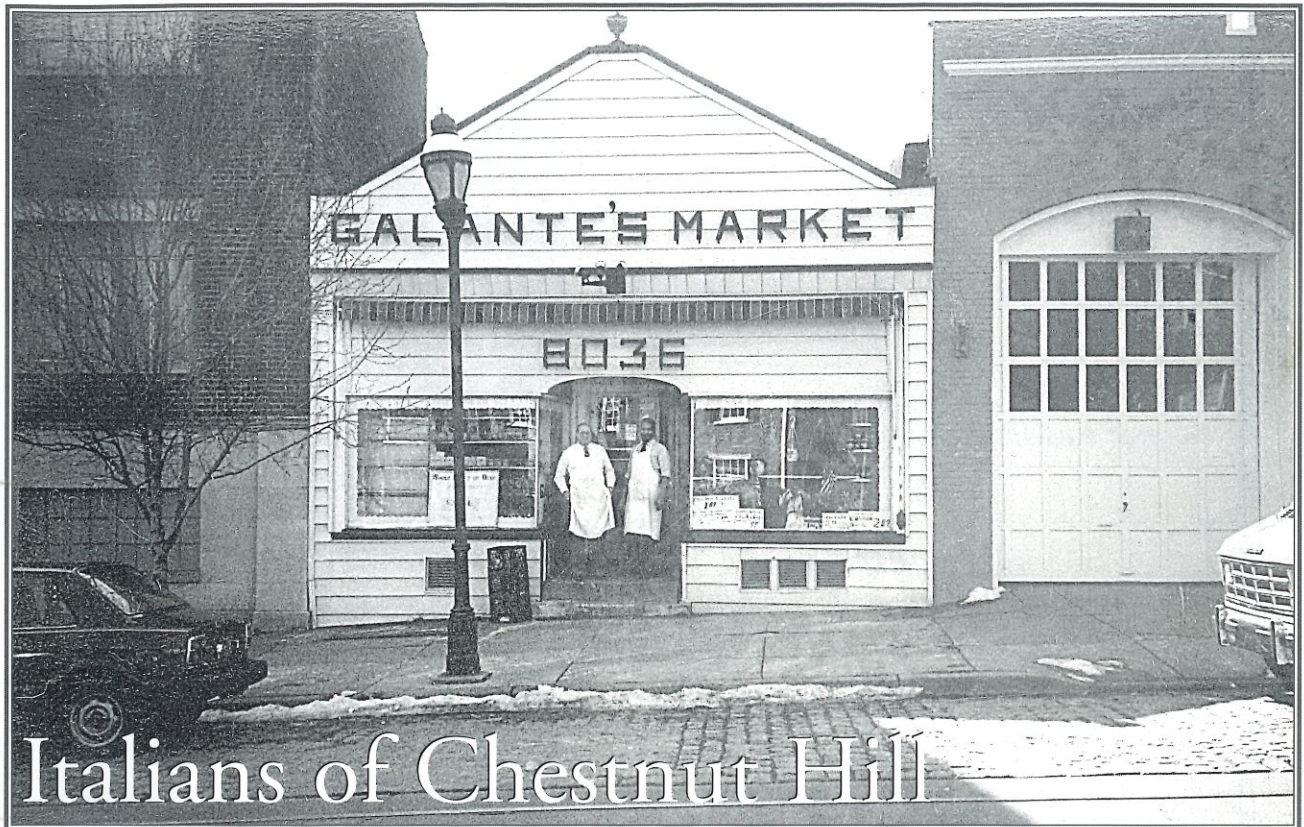


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Navajo Weaving with Germantown Yarn

Charles L. Eberle: A Germantown Pharmacist

The Hood Cemetery Record Book

THE HOOD CEMETERY RECORD BOOK

By Eugene Glenn Stackhouse

The first page of the record book of the Hood Cemetery states:

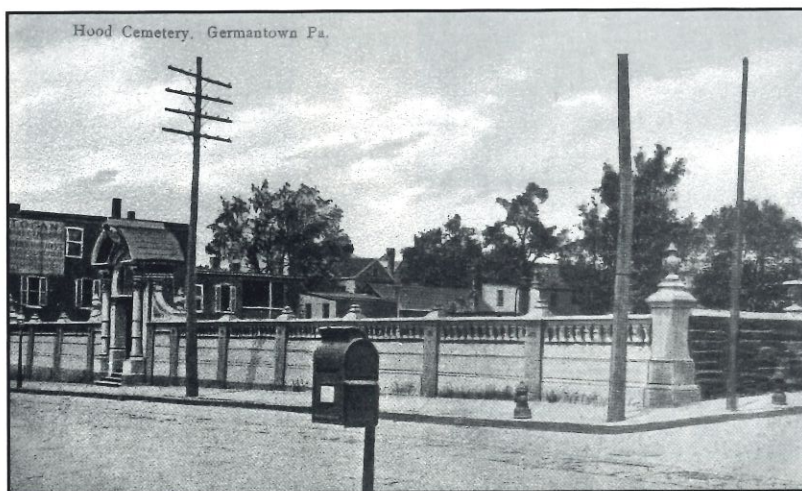
Whereas by virtue of the special consent and agreement amongst and between the first settlers and inhabitants of German Town, in the County of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, one of them, Lenert Arets, by his deed dated the 20th day of the twelfth month (February) anno Domini 1691/2,

of a Deed of Sale to him made by the First Proprietary William Penn dated at Rotterdam in Holland in Europe the 11th Day of June Anno Domini 1683 as in and by the first mentioned and in part recited Deed, intended to be recorded more fully and at large appears.

