

Spring/Summer 2022

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Journal of the Strasburg Heritage Society



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A message from the Editor

Joe Deevy



I'm very pleased to be able to feature work from two new contributors. One is Reid Trulson, who relates the very interesting story of Charlotte Rowe. Her fascinating life eventually brought her to Strasburg, where she operated a school for girls on East Main Street.

The cover features original artwork by local artist Tony Bonazzi, and it portrays Mrs. Rowe's school as it might have appeared on a school day in 1850. Amazingly, this building still stands next to Massasoit Hall, at 13 East Main, although you might not recognize it at first. Tony had help from local architectural history expert Tom Lainhoff, whose interpretation of the building's surviving features informed Tony's rendering. Be sure to check out the final article to learn about the clues that Tom was able to identify.

The cover also announces our big news: the Strasburg Heritage Society turns 50 this year! You can read about the Society's early days in this issue, and there will be more to come in the next one too.

We can't let this important event pass without a celebration, so we're planning a special event for this fall: *The Strasburg Heritage Society Golden Anniversary Festival!* The event will take place at the Heritage Society's properties on South Decatur Street and in the hall of the Presbyterian Church across the street. The festival will kick off with a community fun night on Friday October 7. This will be followed by a full day of entertaining activities centered around Strasburg history on Saturday October 8. We want everyone in town to be able to join in the fun, so there will be no admission charge!

In addition to talks, exhibits, food, and entertainment, there will be special community involvement events. In these events, we invite you to share your Strasburg knowledge, artifacts, or heirlooms. The community involvement events are:

- A "Show and Tell" event, in which anyone is invited to present a Strasburg-related artifact and its story.
- A recording station, in which you tell us about your Strasburg memories, so that they can become a permanent part of our town's story.
- A photo scanning station, where we will scan your old photos so that they can be preserved digitally in the Heritage Society's collection.
- An indoor exhibit area for people to display artifacts and heirlooms from Strasburg and its vicinity.

Start now to think about what you might be able to bring to these events. Don't hesitate to bring items that are not quite antique; we're still interested!

We are very much in need of volunteers to help us to pull this off. We need people now to help with event planning, and we need help during the event to staff the activities and for setup and cleanup. If you want to help, we can surely find ways for you to contribute. Watch for more information about the event at strasburgheritagesociety.org. You can also contact us there if you are able to help.

A correction is in order for an error that appeared in the article about the Sandstone House. in the Fall/Winter 2021 edition. Mary Musselman was born in the Sandstone House, and the article stated that she lived there until she married at age 60. Actually, she married and moved out at age 35. The source of the error was a misinterpretation of her wedding announcement in a 1941 newspaper. The announcement was actually a reminiscence of events from 25 years prior. In fact, Mary had married Joseph Girvin in 1916! The Girvins moved to a home in Iva, Paradise Township, and then eventually to Landisville. This error was found too late to correct in the printed magazine, but was corrected in the online (.pdf) version. I offer my sincere apologies to Mary Girvin and our readers!

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Ask anyone who grew up in Strasburg during the 1950s and 1960s, and they'll tell you with sincerity and affection that there could not have been a better time and place to grow up. Buildings, families, and ways of living that had evolved slowly for ages had produced a wonderful character and a feeling of continuity. But the slow pace of change was picking up speed as the 1970s approached, and people could sense the forces tugging at the underpinnings of that beloved way of life.

Age was catching up with many of the familiar historic buildings around town, and one after another was being taken down by demolition crews. The town was growing, with land regularly annexed to the Borough to accommodate new housing for an influx of newcomers. The tourism industry seemed to arrive overnight. Increasingly brash signs hawking attractions and services for tourists also caught the eye of longtime residents. But for them, the message was that the benefits of tourism would come at a price. The lack of a legal framework for town planning or zoning amplified all of these problems.

By the late 1960s, there had been quiet efforts to preserve Strasburg history, but none of them had managed to gain traction. The people needed a *sign*. They got it one day in 1969, when a new sign appeared, prominently displayed on the front of the 19th century bank building on the southeast corner of Center Square. It featured a large arrow, pointing to the Eagle Gun Museum, two miles away. Suddenly, there was

Give Us a Sign!

The people and Events
that Led to the Creation of the

STRASBURG HERITAGE SOCIETY

IN 1972

(written by Joe Deevy)

widespread agreement that something had to be done. It wasn't that people disliked the museum; rather, they were afraid of what would happen to the character of Strasburg if signs like this one proliferated.

A town meeting was called. Sometimes conversations can lead to unexpected realizations. This meeting led to the realization that what was really needed was a preservation focus for Strasburg. Fortunately, there was a core group of people who were willing and able to lead that effort.

One of these people was Fred Williams. Surprisingly, Fred and his wife Peg were not Strasburg natives. While living in Pittsburgh in 1939, they read about Lancaster County in *National Geographic* magazine. That prompted a vacation trip

to Lancaster County. Strasburg impressed them as the kind of place they would like to live someday.

During World War II, Fred served as a lieutenant in the Navy, stationed on Guam as part of Admiral Nimitz's staff. When the war ended, he found a job with Slaymaker Locks in Lancaster, eventually becoming president. There was a housing shortage at the time, but Sam Slaymaker knew Milton Ranck, who was looking for the right buyer for the house at 48 East Main St. Fred and Peg bought that historic 18th century log home.

Fred was a take-charge kind of guy, with an outgoing and caring personality combined with strong opinions and a tenacious drive to do what he felt needed to be done. The Williams quickly made friends in Strasburg. They connected with S. Dale and his wife Elizabeth Kaufman. Dale was an architect and Strasburg native, the nephew of Harry Kaufman, who had founded The Pequea Works fishing tackle company. When it came to the historic architecture in Strasburg, Dale knew what he was looking at. He became Fred's home restoration adviser, guiding him as he peeled away layers to reveal the house's historic soul.

Fred and Peg also became good friends with Harriet Miller and her husband J. Franklin Miller. From 1950 to 1986, the Millers operated Strasburg's newspaper, the *Strasburg Weekly News*. Harriet's grandmother had lived in the news office building, and both Harriet and mother had been born there. So Harriet grew up in the know regarding Strasburg happenings.



The Eagle museum sign on the bank building

She possessed a tremendous memory and got along well with everyone, always composed in any social situation.

These three belonged to a circle of friends who attended the same church, shared similar political views, and had a soft spot for Strasburg. They enjoyed each others' company, and regularly entertained each other at their homes. The fun times that they had together, allowed some of their "work" on important issues to move along casually, almost without notice.

It seems that Ellis Bachman was more disquieted than most by the changes that he saw around him. His connection to Strasburg must have been written in his DNA. He had inherited the lore of his family's unbroken history in this place, dating from the mid 1700s. His ancestors were highly skilled craftsmen, renowned for their fine furniture. In the 18th century, those who built furniture also built coffins, so what started as a side business became the family business. Ellis was the seventh generation to operate the family's funeral home in Strasburg.

