mount St. Agnes' College. He is still living and residing on Bolton street. The site chosen for the Mount Washington Female College, as the institution of learning was called, was the apex of one of the most magnificent hills in Baltimore county. The building was imposing in size and architecture and beautifully and expensively furnished. The equipments were in advance of their time, the buildings were supplied with gas and water from their own gas works and water supply and being the first college for women to be organized under the auspices of the Reformed Church, and designed as a Southern school, with a Southern gentleman, Rev. Dr. Geo. L. Staley, at its head, the college prospered beyond the expectations of those most interested in its success. A hundred or more girls were enrolled as students when the Civil War broke out and the riot in Baltimore when Maryland seemed doomed to be the battlefield of the war sounded a knell to the prosperity of the Mount Washington Female College. Soldiers patrolled the Northern Central tracks in view of the college terraces and, like frightened birds, the fair denizens of this temple of learning vanished. The South could no longer send her daughters to college and the North sent no more daughters South.

Through various hands the property finally passed into the possession of the Catholic Church, and, with added buildings and under the appellation Mount St. Agnes' College it is now conducted by the Sisters of Mercy and known throughout the country. In addition to the college, there is the con-

the north side of the community, while Mr. Graham built a great many beautiful residences on the south side. In 1868 there was no outlet from Mount Washington, except by the Old Falls road, and about that S. Bowen, Mr. John A. Nichols, who had bought the Gelbach property; Dr. Josiah S. Bowen, Mr. John A. Nichols, who had bought the Heiner property, and Mr. William Canby opened up Rogers avenue to the Pimlico road, and graded, guttered and macadamized North and South avenues, making good stone paths with some slight aid from the county authorities. Later Green

Mount Washington to receive instruction from the latter in needlework—the feminine and old-fashioned art known as "plain sewing."

For most of this the Lend-a-Hand Club has been directly responsible. Organized by Mrs. John T. Graham in 1871 as the Nucleus Club and afterward the Lend-a-Hand Club of Mount Washington, the effect of this one body of earnest women for good in Maryland can scarcely be estimated. Mrs. Graham has been continuously president of the club, and continues, as in the



RESIDENCE OF MRS. SAMUEL B. SEXTON, ON SOUTH AVENUE