The transaction is also recorded in the Germantown Grund und Lager Buch, page 207.

Thus, the Lower Burial Ground, founded in 1693, is the oldest municipal non-sectarian cemetery in Philadelphia. It is located at Germantown Avenue (formerly Main Street) and Logan Street (formerly Fishers Lane). The first entries in the Hood Cemetery record book seem to have been recorded on February 3, 1737/38 and the records continue to 1868. The book is a hardbound book, leather over board, with blank pages stitched together. It is in relatively good condition, considering its age and the treatment it has received.

The pages are of good quality paper. Some pages have been cut out. There are deeds and burials recorded on four pages in the back of the book. For the most part, the writing is legible. The spelling is variable. The first seventeen pages (the only numbered pages) are written in a flowery, elegant hand. The covers are 9.5 inches wide and 12.75 inches high and the book is 2 inches thick at the spine.



Postcard of the Lower Burial Ground, later known as the Hood Cemetery.

written in the high Dutch or German tongue, sealed and delivered in the presence of William Streigert and John Lucken, and passed in open Court of Record, held by virtue of a Charter from the first Proprietary William Penn, Esq., Dated the 12th day of August Ao. Domini 1689 on Record at Philadelphia in Rolls office the 30th of the 3. month (May) A.D. 1691, in Book "A" Page 277, at German Town aforesaid, on the 28th day of November, A. D. 1693, as witnessed by Dirk op den Graff, then bailiff of German Town, and Arnold Cassell, recorder, he, the said Lenert Arets, in and by the said deed did grant and forever confirm unto one Paul Wolff (also one of the first settlers of the said German Town) and his heirs and assigns forever, but nevertheless for no other use than a burying place forever, a certain half an acre of land of a square form situated lying and being on the easterly side in German Town aforesaid, adjoining the main street leading to Philadelphia, being part of the Lands which the said Lenert Arets obtained by virtue



Looking out to Germantown Avenue from the Hood Cemetery, April 2000.

An article in the *Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia, July 9, 1929, is headlined: "Recovery of Long Lost Record Book of Germantown's Lower Burial Ground Recalls Chapters of Local History." The article recounts that an official of the Hood Cemetery corporation and prominent Germantown resident [Dr. Ashmead] had borrowed the book in order to look up family and died shortly after, this in 1879. The trustees of the burial ground were unable to find the book among Dr. Ashmead's effects.

In 1929, however, the Germantown Historical Society received a letter from a book dealer from Chester

County, Pennsylvania, offering to sell the book to the Society for \$150. Officials of the Historical Society immediately notified Mr. H. T. Montgomery, president of the Hood Cemetery Board of Trustees. Montgomery informed the book dealer that the book was legally the property of the cemetery company. The company reimbursed the book dealer for his expenses and retrieved the old volume. The book was then placed in Montgomery's custody. The book is now in the possession of the Germantown Historical Society.

Eugene Glenn Stackhouse is a historian and genealogist, and former president of the Germantown Historical Society.



Graves in the Hood Cemetery, April 2000.

Milestones

Allens Lane Art Center: 50 years

Allens Lane Art Center was founded in 1953 by an interracial group of Mt. Airy residents who were concerned about the dangers of increasing community tension. Most were parents of children attending local schools who felt that increasing access to the arts would be a way to bring people together as well as develop individual talents. "Living Together Through the Arts," a program of The Ford Foundation and the Henry Home and School Association, originally sponsored ALAC. It was formally incorporated as a nonprofit organization on June 29, 1953.

ALAC's founders saw creative activities as an effective avenue for channeling the energy of youth in a constructive way. Developing artistic skills and appreciation for the arts would help round the education of local youth and build self-esteem in a non-competitive way. Most importantly, creative activities would bring people of diverse backgrounds together and help them overcome prejudices. The efforts of these founders and other neighbors have contributed to the flowering of Mt. Airy as a tolerant neighborhood that celebrates the culture of all peoples.

Fifty years later, Allens Lane Art Center is flourishing as it continues to carry out these original ideas of the founders. With programs including Theater, Summer Day Camp, Classes for Children and Adults, including the Vision Thru Art program, and an Art Gallery, Allens Lane serves 10,000 residents of the Mt. Airy community and other Northwest Philadelphia neighborhoods. Constituents come from all cultural and economic backgrounds, and the programming reflects these multi-cultural participants.



Allens Lane Arts Center Summer Camp c. 1959