Ellis was saddened each time an old Strasburg landmark was razed. He grabbed his camera to try to hold onto each piece of the disappearing history. He was especially upset by the loss of the Washington House on Center Square, and a fine old home that was replaced by a motel on East Main Street. Ellis was also caring and enthusiastic, and he naturally connected with the others who shared his concerns.

The Strasburg Historical Society was formed at that initial meeting prompted by the sign. Their first action was to send a delegation consisting of

Fred Williams, Dale Kaufman, Harriet Miller and Ellis Bachman to the March 2, 1970 meeting of the Strasburg Borough Council. There, they presented a film produced by the American Institute of Architects titled "*The Ugly Landscape*." The film

District boundaries that were ultimately adopted. Borough Council voted to enact the Historic District ordinance on September 8, 1970.

There was strong support from the community for the Historic District, and a year after it had been established, enthusiasm was still high. Many residents expressed a desire to form an organization, which would focus on historic restoration of homes and development of cultural programs and projects. The Historic Society members prepared some ideas and then held a meeting in the Elementary School in October of 1971. The Strasburg Heritage Society was born at this meeting. The first membership meeting was held in January of 1972, and the Articles of Incorporation were filed on April 26, 1972, with 74 people signing. The signers ages ranged from 23 to 90 years old, a testament to the broad support for the new Society. Ellis Bachman became the first elected president.

From its inception, the Strasburg Heritage Society embraced the following four-part mission:

- The *preservation* of historic buildings, artifacts, and documents;
- The *education* of local residents to the advantages and wisdom of preserving these elements of the past;
- The *restoration* of historic buildings;
- The development of a deeper *appreciation* of our rich historic and cultural inheritance.

These objectives have guided the Strasburg Heritage Society for 50 years now, and still remain relevant. The people of Strasburg owe a debt of gratitude to the founders for their foresight and hard work. They have made Strasburg a better place to live.



Clockwise from top left: Harriet Miller, Fred Williams, S. Dale Kauffman, Ellis Bachman

highlighted regulatory efforts that had restored a semblance of beauty to buildings and villages that had been sullied by an excess of garish signage. In response, Borough solicitor John M. Ranck explained that without zoning, no ordinance that prohibited signs would withstand a challenge in court. Mr. Ranck then suggested that Strasburg might pass an ordinance under Pennsylvania's Historical District Act.

This meeting set into motion the creation of Strasburg's Historic District. To support the effort, the Historic Society formed a committee to produce a map and catalog of significant buildings. They proposed the



Charlotte Rowe

An Unnoticed Notable in Strasburg

by Reid S. Trulson

Charlotte Atlee White Rowe arrived in Strasburg in the spring of 1850 with no fanfare and little notice. She may have welcomed the relative anonymity, since her earlier life had “acquired a publicity” marked by controversy.

Charlotte Hazen Atlee (1782 – 1863) was born into an Episcopalian family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania at the end of the American Revolutionary War. She

was the youngest of eleven children born to Esther Bowes Sayre and her husband William Augustus Atlee, a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judge. Although Charlotte grew up in a home described as “the resort of the beauty and intelligence of the surrounding country,” her pleasant childhood was ruptured by two sorrowful events. One week before Charlotte’s eighth birthday, her mother died. When her father died three years later, Charlotte was sent as an eleven-year-old orphan to live with her oldest sister in Rutland, Massachusetts.

In 1803, at age twenty-one she married Nathaniel Hazen White, a Rutland merchant. The following year they welcomed a newborn son. Once again, however, two unexpected deaths shattered her world. Nathaniel White died on Christmas Day, 1804, followed five months later by their nine-month-old baby. Widowed and childless, Charlotte moved sixty miles away to Haverhill, Massachusetts. There she experienced spiritual renewal and discerned a call to missionary service. She moved to Philadelphia where in 1815 the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions appointed her to be an international missionary.

Appointing a woman was controversial. No other agency or denomination in America had taken such an action. In the late 1700s and increasingly through the 1800s, most Americans expected women to confine their activities to the domestic sphere of home, family, church and social visits while men pursued engagement in the public sphere of industry, commerce, medicine, law and politics. One man reflected on this

division of labor during his rural Indiana childhood in the 1820s by recalling, “There was no such thing as a woman teacher. It wasn’t a woman’s job any more than milking a cow was a man’s job.” The ideology of “separate spheres” was intentionally promoted and written into law. In his 1765 Commentaries on the Laws of England the English jurist Sir William Blackstone had famously stated “By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage.”

This social context heightened the distinction between appointing a missionary and sending one. Appointment had organizational significance by making the missionary an agent of the sending body and establishing mutual accountability between the two. It also had spiritual significance that bore similarity to a pastor’s ordination. The presupposition that missionary appointment was in the public sphere precluded women from that role. Although other American women had preceded Charlotte into mission service, none of them were appointed. All had been regarded as volunteer assistants to male missionaries.

Charlotte’s appointment was highly controversial, forcing her to overcome gender bias because she was not an ordained man.

After an overt attempt to revoke her appointment failed, Charlotte sailed to India. There she met and married Joshua Rowe, a widowed British Baptist missionary with three young sons. She served with him at Digah some 360 miles northwest of Calcutta where she became fluent in Hindi. The couple had twin daughters and a son.

Charlotte was an educator, but in Digah she again faced controversy for teaching Indian children. The powerful East India Company feared that an educated populace could imperil colonial rule and the company’s profits. Some local people were also wary of education, especially for girls. In one community, girls fled their school when a rumor circulated that “as soon as the girls had received a competent education, they were to be kidnapped, tied up in bags, and shipped for England!”

Despite opposition from multiple sources, Charlotte persistently advocated for education, wrote a Hindi spelling book and grammar as teaching aids, recruited teachers and started Hindi-language schools for both girls and boys. Charlotte financed the village schools by raising subscriptions for those purposes. To gain support she needed to convince potential donors that girls as well as boys could learn and benefit from education. So she offered proof. She invited a select group of

European expatriates to witness something new—the first public examination of mission school students. Charlotte knew that without seeing it for themselves, many expatriates would not believe that such schools existed, much less be convinced of their utility. All her invited guests were impressed that 55 girls and 159 boys were under instruction.

Charlotte negotiated with local zamindars (Persian for “landholders”) to secure rent-free locations for her schools. The villages around Digah, however, were on a flat, poorly drained plain that was subject to significant flooding during the rainy season. The school building at one village was a mud hut so small, dark and crowded that it was “quite disgusting.” In the dry season the yard was crowded with feeding cattle that filled the hut with suffocating animal fumes. When Charlotte visited the school following the rains in 1824, the condition was even worse. The yard overflowed with muddy water. Men had to wade waist deep to carry Charlotte to the hut’s door where she entered with difficulty. Thirty-five boys and ten girls awaited her inside the hut.

Determined that these children deserved better learning conditions, Charlotte resolved to replace the inadequate schoolhouses with healthier buildings on sites less prone to

flooding. As she solicited funds from the expatriate community, she again encountered resistance. Some were willing to loan money if it were to be used for her personal needs, but most believed that “the improvement of the natives will be pernicious to the national tranquility.” Local children didn’t need schools. “They are better left as they are.” Undeterred, Charlotte continued reaching out until she found individuals who endorsed her vision and provided funding.

While contending with controversies and challenges related to education, Charlotte also had to withstand a new scandal when her confidential correspondence was repurposed in America for anti-missionary propaganda.

Joshua Rowe died in 1823, leaving Charlotte the single parent of six children. For the next three years she worked at Digah without assistance from missionary colleagues. She alone managed the mission, supervised 10 schools, taught, organized the construction and repair of school and mission buildings, led the Hindi-language church at Digah, and oversaw the ministries of indigenous evangelists who called her “their pastoreess.” As her work matured, she adapted to the local culture, critiqued the role of money in missions, and challenged the system of language acquisition for new missionaries.



This watercolor, painted by Sita Ram, shows the main thoroughfare in the Indian city of Patna in 1814-1815. Charlotte Rowe would have viewed this scene when she visited Patna from her home in Digah, 10 miles away.

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For a decade Charlotte funded her own service in India until financial need eventually forced her to seek support from the Baptist Missionary Society. She sailed to London but found that appointment by British Baptists would cause as much scandal in England as it had earlier in America. In 1829, Charlotte returned to the United States with her twin daughters and young son while the three older stepsons remained in jobs and apprenticeships in India. Her work in India was now over.

Back in Philadelphia, Charlotte rented a house, opened a small girls school in her home, and wrote newspaper articles about her experiences in India. Four years later she moved her family to the South where she and her seventeen-year-old daughter Charlotte Elizabeth taught at an academy in Lowndesboro, Alabama. The move from one of the largest cities in the United States to the small Alabama town may have been for the sake of her son's health. He had almost died from illness in India, and Philadelphia winters may have been problematic for a child accustomed to a warmer climate. No record of her son has been found following the family's move to Alabama.

By 1850, Charlotte and her daughters had returned north to Pennsylvania and settled in Strasburg, eight miles southeast of her early childhood home in Lancaster.

Strasburg's identity as a cultural and educational center far exceeded anything Charlotte had found in Alabama. The town's Presbyterian ministers were prime movers in shaping that identity. In 1790, Rev. Nathaniel Sample founded the Strasburg Philosophical Society. He operated a school of theology in his parlor and started the town's first formal school, a classical academy in which he taught Greek and Latin. The following year he helped create the Strasburg Scientific Society that was said to have "aroused the interest of Ben Franklin."

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Lists of references used in writing the articles in this issue can be found in the online electronic (.pdf) copy of the magazine.

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The 1800s brought on “a flood of schools” in Strasburg. Rev. David McCarter, pastor of Strasburg’s First Presbyterian Church, was among those contributing to the town’s growth as an educational Mecca. In 1839, he founded the Strasburg Academy at 31-33 East Main Street (now the Limestone Inn Bed & Breakfast). The three-story house was McCarter’s home as well as the boarding house for the students. David McCarter advertised the academy in newspapers from Lancaster and Philadelphia to Washington, DC and Baltimore. He also made visits to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, DC to recruit students. The academy’s growing reputation attracted students from other states as well as international students from Cuba and Puerto Rico.

In 1841, McCarter began offering classical education for girls by founding the Strasburg Female Seminary at 17 East Main Street with Ann McCullough as the Principal. In 1842, the academy expanded into a new home when McCarter erected a three-story building north of his house. By 1845, the academy had fifty students and the seminary had twenty. Two of the academy’s five teachers also taught in the seminary. The schools complemented each other by making it possible for families with sons and daughters to send them together for education in Strasburg.

In 1848, Ann McCullough joined McCarter in a visit to Baltimore to recruit students for the two schools. They met parents of prospective students at Barnum’s City Hotel, the fashionable establishment that had hosted such renowned guests as President John Quincy Adams in 1827 and British author Charles Dickens in 1842. McCarter’s efforts to recruit students for the academy were successful. A visitor from Baltimore in 1849 observed that a large number of the students aged nine to seven-

REV. D. McCARTER'S BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN, STRASBURG, Lancaster County, Penna.—The Twenty First Semi-Annual Term will commence on the FIRST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER.
 The whole expenses, for Board, Tuition, &c. &c., per session of five months, \$55. Payment at the end of the session.
 Circulars, References, &c. given on application.
 The Subscriber is now at Barnum's Hotel, (room 124.) where he will be pleased to meet with Parents and Guardians wishing to place their sons or wards in a good and cheap school.
 REV. D. McCARTER, Principal.
 MISS ANN McCULLOUGH, Principal of the Strasburg Female Seminary, Lancaster, Pa., is also in the city, at Barnum's Hotel, No. 122, where she will be pleased to meet with parents wishing to place their daughters in this institution. oct 10-31

Above & below: Recruiting students in Baltimore



Below: Ad for Strasburg Female Seminary, led by Charlotte Rowe with assistance from her daughter Charlotte.

Strasburg Female Seminary FOR YOUNG LADIES.
This institution, which was re-opened on the first of May last, by Mrs. and Miss ROWE, will commence the winter term, on **MONDAY, the 4th of NOVEMBER** next. Young Ladies from abroad, who may wish to attend, can be accommodated where the Teachers are boarding.
TERMS.
 (PER SESSION OF FIVE MONTHS.)
 Class in the rudiments of spelling & reading \$5,00
 Do. do. with rudiments of writing and arithmetic, - - - 6,00
 Do. in the rudiments of grammar and geography. - - - 8,00
 Do. in the higher branches of an English Education, such as Composition, History, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Botany, Physiology, Rhetoric, Geometry and Algebra, 10,00
 Music, with the use of Piano, - - - 12,00
 Drawing and Painting, - - - 8,00
 French, - - - 8,00
 For pupils from a distance part payment in advance will be expected.
 Particular care will be exercised over the morals, health and amusements of the scholars.
 The Winter Term commences on the 4th of November. The Summer Term, about the first of May.
 Mrs. C. H. ROWE, Principal,
 Miss C. E. ROWE, Assistant Teacher.
 oct 22 89-31

teen came from his city. Writing from Strasburg the visitor reported, “There were no less than ten arrived here from Baltimore on Monday, and every day adds to the number, whilst Philadelphia has also not a few fine looking and intelligent lads.”

Recruitment of girls seemed less successful. McCullough’s trip to Baltimore suggests that the seminary may have been struggling to maintain sufficient enrollment. Indeed, the seminary soon closed and Ann McCullough departed. This required McCarter to seek a new principal to revive the school.

It is unclear how David McCarter became acquainted with Charlotte Rowe. Charlotte did not seek fame and was not then publicly known for being the first American woman to be appointed as a missionary. McCarter most likely met her as a consequence of the academy’s broad outreach. In 1849, the academy included boys from Louisiana and Alabama. McCarter may have been introduced to Charlotte through the academy’s ties to the Alabama families. Charlotte was then sixty-seven and had significant administrative and teaching experience, especially her substantial accomplishments of starting and supervising schools in India. Since Charlotte’s twin daughters accompanied her from Lowndesboro to Strasburg, McCarter was able to employ Charlotte as the seminary’s new principal and her thirty-one-year-old daughter Charlotte Elizabeth as an assistant teacher. The remaining twin, Esther Anna, seems to have suffered from poor health resulting from a near-death illness that she experienced in India. Although “Sissie” enjoyed reading as a child, her weak eyesight likely kept her from the teaching profession.

Both the Lancaster Examiner and the Lancaster Intelligencer announced that the Strasburg Female Seminary had been reopened in

May 1850 by the mother and daughter team of “Mrs. and Miss Rowe.” The seminary’s prospectus resembled that of the school Charlotte had opened in Philadelphia that offered writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, composition, history, piano, drawing, painting, and French. In addition, girls in the Strasburg seminary studied natural and moral philosophy, botany, physiology, rhetoric, geometry, and algebra. As was true of its academy, Strasburg’s female seminary anticipated attracting students both regionally and internationally. Pupils coming from a distance were expected to make partial payment in advance. Young ladies from abroad were advised that they could find lodging “where the teachers are boarding.”

In the midst of the rejuvenated re-opening of the Strasburg Female Seminary, Charlotte’s life was shaken yet again by two deaths occurring in rapid succession. In March 1851, her daughter Esther died unmarried at age thirty-two. Charlotte brought Esther’s body to Lancaster for burial in the cemetery of St. James Episcopal Church near the graves of her grandparents. Charlotte’s sorrow redoubled the following year in October 1852, when her remaining daughter and co-teacher Charlotte Elizabeth died near Coatesville, Pennsylvania. Also unmarried, Charlotte Elizabeth died one day before her thirty-fourth birthday. She was buried in the St. James cemetery next to her twin sister. A single headstone marks the twins’ graves.

By January 1852, Charlotte had apparently expressed her intention to end her work as principal at the seminary. At that time David McCarter began seeking another principal with the following advertisement: “A female teacher wanted immediately to take charge of a Select Female School in Strasburg, Lancaster county.” By spring of the following year, Miss Isabella Work was in place as the new principal. Isabella was a graduate of the Female Seminary in Steubenville, Ohio.



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With her arrival in Strasburg, the seminary began operating under the new name of the Young Ladies Institute.

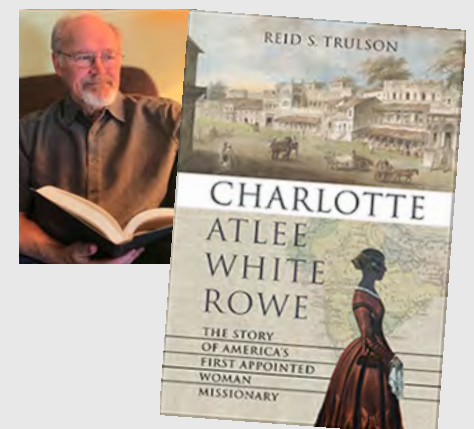
Charlotte’s final years were spent in Philadelphia where she died on Christmas Day, 1863. Her funeral was held three days later at St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster, and she was buried in the church cemetery in the plot next to her twin daughters. The woman who had dared to open the door for women to be appointed as missionaries equally with men was buried in the middle of the winter, in the middle of the Civil War, in an unmarked grave.

Charlotte’s notable significance as America’s first appointed woman missionary was long overlooked and omitted from written accounts. Her work as an educator in Digah, Philadelphia, Lowndesboro and Strasburg faded from public memory. Her story

has now been reclaimed from previously unexplored source materials in India, England and the United States and made public in her biography newly published by Mercer University Press.

You can learn more about Charlotte Rowe in REID S. TRULSON’s book titled *Charlotte Atlee White Rowe - The Story of America’s First Appointed Woman Missionary*, recently published by Mercer University Press.

ISBN: 9780881468038



An American Original



Text and photos by Joe Deevy

There are older houses in Strasburg. There are more elaborate houses. Some houses once had more famous residents. But the claim to fame for Sue Stirba's home at 20 East Main Street is that it's arguably the best preserved 18th century house in Strasburg. Under Sue's ownership, there has been extensive restoration. But an uncommon number of the original elements of the house are the original ones, put in place in 1795 and having survived to this day. If the original owners, William and Sarah Duffield, were to stand at the front

door today, they would likely have the familiar feeling of returning home.

Follow along as we delve into the lives of the first people to live there, when the 18th century came to a close and the 19th century dawned, and as our fledgling nation took its first steps on its own. Learn how Sue replaced the lost pieces, complementing the original features in a focused effort to preserve and restore this unique piece of Strasburg to its original glory.

The *Strasburg Heritage Society* thanks Sue Stirba for opening her home so we could present this article. We hope that the readers appreciate this glimpse inside her amazing house. Remember that this house is a private residence, and is not open for public viewing. *Please respect Ms. Stirba's privacy.*

The du Fieldes were a Huguenot (French Calvinist) family who had fled religious persecution in France. Settling first in England, then in Ireland, subsequent generations changed their name to Duffield. In 1730, a George Duffield – one of many in a family full of Georges – emigrated with his wife, Elizabeth, from Ireland to America and settled in Pequea, in Lancaster County. They had a daughter and four sons. One son, named George, went on to become a renowned Presbyterian minister. After his Princeton graduation, Rev. George Duffield spent many years as a chronically poor and hard working backwoods preacher on the frontier of central and western Pennsylvania. His first wife and child died in childbirth. He remarried in 1759 to Margaret Armstrong of Carlisle. They had four children, but apparently only two survived to adulthood: a daughter and a son named George, who was born in 1767.

In 1772, Rev. Duffield was called to serve at the Third Presbyterian Church, also known as the Pine Street Church, in Philadelphia. His warm and forcible but always practical sermons made him a favorite there, and distinguished visitors such as John Adams found inspiration in his words. An outspoken American patriot during the Revolution, Rev. Duffield joined George Washington at Valley Forge in the winter of 1776-1777, and was appointed Chaplain of the First Continental Congress.

Pine Street Church was in the Society Hill section of the city. The area was so named because it had belonged

to the Society of Free Traders, formed for various business interests. For young George, the commercial world around him seems to have held more sway than his father's life of ministry. Details of his life are sparse, but by his mid-twenties, he became a successful and well-connected businessman in Philadelphia.

William Bryant Duffield was a contemporary of young George, about two years his junior. He attended University of Pennsylvania, training as a "Doctor of Physick," or medical doctor. He graduated in 1786 at the age of 17, having begun his studies at age 15; this was typical at the time. His origins seem to be lost to history. One author refers to him in passing as George's brother, but genealogical sources seem unable to identify his parents. Perhaps he was an unrecorded sibling or a cousin. At any rate, young George and William appear to have been close – so close that they ended up marrying two sisters from the Slaymaker family, and living in Strasburg in adjacent houses!

Slaymaker family chronicles tell how Mathias Schleiermacher fled with his wife, Catherine, and two children "in the darkness of night" from their home in the Palatinate (today, southwest Germany) to escape terrible religious persecutions under the French Empire. They landed in Strasbourg, and there they were befriended by Huguenot Marie Ferrée. Upon learning that William Penn was selling land in the New World, where they could enjoy political asylum and religious freedom, Ferrée and the Schleiermachers teamed up and made their way to England. There, they connected with additional displaced Huguenots. Madame Ferrée met with Penn, who arranged an audience with Queen Anne. So impressed was the queen that she granted a patent of naturalization to Madame Ferrée and all 54 people in her entourage, along with permission to colonize in America. The group arrived in Lancaster County in 1710, and legend credits Madame Ferrée as having named their new home "Paradise."

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In America, Calvinist Schleiermachers became Presbyterian Slaymakers. Mathias and Catherine's son, Henry, displayed ambitions and abilities in business and politics. He established himself as a shopkeeper and taught himself enough about the law to become a justice of the peace. He nurtured his connections with the political elite of Lancaster throughout the troubled times of the Revolution. Henry married Faithful Richardson, and over a period of twenty-two years they had ten children. In 1779, they moved into a small stone house west of Gap. That house then remained in the family, to be enlarged again and again by succeeding generations. The house still stands, and is known today as "White Chimneys."

Among the children of Henry and Faithful were daughters Faithful, born in 1767, and Sarah, born in 1771. Sarah married William B. Duffield in 1792, and a year later, young Faithful Slaymaker wed young George Duffield. George and Faithful proceeded to purchase a large brick house on East Main Street in Strasburg from John Funk. Today, that house can be recognized as number 12. The purchase included the land that is occupied now by the houses numbered 14 and 20. Two years later, in May of 1795, George and Faithful sold a lot to William and Sarah, and there they proceeded to build the 20 East Main Street house featured in this article. By October they had purchased the adjoining empty lot to the east, on which house number 24 now stands.

William and Sarah built a modest but handsome house in the Georgian style that was popular at the time. Though not a large house, its stone foundation elevated the house, giving it more presence. The front door was placed to one side, more in the style of a townhouse, and eschewing the symmetry that is often a hallmark of Georgian architecture. The door surround was simple, but the row of small glass panes in the transom added formality, as did the brick belt course across the facade between the upper and lower windows.

William and Sarah's first child, Elizabeth (or Eliza) was born in 1793, and as they built their new house, the second child, Samuel (1795), was either on the way or a newborn. Sarah gave birth to three more children, presumably in the new house: Sophia (1797), William (1799), and Maria (1803). All five children were baptized in the Presbyterian church by Rev. Nathaniel Sample, who lived across the street.

Next door, George and Faithful had two children: George (1794) and Sophia (1796). It must have been interesting to have two Sophia Duffields, one year apart in age, living side by side! Son George and subsequently his son George both followed the path of their ancestor in Philadelphia to become acclaimed Presbyterian ministers.

According to an advertisement printed in 1820, after he had left Strasburg for Lancaster, William B. Duffield



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Doctor William B. Duffield,

HAVING fixed his residence in East-Kingstreet, opposite Mr. John Bomberger's, in the city of Lancaster, offers his services, in the line of his Profession, to his Friends and the Public generally; and having, for many years, had considerable experience in MIDWIFERY, means particularly to devote himself to that Branch of Medical Science.

Sept. 9.

a3

2

1820 newspaper advertisement, advertising William B. Duffield's medical practice after moving to Lancaster.

specialized in midwifery, assisting women in childbirth. George Duffield became Comptroller General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a position he held for nine years while Lancaster was the state capital. The position came with the title of Esquire, which he included in his signature thereafter.

A newspaper advertisement revealed another detail of William and Sarah's household – they had an indentured servant girl of African descent working in their household. The advertisement posts a reward of ten dollars for her return, after she ran away in 1811. She was described as “a good looking girl about five feet high,” wearing a white chip bonnet (woven of straw) trimmed with a blue and green ribbon. No information was found to tell whether her escape was successful or if she was recaptured.

Another African woman named Charlotte labored next door, not as an indentured servant, but enslaved by George and Faithful. No details of her life are known, but these findings open a door to understanding that there was a population of African people in Strasburg working

Ten Dollars Reward.

RAN away from the Subscriber, in Strasburg village, Lancaster county, on the night of the 18th inst. an indented Negro Girl, between 17 and 18 years of age. She is a likely good-looking Girl, about 5 feet high; took with her a variety of clothing; had on a white chip bonnet, trimmed with blue and green ribbon.

Whoever takes up said Girl, and brings her to the Subscriber, shall have the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by

WILLIAM B. DUFFIELD.

March 23.

tf

1811 newspaper advertisement, a reward for the recapture of William B. Duffield's indentured servant girl.

in servitude or slavery into the early 1800s. Records reveal that numerous people were enslaved in Strasburg, including in the households of Rev. Nathaniel Sample, John Ferrée, and George Rine – all neighbors of the Duffields – as well as by the Slaymaker family.

Understanding Pennsylvania's laws relating to slavery sheds some light on the situation. An abolition movement, founded primarily on religious principles, had simmered in Pennsylvania throughout the 1700s. The movement gained momentum as the War for Independence exposed the hypocrisy of condemning “the tyranny of England's colonial policies...while holding one fifth of the colonial population in chains.” As a result, Pennsylvania passed the *Act for the Gradual Abolition on Slavery* in 1780, becoming the first colony to pass an abolition law. The opening paragraph of the document elaborated:

“It is not for us to enquire, why, in the Creation of Mankind, the Inhabitants of the several parts of the Earth, were distinguished by a difference in Feature or Complexion. It is sufficient to know that all are the Work of an Almighty Hand...and it becometh not us to counteract his Mercies.”

But Pennsylvania's law did not really live up to the stated ideals, and subsequent legislation in other states were more progressive. Pennsylvania's law did little to free people who were already in bondage. Under the law, those already enslaved by 1780 would remain so, and could be bought and sold within the state, as long as the slaveholders registered them with the state. In George Duffield's household, Charlotte was probably in this category.

Anyone born to enslaved parents after passage of the Act would be indentured, rather than enslaved. An indenture is a contract in which a person enters servitude without a wage for a specified amount of time, usually to repay a debt, or as a punishment. Indentures were signed for immigrants as a way to pay for their passage, for apprentices to pay for instruction, or for orphans to pay the cost of raising them. For white people, indentures typically lasted

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four to seven years, and for young people, they normally expired at age 18 for women and 21 for men. Under the 1780 Act, children of enslaved parents were indentured until age 28. This was an especially high price for women. Twenty eight was a very late age for marriage, and pregnancy could lead to extension of the indenture. So the freedom that was denied throughout the long indenture came at a high cost.

This would have been the situation faced by the indentured girl working in William Duffield's house. Who knows what hardships she left, or what future she imagined when she fled? Her choice would have come with great risks and probably took all of the courage she could summon. We can hope that her heirs still hold the memory of her struggles and legacy.

After living in Strasburg for seventeen years, William and Sarah sold their house at auction in 1812 and moved to Lancaster. At that time, their children ranged in age from 9 to 19 years. The auction advertisement at right gives an excellent description of the property, which included a stable and carriage house. The house was purchased by Nathaniel Sample, Jr., M.D.

Eventually William and Sarah moved to Philadelphia. William died there in 1841, as did Sarah in 1852. They are buried at the Old Pine Street Church, where Rev. George Duffield had preached during the Revolution. George and Faithful also moved to Lancaster, and then to New London Township in Chester County. George was killed by the kick of a colt in 1827 in the presence of his grandson George. Faithful died in 1847, and was buried with her husband at New London Presbyterian Church.

In 1983, Sue Stirba was relocating from out of state, and expressed an interest in finding an old house that she could restore. Her parents, Clifford and Grace Stirba, were keenly interested in all things historic, and enthusiastically supported her ambition. Upon Clifford's retirement from a career as a chemical engineer, the Stirbas had purchased a 1740s farm in Paradise Township. They completed a beautiful restoration of the house and farm buildings, with Clifford



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A lot adjoining the above, containing nearly two acres of land, affording front sufficient for building two large houses.

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A lot of very valuable chestnut timber, about three miles south of Strasburg, containing between five and six acres.

At the same time will also be sold, a two horse carriage and harness, a sleigh, waggon, cart and horse-gears, wind-mill, plough and harrow; also an excellent eight day clock and two ten plate stoves.

Any person wishing to view the property previous to the day of sale, will be shewn it by applying to the subscriber, who will attend on the day of sale and make known the conditions.

The subscriber will be extremely obliged to all those who are indebted to him, to call and discharge their respective accounts, on or before the 15th day of March next, as he contemplates leaving the place the last of March, and those who have demands against him, will please to present their accounts for payment.

WILLIAM B. DUFFIELD.

Strasburg, Jan. 4th, 1812. 33-4nq.

applying his many skills to do much of the design, planning, and construction work himself. The couple found like-minded people in the Strasburg Heritage Society, so they became active members, with both serving terms as president. When Sue expressed her interest in taking on an old house project, they encouraged her to look in Strasburg.

Sue recognized the potential in the 20 East Main house and bought it. Along with the many original features, there had also been some significant modifications. Returning the facade to its original look was fairly straightforward. A wrap-around porch had been added, and that was the first thing to go.

The window frames had been made of 5½ inch square oak timbers to support the brick wall above. They were pinned together at the corners with large round wooden pegs, which are still plainly visible on the outside of the house. Clifford Stirba replicated decayed parts found in some of the window frames after nearly 190 years of service. The original 9-pane sashes in the downstairs windows had been replaced by sashes having a single large glass pane, but miraculously, the original sashes were found in the barn behind the house. It was a simple matter to reinstall them. When new, the house had shutters only on the first floor windows, and these were still in place, complete with their original 1795 hardware.

The original front door remained, although its upper raised panels had been replaced by a window. The window was removed, and the missing wooden components reproduced to return the door to its original design. The Duffields would recognize the lock that was fitted to the door more than two



centuries ago, and is still in place. They would have used its 6 ½ inch long key. The sandstone door sill, with its edge carved in a bullnose profile, still greets visitors.

Restoring historic authenticity to the facade was relatively easy, as so many original elements survived. When it came to dealing with alterations to the brick structure, it was a different story. There had been some prominent changes over the years.

The “bumped out” brick extension that had been added to the west side had to go. It had provided an entry from the now-absent porch, and gave some extra space to an upstairs bedroom. With the porch gone, the extension had little value. Sue found a mason named Kent Spotts who was well versed in historic brick construction methods, and he undertook the challenging project of removing the extension and recreating the original wall and window openings. When the wall was completed, the pent eaves could be replaced. These small shingled roof extensions



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on the side walls, that connect the front and rear eaves, had probably been removed when the brick extension was added.

The Duffields would have had no trouble staying warm in this house. In addition to the two ten-plate stoves mentioned in the 1812 auction ad, the house had five fireplaces. One was a cooking fireplace in the kitchen. The other four were arranged in pairs on each floor, situated back to back in adjacent corners of two rooms, facing into each room on a diagonal. Those four were built as one massive brick structure, extending from

the basement floor to the top of the chimney. But by the time Sue purchased the house, all of the fireplaces had been removed. Undeterred, when the mason had finished reconstructing the west wall, she set him to work on the intricate project of rebuilding the fireplaces.

There was clear evidence to show the fireplace size and placement. The masonry in the basement was still existing. The wide floorboards that had been installed in 1795 remained. Since they had been cut to fit around the fireplace and hearth, their edges defined the fireplace

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Parlor at the front of the house, with reconstructed fireplace.



Dining room fireplace with original mantel.

outlines. The fireplace stack required four individual flues, all of which exited through a square chimney as was typical for the period. The result was a masonry tour de force, with four authentic working fireplaces.

Three of the four fireplace mantels had been lost, but the fourth had been converted into a shelf, and hung on a wall. After recreating the vertical side legs, it was pressed back into service on one of the fireplaces downstairs.

The 5th fireplace, in the kitchen, was not rebuilt. In 1795, the kitchen was in a 1½ story wing that extended from the rear of the main house. The kitchen was only half the width of the house, and its rear wall was dominated by the large fireplace. Now, only the foundation of the fireplace remains in the basement. Over the years, the kitchen wing had been enlarged to a full two stories, and to the full width of the house. A porch spans the rear of the house. Inside, the space had been divided to accommodate a

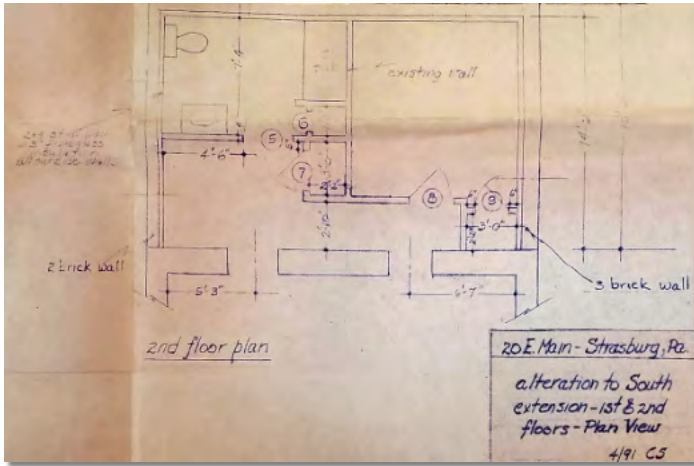
Updated kitchen. The old cooking fireplace would have been just to the right of the camera.



Room leading to the kitchen (wall at left is reconstructed).



barber shop, separated from the living space. Sue decided against recreating the 18th century kitchen. Instead, she reconfigured the interior walls and removed an added staircase to accommodate an updated kitchen and upstairs and downstairs bathrooms. Her father helped to develop the plans for the new layout, personally producing blueprints for the work. The new kitchen was designed by Barbara Herr Kitchens and blends beautifully with the historic house. A window by the kitchen table offers a view of the back yard. Near the table, a circle of holes in the kitchen floor bears witness to the spot where the barber's chair was once bolted down.



Blueprint by Clifford Stirba.

Removing the tired floor coverings exposed the original floorboards. This brought a surprise, showing where a wall had once separated the dining room from a small side room leading to the kitchen. That wall was rebuilt to create a versatile small room that is separate from the formal spaces and kitchen.

If walls could talk... the walls in Sue's house would have been saying "help me!" The walls everywhere were covered with wallpaper, bearing witness to a variety of 20th century styles and personal tastes. Sue saved a little sample of each paper.



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The wallpaper was serving an important but not obvious role: it was keeping the plaster on the walls. The plaster had cracked badly and was losing its grip on the supporting brick or lath behind. Much of the plaster had to be replaced.



Stripping wallpaper in the front room revealed witness marks on the plaster wall that recorded the outlines of the moldings of a built-in cupboard that once occupied one

corner. The cupboard was not reconstructed, but Sue kept a tracing of its outline so that it can be reproduced at a later date.

The entry hall and main staircase were another well preserved part of the house with some surprising features. The front door opens to a hall with natural light from a west-facing window. Doors open to the adjacent rooms and a staircase leads upward to a landing, where it turns 180 degrees before reaching the second floor. Above the landing, there is a low door that opens to a small room. When Sue acquired the house, there was no easy way to climb up to the level of this door, but witness marks on the wall suggested that there was probably an impossibly steep and narrow set of triangular stair treads from the landing to the door. Sue's solution began with constructing a new landing, one step higher than the original, while leaving the original landing in place beneath. Then she added two small triangular stairs, for a three-step climb to enter through the little door. The result is authentic in spirit, but a bit safer to navigate.

What else would the walls say if they could talk? Every now and then another hint from the past surfaces that prompts the imagination to wander. During some recent window repairs, old coins were found that must have slipped into openings around the window frame. The dates that are readable include 1797, 1787, and perhaps 1773. The oldest coins are British, the newer ones American.



Entry hall and staircase



Small door above staircase landing; inset: the small room beyond.



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They capture the period in which their owners lived, straddling the transition from British colony to a new kind of independent nation. Who put the coins into the hidden spaces? Was it an innocent Duffield child, with simple curiosity to see what would happen when the coins slipped through a crevice? Did the loss launch a family mystery that had remained unsolved?

What was it like for the Duffields to raise their children here? Public schools were still a long way off, but education has long been a priority in Strasburg. When they were old enough, they might have attended the school operated by their uncle George Duffield next door.

How did the Duffields use the little upstairs room, with the odd door opening to the staircase landing? With their corner fireplaces, the main bedrooms were warm and cozy, like the rooms below them. Could the small room have been used by the indentured servant girl who ran away? Or did it become the boys' bedroom in deference to their sisters in the warm bedroom with the fireplace? There would have been a small room above the kitchen, where the indentured girl might have stayed. Perhaps it had a small winding staircase to the kitchen for her to use to prepare the house in the morning before the others awakened.

Sue's wonderful restoration of the house now allows us to vividly imagine these scenes. Her house is a treasure, not only for her, but also for Strasburg as a whole.



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Decoding an 18th Century Building

text and photos Joe Deevy

For the front cover, artist Tony Bonazzi produced a beautiful rendering of the building that housed Charlotte Rowe's school, as it might have appeared in 1850. But how did he know what to paint? So much has changed since this building was constructed in the mid 1780s. Tom Lainhoff provided the needed guidance. Tom's business is restoration of historic buildings. As an owner of an 18th century Strasburg house, he has studied his neighbor's houses for years. His help was essential.

Tom's recommendations were based on knowledge of the styles and working methods of the 1700s, combined with observations from the existing building to substantiate his conclusions. The front of this building has seen many modifications. Most of Tom's observations were based on a study of the features of the west side, which still retains many original elements. Here are some of his findings. This would have been an impressive house! Perhaps the next time you walk past, you will be able to better appreciate its historic value.



CHIMNEY

The wide spacing between the windows in the end wall suggests that the building had back to back corner fireplaces, (see the preceding article). Therefore it should have a large square 4-flue chimney.

SYMMETRY

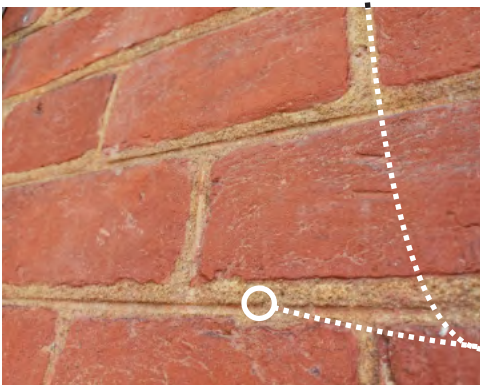
Symmetry was one of the defining features of Georgian architecture. The five evenly spaced 2nd story windows display this trait. The entry door would have been placed below the center window.

"WATER TABLE"

A strange name that refers to the row of rounded bricks that top the thickest section of the wall. This feature is absent from the newer additions.

"GRAPEVINE"

Some original mortar joints in brickwork that was protected behind a now-missing shutter show a "grapevine" treatment. These are lines that were impressed in the wet mortar for decoration. Nice work by an 18th century craftsman. You can stop and look at it!



SHUTTERS

The shutters now on the upper windows have movable louvers. These were not manufactured until mid 1800s. The upper windows had no shutters originally.



PENT EAVES

A "pent eave" is a small roof extension on the side wall, that connects the front and rear eaves of the main roof. The top row of shingles of the original pent eave would have fit under the row of bricks seen below the attic window.

WINDOWS

The 4 large glass window panes in each window today were not available when this building was constructed. Downstairs windows would have had 18 panes - 6 rows of 3. Rules of proportion dictated that the upper windows should be reduced by 1/6, so they would have had 15 panes - 5 rows of 3.

"FLAT ARCH" LINTELS

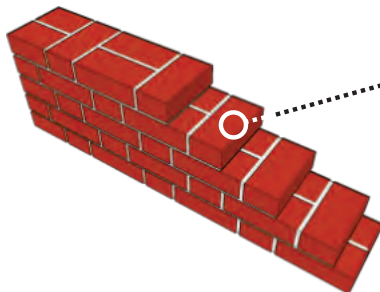
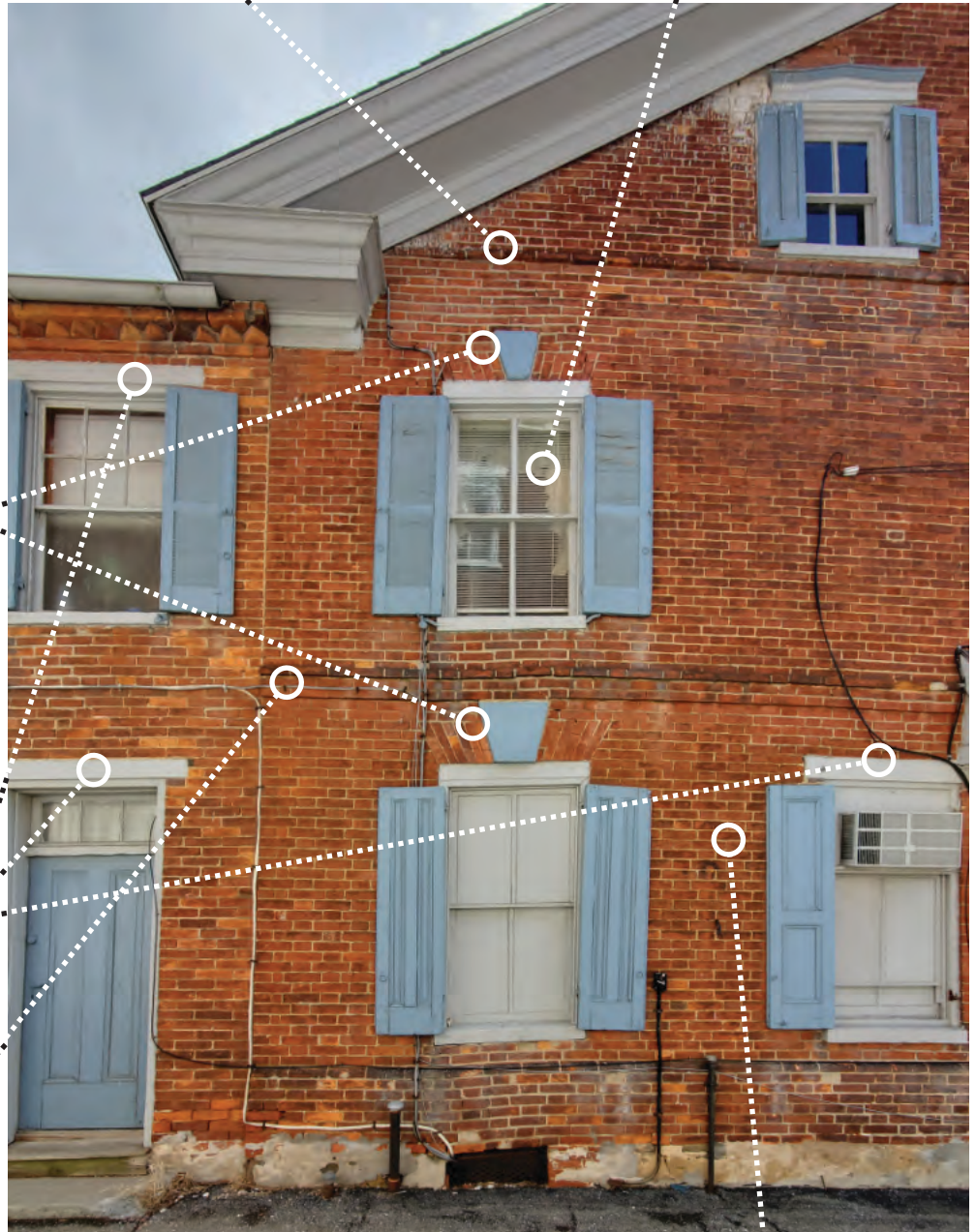
The "lintel" is the structure at the top of a window that supports the bricks above. It could be a wooden beam, a piece of stone, or a brick arch. The "Flat Arch" used here was classy looking and easier to place than a massive stone lintel. But the builder didn't understand the standard rules of proportion used at the time, so the sizes of the keystones on the upper and lower windows are odd. Windows on the facade no doubt had the same flat arches.

WOODEN LINTELS

The wooden lintels show that the rear addition and one lower window are later changes to the building.

BRICK BELT COURSE

The belt course is a row of protruding bricks that separates the 1st & 2nd levels, mainly for decorative purposes. It can be seen on the side wall, so it surely crossed the facade - a sign that the pent roof between floors was added later.



"FLEMISH BOND"

The brick was laid in a "Flemish Bond" pattern, three bricks thick below the "water table," two bricks above that, maybe one brick thick at attic level.



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Hester A. Breuninger	Joyce M. Paulnock	John P. Eicholtz	Fred A. Williams
Catherine B. Hess	Eugene N. Paulnock	Pauline D. Shurr	Margaret Y. Williams
M. Fritz Hess	Mary W. Wentz	Larry L. Shurr	Fred A. Williams, Jr.
Mrs Sanford Eckman	Henry S. Wentz	Kermit E. Leibensperger	David N. Young
Mrs. Henry W. Book	Estelle H. Sheaffer	Helen J. Leibensperger	Irvin Strubel
Sophrona R. Bachman	Bessie M. Paes	L. James Kiscaden	Cynthia W. Krevel
Donald Bachman	Jean Macbeth Long	Anne B. Kiscaden	Randy D. Coyle
E. Mark Weaver	Arlene Swarr	Shirley M. Bliss	Paul S. Kilgore
Thelma G. Weaver	W. Richard Swarr	Harry A. Lucht	Joseph Devine
David Weaver	Rev. James Harrison	Jean Lucht	Hilda Devine
Linda Weaver	Mrs. James Harrison	Elizabeth R. Herr	Gerald L. Chapman

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